U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21)
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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

Subj: Action Report for the period 28 July through 11 November 1953

Ref: (a) NWIP 10-1
(b) CinCPacFlt Instruction 3480.1B

Encl: (1) ATG-1 conf ltr ser 0230 dtd 15 Nov 1953

1. This Action Report is submitted in accordance with references (a) and (b) to cover the period from 28 July through 11 November 1953. Certain statistics in enclosure (1) cover the entire tour of ATG-1 in the Western Pacific.

Part I Composition of Own Forces and Mission

a. Composition

On 28 July U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21), commanded by Captain M. B. GURNEY, USN, with Carrier Air Task Group ONE plus VF-44, but less VF-111, embarked, was steaming with Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in area TARE, Japan Sea. The SOPA, OTC, and Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN was RADM JOHNSON, Commander Carrier Division ONE, embarked in U.S.S. LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39). The units of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN present besides this ship were U.S.S. JUPITER (AVS-8), U.S.S. PHILIPPINE SEA (CVA-47), U.S.S. LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39), U.S.S. PRINCETON (CVA-37) with RADM BLICK, Commander Carrier Division THREE, embarked, and units of the screening force.

The U.S.S. KEARSARGE (CVA-33), U.S.S. YORKTOWN (CVA-10) with RADM HICKEY, Commander Carrier Division FIVE, embarked, and U.S.S. ORISKANY (CVA-34) joined the force at later dates. Commander Carrier Division ONE transferred to U.S.S. KEARSARGE (CVA-33) when U.S.S. LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39) was detached.

At various times the force was joined by U.S.S. BREMERTON (CA-130), U.S.S. QUINCY (CA-71), and U.S.S. HELENA (CA-75).

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b. Mission DECLASSIFIED

The mission of this Task Force was set forth in Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN Operation Plan No. 25-53. This report covers BOXER's last periods in Korean waters on its fourth tour with the United Nations Forces.

PART II Chronological Order of Events

28 July 1953 -

The U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21) operated with Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in the Sea of Japan. RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, embarked in U.S.S. LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39) was OTC. At 1005 RADM R. E. BLICK, USN, Commander Carrier Division THREE, embarked in U.S.S. PRINCETON (CVA-37) assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

29 July 1953 -

Anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted during the afternoon. Commencing at 1734 six (6) recap sorties were launched.

30 July 1953 -

Beginning at 0255, a total of thirty-two (32) recap and training sorties were flown. During the afternoon anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted.

31 July 1953 -

BOXER reprovisioned at 0725. Air operations began at 0911 with a total of six (6) sorties for the day. During the afternoon rearming and refueling was accomplished.

1 August 1953 -

BOXER conducted no air operations this date. At 1010, RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, relieved RADM R. E. BLICK, USN, Commander Carrier Division THREE, as OTC of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

2 August 1953 -

No air operations were conducted this date.

3 August 1953 -

Anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted during the day. Sixty (60) training sorties were launched commencing at 1315.

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4 August 1953 -

BOXER operated with Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in the Sea of Japan. Refueling was accomplished during the morning. Anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted during the afternoon.

5 August 1953 -

Commencing at 1327 a total of forty-seven (47) training sorties were launched.

6 August 1953 -

Air operations began at 1214 with a total of forty-four (44) training sorties for the day. Captain B. E. MOORE, USN, reported aboard for duty as prospective commanding officer.

7 August 1953 -

Commencing at 0956 a total of seventy-five (75) training sorties were flown. At 1825 BOXER refueled U.S.S. MASON (DD-852). Anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted during the afternoon. At 2146 Captain M. B. GURNEY, USN, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21), assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, assumed OTC of the Task Force at 2204.

8 August 1953 -

During early morning BOXER refueled. At 0820 in accordance with CTF-77 dispatch 050616Z of August 1953, BOXER departed Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN enroute to Sasebo, Japan for logistics and passenger pickup prior to departure for Hong Kong, B. C. C., China.

Various drills and exercises were conducted during the morning, in connection with the forthcoming change of command. At 1355, in accordance with BuPers Orders 14988 of 10 March 1953, Captain B. E. MOORE, USN, relieved Captain M. B. GURNEY, USN, as commanding officer of U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21). At 1725 BOXER anchored in Anchorage # 9, Sasebo Harbor, Sasebo, Japan.

9 August 1953 -

At 1514, in accordance with Com7thFlt dispatch 090525Z of August 1953, BOXER got underway for Hong Kong, B. C. C.

10 August 1953 -

Enroute to Hong Kong steaming independently. Commencing at 1315, a total of thirty-two (32) training sorties were flown.

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11 August 1953 -

Enroute to Hong Kong. At 0600 U.S.S. ROWAN (DD-782) reported to BOXER for duty as escort. Captain B. E. MOORE, USN, Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21) was OTC.

12 August 1953 -

Enroute to Hong Kong in company with U.S.S. ROWAN (DD-782). At 1318 BOXER moored to Buoy #1 in Hong Kong Harbor, B. C. C. Upon request of Commodore Hong Kong, BOXER was underway at 1924 to avoid an oncoming tropical storm.

13 August 1953 -

Steaming in a northerly direction to avoid rough seas and high winds of the storm. At 0617 U.S.S. GURKE (DD-783) joined BOXER. Captain B. E. MOORE, USN, was OTC.

14 August 1953 -

Steaming independently enroute to Hong Kong. At 1321 BOXER anchored in Lui Mon Anchorage, Hong Kong Harbor, Hong Kong, B. C. C.

15 August 1953 -

At 1200, in accordance with Commodore Hong Kong dispatch 140619Z of August 1953, BOXER was underway from Lui Mon Anchorage and at 1313 moored to Buoy #1, Hong Kong Harbor, Hong Kong, B. C. C.

16-18 August 1953 -

Moored to Buoy #1 in Hong Kong Harbor for a period of ship maintenance and recreation.

19 August 1953 -

At 1203, in accordance with CTF-77 dispatch 140056Z of August 1953, BOXER was underway from Hong Kong, B. C. C. enroute to Sasebo, Japan. At 1405 U.S.S. FLETCHER (DDE-445) joined BOXER as escort. Captain B. E. MOORE, USN, Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21), was OTC. At 1725 BOXER refueled FLETCHER.

20 August 1953 -

Enroute to Sasebo, Japan. Commencing at 0702, a total of one hundred and twenty-one (121) training sorties were flown. At 0750 BOXER refueled FLETCHER. At 1640 U.S.S. CARPENTER (DD-825)

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joined the formation. The U.S.S. FLETCHER (DDE-445) was detached at 1643 to proceed on duty previously assigned. The 62,000th landing was effected this date, establishing a new fleet record.

21 August 1953 -

Enroute to Sasebo, Japan. Air operations began at 0800 and a total of thirty-four (34) training sorties were launched. The U.S.S. CARPENTER (DD-825) was refueled by BOXER at 1105 and detached at 1240 to proceed on duty previously assigned. During the afternoon, anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted.

22 August 1953 -

Enroute to Sasebo, Japan steaming independently. At 0850 BOXER anchored in Anchorage #21, Sasebo Harbor, Sasebo, Japan. Underway at 1259 in accordance with CTF-77 dispatch 170424Z of August 1953, enroute to Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

23 August 1953 -

Steaming independently enroute to Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. At 1535 BOXER rendezvoused with Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. RADM R. E. BLICK, USN, Commander Carrier Division THREE, embarked in U.S.S. PRINCETON (CVA-37), OTC.

24 August 1953 -

BOXER refueled, rearmed, and reprovisioned during the day.

25 August 1953 -

Operating with Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in the Sea of Japan. No air operations were conducted this date.

26 August 1953 -

A total of sixty (60) training sorties were launched beginning at 0655. During the evening BOXER transferred provisions to the U.S.S. OSBOURNE (DD-846).

27 August 1953 -

Commencing at 0653 a total of sixty-three (63) training sorties were launched.

28 August 1953 -

BOXER refueled at 0704. At 1230 BOXER in company with U.S.S. DASHIELL (DD-659), U.S.S. CARPENTER (DD-825), U.S.S. DORTCH (DD-670), and U.S.S. GATLING (DD-671) was detached to hold anti-

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aircraft firing exercises. Captain B. E. MOORE, USN, Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21) was designated OTC. Upon completion of the firing exercises at 1640, the destroyers were detached and at 1650 BOXER rejoined the Task Force.

29 August 1953 -

Thirty-nine (39) training sorties were launched commencing at 0930.

30 August 1953 -

The BOXER operated with Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in the Sea of Japan. No air operations were conducted this date.

31 August 1953 -

Sixty-one (61) training sorties were flown beginning at 0743. The Task Force conducted anti-aircraft firing exercises during the afternoon. At 1633 RADM R. E. BLICK, USN, Commander Carrier Division THREE, visited BOXER.

1 September 1953 -

During the morning BOXER reprovisioned and refueled. At 1009 RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. No air operations were conducted this date.

2 September 1953 -

Commencing at 0913, a total of one hundred and four (104) training sorties were launched by BOXER.

3 September 1953 -

No air operations were conducted this date. During the morning BOXER refueled the U.S.S. PURDY (DD-734) and the U.S.S. INGRAHAM (DD-694).

4 September 1953 -

After refueling U.S.S. ISBELL (DD-869) in the morning, BOXER commenced air operations at 1203 launching a total of sixty (60) training sorties. The BOXER conducted anti-aircraft firing exercises. Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN moved into the East China Sea.

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5 September 1953 -

During the morning BOXER rearmed and reprovisioned. At 1614 RADM R. N. SMOOT, USN, Commander Cruiser Division THREE, embarked in U.S.S. QUINCY (CA-71), assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

6 September 1953 -

During the morning BOXER replenished. No air operations were conducted this date.

7 September 1953 -

RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN at 0403. In accordance with CTF-77 dispatch 030350Z of September 1953, BOXER with U.S.S. BRADFORD (DD-545) departed Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN enroute to Yokosuka, Japan. Captain B. E. MOORE, USN, Commanding Officer of U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21), OTC. At 1101 air operations began and a total of sixty-seven (67) training sorties were launched.

8 September 1953 -

Enroute to Yokosuka, Japan in company with U.S.S. BRADFORD (DD-545). Anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted during the morning. At 1130 sixty-four (64) training sorties were launched. During the evening BOXER refueled BRADFORD.

9 September 1953 -

Enroute to Yokosuka, Japan in company with U.S.S. BRADFORD (DD-545). At 0527 BOXER detached the U.S.S. BRADFORD (DD-545) to proceed on duty previously assigned. At 1401 BOXER anchored at Anchorage E-12, Yokosuka Harbor, Yokosuka, Japan.

10 September 1953 -

At 0728 BOXER got underway from Anchorage E-12 mooring alongside Piedmont Pier, Yokosuka, Japan at 0804. VADM J. J. CLARK, USN, Commander SEVENTH Fleet, visited BOXER for the purpose of presenting awards to personnel of the ship and air group for meritorious achievements in the Korean conflict.

11-15 September 1953 -

Moored alongside Piedmont Pier for maintenance and upkeep. Liberty and shore leave was granted consistent with the work load.

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16 September 1953 -

Moored to Piedmont Pier. At 0850 BOXER underway from Piedmont Pier to dock in Drydock #5, Yokosuka, Japan at about 1000.

17 September 1953 -

BOXER rested on keelblocks in Drydock #5 while repair work was done on propellers No. 1, 3, and 4.

18 September 1953 -

BOXER rested on keelblocks until 1610 when tugs commenced towing her from Drydock #5. At 1833 BOXER underway in accordance with Com7thFleet dispatch 130714Z of September 1953 enroute to Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

19 September 1953 -

Steaming independently enroute to Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in the East China Sea. At 1350 anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted.

20 September 1953 -

Steaming independently until rendezvous with Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in the East China Sea at 1204. RADM R. F. HICKEY, USN, Commander Carrier Division FIVE, embarked in U.S.S. YORKTOWN (CVA-10), was OTC. Thirty-eight (38) training sorties were launched commencing at 1400.

21 September 1953 -

Reprovisioning and refueling were conducted during the morning. At 1355 anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted by BOXER.

22 September 1953 -

Commencing at 0720 a total of one hundred and nine (109) training sorties were flown. During the evening BOXER refueled U.S.S. DASHIELL (DD-659).

23 September 1953 -

No air operations were conducted this date. During the evening BOXER refueled U.S.S. COGSWELL (DD-651).

24 September 1953 -

No air operations were conducted this date.

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25 September 1953 -

Commencing at 0735 a total of sixty-eight (68) training sorties were flown by BOXER aircraft.

26 September 1953 -

During the morning BOXER refueled. At 1625 anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted. BOXER departed Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN, in accordance with CTF-77 instructions dated 261740I, enroute to Sasebo, Japan.

27 September 1953 -

Steaming independently enroute to Sasebo, Japan. At 1107 BOXER moored to Buoy #17, Sasebo Harbor, Sasebo, Japan.

28 September - 3 October 1953 -

Maintenance and upkeep. Liberty and shore leave was granted consistent with work requirements.

4 October 1953 -

At 0752 BOXER got underway from Buoy #17, Sasebo Harbor, Sasebo, Japan, in accordance with CTF-77 dispatch 220150Z of September 1953, enroute to Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. At 1445 BOXER joined Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in the Sea of Japan. RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, embarked in the U.S.S. KEARSARGE (CVA-33), OTC.

5 October 1953 -

Commencing at 0903 a total of one hundred and twenty (120) training sorties were flown by BOXER aircraft.

6 October 1953 -

At 0830 air operations began and a total of sixty-six (66) training sorties were launched. At 1338 RADM R. N. SMOOT, Commander Cruiser Division THREE, embarked in U.S.S. QUINCY (CA-71), assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. During the afternoon anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted. BOXER recorded its 63,000th landing today, establishing another new fleet record.

7 October 1953 -

During early morning BOXER refueled. Anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted commencing at 1540. At 1817 RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN Commander Carrier Division ONE, assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

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8 October 1953 -

Beginning at 0713 a total of one hundred and twenty-four (124) training sorties were flown.

9 October 1953 -

Commencing at 0715 a total of ninety-nine (99) training sorties were launched. BOXER refueled U.S.S. FLETCHER (DDE-445) during the morning. At 1838, in accordance with CTF-77 dispatch 080158Z of October 1953, BOXER departed Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN for Sasebo, Japan. At 1945 BOXER was joined by U.S.S. LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39). Captain B. E. MOORE, USN, Commanding Officer U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21), OTC.

10 October 1953 -

Enroute to Sasebo, Japan, in company with U.S.S. LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39). At 0727 BOXER moored to Buoy M-21, Sasebo Harbor, Sasebo, Japan. Fighter Squadron FORTY-FOUR was transferred back to U.S.S. LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39) and Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN was transferred back to U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21).

11 October 1953 -

Moored to Buoy M-21, Sasebo Harbor, Sasebo, Japan. In accordance with CTF-77 dispatch 080158Z of October 1953 BOXER was underway enroute to Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in the Sea of Japan. At 1035 BOXER joined by U.S.S. LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39). Captain B. E. MOORE, USN, Commanding Officer of U.S.S. BOXER (CVA-21), OTC. At 1558 rendezvous was effected with Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in the Sea of Japan. RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, embarked in U.S.S. KEARSARGE (CVA-33), OTC.

12 October 1953 -

Refueling, rearming, and reprovisioning were conducted during the day.

13 October 1953 -

Commencing at 0830 a total of ninety-seven (97) training sorties were flown by BOXER aircraft. The Task Force moved into the East China Sea.

14 October 1953 -

Commencing at 0801 a total of sixty-three (63) training sorties were launched. At 1458, RADM W. V. O'REGAN, USN, Commander

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Cruiser Division FIVE, embarked in U.S.S. HELENA (CA-75) assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. At 1600 anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted.

15 October 1953 -

Commencing at 0700 a total of one hundred and twenty-seven (127) training sorties were flown by BOXER aircraft. At 0633 RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

16 October 1953 -

BOXER refueled during the morning. At 1539 RADM W. V. O'REGAN, USN, Commander Cruiser Division FIVE, assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. Anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted during the afternoon.

17 October 1953 -

At 0606 RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. Air operations commenced at 0831 and a total of ninety-seven (97) training sorties were flown. At 1152 an AD-4NA, BuNo 125762, piloted by LT B. E. WILD, 437978, USNR, VF-194, crashed into the barrier and overturned. The pilot was uninjured. Anti-aircraft firing exercises were conducted during the afternoon.

18 October 1953 -

At 1354 RADM R. F. HICKEY, USN, Commander Carrier Division FIVE, embarked in U.S.S. YORKTOWN (CVA-10), assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. At 1440 RADM W. V. O'REGAN, USN, Commander Cruiser Division FIVE, embarked in U.S.S. HELENA (CA-75) assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. At 1632 RADM R. F. HICKEY, USN, Commander Carrier Division FIVE, assumed tactical command of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

19 October 1953 -

Commencing at 0530 a total of one hundred and seven (107) training sorties were launched. BOXER refueled during the afternoon.

20 October 1953 -

At 0720, in accordance with CTF-77 dispatch 141538Z of October 1953, BOXER departed Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN enroute to Yokosuka, Japan. Commencing at 1007 fourteen (14) sorties were launched in connection with electronic countermeasures exercises.

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21 October 1953 -

Steaming independently enroute to Yokosuka, Japan.

22 October 1953 -

Steaming independently. At 0800 BOXER moored to Buoy #10, Yokosuka Harbor, Yokosuka, Japan.

23-28 October 1953 -

Moored to Buoy #10, Yokosuka Harbor, for maintenance and upkeep. Liberty and shore leave was granted in keeping with work demands.

29 October 1953 -

Moored to Buoy #10. At 0750 BOXER got underway, in accordance with CTF-77 dispatch 251030Z of October 1953, enroute to Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN.

30 October 1953 -

Steaming independently enroute to Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN in the East China Sea. Commencing at 0749 a total thirty (30) training sorties were launched in connection with electronic countermeasures exercises.

31 October 1953 -

Enroute to Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. The rendezvous was effected at 0545 with the Task Force in the East China Sea. RADM R. F. HICKEY, USN, Commander Carrier Division FIVE, embarked in U.S.S. YORKTOWN (CVA-10), OTC. Commencing at 0801 ninety-six (96) training sorties were launched.

1 November 1953 -

No flight operations were conducted this date. At 1150 RADM W. D. JOHNSON, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, assumed OTC of Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN. The Task Force moved into the Sea of Japan.

2 November 1953 -

Commencing at 0800 a total of ninety-seven (97) training sorties were flown by BOXER aircraft.

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