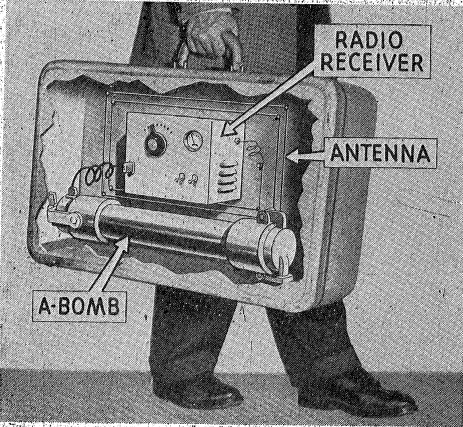


I SMUGGLED MOCK A-BOMBS INTO L.A.



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ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF BABY A-BOMB IN OUT-OF-WAY SUITCASE

Planting of 10 'A-Bombs' Told by Mirror Reporter

BY SID HUGHES, Mirror Staff Writer

I was assigned to pose as an enemy agent and smuggle imitation baby A-bombs across the border into California. It was ridiculously easy.

In three days I planted 10 suitcase bombs—actually harmless pieces of pipe—in vital defense centers and in heavily populated industrial areas of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

At this moment the "bombs" are hidden on the Golden Gate and Bay bridges, in Lockheed's Burbank plant, International Airport, Los Angeles Harbor, two strategic water and power dams and downtown L.A. They are numbered and easily can be identified—since they are found.

If I were an enemy agent, the 10 mock bombs would be exploded by short-wave radio within the hour.

Again, if I were an enemy agent, you—or someone you know—would be dead. Los Angeles and San Francisco would be in flames and their defense industries crippled.

California's two major cities would be in a state of panic. Roads and exits not blocked by the bombs would be clogged with people and vehicles standing for open country. A possible enemy follow-up by super-bombs, launched from submarines or intercontinental bombers, would find the cities' defenses paralyzed.

The enemy well might be able to save his B-bombs and giant A-bombs for other targets.

According to defense authorities, suitcase saboteurs, acting simultaneously throughout the country, could be the agents of a Pearl Harbor of World War III.

The FBI has warned against easily transportable miniature A-bombs with their horrible capabilities. The warning—and a description of the suitcase bomb—was issued as a means of alerting citizens to the dan-

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gers of saboteurs, and to spur Civil Defense measures.

My assignment was to dramatize the FBI warning.

The editors of The Mirror—and the nation's defense leaders—believe the American people must be alerted to live with the atom. To do this, we must have knowledge of its strategic applications and be prepared to use every safeguard and countermeasure against it.

The purpose of this story is to:

1—Publicize the peril of new atomic weapons in metropolitan areas.

2—Stimulate lagging Civil Defense preparations.

3—Spotlight the need for tighter security measures at our borders.

4—Point up the necessity for perfecting evacuation procedures and emphasizing the alarming lack of exit roads in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

5—Assist the FBI.

According to the FBI, the miniature A-bomb may be housed in a steel tube no longer than 2½ feet with a bore diameter of 2 to 10 inches, an outside diameter of 8 to 12 inches and a simple breechblock at either end.

The fissionable material can either be processed uranium or plutonium, or both. The steel tube can be coated with lead to prevent detection by Geiger counters.

Total weight need not be more than 100 pounds. There would be no clock mechanism to give off a ticking sound, and the short barrel and cylindrical shape would make it relatively simple to hide in

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HUGHES LOADS HIS 'BOMBS' FOR TRIP
Right in open view, they passed all barriers.