



## 1950's

The 1950's started with the Naval Air Branch being involved with 2 conflicts in Asia. First was the Malayan Emergency, which ran through the entire 1950's and then the Korean War which ran from 1950 until 1953. The latter incorporated the first helicopter lift of assault troops in 1953.

In 1952 the Naval Air Branch was renamed the Fleet Air Arm, the name it retains to the present day. 1956 saw more unrest in the Middle East due to Egypt deciding to nationalise the Suez Canal. In November 1956 the first helicopter assault from the sea took place during the Suez Crisis.

### WESTLAND WHIRLWIND HAS Mk 7

#### Role

Anti - Submarine Warfare

#### Entered Service

1956

#### Weight

Loaded: 3538kg

#### Maximum Speed

104mph

#### Weapons

Torpedo carried in place of dipping sonar



### KEY EVENTS

#### 1951 July:

HMS Vidal becomes the first ship designed to operate a helicopter.

#### 1952:

Naval Air Service renamed Fleet Air Arm.

#### 1952:

Steam catapult trials completed and demonstrated by HMS Perseus.

#### 1952:

First trials of prototype Mirror Deck Landing Sight, designed to assist aircraft landings on carriers, carried out on HMS Illustrious.

#### 1953 March:

First helicopter lift of assault troops during the Malayan Emergency.

#### 1954:

First anti-submarine helicopter squadron becomes operational.

#### 1954:

First angled flight deck trials carried out in HMS Albion.

#### 1955:

First trials of replenishment using helicopters.

#### 1959:

Royal Naval Air Station Portland opened. First military helicopter airfield in Britain.



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