

1970



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN  
FPO NEW YORK 09501

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From: Commanding Officer, Attack Squadron FIFTEEN  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: OPNAV Report 5750-1

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Brief chronology for 1970  
(2) Narrative history for 1970  
(3) Roster of officers  
(4) Roster of enlisted men  
(5) Photographs of CDR R. B. BRISTOL and CDR D. D. BROWN  
(6) Biographies of CDR R. B. BRISTOL and CDR D. D. BROWN

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures 1 through 6 are submitted.

  
R. B. BRISTOL

Copy to:  
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN  
Brief Chronology - 1970

- February ----- VA-15 pilots participated in a CAAWEX on 19 and 20 February.
- March ----- On 1 March, LT F. J. WILEY was killed when his aircraft struck the water during a night CCA recovery. The ROOSEVELT crossdecked with the FORRESTAL and nine "Valion" pilots were sent to the FORRESTAL on a Carrier Qualification basis on 3-5 March. VA-15 flew strikes on a simulated target off Cyprus during CHAPERON, a joint US/UK exercise on 11 and 12 March. Search and strike missions were flown by VA-15 during MINI - NATIONAL WEEK, a surface surveillance exercise, on 22 March.
- April ----- NATIONAL WEEK IV, a surface surveillance exercise began on 4 April, and VA-15 pilots flew highly successful search and strike missions during the 3 day exercise. A Combat Readiness Assessment Exercise was conducted on 20 April, Exercise Quickdraw on the 21st, and a CAAWEX on the 22nd.
- May ----- Flight operations continue with TRANSITEX/PHIBLEX conducted 5-9 May. VA-15 flew highly successful strikes on simulated targets in Spain in exercise POOPDECK, 18-20 May. The "Valions" flew strike missions against simulated targets in France in DATEX, 26-28 May.
- June ----- During exercise DAWN PATROL, 10-12 June, VA-15 flew combat support and strikes in support of and against Italian forces. On 23 June the squadron participated in a Combat Readiness Assessment Exercise and in a MISSLEX on 24 June.
- July ----- The "Valions" flew strikes on simulated targets in Turkey during SHAHBAZ XVI, 5-7 July. SHAHBAZ XVI was the last exercise of the cruise. On 19 July, the ROOSEVELT sailed to Polensa Bay for turnover with the USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA-62). 20-27 July was spent in transit to Mayport, Florida. The "Valions" flew off the ROOSEVELT on 26 July and returned to Cecil Field, Florida.
- August ----- The month of August was devoted to a well deserved stand-down.
- September ----- The first of September was "Back in the Saddle" for VA-15. Extensive flight operations and ground training prevailed throughout the month.
- October ----- Intensive training continued in anticipation of the upcoming shakedown cruise off the Florida coast. On 19 October, VA-15 departed Mayport, Florida with Attack Carrier Air Wing SIX for a four week shakedown cruise aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42).

- November --- VA-15 remained aboard the ROOSEVELT until 19 November, and then returned to NAS Cecil Field. November 20th-22nd ten pilots attended the Tailhook Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. The remainder of November was spent in preparation for the ADMAT Inspection scheduled for early December.
- December --- The ADMAT Inspection was conducted 3-5 December. Flight operations and ground training continued in earnest after the inspection in preparation for the Mediterranean Cruise scheduled for January.
- January --- On January 15th, VA-15 moved aboard the ROOSEVELT. ROOSEVELT sailed 18 January from Mayport, Florida and operated off the Florida coast until 22 January when she returned to Mayport. After a brief stand-down, the ROOSEVELT sailed from Mayport on 29 January with Attack Carrier Air Wing SIX embarked.
- February --- On 1 February the ROOSEVELT was operating in the Fleet Atlantic Weapons Range in the Caribbean. The ORI was conducted on 8-10 February and the ROOSEVELT deployed to the Mediterranean on February 11th. The ROOSEVELT inshopped at Rota, Spain on 18 February.

## ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN

### Squadron History - 1970

The USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) sailed from Valetta, Malta on February 14th. VA-15 pilots participated in a CAWEX on the 19th and 20th. During the CAWEX, the ROOSEVELT and the USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59) flew simulated strikes against each other. ROOSEVELT put into Souda Bay, Crete on the 21st, sailed on the 26th, and conducted flight operations for the remaining two days in February. The "Valions" flew 554 hours, 271 sorties, and made 255 landings aboard the ROOSEVELT during February.

On 1 March, LT F. J. WILEY was killed when his aircraft struck the water during a night CCA recovery. ROOSEVELT made a port call at Taranto, Italy on 3 March, and cross-decked with the FORRESTAL. Nine "Valion" pilots were sent to the FORRESTAL on a Carrier Qualification basis. The squadron gained the experience of working from a larger carrier plus obtaining 53 day traps and 21 night traps. ROOSEVELT sailed on the 8th of March, conducted flight operations on the 9th, and held a safety stand-down on the 10th. VA-15 flew strikes on a simulated target off Cyprus during CHAPTER, a joint U. S. /U. K. exercise on 11 and 12 March. ROOSEVELT was inport at Salonika, Greece the 14th through the 19th, and conducted flight operations on the 20th. VA-15 flew search and strike missions during NEMO NATIONAL WEEK, a surface surveillance exercise on 22 March. The last days in March were spent in Athens, Greece. The "Valions" flew 259 sorties logging 455 hours and 260 arrested landings during March.

April commenced with ROOSEVELT sailing from Athens, Greece on 2 April. NATIONAL WEEK VI, a surface surveillance exercise, began on 4 April, and VA-15 pilots flew highly successful search and strike missions during the 3 day exercise. ROOSEVELT made a port call at Palma de Mallorca on 10 April for a nine day stay. After Palma, flight operations continued in earnest with a Combat Readiness Assessment Exercise (CIAE) on the 20th, exercise QUADRANT on the 21st, and a CAWEX on the 22nd. ROOSEVELT was inport 23 April - 3 May at Naples, Italy. VA-15 pilots logged 312 hours on 178 sorties and made 161 arrested landings during the month of April.

During the first week in May, flight operations continued with a SEASIDE-TEX/PHIBLEX conducted 5 - 9 May. The purpose of this exercise was to conduct an opposed transit of French and U.S. forces, and to support an amphibious assault landing. The "Valion" pilots gained valuable training in close air support roles.

ROOSEVELT put into Pollensa Bay for the period of 11 - 16 May. VA-15 flew highly successful strikes against simulated targets in Spain in exercise POOFDECK, 18 - 20 May. After 4 days in Cannes, France, flight operations continued with DAFEX, in which the "Valions" flew strike missions against simulated targets in France. ROOSEVELT returned to Cannes on 29 May for 5 days. The "Valions" flew 268 sorties in May, logging 491 hours and made 307 carrier landings.

The ROOSEVELT sailed from Cannes on 2 June. Flight operations continued through the first week in June. ROOSEVELT put into Lovo Santo, Sardinia for 1 day and continued flight operations on 8 June. During exercise DAWN PATROL, the squadron flew combat air support and strikes in support of and against

Italian forces. After a one day stay in Naples, ROOSEVELT conducted flight operations for four days and spent 20 June in transit to Athens, Greece for 2 days inport. On 23 June, the squadron participated in a Combat Readiness Assessment exercise and in a KISSEK on 24 June. The last five days in June were inport at Rhodes, Greece. The "Valions" flew 245 sorties, and logged 499 hours, and made 228 arrested landings during June.

ROOSEVELT sailed from Rhodes on 5 July, and the "Valions" flew strikes on simulated targets in Turkey during SHAHBAZ XVI, the last exercise during the cruise, which ended on 7 July. The 11th of July was spent in transit with a three day port call at Naples. ROOSEVELT conducted flight operations 15 July and sailed to Pollensa Bay for turnover with USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA-62) on 19 July. The ROOSEVELT was in transit across the Atlantic from 20-29 June. The "Valions" flew off the ROOSEVELT on 26 July and returned to Cecil Field, Florida. During July, the squadron flew 134 sorties, made 147 arrested landings, and logged 267 hours.

The month of August was devoted to a stand-down. Members of the squadron who weren't on leave ferried aircraft to PAR at NAS Jacksonville. The squadron logged 4.8 hours on 7 sorties during August.

September first was "Back in the Saddle" for VA-15. Extensive flight operations prevailed throughout the month with the squadron logging 502 hours on 346 sorties. The squadron flew competitive exercises in laydown, 45 degree bombing, and strafing. Extensive ground training was conducted on aircraft and weapons systems.

During October the squadron commenced Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) in anticipation of the upcoming shakedown cruise off the coast of Florida. On 19 October, VA-15 departed Mayport, Florida with Attack Carrier Air Wing SIX for a four week shakedown cruise aboard USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42). The "Valions" flew strike missions against simulated targets in Florida and also participated in competitive exercises of OTS and loft bombing. The squadron logged 297 hours on 245 sorties and made 245 arrested landings aboard ROOSEVELT.

VA-15 remained aboard ROOSEVELT until 19 November and returned to Cecil Field, Florida. November 20th through 22nd, ten "Valion" pilots attended the Tailhook Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. The remainder of November consisted of extensive preparations for the upcoming ADMAT Inspection in December. The "Valions" logged 433 hours on 283 sorties and made 150 landings aboard ROOSEVELT.

The ADMAT Inspection was conducted 3-5 December. Following the inspection, flight operations began in earnest in preparation for the Mediterranean Cruise scheduled for January. The squadron flew FCLPs and extensive training was conducted in close air support, coordinated strikes, and night bombing. There were two leave periods, 15-28 December and 28 December to 11 January. Flight operations continued through these periods as well as preparations for boarding the ROOSEVELT. The squadron logged 322 hours on 173 sorties in December.

On January 15th, VA-15 moved aboard the ROOSEVELT. The ROOSEVELT sailed from Mayport, Florida on the 18th of January and operated off the Florida coast until the 22nd of January, when she returned to Mayport. After a brief stand-down, ROOSEVELT sailed from Mayport on 29 January with Attack Carrier Air

Wing SIX embarked. The squadron logged 405 hours on 255 sorties and made 116 arrested landings during January.

February commenced with the ROOSEVELT operating in the Fleet Atlantic Weapons Range in the Caribbean. Extensive training was conducted in preparation for the ORI. The ORI was conducted 8-10 February and ROOSEVELT deployed to the Mediterranean on February 11th. After a very smooth Atlantic crossing, ROOSEVELT inshopped at Rota, Spain on 18 February. Flight operations continued through February 25th and ROOSEVELT made a port call in Palma de Mallorca on 26 February for 6 days inport. The squadron logged 398 hours on 222 sorties and made 217 arrested landings, including the 192,000th landing aboard ROOSEVELT by LT [REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE (2)