

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NWMDM-0994017

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

July 16. VMO-251 was attached to MBDAG-44 (former), Marine Corps Air Station, VMO-251 California.

July 17. Total muster on this date included 3 officers and 52 enlisted men.

Covering Period--July 1, 1943 to July 30, 1943

July 18. Routine.
July 19. Routine.
July 20. Routine.

July 21. To do justice to work accomplished and respect to personnel concerned, a much more detailed account should be submitted but roughly this will bring us to date.

VMO-251 returned from duty beyond the sea on 2 June, 1943, after about one years active duty in the South West Pacific Islands, including New Hebrides and Guadalcanal.

Officers returning to the United States included Captain Michael R. Yunck (acting Commanding Officer), Captain Claude H. Welch, 1stLt. Walter W. Pardee, 1stLt. Donald L. Klas, 2ndLt. Glen "F" Keithley, Marine Gunner George P. Bunker, Marine Gunner John Z. Knight, and Marine Gunner Hubert M. Ridgers, also Lieutenant Ramon J. Wallenborn, USNR.

All the original VMO-251 personnel were aboard on the return trip plus a few casuals totaling 216 men.

Upon arrival at Kearney Mesa, all officers and men were granted leave of absence (30 days) for a much needed and deserved rest.

Upon the return from leave we found our old squadron personnel torn asunder.

The morale of the officers and men during our tour of duty overseas had been excellent throughout. It is believed that during this period all personnel concerned have learned more about their professional and technical duties than they normally would in three years of routine garrison duty. Much credit is due technical personnel for their skill and ingenuity in improvising equipment and utilizing local materials.

In the reorganization plans for VMO-251, we find Major Carl M. Longley as Commanding Officer who had done field duty with VMO-251 while outside the continental limits of the United States. Other officers included 1stLt. Walter W. Pardee, 2ndLt. Glen "F" Keithley and Marine Gunner George P. Bunker, who have been members of the squadron since the early days of its formation in December, 1941.

Also were retained a group of some thirty original VMO-251 men that constituted the personnel in reforming the now new VMO-251.

25936
27 Aug. 1943

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NWMDM-0994017

- July 16. VMO-251 was attached to MBDAG-44(forming), Marine Corps Air Station, Mojave, California.
- July 17. Total muster on this date included 3 officers, and 82 enlisted men.
2 jeeps, 1 carryall assigned.
- July 18. Routine.
- July 19. Routine.
- July 20. Routine.
- July 21. MTSgt. Howard A. Bailey transferred to Headquarters Squadron this group. Corporal William C. Fahy, transferred to Service Squadron, MBDAG-44.
- July 22. The following men were transferred to Headquarters Squadron MBDAG-44: MTSgt. Timothy D. Sullivan, TSgt. Joseph R. Haverkamp, TSgt. William Nichols, StfSgt. Donald J. Dolan, StfSgt. Rawley R. Hill, StfSgt. Vernon A. Trask, StfSgt. Bruce, Sgt. William C. Ordway, Sgt. John W. Hayward, Sgt. Chris J. Sarris, StfSgt. Michael "A" Ruiz, Jr., Corp. Burnett L. Brown, Corp. Edward Waite, PFC. Jack C. Nichols, PFC. James G. Wigney, ACK Theodore R. Stevens, ACK. Robert E. Stone.
The following man to Service Squadron, MBDAG-44: TSgt. LaVerne E. Thorpe. The following men transferred to VMF-218, MBDAG-44: MTSgt. Amos D. Kinsey, MTSgt. Robert F. Stewart, StfSgt. Frank B. Miezwa, Sgt. Steve Bledsoe, Corp. Theodore H. Beveridge. MTSgt. Kenneth D. Myers transferred to VMF-225, MBDAG-44.
- July 23. LstLt. Walter W. Pardee reported from leave.
- July 24. MTSgt. Louis J. Cignotti and StfSgt. Walter F. Madden STAD with United Aircraft Corp., Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Div., East Hartford Conn.
- July 25. Routine.
- July 26. Training started for all hands for Obstacle Course.
- July 27. Routine.
- July 28. StfSgt. John V. Madden to furlough.
- July 29. Routine.
- July 30. Joseph N. Meyers transferred to Marine Detachment USNH, San Diego, California, as of 14 July 43.
- July 31. Routine

Recapitulation

Officers
4

Enlisted Men
60

Aircraft
0