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REWINDING
THE
CHARTS

50 Years Ago THE SUPREMES' REIGN BEGAN

The Motown girl group scored the first of 12 No. 1 hits on Aug. 22, 1964

THERE ARE GIRL GROUPS, AND THEN THERE ARE THE Supremes. In 1964, Florence Ballard, 21, Diana Ross, 20, and Mary Wilson, 20, became Motown's brightest stars, notching their first No. 1 single on the Billboard Hot 100, "Where Did Our Love Go." During the next five years, 11 more chart-toppers followed, making the trio the American group with the most No. 1s on the chart. The only group with more is England's Beatles, with 20 (the most of any act).

The ladies were hardly an overnight success. Originally called The Primettes, they changed their name upon signing with Motown in 1961, and by 1964 a succession of mediocre-selling singles had earned them the nickname The No-Hit Supremes at the label. "Where Did Our Love Go," a song rejected by The Marvelettes, changed that.

Ballard was replaced by Cindy Birdsong in 1967, and the group's final chart-topper was "Someday We'll Be Together," on Dec. 27, 1969. It was The Supremes' last single with Ross, who departed for a spectacular solo career, while various incarnations of the group continued until 1977.

—KEITH CAULFIELD





★ STAR perform

THIS WEEK	WEEKS AGO			TITLE	Artist, Label & Number	Weeks On Chart
	1	2	3			
1	2	3	5	WHERE DID OUR LOVE GO ...	Supremes, Motown 1060	7
2	1	2	4	EVERYBODY LOVES SOMEBODY	Dean Martin, Reprise 0281	9
3	3	1	1	A HARD DAY'S NIGHT	Beatles, Capitol 5222	6

The Supremes arriving in London on March 15, 1965. From top: Ross, Ballard and Wilson.

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