

Navy Patrol Planes Decrease Unknown Factors in Far East Areas

By ALBERT AXELBANK

Naha, Okinawa - (UPI) - An unidentified object, possibly a Communist submarine, was picked up on the radar scope of a U.S. Navy patrol plane over the Bashi channel, south of the Formosa strait.

In a fraction of a second, the information was passed over the intercom to the pilot, Lt. Commander Charles D. Gilpin, Rock Springs, Wyo. D. Gilpin, a P-2V Neptune, was a passenger aboard the Navy plane, a P-2V Neptune, one of a squadron of planes specially fitted for submarine detection.

"Target now bearing 29.1 at 29 miles," Radarman Alvin R. Reeder, of Festus, Mo., said in a dry voice without any emotion.

The big plane, clogged with some 1,500 pieces of electronic equipment, dropped to 500 feet above the choppy dark blue water.

In two and a quarter minutes the "object" was sighted through binoculars by Gerald D. Naxwell, Jonesboro, La., who sat in the fuselage nose. Then Gilpin, 38, a veteran pilot of two wars and more than 5,000 flying hours, saw it with his naked eye.

It was a cargo ship flying the Japanese flag.

As our plane passed the ship broadside some three miles away, Hugh E. Hanna, 28, of Richmond, Calif., peered through the sight of a 120mm camera and made a motion picture to be developed later.

Noticeable Tension

The Laos crisis added a noticeable tension to the plane's mission, which, in wartime, would be to combat enemy subs.

Crewmen Frank Schreffler, 21, Compton, Calif., put it this way:

"The Laos crisis could mean an extension in the Navy for me. I'm more aware of the fact we might get into a hot war. Until recently, there's been a lackadaisical attitude among us. Now we are more aware our squadron is performing a vital mission."

The squadron is part of the Formosa patrol force which usually includes a destroyer division, a seaplane tender and several squadrons of land and water based patrol aircraft. As a unit of the U.S. Seventh Fleet the Squadron's mission is to detect any evidence of Communist aggression against the Republic of China.

Schreffler agreed with other crewmen that "we are the only way for the United States to get knowledge of ships to and from Red China. Over a long period, we get some idea of Communist Chinese strength."

Better Survival Chance

If a "hot" war erupted in the Formosa strait, U.S. and allied ships would have a better chance for survival because of this and other P-2V Neptunes.

"Our mission," Schreffler said, "is about as important as you can get. Without it we will have a blind spot. We'd be giving the U.S. another unknown factor and we have too many of these already."

Back at 1,000 feet over the Formosa strait a 198-pound sailor sat down at the rear of the plane and began peeling a garlic pod with a long blade knife.

This was Hanna, the photographer, who is also known affectionately to his crewmates as "our stewardess."

He was preparing a spaghetti lunch for the 12-man crew and this correspondent. The spaghetti was not from a can. Nor was the piping hot tomato sauce which was simmering on a small stove in the plane's galley.

I asked Hanna where he learned to cook.

He didn't have time to answer.

The radarman spotted an unidentified object dead ahead about 30 miles. Lt. (jg) Kenneth L. Busch, 25, of Washington, D.C. plotted it on his navigational chart. Hanna dropped his knife, laid the garlic pod aside and pulled the bulky camera into place in front of him. His subject: A freshly painted oil tanker churning through the strait.

Adjustment Eased

Then he got back to his cooking - 10 pounds of spaghetti, apples, tomato juice and coffee for this meal.

Co-pilot Lt. (jg) Roger Hunt, 25, of Los Angeles, eased the adjustment of his revolver in its new blond leather shoulder holster as he sat down to eat.

"Hanna must have some Italian blood in him," cracked Talmage Creech, 35, of Middesex, N.C., first class aviation mechanic and plane captain.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

SOME PROSPECTS TO SEE THE HOUSE MAY I SHOW THEM AROUND?

YEH-YEH...BOO-HOO...BUT IT BREAKS OUR HEART...BOO-HOO...TO EVEN THINK OF SELLING IT...WE'VE (SOB) BEEN SO HAPPY HERE...

YES...YOU SEE...DEAR OL' GRAN'PA BUILT IT... (SNIFF-SNIFF) THAT'S GRAN'PA THERE...

WHENEVER A PROSPECT LOOKED AT THEIR HOUSE THE FOOSTERS CRIED AS THO' THEIR HEARTS WERE BREAKING...

WAHOO!! WE FINALLY UNLOADED THE OLD CRATE!!

THEN THE DEAL WAS CLOSED... AND YIPPEE... BYE-BYE TEARS... JOY REIGNS SUPREME...

THANK AND A TIP OF THE HATLO HAT TO CLARENCE DOHONEY, PARK BLVD., LEE, MASS.

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Government Records Accumulated Faster Than They Can Be Destroyed

NO FAVORABLE BALANCE

By DICK WEST

Washington - (UPI) - Of all the government jobs that I don't covet, the one I don't

covet the most is the one held by Dr. Wayne C. Grover, our national archivist.

As head of the nation's principal parchment repository, it is part of his sworn duty to try to throw away federal records faster than the rest of the government can produce them.

There is considerable doubt that Grover will ever be able to achieve a favorable balance, mainly because the rest of the government has too

much of a head start.

Nevertheless, he is making some headway, which is to say that he is not losing ground as rapidly as he once did. Last year, for instance, the volume of records in his custody only increased by some 240,000 cubic feet.

13.5 Million Cubic Feet

According to figures submitted this week to a House subcommittee, the federal government now has about 13.5 million cubic feet of records in offices of various agencies throughout the world.

This is enough to fill 2.6 million filing cabinets, occupying more than 13 million square feet.

I haven't figured the thing out exactly, but I feel safe in saying that if all of those fil-

ing cabinets were placed end to end, they would stretch farther than your imagination.

This total, big as it is, does not include the non-current records that are turned over to the archives for safekeeping or eventual disposal.

All in all, Grover told the subcommittee, the paper volume for the last four or five years "has run pretty close to 24 million cubic feet."

Many Records Destroyed

"How much has the disposal program reduced space requirements for the government records?" inquired Rep. Joe L. Evins (D-Tenn.).

"The last 10 years of this program has resulted in the destruction of at least 30 million cubic feet of records," Grover replied.

The archivist had to concede, however, that this commendable feat did not, in reality, did not greatly reduce the volume in the filing cabinets.

About all that the disposal program accomplished was to prevent the agencies from being buried in their own paperwork.

Grover pointed out that "we are taking the paychecks from the old Liberty Loan building at the rate of a million and a half a day."

The checks must be retained for eight years, he said, and the Liberty Loan building itself is not big enough to hold all of the checks that accumulate in that time.

Besides all of this, the National Archives permanently preserves a billion and a half historical records. What is more, when the Civil War records were turned over to the Archives, it somehow became custodian of Jefferson Davis' spurs.

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