

Chances Slight For Unarmed Nuclear Bombs To Explode

WASHINGTON — The odds are figured at better than two billion to one against a nuclear explosion of an unarmed atomic bomb such as fell accidentally near Florence, S.C., Tuesday night.

The one-sided odds were set by a senior Pentagon nuclear official last year after analyzing the results of tests run by the Atomic Energy Commission. The tests were made to find out what happens when an unarmed nuclear weapon is unintentionally dropped or subjected to the heat of a non-atomic fire.

By unarmed, military men mean a bomb whose triggering device—which often contains a conventional explosive such as TNT—is not connected with the fissionable enriched uranium sealed inside a separate part of the bomb casing.

Contention Proved

Pentagon officials today considered the Florence atomic bomb as a case in point to prove their official contention, issued Feb. 15, that the possibility of an accidental nuclear explosion "is so remote as to be negligible."

The TNT trigger of the Florence bomb did explode, but no nuclear explosion resulted.

The Pentagon says atomic weapons frequently are "carried in aircraft, ships and trucks in maneuvers, exercises and practice alerts."

The atomic bomb accidentally dropped near Florence was the first one to fall near an American

Freight Rates' Boost Hearing To Be Asked

PORTLAND — A state agency and industry groups said Monday they will ask the Interstate Commerce Commission to hold a Northwest hearing on recent freight rate increases.

Industrial groups have maintained that the rate boosts discriminate against the Northwest. At a meeting here Monday, a member of the state public utilities commissioner's staff said he will join in the plea for a meeting, either here or in Seattle.

Cliff Ferguson of the commissioner's office will help set up a hearing for shippers affected by the increases.

The West Coast Lumbermen's Assn. said at the meeting, however, that the lumber industry will follow its traditional course of meeting alone with the ICC.

Education Board Approves Plans For Buildings

CORVALLIS — Oregon's Board of Higher Education approved building plans set up Monday by its Building Committee, then considered whether it should try to bypass some of the details.

Members decided they could approve any possible streamlining of their work, but not bypassing of details for which they were responsible.

The matter was raised when Chancellor John R. Richards pointed out at the Tuesday meeting that no state body has direction of as big a building program. The one approved Tuesday calls—over a period of years—for some nine million dollars.

Richards said the board set up a program years in advance, and works over the details repeatedly. Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge, board president, said this was a good thing and often had resulted in benefits to the institutions and improvement in the buildings. It is good, said William Walsh, for the board to have a final close check.

Allan Hart, a new board member, suggested that on matters on which board members are not qualified to form responsible judgments, such as on curriculum and architectural matters, that discussions be held to a minimum.

Perhaps, said Walsh, the Legislature might some time wish to consider whether a full time or even part time board would in order, to permit weeks instead of days of study of complicated details.

Dr. Kleinsorge said the people would ultimately decide the question.



DOGGONE EYESIGHT — Tiny, an eight-month old Manchester dog, wears what probably are the tiniest eyeglasses in Santa Barbara, Calif. Tiny, weight 2½ pounds, has hardly any vision in her right eye and is very nearsighted in her left eye as a result of a birth injury. Eyeglass lenses are 12 by 23 millimeters in size. The optometrist who prescribed the glasses is also a zoologist. He said before Tiny got the glasses she could see only about four to six inches in front of her and used to run into furniture. Now he says she'll be able to see about three feet ahead of her.

Bank Cashier Comes Back After Robbing Bank

FAYETTEVILLE, W. Va. — One evening last summer, bank cashier W. G. Potter of nearby Mount Hope told his wife he was going for a walk. He didn't come back.

Next day, the Mount Hope Bank's vault was found locked with a timing device set for 72 hours later. When it was opened, \$41,504 was gone.

Yesterday, near the statehouse in Charleston, State Trooper A. R. Bruce became suspicious of a motorist with bandages on either side of his mouth and wearing cheap, dark glasses. When the man was taken to company headquarters, Lt. W. R. Callaghan identified him as Potter.

Eugenians Tour Air Base Named For Their Dead Son

TOKYO — The parents of a World War II air ace Wednesday toured sprawling Johnson Air Base, which was named for their son who was killed in 1945.

Col. Gerald R. Johnson was killed when a B25 bomber he was aboard crashed into the bay returning from a routine flight to Okinawa.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold V. Johnson, Eugene, Ore., arrived in Japan March 9 on a vacation. They are scheduled to leave March 20 for the United States.

Brig. Gen. Cecil P. Lessig, commander of the 41st Air Division, met them at the base gate and escorted the couple to the headquarters building.

They were taken on a tour of the Air Defense Control Center and the flight line where they climbed up to look into a B37 twin jet bomber, an F86 jet fighter, a T33 jet trainer and an Air Rescue Service helicopter.

Would Have Impressed Son

"Oh, oh, would he have loved to have flown these jets," said Johnson, referring to the sleek jet aircraft parked on the runway for their inspection.

"Nothing, absolutely nothing, would have stopped him from being a jet pilot if he were alive," the dead flyer's father said.

The late Col. Johnson, at 25 the youngest full colonel in the Air Force at the time of his death, was credited with 24 enemy kills. He was a P38 fighter pilot with the 49th Fighter Group in the Pacific during most of World War II. He was called "the best shot

Receive Silver Star

His parents received a silver life-time pass to the huge 1,050 square acre air base. They were honored at a retreat ceremony at the base parade ground Wednesday and later were guests at a reception held in their honor at the officers' club.

At the supper Gen. Lessig presented to the couple a bronze bust of their son.

After the base-wide tour, Johnson said "It's so elaborate, so complex. I'm flabbergasted."

"The tour was wonderful," he said. "I didn't expect anything like this."

The couple stopped in the Philippines before coming to Japan to visit the houseboy who worked for Gerald during the war.

"He wrote us before he was killed, asking if we would help get his houseboy, into the states to go to school," Johnson said. "We did."

The Filipino, Carmelo Martinez, now 35, graduated from the University of Oregon in 1950, and now is general manager of one of the largest plantations in Southern Mindanao.

"Now we've promised to help him get his son into America in about 20 years to go to school," Johnson said.

Johnson heads a law firm in Eugene. He has three other sons and one daughter.

Housewives For Highway 42 Will Meet Tuesday

By BRUNETTE WILSON

Housewives for improvement of highway 42 will meet with an interim committee, March 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the court house in Roseburg. Al Fiegel will be in charge of the meeting.

Everyone interested in highway 42 is asked to be present at the meeting.

A fireman's dance will be held Saturday at the Winston Community Hall. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of a resuscitator. Tickets are available at the fire hall.

A large group of Winston-Dillard youngsters met at the home of Mrs. James Gazley Saturday to make plans to organize a Blue Bird Club. Officers will be elected and regular meetings held.

Word has been received by Mrs. Cyril Nickols from Mrs. Florence Wells, a former Winston resident who now lives in Costa Mesa, Calif. that her husband, Don, passed away in January. Services were held at the Donald-Brothers Chapel and interment followed in Harbor Rest Memorial Park Cemetery in Santa Ana, Calif. Besides his wife, he is survived by one son, Butch, and a daughter, Bonnie. Butch is in the service, and sailed March 11 for Japan. The family plans to stay in Costa Mesa.

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