

# CONTENTS

Foreword .....	5
Preface and Acknowledgments .....	8
Glossary .....	11
Chapter 1 1945–67: Role, Testing and Purchases.....	16
Chapter 2 1967–68: Initial Instructor Training .....	25
Chapter 3 1968–69: The Skyhawk goes to sea.....	32
Chapter 4 Flight deck engineering .....	39
Chapter 5 1970: Exercise Bersatu Padu.....	46
Chapter 6 1971: Training and growing the A-4 fleet.....	52
Chapter 7 1972: A very busy year .....	60
Chapter 8 1973: The first losses.....	70
Chapter 9 1974: Tragedy .....	79
Chapter 10 1975: <i>Rimpac</i> 75 .....	91
Chapter 11 1976: OFS and VC724.....	99
Chapter 12 Support People.....	106
Chapter 13 1977: Spithead Review .....	114
Chapter 14 1978: <i>Rimpac</i> 78 and <i>Sandgroper</i> 78 .....	124
Chapter 15 1979: Three losses in a year.....	136
Chapter 16 1980: The beginning of the end .....	152
Chapter 17 1981: The year that wasn't.....	164
Chapter 18 1982–1984: The end of RAN fixed-wing aviation .....	168
Chapter 19 The Skyhawk squadrons.....	176
Chapter 20 The pilots and their aircraft .....	178
Chapter 21 Tributes.....	190
Chapter 22 The case for carrier-based fighters .....	200
Annex A Contributors.....	204
Annex B The Sundowners Song .....	214
Index of Names.....	215