

**DECLASSIFIED****Authority:** E.O. 13526**By:** NDC **NARA Date:** Dec 31, 2012

CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
c/o FLEET POSTOFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

F-48

Reg. No. W-296  
N.S. No. 019250

20 August 1943

From: The Commander, Carrier Air Group Twenty-One.  
To : The Chief of Naval Operations, Office of Naval  
Records and Library.

Subject: War Diary, transmittal of.

Reference: (a) Pacific Fleet Ltr. 111-42 of 11 March 1942.

Enclosure: (A) War Diary of Carrier Air Group Twenty-One.

1. In compliance with reference (a), Enclosure (A) is  
forwarded for your information.

*C.H. Ostrom*  
C.H. OSTROM

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The following diary contains a brief record of  
Carrier Air Group Twenty-One. Detailed action reports  
of combat missions were prepared and filed with Battle  
and Fighter Commands. **WAR DIARY**

**CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE**

**From 15 May to 5 August 1943**

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The following diary contains a brief record of  
Carrier Air Group Twenty-One. Detailed action reports  
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and Fighter Commands, Guadalcanal.

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**CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.**

**WAR DIARY**

**15 May 1943:** In accordance with orders received, squadrons VC-11 and VC-12 were formed into Air Group Twenty-One to be composed of Fighting Squadron Twenty-One (VF-21) and Torpedo Squadron Twenty-One (VT-21), with the following organization; Lieutenant Commander John Hulme, Group Commander; Lieutenant Commander Charles H. Ostrom, Fighter Commander; and Lieutenant Commander John Hulme, Torpedo Commander.

**16 May 1943:**

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Pilots Junk, Sleyster, Anderson, Sprague, Larkin and Sanborn together with their crews were ordered to report to VMTB-143 at Guadalcanal for temporary duty.

**17 May 1943:**

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Training operations.

**18 May 1943:**

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Lieutenants (junior grade) Sanborn, Junk, Anderson, Sleyster and Larkin operating with VMTB-143, conducted mine-laying off Kahili-Shortland-Faiala area. Pilot Lieut.(jg) Sleyster and his crew, H.H. Johnson, ARM2c, and Manuel Paiva, ARM2c, while operating with VMTB-143, and on a mine-laying mission off Kahili, Bougainville, failed to return and are reported as missing in action.

**19 May 1943:**

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Lieutenants (junior grade) Sanborn, Junk, Larkin, Anderson and Ensign Sprague, operating with VMTB-143, conducted mine-laying off Kahili-Shortland-Faiala area.

**20 May 1943:**

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Training operations.

**21 May 1943:**

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Training operations.

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WAR DIARY (cont.)CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.22 May 1943:

- VF-21 Training operations. Lieutenant (junior grade) Everett R. Larson crashed into sea while making a gunnery run on target. Crash fatal. Pilot and plane not recovered.
- VT-21 Lieutenants (junior grade) Sanborn, Junk, Larkin, Anderson and Ensign Sprague, operating with VMTB-143, conducted mine-laying off Kahili-Shortland-Faiala area.

23 May 1943:

- VF-21 Training operations.
- VT-21 Training operations.

24 May 1943:

- VF-21 Training operations.
- VT-21 Training operations.

25 May 1943:

- VF-21 Training operations.
- VT-21 Training operations.

26 May 1943:

- VF-21 Training operations. Ensign Milton; flying an F4F-4, had motor failure and landed in water off the North coast of Sakau Island, which is off N.E. end of Espiritu Santo Island. Picked up, uninjured, by an OS2-U.
- VT-21 Training operations.

27 May 1943:

- VF-21 Training operations.
- VT-21 Training operations.

28 May 1943:

- VF-21 Training operations. E
- VT-21 Training operations.

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WAR DIARY (cont).CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.29 May 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Pilots Junk, Anderson, Sprague, Larkin, Sanborn and their crews returned to Espiritu Santo and rejoined VT-21.

30 May 1943:

VF-21 Training operations. Ensigns G.H. Davidson, O.L. Dauphin, M. Dillon, and H.W. Hutchings reported for duty as fighter pilots.

VT-21 Training operations.

31 May 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Training operations.

1 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Training operations.

2 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations. Ensign Lyons, flying an F4F-4 on night familiarization flight, made a forced landing in the water one mile off beach of Espiritu Santo Island, and made shore in life raft. Pilot sustained cut over right eye, otherwise uninjured. Plane lost.

VT-21 Training operations.

3 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Training operations.

4 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Received orders to report to Guadalcanal for duty.

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WAR DIARY (con't).MAILING AND TELEPHONE SERVICE  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.5 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 Departed from Espiritu Santo for Guadalcanal. Pilots and crews of 24 TBF's made trip via air and remaining officers and crew traveled via the destroyer THORNTON. Those traveling via air arrived at Guadalcanal at 1500.

6 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 0915 - 1234; 12 TBF's from VF-21 with 9 SBD's and a 32 plane fighter cover conducted a strike against Munda Airfield and AA positions. No contact was made with enemy planes and damage to enemy airfield undetermined. Own losses - none.

7 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 1408 - 1725; 3 TBF's from VT-21 conducted a special anti-submarine search. Results - negative.

8 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 No operations.

9 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 No operations.

10 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 1720 - 2306; 6 TBF's from VT-21 conducted a search for enemy shipping in the Kahili-Buis-Shortland area. No shipping was found and no contact was made with enemy aircraft. On return trip Ensign Andrews was forced down because of gas tank trouble. Lieut. (jg) Junk circled and was certain both pilot and crew were in life raft. Ensign Andrews and crew were later picked up by natives and taken to Coast Watcher and returned to Henderson on 27 July 1943.

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WAR DIARY (cont.).CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.11 June 1943:

VF-21 No operations.

VT-21 No operations.

12 June 1943:

VF-21 No operations.

VT-21 1716 - 2217; 6 TBF's from VT-21, 4 loaded with 4 - 500 lb. bombs and 2 loaded with flares proceeded to Kahili-Shortland area to prow for shipping. All planes were unable to go beyond Treasury Island due to weather and returned toward Henderson, searching Wilson Strait, Gize Strait, Blackett Strait, and Kula Gulf on the way home.

13 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 1717 - 2305; 6 TBF's from VT-21, 4 loaded with 4 - 500 lb. bombs and 2 with flares, proceeded to Kahili-Shortland area to prow for shipping. No shipping was observed. AA was heavy from Kahili but light from other areas. Ensign Sprague, flying one of the flare planes, was seen over or near Kahili Airfield with numerous searchlights on him and great quantities of AA fire also directed at him. No other member of the flight saw him after this. No enemy contact was made. Ensign Sprague and turret-gunner Stranahan were picked up by natives on Santa Isabel Island and returned to Tulagi via PBX on 26 June 1943. Ensign Sprague suffered a broken collar bone and cuts on face and hands.

14 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 No operations.

15 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 0625 - 0930; 12 TBF's from VT-21 proceeded on a strike against Japanese beach heads on the North coast of New Georgia at Enogia Inlet and Bairako Harbor. The two areas were well covered and large fires were started with great clouds of black smoke seen for many miles from the area. No contacts were made with enemy planes - all planes returned.

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WAR DIARY (con't).CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.19 June 1943:

VF-21 Training operations.

VT-21 1316 - 1650; A special flight of 6 TBF's from VT-21 made a search for ships in Raviona Lagoon, off Munda, which were reported in the area. The search was conducted with negative results. No contacts were made with either enemy ships or planes. All planes returned to Henderson with bomb loads.

20 June 1943:

VF-21 Ordered to duty at Guadalcanal. Arrived at 1200 with 45 pilots, 37 enlisted men, and 36 planes. Based at Fighter ONE strip.

VT-21 0625 - 0955; 18 TBF's from VT-21 armed with 1 - 2000 lb. 1/10 second bomb, nose and tail fuse, and accompanied by SB's and fighters made a strike against the Vila Airfield and AA positions. The strike was successful as most of the bombs were on the target. No contact was made with enemy planes. Enemy AA was a sporadic and not very heavy or accurate. All planes returned with two very slightly damaged by AA fire.

21 June 1943:

VF-21 An 8 plane local patrol and a 32 plane escort, covering both SB's and TBF's on a bombing mission to Munda Airfield, New Georgia Island, made up the schedule for the day. AA was received over Munda. There was no contact with enemy planes and all pilots returned safely.

VT-21 No operations.

22 June 1943:

VF-21 16 planes escorted a PB4Y on a photographic mission to Mandava Island, New Georgia Group. AA was received near Vila Airfield on Kolombangara Island. 4 planes escorted a Task Unit from the East to Tulagi, Florida Islands. 4 planes patrolled over the Russell Islands.

VT-21 No operations.

23 June 1943:

VF-21 24 planes escorted SB's and TBF's to Rakata Bay on Santa Isabel Island. The AA was light and ineffective. 4 planes patrolled the Russell Islands.

VT-21 0618 - 0947; 12 TBF's from VT-21 armed with 4 - 500 lb. bombs, inst nose and tail fuse, accompanied by 18 SB's and 24 F4F's, made a strike against the bivouac areas around Vila Airfield. No contact made with enemy planes. AA encountered was small calibre. One plane was slightly damaged by three hits from AA. All planes returned.  
0651 - 1044; 6 TBF's of VT-21 made a coordinated attack with 8 B-25's against a Japanese position on Gancoga Island. The strike was accompanied by 24 F4U's. No contact was made with enemy and all planes returned.

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.24 June 1943:

VF-21 8 planes escorted a convoy to Tulagi, Florida Islands. 8 planes flew patrol over the Russell Islands. 4 planes flew local patrol.

VT-21 No operations.

25 June 1943:

VF-21 32 planes escorted SED's and TRF's to Munda Airfield and vicinity on New Georgia Island. The AA was light. There were no contacts and all pilots returned safely. 4 planes flew patrol over a convoy. 12 planes flew patrol over the Russell Islands. 4 planes flew local patrol.

VT-21 By order of ComFairSouth, Lieutenant Commander John Hulme was detached as Commander, Air Group Twenty-One and ordered to report to Air Group Eleven as Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Commander Charles H. Ostrom received orders appointing him Commander, Air Group Twenty-One. Lieutenant Robert L. Savage was appointed Commanding Officer of Torpedo Squadron Twenty-One.

0050 - 0642; 4 TRF's from VT-21 conducted an anti-shipping prowl in the Bougainville area. No ships were observed and no contact made with enemy.

26 June 1943:

VF-21 24 planes escorted SED's and TRF's to Munda. The AA was light and ineffectual. All planes returned safely without interference from enemy fighters. 8 planes escorted a PBYA to Santa Isabel Island.

VT-21 0050 - 0641; 4 TRF's from VT-21 conducted a shipping prowl in the Shortland-Kahili area. No ships were observed and no contact made with enemy planes. All planes returned.

0705 - 1006; 12 TRF's from VT-21 loaded with 4 - 500 lb. bombs, inst. nose and tail fuse, accompanied by 12 SED's and fighter cover, bombed the bivouac areas adjacent to Vila Airfield. The results were very satisfactory. No contacts were made with enemy planes. All planes returned. Ensign Sprague and C.H. Stranahan, gunner, returned to Florida Island from Santa Isabel. Ensign Andrews and crew returned from Vella Lavella.

27 June 1943:

VF-21 24 planes escorted SED's and TRF's to Vila Airfield on Kolombangara Island. The AA was light and scattered. There were no hits by AA and all planes returned safely. 8 planes flew local patrol.

VT-21 0627 - 0947; 12 TRF's of VT-21, loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. 1/10 second nose and tail fuse, accompanied by 13 SED's and 24 F4F's made a bombing raid on Munda Airfield. The SED's silenced the AA and the TRF's concentrated on the strip. The results were very satisfactory. No contact was made with enemy planes. All planes returned with no damage or injuries to aircraft or personnel.

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

WAR DIARY (con't)

28 June 1943:

- VF-21 12 planes flew local patrol.  
32 planes escorted SED's and TBF's to Makata Bay on Santa Isabel Island. Very little AA was received and all planes returned safely.
- VT-21 1424 - 1706; 12 TBF's of VT-21, loaded with 4 - 500 lb. bombs, inst. nose and tail fuse, accompanied by 12 SED's and 32 fighters, were sent on a strike against Munda, but due to weather conditions which closed that field in they went to Makata Bay. The SED's hit the AA and the TBF's hit the bivouac area. The bombs were well spaced over the area but due to release failure 7 bombs were dropped in the water and 2 bombs failed to release and were brought back to the field. Very little AA was encountered but one plane was hit in wing and stabilizer.  
All planes returned with no injuries to personnel.
- 1430 - 1809; 12 TBF's of VT-21, loaded with 4 - 500 lb. bombs, inst. nose and tail fuse, accompanied by 12 SED's and 32 fighters were sent on a strike against Fila Airfield with Munda as the secondary target. Due to weather conditions the attack was made against the secondary target, i.e. the Bivouac area adjacent to Munda Airfield. The specific target area was not as well covered as in previous attacks as most of the pilots on this flight were making their first attack against Munda and they had not been too well briefed on this target. AA fire was sporadic and no hits were made on our aircraft. All planes returned and no damage or injuries were sustained by our planes or personnel.

29 June 1943:

- VF-21 4 planes flew local patrol.  
4 planes flew patrol over the Russell Islands.
- VT-21 No operations.

30 June 1943:

- VF-21 This date marks the start of our offensive for the control of Rendova and New Georgia Islands.  
32 planes took off in the morning to patrol over the shipping and the landings on Rendova Island. The first 16 planes were on station at 0845 and the second 16 at 0930.

Action in the morning:

- Lieut. (jg) Wells was forced to make a water landing on the east coast of Rendova due to the failure of the gasoline supply system when he switched from one wing tank to another. He is reported to be safe.
- One B-24 engine Jap bomber (Betty) serving as a spotter, shot down in flames by Lieutenant Torkelson at 1035 after a 30 mile chase to the south.
- At 1100 the first 16 Grumans on patrol left station.
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WAR DIARY (con't)CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.30 June 1943 (con't)

VF-21 At 1115 the ground control station reported Zeros. The second formation of 16 Grummans made contact, estimating enemy fighters to be around 15 in number.

Two Zeros were shot down.

One by Lieut.(jg) Johnson.

One by Lieut.(jg) Ruth.

Our loss in the morning's action was one pilot -

Lieut. Comdr. Henry - MIA.

Lieut.(jg) Arnold was forced to bail out after contacting Zeros, and was picked up and returned safely to our forces.

All planes returned to the Russell Islands.

Action in the afternoon:

28 planes took off from the Russells around 1340, arriving on station at approximately 1445.

At 1530 a large bogey was reported coming in from the North. Contact was made very shortly afterwards, with 15 - 25 enemy bombers all flying low. Their objective was our shipping, and they were protected by some 30-40 Zeros.

Japanese planes destroyed (confirmed):

<u>Betty's</u>	<u>Zeros</u>	<u>Pilot</u>
1		Lieut. Comdr. Ostrom
1	2	Lieut.(jg) W. Smith
1		Lieut.(jg) G. Smith
1		Lieut.(jg) Heard
2		Lieut. Torkelson
	1	Lieut.(jg) Beasley
	1	Lieut.(jg) Wall
	3	Lieut.(jg) Burch
	1	Lieut.(jg) Hams
	2	Lieut.(jg) Thomas
1		Lt.(jg) Johnson & Ens. Dillon
	2	Ensign Symmes
	2	Ensign Redinger
1		Ensign Lindsey
1	2	Ensign Boyle
1		Ensign Lyons
<u>we</u>	<u>1</u>	Ensign Williams
Total 10	17	

Our losses in the afternoon's action -

Lieut.(jg) Ruth - MIA.

Lieut.(jg) Thrash forced to make a water landing after his plane was shot up. He is safe, having been picked up by friendly natives.

All other planes returned safely.

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WAR DIARY (con't)CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.30 June 1943 (con't):

VT-21 0935 - 1350; 12 TBF's of VT-21, loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. bomb, 1/10 second nose and tail fuse, 6 TBF's of CARDIV 22 loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. bomb, inst. nose and tail fuse, accompanied by 12 SHD's, continued the bombing of the Vila Airfield and the bivouac areas. 15 TBF's completed the mission and dropped bombs on the targets assigned.  
Enemy contacts: at least 12 Zeros seen and an attack made on one TBF by 2 Zeros. The TBF was hit in starboard wing.  
Own losses: None.  
All pilots returned.

1 July 1943:

VF-21 24 planes, 8 planes at a time, flew the Randova Patrol through 1200. At 1100, 10-12 Aichi 99 single engine bombers escorted by an unknown number of Zeros appeared low, flying from the SW. Eight of our planes were on station, and two made contact with the enemy bombers, shooting two down in flames.  
Jap planes shot down (confirmed):  
1 Aichi 99 by Lieut.(jg) Keers.  
1 Aichi 99 by Ensign Vanderhoof.  
Our losses - none.  
All planes returned safely and there were no farther contacts.

VT-21 1145 - 1509; 6 TBF's of VT-21 loaded with torpedoes and 1 TBF's of VC-28, loaded with 4 - 500 lb. bombs, 113 tail fuse, in response to information regarding the presence of enemy ships, proceeded on an anti-shiping search. They proceeded up the South Gut to Sumba Bay, thence across New Georgia to search Raviona Lagoon and Blanche Channel. No enemy ships were observed and no contacts made with enemy planes.  
All planes returned to field.  
1207 - 1531; 18 TBF's from VT-21, loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. D.C. and 7 TBF's of VT-11, loaded with 4 - 500 lb. bombs, inst. nose and tail fuse, accompanied by 12 SHD's, loaded with 1 - 1000 lb. D.C., continued the bombing of Vila Airfield and bivouac area. The enemy held their AA fire until after the SHD's started their dive and thus the TBF's encountered more AA than usual. However, only one plane was hit, with slight damage and all planes returned.  
Enemy contacts - none.  
Own losses - none.

2 July 1943:

VF-21 No patrols - no action.

VT-21 0530 - 1042; Lt.(jg) Sanborn and Ensign Robbins acted as spotter and liaison in cooperation with the landing forces on Randova and New Georgia.  
0730 - 1206; Lt.(jg) Champlin and Ensign Henriksen acted as spotter and liaison in cooperation with the landing forces on Randova and New Georgia.

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WAR DIARY (con't)CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.3 July 1943:

VF-21 32 planes in all flew the Rendova Patrol. 16 of them being on station throughout the day.  
There was no action and all planes returned safely.  
Lieut.(jg) Thrash returned unhurt.

VT-21 1408 - 1730; 12 TBF's of VT21 and 7 TBF's of VT-11, all loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. D.C. and accompanied by 18 SB2C's and 32 fighters, conducted a bombing raid on the bivouac area east of Munda. AA fire was the most accurate and intense encountered in this area, even though no planes were hit. Area well covered.  
All pilots returned uninjured.  
Own losses - none.  
Enemy contacts - none.

4 July 1943:

VF-21 16 planes took off for the Rendova Patrol at 0740.  
16 planes took off for the Rendova Patrol at 0910.  
There was no action and all planes returned to the Russell Islands.  
11 Planes were on station again at 1315.  
At 1430, 28 to 30 twin engine Jap bombers (Bettys) escorted by a large number of Zeros came in for the attack at 15,000' altitude.  
Jap planes shot down (confirmed).  
2 Bettys by Lieut.(jg) Roach.  
1 Betty by Lieut.(jg) G. Smith.  
1 Zero by Lieut.(jg) W. Smith.  
1 Betty by Ensign Symmes.  
Our losses:  
Lieut.(jg) Heard, MIA.  
Comments - Many planes were shot down. However, owing to clouds, the pilots were unable to tell which planes they themselves had shot down, and only those planes were credited that burst into flames as the run was being made.  
Two pilots, Ensigns Farham and Nugent joined the squadron.

5 July 1943:

VF-21 40 planes, 16 at first, then 8, then 16 again, covered a Task Force returning from Rendova Island, from 0700 to 1200.  
23 planes flew the Rendova patrol during the afternoon from 1315 to 1700.  
All planes returned safely - no contacts.  
Lieut.(jg) Wells returned unhurt.

VT-21 No operations.

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.6 July 1943:

VF-21 31 planes covered a Task Force until it reached the Russell Islands at 1200.  
24 planes, 8 planes at a time, flew the Rendova Patrol throughout the afternoon until 1700.  
All planes returned safely - no contacts.

VT-21 0612 - 0944; 6 TBF's of VT-21 and 12 TBF's of CARDIV 22, loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. D.C., accompanied by 18 SBD's, conducted a bombing raid against enemy positions along the shore of Enogai Inlet, North coast of New Georgia. This was to assist the land operations of the First Marine Raiders who were advancing from Rise Anchorage.  
Bombs were well scattered over the area. Considerable debris from the previous nights naval engagement in Kula Gulf was observed.  
All planes and pilots returned without damage or injury.  
0837 - 1214; 6 TBF's of VT-21 and 6 TBF's of VT-11, loaded with 3-500 lb. bombs, 1/10 second delay action fuses, accompanied by 12 SBD's and 13 fighters went on a special anti-shipping search in the vicinity of Kolombangara. The force sighted one enemy ship beached near Bambari Harbor on the East coast of Kolombangara. Runs were made on the ship over the port and starboard quarters. The SBD's scored 3 hits and the TBF's 2 hits and 2 bombs very close.  
No contact made with enemy planes and all pilots returned uninjured.  
0600 - 1830; Seven planes acted as spotting and liaison in cooperation with landing forces on Rendova and New Georgia.

7 July 1943:

VF-21 A continuous patrol of 16 planes was maintained over Rendova from 0700 to 1630.  
All planes returned safely - no contacts.

VT-21 0851 - 1223; 12 TBF's of VT-21 and 7 TBF's of VT-11, loaded with 2000 lb. D.C., accompanied by 18 SBD's and 16 fighters conducted a bombing raid on the bivouac areas adjacent to Vila Airfield. All planes dropped bombs in areas assigned; all planes returned without damage to either planes or personnel.  
1720 - 2230; 3 TBF's from VT-21 proceeded to the Buin-Kahili area on an anti-shipping strike. There was reported to be a large number of enemy ships in this area. One ship was observed in the harbor with all planes making a run on it. Considerable AA was encountered from the ship with two planes suffering considerable damage.  
Lieut. (jg) McKinney was attacked by an enemy plane and his plane was further damaged and his turret gunner mortally wounded. McKinney was unable to control his plane and crashed upon attempting a water landing. The radioman was rescued but no trace was found of the pilot.  
Own losses - 1 dead.  
1 missing in action.  
1 plane.  
Enemy losses - 1 DD hit and probably sunk.

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.8 July 1943:

- VF-21 4 planes were scrambled, then ordered to land, no bogey.  
8 planes flew the Rendova Patrol from 1100 - 1300, and another 8 from 1500 - 1700.  
4 planes flew patrol over the Russell Island.  
All planes returned safely - no contacts.
- VT-21 0600 - 1200; 3 TBF's acted as Spotting and Liaison planes in cooperation with ground forces on Rendova and New Georgia.

9 July 1943:

- VF-21 48 planes flew the Rendova Patrol; 16 from 0615 to 0815, 16 from 1100 to 1300, and 16 from 1500 - 1700.  
All planes returned safely - no contacts.
- VT-21 0624 - 1010; The largest strike to be made in the Southwest Pacific was made against the AA positions, airfield and bivouac areas on Munda. There was a total of 70 tons of bombs dropped and observers praised the attack as the most successful ever seen against enemy positions. A total of 106 planes took off from Henderson Field in exactly 1 hour. 36 SBD's loaded with 1000 lb. daisy cutters hit the AA positions; 6 TBF's loaded with 4 - 500 lb bombs with 1/10 second delayed nose and tail fuse hit the strip and every bomb dropped by this section was seen to hit on the strip; 48 TBF's loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. daisy cutter bombed the bivouac areas near the strip.  
The TBF's were in the following group:  
28 from VT-21.  
12 from VT-11.  
12 from CarDiv 22.  
Three planes were slightly damaged by AA fire. All planes returned and there were no injuries to personnel.

10 July 1943:

- VF-21 48 planes maintained patrol over Rendova, 16 from 0730 to 0930, 16 from 0815 to 1015, and 16 from 1200 to 1400.  
All planes returned safely - no contacts.
- VT-21 0600 - 1230; 4 TBF's acted as Spotting and Liaison planes in cooperation with ground forces on Rendova and New Georgia.  
Ground troops on New Georgia requested further bombing of the bivouac areas at Munda to soften up the enemy prior to a further advance by our troops. A flight was sent out at 0736 and returned at 1114 and consisted of 48 TBF's (14 from VT-21 and 34 from CarDiv 22) loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. daisy cutter and accompanied by 32 SBD's loaded with 1 - 1000 lb. daisy cutter.  
One plane was hit in wing tip with AA (damage slight). All planes returned with no injuries to personnel.  
1406 - 1820: A second strike by TBF's was ordered against the bivouac areas adjacent to Vila Airfield. The flight was unable to bomb this
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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

WAR DIARY (con't)c/o FLEET POSTOFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO? CALIF.10 July 1943 (con't):

VT-21 target due the entire area being closed in. After circling the target for 45 minutes a part of the flight proceeded back to the base while the remainder proceeded to Rakata Bay as a secondary target. This group found Rakata Bay also closed in and was unable to bomb it. All planes returned to Henderson with their bomb loads. This flight consisted of the following units:  
10 TBF's from VT-21; 4 TBF's from VT-11; 31 TBF's from CarDiv 22 and 54 SBD's.

11 July 1943:

VF-21 32 planes flew the Rendova Patrol, 16 in the morning and 16 in the afternoon.  
16 planes escorted a PBY to Rendova and back.  
All pilots returned safely - no contact.

VT-21 0854 - 1220; The landing forces on New Georgia again asked for air attacks on enemy ground troops at Munda.  
35 TBF's (24 from VF-21 and 11 from VT-11) loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. daisy cutters accompanied by 36 SBD's and 32 fighters accompanied by hitting the AA positions and bivouac area.  
The attacks appeared very successful and the SBD's silenced practically all AA fire although one plane had a 12 inch hole in its wing as a result of AA. There were no injuries to personnel.

12 July 1943:

VF-21 16 planes were maintained continuously on patrol from 0745 to 1615. Lieut. Comdr. Ostrom, in making a test landing on the new Segi Field on the south eastern tip of New Georgia proper, cracked up owing to the softness of the field.  
All other planes returned safely - no contact.

VF-21 0600 - 1048; One TBF was employed as a special message plane for our ground forces at Enagai Inlet.  
0806 - 1127; More bombing of enemy positions at Munda. All TBF's were loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. daisy cutters, very little AA was encountered. The flight consisted of 49 TBF's (6 of VT-21, 6 of VF-11 and 37 of Car Div 22), 54 SBD's and 48 fighters.  
All planes returned with no damage or injuries to planes or personnel.

13 July 1943:

VF-21 0515 - 8 planes took off to cover the return of a Task Unit from New Georgia.  
0730 - 16 planes, of which only four covered the correct ships, took off.  
0845 - Lieut. Torkelson's flight made contact with 8 to 12 Zeros due N. of Visu Viam Point on the north western portion of New Georgia.  
Jap planes shot down (confirmed)  
1 Zero by Lieut. Torkelson.  
1 Zero by Lieut. (jg) Mencher.

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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

WAR DIARY (con't)CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
c/o FLEET POSTOFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.13 July 1943 (con't):

- VF-21 Our losses - none. However, Ensign Converse returned with his plane badly shot up.  
Lieut. Comdr. Ostrom returned from Segi unhurt.  
All planes returned safely and there were no other contacts.
- VT-21 0638 - 0925; Again that now daily attack against enemy positions at Munda. This time there were only 18 TBF's (12 of VT-21 and 6 of VT-11) and 24 SBD's. All planes were again loaded with daisy cutters. The TBF's with 1 - 2000 lb. and the SBD's with 1 - 1000 lb.  
Only one burst of AA was observed and it was subjected to a direct hit. All planes returned with no damage or injuries to planes or personnel.  
2354 (13 July) to 0434 (14 July) an anti-shipping strike consisting of 6 TBF's of VT-21 was ordered when word was received that at least 3 enemy ships were headed toward Vella Lavella. A search was made of Vella Gulf, thence to Fomro, Cape Friendship and the North tip of Choiseul, but no ships were sighted either visually or by Radar. All planes returned with no damage or injuries to planes or personnel.

14 July 1943:

- VF-21 0900 - 1245; 16 planes on Rendova Patrol.  
1200 - 1450; 4 planes escorted a Task Unit to Salagi, Florida Island.  
1330 - 1735; 16 planes started out to patrol Rendova. They ran into foul weather and 2 pilots are missing - Ensign Constantine and Lieut. (jg) G. Smith.  
Lieut. (jg) Beasley crashed on Segi Field, but is reported unhurt.  
Lieut. (jg) Jackson is also there, having made a safe landing.  
All pilots safe - no contact.
- VT-21 0530 - 1030; Two planes from VT-21 acted as Spotter and Liaison with ground forces on Rendova and New Georgia.  
1301 - 1744; Vila was to be the recipient of this attack but upon arriving over the target it was found that the entire area was closed in. Every effort was made to get through for the attack but it was impossible. Upon returning it was found that a front of over 200 miles in length had crossed the Out. It was necessary for the flight to proceed well south of Guadalcanal to stay out of the storm and finally got around it by coming around the eastern end of Guadalcanal to Henderson.  
It was reported by the leaders of the flight to be the worst and largest front ever encountered in this area.  
All planes returned - no damage.

15 July 1943:

- VF-21 0645 - 1025; 16 planes on Rendova Patrol.  
0730 - 1120; 8 planes on Rendova Patrol.  
1115 - 1515; 16 planes on Rendova Patrol.  
1205 - 1610; 8 planes on Rendova Patrol.  
1400 - Vega reported a large bogey coming in over Kolombangara from the W.  
1430 - 8 planes now on station. Lieut. Torkelson reported 8 twin engine bombers and over 25 Zeros.
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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

WAR DIARY (con't)CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
c/o FLEET POSTOFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.15 July 1943: (con't)

VF-21 Jap planes shot down (confirmed):  
1 Zero by Ensign Davidson.  
1 Zero by Lieut. (jg) Wells.  
Our losses:  
Ensign Redinger, MIA.  
There was no other action and all other pilots returned safely.

16 VT-21 1319 - 1725; 27 TBF's of VT-21, 9 TBF's of VT-11 accompanied by 36 SBD's conducted a bombing raid against the bivouac areas and AA positions at Vila Airfield. TBF's loaded with 2000 lb. D.C. and SBD's with 1000 lb. D.C.  
No contact with enemy planes and all planes returned with no damage to planes and no injuries to pilots.  
2106 (15 July) - 0433 (16 July); 4 TBF's of VT-21 conducted an anti-shipping patrol between Vella Lavella and Shortland to protect a group of DD's which were evacuating survivors of the Helena from Vella Lavella. On the return to the base a front extending from Santa Isabel to the Russells was encountered. Ensign Lawty, in maneuvering around the front, got off course and was unable to orientate himself. Radio contact was maintained with the field at Henderson. He reported himself last at 0530 and at 0630, having been unable to locate his position he reported that he was making a water landing and that he was on a heading of 360° with land about 15 miles astern.

16 July 1943:

VF-21 0800 - 1150; 16 planes flew the Randova Patrol and covered an SBD-TBF strike on Munda Airfield.  
0900 - 1200; 8 planes escorted a Task Unit.  
1245 - 1615; 16 planes on Randova Patrol.  
1330 - 1700; 8 planes escorted 6 DC-3's to Enogau on New Georgia Island and then flew patrol over Randova.  
Ensign Milton crashed into the water near Segi.  
Lieutenants (jg) Beasley and Jackson returned from Segi.  
Ensign Constantine returned. He had baled out and had rowed all night to New Georgia. He is unhurt, although his arms are badly chafed from paddling.

VT-21 A total of 15 planes made an almost continuous search for Ensign Lawty and his crew. The searches covered a circle with a radius of approximately 180 miles from Henderson. All searches were negative.  
4 TBF's of VT-21 acted as Liaison and Spotting planes in cooperations with land forces on New Georgia and Randova.  
Own losses - 1 plane, pilot and crew missing.

17 July 1943:

VF-21 0645 - 1200; 32 planes escorted 36 SBD's to the harbor area east of Bougainville, a distance of 300 miles, to bomb enemy shipping. An unknown number of Zeros were encountered.

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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

WAR DIARY(con't)CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
c/o FLEET POSTOFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.17 July 1943:(con't).

VF-21 Jap planes shot down (confirmed):  
1 Float plane by Lieut. Torkelson.  
1 float plane by Lieut.(jg) Mencher.  
1 Zero by Ensign Parham.  
2 Zeros by Lieut.(jg) Beasley.  
Our losses: none.  
All pilots returned safely and the mission was considered an outstanding success.

VT-21 0640 - 1200; 21 TBF's from VT-21 and 12 from VT-11, all loaded with 2000 lb. bombs 1/10 second delay, nose and tail fuse, accompanied by 36 SBH's and fighters. Made a daylight attack on Jap ships off the coast of Bougainville, near Kahili. The attack was a complete success with at least 6 enemy ships sunk, consisting of one OL, 1 AK, 1 tanker, and 3 DD's. Lieut. Rowbotham and Lieut.(jg) Sanders were definitely given credit for sinking the OL. Gunners Lamer and Wiggins were each credited with a Zero.  
The entire attack was made under AA fire from both shore and ships and also under constant attack by enemy planes. Several planes taking part in the attack were hit by either gun fire from Zeros or AA but the damage was slight.  
The losses to the TBF's consisted of one plane and its crew(pilot Jacobson, Gunner Neuberger, and Radioman Felice).  
Enemy losses: 6 ships sunk. 4 credited to VT-21.  
1 ship damaged. 2 credited to VT-11.  
3 planes destroyed.  
Own losses: One plane, pilot and crew missing.

18 July 1943:

VF-21 0720 - 1145; 32 planes took off to escort a formation of TBF's to Bougainville. Planes failed to rendezvous and the fighters, after circling the rendezvous point for 20 minutes went on to Bougainville. Contact was never made. However, when over Shortland Island the fighter formation contacted 2 Zeros and 1 Zero was shot down by Lieut.(jg) Jackson. All planes returned safely.

VT-21 4 TBF's of VT-21 acted as Liaison and Spotting planes in cooperation with ground forces on New Georgia and Rendova.  
1305 - 1615; 17 TBF's of VT-21 and 8 of CarDiv 22 loaded with 2000 lb. bombs. Accompanied by 18 SBH's, at the request of ground forces on New Georgia hit enemy gun positions near Munda Airfield.  
All planes returned to the field with no damage or injuries to planes or pilots.

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

WAR DIARY (cont.)CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
c/o FLEET POSTOFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.19 July 1943:

VF-21 Segi Field was considered operational on this date and at 0600 32 planes took off to land there and remain on a scramble status. Owing to the condition of the field, 3 pilots crashed with varying degrees of damage to the planes. These pilots were Lt.(jg) Wall, Lt.(jg) Johnson, and Ensign Hutchings. Ensign Lyons made a water landing. He is unhurt but the plane is lost. There was no action with the enemy.

VT-21 Ground troops on New Georgia requested bombing of bivouac areas near Munda Airfield and between 0653 and 1015, 20 TBF's of VF-21, accompanied by 18 SB2C's and 32 fighters bombed the AA positions and bivouac areas at Munda. All planes returned, one landing at Segi (first TBF to land at Segi) because of electrical trouble.

20 July 1943:

VF-21 0500 - 0915; 24 planes escorted SB2C's and TBF's on a strike on the remnants of a Jap Task Force. There were no contacts made by this group. 1415 - 1530; 12 planes escorted a PBV to Rendova and back. All planes returned safely - no contact.

VT-21 0045 - 0624; A new addition of the "Tokyo Express" was reported by the Black Cat as proceeding down the Gut toward New Georgia. The Black Cat reported 3 OL's and 6 DD's in the enemy task force. The first striking force sent out against the enemy ships was 6 TBF's of VT-21, loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. bombs, 4-5 second delay fuse. The flight proceeded up New Georgia to Vella Lavella where the enemy task force was picked up by the TBF's on their radar. Contact was made about 9 miles off Vella Lavella. Two planes made a run on a DD which was directly hit by Lieut.(jg) Miller and it exploded and sank immediately. The remaining pilots stayed outside the AA fire until a more advantageous run could be made. Ensign Winn was seen to hit a OL, and Lt.(jg) Sanborn was seen to hit a DD (both of these ships were later (0730) found by SB2C's in a seriously damaged condition and were sunk by the SB2C's. Lt.(jg) Sanborn also got a near hit on a OL which was damaged sufficiently to cause it to proceed at a very slow speed and leave a large oil slick in its wake. This ship was followed in Faure by Lieut. Rowbottom who stayed in the area for an hour and a half after dropping his bomb to spot the ships for Strike Command at Henderson. Lt.(jg) Robbins and Ensign Winn were last seen making their run and drop on the enemy ships. Both pilots and their crews failed to return to base. At 0702 five additional TBF's of VT-21, loaded with torpedoes, took off to follow up the attack on enemy shipping. They were directed to search Kula Gulf, Vella Gulf and the Gut. In Kula Gulf two planes spotted a ship off Vila Airfield. Both planes dropped their "fish". Neither torpedo was observed to explode. On their return to base Zeros made a run on them but due to cloud cover were eluded. A third plane saw a ship near the beach north of Vila Airfield and dropped the "fish" on it but did not get a hit (later it was confirmed that this was a DD which had been beached sometime

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

WAR DIARY (con't)CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
c/o FLEET POSTOFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.20 July 1943: con't.

VT-21 previously). Lieut. Comdr. Keighley strafed barges in Vella Gulf and then located a DD dead in the water in the Gut. He strafed the ship and then made a run and dropped his torpedo. No wake was seen from the torpedo and no explosion occurred. It is believed the torpedo sunk without making a run.

All planes returned from this flight.

0630 - 1330; 2 TBF's acted as Spotter and Liaison planes for ground forces on New Georgia.

0450 - 12 TBF's of VT-21 and 6 TBF's of CarDiv 22, loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. bomb, 1/10 second delay fuse, accompanied by 18 SED's were sent out as a followup against the Jap Task Force. The search was made of Kula and Vella Gulfs but no ships were sighted and all planes returned to the base at 0843 to 1005.

Enemy losses: 1 DD sunk.  
1 DD damaged.  
2 GL damaged.

Own losses: 2 planes.  
2 pilots and 4 crew members missing.

21 July 1943:

VT-21 0630 - 1020; 12 planes escorted a PBV to Vela Gulf W. of Kolombangara Island to pick up the crew of a B-25.

0850 - 1220; 16 planes flew the Rendezvous Patrol.

All planes returned safely - no contact.

VT-21 0806 - 1146; 12 TBF's of VT-21 and 12 TBF's of VMTB 143, loaded with 1 - 2000 lb. bombs, inst. fuse, accompanied by 24 SED's, made a strike against Jap positions around Bairoko Harbor. The mission was well executed and the area well covered.

All planes returned to base with no damage or injuries.

1408 - 1723; Another flight consisting of 12 TBF's of VT-21 and 10 TBF's of VMTB 143, loaded with 1 - 2000 lb bombs, accompanied by 24 SED's made an attack on Jap beach heads and positions at Bairoko Harbor. This was the third bombing of the day against this position with a total of 228 tons of bombs being dropped. Needless to say the Jap positions were well covered.

22 July 1943:

VT-21 0750 - 1100; 16 planes escorted SED's and TBF's to bomb Munda.

1305 - 1830; 32 planes escorted SED's to bomb an aircraft tender reported to be carrying picked Jap troops and now anchored East of Bougainville.

Over the target an unknown number of Zeros were contacted.

Jap planes shot down (confirmed):

- 1 Zero by Ensign Williams.
- 1 Zero by Lieut. (jg) Moore.
- 1 Zero by Lieut. (jg) Symmes.
- 1 Zero by Lieut. (jg) Beach.

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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

WAR DIARY (con't).GARFIELD AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
c/o FLEET POSTOFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.22 July 1943: (con't).

VF-21 Our Losses: Lieut. Comdr. Torkelson, MIA.  
Lieut. (jg) Beasley, MIA.  
All other planes returned safely.

VT-21 Two TBF's acted as Liaison and Spotter for ground forces on New Georgia. 1319 - 1820; 18 TBF's (9 from VT-21 and 9 from VMTB 143) were called upon to intercept an enemy task force coming down the North side of Bougainville. The trip was up through the Gut. A small front was encountered at the North end of Choiseul. After coming out of the front Zeros were encountered by the fighter escort but did not get through to the TBF's.

Enemy ships were observed off Bougainville and the attack was made on a seaplane tender. At least 9 pilots claimed hits and the ship practically blew up as it sank within five minutes from the time of the first hit. Considerable AA was encountered from the ship attacked, and from other ships (3 DD's) near by.

Enemy losses: 1 seaplane tender sunk.  
Own Losses: none.

23 July 1943:

VF-21 0645 - 1020; 8 planes on Rendova Patrol.  
1315 - 1615; 16 planes escorted SB2C's and TBF's to Rakata Bay, Santa Isabella Island.  
All planes returned safely - no contact.

VT-21 No operations.

24 July 1943:

VF-21 0730 - 1700; 26 planes escorted SB2C's and TBF's to Bairake Harbor, New Georgia Islands. Mission was completed without contact with the enemy. Fighter planes then returned to Segi where they remained on scramble status.  
All pilots returned safely - no contact.

VT-21 No operations.

25 July 1943:

VF-21 0515 - 0910; 16 planes on Rendova Patrol.  
0800 - 1140; 8 planes on Rendova Patrol.  
An unknown but large number of Zeros and dive bombers attacked our positions on Rendova and New Georgia Islands. 8 of our planes contacted the enemy.

Jap planes shot down (confirmed):

- 1 Zero by Lieut. (jg) Symmes.
- 1 Zero by Lieut. (jg) Johnson.
- 1 Zero by Ensign Dillon.
- 2 Zeros by Lieut. (jg) Moore.
- 2 Zeros by Ensign Hutchings.

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

WAR DIARY (con't).CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
c/o FLEET POSTOFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.25 July 1943: (con't).

VF-21 Our Losses: Lieut. (jg) Roach, MIA.  
Lieut. (jg) Johnson, MIA.  
Ensign Williams crashed at Segi, both pilot and plane were shot up. Williams has his right arm broken in two places by the explosion of a 20 mm. shell. He has been evacuated to Lion ONE hospital in Espiritu Santo. The plane is lost.  
1210 - 1530; 12 planes escorted SBD's and TBF's to Munda to bomb AA positions and Jap pockets. All planes returned safely.

VT-21 0521 - 0852; 53 TBF's (19 Cardiv 22, 17 VT-21 and 17 WMTB 143) loaded with 2000 lb. bombs and accompanied by 54 SBD's and 32 fighters made another raid on Munda. Two planes hit with AA but only slightly damaged and there were no injuries to personnel.  
1520 - 1840; 21 TBF's (14 VT-21 and 7 WMTB 143) accompanied by 32 SBD's and fighter cover continued the attack on Munda. Much heavier AA was encountered. The force of the attack was on Bibilo Hill. Three planes were hit with AA. Radioman Forrest Vernon Weaver was fatally wounded. The AA shell (40 MM.) exploded underneath his seat and his right arm and leg received most of the shrapnel. His pilot, Ensign Linari, headed directly for the base at top speed. Every medical assistance was rendered but Weaver passed away at 2100. He was buried on 26 July at 1500 on Guadalcanal.  
The flight was originally set for 36 TBF's but due to failure of the fighters to rendezvous the division led by Major Mollenkamp consisting of 12 TBF's returned to the base. 3 planes returned because of engine trouble. Own losses: 1 crew member killed.

26 July 1943:

VF-21 0600 - 24 planes escorted SBD's and TBF's to Munda, then returned to Segi Field to maintain alert.  
All planes returned safely - no contact.

VT-21 No operations.

27 July 1943:

VF-21 0645 - 12 planes escorted SBD's and TBF's to Munda and landed at Segi where they remained on scramble alert.  
0900 - 1200; 16 planes patrolled Rendova.  
All planes returned safely - no contact.

VT-21 0622 - 0931; 18 TBF's (12 of VT-21 and 6 of WMTB-143) accompanied by 36 SBD's and 48 VF, and loaded with 2000 lb. D.C. were assigned AA positions and bivouac areas on Bibilo Hill, Munda Airfield.  
The attack was well led and executed, all planes returned to base.

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

WAR DIARY (con't).CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
c/o FLEET POSTOFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.28 July 1943:

VF-21 1345 - 1720; 16 planes escorted a PBV to Rendova.  
All planes returned safely - no contact.

VT-21 A 34 TBF flight (17 of VT-21, and 17 of CarDiv 22) and 36 SBV's made a  
two wave attack on the Jap forces on besieged Munda. The groups co-  
ordinated their attacks very well and the assigned targets were well  
covered.  
AA fire was concentrated on the North side of Hibilo Hill which was well  
covered with bombs.  
One plane was slightly damaged with AA fire with no injuries to personnel.

29 July 1943:

VF-21 Foul weather - no flying.

VT-21 No operations.

30 July 1943:

VF-21 4 planes remained on local patrol from 1730 to 1800.  
No contacts were made.

VT-21 No operations.

31 July 1943:

VF-21 0800 - 1030; 4 planes flew local patrol.  
1345 - 1700; 16 planes escorted SBV's and TBF's to Vila.  
AA was heavy but there was no contact with enemy planes.  
1515 - 1815; 8 planes escorted a PBV to Rendova.  
All planes returned safely - no contact.

VT-21 No operations.

1 August 1943:

VF-21 0615 - 1740; 8 planes escorted a PBV to Rendova Island, then came back  
to land at Segi and stand scramble alert.  
1230 - 1725; 16 planes escorted SBV's and TBF's to Bougainville. AA was  
received, but no contacts were made, although Ecora were sighted.  
All planes returned safely - no contacts.

VT-21 No operations.

2 August 1943:

VF-21 No operations.

VT-21 No operations.

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WAR DIARY (con't).CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-ONE  
c/o FLEET POSTOFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.3 August 1943:

- VF-21 19 Pilots took off in F4F-4's for Espiritu Santo.  
VT-21 Pilots, crews, and ground crew departed for Espiritu Santo.

4 August 1943:

- VF-21 19 pilots, 3 AVF(S) officers, and 36 enlisted men left Guadalcanal in DM-3's for Espiritu Santo.  
2000 - Despatch received that Lieut.(jg) G. Smith is safe and is in the hospital at Halavo, Florida Island. He had been missing since 14 July.  
VT-21 Awaiting transportation to United States at Espiritu Santo.

5 August 1943:

- VF-21 34 officers and 36 enlisted men aboard the S.S. DELBRAZIL for transportation to United States.  
VT-21 69 officers and 69 enlisted men aboard the S.S. DELBRAZIL for transportation to United States.

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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

SUMMARYVF-2120 June 1943 to 3 August 1943.  
(Second tour of duty at Guadalcanal).

Combat Missions.....	135.
Combat Hours.....	5552.3
Missions in which enemy fighter opposition encountered.....	9
AA Fire encountered.....	22
Results:	
<u>Own Losses:</u>	
Planes (combat).....	15
Pilots.....	8
<u>Enemy planes shot down.....</u>	60

VF-2115 May 1943 to 29 May 1943.  
5 June 1943 to 3 August 1943.

Combat Hours.....	2512.4
Bombing Missions.....	33
Mine Laying Missions.....	3
Liaison and Spotting Missions.....	27
Total Combat Missions.....	83
Results:	
<u>Own Losses:</u>	
Planes.....	9
Pilots.....	6
Enlisted Men (Crew).....	13
<u>Enemy:</u>	
Planes.....	3
Ships (sunk).....	3
Ships (damaged).....	3

GRAND TOTALEnemy losses credited to Carrier Air Group Twenty-One  
from 1 February 1943 to 3 August 1943.VF-21

Enemy Planes Destroyed..... 68

VF-21

Enemy Planes Destroyed..... 8

Enemy Ships Sunk..... 6

Enemy Ships Damaged..... 7

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