

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DIARY

MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON TWO FIFTY ONE
FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FLEET MARINE FORCE,
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Copy #4

C 5612

VMO-251

February 1, 1944 - February 29, 1944

DISTRIBUTION: CMC
Commander Air Force, Pacific Fleet
Director of Aviation, USMC.
Commanding General, MAWP.
Commanding General, MASP.
F-I-L-E.

79285

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1 February, 1944. Strength on 1 February, 1944.

Pilots ----- 42
Ground Officers - 8
Enlisted ----- 291

TEMPORARILY ATTACHED

Ground Officer -- 1
Enlisted ----- 12

NAVAL PERSONNEL

Officer (MC)(FS)- 1
Enlisted ----- 4

2 February, 1944. Nine (9) enlisted men completed Temporary Duty and returned to ATB-132, MCAD, Miramar, (San Diego), California.

3 February, 1944. Routine.

4 February, 1944. Twelve (12) enlisted men TAD from ATB-132, Miramar, (San Diego), California.

5 February, 1944. WELCH, Henry B. 2nd Lt. USMCR jdfr ARS-3, PersOp, MFAWC, MCAD, Miramar, San Diego, California.
One (1) enlisted man jdfr CASCo #1, MB, MOB, Terminal Island, (San Pedro), California.
One (1) enlisted man jdfr SS-41, MBDAG-41, MCAS, El Tero, Santa Ana, California.
Five (5) enlisted men jdfr HqSq-41, MBDAG-41, MCAS, El Tero, Santa Ana, California.
Forty nine (49) enlisted men transferred to HqSq-41, MBDAG-41, El Tero, Santa Ana, California.
GLENN, Joseph N. 2nd Lt. USMCR (NAVC) rec and acc app to 1st Lt. as of 11Jan44.
KEITHLEY, Glen "F" 2nd Lt. USMCR rec and acc app to 1st Lt.

6 February, 1944. Routine.

7 February, 1944. MC MANUS, Francis K. 1st Lt. USMCR (NAVC) detached to Dept. of the Pacific, 100 Harrison Street, San Francisco, California.
The following officers detached to HqSq-41, MBDAG-41, MCAS, El Tero, Santa Ana, California.
MAC CROSBY, Charles A. 2nd Lt. USMC.
BUNKER, George P. Warrant Officer, USMC.
STEWART, Warren L. Warrant Officer, USMC.

8 February, 1944. THOMAS, Lewis P. 2nd Lt. USMCR jdfr HqSq- MFA, WC, USNAS, San Diego, California.
Four (4) enlisted men jdfr HqSq-41, MBDAG-41, El Tero, Santa Ana, California.

9 February, 1944. KLICH, Robert C. Warrant Officer, USMC (TAD from MBDAG-41) detached to PersOp, MCAD, Miramar, San Diego, California.
One (1) enlisted man transferred to deserters rolls, Headquarters, USMC, Washington, D.C.

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WAR DIARY: 1 February, 1944 - 29 February, 1944.

- 10 February, 1944. Routine.
- 11 February, 1944. One (1) enlisted man transferred to HqSq-41, MBDAG-41, El Toro, Santa Ana, California.
Two (2) enlisted men TAD to North Island, San Diego, California.
- 12 February, 1944. Routine.
- 13 February, 1944. Twenty (20) enlisted men TAD to North Island, San Diego, California.
- 14 February, 1944. Routine.
- 15 February, 1944. Routine.
- 16 February, 1944. One (1) enlisted man left HqSq-41, MBDAG-41, El Toro, Santa Ana, California. One (1) enlisted man transferred to HqSq-41, MBDAG-41, El Toro, Santa Ana, Calif.
- 17 February, 1944. Routine.
- 18 February, 1944. Twenty four (24) enlisted men TAD to North Island, San Diego, Calif.
- 19 February, 1944. Two (2) enlisted men TAD from MBDAG-41, El Toro, Santa Ana, Calif. completed duty and returned to original station.
Thirteen (13) enlisted men TAD from ATS-132, MCAD, Miramar, San Diego, California completed duty and transferred to MBDAG-43, Pendleton Air Field, Oceanside, California.
- 20 February, 1944. Entire Command embarked on board the USS TANGIER at NAS, North Island, San Diego, California.
- 21 February, 1944. Routine
- 22 February, 1944. Routine
- 23 February, 1944. Routine
- 24 February, 1944. Routine
- 25 February, 1944. Routine
- 26 February, 1944. Routine
- 27 February, 1944. Routine
- 28 February, 1944. Routine
- 29 February, 1944. Routine
Strength on 29 February, 1944.

Pilots ----- 40
Ground Officers - 8
Enlisted ----- 247

NAVAL PERSONNEL
Officer (MC) (FS) 1

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WAR DIARY: 1 February, 1944 - 29 February, 1944.

NAVAL PERSONNEL CONT'D
Enlisted ----- 8

W. C. HUMBERD
Major, USMC
Commanding.

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WAR DIARY

MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON TWO FIFTY ONE
FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, FLEET MARINE FORCE,
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Copy #4
VMO-251
C 5613

March 1, 1944 - March 31, 1944

DISTRIBUTION: GMC
Commander Air Force, Pacific Fleet
Director of Aviation, USMC.
Commanding General, MAWP.
Commanding General, MASP.
P-I-L-E.

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1 March, 1944. Strength on 1 March, 1944.

Pilots -----	40
Ground Officers -	8
Enlisted -----	247

NAVAL PERSONNEL

Officer (MC) (FS)	1
Enlisted -----	8

2 March, 1944. Routine.

3 March, 1944. Routine.

4 March, 1944. Routine.

5 March, 1944. Routine.

6 March, 1944. Routine.

7 March, 1944. Routine.

8 March, 1944. Routine.

9 March, 1944. Arrived at Espiritu Santos, New Hebrides.

10 March, 1944. Entire Command debarked from The USS TANGIER and was attached to First Marine Aircraft Wing.

11 March, 1944. Routine.

12 March, 1944. Routine.

13 March, 1944. Routine.

14 March, 1944. Routine.

15 March, 1944. Routine.

16 March, 1944. Routine.

17 March, 1944. Routine.

18 March, 1944. Routine.

19 March, 1944. Routine.

20 March, 1944. Routine.

21 March, 1944. Routine.

22 March, 1944. Routine.

23 March, 1944. Routine.

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WAR DIARY: 1 March, 1944 - 31 March, 1944.

24 March, 1944. Routine.

25 March, 1944. Routine.

26 March, 1944. Routine.

27 March, 1944. Routine.

28 March, 1944. Routine.

29 March, 1944. Routine.

30 March, 1944. Routine.

31 March, 1944. Routine.

Strength on 31 March, 1944.

Pilots -----	40
Ground Officers -	8
Enlisted -----	247

NAVAL PERSONNEL

Officer (MC) (FS)	1
Enlisted -----	8

W. C. HUMBLED
Major, USMC
Commanding

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON TWO FIFTY ONE,
MARINE AIR GROUP 11, FLEET MARINE FORCE,
c/o FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

VMO-251
6 6988

WAR DIARY

April 1 to April 30, 1944.

DISTRIBUTION: CMC.
ComAirForcePac.
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CG, MAWP.
CG, MAASP.
F-I-L-E.

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WAR DIARY-VMO-251: April 1 to April 30, 1944.

1 April, 1944. Strength: Pilots----- 40
Ground Officers-- 8
Enlisted Men-----247

NAVAL PERSONNEL

Officer (MC) (FS) 1
Enlisted----- 8

2 April, 1944. Routine.

3 April, 1944. Routine.

4 April, 1944. Routine.

5 April, 1944. Routine.

6 April, 1944. Received twenty (20) F4U-1's from Marine
Air Group 11.

7 April, 1944. Routine.

8 April, 1944. Started scheduled flights. Flew division
tactics.

9 April, 1944. Division tactics.

10 April, 1944. Division tactics.

11 April, 1944. Division tactics.

12 April, 1944. Division tactics.

13 April, 1944. Division tactics.

14 April, 1944. Division tactics.

15 April, 1944. Division tactics.

16 April, 1944. 1st Lt. Louis W. RANCOURT, USMCR, acknow-
ledged his appointment to the rank of Captain,
USMCR, to rank from 31 March, 1944.

17 April, 1944. Division tactics and strafing.

18 April, 1944. Sleeve gunnery and strafing.

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WAR DIARY-VMO-251: April 1 to April 30, 1944.

- 19 April, 1944. Sleeve gunnery.
- 20 April, 1944. Strafing and division tactics.
- 21 April, 1944. Strafing and division tactics.
- 22 April, 1944. Strafing and division tactics.
- 23 April, 1944. Strafing and division tactics.
- 24 April, 1944. Strafing and division tactics.
- 25 April, 1944. Sleeve gunnery and strafing. VMO-251 was transferred from First Marine Air Wing to Marine Air Group 11.
- 26 April, 1944. Sleeve gunnery and strafing.
- 27 April, 1944. Sleeve gunnery and division tactics.
- 28 April, 1944. Strafing and division tactics.
- 29 April, 1944. Flying secured due to heavy rains. The following inter-squadron detachments were ordered effective this date:

From VMO-251 To Hq. Sq. M.A.G.-11
 Captain Roger A. HABERMAN, USMCR, (09402)
 Captain Louis W. RANCOURT, USMCR, (014531)

From Hq. Sq. M.A.G.-11 To VMO-251
 1stLt. James A. FOLEY, Jr, USMCR, (025369)
 1stLt. Waldeman D. MAYA, USMCR, (025114)

- 30 April, 1944. Division tactics.

Strength on 30 April, 1944.

Pilots-----40

Ground Officers-- 8

Enlisted Men---247

Number of planes assigned on 30 April, 1944:

20 F4U-1's

NAVAL PERSONNEL

Officer (MC) (FS) 1

Enlisted----- 8

W.C. HUMBERD,
Major, USMC,
Commanding.

10

(Date) 1 April - 44 - 30 April, 44

Unit VMO-251

ENEMY PLANES			BY WHOM	ENEMY SHIPS			CHECK AS APPROPRIATE					PLANES COM-PLANES	TAR-	CHECK ONE		FRIENDLY		FRIENDLY		FRIENDLY		BUR			
How Many			SHOT	How Many			Strike	Inter-	Ground	Combat	Oper	PLETING	PARTIC-	GET	Night	Day	PERS. LOSS		PERS. M.I.A.		PLANE LOSS		EAU		
Loss	Damage	Type	DOWN	Loss	Damage	Type											ception	MISSION	PATING	Off.	Enl.	Off.		Enl.	NO.
				<i>(NONE)</i>													<i>(NONE)</i>		<i>(NONE)</i>						

Total Number of Combat Missions NONE

Total Individual Flights _____

Total Individual Flights on Combat Missions NONE

Total Individual Flights that engaged the enemy NONE

Total Personnel returned from M.I.A. this month NONE Officers _____ Enlisted _____

Prepared-by - MASP. 11

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VMO-251
6 6989

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON TWO FIFTY ONE,
MARINE AIR GROUP 11, MARINE AIRCRAFT, SOUTH PACIFIC,
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

WAR DIARY

May 1 to May 31, 1944.

DISTRIBUTION: CMC.
ComAirForcePac.
D of A, USMC.
CG, MAMP.
CG, MARSP.
F-I-L-B (2 Copies)

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WAR DIARY-VMO-251: May 1 to May 31, 1944.

1 May, 1944. Strength: Pilots-----40
Ground Officers----- 8
Enlisted-----247

NAVAL PERSONNEL
Officer (MC) (FS)--- 1
Enlisted----- 8

2 May, 1944. Sleeve gunnery.

3 May, 1944. Oxygen hops.

4 May, 1944. Flying secured.

5 May, 1944. Flying secured.

6 May, 1944. Division tactics.

7 May, 1944. Division tactics.

8 May, 1944. Photographic Bomber Escort Mission.

9 May, 1944. Division tactics.

10 May, 1944. Flying secured.

11 May, 1944. Division tactics.

12 May, 1944. Division tactics.

13 May, 1944. Flying secured.

14 May, 1944. Flying secured.

15 May, 1944. Flying secured.

16 May, 1944. Flying secured.

17 May, 1944. Flying secured.

18 May, 1944. Flying secured. Received from Marine Air Group 11
two model F4U-1 airplanes, bureau numbers, 49667
and 56410.

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WAR DIARY-VMC-251: May 1 to May 31, 1944.

- 19 May, 1944. Flying secured.
- 20 May, 1944. Flying secured.
- 21 May, 1944. Flying secured.
- 22 May, 1944. Flying secured. Received from VMF-215 four model F4U-1 airplanes, bureau numbers, 56038, 17647, 56026, and 56009.
- 23 May, 1944. Flying secured.
- 24 May, 1944. Fighter-bombing with 100 pound dummy bombs. 1stLt. Joseph P. BART, USMC, accepted commission as Captain, to rank from 30 April, 1944.
- 25 May, 1944. Fighter-bombing with 100 pound dummy bombs.
- 26 May, 1944. Fighter-bombing with 100 pound dummy bombs.
- 27 May, 1944. Division tactics.
- 28 May, 1944. Flying secured. Transferred aircraft model F4U-1, bureau number 56009 to Service Squadron, M.A.G.-11.
- 29 May, 1944. Instrument hops.
- 30 May, 1944. Flying secured. Captain Teller, Deputy War Bond Chairman; Lt. Keithley, War Bond Promotion Officer; and MSGT. Whitaker, Senior War Bond Worker, announced that 48% of the officers and men of the squadron have participated in the present War Bond Drive. Prediction has it that VMC-251 will score at least 95% by 10 June, 1944.
- 31 May, 1944. Instrument hops.

Strength on 31 May, 1944.

Pilots-----	--40	NAVAL PERSONNEL
Ground Officers-	8	Officer (MC) (FS) 1
Enlisted Men---	247	Enlisted-----
		8

Number of planes assigned on 31 May, 1944.
25 F4U-1's.

W. C. HUMBERD,
Major, USMC,
Commanding.

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(Date) 1 May - 31 May, 1944

Unit VMO-251

ENEMY PLANES			BY WHOM SHOT DOWN	ENEMY SHIPS			CHECK AS APPROPRIATE					PLANES COMPLETING MISSION	PLANES PARTICIPATING	TARGET	CHECK ONE		FRIENDLY PERS. LOSS		FRIENDLY PERS. M.I.A.		FRIENDLY PLANE LOSSES		BUREAU NO.
Loss	Damage	Type		Loss	Damage	Type	Strike	Inter-ception	Ground	Combat	Oper				Night	Day	Off.	Enl.	Off.	Enl.	NO.	Type	
				<u>(NONE)</u>													<u>(NONE)</u>						

Total Number of Combat Missions NONE

Total Individual Flights _____

Total Individual Flights on Combat Missions NONE

Total Individual Flights that engaged the enemy NONE

Total Personnel returned from M.I.A. this month NONE Officers _____ Enlisted _____