

# 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: "Dammit! 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 fighter and bomber planes against the Japs from Guadalcanal to Tokyo.

She could make nearly 34 knots—29 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 Nips. 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 modded her forecastle to the newer, fonder first-line carriers that eventually joined her to carry the attack toward the enemy homeland.

Her scoreboard on the island carried stars for eight major Pacific campaigns and bars for 23 "as-signments."

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 fight 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 "Sara":

"You are the mainstay of the fleet."

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

## DROUGHT 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 garden crops already seriously damaged and predicted corn would be damaged badly unless there is rain shortly.

There was 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 harvested.

## 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 unpreserved finalists will be judged in these classifications: Best trick dog, largest dog, smallest dog, best named dog, most comically dressed dog, best behaved dog.

Judges named by Mrs. Norma Koster, 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 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, 5010 Fall Creek.

Largest Dog—From Golden Hill, "Storm," George Johnson, 1139 Fall Creek.

Smallest Dog—From George Washington, "Wimpy," Sally Wert, 2032 Baltimore ave.

Best Named Dog—From George Washington, "Puffy, Duffy," Timmy Whitaker, 2061 Colorado st.

Most Comically Dressed Dog—From George Washington, "Sporty," Richard and Robert Green, 3218 W. 16th st.

Best Behaved Dog—From Golden Hill, "Skipper," Paul Cloyd, 3626 W. 16th st.

**INDIANOLA**

Best Trick Dog—From Riley, "Judy," Bill McNaught, 501 Chase st.

Largest Dog—From Indiana, "Rusty," Martin Pleas, 431 Arnolds.

Smallest Dog—From Indiana, "Pen," Richard Roas, 1113 Olin atienman, "Pen."

Best Named Dog—From Riley, "Snowball," Ethlyn Powers, 2116 Minnesota st.

Most Comically Dressed Dog—From Coleman, "Tipper," Mary Singleton, 2209 W. Michigan st.

Best Behaved Dog—From Riley, "Nippy," Jack Wooley, 517 Holly ave.

**KEystone**

Best Trick Dog—From Keystone, "Pooch," Ronald Gooley, 726 S. Keystone ave.

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

Smallest Dog—From Ringgold, "Jack," Delores Bell, 1234 Madero st.

Best Named Dog—From Garfield, "Fuzz," Robert Depp, 308 W. 16th st.

Most Comically Dressed Dog—From Ringgold, "Pal," Valera Robinson, 621 E. Wood st.

Best Behaved Dog—From Garfield, "Puglie," Ronald Brown, 1837 E. South ern ave.

**WILLARD**

Best Trick Dog—From Brookside, "Dus," David North, 2014 Brookside

Largest Dog—From Brookside, "Duke,"

Smallest Dog—From Brookside, "Jack,"

Standing Front—From Highland, "Snuffy," Charles Haas, 621 Highland st.

Smallest Dog—From Highland, "Cheerio," Thelma Gardner, 1853 Routie st.

Best Named Dog—From Willard, "Foolie Choo," Robert Depp, 308 W. 16th st.

Most Comically Dressed Dog—From Highland, "Magie," Petty Swallow, 105 Highland.

Best Behaved Dog—From Brookside, "Uppy," Ralph Bussell, 235 N. LaSalle

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

## Local Pastor Gets MINNEAPOLIS POST

The Rev. Ralph E. Weisser 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. Weisser'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.

**MAINSTAY OF FLEET**

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## INCREASE SEEN IN MEAT SUPPLY

### 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 steaming 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.

### Grain Crop Credited

Department officials said the anticipated increase in meat supply 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.

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Is

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