

In-Air Test of Atomic Missile May Save Countless Lives

Washington — (U.P.) — The atomic weapon exploded six miles above the Nevada desert may save millions of American lives.

That could be so, officials here believe, because it:

1. Portends a time when this country will be able to throw up "a barrier of atomic firepower" against enemy H-bombers.

2. Adds a powerful new deterrent to enemy air-atomic attack by cutting down drastically its chances of success.

Once data from Wednesday's successful high shot is analyzed, official sources predicted, atomic warheads will go into

quantity production for a variety of anti-aircraft weapons.

These will include air-to-air and ground-to-air guided missiles capable of destroying enemy bombers hundreds or thousands of miles from target, depending on when and where they are detected.

Recently an official made it plain that this country possesses a big enough stockpile of nuclear explosives to divert large amounts to missiles of the kind demonstrated Wednesday.

"We are up to our ears in the stuff," he said.

Wednesday's test was the climax of much thinking and ex-

perimentation. Long since, the Atomic Energy Commission had learned how to compress the fury of the wartime Hiroshima bomb, a huge and awkward con-

Eddyville Autoist Killed in Accident

Monmouth, Ore. — (U.P.) — Armand J. Foster, 26, Eddyville, Ore., was killed yesterday when he was thrown from a car in a collision with a log truck and crushed by logs falling from the truck.

State police said the accident occurred about eight miles south-

west of here on Airlie road. Three others in the car were injured. They included Verlin Foster, 23, Armand's brother; Robert Rariden, 23, and Charles Rariden, 22, both of Peedee near here. Glen W. Davis, Monmouth, the truck driver, was unhurt.

ment has said, can be propelled from interceptor aircraft. Although Wednesday's explosion in the sky was described unofficially as comparable to 5,000 to 10,000 tons of TNT, there is reason to believe U. S. weaponeers can make comparatively small warheads of 20,000 to 50,000 tons TNT equivalent.

Such weapons, even in prospect, appear to rule out of future warfare the massive bomber fleets of World War II.

It also rules out the penalty of a "near miss." A near miss with an atomic air weapon could be as good as a hit.

And just one H-bomber knocked down could mean the survival of a metropolis which otherwise would count its casualties in the millions.

The theory is that the new weapon will be hurled at attacking planes while they are still roaring over the continent's northern waste lands or while they are far at sea if they come over water.

Wednesday's test proved, however, that atomic anti-aircraft rockets could be used effectively high over populated areas without serious radiation or blast danger to persons on the ground.

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