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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON ONE TWENTY-ONE,
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP ELEVEN, SECOND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING,
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

TOUR
of
DUTY
of
MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON 121
from
1 October, 1944
to
31 October, 1944

ENCLOSURE "A"

- -
Dist: CMC; CoinCh, U. S. Fleet; CG, MAWP; CG, 2dMAW;
CO, MAG-11; F I L E.
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United States Marine Corps, VMF-121, War Diary
(Cont'd)

Location: Peleliu.

Commanding Officer: Walter J. Meyer, Major, U. S. Marine Corps.

Next Higher Echelon: Marine Air Group Eleven.

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VMF-121 WAR DIARY, (Cont'd)

On the 25th of October, the flight echelon of twenty-three (23) planes and twenty-eight (28) pilots arrived at Peleliu from Emirau. Combat operations started on the 26th of October.

The ground echelon established a permanent camp on a new area northwest of the airfield and preparations were made for the arrival of the pilots.

Working parties assisted in the unloading and the establishment of an air base.

On the 2nd of October, a shell landed in a fox-hole in our area injuring five men, one of whom died on the 3rd of October.

During the rest of the month our camp was subject to considerable shellfire which wounded in all twenty-four (24) men of which seventeen (17) had returned to the squadron by the 1st of November.

A letter of appreciation of services rendered by aviation personnel was received from General Rupertus. Copy appended hereto.

1 Oct. 44 Nineteen (19) planes engaged in division tactics.

2 Oct. 44 Three (3) planes made test flights. All other flights secured.

3 Oct. 44 Flying secured.

4 Oct. 44 Twenty-two (22 Planes engaged in division tactics.

5 Oct. 44 Flying secured.

6 Oct. 44 Two (2) planes made test flights. All other flying secured.

7 Oct. 44 One (1) plane made test flight. Twenty-three (23) planes engaged in division tactics.

8 Oct. 44 Two (2) planes made test flights. All other flying secured.

9 Oct. 44 Flying Secured.

10 Oct. 44 Flying Secured.

11 Oct. 44 Flying Secured.

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12 Oct. 44 Twenty-four (24) planes engaged in division tactics.

13 Oct. 44 One (1) plane made test flight. All other flying secured.

14 Oct. 44 Flying secured.

15 Oct. 44 One (1) plane made test flight. Twenty-three (23) planes engaged in navigation flight.

16 Oct. 44 Twenty-two (22) planes engaged in division tactics.

17 Oct. 44 Flying secured. Major Clay left in a Commando for Peleliu.

18 Oct. 44 Three (3) planes engaged in navigation flight.

19 Oct. 44 Flying secured. Major Clay arrived at Peleliu at 1800.

20 Oct. 44 Flying secured.

21 Oct. 44 Ten (10) planes engaged in section tactics.

22 Oct. 44 Flying secured.

23 Oct. 44 Flying secured.

24 Oct. 44 Twenty-four (24) planes and twenty-nine (29) pilots escorted by Commandos took off from Emirau at 0815 and arrived at Owi at 1315. Lt. McVay's plane developed engine trouble which forced his return to Emirau.

25 Oct. 44 Twenty-three (23) planes and twenty-eight (28) pilots escorted by commandos took off from Owi at 0900 and arrived at Peleliu at 1230.

26 Oct. 44 Twenty-eight (28) flights were made for area familiarization.

27 Oct. 44 Major Hay's flight of four (4) planes for combat air patrol from 0530 to 0730.
Major Meyer's flight of four (4) planes for combat air patrol from 1600 to 1800.

28 Oct. 44 Major Hay's flight of four (4) planes on barge sweeps around Babelthuap from 0645 to 0805. Remaining flights were secured due to weather conditions.

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29 Oct. 44 Major Clay's flight of three (3) planes (Lt. Deen's plane blew a tire on take-off) on barge sweeps around Babelthuap from 0700 to 0825.
Major Hay's flight of four (4) planes on submarine patrol south of Korror from 1000 to 1215. One (1) plane made test flight.
Remaining flights were secured due to weather.

30 Oct. 44 Lt. Beall's flight of four (4) planes on barge sweeps around Urukthapel and Babelthuap from 0700 to 0830.
Major Clay's flight of four (4) planes on barge sweeps over Babelthuap from 1000 to 1140. Fires started in Garunesukan Colony and Arumonogoi. Lt. Gillis's plane hit in left tire, right wing, wing root forward of flap and aft of cockpit by AA.
Major Hay's flight of four (4) planes on barge sweeps around Babelthuap from 1250 to 1415. Set fire in western part of Ngardman. Straffed gun emplacements for PT boats at TW(75.7-22.6).
Major Meyer's flight of eleven (11) planes (Lt. Bates had engine trouble) on bombing mission at Yap at 1300. Pancaked at 1625. ACA-1 report attached.
Further flights secured due to weather.

31 Oct. 44 Lt. Watson's flight of four (4) planes on Dawn Patrol from 0530 to 0740.
Major Clay's flight of twelve (12) planes off at 1240 to bomb Yap airfield and make barge sweeps along the shore. Ten planes pancaked at 1605. Lt. Beall did not rejoin the formation after the dive. Major Clay circled Gagil-Tomil in search of the last pilot with no results and finally pancaked at 1645. ACA-1 report attached.

VMF-121, WAR DIARY, (Cont'd)

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Monthly Report of Personnel

Officers		Enlisted Men	
Flight Echelon	39	Flight Echelon	0
Ground Echelon	9	Ground Echelon	243
Navy Flight Surgeon	1	Navy Corpsman	8

Personnel Lost

BEALL, George O., USMCR, 1st Lt., 02331, Missing in action.
MILLAGE, Richard C., USMCR, Sgt., 499964, Died of wounds.

Aircraft, and Number of Hours Flown

Aircraft 23 FG-1A — Total Hours Flown 591.0

to — Total Number Flights 285

Diary Prepared By:

W. W. GAMWELL
Captain, USMCR
ACI Officer

W. J. MEYER
Major, USMC
Commanding

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