

Letters Provide H-Blast Picture

WASHINGTON (AP)—Soldiers and sailors who write home about the recent atomic tests in the Pacific may face prosecution, the Atomic Energy Commission said Sunday, in announcing that the tests had contained "research" on the hydrogen bomb.

Some of the letter writers were as specific and detailed as the commission's announcement was cautious and guarded.

A Philadelphia scientist, piecing together scraps of information from them, guessed the reported explosion was 16 times greater than that of the atomic bomb used on Hiroshima during the war.

The scientist, Dr. I. M. Levitt, director of Fels Planetarium of Franklin Institute, also thought the thing might have been a "baby" hydrogen bomb, the heat of which was 30 pounds of material held in liquid state at 400 degrees below zero in huge thermos bottle gadget.

An explosion of the order of 16 times the power of the model T atomic bomb, as estimated by Levitt, would be well short of the early guesses that theoretically a hydrogen bomb could have 1,000 times the power of a fission bomb.

In evaluating the unofficial descriptions, the fact had to be taken into account that the writers appeared not to be technically trained observers and that their impressions could have been exaggerated by what was probably their first experience of witnessing an atomic explosion.

Nevertheless, their descriptions and personal impressions contained items of highly interesting technical nature.

Letters reporting the exact moment of the explosion had particular interest. For purposes of comparison with data obtained by other means—such as seismographic readings in the earth shock wave, upper atmosphere samplings of radioactive material and possible observation by submarines at a distance from the blast—this could be of value to a foreign power. Only U.S. observers were permitted at the series of tests.

One letter purported to give an approximation of the heat reaching the writer from the flash at 30.4 miles (the assumed specific about the distance). He said there was a temperature of 180 degrees.

This, under scientific analysis, could give a reasonable approximation of the thermal efficiency of a bomb. Heat would be one of the major destructive factors of the awful weapon.

Immense Flame

There was also another indication of thermal efficiency and rate of development: "Thirteen seconds after shot time . . . a flame about two miles wide was shooting five miles into the air."

There were other hints of an utterly unprecedented explosive force.

One letter writer said of the mushroom cloud that "the captain told us" it was at least 15 miles high. That would be almost twice the height of most atomic clouds noted in past experiments with standard atomic bombs.

A sailor writing home thought the explosion "blew the top off a building 18 miles away." The war-time explosion of an early type atomic bomb over Nagasaki produced structural damage only to points about 9,000 feet, less than two miles from "ground zero."

The 18-mile measurement would be a point diagonally across Eniwetok atoll, to the west or north, from the main island where permanent buildings have been constructed.

A reference in most of the letters to seeing the explosion while aboard ship suggested, but did not make certain, that for the bomb blast all personnel left even distant islands of the atoll.

Reports that the island, upon which the tower containing the super-bomb apparently stood, was destroyed in the enormous shock and heat of the explosion seemingly were supported by a reference to creation of a huge "column" of water.

A solid column of water would presumably occur only if the sea rushed into the cavity where an island once stood.

However, the man who told of the island disappearing later mentioned seeing parts of trees and earth dropping into the water "and back on the island." Nor was it clear how, at 30 miles, even with binoculars, material as small as portions of trees could be observed.

Other Conflicts

There seemed to be other conflicts in and between the letters of the test witnesses. One reported the column of water, hinging at instant destruction of the surface of the island in the blast.

But another described a "brilliant red" fire which burned for six hours, with the island gradually becoming smaller and eventually disappearing.

(Palm and Pandanus trees, with dried fronds which litter the ground, could provide fuel for a secondary fire ignited by the heat of the bomb. But the writer's reference to the island melting away in a six-hour fire, if true, would indicate some form of chemical reaction had been set off which fused and finally consumed the coral sand itself.)

The description of a "flame two miles wide" could be another measurement of the unprecedented energy of the bomb—again, if the writer's measurements were reasonably correct and not the result of the surprise induced in a man who had witnessed no previous atomic tests.

He may have been describing the familiar "fire ball" at the core of atomic explosion. But any ball of that dimension would dwarf the modest 1,000 to 2,000 feet diameter of most nuclear fission bombs.

Robert Kent, Dairyman of Pioneer, Dies

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

PIONEER—Robert Kent, well-known dairy farmer, died at about 6:30 a.m. Sunday at his home here. He was 54.

He had come in from his early morning chores feeling ill, although he had been in good health. He died shortly afterwards.

He had lived in this community the last 10 years. He was a native of Green City, Mo., and had lived in Enid, Okla., before coming to Oregon.

Surviving are the widow, Maine; a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Larson in California; son, Robert Jr., Fossil, and two grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are being made at Bollman Chapel, Dallas.

TO INCREASE RATE

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—Automobile insurance rates for liability and property damage coverage in Washington State will be increased an average of 22 per cent, the deputy state insurance commissioner reported Sunday night.

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Color & Technicolor
Frankie LAINE
Jilly DANIELS • Charles ASTORIN
A Columbia Picture

Travel Spree Results as Boy Finds \$15,000

FREDERICKTOWN, Mo. (AP)—A teenage boy told Sunday of how he parlayed a hidden liquor supply, an abandoned house and his curiosity into a short spree with more than \$15,000 in a plan of travel and adventure.

The boy is Gerald Marcel Collier, 15, of Jonesville, Ill. He and a friend, John Chupp, 17, of LaSalle, Ill., came to the end of their travels in this southeast Missouri town Saturday because of a jeweler's suspicions.

They were taken off an interstate bus by a Missouri highway patrolman at the suggestion of a jeweler who had sold them a watch Friday at Farmington, Mo. He became suspicious when the boys exhibited so much money in making the purchase.

When they were searched by Trooper R. C. Caldwell at Fredericktown the boys turned over \$14,132—with a story of having cashed \$1,000 more in a sewer near Oglethorpe, Ill.

Trooper Caldwell related Collier's story of sudden success: Collier said he had gone to an abandoned home near Jonesville which had belonged to the late mother of a Jonesville welder named Tony Piano.

He went there, he said, with a six-year-old friend, Jackie Swinda, to get a hidden bottle of whisky.

Once within the house he spied a hole leading to the attic, Collier said, and climbing through he found a metal box. Opening the box he found some \$15,000 inside.

The boy said he then hid the money in a sewer, fearing Piano would prosecute him for going into the house if he showed the money.

Later he gave some money to some neighbor youths, left \$1,000 in the sewer and took off for Memphis with the Chupp boy.

They planned to buy a car there and then go to California and Canada.

Originally the boys told of finding the money near the home of a recluse who had died.

The youths, who left home Thursday, were held here without charge for two Ottawa, Ill., officials who were due here Sunday.

One, Deputy Sheriff Henry Chandler, said \$630 of the money left behind had been recovered. Two neighbor youths turned over \$130 and \$500 was found in the sewer.

Twister Hits Missouri City

HOPKINS, Mo. (AP)—A twister struck the business section of this Northwest Missouri town late Sunday, causing considerable property damage. At least two persons were injured.

One of the 16 stores in the business sections was demolished and all of the others badly damaged.

Earlier, violent winds damaged fences at Burlington Junction southwest of here.

Hopkins is located just south of the Iowa line in Northwest Missouri. Firemen and police from Bedford, Ia., and Maryville, Mo., rushed to the scene, although there were no reports of fire.

The town of about 800 population was without water and lights. The wind struck at about 5:30 p.m.

A business establishment located on Highway 71 south of Hopkins was demolished.

Rabbit Hunters Use Tractor

MEADVILLE, Pa. (AP)—Two 18-year-old youths were arrested early Sunday for hunting rabbits with a tractor.

Game Protector John Putnam said the pair worked out this system:

One would drive the tractor through a field, flushing rabbits. The other, perched atop the tractor with a shotgun, would shoot the animals in the glare of a searchlight.

They had two rabbits to show for he night's work when arrested, Putnam said. The youths are Clarence Matlock of Guys Mills and Harry Burchfield of Conneaut Lake.

They pleaded guilty to a charge of hunting wild game with a motor vehicle and were fined \$50 each. Neither could pay. They were lodged in Crawford County Jail.

SHOCK CASE

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (INS)—Police were understanding when the driver of a jeep, which collided with another vehicle, left the accident scene hurriedly. He had been tossed out of the jeep and slid some distance, feet first. When he stood up, slightly bruised, his shredded trousers fell off.

Silverton Man On Destroyer Back From Orient

When the U.S. destroyer A. A. Cunningham returned to San Diego recently from Korea combat action and Formosa patrol duty, Fireman Bruce E. Faaborg of Silverton Route 2 was aboard.

The destroyer in September received five direct hits from Communist shore batteries and 13 of her crew were wounded, but none seriously, according to U.S. Navy reports Sunday.

Another report stated Lt. Carl B. Austin of Woodburn was awarded the Air Medal for combat service in Korea with an attack bomber squadron. He is the son of the L. C. Austins of Woodburn and his wife Peggy lives at 766 E. Lincoln St. there.

The recent award was of gold stars in lieu of fourth and fifth Air Medals. Austin also was reported returning to this country.

Adlai Goes Duck Hunting

SASABE, Ariz. (AP)—A rested and happy Adlai Stevenson went duck hunting across the border in Mexico Sunday with his vacation host, Rancher Dick Jenkins.

The defeated Democratic presidential candidate plans to return Monday night to his governor's duties at Springfield, Ill.

Saturday night he was the guest of honor at a square dance at the tiny Mexican village of Mesquite. Stevenson danced, conversed with the villagers and obviously enjoyed it all.

A steady rain kept him indoors at Jenkins' La Osa Ranch, 60 miles south of Tucson, most of the morning.

For four days the Western-garbed Stevenson has slept, gone horseback riding and played tennis, enjoying warm weather and usually bright sunshine.

INTELLECTUALLY IMMATURE

NEW DELHI (AP)—An Indian newspaper takes issue with pollster George Gallup's view that Americans are "intellectually immature." "Hal they been old and intellectually mature like Indians, they would not have tamed the Wild West and would have been begging for dollars instead of lending them," editorialized the Lucknow National Herald.

TROOP SHIP ARRIVES

SEATTLE (AP)—The Navy transport Gen. Simon B. Buckner arrived Sunday with 875 passengers from the Far East.

TV PRESTIGE

LONDON (INS)—There's many a TV serial atop a British roof that leads no place at all. The British post office estimated that

13 in every 100 roofing TV aerials in Britain are fixed only to give their owner the social prestige that comes with the ownership of a TV set.

COFFEE DAY COPENHAGEN (INS)—Coffee lovers in Denmark had a "free day" recently. After 13 years, coffee was taken off the ration list.

WHY???

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When buying a car, why spend more money for a radio . . . heater . . . automatic transmission . . . overdrive? Because in the long run, these extras are well worth the difference. They make your car a pleasure to drive.

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When buying furniture for your home, why spend a little more money for lasting quality . . . better design . . . finer finishes? Because furniture makes your house a home. The furniture you personally select, individually, piece by piece, you will live with for years to come. It will serve you not for just four or five years as will your car, but for a generation. And you'll want your furniture to retain its beauty as long as it retains its usefulness.

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