

U.S. EXPLOSION KILLS 30; INJURES 100

South Amboy, New Jersey, becomes a city of walking wounded, with nurses and doctors pouring in from miles around as a dusk explosion of over six hundred tons of munitions turn the city - only twenty-five miles from New York - into a nightmare of shattered homes and littered streets. Thirty are dead or missing, over three hundred injured, and damage estimates run as high as twenty million dollars. To prevent looting and further injuries, martial law is declared and troops patrol the blasted streets.

Former Governor Harold G. Hoffman, looks over the wreckage inside his home. The devastation, reminiscent of the Black Tom Explosion of World War One, becomes clear the next day.

Four barges, being loaded with four hundred and sixty tons of anti-personnel mines and dynamite - tonnage equal to that dropped in the devastating air raid on Schweinfurt, Germany, during the war - suddenly exploded. Ironically, a new regulation prohibiting the loading of munitions in this area had been temporarily suspended for this one operation because the order for the explosives - bound for Pakistan - had preceded the loading ban.

Splinters alone remain of the barges. One anchor was blown half a mile away. The miracle is that no more were hurt. Here, for instance, where a school was starting. But the danger lingers on. For live mines still litter blasted South Amboy.