



## Wary Scientists Hold Fate of Civilization

MANKIND, still jittery over awesome implications of the atom, was given another jolt by science last week in a major report on biological warfare—a lethal field in which man still knows no control. The 40,000-word document, prepared five years ago and kept secret by the government until last week, is like the Smyth report on atomic energy, the dictionary of its field, outlining all the possibilities but withholding war secrets.

Thirty-three diseases are listed as suitable weapons for biological warfare. Some could be used in concentrations to neutralize cities and huge war production belts or they could be aimed at specific targets like naval bases or even troops in action.

"Scientists are as much frightened as anyone else by the possibility of misuse of science," said Dr. Maurice Visscher, president of the American Association of Scientific Workers, for whom the report was originally prepared in 1942.

### Peace the Only Defense

"The only real defense against bacterial warfare is peace," said Dr. Visscher, quoting George Merck, who made a report on the subject to the Secretary of War in 1946.

Because of its geographic isolation, the United States is peculiarly vulnerable, Dr. Visscher declared.

In case of a bacterial attack on this country by an enemy in Europe, he said, the attacker's own people would be safe from the bacteria used and retribution in kind by this country would be difficult because of danger to neutral countries.

Meanwhile in New York, Andrei A. Gromyko, Soviet deputy foreign minister, warned the United States that continuance of its "monopoly" theory of atomic development was an "illusion," since it was impossible to stop the march of science.

Unless atomic weapons are outlawed promptly by the United Nations, Gromyko said, this country might soon find itself in a less favorable position in the atomic field.

### New Atomic Weapon

American atomic scientists, like those all over the world, were busy. A Senate subcommittee on aviation heard briefly last week about a new atomic weapon—a radioactive cloud a mile in diameter. Materials which might go into atomic gas shells to form such a cloud already are in production at Oak Ridge, Tenn., for medical and scientific research purposes.

The prediction of a cloud a mile in diameter hurling lethal rays is in line with what the late President Roosevelt was told in 1939 when he was persuaded to undertake the atomic bomb project.

The 40,000-word report on bacterial warfare was compiled in 1942 from studies which scientists had been making quietly in eight countries—not including Germany. Nazi research on bacterial weapons had disappeared within the veil of censorship long before that time.

### Lethal Germs

The report discounts such commonly feared germ weapons as cholera, smallpox, typhoid fever, bubonic plague, leprosy and venereal disease because of the availability of vaccines or the difficulty in spreading the disease.

The best weapons would be infections which people get by breathing. These include tularemia, or rabbit fever, not the common form but a laboratory development that spreads in air and causes pneumonia; pneumonic plague which is the lung form of the plague Black Death, and melioidosis, a fatal infection so rare in nature that only 95 cases were recorded medically until a few years ago.

During the last war, Japan made use of prevailing westerly winds at high altitudes to unleash on America balloon-borne bombs. These aerial currents might also make America vulnerable to bacterial attack from Asia without the use of planes.

Dr. Visscher said his association made public the report, with War Department permission, in an effort to bring home to people of the world the potentialities of bacterial warfare.

"The American public cannot be impressed too strongly with the necessity of making arrangements to preserve peace now," he said, "because 10 years from now it will be too late."

## In Short...

**Scheduled:** President Truman for a new Flying Whitehouse to replace the "Sacred Cow," sometime this summer. It will be a new six-engined Douglas (DC-6) to be christened "Independence."

**Dropped:** By Newburyport merchants, their widely heralded 10 percent price cutting program because, they said, of lack of cooperation from suppliers.

**Accused:** By the U. S., three Soviet satellite states in the Balkans (Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria) of defying authority of the United Nations by refusal to cooperate with a U.N. investigating committee in northern Greece.

**Protested:** By Britain, fund raising in the U. S. to support terrorists and unauthorized immigration into Palestine.

**Recommended:** By the House Post Office committee, revision of postal rates to bring in an estimated \$100,000,000 extra revenue.

**Applied:** Italy, for membership in the United Nations.



THE SCIENCE RACE

## Documents

### A Nazi Double-Cross

One of Hitler's typically fantastic schemes when chances for victory first began to appear slim in 1943 was for a double-cross involving a secret truce with Russia. In this way, the Fuehrer reasoned, Russia could continue to receive American Lend-Lease aid and Germany would be able to concentrate all her forces in the west.

The German documents, made public in Washington and London, did not make clear whether the proposal ever was submitted to Moscow.

"We can hope to win the war only if we stop expending our forces in the east," read the minutes of a conference between Hitler and his commanders. "So far Japan has not been used for this purpose, for fear of weakening Japan in the south by engaging her in the north. Also, she might not be able to muster the necessary supplies for both fronts."

"Russia is getting considerable supplies via the far east. Therefore the question arises whether a threat by Japan that she will enter the war against Russia will help to make the latter accept the German offer of unannounced armistice on the eastern front, to be kept secret from the Anglo-Saxons."

"Russia could continue to accept Lend-Lease. This political goal is worth every sacrifice."

The documents also disclosed that the Nazis plotted seizure or sinking of the Italian fleet should Italy surrender.

## Saga

### International Stowaway

A 17-year-old Texas boy who ran away from home at the age of 12 and spent five years knocking about Europe and Africa as a mascot of American troops was convicted of entering Germany illegally and wearing an Army uniform without authority.

The boy, Antonio Brandez, was ordered sent home to the United States by an American Military Government Court in Frankfurt.

His fantastic career as a stowaway and camp follower began in 1942 when he left San Antonio and stowed away on ship to England. There he attached himself to American troops and as their mascot flew to Africa, then followed them across Europe into Germany.

He even went home with the troops after V-E Day, stowing away on a troop ship. He found his mother dead, however, and soon tired of civilian life so he went back to Germany in 1946—again as a stowaway.

Again he joined an Army unit as mascot. He was arrested in Munich but escaped. Recaptured and sent to Bremen for deportation, he escaped again. He made his way to Frankfurt and headed for Paris. The French arrested him in Strasbourg and returned him to the American zone.

Military authorities now treat him as a small but very slippery customer.



OUT OF THIS WORLD



PUP TENT

# The WORLD This WEEK

## Dates

**Tuesday, May 27**  
Anniversary (ninth), Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco (world's largest suspension bridge).

**Wednesday, May 28**  
Birthday (13th), Dionne quintuplets.

**Friday, May 30**  
Memorial Day (except in Ala., Fla., Ga., La., Miss., N. C., S. C. and Tenn.).  
Confederate Memorial Day (Va.).

**Saturday, May 31**  
Anniversary (153rd), Congress enacted first copyright law.  
Belmont Stakes at Belmont Race Track, N. Y.

## China

### Youth Defies Chiang

Chiang Kai-shek's hard-pressed Nationalist government met defiance by striking Chinese college students in half a dozen major cities last week along with fresh reverses on the far northern battlefronts.

Government dispatches acknowledged Chinese Communist gains in Manchuria—where the capital, Changchun, was under martial law as Red armies drew nearer—and in Shensi province in North China.

Thousands of university students demonstrated violently in Nanking, Peiping and Shanghai and called for a general strike June 2 to back up their demands that the civil war be halted immediately.

Earlier the generalissimo issued a written manifesto to an estimated 25,000 striking students in 16 universities. In it he banned student demonstrations with a threat of drastic government action to quell disturbances and called their demands "unreasonable" and "Communist-inspired."

Striking student leaders denied any prompting by political groups. They met his crack-down order with renewed demonstrations. They sought an end to civil war, they said, because it ruined production and caused inflation which intensified their own economic ills.

## Medicine

### Transplanted Hearts

Vladimir Demikov, 30-year-old Russian physiologist, has succeeded in replacing the hearts and lungs of dogs with the respective organs of other dogs, according to the Moscow News.

The experiment was completed on seven dogs, all of which came through the operation satisfactorily, although none lived more than eight days.

Demikov said the dogs behaved normally and were able to eat and drink after the operation. He attributed death not to any disturbance in heart action but to pleurisy which developed in the thoracic cavity.

Russian scientists have had considerable success in transplanting hearts of frogs but Demikov's experiments are the first reporting success with warm-blooded animals.

## Fish

### Million Dollar Catches

Whalers hauled \$100,000,000 to \$125,000,000 from South Pole waters during the four-month season this year but American whalers were not among them.

The estimate is made by Dr. Raymond M. Gilmore, biologist of the Fish and Wildlife Service, who accompanied the Byrd Antarctic Expedition to make a whale count and tabbed 663 over 25,000 square miles.

Fifteen whaling ships operated in the Antarctic from December 7 to April 7. They included seven Norwegian vessels, three British, and the rest Japanese, Russian and Dutch.

The catch is limited by international agreement to 16,000 blue whale units a year. A unit consists of one blue whale or two fin whales.

"It was the first whaling since before the war and with Europe's need for fats, they caught the limit," said Dr. Gilmore.

## FOOD: Vital in Peace & War

AS HUNGER bedeviled a sizeable segment of the world's population, food shortages brought new friction in the Anglo-American zones of Germany.

Amid near-famine conditions in their ruinous industrial cities, the one time Herrenvolk grumbled bitterly as they staggered toward a third hungry post-war summer.

But British and American administrators showed little willingness to apologize in view of the world-wide need; and while America rushed extra cargoes of provisions to Hamburg and other German ports there was talk in military government circles of inaugurating a new "get tough" policy. The "democratization" program was not stern enough, some American sources indicated.

More pointed than official comments was the criticism which German-born novelist Thomas Mann, a prewar fugitive from Nazidom, leveled at his former countrymen.

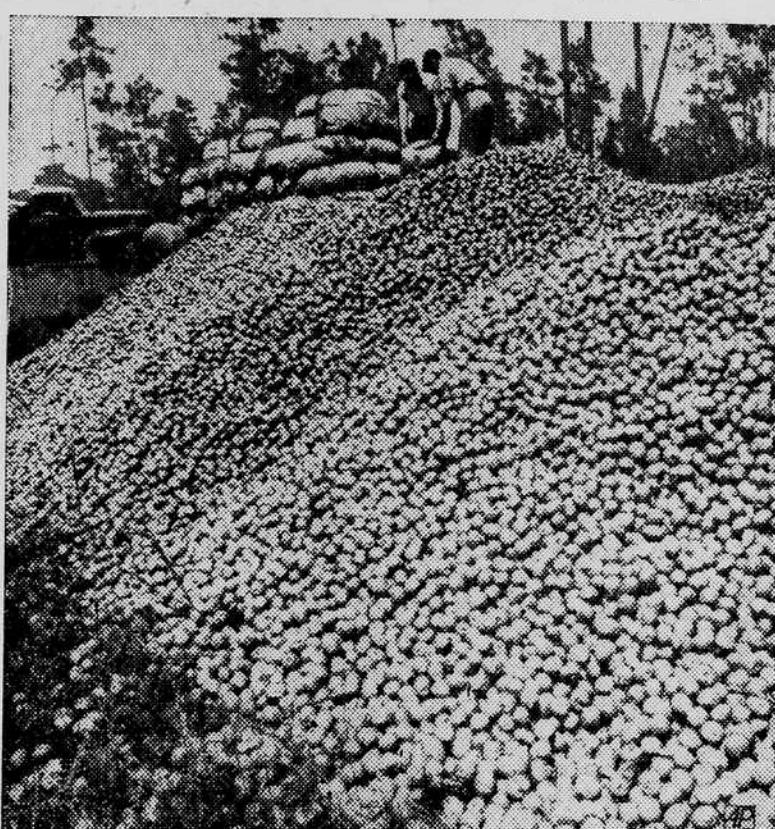
### German 'Self-Pity'

"Germany is again already misusing her liberty and democracy," the 71-year-old author reported in London. She "refuses to acknowledge that misery and tragedy are not hers alone... It is self-pity, part of the national egotism, which is preventing Germany from cooperating with the Allies in her revival."

Simultaneously U. S. Sen. Lucius D. Clay announced a campaign to tell Germans what the western occupiers have been doing to help them. Communist propaganda, he said, is stressing the food shortage in the British and American-held areas. He also announced that Bavarian peasants were relinquishing hoarded grain stocks under new AMG pressure.

But Germany remained only a side-show in the world food picture, which has been coming slowly into focus after a devastating winter.

From neat British fields to the Ukrainian plains, the full toll of adverse weather was being written in crop deficits.



**PARADOX—While millions hunger in Europe, U. S. destroys potatoes. Under subsidy program, government guarantees farmers \$2.25 per bushel. Federal men douse kerosene (above) on 50 tons of potatoes near Foley, Ala., to make them unfit for consumption and avoid glutting the domestic market. Shipping and dehydration costs bar their being sent abroad.**

### U. S. Aid Program

Recognizing that now, as in the past, the chief burden of alleviating widespread chaos must fall on the United States, Congress finally approved a \$350,000,000 aid fund to continue relief in Europe and China. This, coming on the heels of \$400,000,000 to relieve Turkey and Greece in an effort to prevent the spread of Communism, led to new demands in some quarters for an integrated U. S. aid policy.

In Washington it was announced that such a long-range policy might soon be forthcoming from the State Department's policy-planning staff, after a survey of world conditions.

With prospects of a bumper 1947 wheat crop, America appeared more than ever like a rich uncle in a needy world.

## SHIPS: Ill-Fated Oklahoma

### All or Nothing

The battleship Oklahoma, first of America's superdreadnaughts, escaped the ignominy of the scrapheap last week by sinking at sea while being towed from Pearl Harbor to a Pacific coast boneyard.

Thus ended the colorful but unheroic career of a ship that never succeeded in fulfilling her destiny. Not once in her 31 years, spanning two



**USS OKLAHOMA, first of the super dreadnaughts but a victim at Pearl Harbor, sank while being towed to a scrap heap.**

world wars, did she fire a shot at an enemy.

In World War I, she was based at Berehaven, Ireland, but saw no action. As a training ship in the peace years, she was in collision with a railroad barge at Bremerton, Wash., and with the battleship Arizona on another occasion.

She was anchored at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and capsized within 11 minutes with five Japanese torpedoes in her hull, trapping many of her crew in their bunks. The Navy, determined to fight her, raised the Oklahoma 18 months later but engineers found it too costly to refit and modernize her and she was abandoned late in 1944.

The Oklahoma, commissioned in 1916, cost \$75,000,000 and took four years to build. Jane's Fighting Ships listed her and her sister ship, the Nevada of Bikini fame, as superdreadnaughts, first of the "all or nothing" theory of ship construction

Experts said the attempt to tow the huge ship to the mainland was recognized beforehand as a big gamble but the buyers would have made a big profit on their investment if they had succeeded.

The sale was on a "where is and as is" basis. Since there were no passengers, formal certification of seaworthiness was unnecessary.

The venerable warship left Pearl Harbor in tow of two big seagoing tugs on May 10. She was due in San Francisco Bay on Memorial Day. Six days out, the captain of the tug Hercules radioed that the Oklahoma had begun to list heavily.

He was ordered to head back for Pearl Harbor but a little later the dreadnaught parted the tow lines and plunged to the bottom. At that point the sea is about three miles deep.

The tugs stood by until daybreak, but so cleanly had the Oklahoma died that not even a scrap of debris was seen.

## Smugglers

### Parachuting to Palestine

Rabbi Baruch Korff, United Nations observer for the Political Action Committee for Palestine, reported in New York that his organization has been dropping European refugee Jews into Palestine by parachute.

"We have been warned by the British to halt these operations," Korff said. "Of course, this will only intensify our preparations."

He disclosed that Jews had been "repatriated by air" during the past month by chartered planes that made the round trip from secret landing fields in 10 hours. He said former American naval and army officers were supervising the program.

British sources in Palestine denied any aerial activity. They said unidentified planes would have been shot down long before reaching the Holy Land.

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## New Shift In Empire

BRITAIN, staggering economically in the postwar world, has been forced into austere measures of retrenchment. India and Burma were offered independence, a move which prompted Winston Churchill's anguished "broken up." The British navy's military garrisons at outposts all over the world are nowhere near present strength and further cutbacks in expensive military maintenance are in the offing.

Informed sources close to the British War Office disclosed last week that England is preparing to hand over to the United States responsibility for defense of the Mediterranean and the middle east, including the Suez Canal. The empire line defense will be withdrawn to East Africa at two to three years.

The shift will not mean abandonment of Britain's economic and political interests in the middle east; however, these informants said, they fixed the timetable for withdrawal of military and supply bases to East Africa at two to three years.

**U. S. a Mediterranean Power**  
This revamping of a 50-year-old policy of imperial defense was made possible, the London informants said, by emergence of the United States as an active Mediterranean power with definable interests to defend.

In Washington, Secretary of State George C. Marshall said he did not agree with London suggestions that developments in the Mediterranean meant a shift in military responsibility there from Britain to the U. S.

Other factors behind the decision to fortify East Africa are understood to include the government's pledge to quit India by June, 1948, and the instability of Palestine. There is also the uncertain constitutional future of the Sudan, whose status now is the subject of an Egyptian appeal to the United Nations.

### New Day for Africa

The effect of the shift on the economic, social and political future of Africa is bound to be tremendous. The War Office is reported to have accepted the principle that any blueprint for African defense strategy would require active cooperation of native peoples. Another important step would be coordination of policy with France and Belgium, Britain's most important and politically reliable neighbors in Africa.

British, French and Belgian colonial administrators convened in Paris last week to discuss African problems. Expected from the Paris conference are tripartite commissions to speed intensive development program in southern, central and equatorial Africa.

Britain's dependence on the middle east was revealed by Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin before Parliament. "We must maintain a continual interest in that area," Bevin declared, "if only because our economic and financial interests are of such importance to us and to other countries as well."

"If those interests were lost to the effect on life in this country would be a considerable reduction in the standard of living."

## Farms

### Inflated Acreage

Sale of farm lands has slackened almost everywhere in the United States, particularly on the Pacific coast, bringing predictions of an end of a boom in progress since 1930.

President Truman, in recognition of what he termed a "serious problem," has asked Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson to call a conference of government agencies and farm organizations on June 9 to develop a program for discouraging further speculation in farm real estate prices.

## Hot Shots

Plastic surgeons from half a dozen major cities are being recruited to help hundreds of "facial cripples" among the Texas City survivors.

which will begin in July, is believed the largest plastic surgery effort ever attempted after a civilian disaster.

After his plane lost its propeller, 3,000 feet over Amityville, N. Y., a pilot landed his ship safely at a house by 15 feet and broke off the tops of about 50 small maple and oak trees.

● In Oklahoma City, Paul Carter Burns, 13, leaned against a light pole. A short circuit in the wiring made the anchor bolts and the metal pole crashed to the street. Paul was shouting, "I didn't do it. I was just waiting for a bus!"

● In Chicago, Clarence Tilling was awakened by his Persian cat when a marauder tried to enter his apartment. He had time to get a gun before the thief walked in. Instead of firing, however, he put the weapon down, announcing, "I'm not to beat the stuffing out of you. Police, summoned by neighbors, took badly bruised 23-year-old Tilling into custody."

● In Munich, German black keeters now are selling "wrist watches" worn by Hitler. Americans pay thousands of dollars for them, never aware of the fact that Hitler never smoked and did not wear wrist watches.

