

UF-102
1974

2

FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE HUNDRED TWO

FLEET POST OFFICE

NEW YORK 09501



VF-102:10:RMS:em
5750

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From: Commanding Officer, Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-0502)

Subj: Command History for Calendar Year 1974 (OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Officer's Roster
(3) Biography and Photograph of CDR P. W. PARCELLS

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted.

L. F. Norton
L. F. NORTON

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DIRNAVHIST (OP-09B9)

FIGHTER SQUADRON ONE HUNDRED TWO
COMMAND HISTORY 1974

1. Command Organization: Commander E. W. CLEXTON, USN, /1310, assumed command of Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO on 9 June 1972. CDR CLEXTON was relieved by Lieutenant Commander P. W. PARCELLS, USN, /1310, in ceremonies held on board USS INDEPENDENCE while anchored in Falkiron Bay, Athens, Greece on 8 November 1973. LCDR PARCELLS became the Eighteenth Commanding Officer of VF-102.
2. Summary of Operations: Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWO, embarked aboard USS INDEPENDENCE, departed Athens, Greece on 6 January 1974 for Rota, Spain. After being relieved by USS AMERICA at Rota on January 11, USS INDEPENDENCE left the same day for Norfolk, Virginia. The six month deployment ended January 19 when USS INDEPENDENCE tied up at Pier 12 in Norfolk.

The squadron's shore based training cycle began on February 20 at NAS Oceana. On March 18 the squadron sent 10 planes, fifteen aircrews and maintenance personnel to Naval Air Station, Fallon, Nevada for a two week weapons deployment. As a unit of Attack Carrier Air Wing SEVEN, VF-102 conducted day/night bombing and on 27 March planned and lead a coordinated strike of F-4, A-6, and A-7 aircraft on a local range. The squadron flew many Air Combat Maneuvering missions and Electronic Counter Measures training missions utilizing the EA-6B of VAQ-132 and Fallon's ECM range during the weapons deployment.

From March 30 to April 7 the squadron conducted Field Carrier Landing Practice in preparation for Carrier Qualifications and Refresher training aboard USS INDEPENDENCE. Type Training One was conducted from May 8 to May 17 in the Virginia Capes Operating Area. The training period ended with the highlight of the work ups - a highly successful air to air missile shoot on 15 May. VF-102 fighters successfully fired three sparrow and one sidewinder missile, with all but one sparrow guiding to within lethal range of the MQM-74 targets. USS INDEPENDENCE conducted Type Training Two in the Jacksonville operating area from May 22 to May 29 and from May 30 to June 1 participated in Solid Shield 74, an amphibious assault exercise on the beaches of Camp Lejune, North Carolina. VF-102 aircraft flew combat air patrol missions providing protection for the Task Force and the Amphibious Operating Area against airborne raids. Type Training Three and the Operational Readiness Evaluation was conducted from 5 - 14 June. The squadron was rated number one in the Air Wing during the ORE, receiving an overall grade of low outstanding.

The Preparation for Overseas Movement was from 15 June to 18 July. The squadron deployed to the Mediterranean area 19 July aboard USS INDEPENDENCE. July 28 USS INDEPENDENCE relieved USS AMERICA at Naval Station Rota, Spain and entered the Mediterranean Sea on 29 July. The squadron participated in special contingency operations South of Crete in reaction to hostilities on Cyprus from 1 - 22 August.

The squadron's first Mediterranean port of call was Naples, Italy, visited from 24 August to 2 September. USS INDEPENDENCE departed Naples 3 September for Gaeta, Italy where the squadron attended the Commander Sixth Fleet's Change of Command on 4 September. VF-102 took part in a Naval fire power demonstration for the Honorable J. William MIDDENDORF II, Secretary of the Navy on 14 September. During the remainder of September and all of October the squadron operated in the Western Mediterranean Sea while visiting the ports of Naples and Barcelona, Spain.

From 11 November to 14 November the squadron flew missions in support of the NATO exercise POOPDECK which tested the effectiveness of the task force in defending against land based air power. The simulated raids were provided by Spanish and United States Air Forces from Torrejon, Spain. Palma de Majorca, Cannes, France, and Naples, Italy were ports of call for the squadron during November.

December was highlighted by another visit to Palma de Majorca and the NATO exercise National Week XVII which was conducted from 13 - 15 December. VF-102 flew surface search and combat air patrol missions in support of the exercise. The squadron ended the year by spending the Christmas and New Year holidays in Naples, Italy. VF-102 was presented the Commander Attack Carrier Air Wing SEVEN "Golden Tailhook" award for superior carrier landing performance from October to December.

3. Special Topics:

a. Statistics:

1974 Hours -	JAN 84	MAY 427	SEP 227
	FEB 168	JUN 337	OCT 208
	MAR 568	JUL 111	NOV 266
	APR 454	AUG 398	DEC 98

Total 1974 flight time - - - - -	3321
Total 1974 aboard carrier - - - - -	1902
Total 1974 sorties aboard carrier - - - - -	1137
Total 1974 day carrier landings - - - - -	822
Total 1974 night carrier landings - - - - -	315
Type aircraft assigned - - - - -	F-4J
Number aircraft assigned - - - - -	12

1974 Mediterranean deployment data:

<u>Operating days</u>		<u>Hours/Sorties</u>	<u>Day/Night carrier arrested landings</u>	
JUL	-	1	14/10	10/0
AUG	-	19	398/245	177/65
SEP	-	11	227/141	90/49
OCT	-	11	205/129	79/41
NOV	-	12	244/140	84/49
DEC	-	5	98/58	144/10