

# Eyewitness: 'Nerve-Wracking...Blinding Flash...Fabulous Achievement'

By ROGER TATARIAN  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—The rain had stopped now. The quiet of the New Mexico desert wilderness was broken only by the occasional rumble of a diminishing electrical storm.

The waiting was over. The delay caused by pouring rains was ended. The time was fast approaching for the first test of the atomic bomb, fruit of man's long and audacious fight to harness the basic energy of the universe.

The time was 4:30 a. m., July 16. The place, a remote section of the army's Alamogordo air base 120 miles southeast of Albuquerque. Quietly, but with an air of tense expectation, a group of picked scientists began their work.

**Two Billion Investment**  
From a steel tower built on the desert they suspended the atomic bomb—an object representing \$2,000,000,000 investment and years of tireless work by the keenest scientific brains that the United States and Britain could gather together.

There had been moments of nerve-wrecking delay while the bomb itself was being assembled. The part had been machine tooled down to the finest measurement; yet when the experts tried to insert a vital piece, it jammed and refused to move.

Dr. R. F. Bacher of Cornell university refused to be dismayed. A little time, he said, would solve the problem.

Three minutes later the balky piece slipped into place and the atomic bomb was completed.

**Six Miles Away**  
After the bomb was suspended from the tower, the scientists divided into two groups to await the zero hour, 5:30 a. m.

One group huddled in a timber and earth observation shelter nearly six miles south of the tower. The other group was in an observation post 10 miles away.

Dr. K. T. Bainbridge of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who was in charge of detonation, and a lieutenant of military police were the last to inspect the cosmic bomb suspended from the tower.

When all was set, the various observation points were tied together in a radio circuit. Dr. S. K. Allison of Chicago university began making periodic time announcements.

**'Minus 20 Minutes'**  
"Minus 20 minutes," he called. "Minus 30 minutes," he called.

The assembled scientists waited, tensely. Would their experiment prove a success?

"Minus 15 minutes," Dr. Allison announced.

Or would it prove so violent a blast as to mean an uncontrollable and unusable weapon?

The minutes dragged by. Finally Dr. Allison's voice said: "Minus 45 seconds."

Now a robot mechanism took over. From this point on the intricate mechanism was in operation without human control.

The last 45 seconds seemed days in length. But suddenly the waiting was ended by an explosion such as no human being had ever before witnessed.

**Up 40,000 Feet**  
A blinding flash like sunlight enveloped the area. A vast multi-colored cloud billowed skyward with surging power and boiled to an altitude of more than 40,000 feet in five minutes.

The steel tower? It was no more. The titanic explosion had vaporized it completely. Where it had stood was only a sloping crater.

The test was over, the bomb was a success. The atomic age had been ushered in for mankind at 5:30 a. m., July 16.

Here are excerpts from the war department's official account of the first test:

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

It even held up the actual explosion scheduled at 4 a. m. for an hour and a half. For many months the approximate date and time had been set and had been one of the high level secrets of the best kept secret of the entire war.

"Nearest observation point was set up 10,000 yards south of the tower where in a timber and earth shelter the control for the test were located.

At a point about 10 miles from the tower the key figures took their posts. These included Gen. Groves, Dr. Vannevar Bush, head of the office of scientific research and development and Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard university.

The time was set for 5:30 a. m. at the base camp. All present were ordered to lie on the ground, face downward, heads away from the blast direction.

**Tower Vaporized**  
"There was a blinding flash lighting up the whole area brighter than the brightest daylight. A mountain range three miles from the observation point stood out in bold relief.

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

"Immediately thereafter, a huge multi-colored surging cloud boiled to an altitude of over 40,000 feet. Clouds in its path disappeared. Soon the shifting substratosphere

winds dispersed the now grey mass. "The test was over, the project a success.

"The steel tower had been entirely vaporized. Where the tower stood, there was a huge sloping crater. Dazed but relieved at the success of their tests, the scientists promptly marshalled their forces to estimate the strength of America's new weapon.

"To examine the nature of the crater, specially equipped tanks were wheeled into the area, one of which carried Dr. Enrico Fermi, noted nuclear scientist. Answer to their findings rests in the destruction effected in Japan today in the first military use of the atomic bomb.

then mushroomed, then changed into a long trailing chimney-shaped column, finally being sent in several directions by the variable winds.

"Dr. Conant reached over and we shook hands in mutual congratulations. Dr. Bush, who was on the other side of me, did likewise. The feeling of the entire assembly, even the uninitiated, was one of profound awe. Dr. Conant and Bush and myself were struck by an even stronger feeling that the faith of those who had been responsible for the initiation and carrying on of this Herculean project had been justified."

"Gen. Farrell's impressions are: "In that brief instant in the remote New Mexico desert, the tremendous effort of the brains and brawn of all these people came suddenly and startlingly to the fullest fruition."

"Dr. Oppenheimer, on whom had rested a very heavy burden, grew tenser as the last seconds ticked off. He scarcely breathed. He held to a post to steady himself.

"For the last few seconds, he started directly ahead and then when the announcer shouted "Now!" and there came this tremendous burst of light followed shortly thereafter by the deafening roar of the explosion. The observers standing back of the shelter to watch the lighting effects were knocked flat by the blast.

**'This Is It'**  
"The tension of the room let up, and all started congratulating each other. Everyone sensed 'this is it!' No matter what might happen now all knew that the impossible scientific job had been done. Atomic fission would no longer be hidden on the cloisters of the theoretical physicists' dreams.

"It was almost full grown at birth. It was a great new force to be used for good or for evil. There was a feeling in that shelter that those concerned with its nativity should dedicate their lives to the mission that it would always be used for good and never for evil."

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## Hoosier Heroes: Two Local Servicemen Dead, 5 Wounded

Two Indianapolis servicemen, formerly reported missing, have now been declared dead and five local marines have been wounded in the Pacific.

**DEAD**  
S. Sgt. Philip A. Scott, 6135 N. Pennsylvania st., in Germany. Chief Boatwain's Mate Chester LeRoy Brown, 4001 E. Washington st., off Okinawa.

**WOUNDED**  
Marine Pfc. Willie Childers Jr., 704 N. Capitol ave., on Okinawa. Marine Pfc. William Glover, formerly of 1220 Norman ave., in the Pacific.

Marine Pvt. Calvin E. Higgins, R. R. 4, on Okinawa. Marine Pvt. William L. Jessup, 1206 Beecher st., on Okinawa.

Marine Pvt. Howard K. Smith, 424 S. Oxford st., on Okinawa.

**DEAD—**  
S. Sgt. Philip A. Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Scott, 6135 N. Pennsylvania st., who had been missing since last Nov. 10 over Weisbaden, Germany, is now known to be dead.

A tall-gunner on a B-17, Sgt. Scott's grave has been found in the vicinity of Breckenheim, Germany. A memorial mass will be held at St. Joan of Arc Catholic church Friday at 8 a. m.

Sgt. Scott was a graduate of Cathedral high school. He enlisted in the army air corps in September, 1943.

Survivors besides his parents are two sisters, Miss Jeanne Scott and Mrs. J. W. Flynn Jr., and a brother, Lt. Harry E. Scott Jr., a troop carrier command pilot who is home after participating in eight European invasions. They are all of Indianapolis.

Chief Boatwain's Mate Chester LeRoy Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Brown, 4001 E. Washington st., who has been missing since April 18 off Okinawa, is now reported killed on that date.

Chief Brown had been in the navy for 19 years. He was at his battle station on his ship when it was bombed and his section was the most severely damaged.

Survivors besides his parents include two sisters, Mrs. Dorothy F. Clark and Mrs. Lillian G. Fuchs, of Indianapolis.

**WOUNDED—**  
Marine Pvt. William L. Jessup, husband of Mrs. Katherine Jessup, 1206 Beecher st., was wounded by shrapnel June 16 on Okinawa.

A former house detective for the Hotel Washington, Pvt. Jessup is the son of Mrs. H. J. Jessup, 1326 Carrollton ave. He has two children, Gerald and Janeen.

Overseas since December, Marine Pvt. Howard K. Smith, husband of Mrs. Rosemary Smith, 424 S. Oxford st., was wounded June 8 on Okinawa.

He was employed by P. R. Mallory & Co. before he enlisted in June, 1944. Pvt. Smith has two children, Kenton and David.

A marine, Pvt. Calvin E. Higgins, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Higgins Sr., R. R. 4, Box 360, was wounded June 17 on Okinawa. He has returned to duty on Guam.

Pvt. Higgins is a graduate of Southport high school and was employed by the Bailey Beauty Supply Co. before he enlisted in October, 1944.

His brother, Lt. Morton Higgins, is in California and another brother, Pfc. Richard Higgins, was killed last December on Leyte.

Marine Pfc. William Martin Glover, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Glover, formerly of 1220 Norman ave., has been wounded in action in the Pacific. His family has moved to Dayton, O.

Marine Pfc. Willie Childers Jr., son of Mrs. Geneva Childers, 704 N. Capitol ave., was wounded twice

Chief Boatwain's Mate Chester LeRoy Brown ... killed off Okinawa.



S. Sgt. Philip A. Scott ... killed in Germany.

on Okinawa. He was wounded by shrapnel May 21, then was wounded May 31 when he was shot by a sniper. He is in a hospital in Seattle, Wash.

He attended schools in Central City, Ky., and was employed here before he entered the marines Sept. 23, 1943.

**HONORED—**  
Capt. Oscar L. Entin, 5155 Broadway, has been awarded the Legion of Merit for services in the French Guiana jungles while leading a searching party seeking a downed B-25 bomber.

With no advance notice, Capt. Entin led the searching party into the jungle and recovered the bodies of all but one of the crew.

Three men have been honored with the bronze star medal. They are Pfc. William Tobin Jr., husband of Mrs. William Tobin, 1922 Koehne st., in Manila; Cpl. Edwin Hendrickson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hendrickson, 30 E. 57th st., in Germany and Pfc. James Edward Gossa, son of Mrs. Clarrisa Gossa, 1011 Laurel st.

Pfc. Cecil E. Beech, 1005 W. Washington st., has won the meritorious service unit insignia. His unit, the 70th reinforcement depot of the air force in England, was honored for efficiency.

The second bronze oak leaf cluster to the air medal has been given to Lt. Russell L. Simpson, son of Leslie D. Simpson, Beech Grove. He flew 16 missions in Germany with the 9th air force. Lt. Simpson is an A-26 pilot.

Another bronze oak leaf cluster was given to Flight Officer Ray L. James, 312 N. DeQuincy st., for participating in bombing Germany. He is a bombardier-navigator on a B-26.

Pfc. Robert Barnes, son of Mrs. Naroni Barnes, 344 W. 30th st., received the purple heart at Great Lakes.

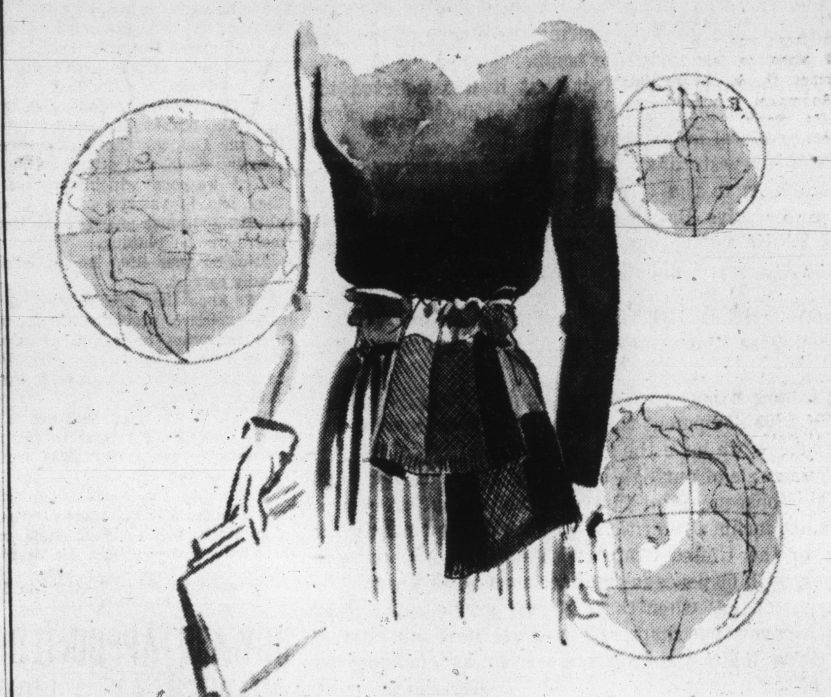
Pfc. Harry Elliott, 3546 Evermont st., was awarded the purple heart for wounds received on Luzon. He has returned to duty.

Marine Pfc. Willie Childers Jr., son of Mrs. Geneva Childers, 704 N. Capitol ave., was wounded twice



Stadium Boots. 10.95

Shoes, Second Floor



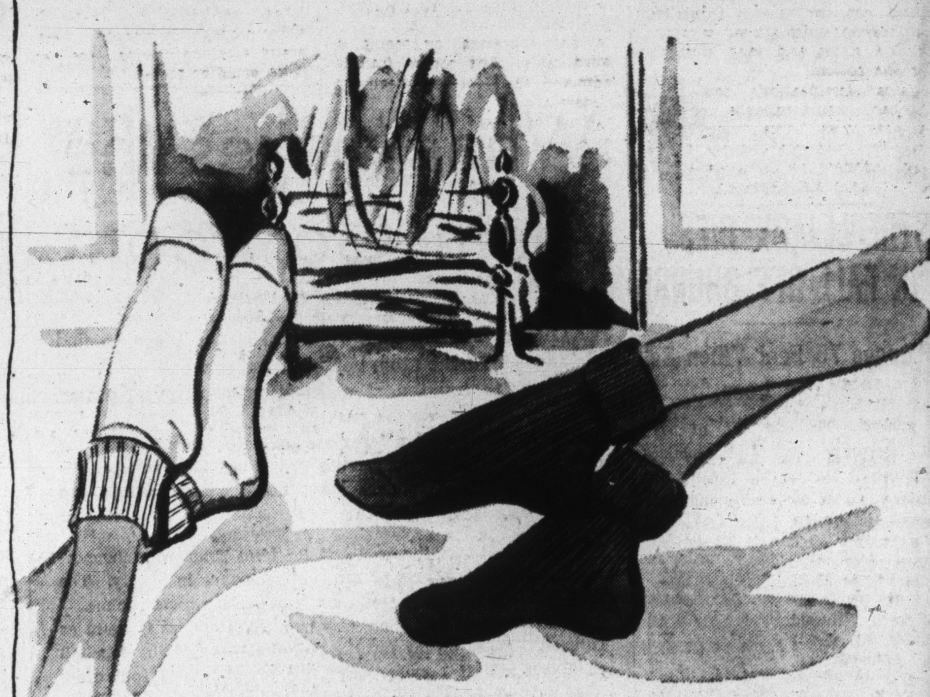
Echo Scarves. 2.25

Neckwear, Street Floor



Bunny Mitts. 3.00

\*Plus 20% Tax  
Gloves, Street Floor



Anklets (100% wool). 75¢ and 79¢

Hosiery, Street Floor



Gloves, Street Floor

Cape Lined Gloves. Black only. 5.00

Echo Scarf, 2.25

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