

Marine Observation Squadron 251

15 July, 1942.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commanding Officer.

To: (1) The Chief of Naval Operations. (Officer of Naval Records and Library.)

(2) The Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps.

(3) The Commanding General, 2nd Marine Air Wing.

(4) The Commander, Amphibious Force, Pacific.

(5) The Commander, Carriers, Pacific.

Subject: War Diary, continuance of, and submittance of.

Reference: (a.) 2nd. Marine Air Wing General order 16-42 dated 2nd June, 1942.

(b.) Pacific Fleet letter. 11L-42 dated 11 March, 1942.

(c.) Op Nav Ltr file FF1/A12-1 (7) (291) A12-1 (420222) dated 22 Feb. 1942.

1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c) The War Diary of Marine Observation Squadron Two Fifty One is submitted this date.
2. Copies of this diary dating from 1 July to 31 July are herewith submitted.

JOHN N. HART,
Lt. Col. USMC.

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

1--2 July, 1942.

At sea aboard the U.S.S. Heywood.

CPW

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

3 July, 1942.

At sea aboard U.S.S. Heywood. At 0630, radio orders were received from Commander South Pacific Force, to disembark at White Poppy. Upon arrival, to report to the Commanding General for temporary duty and also to Commander Aircraft South Pacific, for operational control.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

4--9 July, 1942.

At sea aboard U.S.S. Heywood.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

10 July, 1942.

Preparations were made for debarking at Noumea, New Caledonia.

Docked at 1715.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

11 July, 1942.

Unloading operations on 24 hour basis. Advance party sent
to camp-site and airfield. Strength; 29 Officers and 272 En-
listed.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

12 July, 1942.

Ship completely unloaded. Personnel less guards transported
to camp site.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

13 July, 1942.

All men and equipment, less planes moved from dock to field,
a distance of 50 miles.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

14 July, 1942.

Number 14, F4F-3 assembled and test flown.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

15 July, 1942.

Pvt. Baird wounded by rifle bullet in left instep.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

16 July, 1942.

Strength--29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Camp security increased
by two additional posts.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

17 July, 1942.

Strength--29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Planes assigned--19.
Planes in Commission-2. Planes in transit--3. Planes not
assembled--14.

CFW

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

18 July, 1942.

Strength--29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Planes in commission--3.

CGW

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

19 July, 1942.

Strength--29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Planes assigned--19,
Planes in commission--2.

CPW

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

20 July, 1942.

Strength--29 Officers 272 Enlisted. Planes assigned--19;
Planes in commission--4.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

21 July, 1942.

Strength 29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Captain Adams transferred to
Army hospital, due to eye injury.

CPW

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

22 July, 1942.

Strength 29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Planes in Commission--8.
Normal working routine. Lt. Kobler crashed upon landing F4U-3,
Bureau number 1890. (Squadron No. 9) No personal injury. Extensive
damage to aircraft.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

23 July, 1942.

Strength 29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Lt. Colonel Hart and 2nd
Lt. Platt departed for inspection of planned new theater of operations
by Naval aircraft. Captain Campbell, Lt. Spurlock, Lt. Schuessler,
Lt. Whitten, Lt. Kirby embarked aboard U.S.S. Little for special
Temporary aviation duty.

CW

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

24 July, 1942.

Strength 29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Planes assigned--19.
Planes in Commission--9. Planes in transit 3.

CPW

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

25 July, 1942.

Strength--29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Lt. Col. Hart and Lt.
Platt returned from inspection tour.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

26 July, 1942.

Strength 29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Planes in commission--11.
Captain Adams returned from The Army hospital.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

27 July, 1942.

Strength 29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Planes in Commission--7.
Orders in memorandum form were drawn up for tentative moving planes
to new operating area.

CFW

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

28 July, 1942.

Strength 29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Normal working routine.
Captain Yeaman ground looped F4F-3. Damage to propeller. No in-
jury to personnel. Propeller replacement secured from the U.S.S.
Curtiss.

CVW

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

29 July, 1942.

Strength 29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. All planes have completed
test hops. Trouble board recommended plane F4F-3P, Bureau No. 1890
be stricken from the roster. All usable parts to be salvaged.

CFW

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

30 July, 1942.

Strength 29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Planes assigned 18, Planes
in commission 13, Planes in transit 3. Operations begun to move to
new operating area. Army transportation to be used between camp and
the docks.

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WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second
Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

31 July, 1942.

Strength 29 Officers, 272 Enlisted. Exodus to docks. All
facilities dismantled and trucks used to move equipment and
property to dock.

CPW