

## Searching for the Lost Atomic Bomb

RK: But I enjoyed being in Air Rescue Service. And we were in some - I was on the mission for the world's first atomic bomb, when I was in that thing. A B36, which is a ten-engine airplane that's long gone now, but at that time it was the biggest auto mission with an atomic bomb, and it crashed and disappeared. And we had a lost atomic bomb. And boy, it was big medicine. Because, you know, a lost atomic bomb, wow. In those days, it would've been a big, big, big deal. Anyway, I was on that mission, and it was a very interesting mission. And we finally found it, but it was not easy.

SA: Where did you find it?

RK: Huh?

SA: Where did you find it?

RK: Well, it was, the pilot got a - he had - the B36 is a huge, monstrous airplane, at ten engines. And a couple engines got on fire. And he had an atomic bomb on board the airplane. And so, it was a real emergency. And was gonna have to bail his crew out. So he had to bail his crew out, and so we were worried about the crew, of course, but we were also worried about an atomic bomb running around out there, you know. And god, everybody but Clinton, including the president, was involved in the thing. And having a nit fit over it. But anyway, long story short, it was out to sea, and the pilot, he flew in to land, bailed out his crew, turned the airplane around and shot it out to sea. So it would go out to the sea to crash. But it went out a while, turned around, come back, and flew into the interior of Canada. And it was a [laughs], it was a mess!

DS: It wasn't found until years later, right?

RK: Wasn't found til years later. But what it was, was they had an atomic bomb laying out there somewhere. And that was really getting everyone's attention.

DS: It was a theory that there was something on the wing, that had - there was something -

RK: Ice on the wings, yeah. Ice on the wings, and the ice built up on one wing and tipped the airplane, so the airplane tipped and turned around. He aimed it out to sea, but the ice on the wing tipped it, and it turned around and flew back into the mountains, it went way into the interior of Canada. And I searched, and searched, and searched, and searched, and never could find it, so I finally gave up. And then years later, I'm reading the paper. I forget where I was, somewhere several years later. And one morning with breakfast I'm reading the newspaper and it says, "B36 found in the wiles of..." [Laughs]. I said, "now I know where it went!"