

Guinea Pig Fleet Of 97 Vessels Will Be Target For Atomic Bomb Test At Bikini Atoll Anchorage

By WILLIAM A. KINNEY
WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (AP)—The navy raised the curtain today on its plans for testing the atomic bomb against a great armada of fighting ships—an experiment expected to revolutionize sea warfare.

A guinea pig fleet of 97 vessels, ranging from corvettes and battleships, submarines and transports to an assortment of smaller craft such as landing ships, will be the atomic target in the vast operation to start in May.

The laboratory selected is the anchorage of Bikini atoll, one of the southernmost of the Marshall Islands which were wrested from Japan by amphibious assault two years ago.

Vice Adm. W. H. P. Blandy, head of the navy's division on special weapons, ticked off for the senate atomic energy committee these details of the epochal experiment, known by the codeword "operation crossroads":

1. In the target fleet will be 50 operating ships—two aircraft carriers, four battleships, two cruisers, 16 destroyers, eight submarines and 15 transports from U. S. fleets, plus a German heavy cruiser, a Japanese battleship and light cruiser—and 47 of other craft such as landing ships.
2. The undertaking "is not a combined or international operation, but rather a scientific experiment by the United States government alone." The question of permitting foreign observers has not yet been decided.
3. The unmanned target ships "will be anchored and placed in a manner calculated to give effects varying from probable destruction to negligible damage" in each type.
4. The first test, early in May, calls for detonating an atomic bomb at an altitude of several hundred feet above the target vessels. A second test, tentatively set for July 1, will be an atomic burst at the water's surface in the target area.
5. A deep water test in the open sea is planned later, but technical difficulties preclude its coming off this year.
6. "Task force one"—a fleet of 50 additional U. S. navy ships with a complement of 20,000 men—will set up the experiment and make arrangements for recording its results by all modern scientific techniques.

Police Catch Jail Escapee

Calvin L. Burtis who, with three other prisoners, saved his way out of the Jackson county jail at Medford January 5, has been captured at Susanville, Calif., after an armed robbery down there.

His sister, Doris Burtis, was also caught at Susanville and has waived extradition and been returned to Medford where she is wanted for allegedly slipping hack saw blades to her brother in jail.

Bobby J. Nelson, part Indian, the last of the escapees, has not been caught yet. Two negroes, Roger Chapman and Edward Mackey, were picked up in Ashland a few hours after the break.

A car belonging to Harold Sutton, Medford, was found in the possession of Burtis and his sister at Susanville.

USBR Releases Housing Claim

SALEM, Jan. 24 (AP)—Withdrawal of a reclamation bureau priority claim on housing units at Richland, Wash., will assure Oregon State college and the University of Oregon of receiving 58 units assigned to the college campuses.

State Budget Director George Aiken said arrangements between his office and reclamation officials had settled a dispute delaying installation of the units at Corvallis and Eugene.

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The World Today

By DeWITT MacKENZIE
AP World Traveler

MADRID, Jan. 24—Generalissimo Francisco Franco, chief of the Spanish state, has granted me an interview which has taken one of the most unusual turns I've encountered in a long experience with heads of governments and diplomats.



Highlights of his statements are these:

He is anxious for good relations with the United States. He never subscribed to the policies or to the political views of Hitler and Mussolini and he condemns their persecutions. Spain is developing along her own lines, uninfluenced by either Germany or Italy, and he (Franco) is heading for absolute democratic rule by the people.

As for the hotly debated question of a return of the Spanish monarchy, he says: "It will be approached when this is suitable to the interests of the nation. When this time comes, it will have to be the Spaniards themselves who pronounce themselves in its favor."

What happened about our meeting was this: The generalissimo rarely gives interviews, and in granting my request for one asked that I submit my questions in advance. This I did, and when I arrived at his residence—the fine old Royal Palace at El Pardo near Madrid—I had little hope that I should get more than formal replies to my written queries.

While awaiting my summons in the truly royal reception room, I admist the Goya tapestries and other priceless treasures. I decided I should try for a more open and intimate discussion of Spain's problems.

Cordial Greeting
I was encouraged in this decision by the most cordial greeting of the generalissimo when I was ushered into his private room.

Accordingly, when we had disposed of the formal queries and answers, I said to him: "If it is permissible I should like to ask another question. It's a very blunt one, and my sole purpose in putting it is to provide an opportunity for an answer which may help relations between our two countries."

El Caudillo gave me a questioning glance but nodded acquiescence and I hung my question on the line.

"The people of the United States have fought a great war against nazism and fascism. Thousands of our boys have died for this cause. Rightly or wrongly the American public feels that Spain was in effect an ally of Germany and Italy, and it finds it hard to forgive that. Did you subscribe to or support nazi and fascist policies?"

The generalissimo shook his head.

"No," he declared categorically. "I did not. Spain wasn't in-

fluenced by Germany and Italy, but has been developing along its own lines. We condemned all the persecutions which were carried out by those countries. There was no racial trouble in Spain. The Jews weren't persecuted here, nor was any other religion. There is religious freedom for all in Spain.

Political Query
"Do you subscribe to the political views of Hitler and Mussolini?" I persisted.

He replied emphatically that he did not, and then said in amplification:

"Spain went through a bad civil war, and after such a conflict the country must proceed carefully. It can't jump to another regime haphazardly.

"But I would call attention to the fact that the cortes has been functioning for three years. The government doesn't make the laws. All the laws which the government recommends go to the cortes for consideration and possible passage. The cortes must discuss the measures for at least two months, and frequently its consideration runs much longer. If I, as chief of state, have a measure which I want to see put into effect, I have to take it to the cortes for approval."

"Does this mean that you are headed for absolute democracy, that is, rule by the people?"

"Yes," answered El Caudillo. "But we must proceed slowly, step by step, until the people are properly prepared."

The generalissimo didn't amplify his reference to the people being "properly prepared," but I have no doubt he had in mind the fact that Spain, being rather set apart from the rest of Europe, has moved slowly through the generations in making major changes.

Different View
The chief of state said there was quite a different point of view in the United States with its major political parties. Spain, he continued, had some 20 parties under the late republic, and "foreign countries" got control of Spain's policies. Here again El Caudillo didn't identify the "foreign countries." But the connotation was clear enough. He was referring to communism. He added that this couldn't happen after the revolution which overthrew the republic. He was, of course, the leader of that revolt.

I asked the generalissimo if he had anything he would like to add apart from my questions. He answered:

"Wars accelerate political development and this may mean that Spain and America will be drawn nearer together. The World War really meant three wars for Spain.

"First, there was the war among civilized countries of Europe. Spain remained neutral, and it was a matter of regret to her that this war should happen.

"Secondly, there was the war against Russia by Germany, and such a war won our sympathy as calculated to halt communism in all Europe."

"Thirdly, there was the war in the Pacific. In this we had the greatest sympathy with America.

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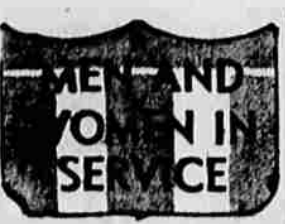
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PROMOTED
FIFTH AIR FORCE, Tokyo—Martin H. Hveem, son of Mrs. E. C. Grubb, 834 Klamath, Klamath Falls, has been promoted to captain at his post with the fifth air force occupational troops in Japan.

Overseas seven months, Capt. Hveem is at present inceptor of his group. He was stationed in the Philippines prior to the Japanese occupation, and is entitled to wear the Asiatic-Pacific ribbon with one-battle star, Philippine Liberation ribbon, Victory medal, American Theater ribbon, American Defense ribbon, and the Good Conduct ribbon.

Capt. Hveem enlisted in the air corps in July of 1940 and was commissioned January of 1943.

TRANSFERRED
After 11 months at Ladd field, Alaska air command base 75 miles below the Arctic Circle, Sgt. Jack O. Hanson, son of George W. Hanson, 635 Division, and other members of the 577th army air force band departed January 15 by air transport liner for Edmonton, Canada, their new station.

Hanson entered the army in March, 1943, and received his basic training at the Portland air base.

The 577th AAF band held the distinction during the war of being stationed farther north than any other musical organization of the armed forces.

Will Durant To Talk Here

An interesting evening with Dr. Will Durant, noted historian, author and lecturer, is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, when members of the Klamath Knife and Fork club will meet at the Willard for dinner.

The number of reservations desired for the dinner should be marked on the cards with the signature of the member and they should be returned immediately to facilitate service, Fred Southwell, club secretary-treasurer stated.

Dr. Durant who has completed the third of five volumes he is writing on world history, will be in Klamath Falls for the first time on his visit Tuesday when he will speak before the club. He will be introduced by Phil Hitchcock, manager of West-Hitchcock corporation.

Spain was with the United States all the time in the war against Japan.

Thus ended my impromptu interview with Spain's chief of state. There still remains his answers to my written questions and those will be dealt with in a subsequent column.

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Oregon Road Conditions Near Normal

SALEM, Jan. 24 (AP)—Oregon highway conditions were near normal today, with a few sections of icy pavement in the mountains and eastern Oregon.

The state highway commission's daily road report:

Santiam Junction—Temperature 30 degrees, rained hard last night, but started snowing hard at 6 a. m. today. Three inches new snow, total snow at summit 95 inches, at junction 48 inches.

Odele Lake—Snowing and raining intermittently at higher altitudes. Raining at lower altitudes. Total snow at summit 107 inches. One-way traffic between Oakridge and summit.

Rain
Klamath Falls—Raining on Sun mountain, Greensprings and Quartz mountain, with temperatures about 35 degrees.

Astoria—Columbia highway closed at east city limits of Astoria, detouring through Tongue Point naval base. One-way traffic on coast highway near Manzanita.

The Dalles—Snowed two to four inches throughout district yesterday afternoon and evening. Roadway bare of snow.

Meacham—Snow and rain last night, few spots of ice and snow on Old Oregon Trail.

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HERALD AND NEWS—SEVEN

Baker—Highway icy, two inches new snow.
Burns—Packed snow and ice over part of district.
John Day—One-way traffic north of Service creek.
Austin—Two inches new snow, but turned to rain today.
Guinea pigs and ground hogs are related to rabbits.

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Bar—Dancing—Bowling
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