

# 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 T.N.T.

"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 signalized 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 southeast 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 signalized 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 awful weapon. But first elaborate arrangements were

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made for the handling of the announcement.

President Truman was notified in Potsdam. Ten days after the New Mexico test, he and Winston Churchill and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek joined in an ultimatum to the Japanese.

In the statement which he drafted on the Cruiser Augusta and had issued at the White House yesterday, President Truman said:

"It was to spare the Japanese people from utter destruction that the ultimatum of July 25 was issued at Potsdam. Their leaders promptly rejected that ultimatum.

"If they do not now accept our terms they may expect a rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on this earth . . ."

Secretary Stimson said that scientists were confident that even more powerful atomic bombs would be developed in the years ahead.

He added that the bomb, even in its present form, "should prove a tremendous aid in shortening the war against Japan."