

100 Dead and 201 Injured in Blast on Carrier



Carrier's skipper, Capt. William F. Raborn, answers reporters' questions in press conference aboard the Bennington. Raborn said cause of explosion was unknown.

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It saw valiant service in the Pacific area in the late stages of World War II and was later put into the mothball fleet.

Reactivated in 1952, it was on its shakedown cruise last year when an explosion killed 11 crewmen.

The Bennington was named for the famous Revolutionary battle at Bennington, Vt.

Another navy carrier, the Leyte, was badly damaged by an explosion while berthed in Boston last Oct. 16. Thirty-seven men lost their lives.

(Other news on page 1, centerfold and back page.)

Texan Brings Four Orphans

Bringing four German orphans for adoption by Texas families, Mrs. Lawrence K. Brown of Lockhart, Tex., arrived at International Airport yesterday from Frankfurt.

Her husband, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Lockhart, preceded her here last week with three other infants.

A 5-year-old among the group arriving yesterday has been adopted by the Browns themselves. The others with Mrs. Brown were a 7-week-old girl and two 2-year-old boys. She said the children were made available through friends made in Germany by the Methodist Church's assistance in supplying food, clothing and medicine to the German people after the war.

Her Ensign Son Saved, She'll Pray for the Rest

"I'm going to pray for all the mothers who lost their sons in that awful accident!"

Thus did 50-year-old Mrs. Josepha Grant, mother of Ensign Robert T. Grant, receive the news yesterday

Stanley Jr., 27, told her of Robert's narrow escape. She took to her bed at once.

Ensign Grant was graduated from St. Francis College, Brooklyn, last June and was immediately commissioned in the Navy and assigned to the Bennington. He had been a member of the Naval Reserve during his college years and played varsity baseball. His father is an assistant vice president of the Lafayette National Bank, Bay Parkway branch.



Ensign Robert T. Grant
He survived on the Bennington.

that her 22-year-old son had escaped death on the Bennington.

Mrs. Grant, who is recuperating from a cerebral hemorrhage suffered several weeks ago, was in her home at 7200 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, when her eldest son,

Boat Brings 3 Missing Boys

A 14-foot outboard motorboat put into City Island, Bronx, at 9:15 A. M. yesterday with three Bronx boys for whom police and Coast Guard boats and planes were pressing a vigorous search.

An alarm had been sounded for them late Tuesday when they failed to return from an outing on the Sound. They said that high winds, choppy water and a low fuel supply had caused them to land on Huckleberry Island, off Rye, where they spent the night.

They were Patrick Mele, 16, of 639 Vincent Ave.; John Cooney, 18, of 601 Vincent Ave., and Vincent Vertico, 16, 636 Vincent Ave.



Buddies bring down one of their injured mates to dockside.

Sabotage, House Told; 2 Probes Are Started

Washington, D. C., May 26 (U.P.)—The House and Senate Armed Services Committees today ordered investigations into the explosion and fire on the aircraft carrier Bennington.

Representative Edith Nourse Rogers (R-Mass.), chairman of the House Veterans Committee, told the House she believes the incident was a result of sabotage. She said Reds have infiltrated the armed forces and are tampering with planes, carriers and other equipment.

Announced by Chairmen.
The dual Congressional inquiries were announced by Senator Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.) and Representative Dewey Short (R-Mo), chairmen respectively of the Senate and House Armed Services committees.

Short told a subdued House that

committee members were "deeply saddened by the horrible news."

Saltonstall, who said he was "profoundly shocked," said he had instructed his investigating staff to "look into this serious matter."

President Eisenhower offered his sympathy to families of the victims.

Representative Thomas J. Lane (D-Mass.) introduced a resolution to name a seven-man special House committee to investigate.

"This is the second major disaster that has taken place aboard naval ships in New England in the past year, and therefore calls for an outside investigation," he said.

Bunche Faces Grilling On Hiring