

U. S. S. CORAL SEA

CVB—43



SIXTH FLEET
Mediterranean Cruise
1950-51



VICE ADMIRAL JOHN J. BALLENTINE
United States Navy
Commander, Sixth Fleet

VICE ADMIRAL JOHN JENNINGS BALLENTINE was named Commander of the Sixth Fleet, United States Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, on November 3, 1949, succeeding Admiral Forrest P. Sherman. He served in the Mediterranean area previously as Commander of Carrier Division ONE.

Born in Hillsboro, Ohio, October 4, 1896, Admiral Ballentine was graduated from the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1917. Since 1920, when he received his designation, he has served in Naval aviation.

At the outbreak of World War II, he was serving as Executive Officer of the aircraft carrier USS RANGER. On December 24, 1941 he was ordered to take command of the carrier USS LONG ISLAND. Later, from May until December, 1942, he served as Chief of Staff and Aide to the Commander, Carriers, Atlantic Fleet, and on May 25, 1943, he took command of the newly constructed 27,000 ton aircraft carrier USS BUNKER HILL.

In February 1944 Admiral Ballentine reported for duty as Deputy and Chief of Staff and Aide to the Commander, Aircraft, Pacific Fleet, at Pearl Harbor, T. H., serving in that duty until October 1944.

On his return to the United States, he served from November 1944 until June 1945 as Commander, Fleet Air, Seattle, Washington.

After brief duty in the THIRD Fleet as Commander Carrier Division SEVEN, in the USS BON HOMME RICHARD from June until August 1945, Admiral Ballentine was assigned duty as Fleet Liaison Officer for Commander in Chief Pacific at Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, Pacific. He landed at Atsugi Airport on 30 August in the airborne occupation of Japan escorting General of the Army Douglas MacArthur to the surrender ceremonies on the battleship MISSOURI on 2 September 1945.

In January 1946 Admiral Ballentine reported to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, for duty as Assistant on the Military Staff Committee of the Security Council, United Nations, and was designated Chief of Staff and Deputy to Admiral Richmond K. Turner, USN, Representative of the Chief of Naval Operations, on the Military Staff Committee of the Security Council of the United Nations. He continued those duties when Admiral Turner was relieved by Admiral H. K. Hewitt, USN, in March 1947 until detached in July 1947.

He made a five months cruise in the Mediterranean in USS MIDWAY in the winter of 1947-48 and made a similar cruise with the SIXTH Fleet in USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT in 1948-49.

He served as a Member of the General Board, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., before taking command of the Sixth Fleet.



ROBERT LORD CAMPBELL, JR. was graduated from the United States Naval Academy.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy in 1924, he served on the USS PENNSYLVANIA, USS ROBERT SMITH, and USS PREBLE.

From June 1932 until May 1933 he attended the course at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, after which he reported as Aide and Flag Lieutenant on the staff of Commander Cruiser Division THREE. He assumed command of the USS RAIL in April 1935, and in June 1936 was detached with orders to command the USS SEQUOIA. He remained in that command until September 1937, when he was ordered to London, England, to serve as Assistant Naval Attache.

Upon his return to the United States in October 1939, he had duty in connection with fitting out the USS TRIPPE at the Navy Yard, Boston, Massachusetts, and assumed command at her commissioning, November 1, 1939.

In June 1942 he was detached and ordered to duty in connection with fitting out the USS ALABAMA. Upon her commissioning, August 16, 1942, he reported for duty as Navigator, serving as such during operations in the North Atlantic and North Sea until August 1943. In that month the ALABAMA proceeded to the Pacific, with Captain (then Commander) Campbell as Executive Officer, and participated in the Gilbert Islands and Marshall Islands Campaigns as part of Task Force 58. Detached from the ALABAMA in March 1944, he returned to the United States for duty on the staff of the Naval War College from April of that year until June 1945.

Assuming command of Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-TWO in June 1945, he had additional duty as Commander Destroyer Division FORTY-THREE.

Between January and August 1946, Captain Campbell commanded Destroyer Squadron FIVE with additional duty as Commander Destroyer Division FIFTY-ONE. He then returned to the United States for instruction at the National War College, Washington, D. C., and upon completion of the course in June 1947, he was ordered to duty in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. He served in the Strategic Plans Division of that Office from July 1947 until ordered in January 1949 to command Destroyer Flotilla ONE.

In January 1950 he reported to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations for duty on the staff of Vice Admiral F. S. Low, USN, in connection with a comprehensive survey of the U. S. Navy's Undersea Warfare effort. Upon completion of this survey in May 1950, he was ordered to duty as Chief of Staff to Vice Admiral John J. Ballentine, USN., Commander SIXTH FLEET, to report in June 1950.



CAPTAIN R. L. CAMPBELL, JR.
United States Navy
Chief of Staff
Commander, Sixth Fleet





REAR ADMIRAL WENDELL G. SWITZER

United States Navy

Commander Carrier Division Two

REAR ADMIRAL WENDELL GRAY SWITZER was born in Topeka, Kansas on September 30, 1898. He completed elementary and high school in Topeka and attended Washburn College of that city for two years.

Admiral Switzer was graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in the class of 1921. He served aboard various combatant ships prior to his assignment to aviation training in 1923. On June 11, 1924, he was designated as a Naval Aviator and served four years in several different Naval Air Units. During the period 1928-1931, he completed a post graduate course in Ordnance.

Admiral Switzer's career is distinguished by the numerous commands which the Navy has entrusted to him. They were:

1937 - 1939 — Fighting Squadron Four in the U.S.S. RANGER.

1942 - 1943 — U.S.S. TANGIER (seaplane tender).

1943-1945—U.S.S. TRIPOLI (an escort carrier that contributed much to the defeat of the German submarine effort in the Atlantic).

1945-1946—U.S.S. WASP (part of the fast carrier force that dominated the Pacific).

1946—Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.

1947-1949—Naval Ordnance Test Station, Inyokern, Calif.

Various other assignments, such as Commandant of Naval Aviation Cadets at N.A.S. Pensacola and Chief of Staff for Commander Air Force Pacific further contributed to his Naval experience.

On September 25, 1949, Admiral Switzer assumed the duties of Commander Carrier Division Seventeen and Task Force Eighty-one. This Task Force is the Navy's Atlantic Fleet Hunter-Killer Force assigned the job of detecting and destroying enemy submarines.

On April 24, 1950 Admiral Switzer became Commander of Carrier Division Six with the U.S.S. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT as his flagship.

Admiral Switzer holds the Legion of Merit, a Letter of Commendation from the Secretary of the Navy and the Navy Unit Citation.



REAR ADMIRAL W. L. REES

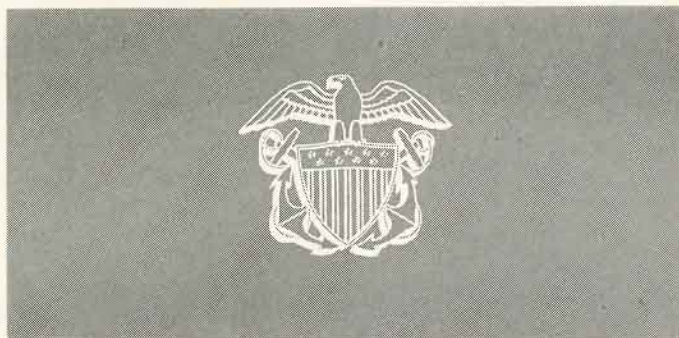
United States Navy

Commander Carrier Division Two

May 15, 1949-Oct. 11, 1950



CAPTAIN W. MILLER
United States Navy
Chief of Staff
Commander Carrier Division Two



CAPTAIN WILLIAM MILLER, U.S.N., born in Napanee, Ontario, Canada, on June 14, 1905, is presently Chief of Staff for Commander Carrier Division TWO.

Entering the Naval Academy in 1922, he was commissioned an Ensign in 1926 and— advanced through the ranks to Captain on August 1, 1943.

Upon his graduation, Captain Miller went aboard the cruiser U.S.S. CONCORD for two years, then to Pensacola for flight training.

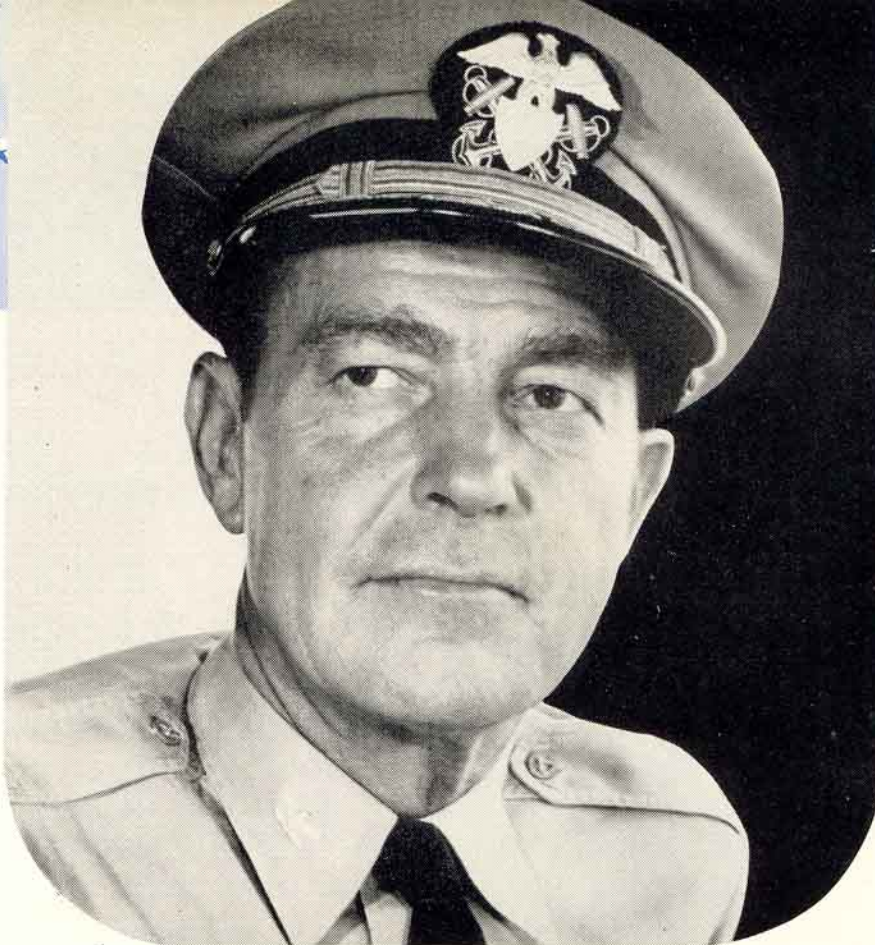
His next billet was the Naval Air Station, Langley Field, Virginia. In 1932 he went to the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School for further study and was later attached to the aviation unit aboard the U.S.S. ARIZONA as a catapult pilot.

Captain Miller had duty at N.A.S., Pearl Harbor, T.H. from 1938 through 39. Just before the outbreak of World War II, he was Aide to the Commandant 13th Naval District. He was later assigned Aviation Officer on the Staff of Commander Task Force 8 in Alaska which post he held until the Fall of 1942.

During the Solomon Island campaign he became Commanding Officer of A.V.P.25 and later Executive Officer aboard the U.S.S. BELLEAU WOOD.

After a year's duty in Washington, D. C. with the Navy Department, he then assumed command of the U.S.S. CASA-BLANCA. In 1946 he became Operations Officer on the staff of Commander Naval Task Groups; Joint Task Force I during the Bikini Experiment. After the atom burst became Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. SICILY and followed this with duty in the Navy Department again, before being assigned as Chief of Staff, Commander Carrier Division TWO.





CAPTAIN FREDERICK M. TRAPNELL
United States Navy
Commanding Officer, U.S.S. CORAL SEA

CAPTAIN FREDERICK M. TRAPNELL was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, on July 9, 1902, attended Pingry School and Stevens Preparatory School before entering the United States Naval Academy upon appointment from West Virginia in 1919.

After graduation from the Naval Academy in June, 1923, Captain Trapnell had consecutive sea duty aboard the U.S.S. CALIFORNIA and the U.S.S. MARBLEHEAD. Following flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, where he was designated Naval Aviator (heavier-than-air) on March 25, 1927, he served successively with Torpedo Squadron ONE and Fighter Squadron FIVE, both based on the U.S.S. LEXINGTON. He reported on January 5, 1930, for flight test duty at the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C., where he served as Assistant Flight Test Officer for two and one-half years.

Captain Trapnell reported on July 1, 1932 for duty with the heavier-than-air unit attached to the airship U.S.S. AKRON at Lakehurst, New Jersey.

Ordered in April 1933, to the new airship MACON, then undergoing trials at Akron, Ohio, he had charge of that airship's heavier-than-air unit until June, 1934, when he joined the U.S.S. SAN FRANCISCO, for duty with her aviation unit. He served first as her Senior Aviator and later with Scouting Squadron 118, attached to that cruiser. From the latter part

of 1936 until the summer of 1938, Captain Trapnell was executive officer of Patrol Squadron TEN, based at Pearl Harbor, T. H., after which he had successive command of Patrol Squadrons 21 and 45, based at Seattle, Washington and San Diego, California.

Early in 1941, Captain Trapnell returned to the Naval Air Station at Anacostia, D. C., to serve approximately three years as the head of the Flight Test Section. Later during World War II he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Legion of Merit: The first, for services as Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier escort U.S.S. BRETON, from June 1, 1944 to October 7, 1944; the latter, for services as Chief of Staff to the Commander of a Task Group from November, 1944 to August 15, 1945, after the cessation of hostilities.

On October 1945 Captain Trapnell was ordered to the United States Strategic Bombing Survey, Washington, D. C. Following this assignment Captain Trapnell was assigned to the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland, reporting in May of 1946 for duty as Test Coordinator. During this tour of duty he served as Commander, Naval Air Test, Center from February 1947 until August of 1947 and again from June 1949 until detached on 1 April 1950. During this tour of duty he realized a long standing ambition when the Navy established its first Test Pilot Training School under his administration.





COMMANDER R. L. KIBBE
United States Navy
Executive Officer, U.S.S. CORAL SEA



COMMANDER H. C. DELONG
United States Navy
Executive Officer, U.S.S. CORAL SEA
 May 20, 1950 to Oct. 27, 1950



COMMANDER RICHARD L. KIBBE was born in Sullivan, Illinois, January 17, 1911. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy June 1, 1933.

For three years he served aboard the USS NEW YORK, reporting in 1936 to Pensacola, Florida, for flight training. He then served aboard the USS RANGER in VS Squadron ONE-B (later FORTY-ONE). From June 1938 to June 1939, Commander KIBBE served aboard the USS ASTORIA and then returned to Annapolis, Maryland, as a student in the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, specializing in Aviation Ordnance.

He served a tour of one year in the Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., followed by a short tour at the Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Virginia. In January, 1943, he reported to the Staff of Commander Fleet Air, Quonset Point, Rhode Island. He became Commanding Officer of Bombing Squadron THIRTEEN and later Commander Air Group THIRTEEN aboard the USS FRANKLIN.

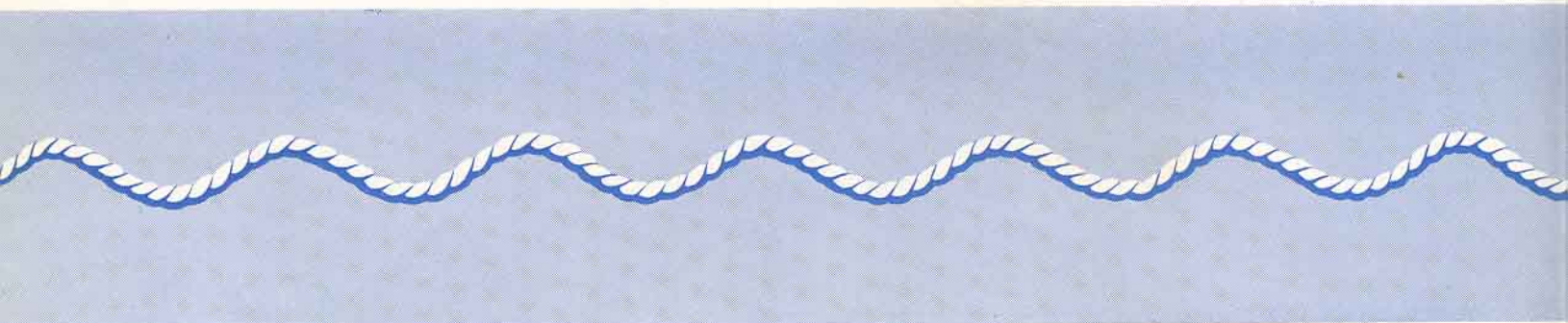
From February 1946 to August 1947, Commander KIBBE served on the Staff of Commander Carrier Division ONE in the USS F.D. ROOSEVELT and USS MIDWAY. Following shore duty at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland, he reported aboard the USS CORAL SEA as operations officer in April, 1950. Commander KIBBE assumed the duties of Executive Officer on 27 October, 1950.



Commander B. S. Weber
Operations Officer



Commander J. H. Armstrong
Navigator



Commander W. J. Buckley
Engineer Officer



Commander C. P. Phoebus
Senior Medical Officer



Commander C. M. Fraleigh
Dental Officer





First row: B. J. Duret, W. Belle, R. B. Potter, J. J. Murphy, D. E. Cedio, W. C. Gorham, W. Chimber, G. J. Hill, J. J. Soluri, F. J. Rivers, B. Merchant.



The third birthday of the Coral Sea



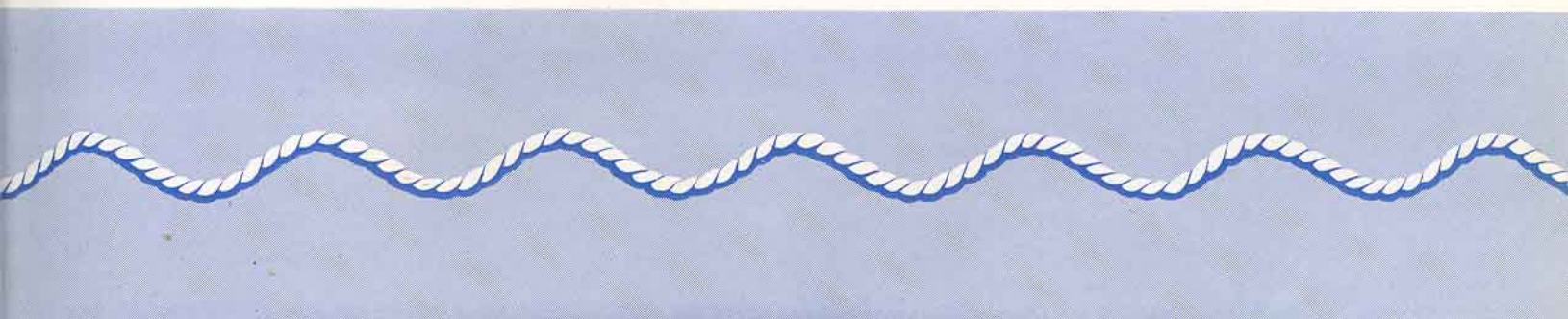
Plank owners dinner well under way



Commander F. T. Butters
Air Officer



Lt. Cdr. R. A. Thompson
Gunnery Officer



Commander E. D. Stanley, Jr.
Supply Officer



Commander R. E. Bishop
Chaplain



Lieutenant T. P. Ward
Assistant Chaplain



CARRIER AIR GROUP 17

CARRIER AIR GROUP SEVENTEEN was originally formed in New England, near the end of World War II. Since its formation, it has become very "well traveled"; its pilots have flown over both Atlantic and Pacific coasts, European waters, and the Caribbean Sea.

From its original base in New England, the Air Group moved westward to the shores of the Pacific at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California. In 1946 it returned to New England, being based at Quonset Point, R. I.; this was its home base for the next two years. Attached to the USS RANDOLPH during part of this period, it visited the Mediterranean on the second post war cruise made in the area, and two of its squadrons journeyed to Northern European waters while participating in the Midshipmen's Cruise of 1947.

During the year 1947 the first jet aircraft to be assigned an operating squadron of the fleet were received by the first fighter squadron of the group. Jet aircraft have since become a common sight in Air Group SEVENTEEN and at present the first two fighter squadrons fly the Navy's Banshee.

The next year, 1948 saw a reorganization of the Air Group with a fifth squadron being formed, and the present designations assigned. Three squadrons, during the summer of this year, again participated with the Midshipmen on their annual cruise, this time in the Caribbean and Atlantic waters. Toward the end of the year,

and in the early months of 1949, the Group moved southward to its present home base at Jacksonville, Florida.

Once settled at Jacksonville and with its pilots enjoying Florida's balmy breezes, its squadrons participated in spring maneuvers; and later in the year two squadrons boarded the USS MIDWAY for operations in the North Atlantic—Baffin Bay Area, becoming members of the Royal Order of Blue Noses after crossing the Arctic Circle.

Next came Portrex, which saw Air Group SEVENTEEN aboard the USS F. D. ROOSEVELT. Its pilots struck Vieques Island several times during the operation in attempts to drive the "Aggressors" from their foothold. Then, after a short respite at Jacksonville, the Air Group became acquainted with the USS CORAL SEA during her shakedown cruise to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In August 1950 the Group flew to Norfolk to renew their acquaintance with the CORAL SEA in preparation for the Mediterranean cruise. Its pilots night qualified, flew practice air support missions, and at last were ready for departure date.

Since moving to Jacksonville, Air Group SEVENTEEN has been commanded by Commander Bruce S. Weber; Commander Weber was relieved by Commander William N. Leonard, its present skipper, in October 1950.

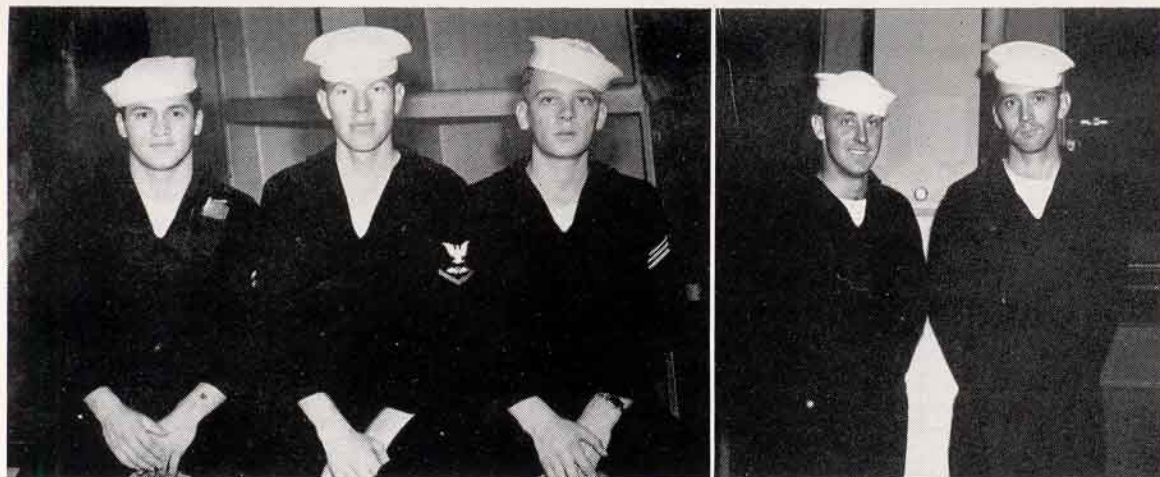
This ends our history—but the record of our cruise is in this book, and we're sure that you'll hear much of Air Group SEVENTEEN in times to come.



First row: P. Keleher, A. F. Spurney, Lt. USMC M. N. Johnson, Lt.(JG) L. C. Baldwin, Lt. A. Barker, Jr., CDR B. S. Weber, LCDR P. D. Culver, Lt.(JG) T. G. Henderson, Lt.(JG) F. L. Maier, W. T. Brooks, G. F. Rusletta. . . . Second row: P. S. Leake, M. J. Bourassa, R. E. Tonder, G. R. Sample, B. J. Combs, P. J. Creamer.



Gasing a jet plane



(Left) L. D. Yeo, C. P. Killough,
E. L. Propst. . . . (Right) G. T.
Buckley, D. Glass.



Recovering aircraft



Full power run up

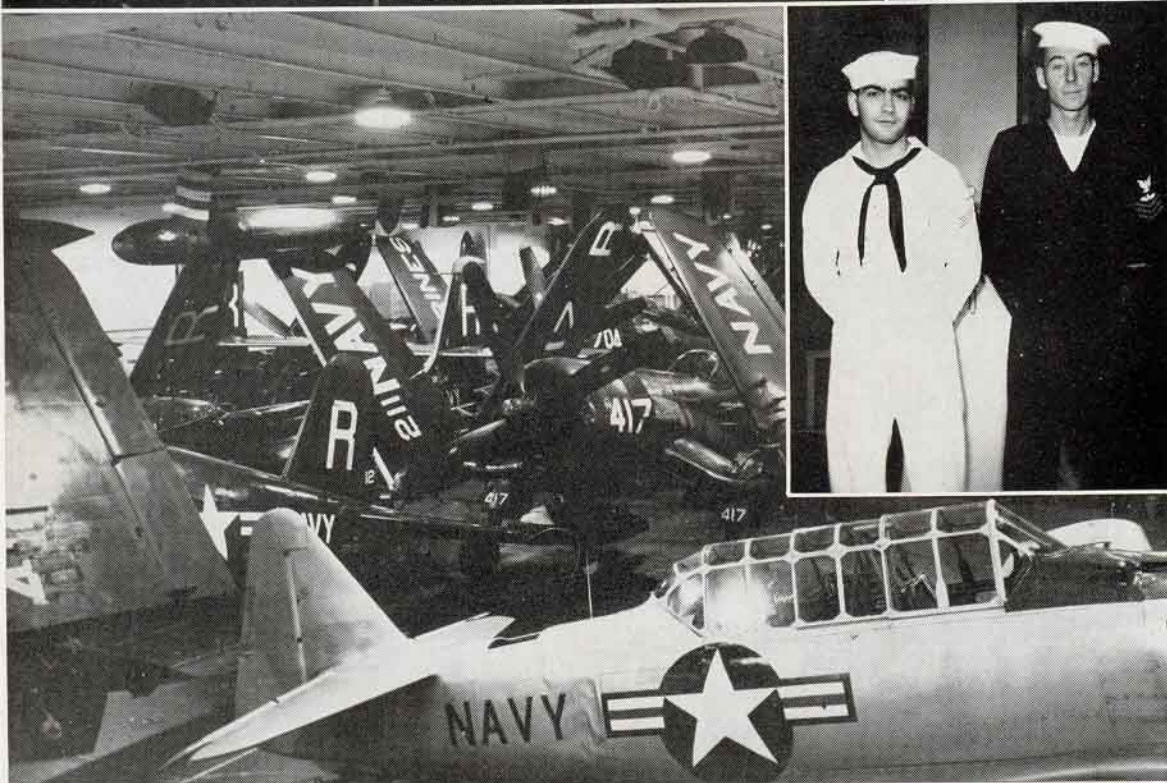


Members of VF173 in the ready
room



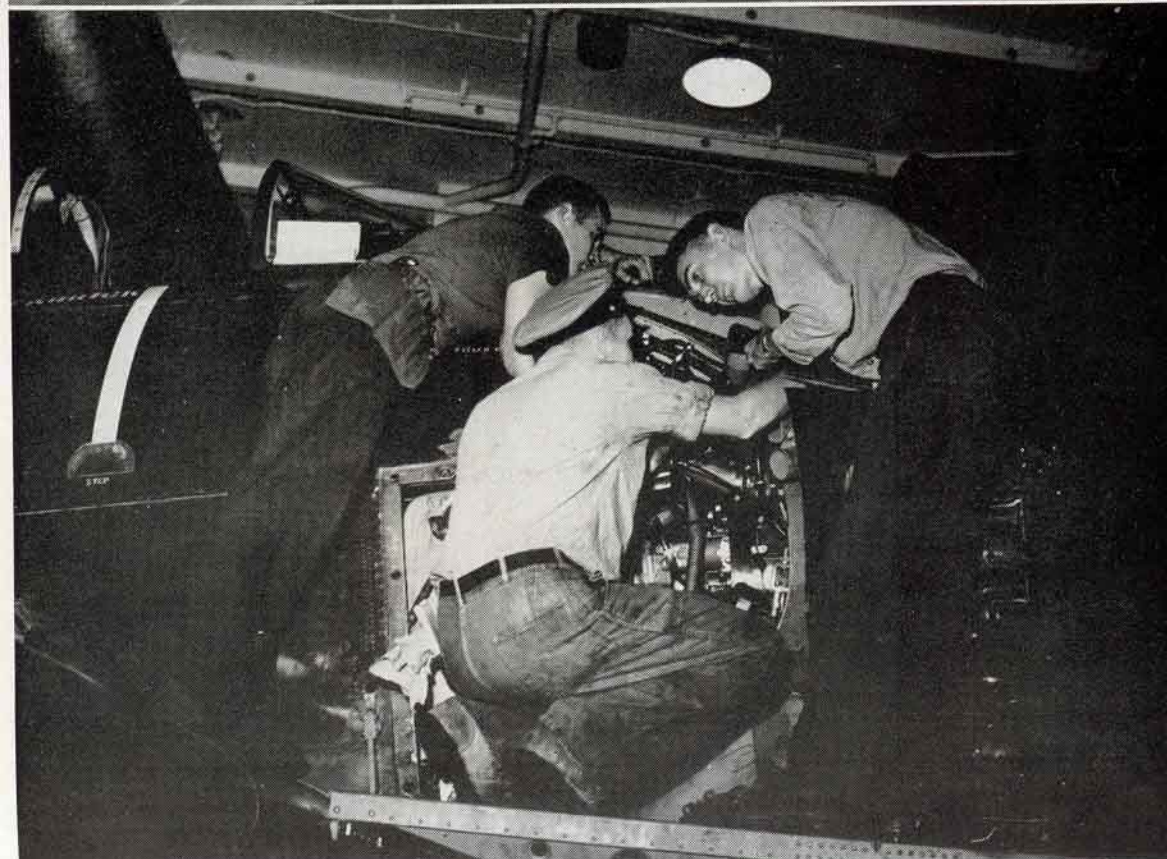
Left to Right: D. Bergman, Ensign M. E. Thompson, J. M. McCavanaugh, J. L. Quintavalla, Lt. Rishel.

Lt. (JG) J. N. Fritze



Left to Right: Geo. Kevorkian, R. A. Ehrlich.

Hangar deck at night



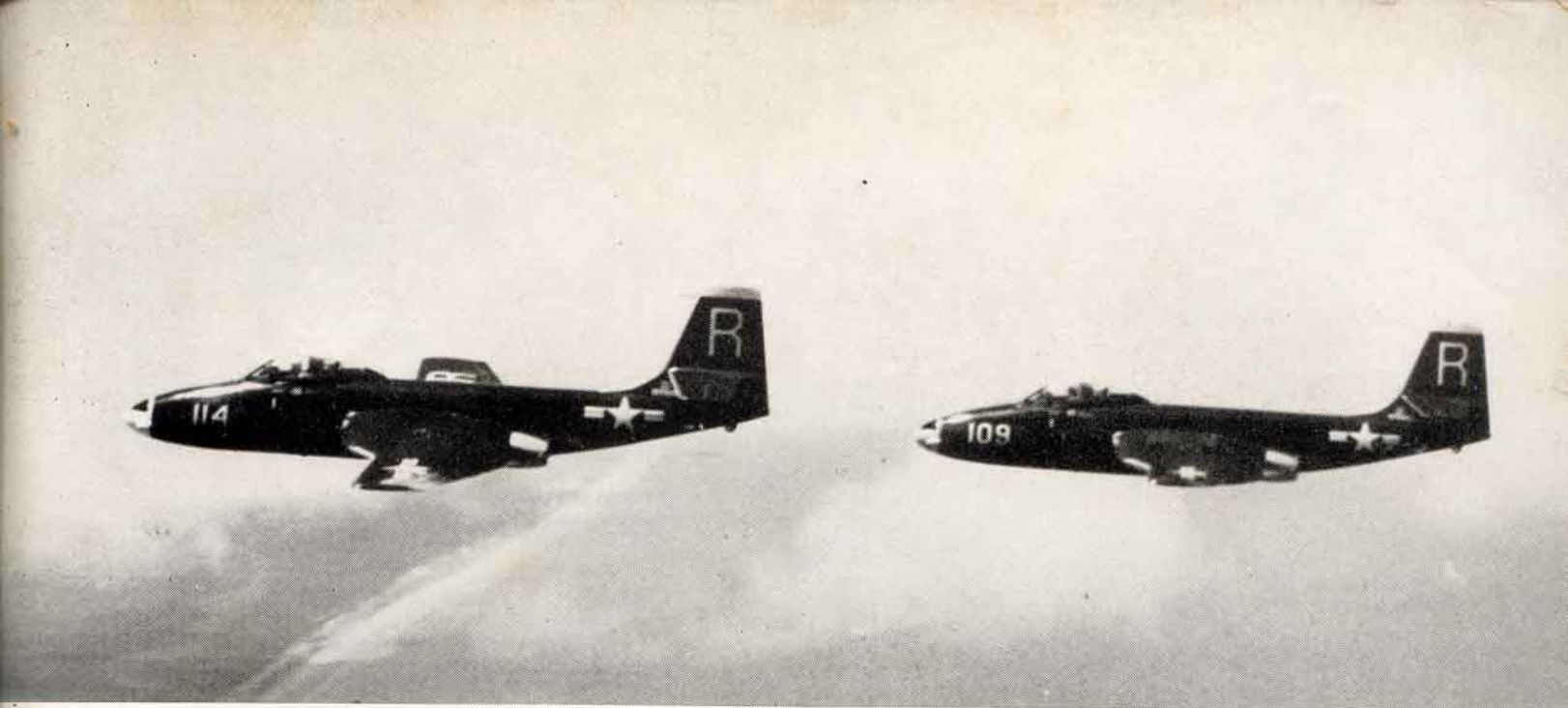
Working on aircraft



ITINERARY

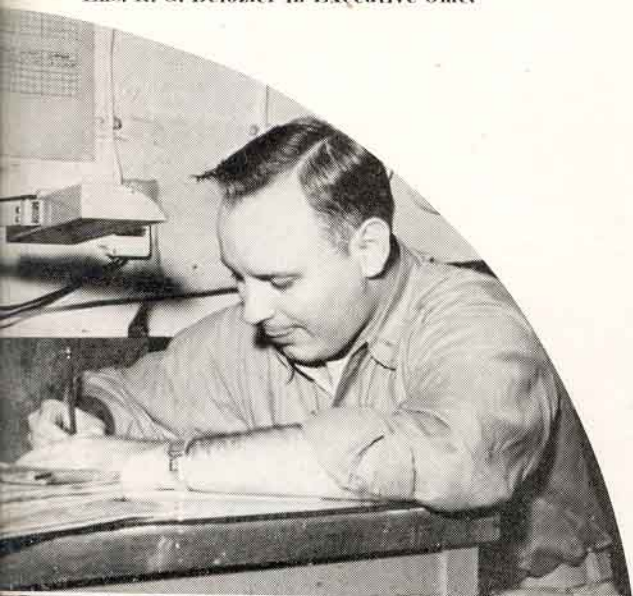
DEPARTED: NORFOLK — 9 SEPT. 1950
GIBRALTAR, 19 SEPTEMBER 1950
ARANCI BAY, SARDINIA, 22-24 SEPT. 1950
AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY, 5-14 OCT. 1950
GOLFE JUAN, FRANCE, 19-26 OCT. 1950
CANNES, FRANCE, 26-30 OCT. 1950
SUDA BAY, CRETE, 5-7 NOV. 1950
PHALERON BAY, GREECE, 10-13 NOV. 1950
TARANTO, ITALY, 17-20 NOV. 1950
LEGHORN, ITALY, 25 NOV.-9 DEC. 1950
AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY, 16-18 DEC. 1950
NAPLES, ITALY, 20 DEC. 1950-4 JAN. 1951
ALGIERS, ALGERIA, 9-13 JAN. 1951
ORAN, ALGERIA, 19-22 JAN. 1951
ARRIVED: NORFOLK — 1 FEB. 1951





Flying in close formation

Ens. R. G. Delozier in Executive Office



No. 1 Pump Room scene

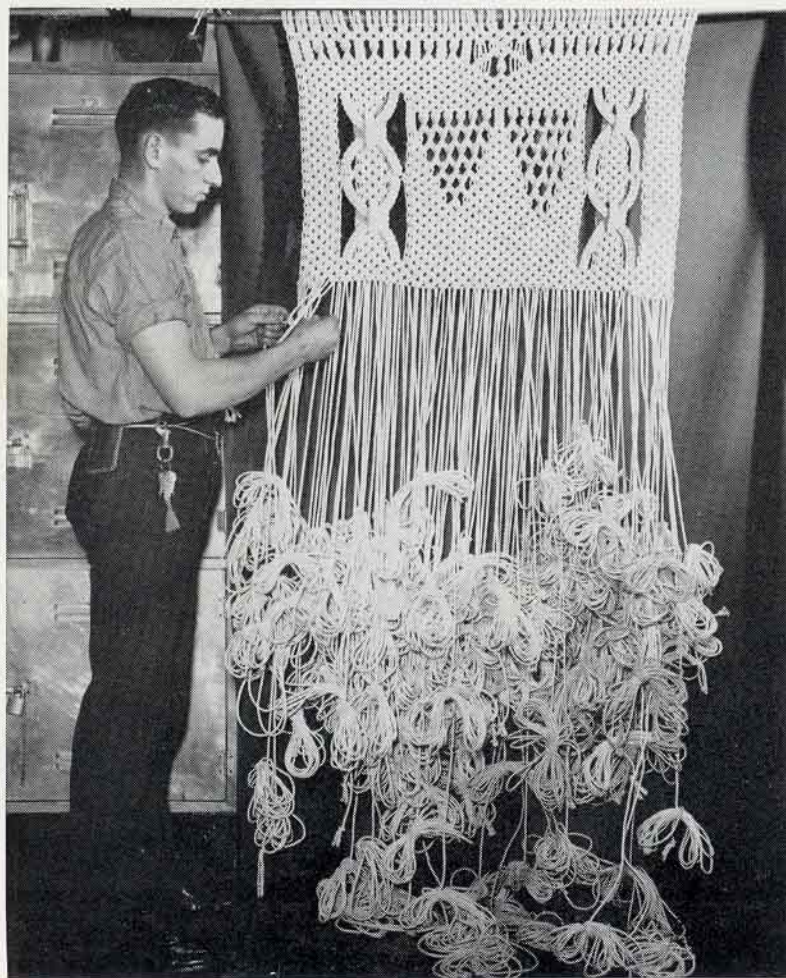


Taking sun sights on the bridge

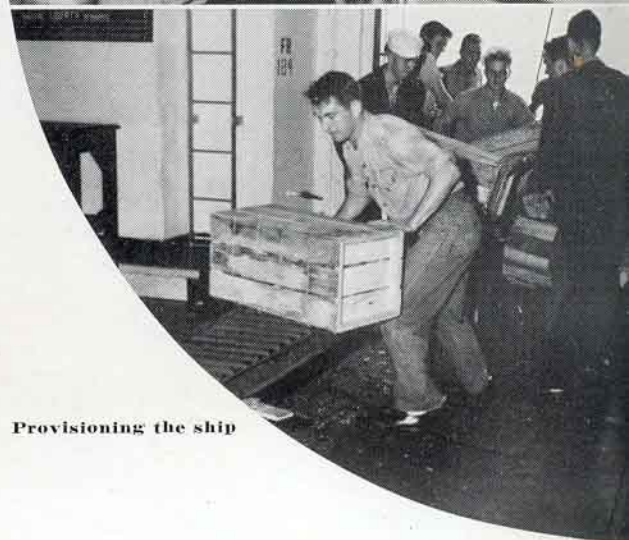


On top of the world

Temperature taking time



R. A. Milloux, Sr., making McNamars' lace



Provisioning the ship