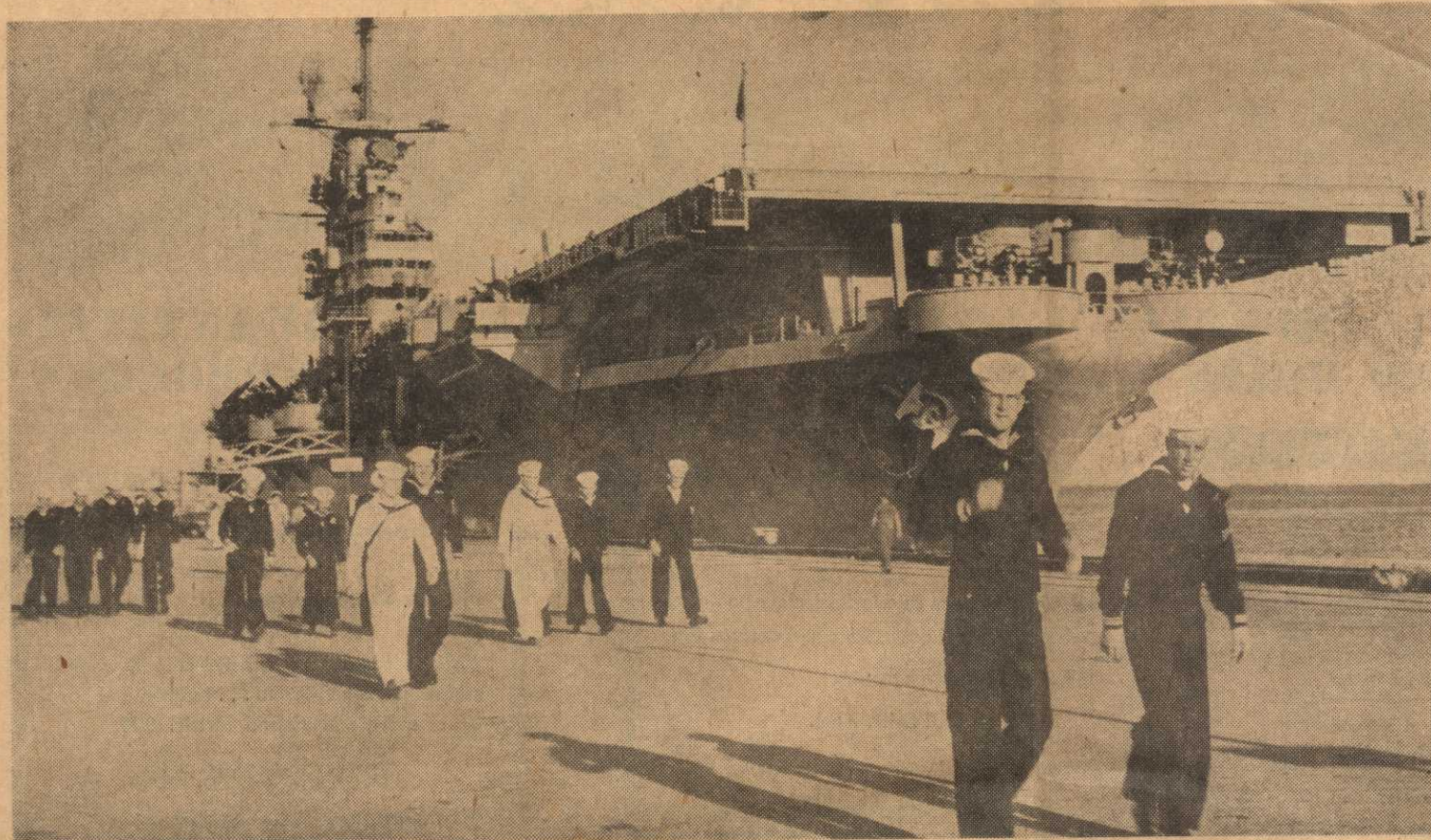
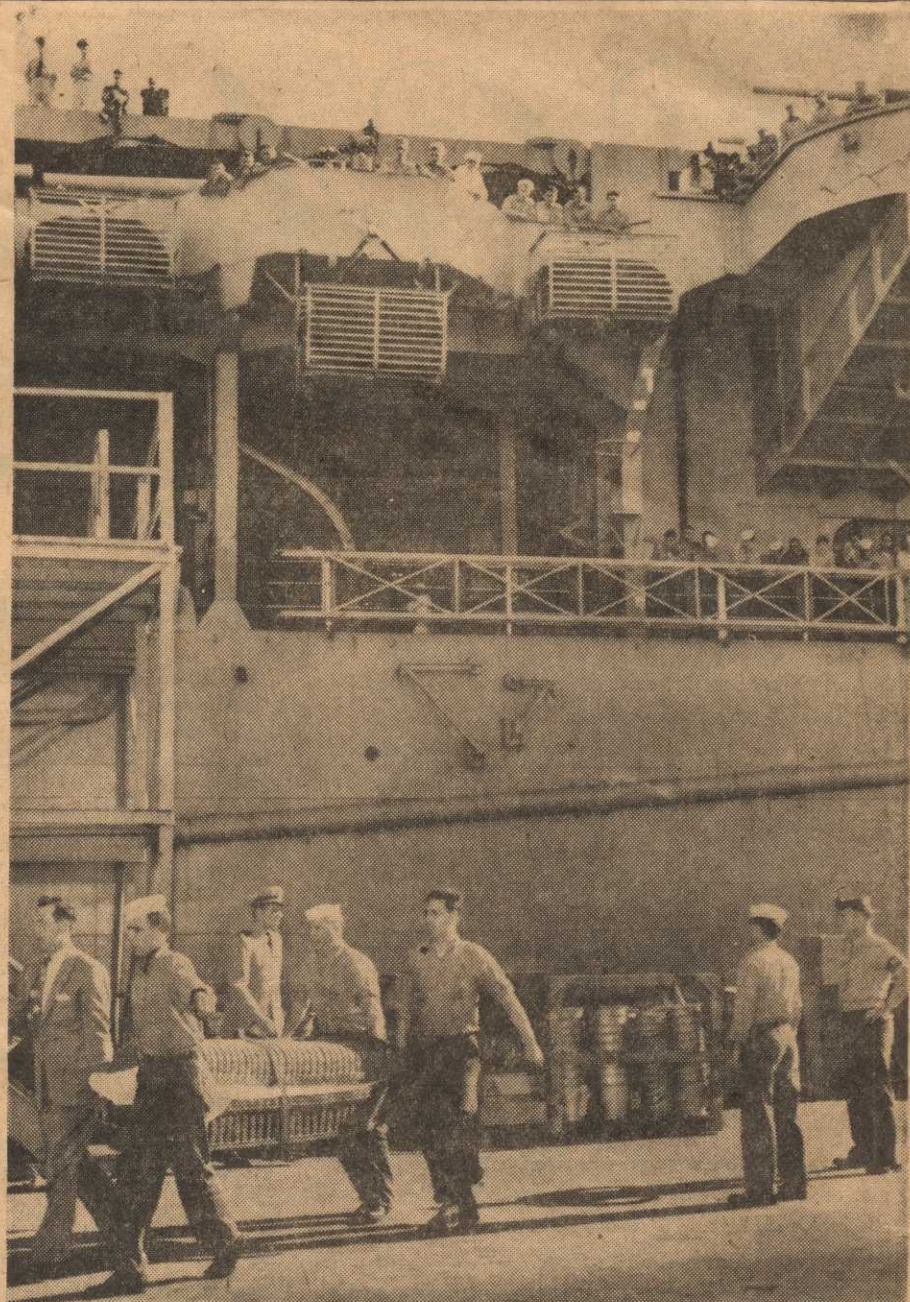


# Living and Dead Leave Their Ship



SOME WALKED—Crew members of the USS Bennington pass along side their ship on shore leave after docking at Quonset.—[Hartford Times Photo.]

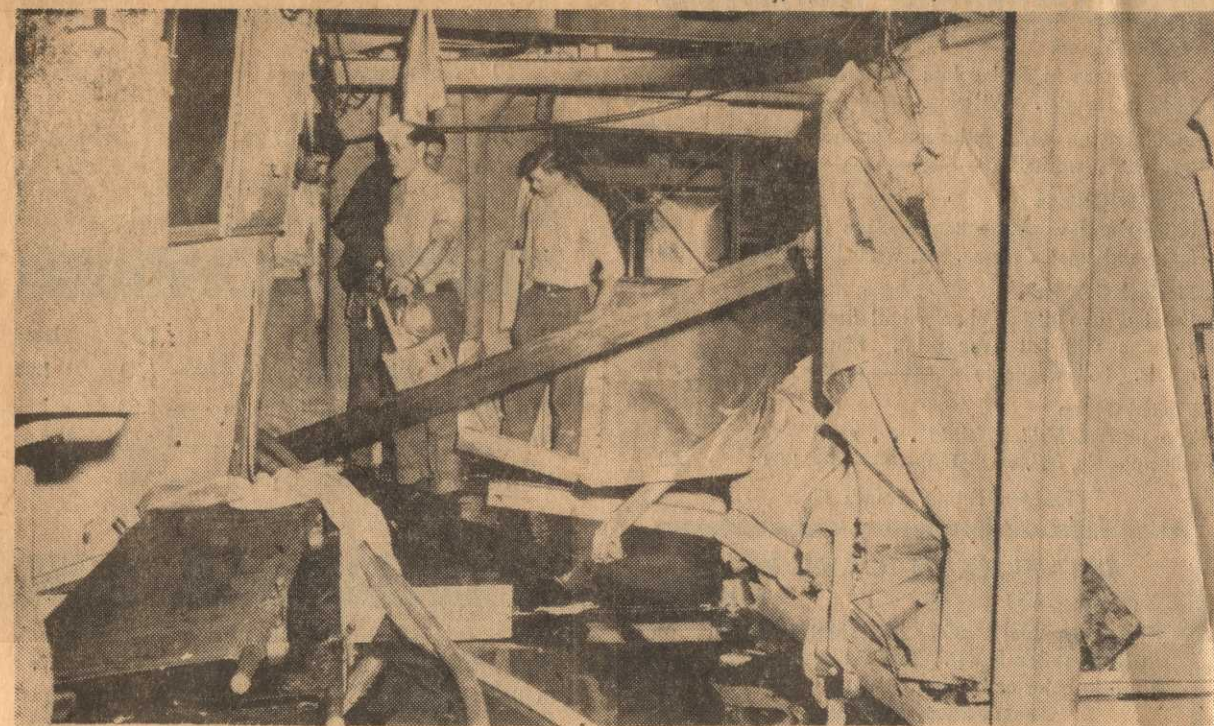


SOME WERE CARRIED—Body of shipmate is carried by other sailors of USS Bennington in wicker casket to waiting hearses on dock at Quonset.—[Times Photos by Mort Boardman.]



"IT LOOKED LIKE HELL IN THERE"—With those words, Aviation Electrician's Mate 3/c Francis Toth of Phoenixville, Pa., tells reporters of Bennington disaster.—[UP Telephoto.]

GOOD NEWS brings tears to Mrs. John Carr, left, mother of a sailor aboard the carrier who escaped without injury. Mrs. Desmond Cherry, sister of sailor, comforts her mother.—[UP.]



TORN BY BLAST—Crewmen of stricken carrier survey the remains of the officers' ward room aboard ship after its arrival in Quonset. Gangways were filled with twisted steel and bodies burned beyond recognition, according to one eyewitness.—[UP.]

## One Sailor Slept Through Explosion

Cincinnati — (AP) — A Cincinnati man aboard the aircraft carrier Bennington slept right through the explosion. Thomas J. Lorenz, 23, told his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Lorenz, by telephone, that he was "missing" when his squadron held muster after the explosion. But he wasn't a casualty. He was asleep.

The parents said their son told them he worked late the night before and had permission to sleep late.

He was found later sleeping and then joined in rescue work.

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THE HARTFORD TIMES, THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1954



TEARFUL REUNION—Lt. Mearle H. Jay, Protestant chaplain aboard USS Bennington, bursts into tears as he is reunited with his wife after ordeal during harrowing experiences on the carrier. He administered church rites to the dead, dying and injured.—[UP Telephoto.]

THE HARTFORD TIMES, THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1954



RUSH TO CALL their families followed when crew members of USS Bennington docked at Quonset Naval Station, R. I. Their kin waited anxiously for word that they were safe. Sailors line counter as operators worked feverishly to put calls through.—[Times Photo.]