

Sidewinder, Navy's Newest Air Missile, Blasts Enemy Aircraft

By GLENN STACKHOUSE
United Press Correspondent

China Lake Calif.—(U.P.)—A crimson-colored World War II Hellcat fighter roared across the Mojave Desert wasteland under a high overcast of clouds, heading for a rendezvous with death less than 60 seconds away.

Out of the clouds, screaming like its namesake, came a Navy delta wing Demon jet fighter. For a few moments it swallowed up the intervening distance. Then, still a good two miles from its prey, it unleashed a pencil shaped missile and banked away sharply as though no longer interested in the affair.

There was a brief streak of fire and smoke as the missile left the plane and speared like a javelin at the fleeing drone. It moved so fast it literally vanished. Only a small ball of orange fire and an obscene wailing shriek marked its passing. Destroyed!

In two blinks of an eye the ball of fire caught up with the obsolete fighter. The red plane was blotted out for a second in a puff of white smoke. There was an explosion like a sonic boom. Then, so broken and gut-

ted it was hardly recognizable, the plane fluttered to the earth in a flat spin and struck the desert with a black and orange explosion.

Some 200 newsmen and television cameramen assembled for the first public demonstration of the Sidewinder, the Navy's newest and most deadly air to air guided missile, were almost too stunned to applaud.

It was like watching a championship fight that ended in a knockout in the first minute of the first round. It was over almost before they realized what had happened.

This truly terrible new weapon, named for a small but deadly desert rattlesnake, has been an operational arm of the Navy since last October.

Like Eight Inch Gun
Conceived and developed by Dr. William B. McLean, civilian technical director of this big Navy research, development and testing center, it is nine feet long and five inches in diameter and hits its target with the explosive force of an eight inch naval gun.

Although the inner secrets of this weirdly inhuman electronic brain are classified, it has been

described as "heat homing device" operating on the same general principle as the electronic eye which opens a super market door when a customer breaks its' beam.

The all important pilot's point of view was voiced by Lt. Cmdr. Glenn A. Tierney, a combat veteran of two wars, who acted as commentator for the demonstration.

Tierney, of North Bergen, N.J., is the boss of China Lake's guided missile training unit. He has fired more of the Sidewinders in simulated combat than any other man.

End of Dog Fight
He said that the advent of the Sidewinder virtually signals the end of the aerial "dog fight" between opposing fighters, the glamor combat which had its birth in World War I and came to its' climax in the stratospheric struggles between the Russian built Mig 15s and the U. S. Sabrejets over Korea.

"It is no longer necessary for a fighter to go in and tangle with the enemy at close range," he said. "With the Sidewinder, a subsonic fighter can easily intercept and knock down a supersonic bomber."

"A pilot with a Sidewinder is like a fighter going into the ring with a six foot reach over the other guy," he said.

With the F9F Cougar jet, the Navy's standard carrier fighter, for instance, a pilot armed with the missile can blast anything the enemy owns out of the sky.

"If we had Sidewinders in Korea, it would have been a slaughter," Tierney said.

Escape Impossible
Once the Sidewinder scents its prey and is unleashed, the wildest evasive maneuvers of an enemy plane are fruitless.

If the enemy swings into an 8 G turn, the Sidewinder automatically cuts a 12 G turn to head him off; if the enemy climbs, the Sidewinder climbs higher and faster, if the enemy dives, the Sidewinder dives steeper and is waiting to meet him.

"The Sidewinder will chase him all the way home and under the bed," Tierney said with a grin.

This terrible new weapon with its' implacable killer instincts, poses one problem, however, Tierney said. It makes the identification factor mighty important.

"Before you cut loose the Sidewinder, you've got to be all fired sure that it is pointed at an enemy and not a friendly plane that looks similar. The Sidewinder makes no distinction between wing markings," Tierney said.

"If you cut one loose at your wing man by mistake, the only thing you can do is holler: 'Sam, you've got four seconds to eject!'"

Nuclear Power for Space Travel Needed, Fuel Expert Claims

Chicago—(U.P.)—Dr. Vincent J. Cushing will take a dim view of space travel until nuclear power can be adapted to space ships.

Cushing, an expert on propulsion, believes it would be downright unwise to attempt a trip to the moon in a rocket ship powered by conventional fuels.

"The chemical fuel available now is so restricted in terms of power that nearly all of the rocket would have to be fuel, Cushing said. "But he added:

"If we could adapt nuclear power to rocket ships, space flight would be as simple as sending present day planes up to 75,000 feet."

In such a ship, he said, a trip to the moon would take about three and a half hours.

Fusion More Adaptable
Cushing, head of propulsion and fluid research at Armour Research Foundation, Illinois Institute of Technology, said there are two nuclear power processes to be considered, fission and fusion.

Although fission is being used now to power submarines, Cushing said he doubts it would be practical for space ships because present nuclear reactors require heavy load or concrete shielding to bottle up harmful radiation.

Cushing believes, fusion, the process used in the H bomb but as yet unharnessed in the laboratory, holds greater promise for space flight. The process produces energy the same way the sun does, by fusing hydrogen atoms to form helium atoms.

20 Years More Research
The fusion process creates no great radiation problems, Cushing said, but it requires "fantastically high" temperatures.

Thus, he said, engineers would have to develop a combustion chamber that would stand up to this extreme heat, and an ejection nozzle that would withstand the heat of the gasses shot out the rear.

As Cushing envisioned it, hydrogen and helium atoms would be squirted out the rear of the rocket to provide the forward thrust.

Acknowledging the difficulties, he nevertheless said: "If we are able to develop this process, there will be no holding us to Earth."

When will the technological breakthrough come that will make it possible to adapt nuclear power to rocket ships?

Nobody knows, but Cushing's guess is 15 to 20 years.

Civil Service Exams Announced for Positions
Exams for qualifications of chemists in various federal agencies in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington has been announced by the civil service commission. Applications also are being accepted for a medical officer in federal agencies in the Northwest.

Additional information and application forms may be obtained from Chester Silliman at the Medford post office.

A TIGHT SITUATION
Holywood — (U.P.) — Messenger girls at Universal-International studios have appealed a ruling from the front office which instructed them not to wear clothing such as tuxedo pants, Bermuda shorts or other tight-fitting apparel. "The girls wore them too well, or the clothes fit them too snugly, and this proved a distraction," a studio spokesman said in explaining the ruling.

Senate Ratifies Klamath Compact
Salem — (U.P.) — The Oregon Senate has passed unanimously a bill to ratify the Klamath River Basin Compact between Oregon and California on use of waters of the basin.

The measure now goes to the House. The California Legislature also is acting upon ratification. If both Oregon and California ratify the compact, it then goes to Congress for approval.

The Senate also passed, with only four dissenting votes, Senate bill 56 boosting the minimum salaries for school teachers. The measure now goes to the House.

An additional district judge for Lane county is provided in Senate bill 179, passed by the Senate with only two dissenting votes. Lane county now has one district judge and Sen. Donald R. Husband of Eugene said the work load had become too heavy that an additional district judge was needed.

McCarthy Shunned By Eisenhower Party

Washington — (U.P.) — President and Mrs. Eisenhower smilingly held a full-dress party Tuesday night for every member of Congress but one — Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy.

McCarthy's name was nowhere to be found on the official guest list for the traditional White House reception for Congress and government agency officials.

It was the second time McCarthy did not make the list. He was not invited to the last congressional reception held in 1955—the year of the Army-McCarthy feud.

Nor was omission of his name Tuesday night any error. Mary Jane McCaffree, Mrs. Eisenhower's secretary, referred questions about McCarthy not being invited to Presidential Press Secretary James C. Hagerty.

"It's true," Hagerty said. "I have no further comment."

SEVEN FLEE BLIMP FIRE
Weeksville, N.C.—(U.P.)—Seven men escaped by leaping to safety when fire destroyed a 250-foot blimp at the naval air facility here Tuesday night.



IT'S A CLIP JOB—Sharon Dralle, secretary of the San Francisco Publicity Clinic being conducted at the University of San Francisco, is literally deluged with press clippings to be used during the one-day clinic. Pacific Coast publicity representatives are attending the sessions which are sponsored by 10 major Bay Area business organizations to call attention to the effective roll publicity plays in today's commerce and industry. Top radio, TV and newspapermen are addressing the gathering.

Senator Promises To Fight Mineral Taxes

Salem — (U.P.) — Sen. Dwight Hopkins, Imbler Democrat, declared today that he would fight House bill 319 to place a 4 per cent severance tax on all minerals produced from soil and water in Oregon.

"It seems absurd," Hopkins said, "that when a prospector does find a good metal worth even up to \$100 a ton, he can't persuade a company to come to Oregon to develop it because of the power and tax situation. Mining companies will never be

Interested in the development of Oregon's minerals as long as they are the target for excessive taxes."

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PINK VARIETIES	TWO-TONE VARIETIES
Picture—Rose Pink Pink Delight—Deep Pink Radiance—Cameo Pink Countess Vandal—Copper bronze pink Rapture—Deep Pink Briarcliff—Silvery Pink Margo Koster—Dwarf—Salmon Pink	Tailman—Yellow—Copper President Hoover—Maroon-Gold Autumn—Burnt Sienna Candace de Sastao—Copper-pink
ORANGE VARIETIES	
Mrs. Sam McGredy—Orange salmon Duquesne de Penderane—Apricot Golden Salmon—Cluster—Orange	Mrs. E. P. Thoms—Lemon Yellow Golden Emblem—Rich Yellow Yellow Cecile Brunner—Small Yellow Gardenia—Pointed Yellow Bud Tailman—Golden Yellow President Hoover—Maroon-Orange V. A. Victoria—Pure White Silver Moon—Semi Double large Wichuriana—Starry White

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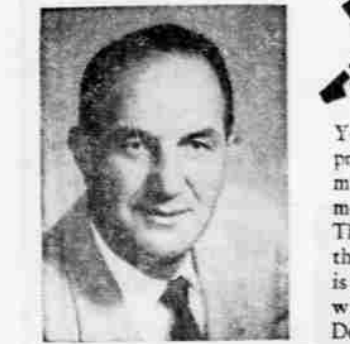
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