Reg. No. 433-0-30
R. S. No.

MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON TWO FIFTY ONE,
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP FOURTEEN, FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FMF,
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

COMBAT TOUR

OF

DUTY

OF

MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON TWO FIFTY ONE,

From

1 April, 1945,

to

30 April, 1945.

DISTRIBUTION:

Original - Commandant, U. S. MARINE CORPS.
1 - The Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.
1 - The Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.
1 - The Commanding General, Aircraft, F.M.F., Pacific.
1 - The Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing.
1 - The Commanding Officer, M.A.G. - 14.
1 - File.

120823

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary of VMF-251. April, 1945.

Geographical location of VMF-251:

SAMAR, PHILIPPINES

Name of the Commanding Officer:

THOMAS W. FURLOW, Major, USMC, (NA).
(Assumed command on 15 April, 1945).

Name of Next Higher Echelon:

MARINE AIR GROUP FOURTEEN.

Composition as of 1 April, 1945:

	Officers	Men
U. S. Marine Corps Pilots	48	
U. S. Marine Corps Ground	10	210
U. S. Navy	1	8
	59	218

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary of VMF-251. April, 1945.

PILOTS ROSTER

BACHELER, William L.	Major	Commanding Officer.
FURLOW, Thomas W.	Major	Executive Officer.
DOUGHTY, Francis E.	Capt.	
SCHROEDER, Frank A.	Capt.	
FRANK, Lewis C.	1stLt.	
INGLEHART, George G.	1stLt.	
MAC LACHLAN, Archibald W.	1stLt.	
PIRAGES, William J.	1stLt.	
ROSELIEN, Robert R.	1stLt.	
SCHOETZ, David J.	1stLt.	
WALTERS, Lynford S.	1stLt.	
WARREN, Arthur J.	1stLt.	
BARTON, Wilson G.	2ndLt.	
BEATTIE, Alexander D.	2ndLt.	
DUDLEY, Benjamin A.	2ndLt.	
ELLIS, James I.	2ndLt.	
EVANS, Arthur C.	2ndLt.	
FINK, Henry Jr.	2ndLt.	
HARRIS, Archibald "A"	2ndLt.	
IRWIN, Hugh E.	2ndLt.	
JERNIGAN, Curtis D.	2ndLt.	
JOHNSON, Danny "W"	2ndLt.	
KALVELAGE, Martin H.	2ndLt.	
KAMMEYER, Preston L.	2ndLt.	
KEMP, Orville S.	2ndLt.	
LA MARRE, Ernest A.	2ndLt.	
LINDNER, David W.	2ndLt.	
LINGENFELTER, Virgil A.	2ndLt.	
MC ALISTER, Roy A.	2ndLt.	
MORRIS, Mahlon	2ndLt.	
PETERSON, Thomas K.	2ndLt.	
PETTY, Douglas D.	2ndLt.	
POOR, Ernest E.	2ndLt.	
RAUSE, Robert	2ndLt.	
RHODES, Frank J.	2ndLt.	
ROBINSON, James W.	2ndLt.	
ROMBERG, Paul F.	2ndLt.	
SANDBACH, Harold G.	2ndLt.	
SCHEWE, Howard W.	2ndLt.	
SCOTT, Charles Jr.	2ndLt.	

CONFIDENTIAL

PILOTS ROSTER (Cont'd)

WAGNER, Joseph G.	2nd Lt.
WALSH, Thomas H.	2nd Lt.
WARD, Ray G.	2nd Lt.
WELCH, Robert N.	2nd Lt.
WOLF, John C.	2nd Lt.
WYATT, John W.	2nd Lt.

1 April, 1945.

Today the squadron began an operation which was to last the entire month, i.e., furnishing ground support for Army forces on CEBU ISLAND which invaded that place on 26 March. In all these bombing and strafing attacks, our planes were directed by Army Support Air Parties on the ground and in the air. The airborne fighter director orbited the area in a B-24, and greatly assisted our planes in finding their targets. Also, the target was usually marked by phosphorous shell thrown by Army artillery. Many of the attacks were delivered against area targets occupied by enemy forces, some against pin-point gun positions and entrenchments. In all the strikes, assessment of damage was extremely difficult both for this squadron's pilots and for the air-borne fighter director. For this reason, this squadron has avoided making claim to any damage caused unless it was actually visible to pilot or fighter-director, or reported later through other channels.

As of this date the Army has captured LAHUG AIRFIELD, on the northern outskirts of CEBU CITY, CEBU, and pushed the Japs back into the hills a mile or more to the west and northwest of the field. Two flights of four planes each from this squadron flew missions over enemy territory. The first flight was from 0810 to 0855 over the target and the second over target form 0930 to 1030. Our planes dropped fourteen one thousand pound bombs on AA positions and troops and trucks. There was no observed damage but the fighter director stated that the bombs appeared to be on the target. Very little strafing was done this trip because of low clouds. Pilots on these two flights were: FURLOW, RAUSE, POOR, and WELCH; and BARTON, KEMP, SANDBACH, and MORRIS.

2 April, 1945.

Sixteen Corsairs in four-plane flights gave ground support again today to the Army on CEBU ISLAND at varying times. Targets consisted of an enemy command post three miles NW of LAHUG AIRFIELD; a grove of coconut trees concealing enemy troops

CONFIDENTIAL

2 April, 1945(Cont'd).

north of TUBURAN; scattered huts in a valley 10 miles north of LAHUG AIRFIELD; and an enemy communication center in the hills to the west. Bomb load for each plane was 2x1000 lb. General Purpose bombs, instantaneous fuse. Again no specific damage was seen as results of these attacks. Pilots participating were: KAMMEYER, FINK, WALTERS, ELLIS; SCHROEDER, ROMBERG, EVANS, PETERSON; WARREN, PETTY, JERNIGAN, LA MARRE; and WOLF, MC ALISTER, ROBINSON, and WALSH.

Joined Captain Norman O'BRYAN, (011220), (NA), 1055, USMCR, from MADS-1.

3 April, 1945.

Eight one thousand pound bombs were dropped on a school building near CONSOLACION, reports were that the building housed enemy personnel and equipment. There was no report of direct hits but the near misses can account for much damage, and, too, the area was thoroughly strafed. Four additional planes added to the attack for strafing targets only. The eight planes were over the target from 0815 to 0845. The entire flight strafed buildings at LILOAN, and a wooded area near SILAY AIRFIELD. The latter attack started a gasoline fire, probably a hidden truck burning, and thoroughly strafed these woods which were reported by fighter director to contain enemy troops.

The distance from our operating base to CEBU, for the F4U is only forty-five minutes, therefore no belly tanks are carried, the main tank of 230 gallons is sufficient. Pilots on this flight were: FURLOW, RAUSE, POOR, WELCH; and FRANK, WAGNER, SCOTT, and KALVELAGE.

4 April, 1945.

Twenty-three Corsairs carried forty-six thousand pound bombs to CEBU, in six flights of four planes each. One plane was compelled to return to base shortly after takeoff because of hydraulic trouble. Targets were pill-boxes and troops in the hills northwest of LAHUG AIRFIELD, plus buildings and roads west of SILUT LAGOON, LILOAN, just north of CEBU CITY. In the first target, strafing started a large gasoline and oil fire, and in the second, bombing started two fires, silenced a 20 MM gun firing at our planes, and another hit destroyed one house.

CONFIDENTIAL

4 April, 1945(Cont'd).

19,000 rounds of fifty caliber was expended on the enemy. Pilots listed by divisions, were: WARREN, PETTY, JERNIGAN, and LA MARRE (flew twice); SCHROEDER's division (also flew twice) with ROMBERO, EVANS, and PETERSON; KAMMEYER, FINK, WALTERS, and ELLIS; and WOLF, MC ALISTER, ROBINSON, and WALTERS.

Detached the following Officers: 1stLts. George G. INGLEHART, Archibald W. MAC LACHLAN, William J. PIRAGES, Robert R. ROSELLEN, and David J. SCHOETZ; and 2ndLt. Archibald "A" HARRIS.

5 April, 1945.

Captain DOUGHTY, a new-comer to the squadron, took four planes including himself, SCHEWE, WYATT, and LINDNER, to CEBU with one thousand pound bomb on each plane. Fighter controller directed them to bomb buildings at LILOAN where the Japs had withdrawn from CEBU. The bombs and a little strafing probably damaged several buildings, though no specific damage was visible to pilots.

Twelve other Corsairs of this squadron in flights of two each, went at varying times to NW NEGROS ISLAND, to strafe the enemy moving north and east. Many enemy trucks were found along the roads leading east from BACOLOD, the capital, and much strafing was done by all pilots. The final count was ten trucks destroyed and burned; five trucks smoked; two buildings destroyed by fire; and one pilot's strafing caused a large explosion, the nature of which was never determined. Pilots participating in this flight were: FURLOW and SMITH; POOR and WELCH; WARD and O'BRYAN; BARTON and KEMP; RHODES and MORRIS; and SANDBACH and DUDLEY.

Joined Second Lieutenants Nathaniel L. WHISENHANT, (038003), 1055 E, USMCR, and Lehn J. POTTER, (036353), 1055 E, USMCR, from MADS-1.

6 April, 1945.

Four attacks were delivered, at varying times during the day, with one division composing each flight, and with a bomb load of one thousand pound bomb per plane. Two targets were marked by phosporous shell: (1) A truck park and troop concentration in the hills ten miles east of DOS HERMANOS; and (2) AA guns and supply area north of MT. MANDALGAN, both on northwest NEGROS ISLAND. The first flight hit target #1, and the bombing probably destroyed several vehicles. No results were actually visible, however, except one truck and one house burning fiercely from strafing. The other three flights all hit Target

6

CONFIDENTIAL

6 April, 1945(Cont'd).

number two, firing four trucks and obtaining excellent coverage of the assigned area. 14,500 rounds of ammunition were expended, besides thirty-two five hundred pound bombs. Pilots, in order of divisions, were: KING, BEATTIE, IRWIN, and JOHNSON; SCHROEDER, ROMBERG, EVANS, and JERNIGAN; KAMMEYER, FINK, WALTERS, and ELLIS; and WOLF, MC ALISTER, ROBINSON, and WALSH.

7 April, 1945.

Forty-four thousand pounds of bombs were carried to the enemy on CEBU by this squadron today. Twenty-two aircraft each carrying two one thousand pound bombs, in flights of two planes each, hit gun positions, trenches, supply dumps, and camouflaged trucks all in the hills NW of LAHUG AIRFIELD, where the Japs are evidently firmly entrenched.

There was no observed damage caused by the first flight. The second started a fire by strafing, but what was burning could not be determined. The third flight, led by Captain DOUGHTY, started one good fire by bombing, set afire one thatched hut 20 by 40 feet in size, by strafing, and strafed and burned five piles of supplies which the enemy had covered with hay and straw. During this flight Captain DOUGHTY spotted a group of trucks in a ravine, and upon landing, requested permission to go back and get them. He and his wingman, SCHEWE, took off again two hours later. On this second flight DOUGHTY lost his life. He had already dropped his bombs on the target mentioned above and scored a direct hit with one, completely destroying three trucks and possibly damaging others in the ravine. At the time he met his death, DOUGHTY was strafing a gun position which had opened fire on him and his wingman. He was seen by his wingman to crash and explode on the side of a hill about three miles northwest of LAHUG AIRFIELD. Whether he was shot down or failed to pull out of his strafing run is not known.

As a matter of record concerning this crash, the pilot's full name is Captain Francis E. DOUGHTY, (014788), 1055 (NA) B, USMCR, and he was flying F4U-1D (Bureau Number 57512; Engine Number 15483). The crash occurred at approximately 1240 (I) o'clock.

The remaining flights bombed and strafed those targets listed above, with largely unobserved results, though with

CONFIDENTIAL

7 April, 1945(Cont'd).

many possibly damaging bomb hits. Pilots flying today were: FURLOW and RAUSE; POOR and O'BRYAN; DOUGHTY and SCHEWE; WYATT and LINDNER; SCOTT and KALVELAGE; DOUGHTY and SCHEWE; RHODES and MORRIS; WARD and SMITH; SANDBACH and DUDLEY; FURLOW and LINGENFELTER; and POOR and KEMP.

8 April, 1945.

Twenty Corsairs from this squadron with 1x1000 pound bomb each flew to CEBU. The target was again the enemy's supplies, guns, and entrenchments in the hills above CEBU CITY. Except for one flight which was sent up the coast to SAC SAC where it destroyed two buildings with one direct bomb hit, results were unobserved from our bombing. Strafing however exploded a small gasoline or oil tank and set fire to a large ammunition dump, which fire was followed by a series of explosions. WOLF's flight dropped some leaflets for the guerillas, along the roads in the vicinity of TABACON, POGO, and SAGAY.

We lost another plane today, when it landed with a hung 500-pound bomb, and the bomb exploded. The pilot had previously attempted to drop it on the target, and later had tried to shake it off over the water. All attempts to get rid of it failed, so the pilot, 2ndLt. Hugh E. IRWIN, returned to base and obtained permission to land. During the landing, when the plane hit the runway, the bomb dropped off, exploded, and blew off the entire fuselage aft the cockpit. The plane skidded off the runway, jumped a ditch, stopped, and IRWIN jumped out uninjured except for a shrapnel wound in the left shoulder. The ordnance department of the squadron and of the group are of the opinion that the cause of the explosion was that the arming vane and nose of the bomb's fuse were sheared away scraping on the runway, leaving the bomb in an armed condition. Bureau number of the lost plane: 57518.

9 April, 1945.

Five divisions dropped sixteen 500 pound bombs plus ten two hundred-sixty pound fragmentation bombs on the enemy north of CEBU CITY, in support of Army ground forces, and strafed all assigned targets, all with unobserved results. Pilots participating, in order of divisions, were: FURLOW, RAUSE, JERNIGAN, and WELCH; O'BRYAN, SMITH, WYATT, and KALVELAGE; WOLF, SCHEWE, SCOTT, and LINDNER; POOR, KEMP, RHODES, and MORRIS; and FURLOW, DUDLEY, SANDBACH, and WELCH.

CONFIDENTIAL

10 April, 1945.

Fifteen one thousand pound bombs were dropped on the same area two and half to three miles NW of LAHUG AIRFIELD, CEBU, all with unobserved results. The two flights of eight and seven planes respectively, were over the target from 1000 to 1045; and from 1400 to 1415. Pilots participating were: KING, BEATTIE, WALTERS, and JOHNSON; SCHROEDER, ROMBERG, ELLIS, and JERNIGAN. Second flight: SCHROEDER, ROMBERG, FINK, and JERNIGAN, PETTY, ROBINSON, and WALSH.

11 April, 1945.

Twenty one thousand pound bombs were dropped on enemy pillboxes and trenches three miles NW of LAHUG AIRFIELD, in three different flights, at 0900, 1400, and 1730 today, with unobserved results. Strafing fired six grass huts, which pilots noticed were surrounded by freshly dug trenches. Pilots of these fligns were: O'BRYAN, WAGNER, WYATT, and SMITH; POOR, KEMP, RHODES, and MORRIS; WOLF, SCHEWE, SCOTT, and LINDNER; POOR's division again; FURLOW, RAUSE, LINGENFELTER, and WELCH; and SANDBACH, DUDLEY, and WYATT.

12 April, 1945.

Twenty-four tons of bombs were deposited on enemy-occupied caves, pillboxes, and trenches all in the hills northwest of LAHUG AIRFIELD, with very little strafing done because of the proximity of friendly troops. These attacks were made in three eight-plane flights, at 0800, 1215, and 1605 o'clock all with unobserved results. Pilots participating were: JERNIGAN, PETTY, ROBINSON, WALSH; WYATT, ROMBERG, LA MARRE, PETERSON; and EVANS, MC ALISTER, LA MARRE, ELLIS; WALTERS, ROMBERG, BEATTIE, JOHNSON; and in Flight three: JERNIGAN's division again, with EVANS' division except that BEATTIE replaced LA MARRE as second section leader.

13 April, 1945.

Two more eight-plane bombing attacks on CEBU today led by Major FURLOW, and Captain O'BRYAN, respectively. Each plane carried a one thousand pound and hit the same target as yesterday, likewise with no visible results. No strafing done. Pilots participating were: FURLOW, RAUSE, LINGENFELTER and WELCH; WOLF, SCHEWE, SCOTT, and LINDNER; and O'BRYAN, WAGNER, SANDBACH and KALVELAGE; POOR, SMITH, RHODES, and MORRIS.

CONFIDENTIAL

War Diary of VMF-251. April, 1945.

14 April, 1945.

JERNIGAN and EVANS led the two eight-plane attacks on the enemy north of CEBU CITY, with one thousand pound bomb per plane. Jap pillboxes, trenches, and an artillery position were the targets, and though the bomb hits looked good, there was no specific damage visible to pilots or Support Air Party. Pilots on these hops included: JERNIGAN, PETTY, ROBINSON, and WALSH; WYATT, ROMBERG, FINK, and PETERSON; and in flight two: EVANS, MC ALISTER, LA MARRE, and POTTER and WALTERS, WHISENANT, BEATTIE, and JOHNSON.

15 April, 1945.

Eight planes flew Combat Air Patrol over LEYTE GULF, from 0630 to 1850, with negative sightings. Six more in two-plane flights covered a south-bound convoy from 0730 to 1235, with negative results.

Major William L. BACHELER, USMCR, was relieved of duty as Commanding Officer of this squadron. Major Thomas W. FURLOW, USMC, assumed command this date.

16 April, 1945.

We were scheduled today for thirty-six sorties over NEGROS and CEBU, but bad weather cancelled the show. The first flight went out at 0630 but hit bad weather over NEGROS and worse on the way back. The target was closed in, so no attack was made. The flight was homed by LEYTE radio, and landed at TACLOBAN, one plane landing with twelve gallons of fuel. Pilots flying were: WALTERS, POTTER, BEATTIE, and JOHNSON.

Second Lieutenants Wilson G. BARTON, Preston KAMMEYER, and Harold G. SANDBACH this date accepted the appointment to rank of First Lieutenant.

17 April, 1945.

Ground support again for Army troops on CEBU. Three six-plane flights, led by WOLF, O'BRYAN, and POOR respectively. These planes unloaded nine tons of bombs and expended 11,300 rounds of fifty caliber ammunition on enemy gun positions, trenches, and fortifications north of CEBU and near LILOAN. Pilots observed no damage, but the Support Air Party stated that there was excellent coverage of the assigned targets, and

CONFIDENTIAL

17 April, 1945(Cont'd).

that the last flight knocked out a 40 MM and 20 MM gun. Pilots participating were: WOLF, SCHEWE, SCOTT, LINDNER, RAUSE, and WELCH; O'BRYAN, WAGNER, SANDBACH, KALVELAGE, WOLF, and SCHEWE; and POOR, KEMP, RHODES, MORRIS, SCOTT, and LINDNER.

18 April, 1945.

EVANS, JERNIGAN, and WYATT led the three six-plane attacks today on the enemy at CEBU ISLAND. Bomb load was one thousand pounds per plane. The first flight of EVANS, ROMBERG, LA MARRE, PETERSON, FINK, and POTTER, put four one thousand pound bombs on enemy trenches west of LILOAN, with unobserved results except that one bomb started a landslide which probably damaged enemy fortifications. FINK had hydraulic trouble and returned to base accompanied by his wingman. Both jettisoned their bombs.

The second flight of JERNIGAN, PETTY, ROBINSON, WHISENHANT, WALTERS, and ELLIS, attacked enemy installations a hundred yards west of the village of CONSOLACION, and the Support Air Party reported that we scored four direct hits destroying as many pillboxes. Strafing also set afire two thatched huts. The flight drew a moderate amount of 20 MM fire from the enemy.

The third flight composed of WYATT, MC ALISTER, FINK, POTTER, ROBINSON, and WHISENHANT, had three bombs which did not explode, but did score one direct hit which destroyed a large building two miles inland from NW shore of CEBU, along the main east-west road. A total of 17,200 rounds of fifty caliber ammunition was expended today by these three flights.

This squadron also maintained a constant two-plane patrol of LEYTE GULF this date, with negative sightings by all planes.

Detached First Lieutenants Wilson G. BARTON, and LEWIS C. FRANK.

19 April, 1945.

Three six-plane attacks today at 0855, 1325, and 1735 o'clock on (1) Buildings along the North-south road just north of LILOAN; (2) Enemy troop concentration in coconut grove NW of CEBU CITY; and (3) The village of DANAO, along the east coast of the island. One plane returned to base shortly after takeoff in the first flight because of an oil leak, after

CONFIDENTIAL

19 April, 1945(Cont'd).

jettisoning its bomb. There were three duds in the last flight, but otherwise the bombing and strafing went as planned. Bomb load was one 500 pound bomb. Results were unobserved, except that strafing by the third flight started a group of thatched huts burning. Pilots flying these hops included: O'BRYAN, WAGNER, SANDBACH, KALVELAGE, LINGENFELTER, and WELCH; WOLF, SCHEWE, SCOTT, LINDNER, RAUSE, and LINGENFELTER; and POOR, KEMP, RHODES, MORRIS, SCOTT, and LINDNER.

On returning to base SCOTT was forced to land with a flat tail wheel which had blown out on takeoff. On landing the plane went out of control, off the runway and over on its back. Pilot was uninjured. Plane Bureau Number was 57456.

20 April, 1945.

Attacks today were directed at enemy troops on NW NEGROS, seven miles east of CONCEPCION, where the Japs are retreating into the mountains. Two six-plane flights led by EVANS and O'BRYAN put eleven 500 pounders on the target, which was marked by phosphorous shell fired form Army artillery. Very little strafing was done because our own front lines were only 75 to 100 yards away. Results as usual were unobserved. These pilots flew the hops: EVANS, PETERSON, ROMBERG, LA MARRE, WALTERS, and ELLIS; and O'BRYAN, FINK, ROBINSON, KALVELAGE, JERNIGAN, and PETTY.

Twelve pilots had fixed gunnery practice this afternoon.

Joined Lt. Daniel HARTMANN, (154196), (MC), USNR.

Detached Lt. John P. GALLAGHER, (200352), (MC), USNR.

21 April, 1945.

Four targets were hit today by this squadron, as follows: (1) Gun positions 1/2 mile NW of SILUT LAGOON, CEBU; (2) Enemy occupied caves a mile and a half west of LILOAN, CEBU; (3) Enemy troops and pillboxes between CANLAON VOLCANO and the BAGO RIVER, on NW NEGROS; and (4) An enemy occupied ridge one mile NW of Target #3. Four five-hundred pound bombs were put on each target as well as a total of 7,400 rounds of fifty caliber on all four, for possibly damaging hits but unobserved results.

CONFIDENTIAL

21 April, 1945(Cont'd).

The four flights were composed as follows, in order listed above: FURLOW, POTTER, LINGENFELTER, and WELCH; POOR, KEMP, RHODES, and MORRIS; WOLF, SCHEWE, SANDBACH, and LINDNER; and WOLF, WHISENHANT, SANDBACH, and DUDLEY.

22 April, 1945.

At varying times during the day, we made four four-plane attacks on enemy ground positions north of CEBU CITY. Results of the bombing with twelve thousand bombs and eight five hundred pound bombs were unobserved except in the last flight which scored two direct hits on large buildings, demolishing both of them. Strafing by the first flight caused a large house reported to contain a 20 MM gun to smoke; and guns of the third flight started four fires within one mile square, causing much black smoke, and believed to have been fuel dump. The last flight met intense light AA fire from a coconut grove it bombed, which was reported to contain enemy troops. A total of 15,000 rounds of fifty caliber was expended on all targets. Pilots participating: WALTERS, ELLIS, BEATTIE, and JOHNSON; JERNIGAN, PETTY, ROBINSON, and WALSH; WALTERS, again, and JERNIGAN's division handled the last hop.

In addition to the above attacks, O'BRYAN led two strikes against enemy troops which the Army has bottled up on NW LEYTE ISLAND. An estimated 1000 enemy troops in each of two pockets were hit with five and six tons of bombs respectively. Bomb load on each hop was three five-hundred pound bombs per plane. In both attacks results were obscured by jungle, but excellent coverage was had of the areas marked for destruction by artillery smoke shells. 10,500 rounds of ammunition were expended by both flights. Pilots were the same on each flight: O'BRYAN, WAGNER, WYATT, and KALVELAGE; and EVANS, PETERSON, ROMBERG, and LA MARRE. EVANS did not takeoff on the first flight because of magneto trouble.

23 April, 1945.

Two attacks of one division each, led by WOLF and SCOTT, struck at the enemy on the north side of SILUT LAGOON, and at a point five miles south of SACSAC, CEBU. Eight quarter ton bombs were dropped on each target and 7,500 rounds of fifty caliber ammunition expended. One direct hit was scored on a cave, and strafing caused three thatched huts to smoulder. Planes were over the targets from 0720 to 0820; and from 1550 to 1605. Pilots participating were: WOLF, SCHEWE, SCOTT, and LINDNER, and SCOTT, LINDNER, RAUSE, and WELCH.

CONFIDENTIAL

23 April, 1945(Cont'd).

Transferred one enlisted man.

Second Lieutenant Ray G. WARD, accepted the appointment to the rank of First Lieutenant.

24 April, 1945.

The squadron flew twenty-four fixed gunnery sorties today.

25 April, 1945.

Ground support for the Army on CEBU and NEGROS both, today. Apparently the enemy is retreating northward, along the east coast of CEBU, as our targets were located in that vicinity. Eight planes bombed and strafed reported troop locations between TABOGON and BOGO; four hit the same type target south of SAC SAC, and four hit an area along the west side of the north-south road three miles south of MEDILLIN AIRFIELD on the west coast. Bomb load in all instances was one 500 pound bomb per plane. 14,500 rounds of fifty caliber were expended by all flights. No visible damage from any of these attacks, though many hits undoubtedly caused damage to personnel and equipment. Divisions executing these attacks were: WOLF, SCHEWE, SCOTT, and LINDNER; POOR, KEMP, RHODES, and MORRIS; SANDBACH, RAUSE, LINGENFELTER, and DUDLEY; and POOR's division flew the second time, to handle the last hop.

On NEGROS, three divisions, one at a time, put four 500 pound bombs on each of the following targets: (1) Trenches and gun positions six miles east of CUINBALAON; (2) Enemy occupied hill fifteen miles from BACOLOD TOWN on bearing of 075°; and (3) Troop concentration along road five miles SE of BUENAVISTA. No strafing was done by the first two flights because of nearby friendly forces, but the third flight expended seven thousand rounds. Results in all attacks unobserved. Pilots participating were: SANDBACH, RAUSE, LINGENFELTER, and SMITH; WOLF, SCHEWE, SCOTT, and LINDNER; and JERNIGAN, WHISENHANT, ROBINSON, and POTTER.

26 April, 1945.

Three divisions flew to NEGROS at varying times today, bombed and strafed enemy troops in three places: (1) NW side of MT. MANDALGAN; (2) Fifteen miles from BACOLOD, bearing 075°, and (3) 500 yards S3E of Target #2. Four five-hundred pound bombs were put on each place, except in the second flight,

CONFIDENTIAL

26 April, 1945(Cont'd).

in which one plane did not takeoff because of a flat tire. Strafing burned two thatched huts, but results were otherwise not observed. Divisions handling these attacks included: O'BRYAN, WAGNER, FINK, and KALVELAGE; JERNIGAN, PETTY, ROBINSON, and WALSH; and JERNIGAN's division flew again, on the third hop.

Three more divisions were dispatched to CEBU, the first two carrying one hundred pound Napalm bomb in addition to the regular load of one five-hundred pound bomb. The first flight hit a coconut grove on the west side of the road south of SOGOD, one Napalm bomb starting two large fires, probably native buildings. The second flight bombed and strafed another coconut grove reported to contain enemy troops, south of BOGO, setting afire one hut. The third flight bombed and strafed enemy-occupied caves west of ILIHAN, with unobserved results except that smoke was seen rising from one cave. Pilots flying these hops included: EVANS, PETERSON, ROMBERG, and LA MARRE; EVANS' division flew again on the second flight and WALTERS, WYATT, BEATTIE, and JOHNSON.

27 April, 1945, 1945.

WOLF led two twelve-plane strikes in ground support of Army forces on NW NEGROS ISLAND, with a 500 pound bomb load for each plane. Our planes were over the target from 0745 to 0815 and from 1235 to 1310. The first attack was on an enemy-held knoll twelve miles east of BACOLOD, and the second on troops along the right bank of a river five miles SE of CONCEPCION. In each instance the target was so blanketed with smoke from our bombs and from our artillery that assessment of damage was impossible. 15,000 rounds of fifty caliber ammunition were expended. The same pilots flew both hops with the exception noted below: WOLF, SCHENK, SCOTT, and LINDNER; SANDBACH, RAUSE, LINGENFELTER, and WELCH; and POOR, KEMP, RHODES, and MORRIS. In the second flight, SMITH for WELCH.

In the first attack, SCOTT's plane sprung a bad oil leak just as he reached the target area, and his oil pressure started falling off at an alarming rate. He reported this to the flight leader and headed for BACOLOD AIRFIELD, a field recently captured by the Army, but still unserviceable for anything but small observation planes. Upon advice from the fighter director on the ground, SCOTT made a wheel's up landing on this strip, with

CONFIDENTIAL

27 April, 1945(Cont'd).

zero oil pressure. He escaped any injury whatever in this his second crash in eight days. The plane was not too badly damaged, but because of the lack of repair facilities on that field, it was found to be impracticable to repair it. Lt. IRWIN, Squadron Engineering Officer, made a trip to BACOLOD the following day and made arrangements for salvaging all usable parts from this plane. The Bureau Number of this plane 57383.

28 April, 1945.

Two eight-plane flights, led by O'BRYAN and JERNIGAN, went to NEGROS, bombed enemy troops in the hills east of BACOLOD. A total of sixteen five hundred pound bombs plus four one hundred pound Napalm bombs were dropped, all with unobserved results. NO strafing was done because of critical shortage of fifty caliber ammunition, announced by the 13th Air Force. The pilots were: O'BRYAN, WAGNER, FINK, KALVELAGE; WALTERS, ELLIS, PETERSON, and JOHNSON. JERNIGAN, PETTY, ROBINSON, and WALSH; and EVANS, PETERSON, ROMBERG, and LA MARRE.

29 April, 1945.

Twenty-four Corsairs, each with two Napalm clusters of 3x100 pounds each, deposited a total of forty-four of these clusters on reported enemy troops in a ravine NW of the CANLAON VOLCANO, and east of BACOLOD, NEGROS. Results were obscured by dense fire and smoke form the valley. The fighter director radioed that these two twelve-plane attacks must have inflicted many casualties upon the enemy. Pilots participating were: WOLF, SCHEWE, SCOTT, and LINDNER; WARD, SMITH, SANDBACH, and RAUSE; and POOR, KEMP, RHODES, and MORRIS. The same three divisions flew the second hop.

30 April, 1945.

Today is to be the last day this squadron operates. By nightfall all its planes and pilots will have been assigned and transferred to the other three squadrons of Marine Air Group Fourteen.

We attacked the enemy three times today, in flights of twelve, four, and eight planes respectively. The first flight carried two 260 pound fragmentation bombs each, deposited twelve of them on a valley eight miles east of TUBURAN AIRFIELD,

CONFIDENTIAL

30 April, 1945(Cont'd).

CEBU, reportedly occupied with enemy troops; and the other six planes dropped their bombs on another troop area seven miles NNE of TUBURAN, the next flight of four planes bombed the first target eight miles east of TUBURAN, with four 500 pound bombs. The last flight of eight planes went to NEGROS, put eight 500 pound bombs in an enemy occupied ravine 3000 yards east of the Army's front lines, north of MT. MANDALGAN. All these attacks were with unobserved results, as is so often the case with area bombing. No strafing was permitted during the day. Pilots participating in today's activities included: O'BRYAN, WAGNER, FINK, KALVELAGE; WALTERS, ELLIS, BEATTIE, MC ALISTER; JERNIGAN, PETTY, ROBINSON, WALSH; EVANS, PATERSON, WYATT, LA MARR; and O'BRYAN's and JERNIGAN's divisions flew the last strike.

Transferred one hundred and nine (109) enlisted men and two Navy enlisted.

Transferred eight F4U-1D's to VMF-223.

Transferred seven F4U-1D's to VMF-222.

CONFIDENTIAL

30 April, 1945(Cont'd)

The following Officers were detached this date to other squadrons:

To VMF-212.
IRWIN, Hugh E. 2ndLt.
JERNIGAN, Curtis D., 2ndLt.
LA HARRE, Ernest A., 2ndLt.
LINGENFELTER, Virgil A., 2ndLt.
O'BRYAN, Norman, Capt.
PETERSON, Thomas K., 2ndLt.
PETTY, Douglas D., 2ndLt.
ROMBERG, Paul F., 2ndLt.
SANDBACH, Harold G., 1stLt.
SCOTT, Charles Jr., 2ndLt.
WALSH, Thomas K., 2ndLt.
WYATT, John W., 2ndLt.

To VMF-222.
LINDNER, David W., 2ndLt.
POTTER, John J., 2ndLt.
RAUSE, Robert, 2ndLt.
RHODES, Frank J., 2ndLt.
ROBINSON, James W., 2ndLt.
SCHEWE, Howard W.F., 2ndLt.
SMITH, Samuel R., 2ndLt.
WAGNER, Joseph C.; 2ndLt.
WARD, Ray C., 1stLt.
WELCH, Robert N., 2ndLt.
WEISENHANT, Nathaniel., 2ndLt.
WOLF, John C., 2ndLt.

To VMF-223.
BEATTIE, Alexander D., 2ndLt.
DUDLEY, Benjamin A., 2ndLt.
ELLIS, James L., 2ndLt.
EVANS, Arthur C., 2ndLt.
FINK, Henry., 2ndLt.
FISHER, Dewitt, 1stLt.
JOHNSON, Danny "F"., 2ndLt.
KALVELAGE, Martin H., 2ndLt.
KEMP, Orville S., 2ndLt.
MC ALISTER, Roy A., 2ndLt.
MORRIS, Emmlon., 2ndLt.
POOR, Ernest R., 2ndLt.
WALTERS, Lynford S., 1stLt.

CONFIDENTIAL

PREPARED BY:

HENRY B. WELCH,
First Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve,
A. C. I. Officer.

APPROVED BY:

THOMAS W. FURLOW,
Major, U. S. Marine Corps,
Commanding Officer.

CONFIDENTIAL

SQUADRON MONTHLY SUMMARY
NAVAER-2082 (2-45)

CONFIDENTIAL
(When filled in)

TO BE ATTACHED TO SQUADRON WAR DIARY (See Letter Of Instruction No. 731, paragraph 3d)

SQUADRON REPORTING: Marine Fighting Squadron Two Fifty One

MONTH: April, 1945.

1. PERSONNEL

(a) PERSONNEL ASSIGNED: Marines 8 pilots and 4 ground

OFFICERS Navy 1 ENLISTED Marines 100 Navy 6 TOTAL 119

(b) PERSONNEL LOST

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NO.	CAUSE *(died, killed, or missing)*
DOUGHTY, Francis E.	Capt.	014788	Killed.

(c) PERSONNEL RETURNED FROM MIA

NAME	RANK	SERIAL NO.	DATE	REMARKS

2. AIRCRAFT

NO. ASSIGNED AT END OF MONTH None

NO. LOST	TYPE	COMBAT-C OR OPERAT.-O	SERIAL NUMBERS	NO. LOST	TYPE	COMBAT-C OR OPERAT.-O	SERIAL NUMBERS
1	F4U-1D	O	57518				
1	"	O	57383				
1	"	O	57456				
1	"	O	57512				

3. OPERATIONS

(a) TOTAL HOURS FLOWN	(b) TOTAL NO. OF INDIVIDUAL FLIGHTS	(c) NO. OF FLIGHTS ON COMBAT MISSIONS	(d) NO. OF FLIGHTS WHICH MET ENEMY OPPOSITION	
			A/A OPPOS.	AERIAL OPPOS.
1632.3	712	591	38	None

4. ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED DURING MONTH

(a) NO.	TYPE OF PLANE	BY WHOM DESTROYED	NO.	TYPE OF PLANE	BY WHOM DESTROYED
None					

(b) SQUADRON TOTAL

None this tour.

5. ENEMY PLANES DESTROYED FROM 7 DECEMBER 1941 TO DATE

(a) SQUADRON TOTAL None this tour.

(b) TOTAL FOR EACH PILOT NOW IN SQUADRON

NAME	NO. OF A/C	NAME	NO. OF A/C
FURLOW, Thomas W., Major	3		

6. ENEMY SHIPPING

(a) DESTROYED — THIS MONTH None TOTAL TO DATE None

(b) DAMAGED — THIS MONTH None TOTAL TO DATE None

7. VMR SQUADRONS

(a) POUNDS OF FREIGHT TRANSPORTED DURING MONTH

(b) NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED DURING MONTH

CONFIDENTIAL

SQUADRON SUMMARY of MISSIONS, HOURS, and FRIENDLY and ENEMY LOSSES

30 April, 1945 (date) VME-251 (squadron) None (number of planes available) (type) at end of month

NAME	combat missions			all missions number					all missions total hours	enemy planes destroyed this month			enemy planes destroyed brot forward	enemy planes destroyed total			enemy shipping destroyed	enemy shipping damaged	friendly losses PLANES			
	started	completed	total hours	started	completed	engaged enemy	day	night		number	type	air or ground		number	type	air or ground			combat	operational	Bureau number	pilot lost ?
Beattie	14	14	35.1	17	17	0	17	0	38.4													
Doughty	4	3	8.0	4	3	0	4	0	8.0										1		57512	Yes
Dudley	9	9	23.3	10	10	0	10	0	24.6													
Ellis	15	15	38.0	18	18	0	18	0	42.0													
Evans	18	18	52.0	21	21	0	21	0	56.2													
Fink	18	18	46.0	20	20	0	20	0	48.8													
Furlow	9	9	23.5	17	17	0	17	0	39.2													
Irwin	4	4	12.0	4	4	0	4	0	12.0											1	57518	No
Jernigan	21	21	49.0	24	24	0	24	0	51.4													
Johnson	14	14	33.7	17	17	0	17	0	37.7													
SQUADRON TOTALS																						

CONFIDENTIAL

SQUADRON SUMMARY of MISSIONS, HOURS, and FRIENDLY and ENEMY LOSSES

(date) (squadron) (number of planes available) at end of month (type)

NAME	combat missions			all missions						enemy planes destroyed								enemy shipping friendly losses			
				number						this month				total						PLANES	
	started	completed	total hours	started	completed	engaged enemy	day	night	total hours	number	type	air or ground	brot forward	number	type	air or ground	destroyed	damaged	combat	operational	Bureau number	pilot lost ?
Kalvelage	16	16	42.3	22	22	0	22	0	52.5													
Kammeyer	4	4	9.7	4	4	0	4	0	9.7													
Kemp	19	19	45.1	22	22	0	22	0	47.3													
La marre	16	16	35.9	19	19	0	19	0	40.6													
Lingenfelter	14	14	33.3	16	16	0	16	0	35.2													
Lindner	18	18	46.9	18	18	0	18	0	46.9													
Mc Alister	11	11	26.7	13	13	0	13	0	29.3													
Morris	17	17	37.5	25	25	0	25	0	49.8													
O'Bryan	17	17	44.3	21	21	0	21	0	49.7													
Peterson	17	17	55.7	21	21	0	21	0	61.9													
SQUADRON TOTALS																						

CONFIDENTIAL

SQUADRON SUMMARY of MISSIONS, HOURS, and FRIENDLY and ENEMY LOSSES

(date) (squadron) (number of planes available) (type)
at end of month

NAME	combat missions			all missions number						enemy planes destroyed this month			enemy planes destroyed total			enemy shipping destroyed	enemy shipping damaged	friendly losses PLANES			friendly losses
	started	completed	total hours	started	completed	engaged enemy	day	night	total hours	number	type	air or ground	brot forward	number	type	air or ground			combat	operational	Bureau number	pilot lost ?
Petty	16	16	31.0	20	20	0	20	0	41.4													
Poor	20	20	44.9	20	20	0	20	0	44.9													
Potter	9	9	22.3	16	16	0	16	0	32.7													
Rause	18	18	46.0	27	27	0	27	0	63.1													
Rhodes	18	17	37.0	19	18	0	19	0	38.8													
Robinson	19	19	43.7	23	23	0	23	0	47.7													
Romberg	19	19	47.0	22	22	0	22	0	51.2													
Sandback	18	18	43.0	19	19	0	19	0	44.2													
Schewe	22	22	54.0	28	28	0	28	0	61.3													
Schroeder	6	5	14.2	8	7	0	8	0	15.8													
SQUADRON TOTALS																						

CONFIDENTIAL

SQUADRON SUMMARY of MISSIONS, HOURS, and FRIENDLY and ENEMY LOSSES

(date) (squadron) (number of planes available) (type)
at end of month

NAME	combat missions: started	combat missions: completed	combat missions: total hours	all missions number: started	all missions number: completed	all missions number: engaged enemy	all missions number: day	all missions number: night	all missions: total hours	enemy planes destroyed this month: number	this month: type	this month: air or ground	brot forward	total: number	total: type	total: air or ground	enemy shipping destroyed	friendly losses damaged	PLANES: combat	PLANES: operational	PLANES: Bureau number	pilot lost ?
Scott	16	16	37.9	16	16	0	16	0	37.9											1	57456 57383	No
Smith	12	12	32.2	14	14	0	14	0	36.3													
Wagner	16	16	45.1	20	20	0	20	0	49.7													
Walsh	15	15	37.5	18	18	0	18	0	38.3													
Walters	19	19	49.3	24	24	0	24	0	54.7													
Ward	5	5	13.7	5	5	0	5	0	13.7													
Warren	6	6	17.2	6	6	0	6	0	17.2													
Welch	19	19	46.3	21	21	0	21	0	48.5													
Whisenhaut	9	9	22.2	15	15	0	15	0	32.6													
Wolf	20	20	50.0	21	21	0	21	0	51.0													
SQUADRON TOTALS																						

CONFIDENTIAL

SQUADRON SUMMARY of MISSIONS, HOURS, and FRIENDLY and ENEMY LOSSES

(date) (squadron) (number of planes available) (type)
at end of month

NAME	combat missions			all missions						enemy planes destroyed this month				enemy planes destroyed total			enemy shipping destroyed	enemy shipping damaged	friendly losses PLANES				friendly losses
	started	completed	total hours	number started	number completed	number engaged enemy	day	night	total hours	number	type	air or ground	brot forward	number	type	air or ground	destroyed	damaged	combat	operational	Bureau number	pilot lost ?
Wyatt	14	14	32.0	17	17	0	17	0	35.3														
SQUADRON TOTALS	391	598	1490.0	712	709	0	712	0	1632.3										1	3		1	

CONFIDENTIAL