



ESSEX ordnancemen check links, inspect 20 mm. ammo before rearming gun in Panthers

### Air Support on Request

A pair of *Corsair* flyers of the Marines "Black Sheep" squadron were on an armed reconnaissance mission when they were diverted to assist an Army tank column temporarily held up by entrenched Chinese Reds with anti-tank guns. They were Capt. Robert D. Keller and 1st Lt. James W. Verplanck.

They made 20 passes on the enemy troops, dropping napalm, rockets and 1,200 rounds of 20 mm ammunition.

During the attacks, the Army tankers radioed, "Right on! Beautiful! Excellent hits. They're running everywhere. We can see that you killed 20 or 30 of them, and five of them are running pell-mell this way. We'll have that many prisoners!"

The enemy was routed. The column of steel tracked vehicles began to roll on.

# KOREAN AIR WAR

## The Show Goes On

A former Japanese airfield in South Korea, crumbling under the pounding of the rain and heavy Marine Corps fighter-bombers, is being rebuilt without a halt in operations by Navy Seabees, Marines, and Korean labor.

Originally constructed for light Japanese fighters, the concrete runway was poured over rice paddies with no prepared foundation. In some places the concrete was three inches deep, in others six inches or more.

Constant operation by *Panther* jets, *Corsairs*, and heavy transport planes of the First Marine Aircraft Wing pounded holes in the runway, making landings and take-offs hazardous.

Working two 12-hour shifts with all available labor, the Leathernecks and Seabees patched the east side of the runway into usable condition while normal operations were carried on from the other half. When the concrete in the patches had dried only 48 hours, they set to work on the west side.

Although the newly patched east side is much better than it was, cross-wind landings in jet planes on a strip only 75 feet wide can be hazardous. In peacetime, military aircraft would not be allowed to operate from such a field.

A number of the Korean laborers hired to help repair the strip served as forced labor when the Japanese built it during World War II.

## Glad to Help

The Air Force ran out of ammunition, so was glad to welcome three *Black Sheep* squadron Marines in central Korea to help rescue a downed Air Force flier.

Three AF planes out of ammo were circling the pilot when Capt. Earl Summerlin, Capt. James C. Harrington and 1st Lt. Thomas J. Horgan came up in their *Corsairs*.

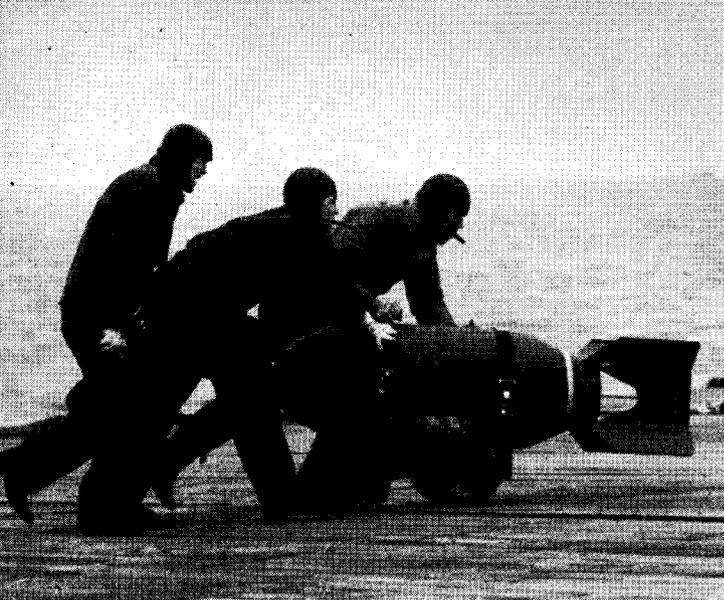
The attackers counted five big guns in revetments along a dry stream bed. Making three direct rocket hits, plus napalm and 20 mm cannon fire, they wiped out the positions, then finished off the day by blasting an enemy automatic weapon position on a nearby hill.

VALLEY FORGE pilots Geredes, Omvig, Holloman and Schmutzler talk to VF-111 AIO Lt. Hunter Sneed on Korean enemy targets

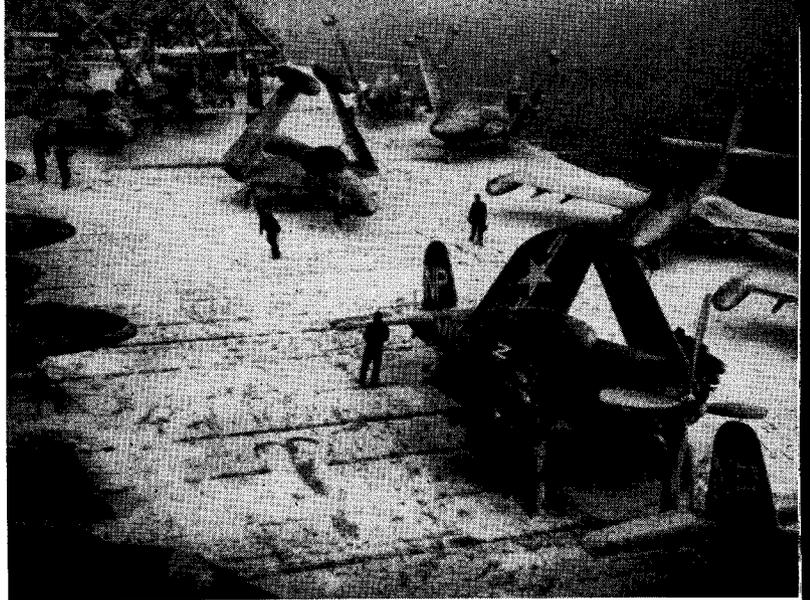


JOHNS Livingston, AP3, inspects aerial photos aboard *Antietam* to spot damage to main rail lines around Wonsan and AA targets





**SMOKING** on carrier decks is taboo, so aviation ordnancemen on *Antietam* chew their cigars as they shove 1,000-lb. bomb forward



**WINTER'S** snow covers flight deck and planes aboard *Essex* off Korean coast, forcing a lull in operations against the Commies

## Hot Seat

There's an aviation electronicsman aboard the *Bon Homme Richard* who is glad he wore a seat parachute instead of the back-pack type.

Flying with *Skyraider* pilot Lt. (jg) Robert W. Probyn over North Korea, Samuel O. Rash advised the flier he believed he had been shot.

Inspection showed that a .60 cal. steel-jacketed bullet had penetrated Rash's seat but expended itself in the chute he was sitting on.

## Light a Murad

A Marine combat correspondent was assigned to write a story on Marine Corps troops in the front lines. Impassable roads made a helicopter journey necessary.

Visibility was poor. Gusty winds whipped through the valleys. The pilot, grim-faced and tense, pushed and handled the tricky controls in silence.

The 'chopper finally landed and the writer stepped out to be greeted by a curious crowd. Affecting an air of nonchalance, he made his way to the bunker of a captain whom he knew.

**SENATOR** Homer Ferguson of Michigan talks to RAdm. McMabon in Valley Forge flag plot

"Pretty rough flight, wasn't it?" asked the captain.

"How would I know," answered the veteran of 34 years in the Marines. "That was the first time I ever was any higher than the 32nd story of the Empire State building."

## The Hard Way

Sailors have been known to spend their liberties in many unusual ways, but climbing 12,000-foot Mt. Fujiyama in the dead of winter in a 70-mile gale is a little out of the ordinary.

Three radarmen from the carrier *Bairoko*, Randall R. McCardle, Stanley G. Hinman and Forrest O. Garrigus began the climb at 2 p.m. on 24 December, ill-equipped but determined.

They could not get a Japanese guide foolish enough to make the climb so they went it alone. Their only equipment were stout "Fuji sticks" and flashlights.

Carrigus missed his footing about halfway up, tumbled down an icy slope to a skidding stop in the darkness below. Anxious minutes passed before Hinman and McCardle found him. Al-

**TOO SMALL** to be a Navy pilot yet, Johnny Peacock of Hilo, Hawaii, visits Valley Forge

though not seriously injured, they decided to return to a rest station on the mountain slope for the rest of the night.

Leaving the bruised Garrigus behind, the other two resumed the climb Christmas morning. With 75% of the 17-mile climb completed and their liberty time running short, the hikers had to start back to their ship. Next time the *Bairoko* hits port, they hope to make another try at Mt. Fuji.

## Vindictive Reds

Marine 2nd Lt. George A. Dimsdale apparently had a grudge against the Communists in Korea. Although his plane was tearing apart around him from enemy fire, he dived on a Red position and knocked out an artillery piece near Chorwon, North Korea.

Failing to gain altitude, he then had to crash land in enemy territory. Marine planes circled the area, attacking Communist troops each time they tried to reach Dimsdale, who had climbed out of his wrecked plane.

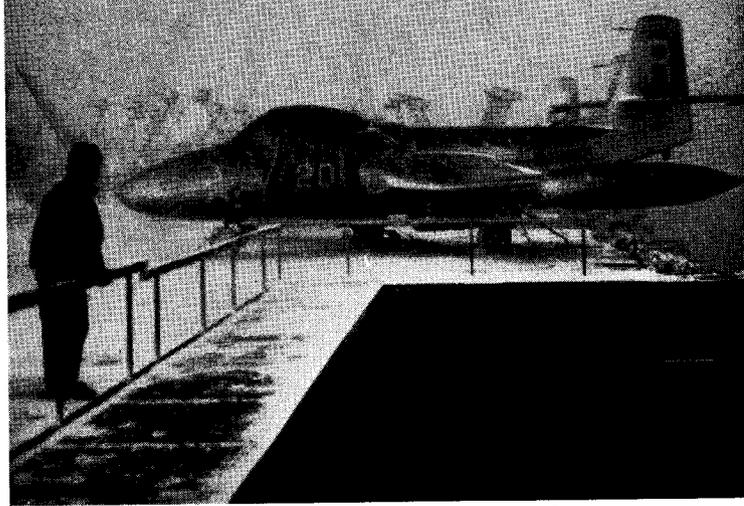
Fellow pilots thus held off the Reds until a helicopter arrived and rescued the downed pilot. His feat won him the DFC from MGen. Christian F. Schilt.

**ENS. EMMOTT** R. Aillaud of VF-51 on *Essex* inspects bullet hole in his AD's canopy





**HEAVY** swells in the Sea of Japan toss spray over flight deck of carrier Essex while men in foreground watch spectacular display



**WINTER** operations aboard the Essex were halted by heavy snowstorms which cut visibility to zero off the North Korean coast

### Come Eleven

Some guys fear the number 13, but Lt. (jg) David F. Tatum, a *Valley Forge* fighter pilot from VF-52, is thinking of adopting #11 as his nemesis.

About a year ago he rode his flak-riddled plane down into the waters of the Yellow Sea during the Inchon invasion. The next time he hit the water it was in the Sea of Japan, on the other side of Korean peninsula, when his F9F crashed.

By coincidence, each dunking occurred on the 11th flight of each of his two combat tours.

### Discouraging 'Thumbers'

There is one news service correspondent in Korea who won't bum any more rides in a plane headed on a combat mission.

Capt. Roscoe R. St. John, a Marine night fighter pilot, took along the writer "just for the ride" but it turned into a virtual nightmare.

Heading up "Death Valley", so named for intense AA encountered, he dove his F7F in a screaming dive for a flare-illuminated target. A burst of 20 mm. fire ignited a fuel truck. After a tight turn, he nailed another truck.

While pulling out he was hit by AA, rifle and machine gun fire but wheeled

around for another try. He dropped a napalm tank and burned another truck, collecting a few more bullet holes. Finding a railroad marshalling yard, he hit it with his remaining six 100-pounders. His last 20 mm. ammo went to knock out a fourth truck.

When he got back he had to make an emergency landing because all his hydraulic gear was shot out. It was found two bullets had passed under St. John's seat, and a third missed his head by inches.

### High-Paid Help

You never can tell what's likely to happen in the First Marine Air Wing in Korea.

A sleepy Marine private walked up to the mess line to get his morning eggs and told the waiter to "scramble 'em". As he left he said absently, "Thanks Mac."

Then he blinked twice and let his tray fall on the concrete messhall floor. Smiling at the surprised man was a Marine colonel. Acting as cook for the day was Col. Edward P. Pennebaker. Messmen serving breakfast were other officer members of his staff.

"It was our way of giving the cooks and messmen a well-deserved holiday,"

the colonel explained. "We started cooking at 0430, and by 0730 when chow call goes, we had found there is more to this cooking thing than meets the eye."

The colonel's "helpers" for the day were LCol. Robert R. Davis and Hensley Williams, Majs. Clinton E. Jones, Jack R. Moore and Ernest L. Dowell, and Capt. George R. Pillion.

### Truck Hunters' Paradise

As an early morning flight of the Marine "Death Rattlers" squadron headed out over enemy country in north Korea, thick clouds pasted a protective blanket over roads and valleys, hiding enemy movements and installations.

Capt. Byron H. Beswick and 1st Lt. Norman Vining of MAW-1 spotted an opening in the clouds and dived their *Corsairs* through.

In a valley, they saw about 25 trucks parked in ravines and along trails. Straightway they destroyed 12 trucks and damaged 13.

Shortly thereafter Capt. William T. O'Neal and 2nd Lt. George A. Dimsdale found another "poorly camouflaged" truck concentration. Under an 800-foot ceiling, they destroyed 15 trucks, damaged four and killed an estimated 15

**ANTIETAM** pilots Robert L. Thomas, Robert F. Baker and Howard E. Hoehn check debriefing maps to estimate Wonsan area damage



**ANTIETAM** has two pairs of twins aboard, John F. and Bryan M. Lee, kneeling; Edward A. and Eugene C. MacMullian are standing



Chinese troops around the trucks.

In the afternoon, Beswick, O'Neal and Dimsdale were joined by 2nd Lt. Bruce E. Clingan when they returned to the "truck hunters' paradise."

The foursome's attack set off a semi-chain-reaction as one ammunition truck after another exploded.

During this attack, the "Death Rattlers" destroyed 20 trucks, two machine gun positions, and killed about 35 enemy troops nearby.

### Dawn Delivery

A recent flight of *Skyraiders* and *Corsairs* from the carrier *Antietam* saw the Red North Korean rail situation take a turn for the worse. Even before the sun was up, Communist railroad stock was tumbling.

It started when Lt. (jg) Ernest F. Delmanowski, *Skyraider* heckler, called Lt. (jg) Norman K. Donahoe to tell him he'd seen an enemy locomotive. They had been searching for early rail traffic west of Wonsan.

With their gas gauge needles going steadily downward, they knew they would have to make every run count. Down they went with guns blazing and bombs whistling. Then they spied two more engines. They swooped again, this time accompanied by LCDr. John L. Callis. The latter was flying a *Corsair* night fighter.

The dawn hecklers, as they are called, kept up the attack until their ammunition was gone. Steam, smoke and dust partially obscured the results, but Delmanowski could see his locomotive would need lots of repair work. Donahoe's locomotive looked like a sieve with its steam pouring out. Callis could find only an empty space where his boxcar had been and a large crater in the roadbed next to it.

### Long Lost Leather

A Marine MP squad raided a Korean house suspected of being a Black Market hideout near a First Marine Aircraft wing base. Among the loot confiscated was a flight jacket with "A. J. Perrault" written across the back of it.

One MP, Pfc. Hiram R. Perry, Jr., remembered there was a second lieutenant at a nearby air base by that name. He took the jacket to him. Perrault declared he had lost the jacket—but back in 1945 when he was with the 1st Marine Division in Tientsin.

Both men are wondering how the jacket travelled hundreds of miles from China, how it got to the remote Korean village and how many brown-skinned natives had worn it in the meantime.

Perrault expressed his gratification at being once more reunited with his jacket, particularly in the cold season.

### Album Comes Home

A small, battered Japanese photo album, found by Lt. Robert Gibson seven years ago on Saipan, has been returned to a grateful Japanese family.

Gibson, a bomber pilot during World War II, was walking through the ruins of Saipan when he found the album. It had 30 pictures in it, together with the name of the owner, killed in action.

Called back to active duty as naval liaison officer at Haneda Air Base in Tokyo, Gibson brought the album with him, hoping to find the man's family. He talked to a Mainichi newspaper reporter, Genji Tamaka, who wrote a story for his paper, which has 5,000,000 circulation all over Japan.

The owner of the album was Satoshi Tamura, and his widow, Umeyo Tamura, was found to be living in Tokyo with her children. A meeting was arranged between her and Gibson in the newspaper office and he returned the treasured album to her there. "At last the heavy burden is off my shoulders," he said as he passed the album to Mrs. Tamura.

### Horse Marine

MGen. Christian F. Schilt may well be "The Last of the Horse Marines".

The commander of the First Marine Air Wing had been overheard to remark "that a horse'd be nice to have in these Korean hills". That gave his men an idea and a Marine transport returning from an emergency airstrip near the front brought back with it a horse as a Christmas present for him.

The presence of the horse was kept secret from the famous Marine general. Almost everyone on the base knew about it except the general. It was presented to him by Col. Victor H. Krulak, who got the animal during an advance.

Marines expect Bruce, a little sway-backed right now, to develop on his diet of hay, grain and chocolate bars.

### One-Two Punch

Air Group Five aboard the *Essex* teamed up to knock out a Communist east-west railroad line recently, pulling a perfectly-timed job on the surprised Reds.

Strong antiaircraft batteries were guarding the supply route. *Skyraiders*, *Corsairs* and *Banshees* went out on the strike after studying pictures taken on the position, surrounded by high hills.

When the attack hit the guns were manned, but minutes later all was quiet in the smoke-filled and cratered gun emplacements after the Air Group finished them off. One part furnished air cover for attacking planes and then they switched. The accompanying photograph shows the bridge after *Skyraiders* went in and blasted it out.

LT. JONES probably won't let anyone wash armrest of F9F Starlet Mala Powers used



LT. GIBSON returns Jap photo album to widow of man who lost it in Saipan invasion



MARINE MGen. Schilt inspects Korean plug his staff got him during recent advances



RUINED bridge in North Korea shows marksmanship of AD's in Essex show of teamwork

