

AIR PRESSURE WAS AT FAULT

Naval Inquiry Board Is Probing Deeper into Fatal Blast on U. S. S. Mississippi.

SAN PEDRO, Cal. (AP)—The finger of evidence pointed still more definitely Monday at lack of air pressure in the gun mechanism as the cause, or at least one of the causes, of the explosion aboard the U. S. S. Mississippi Thursday when 48 men were killed.

Walter C. Riel, turret captain of turret No. 3 of the Mississippi, corroborated the evidence Saturday of Francis Majewski, platoon leader in turret No. 2, where the blast occurred, that the air pressure to clean out the gun barrels was weak.

The result of this, according to gunnery experts, might have been to leave flaming or smoldering particles in the gun barrel, which would ignite the new charges of T. N. T. as they were rammed home.

Registered 120 Pounds.

Just before commencement of firing I noticed 120 pounds of pressure on our indicator, which should have registered 150 pounds. I called the air compressor room and asked for 150 pounds, but after the second salvo it continued to decrease. At the end of the one hundred and twentieth salvo it showed only 170 pounds.

Passing for a moment from the investigation of the cause of the

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fatal flareback, the court next heard George C. Ogletree, police officer, who helped to carry the dead from No. 2 turret.

He cleared up all question of which caused the second gun in the turret to let go four hours after the ship had reached this port. A dead man's hand, as the body was carried from the turret, swung against the switch and fired the shot that nearly hit the passenger steamer Yale as she was putting out of port, Ogletree said.

Charles H. Brown, electrical officer, was unable to say how many air compressors were working, but he declared that in his booth all switches were turned on, indicating that all the compressors were functioning.

Lieutenant Commander Carter, senior engineering officer of the Mississippi, told the board that his records showed four air compressors were working full force.

EX-LA GRANDER HERE ON VISIT

It was a joyful meeting at the home of Col. and Mrs. E. L. Eckley Saturday when their son, Win Eckley and his wife drove in from California for a visit with their parents.

Win is a La Grande raised boy and in 1916 he left for Cornell university where which time he has not been back to the old home. When he left Cornell he went to work for the General Electric company and was stationed in different cities on the Atlantic coast until recently when he came to California. He was married to a young lady in Indiana during his absence from La Grande.

They will remain here for several days and then with Col. Eckley and wife they will leave for a trip through Yellowstone park. Later in the season Win will go to Tell City, Indiana, where he will locate with his father-in-law and be associated in the management of the U. S. Brick company of that city.

When the young couple were driving from California they were stopped by a quarantine officer on the Oregon-California line and the officer proved to be George Garrett who left here several months ago.

BABY DROWNS IN PAIL

ALBANY, Ore. — The nine-month-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. J. Fitzwater of Rayton was drowned when it fell into a pail of water sitting on the porch.

Mrs. Fitzwater left the house to attend to some duties in the yard. The child crawled after her until it was attracted by the pail. The infant fell head first into the container and was dead when its mother returned to the house.

Club Boys Attend Session. PENDLETON, Ore. — Five boys' club members left yesterday from Hermiston to attend the summer session at Oregon Agricultural college for members of boys' and girls' clubs. Lowell Stockard, Sherlock Stockard, Oscar Milstead and Leon and Walter Norquist made the trip.

'MOTIVE' FOR MURDER GIVEN

Bill Brennan Believed Killed Because He Resented Abusive Remarks to Woman.

NEW YORK (AP) — William James (Bill) Brennan, the heavy-weight pugilist, was slain in his uptown cabaret early Sunday because he resented abusive remarks made to a woman by Joseph Pioli, one of the two men held without bail Monday for the killing, according to Assistant District Attorney Morgan A. Jones.

The woman whose name was not revealed, had gone to Brennan's cabaret with a party of which Pioli was a member, according to the prosecutor. As she was leaving with Pioli he made abusive remarks to her, Brennan interceded, either pushing or hitting Pioli in effecting him from the cabaret, the prosecutor said.

"There are other ways of getting a guy than with your fists," Pioli is alleged to have said, "look out for yourself."

Pioli then left the cabaret, the prosecutor continued and later returned. When Brennan approached him in a hallway leading to the cabaret, a shot sounded and Brennan dropped to the floor. Four or five other men were in the hallway. Jones asserted, although it is not known whether they were companions of Pioli. The only other man arrested was Terence O'Neil, a pugilist, who was captured with Pioli soon after the shooting.

The prosecutor's statement was issued after the two prisoners had been grilled for hours by the police in efforts to learn the motive for the shooting. Both men persistently denied firing the shot that killed Brennan.

"I never shot Bill Brennan," Pioli declared. "I never even knew him."

Several thousand persons gathered outside the homicide court and jeered Monday as Pioli and O'Neil were taken from arraignment. Both men were held for trial without bail. Mr. Jones said the grand jury would be asked to return first degree murder indictments on Thursday. The prisoners were arraigned on charges of shooting "Williams Shanks," Brennan's name before he entered the ring.

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INLAND EMPIRE KLANSMEN GATHER AT PAYETTE, IDA.

PAYETTE, Ida. (Special) — Klansmen from Oregon, Washington and Idaho assembled here Monday for a two-day convention at which 16,000 are expected to be present. Knights of the Ku Klux Klan were arriving all day.

The ceremonies opened Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock with speaking at the Central school grounds. The klansmen presented the American Legion with a large flag, and at night there was a fireworks display. The town is decorated with flags and bunting. The convention will close today.

Captured Turkish Sword Presented to Queen Marie

LONDON (AP) — There was an interesting little incident at the Rumanian legation recently, when Queen Marie, on her visit here, was presented by Captain Locher with a sword captured in Turkey by the unit of British naval armoured cars which served in Russia and subsequently fought in the Dobruja retreat. The sword was to have been presented to the queen when peace was declared, but the ceremony was postponed until she could visit England officially as queen of a restored Rumania.

JOSEPH CLUB FETE TONIGHT

The La Grande Wing, Flin and Fleetfoot club has been invited to attend a banquet which is to be given at the Wallows Lake Wonderland Hotel by the Joseph Community club in honor of the State Fish and Game Commission. This evening.

The members of the commission are looking over the game and fish situation in this section of the country and are investigating the matter of installing fish screens at the lake for the purpose of keeping the trout from escaping into the irrigation ditches.

The Joseph Community club, an organization of business men, has been assisting the question of persons since they were first removed in order to let the blue-back salmon escape. The local club and others in this territory are heartily in support of the movement and have done all in their power to bring about the installation of the barriers. The delegation to represent La Grande this evening has not been

selected yet but it is probable that several of the local sportsmen will be present.

YOUNG MEN TO ENTRAIN

PENDLETON, Ore. — Twenty young men of Umatilla county, nearly all of whom are high school students, have been accepted by the war department for entrance to the citizens' military training school at Camp Lewis from June 19 till July 15, according to C. C.

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Vinier, a reserve captain, who is in charge of enlisting members in this county.

The following Pendleton boys have been accepted: Robert Dunn, Raley Peterson, Leon Barr, Raymond Pinson, Morris Temple, Francis Groulich, Alvin Roke, Miles Arnold, Forrest Harrah, Forrest Myers, Raphael Raymond, Jack Harkness, John Ruckle, Jack

Boydton, Claude Gillette, Jack Luck, Frank Mason and Donald Whitman. Lowell E. Evans of Freeewater and Byron Warner of Pilot Rock also have been accepted.

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