

Britain's Coming Atomic Test May Put Nation in World Lead

London—(U.P.)—Scientists here say Britain's first atomic explosion, expected in August, may put her years ahead of anybody else in nuclear research.

When Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced last February that Britain intended to test an "atomic weapon," his critics immediately said it was a waste of time and money to duplicate what the United States already had done.

But scientists have different ideas. They believe the experiment at the Monte Bello Islands off northwest Australia will explode all theories that Britain has fallen behind in the atomic race. Actually, it will project Britain theoretically into the year 1960 of the atomic age, they say.

One scientist said Britain actually has been in a position to

produce its own atom bombs for about four years. The design of the "device" to be used at Monte Bello is the result of eight years of secret research, he said.

America Thought Overhauled
"To put it bluntly we believe we have overhauled America in atomic research despite the critics and despite the vast resources America has at her disposal," the scientist said.

He said the development period of atomic research in Britain has now ended and the government has completed the complex organization which from now on will supply "the practical expressions of past thought and experiment."

On details of Britain's secret weapon, scientists act characteristically absent minded beyond remarking, "It embodies a huge volume of nuclear knowledge."

"But why do you always refer to a bomb? One scientist said.

This comment and informed opinion in the daily press and scientific journals prompted the conclusion that Britain's secret would be revealed as a new and simpler method of detonation which would be much safer to handle than its American counterpart.

Bomb Explosion Ruled Out
One thing appears certain—that there will be no bomb exploded on the Monte Bellos.

The best informed hint is that the new "device," which could be easily incorporated into an aerial bomb, guided missile or tactical shell, would be mounted on a platform high above the tiny group of coral reefs and wind-blown sand 50 miles off the Australian coast.

There has been no official announcement yet of the date fixed for the experiment. But according to progress reports on the preparatory work it appears that the first experiment will be carried out in August, followed by another in November.

Churchill personally has taken over direction of the entire long-distance project. Officials said he had ensured that "never in our history have so many security measures been employed to protect the secrets of so small a device."

In And Around Gold Hill

Gold Hill—Amethyst Rebekah lodge will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 2, instead of at the usual time of 8 o'clock. After a brief business session, the lodge members will pay a visit in a body to the Central Point Rebekah lodge. The Gold Hill group will take refreshments provided by the July committee, including Mesdames Paul Holderness, Joe Lewis, Walter Chaffee, Frank Carter and Cecil Johnson.

There will be no Garden club meeting this week, because of the regular meeting date being the Fourth of July. The meeting will be held Friday, July 11, instead.

Mrs. Paul Thompson and grandchildren, Jenny Lou and "Spike," left Saturday for San Jose, Calif., in company with Mrs. Thompson's sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Art Gorham and daughter, Donna, who had been visiting here at the Thompson home.

After a visit, Mrs. Thompson and her grandchildren will go on to Phoenix, Ariz., where they will meet Mrs. Thompson's son, Creighton, father of the children. The two children will go with him to their home in Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, Mex., to spend their school vacation and to visit their mother. Mrs. Paul Thompson may go on to Mexico with them for a visit before she returns home.

Mrs. Minnie Byerly returned home to Gold Hill Sunday after a visit with two of her daughters and their families. She visited Mr. and Mrs. Neal Bush and son, Danny, in Hillsboro; and Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Parker in Salem.

Past Noble Grands club of Amethyst Rebekah lodge met Thursday noon at the home of Mrs. George Dorman on Fifth avenue. A potluck picnic lunch was served on the lawn of the Dorman home, after which a short business session was conducted by the president, Mrs. Lester Thompson. Fourteen members and five children were present, and one visitor, Mrs. Kathryn Shearer, past noble grand from Forks, Wash. Mrs. Shearer is visiting in Gold Hill at the home of her two brothers, Earl and Joe Pankey.

The next meeting of the Past Noble Grands club was scheduled for Thursday, July 24, at 2 p.m., at the home of Mrs. William Ferguson on Second avenue.

Gold Hill Lady Lions club met Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. William Rockford on north Highway 99. Mrs. J. Les Graffis, club president, conducted a business session. Plans were made for the club to participate in a carnival to be held the latter part of July to raise money to fix up the community clubroom in the Odd Fellows building. The hostess served refreshments. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 10, at 9 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Don Morrow on Third street and Fifth avenue. It is to be a social meeting.

Mrs. John F. Frost returned home Sunday from a three-weeks visit in Eugene, at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Frost.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Waterhouse and their two small children, Dianne and Duane, moved to Medford this past week-end. They had been living in the Burke house on Second avenue.

Because of the illness of little Ricky Lester, the Gold Hill Hobby club did not meet at the home of Mrs. Fred Lester Friday night as had been planned. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. William Hall on Fourth avenue, with Mrs. George Turner as hostess.

Because of the meeting date falling on the Fourth of July, it was planned to postpone the meeting until Friday, July 11. It will be held at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Daniel Stewart, 619 Fifth avenue.

Gold Hill Girl Scout troop, under the leadership of Mrs. Paul Holderness, with the assistance of Miss Dena Jones, held a camp-out last Thursday night at the Lyman place on the Rogue river in Sams valley.

The girls cooked supper over a campfire and spent the evening in singing and games. Those present included Helen Hood, Suzanne Hood, Donna Burnett, Gail Collins and Marilyn Harrison.

Fire Chief Melford Hood and members of his Volunteer Fire department are inspecting all Gold Hill homes for fire hazards. Stove installations, chimneys, flues, attics, electric wiring and other common causes of fires will be checked.

In spite of the rainy weather, this is the closed fire season and residents are not supposed to do any burning of trash piles or vacant lots without permits, according to the fire department. If residents wish to burn off vacant lots, the fire department will stand by as a safety precaution, if the lot owner will contact the fire chief or one of his volunteers.

William Hall, Gold Hill school teacher, is temporary supervisor of a Ground Observer civil defense group now being organized in Gold Hill. He states that at least 25 volunteers are needed, one for each hour of the day, with at least one substitute. The school roof is to be used as an observation post. Anyone willing to serve with this group is asked to contact Hall at his home, 1103 Fourth avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Balcomb and two children, Frances and Joe, are moving to Petaluma, Calif., to make their home. Balcomb took his wife and children down there last week, but he returned here to complete arrangements for selling his home on Sixth avenue.

Stevenson-Kerr Ticket Considered

Washington — (U.P.) — Democratic sources have reported increasing sentiment among party "regulars" for a Stevenson-Kerr ticket.

Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois would be the Democratic presidential nominee on such a ticket with Sen. Robert S. Kerr, (D-Okla.), as his vice-presidential running mate.

Stevenson said several weeks ago that he "could not" accept the presidential nomination. But he has been getting less and less emphatic about it lately, and a large number of professional politicians here now take it for granted that he is "available."

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