

## BEHIND THE 8 BALL

While participating in the recently completed SEATO exercise LIGTAS, HS-8 set a new squadron record for concentrated flying hours. During the seven and a half day period, HS-8 pilots and crewmen flew 582-hours in their Sikorsky SH-3A "Sea King" turbopropellers. Almost half of these hours were flown at night. Several flights were also recorded by the squadron during LIGTAS. A flight of HS-8 helos led by Cdr. B. R. Eagan, squadron CO, performed the first troop-lift made by the SH-3A when they transported 58 Marines to a simulated "hot spot" requiring reinforcements. Another flight, led by LCDR. J. A. Parkes, refueled aboard the USS VALLEY FORGE (LFB-6), marking the first delivery of JP-5 jet fuel by an LFB. To commemorate the occasion, Lt(jg) T. N. Douglass, VALLEY's Fuels Officer, awarded one (1) Green Stamp to Lt. W. K. Abernathy and Lt(jg) F. McQuaid, pilots of the #3 aircraft.

Lt(jg) J. W. Tisler and Lt(jg) L. A. Maneval recorded a Navy-wide "first" when they successfully completed a single engine take-off in the SH-3A. They were in a night ASW hover when one engine abruptly failed, causing their aircraft to settle into the sea. Since their helo was undamaged and sea conditions were favorable, the pilots elected to remain in the aircraft and await daylight. Crewmen A. J. Russell, AKC, and J. C. Fox, ATW3, jettisoned all excess equipment and then left by rubber raft to lighten the helo. They were picked up several minutes later by the USS SPENGLER's whaleboat. When visibility improved, a perfectly executed water take-off was performed on the remaining engine, and a successful single-engine landing was made on USS BENNINGTON. A hearty "well done" to the helo's entire



Miss Emi Watanabe, a hostess at the Officers Club in Sasebo Japan, was invited on a tour of BENNINGTON by Cdr. B. R. Eagan, C.O. of HS-8 and Lt(jg) J. N. Speight.

At the conclusion of her thoroughly enjoyable tour, Miss Watanabe was awarded an honorary HS-8 pilot certificate and her fellow pilots gave her the title "Miss HS-8 West."

crew came down from COMNAVAIR-PAC, COMASWGRU FIVE and the squadron's CO.

HS-8 pilots also gave a "lift" to members of one of their sister squadrons when they participated in the rescue of three members of Helicopter Utility Squadron ONE, following the forced landing of a UH2A in the Sea of Japan. Rescue crews were LCDR. J. M. Alderson, Lt(jg) J. H. Mosser, E. R. Landbeck, AXAN, and D.R. Ell, ADJ3, who rescued J. E. Clemas, AME3; Lt. G. L. Nelson, Lt(jg) S.K. Geers, J.C. Riley, AX2, and J. R. Crawford, ADR3, who rescued J. V. Holcum, ATI; and Lt(jg) L. A. Maneval, Lt(jg) J. W. Tisler, J. C. Fox, ATW3, and C. A. Cooper, ATR3, who rescued Lt(jg) C. O. Den-

nison. A fourth member of the downed UH-2A crew, the pilot Lt(jg) G. R. Webb, was rescued by BENNINGTON herself.

On 12 July 1964 another record was broken by HS-8 (or is it HU-8—sometimes we wonder). In preparation for U. S.—Japanese combined ASW exercises in the Sea of Japan, a pre-exercise conference was held aboard USS BENNINGTON. In order to bring aboard numerous attendees and their "paperwork," HS-8 crews made 98 personnel transfers and 49 cargo transfers in a FIVE hour period.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS OF 9 AUGUST 1945**—Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.  
1949—First pilot-ejection seat used in emergency escape.