

WORLD CRISIS - & YOU

WALKER.

First announcement that U.S. Congressmen had passed the British Loan brings Chancellor of the Exchequer Hugh Dalton with a special Message to you on what the loan means:-

DALTON.

"The vote by the American Congress of the loan to Britain is good news. We are all delighted at this sign of friendship between two great nations who stood together against the enemy until the hour of victory in the war. This loan does not mean that we can now lie back and take it easy and that we can live happily ever afterwards. What ~~is~~ it does mean, I hope, is that we are now going to get more material, more machinery to re-equip our industry and increase the output of goods both for ourselves at home and for the export trade. It also means, I hope, that there will be a bit more food and a bit more fruit and a bit more easing of the scarcity that we have all felt so long during six hard years of war.

WALKER

After this hopeful note, crisis comes back with the break up of the Foreign Ministers Conference in Paris. It closed with Mr. Molotov still saying "no" to nearly everything, and with the rest of Bidault-Bevin-Byrnes negotiators trying to work out a compromise acceptable to the men in the Kremlin. Thanks to a Bevin-Byrnes link-up at least one firm decision was taken - to fix a date for the world peace Conference. Till then, it's "au revoir but not goodbye".

WALKER

There was a big day, too, for the faster-than-sound jet aircraft. Gloster Meteors of the R.A.F. High speed flight are out for new records. Leading the flight is Group Captain Donaldson:

DONALDSON.

"Our C-in-C of Fighter Command has ordered us to attack the World speed record and these two officers that he has nominated to help me do this and this is S/Ldr. Waterton and this is F/Lt. Duke".

WALKER

Existing record is 606 miles an hour. Practice runs by the Donaldson trio have already topped this figure. To make filming possible they throttled down to just over 600.

Fitting overture to mankind's most awesome experiment.

Experiment with Death

WALKER

Man's destiny ticks away to the sound of a metronome on the deck of the battleship Pennsylvania in Bikini lagoon. This is the first peacetime test of atomic energy and to give you a true picture of its importance to you, we bring you the M.P. who has made it his special study, Raymond Blackburn.

BLACKBURN.

The American bomber starts on its mission over Bikini. Eight months before, such a plane took off. It was on a glorious morning in August 1945. Then, at the atom bomb it carried killed 80,000 people at Hiroshima. That time there was no warning and the only assessors of the terrible effect of the bomb were the men and women who survived. This time, the crews of waiting ships who prepare to meet the blinding glare of the explosion, know that only goats and other animals can be the victims. Meantime as zero hour approached the world waited.

The last few moments. The metronome, on board the Pennsylvania ticks away the final seconds, heard throughout the world.

Plutonium, a new element made by man out of uranium, caused this. Temperature at the explosion's centre is hotter than the sun itself. The bomb kills by its heat, by its blast and the terrible radiations which can penetrate the thickest concrete. And here, filmed by another camera, is the explosion again.

Thin column of deadly smoke, looking no bigger than the head of a man, warns us of our danger. The day before Bikini, the Prime Minister published a report on what these bombs did to Nagasaki and Hiroshima. And more important still what they could do to our own big cities. One bomb would kill 50,000 people. 400,000 would be made homeless, and many would die a slow death as atom test animals are now dying at Bikini. We cannot afford to drift as the clouds are drifting - into an atomic war. Here is the true challenge of our time. Whether science is to be used to destroy us or, by releasing new sources of power, lighten our daily work. In these very clouds are radio-active substances. These and similar by-products of atomic energy are already proving more valuable for research and healing than radium. So you see that atomic energy can bring new power and knowledge just as it can bring universal death.

And then, in the lagoon, navy men go in to check the damage to the atom fleet. 5 ships were sunk - 9 seriously damaged, 45 damaged. Still afloat, but shattered inside was the German Prinz Eugen. And this was the Japanese cruiser Sakura just before she sank.

Nearest the explosion was the submarine "Skate", a total loss. Experts say that even where the ships survived, most of the crews would have perished. Animals aboard have been taken off and many later were to die slowly and mysteriously from the deadly effect of Gamma rays.

The world - and that means every one of us - must stop now and think. For among future terrors, another way may see atom bombs carried in the war head of ~~the~~ rocket projectiles.

So great is the danger that many people have lost all hope. What they think you can hear from Professor Joad.

JOAD

"Well, there you have seen the first atom bomb test. And the next? The next might very well be an atom bomb dropping on London. What do you think about it? I think its horrible. It makes me wonder as I wondered the first time I heard about it, why doesn't somebody put the scientists in a bag, tie them up and keep them there - they'll kill all of us before they're finished. Well, this is my reaction - was and still is and the man in the street or rather the woman in the queue. I heard her say "Makes you wonder what will happen to the kiddies in 20 years time". I don't wonder - I know."

WALKER

But with a more hopeful viewpoint is scientist Sir John Anderson.

ANDERSON.

"If the limitless possibilities of the Atomic Bomb can be kept for preserving peace and not as a means of waging war more efficiently the whole world will have gained immeasurably from this stupendous scientific discovery."

BLACKBURN.

And now what is to be done. Atomic energy can be controlled. The vital raw materials, which are uranium and thorium, wherever in the world they may be, must be controlled by the United Nations. If we achieve that, it may be a basis for permanent peace. If we fail with that, it seems all too sure that our cities will perish in the harsh glare of atomic annihilation.

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