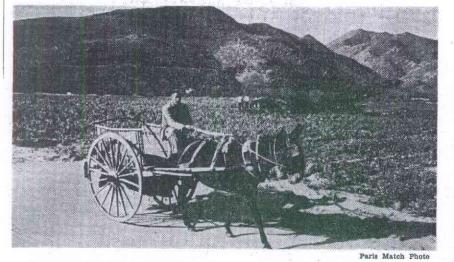
## **U.S. Fearful of Repercussions Massive Hunt Under Way to Locate H-Bomb Lost in Crash Over Spain**



CRASH SCENE—Part of wrecked jet in farmer's field near Palomares, Spain.  $2/24/|_{2}$ By Howard Simons

Washington Post Staff Writer

What promises to be the most intensive of the State Department and the approval and expensive search for man or object ever conducted by the United States is now all doubt that the bomb cannot be recovunder way for a missing American hydrogen bomb.

The search- on and just off the southeastern coast of Spain-will continue until the bomb is found or Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, with the concurrence

ered by the United States or anyone else. This is not the first atomic or hydrogen bomb lost by the United States. Somewhere in the soft soil of North Carolina, near Goldsboro, is buried a hydrogen bomb minus See BOMB, A7, Col. 1

have been deliberately jettisoned at sea, to lighten the load of a disabled bomber,

ranean coast.

its explosive trigger. The Already this search — and which, if it fell into the wrong dent, there is a psychological search for this weapon, one the few facts that have oozed hands, could enable an enemy scar across the village of Pater of tens of thousands in Americ through a nearly impenetrable in ands, could enable an energy scar across the vinage of random scar a crashed, until late May, 1961, chological fears here, in Spain, • There is a deep concern officials frankly admit they when the bomb was given up and in a number of other that the missing bomb or even don't know what to do with when the bomb was given up and in a number of other that the missing bomb of even don't know what to do with for lost. Other atomic and hydrogen been imposed by the Spanish it fell into anyone else's hands, bombs—the number is secret been deliberately jet been deliberately jet the United States government. degrees valuable information for even don't know what to do with the contaminated dirt. In the area. As one said: "We sure the United States government. • There are dark hints, and for making and setting off monument to the accident." They are no more than hints, atomic bombs. they are no more than hints, atomic bombs. load of a disabled bomber, when a crash of the bomber was imminent. Already thousands of men have spent 37 days and nights at a cost of millions of dol-ars and accompanied by a lotilla of 20 ships ranging from the Nation's newest if the linto the wrong hands. World's nuclear defense wher-trom the Nation's newest if the linto the wrong hands. World's nuclear defense wher-into the set of se deep-diving oceanographic could strengthen an enemy's ever it is needed. WANT 11 in Spain. submarines to minesweepers air defense and weaken Am-looking for the missing H-encan offensive capability. An- are satisfied that there is no Vietnam where it has been

• There is a deep concern officials frankly admit they

bomb near the Spanish village other possibility is a lost radar health hazard to the Spanish unloading tons of conventionof Palomares on the Mediter- fuse, which helps to serve to villagers subjected to radia- al bombs, is the aging "heavy

arm a hydrogen bomb and tion as a result of the acci-weight" of the Strategic Air

|Command. It flies more than B-52 overshot its mark-an a million pounds of TNT or 650 miles an hour; can reach extended 47-foot refueling roughly 500 Hiroshima-type an altitude of 50,000 feet; can boom stretching out from be- atomic bombs. enemy.

a number of B-52s are on "air- tail off, too. borne alert," euphemistically where over the Free World. A Palomares were

At approximately 10:15 a.m. tinguishable as H-bombs to collided. There were survivors The difference, h and there is an accident re- that each of the four hydroport, but its details are not gen bombs that fell repreknown.

One explanation is that the tion. This is a punch equal to

fly 12,000 miles before refuel- hind the tanker. As the boom No one will say whether ing. Its primary aim is to was being maneuvered into the four bombs dropped tocarry a nuclear payload to the the proper position, it ripped gether in their rack or fell up the B-52's back like a can one at a time. There are indi-On any given day or night opener, taking the tanker's fations that one or all fell Among the debris from are attached to the weapons called "training flights," some-31,000 feet to the earth near where over the Free World. A Palomares were four un jumed in its own nuclear fire "raining flight" can become armed hydrogen bombs, eight in it unloads armed weapons a deadly mission once a B-52 orew receives the proper com-mands to strike in nuclear anger. At approximately 10:15 a.m. (incursion of the strike in the str

The difference, however, is sented a megaton of destruc-

with their parachutes, which sumed in its own nuclear fire

NEXT: The "fallout" on the