

# A-Missile Blaze Scare Sets Off Probe Demands



Telephoto lens picture shows bunker where fire damaged Bomarc missile warhead at McGuire Air Force Base. Firetrucks and decontamination squadman visible in left background.

## Bomarc Fire Caused Fear Of Radiation

New Jersey members of Congress urged a full investigation today of the fire that damaged a Bomarc interceptor missile inside its shelter at McGuire Air Force Base and spread a small amount of radioactive material in a limited military area.

Senator Harrison A. Williams Jr. of Rahway said he will demand in Washington "the most exhaustive survey possible of safety measures in Bomarc sites. Any accident of this kind is of great concern to everyone," he said.

Williams said he and Congressman Frank Thompson Jr. of Trenton have made initial inquiries and will follow with others "as soon as more facts are available."

Senator Clifford P. Case of Plainfield said he had asked Air Force officials for a thorough investigation and a full report of the incident.

Governor Robert B. Meyner repaired late at his office last night to check the latest news from McGuire, but he withheld any comment on the incident. The fire touched off a radiation scare along the heavily populated East Coast.

The blaze badly damaged the needle-nosed, battle-ready missile at 3:15 p. m. yesterday and some radiation did seep out of its nuclear tip.

First reports were that there was a threat of heavy radiation in the remote pinealands around the base.

"The Air Force later said, however, that the radioactivity was a slight amount at that—was confined to the badly damaged launching pen."

Troopers shut roads. After the first report, State Police shut off the few roads that lead through the pinealands area. Roads were reopened two hours later when the Air Force said "there is no radiation danger to the public."

Investigators of the Atomic Energy Commission, the Defense Department and the New Jersey Department of Health said they would all probe the incident.

There were no reports of injuries in the area. The launching site is about 20 miles southeast of the state capital at Trenton.

The Air Force sent two explosive ordinance disposal teams to the scene—two from Wright-Patterson Air Base, Dayton, Ohio, and the other from Griffis Air Base, Rome, N. Y.

An Air Force spokesman said the team could handle anything from a 22 caliber bullet to an H-bomb."

The decontamination experts checked for radioactivity with Geiger counters. The team members wore lead in green heavy-cloth robes resembling heavy winter underwear.

Officials said a system of safeguards is installed on each missile to bar an accidental detonation. Because of the safeguards, it takes a deliberate action by a missile or bomber crew to arm the warhead so it will explode.

In Fort Dick the Atomic Energy Commission had a team standing by to move into emergency action if needed.

In Trenton, State Civil Defense teams could be called to order evacuation of the public from areas at and near the base.

The Air Force said the Bomarc caught fire as it nestled upward checks the Bomarc launching shelter, one of 54 at the missile base.

First there was apparently a small explosion in the missile fuel system and then fire broke out, an Air Force spokesman said.

Firemen finally put out the fire at 4 p. m. (E.D.T.), 45 minutes after it started.

First word of the alarming fire. Meanwhile State Police at the Fort Dick barracks said they received a call from the base security police saying an atomic warhead had exploded and asking them to close the roads into the area because of possible radiation. Police did so.

Meanwhile decontamination men clad in special clothing resembling green long winter underwear checked the Bomarc base with Geiger counters. The Air Force then gave an all-clear for the area.

There was no panic among residents. Some, drinking in a tavern a few miles from the site, said "so what?" Others said they had heard no radio.

(Continued on Page Two)

## CD Units Alerted By Atomic Scare

Local Civil Defense and Public Safety officials started to prepare for the worst during the Bomarc atomic scare.

Alerted by State Police at 5:15 p. m., Trenton CD Director Robert L. Solan and 10 Civil Defense Council members reported to their Madison Street headquarters ready to activate all or part of the Trenton Civil Defense organization.

Public Safety Director William J. Waldron, together with his deputy, Bernard Daly, and two detectives directly to the Bomarc site. They radioed back a report on the situation after interviewing an Air Force colonel. Accompanying Daly were Detective Sergeant John Seiger and Detective Joseph Trainor.

State police told Trenton CD officials to be prepared to aid in evacuation of Burlington County residents because of the apparent danger of nuclear fallout. CD Council members got out their lists of emergency transportation facilities and stood by to summon buses, taxis and other vehicles.

The Fire Department's "RADON" team stood by in case it was called to test air, water or anything else for radiation with its four Geiger counters, on loan from the State.

The communications systems of Civil Defense and Police and Fire Departments got quite a workout.

The police and fire switchboards, as well as the Times switchboard, received scores of calls from local residents and out-of-town news media inquiring about the Bomarc mishap.

Police said Midwest and South residents with relatives in this area phoned in, as well as newspapers throughout the East. The Times received calls from local residents as well as from radio and TV stations and New York representatives of Rome and London news services.

Trenton police kept in constant contact with State Police Sergeant Walter Scott.

## Father Of Six Slain In Row

MANAHAWKIN — UPI — George Parker, 45 of Brant Beach, a milkman, was found shot to death in his delivery truck early today.

State police at the Tuckerton barracks said Wayne Baumgardner, operator of the Manahawkin diner, admitted the slaying and was being held. The diner is located around the corner from where Parker was found.

The police said Parker was killed by two shotgun blasts in the head fired at the height of an argument with Baumgardner. Parker, the father of six children, was pronounced dead at the scene by an Ocean County physician, Dr. Pierre Nyvelt, of Barnegat.

## Just Wasn't Wanted

DURAND, Wis. (UPI)—Charles Pfeiffer quit as police chief because he felt he wasn't wanted. Pfeiffer said he resigned after his superiors turned down his request for a pay raise and then turned around and advertised for a new police chief at \$400 a month.

on duty at the communications room of Wilburina headquarters. Scott kept local officials fully informed of all developments.

The first CD council members showed up at headquarters at 5:30 p. m., 15 minutes after the first alert was flashed. Most of them remained there until after 8 p. m.

Questions Raised. Waldron said the incident raised several questions in his mind regarding the adequacy of the CD setup. He indicated he would explore the possibility of obtaining equipment and training personnel to dispose of radioactive material.

"I couldn't help thinking what would happen," said Waldron. "If one of those missiles was fired accidentally, flames out and fell in Stacy Park."

There was an apprehension and confusion but no panic among residents when news of the explosion spread, state police said.

Here's how the alarm was relayed. The Fort Dix state police station said an Air Force sergeant at the Bomarc site phoned at 3:25 p. m., described the emergency as "an atomic warhead explosion," and indicated imminent radiation danger in the area.

The Fort Dix State Police station then sent an alarm by teletype to State Police Troop C Headquarters in Princeton. It read in part:

"Atomic warhead explosion. Nobody injured. Received call from sergeant, security detail, Air police at Bomarc site, 46th Air Defense missile squadron, that a missile was blown up, and he requested assistance in stopping all traffic on county road 538, near Route 78, also at Colliers Mills, near missile site."

## Bishop's Kin Saved From Lake Death

The brother of the Right Rev. Alfred L. Banyard, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, was rescued after falling into Mutch's Lake in Medford yesterday.

Howard R. Banyard, 57-year-old electrical contractor, was pulled to shore by a passing motorist. He had spotted Banyard floating unconscious and face down in the lake.

The rescuer, John M. Petty, 42, of Hudson Heights, waded into the water, pulled the victim to safety, and applied artificial respiration.

The victim was taken by a first aid squad to Burlington County Hospital in Mount Holly and was held overnight.

Banyard, who lives on Conanck Trail, Medford Lakes, told hospital officials he stumbled while walking along the lake front and apparently struck his head on a stone.

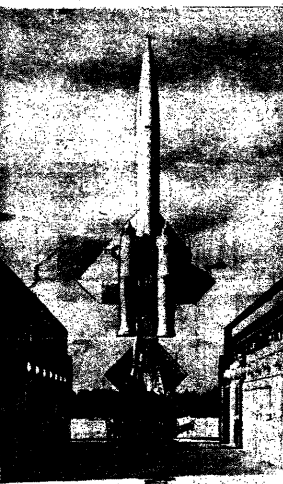
## Cole-Boy Hurt

Seven-year-old Randall Cole, of 57 Fairview Avenue, Morristown, suffered a fracture of the left shoulder when he fell from a picnic bench last night.

The boy's mother, Mrs. Elaine Cole, took him to Mercer Hospital in Trenton, where the victim's arm was splinted and he was taken to safety.

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(Continued on Page Two)



One of McGuire's Bomarc missiles

## Wide Area Infested With Lawn Furniture Thieves

Better keep an eye on your lawn furniture.

The whole area is jumping with lawn furniture thieves, in suburbs and city. And the question is how do they get away with the bulky things?

The start came as far back as April 22 when the A & P store on Lawrence Road near the Brunswick Circle told Lawrence Township police the theft of 20 aluminum chairs worth \$163.

In the following weeks homeowners in the three townships and Trenton reported theft of seven folding chairs, two chaise lounges, one settee, and a power mower.

In one bold case, thieves made off with two white cast-iron chairs and a settee, worth \$125, from the porch of George Hendrickson of 1483 Prospect Street while the homeowner was watching television inside the house.

Ewing Township police, told about that theft May 12, started working on a similar theft reported over the weekend by James I. Stiel of 1200 Parkside Avenue who says he is out to chase lounge chairs worth \$50 in an overnight loss.

None of the area police departments will say that an organized ring is operating but that might be the answer judging from other losses.

Hamilton Township police were told of the theft of two folding chairs worth \$20 from the porch of Horace Sutter of 1211 Nottingham Way on May 29.

Two days earlier Mrs. Fred Gauges of 219 Woodlawn Avenue said she found a \$15 aluminum lawn chair missing from her yard.

And Trenton police had two similar thefts reported last week.

Ewing officers are also wondering if the furniture-conscious thieves are the same ones who Monday lifted a \$120 power mower from the garage of Charles J. King of 1318 Perryman Road.

After all, police figure if somebody is going to have new lawn chairs they may as well have a new lawn too.

## Warming Trend

More good weather is ahead for the Trenton area. Temperatures the next day or two will be near 80. Tonight's low will be in the comfortable 50s. Humidity will remain low.

Weatherman George Whiteley sees a warming trend coming over the weekend with possible showers Sunday or Monday.