

Harry B. "Buzz" Henderson  
(Goodlivin' One-Two)

VF-781  
1950-1951



back row: Dick Shrewsbury [VC-61] (left) and Lou Ives (right)  
front row: Buzz Henderson (left) and Gene Kyle (right)

Yokosuka Officers Club

USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CV-31) second rest stop

July 1951

## A Couple of Stories:

### A Tailhook Tail

Not many of us landed on the *Bon Homme Richard* (CV-31) without a tailhook – I was one of the few.

Almost back on board the *BHR* after returning from a combat mission in a F9F-2 Panther jet, I pulled the T handle to drop my tailhook, and ended up with a pile of cable in my lap.

I radioed Collie Oveland, the Skipper.

“Having a problem,” I said.

“What’s your problem,” he said.

“Got no tail hook,” I said. “Got a lap full of cable.”

Collie drove alongside to take a look.

“Right - no tailhook,” he said.

“Hold your position. I’ll bring you in last” (I was too low on fuel to go back to the beach).

Collie landed the other 3 in the division. Then it was my turn to head on to the *BHR*. Without a tailhook, though, I couldn’t catch a wire.

The *BHR* had a straight deck in those days. I lined up towards the Davis barriers, with flight deck tractors behind. The front deck was loaded with aircraft – I hoped the barriers would stop me first – if I hit the tractors, the four 20mm cannons forward in the nose would have decapitated me – wiped me out socially.

They did – stop me, that is.

The aircraft was on the first strike that day, the missing tailhook was replaced, and the jet ready to fly by the last strike.

### A 200 Shot Armed Recco

The Skipper and I were on an armed recco when we spotted an unmarked jeep. We shot 200 holes in it—fortunately missed the driver and passenger. The jeep was one of ours. I had to explain the event to the Captain--the Skipper was on the golf course. [Shrewsbury claims this was James Garner’s jeep.]

It was one of the highlights of my career.

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