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VA65A9-3(5)/RGB;jbr

Serial: 85-49

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

1 April 1949

[redacted]

DECLASSIFIED

From: Commanding Officer.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations (Aviation History Unit Op-5198).

Subject: Squadron History Supplement No. 11.

Reference: (a) Aviation C/L 71-46.

Enclosure: (A) Squadron History Supplement No. 11 for quarter ending 31 March 1949.

1. In accordance with reference (a), Enclosure (A) is submitted herewith.

M. J. Stanley

M. J. STANLEY.

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

for PEACE of MIND-BUY SAVINGS BONDS

DECLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (A)

Part 1

Supplement No. 11 Chronogy

1. Physical movement of Unit:
   (a) During January 4, 1949 the Squadron was aboard the U.S.S. Midway (CVB-41) for a two months cruise to the Mediterranean Area.
   (b) On 5 March 7, 1949 the Squadron disembarked from the U.S.S. Midway (CVB-41) after the completion of the Mediterranean tour and is now permanently based ashore at N.A.A.S. Oceana, Virginia.

2. Operational Loss of Personnel:
   (a) None.

3. Important changes in Type and Number of Aircraft:
   (a) One AD-1 was transferred to NAS Quonset Point for overhaul and repair.
   (b) The Squadron is now comprised of nineteen AD-1's, one TBM-3E, and one SNJ-5.

4. Number of Accidents and Classifications:
   (a) Number of Accidents: (1)
   (b) Personnel Injuries: Class D.
   (c) Material Damage: Class C.

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

for PEACE OF MIND-BUY SAVINGS BONDS

ENCLOSURE (A)

~~REGRADED~~
DECLASSIFIED

Part 11

NARRATIVE

Officers reported for duty - 0
Officers detached - 0
Enlisted men reported for duty - 0
Enlisted men transferred - 1

During the month of January the squadron was aboard the U.S.S. Midway (CVB-41) for an operational tour in the Mediterranean Area. Our first port of call was Gibraltar. The ship spent three days, then upped anchor for Tripoli.

Enroute to Tripoli the squadron conducted extensive exercises in Dive Bombing, Rockets, Strafing, and Search.

When the ship anchored at Tripoli the seas were very high, and no liberty was given for the first two days of the three day stay there.

Between Tripoli and Augusta, Sicily, the next port of call, the squadron made several mock strikes against the task force and conducted two search hops with a primary mission of familiarizing the pilots with their area of operation.

The ship spent several days anchored in Augusta, and liberty was given to all hands.

From Augusta the Midway went to Naples, Italy. Enroute the squadron had about two days operations. During the stay in Naples the ship and Air Group put on an exhibition for the heads of the Italian Navy. The operation went off smoothly and the ship put back into port for more liberty.

Upon leaving Naples, the squadron operated as usual, making simulated strikes on the task group.

1 February 1949 to 1 March 1949

Officers reported for duty - 0
Officers detached - 0
Enlisted men reported for duty - 0
Enlisted men transferred - 0

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

for PEACE
SAVINGS BONDS

ENCLOSURE (A)

DECLASSIFIED

The squadron was aboard the U.S.S. Midway (CVB-41) all the month of February. On the tenth of the month LCDR G.B. BRYAN, while making a normal carrier landing, failed to flare out after the cut and made a hard wheels landing. The inboard panels of both wings were severely wrinkled, causing class C damage to the aircraft.

The ship anchored off the French Riviera for four days, about the middle of February. Some of the officers and men were allowed to take a three day tour to Paris.

After leaving the Riviera the squadron resumed normal shipboard operations until entering port at Gibraltar again.

Upon leaving Gibraltar, the ship set a course for Norfolk, Virginia. The squadron did no operating during this time.

1 March 1949 to 1 April 1949

Officers reported for duty - 0
Officers detached - 0
Enlisted men reported for duty - 7
Enlisted men transferred - 5

On the first of March the squadron was still based aboard the U.S.S. Midway (CVB-41), enroute to Norfolk, Virginia. On the second of March heavy seas and winds of gale velocities necessitated extra precautions in securing the aircraft. No damage was sustanined.

Nineteen aircraft of the squadron flew from the ship to NAAS, Oceana on the fourth of March. The rest of the squadron disembarked on the fifth and sixth and is now permanently based ashore with the rest of our Air Group at NAAS, Oceana.

The remainder of the month was spent in qualifying all the squadron pilots in instruments, GCA, night flying and rockets. There was not much flight activity as was expected due to an unexpected cut in quarterly allotments.

Total number of officers on board as of 1 Jan. 1949 -24
Total number of officers gained between 1 Jan. 1949 and 1 April 1949 - 0
Total number of officers detached between 1 Jan. 1949 and 1 April 1949 - 0
Total number of officers on board as of 1 April 1949 - 24

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

ENCLOSURE A

Total number of Enlisted men on board as of 1 Jan. 1949 - 24
Total number of Enlisted men gained between 1 Jan. 1949 and 1 April 1949 - 7
Total number of Enlisted men transferred between 1 Jan. 1949 and 1 April 1949 - 6
Total number of Enlisted men on aboard as of 1 April 1949 - 115

VA65/A9-3(5)/CEP/rem

Serial: 169-49

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

for PEACE
SAVINGS BONDS

1 July 1949

NPK

DECLASSIFIED

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Chief of Naval Operations (Aviation History Unit OP-5198).

Subject: Squadron History Supplement No. 12.

Reference: (a) Aviation C/L 71-46.

Enclosure: (A) Squadron History Supplement No. 12 for quarter ending 30 June 1949.

1. In accordance with reference (a), Enclosure (A) is submitted herewith.

for G B Bryan
M. J. HANLEY

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

for PEACE OF MIND-BUY SAVINGS BONDS

ENCLOSURE (A)

~~RESTRICTED~~
DECLASSIFIED

Part 1

Supplement No. 12 1 April, 1949 to 1 July 1949 Chronology

1. Physical Movement of Unit:
   (a) During the period covered by this report the squadron was permanently based ashore at N.A.A.S., Oceana, Virginia.

2. Operational Loss of Personnel:
   (a) None.

3. Important Changes in Type and Number of Aircraft:
   (a) The squadron complement is 20 AD-1's and one SNJ, but at present we have 15 AD-1's and one SNJ.

4. Number of Accidents and Classifications:
   (a) No. of Accidents: (2)
   (b) Personnel Injuries: Class D
   (c) Material Damage: Class D

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

ENCLOSURE (A)

Part II NARRATIVE

1 April 1949 - to - 1 May 1949

Officers Reported for Duty - 0
Officers Detached - 0
Enlisted Men Reported for Duty - 12
Enlisted Men Detached - 5

During the month of April the squadron conducted flights in rockets, dive bombing, and glide bombing in order to maintain a high state of combat readiness. The squadron also participated in several demonstration attacks on task forces off the Virginia Capes. Routine training flights were conducted in instruments, GCA, and night flying in order to maintain a high standard of pilot proficiency in all-weather operations.

1 May 1949 - to - 1 June 1949

Officers Reported for Duty - 0
Officers Detached - 4
Enlisted Men Reported for Duty - 6
Enlisted Men Detached - 4

The squadron continued intensive training routine in May in preparation for competitive exercises to be conducted in June. On Saturdays the air group continued making coordinated attacks on various units of the fleet off the Virginia Capes. Following the mock attacks, the aircraft were landed aboard and armed with Tiny Tim rockets and 1000# and 500# G.P. bombs. The planes were then launched and live load strikes were carried out on a smoke float about 1000 yards abeam the carrier. After rendezvousing, the air group flew over the ship in parade formation at 500 feet to complete the demonstrations.

On the afternoon of 5 May, Ensign R.C. Harris was engaged in a regularly scheduled tail chase with members of the squadron at 10,000 feet about ten miles seaward of Cape Henry when an Air Force F-80 joined the tail chase, scooped out of a slow roll, and struck the starboard elevator of Ensign Harris's plane. Stalling characteristics were found to be normal following the collision, and both aircraft landed safely. The AD-1 sustained class D damage to the starboard elevator and horizontal stabilizer.

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

for PEACE of MIND-BUY SAVINGS BONDS

ENCLOSURE (A)

DECLASSIFIED

1 June 1949 - to - 1 July 1949

Officers Reported for Duty - 4
Officers Detached - 1
Enlisted Men Reported for Duty - 6
Enlisted Men Detached - 5

In June the squadron conducted competitive exercises in rockets, glide bombing, and dive bombing. ComAirLant observers assigned a mark of "good" for both bombing exercises and performance on the rocket exercise was considered to be "excellent". The squadron received a mark of "outstanding" on the operational readiness inspection of the air group.

The squadron continued participation in Congressional and joint military demonstrations at sea off the Virginia Capes. It is believed that VA-65 pilots made a material contribution to the welfare of the Navy by practically demonstrating the versatility, capability and efficiency of Naval Aviation to many of our leading citizens, members of Congress and high ranking officers of the military services.

On 15 June, Ensign W. E. Killingbeck ground looped an SNJ-5 at NAS Jacksonville, Florida when landing for gas on a cross country instrument training flight. The pilot was uninjured and the aircraft sustained class D damage to the left oleo strut and wing tip.

Total Number of Officer on Board as of 1 April 1949 - 25
Total Number of Officers Gained Between 1 April 1949 and 1 July 1949 - 4
Total Number of Officers Detached Between 1 April 1949 and 1 July 1949 - 5
Total Number of Officers on Board as of 1 July 1949 - 24
Total Number of Enlisted Men on Board as of 1 April 1949 - 116
Total Number of Enlisted Men Gained Between 1 April 1949 and 1 July 1949 - 24
Total Number of Enlisted Men Transferred Between 1 April 1949 and 1 July 1949 - 14
Total Number of Enlisted Men on Board as of 1 July 1949 - 126

VA65/A9-4(5)/DLM/jbr

Serial: 43-50

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

1 February 1950

~~DECLASSIFIED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

From: Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron SIXTY-FIVE
To: The Chief of Naval Operations (Aviation History Unit Op-5198)

Subj: Squadron History Supplement No. 13

Ref: (a) Aviation Circular Letter 18-49

Encl (1) Squadron History Supplement No. 13 for period 1 July 1949 to 31 December 1949.

1. In accordance with reference (a), Enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.

Richard W. Phillips
Richard W. PHILLIPS

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

ENCLOSURE (1)

Part I

Supplement No. 13 — Chronology

1. Physical movement of Unit:
   (a) The squadron is permanently based ashore at NAAS Oceana, Virginia.

   (b) On 17 September 1949, the squadron embarked aboard the USS MIDWAY, for a one week cruise to New York.

   (c) On 22 September 1949, the squadron disembarked from the USS MIDWAY and returned to Oceana.

   (d) On the 27th of October the squadron embarked aboard the Franklin D. ROOSEVELT for a three week cruise to the North Atlantic.

   (e) The squadron disembared from the Franklin D. ROOSEVELT on 23 November, and is now based ashore at NAAS Oceana, Virginia.

2. Important change in type and number of aircraft:
   (a) On the second of December we started transferring 20 AD-1's to Quonset Point, and to FasRon FIVE. The squadron also started receiving AD-4's on that date.

   (b) On the eleventh of December the squadron received one SNB-5.

   (c) One AD-1Q was received on the 16th of December.

   (d) The aircraft complement of the squadron is now comprised of 18 AD-4's, one SNB-5 and one AD-1Q.

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

for PEACE or MID-DAY SAVINGS BONDS

ENCLOSURE (1)

~~RESTRICTED~~
DECLASSIFIED

Part II

NARRATIVE

1 July 1949 to 1 August 1949

During the month of July the squadron was based at NAAS Oceana. Night FCLP was conducted for the first four days, then ten pilots qualified aboard the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVB-42). LT J. R. LANGFORD held off after the cut and caught number ten wire which put his prop in the barrier resulting in minor damage to the plane.

The rest of the month was taken up with routine training flights except that our new pilots were shooting FCLP. Ensign J. E. WILLIAMS, on his fourth pass, let his left wing get too far down and could not level his wings. As a result of this condition his left wing struck the ground as he tried to take a waveoff. He landed on the pass with class "C" damage to the plane.

On the 27th of July our four new pilots qualified aboard the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

The squadron received official notice of the fact that we had won the Battle Efficiency Pennant for fiscal year of 1949. Authorization was CNO dispatch 292031Z of July 1949.

1 August 1949 to 1 September 1949

The entire month of August was spent in routine training flights such as gunnery, toss bombing, dive bombing, etc. Ensign C. E. PARKER and Ensign J. E. PUCCINI took two AD-1's on one week's TAD to VA-A-TU-4, NAAS Cabaniss Field, Corpus Christi. They participated in the filming Navy training Movie on Combat Dive Bombing and Glide Bombing.

1 September 1949 to 1 October 1949

The first half of this month was routine work; regular training flights. On the 17th of September the squadron went aboard the USS MIDWAY for a one week cruise to New York for flight demonstrations and also for the premier of the movie "Task Force".

Our squadron also participated in the demonstration for the Secretary of Defense aboard the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT. All units participating in this demonstration received a letter of commendation, a copy of which is attached to this report.

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

for PEACE OF MIND-BUY SAVINGS BONDS

DECLASSIFIED
~~RESTRICTED~~

ENCLOSURE (1)

Ensign J. E. PUCCINI bounced on one of his carrier landings on the above mentioned cruise and wound up in the first barriers.
The aircraft sustained class "D" damage.

Ensign P. J. BERGDAHL made a wheels-up landing on the 30th of the month during a night familiarization hop. He failed to go over his check off list. The aircraft sustained class "C" damage.
Our squadron doctrine was published on the 30th of this month. It is a summary of the type of work done by this squadron and sets forth the procedures used to successfully carry out our missions.

Each department submitted articles for the doctrine which were edited by LT W. G. NEVILLE, who spent considerable time and effort to insure that we had a very complete squadron handbook.

Our defensive fighter weave is shown in diagram and fully explained. We have found that a well - developed and well - executed weave is a very good defense for single - seat bombers under fighter attack. It has recently been learned that CNO has officially adopted VA-65 squadron doctrine as a supplement to USF 73. CNO considers the operational phases and tactics as outlined in our doctrine to be the latest thing in VA tactics. As stated in the doctrine, "Tactics are never complete, but are always changing to meet current developments. As such, our squadron doctrine will always be a flexible handbook for operation.

Letters of credit were received by our Commanding Officer and the editor of the doctrine.

1 October 1949 to 1 November 1949

During the month of October the squadron participated in several demonstrations aboard ship for army, navy, airforce, and civilian personnel. Routine training was also continued.

On the 27th of this month we embarked on the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT for a three week cruise with the Second TASK Fleet Cold Weather Exercises in the Davis Strait Area. The weather was bad almost all of the time with winds up to sixty-five knots across the flight deck. Normal flights were made in spite of these handicaps. The temperatures did not get down below 15° F. at any time, however. No trouble was encountered in starting our AD-1's. However, the F8F's were very hard to start.

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

for PEACE of MIND-BUY SAVINGS BONDS

ENCLOSURE (1)

DECLASSIFIED

Ensign C. E. PARKER was detached for seven weeks' TAD to Aerial Mine Warfare School, Yorktown, Virginia.

1 November 1949 to 1 December 1949

The squadron was aboard the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT during the first part of this month. The farthest point north was 66°30' N, reached on the 12th of November.

LTJG R. J. WEBSTER nosed up while taxiing over the barriers on the 16th of this month. A propellor change was all that was necessary.

Ensigh J. E. PUCCINI attempted a landing on the 19th of November after a high and fast position at the cut. He did not catch a wire and flew through two barriers and was stopped by the third. The wind was approximately sixty-five knots over the deck at this time. Class "C" damage resulted to the aircraft. Ensign PUCCINI was not hurt.

On the 23rd of this month the squadron returned to NAAS Oceana, its permanent base, and continued routine training missions.

1 December 1949 to 1 January 1950

Our squadron spent all of this month familiarizing ourselves with AD-4 aircraft, which we started receiving on the second of the month. We are very pleased with the plane as it shows a number of improvements over our old AD-1's.

On the 21st LCDR G. B. BRYAN was relieved as executive officer by LCDR R. P. GEE, who came here from Attack Squadron Thirty-Five.

VA65/

Serial:

DECLASSIFIED

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D
DECLASSIFIED

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

for PEACE or MORE-ITY
SAVINGS BONDS

ENCLOSURE (1)

Part III

APPENDICES

1. Number of Accidents and classification:
   (a) Number of Accidents - 6
   (b) Personnel Injuries - all Class D
   (c) Material Damage - classes C and D

2. Changes in Personnel
   (a) July:
      (1) Officers reported aboard - 1
      (2) Officers detached - 2
      (3) Enlisted men reported aboard - 8
      (4) Enlisted men detached - 3
      (5) Total complement - 23 Officers, 131 enlisted men.

   (b) August:
      (1) Officers reported aboard - 1
      (2) Officers detached - 3
      (3) Enlisted men reported aboard - 7
      (4) Enlisted men detached - 7
      (5) Total complement - 21 officers, 131 enlisted men.

   (c) September:
      (1) Officers reported aboard - 1
      (2) Officers detached - 1
      (3) Enlisted men reported aboard - 8
      (4) Enlisted men detached - 17
      (5) Total complement - 21 Officers, 122 enlisted men.

   (d) October:
      (1) Officers reported aboard - 0
      (2) Officers detached - 0
      (3) Enlisted men reported aboard - 17
      (4) Enlisted men detached - 8
      (5) Total complement - 21 Officers, 131 enlisted men.

VA65/

Serial:

ATTACK SQUADRON SIXTY-FIVE
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

for PEACE BUY SAVINGS BONDS

ENCLOSURE (1)

DECLASSIFIED

(e) November:
- (1) Officers reported aboard - 0
- (2) Officers detached - 0
- (3) Enlisted men reported aboard - 5
- (4) Enlisted men detached - 1
- (5) Total complement - 21 officers, 135 enlisted men.

(f) December:
- (1) Officers reported aboard - 3
- (2) Officers detached - 4
- (3) Enlisted men reported aboard - 6
- (4) Enlisted men detached - 6
- (5) Total complement - 20 officers, 135 enlisted men.

3. Hours flown and carrier landings:

(a) July:
- (1) Hours flown - 394.7
- (2) Carrier landings - 100 DAY, 18 NIGHT

(b) August:
- (1) Hours flown - 599.1
- (2) Carrier landings - 0

(c) September:
- (1) Hours flown - 485.3
- (2) Carrier landings - 59 DAY

(d) October:
- (1) Hours flown - 495.7
- (2) Carrier landings - 24

(e) November:
- (1) Hours flown - 316.5
- (2) Carrier landings - 145

(f) December:
- (1) Hours flown - 390.8
- (2) Carrier landings - 0

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UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
SECOND TASK FLEET

c/o Fleet Post Office Branch,
Norfolk, Virginia
5 October 1949

"From: Commander SECOND Task Fleet
To: All units of SECOND Task Fleet which participated in the Fourth Joint Civilian Orientation Conference

Subj: Letter of Appreciation

Ref: (a) CinCLantFlt speedletter serial 3385 of 4 Oct 1949 to ComSecTaskFlt

1. Reference (a) is quoted below in part:

"... The Secretary of Defense has requested me to convey to all units of the Atlantic Fleet which participated in the Fourth Joint Civilian Orientation Conference his gratitude and congratulations on a job well done and his appreciation of the courteous hospitality and top military efficiency which [illegible] Navy will leave a lasting impression of confidence in [illegible] with all the everyday [illegible] and congratulations for [illegible] demonstration."

2. The Commander SECOND Task Fleet [illegible] with pleasure this expression of appreciation on the part of the Secretary of Defense and the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet [illegible] the participating units of the SECOND Task Fleet for [illegible]

[illegible]

Authenticated: