

Temperatures

Today 28 at 2 a.m. 74 at 1 p.m.
25 at 5 p.m. 70 at 8 p.m. yesterday
24 at 8 a.m. 17 at 4 p.m. last night
21 at 10 p.m. 25 at 4 a.m. 22

THE SALISBURY TIMES

The Shoreman's Daily

The Weather

Cloudy, moderate, wind tonight.

(Details on Editorial Page)

VOL. XIX NO. 71

Entered as second-class mail matter
at the postoffice at Salisbury, Md.

SALISBURY, MARYLAND, WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 25, 1942

An Associated Press Newspaper
Published Daily Except Sunday

PRICE THREE CENTS

UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT ATTACKED IN CALIFORNIA COAST BLACKOUT

Anti-Aircraft Guns Blast At Object Over Cities On West Coast

**Army Declines Comment; Object May Have Been
Enemy Blimp; Fragments Of Metal
Fall Around Houses**

Los Angeles, Feb. 25—(AP)—Anti-aircraft guns fired round after round of ammunition and tracer bullets at an unidentified object which moved slowly down the coast from Santa Monica and disappeared south of the rich Signal Hill oil fields early today.

Army officials declined to comment but speculation quickly arose that an enemy blimp might have passed over the area. This was based on the fact the object required nearly 30 minutes to travel some 20 or 25 miles—far slower than an airplane.

An official source which declined to be quoted directly told the Associated Press that U. S. Army planes quickly went into action. However, just before dawn, another official said no U. S. craft had gone in pursuit because of danger from their own anti-aircraft fire. He said anti-aircraft gunners reported seeing unidentified planes.

No Bombs

No bombs were dropped.

The all clear sounded at 7:19 a. m. (10:19 a. m. EWT).

Mrs. H. G. Landis telephoned police that fragments of metal fell about her home and "a chunk of something" dug a hole in her backyard. A arms expert said the fragments were from an anti-aircraft shell.

Police at Venice, 14 miles west of the coast, arrested three Japanese for investigation of reports they were sending flashlight signals from the pier. Venice is just outside an area ordered evacuated by Japanese yesterday.

A newspaperman at San Pedro said airplanes passed over the Los Angeles-Long Beach harbor area. The craft were not identified.

Planes In Action

U. S. Army planes quickly went into action but whether they contacted the object was not announced. Army officials said they could not comment until they received reports of the action.

There were no reports of any attempts to bomb this area from the air although many war-vital factories, shipyards and other defense industries were on the route the object followed.

Although some watchers said they saw airplanes in the air, semi-official sources said they probably were the U. S. Army's pursuists.

All of the action, clearly spotlighted for ground observers by 20 or 30 searchlights, was just a few miles west of Los Angeles proper.

Appear 8,000 Feet

Observers said the object appeared to be 8,000 feet or higher.

Firing, first heard shortly after 3 a. m., ceased suddenly at 3:30 a. m., after the object disappeared south of Signal Hill, at the east edge of Long Beach. Anti-aircraft guns fired steadily for two minute periods, were silent about 45 seconds, and continued that routine nearly half an hour.

All of Southern California from the San Joaquin Valley to the Mexican border was blacked out. Los Angeles doused its lights first, at 2:25 a. m., San Diego, just 17 miles from the border, did not receive its lights out order until 3:05 a. m.

Unofficial sources said Army officials at Riverside, 40 miles east of Los Angeles, ordered the blackout.

It came 32 hours after a submarine fired 25 shrapnel shells at the Ellwood Tidelands oil field during President Roosevelt's war address to the nation Monday night. Damage in that attack was negligible—about \$500 to an oil well engine housing and power lines. Only two of the shells scored hits; 23 fell harmlessly into pastures, foothills and the beach.