



F4U-4 WITH EIGHT 5" ROCKETS ALSO CAN CARRY BOMBS OR TINY TMS



LATEST CORSAIR, THE F4U-5 NIGHT FIGHTER, IS FASTER THAN REST

Prop Fighters Blast Koreans

THE NAVY'S wisdom in keeping the F4U-5 in production in this jet age has been borne out as ground troops on Korea clamor for more close air support and the Navy rushes carrier-loads of the propellered fighters to the battle.

The inability of jets as yet to carry a sizeable load of rockets or bombs any distance plus the lack of Communist jet opposition has put the emphasis strongly on reciprocating-engined fighters. The only one in production in United States today is the *Corsair*, a battle-ried veteran at supporting troops.

Besides Navy squadrons using the newest of the *Corsair* line, Marines from the First Marine Air Wing, recently sent to the Pacific, are flying the heavily-

armed F4U-4. The Navy has had a contract with Chance Vought to purchase scores of the F4U-5, including many night-fighter versions.

The latest-type *Corsair* with its P&W *Double Wasp* engine can top 470 mph, carry eight rockets and 4,000 pounds of bombs. It can fly more than six hours without refueling—one actually flew 17 hours stripped down. Range, with full bombload, rockets and 20mm. ammunition is 1,500 miles.

The Air Force had difficulty in early days of the Korean fighting in giving close air support to Army ground troops because their F-80 jets could carry only two rockets and were short-ranged when forced to fly from Japanese bases. Re-

liance was placed on the F-51 and F-82 propellered fighters and many of the former were rushed to the battlefield via Navy carrier *Boxer* after having been "reclaimed" from National Guard air units and other sources.

The Navy had F9F *Panthers* and F4U's with 20 mm. cannon on board the CV *Valley Forge* and used them for early carrier attacks on the Communist supply lines. With the carrier lying closer offshore than Japan airfields, the Navy fighters were able to make longer inland sweeps. *Skyraider* attack planes also were used against ground targets. Later in the fighting the Navy dispatched the CV *Philippine Sea* to Korea with 85 F9F's, F4U's and AD's and put a *Corsair*-equipped Marine fighter squadron, VMF-211, aboard the CVB *Midway* with Navy Air Group 7 and sent her to bolster the Mediterranean sea forces.

Military authorities have conceded that the *Corsair* is an excellent fighter to use against piston-engine enemy planes. When the enemy starts using jets, our own jets will have to take over VF missions.

Ground support by such planes as *Corsairs* and AD's will then require fighter cover overhead, jets that is, to protect them against the jets of the foe. Some Yak jets have been reported in Korea.

Since the war, Marine Air Reserve fighter squadrons have been flying *Corsairs* exclusively, as have Regular Marine fighter squadrons not yet equipped with jets. Many Navy squadrons also shifted to *Corsairs* when production of the F8F *Bearcat* ceased. The F4U-5 never saw combat, coming out shortly after the war ended. It provided faster speed, faster rate of climb and higher ceiling.



SKYRAIDER FROM VA-195 CIRCLES CV BOXER ON WAY TO SINGAPORE: ATTACK PLANE HAS 'PUNCH'