

USS INTREPID (CVS-11) ✓

1971

Obtained by Hans M. Kristensen
www.nukestrat.com

VS-24:12:re
5700
Ser 0 7 6
28 FEB 1972

From: Commanding Officer, Air Antisubmarine Squadron TWENTY FOUR
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5750.12B

Encl: (1) Chronology of Outstanding Events
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) Officer Roster
(4) Biography of Commanding Officer
(5) Photograph of Commanding Officer
(6) Flight Time Summary

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

W. J. SOMERVILLE

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP09B9)
Washington, D. C. 20390
Commander Naval Air Force Atlantic

CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS:

18 JAN 71 USS INTREPID (CVS-11) departed Quonset Pt., Rhode Island for at-sea operation. Launched one aircraft on an ASW Protectex.

19 JAN 71 Conducted day and night ASW flight operation as a warm up for exercise squeezeplay.

21 JAN 71 Commenced around the clock ASW flight operations as a work-up for exercise squeezeplay.

25 JAN 71 Commenced around the clock ASW flight operations on exercise squeezeplay.

31 JAN 71 In transit to NAS Quonset Pt., Rhode Island.

01 FEB 71 Arrived at NAS Quonset Pt., Rhode Island.

12 FEB 71 CDR Melville R. BYINGTON Jr. relieved CDR William A. LAWLER as Commanding Officer of Air Antisubmarine Squadron TWENTY - FOUR.

22 FEB 71 USS INTREPID (CVS-11) departed NAS Quonset Pt., Rhode Island for at-sea operations.

24 FEB 71 Conducted day and night ASW flight operations as a warm-up for the ORI. Conducted limited day and night carquals.

27 FEB 71 Commenced around the clock ASW flights.

28 FEB 71 Continued around the clock operations until noon. Secured flight operations at noon in preparation for sinkex.

01 MAR 71 Commenced sinkex on the EX-RUEBEN JAMES at 1000. The EX-RUEBEN JAMES sunk at 1415. Continued sinkex quals. Conducted night CARQUAL period and a night ASW launch.

02 MAR 71 Conducted day and night ASW flight operations.

04 MAR 71 In transit to NAS Quonset Pt., Rhode Island.

05 MAR 71 Arrived at NAS Quonset Pt., Rhode Island.

02 APR 71 ADMIRAL Joseph B. TIBBETS conducted a formal personnel inspection and presented the "BLOOD HOUND" award to LCDR John ADAMS, LT Oliver LAJOIE, AW2 Francis WORM and AW2 Charles ALLEN.

16 APR 71 USS INTREPID (CVS-11) departed for at-sea operations. Conducted flight operations and ASW Tactics.

28 APR 71 Entered Lisbon, Portugal

02 MAY 71 Departed Lisbon. Commenced exercise Rusty Razor with Navies of Great Britain, the Netherlands and Portugal. Terminated Rusty Razor.

10 MAY 71 Entered Plymouth, England

13 MAY 71 Departed Plymouth, England. USS INTREPID (CVS-11) headed for Baltic Sea.

18 MAY 71 Commenced Baltic Sea operations. The Task Group consisting of the USS INTREPID, USS JOSEPH KENNEDY, USS TAUSSIG and USS HARTLEY conducted routine operations for several days.

21 MAY 71 Entered Kiel, Germany

24 MAY 71 Departed Kiel, Germany

27 MAY 71 Terminated Baltic Sea Operation

04 JUN 71 Entered Naples, Italy

10 JUN 71 Departed Naples, Italy
 13 JUN 71 Commenced operation "CONSTELLATION", and conducted ASW operations.
 18 JUN 71 Terminated "CONSTELLATION".
 19 JUN 71 Entered Cannes, France
 24 JUN 71 Departed Cannes, France
 30 JUN 71 Entered Barcelona, Spain
 06 JUL 71 Departed Barcelona, Spain
 07 JUL 71 Conducted carrier operations
 12 JUL 71 Entered Hamburg, Germany
 19 JUL 71 Departed Hamburg, Germany
 21 JUL 71 Entered Copenhagen, Denmark ✓
 28 JUL 71 Departed Copenhagen, Denmark
 02 AUG 71 Entered Greenock, Scotland
 11 AUG 71 Departed Greenock, Scotland. Commenced Norwegian sea operations.
 17 AUG 71 Entered Rosythe, Scotland
 19 AUG 71 Departed Rosythe, Scotland
 07 SEP 71 Entered Portsmouth, England
 14 SEP 71 Departed Portsmouth, England
 17 SEP 71 Commenced "Agile Warrior" A tri lateral operation which involved the Norwegian Navy, and Great Britain. ✓
 21 SEP 71 Terminated "Agile Warrior"
 22 SEP 71 Entered Bergen, Norway ✓
 25 SEP 71 Departed Bergen, Norway. Commenced operation "Royal Knight". The British carrier ARC ROYAL participated.
 03 OCT 71 Terminated "Royal Knight"
 05 OCT 71 Entered Greenock, Scotland
 07 OCT 71 Departed Greenock, Scotland for homeport, NAS Quonset Pt., Rhode Island.
 ✓ 15 OCT 71 Arrived NAS Quonset Point, Rhode Island.
 01 NOV 71 Squadron continued normal operations maintaining operational readiness.
 08 NOV 71 All hands party held at NAS Quonset Point.
 24 NOV 71 Thanksgiving holiday period commenced.
 29 NOV 71 Thanksgiving holiday period terminated.
 01 DEC 71 Conducted ASW training for recently reported pilots and air-crewmen.
 10 DEC 71 Christmas leave period commenced. Leave period to terminate 10 JAN 72.
 18 DEC 71 Childrens christmas party held in squadron area.
 31 DEC 71 Year ended with 2,849 accident free hours flown with 947 arrested landing logged.

COMMAND HISTORY

Air Antisubmarine Squadron TWENTY FOUR (VS-24) began 1971 under the command of Commander William A. LAWLER, USN. The squadron continued as a unit of Carrier Antisubmarine Air Group FIFTY SIX under the operational control of Commander, Hunter Killer Forces, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.

Following Christmas leave period the squadron embarked in the USS INTREPID for two weeks of Antisubmarine Warfare exercises and refresher training in carrier landings and operations for flight teams. A visit to Bermuda which had been scheduled during the period had to be cancelled due to a strike by the harbor pilots of the port.

On the 12th of February CDR Melville R. BYINGTON relieved Commander William A. LAWLER as Commanding Officer of the Squadron.

In late February the squadron commenced the second at-sea period of the year. This included an extensive test of the entire Antisubmarine Warfare Group. An obsolete and decommissioned destroyer was the target of the exercise which was designed to give the ordnance teams and flight crew practice in the handling and delivering of live ordnance. The squadron's ordnance loading teams and pilots took little time in dispatching the target to Davy Jones' Locker.

The beginning of March was marked by the selection of AE2 Rodney SWAFFORD as "Sailor of the Quarter" and Airman Thomas KOHLMAYER as "Plane Captain of the Quarter."

Admiral Joseph B. TIBBETS, the Commander of the Fleet Air Forces at Quonset Point, visited the squadron on April 2nd to conduct a formal personnel inspection and to present the coveted "Blood Hound Award" to our crew member three, comprised of LCDR John ADAMS, LT Oliver LAJOIE, AW2 Charles ALLEN, and AW2 Francis WORM. The crew distinguished itself during the JULY - DECEMBER 1970 period by achieving the highest overall standing in the entire Atlantic Fleet in numerous competitive exercises and other competitive factors such as flight hours, carrier landings and submarine "KILLS".

The squadron departed NAS Quonset Point on the 16th of April. The first two weeks at sea were spent in sharpening professional skills as Antisubmarine Warfare teams, and for many, adjusting to the new environment of living and working in a ship at sea.

During the transit across the Atlantic Ocean the Squadron conducted Flight Operations to refresh pilots and flight deck personnel. During this time many pilots were day and night carrier qualified. A special occasion was the presentation of the "Duty Cat" to the junior night carrier qualified pilot. This honor went to LTJG Richard Moriarty. The "Duty Cat" will remain in his custody until the next deployment, where again it will be awarded in the same manner

On the 28th of April the squadron arrived in Lisbon, Portugal for a four day visit. Upon leaving Lisbon, the squadron engaged in a large scale Antisubmarine training exercise with other NATO Naval Forces. The allied countries represented included Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Portugal. The operation was very successful and enhanced the operational readiness of all units involved.

On May 10th the squadron arrived in Plymouth, England, where the traditional hospitality of the English was enjoyed.

On May 13th the squadron departed for the Baltic sea. The Task Group, consisting of the USS INTREPID, USS JOSEPH KENNEDY, USS TAUSSIG and USS HARTLEY, conducted routine training operations in that area for several days. This was the first visit of a U. S. Carrier to the Baltic since World War II. ✓

On May 21st the squadron arrived at Kiel, Germany. While in Kiel the squadron had the opportunity to welcome aboard the new Air Group Commander, CDR William REED.

After departing Kiel the squadron headed to the mediterranean sea where more ASW Operations would commence.

The begining of June found the squadron heading for Naples. While in transit honors were bestowed to PN3 L. P. DEMERS for his selection as "Sailor of the Quarter" and to AXAN F. S. OWENS for his selection as "Plane Captain of the Quarter". After departing Naples the remainder of the month was occupied with ASW exercises and operations.

The fourth of JULY was spent in Barcelona, Spain. The squadron departed on the 7th and conducted more operational exercises until reaching Hamburg on the 12th. Many squadron wives and families greeted us in Hamburg.

After leaving port on the 19th of July the squadron sailed into Copenhagen, Denmark on the 21st of July. ✓

Following the visit to Copenhagen, INTREPID sailed north for a short transit, via the north sea to Greenock, Scotland. Along the way the squadron conducted flight operations and training lectures to maintain operational readiness. During this period LCDR William WHITLEY made INTREPID'S 138,000th arrested landing.

The next four weeks were involved with intensive ASW training climaxed by a pleasant visit to Portsmouth, England on the 7th of September. The squadron left Portsmouth, England on the 14th of September and was involved in a Tri Lateral Operation with the Norwegian Navy and Great Britain. Following this exercise, INTREPID arrived at Bergen, Norway. Following the departure from Bergen on the 25th of September the Task Force was involved in operation "ROYAL KNIGHT" with the British Carrier ARC ROYAL and U. S. Attack Carrier INDEPENDENCE. This exercise continued throughout the remainder of September and on into the 1st week in October. ✓

During the first week in October, Quarters were held and AT2 J. R. AVENS was selected as Sailor of the Quarter for the period JUL - SEP and ADR3 J. W. JAGELSKI was awarded the honor of "PLANE CAPTAIN of the Quarter" for the same period. Following a short stop at Greenock, Scotland the INTREPID departed for homeport and arrived at NAS Quonset Point on the 16th of October, exactly six months to the day of departure on the extended deployment.

A joyous occasion was on hand for the arrival of INTREPID as family and friends waited to embrace their loved ones.

The remainder of the month of October was occupied with transit of equipment from INTREPID and getting settled in the squadron spaces.

During the month of November, many of the squadron members went on leave. The squadron once again, well established in the hangar, carried on flight operations to maintain its high quality of operational readiness. Many new officers and enlisted personnel reported for duty during this period. The squadron schedule included weapon trainers, lectures and regular syllabus flights to prepare the new men to meet the high standards established by their shipmates.

Throughout the month of December the squadron continued flight operations and indoctrination for new personnel. The Christmas Holiday Leave period commenced on the 10th of December. On the 18th a Christmas Party was held in the hangar area for families of the squadron. A surprise visit by Santa Claus brought joy to the youngsters complemented by many gifts. Throughout the remainder of the month the squadron continued training and concluded a very successful year having flown a total of 2,849 accident free hours with 947 arrested landings logged.