

# Mysterious Flames Rip Ship At Sea; Captain In Cabin Burned By Flareup

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — Survivors of four mysterious explosions at sea that blasted sheets of flame through the American freighter *Pierce* landed here today with tales of heroism, panic and a sailor's ordeal by fire and icy waves.

Fire still smoldered in one hold of the *Pierce* as an investigation was started, investigators said there was no suspicion of sabotage.

One of the three seriously injured crewmen, Seaman Earlwyn Jooey of New London, Conn., and Del. Mar, Calif., said he was knocked unconscious by one blast and came to on the deck, his clothes blazing.

A human torch, he ran to the side and dove into the icy Pacific. He watched in horror as the *Pierce* moved slowly away and almost out of sight.

Then it turned around and started back. Jooey, chilled to the bone and almost despairing of his life, thrashed the water wildly to attract attention.

He was plucked out of the sea and returned to the still-buzzing ship after nearly two agonizing hours in the salt water.

A small boat from the naval transport, *Barrett*, summoned by an SOS, bobbed up and down on 20 foot waves and removed the nine American passengers, Jooey and two other injured crewmen, and a fourth crewman suffering from pneumonia.

None of the passengers—seven of whom were women—was injured. One of them, Mrs. Charlotte Mahoney of Swanton, Vt., said, "The passengers were very panicky and badly frightened but eventually things were pretty well organized."

First Mate Ben Norton of San Francisco said the explosions "hurled debris from the forward hatch all the way to the rear of the ship."

Capt. Fred Willards of Walnut Creek, Calif., was sitting in his cabin, Norton said, when "a fiery blast came in through the porthole and burned him on the face and hands. It knocked him off his chair."

Norton said he and the captain ran out on the deck "ducking and dodging flying debris."

The captain was painfully burned but refused to leave his ship when the small boat from the *Barrett* came alongside. Two Navy medical corpsmen from the *Barrett* gave him emergency first aid.

Deep in the bowels of the stricken freighter, heroic crewmen sprang into action against the blistering flames.

The 7,000-ton military cargo included petroleum products, lumber, mail and cotton. The cotton may have created enough heat to cause a spontaneous combustion explosion, some crewmen speculated.

There were four explosions within 90 seconds. Each sent sheets of flame roaring through open hatches and doors.

The entire forward part of the ship, including the bridge and salons, was seared. Big blisters of paint were peeled from the ceiling and the walls and bridge.

When the first explosion rocked the ship, Jooey was in his bunk in the forecastle.

"It was about 1:15 Thursday afternoon," said Jooey, 24, "when someone shouted 'fire.'"

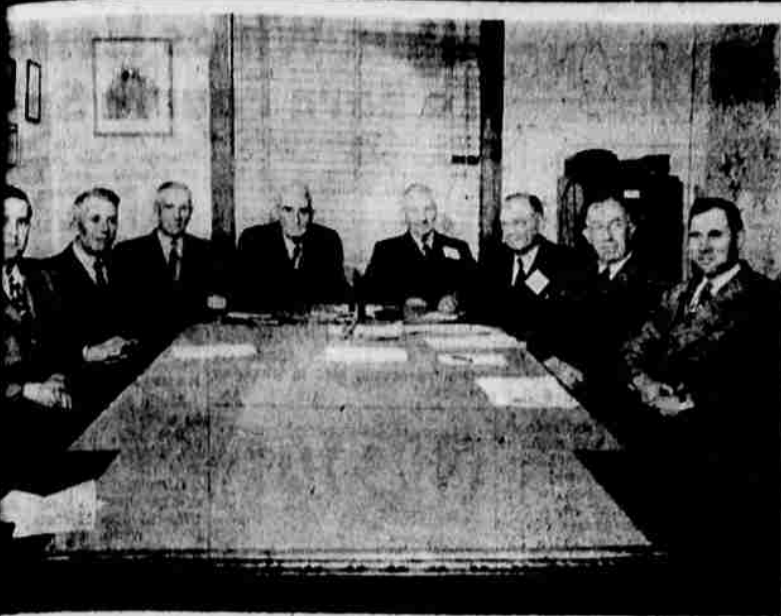
There were two explosions before he got on deck. As he passed No. 3 hold a third explosion sent a burst of flame engulfing him.

"It was like I was caught up in a big black fiery cloud," Jooey said. "It knocked me 10 feet and it knocked me out."

When he regained consciousness and saw his clothes were on fire

he "made a bee line for the rail hand," and I went right over it into the ocean with a life preserver in my hand.

Norton said he knew there was there wasn't time to pick him up until later.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the Klamath Production Credit Association as it stands today, before the KPCOA's annual meeting in which there will probably be changes. They are, from left, Mural Long, Lee Holliday, E. R. Campbell, E. M. Hammond, Bill Kittredge, Secy. Lee McMullen, Ed Geary and Paul Briethaupt. Tomorrow's meet, to be held in the 4th Army, is expected to draw some 500 to 600 persons. The KPCOA is a farmer-owned financial institution, and its annual meeting is one of the largest farm gatherings held in this each year.

## More White House News To Be Released As Top Men Arrive to Keep Good Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eisenhower administration officials were said to be taking steps to give more news to White House pressmen, from Cabinet sessions to

heavy blanket of silence which most White House visitors met the queries of newsman Eisenhower took over to be disturbing some officials who believe they can see the signs of a bad press if it continues.

instance, Vice President Eisenhower and Secretary of Commerce Weeks didn't want too much emphasis laid on the particular subject under discussion—whether to raise the tariff on briar pipes.

But when Hagerly told reporters he couldn't disclose the subject of the conference in advance, newsman's interest in the session increased.

Eisenhower next Tuesday holds his first news conference since his inaugural. At his direction, orders have gone out to government press agents to stay away, except for representatives of the Defense Department and Voice of America.

Hagerly announced that only accredited newsmen — representatives of newspapers, news agencies, radio, TV, and magazines are to be admitted to news conferences.

He said he feels limited space should be reserved for working reporters only.

He added it is his understanding that as many as 30 to 35 government information officers and representatives of federal agencies attended news conferences of former President Truman.

INCIDENCE MARKS DOUBLE MARRIAGE  
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Marilyn Shaw is being married to... So is Marilyn Joan Shaw. It's not the same girl. They have the same name. Both work in offices, met their husbands-to-be on blind dates. But have never met each other were amazed yesterday at the coincidence of their marriages on St. Valentine's Day.

## Valentine Has Double Impact

VALENTINE, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Valentine is going to get a Valentine from Valentine, Nebraska.

Mrs. Nebraska Valentine is a school teacher at Baughman, Ky. A committee planning the annual Valentine's Day celebration here ran across her name in a college alumni list, contacted her and prepared a special Valentine for her.

The annual influx of Valentines for remailing with the City's well-known cachet had topped 4,000 yesterday. The heart-shaped mark contains the words: "Saint and city greetings from Valentine, Neb."

Movie Couple Say Marriage on Rocks  
HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Donald O'Connor and his wife Gwen have separated.

The movie and TV star said yesterday at the studio where he has just started a new film: "Gwen and I have separated before, but up until now we have never discussed a divorce or consulted an attorney."

Mrs. O'Connor was reported to have told friends she plans to file a divorce complaint soon in Santa Monica.

The couple married nine years ago when he was 18 and she 17 and both were in high school. They have a daughter, Donna, 6.

## Earthquake Wipes Out Village

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Reports reaching the Iranian government today estimated that about 1,500 persons were killed yesterday when an earthquake virtually wiped out the village of Torroud, in Northeast Iran.

Fifteen truckloads of soldiers and 18 Army jeeps loaded with blankets, medical supplies and food were sent to the distressed area.

The reports indicated that there were no more than 50 survivors at the most in the village, approximately 90 miles from Shahrud.

The quake apparently occurred at noon on Thursday. At that time a slight tremor was felt in Tehran but no damage was reported.

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1 DR114	11.4 Freezer Chest (Deluxe)	\$329.75	\$32.75	\$14.11
2 IR90	9 cu. ft. Cyclamatic (Freezer Chest)	\$349.75	\$34.75	\$14.96
2 IR106	10.6 Cyclamatic (Freezer Chest)	\$399.75	\$39.75	\$17.10
2 IR108	10.8 Cyclamatic Double Door Freezer chest	\$449.75	\$44.75	\$19.24

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