

BOMB

L2 - *News - Wed. July 24, 1946*

It is impossible at this moment to give any sort of answer to tonight's most important question -- what happened to the ships in Bikini Lagoon? Some of them at least, are afloat -- but the fact that a ship may be still on the surface wouldn't mean anything decisive. Vessels mortally stricken by an under-water blow often remain afloat for some time, though in a sinking condition. So ~~if~~ all we can say is that, after the under-water atomic explosion, little more than an hour ago, some of the target ships are on the surface of the lagoon. ~~xxxxxx~~

The sight as described by the stream of bulletins coming on the press wire, 'was a stupendous phenomenon of fire, smoke and water -- a giant mass of water ~~xx~~ hurled thousands of feet, with vast clouds of spray. And, in the midst of the immense tower of water -- the elemental flames of an atomic bomb explosion

The sight, we know, was a thing of vast and imposing majesty -- but what damage was done to the ships? Here's a late bulletin -- the giant carrier

Lexington reported to be listing and down at the stern, sinking, maybe.

One observer says that he can see only an oil slick where a battleship had been. But all this is unconfirmed.

ATOMIC

Today makes it definite about the Soviet rejection of the American plan for the Atomic Bomb. The Department of Public Information of ^{the} United Nations passes along a statement that Russian Delegate Gromyko made to the atomic energy commission. Moscow turns down virtually all of the Baruch Plan to put atomic energy under world control. Moscow rejects the central idea -- that of creating an independent world authority to prevent any nation from arming itself with atomic bombs and making atomic war.

What about the veto? The Soviet stand on that is absolute -- same as before. Gromyko told the Committee that under no circumstances would Soviet Russia renounce the veto -- the right to block any decision in any scheme to control atomic weapons and outlaw the atomic bomb.

Meanwhile, in Washington today, a joint committee of the Senate and house of Representatives agreed on the death penalty for anyone who discloses American atomic secrets to a foreign power. The

committee of Senators and Congressmen is working on a bill for government regulation of atomic development in this country -- and today both sides decided to write into the bill a provision for the death ~~XXXX~~ penalty in cases of atomic espionage.

RUSSIA

One of the bitterest of anti-American blasts appeared in Moscow today. The Soviet Press has been launching savage diatribes against the United States but few could match this new spasm on Pravda for furious invective and insulting abuse. It concerns the recent trial on the Pacific Coast of Soviet Naval Lieutenant Redin, charged with espionage -- and acquitted. The case ~~again~~ against him was built up by the F.B.I., and it's J. Edgar Hoover's crime sleuthing bureau that takes the brunt of Pravda's verbal rage.

The Soviet Newspaper calls the Redin Case -- "dirty work by the American secret police" and goes on to liken the F.B.I. to the secret political police of the ~~RR~~ Russian Czars of old. Apparently, the Russians don't understand that we have no political police, the F.B.I. being a crime detecting organization. But then, I suppose the Soviets think that we Americans must have an equivalent of their own ~~NxYk~~ N.VK.D. -- the old, notorious OGPU.

Pravda describes the treatment of Lieutenant

Redin as -- "Disgusting and unforgiveable," adding that he was kept in a cold cell. Which, of course, ignores the fact that the Soviet Naval Lieutenant, himself, expressed his appreciation of the way he had been treated and the fairness of his trial -- which found him no guilty.

Pravda summarizes by calling the Redin Trial -- "A plot of bandits."

PALESTINE

Word from Palestine is that the official Jewish underground army, Hagana, is ready to help the British in rounding up the Terrorists who blew up the King David Hotel. Hagana, under the control of the Jewish Agency, is at odds with the more fanatical groups, Irgun Zvai Leumi and the stern gang, and shares the indignation of responsible Jewish leadership because of the hotel bombing.

~~(Previously, in the case of the kidnapping of British Officers, it had been reported that Hagana was determined to procure the release of the hostages -- but ~~nothing~~ nothing, apparently, came of that.)~~

^{now}
^ the word from Jerusalem is that, if the official underground army does take action to help the British catch the bombers of the King David Hotel, a desperate civil war among the Jewish resistance forces will result.

Meanwhile, in London, the British Government formally accuses the Jewish Agency of having a part in the campaign of terrorism that has filled the Holy Land with violence. A British White Paper gives evidence in

the form of telegrams, evidence intended to show that the Jewish Agency took part in the direction ~~xx~~ of various deeds of violence -- like the blowing up of the bridges across the Jordan. However, there is no contention in the White Paper that the Agency had anything to do with the blowing up of the King David Hotel.

The casualty list of the bombing now has risen to a hundred and twenty-four, dead and missing, the missing presumed to have been killed.

GENERAL STRATEMEYER

Thursday of next week, August first, has been set aside as Air Force Day. The President has set the day aside by proclamation. I expect to be several thousand miles away, on that date, and being much interested in the whole field of aviation -- I have been ever since the first flying that I did in World War One -- I am going to give my salute to airmen, tonight. I am going to do it by putting a few pointed questions to the man who is now at the head of our Air Defense Command on this continent -- Lieutenant General George Stratemeyer, former Chief of Staff to General Arnold, and when I last saw General Stratemeyer he was on the banks of the Hoogli River, in India, in command of aviation in the C.B.I. -- China, Burma, India. General Stratemeyer, in every state in the Union, in every city, in every village, in every county and township, there are young men who were in the Air Forces during the war. And since the war they haven't had a chance to do any flying. Most of them are anxious to keep up their flying, to some extent. Are they going to get that opportunity? If so, when?

Gen. Stratemeyer: To see that they get their chance to fly is my job, Lowell. It has taken time to get organized on a peace-time basis. But, the States now

building up an Air National Guard and the Air Force is pushing the Air Reserve with all its might.

The Air National Guard will consist of twelve wings, made up of twenty-seven groups, divided into eighty-four squadrons - with two thousand, three hundred planes of the latest type.

L.T.: Where will the Air National Guard do their flying?

GEN. S.: On seventy-nine air bases, throughout the country with at least one squadron in every State.

L.T.: Will the Air Reserve and the Air National Guard be separate?

GEN. S.: Yes. The Air Reserve will have thirty-five groups, divided into two hundred and twenty-five squadrons. The Air Reserve will have one hundred and thirty bases, almost twice as many as the Air National Guard. The Air Reserve will also have its own planes, two thousand eight hundred of them, many of which will also be of the latest type.

L.T.: How soon will this get going? How soon will our young Reserve airmen be able to take off in these planes?

GEN. S. We have already activated thirty bases and flying will be going full blast by August first at these bases. Other bases will be activated as quickly as it is physically possible to do so. But by the way, I haven't given you the complete picture. The Civil Air Patrol has been federally recognized and has been made an auxiliary of the Army Air Force. The President signed its charter, this month. Its purpose will be to help educate the youth of this nation in aviation. In addition to regular refresher courses for all our Air Force veterans of World War Two, we must have tens of thousands of new airmen. That's where the high school boys of today come in. Aviation courses in our high schools are absolutely essential. The slogan of every man, woman and child in this country should be AIR POWER IS PEACE POWER! Attack in the future will come through the sky. We all know that. We hope it will never come. And the best way to insure ourselves against that is to be ready. To be ready we must have an air-minded nation. We must be ready to destroy the ability of any enemy to wage war against us. This can be done in only one way -- through the air.

So, I repeat, all of our youth must be air-minded, and as many as possible educated in

aviation subjects. If our Air Forces are directed by airmen who are skilled in air strategy and technical development then we will be able to depend upon the effectiveness of our Air-Land-Water team.

AIR POWER IS NOT CHEAP. But it is our best insurance. Let's think of this next week as we honor our air heroes on the day that the President of the United States has set aside.

L.T.: Well, General Stratemyer I hope millions of our countrymen heard your remarks. And I hope they will all keep them in mind. If only Billy Mitchell were still alive to see what his Air Force has grown to! He died, a young man, a broken-hearted young man, because his countrymen refused to see the vision that was so clear to him. Let's hope we never go to sleep again. And General, I know a lot of young men who I hope were listening in tonight, and who will be interested to know that you are going to give them their chance to fly again, very soon!

CONFIDENCE MAN

The F.B.I. announces the arrest of a swindler, who is charged, among other things, with a series of false impersonations. Alexander Arlinsky, according to the allegation, passed himself off as an F.B.I. Agent, an Internal Revenue Man, an Army Intelligence Officer -- which are standard acts in the repertoire of a confidence man. To these Arlinsky added fancy stunts, more ingenious, more imaginative.

Many of his victims were women, some of whom he married -- bigamy being one of the charges against him. Which takes us to one of the most dramatic impersonations of Arlinsky -- that of the sighing lover, hopelessly infatuated with a fatal beauty.

The F.B.I. statement, given out by J. Edgar Hoover today, pictures the confidence man dining with a prospective woman victim -- the ardor, the sentiment, the romance. Then, for a climax. Arlinsky would draw from his pocket a small vial of white powder, and tell the lady it was poison, which

he intended to take, committing suicide -- unless she married him. He would die for love. And it usually worked, apparently -- the lady losing some or all of her money eventually.

In one case, Arlinsky represented himself as a race horse owner -- not a bad impersonation, because the lady loved horses. He needed a loan to maintain his stable of thoroughbreds. He needed fourteen thousand dollars -- and got it.

Still another of the dodges attributed to Arlinsky by the F.B.I. has a peculiar sound. He took a Wac to a dinner party, attended by four other people, and told a yarn about being in pressing need of money. What kind of whopper did he dream up? He told them that he had just killed somebody in an automobile accident -- and needed quick cash to get out of that. Among the people at the dinner party, he raised twenty-five hundred dollars. You'd think that, in making up a tall tale to catch a sucker, an attractive story would be the thing -- but Arlinsky knew better, putting

WAR PROFITS

The latest in the war profiteering investigation is a bulletin that Congressman May will appear to testify on Friday. The Congressman from Kentucky has shown no great eagerness to respond to the ~~the~~ subpoena issued by the Mead Committee, but now word is -- he'll be there on Friday to answer questions concerning his relations with the Garsson Munitions Combine and the Lumber Company that got large payments from the Garssons without delivering any lumber.

Another angle of the case is that the war department is making an investigation of defective mortar shells that blew up on American Gun Crews who were firing them. The Garsson Companies, with their seventy-eight million dollars' worth of government orders, made mortar shells mostly -- and the sensational investigation with its aspects of scandal, has brought to the mind of many a former soldier ~~the~~ those mortar shells that often killed the gun ~~crews~~ crews using them. Testimony before the Committee now shows ^{that} many casualties were caused in this way -- particularly in the battle of the

Bulge. In that final climax of war on the Western Front, desperately fighting American soldiers had to contend with ^{the} added horror ~~of the danger~~ of prematurely exploding mortar shells. Testimony shows that several gun crews were wiped out, and firing methods had to be changed to minimize the danger.

There is no indication that any of these were made by the Garsson Company. The Army did not trace any of them to any particular manufacturer. Now the Mead Committee wants the matter to be gone into more thoroughly, and the Army has ordered a study to see if defective shells were turned out by the Munitions Empire under investigation.

Meanwhile, the word is that the Garsson affair is only a g beginner. Senator Brewster of Maine states that other and large charges of corruption are to be investigated -- much larger. The Senator said that the Garsson case 'was only a "Firecracker" compared with the "Dynamite" that future inquiries are expected to produce. "We have only peeped under the tent," said he

And now H let's take a peep under your tent.