

London and the A-Bomb

04/02/2015

In God's mercy we outran Germany
The statement was prepared by Mr. Churchill before he resigned, and was based from Downing-street last night.
By WINSTON S. CHURCHILL
BY THE YEAR 1939 IT HAD BECOME WIDELY RECOGNISED AMONG SCIENTISTS OF MANY NATIONS THAT THE RELEASE OF ENERGY BY ATOMIC FISSION WAS A POSSIBILITY.
The problems which remained to be solved before this possibility could be turned into practical achievement were, however, manifold and immense; and few scientists would at that time have ventured to predict that an atomic bomb could be ready for use by 1945. Nevertheless, the possibilities of the project were so great that His Majesty's Government thought it right that research should be carried on in spite of the many competing claims on our scientific manpower.
At this stage the research was carried out mainly in our universities, principally Oxford, Cambridge, London (Imperial College), Liverpool and Birmingham. At the time of the formation of the Coalition Government (May 1940) responsibility for co-ordinating the work and pressing it forward lay in the Ministry of Aircraft Production, advised by a committee of leading scientists presided over by Sir George Thomson.
At the same time, under the general arrangements then in force for the pooling of scientific information, there was a full interchange of ideas between the scientists carrying on this work in the United Kingdom and those in the United States.
A REASONABLE CHANCE
Such progress was made that by the summer of 1941 Sir George Thomson's committee was able to report that, in their view, there was a reasonable chance that an atomic bomb could be produced before the end of the war. At the end of August 1941 Lord Cherwell, whose duty it was to keep the Government on all other and technical developments, reported the astonishing progress which was being made.
The general responsibility for the scientific research carried on under the various technical committees lay with the then Lord President of the Council, Sir John Anderson.

The men who knew
SIR JOHN ANDERSON
SIR CHARLES DORNIER

BLAST FELT 300 MILES FROM BOMB TEST
Steel tower turned to vapour
From C. V. R. THOMPSON: New York, Monday
THERE is reason to believe that the vital part of the atomic bomb with its almost incredible power of devastation is not much bigger than a golf ball.
We have not seen it, will not be given officially—and this from the War Department—is that it is "a revolutionary weapon destined to change war, or which may even be the instrumentally to end all wars."
But something is known about the first test, made in August 1945 at 8:30 a.m., on July 16, a remote spot in New Mexico.
We know that the bomb was the size of a small box, and that it was carried in a specially designed container. It was dropped from the tail of a B-29 bomber, and fell for 40,000 feet before it exploded. The explosion was heard 300 miles away, and the shock waves were felt 100 miles away. The tower was turned to vapour.
The test was a success, and it was the first time that a nuclear explosion had been used as a weapon of war. It was the beginning of the atomic age.
PLANE KIDNAPS SCIENTIST
Snatched from Nazis to help us
A DANCE who was smuggling his German and two Germans who were trapped out of their country helped the Allies to perfect the atom bomb.
PROFESSOR WILHELM BOHR of the Danish, one of the most noted scientists in the world, was snatched from the clutches of the Nazis to help us.
He was captured by the British in 1941, and he was taken to the United States. He was the only German scientist to be taken to the United States.
He was the only German scientist to be taken to the United States.
This ends war as we know it
Explosive Staff Reporter
THE Allied discovery ends war as we know it, because the only bombs, but hydrogen, gas shells and ordinary weapons can be used with atomic explosion.
Here is the progress: when the atomic bomb strikes the ground a tremendous amount of energy is released. It is the only weapon which can destroy a city in a single instant.
TWO GERMANS
PROFESSOR WILHELM BOHR, the Danish physicist, was the only German scientist to be taken to the United States.
THE WONDER OF THE WORLD
Ball of fire

THANKS, BRITAIN Says Professor
From GUY ASTON
LOS ANGELES, Monday.—Professor E. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the work on the atomic bomb, said he was "very grateful" to the British for their help in the development of the atomic bomb.

4.30 in LATEST THE JAPANESE INVESTIGATE
Noble men today said that the extent of the damage at Hiroshima "is not very serious."
JAP TOWN DESTROYED
COLUMBIA, Monday.—The Japanese cabinet today said that the atomic bomb had destroyed the city of Hiroshima. The cabinet said that the damage was not as serious as it had been reported to be.

Daily Express article about the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima

Southwark-based Bubble Theatre Company is launching an oral history and performance project to discover how the dropping of the first atomic bomb, on 6 August 1945, was reported in London and how residents reacted as more details of the scale of the destruction of the Japanese city became available.

Researchers will also research the reactions and experiences of Japanese-born Londoners and look at how the event led to the creation of the peace movement and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Bubble Theatre aims to weave these many different voices and experiences together and to present them through an intergenerational performance. In building a unique and striking portrait of the 'post Hiroshima' story, Bubble Theatre aims to connect Londoners with an important piece of living history.

The project will run in tandem with another in Japan. This follows a visit by members of Japanese theatre companies to an earlier Bubble Theatre project that charted reactions to the London Blitz. Memories and stories gathered during the atomic bomb project will be shared with a new project in Hiroshima.

More than 180 volunteers will be recruited from the local community to work with experts and artists to research the period from 1945 through to the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963. After the full

effects of the bombing, including radiation sickness, became more widely known in the UK, politicians, philosophers, scientists and church leaders came together to campaign against nuclear weapons with peaceful protests, marches, music and artwork among the responses.

Project volunteers will look into the way the bombing and the aftermath were reported, how the families of soldiers, sailors and airmen who had been serving in the Pacific, or had been held in Japanese prisoner of war camps, reacted and what stories the earliest peace protestors have to tell.

The resulting archive of memories and documents will be publicly accessible through a new website and made available to the Hiroshima Peace Museum.

Sue Bowers, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund London, said: "The reaction of Londoners to one of the defining moments in 20th-century world history is an important subject for study and dissemination to a wider audience as we approach the 70th anniversary of this event."

Jonathan Petherbridge, Creative Director of London Bubble, said: "We are very proud that our work on the Grandchildren of the Blitz project, supported by HLF, has now led to an exploration to the responses to the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, and the production of what we hope will be linked events in London and Hiroshima. The support of the HLF over the last four years has allowed us to develop our skills and thinking as researchers and creative explorers of heritage. In turn this has led to shared knowledge, increased community engagements plus two significant theatre pieces, and now the opportunity to test our ideas on a event of international significance. We are excited and trepidatious in equal measure!"

Further information

HLF press office: Vicky Wilford on 020 7591 6046 / 07973 401 937, email vickyw@hlf.org.uk or Phil Cooper on: 07889 949 173.

London Bubble Theatre: Shipra Ogra, email: Shipra@londonbubble.org.uk, tel: 020 7237 4434.