

"FLIGHT QUARTERS"

Considerably before sunrise the ship's PA system interrupts the stillness of the morning with a distinctive bugle call, "Men all flight quarters stations!"

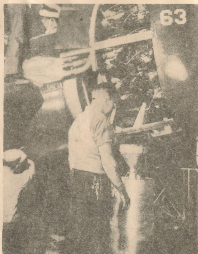
Earlier, the galleys have anticipated flight quarters and have served early breakfast to the lines of men that form. Pilots have gathered in the wardroom and taken their places with the customary, "How's the weather? What time is it? When do we launch? What's in the news?" Some are gulping a hurried second cup of "joe," while others are already on their way to the ready rooms when flight quarters sounds.

Pilots, aircrews, plane captains, mechs, gas details, re-arming crews, catapult crews, and hundreds of others in all parts of the ship man their stations on the double. Soon the hangar deck, flight deck and elevators become a picture of harmonious, efficient action.

"Stand clear of propellers. Start engines! With this signal the flight deck becomes a whirling fistfull of fighting power. Planes are gradually warmed up, checked, spotted for the take-off, and the flight deck officer takes charge as the planes taxi forward to be launched.

"Men all flight quarter stations!" Teamwork is the keynote for this well organized department that is ready to turn to on unbelievably short notice after the bugle blares.

BELOW: Plane Pushers In Action.



ABOVE: Mechs Check Motor.

