

12 Oct 89

Dear Don,

Here are two extra copies of AIR ENTHUSIAST 30 and 32. They include my stories on HAL-3 and VAL-4. The articles should give you a good idea of my style. You can keep the magazines if you want.

I enjoyed discussing your HAL-3 history, and I appreciate your considering me as the author. I am interested in the project and would try to fit it in to my schedule. Actually, if you would be satisfied with a publication date some time in 1992, to coincide with a squadron reunion and the 20th anniversary of the HAL-3 decommissioning, I think I'd be able to write the book. As I said, I do have other projects that have priority, especially since I've already either agreed to them or taken advance money from the publishers.

You should consider a commercial publisher. That is the way I had thought about writing the book earlier, and I believe that finding a publisher would not be a problem. During our conversation, it did not seem as though you wanted any portion of a commercial deal, but were offering yours and the organization's support. I'm at the stage now where, although I have a strong feeling for the subject, I would require the usual royalty arrangement. So, what I would propose is that I would find a publisher, strike the deal--with the usual royalty and advance arrangement for such things--and write the book, with the understanding that I would have the full resources of the Seawolves behind me.

(over)

I have a large folder of photos and notes on HAL-3, and VAL-4. But, from the things you described, both in Washington, and members' personal collections, I should be able to write the definitive work on the squadron. And, as I mentioned, here are three new titles on the Brown Water Navy, with sections on HAL-3, although they are certainly not the in-depth works we envision. One is published by Squadron/Signal from Texas: RIVERINE, A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE BROWN WATER NAVY WAR IN VIETNAM by Jim Mesko; and two new books from Arms & Armour in the UK, co-published by Sterling in New York: COASTAL RIVERINE FORCES and HELICOPTER HANDBOOK. You might want to get them for your own library.

Let me know if you are interested in following up on our phone conversation.

Sincerely,



Peter Mersky