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SECURITY INFORMATION

U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

CVA21/02-jsj
A4-3
Ser: 0257

7 July 1953

From: Commanding Officer
To: Chief of Naval Operations
Via: (1) Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN
(2) Commander SEVENTH Fleet
(3) Commander Naval Forces, Far East
(4) Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
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DOD DIR 5200.10

Subj: Action Report for the period 10 May through 21 June 1953

Ref: (a) OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3480.4 dtd 1 July 1951

Encl: (1) ATG-1 conf ltr ser 010 dtd 26 June 1953, Action Report of Carrier Air Task Group ONE (10 May - 21 June 1953)

1. In compliance with reference (a), the Action Report for the period 10 May through 21 June is hereby submitted.

PART I Composition of Own Forces and Mission

a. Composition

(1) On 10 May 1953, in accordance with CTF-77 confidential dispatch 281224Z April 1953, the U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21), with RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, and Air Task Group ONE embarked, departed Yokosuka, Japan, accompanied by the U.S.S. BLACK (DD-666), enroute to the operating area.

(2) Rendezvous with Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN was effected the afternoon of 12 May 1953. The OTC and CTF-77 was RADM A. SOUCEK, USN, Commander Carrier Division THREE, embarked on the U.S.S. PRINCETON (CVA-37). RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, was second in command. Ships present at the time of rendezvous included the U.S.S. PRINCETON (CVA-37), the U.S.S. VALLEY FORGE (CVA-45), the U.S.S. BREMERTON (CA-130), and various screen ships. The U.S.S. PHILIPPINE SEA (CVA-47), the U.S.S. LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39), the U.S.S. NEW JERSEY (BB-62), and the U.S.S. MANCHESTER (CL-83) were operated with at various times during the period of this report.

b. Mission

The mission of this ship, as a component of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN, is set forth in Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN Op-Order 2-52. Briefly stated it is as follows:

(1) Assist in the program for the systematic interdiction of enemy movement and resupply over the Northeast Korean railroads, road complexes, and storage areas.

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(2) Destroy electric power generating plants and electric distribution systems in Northeast Korea.

(3) Furnish Close Air Support to and air strikes in support of front line ground forces, coordinating operations with Fifth Air Force, Korea, through the Joint Operations Center, Korea.

(4) Protect the Task Force against air, surface, and submarine attacks.

(5) Assist the UN Blockading and Escort Force in over-all defense and local ground defense of friendly Korean Islands as required using air support.

(6) Conduct Photo and armed reconnaissance in support of the interdiction program, providing photographs and photographic interpretation studies.

(7) Provide air cover for UN Naval Forces as directed.

PART II Chronological Order of Events

a. The following is an outline of the BOXER's employment during the period of this Action Report:

10 May 1953 -

At 0650, in compliance with CTF-77 confidential dispatch 281224Z April 1953, the U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21) with RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, and Air Task Group ONE embarked, accompanied by the U.S.S. BLACK (DD-666), departed Yokosuka, Japan enroute to the operating area and Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. Captain M. B. GURNEY, USN, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21) was OTC.

11 May 1953 -

Enroute to the operating area. A total of sixty-three (63) Photo, ASP, and Jet Tactics training sorties were flown. Anti-aircraft firing exercises and various other drills were conducted during the day.

12 May 1953 -

The U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21) and the U.S.S. BLACK (DD-666) rendezvoused with Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN at 1205. RADM A. SOUCEK, USN, Commander Carrier Division THREE, Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN, was embarked on the U.S.S. PRINCETON (CVA-37). No air operations were conducted due to replenishment. The following dispatch was received:

CTF-77 120250Z

"GLAD TO HAVE THE TOUGH OLD VETERAN BACK WITH US"

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13 May 1953 -

At 0826, the BOXER launched her first combat sortie of her fourth Korean tour of duty. Sixty-three (63) combat sorties were flown during the day. The following dispatch was received:

CTF-77 130838Z

"PERFORMANCE BOXER AND HER AIR GROUP TODAY VERY FINE X MY FORECAST COLON SOON YOU WILL BE BETTER THAN ANY PREVIOUS BOXER OR BOXER AIR GROUP AND THATS PRETTY GOOD"

14 May 1953 -

One hundred and nine (109) combat sorties were launched.

15 May 1953 -

The Task Force replenished, no air operations were conducted. At 0800, RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, embarked aboard U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21), assumed command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

16 May 1953 -

A total of one hundred and twelve (112) sorties were flown.

17 May 1953 -

Commencing at 0801 the BOXER launched one hundred and twenty-four sorties. At about 1200 ENS G. M. WITTERS, USNR, 556691, VF-194, flying an AD-4NA BuNo 125756, parachuted in Wonsan Harbor, Korea after his aircraft had been hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire. The pilot was immediately rescued, uninjured, by the helicopter of the U.S.S. MANCHESTER (CL-83).

18 May 1953 -

After a morning of replenishment, the BOXER began launching aircraft at 1200. Forty-four sorties were flown.

19 May 1953 -

One hundred and seven (107) combat sorties were flown.

20 May 1953 -

Eighty (80) sorties were flown this date. At about 1240, LTJG W. J. O'HEREN, USNR, 347629, VF-194, flying an AD-4NA BuNo

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127005 was forced to ditch forward of the ship upon take-off due to bridle-breakage on the catapult shot. He was rescued by the U.S.S. MC CORD (DD-534) sustaining minor injuries of the head and right shoulder.

21 May 1953 -

No air operations conducted due to replenishment of the Task Force.

22 May 1953 -

No air operations conducted due to non-operational weather over the Task Force and the Korean Peninsula.

23 May 1953 -

Eighty-nine (89) sorties were flown by BOXER aircraft. LT H. M. WOLFE, USNR, 419564, VF-194, was forced to ditch his AD-4NA BuNo 126919, east of Hungnam, Korea after damage by enemy anti-aircraft fire. The pilot was rescued uninjuried by the U.S.S. ARDENT (AM-340).

24 May 1953 -

Beginning at 0857, one hundred and nine (109) combat sorties were launched by the BOXER. At about 2040, the F4U-5N BuNo 121852, flown by LT W. (n). WHEELER, USNR, 475420, VC-3, was observed to crash in the vicinity of Soho-Ri, Korea. Darkness precluded further observation. LT WHEELER is listed MIA.

25 May 1953 -

No air operations due to replenishment of the Task Force. At 1019 there was a minor collision between the U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21) and the U.S.S. MISPILLION (AO-105). The seaworthiness or combat effectiveness of neither ship was impaired. During the afternoon anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted.

26 May 1953 -

One hundred and eight (108) combat sorties were launched.

27 May 1953 -

One hundred and four (104) combat sorties were flown.

28 May 1953 -

No air operations were conducted due to replenishment of the Task Force.

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29 May 1953 -

No air operations were conducted due to adverse weather conditions over the Task Force and the Korean Peninsula.

30 May 1953 -

One hundred and seven (107) sorties were launched.

31 May 1953 -

Commencing at 0156, the BOXER launched fifty-five (55) sorties.

1 June 1953 -

The Task Force replenished in the morning. During the afternoon fifty-five (55) sorties were flown.

2 June 1953 -

Commencing at 0920, the BOXER launched one hundred and two (102) sorties. LTJG J. J. CHAMBERS, USN, 532708, VF-52, flying an F9F-2 crashlanded at K-18 due to enemy anti-aircraft fire damage to his aircraft. The pilot was wounded in the left wrist and the right leg.

3 June 1953 -

One hundred and twenty-two (122) combat sorties were flown.

4 June 1953 -

No air operations conducted due to replenishment of the Task Force. At 1804, RADM R. E. BLICK, USN, Commander Carrier Division THREE relieved RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, as Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

5 June 1953 -

During the morning and early afternoon, forty-five (45) sorties were flown. Low clouds and haze precluded most of the scheduled afternoon air operations.

6 June 1953 -

No air operations due to adverse weather.

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7 June 1953 -

The Task Force replenished in early morning. Flight operations were begun at 1425 when the weather cleared. Thirty-eight (38) sorties were flown.

8 June 1953 -

Commencing at 1049, sixty-six (66) combat sorties were launched.

9 June 1953 -

Air operations began for the BOXER at 0259. Eighty-eight (88) sorties were flown. The BOXER observed its 59,000TH landing establishing a new Fleet Record.

10 June 1953 -

A total of ninety-five (95) sorties were flown. The BOXER replenished during the night.

11 June 1953 -

One hundred and thirty (130) combat sorties were launched. At about 1124 ENS W. W. SPEAR, USNR, 557934, VF-194, flying an AD-4NA BuNo 126950 was forced to ditch his aircraft due to power failure east of Kangnung, Korea. He was immediately rescued by the helicopter based at K-18, the emergency landing strip.

12 June 1953 -

Air operations began at 0602 and a total of twenty-two (22) sorties were launched. The Task Force replenished at night. The following dispatch was received:

CTF-77 131522Z

"THE BOXER DID HER FULL SHARE IN A TEAM PERFORMANCE TODAY WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE REMEMBERED EVEN MORE BY THE ENEMY THAN BY OURSELVES X A GREAT PERFORMANCE"

13 June 1953 -

One hundred thirty-nine (139) sorties were launched.

14 June 1953 -

BOXER aircraft flew one hundred and thirty-one (131) combat

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sorties. At 0643 RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, embarked on the U.S.S. LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39) relieved RADM R. E. BLICK, USN, Commander Carrier Division THREE, as Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. During the night the Task Force replenished.

15 June 1953 -

Commencing at 0557, BOXER aircraft flew one hundred and forty-seven (147) combat sorties. At 0906 LT JOSEPH (n) ARKINS, USNR, 428709, VF-194, flying an AD-4NA BuNo 125754, was forced to ditch his aircraft forward of the ship due to power failure on takeoff. The pilot was rescued immediately by the BOXER's helicoptor and sustained minor back injuries. The Task Force replenished during the night.

16 June 1953 -

A total of one hundred and twenty-four (124) combat sorties were launched by the BOXER. The Task Force replenished during the night.

17 June 1953 -

Commencing at 0430 the BOXER launched sixty-four (64) sorties. The Task Force replenished in the afternoon and during the night.

18 June 1953 -

No air operations were conducted due to adverse weather over the Task Force and the Korean peninsula.

19 June 1953 -

Adverse weather limited air operations to seventy-eight (78) sorties. At about 1130 LT D. H. OPSAHL, USNR, 407367, VF-111, flying an F9F-5 BuNo 126204 was forced to ditch at sea due to fuel exhaustion. The pilot was rescued by helicopter and was taken aboard the U.S.S. ST PAUL (CA-73) for treatment of back injuries.

At 1715, the U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21) accompanied by the U.S.S. CUSHING (DD-797) departed Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in accordance with Com7thFlt Op-Order 190340Z, enroute to Yokosuka, Japan, for a period of maintenance and rest. Captain M. B. GURNEY, USN, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21) was OTC.

The following dispatches were received:

Com7thFlt 190414Z

"COM7THFLT APPRECIATES THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION OF THE BOXER TO THE KOREAN CONFLICT BY REMAINING IN THE OPERATING AREA AT A

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CRITICAL PERIOD OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR A PERIOD OF 38 DAYS AND DELIVERING OVER 2600 AIR SORTIES AGAINST THE ENEMY X WELL DONE X VADM CLARK SENDS"

CTF-77 191050Z

"I NOTE WITH PLEASURE COMSEVENTHFLT 190414Z X YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED YOUR SHARE AND HAVE EARNED A WELL DESERVED RESPITE X RADM JOHNSON"

20 June 1953 -

Enroute to Yokosuka, Japan. At 1112, after being refueled, the U.S.S. CUSHING (DD-797) was detached from escort duty.

21 June 1953 -

At 1651, the BOXER moored to Piedmont Pier, Yokosuka, Japan.

PART III Performance of Ordnance Material and Equipment

~~(See Air Department Report)~~ SEE PAGE 36 + PART III ENCL (1)

PART IV Battle Damage

No battle damage was sustained by the ship. See Enclosure (1) for damage inflicted on the enemy and for that suffered by BOXER aircraft.

PART V Personnel

a. Casualties

(1) There were no combat casualties suffered by Ship's Company personnel as a result of enemy action. At 0215, 13 May 1953, LOVELESS, Edward Glenn, BM3, USN, was lost at sea as a result of falling over the bow of the ship and drowning. LOVELESS was on watch as the Lookout Supervisor and was proceeding forward on Flight Deck to inspect the starboard bow lookout station. In doing this he normally climbed down to the lookout station on a ladder just aft of the forward edge of the Flight Deck, but in this instance he overshot and fell over the bow. CIC conned the rescue vessel to the scene. Only a life ring which had been dropped when LOVELESS fell over the side was retrieved.

Air Group personnel casualties are reported in enclosure (1).

b. Performance

(1) An average of only 1998 enlisted personnel comprised the ship's company during this period. Morale was excellent. Intensive

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"on-the-job" training supplemented by training periods during lulls in operations proved highly satisfactory and gratifying as noted by the optimum efficiency of the vessel with a limited number of senior petty officers. During this period 220 personnel were advanced in rating including four PO1's to Chief Petty Officers. Of the average of 1998 enlisted personnel in ship's company, 773 were petty officers and 1225 non-rated. Of this total an average of 73 personnel were absent on TAD, including 5 men on annual leave to the Philippine Islands and 8 men on emergency leave to the continental United States. During the period 27 enlisted personnel were transferred to other duty and 15 men reported aboard. One enlisted man from an accompanying destroyer reported aboard for a four day visit with his brother in the Marine Detachment. Electronic Technician ratings are still critically short with no relief in the foreseeable future. Supervisory rates in the Communications group are critically short although adequate and well-trained strikers are assigned.

(2) There was a total of 117 ship's company officers on board during this period. 5 officers were detached and 4 officers reported. 12 officers have orders for detachment and 25 officers are ordered to report. Of the number ordered to report, 13 are Ensigns.

(3) Twenty-three Wardroom guests from the other branches of the Armed Forces and the HMS OCEAN were entertained during this period, including 6 UN civilian correspondents and representatives. Visits varied from one day to three weeks.

(4) There was a total of 27 Mast cases during this period. 7 Summary Courts-Martial and 2 Special Courts-Martial were awarded.

c. Training

(1) The Training Room was used for Divisional training classes, supervised group study, rate training, progress testing, health and hygiene lectures, church services, and recreational movies on replenishment days. The I&E program obtained and still is in the process of obtaining 25 high school diplomas and high school equivalency certificates from high school principals and state departments of education.

(2) 55 GED tests (high school level), 6 (college level) and 4 ECC tests were administered. After-hour classes in English and Math were established. A college level counseling program was launched and resulted in 40 men taking college entrance exams from universities and colleges throughout the U.S.. Lack of space for testing has hindered the I&E program.

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d. Public Information

(1) Total news releases and feature articles originated during the period of this report are as follows:

(a) 10 news feature stories.
(b) 27 news photo releases.
(c) 2 hometown feature stories.
(d) 1,141 hometown news stories (Ship's Company Roster).
(e) 53 hometown news stories (Ship's Company Roster).
(f) 81 hometown news stories (VF-151 enlisted men's Roster).

(2) A considerable amount of additional public information material was released in cooperation with Commander Carrier Division ONE.

(3) Four enlisted journalists from ComNavFe were on TAD to ComCarDiv ONE. Working with the ship's public information office, they released a total of 17 feature stories, 31 hometown feature stories and 24 recorded radio interviews.

(4) Two enlisted radio correspondents from the Korean Armed Forces Radio Network recorded 16 interviews aboard.

(5) The following civilian correspondents visited the BOXER to write feature stories and interview men from their respective areas:

(a) Tys Torway, radio station WMBS, Memphis, Tenn.
(b) George Sisler, Memphis Commercial-Appeal.
(c) Jack Foisie, San Francisco Chronicle.
(d) Gordon Gammack, Des Moines Register.
(e) Bill Moore, Kansas City Star.

(6) A combat camera group was on TAD to the ship from NAS Atsugi, Japan. They shot 5,000 feet of motion picture film in preparing a movie-television release covering all phases of the BOXER's operations, tentatively entitled, "The Pugilist".

(7) The Ship's Public Information office published the ship's four page photo-offset newspaper daily at sea, using current ship's news and wire-service news received by radio-teletype. A special four page Sunday supplement featuring shipboard items was also published.

e. Religious Activities

Protestant Bible classes were held weekly at 1800 to 1900. These classes were held on Tuesday and Sunday. Protestant Communion service was held on the second Sunday of each month. Protestant Divine Services were held on Sunday at 1000. Latter Day Saints services were