

THE WEATHER

Partly cloudy today with widely scattered shower showers in the afternoon; high near 80, low tonight about 64; cooler tomorrow. (Report by U.S. Weather Service) Weather Map on Page 26, Sec. 2

THE BLADE

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FINAL HOME

142 Pages

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By TOLEDO BLADE COMPANY

TOLEDO, OHIO, SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1961

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TWENTY CENTS

**3 Alarms Sounded
As Flames, Smoke
Envelop Area**

Gas Truck Explodes On Trail; 71 Hurt, 4 Homes Set Ablaze



**Here's List
Of Victims
In Blast, Fire**

**38 Are Children;
10 Victims Critical**

**Spectators Crowd Area, Suffer
Casualties, Hamper Firemen**

ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL
TAYLOR PERKINS, 39, of 1014 Tecumseh St., fire lieutenant, severe face burns; condition critical.

EDWARD C. BAUM, 49, of 325 Fulton St., Swanton, the truck driver, severe body burns; condition serious.

HOWARD ANDERSON, 46, of 628 Pinewood Ave., fireman, burns; condition critical.

DONALD RIDDLE, 28, of 2213 Waterworks Dr., fireman, face, hands, leg burns; condition serious.

EWALD BODE, 39, of 2110 Westbrook Dr., deputy fire chief, face, arms, leg burns; condition critical.

BENITA MARTIN, 11, of 325 Canal St., burns; condition good.

MARILEE FAUSZE, 19, of 639 Oliver St., arms, leg, back burns; condition good.

ROLAND BENNING, 36, of 1151 Shadowlawn Dr., fireman, face, arms, leg burns; condition critical.

RAYMOND MERCURIO, 33, of 623 1/2 South St., Clair St., treated for arm burns.

PAUL STRABLEY, JR., 30, of 618 Hobart St., treated for burns.

RONALD FRITCH, 30, of 823 Vinton St., treated for back burns.

JERRY MADDEN, 23, of 1124 Utah St., both arms burned; treated.

JOHN WETHERHOLT, 38, of 1136 Utah St., treated for arm burns.

GARY FAUSZE, 9, of 639 Oliver St., treated for head burns.

JOSEPH WILSON, 10, of 719 South Erie St., burns.

Seventy-one people were injured yesterday when a tandem-trailer gasoline truck exploded on Anthony Wayne Trail near Vinton Street, spewing flames over a wide area.

Ten of those hurt were listed in critical condition. Four others were in serious condition.

Eleven of the injured were firemen who were attempting to extinguish the blazing truck and trailers, which had been burning about 15 minutes before the blast. The trailers carried 7,000 gallons.

Flames, described by witnesses as "from a flame thrower," ignited four houses on Vinton Street, destroying two and causing heavy damage to the others.

Hundreds of children and teenagers flocked to the scene when the fire first broke out and 28 of them were among the injured. Three of them were burned severely.

The truck driver, Edward Baum, 49, Swanton, was seriously injured in the blast after he had left his company of the accident and fire and returned to the scene.

He was admitted to St. Vincent's Hospital and placed under sedation. He said he could not recall anything about the accident after arriving at the hospital.

Among the injured were 11-year-old Albert Bachmayer, 16, who was recovering his sons from a gas station in the area of the truck.

Carlton Bachmayer, 17, 17, is fixed between two houses. He is the child of the gas station truck owner. He was injured in the blast and was hospitalized in serious condition.

Visible For Miles
Flames at the scene of the explosion and hundreds of people gathered to see the fire. The fire was visible for miles.

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**Witness Sees
Rig Tip Over;
Fire Follows
Orange And Red
Flames Shoot Up,
Then Mushroom**

TRUCK BECAME GIANT FLAME THROWER AFTER EXPLOSION ON ANTHONY WAYNE TRAIL NEAR VINTON STREET
Flames roared more than 100 feet in air, burned trees and homes at right as impact of exploding fuel was felt two blocks away

Here's List Of Victims In Blast, Fire

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EDWARD C. BAUM, 49, of 325 Fulton St., Swanton; the truck driver, severe body burns; condition serious.

HOWARD ANDERSON, 46, of 628 Pinewood Ave., fireman, burns; condition critical.

DONALD RIDDLE, 28, of 2313 Waterworks Dr., fireman, face, hands, leg burns; condition serious.

EWALD BODE, 59, of 2410 Westbrook Dr., deputy fire chief, face, arms, leg burns; condition critical.

BENITA MARTIN, 11, of 355 Canal St., burns; condition good.

MARILEE FAUSZE, 10, of 639 Oliver St. arms, leg, back burns; condition good.

ROLLAND HENNING, 36, of 1151 Shadowlawn Dr., fireman, face, arms, leg burns; condition critical.

RAYMOND MERCURIO, 13, of 622½ South St. Clair St., treated for arm burns.

PAUL STRABLEY, JR., 20, of 618 Hobart St., treated for burns.

RONALD FRITCH, 20, of 825 Vinton St., treated for back burns.

JERRY MADDEN, 23, of 1124 Utah St., both arms burned, treated.

JOHN WETHERHOLT, 38, of 1136 Utah St., treated for arm burns.

GARY FAUSZE, 9, of 639 Oliver St., treated for head burns.

JOSEPH WILSON, 46, of 709 South Erie St., burns.

OLLIE MOLLEN, 37, of 908 Mayfair Blvd., fireman, burns.

MERCY HOSPITAL

ALBERT BERNHAGEN, 76, of 722 Ogden Ave., police captain, severe burns on face, arms and shoulders; condition serious.

THOMAS ALFIERI, 48, of 1817 Evansdale Ave., fire captain, body burns; condition critical.

ROBERT HARRISON, 62, of 552 Lodge Ave., fireman, body burns; condition critical.

WILLIAM GENSON, 39, of 2466 Scottwood Ave., fireman, body burns; condition critical.

FRANK KEATING, 28, of 141 Dartmouth Dr., fireman, collapsed from smoke inhalation.

JOSEPH MAZEROV, 62, Wal-

38 Are Children; 10 Victims Critical

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He was admitted to St. Vincent's Hospital and placed under sedation. He said he could not recall anything about the accident after arriving at the hospital.

Among the injured was Police Capt. Albert Bernhagen, 76, who was evacuating persons from houses in the vicinity of the truck.

Captain Bernhagen said he stepped between two houses to tell some children to move farther back when the big blast occurred and he felt himself enveloped by searing heat.

Visible For Miles

Flames at the time of the explosion shot hundreds of feet into the air, according to witnesses. Black clouds of smoke were visible several miles, attracting thousands of spectators.

The fire and explosion took place midway between the Nickel Plate Road bridge and the point where Vinton Street meets the Trail.

Lt. William Bondy, 3008 Daleford Dr., of No. 9 Fire Station, said he and his men were near the corner of the Trail and Vinton when the explosion began—first some small explosion and then a large blast that seared nearby areas. He said several men from another fire company were caught in the full force of the blasts.

"Several guys were caught in it. Some were thrown backward," said Lieutenant Bondy. "Others were running. At least four of them were completely ablaze. We grabbed them, tore

Witness Sees Rig Tip Over; Fire Follows

Orange And Red Flames Shoot Up, Then Mushroom

"Orange and red flames shot up and then mushroomed out like a small atomic blast," an eyewitness said in describing the explosion of the Standard Oil tank truck that spread havoc and injury yesterday.

Harold Brandman, 23, of 17 Machen St., a copy clerk for The Blade, said he had just stopped at Logan Street and the Anthony Wayne Trail when he heard a loud scraping sound.

He looked down the Trail and saw the truck and trailer zigzag about 75 feet north of the Nickel Plate overpass.

Burst Into Flames

Apparently the scraping sound came from the trailer seconds before it flipped over on its side.

The trailer burst into flames, he said, and then the entire rig was engulfed in black smoke.

Mr. Brandman backed his car down the street a block, got out and ran to the scene. He got there just as the first fire engines arrived.

He stood at the side of the nearest fire truck, about 200 yards from the burning truck and trailer.

THOMAS ALFIERI, 48, of 1817 Evansdale Ave., fire captain, body burns; condition critical.

ROBERT HARRISON, 62, of 552 Lodge Ave., fireman, body burns; condition critical.

WILLIAM GENSON, 39, of 2466 Scottwood Ave., fireman, body burns; condition critical.

FRANK KEATING, 28, of 141 Dartmouth Dr., fireman, collapsed from smoke inhalation.

JOSEPH MAZEROV, 62, Waldorf Hotel, face burns.

ALINE WEIL, 48, of 1234 Slater St., knees hurt when knocked down by explosion.

RONALD ARNETT, 13, of 124 Field Ave., face burns.

WILLIAM ARNETT, 12, of 124 Field Ave., face burns; condition serious.

ROBERT CLARK, 15, of 26 Columbia St., face and head burns.

LARRY RUSSELL, 9, of 219 Segur Ave., severe body burns.

THOMAS DOUBERMAN, 14, of 629 Vinton St., face and arms burns.

LEONAL MUNIZ, 19, Jeffers Rd., Swanton, neck and head burns; condition fair.

EUGENE DUNAHOO, 4, of 725 South Erie St., burns.

STEPHEN DUNAHOO, 10, of 725 South Erie St., burns.

DOUGLAS RABLE, 4, of 736 Walbridge Ave., burns from fire extinguisher.

MICHAEL DUCAT, 8, of 622 Hobart St., burns.

JOSEPH CONMAY, 33, of 2516 Maplewood Ave., street department employee, collapsed.

MAUMEE VALLEY HOSPITAL

GLENN E. CARTER, 27, of 3158 Ravenwood Blvd., fireman, burns; condition critical.

UECKERT SPERBER, 62, of 867 Geneva Ave., fireman, face, neck, head, arms, back burns; condition critical.

DAVID WITTICH, 13, of 316 Langdon St., arm, neck and ear burns.

DONALD ISAAC, 14, of 420 Crittenden Ave., arms, ear and neck burns.

ANTHONY LOPEZ, 10, of 634 Oliver St., burns.

PHILIP LOPEZ, 13, of 634 Oliver St., burns.

RICHARD LOPEZ, 9, of 634 Oliver St., burns.

CLARENCE MITCHELL, 19, of 621 Vinton St., burns.

JAMES LONG, 19, of 630 1/2 South Erie St., burns.

LINETTE DUVALL, 3, of 612 Harrison St., burns.

DAVID DUVALL, 33, of 612 Harrison St., burns.

RAYMOND CUNNINGHAM, 12, of 462 1/2 Segur Ave., burns.

Turn to Page 2, Col. 5

ford Dr., of No. 9 Fire Station, said he and his men were near the corner of the Trail and Vinton when the explosion began—first some small explosion and then a large blast that seared nearby areas. He said several men from another fire company were caught in the full force of the blasts.

"Several guys were caught in it. Some were thrown backward," said Lieutenant Bondy. "Others were running. At least four of them were completely ablaze. We grabbed them, tore off their coats and rolled them in the grass.

"Spectators were screaming and falling back from the flames. A short time later first aid arrived."

Police Sgt. Elwood Dernlan said that the heat was so intense after the big explosion that "anyone who didn't run didn't have a chance to escape burns or injury."

Kept Back By Heat

After the final blast no one could get within two blocks of the truck for several minutes, because of the extreme heat. As a result firemen were prevented from putting out the truck fire immediately.

The curve that the truck had just negotiated has been the scene of many accidents in past years. The stretch of road is zoned at 25 mph. Patrolmen Robert Lovett and Robert Masiker, of the accident investigation squad, estimated from skid marks that the truck was traveling at 35 to 40 mph.

F. M. Tarr, division manager of Standard Oil Co., said the rear unit of the two-trailer truck apparently jack-knifed and broke loose from the main rig as the northbound truck swung around the curve near the Nickel Plate bridge.

The rear unit then tipped over, Mr. Tarr theorized. Friction from the sliding tank apparently started a fire which spread to the front trailer. Minutes later a series of explosions sent a mushroom of flame billowing from the truck and trailers.

Firemen who rushed to the scene were enveloped in the flames. Other firemen from supporting units who had just arrived grabbed the burning men, knocked them to the ground or dragged them away, and beat out the fires with their hands, and with clumps of sod and grass.

All available ambulances were summoned. The fire division sent 21 pieces of equipment for the three-alarm blaze.

Eyewitnesses said flames from the rig at the time of the big explosion shot outward for two blocks, to Vinton and Harrison Streets, scorching persons in the streets and in their yards.

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burst into flames. Apparently the scraping sound came from the trailer seconds before it flipped over on its side.

The trailer burst into flames, he said, and then the entire rig was engulfed in black smoke.

Mr. Brandman backed his car down the street a block, got out and ran to the scene. He got there just as the first fire engines arrived.

He stood at the side of the nearest fire truck, about 200 yards from the burning truck and trailer.

He then heard two minor explosions—apparently the saddle gas tanks on the cab. Shortly afterward the tires on the cab and the two-tank trailer began exploding, due to the intense heat, he said.

From his vantage point he watched the blaze about 15 minutes.

Firemen Afire

Then came the explosion. Mr. Brandman saw one fireman knocked down by the blast. Other firemen—some with their clothing on fire—and spectators scattered.

After Mr. Brandman had run about 200 hundred yards down the street, he looked back. Telephone poles were on fire; burning firemen were running away.

Man 'Just Couldn't Run,' Cuts Off Burning Clothes

"My God, when I saw those burning firemen I just couldn't run away. I went back and cut the clothes off three of them with a pocket knife."

Phillip Lopez, 43, of 634 Oliver St., was standing on the north side of Vinton Street with his three sons when the explosion rocked the area.

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A. W. BERNHAGEN
Police Captain Burned

Blasts And Fire On Trail

Continued from First Page

Mrs. Ethel Davis, 630 Vinton St., said she heard a "terrible rattling" and went to her back door. She said she saw fire coming from the truck and the highway behind it. A nearby telephone pole was also ablaze.

Mrs. Davis said the driver was looking beneath the truck when suddenly the flames began to grow. Then there were at least four explosions, she said. Heat from the final explosion scorched the back of her husband, James. Firemen then arrived and evacuated the Davises and their six children.

The fire division said the first call came in at 10:56 a.m., with a second alarm issued at 11 a.m. and a third at 11:08. Nine pumpers, three rescue squad trucks, five ladders, four chiefs and about 100 firemen responded.

Earthen banks on both sides of the Trail were scorched black by the heat and flames. Also damaged was a fence of the Toledo Dunbrik Co., 410 Anthony Wayne Trail, whose property lies along the west bank.

The house at 618 Vinton, which was nearest to the truck, was vacant, having been appropriated by the expressway program. It was reduced to fragments by the explosion and fire that followed.

The home of Lonnie Gouge, 618 Vinton St., was gutted. Seriously damaged by smoke and water was the house at 624 Vinton, rented by Mrs. Lottie Andrews. A roomer, Tony Tomer, collapsed after he and Mrs. Andrews ran from the house. He was admitted to Maumee Valley Hospital but not listed as a fire-blast victim.

Evacuated Family

Tony Navarro, 620 Vinton, was awakened by the explosion and evacuated his family. His house was also badly damaged.

Charles Burns, 3161 Winston Blvd., a veteran of 21 years with the fire division, arrived at the scene with other members of No. 9 company. He gave the following account:

"We had just pulled up and were trying to hook up a line when the whole thing blew. I saw flames envelop from 8 to 12 men. They were with No. 5 and No. 8 companies. I ran up and grabbed Bob Harrison, of No. 5. I dragged him or carried him about half a block up the trail.

"His pants were burned completely off. Skin was hanging from his leg, and his face was a mess. Someone came and

helped me, and we got his coat off. I used my hands and grass and sod to beat out the flames, and also my coat to wrap around him. By then bystanders were helping.

"Believe me, I was scared."

Brakes Lock Automatically

Mr. Tarr said that when a rear tanker breaks loose from a front tanker and cab, as evidently happened yesterday, the brakes of the front assembly automatically lock. This would force the front assembly to skid to a stop.

The positions of the two tankers indicated that this happened yesterday. The cab and front tanker were still attached to each other and were pointed in the original direction of travel. The rear tanker, however, apparently skidded around the front assembly and came to rest several yards north of the cab.

Mr. Tarr said the main explosion came through the forward end of the front tanker, flattening the cab. A blast like this, coming from one end of a tanker, causes a flame-thrower effect of great force, Mr. Tarr said.

Traffic Interrupted

Traffic over much of Anthony Wayne Trail was interrupted until about 3:30 p.m. and a short section, from north of City Park Avenue, was closed until about 6 p.m.

A 300-foot section in the immediate area of the blast was so badly damaged, street officials said, it will have to be resurfaced. The section of street was being used last night, but a patrolman was kept on duty until after dark to direct motorists around the worst part.

Police said sight-seeing motorists poured into the area for hours after the explosion and that traffic was "extremely thick."

Red Cross Goes On Disaster Status

The Toledo Chapter of the American Red Cross sent first aid personnel to the scene to assist in treating and evacuating the injured. The chapter was put on disaster status immediately after the blast to help injured persons and their families.

Officials said clothing and food were provided for families whose homes were ruined and damaged.

The Navarro family, whose house was badly damaged, and Mr. and Mrs. Gouge, whose house was destroyed, found



Deputy Chief Ewald Bode

temporary quarters with relatives, officials said. Both families lost all their furnishings and clothing.

Blast And Heat Tumble Spectators

Police Sgt. Elwood Dernlan, who was aiding in clearing the area of spectators and residents before the explosions, said he ran as fast as he could to safety. The intense heat caused many who could not escape to fall in the street.

"It was the nearest thing to aerial bombardment that anyone could ever experience," Sergeant Dernlan said.

Explosion Wakes Up Man Who Escapes

G. C. Dahme, of 627 Vinton, who works nights, said the first explosion awakened him and he ran outside.

The next blast enveloped him in intense heat, but he escaped burns. He was standing about a block and a half from the gasoline truck.

A ladder truck from No. 5 station, parked near Mr. Dahme's home, was set afire by the blasts. Parts of the truck, including the seat, were destroyed.

Civil Defense Unit Assists At Scene

Aiding firemen were 12 members of the Civil Defense fire-fighting unit.

The disaster also brought out the Red Cross who supplied firemen and others with coffee and iced tea. A fire-fighting unit of the Standard Oil Co. also was sent to the scene.

Directing operations of firemen and policemen were Police Chief Anthony Bosch, Safety Director John P. Manton, Maj. Frank J. Baumgartner, and Joseph Guitteau, of the state fire marshal's office.

'It Hit Like Atomic Bomb,' Says Officer

Police Orders Save Many Lives Of Spectators

"It hit like an atomic bomb," was the description given the explosion by Police Lt. Michael Liwo.

The lieutenant said he observed two separate bolts of fire and they appeared as if they had been shot from a cannon.

Lieutenant Liwo said only minutes before the two big explosions police had moved spectators back to Erie Street, about two blocks from the fire. This move saved many from serious injury, he added.

Lack Of Hydrants Handicap Firemen

Fire Chief Arnold Papenhagen, who directed the fire fighters, said the lack of fire hydrants along Anthony Wayne Trail hampered firemen from getting water to the fire because of the time consumed in laying long lines.

The closest hydrant was on Vinton Street, about a block from the fire, but immediately across the street from the homes which burned. Other hoses were attached to hydrants more than two blocks from the fire, the chief said.

Calls Fire Department, Watches His Home Burn

One of the first to call the fire division was Lonnie Gouge, of 818 Vinton St., whose home was destroyed by fire. He said he spotted the fire from a rear window, called firemen, and then evacuated his wife, Georgia. Neither was hurt.

Mr. Gouge said he had only a minor amount of insurance on his home and its contents and is hopeful that some adjustment can be made for his losses.

Hospital Puts Disaster Plan Into Effect

Staff Mobilized To Give Help To Victims Of Blast

It was a lazy Saturday morning and Barbara French, a nurse, was enjoying a chat with two friends outside the emergency entrance of Mercy Hospital when a Blade reporter warned her that a gasoline truck explosion probably would bring victims to the hospital.

Two months away from graduation the 20-year-old Bowling Green resident moved with the dispatch and efficiency of a veteran nurse.

She quickly dialed Sister Mary Eustelle, administrator, and Mercy's disaster plan went into effect—many thought it was the drill that they have been expecting daily.

Like A Warship Drill

A "general quarters" battle drill on a navy ship couldn't have bettered the suddenness nor the thoroughness with which every nun, physician, nurse or nonprofessional employee responded to the three-bay emergency room, which became a "ready" room.

It was 10 minutes before the first victims arrived, but the Sisters of Mercy and their supporting staff were ready.

Police Capt. Albert W. Bernhagen half stumbled in from the ambulance, helping Fireman Robert Harrison, while Fire Capt. Thomas Alfieri and Fireman William Genson were borne in on stretchers.

Nurses were soon cutting the charred fatigues from the burned firemen, and Captain Bernhagen, 76, a veteran of nearly a half century of police service, pleaded with nurses and sisters to ignore him and devote their attention to the critically burned firemen.

Calls For Priest

"Please get me a priest," Captain Alfieri begged.

Father Francis Gludice, chaplain, was at his side as soon as the sentence was finished.

"I'll try to stand till you cut my clothes off, but I think I'm going to pass out, so please hurry," Fireman Harrison asked.

"Please help me," was the plaint of Fireman Genson.

In the next two hours 18 persons were carried, walked or aided into the emergency rooms, which never seemed jammed because of the well-organized plan. The more critically hurt were shunted to up-



FLAMES ENVELOP VINTON STREET HOMES ABOUT 100 YARDS FROM EXPLOSION

House at right had been vacated in preparation for expressway construction

per floors after emergency treatment and the less seriously injured were tended in rooms ordinarily used for other than emergency purposes.

Sister Mary Patrick, hospital treasurer, quickly identified all victims and supervised the admission charts, which proved useful as relatives and friends began the constant telephoning, which kept two nuns busy.

By 2 p.m. everyone had been cared for, even the critically burned had the best treatment—4-year-old Douglas Rable, 736 Walbridge Ave., whose eyes were splashed with fire extinguisher fluid even got a "rinse".

Three hours after the first victims had arrived, the clean-up crew went into action, even the floors were mopped.

Miss French was graduated Saturday at 11 a.m. The ceremony lasted three hours.

3 Other Hospitals On Disaster Basis

Disaster plans went into operation at three other Toledo Hospitals, bringing 32 doctors and many nurses to the aid of burn victims.

St. Vincent's, Maumee Valley and Riverside hospitals alerted their staffs, calling off-duty doctors to emergency-room duty.

Dr. Gerald Bowen, interning at St. Vincent's, said he was informed of the disaster when an ambulance bearing Ewald Bode, deputy fire chief, and two others arrived at the hospital. The doctor was told to expect more cases and the disaster plan was set in motion.

All call lights on boards throughout the hospital were activated, summoning needed physicians. As patients were identified, they were tagged with yellow cards. Those who could not be identified immediately were given numbers.

Doctors and nurses at these hospitals said the staffs were well organized and treated the patients without delay.

Dr. Bowen said Chief Bode, suffering burns over 50 to 70 per cent of his body, was the most seriously injured of the 18 victims brought to St. Vincent's.

Supplies for burns were rushed from the central service



GRIM EVIDENCE OF HEAT'S INTENSITY AFTER BLAST

Fireman's melted boot left in charred debris of blaze

department at Maumee Valley Hospital as 12 doctors and 9 nurses reported to the emergency room there.

Virginia Tawney, associate director of nursing service, said that two firemen brought there were badly burned, but that most of the other 21 victims had received some first aid at the scene or en route to hospital.

Riverside Hospital, alerted by a telephone call, was prepared to handle more cases than the three who were sent there, a physician said. He said 30 minutes elapsed between the call and the arrival of the injured, giving the staff time to mobilize six doctors, nurses and all equipment necessary for treating burns, including plasma.

Flower, Toledo and St. Charles Hospitals received some of the victims, although it was not necessary to place their facilities on a disaster operations basis.

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