

K O R E A

Through the Eyes of Those who Were There

With the majority of photographs from the Korean War era in black and white, *NA News* was fortunate to discover a wonderful source of color images in the personal collection of Warren Thompson. A military aviation researcher and writer, Mr. Thompson's personal interest has been collecting color slides from WW II through the Vietnam War. Over the course of 35 years, he has corresponded with thousands of service members to gather their contributions, and his collection now numbers over 40,000 color slides. "I want to make sure that as much of this history is preserved as accurately as possible," he explained. *NA News* is pleased to provide a forum for these images throughout the next three years as part of our Korean War commemorative series.



Davis Collection

Robert Mason



The Navy primarily used the AD *Skyraider*, F2H *Banshee*, F4U *Corsair* and F9F *Panther* in attacks against targets in North Korea. Left, a *Skyraider* waits aboard *Boxer* (CV 21) in the summer of 1950, soon after the war started. Below, this VF-192 *Banshee* was photographed at a South Korean air base, many of which served as safe havens for some Navy aircraft that were too battle-damaged to return to their carriers.

John Corrigan





Above, the deck crew aboard *Boxer* (CV 21) prepares for an HO3S helicopter to land. These helos were among the first to conduct plane guard during carrier operations, and were instrumental in rescuing downed pilots in Korea. Right, Navy long-range patrol aircraft like this P4Y-2 *Privateer* flew a wide variety of missions, most notably flare drops over North Korean mountains to assist night intruder missions flown by Marine and Air Force planes.

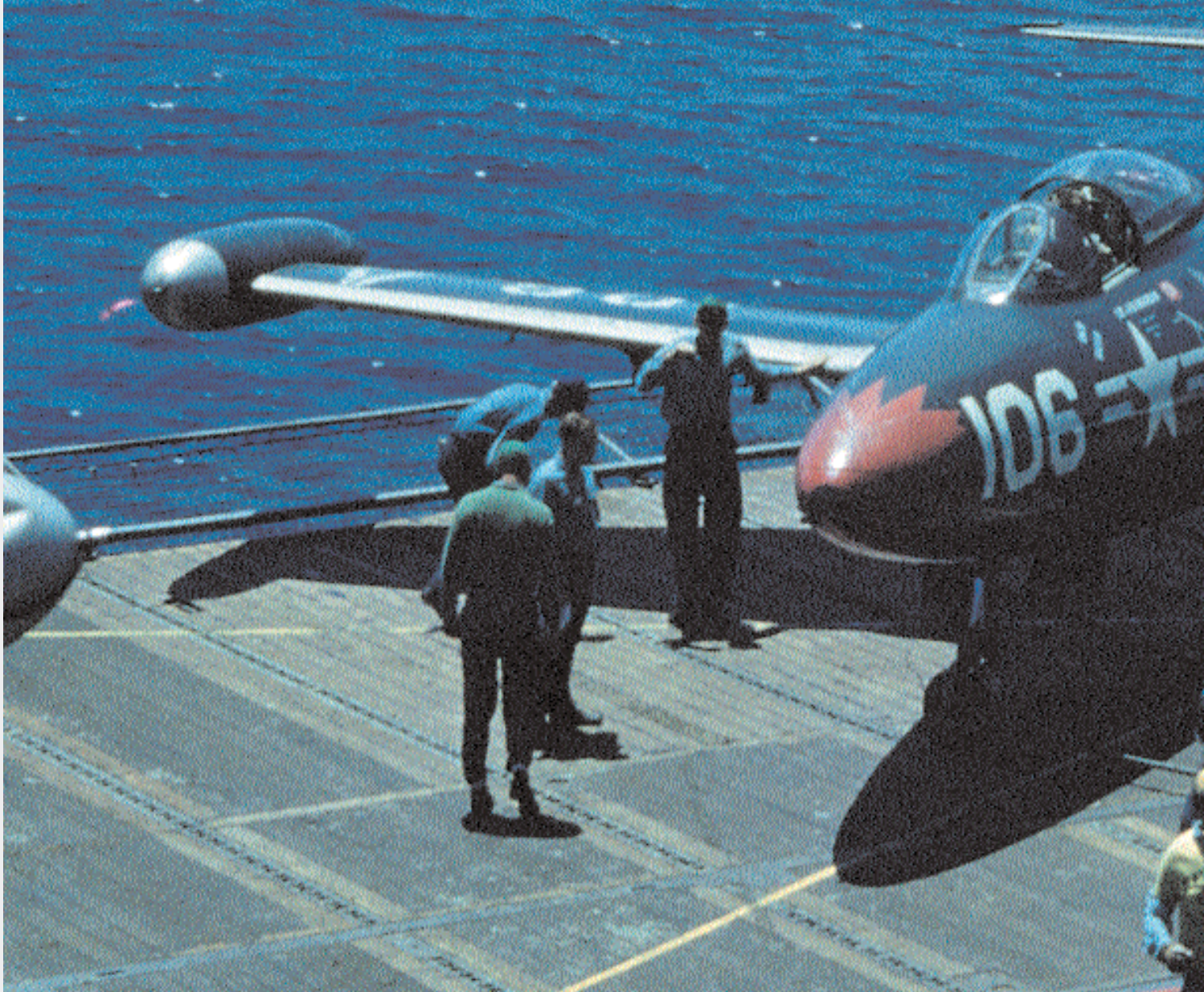


Richard Durfee



Ray Carnahan

Below, the F9F *Panther* was the primary fighter-bomber used by the Navy and Marines in Korea. This F9F was flown by VF-721, one of the most active Naval Reserve units of the war. Left, *Boxer* (CV 21) had a significant impact on the first weeks of the war by serving as a transport for more than 145 Air Force F-51 *Mustangs* from the U.S. The *Mustangs* were desperately needed as they were the only aircraft available in large numbers that could operate from the crude forward airfields in South Korea. Opposite, a destroyer pulls close aboard *Boxer* for mail call in 1951.



Jim Dodge



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