

江総書記 今年前半来日へ

ブッシュ機を引き揚げよ

米サルベージ会社が計画

【ワシントン3日新報記者】太平洋戦争の激戦地の一つ、小笠原諸島付近の海中に眠る米海軍の雷撃機を引き揚げる計画が動き出そうとしている。当時、その機を操縦していたのはジョージ・ブッシュ中尉。七日に国

際として訪日する米大統領だ。この計画を準備している米のサルベージ会社社長は「両国の友好のためにも意義があると思

う。引き揚げた雷撃機は永遠の、親善大使になるはずだ」と話し、日本側の協力者を探してい

る。ブッシュ大統領は、先

の真珠湾五十周年の演説でも述べたように、日米開戦の時はまだ高校生だ

ったが、愛国心に燃え、十八歳の誕生日に海軍に入隊。一九四四年、空母

サン・ジャキント艦載の雷撃機アベンジャー(復しゅう者)の意味)を操縦し、小笠原諸島・父島

への攻撃作戦に参加する。当時の婚約者だった女性(現在の大統領夫人)

にちなみ「バーバラ」と呼ばれたが、大統領は「日

愛称をつけたブッシュ機は同年九月二日、父島・

珠湾演説)と述べている。このブッシュ機を引き揚げを命

じさせるが、対空砲火を浴びて機体は炎上した。同

乗の二人が死したが、一ポレーションのジェー

ムス・イーガン社長(三三)が、これまで世界の海で難破

船の財宝引き揚げなどを手掛けてきたが、ブッシ

この計画には全米地理協会や日本の海上保安庁

なども協力。沈んでいる場所が相当深いため、実

際の引き揚げは、遠隔操作の海中作業装置を使っ

て行うことになっている。大統領自身も乗り気だ

が、問題は資金。これまでの調査や引き揚げ後の

保存措置を含め、約二千万(約十二億五千万)

が必要とされる。イーガン社長は「引き

揚げた飛行機は、貴重な歴史の証人としてスミソ

ニアンの航空宇宙博物館あたりに陳列するつもり。これを両国の友好の

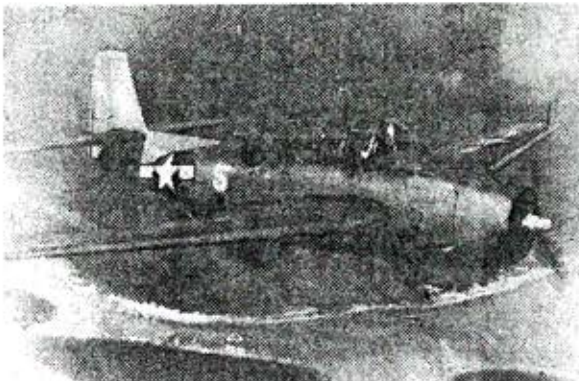
シンボルにするためにも、ぜひ日本の企業に協

力をお願いしたい」と話し、春には本格的なアソ

ンサーを求めて訪日する予定だ。

父島攻撃で被弾 小笠原沖に沈む

第2次大戦中



父島沖の海中に沈むブッシュ機と同型のアベンジャー雷撃機＝「ジョージ・ブッシュ・アット・ウォー」(一光社刊)より



艦載機上で出撃準備をするブッシュ中尉(当時)＝同



九死に一生を 九氏が副大統領だった八

得た。対日認 五年に「バーバラ」に狂

識の原点とも 目。ホワイトハウスに手

紙を書き、撃撃当時の機

いる出来事

紺碧の海にかこまれた

南海の楽園

国立公園

小笠原

紺碧の海にかこまれた
南海の楽園

NATIONAL PARK BONIN ISLANDS OGASAWARA

*Salvaging George Bush's Torpedo Plane
US Salvage Company's Plan
[Washington, Jan. 3]*

There is a plan to salvage a US Navy torpedo plane which is laying down deep in the sea nearby Ogasawara Islands. The area was a hard fought battle during the World War II. During that time, the torpedo plane was piloted by Lieutenant Junior Grade , George Bush, who now is the President of the United States and a state guest who will visit Japan on the 7 th of this month (January).

The president of the salvage company says that to salvage the torpedo plane means a great deal for the friendship between Japan and the United States. He says that the raised torpedo plane would be an eternal goodwill ambassador of the two countries. He is now looking for supporters of the plan from Japan.

As President Bush said in his speech at the Pearl Harbor 50 th memorial ceremony, he was a high school student when the war broke out. He became very patriotic and joined the navy on his 18 th birthday. In 1944, he attacked Ogasawara Islands and Chichi jima as a pilot of the torpedo plane "Avenger" which was carried by the aircraft carrier named "St. Jackington".

George Bush named his torpedo plane "Barbara," after his fiancée. He bombed Japanese military wireless facilities; however, was shot down by gunfire. Lieutenant Junior Grade George Bush escaped his plane by a parachute, but two other crews died. As George Bush drifted in the sea, he was luckily found by a US submarine and saved. It was the first sad incident for George Bush to realize and recognize the country of Japan. In his speech at the memorial ceremony though, he said he does not possess any ~~hate~~ ^{hatred} towards Japan.

The idea of salvaging Bush's torpedo plane came from James Eagan, president of the salvage company Felma Corporation. The company has been raising the treasures of wrecked ships from the world's sea. Mr. Eagan noticed the torpedo plane "Barbara" in 1985, when President bush was Vice President of the United States. He collected information by writing letters to White House and by analyzing the tide and the direction of the wind of that day through computers. Now he has almost identified the spot where the torpedo plane is sunk.

US Geographic Committee and the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency have agreed to cooperate with the idea of salvaging the torpedo plane. The actual salvage operations will be conducted by remote control, since it is sunk deep in the sea.

President Bush is also interested in this plan, but the problem is the fund. It will cost approximately 10 million dollars including the cost of investigation and preserving the salvaged torpedo plane.

Mr. Eagan says, "The airplane will be exhibit in Smithsonian Air and Space Museum as a precious witness of the history. I would strongly ask for the support from Japanese enterprises so that we can make this torpedo plane a symbol of the friendship between Japan and the United States. " He will visit Japan this spring to look for sponsors for this plan.



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Dear Mr. Egan,

Thank you very much for your kind and quick response to my request. I also thank you for your very thoughtful letter. I made a duplication of the photograph which I borrowed from you.

I hope my article on your project will be published in the early January just before the president's visit to Japan. Although this visit will be extremely focused only trade area due to the sluggish economy in the US. I personally expect that this visit will be a good opportunity to improve so called perception rift between both people. In this context your project can get much attention from Japanese side.

You may have two original copies of my article during my stay in Japan. Have a great New Year in which your dream will come true near the Bonin Islands.

Best Regards,



Hiromasa Shinkura