

Death Spray Held by Nazis During War

By Rennie Taylor
Associated Press Science Reporter
MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif., Feb. 24 (AP)—The nazis had a liquid death spray potent enough to have knocked out whole divisions of men in exposed positions, says a U. S. army engineer who helped destroy the stuff.

A dime-sized spot of the liquid on the skin, unless wiped off quickly, would kill a man in two minutes, asserts Maj. James M. Graham. It would penetrate ordinary clothing and some kinds of gas masks.

The Germans called this liquid Tabun. The word is a combination of the names of the scientists who invented it. Army intelligence officers found 125,000 tons of the stuff stored in carefully hidden caves in Bavaria.

In Charge of Disposal
Graham had charge of the engineering phases of its disposal. He related some of the details in a national security week address before the San Jose, Calif., chamber of commerce.

Tabun was a military secret until about six months ago when some information about it leaked out to the American public. One thousand tons was spared from destruction and shipped to Aberdeen, Md., under a chlorine label, Graham reported. Dockmen, unable to smell chlorine in the shipment, refused to unload. Service personnel had to be used for the job, Graham said.

The stuff is so nearly odorless that a person has to know exactly what he is smelling for before he can detect it with his nose. To the experienced nose it has a faint, fruity aroma, Graham added. It looks something like used crank case oil.

Subject to Soviet Control
The scientists who developed Tabun were in Berlin when the Russians took over and probably became subject to Soviet control, Major Graham said.

When first news of the poison spray leaked out the army's chemists still hadn't figured out its formula but they probably know it by now, Graham reported.

This much is known: It is a powerful nerve poison, like snake venom, but it has the added ability to penetrate the skin and get into the blood stream. It does not require a body opening or a cut in the skin as a portal of entry. It is very persistent—it will remain potent in the sprayed area for a long time.

Graham expressed the belief that the Russians wouldn't be interested in making the stuff even if they got the formula from the captive scientists. Its long-term contaminating ability is a disadvantage except in special circumstances, he said.

Truman labor bill came to an end Wednesday on the same note of discord which prevailed from the start of the sessions.

The committee will now decide whether or not the bill will go to the senate floor as drafted. The bill would repeal the Taft-Hartley law and replace it with a modified Wagner act.

The final flare-up at the public hearings was between Senator Taft (R-Ohio), leader of the anti-repeal forces, and William Leiserson, a labor-management arbitrator and a former member of the national labor relations board.

Leiserson told the committee the Taft-Hartley law is "just no good" and heads "toward government dictation."

Taft, who got around to pounding the table with his fist before he finished, retorted that Leiserson was making "an utter misrepresentation of the intention or the effect" of the law.

Defending the T-H law injunction provision, Joseph E. Moody, president of the Southern Coal Producers association, was asked by Senator Morse (R-Ore) whether the mine owners want the Taft-Hartley injunction provision against critical strikes "in order to hold a threat over Mr. Lewis ... and maybe get him into jail."

"No," Moody replied. "The Taft-Hartley law requires honest bargaining."

But Morse pressed the matter, saying: "If he (Lewis) said 'it's no soap, gentlemen,' you don't think, do you, that if you've got an injunction weapon behind the door, isn't that sort of loading the dice in your favor?"

Moody said he did not agree. The emphasis, he added, should be on collective bargaining, not the injunction.

Plans Nearing Completion for McKay Party

Plans are nearing completion for the Salem citizens' party to pay respects to the new Oregon governor, Douglas McKay, as a fellow resident of Salem.

The public party will be a combination of reception and dance on Monday evening, March 7, designed to honor McKay's two decades of service to his city, county and state. Mayor Robert Elstrom heads a large group of committees which have been busy for over a month planning the affair.

Gov. and Mrs. McKay will greet guests in the Mirror room of the Marion hotel. Four orchestras will play for dancing in both the armory and the Crystal Gardens.

A number of loose leaf sheets will be circulated through the crowds to be signed. These sheets will be included in a guest book to be presented the governor and his wife at the armory late in the evening.

Mayor Elstrom has stressed the informality of the affair. He remarked Monday, "we want everyone to come and honor Governor McKay, a man who has given so much of his time and effort to Salem." He added that "this is everyone's party and informality is strictly the order."

The reception will be held between 8:30 and 10 p.m. Refreshments will be served at both dances throughout the evening. C. A. Kells is chairman of the committee on decorations.

Dispute Marks Finale of Labor Bill Hearings

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (AP)—The senate labor committee's tumultuous public hearings on the

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