UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN

Serial: 062

From: The Commanding Officer.

To: The Chief of Naval Operations, Aviation History Unit,
OP-33-5-6.

Via: (1) The Commander Air Group NINETY-SEVEN.
(2) The Commander Fleet Air, Quonset Point.
(3) The Commander Air Force, Atlantic Fleet.

Subject: Unit History Period 1 November 1944 to 1 June 1945 -
Submission of.

References: (a) Aviation Circular Ltr. 74-44, OP-33-5-6-JEJ,
serial 356533 of 25 July 1944.
(b) Manual for Historical Officers, NavAer 00-25Q-26.
(c) OP-33-J-6-JEJ-118433 of 14 March 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Unit History of Torpedo Squadron NINETY-SEVEN
for Period 1 November 1944 to 1 June 1945.

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), Enclosure (A) is submitted herewith.

Gordon N. Owens
Gordon N. OWENS
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE (A)

c/o Fleet Post Office,
New York, N. Y.

UNIT HISTORY OF TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN

FOR PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 1944 to 1 JUNE 1945
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN

c/o Fleet Post Office,
New York, N. Y.

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ENCLOSURE (A)

Subject: Unit History of Torpedo Squadron NINETY-SEVEN for
        Period 1 November 1944 to 1 June 1945.

CHRONOLOGY

Torpedo Squadron NINETY-SEVEN was commissioned at Quonset
Point, R. I., U. S. Naval Air Station, on 1 November 1944 as a permanently
shore based training command. No official ceremony took place and only
assigned personnel on board at that time was the Commanding Officer, G. N.
OWENS, Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Navy, file number 81725.

The Squadron was commissioned for the definite function of
training pilots and combat aircrewmen, awaiting assignment to newly com-
missioned squadrons and reformed combat squadrons and further to act as
a replacement pool for existing combat squadrons.

This command assists newly commissioned squadrons in Torpedo
Training and instrument check-outs. For the torpedo training one (1) AG,
and three (3) or four (4) AVR's are available to the squadron from ComFair,
Quonset for moving target exercises.

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TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN

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Subject: Unit History of Torpedo Squadron NINETY-SEVEN for Period 1 November 1944 to 1 June 1945.

NARRATIVE

The squadron was commissioned on the authority of Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet Despatch #071420 of October 1944.

No time was lost in entering upon the functions since the squadron, as a part of ComFair, Quonset Point, R. I. had previously acted as a Torpedo Training Unit with an Officer-in-Charge and regularly assigned personnel to carry out this duty. The make-up of the personnel of the new squadron was essentially the same as it had been while a training unit.

The headquarters was originally located and has remained to the present at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, R. I. There has been no change in function nor transfers of command since the commissioning.

The squadron serves all the newly commissioned VT Squadrons in an advisory capacity, aiding them in preparing for the commissioning ceremony, securing material, especially aircraft, setting up correct filing systems, and in any way which will aid the new squadron in getting a quick start in their training program.

It is the policy of this squadron to assign Type Instructors to all outlying bases where VT Squadrons are based for approximately six (6) weeks after which the squadrons move to either Hyannis, Mass. or Key West,
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TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN

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c/o Fleet Post Office,
New York, N. Y.

Subject: Unit History of Torpedo Squadron NINETY-SEVEN for
Period 1 November 1944 to 1 June 1945.

Florida for either two (2) or three (3) weeks of Torpedo Training. At
both these latter locations, VT-97 assigns pilots who supervise this train-
ing. Upon completion of this phase of the training, the VT Squadrons join
their Air Group and while the supervision of VT-97 is completed, additional
cooperation is given the Air Group when weather and target availability permits
coordinated attacks.

In addition to the VT Type Instructors assigned to bases where
the VT Squadrons are located, a base was established in December 1944 for the
pool pilots and combat aircrewmens, who while awaiting assignment are trained
in:

(a) Type Aircraft Familiarization.
(b) Attitude Instrument Flying.
(c) Radar Installation and Operation.
(d) Oxygen.
(e) Night Vision
(f) Survival
(g) Field Carrier Landing Practice in Several Type Planes.

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TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETEEN-Y-SEVEN

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Period 1 November 1944 to 1 June 1945.

Shortly after the commissioning, the personnel which had been
attached to the Training Unit, received orders to VT-97 for duty.

The Squadron pilots were at Quonset Point instructing VT Squadron
pool pilots and aircrews awaiting assignment and also instructing the personnel
attached to Night Torpedo Pilot Replacement Units.

An officer pilot was at Martha's Vineyard, Mass., where torpedo
squadrons were commissioned and trained for the first six (6) weeks of their
training period. Another pilot officer was assigned to Hyannis, Mass., where
VT squadrons received live torpedo training with exercise heads. Instrument
Instructors were also assigned to train VT and VF pilots.

DURING DECEMBER 1944:

The pool pilots and pool combat aircrews awaiting assignments
were transferred to Grosse Ile, Michigan where a VT-97 detachment was organized.
Grosse Ile is an established Naval Air Station with full facilities for housing
and messing of all personnel with also complete recreational facilities. It is
located twenty (20) miles south of Detroit, Michigan.

Two (2) VT-Type Instructors and five (5) instrument instructors of
VT-97 went to Grosse Ile to supervise the training of these pilots and aircrews.

Night Torpedo Replacement Pilot training was not handled by this
squadron after December.
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TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN

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TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN for
Period 1 November 1944 to 1 June 1945.

DURING JANUARY 1945:

Some experimental work was undertaken at Quonset Point, in
working out tables for mil allowances for various types of bombing, these
tables were then proved by flight tests in dropping.

A pilot was sent to Squantum, Mass., to train the VT Squadrons
being commissioned there. Toward the end of this month the pilot assigned to
Martha's Vineyard was recalled as this base was secured as a type field.

DURING FEBRUARY 1945:

An officer was sent to Sanford, Maine to train squadrons based
there.

DURING MARCH 1945:

A detachment was established at Lewiston, Maine as most of the
VT Squadrons were being commissioned there.

Live torpedo drops were started at Hyannis, Mass., which base
had been closed since December due to the water being too cold for retrieving
and also adverse sea conditions.

DURING APRIL 1945:

The detachment at Sanford, Maine was closed as new squadrons were
being commissioned at Lewiston, Me.

A VT-Type Instructor was sent to Boca Chica, Florida to assist in
tactical instruction of squadrons based there.

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TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN

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New York, N. Y.

Subject: Unit History of Torpedo Squadron NINETY-SEVEN for
Period 1 November 1944 to 1 June 1945.

DURING MAY 1945:

Nothing happened except the routine training program.

In general, Instrument instruction is given to VT squadrons
by VT-97 instrument instructors.

The Aircraft of this squadron varied. Originally the unit had
all the VT-Type airplanes. However the shortage of this type of plane caused
a change since the squadron had a low priority. In January 1945 SBD's and SNJ's
were assigned. These planes were used to observe VT squadron flights. In Feb-
uary 1945 SB2C's were assigned and in April the squadron received an SNB-1, also
TBY-2's were received for test and evaluation. At present it appears as though
the entire squadron will be equipped with TBY-2's.
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TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN

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APPENDICES

Appendix "A" - Torpedo Aiming, Glide Bombing and Minimum
Altitude Bombing Data for TBM-3, Forwarding of.

Appendix "B" - Torpedo Training Doctrine of Torpedo Squadron
NINETY-SEVEN.

Appendix "C" - Thumb-nail biography and photograph of Commanding
Officer, Lieutenant Commander G. N. OWENS,
U. S. Navy, 81725.
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN
01/sb

Serial: 0102

CONFIDENTIAL

c/o Fleet Post Office,
New York, N. Y.
1 September 1945

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations, Aviation History Unit,
OP-33-5-6.
Via: (1) The Commander Air Group NINETY-SEVEN.
(2) The Commander Fleet Air, Quonset Point.
(3) The Commander Air Force, Atlantic Fleet.

Subject: Unit History (Continued) Period 1 June - 31 August 1945 - Submission of.

References: (a) Aviation Circular Ltr. 74-44, OP-33-5-6-JEJ, serial 356533 of 25 July 1944.
(b) Manual for Historical Officers, NavAer 00-250.
(c) OP-33-J-6-JEJ-118433 of 14 March 1945.

Enclosure: (A) Unit History of Torpedo Squadron NINETY-SEVEN
(Continued) for Period 1 June - 31 August 1945.

1. In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), Enclosure (A) is submitted herewith.

G. N. Owens.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT: Carrier Air Group NINETY-SEVEN
CAG-97/jal
A9/Pl-7
c/o Fleet Post Office,
New York, N. Y.
17 September 1945

From: The Commander.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations, Aviation History Unit,
OP-33-5-6.
Via: (1) The Commander Fleet Air, Quonset Point.
(2) The Commander Air Force, Atlantic Fleet.

1. Forwarded.

W. A. Dean
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
TORPEDO SQUADRON NINETY-SEVEN

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c/o Fleet Post Office, New York, N. Y.

Subject: Unit History (Continued) Period 1 June - 31 August 1945 - Submission of.

DURING JUNE 1945:

Additional instrument instructors were assigned to this squadron which assisted greatly in aiding the squadron check-outs.

VT-45, VT-29 and VT-44 were commissioned and started on their way.

A group of pilots and aircrews, destined to form as VT-154 were brought to Quonset Point from Grosse Ile, Michigan to complete ground training and become familiar with the TBD-2 aircraft. A baby hurricane which arrived the latter part of the month caused a cessation of all activities for three (3) days.

DURING JULY 1945:

The Lewiston, Me., detachment was closed and Sanford, Me., opened 10 July 1945 as a training base for VT Squadrons. The entire Lewiston personnel were transferred to this new base. Sanford, Maine has complete facilities for housing and messing of all personnel, an excellent B.O.Q. and quite near the city of Portland, Me.

Routine training was carried on during this period.

DURING AUGUST 1945:

A routine month until the momentous news of the Japanese surrender. As everywhere else, everything stopped for two (2) days and gradually after the thrill wore off. Normal training routine were resumed.

At this writing it does not appear that any new Torpedo Squadrons will be commissioned and the future of this unit is quite uncertain.