

# F84 IS LAUNCHED FROM BIG BOMBER

## AF Announces Use of B36 as Mother Plane

(Picture on Page 1)  
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AP Aviation Reporter

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (AP)—The Air Force announced today that the B36 bomber can take off or land with an F84 jet fighter in its belly.

The B36, world's biggest and heaviest known bomber, also can release or recover the fighter in flight.

The Air Force also disclosed that new models of the giant B36 have been equipped with more powerful engines and can take off at weights up to 400,000 pounds.

That is almost three times the maximum takeoff weight of the B29, and more than double that of the six-jet B47 bomber. It is approximately the equivalent in weight of 170 Cessna L19 training planes.

### Added Horsepower

Heretofore, the maximum takeoff weight of the B36 has been listed at 358,000 pounds. The B36D, most recent model yet identified, has six 3,500-horsepower piston engines in addition to four jet engines. The Air Force said more recent and as yet unidentified models of the B36 have an additional 300 horsepower for each piston engine.

An Air Force spokesman said development of the B36 as a mother plane for fighter aircraft greatly increases the Air Force's capability for long-range, high-speed reconnaissance, and extends the potential useful life of the B36 indefinitely.

Other sources pointed out that if the B36 can launch a fighter plane, it also should be able to

launch guided missiles, to extend their range.

Sen. Johnson (D-Colo.) recently described the B36 as "a great plane, but obsolete." He said 342 of them had been produced.

**In-Flight Photos**  
The Air Force released in-flight photographs, for the first time, of the Republic F84F in position in the bomb bay of a B36; approaching the B36 for recovery operations; and in the act of being retracted by metal harness into the bomber.

It was explained that the fighter is lowered out of the bomb bay on a tripod arrangement before its engine is started. To guard against inadvertent loss of the smaller plane, it is not released until its engine has been started.

The announcement said an F84 will be launched publicly from a B36, for the first time, at the National Aircraft Show at Dayton, Ohio, early next month.

**Can Carry 'Nuclear Devices'**  
Both the B36 and the F84 have been described by the Defense Department as capable of carrying "nuclear devices"—atomic bombs. Both also are equipped for in-flight refueling from tanker airplanes.

The B36, with six piston engines and four jet engines, has a speed of "over 435 miles an hour." Critics have said this is too slow for the age of pure-jet speeds.

The F84F, swept-wing version of the F84, flies faster than 600 miles an hour. Its combat radius is about 850 miles, compared with a combat radius for the B36 of more than 4,000 miles and an over-all range of 10,000 miles with a 10,000-pound bomb dropped midway.

Thus, the slower, longer range B36 could carry its parasite fighter to within range of a photo-reconnaissance or A-bomb target, release it—and then retrieve it after the fighter had made its swift dash to the target.

The B36 also could carry a fighter along for whatever air defense against enemy interception such a fighter might be able to provide.

The Air Force said in a news release that the B-36-F84F development marks the first known accomplishment of flying a full-size combat plane from a mother aircraft.

**Began Work in '50**  
Research planes such as the Bell X1 have been launched repeatedly from Boeing B29s, but are unable to return to the mother plane and must land on their own.

In a research program a few years ago a tiny experimental parasite airplane, the McDonnell XF85, was launched and retrieved from a B29.

The Air Force said the B36-F84 experiments began in 1950, under the direction of the Air Research and Development Command. They were conducted in cooperation with Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp., Fort Worth, Tex., builder of the B36, and Republic Aviation Corp., Farmingdale, N. Y.

A year and a half ago a sharp-eyed newsman at Fort Worth saw a small plane drop from a B36 and wrote a story about it.

The result was that the Air Force relaxed secrecy about the project sufficiently only to admit that an F84 had been launched in flight from a B36.

Some experts speculated that the parasite plane was attached to the wing of the B36. The photographs released today settled that point.

One of them shows the F84 riding well up within the huge bomb bay, like a bird snuggled up almost completely into an inverted nest.

# 'Seems Like Bad Dream,' Says Soldier Back Home

## Orleanian Tells of Life in Red Prison Camp

The first Korean war prisoner to return home to New Orleans said Tuesday that "it all seems like a bad dream."

Sgt. Joseph R. Burns, Negro, 1415 Foy Park, said he was still hazy about many details of prison life.

"I've been trying to forget it all," he added.

He arrived home about 6 p. m. Monday and was greeted by his mother, uncle, cousins, and friends after a three-year separation from home which began in August, 1950, when he left for Korea.

During the 32 months in North Korean prison camps, Burns said, "I suffered mostly from loneliness and a longing to get back home."

The 23-year-old sergeant was captured in November, 1950, about three months after he got to Korea. He served in the communications section of an artillery battalion.

He said the capture happened so fast that all he remembers is that the Reds overran his position and almost before anyone knew what happened, they were prisoners.

"Our prison camp food was mostly a poor grade of rice and mouldy beans mixed with rocks. My teeth are shot because of the rocks," he said.

"We were also fed propaganda in a number of different forms. But most of the boys didn't fall for it."

Burns' weight dropped from 187 to 149 pounds while he was a prisoner. But now his weight has gone up to 175.

Of prison life, Burns added: "It was always cold and all we were issued were cotton padded uniforms and thin blankets. Everyone had colds."

"The only beds were the ones the prisoners made from tree branches, leaves, and whatever they could pick up. We had to work digging ditches and doing other jobs like that during the day."

Burns said he didn't see much brutality. "If you did what they told you, they usually left you alone," he said.

About six hours after the armistice in Korea was signed, Burns said his name was among those called out over the prison camp loudspeaker as prisoners to be sent back. "I don't remember how I felt then because I fainted when I heard that," the sergeant added.

Before joining the Army, he attended the Valena C. Jones school.

Burns will go to Fort Sam Houston on Sept. 22, when he'll decide if he wants to remain in the service, he said.



—WIREPHOTO by The Associated Press  
**ROBERT E. SIMANEK,**

of Detroit, Mich., receives word Tuesday that his heroic deed of throwing himself on an enemy grenade to shield other members of his patrol ambushed by Chinese Reds in Korea in 1952 has won for him the Congressional Medal of Honor. He is the first man from Detroit to win the nation's highest award for heroism in the Korean conflict.

## Woods Scoured for Missing Girl

WELLESLEY, Mass., Aug. 25 (AP)—Volunteer searchers and a bloodhound scoured the woods and lake shores today for a brilliant, 20-year-old Smith College girl who disappeared after leaving a note saying "I'm going for a walk."

Sylvia Plath, a college senior and daughter of a Boston University professor, left her home yesterday after writing that she'd return today.

Her mother, Mrs. Aurelia S. Plath, told police the girl has been "nervous" and under a physician's care for several months. State police said a bottle of 50 sleeping pills was missing from the girl's room and it is believed she took them with her.



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## LOW BID ON HANO LOAN ANNOUNCED

Interest Rate Higher Than Previous Amounts

The Housing Authority of New Orleans opened bids Tuesday on loans on temporary notes amounting to \$3,090,000 in connection with the financing of the original Florida ave. low-rent housing project. The low bid was submitted by the Hanover Bank of New York, N. Y., through the Whitney National Bank of New Orleans and represented the payment of interest at 1.62 per cent, officials said.

These temporary loans are being utilized to retire notes previously issued March 10, 1953, which bore interest at approximately 1.37 per cent.

"While the interest rate now submitted to the Housing Authority of New Orleans represents an increase over the previous amount," Olin Linn, chairman, said, "it appears to be in line with the general trend of interest rates nationally, and represents a saving to the housing authority of the difference between 1.62 per cent and 2.50 per cent, which would be the rate payable to the federal agency under the annual contributions contract with the housing authority."

"In view of the present condition of the temporary loan market, the local authority has considered it advisable to continue financing through this means rather than issue permanent bonds which, from all indications, would be based on bids at a much higher rate."

## BOARD HEAD NAMED BY TODD SHIPYARDS

John D. Reilly, 65, president of Todd Shipyards Corporation since 1932, has been named chairman of the board of directors, it was announced Tuesday. Joseph Haag Jr., 57, executive vice-president since 1951, was named president. The promotions were announced after a meeting of the board in New York, N. Y.

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