

SCIENTISTS EYE DEATH RAIN

Weigh Possibility Of Exploding Atom Bomb In Heavy Cloud Banks Over Inland Cities

WASHINGTON, May 28 (AP)—Scientists are weighing the possibility of exploding an atomic bomb in the midst of storm clouds to create a literal rain of death.

The advantage of this technique, experts studying the plan told a reporter today, is that a city far inland could be drenched with radioactivity without the necessity of exploding a bomb under water, as was done in the Bikini experiments.

Until now, coastal cities or those near large rivers or lakes were the most probable targets for such type atomic bombing.

There is, however, a definite possibility that the very power and heat of the bomb might foil the plan.

Some scientists contend that a bomb exploded in a cloud bank might first blast the cloud away and then dissipate its moisture high into the air and away from the target.

But proponents of the idea say it would be necessary only to watch the drift of weather toward a target and select a day when rain clouds several thousand feet thick were floating overhead. Radar would pick up the target for the bombing plane, and the bomb would be exploded in the thick of the storm. Rain falling from the clouds would be poisoned with the deadly by-

product of the bomb's explosion. The use of radioactivity in this manner would be aside from previously reported plans for spraying a target area with radioactive material released from an airplane.

Military strategists also are eyeing rainclouds in connection with another recent scientific discovery, the creation of artificial snow or rainstorms by the release of "dry ice" or solid carbon dioxide into clouds.

Precipitation by this method was

first achieved last year by Vincent J. Schaefer, General Electric company scientist, in an experiment over Massachusetts. By dropping the dry ice into a cloud—thereby suddenly chilling it—Schaefer succeeded in causing a small snowfall.

A similar experiment in Australia produced rain.

Airmen see military value in the dry ice technique if it can be developed to the point where a whole cloud mass can be turned into water and precipitated.

If aerial photographic reconnaissance of a future target is prevented by a low cloud accumulation, they say, the clouds could be "swept away" or a hole punched in them to permit the reconnaissance plane to make its picture.

Use of such a method for actual bombing is unnecessary, however, because development of the radar bombsight method makes targets "visible" through any kind of weather.

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Girl Scouts To Camp At Lake

Lake o' the Wood this summer will be teeming with little Girl Scouts from Klamath Falls and Medford with both Camp Esther Applegate on the west side, and Low Echo camp for Medford girls on the east side, getting ready for the camping season in July.

Klamath girls are signing up for the Girl Scout camp dates and according to Medford sources the Low Echo camp will be filled for each of the four weeks. The camp is located on the site of the former forest service Willow Springs campground and was used for the first time last year following purchase of the property by the council. Medford girls are at camp July 3 to 30. Mrs. Marjorie Hopkins of Medford will direct the Low Echo camp.

First letter carried by air crossed the English channel in 1785 by balloon.

No Limit Yet On Irrigation

Farmers have not been limited in use of water from the irrigation canals in spite of the dry weather. Ralph S. Hopkins, irrigation manager of the U. S. bureau of reclamation, said today that there is ample water in the canals for all irrigation purposes but Gerber reservoir is being carefully watched and no holdover after the irrigation season is expected.

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