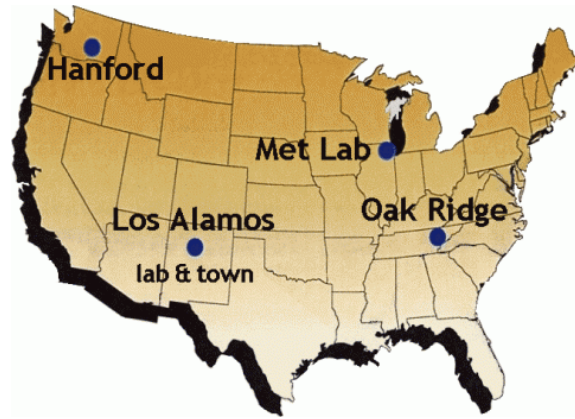


- 0. DECISION TO BOMB - Story Preface
- 1. EINSTEIN'S LETTER
- 2. NUCLEAR ENERGY - SIMPLY SPEAKING
- 3. RADIATION SICKNESS
- 4. A CHANGE IN LEADERS
- 5. THE TRINITY TEST
- 6. DECISION TO BOMB**
- 7. BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA
- 8. BOMBING OF NAGASAKI
- 9. WHY?
- 10. THE FUTURE



This map, online courtesy the U.S. Department of Energy, depicts Manhattan-Project sites. Metallurgical Laboratory ("Met Lab") work took place in Chicago. Oak Ridge (in Tennessee) featured, among other things, an X-10 Graphite Reactor and Y-12 Electromagnetic Separation Plant. Hanford Engineer Works (in Washington State) included, among other things, Plutonium Production Reactors (100 Area), "Queen Mary" Chemical Separation Plants (200 Area) and Metal Fabrication and Testing (300 Area). Los Alamos (both the Laboratory and town, in New Mexico) included a DP Plutonium Processing Site and remains the most-famous place associated with the Manhattan Project.

By the end of July the bomb was ready to use. Henry Stimson, the Secretary of War, sent Truman an urgent message:

The time schedule on Grove's project [i.e. the bomb] is progressing so rapidly that it is now essential that statement for release by you [the press release to be issued after the bomb was dropped] be available not later than Wednesday, 1 August.

The President, who was at the Potsdam Conference in Germany, responded with a handwritten note on the back of Stimson's letter. It is believed to be the only publicly available document in which Truman gives permission to drop the bomb:

***Reply to your 41011
Suggestions approved
Release when ready
but not sooner than August 2.***

HST

On the 24th of July, while at the Potsdam Conference, President Truman told Joseph Stalin, the Soviet leader, that America had a "new weapon of unusual destructive force." With seemingly little interest, Stalin told the president he hoped the United States would make "good use of it against the Japanese."

Truman believed he had given Stalin new information. He was wrong. Through his spies, Stalin had known about the nuclear-weapon project since 1941.

The press release was soon finalized - except for the city where the bomb ("L-11") would be dropped. That most important detail was decided last.

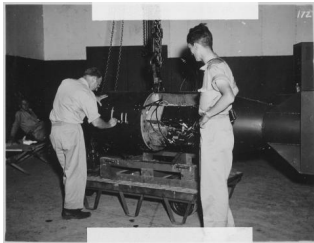
It would be Hiroshima.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/DECISION-TO-BOMB-Einstein-s-Letter>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/DECISION-TO-BOMB-Einstein-s-Letter>



Assembling the Bomb - Little Boy, Unit L-11

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 519395.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Assembling-the-Bomb-Little-Boy-Unit-L-11>



Henry Stimson - Secretary of War

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 540225.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Henry-Stimson-Secretary-of-War>



Pre-Attack Mosaic of Hiroshima

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 540225.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pre-Attack-Mosaic-of-Hiroshima>



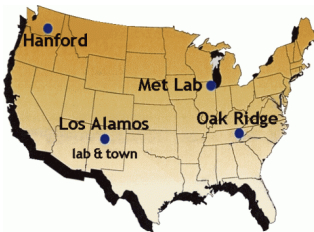
Potsdam Conference - Truman Tells Stalin about a New Weapon

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 198894.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Potsdam-Conference-Truman-Tells-Stalin-about-a-New-Weapon>



DECISION TO BOMB

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Atomic Bomb - Recreation of the First Test

This video clip is from a BBC documentary - *Hiroshima* - in which surviving members of the Enola Gay crew talk about their mission to deliver the atomic bomb to that city.

The documentary is part of a significantly broader BBC series on the History of World War II. Copyright, BBC, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the program.

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