



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN
FPO NEW YORK 09501

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

VA15/11/JRW:re
5750

Ser **110**

6 APR 1972

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) Photograph of CDR F. A. LEES, Jr., CO, VA-15
(2) Biography of CDR F. A. LEES, Jr.
(3) Change of Command Program

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

J. R. Watkins
J. R. WATKINS
By direction

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

ATTACK SQUADRON FIFTEEN
Brief Chronology - 1971

- March-----VA-15 pilots participated in an anti-PT Boat Exercise, Exercise QUICK DRAW, and a PASSEX with the HMS EAGLE. CDR D. D. BROWN relieved CDR R. B. BRISTOL as Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron FIFTEEN on 30 March 1971.
- April-----The squadron participated in a CAWEX with the USS Forrestal. Squadron pilots flew simulated search and strike missions during MINI NATIONAL WEEK April 5-7.
- May-----Exercise DAWN PATROL began the first week of May in which the Valions flew over 500 hours during the eight days of the exercise. On May 22, VA-15 pilots flew simulated search and strike missions against designated units of the SIXTH FLEET during National Week IX.
- June-----The squadron participated in a highly successful MISSILEX and CRAE 21-25 June. On 25 June Valion pilots flew simulated strikes into Turkey during SHABAZ XVII, the last major exercise of the cruise.
- July-----The USS Roosevelt conducted a PASSEX with the USS Saratoga in which VA-15 flew highly successful search and simulated strike missions against the other carrier. On 23 July, the Valion pilots flew their A7-B "Corsair II" aircraft to NAS Cecil Field, Fla.
- August-----The month of August was devoted to a stand-down period.
- September--VA-15 had a large turnover of personnel. The month was devoted to extensive ground and flight training in preparation for the ORE.
- October----Extensive training continued with FMLP's and CARQUALS the last two weeks in October.
- November---The squadron loaded aboard the USS Franklin D. ROOSEVELT for a 3 week build-up cruise prior to the ORE.
- December---The ORE was conducted 18-20 December. The squadron pilots flew off the Roosevelt on December 20 and returned to NAS Cecil Field, Fla.
- January----After the Christmas leave period, training begins in earnest for the upcoming deployment. The squadron participated in Exercise Snowy Beach off the coast of Maine.
- February---VA-15 loaded aboard the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVA-42) for a 6 month Mediterranean deployment.

ENCLOSURE (1)

VA-15

ct 1971

VA15/102/SPB:wf
5750
Ser 59
26 FEB 1971

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 1971
(2) Narrative history for 1971
(3) Roster of officers
(4) Roster of enlisted men
(5) Photographs of CDR D. D. BROWN and CDR F. A. LEES Jr.
(6) Biographies of CDR D. D. BROWN and CDR F. A. LEES Jr.
(7) Family grams for 1971

1. In accordance with reference (a) , enclosures 1 through 7 are submitted.


D. D. BROWN

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

Squadron History 1971

The Roosevelt sailed from Palma de Mallorca on March 3. Another cycle of operations at sea took the Roosevelt to Barcelona, Spain on March 9. Following a pleasant nine day stay in Barcelona, the Roosevelt headed east for her first taste of joint exercises with other U.S. and NATO naval forces. VA-15 pilots flew search and strike missions in an anti-PT Boat exercise against US PT Boat forces on March 22. On March 23 in exercise Quick Draw, the Valions flew simulated strikes against units of the Italian Navy. On March 24, the Roosevelt exercised with the HMS Eagle in a free play operation where each carrier attempts to strike the other while defending against attack. VA-15's highly successful search, surveillance, and strike missions during this operation contributed significantly to the success of the exercise. On March 25 the Roosevelt made a port call in Naples, Italy which continued through April 1. On March 30, 1971, Commander D. D. BROWN relieved Commander R. B. BRISTOL as Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron FIFTEEN. The squadron logged 448.1 hours, flew 224 sorties, and made 224 arrested landings during March.

April 2 found the Valions flying search and simulated strike missions against the USS Forrestal in another carrier-to-carrier strike exercise. On April 5-7, the squadron participated in MINI NATIONAL WEEK, a surface search and surveillance exercise. A port call in Valletta, Malta followed on April 8. After a 5 day stay in Malta, the Roosevelt sailed into the Ionian Sea for a series of minor exercises and the warmup for the first of two major exercises - - Exercise Dawn Patrol, to be followed by Exercise National Week. On April 22, the Roosevelt dropped anchor in Athens Greece for a two week visit. The squadron logged 540.5 hours on 277 sorties with 277 traps during April.

May commenced with the Roosevelt sailing southward from Athens for the beginning of Dawn Patrol, an annual exercise in which the naval forces of our NATO Allies combine into one coordinated fleet. The carrier force was tasked to provide air cover and defense for a major amphibious landing in Northern Greece. The Valions flew over 500 hours of simulated close air support strikes to prepare the way for the landing during the eight day exercise. On May 13 the Roosevelt commenced a weeks stay in Rhodes, Greece. After a two day transit eastward, National Week IX commenced on May 22. During this exercise, the Valions flew simulated search and strike missions against designated ships of the Sixth Fleet. The Valions flew 816.4 hours, 331 sorties, and accumulated 316 traps during May.

June 1-8 was spent in Trieste, Italy. After Trieste and 7 days at sea, the Roosevelt visited Taranto, Italy for 5 days. After Taranto, the Valions participated in a highly successful missile exercise and CRAE 21-25 June. VA-15 pilots successfully bagged six targets with Sidewinder missiles in the missile exercise. During the CRAE, the Valions loaded and delivered over 80,000 pounds of ordnance on target. Commencing 25 June, VA-15 pilots flew simulated strikes into Turkey during SHABAZ XVII, the last major exercise of the cruise. The remainder of June was spent in Athens, Greece. VA-15 flew 414.6 hours, 201 sorties, and made 226 arrested landings during the month including the 197,000th landing aboard the Roosevelt by CDR D. D. BROWN.

After leaving Athens, Greece on July 6, the Roosevelt conducted a PASSEX in which the Valions flew simulated search and strike missions against the USS Saratoga. On July 12 the Roosevelt visited Palma de Mallorca, the last port of the cruise. The Roosevelt departed Palma de Mallorca on July 15 and outchopped on 16 July. July 16 thru 23 was spent in transit to Mayport Florida. On the 23rd the Valions flew the aircraft off the Roosevelt and returned to Cecil Field, Fla.. 218.1 hours on 101 sorties and 85 traps were logged by Valion pilots during July.

The month of August was devoted to a stand-down period. Some flying was done, however, and the squadron logged 129.9 hours on 57 sorties.

Attack Squadron FIFTEEN began a large turnover of personnel in September which continued on through January of 1972. During September, extensive ground training and flight operations began in preparation for the ORE scheduled for December. The Valions flew 565.0 hours on 290 sorties during September.

October continued with extensive flight operations and ground training. The Valions began FMLP's during the last two weeks in October. Carrier Qualifications began on 29 October and continued into the 1st week in November. 546.2 hours on 364 sorties were logged by VA-15 in October.

On the 7th of November, the Valions loaded aboard the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVA-42) for a 3 week build-up cruise prior to the ORE. During November the squadron flew 535.4 hours on 368 sorties. 270 traps were logged by Valion pilots during November.

The ORE was conducted the 18th through the 20th of December. The Valions returned to NAS Cecil Field, Fla. on the 20th of December. The following two week period was devoted to Christmas and New Year's leave. During December the squadron flew 691.9 hours on 365 sorties and made 320 arrested landings aboard the Roosevelt.

On January 5th, after the leave period, intensive training began in preparation for the upcoming Med cruise in February. January 17-27, the squadron participated in Exercise Snowy Beach off the coast of Maine. During the month 378.5 hours on 238 sorties with 131 traps were logged by VA-15.. At the end of January the squadron had 9701.2 total accident free hours.

Training continued at a fast pace until February 10th when the Valions loaded aboard the USS Roosevelt for a six month Med cruise. The Roosevelt with CVW-6 embarked sailed on February 15 to operate in the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range until the end of February.

ENCLOSURE (2)