

T H E W A R



TWO AD control planes and F6F drone set for catapulting on Boxer; drone carried bomb and was guided to North Korean target via television; AD on right flew F6F until 'mother plane' was on station

Drones in Korea

First use of F6F Hellcat drone planes to pack 2,000-pound bombs against North Korean targets, using television to give the mother plane a picture of how it was heading, was reported by the carrier *Boxer*, now back in the U. S. on rotation.

The drone was catapulted from the starboard side (see photo above) after an AD went off the port catapult. A second AD on deck controlled the F6F until the airborne *Skyraider* could take over and guide it to the inland target, a railroad tunnel mouth.

The press and radio made considerable of the feat, although F6F drones have been in use for years as antiaircraft targets and airborne television was demonstrated over Washington, D. C., right after World War II. Its combat appli-

cations were described in NAVAL AVIATION NEWS 18 months ago.

During the war against Japan, TDR drones flew off South Pacific bases against enemy shipping, carrying one-ton bombs.

Busy Bee

Candidate for biggest letter-writer in the Pacific fleet it Pat Kelley, Jr., personnelman, seaman, who recently sent his wife a letter 40 feet long.

It wasn't hand-written either—it was typewritten, single spaced! The letter brought his wife in Garden Grove, Calif., up to date on his activities with VP-731 in Japan.

Kelley estimated the letter involved 140,000 strokes on his typewriter. If written long hand, the letter would have been 180 feet in length. The pleasant

task took a month to complete, all on off-duty time.

16" Guns on Plane

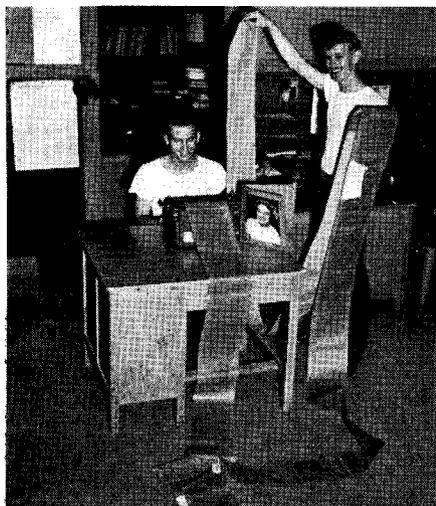
Take a look at the picture below showing 16" guns installed on the wings of an AD *Skyraider*. Well, almost . . .

The picture actually shows the *Skyraider* on the deck of the battleship *Iowa* off Korea. The bomber had been forced to land on a tiny UN-held island after suffering damage during a combat mission from Task Force 77.

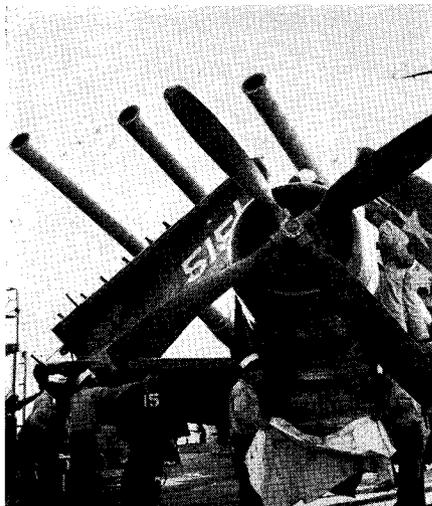
The *Iowa* hoisted the plane aboard and secured it to the main deck aft. From there the plane was safely transported to an aircraft repair center in Japan.

Too Young to Fight

"Too young for combat" was the ver-



PAT KELLEY puts finishing touches on 40' letter to wife; David Rodger rolls it up



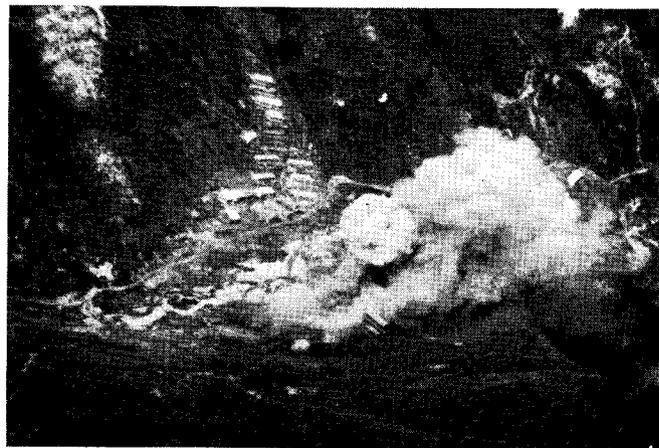
16" GUNS on Iowa form backdrop for *Skyraider* picked up by battleship off Korea



VMO-6'S Corp. Staffieri, 17, gets sent to rear; too young to fight with the Marines



BEFORE—This enemy iron mine near Songyou-dong, a few miles from Russian border, was photographed by a pilot from Essex



AFTER—One minute and 25 seconds later, the same pilot snapped this picture, showing what 1000-pound bombs did to the place

dict passed by Marine authorities on 17-year-old Cpl. John P. Staffieri, serving with the First Marine Aircraft Wing in Korea.

Over the youthful Marine's heated protests, he was transferred out of the Korean combat zone to Japan. Marine Corps rules say nobody under 18 gets in combat. Staffieri joined the Navy when he was 14 by concealing his age, was discharged after he finished boot camp and went on a cruise in the Caribbean, and then poined the Leathernecks. By the time his true age was discovered, he was over the minimum age limit of 17.

Foreign Language

Over in the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing's public information office, Sgt.

James F. Hennelly was talking about being rotated to the states and returning to civilian life.

"Jane" a 21-year-old Korean girl typist who worked in the office, asked with genuine concern:

"But do you speak civilian?"

Debaters Deluxe

When the labor officer at a Marine ground control intercept squadron asked a Korean why he wanted to work for the Marines, the officer got an answer—but hardly the one he expected.

The applicant, Kwang Yoon Kim, 26, a former Seoul University student, said that he had studied political science and expected to take up a career in politics.

But first he needed some training in

eloquence and came to the Marines since he heard they "were the fastest and most convincing talkers in the world".

P.S. He got the job.

Back in Line

After five months absence, the *Essex* returned to Task Force 77 off Korea. Commemorating the occasion, she sent the *Bon Homme Richard*, flagship, the following poem:

With crew so fresh with conditioned air
And island cut to cause a stare,
Paint so new, boy does it shine,
We have arrived, the *Mighty Nine*.
Day by day, we'll do our best
To keep up? Oh no, to beat the rest.
Frow down to dusk, we'll fly our planes
Then dusk to dawn they'll fear our names.
As time goes by and we grow old,
Slow we'll get as with the cold.
To the east we'll turn and softly whine
Where's the relief for the *Mighty Nine*?
Until we hit the southern shore.
For now we'll fit like ham and gravy
"The fightingest ship in the American Navy."

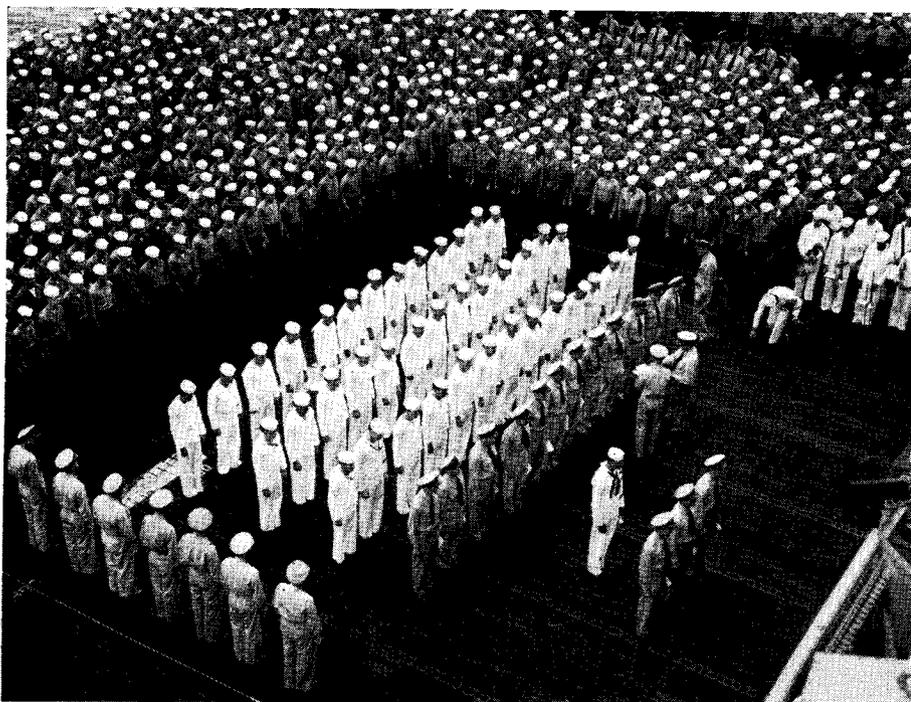
Marines Goosed

Radar operators at a Marine ground control interceptor unit in Korea spotted a tight formation of "enemy planes" coming down at the forward air base. They ordered an alert and sent Capt. Norman W. Flinn of the *Flying Nightmares* squadron to intercept the "bogies".

Capt. Joseph E. Heaton, who ordered the alert which sent men scurrying for foxholes, noted the slow speed of the oncoming planes. Remembering a trick used by Jap pilots in the last war, he felt it was better to be safe than sorry.

The mystery was solved when a tight formation of geese flew over the airbase. The episode strengthened the Marines' faith in the sensitivity of their search radar if it could pick up anything as small as a flight of birds.

Heaton reported the Japs used a trick of flying which gave the radar operator the impression the plane was traveling about 75 mph when actually he was flying much faster than that.



THESE 51 men on the *Boxer's* flight deck got letters of commendation or medals; three pilots, front, got Purple Hearts, AD1 Harold E. Well, behind them, a commendation ribbon



VADM. SOHN, Chief of Naval Operations of ROK Navy (third) and Capt. Min, chief of staff, with Boxer's captain, G. K. Fraser



THIS DELUXE building being completed by Chinese laborers will house truce teams if they meet to debate at Pan Mun Jom

Third Timers

Seven pilots aboard the *Essex* in the Korean war zone are putting in their third combat tour in the Far East, putting them one up on the *Big E*, now fighting her second tour.

The men are Cdr. Lewis Winston Chick, Lt. Francis L. Brown, Lt. (jg) Gerald W. Wise, Lt. (jg) James R. Parce, Lt. (jg) John Harris, Ens. Joseph A. Adams, and Lt. (jg) Paul E. Marsh.

Chick, Brown and Marsh served together in CAG-11 on the *Philippine Sea* and Wise and Parce were with VF-22 on the *Boxer* on previous combat tours. Six of the seven flew in Korean combat again from the *Princeton*. Cdr. Chick is commanding officer of VA-55.

In the accompanying photo they are, left to right: Harris, Parce, Wise, Chick, Brown, Marsh and Adams.



THESE 7 *Essex* pilots are serving their 3d tours of combat duty with carrier in Korea

Bag Tanks

Communist tanks are getting so scarce in Korea these days, it becomes news when the Marines knock out one. Four pilots from the *Deathbrattlers* squadron flew through heavy clouds to knock out two tanks sighted near Kum-song.

Capt. Dean Lindley, who led the at-

tack said, "Our napalm tanks and bombs hit in the right spot. We splashed liquid fire all over the target. The whole area was blasted and burnt out".

After one run the controller radioed "both targets destroyed". Other pilots in the flight were Maj. Robert T. Bell and Richard Rainforth and Capt. John T. Moore.

Four Pairs of Hands

It took four pilots of the *Princeton* teaming together to get a crippled *Skyraider* back aboard after it had been shot up over North Korean power plants.

The pilot, Lt. (jg) R. A. Foucht of VA-195, brought his flaming plane safely back to a landing at a South Korean fighter strip. The following day Lt. (jg) Richard W. Kincade was flown to the strip to ferry the plane back to the *Princeton*. Lt. (jg) Charles R. Holman landed his plane there too for repairs after receiving AA damage.

Holman and Kincade set out for the *Princeton* after the two planes were fixed up. On approaching the force, the

Skyraider began losing power, and he radioed for an emergency landing. As the task force headed into the wind, his engine quit completely.

The LSO of CAG-19, Lt. Andrew J. McClure, Jr., began giving him landing instructions. Holman noticed the crippled plane did not have its hook down and radioed Kincade. The latter lowered the hook, took the cut and landed safely with no power.

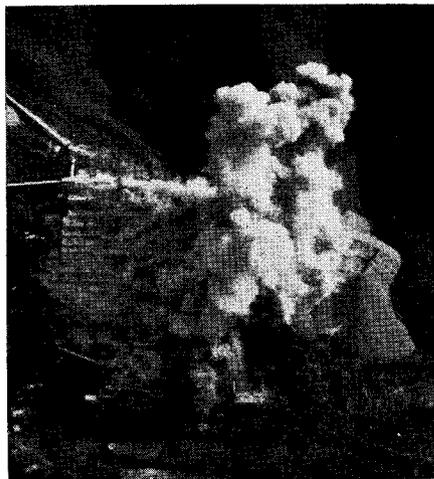
'Old Hutch' Makes It

After two years of fighting the Korean war behind a desk, Cdr. D. W. Cooper, skipper of VF-721, finally got his wish to throw lead at the Reds in person.

Called "Old Hutch" by his naval academy classmates, he was ordered to the *Philippine Sea* as air intelligence officer when the Reds crossed the 38th parallel back in 1950. Hutch moved to Seoul as Navy representative at the Joint Operations Center. His tour up at JOC, Hutch stayed on in Korea as intelligence officer for Task Force 77. He was too good an intelligence officer, the admiral said, to be allowed to go back to flying.

For almost a year and a half he fought the Reds with his mind alone. Finally he got his way and with it a squadron of shiny new *Panther* jets. He went out on a morning hop to smash Red gunners at Hangsung. Back aboard at 1130, the 33-year-old Kentuckian, who owns five German shepherd dogs back in Coronado, Cal., did not even have time to get out of his flight suit.

He was briefed, caught chow on the run, briefed again and back in the cockpit for an afternoon armed reconnaissance mission. Hurried and somewhat out of breath, Old Hutch is certain of one thing—for him, this is no longer just a mental war with the Commies.



NAVY'S bomber's struck 'pay dirt' when they bombed this iron ore mine at Musan, Korea

Bemedaled Marine

Before he hopped a plane for the United States, Col. Robert E. Galer, commanding officer of busy Marine Air Group 12 in Korea, was awarded a Legion of Merit medal to add to his Congressional Medal of Honor and numerous lesser awards of World War II.

Presented to him aboard a hospital ship off the Korean Coast, Col. Galer was cited for his outstanding service leading the fighting Leathernecks in combat. The award was made by MGen. Clayton C. Jerome, commanding general of the First Marine Aircraft Wing.

Col. Galer was in the ship recuperating from injuries received when he bailed out from his blazing *Corsair* over North Korean territory and was rescued by a helicopter after a rugged fight with Korean snipers. (NANEWS, October, pg. 10.) He sustained cracked ribs and injured a shoulder and arm when he hit the stabilizer as he bailed out.

Disbeliever

During an air strike on a Chinese-held hill in Korea, two Marines were standing in their fighting hole watching the operation. As the six Douglas *Sky-raid*ers made their pass over the hill dropping napalm and bombs, one Pfc. said, "Look at that . . . nothing could live through that strike!"

But as the final plane made its last run over the target, a Chinese rifleman raised up from his hole and fired at the passing plane with a burp gun.

Said the other Marine, "There's always the 10% that doesn't get the word!"

Rear End Charlies

Marine F7F night fighter pilots have their back seat drivers, but they like 'em.

The pilots have "awarded" the enlisted radar specialists who ride behind them to give navigation instructions a shoulder patch, unofficial, of course.

In the blue and gold are master sergeant's stripes with the radar operator's name embroidered beneath it. At the top of the patch are the words: "Back Seat Drivers."

Gunnysack Gyrenes

A few miles behind the front lines in Korea the comforts of home are lacking, but not ingenuity. Leathernecks of HMR-161 devised a new method for keeping their beer and "cokes" chilled during the hot Korean summer.

The Marines built cooling boxes in every tent by digging a small hole in the tent deck and lining it with burlap. The beverages are cooled by wetting it with water, which evaporates.



MGEN. Jerome, 1st MAW, presents Legion of Merit medal to Col. Galer for Korean feat

On Our Side

Some people appreciate what the United States is trying to do for South Korea. A Korean fishing boat captain rescued a downed Marine jet fighter pilot off Pohang. Badly injured, the pilot could not get rid of his heavy flying suit and would have drowned.

The following day, 2nd Lt. Wallace W. Smith, a pilot in the jet squadron, visited the Korean to see what he would like in the way of a gift for saving the pilot's life.

Politely refusing, the fisherman remarked: "I do not want anything; the United States is helping the South Koreans fight the Communists. I consider it my duty as a South Korean . . . without reward."

Walkie Talkies

When Marine Capt. Wallace E. Johnson left his 1st Marine Aircraft Wing job for a week in Japan, he asked the

Korean Marines with whom he was serving what they wanted him to bring back.

The answer was 70 Korean-English dictionaries!

The South Korean Marines, trained by their U.S. counterparts, are that eager to learn English, the captain reports. Johnson was a forward air controller, attached to the Korean troops.



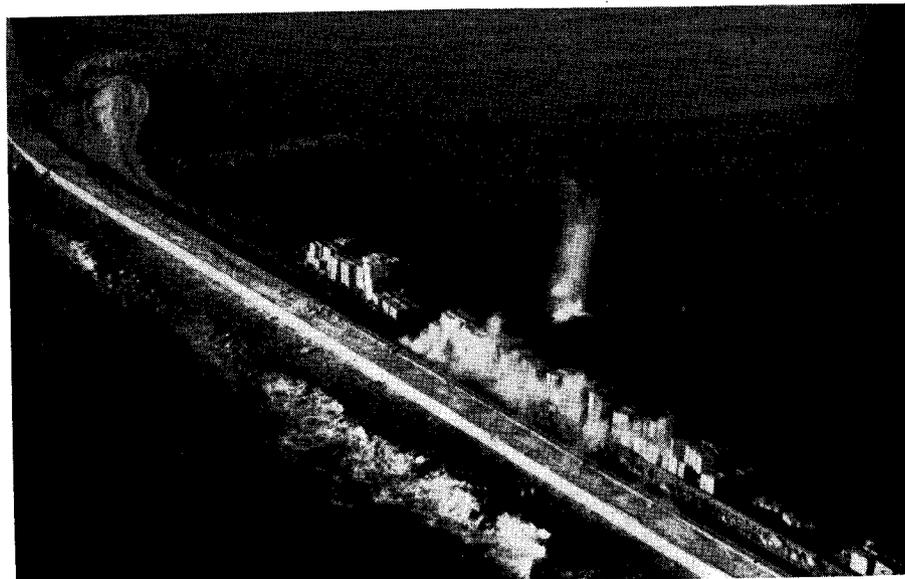
CARRIER Bataan's 'disc jockeys' led by J. V. Sanders, YN1, entertain ship's men

Attracts AA

The "flying sieve" of the Marine *Deathbrattler* squadron has limped home again, this time carrying 44 holes picked up by a pilot on his 44th mission.

Maj. Richard E. Pryor was piloting the *Corsair* on his 44th combat hop when he was hit by .37 mm cannon, damaging the right flap and splattering fragments in his right knee and hand. After he was given medical treatment at his field, he went out to ask how many holes he had picked up.

Just the week before Maj. Orville R. Swick was flying the same fighter when it was hit by AA on the left side. They stopped counting holes after they reached a hundred.



THIS LOOKS like Miami Beach's skyline, but it's Communist supplies and gear loaded on barges along a quay wall in North Korea; Navy planes are blasting it with rockets, 20mm's