

Writer Tells of Bomb Blast Experience While Huddled in General Patton Tank

Editor's note: Two years ago, United Press Staff Correspondent Robert Hennhoff, a former war correspondent and veteran of more than 35 atomic tests, huddled in a trench 4000 yards from a nuclear blast equivalent to 15,000 tons of TNT. He reported the experience was disappointingly tame. Today, Hennhoff was "bounced up" inside a 30-ton Gen. Patton tank 3100 yards from a much bigger atomic blast.

By ROBERT HENNHOF
3100 Yards from Hell—(U.P.)—
Shake, rattle and roll.
Give me a 30-ton Gen. Patton tank and I don't care if they drop an A-bomb on my front doorstep.

Today's atomic blast caught the five of us huddled in tank Charlie almost by surprise. Our telephone line was out and we were under radio silence.

"Our five watches didn't agree and we were debating what time it was when a faint glimmer of light filtered inside the tank. If you'd blinked you would have missed it. 'There she goes,' shouted one of the crew.

He was so right.

Before we could grab for something solid and say "zee whillikers" the noise and the blast wave hit us simultane-

ously. They came with a wicked wallop maybe two or three seconds after the first glimmer of light.

Before I go any further, I'd better introduce the crewmen in my tank. The four of them and myself emerged from the blast unharmed, unsinged and cocky as the devil.

The tank commander is Pfc. Edgar Hennel, 24, Pittsburgh. The gunner is Pfc. Hollis Gerald McCollum, 18, Ontario, Calif. Our driver is Pfc. James E. Parker, 19, Aberdeen, Wash., and the ammunition loader is 1st Sgt. Nicholas Petock, 39, Beaver Meadows, Pa.

While we were hollering to each other that the blast had gone off, the tank was filled with an earsplitting "whap" that sounded like a million beavers slapping their tails on water in unison.

Begins To Shake
At the same time the tank, heavy and solid as it was, began to shake.

It wasn't the gentle rolling motion of a moderate earthquake that we felt in the trenches two years ago.

Today's motion was jarring and jolting as if some giant had grasped the tank in his hands and shook it violently. We heard the rush of the blast wave through the air past the tank with the rattle of dirt and rocks off its sides.

All the time we heard the rumbling echo and re-echo of the "whap" of the explosion across Yucca Flat, sounding like a busy bowling alley.

The inside of the tank was filled with blinding, choking dust. How the dust got inside the tank when the blinding flash of the explosion died down we'll never know, but it did.

Ten seconds after the blast we had the two top hatches open and were peering outside.

Awful But Beautiful Sight
The first thing we saw was dust, huge clouds of it in all directions. Then we looked up and saw the awful but still beautiful mushroom cloud boiling upward from the desert floor. A dirty reddish-brown cloud of smoke and dust lay at its base and the top of the mushroom tinged with deep shades of pink and lavender and churning pink-

ously, rose speedily skyward almost directly overhead.

"I never saw such a beautiful sight in my life," said Hennel. "It looked like a giant pink carnation up in the sky."

Nobody said much for quite a while after that. The crew was busy firing the 90-millimeter cannon and the machine guns and getting the tank underway for the first live atomic tank maneuver in history.

And I was too busy scribbling notes as the tank bounced forward across the desert but at the same time somehow wishing we had been a little closer.

Wall Street

New York—(U.P.)—Stocks advanced today on moderately heavier volume.

Net gains extending to more than a point in the main list and as much as 6 points in specials.

Prominent gainers included DuPont, Bethlehem, Eastman, Chrysler, Kennecott, RCA and International Paper.

DOW-JONES AVERAGES

Dow-Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 423.39 up 0.85; 20 railroads 159.42 up 1.02; 15 utilities 64.68 up 0.12, and 65 stocks 159.03 up 0.52.

Sales today were about 2,270,000 shares compared with 2,200,000 shares traded yesterday.

Today's closing prices on selected stocks:

American T & T	184 1/2
Anacosta	62 1/2
Chrysler	80
Curtiss Wright	20 1/4
General Electric	51 1/2
General Motors	97 3/4
Montgomery Ward	77 1/2
Penn R R	27 1/2
Penn J C	91 3/4
Radio	45 3/4
Southern Co	20 1/4
Southern Pacific	60 1/2
S Oil of Calif	78 1/2
Texas Gulf Sulphur	40 1/2
Transamerica	40 1/2
U S Continental	26 1/2
United Aircraft	69
U S Rubber	46 1/2
U S Steel	86
Youngstown	78 1/2

PORTLAND LIVESTOCK

Portland—(U.P.)—Cattle: 150. Average choice 1049 lb. steers \$24.25; good and low choice steers \$21.50-23; utility heifers \$13-16; canner-cutter cows \$9.50-12; utility cows \$13-14.50; commercial \$14.75-16.
Calves: none. Good-choice vealers around \$23-28.
Hogs: 100. Choice 180-235 lb. \$19.50-20.50; choice 235-350 lb. sows \$10-11.50.
Sheep: none. Choice-prime spring lambs \$21.50-22; choice woolled lambs \$18 down; good-choice shorn ewes \$15.50-16.50.

PORTLAND CASH GRAIN

Portland—Prices as reported by the USDA market news service: Wheat, No. 2 soft white, \$80.50 a ton bulk, prompt delivery f.o.b. Portland. No. 2 white oats 38 lb. test Coast delivery \$34 ton; Portland delivery, \$31. No. 2 Western barley, \$34 ton o.b. Portland Coast delivery; soybean meal \$84 ton, cars prompt delivery Portland; standard millrun, \$46 cars, prompt delivery Portland; No. 2 yellow corn, \$69.25-69.50 ton f.o.b. Portland.
Wholesale Hay: Prices: Market nominal.

PORTLAND PRODUCE

Portland—(U.P.)—Eggs—To retailers: Grade AA large, 30-51c doz; A large, 48-49c; AA medium, 48-49c doz; A medium, 47-48c doz; A small, 42-44c doz; cartons, 1-3c additional.
Butter—To retailers: AA grade prints, 66c lb.; cartons 67c; A prints, 66c; cartons 67c; B prints, 64c.
Cheese—To retailers: A grade cheddar, Oregon singles, 42-43c; 5-lb. loaves, 46-49c; Processed American cheese, 5-lb. loaf, 39-41c lb.

Farm Market
Willamette valley rhubarb sold off jobber's floors at \$1.25-1.50 for 15 lbs. today for best quality; northwest potato listings held firm; radishes sold mostly at around 60 cents a dozen bunches.

Poultry, Rabbits
Live Chickens—To growers (No. 1 quality f.o.b. Portland): Fryers 2 1/2 to 4 lbs., 26c lb.; at farm 25c; roasters, 26c; Portland, 25c; ranch; light hens, 18-19c; heavy hens all wts., 22-23c lb.; old roasters, 12-14c lb.
Dressed Chickens—No. 1 dressed to retailers: Fryers, New York style, 31-38c lb.; whole drawn, 48-49c; cut-up, 31-34c lb.; roasters, N.Y. style, 39-40c; hens, light type, New York style, 31-32c; cut-ups, 43-46c; hens, heavy type, N.Y. style, 34-35c; whole drawn, 44-46c lb.
Turkeys—To retailers: A grade hens, ready to cook, 48-50c; N.Y. dressed, 47-48c lb.; A grade toms oven ready, 40-44c; N.Y. style, 34-35c lb.

Rabbits—average to growers (f.o.b. killing plants): Live white, 33-43c; 21-23c up; 5-8 lbs., 17-19c; colored pelts, 4c under; old does, 10-12c; a few higher. Fresh dressed fryers to retailers, 37-60c; cut up, 62-65c.

DAILY WEATHER REPORT
DATE May 5, 1953
Sunset tonight 7:15 p.m. Sunrise tomorrow 5 p.m.

FORECASTS
Medford and vicinity: Fair through Friday. Low tonight 42. A little cooler Friday with high near 70.

Western Oregon: Partly cloudy tonight and Friday except cloudy along coast. Low tonight 40-46. A little cooler Friday with highs 56-65 inland and 55-60 n coast.

Northern California: Mostly fair through Friday except local low clouds on coast. Little temperature change.

LOCAL DATA
TEMPERATURE: Mean yesterday 59, above normal 3.
Record high this date 92 in 1947.
Record low this date 28 in 1924.

PRECIPITATION: 24 hours to midnight, none. Midnight to 10 a.m., none. To this month .09 in., .07 in. below normal.

Total since Sept. 1, 1947: inches, 7.74; inches below normal, 1.22.
HUMIDITY: Lowest yesterday 27%, highest this a.m. 94%.

CITY
Brookings 63 46
Crater Lake 49 30
Grants Pass 73 49
Klamath Falls 66 41
Medford 73 43
Portland 70 45

Seattle 65 39
Spokane 64 42
Yakima 70 47
Eureka 53 47
Red Bluff 75 53
Sacramento 71 48
San Francisco 68 46
Los Angeles 73 56

Phoenix 92 66
Denver 83 48
Chicago 88 57
Miami 78 62
New York 76 53
Washington, D.C. 80 60

Nomination of East as District Judge Brings Sighs of Relief

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington (Special)—President Eisenhower's nomination of Circuit Judge William G. East of Eugene to be a federal district judge for Oregon caused great sighs of relief from Oregon politicians on both sides of the party fence.

Republicans were most relieved because they had been nursing a bad case of the jitters for many weeks out of fear another, in the long series of hitches would develop to add to the year-long delay that ensued between the promotion of Judge James Alger Fee to a higher court and the appointment of his successor.

During that year they had first put forth an Oregon City Circuit Judge, Ralph Holman, only to withdraw his name after a protracted battle within party ranks. Some GOP elements were critical of the Holman choice because they feared he would be vulnerable to criticism for having not long before allowed the bailiff and clerk of his circuit court to act as appraisers in the settlement of an estate, thereby permitting them to collect extra fees.

Although this was not an uncommon practice, it resulted in a switch in party recommendations for the Oregon judgeship and submission of Judge East's name to Attorney General Herbert Brownell, who passes on all such positions before they can go to Eisenhower.

Formal nomination of East this week, over four months after his name was submitted to the administration, was the cause of relief on the Democratic side as well, particularly in the camp of Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) who himself got mixed up in the judgeship affair some months ago.

Neuberger last February asked the F.B.I. to look into an incident involving Judge East near Reedsport which a newspaper account indicated involved drunk driving. The F.B.I. followed through but never gave Neuberger an account of its findings, even though reportedly it gave East a clean bill of health.

Period of Waiting
There then followed a period of watchful waiting on both sides for much of March and all of April—the administration and Republicans wondering whether Neuberger, fresh from victory

in his Save-the-White-House-Squirrels-Crusade, would seek to block the East nomination if it were sent to the Senate for confirmation; and Neuberger on the other side, not knowing exactly what the F.B.I. had learned in its investigation, uncertain what attitude to express toward the possibility of the East appointment.

When state Republicans pointed out to administration officials that the Oregon GOP was suffering from criticism over the long delay in filling the vacant judgeship, the administration promised action—but didn't say when. Days and weeks passed and political jitters were aggravated by constant rumors about other candidates coming into the picture.

Administration Drops Plan

The administration at one time had planned to solicit the views of Neuberger and Sen. Wayne Morse privately before formally nominating East, but this plan was dropped. Both senators indicated that generally they had no personal objections to any of the several Republican prospects mentioned for the \$22,500 job.

Yet the Reedsport incident, innocent of wrongdoing as it may have been, haunted sensitive administration officials who still feared that it just might boomerang politically as a minor national issue, in just the way other judgeship nominations of presidents over the years have caused embarrassment when blocked by the senators of the state in question.

Finally the decision was taken to go through with it—and when Neuberger greeted the nomination with a promise to vote for East, the sighs of relief were as

Phoenix Festival Set For Saturday, May 28

Phoenix—The Phoenix May festival will be held Saturday, May 28, the executive committee of the Phoenix Community club has announced.

Booth spaces are available for active groups on a 50 per cent consignment basis, and arrangements can be made for commercial displays on the festival grounds, officers announced.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 1 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

SCOUT CIRCUS SET

Ontario, Ore.—(U.P.)—The third annual Boy Scout circus presented by the Ore.-Ida. Scout's council will be held at Malheur county fairgrounds Friday night, Saturday night it will be presented at Nampa, Ida. About 2,000 scouts will participate.

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By Jimmy Hatlo

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