

Correspondent's Story of Atomic Bomb Blast—

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though not near so dazzling, I watched the cloud appearing like nothing more than a huge cherry ice cream soda. Cream white on the surface but deep inside the hues were pink and rose, and it boiled and seethed up through a cumulus natural cloud which hid it from our view. I felt a slight "pft" in my ears but felt no heat blast. Seconds later the sound of detonation came like a distant peal or roll of thunder; that's all, but then we were 18 miles away. Ten minutes after the blast the cloud had mushroomed up to a height of 26,000 feet and was approximately 12,000 feet across the top. The trade winds soon broke it up and it was pushed westward where it gradually leveled off and dispersed as our ship steamed slowly along the seaward side of Bikini Island.

We could see the ghost fleet in the lagoon through our binoculars. Fire amidships showed on the Saratoga. The Salt Lake City was ablaze. There appeared to be a small fire aboard the Nevada. These fires made a smoke haze over the lagoon, but it soon cleared away and as I look toward the lagoon now there is little indication of a fire anywhere.

We are changing course now, following the Mt. McKinley. Admiral Bland's flagship, apparently with the intention of entering the lagoon. Television receiving sets in the ward room of the Appalashian registered the blast from cameras installed on the island, then they went out of commission.

The carrier Independence likely suffered more damage than any other capital ship to its superstructure and all planes which were atop its flight deck were carried away. There was superficial or superstructure damage to other ships of the 73 in the target fleet but to me the pathos of the thing was emphasized when I saw the sturdy masts of the old Nevada brilliant in its orange paint, standing there still staunch and true despite the atomic bomb.

There was no wind, no waves and no thunderstorm. No trees were damaged on the island. There

was no tidal wave and no earthquake. In fairness there was no prediction from the navy or army officials that any of these things might happen. The navy frankly said they didn't know what would happen. These wild predictions were made by scientists or scientific writers. Also, in all fairness to the officers of joint task force No. 1, the bomb, which looked so small to the lay writers, may actually have been big.

Scientifically of course there can be no adequate judgment of the results until the instruments have been read, the damage on the various ships actually determined and measured. In the light of the objectives the navy and the army had in mind the actual effect of the bomb on naval construction, navy and army materiel, armament, ordnance and other equipment.

Admiral Bland, commander of the task force, issued a statement in which he said he was highly pleased with the whole operation; with the bomb drop and with the efficiency of the bomb. There are several aboard the ship who saw the Nagasaki bomb drop and the drop at Los Alamos, N. M. They declared this bomb appeared to be smaller, judging from the flash and the atomic cloud which in the case of Nagasaki soared to a height of about 55,000 feet.

There is no doubt that the force of this terrible energy is like nothing ever known on earth before but the distances out here are so great that the energy was dispersed and dissipated over a vast area. For instance, at Nagasaki the area of total bomb damage was in six square miles, or an area of about a mile and a half radius, while the distance of the Nevada from the shore of Bikini lagoon was about three miles. And the lagoon itself is 10 miles across and 25 miles long. It must also be remembered that as this story is written for transmission in time to get it to you there has been no actual assessment of the real damage. There may be more as we enter the lagoon and can visually assay the damage.

News from Our Boys and Girls In the Service

The following letter from Bill Blancet, of the Merchant Marine was received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Blancet. Due to the fact that Bill has many friends in the valley, Mr. and Mrs. Blancet have consented to publication herein.

June 17, 1946
Berman, Germany

Dear Folks:

We just arrived in Berman. We stopped at the Cliffs of Dover in England for about four hours to pick up our orders. The town was called Beal, England.

We had to get a map to show us how to get through the mine fields in the English Channel. We just missed one mine about fifty feet. We all were excited for a while.

There were sunken ships all through the English Channel.

We had a German pilot coming up the river. The captain said "I'm sure glad your submarines didn't get me during the war," and the pilot said "Captain, knock on wood for the next one." The captain looked at me and winked.

We came right along two or three submarine yards; they were quite flat.

This town had a population of four hundred thousand before the war, but I don't know about now.

There have been Germans here trying to buy cigarettes for fifteen dollars a carton. The money is only good here. It is invasion money. We will only be here eight days and then I don't know where we will go. These guys are trying to trade us pictures of Hitler; we told them we could get all we wanted in the States.

... If you pull a pack of cigarettes out of your pocket on the street, be sure there's a fence between you and the girls. All they think of here is cigarettes and food.

Love to all.

BILL

NON DENOMINATIONAL O'BRIEN SCHOOL HOUSE

Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship 8 p.m.
Daily except Saturday
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 8 p.m.
All are welcomed to come and worship God at our non-denominational services.

Rev. Gerald F. Heskett of Oregon City will hold revival meetings at the O'Brien school house in O'Brien, starting Sunday, July 14.

CAVE JUNCTION COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday School at 10 a. m.
Morning Worship 11 a. m.
Wednesday night prayer meeting 7:30 p. m.
George H. Gray, Pastor

Sunday School attendance 58.
Rev. Gray's sermon from Matthew, Chapter 5, 20th verse. Subject: "My Commission."
Duet by Mrs. Clara Dick and Mrs. Naomi Scott, "Sweet House of Prayer."

Visitors were Mrs. F. Cooper of Eugene, Mrs. B. Turman of eastern Oregon, Mrs. Earl Watson, Mrs. Kain, Mrs. M. Gill of Stockton, California.

The community song service will be held next Sunday, July 14. Bridgeview will be in charge.

The luncheon committee will leave at noon, and all ladies are invited to be present for the day.

The monthly meeting of the missionary group was held Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Lester Boling. A very fine group gathered for the business meeting and the program for the afternoon was on the subject of South America. Mrs. C. E. Burton opened the meeting with a devotional talk, and Mrs. H. Baack gave a very interesting map drill and history of the continent, followed by items given by ten ladies each representing one of the republics of our sister continent. A special feature of the afternoon was the surprise which the hostess committee had planned in celebration of the birthday of the president, Mrs. W. A. Brown. The table was beautifully decorated with attractive appointments, and centered with

a lovely birthday cake.

Mesdames Hamilton, Freeman and Iversen were genial hostesses. Among those present were Mrs. Paul Palmer, Mrs. Mary Wolfe of Los Angeles, Mrs. Elizabeth Haylett of Hawthorne, Calif., Mesdames Boling, Alina and Dora Brown, Baack, Dick, Burton, Doney, Lackey, Watkins, Wagstaff, Peters, Miss Shirley Boling, and the hostesses.

The next meeting will be held in

the new rooms at the church, and on a different day—Wednesday, July 17, with some surprises in store for those who attend.

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Washington Letter

(Continued from Page One)

up because of a reported lack of equipment in surplus. WAA inventories showed that the supply of tractors, graders, shovels, timber lifts and other heavy equipment was practically exhausted. Field information, however, indicated substantial numbers of these units still at depots and available for sale.

By mid-June, I was convinced that an investigation was needed. I checked with Army, Navy NHA and WAA officials, urging that the status of this field equipment be cleared. For lack of this equipment, the Northwest has been losing 100,000,000 feet of lumber production a month.

I learned that there were 50 D-7 tractors located at a small depot at Richmond, Virginia. The WAA had no record of them. The Army Engineers stated that they did not belong to the War Department. On investigation, I discovered there were 69 tractors de-

clared surplus since December, but not listed in the Washington WAA office inventory. In the case of power shovels, no units were reported available in surplus. I found 50 new shovels located at Marion, Ohio, which had been in surplus for several months. There was no record of these shovels in the Washington office.

As this letter appears in the press, there will be on the West Coast, a survey team made up of WAA, NHA and CPA representatives checking the larger West Coast depots. It is my guess that this team will discover several hundred tractors and numbers of other items of equipment. I feel confident that there are sufficient units in surplus and unsold to fill most, if not all, of the CPA urgency certificates granted the lumber industry in the Northwest.

—Keep Oregon Green—

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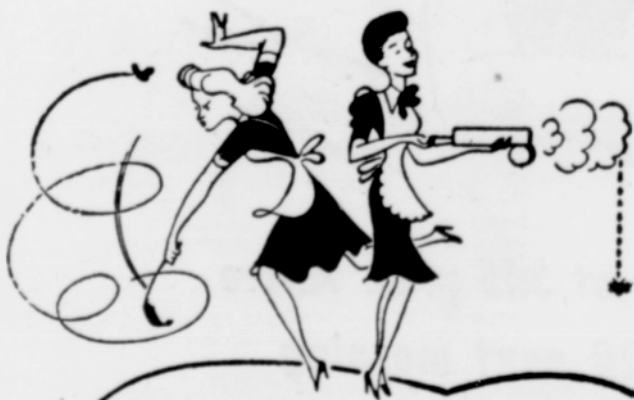
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