

The Weather

Today—Mostly sunny and warm but not so humid. Highest temperature in the middle 80s. Chance for showers by evening. Yesterday—High, 82; low, 72.

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Single Atomic Bomb Rocks Japanese Army Base With Mightier Force Than 20,000 Tons of TNT To Open New Era of Power for Benefit of Man

Steel Tower Is Transformed Into Gas in Sensational Test In New Mexico Desert; Blind Girl 'Saw' Flash 120 Mi. Away

By International News Service

The War Department revealed yesterday that the blast of the new atomic bomb is so violent that nearby steel structures are utterly destroyed—not merely disintegrated, but transformed instantly into gas.

This sensational disclosure was made in a report on the opening of the "age of atomic energy," when the first United States atomic bomb was exploded on a remote section of the New Mexico desert on July 16, 1945. Scene of the historic test, the Army said, was the Alamo Gordo Air Base, 120 miles southeast of Albuquerque.

The revolutionary bomb, destined to alter the aspect and future course of wars and perhaps the fate of mankind, was mounted on a steel tower.

Then assembled scientists retired to points from 6 to 10 miles from the scene of the detonation.

"At the appointed time," the Army recorded, "there was a blinding flash lighting up the whole area, brighter than the brightest daylight."

Darkening skies, the department stated, "had poured forth rain and lightning immediately up to the zero hour set for the drama."

A mountain range three miles from the observation point stood out in bold relief as the bomb exploded.

"Then came a tremendous, sustained roar and a heavy pressure wave which knocked down two men inside of the control center."

Reached 40,000 Feet
The Army asserted that immediately afterward a huge multi-colored surging cloud rolled to an altitude of over 40,000 feet.

"Clouds in its path disappeared," the War Department declared.

"Soon the shifting sub-stratospheric winds dispersed the new gray mass."

The Army reported that the steel tower had been completely "vaporized."

"Where the tower had stood," the Army said, "there was a huge sloping crater."

The War Department said that a study of the crater gave scientific authorities the information they needed to plan "for the destruction effected in Japan today in the first military use of the atomic bomb."

Tension was at a tremendous pitch just before the explosion, the Army explained, because if the bomb had meant that an uncontrollable, and therefore unusable weapon had been developed.

An old ranch house, the Army revealed, was the cradle of the revolutionary bomb. The Army said the great weapon was assembled there on the night of July 12. Lives Were at Stake

"The full significance of the closing moments before the final atomic test was not lost on the scientists," the Army recalled.

"They fully knew their position as pioneers into another age."

"They also knew that one false move would blast them and their entire efforts into eternity."

There during the final assembly of the bomb, the Army said, when difficulty developed in putting together an important section.

The War Department pointed out that the entire unit had been machine-tooled to the finest measurement, but that it could not be inserted into another, but stuck tightly.

However, the Army said that Dr. R. F. Bacher of Cornell University, charged with the assembly of the vital core, was undaunted. He assured his associates that he could solve the problem, and in three minutes the basic assembly had been completed.

The Army said that other special teams, composed of key men in specific phases of science, then took See BLAST, Page 2, Column 1

Tembler Recorded Same Day Bomb Landed on Japan

By the United Press

There was a faint murmur on the seismograph at Georgetown University Sunday night at 6:22 p. m., the same day the first atomic bomb was dropped upon Japan from an American plane.

University officials were reluctant, however, to attribute the disturbance to repercussions from the powerful new explosive. They said it was "highly improbable" that the explosions of the atom bomb would be registered half-way around the globe.

The officials said it was likely the shock was caused by a minor earth tremor "not too far distant."

Major Bong, Top Air Ace, Killed In Crash of Army P-80 Jet-Fighter

Made a Test Pilot.

As Safety Measure

Burbank, Calif., Aug. 6 (U.P.)—Maj. Richard Bong, America's top air ace who shot down 40 Japanese planes, was killed today in the crash of an Army jet-fighter plane. The curly-haired kid from Poplar, Wis., died testing a P-80 plane, a duty to which he had been assigned because the Army did not wish to risk losing him in an air clash.

Bong, who held the Congressional Medal of Honor for his spectacular series of successes against the Japanese, had been here for the past several weeks on his new duty.

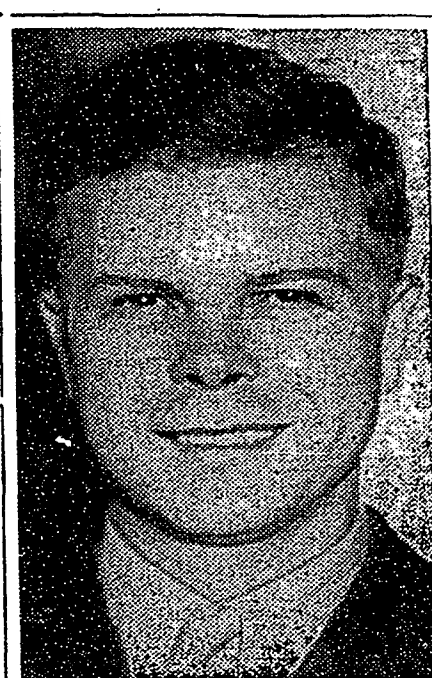
Witnesses said the plane soared from Lockheed air terminal and cruised around San Fernando Valley for about three hours before coming in for a landing.

An Army Transport Command pilot who saw the crash said Bong overshot the field. His plane swerved over a clump of trees and fell to earth in a vacant field.

A pyre of smoke and flame shot into the air.

One witness, John McKinney of North Hollywood, said he saw something fall out of the plane's tail.

"The plane started to wobble



MAJ. RICHARD I. BONG

up and down, then went into a left bank and hit the ground. It exploded and burned and scattered wreckage over about a block square. The scene was about a mile from

Overshoots Field;

Got 40 Jap Planes

Lockheed terminal, near the intersection of Cahuenga and Oxford blvds., and barely outside a crowded San Fernando Valley residential area.

Army officials arrived within minutes and took charge.

Mrs. Bong, the former Marjorie Vattendahl of Poplar, Wis., whom he married in February, was not at home, and army officers were posted at her cottage to break the news.

The cottage was one which he and his beautiful former schoolmate had found after pounding in vain on the doors of 30 prospective landlords. They finally rented it when newspapers carried the story of how the hero, assigned to vital war work, was unable to find a place to live.

He was 24 years old, and had been reported missing in action twice. These, he said, were "typographical errors." On one occasion the right motor was shot out of his P-38, and he lost altitude, pouring smoke out behind. He landed at an emergency field and didn't get back to his base for two days. The other time, he said, he landed at the wrong place and the "missing" report went out again.

Planes Strafe Tokyo Area as 5 Cities Blaze

Manila, Aug. 7 (Tuesday) (U.S.). More than 400 American planes were revealed today to have blanketed the south Japanese industrial center of Tarumizu with devouring flames Sunday in the heaviest raid on a single target by Far East Air Forces.

Heavy, medium and fighter bombers swept low over the enemy city in southern Kyushu Island for two hours, in conjunction with Strategic Air Force blows in which some 1100 United States planes battered Japan Sunday.

Guam (Tuesday), Aug. 7 (U.P.)—Waves of Mustang fighters, striking in the wake of a Superfortress raid which left fires visible 150 miles in four Japanese "death list" cities, bombed and strafed the Tokyo area yesterday, the enemy reported.

American dispatches, meanwhile, indicated that Admiral William F. Halsey's Third Fleet might be preparing to deliver its heaviest air-sea blow of the war against the Japanese homeland.

Reported Atomic Bomb Target
Tokyo also reported that the army center of Hiroshima, Japan's seventh largest city with a population of 350,000, was struck by a small number of Superfortresses which dropped both incendiary and demolition bombs starting at 8:20 a. m. Monday, Tokyo time (7:20 p. m. EWT Sunday).

Washington dispatches reported that President Truman announced that a new "atomic bomb," the most destructive force in history, was dropped on the biggest block miles southwest of Kure. There was no immediate comment from the Twentieth Air Force here.

The Japanese account of the raid on Hiroshima thus indicated that the single bomb, 2000 times more powerful than the biggest block-buster ever used by the RAF, was so destructive that the enemy believed a number of normal bombs had been dropped.

Report Heavy Kyushu Blow
Tokyo reported that 130 Mustang fighters from two hammered the greater Tokyo area in two waves yesterday morning, bombing and strafing airfields and transport.

One fleet of 70 planes hit north of Tokyo and another of 60 struck points southeast, northeast and north of the capital. The enemy claimed that the planes shot down and three heavily damaged.

Tokyo also reported that 380 fighters and bombers from Okinawa raked Kyushu Sunday afternoon, concentrating on airfields and military installations.

As the air assault on Japan See PACIFIC, Page 2, Column 7

What's an Atom?

Here's Description

From Dictionary

Of the atom, Funk and Wagnall's Unabridged Dictionary says: "The one of the hypothetical indivisible parts of which all matter is supposed to be formed (1) in modern scientific usage, the smallest portion into which matter can be divided, even by chemical separation and still preserve its identity; the chemists' unit; now held to be made up of electrically charged particles; some undergo spontaneous disintegration (such as radium)."

[There is a constant movement of atoms and scientists have long believed that if the atoms can be made to collide, or can be smashed by "bombarding" them with electrons or other particles, the energy released will destroy all matter within the force radius. Apparently, this is the principle on which the atomic bomb operates.—Editor's note.]

Triumph of Human Genius

For Roosevelt's and the United States' part in the world-shaking development, Churchill had this tribute:

"The whole burden of execution, including the setting up of plants and many technical processes... constitutes one of the greatest triumphs of American—or indeed, human—genius of which there is record."

"Moreover, the decision to make these enormous expenditures upon the project, which, however, hopelessly established by American and British research remained nevertheless a heart-shaking risk stands to the everlasting honor of President Roosevelt and his advisers."

The former Prime Minister praised as "most valuable" (See CHURCHILL, Page 2, Col. 1)

President Truman Reveals

Blast Power of New Weapon

Most Terrific in War Annals

Following is the text of President Truman's statement, announcing first use of the atomic bomb:

Sixteen hours ago an American airplane dropped one bomb on Hiroshima, an important Japanese army base. That bomb had more power than 20,000 tons of TNT. It had more than 2000 times the blast power of the British "Grand Slam" which is the largest bomb ever yet used in the history of warfare.

The Japanese began the war from the air at Pearl Harbor. They have been repaid many fold. And the end is not yet. With this bomb we have now added a new and revolutionary increase in destructive power to supplement the growing power of our armed forces. In their present form these bombs

President Proclaims First Use of Greatest War Secret; Predicts Day When Gigantic Energy Will Change Industry

By Edward T. Folliard

Mankind has entered a new age, the age of atomic energy.

President Truman proclaimed the world-shaking event yesterday in a White House statement announcing the first use of history's greatest secret weapon—a single bomb that 16 hours before had dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, with a force greater than 20,000 tons of TNT.

"It is an atomic bomb," said the White House statement. "It is a harnessing of the basic power of the universe. The force from which the sun draws its power has been loosed against those who brought war to the Far East."

The explosion of that bomb, the most terrible missile ever invented, a fantasy at last fulfilled, must have been felt the length and breadth of Japan. Three weeks ago, when it was first tried out in the New Mexico desert, it was heard 300 miles away. In Albuquerque, 120 miles away, the flash caused a blind girl to exclaim "What was that?" The steel tower from which the bomb was dropped was transformed into vapor.

The bomb certainly will shorten the war against Japan, if it does not end it. And in the language of the War Department, it "may even be the instrumentality to end all wars."

May Supplement Coal

Looking beyond the war, President Truman saw a day when atomic energy, its role of destruction fulfilled, would be released to usher in a new era, in which it may "supplement the power that now comes from coal, oil and falling water."

But before that era comes, he said, there must be a long period of intensive research.

Japan, it was stated by Secretary of War Stimson, "will not be in a position to use an atomic bomb in this war."

The "tremendous weapon," as Stimson called it, is an Anglo-American secret, developed at a cost of two billion dollars in the United States, and apparently is not known to Soviet Russia or any of our other Allies.

Heard for 300 Miles
The first test of the bomb was as little noted as the first flight of the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, which signaled the last great revolution in warfare. A news story told about a terrific explosion north of Santa Fe, N. Mex., and reported that people had heard it for a distance of 300 miles. That was all.

But that blast heralded what President Truman called "the greatest achievement of organized science in history."

The scene of the test was an isolated section of the Alamogordo (N. Mex.) air base, 120 miles south-east of Albuquerque, and the time was 5:30 o'clock on the morning of July 16.

The scientists and military men took up their positions some distance away from the steel tower from which the bomb was to be released.

Tremendous Roar
When the bomb was released by remote control, there was a blinding flash "brighter than the brightest daylight." Then came a tremendous sustained roar, and a great cloud "like a ball of fire" soared into the sky for a height of more than 40,000 feet.

When Maj. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, head of the atomic bomb project, and Dr. Vannevar Bush, head of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, and the others reached the scene, they found that the steel tower had dissolved into gas, and where it had stood was a gigantic crater.

A War Department announcement, describing the epochal test, said:

"A revolutionary weapon destined to change war as we know it, or which may even be the instrumentality to end all wars, was set off with an impact which signaled man's entrance into a new physical world."

"A small amount of matter, the product of a chain of specially-constructed industrial plants, was made to release the energy of the universe, locked up within the atom from the beginning of time."

Once the New Mexico test had ended in success, the Army lost no time in going into action with the new and great weapon. But first elaborate arrangements were

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General Groves Directed Work On New Bomb

Spent 2 Billions

To Build 3 Plants

In Utmost Secrecy

By the Associated Press

A soft spoken, mild-mannered Army construction engineer who believes in getting work done quickly directed the development of the new atomic bomb.

He is 48-year-old Maj. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, who makes his home at 3805 36th st. n.w. He was plucked from the post of deputy Chief of Army Construction in the summer of 1942 to boss the war's best kept secret. During the last three years Groves has been running "Manhattan Engineer District"—a name given to insure secrecy in development of the devastating weapon.

Because of the extreme secrecy of his work, General Groves generally made his reports orally to the Secretary of War and the Chief of Staff.

Built Three Plants
To Groves fell the job of building the three atomic bomb production plants, obtaining the necessary materials for the bombs, coordinating the activity of the United States and Great Britain, directing the expenditure of the two billion dollars set aside for the project and guiding the complex organization participating in the work.

General Groves, a War Department statement said yesterday, called the atomic bomb a two billion dollar "calculated risk" which paid off.

"We knew there were definite and narrow chances throughout the entire program," General Groves said, "and while we did not know just when success would come, we knew it was worth doing, particularly after our intelligence learned the Germans were making efforts to solve the problem, how extensively we were unable to do so."

Groves said that some of the usual engineering procedures had to be junked, but that progress was

See GROVES, Page 2, Column 5

Atomic Bomb Marks Start Of New Science

By Howard W. Blakeslee

Associated Press Science Editor

New York, Aug. 6.—The atomic bomb, by official description, is probably just a beginning of a new science, and not the terrific thing the size of a football or maybe a stove, that could wipe New York off the map in one explosion.

But it is the opening wedge, and the terrifying aspect at present is that no man can know how far its destructive effects may be developed.

The President said this bomb is 2000 times more powerful than the British earthquake bomb. But that does not mean it can spread its destruction 2000 times farther. Air and earth cushion explosions, so that their effects fall off rapidly in distance.

Official reports say that uranium is the basic atomic material. This uranium drama be

See SCIENCE, Page 9, Column 1

Bomb Staggers Imagination, Stimson Says

Reveals Herculean

Effort on Part of

Science, Industry

Text of a statement of Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson on the atomic bomb follows:

The recent use of the atomic bomb over Japan, which was today made known by the President, is the culmination of years of herculean effort on the part of science and industry working in cooperation with the military authorities.

This development, which was carried forward by the many thousands of participants with the utmost energy and the very highest sense of national duty, with the greatest secrecy and the most imperative of time schedules, probably represents the greatest achievement of the combined efforts of science, industry, labor and the military in all history.

The military weapon which has been forged from the products of this vast undertaking has an explosive force such as to stagger the imagination. Improvements will be forthcoming shortly which will increase by several fold the present effectiveness. But more important for the long range implications of this new weapon is the possibility

See STIMSON, Page 9, Column 3

Shangri-La Diary

Queen Was Friendly to Wac, Showing Desire to Adopt Her

WAC Margaret Hastings tells in the following chapter of "Shangri-La Diary" how she first made friends with the valley queen only to fall out of grace when the king decided he wanted the pretty white girl to share his throne.

CHAPTER XVI.

By Wac Corp Margaret Hastings
Written Exclusively for International News Service
(World Copyright and All Rights Reserved)

Owogo, N. Y., Aug. 6.—Royalty was neither remote nor inaccessible in Shangri-La. Back in little hidden valley, Pete—the local chief—and his wife had been our devoted friends.

Now in the larger valley of Shangri-La, the chief and his regal Queen were equally friendly. Within 48 hours after our arrival at the glider strip, the Queen and I were boon companions.

All we lacked, from the American point of view, was a front porch and a couple of rocking chairs. Again, it was a case of the underdog's heart, for neither of us was ever able to understand a word of the other's language. Only once was that understanding strained.

I went in and out of the village every day with Sergeant Baylon when he paid his medical calls, and with Sergeant Valasco who always accompanied him. Sometimes the



Corpl. Hastings

Queen would come half way down the trail to meet me. Occasionally the trail was rough or we would have to cross small streams with precarious log bridges.

"Queen, I'm not so good at this. I guess you'll have to help me," I'd say when we'd come to a bad place in the trail. She always knew what I meant. The Queen would take my hand in hers and give me an assist along the way.

Once the sergeants teased me because I couldn't keep up with them. But only once. The Queen obviously sensed from their tone that they were making fun of me. She turned on them and there was no mistaking the fact that they were getting a royal dressing down for such unseemly behavior toward a royal guest.

Queen Mary in all her furbelows and turbans never looked or acted See SHANGRI-LA, Page 2, Col. 3