

# The Pittsburgh Press

WEATHER—Windy with rain and thunderstorms. Cloudy and colder tonight and Thursday.

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Closing Market Prices  
**FINAL**  
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PRICE FIVE CENTS

# ASTARLE FIRE KILL UNDRELS IN TEXAS

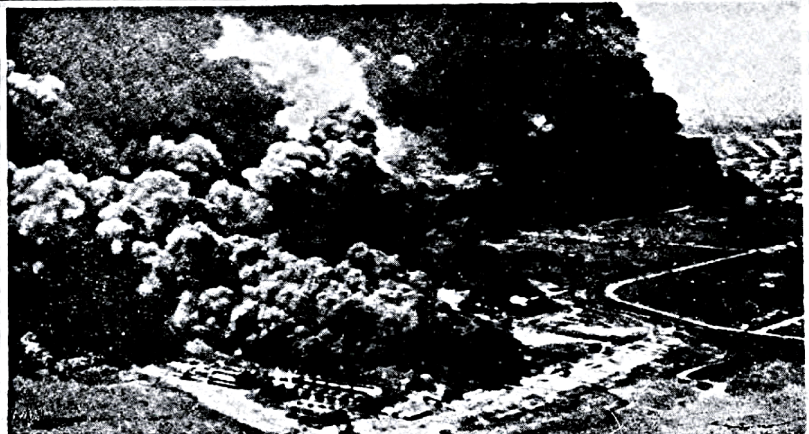
## British Hang 4 In Palestine; Reprisals Due

### Underground Boasts It Will Kill 10 for 1

**JERUSALEM, April 16 (UP)—**The British Army hanged four Jewish undergrounders in Acre Prison today. At once word spread that the Irgun Zvai Leumi was boasting that for every Jew executed in Britain, would be killed.

Palestinians took it as a foregone conclusion that the underground would strike back in reprisal for the hanging of the convicted Irgunists. The whole country seemed to be in a state of tension.

The Palestine government ordered all British civilians to stay in their homes. In Acre, 100 British soldiers were ordered to guard the prison. In Jerusalem, 100 British soldiers were ordered to guard the city. In Haifa, 100 British soldiers were ordered to guard the city. In Jaffa, 100 British soldiers were ordered to guard the city. In Tel Aviv, 100 British soldiers were ordered to guard the city.



Aerial view of Texas City, Tex., after a ship explosion set off a chemical plant blast, set fire to two refineries and killed hundreds.

## Ship, Chemical Plant Explode; Poison Gas Threatens Large Area

**BULLETIN**  
**NEW YORK, April 16—**The Coast Guard here today reported from Coast Guard officials at Texas City, Tex., which estimated the dead at 200 to 1000, and injured at 3000 to 3500.

**TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 16—**Police ordered all disaster relief workers out of the explosion and fire wrecked waterfront area today as the threat of a TNT explosion developed. Firemen were trying to reach 48 women who were working in a wrecked building when the order to evacuate came. It was found the women already were dead.

**NEW ORLEANS, April 16—**A Coast Guard communications truck on the disaster scene at Texas City, Tex., notified headquarters here today that one refinery tank had exploded and that another, the largest owned by the Humble Oil Co., was expected to blow up.

The big Humble tank was in the path of the flames and doomed unless the fire could be checked.

*(Map of blast scene on Page 6.)*

**TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 16 (UP)—**A French Lines freighter blew up at a Texas City dock today, setting off a chemical plant explosion. The blasts rocked a 140-mile industrial area along the Gulf Coast.

Red Cross estimates were that from 200 to 700 persons lay dead.

A Galveston newsman reported from the scene 200 were dead. Bud Myers, Houston Press reporter, estimated that 600 to 800 were killed.

A Texas City police report said gas fumes, feared to be poisonous, were filtering over the area.

## Huge Fires Raging in Oil Tanks

The report said authorities were ordering the evacuation of an estimated 18,000 persons.

Huge fires, sending smoke spiraling into the air for miles, raged in oil storage areas along the busy waterfront. In the billion dollar Monsanto Chemical Co. plant, tipped by the explosion which followed the ship explosion, was affire.

At least two oil refineries and some 50 gigantic oil tanks were in flames.

Fire equipment from the entire Gulf Coast area was on the scene. Telephone lines were down and the power was clipped off.

In Dallas, Magnolia Oil Co. officials quoted direct telephone reports from the Pan-American refinery in Texas City as saying that the city morgue held the bodies of 75 victims of the explosion "and more bodies are being brought in."

## Half of Plant Reported Blown Up

The Magnolia officials said they had been informed over the direct line—apparently the only circuit operating into Texas City—that the explosion of the nitrate-laden former Liberty Ship had blown up about half of the Monsanto plant.

The vessel was loaded with ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer ingredient more explosive than TNT.

The French Lines freighter blew up at a dock where Police Chief W. F. Laddish of Texas City said "hundreds were winking."

Chief Laddish said there was "no possible way to estimate how many are dead and dying." He said the toll would run into the hundreds and that force of the blast demolished the city hall a full mile from the scene.

Hospitals in Galveston were overflowing with dead and injured. Highway into Houston, 38 air miles away, was clogged with ambulances and hearse.

Gas fumes spreading over the area were believed to be from the burning chemical plant and from iron smelters along the docks.

The Texas City Police Department said 360 small homes exploded by dock and refinery workers were near the ship which exploded and was hardest hit.

## Hundreds Watching as Blast Came

Dr. W. H. Lane, a Monsanto Chemical Co. official, said up to 500 Texas City residents had lined the dock to watch the ship burn when the explosion hit.

"The ship disintegrated," he said. "I am told that two other ships loading up 400 Reddish brown fumes of nitrogen dioxide began pouring out at once."

Reporter Myers, phoning the United Press in Houston from near the scene, said the multi-million dollar Monsanto plant was "completely destroyed."

*(Continued on Page 6, Column 1)*

## Marshall's Talk With Stalin Fails

### Reds Must Prove They'll Keep Promises

**By LADYBELL BERRY**  
**Staff-Howard Staff Writer**

**MOSCOW, April 16—**Whether in the result of the meeting between Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin at Moscow last night, it is not likely to wipe out the effects of the Big Four conference.

At best, anything Stalin might do at this late date could only have an injury to Soviet-American relations too deep to heal with ease.

The authorities must take the active part of last week's meeting in the future.

The British must prove to Stalin that they will keep their promises.

The British must prove to Stalin that they will keep their promises.

## Both Sides Reject Phone Truce Plan

### Schwelbellen Tells Puff to Speak Up

**WASHINGTON, April 16 (UP)—**Joseph A. Beine, president of the striking National Federation of Telephone Workers, said today that both sides had rejected the phone truce plan.

## Smoke Control Blocked; Bill May Die in Committee

### Opposition Group to Hold Measure at Least Three Weeks; Adjournment Then Will Be Threat

**By E. L. LINDGREN, Pittsburgh Press Staff Writer**

**HARRISBURG, April 16—**The Allegheny County smoke control bill, already mailed by the Legislature, is stalled for at least three weeks.

Buried in the unfriendly Mines and Mining Committee of the Senate the measure will either die there until the committee gets around to looking at it.

Chapman Montgomery, R., Allegheny County, introduced the bill and it will not be before May 15 and possibly not even then.

## Democrats Attack GOP Labor Bill

### McCormack Charges Leaders 'Confused'

**BULLETIN**  
**WASHINGTON, April 16 (UP)—**House Republicans today beat down an attempt by one of their own members to make their dues to union control bill even tougher.

## Lobbyists Shoof From Legislature

From Press Photograph Bureau

HARRISBURG, April 16—Lobbyists became so brown yesterday that prevailing officers in both houses of the Legislature had to show them away.

## Freak Weather Visits District

Hurt wind and thunderstorm hit Pittsburgh today after a month of milder weather.

A cold front, accompanied by a large mass of black clouds, passed the city at 7 P. M.

The mercury is expected to fall to the high 50's to 55 or 56 tonight. Thursday is forecast as partly cloudy and continued cool with the temperature remaining below 60 degrees.

Drizzle, drab, added in a sudden gust of wind, snuffed in the night.

## Thief Undergoes Operation To Try to Become Honest

### Weeks, Even Months May Pass Before Doctors Can Determine Results

**Millard Wright, 38, habitual burglar, underwent an operation yesterday in the hope of becoming an honest man again.**

The Leeburg thief who faces a possible life sentence for murder, was thought to be the best candidate for the operation.

It is thought that the operation was approved by Judge A. Marshall Thompson after Wright said he could not resist temptation to break into houses.

He has spent long terms in institutions and is now awaiting sentencing for a charge of burglary.

He did not oppose Wright's plan, but took his hand in the matter.

"I had no part in it whatsoever," Wright said. "I want to remain an honest man."

He is not expected to be out of the hospital for several months.

The doctor's official observation period is for 120 days, doctors said, and...

*(Continued on Page 6, Column 1)*

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Press Telephones  
Want-Ads—Court 4900  
Other Depts.—Court 7200

# Blasts Kill Hundreds; 140-Mile Texas Gulf Coast Area Rocked

(Continued from Page One)

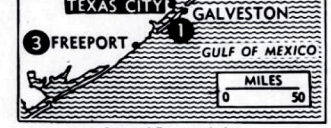
santo plant was "just a shell." He said he couldn't get close enough to tell whether it was ripped by an explosion or had caught fire.

He said "the whole town is wrecked; buildings are standing but windows are out everywhere; a great fire has broken out among the oil tanks and refinery area along the waterfront; I can feel the heat from here."

The stricken area radiated it was short of flat graze and blood plasma. The State Health Department said 2000 units would be en route by air shortly. Houston was rushing all available equipment and medicine.

Reports that the blast was felt from Beaumont and Port Arthur, 70 airline miles away, and from residents of Palestine, more than 150 miles north.

Gov. Beauford H. Jester said in Austin two battalions of the Texas state guard at Houston had been alerted for duty at Texas City. Some 150 state guardsmen from La Porte already were on the scene. All available high-



Scene of Texas explosion

way patrol and other cars converged on the scene, along with fire departments from all over the populous, industrialized Gulf Coast.

A Texas City telephone operator flashed Houston to "send the Red Cross; thousands are injured."

The U. S. Coast Guard said fire broke out on the French Lines ship Grand Camp, a former American Liberty ship of 7176 tons. The boat exploded violently 15 minutes after the fire broke out, the Coast Guard said.

Employees of the Pan-American Western Union office in Dallas said all power in the boat-stricken city went off the moment the explosion occurred. They said all attempts to raise the town by radio tracking nitrate or ammonium exploded there.

## 500 on Dock Watching Fire When Cargo Ship Exploded

Editors Note: In W. H. Lane's report, group leader for the Monsanto Chemical Co. is named as one of the men who watched the fire while the ship was exploding. He gave the following account to United Press.

By DE W. H. LANE

TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 16—I was looking out the window of the Monsanto plant about 8:30 this morning when a French cargo ship exploded.

The vessel, it developed, had been loading nitrate some 500 yards from our dock.

"Our worst loss will be in men," an office spokesman said. About 20 of our best personnel were down at the dock watching the fire when the blast occurred. We have not been able to get word from any of them."

The men concerned are not from Pittsburgh, the office reported.

Red Cross Issues Funds For Texas Disaster

WASHINGTON, April 16 (UP)—Basil O'Connor, chairman of the American Red Cross, today announced an "initial appropriation" of \$250,000 to meet emergency needs of the victims of the Texas City, Tex., explosion.

Mr. O'Connor said a Navy plane will leave here this afternoon for the disaster with three trained Red Cross disaster workers. Despatched other specially trained disaster workers also will be flown to the scene from other points.

Many of the disaster workers, Mr. O'Connor said, were assigned to aid in the Texas-Oklahoma tornado.

Beneditum Firm Hit by Blast

M. L. Beneditum's Republic Oil Refining Co. is believed to have suffered heavy damage in the blast at Texas City, Tex., his office reported today.

The company's topping plant was reported on fire after the blast, but there was believed to be no loss of water at least part of the refinery.

SWISH and dirt disappears when you use Omar. WALLPAPER CLEANER. FREE! ALL-METAL IDENTIFICATION TAG for your dog!

## 2 Occupants of Plane Killed Flying over Blast

TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 16 (UP)—Two occupants of a private plane flying over Texas City when the explosion rocked the Gulf Coast area were killed.

The plane crashed in a field. Names of the dead men were not known immediately. Officers said the airplane bore the designation "NC-7080."

## Numbers Writer Beats the Rap

A convicted numbers writer "beat the rap" in Criminal Court today.

Sam Levene, who paid a \$200 fine for a conviction in November, 1941, had better luck in the case brought out of his arrest in November, 1943.

Judge G. Madison McDonald directed a verdict of acquittal, when Levene's case actually arose. That Levene was writing numbers in the Houston area was proved by testimony of S. K. Kennedy, Twp.

Levene was arrested by County Detectives along with John Marzocco, School St., Verona; William Foster, 44 E. Houston St.; James Puro, Hildred St., Orange; and Joseph G. Madson, McGowan St., Twp. Two adding machines and about \$100 in cash were seized.

The other four pleaded guilty. Levene, who is 44, was arrested with Marzocco and Puro in 1941. Those men were sentenced to 18 months in the county jail.

The jury was instructed in the Kennedy case without asking either Levene or the other four to testify.

## Smallpox Scare Here Is Eased

Dr. J. Hope Alexander and the City Health Department breathed a sigh of relief today.

More than six weeks have passed since the Mexican who started the New York State smallpox scare issued threats Pittsburgh—and no cases have been reported.

A related investigation by New York health authorities showed the man arrived in Pittsburgh on a bus on Monday, March 15. He was wandering around the city for about two hours and ate breakfast here before catching another bus.

His death in New York originally was diagnosed wrongly. It wasn't discovered that he had contracted smallpox until several other persons were infected.

The man's removal of a case of smallpox involving more than two weeks after exposure, Dr. Alexander said today.

"But we had known all this on March 2; we would have been very hot and bothered."

## 10 Arrested In Numbers Raids

County Detectives swept down on the Broadview Ave. section of Pittsburgh today in a series of numbers raids.

Squads struck four shops almost simultaneously and arrested 10 persons.

Detectives said those arrested in Turley Creek were: Cal Byers, 32; Harry Byers, 34; Keith Neideman, 38 and Albert Vukic, 23.

Four arrests were made in East Pittsburgh. Names were given: Joseph Prokavik, 41; Alice Duncan, 29; Rudolph Winkler, 41 and Charles Tomasic, 38.

William Argonovic, 46 of Turley Creek, was arrested at 301 Broadview Ave. Turley Creek. He was charged with operating a lottery.

## Debris Litters Texas Town As if 4-Ton Bomb Had Hit

Line of Ambulances Hauls Away Debris; Hunks of Ship Scattered Five Miles

By MUD MYERS

TEXAS CITY, Tex., April 16 (UP)—There isn't an unbroken window in this town on the Galveston Bay. Unbroken holds the upper hand everywhere.

On our way into town we passed ambulance after ambulance leaving the city with the dead and injured. They were being taken to Galveston.

People are running in every direction, many of them blowing blood through their clothing where they have been cut by shrapnel glass.

The wreck we got when we reached Texas City was that a nitrate ship had blown up in the Houston ship channel. Broken hunks of the ship lie on the ground four and five miles from the scene.

There are wrecked cars all over the streets and debris litters the roofs of almost every building. It looks as if the town had been hit by a four-ton block-buster.

## 20-Day Strike Ends At Copperwell Steel

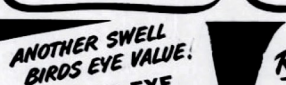
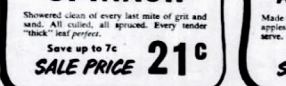
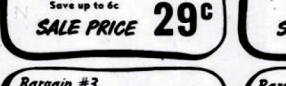
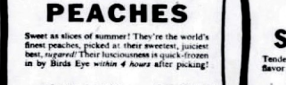
The 20-day-old strike of 1100 steelworkers ended today at the Copperwell Steel Co. plant in Oklawaha when they withdrew demands that the company not re-hire strikers.

The strike began March 28 when the company laid off 48 men due to the shortage of gas caused by extreme weather.

But of the without was announced by William J. McElroy, executive vice president of the firm, who said he had signed an agreement with John Greigia, district director of the CIO United Steelworkers District 14.

Members of striking Local 1407 met the morning and withdrew their demands that the company issue a signed statement that there would be no action taken against the strikers.

That "One and Only" flavor makes you wish you had another and another!



Remember—IT CAN'T BE THE SAME IF IT AIN'T GOT THAT NAME—BIRDS EYE!

## Marshall's Talk With Stalin Fails

(Continued from Page One)

Ernst Bevin and George Bulganin are not apt to forget them, so many of the written agreements mean what they say. It is a pity that the moment, regardless of what she may have said before and regardless of the clear meaning of the signed text.

Another in Russia's daily efforts to win German nationalism and to convince the defeated enemy that British and American occupation is an imperialist racket.

These are not things that can be changed by diplomatic finesse or party-line shiftings. And Secretary Marshall is not easily fooled.

Just before his trip to the Kremlin Mr. Marshall had presided over four and a quarter hours of the preliminary sessions of the Foreign Ministers' conference since it opened here March 10.

For the first time the usually silent American delegate spoke frequently and sharply, challenging every misstatement by Foreign Minister Molotov, quoting from earlier talks to confound him and condemning Soviet tactics and proposals with a bluntness rarely heard in diplomatic conferences.

Mr. Marshall did not lose his temper or shout or pound the table.

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Daily flights by 4-engine Clipper. Space for excess baggage. See your Travel Agent.

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## Husband Says Wife Took All But Kitchen Stove

Mrs. Sylvia Paquet of West Newton literally either broke up or carried off from their home "everything but the kitchen stove," her husband testified in taking a divorce here.

The husband, Thomas W. Paquet, of Elizabeth, said that soon after she came home from 17 months overseas he found something must be wrong.

The house was empty and his wife said she was through, he told the court. Three months later, after 1 had talked her into coming back, she smashed nearly everything, he said. She broke tables, smashed a bottle of alcohol over the piano, and then jumped on my guitar and crushed it."

A week later, Paquet said, he returned home and found all the furniture gone for reprimanding an attorney last week.

Justice Adams granted the divorce.

## Lawyers on 'Strike'

Lawyers have refused to appear in Kidder Court until Judge Dermot Fawcett says they are representing an attorney last week.

## at McCANN'S Sale!

Cleaning aids of all kinds have been assembled in one section at McCanna. You can make spring housecleaning easier by stocking up with products designed for specific cleaning jobs.

Prices are as low as you will find anywhere. At all McCanna stores: Beaumont, East Liberty, Mt. Lebanon, Washington.

## Fresh Louisiana Strawberries 3 Pint Boxes \$1.00

Florida Valencia Oranges, 150's... . doz. 39c  
Sunlist Lemons, large 300 size... . doz. 37c  
Texas Seedless Grapefruit, 15 in basket, 75c  
Fresh Mushrooms, 3 lb. basket \$1.29... . lb. 45c  
Green Cabbage, solid heads... . doz. 45c  
6c Frosted Fardhook Limes... . 12-oz. pkg. 36c  
Cane Club Frosted Peas... . 12-oz. pkg. 27c  
Cane Club Frosted Peaches... . 12-oz. pkg. 29c

## Assorted Cup Cakes

Yellow-Batter Cakes with Lemon Glaze... . doz. 35c  
White-Floater Cakes with White Frosting... . doz. 35c  
Yellow-Batter Cakes with Chocolate Frosting... . doz. 35c  
Fresh Shad, lb. 29c

## Fancy BRICK CHEESE

lb. 59c  
Blue Cheese, fancy quality... . lb. 59c  
Mild Cheddar... . lb. 59c  
Swiss... . lb. 59c  
Ice Cream 2 pts. 39c

## From Our Kitchen

Potato Salad, Regular Variety... . lb. 32c  
Mashed Potatoes... . lb. 32c  
Fried Corn Fritters... . doz. 32c  
Fresh Pie Dough... . lb. 32c  
Chicken Pie, individual... . each 32c

## BOLOGNA

plain or with garlic lb. 49c  
Old-Fashioned Knackwurst, Victory Brand... . lb. 53c

Legal Notices  
ESTATE OF JAMES G. ALLEN, deceased. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, as executor of the will of the said James G. Allen, deceased, has filed for the record a true and correct copy of the will of the said James G. Allen, deceased, as provided by law. All persons having claims against the estate of the said James G. Allen, deceased, are hereby notified to present the same to the undersigned, at his office, in the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on or before the 15th day of May, 1946, at which time the same will be opened for inspection by the court. Dated this 14th day of April, 1946. JAMES G. ALLEN, Executor.