

### Dying Man Is Quizzed for Blast Cause

#### Chief Turret Captain, Bandage-Swathed, Near Death, to Whisper Secret of Mississippi Explosion to Board.

By COPELAND C. BURG.  
International News Service Staff Correspondent.

Los Angeles, Cal., June 14.—From the sealed lips of a dying man, the naval board of inquiry investigating the U. S. S. Mississippi gun turret blast, which gassed to death 48 blue jackets in a lethal tomb, today sought the official eye witness version of the tragedy.

The dying man is Chief Turret Captain F. J. Rhine, commander of the gun crew of turret number two, where a big 14-inch gun vomited the deadly gases into the 13-inch steel-bound chamber.

After an inspection of the turret of the Mississippi, where the 48 died, the navy officers journeyed to the hospital ship Relief rocking in Los Angeles harbor in the shadow of "Man of War Row."

Here the members of the navy board will bend their ears to hear the whispered story of the tragedy from Rhine, swathed in ointment-soaked bandages. Rhine, closer to the exploding gun than any of the doomed gun crew, is expected to reveal a detail in the loading mechanism or turret construction.

Believing the turret captain's story will shed light on the explosion to the end that the gunners may not have died in vain, the navy board moved swiftly to his bedside.

San Pedro, Cal., June 14.—In 1907, when a turret aboard the battleship Georgia blew up and many men were killed and injured, F. J. Rhine, now a chief turret captain, was one of the few survivors.

Today, swathed in bandages and moaning through swollen lips, Rhine lay on a cot aboard the hospital ship Relief, one of the few survivors of the turret explosion which Thursday claimed the lives of 48 men aboard the U. S. S. Mississippi.

Washington, June 13.—Secretary Wilbur declared today that a "very careful examination" by a naval court of inquiry will be required before any official explanation of the turret explosion on board the battleship Mississippi can be made. He made it plain that the investigation would be conducted in the open.

The cause of the disaster may be difficult to determine, the secretary said, as many of those who would have been able to give the facts were killed.

A message of sympathy was dispatched by Mr. Wilbur to the captains, officers and crews of the battleships Mississippi and New Mexico, the latter included because several of her men were on the Mississippi at the time of the explosion. The message said: "I extend to you my profound sympathy in the loss of your shipmates through the accident on board the Mississippi."

In addition, he sent personal messages to the families of the dead.

San Pedro, June 14.—Further grim details of the turret blast that killed 48 men aboard the dreadnaught Mississippi last Thursday and injured a dozen others, five seriously, awaited telling as members of the naval board of inquiry investigating the disaster gathered for their second session on the stricken battleship today.

A vivid picture of the fate that overtook these fighting men of turret No. 2, while the guns of their ship and two other vessels roared at a target on the San Clemente drift grounds, south of here, was contained in testimony offered during yesterday's session.

To Testify.  
Lieut. Com. F. G. Heinecke, gunnery officer of the Mississippi, said he was stationed in the fire control tower directing the fire of the big guns. He was unaware of any explosion until just before the twelfth salvo was fired. Then, over the telephone he heard a hoarse voice: "Fire in No. 2."

By this time the twelfth salvo had rocked the great ship and flung its tons of steel at the target. The order "cease fire" was signalled. The gunnery officer hastened down from the conning tower. He found smoke pouring out of the turret; he saw the chief gunner's mate flooding the magazines with water; saw blue jackets frantically trying to open trap doors through which the stricken gun crew might escape.

Finally the rescuers gained entrance to the turret, but too late to save life.

"Those who entered were extremely daring," declared Commander Heinecke. "I thought they were going in with too much abandon, for I had been cautioned by medical officers to tell them to go slow—that the turret must be full of poisonous gases."

Inside they found the bodies of the 48, clustered in groups, huddled close to the various openings. The bodies of all those who had worked with their ears still wore steel caps.

At Blame No One.  
The testimony of Capt. W. D. Brotherton, commander of the Mississippi, also emphasized the stealth with which sudden, flaming death swept from a gun breach into the crowded turret and extinguished almost half a hundred lives before the rest of the ship knew what had happened.

"I blame no one," he said, in conclusion. "All my men did their duty, every one. I have only the highest praise to offer."

There was praise, too, for the way men stuck to their posts after the nerve-shattering news of disaster.

Down in the engine and fire rooms the "black gang" stayed with their jobs, realizing fully the danger of a further explosion that would mean death to them all. They stuck to their posts while the deadly fumes from the turrets were sucked down into their compartment by the forced draught ventilating system, several of them succumbing temporarily from the gas.

In Mourning.  
Later these men were relieved by

another crew, every man of which knew what had happened in No. 2 turret and how the fire in the death trap might at any moment reach and explode the forward magazines a few feet away from where they must work. Yet they stuck.

"It was navy stuff, that's all," said Lieut. Carl E. Weinecke, engineer officer of the Mississippi. "Man, the spirit on this ship is big."  
Tomorrow will be a day of mourning in several southern California cities, and next Tuesday, the day tentatively set aside for the funeral services of the victims, will be marked by solemn and impressive services in which civilians will join with men and officers of the fleet in paying homage to the men who died.

Battleship Isolated.  
The Mississippi herself is like a quarantined ship, isolated from her sisters in battleship row, approachable to none but those with official business aboard, and holding all her own company from contact with shore or other craft.

Her fatal turret today was jammed tight by the heat that accompanied the explosion, and all day her mechanics worked over the spot where their mates yesterday were swept to death by the blast of T. N. T.

### Japs Balk at Armament Cut

#### Ishii for Japan at League Meet Says Japan Already at Minimum.

Geneva, June 14.—The council of the League of Nations today instructed the secretary general to forward to all members the assembly resolution recommending that during the period necessary for the elaboration and adoption of a general scheme for reduction of armaments all the countries should not exceed the annual military expenditures provided for in their budgets for the present fiscal year.

Several nations, including Japan, made reservations to the instructions.

Viscount Ishii, representing Japan, said he would be happy to transmit the recommendation to his government, but he felt called upon to point out that the present Japanese budget was abnormal. It had been framed so as to embody the great reductions necessitated by the earthquake.

"All our expenditures were cut down to a minimum," he said, "and Japan cannot bind itself to any agreement not to increase its present outlay."  
The council requested member nations to report what action they proposed to take.

### Anti-Yank Riots Barred by Japan

#### Tokio Police Chief Declares Violators Will Be Punished Severely.

Tokio, June 14.—A statement squarely opposing anti-American demonstrations as a means of expressing disapproval of the new United States immigration law barring Japanese was issued today by Masahiro Ota, the new chief of the Tokyo police bureau. Ota is a political appointee and the statement was his first since his installation under the new ministerial regime. It is regarded as an enunciation of the new cabinet's policy regarding anti-American agitation.

"Incitement to violence and law-breaking by means of anti-American demonstrations must be prevented," Ota declared. "Infringements of law will be strictly punished. We shall do our utmost to prevent rash or violent actions due to public speeches or demonstrations. The exclusion question is too important to be treated rashly. Japanese must behave in a manner in keeping with the dignity of a great nation."

### BANKERS TO SPEAK TO DIRT FARMERS

Madison, Wis., June 14.—In an effort to bring about a better understanding between farmers and bankers and to outline agricultural programs for banks, a series of conferences will be held in eight western and southwestern states next month, according to an announcement by D. H. Ota, director of the agricultural committee of the American Bankers' association.

The following schedule was announced: July 8, Logan, Utah; July 11, Mesilla Park, N. M.; July 12, Moscow, Idaho and Tucson, Ariz.; July 14, Berkeley, Cal.; July 15, Spokane, Wash., and Reno, Nev.; July 16, Puyallup, Wash., and July 18, Corvallis, Ore.

Director Ota will attend the conferences in New Mexico, Arizona, California and Nevada.

### KEARNEY YOUTH DROWNS IN PLATTE

Kearney, Neb., June 14.—Herman Mueller, 22, of Kearney, was drowned in the Platte river south of here last night, despite several attempts by Frank Hoesmoller, his friend, to save him.

Mueller was caught in a strong eddy in the Platte river at a bridge pier and then carried down stream. His body was recovered about an hour later, having been washed up on a sandbar. Futile efforts to revive him were made.

### FEDERATED CLUBS PLAN FOR 2 YEARS

Los Angeles, June 14.—Mrs. John D. Sherman, newly elected president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, arranged to confer with the federation board of directors on organization plans and policies for the next two years here today.

The reins of office were handed over to Mrs. Sherman by Mrs. Thomas G. Winter, retiring president, at the close of the federation's biennial convention last night.

### The Ask Mr. Foster

Travel information service is maintained for your convenience on the third floor. NO FEES.

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## Commencing the Second Week of Our

# Great Re-Financing Sale

With the refinancing sale in full swing, every department will offer just as great, if not greater values during the coming week, than during the first week.

This is your opportunity, take advantage of it, departments all have many wonderful values, some advertised in the other papers, and many not advertised at all.

We advise early shopping to give you a greater choice of selection. On account of limited quantities we cannot guarantee to fill mail orders, but will while merchandise lasts.

## Sale of New Novelty Shoes



Smart low shoes for the business girl and for vacation wear.

Low heels and smart cut-out effects. Exceptional values up to \$10.00

Cut-out, ankle strap, Hollywood sandal, with flexible leather soles and rubber heels. In patent and white calf.

# \$6.75

Two-button cross strap, Dugan Hudson make in gray suede or beige suede. Goodyear welt soles.

Two-buckle fan tan sandal in cut-out patent.

Patent sandal, with gun metal throat and one strap.

Center strap, cut-out sandal.

Two-buckle fan tan sandal.

Main Floor

## 20% Discount On Our Entire Stock of Dinnerware

Including both imported and domestic ware.

### Heavy Cut Glass Pieces at 20% Discount.

Large bowls, water sets, nappies and many odd pieces.

### Colored Glass Pieces

Flower bowls, fruit bowls, candy jars, covered bon bons, compots, candlesticks and vases in green, orange, blue and yellow.

# 89c

### Light Cut Glass Pieces

Berry bowls, compots, sugars and

# 89c

creamers, candlesticks, plates.

Fourth Floor

## Demonstration Models in Washing Machines

### Laun-Dry-Ette

Washes and dries without a wringer and requires no extra tubs.

# 25 to 33 1/3% DISCOUNT

### Meadows' Gray-Hound

The oscillator plus. The latest scientific development in oscillating washers. 8-sheet capacity.

These machines are all in good shape, carry our usual guarantee, and may be bought on our Household Club Plan.

Fourth Floor

## Housefurnishings

### Sale Priced

### Wash Boards

Regular size wash boards with zinc rubbing surface. 65c value... **49c**

### Garbage Pail

Six-gallon galvanized garbage pail with lock cover. Regular \$1.15 value... **89c**

### Boilers

List quality, heavy galvanized boiler with stationary wood handles and tin cover. Regularly \$2.25 value, at... **\$1.79**

### Shovels

Reconditioned "D" hand-die shovels, round point, **39c**

### Garbage Can

Galvanized garbage can, 14x16-in. sizes. \$1.65 value... **\$1.39**

### Water Coolers

3-quart galvanized water coolers that fit in any refrigerator, at... **39c**

### Ice Cream Freezer

2-quart galvanized ice cream freezers with retinned freezer cans... **95c**

### Tubs

Common galvanized tubs, good quality, with drop handles. No. 1 size, **59c**  
No. 2 size, **69c**  
No. 3 size, **79c**

### Trash Burners

"Cyclone" basket, the best trash burner built. Of heavy crimped wire, electrically welded, with green enamel finish, at... **\$2.95**

### Toilet Paper

White crepe tissue, large 10c roll, 10 rolls for... **49c**

### Bathroom Fixtures

White enamel fixtures—toilet paper holder, wall soap dishes, tub soap dishes, tooth brush and tumbler holders, towel bars... **49c**

Fourth Floor

## Great Reductions on Rugs

### \$62.50 Axminster Rugs

Featuring the well-known brands of seamless Axminster rugs—Sanford, Beauvais and Roxbury standard. Nothing finer or heavier made. In a wonderful line of patterns and colorings. Size 9x12 feet. Ea. **\$49.00**

### \$47.50 Seamless Velvet Rugs

Most attractive are these velvet rugs woven in one piece. Rich in appearance. Long wearing quality. 7-6x9-foot size. Each... **\$33.00**

Sixth Floor

### Linen Damask Table Cloths

25% to 50% Discount

150 odd and mused cloths of Irish, Scotch or German manufacture. Made of pure flax, 2x2 to 2x4-yard sizes.

### 75 Linen Damask Remnants

1/2, 2, 2 1/2 and 3-yard lengths of excellent quality, no imperfections. Slightly soiled. **\$14.75**

Second Floor

## New Arrivals in Quaker Craft Panels and Curtains

Admittedly of the Finest Quality and Workmanship



### Shantung Panels

A Breath of the Orient

Each **\$6.75**

45-in-x24-yard sizes in three beautiful patterns. Regular \$9.00 values.

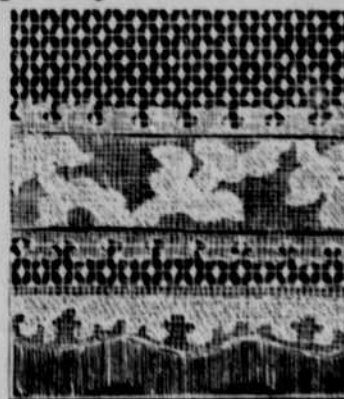


### Casement Panels

The Shadow-Lace Supreme

Each **\$5.50**

Lovely, gauzy designs finished with 4-inch silk fringes and scalloped bases. Regular \$8.00 value.



### Doric Lace Panels

Modified Tuscan

Each **\$3.75**

Made of a rugged semi-Tuscan net with a dainty motif at the base. Silk fringed. \$4.50 value.



### Fringed Panels

Each **\$2.00**

Quaker panels which offer an exceptional value.

Second Floor