

BIKINI CRITICS

FOR PRESIDENT TRUMAN



Sen. Carl A. Hatch



Sen. L. Saltonstall



Rep. Andrew J. May



Rep. W. G. Andrews



Dr. J. R. Oppenheimer



William S. Newell



Fred Searls, Jr.

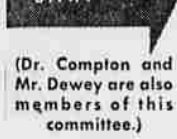


Dr. Karl T. Compton



Bradley Dewey

FOR JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF—



(Dr. Compton and Mr. Dewey are also members of this committee.)



Gen. Joseph Stilwell



Lt. Gen. L. H. Brereton



V. Adm. J. H. Hoover



R. Adm. R. A. Ofsie



Thomas F. Farrell

These are the two boards, one civilian and one military, that will make final overall reports on the Bikini atomic bomb tests. They will function independently, but there will be an unofficial liaison due to the fact that Dr. Compton and Dewey have been appointed to both. Drs. Oppenheimer and Compton, and Mr. Dewey are scientists. The latter, like Mr. Newell, is a corporation president. Farrell is chief engineer of the New York State Department of Public Parks who, as a major general, took a leading part in developing the bomb. Mr. Searls is a mining engineer and special assistant to Secretary Byrnes.

EYEWITNESS: Plane Felt No Blast Wave, Writer Says

By Frank H. Bartholomew

United Press Vice President for Pacific Division (Representing the Combined Press)

Aboard B-29 Press Plane off Bikini Atoll, July 1 (UP)—The atom bomb was exploded over Bikini lagoon. A twisting, sinuous column of brown and white smoke is boiling directly into the sky to the left of this airplane.

In two minutes it has cleared into creamy white.

We are flying at 7,000 and it's already many times our altitude.

We felt no blast wave.

Through shielding glasses I saw no flash.

We are circling in toward the beautiful sinuous cloud now.

We are crossing over Bikini reef at 9:04 a. m. The base of the atomic cloud seems to cover all the ships in the target array.

We cannot yet tell what has happened to the vessels themselves.

At 9:06 a. m. the cloud is separating into two mushroom super-imposed upon each other.

The topmost is assuming a creamy yellow color, the bottom one pure white.

Ships Still Afloat

At 9:11 a. m. we wheel in close again and I can see a score of ships of the target array still afloat. None seem to be afire. I cannot see the Nevada.

The great cloud, base and all, is moving westward across the lagoon.

At 9:15 a. m. a second cloud was seen forming perhaps a mile away from the base of the first. Whether it is from an exploding ship or an offshoot of the atomic blast itself we cannot yet tell.

The atomic cloud is thinning out, losing a definite outline.

It is now 9:16 a. m., a quarter of an hour since the detonation.

The base of the column is being blown westward across the entrance of Bikini lagoon. The top of the cloud, however, seems to hover stationary either directly over the target fleet or perhaps moving slowly in our direction to the east.

Column Z-shaped

The vast column is now ragged and Z-shaped. The top mushroom is connected by a thin tenuous fog-like connection to the lower column.

At 9:19 a. m. the base of the column seemed to be boiling up with renewed vigor. We are now at the far end of our orbit of Bikini and I cannot tell whether the turbulence is due to exploding or burning ships.

Natural clouds are interposing.

We turn back on our course

toward Bikini once more at 9:21 a. m.

I ask the plane's captain if he can identify any of the surviving ships.

The answer comes up the intercom that he can see a bit of red up forward which appears to be the Nevada.

"The explosion seems to have blown up most of the ship," he says.

Like an Octopus

The atomic cloud reaches out curiously like an octopus with vague dark tentacles everywhere against the eastern sky.

We are closer to the top of the cloud now than we have ever been and are sheering away for an additional margin of safety.

Hazily, perhaps from her wooden decks, perhaps from something more serious, we could see the carrier Independence clearly afire on her flight deck.

The Pensacola seems the most seriously damaged.

Hiroshima Mayor Comments on Blast

Hiroshima, July 1 (AP)—The people of this first atom-bombed city read with interest today results of the tests at Bikini.

Mayor Kichiro Kihara called the bombing of Hiroshima less than a year ago "the first step toward peace." He said:

"We fervently hope that atomic energy henceforth will be used, never for war, but for peace and for the advancement of civilization."

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Awesome as is its power, the survey said the A-bomb has its limits. That was demonstrated when outlying factories escaped major damage, and shelters and reinforced concrete buildings stood up well against the flame and shock of the atomic onslaught at Hiroshima, Nagasaki.

Military Plans Await Reports

Washington, July 1 (AP)—Civilian authorities on strategic bombing looked today for the full reports from the Bikini A-bomb experiment to turn up facts that will guide precision military planning against possible atomic attacks in the future.

These experts sat back to await complete scientific accounts of the test, after reporting to President Truman in advance of the Bikini experiment that the danger of an atomic blitz on the nation "is real."

They made the appraisal as members of the U.S. strategic bombing survey, which checked up on how atom bombs shattered two Japanese cities last August.

"A wise military establishment," they said, "will make sure—by dispersal, concealment, protection, and constant readiness of its forces—that no single blow or series of blows from an enemy can cripple its ability to strike back in the same way or to repel accompanying attacks from air, ground or sea forces."

"The measures to enable this unrelenting state of readiness are not new; only their urgency is increased."

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Ears Glued to Radios as Big Bomb Blasts at Bikini

A few Sunday dinner dates—not many—either at home or elsewhere, were disrupted or thrown out of schedule, and attendance at the Salem-Tacoma baseball game was reduced by several scores. The reason was that lots of people wanted to stay near their radios to hear the atomic bomb broadcast from Bikini.

There were others who refused to be balked in their driving plans for the day, and if cars were equipped with radios, heard the broadcast en route or after arrival at the beach, or wherever they were going. Travelers to the coast told of cars parked by the roadside while occupants listened to the running account of the momentous event. That also was true on other highways.

While the radio reception in automobiles was as good as could be expected, some of the small auto radios had difficulty in competing with the noise of moving vehicles. But neither in homes nor anywhere else, reports indicate, was the reception as good as desired.

The broadcast from Kwajalein was good. From the ships it could be heard fairly well, but not distinctly. Most of it from the B-29 was indistinct, but the "bombs away" came clearly, and a little later someone was heard to say "there she goes."

Generally speaking the running account up to the time the bomb was dropped was interesting and at times thrilling. The actual dropping of the bomb was somewhat short of the dramatic.

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