



BURNED BOMARC PAD: At McGuire Air Force Base, N. J., yesterday—This air view showed damage caused when an explosion caused a fire in a Bomarc launching shelter. A small amount of radiation was spread, but the missile's atomic warhead was not affected.—A. P. wire-photo.

N. Y. Calm Despite Radiation Reports After Bomarc Blast

MCGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N. J., June 8.—(U. P.I.)—The explosion and fire in a Bomarc interceptor-missile shed and reports of atomic-radiation danger caused less panic yesterday than a supposed Martian invasion 20 years ago.

The 47-foot Bomarc caught fire on its launching pad at a missile site east of this base. An explosion occurred in the concrete shelter that housed the missile. Despite false reports that an atomic warhead exploded, there was little panic in the New York area.

In contrast, thousands of terror-stricken residents fled their homes in 1938, when Orson Welles described a Martian landing in a radio adaptation of H. G. Wells' "War of the Worlds."

No Casualties

The Bomarc 99-A, a ground-to-air missile, caught fire inside a closed concrete shelter and spread a small amount of radiation in a small area of the military base. No casual-

ties were reported.

The Air Force emphasized that a nuclear explosion had not occurred and that there was no radiation danger to the public and no significant health hazard from contamination.

The fire was confined to the shelter and was extinguished 45 minutes later with water, but extreme precautions had been taken.

Personnel Evacuated

Military personnel were evacuated from the area immediately. State police and soldiers blocked off both ends of the Pinehurst-New Egypt Road for ten miles on either side of the missile base.

Capt. John A. Looser, maintenance officer of the 46th Air Defense Missile Squadron, which mans the site, said the radiation was caused when thoriated magnesium, a radioactive metal which is part of the missile, burned. The Bomarc carried an atomic warhead but it was not affected.