

Putin won the election, got 89%. His opponent got 11...years.

An Atomic INTERMISSION #141 Issue

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, for EAPA, N'APA and all who want to Make Fandom Great Again! Follow @SFJournalen's Nordic fan news (posted 1-2 times/week, from lack of time lately). Tweeting future a bit unclear, a big X, but we muskn't despair! Beware of typos, or what Swedes call *skrivfel* = "writewrongs"! Late Jan 2024.

Editorially: Atoms, Snow,

During the holidays I saw the film about Robert Oppenheimer, which inspired me to look for interesting stuff about *nuclear bombs and atomic power* for this issue. Sweden actually once had the ambition to get nukes. In the 1940s the government sent study groups the US to try to know the latest about computers, atomic power, jet engines and so on.

The A-bomb program lasted through the 1950s to the early 1960s - after we first naively had asked the Americans if they would *sell* us some A-bombs...! It was internal opposition within the Social Democrat party, the biggest party and usually the one in power, that stopped us building nukes. But we were ready: we had built a plant, Ågesta, to produce plutonium, we had begun mining uranium (having among the world's biggest uranium deposits), SAAB had begun drafting a nuclear bomb carrying attack jet, the military had begun doing "simulated" nuclear blasts blowing up some 50 tons of TNT at a time... It is said we were only 1-2 years away from a live test. A site far up in the sparsely populated north had been decided.

To be or NATO be? It should be any day now for Sweden.

The Turkish parliament is ready to approve it, and Hungary says RSN according to our newspapers.

Jthinking of the cold war, we've had extreme cold snaps!

It's been freezing in Sweden, Norway and Finland for a

number of weeks. It eased a bit around New Year, but

came back in January. Temperatures in what we call

Norrland, "Northland", reached below -50C and in Stockholm it was -10-15C

(statistically the average January temperature in Stockholm is just -3C). There was a

line-up of 1000 vehicles getting stuck by the cold, ice and snow for over 24 hours on

the southern E22 motorway. Even international media covered the Scandinavian cold

hole. From the news I learn Britain has been visited by Mr Minus Celsius too, and in

the US cold and snow has hit even the southern states. Last winter was pretty cold too.

If the trend continues Ms Thunberg should get herself an extra sweater..

It was slightly warmer at New Year's Eve, so I could follow the fireworks from the

Catherine Heights, the best spot. Rockets were flashing over the harbour as Kyiv air defence was

taking out Russian drones. Picture below.

I won't linger on it much, but you know I follow cross-country skiing. While the Swedes had limited success in the big Tour de Ski week recently, worth mentioning is that one *Linn Svahn*, a top sprinter

also great on greater stretches, won no less than *three* of the seven Tour races! She's won *four* World Cup sprints in a row. I stick out my head and say that Linn is right *now* probably the world's best in the odd sport of running on frozen water with long sticks. And that after she had *two whole seasons ruined* by a bad shoulder injury, having surgery and all. She also makes interesting TV interviews



From a 1000 cars standstill. It began with trucks getting stuck.



Linn Svahn back on top after injury!



New Year fireworks over Stockholm harbour. Lots of party people.

that often give us a smile. It's skiers like Linn that makes one wants to follow XC skiing. US skier Jessie Diggins won the Tour, but only won *one* race. TdS point system is something you don't get the point of. Anyway, the American team says cross-country skiing is growing over there. *If the weather trend stays, it will!* End of boring sports.

And beginning of space. A third Swedish astronaut - after Christer Fuglesang and Jessica Meir – Marcus Wandt, was launched Jan 18 by a



ISS at the moment housing 11 since the Dragon crew, in blue uniforms, joined. Marcus Wandt with a mike speaking to earthside viewers.

SpaceX Dragon ship. (I learn he has a Norwegian citizenship too, so welcome to the spacefarer club Norway!) He's a former Gripen jet test pilot and graduated engineer. Up there he met Danish astronaut Andreas Mogensen, already on the ISS and now actually serving as the space station commander. Marcus will take part in up to 30 experiments, among them how 0G affects stem cells. He stays for a fortnight.



Marcus getting ready for launch.

Denmark in orbit. We of course refer to that Queen Margarethe II of Denmark abdicated (she's 83 and have health issues) in favour of her son, who was proclaimed new Danish king as Fredrik X in front of packed crowds in Copenhagen January 14th. Wonder if he could see the celebrations in Copenhagen from orbit? The ISS has a fancy viewing port and the whole city was red and white. *Vi er røde, vi er hvide...*

You also wonder what they think on the ISS as they fly over Ukraine? Do they see explosions? The “CnaBa YkpaNhe!” that ends every *Intermission* is Ukranian cyrillic for “Glory to Ukraine”.



Margarethe II of Denmark signs the instrument of abdication during a cabinet meeting. "Gosh! Now it's my turn!" Frederik X, left, seems to think... Held og lykke!

The Ukrainians haven't made great advances lately - apart from blowing up quite much of Russia's warships, command centres, tanks, AWACS planes etc - but haven't seen defeat either. Their fronts are holding, despite a disturbing deficit of ammo and other military support (damn that gang of Congress republicans - vote them out!), not yet any jets and continued Russian mobilisation.

Russian losses have increased dramatically from repeated, suicidal meat grinder attacks. Ukrainians this winter have a shooting gallery over open fields, while waiting for more materia so they later can forth: shells, F16s, more of those drones they have become skilled in operating. Many are just modified and “cheap” commercial drones, like FPV drones (*First Person View*) by which the operator follows the flight virtually through special goggles. They load them with explosives to take out Russian armour by the hundreds on the hotly contested Avdiika front alone.

As I've observed already, Ukraine follow Clausewitz' principle: to target *Russia's will to fight* by maximising their losses. Loss ratios are 1:3 to 1:7 in Ukrainian favour, in Avdiivka more towards 1:7 when Russia unimaginatively repeats “human waves”. Artillery is of particular importance, causing 70-75% of enemy losses and disrupting supplies. The Ukrainians seem to be particularly impressed by the Swedish Archer, a fully automated self-propelled howitzer, which shoots and scoots in under a minute with huge precision. The onboard computer calculates everything to hit within 10 metres at 30 km! It's been called an oversized sniper gun. The UK has also obtained it and the US is evaluating it for possible procurement. Watch https://youtu.be/6g9d_tvH9nU

Meanwhile Russia is forced to brush off rusting 1950s equipment since their industry can't make up for the material losses. Some is even unproduceable for the lack of Western /k/r/i/s/p/s chips. And

Russian mothers will get angrier and more desperate by the day for their manfolk being drafted by the thousands as cannon fodder. Distant ethnic regions are vacuumed for cannon fodder, as rich Moscow kids dance disco to "patriotic" songs. Putin's TV parrots talk dung as the birdbrsains they are, inflation rises (skyrocketing price on eggs cause huge anger), people freeze as extreme cold cracks heating pipes in apartment blocks (and repairs are slow or ignored, maintenance funds were embezzled, many repairmen are drafted to the war), crime rises as pardoned criminals back from the front do what they are good at, Russian airlines have a threefold increase in dangerous incidents as they can't get Western spare parts. All these cracks may sooner or later tear Russia apart, having 100+ nationalities of which many dislike being under Moscow boots. Russia is the last colonial power.

Putin will of course "win" the coming "election" with ballot boxes stuffed - to over 100% just to be sure. (Maybe he learned from the 1987 Scandinavian fan fund's Humbug?) As problems are mounting time is ticking for Putin. More oppression is needed the worse it gets, but the weaker a container becomes, the less pressure it withstands. A collapse of the Putin regime grows more likely, and that may end the foolish Ukraine war. *It's Ukraine's shortcut to victory!*

To keep up the pressure is essential. The EU and US economies are some 25 times bigger than Russia's and we could easily afford helping a friend in need. Besides, 90% of aid money goes to domestic suppliers creating jobs and growth. Weapons sent are in many cases those to soon be rotated out anyway but still perfectly fine and capable. A viral video showed the American IFV Bradley, a 40+ years old design soon to be replaced, take out the most modern Russian T90 tank.

Supporting Ukraine is an incredibly good investment! For a *tiny fraction* of the military budget it slashes the military capacity of a traditional foe. Putin had lost over 5 000 tanks, Ukrainian sources claim nearly 400 000 Ruskis are KIA (figure probably incl VAT, real number is still likely to be huge!), Putin's navy is sunk or neutralised in the Black Sea, most missile he aims at Ukraine's cities are shot down. Himars and Ukranian drones meanwhile pinpoint Russian targets everywhere - fuel depots, command posts, aircraft, military factories, bridges and more.

But if you read *some* media you don't realise *how bad the war is going for Russia*. Putin hopes and waits for that fool Trump to re-enter the White House and hopes he'll to stop Ukraine support and would pressure Zelensky to "negoitiate". Volodymyr Z says NJET! You can't make deals with someone who never honours them and Trump's self-important chatter means nothing. Remember how he bragged about meeting Kim Jong Un? He achieved absolutely nothing.

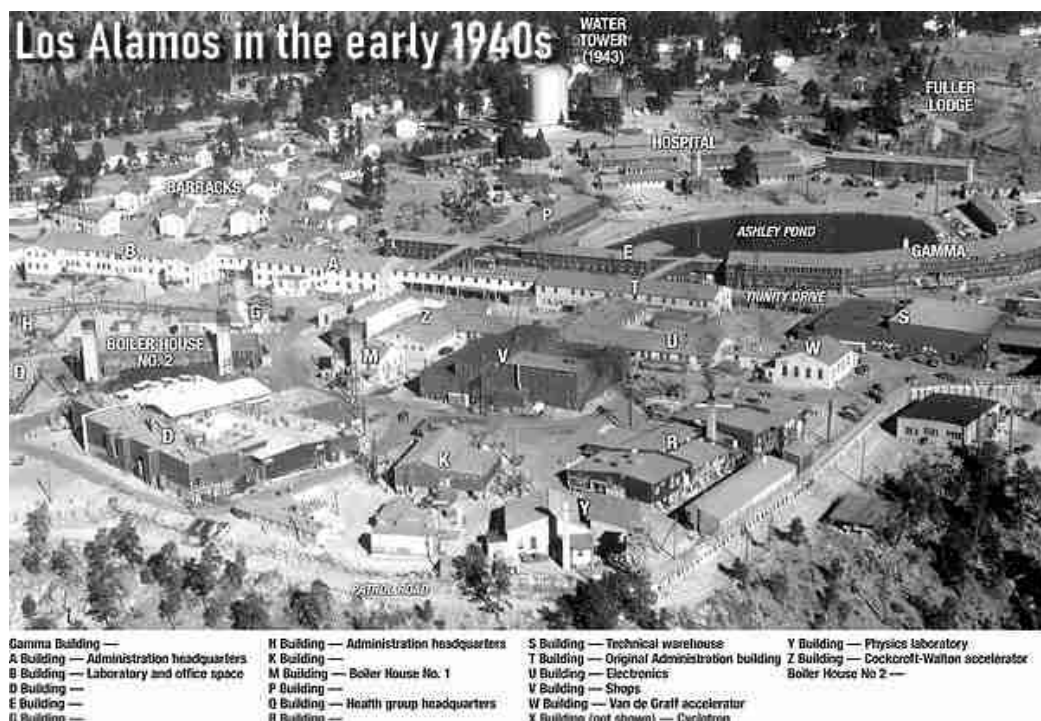
Tell your friends and politicians to keep supporting the brave yellow and blue! CnaBa YkpaNhe!

What You Find In Box 1663

During the holidays I went with my brother Johan and saw "Oppenheimer", the film about the scientific leader of the Manhattan project everyone has been talking about. I've actually read a lot about about the development of the Atomic Bomb, of which I can recommend eg *The Making of the*



Atomic Bomb, by Richard Rhodes (but there are lots of books on the subject, and documentaries, many to be found on Youtube).



. The science and technology is fascinating, of course, so is the history and the role of the Bomb in WWII and the Cold War. Another angle worth studying is Los Alamos itself, the totally isolated city of barracks they built in the desert in just a few months, gathering the brightest minds, telling them to shut up and get to work. Many brought their families with them and tried to create some sort of normality in this absurd environment. In the little free time they had they had wild parties, every Sunday in the shadow of Death, or hiked on horseback through the surrounding New Mexico landscape, a pristine nature soon to become a little radioactive. Los Alamos can be seen as an example of a "constructed society". More pictures from Los Alamos:

https://www.osti.gov/opennet/manhattan-project-history/Resources/photo_gallery/tech_area_large.htm#marching

Did you know that there was only one (1) telephone line from inside the research compound to the outside? Always monitored of course. And all mail to the scientists and their families went to a **P O B O X 1663**. It is said that *Astounding's* John W Campbell - "a bloody fascist" to believe one nitwit PC



The "Big House", the dormitory for the Los Alamos Boys Ranch School before the government took over. Later it housed a library, Chaplain's Office, Red Cross HQ and guest rooms for big brass.

activist... - suspected that something was going on at that unknown place Los Alamos. Many of the magazine's subscriptions - many scientists read ASF - went to this P O Box 1663. That and open sources was what led him to get Cleve Cartmill to write that story "Deadline" that received security service attention (you already know about it, we fans feel pride in repeating it to prove how important our Flash Gordon stuff is!). It has been claimed that *Astounding* was often sold out at the news stands around Los Alamos.

One of the earliest movies about the A-bomb was a drama 1947 documentary with a little sf touch .

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0039178/crazycredits/?tab=cz&ref_=tt_trv_cc "The Beginning or End"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vj3_C-DlIsM described on IMBD like this.

Docudrama on the development of the first atomic bomb. Told from the perspective of a film recovered from a time capsule several hundred years into the future, the story is narrated by Robert Oppenheimer and Major General Leslie Groves beginning with the Nazis stated goal of developing an atomic bomb. Along with Britain and Canada, the U.S. reacts by beginning its own atomic program. The major developments are all presented....the film / is/ being locked in a time capsule to be opened in 2446, include the following: "You are about to see the motion picture sealed in the time capsule for the people of the 25TH Century." Subsequently, the end credits include the following in light of the opening statement: "To the people of the 25TH Century, This was THE BEGINNING. Only you, and those who have lived between us and you, can know THE END"

Since most works in the US don't have "re-registered" copyrights, most work up to 1963 are in the Public Domain, so Youtube has the film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vphTjSnCP-M>

As for the recent movie, I was a bit disappointed. I had hoped



Dining hall of Fuller Lodge. Shall we guess lots of "rocket fuel" was flowing there some evenings...?



General Groves came fresh from building the Pentagon. A doer who fixed everything not under the science boss Oppie. Despite being very different they got along well together.

there would be more about the Bomb project itself. Instead we got a lot on internal bickering and love scenes of a type not adapted to the Hays code. We learned that one Lewis Strauss in government hated Oppie because he opposed developing "the Super", the hydrogen Bomb, and also because he had flirted with communism many years before. Here you may learn more about "Why the US betrayed Oppenheimer"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vj3_C-DllsM "

I wasn't too interested in that. I would have liked more about the research behind the Bomb, the huge efforts put into refining uranium, the sports stadium graphite reactor (there's just a short scene with it), the decisions made around using the Bomb. It was too damn much about political committees interviewing people on Oppie's security clearance (he was controversially stripped of it). The film could maybe have shown FBI and others hunting spies, though they somehow missed that rascal Klaus Fuchs and the young Theodore Hall and went for John W Campbell



K. E. J. Fuchs

He gave Stalin the blueprints for the Bomb. Russia built practically a duplicate of "Fat Man".

instead. (Maybe they had heard the rumour that JWC was "a bloody fascist"?) I would have loved a scene with agents pouring into Campbell's office...

This Klaus Fuchs practically delivered the blueprints for the Bomb to the Russians. There were some who had a naive view of communism. Of all belief systems, communism is the one having the biggest gap between what it claims in theory and what misery it achieves in reality. Some didn't care to inform themselves about the USSR show trials and mass executions, the Gulag camps, the created famines and empty store shelves, the corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency of a command economy. The rationale of traitors like Hill, Fuchs or Kim Philby was: "let's help the Russians so we get a balance between the west and communism". Stupid sheep! Since when is it acceptable to find a "balance" between murderous oppressors and liberal tolerance with at least a decent level of freedom? You don't take up a position *between* good and evil!



Theodore Hall was Los Alamos' youngest scientist, and Stalin's spy.

"Oppenheimer" otherwise had fine

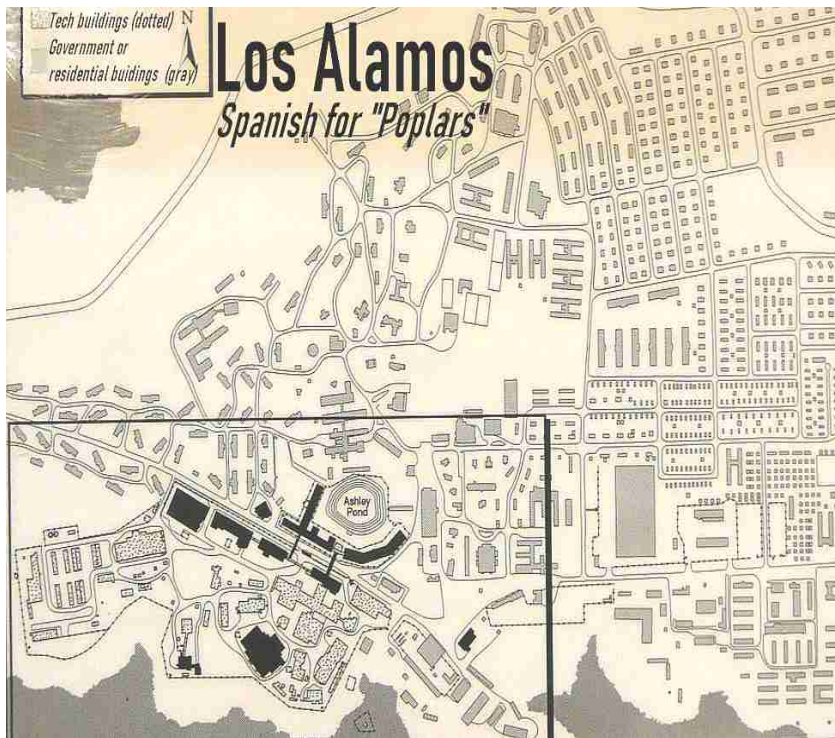
cinematography and good actors, even if some complain that the US flag in a scene had 50 stars, instead of the 48 at the time. Beside more science, I would also have liked a bit more about the interesting social life in the barbed-wire city and more on their daily work. One example of something interesting that could have been used: since there was a war-shortage of copper, the Manhattan project borrowed 14 700 tons of silver from the US Treasury! It was needed for the coils in electromagnets used for Uranium separation. And silver works just as well, even slightly better. Some of the returned silver after the separation plants were updated probably went into coins in general circulation. My calculator claims that metal would be good for 55 million silver dollars! The huge Oak Ridge plant at its heydays is BTW said to have consumed up to 1/7th of all electricity produced in the US.



A message repeated everywhere at Los Alamos.

I noticed one science goofing. In an early scene big glass bowl is shown representing the amount of U-235 needed for a bomb (and a smaller bowl for plutonium). The bowl seemed good for 20 litres, but uranium is so dense that the critical mass would fit in just over 2 litres. I won't say this film was a...bomb, but my favourite A-Bomb film is still "Dr Strangelove", with Peter Sellers at the top of his act.

One thing constantly debated is Was It Right to Drop the Bomb? I discussed that with brother Johan. His idea to make a demonstration blast on some uninhabited island has serious drawbacks. If the Bomb became a dud the psychological effect would be zero, or the Japanese would even feel encouraged. Also, the Japanese could perhaps pick up some secrets about the Bomb from a



demonstration. Finally, fissionable material was extremely expensive and would be "wasted" on blowing up some turtles and seagulls instead of creating havoc among the enemy. And you couldn't warn the Japanese to evacuate a target to spare civilians, because then they would only concentrate air defence there instead. President Truman *did* in fact issue a grave warning, and leaflets were dropped on Japan, but they it was more a generally phrased warning of "prompt and utter destruction", not being specific and it had no effect...as *Astounding SF* had very few readers in Japan.*

Worth noting is that the Hiroshima Bomb, of the U235 gun design, was the first test ever of it! The scientists were confident that

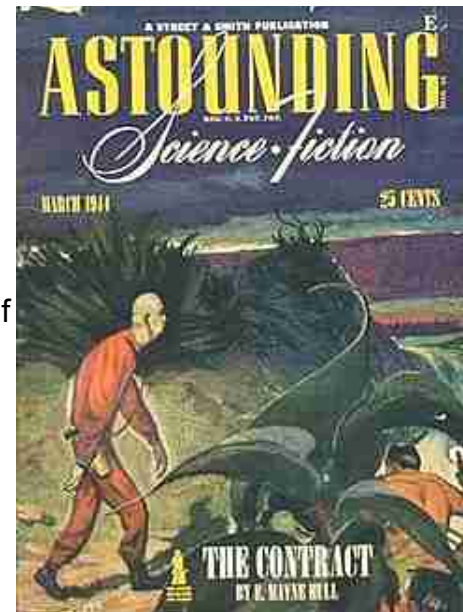
Tech/science area lower left. Lots of residential houses top right. The design - much simpler than the Fat Man implosion type - would work and there wasn't enough U235 around to afford a test. The Nagasaki Bomb requiring a fine-tuned implosion had to be tested in advance, with the Trinity test July 16. Besides, there were more Fat Men in the pipeline (Plutonium is easier to produce than U235), one more to come in late August and up to six Fat Men to be finished through September. The Americans could have caused substantial damage in a rather short time if Nippon hadn't thrown in the kimono!

Now, while dropping the Bomb caused 100 000s of casualties it may at the same time have saved millions. The Japanese were determined to fight to the end. Their kamikaze tactics and the huge battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa illustrate this. Millions of civilians would be engaged in fruitless defence, if only armed with only bamboo spears. The Japanese had concentrated thousands of kamikaze planes and boats loaded with explosives at the coasts. A land invasion of the Japanese mainland would have meant - analytics claim - between half a and one million US casualties and untold millions of Japanese ones.

The "Gadget" as it was called was originally intended to be used on the Nazis, which probably went well with Oppenheimer who was of Jewish background. But that it shortened the war when usage shifted to Japan was also something he accepted, though he struggled with some doubts! He expressed it when he quoted *Bhagavad Gita*: "I have become Death, the Destroyer of Worlds."

Beside, psychologically it was smart by the Americans to let Japanese leadership face the destructive power of the atoms themselves. It gave them a somewhat face-saving excuse to capitulate: you can't fight the fundamental forces of the universe. The US was also smart in letting the emperor stay, though as only a figure head, which is royals in practically all remaining monarchies are today. That was also face saving.

Seeing the film and thinking about all this is a bit disturbing today, when there's a major war in Europe and one maniac threatens us all with his Bombs! *



Astoundingly popular mag at Los Alamos. Less so by US security.

*But *Astounding* had a reader in wartime Germany. In an intro to JWC's Collected Editorials Harry Harrison says it was the "magazine that Albert **EINSTEIN** SUBSCRIBED to, the one that Wernher von Braun had sent to him by way of Sweden during the war, so that he would not miss a single issue". Mr E reading ASF!
 * Limited gains and huge risks is what keeps Czar Putins blood-stained finger from the Button. 1) Putin's reluctant "allies", like China and (especially lukewarm) India would instantly break with Russia and sanctions

HG Wells' Atomic Bomb

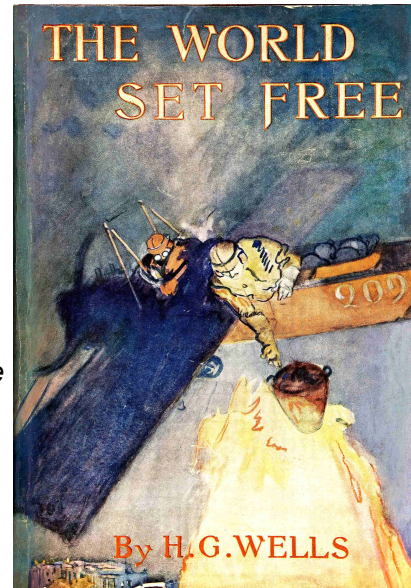
We hear that HG Wells foresaw the A-bomb in his novel *The World Set Free*, 1914. But what exactly did he write? I looked up the book at <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/1059/pg1059-images.html> and we find it was very odd A-bombs he envisioned, giving off a sort of continuous explosion... Atomic bombs are pretty central for the story and mentioned a lot, and I'll just give you a few examples so you get a grasp of Wells' visions.

The process actually resulted in gold as a waste-product:

He set up atomic disintegration in a minute particle of bismuth; it exploded with great violence into a heavy gas of extreme radio-activity, which disintegrated in its turn in the course of seven days, and it was only after another year's work that he was able to show practically that the last result of this rapid release of energy was gold.

Beside bombs, you also had civilian atomic aircraft engines:

...it was at last possible to add Redmayne's ingenious helicopter ascent and descent engine to the vertical propeller that had hitherto been the sole driving force of the aeroplane without overweighting the machine, and men found themselves possessed of an instrument of flight that could hover or ascend or descend vertically and gently as well as rush wildly through the air. The last dread of flying vanished... aeroplane, with its atomic engine as noiseless as a dancing sunbeam and its phosphorescent gyroscopic compass, flew like an arrow to the heart of the Central European host



Civilian atomic power was everywhere:

And with an equal speed atomic engines of various types invaded industrialism. The railways paid enormous premiums for priority in the delivery of atomic traction engines, atomic smelting was embarked upon so eagerly as to lead to a number of disastrous explosions due to inexperienced hand

Atomic bombs could actually be man-handled:

...the bomb-thrower lifted the big atomic bomb from the box and steadied it against the side. It was a black sphere two feet in diameter. Between its handles was a little celluloid stud, and to this he bent his head until his lips touched it. Then he had to bite in order to let the air in upon the inducive. Sure of its accessibility, he craned his neck over the side of the aeroplane and judged his pace and distance. Then very quickly he bent forward, bit the stud, and hoisted the bomb over the side... The bomb flashed blinding scarlet in mid-air, and fell, a descending column of blaze eddying spirally in the midst of a whirlwind. Both the aeroplanes were tossed like shuttlecocks, hurled high and sideways and the steersman, with gleaming eyes and set teeth, fought in great banking curves for a balance.

And the atomic energy comes from an element called Carolinum:

Never before in the history of warfare had there been a continuing explosive; indeed, up to the middle of the twentieth century the only explosives known were combustibles whose explosiveness was due entirely to their instantaneousness; and these atomic bombs which science burst upon the world that night were strange even to the men who used them. Those used by the Allies were lumps of pure Carolinum, painted on the outside with unoxidised cydonator inducive enclosed hermetically in a case of membranum. A little celluloid stud between the handles by which the bomb was lifted was arranged so as to be easily torn off and admit air to the inducive, which at once became active and set up radio-activity in the outer layer of the Carolinum sphere. This liberated fresh inducive, and so in a few minutes the whole bomb was a blazing continual explosion. The Central European bombs were the same, except that they were larger and had a more complicated arrangement for animating the inducive... once its degenerative process had been induced, continued a furious radiation of energy and nothing could arrest it. Of all Hyslop's artificial elements, Carolinum was the most heavily stored with energy and the most dangerous to make and handle. To this day it remains the most potent degenerator known. What the earlier twentieth-century chemists called its half period was seventeen

would tighten to 110%. There would be extreme tensions within Russia with a risk for a coup against Putin. 2) There are hints NATO would strike back with overwhelming conventional means, as nukes mean an "existential threat". NATO could very well scramble up to 1 000 modern jets and in a few days turn almost all Russian military in Ukraine to ex-parrots. 3) Nukes have limited effects on the battlefield anyway. A tactical nuke could perhaps destroy only one Ukrainian battalion at a time, as troops are spread out, ie 6-800 soldiers within a radius of a couple of km. And that would be areas your own troops couldn't move into, at least in the short term. They could destroy Kyiv...perhaps. Ukraine has Patriot missiles that seem to be able to take out many Russian missiles. Meanwhile, the Ukrainians just say: Even if they nuke us...we will just keep on fighting!

days; that is to say, it poured out half of the huge store of energy in its great molecules in the space of seventeen days, the next seventeen days' emission was a half of that first period's outpouring, and so on. As with all radio-active substances this Carolinum, though every seventeen days its power is halved, though constantly it diminishes towards the imperceptible, is never entirely exhausted, and to this day the battle-fields and bomb fields of that frantic time in human history are sprinkled with radiant matter

Even more:

A moment or so after its explosion began it was still mainly an inert sphere exploding superficially, a big, inanimate nucleus wrapped in flame and thunder. Those that were thrown from aeroplanes fell in this state, they reached the ground still mainly solid, and, melting soil and rock in their progress, bored into the earth. There, as more and more of the Carolinum became active, the bomb spread itself out into a monstrous cavern of fiery energy at the base of what became very speedily a miniature active volcano. The Carolinum, unable to disperse, freely drove into and mixed up with a boiling confusion of molten soil and superheated steam, and so remained spinning furiously and maintaining an eruption that lasted for years or months or weeks according to the size of the bomb employed and the chances of its dispersal. Once launched, the bomb was absolutely unapproachable and uncontrollable until its forces were nearly exhausted, and from the crater that burst open above it, puffs of heavy incandescent vapour and fragments of viciously punitive rock and mud, saturated with Carolinum, and each a centre of scorching and blistering energy, were flung high and far.

The big war employing these bombs came in the 1950s:

By the spring of 1959 from nearly two hundred centres, and every week added to their number, roared the unquenchable crimson conflagrations of the atomic bombs, the flimsy fabric of the world's credit had vanished, industry was completely disorganised and every city, every thickly populated area was starving or trembled on the verge of starvation. Most of the capital cities of the world were burning; millions of people had already perished

The interesting thing is that getting A-bombs was fairly easy and society collapsed:

...usurpers, adventurers, and political desperadoes, were everywhere in possession of the simple apparatus for the disengagement of atomic energy and the initiation of new centres of destruction...And now under the shock of the atomic bombs, the great masses of population which had gathered into the enormous dingy town centres of that period were dispossessed and scattered disastrously over the surrounding rural areas.

More collapse:

In the map of nearly every country of the world three or four or more red circles, a score of miles in diameter, mark the position of the dying atomic bombs and the death areas that men have been forced to abandon around them. Within these areas perished museums, cathedrals, palaces, libraries, galleries of masterpieces, and a vast accumulation of human achievement, whose charred remains lie buried, a legacy of curious material that only future generations may hope to examine...

Wells' point with this is, of course, to envision the new "socialist" society he always dreamt of, which would replace the society devastated by atomic bombs:

...schools that would equip them to use the new atomic machinery.... So quite insensibly the council drifted into a complete reorganisation of urban and industrial life, and indeed of the entire social system.... Gold was now a waste product in the release of atomic energy, and it was plain that no metal could be the basis of the monetary system again...a certain number of units of energy as the value of a gold sovereign...The catastrophe of the atomic bombs which shook men out of cities and businesses and economic relations shook them also out of their old established habits of thought, and out of the lightly held beliefs and prejudices that came down to them from the past... The moral shock of the atomic bombs had been a profound one, and for a while the cunning side of the human animal was overpowered by its sincere realisation of the vital necessity for reconstruction.

As you know, Wells was a member of the Fabian Society, and according to Wiki it was:

"a British socialist organisation whose purpose is to advance the principles of social democracy and democratic socialism via gradualist and reformist effort in democracies, rather than by revolutionary overthrow". The name was from "Roman general Quintus Fabius Maximus Verrucosus...His Fabian strategy sought gradual victory against the superior Carthaginian army under the renowned general Hannibal through persistence, harassment, and wearing the enemy down by attrition rather than pitched, climactic battles"

THE NEW STATESMAN

H G Wells: "It seems to me that I am more to the Left than you, Mr Stalin"

In 1934, Wells arrived in Moscow to meet a group of Soviet writers. While there Stalin granted him an interview.

What would Wells would think today when we have seen the complete bankruptcy of socialism? As we know, it has failed in any taste tried: the USSR, China, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela... The basic problem is that central planning has no chance to match the efficiency of the spontaneous interactions among millions of actors on a market. Since top heavy planning works so bad the results are shortages, poverty, discontent, stagnation, corruption, misery. And because people realise how bad it is the system can only stay in power through lies, propaganda and oppression, to keep protests from overthrowing it. It's far from "classless" as we get a growing gap between a small elite of despotes enriching themselves and the class of unlucky slaves. Meanwhile, "democratic socialism" is an oxymoron, since anyone allowed to decide would vote to get rid of such a system. It can only exist temporarily through inertia, its collapse and rot being just a bit slower.

But Wells was naively unaware of all this. He actually met the socialist arch-criminal Stalin in 1934, totally fooled by the Potemkin treatment visitors got and even declared: *"It seems to me that I am more to the Left than you, Mr Stalin."* <https://www.newstatesman.com/long-reads/2014/04/h-g-wells-it-seems-me-i-am-more-left-you-mr-stalin>

No, he wasn't more left. HG Wells didn't murder millions, sent further millions to Siberian penal colonies, invaded neighbours, deporting their populations, inducing famine costing the lives of more millions, and so on. That one of history's top authors was so naive, is a natural effect of that many "cultural workers" are naive johnny-do-gooders with rosy glasses, someone full of ill-founded belief of his or her moral superiority, but in reality being somewhat of...a bloody fascist.

Singing the Praise of the Bomb...

Some being grateful for the Bomb were the music makers. There are lots of songs about nukes and nuclear armageddon! Below a selection, but you find much, much more on eg Youtube. I picked mainly older songs since they are funnier and I'm a history buff.

I'll especially point to two songs, with a **WARNING** if you are sensitive to provoking language...

But she was never provoking, if you don't mind acute cuteness and an immense talent, with this Doris Day, who in the first song sings about... *Geiger counters* for radioactivity! You *must* see her wonderful performance of "Tic tic tic"!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4SuOz8sbUI> "Tic tic tic" - with Doris Day!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7V4tOdboWA> "When the A-Bomb Arrives" - with Johnny Bode, and **BEWARE** of the language!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv_jKyPaWtk "Brush the dust from that old bible"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bp6dsKleGpU> "Merry Menuet"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XpoEM6EHu4> "Old man atom"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ck0NmJvivP8> "Hydrogen Bomb"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXSUEU7ISfQ&pp> "Atomic bomb baby"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3gJ2XUZQ4o> "Dr Strangelove, Fallouts - Love That Bomb"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOrZuXhV530> "Uranium"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lws77iK_aw "Thirteen Women (and Only One Man in Town)"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fO7-a39L0jU> "Atomic Nightmare"

The foul language warning is for the next song, "When the A-bomb Arrives", by that rascal Johnny Bode https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnny_Bode, who hoodwinked his way through our local entertainment scene, defrauding colleagues, fleeing from hotel and restaurant bills and generally making himself so impossible that late in life his only way to make a buck was to record porn songs (that of course sold well). I'll give you both the Swedish text and a loose interpretation into English. It's about that if WWII comes, hedonistic sex maniacs will just grab beer, run for the forest and have an orgy. You're soon dead anyway, so why not?

Here's what to do, in Swedish and English, "When the A-bomb arrives"...



Nobody sings about Geiger counters like Doris Day.

Vi går och demonstrerar, vi går och onanerar,
 vi går mot allt som heter makt och heter lag
 Det därför är egentligt, vi knulla skall offentligt,
 om inte vi får rätt vi gör det du och jag.
 Du liksom jag i sex är ganska van
 Vi går igång på öppen plan
 Först går du skönt och strippar
 och sen vi båda pippar
 till slut så sjunger mor med oss och hela stan.

När atombomben kommer låt oss ta en kasse öl
 och gå ut i skogen med tills det blir fred
 När atombomben kommer låt oss ta en kasse öl
 både du och jag går med

När atombombens åska mäktigt rullar
 ligger vi i gräset dricker öl och knullar
 När atombomben kommer tänk på ditt och tänk på
 mitt
 överleva skall vår fitta liksom även så vår pitt.

Vi två på lördagskvällen, ibland går på bordellen.
 Vi har vart gifta några år och vill ha nytt.
 Du tar en stilig sjöman, och jag en tös från Öland.
 Vi provar alla medel, det är ungt och det är krytt.
 Sen går vi hem och pippar med varann,
 det är så härligt vad vi båda kan.
 Just det, just det gör susen emellan lördagsrusen.
 Var kuk är en atombomb var fitta en vulkan.

När atombomben kommer...

We go and demonstrate, we go and masturbate,
 We go against everything called power and called law.
 Se us fuck in public, that's how we operate,
 If we cannot you and I still do
 You like me concerning sex are quite well versed.
 We get excited in an open space.
 First, you perform your striptease,
 then us both have sex with all ease
 Finally, mom sings along us and so does all of town.

When the A-bomb arrives, let's grab a case of beer
 And go into the woods 'till everything calms down
 When the A-bomb arrives, let's grab a case of beer,
 both you and I and so will all of town

When atomic bomb thunder rolls mightily,
 We lie in the grass, drinking beer, screwing tightly
 When the A-bomb arrives, think of us, yourself and me,
 Our dick will survive, just like our fanny

The two of us on Saturday evening dash to the cathouse
 We've been married for some years and want something
 new.

You take a handsome seaman, and I take a girl from Zealand
 We try everything, we're young and it's tasty
 Then we sneak away and bonk each other crazy
 It's incredible what both of us can do.
 It's exactly what works wonders amidst weekend binges.
 Our cock is an atomic bomb, a vulva a volcano.

When the A-bomb arrives...



Kids with the cloud chamber of the Gilbert Atomic Energy Lab.



Album "The Madame's Songs" with Johnny Bode (right) and Lillemor (left) became popular, full of naughty songs. But if Johnny shook your hand, better count your fingers...

History Corner

I count the start of the "History Corner" column from #96 when finds from our national library began to pour in. The "History Corner" headline came 10 issues later. During the C-pandemic Stockholm's Royal Library opened their digital



newspaper article for a trial period, and I suddenly had thousands of newspaper clips with odd and interesting historical info about sf and fandom.

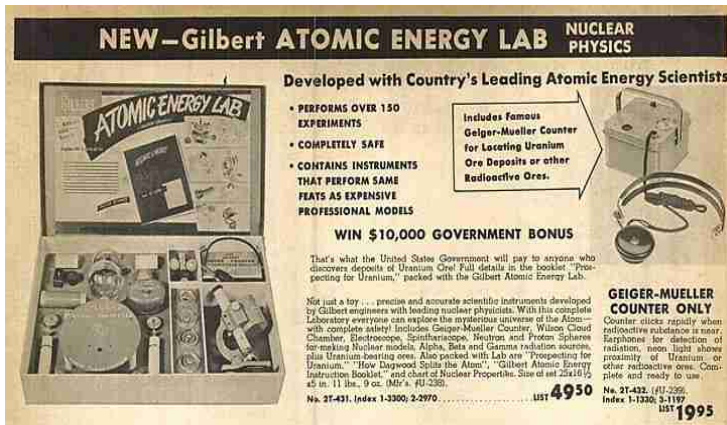
There isn't much unused stuff left of that - a little, perhaps - but there is *endless* sf and fandom related material from history to dig up. So no reason to quit with what many see as this eminent fanzine's main *raison d'etre*! And I have always myself liked to dig up interesting pieces of history. I eg spent decades digging in genre history for my fancyclopedic *Fandboken*. BTW, I experiment with marking key words for X-tra hot things **LIKE THIS** hoping you won't miss it!

This time, let's look a little more into the *Atomic bomb*! It seems to be a very hot topic, as one Mr P threatens the world with it. And skiffy was first to speculate about atomic power. I remember how Captain Future flew around the solar system in the 1940s on his spaceship powered by cyclotrones, an atom smashing device. Cyclotrones were actually used by the Manattan project to separate U235.

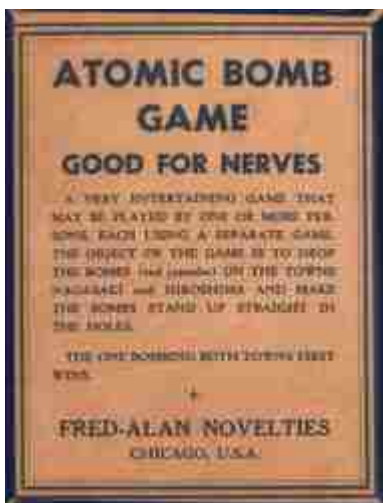
And we've seen the Hollywood blockbuster about the guy who learned to stop worrying and produce the Bomb (see elsewhere in this # - be glad that this issue isn't about small dolls of human females in pink!). There's much to find about the A-bomb, so I let some spill over to separate articles, like: what did Wells write about the A-bomb? Who want to enjoy some merry music about armageddon? What was the address to the Atomic city Los Alamos?

When the A-bomb came everything became atomic! You may know that a certain female bathing suit is named from an island H-bombed to oblivion. But the military's **NEW TOYS** were also produced as toys for those who were slightly younger. We have for instance the Gilbert toy factory's Atomic Energy Lab, launched around 1950 and becoming rather popular. The price of around \$5 was still a lot at the time. The set contained uranium ore, a working Geiger meter

and a cloud chamber. It's fascinating to see nuclear decay creating small vapour traces. We did such



experiments in school, I remember. For those thinking atomic experiments are dangerous, uranium ore is very *weakly* radioactive... But then I read that one of the experiments relied on - probably extremely small amounts of it but still - polonium! That was the stuff Putin's henchmen killed Alexander Litvinenko with. Not good.



A competitor for the Little Atomic Scientist was Chemcraft's *Chemistry Lab Featuring Atomic Energy*. I'm not sure exactly what it contained - perhaps a little polonium? - but from an open box we see it was quite a lot.



There was much more atomic stuff to excite the kids. We find a 1946 ad for the Jet-Mobile by which the children could run around riding the Little Boy Hiroshima Bomb! Was Kubrick inspired by this when shooting the A-

bomb rodeo ending of "Dr Strangelove"?

There were of course many Atomic games too. The "Atomic Bomb Game" was "Good for nerves" we learn. On the game board (not shown, but resembling the classic game Battleship) you were to flatten Japanese cities. "Very entertaining", it promised.

You could run your toy Atomic power station too, actually a revamped toy steam engine with lamps that blinked. The Kix Atomic Bomb Ring was rather popular. You could use it for secret messages and there was a small container with a radioactive substance - maybe Polonium? When looking through a lens into it in a dark room you could see atomic decay.



RAY GUNS were common in skiffy. Despite what you think the heat rays of the invading Wells Martians weren't first. Washington Irving described in his *Men of the Moon* (1809, <https://glitternight.com/2014/05/05/ancient-science-fiction-the-men-of-the-moon-1809-by-washington-irving/>) how Lunarians shoot

Coronet
May, 1942
-p. 101-
**Uranium-235:
Can It Win the War?**



In guarded laboratories all over the world, quiet men of science are engaged in a grim race. The prize? A weapon which alone might win the war.

IMAGINE a substance with explosive power so great that a 10-pound bomb could blast a hole 25 miles in diameter and more than a mile deep and wreck every structure within 100 miles. Think of a magic metal with so much potential energy that a five-pound piece of only 10 per cent purity could be used to drive battleships and submarines back and forth across the oceans without refueling for months.

It's not at all beyond the realm of possibility, either!

As a result of work being conducted in carefully guarded laboratories all over the world, there is every likelihood that cheap, almost inexhaustible atomic power will be achieved in the lifetimes of most of us—thanks to a heavy metal known as Uranium-235. There are those who believe that U-235 will play an important and perhaps decisive role in this war.

As a matter of fact, the world was given a one-day fright in February, 1941, when carefully manufactured rumors emerged from Germany that the Third Reich's scientists had finally perfected a uranium atomic-energy bomb, theoretically two million times as powerful as an ordinary bomb of equal weight. Of course, this was a bald mixture of wishful thinking and Nazi bogey-man tactics. If they had such a weapon, not a single word would have been necessary. An English city razed to the ground would have done the trick.

More than 10 years ago William O. Stapledon, an imaginative Briton, foresaw such an event. Only Stapledon laid the scene on a lonely English beach—and set the date for 1980. Not until then, he prophesied, would physicists finally solve the problem of atomic power.

At that time, a picked group of great international scientists (goes the



"concentrated sunlight" on enemies.

The Star Trek phasers, that may be set on stun, and today's Tasers that do stun, have an sf forefather too. Actually, the word "taser" is an abbreviation of "Tom A Swift's Electric Rifle", from the popular juvenile Tom Swift booklet series by the collective pseudonym "Victor Appleton"

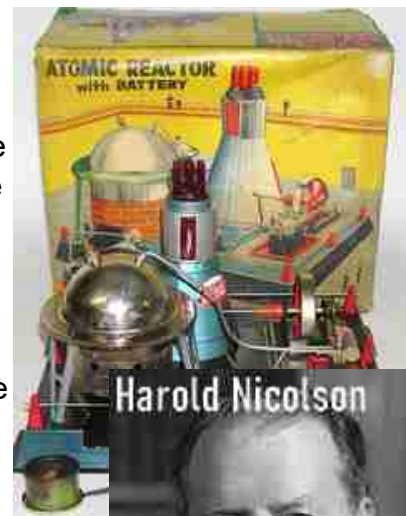
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Swift Jack Cover from NASA chose the term taser "for the stun weapon he developed in the 1970s.

[http://www.technovelgy.com/ct/content.asp?](http://www.technovelgy.com/ct/content.asp?Bnum=671)

[Bnum=671](http://www.technovelgy.com/ct/content.asp?Bnum=671)

The idea of A-bombs didn't end with HG Wells. There were several **EARLY WARNINGS** and anyone interested in science might be able to see that something atomic was brewing. Sf fans would often find atomic power in the pulps, but it could be found in mundane sources too. Here a number of early atomic examples in chronological order, of which I'll just quote snippets as some have been covered in detail in earlier *Intermissions*:

None other than Winston Churchill, always interested in science and being a friend of HG Wells, talked about it in a 1927 essay, "Shall We All Commit Suicide?", <https://winstonchurchill.org/publications/finest-hour/finest-hour-094/shall-we-all-commit-suicide/> He returned to the



Harold Nicolson



subject several time and in 1933 even spoke at a conference about "the latest developments in nuclear science". <https://www.ias.edu/ideas/2013/farmelo-churchill>

■ British diplomat and politician Harold Nicholson describes a future war starting in 1939 in his 1932 novel *Public Faces*, where A-bombs come to use.

■ This piece (prev page) from US magazine Coronet, May 1942, is security service raid-worthy: *"Uranium-235 Can it Win the War?": In guarded laboratories around the world quiet men are engaged in a grim race. The prize? A weapon which alone might win the war. Imagine a substance with explosive power that a 10-pound bomb could blast a hole 25 miles in diameter and more than a mile deep and wreck every structure within 100 miles...could drive battleships and submarines without refueling for months...cheap, almost inexhaustible atomic power will be achieved in the lifetime for most of us – thanks to a heavy metal known as Uranium-235 ...rumours emerged from Germany that the Third Reich's scientists had finally perfected a uranium atomic-energy bomb... Stapledon laid down the scene /more sf!/ on a lonely English beach - and set the date for 1980 /when/ physicists finally solved the problem of atomic power."* Coronet was a general interest magazine owned by *Esquire* and published 1936-1971. Their Uranium article is sensationally on the spot, but we've never heard that the guys with twisting cords in their ears raided it.

■ As the Allied forces late in 1944 began to break into Germany, Nazi labs and research facilities were overrun, and Nov 24 that year Swedish Arbetarbladet reported, *"Was it Hitler's Secret Weapon?"*(right) : *...producing 'heavy water' and rumours said German engineers who came to Rjukan experimented with 'heavy water' to make a new explosive that if you compare dynamite would resemble firecrackers. German experiments were said to release atomic power itself. People said that small atomic bomb would be more devastating than the English four-ton bombs.* Rjukan refers to the heavy water plants Norwegian commandos blew up in a daring raid. The article has a lively description of the raid. Someone probably was in touch with the commandos as they fled to Sweden after their mission. Similar articles appeared elsewhere.

Var det Hitlers hemliga vapen?
Nov 24, 1943
I en laboratoriebyggnad hade några särskilt duktiga arbetare satts att söka några nya och konstiga kemiska apparater. De framställde »tungt vatten», och ryktet påstod att de tyska ingenjörer som kommit till Rjukan experimenterade med ett av »tungt vatten» göra ett nytt sprängämne jämfört med vilket dynamit var lika ofarligt som ryska smållare. De tyska experimenterades gå ut på att släppa lös själva atomkraften. Folk påstod att en liten »atom-bomb» skulle ha mer förödande verkningar än de engelska fyratonsbombarna, att det nya sprängämnet, när det blivit fullt utexperimenterat, skulle användas till att jämna London med jorden.
Plötsligt stod fem maskerade män med automatpistoler i händerna i laboratoriet. »Hendene i väref!» kommanderande de på oförfälskad norska. Men arbetarna i laboratoriet såg till sin häpnad att männen hade engelska soldatuniformer. Under högra axellaffnen skymtade man en liten lapp på vilken stod broderat »Norways». Arbetarna fick med händerna i luffen marschera ut ur rummet och ställdes upp mot en vägg, bevakade av tre av de maskerade männen medan de båda återstående stannade kvar i laboratoriet. Efter en stund hördes en våldsam explosion. Hela avdelningen för framställning av tungt vatten förvandlades till en ruin.

■ The same paper reported Dec 14: *...Hitler's secret weapon is an explosive built on released atomic energy. The heavy water and the metal uranium plays a role in the experiments. It went on in Rjukan in Norway, but the laboratories have been blown up by the English /Norwegians with British training/ Hitler's secret weapon will be produced by cyclotrons in professor Bohr's institute in Copenhagen that has been seized by the Germans.*

■ Finally from the daily Aftonbladet May 17 1944, *before Trinity and Hiroshima:* *"A-bomb Would Lay All of London in Ruins":*

For years the German scientists worked with experiment concerning splitting the atom intending to make a bomb which when hitting could flatten all of London. At the time of the armistice the bomb was ready but from the Allied side it's effect was doubtful. American medic soldiers from the 30th medic company made a find that might give clues when investigating the German scientists work. In the hospital of Mergentheim a little wooden box was found containing radium worth a million dollar. Also British scientists have worked in the "atomic principle" intending to make a new sort of bomb, government sources say.

The huge US project isn't mentioned. As for the Germans, they did build a small dysfunctional reactor. Heisenberg had made a couple of errors in his calculations - eg finding a critical mass in tons rather than kilograms - and they weren't close to making a bomb. Anyway, if all this Bomb info was available, though more on German than US research, even in a small country in the periphery of Atomic research, many more newspaper articles must have appeared all over the world.

Atombomb skulle lägga hela London i ruiner

— Privat till Dagens Nyheter. —
MED AMERIKANSKA TRUPPER I TYSKLAND, onsdag.
U.P. I årtal arbetade tyskarnas vetenskapsmän med försök och experiment med atomsprängningar i syfte att få fram en bomb som vid nedslaget skulle kunna jämna hela London med marken.

Vid tiden för vapenstilleståndet var det första exemplaret av denna bomb klar, men dess verkan betraktas på allierat håll som tvivelaktig. Amerikanska sjukvårdssoldater tillhörande 30:e sjukvårdskompani har gjort ett fynd som kanske kan ge ledtrådar vid undersökningarna av de tyska vetenskapsmännens rön. I sjukhuset Bad Mergentheim hittades en liten trälåda innehållande radium till ett värde av en miljon dollar. Även brittiska vetenskapsmän har arbetat enligt "atom-principen" med sikte på ett nytt slags bomber, förklaras i regeringskretsar.

But this is interesting. A well-known camera company saw something strange:
<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/energy/a21382/how-kodak-accidentally-discovered-radioactive-fallout/>

When Kodak Accidentally Discovered A-Bomb Testing. *Two thousand miles away from the U.S. A-bomb tests in 1945, something weird was happening to Kodak's film. The ground shook, a brilliant white flash enveloped the sky, and the world changed forever. Code name "Trinity", the bomb test at dawn on July 16 1945 in Alamogordo, New Mexico, the first large-scale atomic weapons testing in history. Only three weeks later two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan. More than 1,900 miles away from Alamogordo, at the Rochester, NY headquarters of Eastman Kodak, a flood of complaints came in from business customers who had recently purchased sensitive X-ray film from the company. Black exposed spots on the film, or "fogging", had rendered it unusable. This perplexed many Kodak scientists, who had gone to great lengths to prevent contaminations like this. Julian H. Webb, a physicist in Kodak's research department, took it upon himself to dig deeper and test the destroyed film. What he uncovered was shocking. The fogging of Kodak's film and the Trinity test in New Mexico were eerily connected, revealing some chilling secrets about the nuclear age. Webb could conclude that the film was affected by radiation from the packaging, but didn't know why. Later when the Trinity test was known, he could add two and two together and in a 1949 concluded: / The most likely explanation of the source of this radioactive contaminant appears to be that it consisted of wind-borne radioactive fission products derived from the atom-bomb detonation in New Mexico on July 16, 1945...In March 1951, a frustrated Kodak threatened to sue the U.S. government for the "considerable amount of damage to our products resulting from the Nevada tests or from any further atomic energy tests..." Finally the company and the government came to an agreement. The AEC would provide Webb, by now the head of Kodak's physics division, with schedules and maps of future tests so that Kodak could take the necessary precautions to protect its product. In return, the people of Kodak were to keep everything they knew about the government's Nevada nuclear testing a secret.*

Even before Trinity, the time was ripe for an A-bomb. Speculations trickled into the press, and all following science news can't have been totally surprised. The fandom community wasn't too surprised either. And just half a year after Hiroshima LASFAS arranges their "Atomic Conference", January 10, with author AE Van Vogt as a main speaker. We read in Ron Hansen's history of LASFAS *Bixel Strasse* <https://taff.org.uk/ebooks/Bixel.pdf> about what they called **A T O M I C O N**:

Under the date of 4 January 1946 approximately 100 persons in the metropolitan area of Los Angeles acquainted with scientific fiction received a six-page mimeographed prospectus of The ATOMICOM. Said the conceptor of the Conference; Arthur Louis Joquel II, by way of introduction: The atomic bombs which startled and dismayed the world last year were no surprise to readers of science fiction. For over 30 years, the release and use - whether for peace or war - of atomic energy has been virtually a commonplace in the stories of the future. That future of which we wrote and read is now a reality. And it has brought with it problems which confront every one of us - that is, if we are at all interested in our own survival and the survival of the world. With this in mind, the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society is sponsoring an ATOMICOM - an Atomic Forum. One third of the persons invited responded, meeting on the evening of Thursday 10 Jan at a hall located by Abby Lu Ashley and Fran Laney. Joquel had appointed the room with pictures, magazines and books of an atomic nature. In the audience were such persons as Everett Evans, Bob Olsen, Gus Willmorth, Al Ashley, Tigrina, Chas Burbee, Art Barnes, Russ Hodgkins, Roy Squires. Joquel stepped to the platform at 8:45 and opened the meeting with a five minute resumé of atomic energy in fiction. Wells, Train, Stapledon were acknowledged as promulgators of atomic power in the pages of several of their books; and it was pointed out that author Bob Olsen, who was present, had "invented" radatomite in the February 1931 Amazing for a lunar flight in "The Man Who Annexed the Moon". Heinlein and Cartmill were cited as latter-day prophets with honor. At ten to nine Guest Speaker A.E. van Vogt was introduced. The slim Slan author, influenced by freezing winters in his former home of Canada, lectured on the theme of atomic power's thermal potentialities. He outlined how, by a judicious warming of key lakes in the frozen wastes of Canada, the entire north American continent could be transformed into a land of southern Californian climate....He went on to visualize a greatly decentralized world in the Atomic Age. As an aside he stated that he liked the Beyond This Horizon world of Anson MacDonald - "minus the guns that fire at the slightest Insult."

Worth looking up is the special issue of *Collier's*, Oct 27 1951, which dealt entirely with a possible atomic WWII, A "Preview of the War We Do Not Want". Here's a PDF of it:
<https://www.docdroid.net/LjUq5xg/colliers-weekly-27-october-1951-pdf> US and allies confront the USSR, kicks ass and get rid of all communists.

An odd observation from <https://www.newinterestingfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-the-atomic-bomb/> "In 1955, the United States detonated a nuclear bomb close to a few beer bottles and cans to

see if you could still drink it after a nuclear explosion. The test at the time determined that they were still drinkable. Today, scientists question this theory.” Swell that this important question has been investigated!

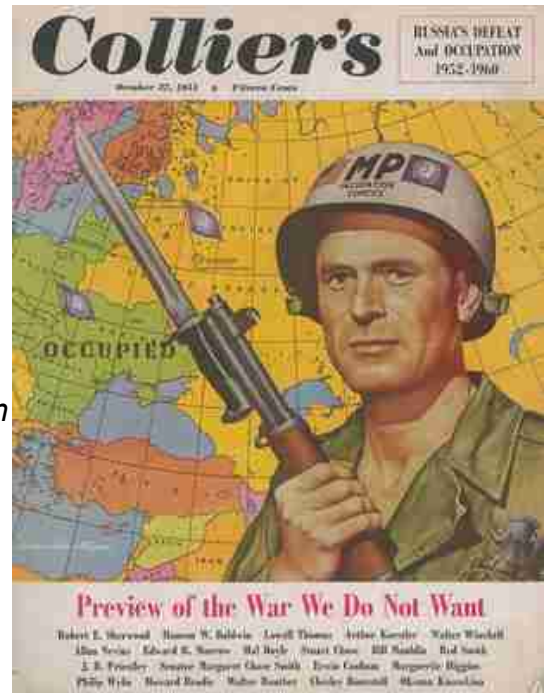
Important info for all you sciencifiction writers who describe a post-apocalyptic world devastated by nukes, where three-legged mutants stumble among giant, glowing ants decades after one idiot – Ronald Chump, or someone? - pushed the Button! While nukes do trash material objects real good and do immensely more damage to a city than even the local Green Party's traffic regulations, the *radioactive fallout is way, way more forgiving than often assumed!* Otherwise Hiroshima would be a deserted heap of rubble and twisted steel beams for decades. In reality, Hiroshima's water pipes, sewage, electricity even limited tram service was begun to be repaired within days of the A-bombing, people began to return within weeks and months... The reason is **THE RULE OF SEVEN:**

For every sevenfold increase in time after detonation, there is a tenfold decrease in the radiation rate. So, after seven hours the radiation rate is only 10% of the original and after 49 hours (7 x 7 = 49) it is 1%. After 196 hours, just over a week, residual radiation is 1/1000th!

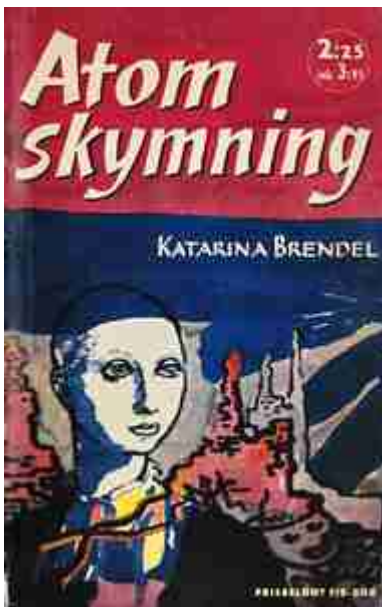
Fallout from a nuke vanish really quick! The initial radiation burst from the detonation is pretty dangerous (that's why you can tweak nukes to become “neutron bombs”) but a nuclear power plant accident is worse than a Bomb. Chernobyl was radiation-wise 400 times worse than Hiroshima. A nuclear reactor contains much, much more radioactive material than an A-bomb - tens of tons Vs a few kg - and an power plants produce more *long-lived* radioactive isotopes. BTW, as for “mutants”, radiation won't change what exists, only *coming* generations!

There are worries about safety procedures for nuclear warheads. They are, on the US side, protected by something called *Permissive Action Links*, electronic devices that blocks important arming functions of nukes with codes unless the president authorises the use. But checking

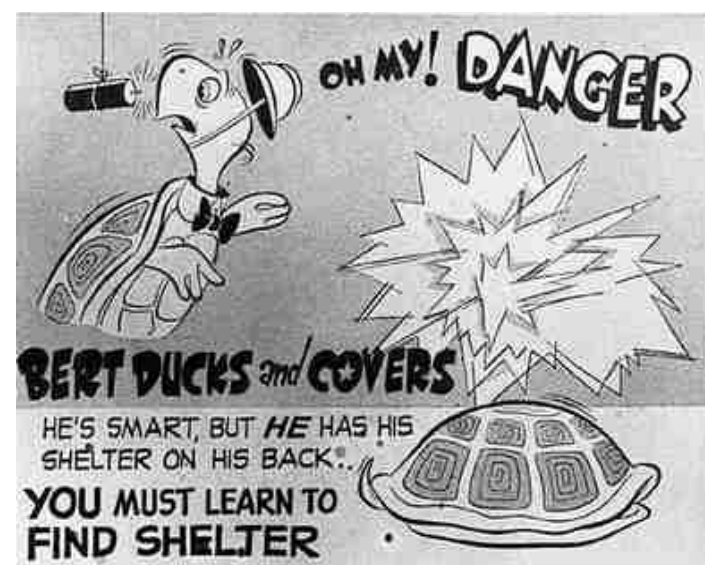
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permissive_action_link we learn there has earlier in history been rather lackadaisical standards! In the early 1950's president Eisenhower allowed high-level American officers to fire off nukes “if there was no time or means to reach the president”. Pilots could fire nuclear anti-aircraft rockets towards Soviet bombers on their way to the US, without specific orders. This spread of authorisation was however kept secret and continued until Kennedy took office. JFK was shocked to learn that in Europe **MOST US NUKES HAD NO LOCKS** on them. That began the Permissive Action Link program, the PALs which would stop a Bomb from arming at all without codes or having the firing sequence disturbed so it would misfire (though early PALs could be “hot-wired” like a stolen car, if you knew how). A misfire may blow up the conventional explosives of the implosion lenses, but as it's done outside the fine control



Collier's WWII issue. US and allied defeat the USSR, occupies it, kicks out communist and reconstructs Russia. Below ToC of the issue.



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needed critical mass isn't reached, and there'll just be a big bang - unfortunately spreading plutonium. I once wrote a story where a warhead is rather harmlessly destroyed by being shot at with an ordinary gun. The Bomb will explode, but not nuclearly.

For a long time the most powerful US nukes weren't more protected than a just purchased cellphone, as Wiki informs: *US Air Force's Strategic Air Command worried that in times of need the codes for the Minuteman ICBM force would not be available, so it decided to set the codes to 00000000 in all missile launch control centers. Blair said the missile launch checklists included an item confirming this combination until 1977.* OK, my new phones start codes had only four zeroes, so the

Minuteman was slightly better protected. Slightly: **ALL CODES 0000000...**

As for control of Russian nukes, there's no info. But it

could be that a bribe of a few bottles of vodka wouldn't be rejected...

What's the first nuclear Armageddon story in the English Language is hard to find out, since several fight for that honour to different degrees. HG Wells just reaches some Atomic destruction but no real Ragnarök. But the first Swedish one is probably *Atomskymning* ("Atomic Twilight") by "Katarina Brendel" (pseud for Hilde Rubinstein) in 1953. This novel won a manuscript competition and was printed in 80 000 (!) copies. Info through Google Translate: <https://ekstromgaray-se.translate.google.com/translate/g?hl=sv&sl=en&u=https://www.folksam.se/forlag/atomskymning-1953/>

The sequence of events in Atomic Twilight is simple: the artist falls in love with several women and intends to stay, but in the end he leaves the poisoned city in time before it is wiped out in a large bomb attack: "Not even the remains of the city are now left One of the artist's cronies who, out of compassion, supplies the deformed townspeople with booze turns out to have a past as a fighter pilot. He is the one who "dropped the hell fungus", and he sees to it that both he and a group of high-ranking colleagues perish, as punishment.

At least, that's the first with nuclear bombs. **SWEDEN'S 1ST NUCLEAR STORY**, ie describing some sort of nuclear power, could be Denis Lindbohm's short story "Atombranden" ("Atomic Fire"), in *Jules Verne Magasinet* september 1945, where a sort of atomic pile begin to glow and burn by accident. It was presented as a true story from the readership!

After the war Sweden began thinking about getting nuclear weapons. The Swedes first contacted the Americans and politely asked if they could **BUY SOME A-BOMBS!** The Americans must have thought that Sven had been slurping that Aquavit again... But there's no doubt the Swedes in their own Manhattan project could build Bombs themselves /f/r/o/m //K/E/A /p//a/n/s. Plutonium in nuclear waste - the Ågesta plant south of Stockholm was built to secure it - and the mere design of a Bomb isn't much of a secret. Dagens Nyheter even revealed, June 17 1983, that a Swede even took out a **PATENT FOR AN A-BOMB**, He acquired a patent for a Swedish A-bomb:

The blueprint for a Swedish A-bomb were ready already in June 1959. In a patent application unknown until now from the ASEA director Ragnar Liljeblad, approved in 1963, was a solution for "arranging the fissionable substance in A-bomb". The patent is from a time when the government hadn't decided if Sweden should have A-weapons or not. The supreme commander, opposition and also parts of the Social Democrats eagerly wanted a "defensive A-bomb"....Liljeblad had a central in the atomic research at the time. Up to 1956 in the board of state-owned Atomic Energy Inc. After retirement he is consulting technical director of ASEA and together with the atomic lab chief Curt Mileikowsky the force behind their nuclear energy plan...but Mileikowsky says he didn't know about the A-bomb patent. "Liljeblad probably had an idea, that he worked through. It was normal for him to find out now constructions...the ASEA CEO Åke Vretheim says Liljeblad must have done this privately. But it strange that ASEA's patent handler Philip Grunler also took the A-bomb patent..."That's not strange. A patent must be handled," Vretheim says. This Grunler was very important and processed all mail about the patent 1959-1963. March 18 1960 a message from the Patent Office noted that

"the patent claim seems to be similar to A-bombs of 'Japan type'." Grunler answers that the design is totally different from "Japan types". The Liljeblad Bomb has substantially bigger explosive power. After a long mail exchange Grunler backs down in January 1963 and accepts reduced patent claims. In April that year the Patent Office says their scrutiny is finished and the patent is on the way to be approved. Grunler is in a haste. He says "the publication of the patent must be immediate". The purpose is to be earlier than others. As soon as Ragnar Liljeblad's patent for "arranging the fissionable substance in A-bomb" and a sketch is pushed. A Swedish A-bomb becoming public. How come? Defence inventions are usually secret. But a Patent Office decided it wouldn't be so already in 1959 /this board is then presented but those contacted don't remember the issue, and one Martin Fehrm believes the reason is that the patent was insignificant. Since no one remember anything it can't be said why the Bomb wasn't classified. The Supreme commander and Curt Mileikowsky are then interviewed. The latter says/ that there was both industrial and intellectual capacity in the late 1950s to build an A-bomb. ASEA would have been involved if the government decided so. But does he think it was right by Liljeblad to act before a decision? "The government gave technicians full freedom. Nothing wrong to present a patent before a decision. It's a way to say: This is how it may be done..." /Captions: Liljeblad is presented with the same info as in the article, and the members of the Patent Office board which I won't bore you with. We see page 1 of the patent too blurred to read, but the patent number seems to be 187 314./

(BTW, I thought this article was in an earlier *Intermission*, but I don't find it after spending a lot of time scanning old issues, so hopefully you see this for the first time.) Here's an academic paper on the Swedish A-Bomb, from Stockholm university in Swedish but with an English "abstract": <https://su.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1567657/FULLTEXT01.pdf> (Try AI translation of the full

Han fick patent på en svensk atombomb

Redan i juni 1959 låg ritningarna klara för en svensk atombomb. I en hittills okänd patentansökan från ASEA-direktören Ragnar Liljeblad, som slutligen godkändes 1963, presenterades en lösning för "anordning av det klyvbara ämnet i en atombomb".

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Patentan kom under en tid på regeringens ämnen inte till tillgängligt men återkom till riksdagen 1963. Men inte förrän Mileikowsky säger sig känna till atombombpatenten.

Liljeblad fick väl någon idé, som han sedan presenterade. För honom var det troligen normalt att hitta på nya konstruktioner. Åker för.

Andä motade Liljeblad en central funktion inom dåtidens atomforskning. Fram till 1959 satt han som näringslivet utrikesrepresentant i statliga AB Atomenergi.

Åven Lars Lohm, Mileikowskys efterträdare i atomlabbet, förnekar att han kännit till bomben.

Han uppbar efter sin pension 1950 posten som kommersiell teknisk direktör på ASEA och var tillgänglig som teknisk rådgivare till Carl Mileikowsky, den svenska kraftens bäst förklarade kärnkraftsplanering.

Helt privat ASEAs ägarfamilj VD, Åke Vretham, önskar att Liljeblad måste ha gjort detta helt privat.

Högre plan Jag har bara postens minnen av Liljeblad, säger Mileikowsky.

Det var väl inte så konstigt. Något omöjligt uttalande från 1970, säger den gamle VD:n.



Den 13 mars 1960 tog han emot ett försäkringskrav från Patentverket. I detta påpekade att "patentansökan avseende konstruktionslösning med beteckningen 'anordning av det klyvbara ämnet i en atombomb av Japan-typ'".



21 januari 1964 publicerades Ragnar Liljeblads patent för anordning av det klyvbara ämnet i en atombomb. I patentet fanns också en skiss för hur atombombens laddning skulle ordnas.

ter som beskriver "Japan-typens". Liljeblads bomb menar Grunler, hade en betydligt högre sprängkraft.

En av de som utvärderade skisserna var Carl Fehrm och godkänner i januari 1963 värdslaste patentansökan.

Klartecken

I april skrevs de kommande klartecknen i från Patentverket att godkännandet är avslutat och att patentet är på väg att godkännas.

Da får Grunler bråk. Han säger att konstruktören av patentansökan måste ske offentliggöras. Syftet är uppenbart. Ingen annan ska få hitta före.

Och så igen 21 januari 1964 publiceras Ragnar Liljeblads patent "för anordning av det klyvbara ämnet i en atombomb" med värdslaste skiss.

En svensk atomkrafts kraft offentliggjordes. Hur kunde det hända så?

Traditionellt brukar ju försvarets utveckling vara hemlig. Men redan 1959 beslutade en såväl på Patentverket att så inte skulle ske med Liljeblads bomb.

I denna nämnd, Granhagens-

nämnden för försvarsuppgifter, satt till Patentverket chef Åke von Zweigbergk. Försvarstabens major Carl Fehrm och chefen för Flygväsendets försäkringsnämnd Martin Fehrm.

Som remissinstanser använde nämnden samliga försvarsgrenar.

Glämt bort

Men trots kända tilläggen de-klara karaktär i en del av Överbefälhavarens utläggning om atomvapen stod stick i stav mot regeringens utvärdering.

Förstom jag satt i försäkringsnämnden på den tiden, så måste jag väl ha känt till det då, men det har tydligen inte stannat i minnet, säger Fehrm till DN.

Sjätte tror han att det kan betyda att patentet var av en ganska obetydlig karaktär.

Fatt i andra sidan minns jag inte någon in de grejer vi haft på med tillika Fehrm.

Inte heller försäkringschefen för Flygväsendet, general Curt Öhransson, kan sätta sig bomben till minnes. Trots att en av hans närmaste män kände till den.

Jag hade ju inget ansvar för vad minn underlystannade till, på med tillika nämndens, säger han.

Offentlig

Med denna bakgrund att ingen av dem som utvärderade bomben, tillgav svenska atombombkonstruktörer det givetvis inte heller att konstruera varför de inte hemliggjordes. Den utvärderade utläggningen bland de tillgängliga verktyg blev inte tillgängligt inte blev med något nytt.

Men faktum kvarstår, det påstås, om detta har dövs under försvarsminister Sven Andersson en del funderingar.

Överbefälhavaren ville ju ha en atombomb. Och om det blev så skulle militären ha haft nytta av den där uppfinningen, säger han.



Ragnar Liljeblad var efter sin pension 1959 konsulterande teknisk direktör på ASEA och var tillgänglig som teknisk rådgivare till Carl Mileikowsky, den svenska kraftens bäst förklarade kärnkraftsplanering.



Åke Vretham var VD på ASEA. Han nämner uppfinningen.



Curt Mileikowsky, grundläggare för ASEA, säger till DN.



Lars Lohm, Mileikowskys efterträdare i atomlabbet.



Åke Vretham var VD på ASEA. Han nämner uppfinningen.



Martin Fehrm, chef för Flygväsendets försäkringsnämnd.



Curt Öhransson var försäkringschef för Flygväsendet. Han nämner uppfinningen.

Jag säger inget om konstruktören. Men om Sverige hade konstruktörer för atomvapen, hade jag Liljeblad varit lyckosam om hans patent kommit till utvärdering, säger han.

Bäst skildrad var Mileikowsky att det var det var Liljeblad som föreslog detta beslut.

Regeringens tillgång till kärnkraftens till tillgängligt försvaret, säger han. Och jag kan inte säga att det var från ett patent som man fick besitt. Det är att säga att om det var från ett patent.

JAN MALMBOG

text. Als are getting rather clever.) The military had already selected a test site, Nausta in the Norrbotten province. While waiting for the big firecrackers they made test detonations of 50 or 100 tons of TNT. Here's a film of such a "simulated" nuclear explosion:

<https://www.forsvarsmakten.se/sv/information-och-fakta/var-historia/artiklar/foajaure-den-stora-smallen/>

So there you have it! The Swedes had a program and a *patent* for the Bomb!
Though the patent has by now lapsed...

Thor Modeen (1898-1952)



His birth town Kungsör has a Thor Modeen Theatre.

Every winter, on his birthday January 22, fans of old movies gather by the grave of the great comedy actor Thor Modeen. So also this year. The grave is on the Adolf Fredrik churchyard in central Stockholm. We enjoy a "lättdrogg" ("light drink" on soda and brandy) hear a short speech and then move to the home of Thor's daughter Margareta for an evening of food and some entertainment.. *Intermission* has reported about these gatherings before, but that won't stop me from doing it *again*.

We were just over 20 who had gathered, all fans of old "lager movies" (as I translate the term "pilsnerfilm", old lighthearted comedies) and as interested in history I'm interested in entertainment history

too. I enjoy old black and white movies much more than new worthless crap full of meaningless explosions, computer animation and bad scripts. Cary Grant was much better than Tom Cruise, and Ingrid Bergman will make Julia Roberts seem like an escapee from a student theatre group.

Thor Modeen would often portray a jovial boss of a small business, usually with the small fast-mouthed Åke Söderblom as employee, a slightly incompetent military conscript, an estate owner in dire straights



needing cash not to lose the manor, or something similar. though always with a smile on his face. He appeared in 88 movies in the 1930s and 1940s, also in small parts because as <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0595361/> says "His presence in a movie usually meant that it was rescued from disaster at the box-offices, even if he only appeared in a small role." More from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thor_Modéen.



Modeen pretends to be a hot-blooded Mexican in "Pensionat Paradiset"

His films are often shown in TV's afternoon slots devoted to old classics. His most talked about film is "*Pensionat Paradiset*" ("*Boarding House Paradise*", 1937) which set off a debate at the time as high-brow "fine" critics saw it as an example of how low film art had sunken... Those people will never forgive harmless entertainment! Movies must be deep, dark, psychological and incomprehensible. You can find "*Pensionat Paradiset*" at <https://ok.ru/video/4944438102686>, though without subtitles.

For me the Thor Modeen celebrations is one of the highlights of the winter, better than Christmas (which is overrated anyway). Arriving at Margareta's – she recently turned 89 but still has both wits and energy! - three of our company got stuck in the lift, having to wait for a janitor to come and rescue them. Having attended for a number of years I recognised most faces but I'm very bad with names, unfortunately. I for instance missed the name of the guy who was a retired tramway (trolley for 'murikans) driver, who I had some interesting discussions as a fan of public transport. We got some input from a new guy, Martin (another Martin, with Anna-Lena, were engaged elsewhere this day, alas - it must have been something *darn important!*) from Lund about the brand new tram service that has opened there. It's possible the new Lund tramway will expand a little, we learned, and the

Stockholm system - four routes by now - is already decided to be expanded. Good news!

I mentioned the railway station in the borough of Hässelby where I grew up, on the outskirts of Stockholm, and later integrated into the capital city.



The surroundings were "semi-rural" but still not far from the film studios. So whenever a movie needed



The train station of the suburb Hässelby from my boyhood was often used when Modeen and other movie makers needed shots of a "rural" station. This often filmed station existed when I was a kid but was later torn down.

scenes from a countryside or small town railway they went to Hässelby station, including for some Thor Modeen movies. The famous/notorious "Åsa-Nisse" films often used the station. Passenger service had ended in the 1950s, but the station and tracks were still there when I was young.

Margareta had made tasty and meaty cabbage pudding, to be eaten with sallad, brown sauce and potatoes. Afterwards we had coffee and jelly rolls and heard speeches. A special "lager film" prize was presented to one Sara and we had a sing-along of old movie hits: "Ready for Battle", "A Real Mexican" (which Thor Modeen sang in "Pensionat Paradiset") and "Up and Try Your Wings" from the film "Eaglets", which was about a glider flying school:

Don't sit inside like a bear in a cage / that's just wasting your life / Follow us out in Almighty's free nature / and join our song in cheering mode / Up and try your wings / And feel how wonderful it is / You hover there above the clouds / Happy how the wings give you lift / Watch the birds floating in the blue / It's their course we go! The Swedish original: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aK3XL8Jd2A>

Some beer and other liquids were present. I took extra plates of the food and chatted with people around. Towards the end we had the famous "Fish pond" where you got candy and small presents on a stick (a children's game really, but we are all young at heart) in the corner where Margareta has her wall exhibition of Modeen photos and other memorabilia.



The editor at the fish pond.

We had, as Thor Modeen himself often said: *Brilliant times, wonderful times!*

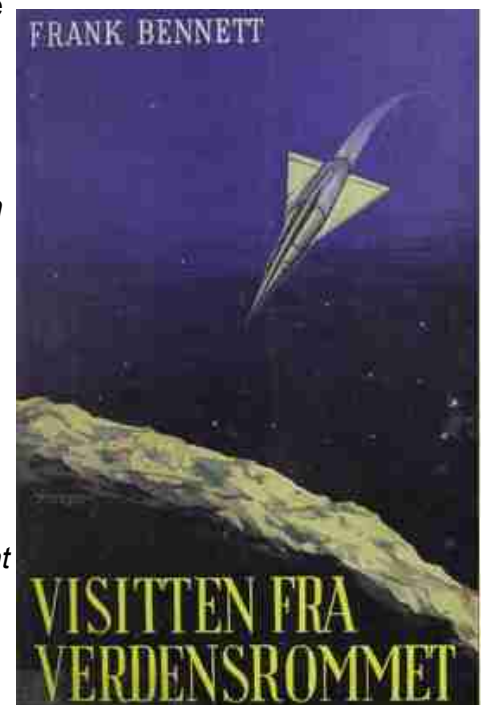
Hitler's Martian Invasion!

The Norwegian sf site *Nyenova.no* often has interesting stuff, for those who read Scandinavian. (Or Google Translate may be of help, electronic brains are getting rather good at it.) Recently they told us about a Norwegian skiffy novel that simply must be on a 10-in-Top list of most bizarre books!

Read about "Hitler's Martian attack" in *The Visit from Space* ("Visitten Fra Verdensrommet", 1954) through Google Translate:

https://www-nyenova-no.translate.google.com/tore-forteller-om-eldre-sf-og-fantasy-hitlers-marsianske-angrep-pa-finnmark/?_x_tr_sl=auto&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=sv&_x_tr_pto=wapp

We learn: *The first chapters in this book are about fly fishing in Finnmark, with lots of practical advice on fishing spots and how to make lures. It appears to be a really good documentary travel guide. But in chapter 6, the hero finds a rocket from Mars. It turns out that it was Hitler's double that died in Berlin, while the dictator himself, with the cream of German scientists, went to the Red Planet and collaborated with an army of telepathic, intelligent, three-meter-tall Martian ants with electronic weapons - who, in fact, had all*



planned an invasion of The Earth. Now they have landed in Finnmark /Northern Norway/ and Tibet to conquer the world...

/The article ponders/ whether Sami reindeer soldiers with insulating rubber boots and long scythes could survive the battle against the Martian ants' electro-machine guns and nuclear power machines under Adolf Hitler's strategic leadership at the Battle of Kautokeino. And who will win World War III? Because if Hitler and Mars won, humanity would have had to regularly give blood to the Martians - who of course prefer a mixture of blood and honey. School children will also have to switch to the Martian 12-digit system - which suits the Martians' six limbs better than



The reindeer herding Samis in Northern Scandinavia are the "indians of Europe". Here a family in their traditional costumes by their tipi-like dwelling. In this book they fight Hitler's Martians.

the 10-digit system. And how would the Norwegian school cope with such a pedagogical challenge? Perhaps you too have been lying awake pondering similar problems? ... But also in *The Visit from space* there is a lot of politics. Among other things, a German defector describes how the Martians cut down their forests and destroyed the environment for technical progress, just as humans on Earth are doing. In other words, this is a science fiction novel with a green view of nature and the environment. The author warns against exploitation of resources.

Now you may be wondering the logic behind Hitler's Martian army attacking Norway and Tibet first? The Nazis believed, incredibly, that Sami and Tibetans could be the missing link between the Aryan race and the survivors of Atlantis.

The Nazis believed, incredibly, that Sami and Tibetans could be the missing link between the Aryan race and the survivors of Atlantis. Before the war, Hitler sent several scientists to Tibet, who measured height, weight and head circumference, studied ancient myths and so on. During the occupation, similarly extensive racial historical research was carried out on the Sami, their mythology and history. A Sami joke at the time was that a Sami family consisted of father, mother, children, grandparents and at least one German social anthropologist...



Samis played a role during WWII, with reindeers running supplies. Here with a military sea transport..

It may seem strange that Sami reindeer herders are the great heroes in the war against Hitler and the Martians? But this comes from an almost total lack of interest in the Sámi's war efforts in Norwegian textbooks. In Murmansk, fortunately, the Sami reindeer herders' war efforts have been honored with a separate monument. The Reindeer soldiers carried ammunition and wounded and rescued airmen from downed planes. The Sami reindeer soldiers took part in the battles for Petsjenga, Nikel and Kirkenes...During the war years, ten thousand injured soldiers were transported by reindeer. 17,000 tons of ammunition and military supplies were delivered to the front. Rein transported 8,000 soldiers to combat missions. Many of these behind enemy lines.

If you read Scandinavian - for a Swede Norwegian is no big problem - you can read the the book in *bokhylla.no*, as it is among the 300 000 Norwegian books digitalised by the Norwegian National Library. As I couldn't find in an off-line version, like a PDF, I took the trouble to screen dump the pages and merge them into a PDF. It took some effortt. Just ask me for the PDFof the book, if you happen to read Scandinavian that is. As it's freely available already one must assume the copyright is in an orphanage. I'd urge all who offers books for download to *PLEASE always make a downloadable version available*, preferably a PDF. Otherwise any reader would be limited to only read it while having net access.

Anyway, *The Visit from Space* is a must for anyone interested in the truly weird!
And if you're into fly fishing.

Mailing Comments

First EAPA, then N'APA...or so. BTW, do a fanzine! It's fun, invigorating, and keeps traditional trufandom afloat. Fanzines are atomic power for true science fiction fans!

Henry Grynsten: Fascinating to read the AI's comments to the AI fanzine FaiNZINE. 1) The AI has no comment at all that it's an AI commenting a fellow AI, no Hey Buddy or so. 2) The comments it does have are just saying the obvious, it's so bland that it borders the meaningless. That AIs do this is something we can observe elsewhere. 3) Its comments to the poem is just a huge heap of cliches. // Hm, "abrud" meant absurd of course... // As for reading skills, the good old "moral panic" works by eg actually claiming that the "victims" read sf, play games, watch movies

Instead of learning to read. Reading this blasted space stuff, game manuals, TV subtitles etc doesn't count.// I have no problems to believe that Lovecraft may very well have written an average of 10 letters per day. But the economics behind, all that postage, that's another matter, it gives room for doubt. My only suggestion is that some of the letters may have been postcards instead, and there the postage was only ¢1. That would cut the costs but probably not enough. // As for 70 pages long letters, I've heard rumours that you've written some very long letters at times... (The longest letter I've written was 30-35 pages or so, if I remember.) // Rather big ships can actually reach Switzerland via the big river Rhine. Switzerland has almost "sea ports" by the Rhine. <http://www.upper-rhine-ports.eu/en/les-ports-partenaires-3/le-port-de-bale.html> // It does feel that the sf genre is in a slump right now, but it may rise again!

There are several signs: 1) Sf is becoming more relevant as we today live in more of an "sf world" (pandemic, AI, numerous space projects, Putin's war). 2) The "mundane" world - as we fans call it - is moving more into sf. More reviews and articles about the genre, mainstream authors more frequently dwell into the genre, production of sf movies and TV shows increases, etc. 3) I have good hope for the continued relevance of verbal storytelling, also through written symbols (the alphabet) as in literature. The reason is that I believe homo sapiens has been primed through maybe 100 000s of years to be especially receptive to people telling stories. For 100 000 years or more we have gathered around camp fires and told and heard stories. While one might argue that a story on paper isn't the same, it isn't that far away. Also, as we are curious creatures, sf is the obvious literary choice for intellectual investigations. 4) People must become tired of fantasy sooner or later. Sf is better than fantasy, having lot of science but not silly dragons, stupid knights and hopeless magicians. I think people t the day

s end would rather have rational things and not anno dazumal, irrelevant imagination and "magic".

William McCabe: My figures are from the government agencies the Statistics Central Bureau and the Public Health Institute. Covid comparisons between countries are meaningless since all use *different definitions* of covid deaths. Sweden used, it seems, a very, very generous definition of death cause: dead + virus, dead + having had the virus earlier, dead + having antibodies, dead + having symptoms...just put everything in the covid column! That inflates figures enormously, and you may want to inflate the figures if you are a health agency that want to seem as important as possible. Death causes is a matter of assessment. Excess deaths are not. Either a person is dead or he is not. No room for opinions. As death figures are amazingly stable over the years, variations in them can be used to see the effects of any new factors, like an epidemic. And Swedish levels of excess deaths – from official government figures – show that excess deaths from the epidemic were *only 1/6th* of claimed. Sweden had the *lowest excess deaths in Europe*. Other countries you quote that simply had *other virus death definitions*.

Heath Row: "if no effort has been taken historically to..." But explain how something done NOW could change history? "...include, say, women or blacks, how is making the effort to include them now discriminatory?" Some get extra privileges, and those left out are thus discriminated. "straight white men dislike the increasing involvement of others and express discontent" That's guesswork, discontent is more likely from being denied the same, ie they are discriminated. "they're no longer the dominant participant" My study says they are, 80% of the sf authors, all under age 80 here counted as active, are male. They are dominant but get less than half the award nominations. Beside that this is unethical it also damages the sf genre. "solution is easy: Nominate more of the people who you think are under-represented" from simple mathematics, you realise one person alone can't change nominations this way. But you can do the next best: point out the hypocritical discrimination, show the statistics, argue about it and try to influence public opinion.



I'd guess that some who erroneously believe they are on the moral high ground become irritated when its pointed out that their schemes are ethically objectionally. To introduce new discrimination, to "diversify" some away and "include" others out has no effect on whatever happened in history. You discriminate some because they don't belong to the right group. *"SFE might not be the best way to determine the general distribution gender"* It's at least thoroughly researched with the ambition to cover the genre fully. And the result of the gender distribution is so clear, with such a huge margin, that it can hardly be dismissed. *"Over time, the SFE will become more diverse"* If so, it would have to start invention authors that don't exist... // On the mundane APAs from the time HPL was active, AFAIK back then they didn't put member publications I bundled mailings. They sent you an official organ and address lists only. They have probably taken up sf fandom APA's habit of making bundled mailings, but it seems it wasn't so from the beginning. Postage has increased so much that few could today afford to make a traditional fanzine on paper and pay distribution. The new Swedish postage for a single light-weight letter is) ca \$1.80 and fanzines that usually are thicker will have to pay \$3.60 or more... // Yes, it is clear that AIs still have a bit to go before they can be called creative, but they are still even at present level more impressive that we could have imagined only a couple of years ago! They are good at mimicing human activities, though not in a very creative way. My attempts at making an AI writing a short story have seen boring results. When I tell them to write a non-fiction article the result is a bit bland, as you see in FaiNZINE. Those articles are far from Pulitzers. But give AIs a couple of years more... //I think I have something like 10 short stories in English, usually translated by myself. That's excluding more "fannish short stories. I have written some such stories in English as my Xmas/New Year story, like the latest one about Santa going to the moon.

Garth Spencer: Diverting space objects can only be done if they are discovered a very early. If we see them late, a nuclear firecracker may be the only option. // *"a primary cause of war is diminishing resources"* - No, as resources aren't generally diminishing that's not the case. Resources are increasing. A primary cause of war is nationalistic chauvinism, as we see in the case of Russia's attack on Ukraine. Russia has the biggest land area in the world and doesn't need more resources. Putin's reason for the attack is to try to increase the perceived power and status of Russia.

Jefferson Swycaffer: *I think that postmodernism has a few ideas of value,...we all bring our individual personal points of view to our work is a valid question-mark regarding science..influenced by who you are, what you believe, the language you speak, and so on.* Not at all. That may be the case for "social sciences", which has always seemed wobbly and mushy. It doesn't apply to *reak*, pysical science – physics, chemistry and such, all areas where you read results from dials, weigh it on a scale, get pixels on CCD-chips etc. A meter will not change it's value depending on "who you are, what you believe, the language you speak. Postmodernism tries to pervert what is knowledge.

Mark Nelson: As for a coup against Putin... Someone observed: a dictator always seems to sit secure, until the moment he isn't. That could apply to Putin too. // *"social sciences" contains the word science, they are not sciences in the same way that the physical and biological sciences are.* Right! // *One reason for biased nominations/ is to correct for historical bias in the opposite direction.* But you cannot "correct" history. All that's achieved is to add mer discrimination to old ones. // I have data for sex balance of my short story contest for perhaps 10 years back. Male/female ratio usually hovers around 40-60% either way. Sometimes a slight male majority other times slight female. Most are "amateur writers" and I think in this area girls are about as keen to write as boys. // While I'm against *generally* removing books due to their contents, it's more understandable if it's done in school libraries for grades under high school. I don't think young kids should be subject to explicit sex descriptions or anything that reflects the sex/trans/queer/etc debate in the adult world. They are too young for that, and a school library has an educational responsibility which means to tech pupils at the appropriate age.



Europa Clipper launched later in 2024, let you add your name to sent onboard to Jupiter. As confirmation you got this pic, a msg in a space bottle.

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*In deep sh*t or with a rosy view? The superb Robert Bloch is unsure. (From the Gauer collection, featured in previous #.)*

Слава Україні!