

Air Force 'Toss Bombing' Test In Florida Declared Successful

By MURRAY M. MOLER
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The U. S. Air Force has devised a new, novel, supersonic, under-radar range way of delivering its nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons.

They call it "toss bombing," and are mighty proud of it. The pilots should be proud. The system calls for them to "drop" their "A" and "H" bombs "on the way up."

It isn't as accurate as the traditional method of bombing from level flight at high altitude, or the "skip" and "dive" bombing methods used at times in World War II and in Korea.

But with the mass destructive power of the awesome nuclear weapons, a miss of a mile or so is almost as good as a hit.

The "toss" bombing technique was displayed by Air Force fighter-bombers and medium bombers recently at an Air Force "fire power demonstration" at the vast Air Proving Grounds in north-western Florida.

Special bombs were used for the show. They had light charges of conventional TNT in them so they made a vigorous "boom" when they hit.

The practice bombs were loaded with red smoke so their trajectory could be traced easily as the devices left the bomb bays, so a red through low-hanging clouds up into the sky and then back on their mock targets.

Different Angles
There were four runs over the toss-bombing course, with different toss angles employed on each.

The first three missions were flown by F-100 Super-Sabre fighter-bombers that earlier in the same demonstration had shown how easily they could exceed the speed of sound in "normal" flight.

On the initial mission, Capt. John Van Matre bombed a simulated concentration of enemy troops in a wooded area that was "heavily defended." The idea was to "bomb" the "troops" without flying over the defended area.

Van Matre approached at a height just over the tops of the scrub pine dotting the proving ground. At his height, he would be most difficult to spot on radar.

About a mile from his objective, he pulled up at a 60-degree angle and released his 1,000-pound bomb, then increased his angle, twisted and sped away at supersonic speed.

The smoke-trailing bomb he had lobbed described a reddish

arc high into the sky, then dropped into the woods. By the time it struck, Van Matre was well away from potential danger that could be caused by nuclear bombs rocking the sky through which he was flying.

Lieut. Col. William B. Colgan flew an F-100 on the second mission, employing a 90-degree delivery angle. Officers explained that "this type of release is used whenever the target is more difficult to recognize or whenever there is less concentration of ground defense, thus permitting the fighter to approach the target more closely."

Colgan pulled up sharply over the target and released his bomb while flying straight up. Then he, too, scurried beyond shock range. The weapon rose to an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 feet—evidence it had been unloaded at high speed—wavered at its apex, then dropped right on the target. "Over the Shoulder"

Maj. John W. Farrow had even more problems on his third, 110-degree bomb delivery. He had to toss "over the shoulder."

Farrow approached low but flew right over the target and beyond it before pulling up and, while slightly on his back, unloading the bomb. It "chased" him for a while before Farrow got out of range and the weapon slammed back to earth.

This type of release, it was explained, must be used whenever poor visibility or terrain conditions require that the attacking aircraft fly directly over the target in order to identify it.

The fourth demonstration was by a B-57 medium bomber—the American version of the British



TESTIMONY is being heard by Navy Board at Great Lakes Training Station, Ill., on death of M. G. Everett, 17, McKenzie, Tenn., after a disciplinary drill in hot weather. (International)

A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.) — What's new in Washington: Richard M. Nelson, a science teacher at Ft. Lauderdale County High School, Kailispell, Mont., brought two of his students here. One of the boys, Gary Miller, 17, presented President Eisenhower with a "decision meter." Sounds interesting and worth looking into.

Representative James C. Wright, a Texas Democrat, tells in his news letter about a poll that was taken in a certain state (certainly not Texas). One of the questions was "Do you think this state should have voting machines?" One fellow answered: "Definitely not! I think people ought to vote for themselves."

James P. Richards, a Democrat from South Carolina, is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He tried to point out to reporters why it is impossible to predict what his group would do to the President's \$4,900,000,000 foreign aid program.

"Solomon," said the congressman, "in all his wisdom, described as three mysteries which passat understanding—the way a snake crawls, the way an eagle flies, and the way of a maid with a man. Solomon lived in the days of absolute monarchy and he never dealt with a congressional committee. If he did, he would have named it as the fourth mystery."

(Editor's note: The committee cut the program by \$1,100,000,000.)

Miss Sally Freed, an employee of Bergdorf Goodman of New York, has come up with a new

perfume which she has named "Bergdorf No. 9." Miss Freed grew up in the coal fields of Pennsylvania, and her daddy went down in the shafts every day. Old No. 9, for sure. Probably the first perfume ever named after a coal mine. But it smells mighty good.

Sen. Bob Kerr, an Oklahoma Democrat, claims that his size 13 shoes—his favorites—have been half-soled four times. He loves them, he told his constituents, and doesn't want to part with them. But pressure comes from the family.

"Perhaps," the senator concludes, "if I could persuade my wife that my old shoes have all the merits of fine antiques, I might succeed in using them as long as body and sole hang together."

Mrs. Kerr runs an antique shop in old Georgetown.

Topics, the company magazine of the Texas and Southern Railroad, quotes a book by a Texan called "The Real Facts About Appomattox."

According to the author (legend, doubtless) and damn Yankees hauled up in front of the court house out of breath from chasing the Confederates all over the place. General Lee, who had in mind running up to Washington and putting the stars and bars atop the White House, was taking a short nap. In walked a gentleman name of General Grant.

Lee, so goes the legend, didn't recognize the enemy; thought he had a new orderly. So he handed Grant a sword and said "Polish her." The general from the North, thinking Lee had surrendered said "Thanky, man" in the best Northern manner.

According to the Texas teller of tales, "Grant even thanked Lee for surrendering, and being a true Southern gentleman, Lee couldn't go back on his word."

It'll be a long time before that war is over.

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jet-powered Canberra bomber—piloted by Capt. David O. Stegall of the Air Proving Ground command. He released at a 45-degree angle to show that bombers, as well as fighters, can play in the toss-bomb league. Five members of the Russian air attache's staff from Washington were in the stands during the demonstration as guests, along with other nations' representatives and members of Congress and of the U.S. Air Force. Rep. William A. Dawson (R-Utah) said that on the way from

the main Elgin base—there are 11 individual bases on the proving ground—to the demonstration range, the Russians "bragged continually about their air power. "We showed them we had plenty to brag about ourselves," Dawson said with a grim smile upon conclusion of the demonstration which included bomb drops by B-52's and delta-winged F-102's as well as by many other craft.

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