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WAR DIARY

VMC-251

September 1, 1943 to September 30, 1943.

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- September 1. Fixed Gunnery, Skeet and Recognition classes started for pilots and continued throughout the month; Film Instruction classes started and continued until September 9, 1943. Familiarization flying.
 - September 2. The following officers joined from VMF-218: all NA's:

CONDON, Joseph A. Jr., 2nd Lt.	MOYNIHAN, Michael H., 2nd Lt.
CRUTCHER, Ernest R., 2nd Lt.	NEILSON, Russell H., 2nd Lt.
ERDMANN, William A., 2nd Lt.	OSTERLUND, John F., 2nd Lt.
GARRETT, James D., 2nd Lt.	PIRAGES, William J., 2nd Lt.
HILDEBRAND, William W., 2nd Lt.	ROSELLEN, Robert E., 2nd Lt.
KANE, John R., 2nd Lt.	SIGAN, Nick A., 2nd Lt.
LORCH, Orville F.S., 2nd Lt.	SPRENGER, Robert F., 2nd Lt.
MC MASTERS, John J., 2nd Lt.	WEBBER, William G., 2nd Lt.
MERKEL, Galen K., 2nd Lt.	

 The following officers joined from VMF-225:
 ROBINSON, Max K., 2nd Lt. (NA)
 WILSON, Cecil M., 2nd Lt. (NA)
 First Lt. MC MANUS, Francis K., (NA) joined from Headquarters Squadron. Familiarization flying.
 - September 3. Second Lt. GLENN, Joseph N. (NA) joined from VMF-225. Familiarization flying.
 - September 4. Familiarization flying.
 - September 5. Two Plane flying formation.
 - September 6. The following officers detached to PersGrp, MFA, WC, MCAB, Kearney Mesa, California:

PIMLOTT, Walter F., 2nd Lt. (NA)
DRINKER, Pemberton H., 2nd Lt. (NA)
MANNING, Helbert G. Jr., 2nd Lt. (NA)

 One (1) enlisted man (AP) transferred to PersGrp, MFA, WC, MCAB, Kearney Mesa, California: Two plane flying formation; Received two (2) FM-1's from VMF-218.
 - September 7. Three (3) enlisted men to Stad. in connection with F4U school at Bridgeport, Connecticut; One (1) enlisted man to Stad. at Army and Navy Training School, Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Brainard Field, Hartford, Connecticut; Two (2) enlisted from Stad. in connection with F4U school at Bridgeport, Connecticut; First Lt. HALLMEYER, Wallace H. joined from PersGrp, MCAB, Kearney Mesa, California. (NA) Received one (1) F4F-3 from NAS, San Diego, California; Two plane flying formation continued.
 - September 8. One (1) enlisted man transferred to VMF-218. Two plane flying formation.
 - September 9. Seven (7) enlisted men joined from Headquarters Squadron. RANCOURT, Louis W. promoted from 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt. Received two (2) SNJ-4's from Headquarters Squadron. Familiarization flying.

#28050
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- September 10. CIGNOTTI, Louis J. promoted to Marine Gunner from Master Technical Sergeant. Familiarization flying.
- September 11. Seventy-eight (78) enlisted men joined from ARS-1, SerGp, MCAB, Kearney Mesa, California. Fifty (50) enlisted men joined from ARS-4, SerGp, MCAB, Kearney Mesa, California. Five (5) enlisted men joined from ARS-2, SerGp, MCAB, Kearney Mesa, San Diego, California. First Lt. HALLMEYER, Wallace H. (NA) detached to Headquarters Squadron. Familiarization flying.
- September 12. Link Trainer Schedule started for all pilots and continued throughout the month. Familiarization flying.
- September 13. Familiarization flying.
- September 14. Second Lt. PEAK, Wilbur L. and ninety (90) enlisted men on fire fighting detail. Familiarization flying.
- September 15. One (1) officer and ninety (90) enlisted men still on fire fighting detail. Landing Practice and Air Work.
- September 16. Second Lt. Laurence L. NEAL, while landing, ground-looped FM-1 #15508 caused by varying shifting winds, damaging right wing tip. No injury. Landing practice.
- September 17. Received two (2) F4F-4's from NAS, San Diego, California. Second Lt. Robert E. ROSELLEN, while landing, ground-looped FM-1 #15139 caused by landing in shift skid. Damage: engine change, wing change, tail assembly change. No injury. Air Work continued.
- September 18. One (1) enlisted man joined from Marine Detachment, USNH, San Diego, California. One (1) enlisted man to STAD at NAS, San Diego, Calif. in connection with instruction in oxygen equipment. Twenty (20) enlisted men joined from ARS-3, PersGp, MCAD, Kearney Mesa, San Diego, California. Familiarization flying.
- September 19. Familiarization flying.
- September 20. Two (2) enlisted men STAD to Goodyear Aircraft Corporation, Akron, Ohio. One (1) enlisted man STAD to Hamilton Standard Propeller Division, East Hartford, Conn. Second Lt. John J. MC MASTERS, in landing, ground-looped F4F-4 #5220 causing damage to left wing tip. No injury. Familiarization flying.
- September 21. Three (3) enlisted men from STAD in connection with F4U school at Bridgeport, Conn. The following officers joined from VMF-225: BATE, Oscar M., Captain (NA)
FURLOW, Thomas W., Captain (NA)
HABERMAN, Roger A., Captain (NA)
Familiarization flying.
- September 22. Second Lt. IRWIN, John W. and one hundred twenty eight (128) enlisted Men on fire fighting detail. Familiarization flying.
- September 23. One (1) 2nd Lt. and one hundred twenty eight (128) enlisted men on fire fighting detail. Familiarization flying.
- September 24. One (1) 2nd Lt. and one hundred twenty eight (128) enlisted men on fire fighting detail. Familiarization flying.
Second Lt. Laurence L. NEAL ground-looped F4F-4 #5220 causing damage to left wing tip. No injury. Received one (1) FM-1, three (3) F4F-3's and three (3) F4F-4's from VMF-225. Familiarization flying.

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- September 25. One (1) enlisted man transferred to ABG-2, MFAWC, NAS, San Diego, California. Familiarization flying.
- September 26. Two (2) Second Lieutenants and sixty three (63) enlisted men on fire fighting detail. Familiarization flying.
- September 27. Two (2) Second Lieutenants and sixty three (63) enlisted men on fire fighting detail. Familiarization flying.
- September 28. Received one (1) F4F-3 from VMF-225; Second Lieutenant Galen K. MERKEL, while flying F4F-3 #12133, made forced landing 25 miles northeast of MCAS, Mojave, California due to oil line hose connection bursting. Damage: Tail assembly torn off, Propeller bent, wings and fuselage bent and cowling bent. Plane transferred to Naval Supply. No injury. Familiarization flying.
- September 29. Section tactics. Received eight (8) FM-1's from VMF-225.
- September 30. Section tactics.

RECAPITULATION

OFFICERS

51

ENLISTED MEN

269

PLANES

11 FM-1's
2 SNJ-4's
5 F4F-3's
4 F4F-4's

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