

HEADQUARTERS
MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON TWO FIFTY ONE
U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN

Geographical Location:

DETROIT, (Grosse Ile), MICHIGAN

COMMANDING OFFICER

Major William A. CARLTON, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve.

Next Higher Echelon;
MARINE AIR DETACHMENT,

U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION,

Grosse Ile, Michigan.

Subordinate Units:

NONE

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HISTORY

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PERIOD

1 July 1948--30 September 1948

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CHRONOLOGY

During the period covered Marine Fighting Squadron Two Fifty One (VMF-251) was commanded by Major William A. CARLTON, USMCR with Captain R.R. FINCH, USMCR as Executive Officer.

During the same period Marine Fighting Squadron Two Fifty One remained under the command of the next higher echelon, Marine Air Detachment, Naval Air Station, Grosse Ile, Michigan, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Daniel W. TORREY Jr.

Training continued to be the primary mission of the squadron.

NARRATIVE

Most activities of the period were centered about the two weeks annual training at Cherry Point, N.C. Thirty-one officers and seventy-four enlisted men attended the maneuvers. Fifteen aircraft of the Corsair type assigned the squadron were flown to the site.

Enlisted men found quarters and messing facilities amply prepared for the influx of reservists and the movement took place without incident.

Immediately after arrival the various sections of the units began preparations for the two weeks of war games. The pace was established at wartime requirements and the fervor of the men lasted to the end. Eventual reports compiled and submitted indicate that the maneuvers were satisfying in most respects.

The weather throughout the period of training was ideal for operations permitting completion of all scheduled activities well ahead of time. Return to the home station was carried out without mishap. Aircraft were secured, physicals completed and the maneuver period closed without incident and with very satisfactory results reported throughout.

During the three months covered in this report VMF-251 flew a total of 878.3 hours. During the two weeks cruise 577.5 hours were flown. The remainder of the time accumulated at the home base. Pilots also devoted time to ground school training, use of training movies, lectures, plotting board problems, mock-ups, link trainer time and GCA-GCI procedure.

WILLIAM A. CARLTON,
Major, USMCR
