

Sailors Weep As 5th A-Bomb Sinks 'Sara'—Japs Couldn't

STEEL PLATES OF BIG CARRIER ARE BUCKLED

Gallant Ship Sinks Seven Hours, 33 Minutes After Blast.

By WILLIAM F. TYREE
United Press Staff Correspondent
OFF BIKINI ATOLL, July 25.—The gallant Saratoga, which survived hundreds of Japanese assaults in world war II, sank today (yesterday, Indianapolis time)—the victim of "Helen of Bikini," the world's fifth atom bomb.

When the underwater bomb went off this morning with the fury of thousands of tornadoes, the thick steel plates of the big carrier were sprung. "Fighting Lady" was mortally wounded.

"Helen" did what her plutonium-filled sister, "Gilda" bomb No. 4 which was dropped aerially over Bikini last July 1, failed to do—sink the "Sara."

The titanic upheaval of water that "Helen" exploded with awesome might tore through the steel plates which protected the "Sara" against torpedoes.

Seven hours and 33 minutes from the moment when the atom bomb crushed her starboard side, the Saratoga sank.

Some sailors wept. One blurted: "Damn! Why do we have to lose her?"

Hundreds of sailors will mourn the Sara's passing. There wasn't another ship in the fleet quite like the Saratoga—in heart or in looks.

Her huge, single-stacked island had a peculiar grace to it, poking up into the sky and towering above her 900-foot flight deck. That deck, 105 feet wide and just barely able to squeeze through the Panama canal, had sent angry navy fighters and bomber planes against the Japs from Guadalcanal to Tokyo.

She could make nearly 34 knots—30 land miles per hour—but she never used that speed to run away.

Few records show for sure just how many enemy planes her fighters shot down during her days of battle against the Japs. That total would run well into the hundreds, if not thousands. Thousands of Japs, for sure, joined their ancestors at the invitation of the Sara's planes.

"Magic Carpet"

At one time in the war—after her sister ship, the old Lexington, was sunk at Midway and her cousins, the Wasp and the Hornet, were lost in the Solomons—she was the only first-line U. S. carrier in the Pacific.

Fighting wasn't her only job. After the war, she was a "magic carpet" that brought thousands of servicemen home.

But fighting was the job she loved best. She itched for that task from the time she was commissioned in 1927. A flier named Marc A. Mitscher, who later also cut quite a name for himself, made the first post-commissioning landing on her. Dec. 7, 1941, found her at San Diego just sailing for Pearl Harbor with a load of planes.

She was the queen of the fleet during the Pacific war, and never even nodded her forecable to the newer, fancier first-line carriers that eventually joined her to carry the attack toward the enemy homeland.

Her scorecard on the island carried stars for eight major Pacific campaigns and bars for 23 "assignments."

Mainstay of Fleet

Those campaigns and assignments are a recapitulation of the progress of the war against Japan: Guadalcanal landings; the battle of Guadalcanal; the eastern Solomons operation; landings in Bougainville; the Gilberts and the Marshalls; the Sabang raid; the attack on Soerabaja, and finally the attacks on Japan itself.

Six times the enemy reported the Sara as "sunk." Six times she showed up still very much alive.

Twice she was hit by torpedoes, but her big blisters saved her from any serious damage.

She met at long range many enemy carriers and sent at least one down, along with several other Jap warships.

It was just after one night in which her air groups, covering the marines landing at Empress Augusta bay on Bougainville, put 10 enemy ships out of commission that Adm. C. W. Nimitz said of the Saratoga:

"You are the mainstay of the fleet."

Today A-bomb No. 5 caught up with her.

24 Prize Pooches Ready to Compete in Finals Of Times Mutt Dog Show Tomorrow Night

By ART WRIGHT

It will be "blue ribbon" day for 24 neighborhood pooches tomorrow when they bid for city laurels in The Times Mutt Show at the War Memorial Plaza at 7 p. m.

The finalists were selected yesterday in district shows at Fall Creek, Keystone, Willard and Indianapolis playgrounds.

Prizes in six classifications will be awarded to dogs that win top laurels in the War Memorial plaza event. It is a free show and the public is invited. Dog lovers will have an opportunity to see pooches perform tricks and otherwise entertain the record crowd expected.

Six Classifications Open

The unpedigreed finalists will be judged in six classifications: Best trick dog, largest dog, smallest dog, best named dog, most comically dressed dog, best behaved dog.

Judges named by Mrs. Norma Koester, supervisor of special activities for the City Park and Recreation division are:

Mrs. Leona Frankfort, head of the city dog pound; Albert Meyer, of the Indianapolis Obedience Dog Training association and the Indianapolis Kennel club and judge of pedigree dogs; Otto Ray, deputy sheriff in charge of the dog division, and Glen Caldwell, of the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and of the Band of Mercy.

District Winners Listed

The Mutt show is sponsored by The Times and the City Park and Recreation division.

Following are the winners of the district shows:

FALL CREEK

Best Trick Dog—From Fall Creek, "Laddie," Virginia Johnson, 5019 Fall Creek Blvd.

Largest Dog—From Golden Hill, "Storm," Clayton Styles, 237 Eugene St.

Smallest Dog—From George Washington, "Wimpy," Sally West, 2032 Baltimore Ave.

Best Named Dog—From George Washington, "Puffy Duff," Timmy Whitaker, 2001 Colorado St.

Most Comically Dressed Dog—From George Washington, "Spot," Richard and Robert Dumas, 3218 Forest Manor.

Best Behaved Dog—From Golden Hill, "Skipper," Paul Cloyd, 3820 W. 16th St.

INDIANAPOLIS

Best Trick Dog—From Riley, "Judy," Bill McHaffey, 501 Chase St.

Largest Dog—From Indiana, "Rusty," Martin Plank, 431 Arnette.

Smallest Dog—From Coleman, "Pen," Richard Reed, 1113 Ohio St.

Best Named Dog—From Riley, "Snowball," Kathryn Powers, 2118 Minnesota St.

Most Comically Dressed Dog—From Coleman, "Tippy," Mary Singleton, 3200 W. Michigan St.

Best Behaved Dog—From Riley, "Nippy," Jack Woolley, 517 Holly Ave.

KEYSTONE

Best Trick Dog—From Keystone, "Foch," Ronald Gooley, 726 S. Keystone Ave.

Largest Dog—From Ringgold, "Brownie," Sandra Castor, 1841 Draper St.

Smallest Dog—From Bethel, "Jack," Debra Bell, 1234 Madera St.

Best Named Dog—From Garfield, "Puss," Robert Clark, 340 Torrey Ave.

Most Comically Dressed Dog—From Ringgold, "Fai," Valera Robinson, 621 E. Norwood Ave.

Best Behaved Dog—From Garfield, "Pussie," Ronald Brown, 1837 E. Southern Ave.



Ralph Bussell, with "Uppy," winner of the "best behaved" division of The Times Mutt Show at Willard park, says kindness prompts "Uppy" to obey every request.



Paul Wetler, 1433 Williams st., and "Poodle Chub," winner of the "name" division at Willard park.

LOCAL PASTOR GETS MINNEAPOLIS POST

The Rev. Ralph E. Weisner has resigned as pastor of the First Evangelical and Reformed church to become minister of the Faith Evangelical and Reformed church in Minneapolis.

During the three and a half years of the Rev. Mr. Weisner's administration here, the church has been almost entirely cleared of debt. He is vice president of the East Side Council of Churches and has been active in the interdenominational leadership training work of the Indianapolis Church federation. His resignation was accepted last night at a congregational meeting.

front extends from Nantucket, Mass., southwestward to Norfolk then westward into southwestern West Virginia continuing west to central Colorado and along the Great Divide to southwestern Montana as a standing front. To the weather forecaster this reveals that cooler and drier air will replace warm humid air in the north and middle Atlantic states and in the Ohio Valley with night temperatures expected to be lower than the preceding night in the entire area. It also shows that the humidity will continue to be less in the New Mexico section of the southwest. There will be some scattered showers in southern Virginia and West Virginia due to the cold front influence.

Maintain regions will experience afternoon and early evening thunderstorms or showers due to intense daytime heating and the cooling of topographic lifting of unstable air as it flows over mountainous sections. None are expected, however, in Montana and eastern sections of New Mexico.

The Pacific coast will have partly cloudy conditions. It will be fair in those parts of Washington and Oregon removed from the coast and its moist maritime air, and slightly cooler in western and central Washington Thursday night. Warm humid conditions will persist in southern California.

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INCREASE SEEN IN MEAT SUPPLY

Eggs at Reasonable Prices Also Promised.

WASHINGTON, July 25 (U. P.).—The agriculture department today promised Americans somewhat larger meat supplies, plenty of eggs at reasonable prices and a possible increase in fats and oils.

It said also there should be about as much turkey as last year and only slightly less chicken.

"Larger meat supplies per person than a year ago and near-record egg supplies will tend to keep eggs from rising more than seasonally during the summer and fall," it said.

Grain Crop Credited

Department officials said the anticipated increase in meat supplies stems largely from the prospect of an all-time record corn and wheat crop.

They said this will enable producers to feed their cattle and hogs to heavier weights. In addition, some producers probably will hold back bred sows which otherwise would have gone to market, resulting in a larger fall pig crop.

The fall pig crop had been expected to slump 17 per cent because of the tight feed situation. How much a record corn crop would offset this reduction is not certain.

Army Needs Reduced

The department said less poultry of all kinds will be marketed in coming months than during the corresponding period last year. But a substantial cut in army requirements and large cold storage holdings are expected to compensate for the cut.

It said domestic supplies of fats and oils, including butter, margarine, lard and salad and cooking oils, depended directly on the course of prices.

"Higher prices," it said, "will tend to increase imports, decrease exports and increase production of fats and oils moderately in the balance of 1946."

Even so, civilian supplies of fats and oils will be smaller than last year or prewar.

ATTENDING CONFERENCE

Grant O. Q. Johnson, Indianapolis manager of the Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York, is attending a company educational and business conference in New York.

A-BOMB EYEWITNESS—

'Gates of Hell' Yawn Wide, Then Clang Shut With Roar

By DANIEL WILKES

Science Service Staff Writer

ABOARD U. S. S. APPALACHIAN OFF BIKINI, July 25.—The gates of hell yawned briefly before me across a peaceful stretch of the Pacific and then clanged shut with the fury of a thousand monsters and steam-radiating radioactive water.

The fifth atomic bomb had been born and died—breaking surface like a sea monster lashing in primordial agony at the sea and the test ships spaced neatly in the lagoon.

That was my first reaction to the underwater explosion of an atomic bomb viewed through binoculars.

A column of water in brown colors hurtled into the air at a speed of 2000 feet per second, followed by a "breaking at the top."

At the bottom were much larger, great, billowing, white and beige clouds, which spread quickly at first and then more slowly, hugging the sea surface.

In a few minutes the central target area was obscured for perhaps a diameter of two miles.

The top cloud broke first into a dirty brown color, then spreading into a luminous white mass which was soon lost in nature's clouds.

The underwater blast shook our ship slightly soon after the column appeared, followed about a minute later by blast and distant boom which rocked the vessel as though it had hit a high wave.

The cloud a thousand feet high and dirty at the bottom, cleared only slowly.

Target Area Cleared

Within an hour the target area cleared, but nearly two hours later, the surface cloud, diffused but still visible, moved toward the horizon as a sickly fog hugging the sea.

While the Arkansas had gone down, the Saratoga, badly damaged, and other ships were listing; it was still hard even two hours later to hold onto one's first reaction.

Normally had returned to our ship, and the scene was much the same as it was before the blast.

There was a water-cooled, cushioned fire of a hundred-million degrees at the center of the explosion. There were no dead people in the lagoon; none were dying which deadly gamma radiation rendered powerless to rescue.

There was no raging fires which, like heathen suns, lighted Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

In a different magnitude, seeing the explosion of the atomic bomb today was like watching the safe distance of the earth a super nova explode in some great island universe a hundred-billion miles away.

To many watching men it was

an impersonal spectacle of only transitory interest. But such detached attitude toward the atomic bomb is unreal for it

is a personal thing to every man. It can be aimed at him. To appreciate the spectacle in the lagoon, the observer must don goggles of retrospect and project himself over 10 miles of peaceful Pacific into a holocaust where concussion, heat and deadly radiations are making a small area of earth as untenable as the surface of a nova in the distant sky. He must know these things which are unseen in a column of smoke and unheard in a distant boom. When, through these goggles, he gains capacity to think in terms of rain of such noxae in his city, then he becomes quite sure that only by making the bomb a personal thing can its influence over the earth be interpreted.

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L. S. Ayres & Co.

DRUGHT THREATENS SOUTH BEND SECTION

SOUTH BEND, Ind., July 25 (U. P.).—Drought threatened South Bend and farm areas around the northern Indiana industrial city today.

Officials of the South Bend water department took steps to safeguard the dwindling water supply as the city experienced its 24th rainless day.

Water department spokesmen warned city residents not to sprinkle except between 6 and 9 o'clock in the morning and after 5 o'clock at night. If this is ignored, the spokesmen said, sprinkling will be banned entirely to insure enough water for protection against fires.

Farmers reported grain crops already seriously damaged and predicted corn would be damaged badly unless there is rain shortly.

There was a bright side to the picture, however. Wheat and oats combining moved swiftly through ideal harvesting weather. Another 10 days probably will see wheat and oats harvest completed.



U. S. Weather Bureau Forecast - Period Ending 7:30 AM EST 7/26/46

By EDWARD L. A. WAGNER

NATIONAL FORECAST SUMMARY: It will be clear in New England and from Missouri southward to the Panhandle, in western Texas and eastern New Mexico. Another band of clear weather will extend from the extreme Upper Lakes to eastern Washington and Oregon. Elsewhere in the nation, partly cloudy skies with scattered showers and thunderstorms are indicated. (See map.)

A cold air front marks the boundary between the cool air-mass centered over the Upper Great Lakes and the moist tropical air over the southeastern quadrant of the country. This

front extends from Nantucket, Mass., southwestward to Norfolk then westward into southwestern West Virginia continuing west to central Colorado and along the Great Divide to southwestern Montana as a standing front. To the weather forecaster this reveals that cooler and drier air will replace warm humid air in the north and middle Atlantic states and in the Ohio Valley with night temperatures expected to be lower than the preceding night in the entire area. It also shows that the humidity will continue to be less in the New Mexico section of the southwest. There will be some scattered showers in southern Virginia and West Virginia due to the cold front influence.

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