In January 2017 the continuing internet search for information pertaining to South Park High School students who lost their life in service located additional information regarding George F. Dailey from several websites and sources.
In January 2017 additional substantive information was discovered regarding George F. Dailey.

Announced by the Navy, Pensacola, Fla., May 10, George F. Dailey of 137 Davey Street has been appointed naval aviation cadet and transferred to Pensacola for flight training.¹

George F. Dailey, 137 Davey Street has completed training at the Naval Aviation School, Pensacola, Fla., and has been commissioned as an ensign. Before becoming a naval aviation cadet Dailey attended Buffalo State Teachers College.²

George F. Dailey, 21, son of George E. Dailey, 137 Davey Street, has won his Navy "Wings of Gold" and commission as an ensign in the Naval Reserve. He was graduated recently following completion of the prescribed flight training course at the Naval Air Center, Pensacola, FL. Designated a naval aviator, the youth will go on active

¹ Courier Express, May 11, 1943  Page 13
² Courier Express, August 12, 1943
duty at one of the Navy’s air operational training centers before being assigned to a
combat zone.³

Following completion of his training, Ensign Dailey was assigned to Fighter
Squadron One (VF-1). The Screaming Eagles were first established as VF-1 on
February 1, 1943 and became VF-51 on July 15, 1943. Until its disestablishment, VF-
51 was the oldest fighter squadron in continuous service with the Pacific Fleet.

In preparation for battle in the Pacific, VF-51 joined Torpedo Squadron (VT-51)
as Air Group 51, established September 22, 1943. VF-51 was deployed on USS San
Jacinto (CVL-30) from January through November 1944.⁴

The Air Group consisted of two types of aircraft. The fighters (VF-51) were the
fast single-seater Grumman F6F-3 Hellcats with fire power from six machine-guns, and
which may also carry rockets and small bombs. The torpedo bomber (VT-51) was the
Grumman TBF Avenger. It had two enlisted crewmen in addition to the pilot and it
carries a ton of bombs, depth charges, or aerial torpedoes, and is designed for low-level
attack.⁵

“The second San Jacinto (CVL-30) was laid down as the light cruiser NEWARK
(CL-100), on 26 October 1942 by the New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N.J.;
redesignated CV-30 and renamed REPRISAL on 2 June 1942; renamed San Jacinto on
30 January 1943, converted, while building, to a light aircraft carrier and reclassified as
CVL-30; launched on 26 September 1943; sponsored by Mrs. Jesse Jones; and
commissioned on 15 November 1943, Capt. Harold M. Martin, in command.

After shakedown in the Caribbean, San Jacinto sailed, via the Panama Canal,
San Diego, and Pearl Harbor, for the Pacific war zone. Arriving at Majuro, Marshall
Islands, she became part of the growing might of Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's Task
Force 58/38, the fast carrier striking force of the Pacific Fleet. There, San
Jacinto embarked Air Group 51, whose fighters and torpedo planes would be the ship's
chief weapons in battle.

After providing search patrols to protect other carriers striking at Wake and
Marcus Islands, San Jacinto, by 5 June 1944, was ready to participate in the largest
fleet action since the battle of Midway, almost exactly two years before. On that day,
Task Force 58 sortied from Majuro and headed toward the Marianas to conduct air
strikes preparatory to American seizure of Saipan and to protect the invasion forces
from enemy air and naval attack.

³ Courier Express, July 24, 1943
⁴ Ibid.
⁵ http://www.wings-aviation.ch/24-Naval-Wings/1942/1942-Basis-de.htm
The photo, supra, is also contained in a book, "George Bush: His World War II Years", by Robert Stinnett. In the book, the caption reads, “The first landing cake is cut by Tom Bradbury as fighter pilots George F. Dailey (left) and Ed Boddington look on. In background, bomber pilots Stan Butchart, Lou Grab and Dick Plaisted and landing signal officer Ralph Bagwell (behind Boddington).”

This American thrust triggered a strong Japanese reaction; on 19 June, the Japanese Fleet launched more than 400 planes against the invasion fleet and the covering carrier force. In the ensuing air battle, known to American pilots as the "Marianas Turkey Shoot," more than 300 enemy planes were shot down. While San Jacinto's planes were achieving their most one-sided victory of the war, her gunners helped to down the few attackers able to get near the American ships. Then, at dusk,
Admiral Mitscher dispatched an all-carrier attack after the retreating enemy fleet. The night recovery of the returning planes was accomplished amid considerable confusion. Reportedly, a Japanese carrier plane attempted a landing approach on San Jacinto, only to be waved off by the landing signal officer because its hook wasn't down.

San Jacinto then participated in strikes against Rota and Guam and furnished combat air patrol (CAP) and anti-submarine patrol (ASP) for her task group. During these raids, a San Jacinto fighter pilot was shot down over Guam and spent 17 days in a life raft trying to attract attention and 16 nights hiding on the island.

After a refueling and replenishment stop at Eniwetok Atoll, San Jacinto joined in carrier strikes against the Palau's on 15 July. On 5 August, her targets were Chichi, Haha, and Iwo Jima. A brief stop at Eniwetok preceded her return to the Bonins at the end of August.
On 2nd September 1944 Lieutenant George W. H. Bush, an Avenger pilot with VT-51 on the San Jacinto, was ordered to lead an attack on a Japanese radio station on the island of ChiChi Jima. He continued with the dive bomb attack after his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire and then managed to get his aircraft over the sea before bailing out, although one of his two-man crew bailed out, his chute failed to open and he plummeted to his death. The submarine FINBACK (SS 230), lifeguarding for the strike, rescued Lt. (j.g.) Bush, covered by fighters that sank two small craft that put out from the island in hopes of taking the downed pilot captive. The rescued Avenger pilot went on to become the 41st President of the United States.

Subsequently, San Jacinto flew dawn-to-dusk CAP and ASP duty while other carriers struck at Yap, Ulithi, Anguar, and Babelthuap, pinning down Japanese air forces while the Palau’s were being assaulted on 15 September 1944.”

In preparation for the Battle of Peleliu, codenamed Operation Stalemate II, American planners chose to land on the southwest beaches because of their proximity to the airfield on South Peleliu. The Navy’s Underwater Demolition Team went in first to clear the beaches of obstacles, while U.S. Navy warships began their pre-invasion bombardment of Peleliu on September 12th.

USS San Jacinto (CVL-30) received a Presidential Unit Citation, infra, for “…extraordinary heroism in action…” from May 1944 thru June 1945.

A member of VF-51, Lt. Arthur L. Warta of Kansas, wrote in a letter home, “I was transferred to the USS San Jacinto in the early part of 1944. This took me to duty in the Pacific. After numerous missions against the Japanese we recaptured a large number of Islands…. We had numerous missions against the Japs on Palau Islands. We lost so many planes and pilots we had to go to the Manis Islands to get more planes and pilots. Manis Island had been captured earlier. The U.S. used the Island as an area to keep planes and extra pilots. I guess one would call the island a wharehouse (sic) for planes and pilots.”

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7 http://www.hazegray.org/danfs/carriers/cvl30.htm  
9 http://www.navsource.org/archives/02/30.htm Documents related to LT Arthur Leon Warta, USNR, who was attached to Fighting Squadron (VF) 51 aboard USS San Jacinto (CVL-30) from David A. Warta grandson  
10 Ibid.
On September 12, 1944, Ensign Dailey took off from San Jacinto in F6F-3 #42539 on a combat mission at Palau. According to U.S. Navy records the engine in his plane immediate failed. He crashed into the ocean and was lost.

"Ensign George F. Dailey, 23- year-old Hellcat fighter pilot, was killed September 12th in the South Pacific theater, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Dailey, 137 Davey St., have been informed. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. next Sunday at St. Agnes' Church, 194 Ludington St. Ensign Dailey attended State Teachers College and the Albright Art School. Besides his parents, he is survived by a sister, Joan L., and a brother, Norman C. Dailey."

Ensign George F. Dailey lost on September 12, 1944, remains missing in action. He is remembered on the Tablets of the Missing, Manila American Cemetery12, Fort Bonafacio, Manila Philippines. He was 23 years old.

In early February 2017 a letter was sent to President George H.W. Bush that informed him of the SPHS Fallen Warriors project and his connection via George F. Dailey. On March 11, 2017 he responded.

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11 Courier Express, 10/22/44 Page 4D
12 https://www.abmc.gov/node/462344#.WKEC7IkrJPy, American Battle Monuments Commission
March 6, 2017

Dear Matt,

What a great thing South Park High School is doing to honor local “Fallen Warriors,” and I wish I had specific recollections to offer regarding my fellow VT-51 shipmate, George F. Daily. Sadly, I do not. It’s an age thing, Matt. Now 92, I sometimes forget what I had for breakfast!

Here’s what I can tell you definitively. Every man with whom I served onboard USS San Jacinto was a true patriot and the very best our country had to offer. I learned values from them and from our service together that shaped my life unlike any other single experience.

Thanks so much for writing. All the best to you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mr. Matt Parsons
Senior Officers of USS San Jacinto and officers of Fighter Squadron 51, 1944

David A. Warta, Tulsa Ok, grandson of Lt. Arthur L. Warta, VF-51, USNR 13FEB17
Senior Officers of USS San Jacinto and officers of Torpedo Squadron 51, 1944

14 David A. Warta, Tulsa OK, grandson of Lt. Arthur L. Warta, VF-51, USNR 13FEB17
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to the

U.S.S. SAN JACINTO

and her attached Air Groups participating in the following operations:

- May 10–23, 1944, Wake and Marcus; June 11 to August 5, 1944, Marianas, Bonins, Palau, Yap; August 31 to September 18, 1944, Bonins, Palau, Yap; October 10 to November 22, 1944, Ryukyus, Formosa, Luzon, Philippines: AG-51 (VF-51, VT-51).
- December 14–16, 1944, Luzon; January 3 to 22, 1945, Philippines, Formosa, China Sea, Ryukyus; February 16 to April 27, 1945, Japan, Bonins, Ryukyus: AG-45 (VF-45, VT-45).
- May 12 to June 10, 1945, Ryukyus, Japan; July 10 to August 15, 1945, Japan: AG-49 (VF-49, VT-49).

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the air, ashore and afloat in the Pacific War Area from May 10, 1944, to August 15, 1945. Operating continuously in the most forward areas, the U.S.S. SAN JACINTO and her air groups struck crushing blows toward annihilating Japanese fighting power; they provided air cover for our amphibious forces; they fiercely countered the enemy’s aerial attacks and destroyed his planes; and they inflicted terrific losses on the Japanese in Fleet and merchant marine units sunk or damaged. Daring and dependable in combat, the SAN JACINTO with her gallant officers and men rendered loyal service in achieving the ultimate defeat of the Japanese Empire."

For the President,

[Signature]

Secretary of the Navy

Source: http://www.navsource.org/archives/02/30.htm  Documents related to LT Arthur Leon Warta, USNR, who was attached to Fighting Squadron (VF) 51 aboard USS San Jacinto (CVL-30) posted by David A. Warta grandson.