

Mock Jet Air War Preps Defenders of Northwest

(Editor's note: The following story was written by a United Press staff correspondent who flew in a jet interceptor during "Operation Whistock," an air force training exercise under way in the Pacific northwest.)

By WARREN FRANKLIN
Moses Lake, Wash., June 22 (AP)—The jet plane defenders of the Pacific northwest are here to stay. But the sleek, menacing fighters do not stay very long in one place.
These 20th century marvels of air power are feature actors in the air forces' "Operation Whistock," a lightning fast training exercise played high in the sky.

B-36 Bombers To Fly Pacific

Honolulu, T. H., June 22 (AP)—Hickam Field air force officers said today seven B-36 bombers from the U. S. mainland will land at Honolulu airport Friday following "long-range navigation and training exercises over Pacific Islands."

Names of the islands or the course the big bombers will fly was not disclosed.
AF officers here said the flight will be the first in a series of "routine training flights over the Pacific area" by heavy bombers of the strategic air command.

Brig. Gen. C. S. Irvine of Carswell Field, Tex., will lead the mission. Irvine piloted the Pacusan Dreamboat—a B-29—over the North Pole during its record-setting distance flight from Honolulu to Cairo in 1946.

The Hickam field announcement followed a release from air force headquarters in Washington which said several B-36s now at Fairfield-Suisun AFB, Calif., would take off "in the next few days" for training flights over the Pacific.

The air force emphasized that operation whistock is an exercise to train pilots, ground personnel and radar units in split-second cooperation and coordination. This, the air force said, is necessary to repel a possible enemy striking force.

Unofficially, the battle score has been overwhelmingly in favor of the jet defenders.

Flying with Lt. Cochran also was an elementary lesson in Pacific northwest geography. Above the 30,000-foot level, our flying time from here to Spokane—120 miles—was less than 15 minutes.

Below, spread out in high relief, were Grand Coulee dam, Dry Falls, Lake Chelan and the winding Columbia river.

Jets have been operating from both the Moses Lake base, recently renamed Larsen Air Force base, and Paine Field near Everett, Wash. Two full squadrons, the 81st from this desert field and the 325th all-weather unit from McChord air force base near Tacoma, have been split for the combined operation.

Divided into wing sections of four, the modern fighters will scramble beyond sight of northwest residents for the remainder of this week.

They offer encouraging rebuttal to recent statements that this section of the United States is "expedient."

Orchestra Conductor Joins Trains Heckling

Omaha, June 22 (AP)—If you can't beat 'em, better join 'em. That's what Omaha symphony orchestra conductor Richard Duncan decided about the train that invariably puffs and whistles past Peony Park in the middle of the orchestra's outdoor summer "pops" concerts.

When the train chugged past Tuesday night, Duncan donned an engineer's cap and highballed his crew into the tune, "Casey Jones." The train's whistle provided sound effects.

Bus Strike Called Off
Havana, Cuba, June 22 (AP)—Cuban bus operators have called off a nation-wide strike set for today, upon assurance from President Carlos Prio Socarras that he would solve their bitter dispute with taxicab drivers.

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