

28 DEC - 30 JUN
1946 1948

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

1 April 1947

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Chief of Naval Operations, Aviation History Unit,
OP-519B.
Subject: Historical Report - Submission of.
Reference: (a) Manual for Historical Officers, NavAer 00-25Q-26.
Enclosure: (A) VA-1A History outline for period 28 December 1946 to
28 March 1947.

1. Enclosure (A) is submitted herewith in compliance with
reference (a).

H. W. Calhoun
H. W. CALHOUN LCDR USN

cc: CNO (OP-519B) (Orig & 1)
CCD2
GO CV-40
CCVG-1
File

I CHRONOLOGY

- 28 December 1946: Attack Squadron One Able temporarily shore based at NAB, Kobler Field, Saipan, Marianas Islands. Commanding Officer: LCDR H. W. CALHOUN, USN of Niagara Falls, New York.
- 9 January 1947: Attack Squadron One Able flew aboard USS TARAWA.
- 10 January 1947: USS TARAWA anchored Apra Harbor, Guam, Marianas Islands.
- 15 January 1947: USS TARAWA departed Apra Harbor, Guam, Marianas Islands for Pearl Harbor, Oahu, T.H.
- 20 January 1947: Air Group One aboard the USS TARAWA crossed the International Date Line.
- 23 January 1947: Attack Squadron One Able flew ashore to become temporarily shore based at NAS Barbers Point, Oahu, T.H.
- 28 January 1947: Ens. R. M. LARSON, USNR of Waupaca, Wisconsin was killed.
- 10 February 1947: Attack Squadron One Able flew aboard USS TARAWA for Fleet Maneuvers.
- 13 February 1947: USS TARAWA moored Ford Island, Oahu, T.H.
- 17 February 1947: USS TARAWA departed Ford Island, Oahu, T.H.
- 21 February 1947: Air Group One aboard the USS TARAWA crossed the International Date Line.
- 24 February 1947: USS TARAWA anchored Kwajalein Atoll Marshall Islands.
- 27 February 1947: USS TARAWA departed Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands for Fleet Maneuvers.
- 28 February 1947: Ens. W. H. TEEPLE, USNR of Sault Ste Marie, Michigan was killed.
- 1 March 1947: Air Group One aboard the USS TARAWA crossed the International Date Line.

I CHRONOLOGY (Cont'd)

- 10 March 1947: Upon completion of Fleet Maneuvers, Attack Squadron One Able flew ashore to become temporarily shore based at NAS, Ford Island, Oahu, T.H.
- 28 March 1947: Attack Squadron One Able temporarily shore based at NAS, Ford Island, Oahu, T.H.

II NARRATIVE

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE, a component of Attack Carrier Air Group One, Air Force, Pacific Fleet was temporarily shore based at NAB, Kobler Field, Saipan, Marianas Islands, on 28 December 1946, and had been in commission since 12 May 1945. LCDR H. W. CALHOUN, USN was the squadron's Commanding Officer and LCDR G. E. MILLER, USN was the Executive Officer.

On 9 January 1947 ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE flew aboard the USS TARAWA bound for Pearl Harbor with Guam as an intermediate stop.

The USS TARAWA anchored in Apra Harbor, Guam, Marianas Islands on 10 January 1947 for a five day stop. On 15 January 1947, departure was taken for Pearl Harbor. The ship had a Marine detachment aboard for transit purposes, so no air operations could be conducted. On 20 January 1947, the USS TARAWA crossed the International Date Line thereby gaining a day.

On 23 January 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE was launched to become temporarily shore based at NAS, Barbers Point, Oahu, T.H. An intensive flying and training schedule was immediately set up which stressed rocket fire, glide and dive bombing, navigation, and carrier qualification.

On 28 January 1947, Ens. R. M. LARSON, USNR of Waupaca, Wisconsin had a fatal accident. On recovery from a rocket run he reported propeller failure, stalled out on approach to landing, and hit the water in an inverted position. The plane sank immediately with no survivor.

On 10 February 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE flew aboard the USS TARAWA for Fleet Maneuvers. Strikes were flown against the Hawaiian Islands and in the afternoon of 13 February 1947 the USS TARAWA moored at Ford Island, Oahu, T.H.

On 17 February 1947, the USS TARAWA, with ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE aboard, departed Ford Island for Kwajalein Atoll after rendezvousing with Task Force Fifty-Seven for Fleet Maneuvers. On 28 February 1947, Ens. W. H. TEEPLE, USNR of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan had a fatal accident during landing operations. He tried to take a voluntary wave-off after taking a cut, hit the right catwalk, and fell into the water. He got out on the wing of the plane but went down with it.

The USS TARAWA crossed the International Date Line on 1 March 1947 thereby gaining one day. ASP's and strikes were flown against Task Force Fifty-One.

On 4 March the USS TARAWA rendezvoused with and became part of Task Force Fifty-One. Strikes were flown against Johnston Island on 6 March 1947 and against Oahu, T.H. on 10 March 1947.

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE became temporarily shore based at NAS, Ford Island, Oahu, T.H. on 10 March 1947 when it landed after the strikes on Oahu, T.H. A basic flying and training schedule was immediately set up which stressed instruments, division and group tactics, and navigation.

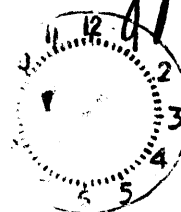
On 28 March 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE was temporarily shore based at NAS, Ford Island, Oahu, T.H. The squadron was composed of twenty-four pilots and ninety enlisted men. Twenty-one SB2C-5's and two SBW-5's were assigned to the squadron.

During the period from 28 December 1946 to 28 March 1947 two pilots were killed in the squadron, eight pilots were detached from the squadron, and no pilots joined the squadron. Seventeen enlisted men were transferred from the squadron and fourteen enlisted men joined the squadron.

VA-1A/A9-3/EN3-12

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

JUL 7 47 AM



1 July 1947

RECEIVED
CNO Training Section
NAVY DEPARTMENT

UB-4

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Chief of Naval Operations, Aviation History Unit,
OP-519B.

Subject: Historical Report - Submission of.

Reference: (a) Manual for Historical Officers, NavAer 00-25Q-26.
(b) Aviation CL 71-46.

Enclosure: (A) VA-1A Historical outline for period 28 March 1947
to 28 June 1947.

1. Enclosure (A) is submitted herewith in compliance with
references (a) and (b).


H. W. CALHOUN LCDR USN

cc: CNO (OP-519B) (Orig & 1) ✓
CCD2
CO CV-40
CCVG-1
File

I CHRONOLOGY

- 28 March 1947: Attack Squadron One Able temporarily shore based at NAS, Ford Island, Oahu, T. H. Commanding Officer LCDR H. W. CALHOUN, USN of Niagara Falls, New York.
- 16 April 1947: Attack Squadron One Able flew aboard USS TARAWA. USS TARAWA moored Ford Island, Oahu, T.H. in afternoon.
- 23 April 1947: USS TARAWA departed Ford Island, Oahu, T. H. for NAS Alameda, California.
- 29 April 1947: USS TARAWA arrived NAS, Alameda, California.
- 30 April 1947: USS TARAWA departed NAS Alameda, California for NAS San Diego, California.
- 1 May 1947: Attack Squadron One Able flew ashore to become shore based at NAS, San Diego, California. Period of leave and recreation started.
- 15 June 1947: Period of leave and recreation ended.
- 28 June 1947: Attack Squadron One Able shore based at NAS, San Diego, California.

II NARRATIVE

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE, a component of Attack Carrier Air Group One, Air Force, Pacific Fleet was temporarily shore based at NAS, Ford Island, Oahu, T.H. on 28 March 1947 and had been in commission since 12 May 1945. LCDR H. W. CALHOUN, USN was the squadron's Commanding Officer and LCDR G. E. MILLER, USN was the Executive Officer.

The period from 28 March 1947 to 16 April 1947 was spent in an intensive training program in type instruments and cross-country flying. Air support, field carrier landing practice, and two parade formations were also flown.

On 16 April 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE flew aboard the USS TARAWA and in the afternoon the USS TARAWA moored at Ford Island, Oahu, T.H.

On 23 April 1947, the USS TARAWA, with ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE aboard, departed Ford Island for NAS, Alameda, California with NAS, San Diego, California as an ultimate destination. No air operations were conducted since the USS TARAWA was loaded with aircraft being returned to the United States for overhaul. On 29 April 1947, the USS TARAWA arrived at NAS, Alameda, California.

After the aircraft for overhaul were placed ashore, the USS TARAWA departed for NAS, San Diego, California on 30 April 1947. On 1 May 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE was launched to become shore based at NAS, San Diego, California.

The period from 1 May 1947 to 15 June 1947 was spent in leave and recreation. Flying was held to a bare minimum and consisted only of area familiarization.

On 16 June 1947, an intensive training schedule was set up which stressed familiarization, division tactics, and type instruments in preparation for night flying.

On 28 June 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE was temporarily shore based at NAS, San Diego, California. The squadron was composed of twenty-seven pilots and eighty-six enlisted men. Twenty-three SB2C-5's were assigned to the squadron.

During the period from 28 March 1947 to 28 June 1947 seven pilots were detached from the squadron and ten pilots joined the squadron. Fourteen enlisted men were transferred from the squadron and ten enlisted men joined the squadron.

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OP-50D

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

JA-1A

1 October 1947

RECEIVED
CNO ROUTING SECTION
NAVY DEPARTMENT

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Chief of Naval Operations, Aviation Historical
Unit, OP-519B.
Subject: Historical Report - Submission of.
Reference: (a) Manual for Historical Officers, Navier 00-25Q-26.
(b) Aviation C/L 71-46.
Enclosure: (A) VA-1A Historical outline for period 28 June 1947
to 28 September 1947.

1. Enclosure (A) is submitted herewith in compliance
with references (a) and (b).

J. K. Clifford
J. K. CLIFFORD

cc: CNO (OP-519B) (Original)
SCD2
CO CV-40
SCVG-1
File (2)

I CHRONOLOGY

- 28 June 1947:** Attack Squadron One Able shore based at NAS, San Diego, California. Commanding Officer LCDR H. W. CALHOUN, USN, of Niagara Falls, New York.
- 5 July 1947:** Attack Squadron One Able flew to NAS, El Centro, California, for rocket firing and night flying.
- 12 July 1947:** Attack Squadron One Able returned to NAS, San Diego, California.
- 18 July 1947:** LCDR H. W. CALHOUN, USN, was relieved as Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron One Able by LCDR J. K. CLIFFORD, USN.
- 2 September 1947:** Attack Squadron One Able flew aboard the USS TARAWA for Carrier Qualification and Inter-Type Exercises.
- 26 September 1947:** Carrier Qualification and Inter-Type Exercises completed. USS TARAWA moored at Hunter's Point, San Francisco, California.
- 28 September 1947:** Attack Squadron One Able aboard the USS TARAWA moored at Hunters Point, San Francisco, California. Commanding Officer: LCDR J. K. CLIFFORD, USN of Tacoma, Washington.

II NARRATIVE

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE, a component of Attack Carrier Air Group One, Air Force, Pacific Fleet was shore based at NAS, San Diego, California on 28 June 1947 and had been in commission since 12 May 1945, LCDR E. W. CALHOUN, USN was the squadron's Commanding Officer and LCDR G. E. MILLER, USN was the Executive Officer.

The period from 28 June 1947 to 5 July 1947 was spent in division tactics, type instruments, and angle calibration for rocket fire.

On 5 July 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE flew to NAS, El Centro, California. After completing a rocket and night flying syllabus, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE returned to NAS, San Diego, California on 18 July 1947.

An intensive training schedule was resumed which stressed field carrier landing practice, all types of bombing, and group tactics as well as refresher hops for rocket firing and night flying.

On 18 July 1947, LCDR E. W. CALHOUN, USN was relieved as Commanding Officer of ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE by LCDR J. K. CLIFFORD, USN.

On 2 September 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE flew aboard the USS TARAWA for Carrier Qualification and Inter-Type Exercises. On 5 September 1947, Carrier Qualification was completed and the planes were flown to NAS San Diego, California. The USS TARAWA moored at NAS, San Diego, California in the afternoon.

On 8 September 1947, the planes of ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE flew aboard the USS TARAWA, refueled, and returned to NAS, San Diego, California. On 9 September 1947, the planes returned to the USS TARAWA for refresher and Inter-Type Exercises. On 11 September 1947, the USS TARAWA moored at NAS, San Diego, California for the weekend.

On 15 September 1947, the USS TARAWA with ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE aboard, departed NAS, San Diego, California for Inter-Type Exercises as a part of Task Force 51. Searches, anti-sub patrols, and simulated strikes were flown and upon completion of the exercises, the USS TARAWA moored at Hunter's Point, San Francisco, California on 26 September 1947.

On 28 September 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE was aboard the USS TARAWA moored at Hunter's Point, San Francisco, California. The squadron was composed of twenty-eight pilots and one hundred thirty-five enlisted men. Twenty SB2C-5's were assigned to the squadron.

During the period from 28 June 1947 to 28 September 1947 four pilots were detached from the squadron and five pilots joined the squadron. Eight enlisted men were transferred from the squadron and fifty-seven enlisted men joined the squadron.

III APPENDICES

Biographical Sketch of Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Commander John K. Clifford, USN, of Tacoma, Washington became Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron One Able on 18 July 1947, relieving Lieutenant Commander Harold W. Calhoun, USN. At that time he had six years of Naval experience, including three years with Bombing Squadron THREE and two years with NAS, San Diego, California.

Clifford enlisted in the Naval Reserve in January 1941 and was appointed Aviation Cadet in April 1941. He was assigned to flight training at Corpus Christi, Texas from which station he graduated in November 1941. From December 1941 to May 1942 Ensign Clifford was assigned to the advanced Carrier Training Group before reporting to Bombing Squadron THREE in June 1942.

He served with Bombing Squadron THREE from June 1942 to April 1945 during which time the squadron was attached to the USS SARATOGA and the new USS YORKTOWN. He participated in nine major engagements in the Pacific Area for which he was awarded the Navy Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross with one gold star, and Air Medal with three gold stars.

Lieutenant Clifford reported to NAS, San Diego, California in May 1945 and was assigned to A&R as Chief Test Pilot. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander in October 1945 and transferred to the Regular Navy in July 1946. In August 1946 he became Assistant Executive Officer of the Naval Air Station.

In July 1947 Lieutenant Commander Clifford reported to Attack Squadron One Able as Commanding Officer relieving Lieutenant Commander Calhoun.

VA-1A/A9-3/HEO

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE
c/o Fleet Post Officer
San Francisco, California

1 January 1948

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HWO
Rec.

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Chief of Naval Operations, Aviation Historical Unit,
OP-519B.
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references (a) and (b).

J. K. Clifford
J. K. CLIFFORD LCDR USN

cc: CNO (Op-519B)(Orig & 1) ✓
CCD2
CO CV40
CCVG-1
File (2)

I CHRONOLOGY

- 28 September 1947: Attack Squadron One Able aboard the USS TARAWA moored at Hunter's Point, San Francisco, California. Commanding Officer: LCDR J. K. CLIFFORD, USN of Tacoma, Washington.
- 29 September 1947: USS TARAWA departed Hunter's Point San Francisco, California for San Diego, California.
- 30 September 1947: Attack Squadron One Able flew ashore to again become shore based at NAS, San Diego, California.
- 8 October 1947: Attack Squadron One Able flew to NAS, Alameda, California.
- 12 October 1947: Attack Squadron One Able flew to NAS, Seattle, Washington.
- 21 November 1947: Attack Squadron One Able flew to NAS, Alameda, California.
- 22 November 1947: Attack Squadron One Able flew to NAS, San Diego, California.
- 28 December 1947; Attack Squadron One Able shore based at NAS, San Diego, California. Commanding Officer: LCDR J. K. CLIFFORD, USN of Tacoma, Washington.

II NARRATIVE

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE, a component of Attack Carrier Air Group ONE, Air Force, Pacific Fleet was aboard the USS TARAWA moored at Hunter's Point, San Francisco, California on 28 September 1947 and had been in commission since 12 May 1945. LCDR J. K. CLIFFORD, USN was the Squadron's Commanding Officer and LCDR G. E. MILLER, USN was the Executive Officer.

On 29 September 1947, the USS TARAWA with ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE aboard, departed Hunter's Point, San Francisco, California for San Diego, California. On 30 September 1947 ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE was launched to become shore based again at NAS, San Diego, California.

The period from 1 October 1947 to 8 October 1947 was spent in preparation to move the squadron to NAS, Seattle, Washington. No air operations were conducted.

On 8 October 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE departed for NAS, Alameda, California and arrived there in the afternoon. Due to poor weather the squadron didn't depart for NAS, Seattle, Washington until 12 October 1947.

An intensive training schedule was established which stressed G.C.A., type instruments, and night flying. Due to poor weather conditions no gunnery and very little bombing was done.

On 21 November 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE departed for NAS, Alameda, California and arrived there in the afternoon. On 22 November 1947, the squadron arrived at NAS, San Diego, California.

An intensive training schedule was established which stressed dive-bombing, gunnery, night flying, and dual instruments.

On 28 December 1947, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE was shore based at NAS, San Diego, California. The squadron was composed of twenty-five pilots and one hundred - fourteen enlisted men. Twenty SB2C-5's and 1 SNJ-4 were assigned to the squadron.

During the period from 28 September 1947 to 28 December 1947 three pilots were detached from the squadron and no pilots joined the squadron. Thirty-nine enlisted men were transferred from the squadron and eighteen enlisted men joined the squadron.

VA-1A/A9-3/REH

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

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1 April 1948

UA-1A

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Chief of Naval Operations, Aviation Historical Unit,
OP-519B.
Subject: Quarterly Historical Report - Submission of.
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references (a) and (b).

J. K. Clifford
J. K. CLIFFORD.

cc: CCD2
CO CV-40
CCVG-1
File (2)

I CHRONOLOGY

- 28 December 1947: Attack Squadron One Able shore based at NAS, San Diego, California. Commanding Officer; Lieutenant Commander John Kingdon Clifford, USN, of Tacoma, Washington.
- 29 January 1948: Carrier qualification landings conducted aboard the U.S.S. Boxer (CV-21).
- 24 February 1948: Midshipman James Walter Skoog, USN, of Willmar, Minnesota was killed.
- 1 March 1948: Embarked aboard the U.S.S. Boxer (CV-21) to conduct Air Group carrier qualifications.
- 6 March 1948: Disembarked U.S.S. Boxer (CV-21) outside the Golden Gate, San Francisco, California, and returned to NAS, San Diego, California.
- 17 March 1948: Attack Squadron One Able received the first of the F4U-4 Corsairs with which it will replace the SB2C-5 Helldivers in the near future.
- 22 March 1948: Commenced a two week nite flying syllabus.
- 31 March 1948: Attack Squadron One Able shore based at NAS, San Diego, California. Commanding Officer; Lieutenant Commander John Kingdon Clifford, USN, of Tacoma, Washington.

II NARRATIVE

ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE, a component of Attack Carrier Air Group One, Air Force, Pacific Fleet, was temporarily shore based at Naval Air Station, San Diego, California, on 28 December 1947, and had been in commission since 12 May 1945. Lieutenant Commander John Kingdon CLIFFORD, USN, of Tacoma, Washington was the Squadron's Commanding Officer and Lieutenant Commander Gerald Edward MILLER of Quincy, Illinois was the Executive Officer.

On 6 January 1948 Lieutenant Commander Gerald Edward MILLER of Quincy, Illinois was relieved of his duties as Executive Officer of ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE by Lieutenant Commander James Woodrow WYRICK, USN, of Vallejo, California.

The period from 8 January 1948 through 7 February 1948 was spent in close air support training in preparation for rendering close air support for the practice amphibious landing operations off the coast of southern California near the Aliso Canyon area.

On 29 February 1948 ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE conducted re-qualification landings aboard the U.S.S. BOXER (CV-21) which was operating off the coast near San Diego, California. Sixteen pilots participated in the re-qualification and a total of forty-eight landings were made.

On 10 February 1948 ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE was scheduled to support the practice amphibious landing operations off the coast of southern California, but this operation was called off due to adverse weather conditions.

On 24 February 1948 Midshipman James Walter SKOOG, USN, of Willmar, Minnesota was killed while engaged in dive bombing practice on a land target southeast of Naval Air Station, San Diego, California. Midshipman SKOOG

II NARRATIVE (Cont.)

pulled his plane out of a dive bombing run abruptly resulting in a high speed stall and spin from which he did not recover.

On 1 March 1948 ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE embarked aboard the U.S.S. BOXER (CV-21). During the period from 1 March through 6 March 1948 the squadron was engaged in carrier qualifications with the air group. Sixteen pilots participated in these qualifications, a total of one hundred and seventy-three landings and thirty-six catapult launchings were made.

On the morning of 6 March 1948 ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE flew off the U.S.S. BOXER (CV-21), which at that time was cruising off the coast of California near the city of San Francisco, California. The Squadron departed for the Naval Air Station, San Diego, California, where it arrived that afternoon.

On 17 March 1948, in compliance with directives from higher authority, ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE received it's first two F4U-4 Corsairs. This was the begining of the Squadron's transition period of changing from SB2C's to F4U's. The first F4U-4 flight in the Squadron was made by Lieutenant Junior Grade Arthur Warran JONES at 0950, 18 March 1948.

On 22 March 1948 ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE commenced an intensive two weeks nite flying syllabus. During this period the squadron's working day was from 1500 until 2400.

On 31 March 1948 ATTACK SQUADRON ONE ABLE was temporarily shore based at Naval Air Station, San Diego California. The squadron was composed of twenty-three officers on flying status and ninety-four enlisted men. Ten SB2C-5 Helldivers, ten F4U-4 Corsairs, and one SNJ-4 Texan were assigned during this transition period from SB2C's to F4U's.

During the period from 28 December 1947 to 31 March 1948 nine officers

II NARRATIVE (Cont.)

were detached from the squadron and eight officers reported for duty aboard the squadron. The Squadron experienced one fatality in the death of Midshipman SKOOG. Twenty-eight enlisted men were transferred from the squadron and eight enlisted men reported for duty aboard the squadron.