

L.J. - Olds. Wed. Apr. 25 - '62,

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 An American plane flew across the Pacific sky today - thirteen hundred miles south of Honolulu, and a hundred and forty miles north of the Equator. Down below in the distance ^{an island-called} ~~Christmas Island~~ ^{a hitherto unimportant} ~~an insignificant chunk~~ of coral - discovered by Captain Cook in Seventeen Seventy Seven. ^{Utah} Now inhabited by a few natives - many crabs and a few lizards and birds.

Not a likely choice for ^a ~~the~~ center of world attention - Christmas island. But - ~~that's~~ what it was today. And is - tonight. Because it's temporarily inhabited by ~~some~~ thousands of Americans, including the pilot of the plane - that dropped the first atomic bomb of our new series.

A nuclear explosion, ~~with~~ with the fallout dispersed - high in the atmosphere. The blast - called "intermediate." Equal to about - a hundred thousand tons of T N T. We have few details - because President Kennedy wants the series played down. The President, expressing regret - that Soviet intransigence has forced us to resume

atomic testing. Emphasizing - no American attempt to
frighten other nations. Each explosion, explicitly designed
to test - a particular weapon, or defense system.

GENERAL FOLLOW ATOMIC

The key figure in the news tonight - is General Alfred Starbird. General Starbird, boss of operations - at Christmas Island. This, the climax of his latest military assignment - which was handed to him last December. A hurry up job - organizing the atomic series. Assembling twelve thousand men, hundreds of ships, hundreds of planes - and a few dozen scientists with their equipment.

Doing things in a big way comes natural to the General - who stands six feet five. An all-around athlete at West Point - he made our Nineteen Thirty Six Olympic team, Placing seventh in a field of forty two - in the rugged penthalon. After graduating, he went into the army engineers - and built a series of dams in South Dakota. During World War Two, he helped plan the invasions of - North Africa and Normandy. After the war, he was assigned to our first atomic series - at Eniwetok Atoll in the Pacific.

Now fifty, he's reached the top of the atomic

tree - to mix a metaphor. Commanding General at Christmas
Island - General Alfred Starbird.

REACTION

World reaction to today's atomic testing at Christmas Island- shows a pattern that runs the gamut from favorable to hostile. Most favorable - Nationalist China. Most hostile - Japan.

Chung Kai Shek is adopting the attitude - that the free world must remain strong. And in the year 1962, that means - nuclear power. Looking at the international situation from a Formosa point of view - officials in Taipei insist that this is the only way to restrain Red China. Mao Tse Tung, to be warned - that he cannot count on Soviet rockets. That America has rockets too - and no part of the globe is invulnerable. In particular - no part of Red China or the Soviet Union.

The opposite reaction in Tokyo - was expected. The Japanese, of course - are standing firm with the West against Communism. Still, Japan is the only nation - ever hit by atomic bombs. And Japan almost always is dusted - by

fallout from nuclear explosions. Hence the angry demonstrations - in the streets of the Japanese cities. Led by the fanatical Zengakuren - the left wing students of Tokyo University.

The rest of the reaction pattern - looks like this. Favorable - Latin America, Thailand and the Philippines. Opposed - Africa, India and the Middle East. Reluctant acceptance - western Europe.

The Soviet Union? *A great deal of* ~~Needless to say,~~ anti-American propaganda - is pouring ~~it~~ out of Moscow. But - it isn't as furious as many experts predicted. When Khrushchev spoke before the Supreme Soviet - he didn't even mention the American tests.

Explanation? Probably - Khrushchev is glad that President Kennedy flashed the green light. The boss of the Kremlin is said to have nuclear weapons of his own - that he wants to test. And would have tested within the next few

months - no matter what we did in the meantime. ^{could} The new
American series ^{be} ~~is~~ a convenient screen for Khrushchev
to hide behind - as he touches off more of his multi-
megaton bombs. [?]

KETCH

A bizare mystery of the sea - is less mysterious tonight. The Coast Guard, filing it's official report - on the "bluebelle". You might recall how the ketch went down off the coast of Florida - six months ago. Only two survivors - Skipper Julian Harvey, and eleven year old Terry Jo Duperrault. Lost with the Bluebelle - Harvey's wife. And little Terry Jo's entire family - her parents, a brother, and a sister. A second sister - was found drowned.

The Coast Guard theorises that Harvey murdered four of his passengers - and then tried to drown the two girls. Motive - his wife's insurance. The crime, coming to life - because Terry Jo managed to crawl on a life raft when the ketch sank. Shortly after her rescue - Harvey committed suicide.

The known facts, tied together - in what seems a plausible explanation. An explanation of how it is that only eleven year old Terry Jo survives - of the seven persons who shoved off aboard the "Bluebelle".

TWIST

1/2 Here's an interesting thought. The native dance of Tristan Da Cunha - is the twist. Or -it's going to be. The refugees in London, as you probably know - are going back to their South Atlantic Island. Braving the volcanos - resuming their isolated lives far out in the ocean.

But - they've picked up a few modern ideas in London. And one of them is - the rambunctious rhythm from across the Atlantic. The islanders say ~~that~~ they prefer the twist - to the dances they've always known. In the words of one ^{Tristan} teenager:- "we won't do anything but the twist when we get home."

Sounds as if there's going to be ~~a lot of~~ fun out ~~disjointed contortions and maybe a few dislocated knees~~ there on the cold lava of Tristan Da Cunha.

ROCKETS

America's achievements today- cover more than the detonation of an atomic bomb in the Pacific. The nuclear submarine "Sam Houston" submerged fifty feet in the Atlantic -and fired its polaris missile. The polaris, breaking the surface cleanly - arching into the sky. Streaking fifteen hundred miles down the Atlantic - landing in the target area.

Even more spectacular - the flight of the Saturn from Cape Canaveral. The saturn - our most powerful rocket. Eight engines, generating a thrust of thirty-two million horsepower - enough to hurl its four-hundred-and-sixty tons into outer space.

Today's experiment, restricted to - the earth's atmosphere. The Saturn, rising ^{slowly} slowly - from it's launch pad, gathering speed - roaring sixty five miles into the sky. Releasing ninety-five tons of water - creating the highest ice ~~storm~~ cloud known to man. Six times higher - than any

natural cloud. Shimmering brilliantly in the sunlight for ten seconds - before evaporating.

This flight of the Saturn "a complete success" - according to Dr. Werner Von Braun.