

Seaplanes Based on Water May Solve Airfield Lack

Paris—(U.P.)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower might be able to solve the airfield shortage plaguing western defense plans by building a fleet of jet seaplanes and basing them on the water, British aviation sources believe.

Furthermore, they said, the cost would be a fraction of the millions of dollars necessary for the present continental airfield program that is not going well.

Moreover, they continued, the seaborne jets could flip easily from one European lake to another and would be less susceptible to Russian observation on easily camouflaged bodies of water.

The British aviation company Saunders Roe Ltd. is experimenting with speedy, water-based jet fighters and giant jet-powered flying boats that could become sea-based atom bombers.

3 Fighters Completed

Three of the fighters have been completed and tested under various conditions. Although the engines now powering the planes are slow by today's almost sonic

standards, the company feels better engines could be put in.

The fighters pack a potent battery of four 20-millimeter cannon and are pressurized for high altitude interception.

The flying boats are the three giant "Princess class" ships that statistics show could do the work of nine troopships over a given route in a given time because they carry several hundred men and their equipment so fast.

An all jet version of the flying boat type could easily form the basis for an atom bomber, aviation circles believe.

Britain Interested

Britain cold-shouldered for a time the Saunders Roe experiments. With the present European snag over airfields, defense planners are reported taking a second look at the seaborne jets.

Farmers now don't want to give up their land for airfield construction. European governments are complaining about the price of modern airfields with their runways big enough to land jets.

It is virtually impossible to disguise a runway. A lake on which the seaplanes would be based would look about like any other lake, the experts say.

A bomb attack can knock out a runway for considerable time but would have practically no effect on the water, they reason.

Medford Student Named FTA Leader

Ashland—Elayne Leach, Medford, was elected president of the Future Teachers of America club at Southern Oregon college Monday. She will succeed Ken Mohny, Salem, in the leadership of one of the largest campus organizations.

Also elected were Marilyn Wurn, vice-president; Dorothy Warren, Selma, secretary; Joan Burke, Medford, corresponding secretary; Lester Cingcade, Oakland, treasurer; Donald Vinsant, Ashland, publicity chairman; Vera Selby, Ashland, program chairman; Larry Johnson, Malin, historian; and Alverna Gillespie, Medford, librarian.

Miss Leach was graduated from Medford high school where she was active in the Una P. Inch FTA club. She has served as librarian of the SOC chapter and is currently acting as treasurer of the Associated Student body.

Talent School Spring Play Announced Today

Talent — "Growing Pains," a three-act comedy, has been selected as the spring play at Talent high school. It was announced today. The play will be directed by Ruby Messenger and Benjamin Benedict.

Members of the cast will include Earl Tycksen, Doreen Burnette, Carol Zediker, Willis Zumwalt, Welma Bench, Ruth Garrett, Fern Davis, Bill Eagle, Jim Bergren, Kenneth Robinson, Bob Seymour, Bob Carter, Shirley Cowdrey, Joyce Chapman, Rosemary Sullivan, Joanne Seaver and Sally Boyd.

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