TEXAS CITY EXPLOSION

TO THE NUMEER OF DATS WORKED, AND A FORTWICHTS HOULDAY WITH CALOUSOTION

Under a smoke-blackened sky Texas City was ablaze. Nine uncontrollable oil fires roared destruction at the same time. It began when a cargo ship laden with nitrate blew up in the harbour. In a short time the holocaust resembled a German city saturation-raided by Bomber Command. Outside war, there has been no parallel disaster in this generation. Vast quantities of oil fed the insatiable inferno.

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(LV) Almost in a matter of minutes a town of fifteen thousand people was a mass of ruin. Hundreds were burnt to death; the cries of the injured rose above the pandemonium; poison fumes from a blazing chemical plant choked the life out of half-crazed people fleeing from the fires. With military discipline, Red Cross and hospital workers stayed where they were, cheating the grasping hand of death from otherwise certain victims. Inside an hour the original nine fires spread/more than fifty. The whole waterfront was a mass of flame.

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TEXAS EXPLOSION

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Red Cross reinforcements were rushed to the city. As the day went on more than two thousand men, women and children had their injuries treated. By this time they were counting the dead, identifying them where possible. Outside the morgue men and women read the State fatal list. Hope faid as the hours parted. Sevenhundred people died in those terrifying flames. Then came yet more explosions. AN ONE THE CHAIRMAN IS ALWAYS

The sympathy of Great Britain goes out to Texas City an X= DB VO in this hour of shattering disaster.

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VDCC BOFISH EFECTIONS*

ROME CIRCLES. THE TIMETAM PREMIER SIGNOR DE CNSPERI 15 . TRUSSER'S RADIO REPORTS THAT ACCORDING TO WELL INCORMED

IINCINA PREMIER TO VISIT LONDON.

CENERAL OB THE TTALLAR TRADE UNION. ANONG THE SPEAKERS WHO ADORESSED THE CROWD WAS THE SECRETARY THE PIX A GEL POPOLC TODAY AGAINST THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

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Listens-Laons fragitter blow up an a diverser for the April 18,1947

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1. TITLE: PARAMOUNT NEWS SPECIAL -- FIRST FICTURES! BLASTS RECK TEXAS CITYL PARAMOUNT NEWS CAMERAMEN, FLOWN INTO EXPLOSION AREA, RUSH TO THIS SCREEN & GRAFHIC RECORD OF ONE OF AMERICA'S WORST DISASTERS

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- 2. The on-the-spot camera story of the disaster that shocked America. Texas City, Texas -- a terror-stricken ghost town under a sky blackened by smoke and the withering heat of nine separate fires. Below is the blasing and gutted Monsanto Chemical Company plant. It began in l'exas City's harbor as a nitrate-laden freighter blew up -- a disaster recalling the demolition of warships crammed with explosives.
- 7. The terrifying blast sinks another steamship. Poisonous gas from exploding chemicals begins to filter through the area. Clocks, stopped at 9:18. Pandemonium breaks loose in this industrial boom town where only a few moments before, 15,000 people lived and worked like people anywhere.
- 15. Oil refineries and 50 oil tanks lining the waterfront are ablaze. Steel fragments were hu si for four and five miles in every direction, sending flaming splinters into the huge Monsanto plant and into the nearby tanks and refineries. Now the fires are spreading rapidly!
- 20. Wires are down. Over the lone telephone line goes a call for help. Automobiles of workers are demolished. Early estimates of damage ran to over 100-million dollars.
- And still the fires spread in this disaster that General Jonathan Wain-23. wright; hero of Bataan, described as the greatest tragedy in his experience. Scenes like these have not been filmed since those made in the war-bombed cities of Europe. a to Mindan Ed
- Trained disaster workers of the Red Cross are rushed to Texas City as the 27. dead and wounded are brought out. Early reports indicated that the total of known dead was in the neighborhood of 400, but the final f gure may reach over 600 At least 2,000 are injured. Navy men help out as the toll of injured grows.
 - Still more fires break out, as plans move ahead to partially evacuate the 36. stricken city. Smoke billowing up to 3,000 feet spreads over the town.
- Everywhere is suffering, terror, agony. Men and women dazed by the in-40. describable chaos, worn out by lack of sleep, continue to care for the dead and dying. Many have already been sped to nearby cities.
- Outside the town's hastily-converted morgue, haggard human beings wait to 49. identify the dead and see their names recorded.

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54. Fear of new explosions begins to mount. Then, it happens

58. Today, in the wake of one of the most terrifying disasters in this country's higtory President Truman promises the relief facilities of all federal agencies to the stricken people of the Texas community. In devastation like that spread across a Europe ravaged by war, an American town endures its most terrible hour.