

Thought For Today—

That man is great, and he alone,  
Who serves a greatness not his own,  
For neither praise nor pelf:  
Content to know and be unknown:  
Whole in himself.

—OWEN MEREDITH

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## THE WEATHER

Light snow this afternoon  
and tonight; not much  
change in temperature.

# L. A. Guns Fire on 'Phantom' Object

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# MYSTERY TARGET REPORTED FLYING OVER WEST COAST

Various Reports Indicate 'It'  
May Have Been Blimp  
or Bomber

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — Antiaircraft guns thundered over the metropolitan area early Wednesday for the first time in the war but hours later what they were shooting at remained a military secret.

An unidentified object moving slowly down the coast from Santa Monica was variously reported as a balloon and an airplane.

Some observers claimed to have seen two planes over Long Beach.

Army intelligence, although uncommunicative, scoffed at reports of civilian observers that as many as 200 planes were over the area.

There were no reports of bombing, but several instances of damaged property from antiaircraft shells.

A garage door was ripped off in a Los Angeles residential district and fragments shattered windows and tore into a bed where a few moments before Miss Blanche Sedgwick and her niece, Jessie Duffy, had been sleeping.

A Santa Monica bomb squad was dispatched to remove an unexploded antiaircraft shell in a driveway there.

## Sirens Awake Citizens

Wailing air raid sirens at 2:25 a. m. (PWT) awakened most of the metropolitan area's three million citizens. A few minutes later, they were treated to a gigantic fourth-of-July-like display as huge searchlights flashed along a 10-mile front to the south, converging on a single spot high in the sky.

Moments later the antiaircraft guns opened up, throwing a sheet of steel skyward.

Tracer bullets and exploding shells lit the heavens.

## Three Japs Arrested

Three Japanese, two men and a woman, were seized by police at the beach city of Venice on suspicion of signalling with flashlights near the pier. They were moved to FBI headquarters, where Richard B. Hood, local chief, said at the request of army authorities we have nothing to say.

A Long Beach police sergeant, E. Larsen, 58, was killed in a traffic accident while en route to an air raid post.

Henry B. Ayers, 63 year old state guardsman, died at the wheel of an ammunition truck during the blackout. Physicians said a heart attack apparently was responsible.

It was broad daylight before the all-clear sounded at 7:19 a. m. (Pacific War Time).

## Traffic Snarled

Late homegoers and early workers, who had been flagged down by air raid wardens started moving.

Seen traffic was snarled. Thousands of Angelenos were an hour or more late to their jobs.

There was speculation, meanwhile, that the unidentified object might have been a blimp—although veteran lighter-than-air experts in Akron, O., the nation's center of such construction said Japan is believed to have lost interest in such craft following experiments soon after World War I. These sources said inability to obtain fireproof helium was behind discarding of the plans.

## Object Moved Slowly

Observers lent some credence to the blimp theory by pointing out that the object required nearly 30 minutes to travel 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. Later, however, another official said no U. S. craft had taken off because of possible danger from the army's own antiaircraft fire.

## Coast Blacked Out

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

Firing, first heard shortly after 2 a. m., ceased suddenly at 2:30 a. m. after the object disappeared south of Signal Hill, at the east edge of Long Beach. Antiaircraft guns fired steadily for two-minute periods, were silent about 45 seconds, and continued their 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 the lights-out order until 2:05 a. m.

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

## TRAFFIC VICTIMS

BELIEVED N. D. MAN

VALLEY CITY, N. D.—(AP)—E. Larsen, 58 Long Beach police sergeant killed in a traffic accident while en route to an air raid post, is believed to be Englebert Larsen, former Douglas county sheriff. He left Valley City about 25 years ago and was engaged on the Long Beach police force.