

"The MiG plunged down toward us, starting a beautiful, high-side gunnery pass. Roll in, reverse, pick up a target and start a cut-off. We still didn't know which one of us was his intended target. His nose was on a point halfway between Ray and I. He had at least a fifty knot overtake speed from his dive, and was closing fast. Just out of range, the red nose shifted to the right. I was the target!"

"I broke hard into him, and he slid to the outside, trying to pull some lead on me. I pulled harder. Suddenly, orange flashes winked under his nose, and a stream of cannon shells, looking like red golf balls, passed under my right wing and behind my tail. Startled by their closeness, I pulled the stick back for more Gs, and dropped my nose to gain some speed. I was sweating now, and thought – "George, you may have cut this maneuver just a little too thin!"

"Breathing hard, I grunted to Ray – "Get this son of a bitch off my tail!" But Ray was already on his way. Our squeeze play was working. I just hoped he would get there in time. Ray rolled out behind the MiG, and pulled within range, firing a burst which hit the MiG. Ray called me – "I hit him! His canopy just came off!" He then called for me to reverse. But I wasn't



Capt. 'Pete' Fernandez holds the "MiGs Hava Yes" scoreboard showing his score on 10 May 1953 – 13 1/2 MiGs destroyed. He would add one more victory on 16 May 1953 before being grounded by 5th AF and rotated home with Capt. Joe McConnell of the 51st Wing. (O.C. Wilkinson)

sure if the MiG had broken off, so I kept pulling Gs. Then I saw the MiG had pulled off and headed north toward the Yalu, with Ray in hot pursuit."

"Moments later Ray called again – "I hit him again and he bailed out!" "Roger", I answered, "Head out of the area and



An element of F-86Fs from the 336th Squadron over North Korea in early summer 1953. The element was the basic combat formation of the UN fighter forces. (John Africa)