

1 Jan-30 Jun 49

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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U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN

PERIOD
1 January-30 June 1949

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FILE

CHRONOLOGY

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

In this period the Marine Corps institute offered a course in Gas turbines and Jet propulsion to all members of the organized reserve. Approximately fifteen members applied. Two pilots have been designated for training in jet propelled aircraft during the annual training at Cherry Point, N.C. As yet, no enlisted ground crew personnel have any practical training on this new type engine, though it is expected that some may be given during the two weeks cruise. To date this is the squadron's total contact with the field of jet propulsion.

Late in the period the annual inspection of the Marine Corps was conducted by Brig. Gen. Christian F. Schilt in conjunction with the inspection of the Naval Reserve by Admiral Richard F. Whitehead. Turnout for the inspection was good in spite of being held during what is a normal work day for most of the reservists. A good summary of the results of the inspection can be had in the comment of General Schilt, "you can hardly tell the difference between regulars and reserves."

It is generally accepted that the review of the reserve program at Grosse Ile was highly successful.

APPENDIX

In the first half of the year the squadron's pilots logged 1210.9 hours of flying time. Included in the training was practice in gunnery, tactics, rocket firing, bombing and instrument training. All efforts at this point are aimed toward preparation of aircraft, equipment and personnel for the annual two weeks of maneuvers at Cherry Point, N.C.

WILLIAM A. CARLTON,
Major, USMC
