

Films of Hydrogen Bomb Test Reveal Huge Blast

By ELTON C. FAY
AP Military Affairs Reporter

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government disclosed today details of the world's first hydrogen explosion—a searing and crushing fury that wiped out an island in the twinkling of an eye and spawned a gigantic fireball big enough to engulf the heart of New York City.

The official motion picture film of the thermonuclear test in November 1952, conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission and Defense Department at Eniwetok Atoll, was made public—in somewhat censored form—by the Federal Civil Defense Administration.

That agency said it "firmly believes it is necessary for the American public to know the facts about the destructiveness of nuclear weapons." And it quoted from the speech of President Eisenhower before the United Nations Assembly last December which said, "Clearly, if the peoples of the world are to conduct an intelligent search for peace, they must be armed with the significant facts of today's existence."

Awesome as it was, the 1952 test has been described by Eisenhower as only a first step in this nation's hydrogen weapons program.

There have been two announced thermonuclear blasts in the Pacific proving ground since then, and both have been semiofficially described as much more powerful. One was set off March 1, the other last Friday.

Here are some of the things the motion picture of the 1952 test and the official narration accompanying it disclosed:

1. The test device was exploded in a "cab," a small workshop jammed with recording and detonating gadgets, on the islet of Eniwetok Atoll.

2. The island, about a half mile long and a quarter mile wide and protruding from the barrier reef of the atoll, vanished. In the place where it stood there was a crater 175 feet deep, a mile in diameter.

3. Created was the largest fireball of the more than 40 atomic explosions set off until that time—3 1/4 miles in diameter. The heat at the core of that churning, brilliant manmade star presumably shot to a momentary temperature like the body of the sun.

The picture included an imposition of the fireball on a drawn outline of Manhattan's skyline. It overwhelmed about one quarter of Manhattan.

The official estimate was that the area of "complete annihilation" extended outward in a three-mile radius; that severe to moderate damage reached out to seven miles; light damage as far as 10.

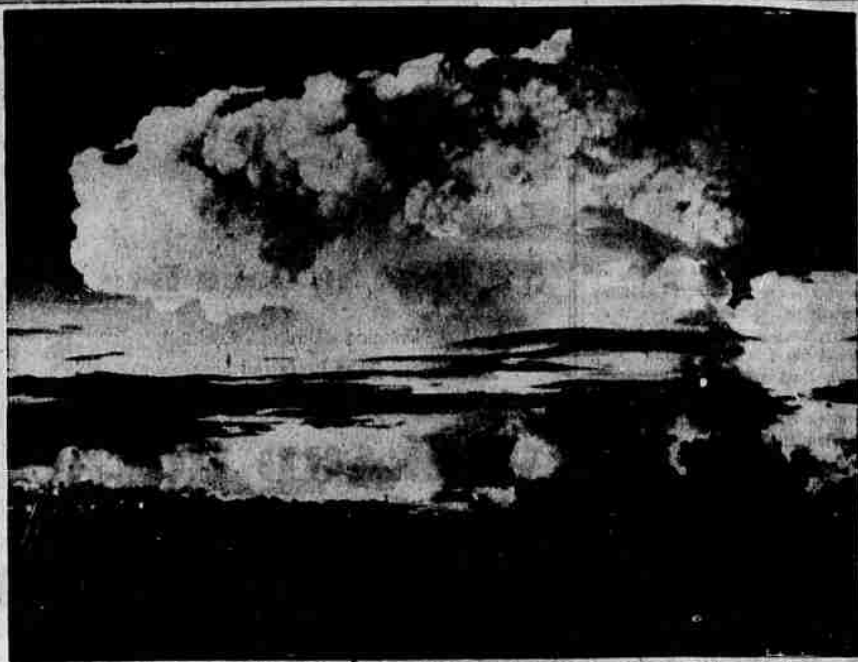
The damage as applied to Washington, D. C., would have looked like this:

If an H-bomb had been exploded at the Capital, the zone of utter annihilation would have reached west to Arlington National Cemetery (across the Potomac River from Washington.) Eastward it would have touched the Anacostia River. Northward the edge would have been soldiers' home, the farmlike place in the heart of modern Washington. Southward it would have engulfed Bolling Field, the Air Force's base at the national capital.

The motion picture, as well as still photographs taken from it, is to be released next Wednesday. Accounts were to have been withheld until then too, but some broke into print ahead of time.

The New York Times, publishing an account in today's edition, said it did so because a descriptive review by a syndicated columnist appeared in newspapers a few hours after a special press showing.

In his column in some newspapers today, Drew Pearson noted that "the veil covering the H-bomb will be lifted next week," and he added: "However, this column is able to give a preview of the horrible holocaust."



STAGE IN THE HYDROGEN BLAST—This is a stage in the development of the cloud formation after the pioneer hydrogen blast in the AEC Pacific proving grounds in the fall of 1952. Photo made at a height of 12,000 feet, and 50 miles from the detonation site. The mushroom portion went up to 10 miles, and spread for 100 miles. Two minutes after zero hour, the cloud rose to 40,000 feet.

Home Extension

By Darlene Wolff

As the Chiloquin Home Extension unit plans its last project, "Storage Planning," to be held Thursday, April 1, at the home of Mrs. Fred Markwardt with county home demonstration agent, Dolores Bracken leading the discussion, a committee has reviewed projects undertaken earlier this year.

The January meeting was led by Miss Bracken at the Harold Wing residence in Klamath Agency. Emphasis was put on the fact that many homemakers do not eat well balanced meals even though they may feed them to their families. Low cost plans of correctly balanced meals were given.

In February Mrs. Edmund Stanton was hostess, when Mrs. Walter Zimmerman and Mrs. Lyle Haas led the demonstrations, "What To Do Until the Doctor Comes." The modern method of artificial respiration, care of the eyes, treatment of sprains, use of tourniquets, making of applicators, and correct contents of medicine cabinet were all discussed and shown.

masses moving in several different directions could have carried segments of the radioactive stem to various points of the compass.

Care of the Skin

By Darlene Wolff

"Care of the Skin" was the March project, with the meeting held at the home of Mrs. Friedman Kirk. Mrs. Ruth Doling and Mrs. H. T. Williams were project leaders. They had the group make cleansing, foundation and tissue cream, gave recipes for deodorizers, let those attending go through a complete skin cleansing routine with mud pack, and concluded by discussion of makeup for facial types.

Mrs. Lyle Haas, president, presided at all business meetings, and each session has opened with safety tips given by Mrs. Edouard Prinaux and with a timely game.

Each meeting has been an all day one with sack lunches and one course served by the hostess. The spring festival this year is scheduled for May 4 and a large number of local women are planning to attend.

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Jobless Lists Said Lowering

WASHINGTON (AP)—Several economists said a new government survey due late today may show a slight but hopeful drop in the number of the nation's unemployed.

The jobless total has swelled for several months, mounting slowly but steadily to the 3,671,000 reported by the Census Bureau for February. The report due today will be for March.

Ewan Clague, commissioner of labor statistics, who keeps close tabs on the unemployment situation, told reporters last week he believed unemployment had eased a little in March and the number of employed also had increased.

Several other economists said privately they felt as did Clague that the whole employment picture would brighten a bit when the March figures were announced by the Census Bureau.

President Eisenhower has said he will take a close look at the March employment figures in planning economic policy.

Federal Reserve Board figures

yesterday showed department store sales last week 11 per cent below the corresponding week in 1953. The board said the late Easter date could be expected to cut March sales 5 per cent.

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