

My First Second Sunrise



Sunrise 1 - Flash at Detonation



Sunrise 2

I Touched A Mushroom



In Retrospect by Clark N. Nelson, Sr.

*** This document may be periodically updated – Last update 05-27-19**

Author's Notation: The following two images were created in picture puzzle format to illustrate a flash effect that I recall from pre-dawn detonations



Sunrise 1 From The West - Flash Bulb in The Sky



Sunrise 2 From The East - The Morning Sun

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Primary Sources For This Document

I.

My personal recall as a *downwinder* as a result of the nuclear tests conducted at Nevada Proving Ground (NPG);

II.

A comprehensive historical collection containing information and historical footage that was declassified in 1997;

III.

A Bill Kurtis *Investigative Reports – Nuclear Airplane* production from 1994 containing a statement contrary to particular periods of nuclear testing at the Nevada Proving Ground (NPG). This statement proves relevant to the death of a 13 year-old from St. George, Utah;

IV.

An ABC *Turning Point - Cover Up At Ground Zero* cable production from 1994 with host *Peter Jennings*;;

V.

A relevant documentary possibly released as early as the 1960s, with interviews conducted with concerned citizens of St. George, Utah and surrounding area.

Test Operations

Nevada Proving Ground



Department
of Defense



Atomic Energy
Commission



United States
Air Force



United States
Army

All nuclear detonations have four things in common and in the following sequence of events:

Light Heat Radiation Blast Pressure

Operation Ranger

The Korean War made testing in the Pacific impossible; on December 22, 1950 Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Norris Bradbury requested testing in Nevada. Bradbury received Presidential approval January 11, 1951 with the first test having been conducted 16 days later. This somewhat brief series of tests would come to be known as *Operation Ranger*.

When it came to the Nevada Proving Ground having been selected, the federal government owned hundreds of square miles of this desert area, so concern regarding any danger from nuclear testing was considered minimal at best, since only a small portion of the population might be affected. However evidence

that nuclear weapons tests could kill surfaced as early as 1953, when large numbers of sheep downwind from those tests died from burns, lesions, and there were stillborn and mutant lambs.

All five devices were air drops from B-50s onto Frenchman Flat. Each of the five (5) nuclear devices, the MK4 and MK6 weighed a shade over five (5) tons. B-50s were basically the same aircraft as the B-29 except for the engines: B-29s with their Wright Cyclone R-3350 with 18 cylinders, yet the B-50 Pratt and Whitney R-4360 radials were more powerful.

Air Force participation from the Special Weapons Command (SWC) and Headquarters, United States Air Force conducted most of the activities which included personnel from the following unit(s), command(s), squadron(s), or group: Air Research and Development Command - Strategic Air Command - Air Force Security Service - Air Training Command - Air Weather Service - Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory - 4901st Support Wing (Atomic) (SWC) - 4925th Special Weapons Group (SWC) - 374th Reconnaissance Squadron (Long Range) - 1009th Special Weapons Squadron.

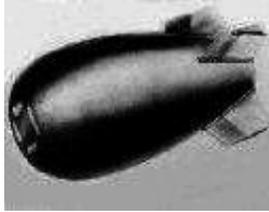
Shot 1 – ABLE – January 27, 1951 – 05:45 (local time) – air burst at 1060 feet – Yield: 1 Kiloton

Shot 2 – BAKER – January 28, 1951 – 05:52 (local time) – air burst at 1080 feet – Yield: 8 Kiloton

Shot 3 – EASY – February 1, 1951 – 05:47 (local time) – air burst at 1080 feet – Yield: 1 Kiloton

Shot 4 – BAKER-2 – February 2, 1951 – 05:49 (local time) – air burst at 1100 feet – Yield: 8 Kiloton

Shot 5 – FOX – February 6, 1951 – 05:47 (local time) – air burst at 1435 feet – Yield: 22 Kiloton



MK-4 device



MK-6 device



Operation Ranger pre-dawn detonation - 1951

Operation Greenhouse, having been conducted at the Pacific Proving Ground (PPG) from April 7 through May 24, 1951 was the second test series; principles therein would lead to development of thermonuclear devices (H-bombs). This series of nuclear weapons tests was preceded by ***Operation Ranger*** and succeeded by ***Operation Buster-Jangle***. ***Operation Greenhouse*** showcased improved, aggressive designs for nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union's first nuclear test in 1949, at least five years earlier than expected, had left the United States stockpiling innovative designs that had never been tested, much less proven.

Operation Buster-Jangle

The *Operation Buster-Jangle* effort, a series of atmospheric nuclear weapon tests conducted during the Fall of 1951 at the Nevada Proving Ground, consisted of seven nuclear detonations, with four of them having been airdrops. The other three shots consisted of one tower, one surface, and one underground detonation.

The surface and underground detonations were the first of either type at the NPG. *Operation Buster-Jangle* was in-hand from October 22 to December 20, 1951, and involved an estimated 11,000 Department of Defense personnel in observer programs, tactical maneuvers, damage effects tests, scientific and diagnostic studies, and support activities.

The *Buster-Jangle* series was intended to test nuclear devices for possible inclusion in the weapons arsenal and to improve military tactics, equipment, and training.



1951 - Buster- Jangle Test Shot

Operation Hardtack

Seventy- four (74) nuclear bombs were detonated throughout the *Hardtack* series, with Nevada Proving Ground (NPG) and Pacific Proving Ground (PPG), the test site location(s).

Operation Hardtack's primary mission was checking and/or verifying the strength and durability of a myriad of differing structures, those subject to concussions or impact from nuclear detonations, including aircraft, be it grounded or in flight, such as Air Force F-80s and Navy AD-2 Skyraider drones, to learn if tests will affect the skin of aircraft, based upon color; lighter colors suffer less effect/damage re: the tests/detonations.

Moreover, could a B-52 having successfully dropped a nuclear device on the primary target, then taking a new heading in order to possibly drop an additional nuclear device on a second target; furthermore, would such an aircraft be able to survive or withstand successive nuclear concussions, or impacts, without suffering extensive structural damage.

Prior to 1958, only two tests were conducted above 10,000 feet, in 1955 and in 1957, both with low-yield effect. We were rapidly moving into the age of the Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) and the effect(s) on global communications was also a factor.

Three high altitude test shots were conducted; first, Shot *Yucca* (April 28, 1958), was launched from a balloon off the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Boxer, a 1.7 kiloton device detonated at 85, 000 feet (16.1 miles), along with two other test shots, *Teak and Orange*, both having been launched aboard Army Redstone missiles from Johnston island, 700 miles west-southwest of the Hawaiian Islands. Shot *Teak* (July 31, 1958), a 3.8 megaton device was detonated at an altitude of 250, 000 feet (47.3 miles), with a fireball ten (10) miles in diameter within ten (10) milliseconds, and an infrared fireball forty (40) miles in diameter within 8.1 seconds.

Shot *Orange*, (August 6, 1958) was also a 3.8 megaton device, although detonated at an altitude of 141, 000 feet (26.7 miles) with a fireball ten (10) miles in diameter within ten (10) milliseconds, and an infrared fireball forty (40) miles in diameter within 8.1 seconds, although somewhat slower than *Teak*, once considering dissipation.

Four aircraft at precise distance and altitude for specific monitoring: three modified Air Force B-36s and one Navy P2V Neptune. Laboratory rabbits visually subject to these tests suffered cornea, retina, and macula damage in particular instances. Underwater test shots were also part of Operation Hardtack, with deep water test shots, as well as those in shallow water.



Operation Tumbler-Snapper

The team at the Nevada Test Site, the *AFSWP* (Armed Forces Special Weapons Project) subject to and answering to *Task Command*, was a joint military effort with the *Buster-Jangle* series being the first with seven tests, with six of those tests atmospheric.

Buster-Jangle was followed by the *Tumbler – Snapper* series commencing April 1 and continuing through June 20, 1952. This series was conducted at Yucca Flat, with four of these tests, the *Tumbler* portion having been dropped from WB-50 Super Fortress aircraft during daylight hours, with an encounter with ground zero exactly 40 seconds hence.

Furthermore, something like 7,400 of the estimated 11,700 Department of Defense participants in *Tumbler- Snapper*, took part in Exercise Desert Rock, an encampment only five miles from ground zero. The remaining personnel participated in scientific experiments, air support activities, or administration and support activities at the Nevada Proving Ground.

Soldiers who had witnessed the detonation first-hand within trenches, at a distance of a mile or so from ground zero, were at first concerned that witnessing these tests first-hand, might cause a substantial hearing loss, or possibly going blind, or eventually becoming sterile and no longer able to become biological fathers.

However the most disturbing aspect from the narrative relative to the troops taking part, were the comments assuring those soldiers that they were fortunate in being able to take part in these tests and that being trained and prepared for nuclear combat can be safer than most might ever realize. The preceding narrative was followed by closing scenes of soldiers smiling and lighting up (cigarettes), brings to mind the typical training footage for those feeling concerned and less-prepared, whatever their task at-hand.

There were 4 additional tests in this series, the *Snapper* portion, conducted from atop 300 ft. towers during the pre-dawn hours, with two of these taking place May 7th and 25th, 1952 and two more to follow June 1st and 5th, 1952.

Following each of these tests, either special sampling rockets or a number of Lockheed F-80 aircraft were launched, gathering samples of radiation levels with their wing tip 'sniffers', with these samples eventually being sent to Los Alamos for analysis.



Tumbler-Snapper Test Shot



A Lockheed F-80 with 'sniffer' radiation samplers

Operation Upshot-Knothole

The Armed Forces Special Weapons Center (AFSWC) from Kirtland Air Force Base provided the aircraft and pilots for the air drops, the cloud tracking and samplings, and radiation surveys. More than 400 air and ground personnel at Indian Springs Air Force Base, Nevada, and about 2,000 at Kirtland Air Force Base were participants in the operation.

The primary AFSWC unit was the 4925th Test Group (Atomic), and additional participants were the 4935th Air Base Squadron, the 4901st Support Wing, and the 55th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron.

Test shot firing decisions/commands were determined by Air Weather Service wind-direction forecasts, a primary concern; accordingly, should the prevailing wind-direction forecasts possibly affect Las Vegas, Nevada or highly-populated areas, the west coast, the 'no fire' command was imperative.



Dr. John C. Clark

Los Alamos National Laboratory

According to Dr. John C. Clark of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the *Upshot* phase was a *Weapons Development* phase with a total of nine (9) shots, all of which were conducted at Yucca Flat: two (2) B-299 air drops and seven (7) tower shots, which are chronicled within sequence of event(s):

Shot 1 ANNIE- March 17, 1953 at 5:20 a. m. local time, a 16 kiloton blast at a height of 300 feet, an area3 tower shot, sponsored by the Los Alamos National Laboratory;

Shot 2 NANCY - March 24, 1953 at 5:10 a. m. local time, a 24 kiloton blast at a height of 300 feet, an area 4 tower shot, an effort toward developing a device with a yield of 500 kilotons, sponsored by the Los Alamos National Laboratory;

Shot 3 RUTH - March 31, 1953 at 5:00 a. m. local time, a blast at a height of 300 feet, an area 7 tower shot with yield of 0.2 kiloton, sponsored by the University of California Radiation Laboratory;

Shot 4 DIXIE - April 6, 1953 at 7:30 a. m. local time, an air drop by a B-29 Superfortress, an area 7 1 kiloton blast at a height of 6,020 feet, sponsored by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. This was the first test to be detonated at such a great height;

Shot 5 RAY April 11, 1953 at 4:45 a. m. local time, a blast at a height of 100 feet, an area 4 tower shot with a yield of 0.2 kiloton, sponsored by the University of California Radiation Laboratory;

Shot 6 BADGER - April 18, 1953 at 4:35 a. m. local time, a 23 kiloton blast at a height of 300 feet, an area 2 tower shot, sponsored by the Los Alamos National Laboratory;

Shot 7 SIMON - April 25, 1953 at 4:30 a. m. local time, a 43 kiloton blast at a height of 300 feet, an area 1 tower shot, sponsored by the Los Alamos National Laboratory; significantly larger than expected, due to the wind shift at the time of detonation. Radiation levels in the Desert Rock trench area were higher than anticipated. Roadblocks were placed on U.S. Highway 93 between Las Vegas and Alamo, Nevada, as well as U.S. Highway 91 between Las Vegas, Nevada and St. George, Utah;

Shot 9 HARRY - May 19, 1953 at 5:05 a. m. local time, a 32 kiloton blast at a height of 300 feet, an area 3 tower shot, sponsored by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Shot *Harry* deposited more radioactive fallout over areas of the United States than any other test, with the largest accumulation having fallen in the vicinity of St. George, Utah;

Shot 11 CLIMAX - June 4, 1953 at 4:15 a. m. local time, a B-29 air drop, a 61 kiloton blast at 1,334 feet above area 7, sponsored by the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The *Knothole* Phase

The *Knothole* phase of the operation, conducted during the period of March 17th and June 4th, 1953, a mere two shot agenda, was one of the largest programs, a major *Military Effects* agenda having been designed by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), and by *Project Whitney* of the University of California Radiation Laboratory, with more than 70 individual projects.

Shot 8 ENCORE - May 8, 1953 at 8:30 a. m. local time, an air drop by a B-29 Superfortress, a 27 kiloton blast at a height of 2,423 feet above Frenchman Flat, off-target by 250 meters (0.2 miles), sponsored by the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Los Alamos National Laboratory;

Shot 10 GRABLE - May 25, 1953 at 8:30 a. m. local time, a 15 kiloton 280 mm Cannon Shot at a height of 524 feet above Frenchman Flat, sponsored by the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

This *Knothole* agenda was conducted with intentions toward providing answers, or possibly solutions to pre-drawn speculation, assumptions, or concepts, such as the following project from the *Knothole* agenda, which to my mind proves somewhat disturbing; moreover, a verbatim description of this project goes like this: “Of military significance, to learn the effects of thermal and nuclear radiation on all living beings and objects it might reach”.

My personal opinion and/or evaluation regarding that particular project goes this way: Of human kind significance, I submit the following three events from a preceding operation, *Tumbler-Snapper*, and not to be overlooked were those caught completely unawares, downwinders:

(1) a ‘pep-talk’ preview to a soon-to-be trench soldier, by an Army Chaplain, “You’ll be witnessing a wondrous sight to behold “!

(2) Camp Desert Rock, trenches filled with soldiers.

(3) a soldier having been blown from his trench.

Guinea Pig - A person or thing used as a subject for experiment.

Question 1: How do roentgens differentiate military or those simply caught downwind?

Question2: Must *Military Effects* test results be determined by personal sacrifice?

Through the years, at least to my experience, Shot *Harry*, seemingly eternal in question as to the actual date conducted; moreover, there is no mention of a shot *Harry* within the declassified material at my disposal. However there has been documentation stating that Shot #9 of the *Knothole* phase was indeed Shot *Harry*, a 32 kiloton tower shot conducted Tuesday May 19, 1953 at Yucca Flat, sponsored by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Accordingly, I am convinced that Shot *Harry* did in fact take place at Yucca Flat Tuesday May 19, 1953.

Inasmuch as the declassified material states B-29 aircraft as those having made the air drops, as opposed to references to the contrary, I consider the declassified material most likely reliable, notwithstanding the fact that they might've actually been B-50s from Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.

I'll never consider myself an Albert Einstein, Edward Teller, or Enrico Fermi, nor have I ever worked at Peenemunde, yet based upon pictorial and sound memory, as well as notable personal experience, I consider the *Upshot-Knothole* test series, an 11 shot aggregate, to have proven the most confusing and devastating series to ever affect the innocent men, women, and children of St. George, Utah and surrounding area(s).

Relative to released declassified transcripts, scientists knew as far back as 1947 that fission products from atmospheric nuclear testing, during as well as after, were deadly to humans and animals. Nonetheless, the AEC chose to ignore

those warnings, including those from their own scientists, as well as relative medical research, while maintaining a stubborn mindset that ‘nothing must bring a halt to these tests’.

Once the poisons from these nuclear weapons tests rained down on the citizens of southwestern Utah, AEC officials induced their employees to lie about the danger. Once installing a ground monitoring system in the spring of 1953, the Upshot-Knothole series was conducted, with one of those test shots, otherwise known as *Dirty Harry* becoming a major concern.

Fallout levels were far and above standards considered safe, even higher than conservative AEC standards. A cover up cloaked in *our national security and defense* emerged, whereby the AEC induced it’s employees to release vague statements to the public and the press. AEC officials falsified monitoring data from the St. George monitoring station to make it appear that the cloud that hovered above St. George for more than two hours had not harmed anyone.

Based upon miscalculations and unbridled wind shifts, as well as monitoring results by personnel of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) , *Upshot-Knothole* shot 9 HARRY deposited more radioactive fallout over areas of the United States than any other test with the largest accumulation having fallen in the vicinity of St. George, Utah.

This aforementioned reality and tragedy regarding citizens of St. George, Utah and surrounding area brings to mind an issue of *US News and World Report* while employed as a cashier at *Dick’s Café* in 1956, located at 114 East 100 North, otherwise US Hwy 91 during that period.

I was off duty one afternoon in 1956 and stopped by Dick’s for coffee or possibly a soft drink. I sat down at the coffee counter next to someone with a copy of *US News and World Report*. Not long after being served, this person with the magazine pushed it my way and pointed out an article entitled *America’s Most A-Bombed City*. The city noted within that particular article was St. George, Utah. I can only assume this was an issue of *US News and World Report* with a

published date from the year 1956, yet I have no method for verifying the date of that particular issue.

***Upshot-Knothole* shot 9 HARRY** was to become the most controversial of the test series at Nevada Proving Ground. For a number of years, gossip tabloids featured the stars of Howard Hughes' film epic *The Conqueror*, suggesting that the cancers that took John Wayne, Susan Hayward, and Agnes Moorehead had been a direct result of the radioactive fallout within the vicinity of St. George, Utah, which in some respects might possibly have been the cause.

Not to be overlooked was another test and ensuing blast concussion that literally rocked the Woodward Junior High School administration building, which also took place during the Spring of 1953. I doubt I'll ever forget that morning around 9:30 a. m. in class on the second floor on the north side of the building. At the moment of blast concussion the huge door to the classroom swung completely open then abruptly closed in the blink of an eye.

There's no doubt in my mind that the event that rocked the Woodward Junior High School administration building was a direct result of **Shot 8 ENCORE**, having taken place May 8, 1953 at 8:30 a. m. PDT (9:30 a. m. MDT), a B-29 air drop, followed by a 27 kiloton detonation at 2,423 feet above Frenchman Flat; this test shot was also off-target by 250 meters (0.2 miles).



Woodward admin bldg rocked by early morning test shot in 1953

Shot 10 of *Upshot-Knothole*, Shot GRABLE (top left) detonated May 25, 1953 at 8:30 a. m. PDT proved a one-of-a-kind 280mm atomic cannon firing an atomic artillery projectile detonated 524 feet above ground zero at Frenchman Flat, with a yield of 15 kilotons.



Upshot-Knothole Test Shots

Operations Cue & Doorstep



There were two other *Upshot-Knothole* operations with the Atomic Energy Commission, the Department of Defense, and the Federal Civil Defense Administration as hosts: *Operation Doorstep* in 1953, a 30 kiloton device and *Operation Cue* in 1955, with both proving relative to public interest and concern, with reporters and news media on site witnessing actual tests.

The purpose and especially the cost relative to both of these operations, to my mind at least, make no sense whatsoever. Model homes were constructed with department store mannequins in the role of family members inside; bomb shelters both civic and residential, and a number of automobiles; as well as a considerable length of Ponderosa pines; all of these items having been arranged within a variety of distance from ground zero.

For what purpose or reason, the results following a nuclear detonation, the destruction to these family dwellings, bomb shelters, automobiles that still run by their own power, ponderosa pine trees whipped, stripped and broken? Good Lord, that 'litmus test', that holocaust, had already been achieved in August of 1945 at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

Why then, test automobiles to see if they still run under their own power? Who pray tell, would be able to drive them? Why must we stand and wonder what death, destruction, and fear shall reign as a result of nuclear detonations, when

the results have been known since the 1940s, else a fear of nuclear holocaust would hardly exist in the world of today.

Furthermore, considering the role, the design, of Civil Defense, must we build new homes, fill them with department store mannequins, then burn them down in order to learn something new? As I sit back and review the cost, the events, and the purpose of Operation Doorstep in 1953 and Operation Cue in 1955, brings to mind a Buster Keaton filmography.



Were It Not For Those Two Dawn Days

During the Fall of 1947 my parents purchased a new frame home along the west side of 700 East, between 400 and 500 South. In the beginning at least, scheduled pre-dawn test shots at the Nevada Proving Ground were made public beforehand. This provided an opportunity to observe the flash at detonation, that 'flash bulb' in the sky, followed by a rumble and concussion minutes later, much like the jolt of an earthquake, yet not quite as severe.

While anticipating my first test shot I was looking through the window at the rear of the house toward the west; at the precise moment a split-second flash lit up the sky like noon day, followed by an eventual rumble and thud impact, followed by the sudden rattle of windows. I had just witnessed *my first sunrise* of that day, with another to follow in natural form. Having observed my *first second sunrise* from indoors certainly makes sense, once considering the chilly winter season; would've had to have been one of those test shots from *Operation Ranger*.



1949 - Holding my sister in the front yard of our home on 700 East

We eventually moved back to my grandmother's duplex on 100 South. I was then a 14 year-old and was shining shoes at the *Adams Barber Shop* located one door below the entrance to the *Sun Bowl Club*, with the entrance for both so

close, they were almost revolving doors. Lee Adams was the barber in this small rental space with only enough space for one barber chair and my shoeshine stand.

At a point during this period three men with cameras, film canisters, and microphone entered the barber shop and asked Lee Adams if he would mind describing any events he might've witnessed relative to the atomic bomb testing in Nevada.

Adam's began describing something he had witnessed first-hand, while moving his arms up and down in great detail; an effort to describe a rising mushroom cloud from a desert floor much like others had witnessed from a high point in the mountains west of St. George known as the Utah Summit aka: 'Utah Hill'.

Adams was describing what he witnessed in such rapid succession, that I found it difficult to understand everything he said but it was definitely his description of a mushroom cloud rising, much like a blooming flower.

Once Adam's description and the filming came to a close, the three men began gathering the microphone and cord, the cameras, and placed the new film footage in a canister, they turned, thanked Adams once again, then walked outdoors.

At that very moment I walked outdoors and asked one of the three members of the film crew what the filming was all about. He smiled and told me that they were filming a documentary, that I would eventually learn more about it later. That member of that film crew was indeed correct for I would watch that very scene from Adam's Barber Shop almost 30 years later on a PBS TV station in Atlanta, Georgia, the documentary *Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang*.

Paul Jacobs and The Nuclear Gang

One evening during the 1970s while watching a Georgia Public Broadcasting channel, the documentary *Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang* came on with journalist/ activist Paul Jacobs as the host explaining how in 1957, he was alerted regarding an interesting story relative to the atomic bomb testing and resulting hazards suffered by those affected down range aka: *downwind* by radioactive fallout from those tests.

I was stunned by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) color footage of staged scenes from St. George, Utah along with a narrative explaining that there was no reason for concern regarding the atomic bomb testing at the Nevada Proving Ground, 65 miles north of Las Vegas, Nevada; however in my instance at least, the most disturbing was the advice courtesy the AEC to those affected by this test, a test we would come to know as *Dirty Harry*, to remain indoors for at least one hour, or until further notice.

Additional content therein as noted below:

1. a view of downtown St. George, Utah looking toward the east at the intersection of Main Street and 100 North;
2. a woman hanging clothes on a clothesline with the Red Hill in the background;
3. an obvious staged scene of residents *Lloyd Booth* and *Karl Brooks* listening to the radio broadcast explaining there was no reason for concern;
4. one segment, albeit minus any dialogue that I had witnessed being filmed as a 14 year-old in Adams' Barber Shop in 1951;

5. a scene with *Elmer Pickett* along with several other residents listening to the same radio broadcast;

6. Scenes relative to the *Upshot-Knothole* test shot in May of 1953, later referred to as *Dirty Harry* due to the unexpected, overwhelming dose of radioactive fallout; when automobiles en route to St. George from Nevada along U. S. Hwy 91 were stopped and examined with Geiger Counters; immediate car washes with hope of reducing dangerous levels of radiation; Washington County sheriff Roy Renouf in his car as the automobiles were being checked along Highway 91;

7. An outdoor scene with St. George resident *Tony Reynolds* beginning a new day in front of his auto parts store on 100 North;

8. Paul Jacobs being driven through St. George neighborhoods explaining subject matter-in hand;

9. During an interview with a former *Camp Desert Rock* Army participant, the veteran states that at the moment of detonation, he could see the bones in the hands and faces of other participants; that the blast blew him completely out of his trench;

10. Relative to a TV broadcast from the period, *The Big Picture*, in an effort to calm an Army participant, an Army chaplain explains that there's no need for concern, that the soldier will be witnessing "a wondrous sight to behold";

11. Paul Jacobs experiencing pain from his bout with cancer during the interviews with St. George residents, pauses for a moment for an injection of morphine. Jacobs says that early on he had walked a few former ground zeros with a Geiger counter and particular hot spots would move the needle almost off the scale; presuming that these hot spots visited might've caused his cancer that had eventually spread to his lungs;

12. a map displaying proximity relative to St. George, Utah and the Nevada Proving Ground/Test Sites; of how prevailing winds carrying radioactive fallout can affect citizens of St. George. A majority of those staged scenes were

eventually to become part of the ABC Television production *Turning Point – Cover Up at Ground Zero* with host Peter Jennings aired nationally February 2, 1994; and

13. Relative to the aforementioned *U. S. News and World Report* article, was attorney Dale Haralson's statement that St. George, Utah is the world's most irradiated city, based upon examined documents while representing 235 cancer patients during a law suit in 1979; moreover, throughout a period of eight years, radioactive fallout from every test at Nevada Proving Ground (NPG) was tracked and monitored; furthermore, tests were only conducted when prevailing winds were moving toward St. George, Utah.



**Paul Jacobs during interviews with residents of St. George, Utah
Jacobs' bout with cancer is quite obvious in these photographs**

I was surprised by the fact that the filmed footage years earlier inside Adams' Barber Shop had somehow become part of the footage within this program. The following St. George residents were interviewed and presented their own personal accounts relative to the atomic bomb tests, and how those tests had affected their lives:

Helen Reichmann - Irma Thomas - Elmer Jackson - Helen Hafen - Jessie Empey – S. Max Brinkerhoff.

I would imagine that Elmer Jackson's account/experience might serve the excellent example: There was an early-Spring snow storm in March of 1953 when Jackson was working with his cattle; however the snow wasn't white, but rather the same color as the cloud above, a dark gray. Jackson touched these

new-fallen snowflakes and they felt hot, and burned his fingers. When Jackson drove back to his home, he was experiencing vision problems, his face was burned, the left side of his neck and ear were also burned, and they never healed.



Helen Reichmann

Helen Reichmann also experienced unusual events, albeit the date was May 19, 1953 when Shot 9 HARRY became a major concern for residents in southwestern Utah. Helen said she had been setting out bulbs on the west side of the home and suddenly felt weak and dizzy, could hardly stand. She was eventually able to reach the door and walk back inside and had to lie down for awhile. She also said that she had heard no warning or caution announcements to remain indoors until further notice.

During these discussions, Helen Hafen mentions that she lost a niece to Leukemia, assuming radiation exposure the likely cause. I'm assuming that Helen was referring to 15 year-old Karlene Hafen, daughter of Karl and LeOra Hafen and a victim of Myelogenous Leukemia November 17, 1956.



Helen Hafen



15 year-old Karlene Hafen

*** Karlene Hafen photograph, obituary, referenced published articles, dates and places are courtesy of the following individuals: George R. Cannon, Jr. and grand historian Emma Fife ***

Once this program came to an end, my immediate search for a copy of *Paul Jacobs and The Nuclear Gang* would span a period of more than 20 years, until finally locating a VHS videotape copy at a large media house on Fifth Avenue, New York City, the cost having been \$50.00.

However in this instance, cost was never a concern as long as it was affordable as well as reasonable; needless to say I was relieved in locating a copy. However I had never been aware of the deletions and additions to *Paul Jacobs and The Nuclear Gang* since that evening during the mid-1970s.

It was definitely the mid-1970s when I watched *Paul Jacobs and The Nuclear Gang* for the first time at our home in Lithia Springs, Georgia, courtesy Georgia Public Broadcasting; we sold that home in August of 1980. There was also an article in the Washington Post from 1978 whereby verbatim reference to three of those interviewed in the *Paul Jacobs and The Nuclear Gang* documentary.

The *Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang* official release date can be found as late as 1979 or perhaps 1980; this is confirmed by the additions listed below, albeit with the same original title, *Paul Jacobs and The Nuclear Gang*.

A. Radiation exposure risks for those employed at the Rocky Flats, Colorado Plant near Denver that few ever knew existed, producing plutonium for nuclear weapons, with more than 70,000 *plutonium triggers* produced at the plant from 1952 through 1989; and

B. Those protesting the construction of a nuclear power plant at Seabrook, New Hampshire, more commonly known as *Seabrook Station* once completed and operational.



TURNING POINT COVER-UP AT GROUND ZERO

with Peter Jennings

February 2, 1994



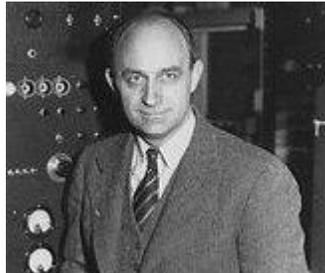
The Atomic Energy Commission was comprised of 5 members; there were 124 bomb tests over a 13year period at Frenchman and Yucca Flat(s); these tests were never conducted whenever the prevailing winds were in the direction of the Las Vegas area. Furthermore, even though Frenchman and Yucca Flat(s) in Nevada were chosen for these tests, the entire operation fell under the guise of Los Alamos, with Norris Bradbury the director of that group; Bradbury having been hand-picked by Robert Oppenheimer as his replacement.



Norris Bradbury - Los Alamos

Later on, Bradbury had stated that there was no way to learn of any adverse testing effects without first testing them. However Bradbury's son and family lived at Zion National Park (Springdale, Utah) and his son's wife said that Bradbury had told her that where they were living was not a good place to be for a pregnant mother or for raising small children.

Enrico Fermi was a physicist and the creator of the world's first nuclear reactor; he was considered the architect of the nuclear age and the atomic bomb. Fermi had stated that he wasn't actually sure regarding possible adverse effects from tests conducted in Nevada.



Enrico Fermi

Martha Laird and family lived on their ranch in Nevada, just 80 miles north of the test sites. Her 6 year-old son died of Leukemia in 1955. Mrs. Laird also lost another son to stillborn, and another member of the family developed skin disorder symptoms. They eventually left their ranch due to health concerns based upon the fallout from the nuclear testing at the Nevada Proving Ground.

Martha was also one of the first to protest the bomb testing in Nevada; she wrote to congressmen and the AEC, then received replies stating that possible adverse effects from radioactive fallout is a small sacrifice for a nation doing everything necessary to defend against global nuclear confrontation(s).

Claudia Peterson from near St. George, Utah was also interviewed due to the loss of her 6 year-old daughter Bethany to Leukemia. Peterson also described hearing radiation levels were quite high and she was told not to be concerned, that she had merely received a 'dental X-ray'.

Others interviewed with similar losses were Elmer Pickett, as well as the former mayor of Washington, Utah Quentin Nisson stating that local residents had been living the roles of "human guinea pigs"; moreover, Nisson was invited down for one of the tests and produced interesting footage of a dispersing, elongated mushroom cloud with a pinkish hue under belly, as it gradually moved along in silence.

Langdon Harrison, an Air National Guard Colonel and Operations officer, a B-50 Superfortress pilot, had flown gathering radiation readings/samplings within the clouds and mentioned having flown over St. George, Utah numerous times and stated that he remembered thinking “. . . they’re getting a lot of radiation down there . . .”.



B-50 Super Fortress

As a footnote, there was always someone stationed in the St. George, Utah community to monitor radiation levels following each test, with the test of May 19, 1953 just after 5:00 a. m. later to be referred to as *Dirty Harry*, that was to move the geiger counter needle to 350 milliroentgens per hour, which is almost off the scale. These results and promptings relative to these results were to bring about the Atomic Energy Commission’s clandestine film production announcing that there is nothing to fear from these tests, referring to tests such as *Dirty Harry*.



My Friend Irma



Nope, not referring to the popular character *Irma Peterson* with *Marie Wilson* as Irma from radio, television, or films, but rather Irma Thomas, activist, catalyst, concerned St. George resident; a relentless driving force in her efforts to garner documents and other relevant data, in order to corral government attention relative to the effects from nuclear testing, along with a notion of feeling expendable.

I've read a few articles regarding the efforts and claims by Irma Thomas however it's important to keep in mind that all forms of cancer and their origin have been a concern, and long before splitting the atom.

I have not the resume common to oncology, but based upon my experience as a former cancer patient, as well as observing an infusion center packed with other patients, I believe a majority of cancers caused by radiation exposure are those of lymphatic origin.

Nonetheless, notwithstanding my personal overview, it's import to applaud the efforts and accomplishments relative to Irma Thomas and her concern for those actual victims of radiation exposure from the nuclear tests at Nevada Proving Ground (NPG). I consider Irma Thomas' concern, efforts, and dedication in this matter to have been a vital factor in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990, originally sponsored by Senator Edward M. 'Ted' Kennedy (D-Mass) in 1979.

The following remarks and/or statements are excerpts from a published article from 1979:

Begin Thomas article excerpts:

On the morning of May 19, 1953, a dry lake bed at Yucca Flat, Nev. cracked under a devastating explosion. A bright orange fireball climbed into the sky, dissolved into a purplish mushroom cloud, then floated eastward on the wind. Moments after the blast, the residents of St. George, Utah felt the ground beneath them tremble. A few hours later a gray ash fell from the sky, coating their pastures, clinging to laundry and burning the skin of people it touched.

Known locally as “Dirty Harry,” the atom bomb that caused the fallout was not the first to leave its mark on St. George, though at 32 kilotons, it was one of the largest. From 1951 until the 1963 nuclear test-ban treaty, the Atomic Energy Commission set off at least 100 aboveground devices at the Nevada testing site. Yet, though herds of sheep and pigs in St. George fell dead within days of Dirty Harry, the AEC ignored those who claimed any connection between fallout and injury to man or beast.

For decades, the government has clung to this position, and, for almost as long, one St. George woman, Irma Thomas, 72, has waged a quiet but tenacious battle to prove the bureaucrats wrong. Says Thomas: “All I ever wanted to do was let the government know what they did to the people of St. George. The blasts were detonated only when the wind blew in our direction. They avoided the populated areas of Las Vegas and Los Angeles. They saw us as expendable”.

Thomas started writing letters to doctors who had examined residents after the atomic tests, to federal officials, to local politicians and to congressmen. Using the Freedom of Information Act, she collected official documents.

Searching through the library archives in Salt Lake City and Las Vegas, she hand-copied newspaper accounts of the explosions. Irma even took her case all the way to the White House; after President Carter delivered a human rights speech, she wrote him, "Do we have no human rights?"

The letter was referred to a series of bureaucrats, who gave Irma what she calls a "runaround" and only bolstered her determination. "I'm sick of being treated like an imbecile," she says.

While Irma's findings have mobilized the community, they are of course scientifically inconclusive. As one St. George resident puts it, "There's no way to prove that anyone died from radiation."

Nonetheless, Irma's hard data has finally attracted high-level interest. Before Senator Kennedy's Health and Scientific Research Subcommittee held hearings in Salt Lake City last spring, two staff members came to consult with Irma. Both of Utah's Senators and Gov. Scott Matheson have promised to investigate, though Irma is skeptical. "I've heard that before," she says. "We'll see."

The U.S. Center for Disease Control is conducting a survey of radiation effects in Utah, prompted by a New England Journal of Medicine article linking the abnormally high leukemia death rate among children in the St. George area to the fallout.

One scientist who has studied the problem, Dr. Robert C. Pendleton, a radiological ecologist at the University of Utah, gives Irma's work high praise. "Her contribution has been enormous," Pendleton says.

End Thonas article excerpts

The RECA Factor

In 1979 Senator Edward M. 'Ted' Kennedy of Massachusetts sponsored a bill entitled *Radiation Exposure Compensation Act*; the bill was passed by Congress October 5, 1990 and signed into law by President George H. W. Bush October 15, 1990.

From the outset, the bill was fairly broad in scope, making compensation available to persons exposed to fallout from nuclear weapons testing, uranium miners who had worked in Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico; compensation for those who were living within designated, prescribed areas having been diagnosed with Leukemia or other cancers determined to have been a result of exposure to radiation.

Radioactive fallout areas by county in Utah included Millard, Sevier, Beaver, Iron, Washington, Kane, Garfield, Piute, Wayne, San Juan, Grand, Carbon, Emery, Duchesne, Uintah, San Pete, and Juab; fallout areas by counties in Nevada were White Pine, Nye, Lander, Lincoln, and Eureka.



A Date With RECA

I was never aware of the *Radiation Exposure Compensation Act* (RECA) of 1990 until learning that a relative had received compensation; moreover, as previously stated, low level radiation can linger for as long as thirty, forty, or possibly fifty years in some cases.

I eventually explained to my wife and family that it might eventually catch up with me since I would surely be considered a *downwinder*. Then much later during the summer of 2003, medical complications launched a foreboding wakeup call that almost took my life.

At a point in late-May or early June, 2003, I developed a maddening itch on my arms and scalp, along with gradual swelling of those same areas. I set up an appointment with my PCP (Primary Care Physician). Following my PCP's examination of the bruises and swelling on my arms and scalp from the maddening itch, he immediately set me up with an appointment with a Dermatologist.

Once the Dermatologist observed the affected areas she told me, "Your skin is an orange color and I believe that you definitely have a cancer or possibly Hepatitis, but first, I'd like to have two of my associates have a look".

The Dermatologist returned with two of her associates and they agreed that I had some form of cancer or possibly some type of liver disease. The Dermatologist insisted that I should have a CT-Scan, a barrage of lab work and other medical procedures. She picked up her phone and called my PCP and explained her diagnosis, based solely upon the color of my skin and the maddening itch and swelling.

The timing of these complications and ensuing medical procedures had proven a disappointment, since a large family gathering was planned for June 29th to celebrate my mother's 90th birthday in St. George, Utah. When I returned for

the appointment with my PCP to learn the results of the CT-Scan and other procedures, our three-day drive to Utah was scheduled for the next day.

My PCP then explained that the medical procedures recently completed confirmed that I had some problems that needed attention. I then asked if he could release me in care of my family through the period covering the drive to Utah, and the return. My PCP stated that I could make that trip to Utah as planned, but that I must first receive a blood transfusion, which did take place the following day, and then we were on our way.

Once arriving in St. George we checked in at a Ramada Inn. Then the following day we spent an enjoyable afternoon checking out the changes, additions, and improvements in the area that had taken place since our previous visit in 1993.

Later on that evening, a dizziness I'd experienced a day or so earlier had returned in overwhelming fashion. I was unable to walk, sit upright, or stand. My wife and son eventually called for an ambulance; I was loaded aboard and driven to the emergency entrance at the *Dixie Regional Medical Center*.

I was eventually diagnosed with Lymphoma, yet they weren't exactly sure what type, however once meeting with my Oncologist in Georgia, he explained that I was in the intermediate stage of Large 'B' Cell Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, that it was potentially curable.

I was discharged from *Dixie Regional Medical Center* July 3, 2003. The following morning we were headed back to metro-Atlanta where I began six months of chemotherapy, radiology, and a barrage of additional procedures. I was eventually confirmed a *downwinder* according to the *Radiation Exposure Compensation Act* and the *DOJ*. Furthermore, I commend the professional care that I received while a patient under the care of the entire staff at *Dixie Regional Medical Center (DRMC)*.

Those in-particular were:

Thomas K. Jones, M. D. - Taj N. Becker, M. D. - John 'Tug' Miller, M. D.

Furthermore, and not to be overlooked, I commend the staff at the DOJ in Washington D. C. for a cursory response and process regarding RECA. I was provided a telephone number in D. C. should I have any questions during the process; a phone number minus the switchboard, much like calling a neighbor. The DOJ representative was always available whenever I called with questions.

It was September of 2003 when I carefully packed the necessary documents requested and required. I mailed the package 'Registered Mail' to the DOJ specified address in Washington, D. C.

Then two days later a hurricane raced up the east coast and flooded D. C.; government functions were closed until further notice. My registered mail package to the DOJ had arrived in D. C. on the same day as the hurricane. I considered calling the telephone number I was provided, but realized they were likely closed due to the storm and the flooding, but I dialed the number anyway. I heard the first ring, and then someone picked up the phone. This was the same DOJ representative that had always answered my calls. I immediately asked about the registered mail package I had mailed. The reply was something I was hoping for: "Yes, I have your package in front of me, it was delivered this morning".



Investigative Reports

- Nuclear Airplane –

with Bill Kurtis

May 27, 1994



Convair B-36 Peacemaker

During the first few minutes of dialogue and references regarding the nuclear age, Bill Kurtis refers to a gentleman explaining how he personally witnessed two of the twenty-three nuclear bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in 1946, then Kurtis continues that particular dialogue with the following verbatim statement: “. . . dozens more were tested in Nevada in the forties and fifties”.

I was stunned by Kurtis' remarks regarding nuclear testing in Nevada during the 1940s but I also felt alerted to that possibility and contacted Kurtis Productions in Chicago, Illinois. I was referred to a TV reporter at a TV station in Dallas, Texas. Once contacting this reporter, he referred me to the editor of a Las Vegas newspaper, claiming that the newspaper had been his source regarding Kurtis' statement about bomb testing in Nevada during the forties and fifties.

I cannot recall which newspaper this was, but I was referred to the editor of either the *Las Vegas Review Journal* or the *Las Vegas Sun*. However, at that time, I had not the opportunity nor the time to pursue this mystery any farther. So my search for additional information came to an end. However, Kurtis Productions did send me a complimentary copy of the program *Nuclear Airplane*.

I've included the Kurtis Productions *Nuclear Airplane* for the simple reason that an inquiry relative to RECA, nuclear weapons testing in Nevada during the 1940s, and my 13 year-old brother's death in 1947, because they've been considered unequivocally illogical and unrelated, based entirely upon the year 1947.



A faded picture of my brother Larry Ray Nelson from 1944

So then, was there actually testing conducted in Nevada during the 1940s? I suppose I'll always wonder about that possibility, based upon the statement by Bill Kutis in *Nuclear Airplane*; moreover, the Dallas, Texas TV reporter who suggested I contact his source to that effect, the editor of a Las Vegas, Nevada newspaper.

One of the companies seeking the *Nuclear Airplane* contract was *Lockheed*, the *Lockheed-Georgia* plant. Of course *Convair* was awarded that contract, but there's a *Lockheed- Georgia* former nuclear reactor site about an hours drive north of Atlanta, in the Dawson Forest.

During *Lockheed-Georgia's* quest regarding a possible contract, a nuclear reactor was located beneath the surface with train tracks leading to and from in a variety of directions. Since the completed project, a nuclear airplane, would use a nuclear reactor, there were items that needed to be tested while exposed to a nuclear reactor in order to ensure and confirm satisfactory levels of safety, such as the section of the aircraft serving as the air crew compartment, or quarters, should it ever become necessary to remain aloft indefinitely.

As items became ready for testing, they were loaded into rail cars and sent to the reactor site in the Dawson Forest. Upon arrival at the site, a switch was thrown and the nuclear reactor gradually rose to the surface.

This testing site remains in the Dawson Forest, but is not considered a hazard today. However the area remains surrounded by a tall chain-link fence with the appropriate signs in place.



The Former Lockheed-Georgia Nuclear Reactor Test Site

The Mother of All . . .



On July 10, 1961 Premier Nikita Khrushchev issued the order to abandon the moratorium on atmospheric nuclear testing and to resume that effort. On August 31st the Premier announced the giant new bomb and the abrupt end to the USSR's voluntary moratorium. A Soviet atmospheric nuclear test followed the next day, September 1st.

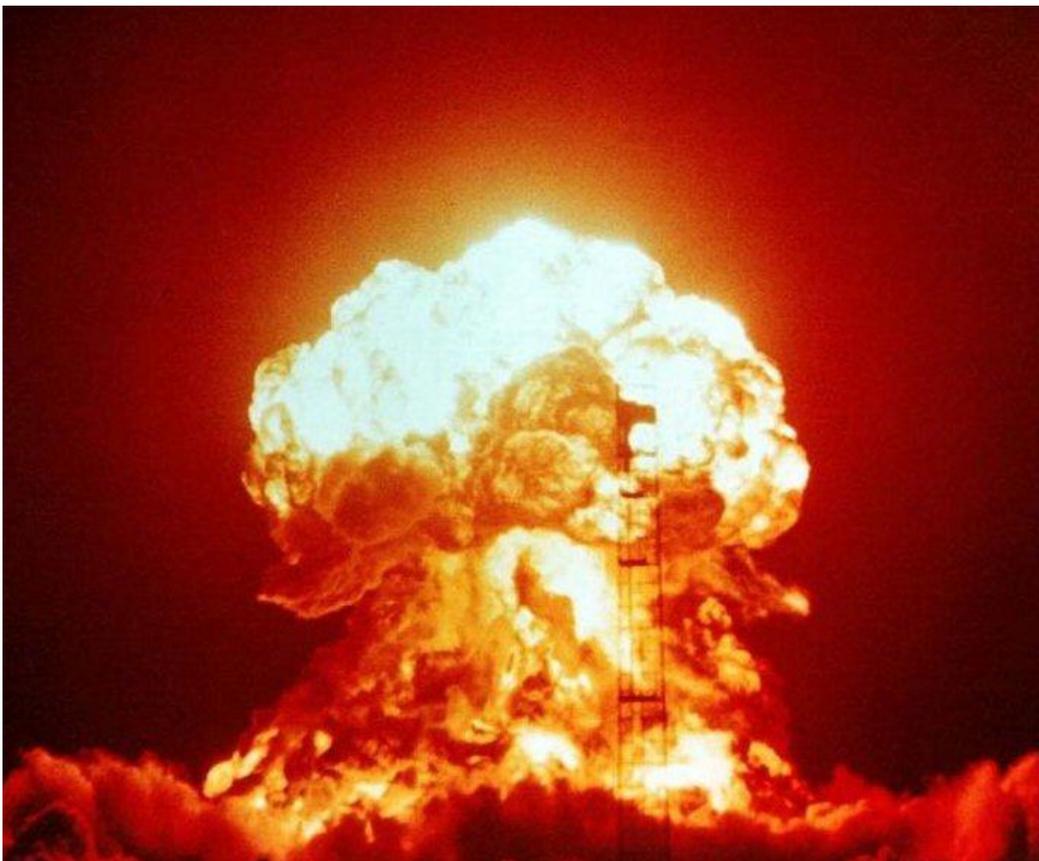
Then on October 30th 1961, a Soviet TU-95N turboprop dropped a 57 megaton Tsar bomb, weighing 27 tons, more than 26 feet in length, and seven feet in diameter; for the TU-95 to avoid damage from the blast, a parachute was attached to slow the speed of the drop, a drop of a boxcar-size bomb that was detonated at 13,000 feet; the flash was visible 600 miles from the point of detonation. This 57-megaton Tsar H-bomb, a scaled down version of the 100 megaton bomb, aircraft deliverable, was the largest nuclear weapon ever dropped. The mother of all thermonuclear devices!

In response to this mammoth Soviet blast, the U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Adlai Stevenson, made the following statement in his address to the United Nations: “Russia has lifted atmospheric pollution to new heights . . . remains unmoved over the dangers of radioactive fallout to the human race”.

Whoaaa there, considering the fact that only eight years earlier the Atomic Energy Commission had told the citizens of St. George, Utah, the world's most irradiated city according to attorney Dale Haralson (based upon relevant documentation) that there were no reasons for concern following the test in May of 1953 known as *Dirty Harry*, merely one of many tests that had inundated St. George, Utah and surrounding area with radioactive fallout.

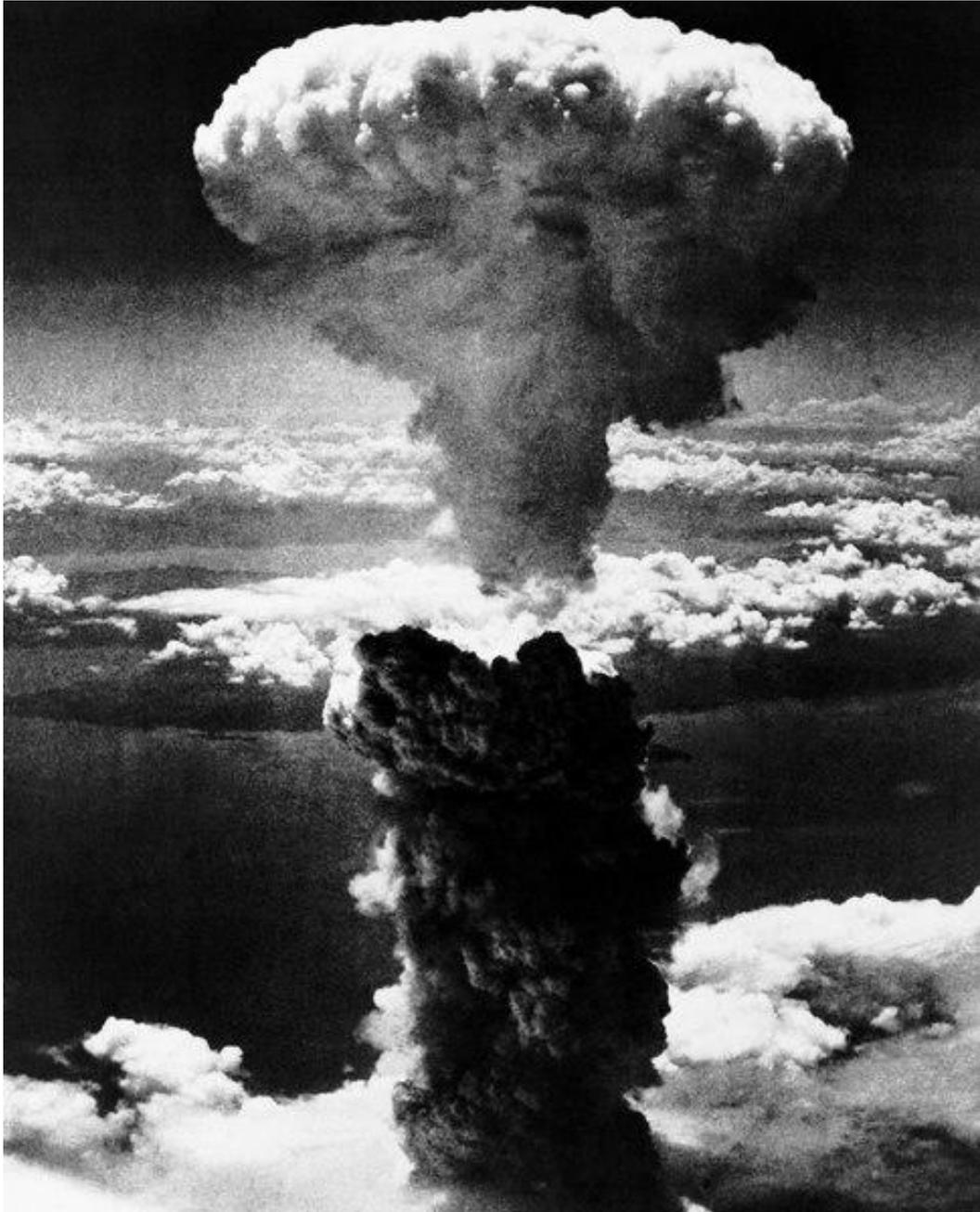


Tupolev TU-95N Turboprop - Range 9,300 miles



The Tsar H-Bomb

Clouds



Nagasaki, Japan August 9, 1945



Nagasaki, Japan - At Ground Level

“ . . there shall always be those not members of either team who will somehow be penalized, those of sweet innocence . . . ”

