

Blandy Backs Move To Deactivate 'Mo'; Ship Being Checked

By John V. Horner
Star Staff Correspondent

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 2.—The Navy solved only one of many vexing problems yesterday when it refloated the U. S. S. Missouri from a Chesapeake Bay sandbar.

No sooner had the 45,000-ton battleship been freed from the underwater trap than questions were raised as to her worth, the cause of her stranding and the methods of salvage.

The "Mighty Mo," on which the Japanese signed surrender terms for World War II, is now in drydock at the Norfolk Navy Yard. There she will undergo examination for damage suffered during 15 days aground.

But even before the big warship tied up, a demand was made in Washington that she be consigned to the Navy's "mothball" fleet.

Indorsed by Blandy.
Chairman Vinson of the House Armed Services Committee declared the Missouri should join scores of other shelved warships and be replaced by an aircraft carrier.

That idea received the immediate support of Admiral W. H. P. Blandy, who retired as commander in chief of the Atlantic Fleet within two hours after the "Mo" was refloated. Admiral

Truman Won't Say
If 'Mo' Will Join
Mothball Fleet

President Truman refused to say today whether the refloated battleship Missouri will be taken out of service.

The President told his news conference that Secretary of the Navy Matthews had the power to order the ship into "mothballs." But, Mr. Truman added, he assumes the Secretary would discuss it with him before issuing any such order.

The President was asked whether the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, would have authority to replace the Missouri with a carrier.

Mr. Truman replied that the Secretary of the Navy could do so if he chose, but he assumed the Secretary would discuss any such move with the White House.

Blandy told a press conference that it is difficult to justify use of the Missouri, only battleship afloat for training purposes. He said training can be provided in ships less costly to operate. The admiral said he favors replacing her with one or possibly two carriers.

Doubt was raised that President Truman would be willing to approve the Vinson proposal. The President asserted last year that the ship named for his native State will never be deactivated while he is Commander in Chief.

Three Leaks Found.
The Navy has estimated that it costs \$6,750,000 a year to operate the Missouri.

While the "mothball" discussion increased, Navy Yard workers swarmed through the giant vessel to spot damage from grounding and salvage. Effort was made to ready the Missouri for "Portrex" amphibious operations in the Caribbean later this month.

Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith, commander of cruisers in the Atlantic and the officer in charge of salvage, expressed belief that relatively little damage will be discovered. He and his deputy, Rear Admiral Homer N. Wallin, reported the most serious injuries found so far were three minor leaks.

Inquiry Opens Tomorrow.
After the floating, Admiral Smith remained in command of the Missouri, supervising towing operations for the 8-mile trip through Hampton Roads to the dock. Capt. William D. Brown, the skipper, stood by.

Doctors ordered Capt. Brown to bed Tuesday night because of fatigue and a cold. He was up early yesterday, however, and was in the foretop with Admirals Smith and Wallin when the battleship got free.

The captain will be the central figure in a court of inquiry scheduled to open tomorrow at Atlantic Fleet headquarters, here.

The court's duty will include fixing of blame for the Missouri's mishap. That subject has been under constant discussion but officers and men of the Missouri crew have remained discreetly uncommunicative.

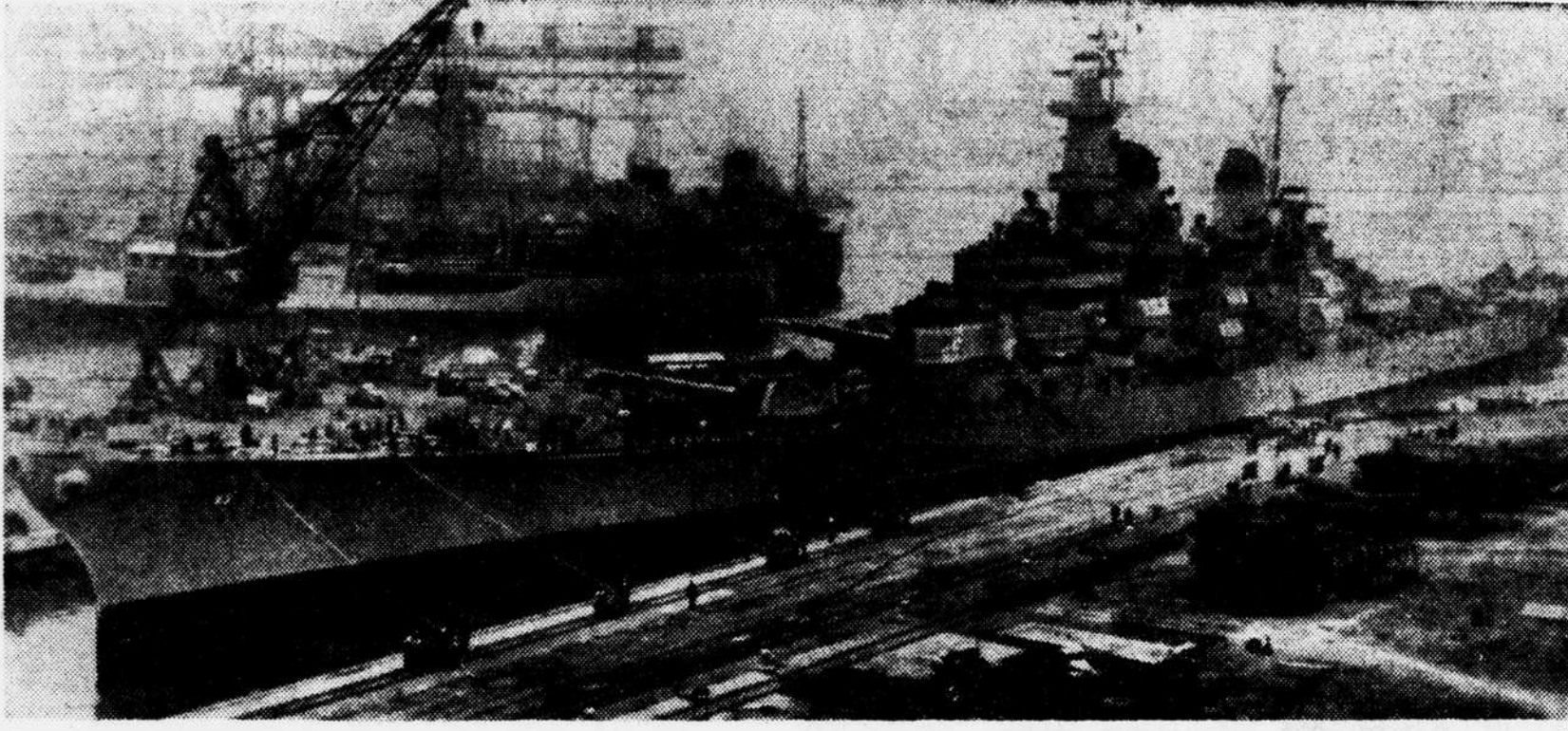
The battleship plowed through 2,500 feet of sand and gravel north of the main channel leading from Hampton Roads to Chesapeake Bay. She came to rest at a point a mile and one-half east of Old Point Comfort.

The grounding followed an attempt to transit a Navy test device, where submerged acoustic devices were being observed for reaction to vessels of various types and sizes. The range was marked by two buoys, between which ships were supposed to pass.

When the Missouri went aground, she was lifted 7 feet above the normal waterline. For about two-thirds of her length, the ship is as wide at the bottom as on the beam, 108 feet. The bottom there also is flat. Thus, Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith, chief of the salvage operations, asserted, methods sometimes used to refloat smaller ships and vessels of different design could not be used in this case.

The Missouri could not use her own engines to help break away because sand in the injectors would have carried into her machinery. The warship could not take advantage of a jolt from her big guns because of the risk of structural damage.

In the Navy view, the problem became one of simply increasing



BACK FOR INSPECTION—Norfolk, Va.—The battleship Missouri as she was nudged into drydock at the Norfolk Navy Yard after being refloated yesterday. The 45,000-ton warship will undergo examination to determine the damage caused when she stranded in Chesapeake Bay January 17.

Woman's Body Found In Swampy Area Near Arlington Tea House

By the Associated Press

ROME, Feb. 2.—Premier Alcide De Gasperi's new government won its first test in Parliament today. The Chamber of Deputies voted, 259 to 178, to consider legislation approving Italy's United Nations mandate over Somaliland.

Communists and pro-Communist Socialists led the opposition. The government wants immediate parliamentary action so that Italian administrative and military forces can arrive at the African colony before monsoon weather strikes.

The body of a woman was found today in the brush about 400 yards off South Arlington Ridge road, Arlington, near the Little Tea House.

The woman was identified as Miss Phyllis Dawson Row, 51, a former chief dietitian at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. She had been staying recently at the tea house, 1301 South Arlington Ridge road.

Arlington police said there were no evidence of foul play. Dr. W. C. Welburn, Arlington coroner, ordered an autopsy performed at Arlington Hospital. He withheld a death certificate.

Found by Rescue Squad.
Miss Row was reported missing Monday, police said, by Miss Gertrude Allison, of the tea house address.

Members of the Bethesda-Cherry Chase Rescue Squad, who found the body, reported it was lying in a "swamp." The head rested on a woman's pocketbook, they reported. They said three empty medicine bottles were found in the pocketbook.

The rescue squad men also said a note and Miss Row's rings were found in her room at the tea house. The note, they said, gave directions for disposition of the jewelry.

Physician Asked Search.
The squad said the request to search the area came from a Washington physician. They reported he said Miss Row was missing and that efforts to find her had been "exhausted."

Arlington Police Chief Harry Woodyard said a friend of Miss Row had asked that the Bethesda-Cherry Chase squad make the search, and that he approved the request.

Youth to Be Quizzed
In Murder Today

George B. Phelps, 18, held here on auto theft charges, was to be questioned by Prince Georges County police today in connection with a murder in Berwyn, Md., in December.

Lt. Charles N. Thomsen, Prince Georges detective chief, said there is "nothing definite" to connect Phelps with the December 6 shooting of Winston C. Clay, Jr., Berwyn gas station attendant.

Phelps was ordered held for the grand jury in Municipal Court here yesterday. He waived a hearing on a charge of unauthorized use of an automobile. Three other such cases are to be pressed against him, according to Washington police.

The youth was arrested in a Ninth street theater Tuesday night. Detectives said he admitted being involved in two holdups in Prince Georges and firing a shot through a grocery window.

Phelps is a parolee from the National Training School for Boys, according to police.

Weather Report
District of Columbia—Mostly cloudy with highest temperature around 48 degrees today, followed by occasional rain late today, tonight and tomorrow. Lowest tonight about 38 degrees.

Maryland and Virginia—Cloudy with occasional rain tonight and tomorrow, turning colder in the mountains tomorrow. Lowest temperature tonight from 35 to 40 degrees except near 45 degrees on the coast.

Wind velocity, 9 miles per hour; direction, southwest.

River Report.
(From U. S. Engineers.)
Potomac River muddy at Harpers Ferry and at Great Falls; Shenandoah muddy at Harpers Ferry.

Humidity.
(Readings at Washington National Airport.)
Yesterday: 71-81. Today: 68-78. Tomorrow: 65-75.

High and Low for Yesterday.
High, 43, at 1:01 a.m.
Low, 35, at 4:10 p.m.

Record Temperatures This Year.
Highest, 79 on January 26.
Lowest, 22, on January 20.

Tide Tables.
(Published by United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.)
High, 5.1, at 1:01 a.m.
Low, 3.5, at 4:10 p.m.

De Gasperi Wins Test On Somaliland Issue

By the Associated Press

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Communists and pro-Communist Socialists led the opposition. The government wants immediate parliamentary action so that Italian administrative and military forces can arrive at the African colony before monsoon weather strikes.

The House Civil Service Committee said today that it had uncovered evidence of numerous personal irregularities among civilian and military employees at the Army Finance Center in St. Louis.

Chairman Murray said an investigation by a subcommittee headed by Representative Kerst, Democrat, of Missouri, had disclosed the presence of Communists and fellow travelers on the payroll there.

Also, Mr. Murray declared, the subcommittee discovered falsification of personnel records, and the general "unsuitability" of many employees at the Army Center.

Violations of civil service regulations was another charge leveled by the committee. Mr. Murray added that witnesses in the investigation were "coerced" by Army personnel.

The exact nature of the charges was not divulged. Mr. Murray declared that all the evidence was being turned over to the Army Department, the Civil Service Commission and the controller general.

Immediate action by the three agencies was urged by Mr. Murray.

Britain's Prison Chiefs
Bar Poison for Executions

A suggestion that condemned murderers be given a glass of poison and become their own executioners met little favor with the governors of Britain's chief prisons, London reports. They all voted in favor of the retention of hangings, when they gave evidence before the Royal Commission on Capital Punishment.

Major A. C. N. Benke, head of Wandsworth Prison, rejected the ancient Greek method of a draught of poison, because it meant condoning suicide.

"I do not think the majority of murderers who have been executed would have taken it," he said. "You would have to pour it down their throats. They would be too selfish to take it themselves."

Such relations, he said, would remove a major cause of divorce, lessen perversion, and provide a good basis for marriage.

Luther E. Woodward, a former Protestant minister now with the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, said the Yale professor considered only the "outside" of the problem of premarital relations, and not the inner feelings of those involved.

The Rev. William J. Gibbons, secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, said sex freedom were condoned, would "run wild" if premarital

Funeral Services Today
For Mrs. Mary Cashell

Funeral services for Mrs. George T. Cashell, 87, a Washington area resident for 65 years, were to be held this morning in the Pumphrey funeral home, 8434 Georgia avenue, Silver Spring. Burial was to be in Rockville Union Cemetery, Rockville.

Mrs. Cashell died Monday in the home of her son, Dr. Irving M. Cashell, 2807 Eighteenth street N.W., a veterinarian. She had lived at 916 Silver Spring avenue, Silver Spring, for 30 years.

Born in Charles County, Md., she was the former Miss Mary Wilkerson. She was married in 1884 to George T. Cashell, a Montgomery County farmer. He died in 1932.

In addition to Dr. Cashell, she is survived by another son, Thomas R. Cashell of the Silver Spring avenue address; two brothers, William W. Wilkerson of Rockville and Samuel R. Wilkerson of Waldorf, Md.; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Cobras Shipped by Air
Five cobras and a python, shipped recently from Ceylon by sea, air and rail to Miami, Fla., were carefully packed in separate jute-hessian bags, made necessary by their cannibalistic tendencies, Colombo reports.

Israel Premier Bars U. S. Rabbis' Pressure

By the Associated Press

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2.—Premier David Ben-Gurion has sent a strong message to a group of American rabbis denying the right of any Jewish group outside Israel to try to pressure the government here.

Eleven American rabbinical and synagogue and religious Zionist organizations within the "United Religious Bloc of America" recently cabled Mr. Ben-Gurion demanding revision of present arrangements for absorption of immigrant children.

The group said it made the demand "to prevent injustice to children, parents and fundamental Judaism so as to obviate world scandal of far-reaching and tragic consequences."

Mr. Ben-Gurion's answer, cabled in Hebrew, was released here today. The Prime Minister said no one would detract from the right of any Jew to express an opinion or criticize the affairs of state of Israel.

But, he declared, the rabbis had tried to pass judgment on matters they knew little about. Mr. Ben-Gurion did not mention what has been reported in the press—that a Ministerial Committee is investigating charges of discrimination in religious education.

Construction Pushed
On York River Bridge

Special Dispatch to the Star

YORKTOWN, Va., Feb. 2.—The State Highway Department today reported construction is well underway on the most costly bridge project ever undertaken in Virginia. It is the 3,750-foot George P. Coleman Memorial bridge across the York River between Yorktown and Gloucester Point.

The bridge, which will carry Route 17 across the York River, is scheduled for completion early in 1952. If the present rate of construction is maintained, however, engineers believe it may be finished by late next year.

Though not the longest bridge in Virginia, it will be the largest from the standpoint of cost and the quantity of materials used in its construction. The overall cost, including approaches and incidental, will total more than \$9,000,000. It is being financed by toll revenue bonds.

100,000 Books Sent
Abroad in Year's Drive

More than 100,000 books, collected by the Catholic Library Association last year, were sent to education institutions in war-stricken countries abroad, it was announced today.

Water Fluorination Sought

By the Associated Press

FLUORINATION of drinking water in parts of Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties will be recommended by Southern Maryland dentists as a means of preventing dental decay.

The dentists are to make their recommendation to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, it was announced.

Alexandria Man Released
In Fatal Fire Investigation

By the Associated Press

FERNDALE, Md., Feb. 2.—Anne Arundel County police today released a 51-year-old Alexandria (Va.) man they had been holding for investigation in connection with a fire in which four children died.

A boy who had seen a man near the fire could not identify him in a police lineup.

The four children died when the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hartenstein burned near Glen Burnie on January 22. The man was picked up four days later when relatives of the Hartensteins said he seemed unusually curious about the tragedy. Police said he was carrying newspaper clippings telling about the fire and several sex crimes in the Washington area.

Swiss Navy Grows
Tonnage of the Swiss "merchant navy" has been increased by delivery of the 9,320-ton motorship Anunciada, built in the United Kingdom.

Jail Transfer Asked
The recent jail break at Rockville may result in placing the jail under supervision of the County Council instead of the sheriff's office.

Montgomery County Manager Irving G. McNay said today the county's legislators have promised to introduce a bill to authorize the shift.

Those in favor of the bill to permit the council to tighten security measures, Mr. McNay said, include Federal Bureau of Prisons inspectors, the sheriff, Circuit Court judges and representatives of the Maryland Department of Correction.

Last Monday three young prisoners from Washington tried out a window bar and let themselves out of the ground from an upper-floor cell with the aid of blankets knotted into ropes.

Police throughout the East are still looking for them.

Druggist Awarded \$15,000
An award of \$15,000 was made by an Arlington Circuit Court jury last night to a druggist who claimed he was forced into bankruptcy by a sheriff's sale based on an illegal warrant.

Harold Babbitt of 310 North Piedmont street obtained the award for damages as the operator of the drug department in the Shirley Super Market, Leesburg Pike and Seminary road. The defendant was Joseph

Maryland and Virginia

News in Brief

Gov. Lane Proposes
Record Budget and Tax Cut

Gov. Lane's plans for reducing taxes despite the biggest budget in Maryland's history were being studied today by legislators at Annapolis.

The Governor submitted his program yesterday in a 40-minute speech before the House and Senate. He asked approval of a 1951 budget totaling \$143,066,052, which is \$5,831,600 above the record 1950 figure.

He recommended at the same time that income taxes be reduced and the levy on real estate be cut to 6 cents on each \$100 valuation. The Governor proposed use of most of a State surplus of \$6,456,642 expected to be available at the beginning of the 1951 fiscal year on July 1 to make up the difference between State income and expenditure.

Republicans immediately assailed the plan to use the surplus as "a scheme to use the accumulated funds for campaign purposes," especially in view of the fact that this is an important election year in Maryland.

Arlington Parking Program
A bill to authorize publicly owned parking lots in Arlington County was introduced today in the General Assembly at Richmond.

The measure, offered by Delegates J. Maynard Magruder and George Damm of Arlington, would create off-street parking areas to serve community centers like Clarendon and Cherrydale. A similar plan already is in operation at Silver Spring, Md.

The Assembly worked unusually long hours yesterday to pass Gov. Batts' \$45,000,000 school construction program. This calls for an immediate grant of \$30,000,000, with the balance to be available after July 1.

Efforts to amend the measure to force localities to match State funds were defeated in both houses, although slight modifications were made. Committee chairmen will meet later in an attempt to adjust the differences.

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Dutch Plane Crashes In Sea; 7 Feared Lost

By the Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 2.—A Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) cargo and mail plane crashed into the North Sea today off the Dutch coast. Airline officials said all seven crew members aboard—including a stewardess—have been given up for lost.

KLM said no traces of survivors had been found hours after a Danish ship found floating wreckage of the DC-3, which was en route from Amsterdam to London.

The Danish steamer Rigmor reported it saw a burning plane crash at 4:55 a.m. (11:55 p.m. EST yesterday), 25 miles from the hook of Holland, the sea entrance to the port of Rotterdam. After daylight the steamer radioed it had found wreckage and picked up mail bags but reported no survivors had been located.

Aboard the plane were the normal crew of four and three air-men making the trip to receive instruction in the landing facilities at London Airport. One of them, 26-year-old A. J. Legs, was British.

The plane left Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport at 3:40 a.m. yesterday and was due in London at 6 a.m. After it radioed to Schiphol that it was leaving Dutch territory, nothing more was heard from it.

The plane was piloted by 32-year-old J. van der Heide, the father of three children.

Air Force Private Beaten,
Robbed of Car and \$8

Pvt. Jack W. Cokley of Andrews Field, had a lump on his head this morning in exchange for \$8 and his automobile.

Police reported that Pvt. Cokley was struck with a blunt instrument by an unidentified colored man about 3 a.m. today and robbed of his car and \$8. The robbery occurred in the 1300 block of Q street N.W. after Pvt. Cokley had stopped to talk to the man.

The robber was described as about 5 feet 9 inches tall, wearing a gray topcoat and a raincoat over his hat.

Six Die in Gun Battle
CALI, Colombia, Feb. 2 (AP).—Two policemen and four bandits were killed when bandits attacked a police station yesterday at Zarzal, about 60 miles from Cali, a government commune said today.

THE MODE . . . Important Men's Corner

FRIDAY
BARGAINS

F ST. STORE ONLY—Tomorrow 9 to 6
We will alter. Charge your purchase but no layaways, phone orders or C.O.D's.

A GROUP SHARKSKIN AND WORSTED
SUITS (Friday Only) 29.75
Originally 50.00 and 55.00
Good selection of models and sizes.

A GROUP SHARKSKIN AND WORSTED
SUITS (Friday Only) 38.00
Originally 60.00 and 65.00
Most sizes in regular, short, long, stout.

8 Fashion Park Suits in brown, tweed; single-breasted models; regulars; were 85.00 46.00
A Group of Sport Coats in tweeds and Shetland types; were 45.00 21.75
92 Zip-lined Topcoats in tweeds, coverts and gabardines; bails, raglans; were 55.00 and 65.00 38.00
A Group of Topcoats in tweeds and chevrons; were 55.00 29.75
3 Stadium and Campus Coats; originally sold for 40.00 17.75
A Group of Overcoats in tweeds, chevrons and fleeces; SB and DB; were 60.00 and 70.00 38.00

SHOES
28 pair Whitehall Shoes in broken sizes; were 14.95 6.95
18 pair Whitehall Shoes in broken sizes; were 9.95 4.95

FURNISHINGS
127 Shirts; white on white, stripes and solid colors; were 3.95 and 4.50 1.89
132 Neckties; were 1.50 79
48 Mufflers; were 1.95 59
127 pair Socks; clocks, patterns and novelty weaves; were 75c and 1.00 39
12 Robes; some wools and some rayons; were 17.50 to 25.00 9.95

THE MODE

F STREET AT ELEVENTH . . . Hours 9:00 to 6:00
3331 CONNECTICUT AVE. . . Hours 10:00 to 9:00

CHARGE IT: 30-Day or Tri-Pay Plan

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CHART
FOR
YOUR
SIZE!

FOR
\$12.95 to \$15.95
MEN'S SHOES

• Rich's Exclusive Imperials
• Famous Spaldings

Rich's
F STREET AT 10th

All Sales Final • No C.O.D.'s • No Mail or Phone Orders

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D	11	15	16	19	2	1	2	3	5	4	1	
E	4	8	7	5	1	2	1	7	4	2		

- Only listed sizes
- Scotch Grains
- Calfskin
- Brush Leathers
- Wingtips
- Straight Tips