

Atomic Bombs Coming From Section That Has Mushroomed In Tennessee

(The following account of what has happened in Oak Ridge, Tenn. written by Laffie Howard appeared in the issue of the Charlotte Observer of Tuesday, August 7, Editor's note.)

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. — The atomic bomb which is dealing unprecedented damage upon Japan came from a section that mushroomed in Tennessee as an industrial area in East Tennessee.

From a rolling country side dotted with oak and scrub pine, the pressure of the war's greatest discovery has raised a town of nearly 75,000—the largest in Tennessee.

Today some 26,000 construction and 49,000 operating workers toil in the 59,000-acre project, an area which before the war contained only 3,750 residents.

I first drove through the project in July, 1943, seven months after the first building was started and on the night trip saw only a few clusters of lights marking the 24-hour-a-day construction. A guard accompanied me on the trip and was frank about "not having an idea" as to what was being made.

My second trip was in April of 1944 when a group of eight Tennessee businessmen and industrialists were taken on a conducted tour and told by Major General Leslie R. Groves, officer in charge of all operations, that "you've seen all we can show you. Now we ask your co-operation in curbing speculation as to what we're doing."

"You'll just have to take my word for it that what we're doing is very vital to the war."

The group saw three sprawling but widely separated production areas and the town of Oak Ridge already a budding metropolis.

A third trip four months ago revealed a greatly increased town, bigger production areas, and nothing as to what would eventually come from the gigantic plant.

But more dramatic than the mushroom growth of the project is the secrecy which surrounded it until this week.

The 200,000 residents around Knoxville knew something huge was springing up in their vicinity and there were many guesses as to what it was.

"What you make?" was the customary greeting to an Oak Ridge worker. But only a few key men knew, and they said nothing. Most workers said little if anything.

For their work was so compartmentalized that most not only did not know what they were making, but could not be sure they were making anything.

They saw huge quantities of materials going into the plants but nothing coming out. To them the

Undamaged Cities In Europe Scarce, Says Local Man

T/S Larry L. Williams, who is stationed in France, has returned to his post after spending a furlough in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The Haywood soldier wrote back that Edinburgh is the first city he has seen since leaving New York two years ago that has not been damaged by the war.

Ernest M. Sutton Awarded Bronze Star Medal

Technician Fifth Grade Ernest M. Sutton, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Sutton of Waynesville, R. F. D. No. 1, has recently been awarded the Bronze Star. He entered the service three years ago and has been overseas for the past twenty months, now stationed in Germany. At the time he entered the service he was employed by Welton Shoe Corporation.

The citation which accompanied the award read in part: "The Bronze Star is awarded to Ernest M. Sutton for heroic achievement in action on 17 September, 1944, in Fancourt, France. Your armored car moved into Fancourt, with orders to outpost the town. The armored car was placed in position and the remainder of your team was in the process of setting up their positions around the vehicle. A German eight wheeled armored car, armed with a 75 mm cannon, approached at a range of less than 100 yards. Alone in the turret and without orders, you opened fire immediately, destroying the car, killing three members of the crew and seriously wounding the fourth. Your alertness and heroic action saved the other members of your section and also the members of your platoon who were at the time taking up positions in other parts of the town."

Brass hats have a lovely alibi. When a prophecy goes sour, they can say they told us that for the sake of our morale.

giant plants operated day and night to produce nothing that could be seen or touched.

However, production started January 27, 1944, the first tangible return on an expenditure now totaling \$1,106,393,000 for Clinton Engineer Works alone.

The peak construction force was 47,000.

More than 300 miles of roads have been built or improved and the ankle-deep mud of early days is gone. Fifty-five miles of railroad track have been laid on the area.

Construction has taken over 200,000,000 board feet of lumber, nearly 400,000 cubic yards of concrete, 50,000 tons of structural steel and countless tons of miscellaneous iron and steel.

Local Man Feeding Candy To Natives



CPL. LAWRENCE E. McELROY, company of Waynesville, who is now serving with the 670th Engineers, is shown here feeding American candy to native children in the Philippines. Cpl. McElroy entered the service in December, 1942, and has been serving in the Pacific theatre for the past 22 months. Before entering the service he was employed at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company.

In a recently awarded commendation the 670th Engineer Topo Company to which Cpl. McElroy is attached was warmly praised for its outstanding work in the production of military maps and other necessary reproduced material. Two other Haywood men are attached to this group, Sgt. Chas. Lane and Cpl. Charles Owen.

The 670th is comparatively new in the Philippine theatre, but it is old in the "ways of the Pacific." Landing with the Corps early in the game on Luzon, they've made heroic efforts to keep pace with the "rolling corps" headquarters, which at one time found men in one tent, tearing down and packing while men in the adjoining ones were just setting up. While the soldiers were setting up their tents, they made maps and rushed them to the artillery who made a few computations and let fly. Results direct hits and "more good Japs."

Atomic Bomb Blast Heralds Huge Change In Heating, Transport

WASHINGTON—Qualified scientists see the atom-blasting of Japan as the potential start toward telephone booth-size heating plants for great factories and 1000-hour auto trips on one gram of fuel—but not certainly and certainly not now.

It all comes down to the question of learning to control the vast forces unleashed when the ultimate components of matter are torn apart. The problem is roughly comparable to figuring out how to use the power of a TNT explosion to drive the family lawn mower. It's about that near solution.

Only a handful of experts and Allied leaders know the complete workings of the devastating weapon. They are pledged to secrecy. Others, among them authors of treatises on atomic energy, students of discoveries in that field from the time of the Curies, and men who worked for the war effort but not with the new bomb, expressed amazement that such a

Property Valuation In County Shows Increase Of \$820,448 Over 1944

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is as follows:

Township	Personal Property	Gain Loss*	Real Estate	Gain Loss*	Total G.—L.*
Beaverdam	\$ 914,984	\$ 8,426	\$ 6,430,379	\$182,600	\$ 91,026
Catawba	14,378	4,684	2,561,019	459*	5,143*
Cecil	19,285	2,247	172,605	10,840	13,087
Clyde	128,529	45,630	743,726	31,917	77,547
Crabtree	119,129	12,515	644,562	35,688	48,203
East Fork	44,140	494	321,117	4,322	4,816
Fines Creek	110,132	15,173	2,877,531	12,062	27,240
Iron Duff	38,443	2,317	196,170	332*	1,935
Ivy Hill	115,173	25,171	467,818	76,143	101,413
Jonathan Ck.	90,416	11,710	402,115	12,664	24,374
Pigeon	161,556	16,404	392,685	36,652	53,056
Waynesville	758,693	28,413	4,676,641	148,168	186,986
White Oak	16,154	1,541	91,532	1,841	3,392
Beaverdam (Col.)	1,000	1,000	25,344	450*	1,557*
Waynes (Col.)	1,245	363	34,203	125*	260
Grand Total	\$2,533,242	\$155,664	\$20,538,993	\$550,985	\$820,448
Total Valuation For Haywood County For 1945					\$24,602,037

weapon could have been made. But they said that now that it has its possibilities are limitless.

In a book published in 1940, "Foundations of modern physics," Professor Thomas B. Brown of George Washington University in Washington, wrote:

"It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that a process may sometime be discovered in which spontaneous release of nuclear energy (atomic energy) may continue to take place once it has been touched off and the possibilities for creation and destruction inherent in the invention of such a concentrated source of power are beyond the wildest dreams of the imagination."

Those who have worked closely with modern power, but who know little of the Atomic Bomb as developed, say peacetime uses are presently incalculable.

One expert, who withheld use of his name, ventured the estimate that with a few grams of uranium, the source of energy in the atomic bomb, it might be possible to power the Queen Mary on a round trip from Europe to the United States and back. Another estimated that one gram might drive a 30-horsepower automobile for 1000 hours. Grand Coltee Dams output might be equalled by a relative output might be contained in a compartment as big as a telephone booth, the substitute for fuel of tanks might be thinkable—and soon.

However, the experts—and they were backed up by the statements of Secretary of War Stimson—agreed that it will not be a development that will pop up as soon as the war is over.

Truman is rare and expensive; two billion dollars was spent just to get the bombs going against Japan and thousands of persons worked on separate phases.

There is work for more thousands before the new power is turned to peace.

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SATURDAY — AUGUST 11
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"The House Of Fear"
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