Explosion of Atlas Missile Gives Valuable Data; Under Intensive Study by Scientists

Cape Canaveral, Fla. —(AP)— The explosion of the giant ballistic missile, the Atlas, gave scientists valuable information which was under intensive study today. The huge intercontinental rocket exploded shortly after its maiden launching Tuesday.

The silver, snub-nosed projectile, estimated to be about 100 feet long, rocketed 5,000 feet into the sky from this Air Force guided missile center. It then exploded in a blossom of orange flame and red-hot chunks of metal cascaded into the Atlantic ocean.

In a terse statement, the Air Force announced:

"A missile was fired from the Cape Canaveral testing area today. Shortly after the launching the missile exploded. There were no casualties.

There was no explanation of what caused the missile to explode—whether it was exploded by remote control, or whether something uncontrollable occurred.

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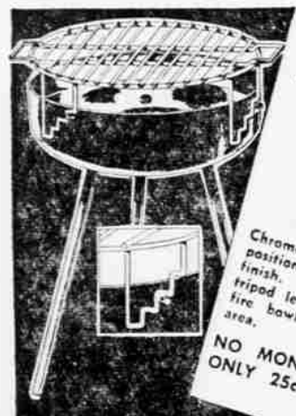

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