

THE ATOMIC BOMB

Oak Ridge, Tennessee - site of one of the huge secret factories producing atomic bombs. This amazing city never appeared on any map. On a fifty-nine thousand acre military reservation lived 78,000 men, women and children - a hidden community, sealed off from the outside world. For two years, the most distinguished scientists, engineers and technicians British and American worked as a team on this fabulous enterprise.

The secret city had everything on tap. Schools, shops, newspapers, picture-houses - and Pathe News. Oak Ridge was one of the projects on which the Allies lavished their finest scientific brains - and 500,000,000 pounds in hard cash. The result of this mighty communal effort was victory in an international race to unleash the fundamental energy of nature.

The centre of all atomic bomb research is the Uranium atom. Ninety-two electrons circle its nucleus. Blasted apart, it forms new atoms and releases colossal energy, the basic power of the universe. Men and women of Britain's bombed cities can estimate the destructive force which equals that of two thousand eleven ten bombs. The first atomic bomb went down on the Japanese Army base, Hiroshima. A hundred thousand Japanese were killed, four square miles of the city were blasted into dust and a black rain of destruction hovered over the ruins for many hours.

The first test of the atomic bomb in the New Mexico desert, the shattering overture to a new era in man's history. These pictures were taken from a distance of six miles. Awe stricken scientists watched a column of smoke leap forty thousand feet into the stratosphere. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were smashed by two of these bombs and Japan was driven to quick surrender. For the future, the choice is, "Peace - or total destruction." The atomic age is here.

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