

H-Bomb Pulled From Sea Floor After 80 Days

Task Force, Spanish Natives Celebrate End of Long Hunt

PALOMARES BEACH, Spain (AP)—A U. S. H-bomb, missing deep in the Mediterranean for 80 days, was retrieved Thursday at the climax of a multi-million dollar search operation.

The triumphant U. S. Navy task force that brought it up celebrated by turning on all lights and sailing close to shore. It formed a spectacular backdrop for somberly clad but rejoicing villagers as they

A-10.

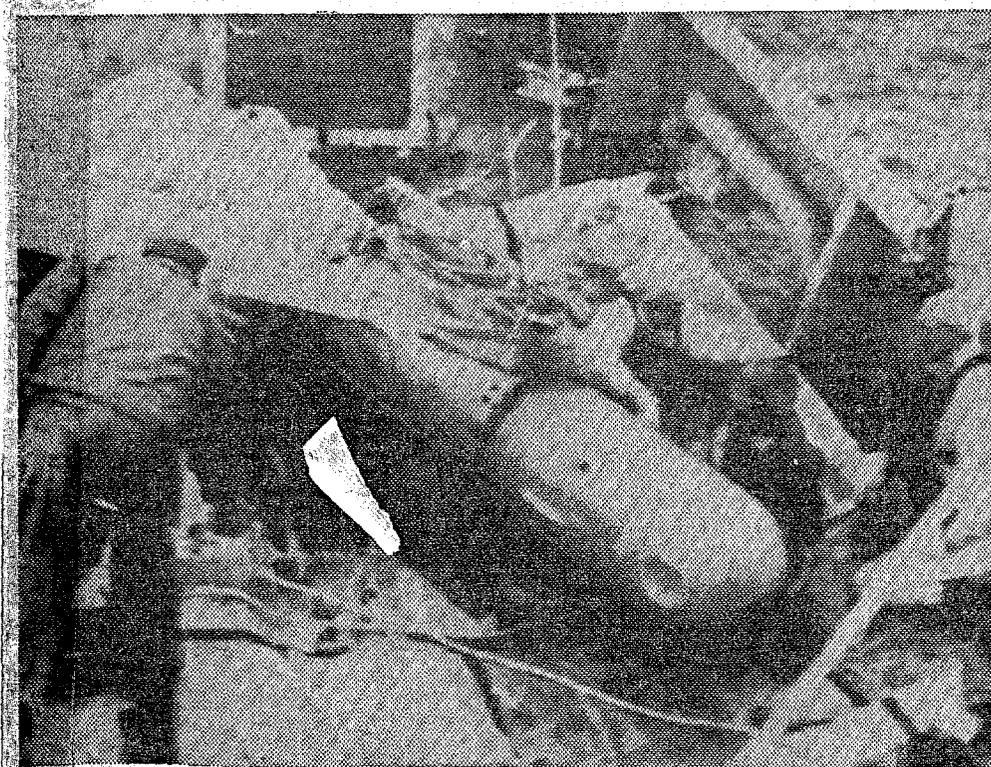
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United States for laboratory dissection, but only after Spanish and U.S. officials look it over Friday from the Cruiser Albany, flagship of Rear Adm. William S. Guest. Guest commands the Navy task force that looked for the bomb.

The bomb had been missing since Jan. 17, when a B52 bomber and a tanker plane collided while refueling and crashed. Seven airmen were killed and eight parachuted to safety. The bomb recovery intact and undamaged was announced by the U.S. embassy.

Large Force Used



THE HYDROGEN BOMB: Crewmen on the USS Petrel lash down a U. S. hydrogen bomb after its recovery from the sea near Palomares, Spain. The 10-foot, dull silver-coated

bomb is partially wrapped in its parachute. The bomb had been missing for 81 days after a plane crash. (U. S. Navy photo via

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UPI cablephoto)

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dragged into position for recovery. With the Palomares Beach bomb safely on the deck of a U.S. warship, there remained only one missing H-bomb acknowledged by the U.S. Strategic Air Command. This was a nuclear weapon lost Jan. 25, 1961, when another B52 crashed into swamplands near Eureka, N.C.