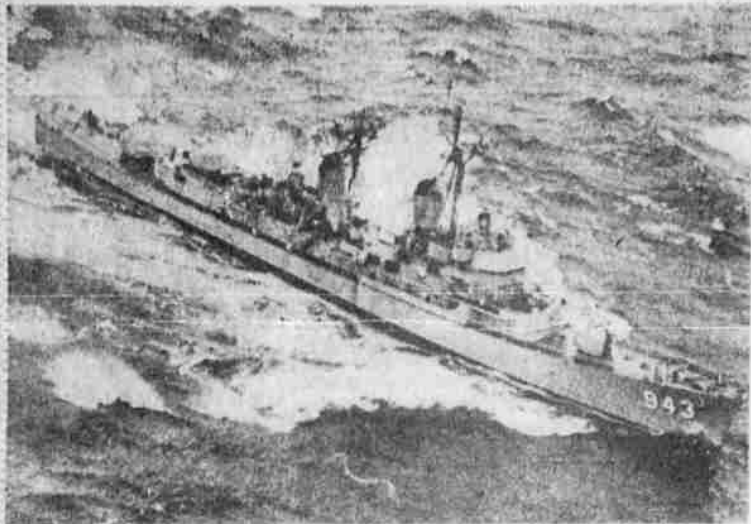




FIRE HITS SHIP — Fire broke out aboard the destroyer USS Blandy just after the vessel tied up at Portland, Maine, to participate in the Memorial Day exercises. The flash fire started in the boiler room. Most of the 323 men aboard jumped or walked down the gangplank from the destroyer to the Maine state pier where it was tied up. A handful of sailors remained aboard to quell the blaze. Two sailors were overcome by the smoke. Navy said the fire was touched off when lubricating oil came in contact with a spark or a hot pipe after an oil line broke. Extent of damage was not revealed. The Blandy brought the remains of the World War II European Theater unknown soldier from Naples to the U.S. a few years ago. — UPI Telephoto

Destroyer Blandy Hit By Boiler Room Blaze

PORTLAND, Maine (UPI)—A flash fire broke out in the boiler room of the destroyer USS Blandy today less than one hour after the ship arrived here to participate in Memorial Day exercises.

Most of the 323 men aboard jumped or walked down the gangplank from the destroyer to the Maine state pier where it was tied up. A handful of sailors remained aboard to help civilian firemen in putting out the blaze.

Two sailors were overcome by smoke while fighting the fire. No one was seriously hurt.

A Navy spokesman said the fire was touched off by lubricating oil which came in contact with a spark or a hot pipe after an oil line broke.

Five sailors were in the boiler room when the fire erupted. The Navy said it was the alertness of one of them, Boiler Technician J. D. Mitchell, Mountain Grove, Mo., who probably prevented a more serious blaze.

He quickly turned off the flow of the oil and sealed off the boiler room from the rest of the ship by closing the entrance ways, the Navy spokesman said.

The fire slightly damaged the equipment in the boiler room and scorched the paint. The blaze did not spread to other parts of the vessel.

Firefighters used steam and foam in extinguishing the blaze. A Portland fire boat pulled up alongside the Blandy but its hoses were not needed.

The Blandy was scheduled to hold open house for visitors today and Memorial Day. Today's public visiting might be canceled, the Navy said.

The entire crew returned to the ship at mid-morning, less than two hours after the fire started.

CUTS SUGAR PRICE

VANCOUVER, B.C. (UPI)—The British Columbia Sugar Refining Co. announced a 25-cent cut in the wholesale price of sugar Monday. Prices started rising to a high of \$17.30 for a 100-pound bag last week.



PINS ON ASTRONAUT WINGS — Mrs. Trudy Cooper is shown as she pins special astronaut wings on her husband, L. Gordon Cooper, during special ceremonies in the Pentagon on Wednesday. Cooper won the wings for his 22.9 orbital flight on May 15 and 16. He thus joins a select but small group. — UPI Telephoto

Subcommittee To Study Civil Defense Actions

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A House armed services subcommittee Wednesday sought to find out exactly what happened to the more than \$1 billion appropriated for civil defense since 1951.

Chairman F. Edward Hebert, D-La., asked Assistant Defense Secretary Stuart L. Pittman to prepare an accounting of the money. He indicated one thing he wanted to examine was the number of civil defense employees in the nation.

The subcommittee is hearing administration proposals for a vast nuclear fallout shelter program. The plan would spend \$175 million in the coming fiscal year, and put more than \$2 billion in federal aid in shelters over five years.

At the opening session Tuesday, the House group heard four and a half hours of conflicting testimony on shelters, which civil defense officials called lifesavers and critics called death traps. Pittman claims millions of lives could be saved with proper fallout shelters in areas somewhat removed from prime targets.

Other congressional news: Sugar: The Senate Finance Committee called Undersecretary of Agriculture Charles S. Murphy to be the leadoff witness in an investigation to determine whether market manipulators are responsible for high sugar prices.

Taxes: Congressional tax writers were holding out hope of big tax savings next year for long-term investors with paper profits in the stock market. The House Ways & Means Committee voted to slash taxes on profits made from the sale of stocks and bonds and real estate.

Of all governors, New York's chief executive draws the highest annual salary, \$30,000; New Jersey's governor, with \$30,000, ranks second.

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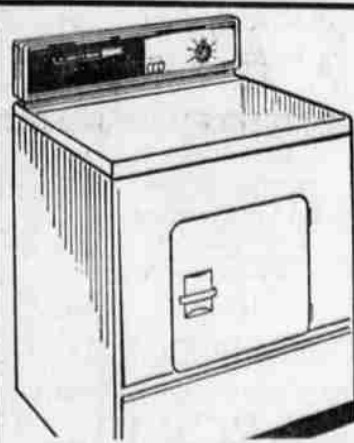
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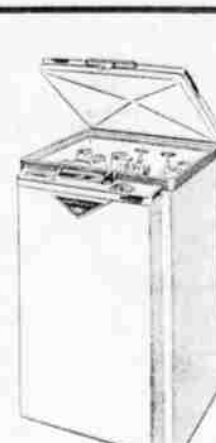
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