

Atom Weapon Data Doubled In Test Series

By Bill Becker
LAS VEGAS, Nev., Dec. 2-(AP)—America's atomic weapons know-how has virtually doubled this year. And its stockpile of nuclear weapons has kept pace.

The statements come from the man probably most responsible for this spectacular advance—Dr. Alvin C. Graves, scientific director of all energy commission tests.

MHD-mannered and thought-absorbed, Dr. Graves weighed his words as he summed up the AEC's epochal 1951 test series in an exclusive interview with this reporter.

"Our knowledge of atomic weapons has been increased in the past year at a much greater rate than in any similar period," he said. "Our advance almost equals all previous developments since the first nuclear detonation at Alamogordo, N. M., in 1945."

Dr. Graves—wrapping up a formidable two-month job on the fall series of seven explosions, no two alike—indicated that the stockpile of A-weapons has increased in just about the same proportion. In short, the nation probably has twice as many A-weapons as it had a year ago.

"It is reasonable to assume that we have more weapons similar to the ones tested here," Dr. Graves said. "We wouldn't be shooting off the only models we have."

The soft-spoken physicist who has been in on the U. S. atomic program from its inception in 1942 made it plain that he was not sabbat-rattling.

"I am not in the atomic business because I like to manufacture things that kill people," he said. "I am thoroughly convinced that the reason we are not in a third world war now is because of the work the United States has done in atomic energy."

Asks Larger Stockpile
"Increasing our stockpile is our best safeguard for the future."

Graves helped to build the first atomic pile (nuclear reactor) at Chicago in 1942, then went to Los Alamos to begin work on the first bomb in April, 1943. He progressed from laboratory work to field supervision. He has been scientific director of all atomic tests since Bikini in 1947.

He has seen 20 nuclear explosions and effects without previous parallel. Graves merely nodded when this observer said: "I guess we've had nothing but 'firsts' in this series."

These apparently included: (1) the first baby A-bomb, October 22; (2) a delayed-reaction burst, October 30; (3) perhaps the best-controlled big bomb ever detonated, Nov. 5; and (4) perhaps the first underground blast, November 29.

Dr. Graves, who makes \$15,000 a year as head of the AEC's weapons test division, says he has been offered twice that amount by big corporations to head their research staffs.

"There is nothing that can compare with this work—no matter how much they offer," Graves said quietly.

Graves is an easy-going six-footer who appears incapable of deception. Only 42, he bears physical scars of nuclear radiation.

For three years after a 1947 laboratory accident at Los Alamos, he was sterile from radiation effects.

The mishap occurred when Dr. Louis Slotin brought two critical (charged) masses of uranium together too quickly while holding them in his hands. Resulting atomic fission sent a charge of nearly 800 reentgens—double the normal lethal dose—into Slotin's body before he pulled the brick-like mass apart.

This act saved the laboratory and the lives of Graves and six others. Slotin died 10 days later. Graves, standing right behind Slotin, received perhaps a fourth of the radiation dose Slotin got. He was in the hospital three weeks and home from work several months. He lost all his hair, and what he has today is pretty thin.

"At least I didn't have to shave for three months," Graves is able to laugh today.

Tests proved there didn't appear much hope of any further addition to the Graves family. Then little Alvin, now 9 months, came along just about the time papa was setting off bombs in last winter's Nevada test series. The Graves' have one other child, Marilyn Edith, 6. But the physicist's work has left another mark. A radiation cataract, stemming from the same incident, is gradually dimming the sight of his left eye. He can read only the largest headlines in it.

MILL CITY MAN HELD
Richard Daniel MacKinnon, 36, Mill City, was being held in Marion county jail Sunday night on a charge of driving while intoxicated. He was arrested by state police near Big Cliff dam on the Santiam highway.

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Commie Air Power 'Real Threat' to U.N.

U. S. FIFTH AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Korea, Dec. 2 (AP)—Red China's growing air power is "a real threat" to aerial control in Korea, and there are also indications the North Korean air force may be rebuilt, the air force commander said today.

Maj. Gen. Frank F. Everest, who as Fifth air force chief is the top allied airman in Korea, said in an interview that the Reds have 1,200 to 1,500 planes—half of them fast jets—at bases "from which practically all of South Korea can be reached."

Until now, however, his fliers "have denied the communists the privilege of basing or staging aircraft in any significant numbers in North Korea," Everest declared.

"It is important that we continue to do so as long as the war is carried on," the youthful-looking 47-year-old general added.

"We intend to keep him (the enemy) on the other side of the Yalu (in Manchuria) as far as operational bases are concerned."

Everest talked frankly about the Korean air war which is mounting in intensity as ground action fades.

The sky fighting grows grimmer as red pilots hurl repeated challenges at United Nations air supremacy. The communists have flaunted their power in recent days as they threw 225 MIGs aloft at one time, sent bombers south of the Yalu river, and based jets in North Korea for the first time.

Everest said the communist effort to fix North Korean airfields since last spring shows the Reds "desire to generate a staging capability"—air force lingo for a springboard from which to attack.

In this connection, a growing concern has developed on the allied side that the communists might get sufficient airfields far enough south to push their fuel-short fighters into the United Nations' military backyard.

"The enemy obviously started a year ago to develop a real air capability in the far east," Everest declared. "His efforts are now bearing fruit."

"The Chinese today have a respectable, fairly well-balanced, adequately-equipped air force; and there is no reason to believe their capabilities won't increase."

Burns House To Qualify for Welfare Aid

HAMMOND, Ind., Dec. 2-(AP)—An elderly Polish woman today admitted burning her home because you can't eat a house.

Fire Chief Del Sargent said Mrs. Theresa Meda, 71, told him she set fire to the small frame house yesterday so she and her husband, Andrew, 68, could qualify for poor relief.

She said they had been without fuel or food for a week.

Firemen found the couple sitting in a woodshed, surrounded by bedding and a few heirlooms, watching the blaze.

Sargent described it as a pitiful case in which "the law seems to have worked on the justice."

He said Mrs. Meda explained she and her husband had been refused poor relief because they were property owners. He added they were "too proud" to attempt to qualify by giving up title to the house. Both came from Poland in 1910 and Meda worked as a common laborer until he became ill three years ago.

Greenland's largest export, icebergs, hit a new low this year.

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RELIGION WITH COFFEE—The Rev. Harold J. Quigley (left), with the aid of free coffee, speaks to churchgoers at Haverstraw, N. Y., about the benefits of regular church-going.

'Prowler' Only News Reporter

PORTLAND, Dec. 2-(AP)—Four police cars raced to the city hall today where a man was reported to be climbing in a window.

Instead of a prowler they found Neal C. Doane, city council reporter.

Sailor Spends Over \$1,740 on 4-Day Bender

BALTIMORE, Dec. 2-(AP)—A seaman who said he spent more than \$1,740 in a four-day bender effort to fix North Korean airfields since last spring shows the Reds "desire to generate a staging capability"—air force lingo for a springboard from which to attack.

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Blood Cancer Prize Offered

NEW YORK, Dec. 2-(AP)—An offer of \$1,000 to \$1,500, to anyone, for a significant contribution to knowledge and treatment of blood cancer—leukemia—was announced today.

The prize is set up by the Robert Roesler de Villiers foundation, Inc. of New York, named after a 16-year-old boy of that name who died of leukemia in 1944.

The purpose is to reach not only the usual leukemia workers in many lands, but the peripheral and unknown scientific workers, in hopes of enlisting them in the study of this completely incurable disease.

"No one," the offer states, "can foretell from where the answer will come; perhaps from one of the well-known hospitals, perhaps from some isolated scientist in a far-off corner of the world who never had time or incentive to develop and test his theories."

The exact amount of the award will depend on the recommendation of a jury of four world-famous physicians.

Arms Output Soaring, Wilson Tells Truman

KEY WEST, Fla., Dec. 2-(AP)—Defense Mobilization Director Wilson concluded a two-day conference with President Truman today with the disclosure that military production is increasing "at the rate of a billion dollars a month."

In the wake of complaints by a senate preparedness subcommittee that arms production is lagging dangerously behind schedule, Wilson told reporters:

"Every month now production is coming up—I hope you will quote me correctly—we have not let civilian production interfere with military production."

Wilson talked with White House correspondents shortly before flying back to Washington with General Walter Bedell Smith, director of the Central Intelligence agency.

The general also had been here to fill the president in on developments since he started on vacation.

The senate preparedness subcommittee headed by Senator Johnson (D-Tex) had made more than one complaint on the rearmament program prior to Wilson's flight here. One was that military production was lagging dangerously because guns had not been given priority over butter.

Wilson said production was three times—300 per cent—over a year ago. And suggested that when complete figures are in the score will be still better.

"We still have 63 million employed—we are cutting up more material than ever—cutting civilian hard goods by 50 per cent at least, and it doesn't take a magician to figure out that the military pipeline is getting very, very big," Wilson continued.

"Military production is increasing, I would guess, at the rate of \$1,000,000 a month, but often final production doesn't show up for three or four months."

Riches Long Active in Salem Bank Business

(Story also on page one.)

George H. Riches, 73, who died Sunday, was a retired Salem banker and civic leader who rose to leadership from pioneer Silverton area parentage.

Riches was born Jan. 6, 1886, on a donation land claim settled by his grandparents in 1847 in the Waldo Hills near Silverton. He attended Silverton schools and received further education at Alexander Hamilton institute, Columbia university in New York, and the American Institute of Banking.

At Silverton
From 1900 to 1906 Riches was assistant postmaster at Silverton. He then entered the mercantile business for one year before entering the employ of Ladd & Bush.

Riches began work at Ladd & Bush bank July 15, 1907, as a messenger. During the first five years of his banking experience, Asahel Bush, the founder, was still active member of the force. He worked his way through every department of the bank until elected cashier and director in 1934.

On April 6, 1940, when Ladd & Bush was merged with the U. S. National bank, Riches was elected assistant vice president, a post he held until his retirement.

Salem Associations
Riches was a member of Salem Rotary club, Elks and Odd Fellows.

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Long-Forgotten Halloween Bomb Destroys Car

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 2 (AP)—Kent County Fire Chief Adolph Nelson's automobile blew sky high today.

No one was in the car when the blast let go in front of the chief's house.

On Halloween, authorities surprised some pranksters about to set off an explosion from a concoction they'd brewed up. The pranksters assured authorities all the ingredients were percussion materials which a shock would be required to set off.

Chief Nelson put the concoction into the back of his automobile, saying he'd get it analyzed—and then forgot about it. He won't now. There isn't any left and only parts of his car.

The chief doesn't know what set it off.

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Geraniums Help Beautify Torn Pavement

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif., Dec. 1 (AP)—Residents of this picturesque artists colony will go to great lengths of beauty their city, but what happened last night takes the prize.

Workers installing a new water main had filled in a long trench on busy Ocean avenue, but had not yet replaced the torn up pavement.

Today, early morning motorists rubbed their eyes in astonishment. Running down the middle of the street was a neat, bright row of flowering geraniums—53 of them.

The nocturnal landscaper's identity is a mystery, but city officials agreed that the geraniums are a colorful, however, temporary.

In chemistry the suffix "ide" indicates the combination of one element with another.

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