

Flash, Boom Heralds St. Pat Day

Atom Shot Leaves GIs Unscathed

ATOMIC TEST SITE, Nev., March 17 (UP)—American troops in trenches within two miles of the first atomic bomb blast of 1953 came through the historic experience on Yucca Flat today without injury.

Within an hour they were out of their trenches and moving forward to assigned objectives.

There were 1,600 troops and military observers, 20 newsmen and a few civil defense officials in fixed positions two miles from where a slender steel tower vaporized with a blinding flash. Only humans that close to a nuclear explosion before were the Japanese in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The pre-dawn blast was heard in Pasadena, California, 300 miles to the west. It was felt as far away as Cedar City, Utah, 175 miles to the northeast. In Las Vegas, 65 miles to the southeast, the brilliance of the flash made the gaudy neon signs along gambling rows appear dim.

A predominately purple fireball sparked atop the detonation tower. It disappeared quickly as a weird, ice-topped cloud formed its characteristic mushroom top.

At the base, turbulence whipped up a dust cloud that for many minutes obscured the desert where the troops were entrenched and where typical American homes and autos had been subjected to the nuclear blast.

Test Manager Carroll L. Tyler described the experiment as "carried out very nicely from our standpoint."

"There was a heavy concentration of radiation in the vicinity of the test houses," Tyler told newsmen. He estimated radiation at 10 roentgen units which would be dangerous to humans.

"I doubt if the radiation would kill the people in house number two, a mile and one half from the blast, but they would become ill if they stayed there for five hours," he added.

Tyler said it might be two days before newsmen who had hoped to make an inspection of the civil defense exhibit this morning—could approach the test homes, radiation was so intense.

The test director flew over the houses and cars in a helicopter. House number 1, three quarters of a mile out, was "hard hit," but did not burn. House No. 2, one and one-half miles from ground zero, did not even appear to have broken windows.

Mannequins in the parked autos, Tyler reported, were "not disturbed." None of the cars was damaged, but the tops of those that had windows closed appeared to have caved in.

Soldiers and correspondents who returned to News Nob after adorning within 300 yards of ground zero said house number 1 was "completely wrecked" and it appeared the first and second floors had collapsed into the basement.

They looked at house number 2 through field glasses. But dust clouds prevented thorough examination.

They said, however, that it appeared a light was still burning in house number two. Automobiles in the vicinity of house number one, a half mile from the blast tower, appeared badly wrecked.

Some were upended and others lay on their sides. Some of the cars were smoking. One behind house number 2 was burning.

Cars which were about two or three miles from the blast were damaged. Those with their windows shut appeared to have their tops crushed in, perhaps by suction. Those with doors open seemed practically unharmed. Dummies in cars this far back appeared unharmed.

The troops and correspondents passed within 300 yards of the blast tower. Field bunkers of the type used in Korea, sandbagged and covered with earth, were hard hit near the blast site.

Tanks and other war vehicles were badly damaged. Brigadier General William C. Bullock, commander of Camp Desert Rock, who

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Attack U. S. Plane in Alaska

No Damage Reported In Fight

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, March 17 (INS)—The U. S. air force announced today an American RB-50 was fired on by a Russian-built MIG-15 Jet fighter during a routine weather reconnaissance flight shortly after 9 PM (EST) Saturday night.

Headquarters of the Alaska command at Elmendorf field said the four-motored bomber was intercepted by two MIG-15s but that only one of the Russian-built planes made an attack.

The American bomber returned fire but apparently there was no damage to either craft.

71 'Important' Bills Awaiting Legislature

By CHET SOBSEY
REVIEW - JOURNAL CAPITOL BUREAU, Carson City, March 17—State lawmakers plowed into 71 bills today as senators and assemblymen got down to the serious business of trading off an equal number of measures which remain in committee waiting final action.

C. A. Carlson, chief clerk of the senate, said members of the upper chamber have only 50 bills to dispose of before they finish their work for the forty-sixth session.

About 140 measures remain in assembly committee, according to chief clerk Frank Rosaschi. Of these, however, it would be safe to say that between 80 and 90 are "dead."

Some observers claim the session could conceivably end on the fifty-ninth day—Thursday—were it not that the house ways and means and senate finance committee have scheduled important conferences to put the finishing touches on the budget.

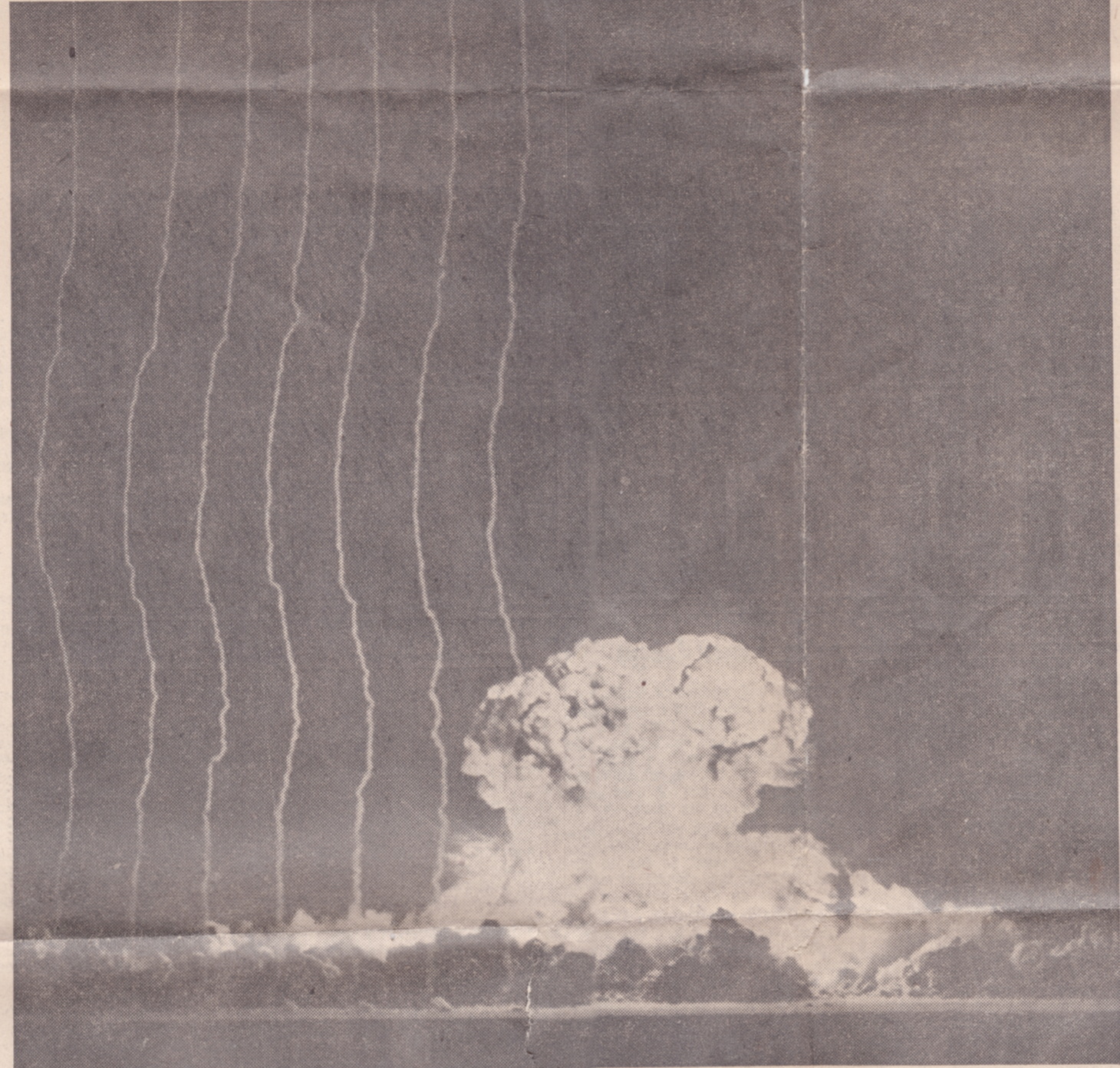
In the closing days of the session it is expected that lawmakers will put an "emergency" tag on the remaining legislation and rifle them through both houses for the governor's signature and enactment.

The perplexing problem of the schools has held up final settlement of the budget as legislators are attempting to funnel every available dollar to education.

Of the \$9,500,000 asked as a "bare minimum" by Nevada educators, the budgeteers will have failed to produce \$1,700,000, since no new taxes have been approved.

An increased beer tax which passed the lower chamber and was calculated to bring in \$800,000 for the biennium apparently died in the senate today following a committee hearing in which industry representatives bitterly protested. The proposed one-half of one percent gambling tax increase which

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RAGING INFERNO — Toadstool shaped fireball of today's atomic burst at Yucca Flat churns in fury moments after zero hour. At left are grid rockets used for measuring instruments computing affect of blast. Beneath the awesome spectacle was a modern day type home which, according to reports, was reduced to rubble.

1500 Jam Charleston For Pre-Dawn A-Blast

By Alan Jarison
MT. CHARLESTON, March 17—A small party of Catholic Nuns knelt in prayer on bleak Angel's Peak as the awesome flash of today's atomic detonation faded away into the pre-dawn darkness.

And they no doubt were joined in their moment of solemn silence by the more than 1500 motorists who viewed the breathtaking, fearful sight from this vantage point overlooking Yucca flat, 30 miles away.

It was a record breaking attendance for the public vantage point which has served as the "choice" spot for viewers of the past 20 tests at the Nevada proving grounds.

For the large personage assembled here for the first time, today's test was an arrestingly beautiful sight.

Veteran observers, however, expressed some disappointment in the size of the detonation which momentarily turned night into day.

As the flash pierced the inky black sky at 5:20 AM, 17-month-old William "Little Bill" Allen of Carver Park, Henderson, expressed his sentiments toward the whole affair with a loud wail.

Hollywood reporter Florabel Muir turned away moments after the shot was fired and said: "This is most disappointing—beautiful but disappointing."

Sixty members of the "Flying Farmers"—a group of ranchers from Chandler, Arizona, who planned from the Arizona city just for the detonation remarked in effect: "It seems to stand up to all newspaper and radio accounts we've read and heard. It was a fearful thing."

In a panoramic view from this vantage point, the sprawling desert below which houses the lethal nuclear device, seemed to transform into a boiling cauldron. The flash lasted but a brief moment, fading into a small fiery mushroom which churned steadily upwards until it billowed into a white purple tinged cloud.

The mushroom cloud—symbolic of the atomic age—formed the same shape familiar to past tests, but the coloring differed considerably. Peering into the haze that shrouded the area of Yucca Flat there was no apparent evidence of

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Named General Under Atom Mushroom

YUCCA FLAT, Mar. 17 (INS)—Colonel William C. Bullock, Jacksonville, Florida, today became the first man ever promoted while an atomic cloud was roaring into the sky.

The heavily decorated Korean veteran, post commander of Camp Desert Rock, was upped to brigadier general. The promotion actually went through a bit previously, but word of it reached Camp Desert Rock only after Bullock had gone into his fox hole "about two miles from ground zero."

With the radioactive mushroom forming, Bullock's star was pinned on his shoulders by General John Hodges, chief of army ground forces.

800 Watchers See Spectacular Shot In 'Complete Awe'

By John F. Cahlan
The atomic energy commission celebrated St. Patrick's day today with another of their boiling atomic detonations 'out on Yucca Flat as some 200 newsmen and 600 civil defense observers looked on in complete awe.

It was a spectacular shot and the experiment provided the ghost of St. Patrick with the most amazing observance it has ever seen. It was a novel but horrendous birthday celebration and was something that even those who saw it hardly could believe.

The flash was one of the most beautiful sights this writer ever has seen. Forced to remain in complete darkness because of the lead coated goggles we wore for some 30 seconds before the actual detonation, the horizon suddenly was lit with a boiling purple fireball which had a serrated series of red ridges climbing from the floor of the flat through the fireball.

Then, like a huge blob of molten, red hot lead, the fireball rose into and past the horizon. The cloud, gathering huge pieces of the desert floor as it rose, was a deep mustard color, for the most part confined to the pillar which slowly went skyward.

Throughout all this unfolding spectacle, there was not a sound to indicate that the picture seen out forward was part of an atomic test.

Then it came like a giant baseball bat had been swung against the body, covering from head to toe. Then the desert took over. The rumble of thunderlike echoes bounced back from the hills surrounding the valley and it sounded like a giant electrical storm without the rain.

Back and forth the towering mountains turned the single blast into a giant roar, similar to that heard in Las Vegas during earlier tests.

There were nine smoke trails through the clouds as it rose skyward, tracing their fingers through the dust brown cloud giving it a fourth of July flavor on the cold grey St. Patrick's morning on the desert hill.

Then almost as suddenly as the cloud was formed, it turned to a light chocolate color as the boiling pillar began to thin out off the white flats out in front of News Nob.

At approximately 5:24, the ice cap started to form on the top of the familiar mushroom-shaped cloud and the mushroom started to separate from the rolling bronze pillar at 5:25 AM.

The ice cap then started threading the entire mushroom cloud and by 5:27, it was completely white and appeared to be completely iced.

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Vegans Rise Early For A-Blast

Most Las Vegans were up and watching this morning, still interested in the visible effects of an exploding atomic device, although today's was the twenty-first in the government's test series here.

Bomb-watching on the home front has become systematized during the series, however, a survey indicated.

Watchers' participation varied from 2 AM excursions to the Charleston range to callous observers whose beds were so situated that they had only to set their alarm clocks and roll over at the appointed hour to look out the window.

Many groups planned watch-parties on the mountain peaks, warmed with hot food and drink for the pre-dawn vigil. The civil defense administration provided transportation to a hill-top vantage point where private cars were not permitted.

Streams of cars lined the Tonopah highway and outlying roads to watch from their autos. A large number of these bore out of state license plates, predominantly California, it was reported.

At home, people climbed to their roofs, stood in the street or on their back porches, settling for a glimpse of the far-away flash and the emergence of the mushroom cloud on the north-western horizon.

The general reaction from wherever people watched was, "It was spectacular."

Blast Caves In One Test Home

ATOMIC TEST SITE, Nev., March 17 (UP) Test house number 1 caved in but did not burn and two hours after this morning's atomic blast, house number 2 was still shrouded in radioactive dust, Harold Goodwin of the Federal Civil Defense administration reported after a helicopter flight over the typical American homes this morning.

Goodwin's preliminary survey, made from several hundred feet in the air to avoid radiation that clung to the ground of Yucca Flat like a mist, indicated also that about half the test automobiles were caved in.

House number 1 was about three-quarters of a mile from ground zero, where the atomic device exploded exactly on time. The second house was another three-quarters of a mile further away. The automobiles were scattered varying distances closer and farther from the blast.

Civil defense officials who flocked to the test from all parts of the country and newsmen who witnessed the "greatest show on earth" were anxious to inspect the damage close-up, but it appeared safety officers might delay any visit for as much as two days.

Civil defense administrator Val Peterson, first of the "foxhole brigade" to be brought out by helicopter from trenches within two miles of the blast, said:

"I wouldn't want to see anybody in the United States view one of these things unless it was under control. The shock wave that came 15 seconds after the blast was similar to having an 80-mile-an-hour wind hit you in the face."

Shells Hit Near Adlai On Korean Front Tour

ON THE KOREAN FRONT, March 17 (INS)—Adlai Stevenson narrowly escaped harm today when shells exploded around him—one of them kicking up the dirt only 50 yards away—as he took a close-up view of Korea's fighting sectors.

Shouldering the personal risks of war, the titular leader of America's democratic party got a taste of shellfire as he visited the United States Second division sector on the Western front.

His closest "call" of the day came while he and two generals were walking away from an observation bunker. An exploding mortar shell sent up a geyser of mud a scant 150 feet from the party.

"That's one that's going the wrong way," quipped Lieutenant General Maxwell D. Taylor, Eighth army commander, who escorted Stevenson on his frontline tour by helicopter, jeep and afoot.

A short time earlier, two Chinese communist artillery shells had crashed into the muddy side of a hill where the 1952 democratic presidential nominee was huddled in a deeply entrenched bunker with Taylor and Major General James Fry, Second division commander.

Stevenson was watching a low-sweeping strike by allied planes against the nearby communist lines when the Chinese projectiles whistled into the hillside.

The former Illinois governor had planned to go up to the strategic hill known as "Little Gibraltar" in the Second division sector. But there was heavy fighting and that height Tuesday morning and Stevenson was prevailed upon to change his frontline itinerary and instead, to the observation bunk on an adjacent hill.

The democratic leader also trooped through the mud of the Second division's trenches and foxholes, chatting with GIs and officers.

At a hospital staffed by naval medical personnel, Stevenson asked the medical battalion's "skipper" Commander R. M. Grant of New York City, whether any female nurses were in the wards. Grant laughed and replied: "We don't need ladies. Navy medical corpsmen are competent nurses."

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SPRING FASHION SECTION