

U.S. PLANE DROPS H-BOMB

The Bikini Atoll, nearly 5,000 miles across the Pacific from America, got the okay from Tarawa and other weather stations. Conditions were perfect for the latest bomb

20

experiment. The wind would carry out of harms way the radio-active fall-out, ~~manpower~~ which ~~ships~~ ^{boats} were launched at many points (to record and measure). Other tests of

40

radio-activity were made on samples of wood, paper, cloth, grass and tree branches, to see how materials ~~was~~ ^{were} affected beneath an H-bomb explosion. From Eniwetok a B-52

bomber climbed till it was 50,000 feet over the target area, still in darkness down there just before dawn. ~~of~~

60

*T bomb released & aircraft got away from the great danger these B-52s, able to carry ~~the bomb~~ one big danger area & speed. ~~continent to another.~~ At 50,000 ~~feet~~ ^{feet} the bomb was dropped, to explode at 10,000 ~~feet~~. *T bomb detonated at 10,000 ft**

100

The first flash was 500 times brighter than men see the tropical sun. The centre fireball was three miles in diameter, the vast radio-active cloud more than a hundred miles across. As both East and West have the H-bomb ~~and~~ the aircraft to carry it ~~it might well be destruction all-~~ round if nations were so criminal and irresponsible as to go to war again.

May 25, 1956

Music: Task Force (Bridges of Toko-Ri) PN1040
Destination Japan (Bridges of Toko-Ri) PN1038
New Finale (Country Girl) PN1024
Ill Fated Flight Pt.#1 (SAC) PN1033

Klein
Abbott
Non
Issue #82

HISTORIC FILMS: FIRST U.S. AIR-DROPPED H-BOMB

In the Bikini Atoll of the Marshalls, and across a silent, watery waste of the Pacific, forty-seven-hundred and fifty-miles west of San Francisco, history turns another epochal corner. A B-52 intercontinental jet bomber, painted white to shield it from heat waves, has a rendezvous with science, and the principle of thermonuclear fusion wrapped up in a hydrogen bomb it is to take aloft. In its bomb bay will be the equivalent of at least ten million tons of TNT!

THE great super-bomber will play its greatest role.

But first, weather stations, such as here at Tarawa must report favorable conditions for the drop. Wind direction is vital so that the fallout remains within a pre-determined danger area and does not threaten populated islands. In a B-50 aircraft more data is collected. There are nine postponements owing to unfavorable weather before the first air drop of an H-Bomb is okayed. Then, we're ready. Technicians prepare high speed cameras and radiation and heat-measuring devices...

Skiffs are launched at many locations to record radioactive fallout...

In Bikini Lagoon, another device is anchored to collect radioactive specimens...

Samples of wood, paper, cloth, grass, tree branches in exposure boxes, to face the many-thousand-degree heat from the explosion...The crew of the B-52 is briefed. Seven men from Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico. In the pre-dawn darkness they'll take their craft over the target on Namu Island. Lights together with a radar reflection in the bulls-eye will assist the drop crew in accurate placement.

Leaving Eniwetok the B-52 climbs to its service ceiling of over 50-thousand

May 25, 1956

-2- (H-BOMB cont'd)

feet, where it drops the bomb for explosion at about 10-thousand feet above the bulls-eye.

Again before your gaze is the awesome facade of the unleashing of stupendous explosive energy. A fireball approximately three miles in diameter. One shudders with the thought that a city instead of a deserted atoll might have been beneath the bomb.

These pictures are photographed in slow motion 50 miles from ground zero altitude: 10 thousand feet. To observers, the fireball's initial luminosity exceeds 500 suns!

The blast unleashes a lethal cloud of radiation of more than 100 miles. Long analysis will follow as to the exact effect of the first U.S. air-dropped hydrogen bomb.

The free world may but ponder its potential, and perhaps take solace from the words of prayer offered by a Navy chaplain on the scene as the bomb was to be dropped...

"Help us, oh Lord, to uphold the hands of those of our land, and of our brethern throughout the world, who by night and by day diligently seek the paths of peace in a tangled and confused world."