

# Korea Outlasts World War I

ON FEB. 2, Americans were at war in Korea longer than they were in World I.

Naval historians moved the Korean conflict into second place on the list of the longest wars fought in the 20th century by the United States.

The U. S. Navy has come a long way since May 4, 1917, when six new destroyers under the command of Cdr. J. K. Taussig, steamed into Queenstown, Ireland, heralding the arrival of U. S. forces which were to help crush the Kaiser.

World War I planes and ammunition were a far cry from the sleek jets and destructive bombs of today. Navy Air started the war with 24 planes and suffered only 19 personnel casualties throughout the entire war. Modern carriers were still a dream. Pilots then flew "crates," and with their caps on backward, dressed in goggles, gauntlets and leathers leggin's, were called "aeronauts." Many carried shotguns and rocks on their missions.

It took our destroyers in World War I nearly a month to arrive in the theatre of war. On June 26, 1950, only one day after the Communists invaded South Korea, the U. S. destroyers *DeHaven* and *Mansfield* evacuated Americans from Inchon. Three days later the cruiser USS *Juneau* fired the first shots for the Navy against the aggressors. Five days later planes from the carrier *Valley Forge*

really pounded the enemy in Korea.

Today daring naval flyers straddle jet and high-powered planes and drop well over 4,000 tons of explosives on the enemy every month. In their "crates" World War I flyers dropped 100 tons on the Germans during the entire war. Surface craft in the Korean war have fired nearly 3,000 tons more at the enemy every month.

Ships and planes in the Korean war are even breaking World War II records. During the month of December, 1951, the destroyer USS *Marshall* fired over 5,600 five-inch shells at Communist positions in eastern Korea—more ammunition than she fired against the enemy in all of her service in World War II. In World War II she participated in every major naval campaign in the Pacific. From her arrival in January 1944 to the end of the war, she earned eight battle stars in 30 engagements.

Planes of the USS *Essex*, which *Essex* men like to call the "Fightingest ship in the Navy," have fired more ammunition at the enemy since Aug. 22, 1951, than they did in the Pacific in World War II. Tonnage dropped by her planes in less than five months is about twice as much as was expended by all her air groups in the 16 months April 1944 to August 1945. Her *Skyraiders*, *Corsairs*, *Panthers* and *Banshees* of Air Group Five have fired 2,500 rockets and over a million rounds of 20 mm shells.



**A BIT RAGGED** as formation flying goes, perhaps, but still about the closest formation of helicopters ever photographed are these five HUP-1's hovering a few feet off the deck at NAS Lakehurst. Early models of the Piasecki HUP's had "elephant ear" supplementary vertical stabilizers on each side of the rudder but these were eliminated to cut down on plane's weight.



**TROPHIES GALORE.** Model plane fan B. Lynch shows the 68 winners' trophies presented during the Tenth Annual Gulf States Model Air Meet, recently held at NAS New Orleans.

## Actual Battle Is Simulated Live Ammunition Used In Air Exercise

Recent tactical air control exercises held at the newly-activated Pinecastle, Florida, impact and bombing area duplicated as nearly as possible the conditions which exist in Korea. Pilots of Carrier Air Group 4 used live bombs and rockets in the area which is located in the Ocala National Forest.

A landing strip was constructed in the heavily-wooded area. On the strip and adjacent area abandoned vehicles and aircraft had been parked to serve as targets for the Fleet Air Jacksonville pilots. In addition, fake gun emplacements were built.

Most of the targets were heavily camouflaged and pilots of attacking aircraft were guided onto the targets by personnel of an air control group on the ground via radio. A detachment of TACRON-4 handled the vital job of directing fire of the aircraft.

Key man in the air control setup is the forward air controller, an aviator, who is stationed with the ground forces in the front lines. At Pinecastle, this man rode in a radio-equipped jeep in close proximity to the bombing range. It was his job to assign targets to attacking pilots and give them the data necessary for them to complete their mission successfully.

In a control tower, some distance from the target area, others of the control group observed and evaluated the results of the strikes. Value of this close liaison between air power and ground forces has been proved many times in Korea where such tactics play havoc with enemy troops and supply lines.