

**CAF Corsair FG-1D**  
**BuNo 92468**

By Mike Schneider



Lefty Gardner arriving in the FG-1D during May, 1961 at Rebel Field, the CAF's original home in Texas. (CAF photo)

The CAF's FG-1D "530" is one of the original airframes that launched the Confederate Air Force (now Commemorative Air Force). This airplane is not only historically significant, but it is thoroughly engrained in the CAF's heritage and has been one of the busiest aircraft in the history of the CAF's stable. The CAF Dixie Wing at Falcon Field was selected to become the new home for the FG-1D "530" by the leadership team of the CAF in August of 2012. We are very proud to have received such an honor and are doing our best to live up to that distinction.

## CAF's FG-1D History

Our Corsair was built by Goodyear hence the designation FG instead of F4U. BuNo 92468 (Stands for "Bureau Number" which is the Navy serial number of the airframe) was rolled off the factory in Akron, Ohio on July 19, 1945, it never saw military combat but was used stateside in various roles until being stricken from active duty by the US Navy in 1956. BuNo 92468 was rescued from destruction in 1957 by Ernest Huggins. Ernest only held the Corsair for one year when he transferred ownership to Skip Underwood of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Underwood relocated the plane to an airstrip in Buckeye, Arizona where he had a small crop dusting operation and it remained there in storage until sold in 1960 to CAF Hall of Fame member Marvin L. "Lefty" Gardner.

Once joining the CAF, our Corsair was restored to flying condition, registered as N9964Z and painted in the red, white and blue livery which adorned others already collected like our P-51 and P-38.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1974, our FG-1D was damaged in a collision at Ft. Worth, TX and subsequently became the last Corsair rebuilt by Vought in Dallas, TX.



Fast forward to March of 1981 and our Corsair was delivered back to us by Vought CEO Norm Thayer. Once again the Corsair took to the airshow skies this time in the USMC markings representing VMF-214 "883" which was one of the Corsairs piloted by Maj. Greg "Pappy Boyington" during WWII.



If you have ever had the chance to talk to any of the veterans who flew the Corsair, they will mention how rugged the airplane was and how much punishment it could take. While not under combat situations, ours is a testament to that as well. Due to mechanical problems, on April 14<sup>th</sup> 1982, our FG-1D was forced to land in a grass field and sustained damage after striking a fence. BuNo 94268 was repaired and yet again took to the skies as one of the busiest airshow attendees of the 80's and 90's.



CAF's FG-1D shown here as Number "13" - a generic representation of aircraft that served upon CV-9, the USS Essex. It is the first time the checkerboard pattern appears on the Commemorative Air Force's Corsair.

In April of 2001, BuNo 92468 returned to the site of her restoration at Vought Industries in Dallas, TX to retire "13" which was worn from a decade of airshows.





The airframe was cosmetically repaired and given a new paint scheme depicting VMF-312 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. M.O. Chance #”530” which it still carries today.



In the summer of 2001, our FG-1D took a ride of its own. Our FG-1D was loaded aboard a C5 Galaxy and transported to Alaska for an airshow.



In May 2015, our Corsair along with other 55 warbirds, flew over the National Mall in celebration the 70th anniversary of the Victory in Europe.





# Record Card and History

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Serial No. 92468 Model PC-10 Contract No. Nca(e) 1871

Acceptance Date 7-19-45  
 Delivery Date 7-20-45 Date Reconditioning Completed \_\_\_\_\_

**TRANSFER RECORD**

Date In	Unit	Date out	Time in status	For use of CNO	Date In	Unit	Date out	Time in status	For use of CNO
	Min Rep. Alameda				1948	Pool GFR			
J F M A M J J A S O N D					J F M A M J J A S O N D				
	Pool Alameda					NACT AKRON			
J F M A M J J A S O N D					J F M A M J J A S O N D				
1946	Pool Alameda	2/10							
J F M A M J J A S O N D					J F M A M J J A S O N D				
6-16	St Glynco								
J F M A M J J A S O N D					J F M A M J J A S O N D				
1947	Stor Glynco								
J F M A M J J A S O N D					J F M A M J J A S O N D				
1948	Stor Glynco								
J F M A M J J A S O N D					J F M A M J J A S O N D				

AIRCRAFT HISTORY CARD NAVAER-1925 (9-44) (For use of CNO and Fleet Air & Area Com)

- NAS Alameda, California - minor repair (July 1945 - August 1945)
- NAS Alameda, California - aircraft pool (September 1945 - June 10, 1946)
- NAS Glynco, Brunswick, Georgia - storage (June 16, 1946 - February 1948)
- NAS Jacksonville, Florida - Assembly & Repair / aircraft pool (March 1948 - May 1948)
- NAS Akron, Ohio - Reserve Training Squadron (June 1948 - \*October 1948)
- \*\*\*No records from January 1949 through March 1950
- NAS Jacksonville, Florida - Overhaul & Repair (\*April 1950 - May 19, 1950)
- NAS Atlanta, Georgia - Reserve Training Squadron (May 19, 1950 - January 2, 1952)
- NAS Jacksonville, Florida - Overhaul & Repair (January 2, 1952 - April 24, 1952)
- FASRON-9, NAS Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Florida (April 24, 1952 - May 15, 1952)
- CAG-10 / VF-102 "Sluggers", NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia (May 15, 1952 - November 21, 1952)
- NAS Squantum, Massachusetts - Reserve Training Squadron (November 21, 1952 - November 8, 1953)
- NAS Jacksonville, Florida - Overhaul & Repair (November 8, 1953 - February 15, 1954)
- NAS Grosse Isle, Michigan - Reserve Training Squadron (February 15, 1954 - June 13, 1954)
- NAS Minneapolis, Minnesota - Reserve Training Squadron (June 13, 1954 - April 29, 1955)
- NAS New York, New York - Reserve Training Squadron (April 29, 1955 - October 12, 1955)
- NAF Litchfield Park, Arizona (October 12, 1955 - January 1957)
- stricken: January 1957 (stored on site at NAF Litchfield Park)

## Interesting Facts

The Dixie Wing Corsair is considered a "Hometown hero:" as it served from May 19, 1950 until Jan. 2, 1952 at Naval Air Reserve Station Atlanta (now Peachtree-Dekalb Airport) training pilots for the Korean Conflict.



Here is the logbook of Korean War Veteran Harry G Herber who flew our Corsair in two occasions while based at NAS Atlanta.

MONTH		YEAR		FLIGHT TIME AS		TOTAL FLIGHT TIME
DAY	MODEL	BUREAU NO.	TYPE	EST. PALON	EST. DEPT. BRANCH	
17	FG1D	76724	A18	2.1		2.1
19	"	76724	A18	2.5		2.5
20	"	22468	A18	1.7		1.7
20	"	22468	A18	1.3		1.3
20	"	22468	A18	2.3		2.3
17	SAB-3	22558	A18	1.6		1.6
24	SAB-4	51607	A18	0.7		0.7
24	"	51607	A18	0.7		0.7

MONTH		YEAR		FLIGHT TIME AS		TOTAL FLIGHT TIME
DAY	MODEL	BUREAU NO.	TYPE	EST. PALON	EST. DEPT. BRANCH	
12	FG1D	22468	A18	2.1		2.1
12	FG1D	22468	A18	2.1		2.1
11	FG1D	22468	A18	2.0		2.0
13	"	22524	A18	0.7		0.7
13	"	"	A18	0.7		0.7
14	"	"	A18	1.0		1.0
14	"	"	A18	0.8		0.8
14	"	42122	A18	1.2		1.2
14	"	42013	A18	1.8		1.8
15	"	42014	A18	1.6		1.6
15	"	42012	A18	2.2		2.2
15	"	42012	A18	2.3		2.3
16	"	42013	A18	2.2		2.2
16	"	42013	A18	1.0		1.0
17	"	42013	A18	0.4		0.4
17	"	42013	A18	2.0		2.0
17	"	42013	A18	1.7		1.7
17	"	42013	A18	1.6		1.6
18	"	42013	A18	1.3		1.3
18	"	42013	A18	1.5		1.5