

# OPERATION TOCSIN LIES ARE TRUTH

By L. V. BLOFELD

(NOTE: Since Operation Tocsin-B was conducted on November 13, 1961, this article, which was written six months ago, is possibly still pertinent.)

"Halifax was obliterated yesterday at 3:30 p.m. by a 5 megaton bomb . . . figures of the dead and injured totalled 49,975 Killed — 6,200 by fallout, 51,625 injured by the blast and another 29,450 injured by fallout . . ." The Halifax Mail-Star, May 6, 1961.

In an age of Angst this report on Operation Tocsin could tend to add to one's secular insecurity. In fact, however, one should be overwhelmed by an intense anger at the realization of the enormous hoax being perpetrated upon this nation and upon mankind.

## IGNORANCE IS KNOWLEDGE

It would be comforting to be able to have faith in the common sense, integrity and realism of those in the public service. But, alas, these servants of the state appear to have become victims of their own propaganda, and seem to accept it as truth. If this is the case, the nightmare of George Orwell's "1984," wherein Lies are Truth, Hate is Love and Ignorance is Knowledge has become a reality.

The officials responsible for planning and executing Tocsin estimated that 49,975 people would have been killed and 81,075 would have been wounded in a 5 megaton attack on this city. A total of 131,050 casualties. What incredible naivete! What a complete lack of realism! What delusion!

In a discussion of thermo-nuclear warfare, one must always return to those two monuments of man's monstrous inhumanity and inordinate folly — Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

A 5 megaton bomb is 250 times more powerful than the diminutive 0.02 megaton weapon which caused the immediate death of approximately 100,000 human beings at Hiroshima (and caused another 100,000 to succumb to their injuries.) Furthermore, after the passage of sixteen years some eighty Hiroshimans die annually from the radio-active and other effects of "Little Boy".

Of the estimated 280,000 inhabitants who were living in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, something in excess of 200,000 (about 75 per cent of the total) died as a result of the attack. The radius of destruction at Hiroshima extended for 3 miles from ground zero, and within the city proper 67 per cent of the buildings were destroyed.

## GUESTIMATIONS

Using the sombre statistics gleaned from Hiroshima's little book as a guide with which to calculate the effects of a 5 megaton bomb envisaged by Tocsin's planners, there appears to be some discrepancy between the casualties guestimated for the purposes of this operation, and the casualties which could be expected — reasonably expected.

Area of destruction; 5 MT bomb: 972 sq. miles. Per cent of casualties—62

Area of destruction, 0.02 MT bomb; 28 sq. miles. Per cent of casualties—75

Tocsin's "guestimates" call to mind Lewis Carroll's delightful book, "Alice in Wonderland" for although Halifax's bomb was 250 times more powerful than Hiroshima's our public servants seem to believe that the probable casualties resulting from such a weapon would be 13 per cent less. The Mad Hatter would not be perturbed, but . . .

It is interesting to recall that when the Mont Blanc exploded in this port in 1917, her insignificant 2,383 tons of high explosive (plus a small deck cargo) resulted in the death of nearly 2,000 and serious injuries to nearly 12,000. On that occasion part of the blast was deflected from large areas of the city by the Citadel. A thermo-nuclear blast might deflect the Citadel, but is not likely to be deflected by it.

The newspaper report stated that a two hour warning was received of "large bodies of enemy aircraft approaching from the north, and the north-east." AIR-CRAFT! Is it seriously expected that a nation which successfully launched its first guided intercontinental ballistic missile 4 years ago, has successfully orbited and photographed the moon, has successfully landed a missile on the moon and has successfully orbited the earth with a manned space capsule, is going to be so quaint as to use manned aircraft in the event of a nuclear assault?

## OF SUPRISE ATTACK THE EFFICACY

The British proved the efficacy

of surprise attack at Copenhagen in 1802; the Japanese found it to be most effective at Pearl Harbour in 1941 and more recently the Israelis in their 1956 Sinai Campaign demonstrated that, aside from moral issues, a surprise attack has lost none of its effectiveness. It might, therefore, seem difficult to understand why Tocsin's planners could possibly anticipate that an attack might be launched with weapons so obsolete as to allow the victims 2 hours warning.

The German word "Stabssoffiziermentalitat" — staff officer's mentality, provides the answer. It covers a multitude of vices, and a few virtues. One of the major vices is the staff officers' universal habit of befuddled thinking, of planning to fight the next war with the weapons which they had come to know and 'love' in the last war.

**MACHINE-GUN VS HORSE**  
Field - Marshall Haig, British Commander-in-Chief in France in World War I stated that: "The machine-gun has no stopping power against the horse." (Unfortunately the horse had not been so informed!) In 1937 the British Admiralty informed the Shipping Advisory Committee that: "The U-boat will never again be capable of confronting us with the problem with which we found ourselves faced in 1917."

(May 7 was Battle of the Atlantic Sunday. As Captain A. D. McPhee, R.C.N., reminded a local congregation, this memorial day commemorated May 1942, when the Anglo-Saxon powers lost a ten thousand ton ship every ten hours for that entire month — at a loss to the German Navy of four U boats!)

Equally "valid", and far more topical was the statement made by J. F. Wallace, Assistant Director for Emergency Measures, Ottawa, who said in Halifax last November " . . . people will survive a nuclear attack if they have the gumption to do something about it . . . Protection from radiation is a relatively simple matter."

"PREVENTIVE WAR"  
If the Russian or American leader group should ever be so demoralized as to launch a 'preventive war' (overt acts of aggression are passe in this age), it is a fair assumption that it would be on the basis of what the Americans were wont to describe as: "The firstest with the mostest." This would leave the victims of an attack with 20 minutes warning of the impending catastrophe. TWENTY MINUTES!

No reference has been made to that other terrifying concomitant of a thermo-nuclear explosion — radio-activity. The omission is intentional, since to deal with the question adequately, one would have to delve into questions of isotopes, roentgens, microcuries, and these, along with problems of biological and chemical warfare are factors beyond the scope of this article.

## THREE ALTERNATIVES

In the event of a thermo-nuclear attack three alternatives seem to present themselves to the inhabitants.

1. be eliminated as family units in the quiet and familiar surroundings of one's home.
2. be obliterated in the open in a desperate, and futile attempt to reach "safety".
3. a slow, disgusting death from radio-activity for those on the fringe area of the blast (or blasts).

The outcome of such a war was succinctly described by the Leader of the Opposition, Lester B. Pearson: "Nuclear attack", he said, "would bring peace — A PEACE OF EXTINCTION!"

Mankind, through greed, avarice, selfishness, pride, and criminal stupidity has reached the Rubicon. It must now decide whether to cross the bridge to extinction (for there is no defence against biological - chemical - thermo - nuclear war) or turn back, and follow the path to complete disarmament, with the rejection of all weapons ("defensive" and "offensive").

lear war) or turn back, and follow the path to complete disarmament, with the rejection of all weapons ("defensive" and "offensive").

## MORAL IN SPANISH LEGEND

A moral might be found in this Spanish legend. The beasts of the jungle assembled to discuss disarmament: " . . . the lion suggested that the eagle give up its talons; the eagle suggested that the bull give up its horns; the bull suggested that the tiger give up its claws . . . ."

It is really too much to expect that this nation might rise above the reasoning of both the animal and human jungle, unilaterally "give up its claws" and observe a policy presented to the world two thousand years ago by an obscure carpenter from Galilee.

## SALVATION FOR SODOM

If other nations fail to follow the initiative and the holocaust descends upon this earth, we should at least have the satisfaction in those final minutes of knowing that the attempt had been made . . . that at least one people had sought to preserve the earth for the generations unborn.

God once promised to spare

## THE EIGHTH DAY

Hollow screaming, throbbing sounds, rushing  
Through dark lifeless space,  
A myriad of mad'ning noises.  
Huge organs of time, pushing the wild  
Sound through the void of places  
Weird as the wind moaning  
In the dark bony rocks,  
Echoing from the black timeless spheres  
Where spirits hiding, are moaning  
Unknown in the depths of harmony,  
Howling in the lifeless waste, unheard by Him  
But still it cuts deeply through all,  
Covers all, and envelops all, with blackness  
And then, dives through the dark caverns  
Away, far away, through the ageless void  
Of space until all is filthy black.  
Yet there is a chance, almost unheard  
In the restless tumult, drowned  
By the moaning blackness of hell  
With its shrieking and howling. But,  
Growing ever powerful and rising above  
The blackness of infamy  
Pure, clear, and high the sound  
Beautiful coming quickly upon the blackness  
Faster . . . . . Faster . . . . . Faster  
Rushing upon them. A shriek —  
A flash of light, like spray, cooling,  
Then it is gone, with a hollow roar  
Through space, no lasting light left.  
For the endless darkness encloses,  
Encloses once more on the flaming, howling, hell  
The chance is gone for the spirits among the  
Scorched and blackened speres, hidden in the  
Empty haze of space, moaning, shrieking, unheard—  
Unheard in the tumult of hell.

— By O'HARA.

Sodom should He find but ten just men in that city. Perhaps He will save mankind should He find but ten just men in this country who are willing to make the first move.

**POST SCRIPT:**  
The following quotation, which requires no further comment, has been added to the original.

"If one of every three home owners decided to build the 5-person shelter recommended by the Emergency Measures Organization, it would result in a demand for 450 million concrete blocks

and 18 million bags of cement. Block producers may have to wait some time for this bonanza though. So far, only 36 permits to build shelters have been taken out from industry to coast.

This industry should promote fallout shelters with every means at its command . . . ."

W. J. Cooke (President of the National Concrete Products), "Shelter Promotion in the Public Interest," National Concrete Product News, Vol. 9, No. 4, Fourth Quarter, 1961.

There's  
Something  
Special  
about  
du MAURIER

du MAURIER  
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