

L.T. SUNOCO AND P.& G. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1947.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(The latest news from that tragic disaster in Texas City, Texas: explosion after explosion still ripping through the city. Chemical plants, oil tanks, and ships afire, amid swirling clouds of poisonous fumes.)

Casualty figures are incomplete. The American Red Cross reports that five hundred bodies have already been removed from burning and blasted buildings and that many more are buried beneath the rubble. Emergency crews of the Texas Highway Department hours ago estimated a death toll of twelve hundred. And the Coast Guard places the injured at thirty-five hundred.

The very indefiniteness of these reports is a measure of the magnitude of the catastrophe, with the devastation still going on hours after the first earth-shaking blast. All we know is that the horror is monstrous and indescribable.

This afternoon, the still living among Texas

NEW LEAD EXPLOSION----2

City's eighteen thousand residents were ordered to leave at once as fumes from a flaming chlorine tank spread over the area. And a cloud of deadly nitrogen dioxide, released by burning chemicals, also covered the city.

Furtunately a north wind sprang up tonight, carrying the fumes away from the town and out across Galveston Bay.

Firemen and volunteer helpers, who plunged into the heart of the explosiontorn town, are now working without gas masks for the first time in nine hours.

The city is shut off tonight -- National Guardsmen and police covering all roads, letting only those with business enter.

This afternoon jeeps and trucks rushed National Guard contingents to Texas City to prevent looting. But Texas Governor Beauford Bester says there now are fifteen hundred peace officers in Texas City and so ~~if~~ far there is no need to declare martial law.

EXPLOSION

The latest tragic news from the explosion disaster in Texas gives figures of ~~between two hundred~~ ^{perhaps as many as} ~~one thousand~~ ^{or 1200} people killed, and some thirtyfive hundred injured. These figures, wired by the Coast Guard from the scene of havoc, are indefinite -- and this very indefiniteness is a measure of the magnitude of the catastrophe. The devastation is still going on, hours after the first earth-shaking blast -- and no accurate account ^{is} yet possible of the victims. All we know is that the ~~harm was~~ ^{horror is} monstrous and indescribable.

Galveston Bay, on the Gulf coast of Texas, is a huge center of industry, chemicals and oils for the most part -- an area crammed with plants, refineries, tanks. Just across a strip of water ^{from} Galveston is Texas City, a jammed concentration of chemicals and oil - in burning ruins tonight. ^R Of major importance was the Monsanto Chemical plant area, put up by the Government during the war at a cost of nineteen million dollars -- for the production of Styrene, which is used in the making of synthetic rubber. After the war the thirty

EXPLOSION - 2

acres of chemical works were sold to a private company, which continued the huge production of Styrene. The chemical is violently explosive, and in the near vicinity were great oil refineries, with scores of huge tanks of oil. Altogether -- as explosive a place as one can well imagine. ^R For a final detail, ~~xxxx~~ a vessel loaded with a cargo of nitrate fertilizer, ammonium nitrate, dangerously explosive. ^R Today that vessel, formerly a Liberty ship, now under the French flag, was lying in a Texas City dock -- when it caught fire. ~~The~~ People were lined on the shore, watching the firemen battling the blaze, never guessing what was about to happen. Suddenly the shipload of ammonium nitrate exploded. The vessel simply disintegrated, bursting into fragments that scattered over a radius of four miles. The power of the blast shook the city of Galveston, and was felt for one-hundred-and-forty miles along the Gulf coast. People say it rocked the ground like an earthquake.

2 more ships exploded; and a ponderous barge was hurled 200 feet in the air.

That ~~initial blast~~ was followed by a whole series of explosions. Plant^s of the giant Monsanto Chemical Works blew up -- thundering detonations of Styrene. The whole thirty acres of chemical plant lay an erupting volcano -- utterly devastated. All the refineries caught fire and flamed high, and huge oil tanks blew up in terrifying succession. At one time as many as fifty tanks were roaring up in flame simultaneously, fifty exploding oil tanks along two miles of waterfront.

One casualty of the chemical and oil eruption was a plane flying overhead, a two-passenger plane. It happened to be winging above Texas City at the very moment the explosions began. Caught in the blast, which hurled its fury high into the sky, the plane was blown right out of the air, shattered and hurled for a crash on a field some distance away - both occupants killed.

~~All day every means of rescue and relief have~~

ADD

EXPLOSION

- X

~~(Cut out last paragraph early story beginning,
"All day every means of rescue, etc." and substitute
following.)~~

Tonight, the state of Texas, assisted by the Red Cross, the Armed Services, and veteran organizations, is mobilizing its resources to handle the big job of disaster relief. Red Cross officials announce an initial appropriation of Two-Hundred-and-Fifty-Thousand dollars for the emergency. ~~needs of victims, an an~~
~~emergency "ham" network of amateur radio operators~~
~~for the Texas City area is being supervised from~~
~~Dallas. It is already handling emergency messages.~~

~~AND~~ ^{is} The Fourth Army, in San Antonio, has sent help, ~~the~~ Tenth Air Force ^{is} dispatching airplanes to Saint Louis to pick up twelve thousand pounds of blood plasma. ^{also} ~~These~~ Planes are flying in blankets, doctors, nurses, and trained ~~disaster~~ ^{TP} workers. Fire and police departments from Gulf coast cities in an eighty-mile radius ^{are on hand.} ~~have come in to help, with the Coast Guard also~~
~~on the job rushing in a half dozen boats through~~

ADD

~~EXPLOSION~~ - ~~X~~.

2

~~Galveston Bay to Texas City.~~

Each ~~passing~~ hour, the news ~~gives~~ ^{files up the} ~~mournful~~
and increasing ^{the} figures for ~~the loss of life~~ ^{this weird and terrible} ~~The modern~~
~~disaster.~~
~~world has had a long and doleful list of~~
~~disastrous explosions and one of the worst is happening~~
~~along Galveston Bay today.~~

TELEPHONE

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company held a stockholders' meeting today - in the middle of the strike. In New York, pickets were patrolling the entrance of the big A. T. & T. Building, when the stockholders arrived. They were greeted by loud jeering and booing, as they passed through the picket line into the building.

At the stockholders' meeting, one of the speakers was ^a~~the~~ Union lawyer, Henry Mayer. He was no stockholder - he got in by having proxy shares; that is, he had gathered some proxies from stockholders. He told the meeting that the telephone strike had been forced by the Board of Directors of the Telephone Company, the Directors having "hatched a conspiracy", in the words of the Union lawyer. He charged that big business had decided to break unions this year, and had picked the telephone workers as the weakest. Hence the Board of Directors of the Telephone Company provoked the strike by

maintaining, what the Union lawyer called - "a stony silence."

How was this received by the stockholders?

Were they persuaded to toss out their Board of Directors?

Not at all. The harangue was received ^{by} ~~with~~ a storm of boos and catcalls - as vehement as the stockholders, themselves, had got from the pickets outside.

The Union ^{lawyer} ~~leader~~ shouted: "Three-hundred-and-fifty-thousand telephone workers cannot be wrong."

To which a stockholder roared back: "I say that seven hundred thousand stockholders cannot be wrong."

Meanwhile, the strike is about the same - after the turndown both the Company and the Union gave to the government ~~that~~ settlement-proposal last night.

CONFERENCE

(We hear that the Marshall-Stalin interview last night resulted in exactly nothing.) In Moscow, our Secretary of State ~~xxxxxx~~ has ordered silence about what went on between himself and the Soviet Dictator; but, word has leaked out. ^{At} A spokesman in Moscow stated today that General Marshall, putting up to Stalin the deadlock in the four power conference, got no concession at all -) Stalin sticking to every point on which his Foreign Minister, Molotov, has been insisting. Nor did General Marshall recede an inch, and so the spokesman today gave the result of the face-to-face Marshall-Stalin interview as follows: "The situation is not changed one iota from before the meeting - it accomplished nothing."

(The deadlock that was to be solved concerned a four power treaty to prevent a revival of German militarism - so today the Foreign Ministers abandoned their talks about the proposed alliance. They veered

CONFERENCE - 2

away from the whole subject of a peace treaty with conquered Germany, that being in a stalemate that looks hopeless.)

The Foreign Ministers went on to something presumably easier, a peace treaty with Austria - and

promptly got into a snarl. ~~The latest from the Soviet~~

capital pictures them in an unyielding debate on the

subject of Austrian war guilt. ~~TR~~ Molotov demands that

the Austrian treaty should incorporate a clause giving

the Austrians a share of the blame for Hitler's war.

Our Secretary of State points out that Austria was

seized by the Nazis, the first victim of Hitler

aggression - a thing ~~that had been~~ ^{we were} told all along.

~~TR~~ But now the picture is different, the way the Soviets

paint it. Instead of being a martyr, Austria is a

war criminal - says Molotov. He argues that a large

majority of the Austrian prisoners of war captured

by the Russians were convinced Nazis.

BOMB

In London, Scotland Yard is on a manhunt - or rather, a woman-hunt. They're looking for a woman who was the key figure in a sort of reign of terror that hit the government offices of Great Britain today.

~~Shortly before noon~~ ^{Today} a startling discovery was made in ^{London, at} Dover House, headquarters of the Colonial Office.

A cleaning woman went into a ladies' rest room in Dover House, and there noted a large package wrapped in newspapers. She was curious about it, and picked up the parcel - which thereupon fell apart. The astonished cleaning woman gaped at what she saw - a black battery to which a watch was attached. "I realized it was a bomb", said she, "because I have seen that sort of thing in the movies."

She immediately gave the alarm, and ^{Scotland Yard} ~~and~~ detectives found the bomb loaded with twenty-four sticks of ~~gelignite~~ gelignite, a powerful explosive. A time bomb, the infernal

machine was set to go off at one o'clock, at which time Dover House and the Colonial Office would have been crowded.

18 "If this bomb had exploded", said a spokesman of the Colonial Office this afternoon, "it would undoubtedly have wrecked the whole building." It would, in fact, have created widespread havoc - and Number Ten Downing Street is only a few hundred yards away, the residence of the Prime Minister.

Inquiry disclosed that the package had been left by a woman, described as well dressed and speaking with a foreign accent - probably Jewish. How she got into Dover House is a mystery. ~~because the government buildings in London are vigilantly guarded, under strict security - nobody admitted without a pass. These precautions have been in force for some time, precautions against terrorism by the Jewish underground. And the look out has been more careful than ever recently - because of~~

~~underground threats of violence if the sentence of execution were carried out against the Zionist extremist, Dov Gruner, in Palestine. He was hanged today, along with three other members of the underground organization, Irgun Zvai Leumi.~~

However, the woman with the heavy foreign accent, ~~apparently Jewish~~, did contrive to get admission to Dover House - with her package. She went into the rest room, and there told one of the attendants that she wanted to fix a run in her stocking. Her English was so imperfect, they could hardly understand her. *Whereupon* ~~she~~

she planted her package, the bomb, which today was discovered only by accident, shortly before it was timed to explode.

The sensation at Dover House, the Colonial Office, had just broken - when Scotland Yard got a hurry-up call from the War Office. There a telephone call had just been received, *— from a woman they think —* a call stating that the War Office,


headquarters of the British Army, would be blown up this afternoon - four P.M. The building was evacuated in haste, and Scotland Yard made a hurried search - ransacking the War Office from top to bottom. Nothing was found, ~~no sign of a bomb. The telephone call,~~ connected with the finding of the bomb in the Colonial Office, was obviously a part of a war of nerves -- the Jewish underground operating against the British government, operating in London.

The telephone call to the War Office, ~~having~~ ^{given} the fake alarm, ~~was made in a disguised voice~~ ^{hushed voice, a} so disguised that the telephone operator couldn't tell whether it was a man or woman talking. The obvious suspicion is ~~a woman, probably the same one who~~

~~placed the bomb in the Colonial Office. So tonight~~

^{R. Tonight} Scotland Yard is following the old French adage -

cherchez la femme, seek the woman.



PALESTINE

(In Palestine tonight, Irgun Zvai Leumi boasted that it would hang forty British officers in revenge for the execution of Dov Gruner and the three other Zionist extremists.) All along, the underground organization had issued lurid threats about ~~vengeance~~ the vengeance it would take if the death sentence against Dov Gruner were carried out, and now Irgun Zvai Leumi makes its menace more ferociously precise - threatening to hang forty British officers.

PARLIAMENT

There was indignation in the British House of Parliament today, indignation because of an insult and aspersion cast upon that venerable institution, ~~constitutional freedom~~. An M.P. is threatened with expulsion from the House of Commons, because of statements he made in print. He is charged with what is called "flagrant breach of privilege", and today the Speaker of the Commons found the Laborite guilty of that heinous offense.

~~It all arose~~ ^{all} because of an article he wrote, Garry Allighan, M.P., is a journalist. He used to be news editor of the London Daily Mirror. And his declarations and insinuations about Parliament were made in a journalistic trade publication called the "World's Press News", the British equivalent of our own American "Editor and Publisher." Garry Allighan, M.P.,

^{saying} ~~wrote~~ that members of the House of Commons took money for tips to the newspapers. Slip a Pound or two to an

M.P., and he^d_A give a reporter some inside information about what goes on in Parliament. He stated this was true of two prominent Labor members, top rank - one, in fact, a Cabinet minister, who is in line as a possible Prime Minister some day. ~~That he~~^{He} too, took money for news tips.

British propriety being what it is, the accusation is grave and scandalous - but the money part of it is only half of the insult and aspersion against Parliament, the lesser half. ~~Because Allighan, M.P.,~~^{The charge} goes on with something far worse, far more ignominious, ~~He states~~^{stating} that enterprising London newsmen, in procuring legislative tips and information, take members of Parliament into pubs and ply them with beer, porter and whiskey-and-soda -- to get them talking. ~~He~~^{It} The offending article puts it in these portentous words: "being less absorptive than reporters, the M.P's become lubricated into loquacity."

TP That was what evoked high indignation in Parliament today,

the idea that a British M.P. could not absorb as much as a reporter, ^{and} the intimation that a member of the historic House of Commons could be "lubricated into loquacity."

The wrath of Parliament was voiced by a Conservative member named Quintin Hogg. He expressed himself in words of high dudgeon, did Quintin Hogg, M.P. He said: "There is a suggestion that members of Parliament could not hold their liquor like gentlemen."

Well, shades of Pitt and Burke, Peel and ^{Canning} ~~Pease~~,

^{of} Disraeli and Gladstone, not to mention Winston Churchill -

the idea that a British member of Parliament cannot hold his liquor like a gentleman! — and becomes lubricated into loquacity.

~~And he is Hugh who becomes~~

~~loquacious on the subject of lubrication.~~

And now Nelson, ~~we~~ altho we have nothing to lubricate with; but may we lure you into a few moments of loquacity?

C.T. - Sunoco and P+G. Wed., April 16, 1947.

NEW LEAD EXPLOSION

(~~Out out first paragraph early story.~~)

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Chemical plants, oil tanks, and ships ~~are~~ afire, ~~amid~~ ^{swirling} sending clouds of poisonous ~~gas~~ fumes, ~~across the~~ devastated ~~city~~.

Casualty figures are incomplete. The American Red Cross reports that five hundred bodies have ^{ALREADY} been removed from burning and blasted buildings ~~from the city~~ and that ~~thousands~~ many more ^{ARE BURIED} beneath the rubble.

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~~Public Safety says three hundred and fifty dead. THE COAST GUARD PLACES THE INJURED AT THIRTY-FIVE HUNDRED.~~

The ~~very~~ indefiniteness of these reports is a measure of the magnitude of the catastrophe, with the devastation still going on hours after the first earth-shaking blast. All we know is that the ~~horror~~ ^{horror} is ~~so~~ monstrous and indescribable.

NEW LEAD EXPLOSION - 2.

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