

Ocean Test For Atom Bomb Likely In Pacific Sometime Next Spring

By ELTON C. FAY
WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (AP)—The atomic bomb is expected to get its ocean test in a remote corner of the Pacific sometime next spring.

Although a White House announcement that President Truman himself suggested the joint army-navy test against warships indicates desire for early action, those in a position to know say the preparations may require as much as five months.

In addition to selecting and preparing target ships, it will be necessary to assemble an array of precision instruments and scientists to work with army and navy officials on the test.

Then will come what the two services describe as "large problems of logistics"—moving this gigantic floating and flying laboratory to a distant ocean area and supplying it prior to and during the actual experiments.

Policing of the test area in itself will be a major task. Scientists can only conjecture and estimate the results of an atomic bomb explosion over or in the ocean. The weather, particularly the winds, must be checked closely to determine the drift of air charged with radio activity by an explosion. Similar guards must be established in relation to the sea, with its mineral content capable of radio activity.

Officials say it is obvious that the bombing range will be located as far as possible from populated coast lines or shipping lanes and also that it will be desirable to keep away from commercial fishing areas where the explosions and radio activity could cause serious damage.

These specifications for a proving ground point to the Pacific, although final determination has not been made. The Pacific, with its millions of square miles, has waters of tremendous depths. Some A-bomb experts have suggested that tests against warships should include detonation of the explosive in very deep water to determine the pressure effect on hulls and its range.

Colonel Says Chiang Rule Graft-Ridden

TACOMA, Dec. 14 (AP)—Chiang Kai-shek's nationalist government in China is graft-ridden beyond belief and as undemocratic as Hitler's in Germany, Lt. Col. W. J. Peterkin of Sumner, Wash., declared here yesterday.

On the other hand, said Col. Peterkin, who spent two years in central and communist China as a military observer for Gen. Stilwell, "the communist government plan (in China) is in actual operation and is almost completely free of graft."

He charged that Chiang's program for China appears only on paper. Col. Peterkin, who recently declared Gen. Patrick J. Hurley "the wrong type of man for China," is on his way out of the army.

Dennis Resentenced To Die In Chamber

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 14 (AP)—Andrew W. Dennis, convicted slayer of his mother-in-law, was resentenced here yesterday to die in the gas chamber at Salem January 25.

Dennis won a last minute delay in his execution recently when the state supreme court found a death warrant had not been properly issued.

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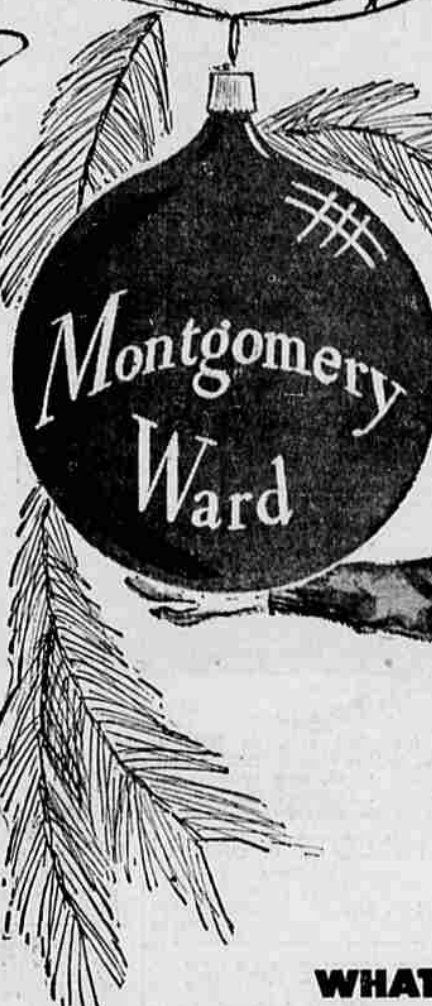
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