

# North Korean Pilot Flies Allies First Korea MIG 15

## 'Toughest Rodeo' To Include 'Chute Jump By Convict

HUNTSVILLE, Tex. (AP)—Convict Barney Thurman flies over the Texas Prison walls as easily as inmates singing "The Prisoner's Song" dream about it. Then he jumps back inside—from 1,500 feet up.

He'll do it four times next month, with the warden's approval, as a stunt for the Texas Prison Rodeo. The 22nd annual show will be held each Sunday in October. As usual, all performers in what is billed as the roughest rodeo in the world will be convicts.

Thurman, 38, arrived at the prison from Kilgore, Tex., last November on a forgery rap. About a month ago he became a trusty in the prison store.

Then he sent word to prison Gen. Manager O. B. Ellis that he knows nothing about riding broncos or brahman bulls but he sure would like to stand the customers' hair on end at the rodeo by making a parachute jump into the arena.

Thurman said that besides being a former welder and baseball pitcher, he's an ex-paratrooper who has made 37 military jumps, including one at a county fair, since leaving the service.

Ellis liked the idea of the rodeo jumps. He got approval from the Civil Aeronautics Authority. Thurman signed a waiver to protect the prison system in case anything goes wrong in his weekly leaps from 1,500 feet.

Thurman made a practice jump yesterday—his first in two years.

By SAM SUMMERLIN and FRED WATERS

## Money-Hider's \$3,278 Returned

SEATTLE (AP)—A daring North Korean pilot today handed the allies a sleek MIG 15 jet fighter—the deadly Red warplane for which the United States offered \$100,000 last February.

The MIG's guns were still armed when it raced unheralded from North Korea and made a perfect landing at sprawling Kimpo Air Base near Seoul.

It was the first MIG to fall into Allied hands in Korea. The Russian-built, swept-wing fighters never left their own air over Red territory during the war.

The U.N. Command said the \$100,000 reward for the first MIG to bolt to the Allies is still in effect.

BALTIMORE (AP)—George Gercazak, who put all his cash in one basket and then sold the basket back to him for \$3,278 thanks to the honesty of a farmer.

The 63-year-old Gercazak had reported last Friday the money was in a bag on a pile of bushel baskets in his produce store and apparently was left in one of 33 baskets he sold to a stranger.

Fred Schalle, Randallstown, Md. farmer, showed up at a police station with the bag of money shortly after reading of Gercazak's plight.

He said the cash was among the baskets when he unloaded them and he figured the man who lost the money would tell the newspapers.

So he watched the papers—and Gercazak got his money back.

There was no quick reaction from the Communists. At first the Allies refused to identify the pilot, but later in Tokyo, Gen. O. P. Weyland, Far East Air Force commander, said he was a North Korean.

Weyland announced: "The jet was from a 'North Korean air unit.' It is being studied by U. S. Air Force officers.

The pilot's name will not be revealed unless he personally consents. The North Korean will be granted asylum if he wants it.

The pilot disappeared behind a tight wall of secrecy and Kimpo Air Base was closed to everyone but authorized military personnel.

A psychological warfare colonel near Seoul said American Sabre jets met the MIG over the southern boundary of the demilitarized strip across the Korean peninsula and escorted the Red fighter to Seoul.

However, the MIG apparently caught Kimpo Air Base by surprise. A crowd scurried out to the runway after the plane stopped.

The pilot was described as short and black-haired. An American pilot who met him said the flier pulled a picture of a girl from his blue flying suit and tore it up. The American pieced together the shreds of the picture, which he said "looked like a North Korean."

Col. Don P. Hall of Kingsville, Tex., commander of the 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing, said the pilot

was "smiling and very happy it was over with." Hall said the MIG pilot got out of his plane and immediately saluted Capt. Cipriano F. Guerra, Mission, Tex.

"The captain was quite surprised," Hall said. "He got out of his Sabre jet and walked over to the MIG 15. A crewman threw sandbags under the wheels.

"The MIG pilot shook hands with all the men. The captain pointed toward the gun on the MIG and the MIG pilot turned off the switch. Air police immediately surrounded the plane and the MIG pilot accepted cigarettes that were offered to him by those milling around."

Asked why the pilot brought the MIG, Hall quoted him: "I'm happy to leave communism. It is believed he knew of the reward," Hall said.

The pilot's first words were reported to be "O.K." His only other word in English was "no." Hall said his clothing was "non-descript. . . a blue-colored flying suit, a leather jacket and light colored shirt and flying boots."

The pilot was armed, but he turned over his loaded pistol to Guerra. Hall said the Red pilot is about 25 years old and an officer.

Asked what the Air Force planned to do with the MIG Hall explained: "I do not know if we will fly the MIG but we will get the most out of it. We definitely will go

over it from all angles in a thorough examination." Hall said the plane may be taken to the United States for testing but indicated this had not been decided.

A spokesman said the Air Force has made pictures of the plane but they will not be released. The MIG pilot was escorted into wing headquarters and given sandwiches and coffee.

Lt. Gen. Samuel Anderson, 8th Air Force commander, and other top officers sped to talk with him. The pilot reportedly declined to meet newsmen.

The MIG was placed in a hangar by itself, ringed by armed air police.

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The \$100,000 offer was deemed by radio to the north for days in February with instructions on how to proceed. Leaflets were dropped over North Korea.

There were no takers then. The MIG is not the first to fall into Western hands—two others were landed in Denmark by bolted Polish pilots—but it is the first

ever taken in Korea and the first the West can keep for a thorough testing. The two MIGs flown to Denmark were damaged in landing. They also had to be given back to Poland.

Apparently the MIG surrendered in Korea will be considered a war prize.

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