

OUR NUCLEAR COMPLEX

Our holidays in the Bohemian club



This photo dated September 13, 1942 shows scientists Harold C. Urey, Ernest O. Lawrence, James B. Conant, Lyman J. Briggs, E.V. Murphree [research director of Standard Oil], and A.H. Compton inside a clubhouse at the Bohemian Grove during a meeting of the "S-1 Committee." The publication explains that the S-1 Committee oversaw the uranium project for the Office of Scientific Research and Development that guided research and development of "the mechanisms and devices of warfare" during the second world war. (source : <http://imglib.lbl.gov/imgLib/COLLECTIONS/BERKELEY-LAB/PEOPLE/GROUPS/images/96602757.lowres.jpeg>)

The Manhattan project, which produced the first atomic bombs, was conceived at the Bohemian Grove in 1942.

Ernest Lawrence invited Oppenheimer to join them at the Bohemian Grove.

General Leslie R. Groves assumed command of what would become known as the Manhattan Project the day after the meeting at the Grove. Oppenheimer was the coordinator of the Manhattan Project. (Gray Brechin, Imperial San Francisco, 1999)



Steve Bechtel (right) and John A. McCone went into business together in 1937 and later during World War II ran many of the major shipyards and construction projects in support of the war effort.



Bechtel and the Bomb

"The company's involvement had begun at the dawn of the Atomic Age, when in the early 1940s, Bechtel, through its connections with General Somervell, had built several "heavy water" storage plants at Hanford, Washington, as part of the Manhattan project – the program that developed the atomic bomb. Later, after the bomb had proved its destructive potential at Hiroshima, Bechtel had been one of several contractors and utilities that had built the "Doomsday Town", in the middle of the Nevada desert (...). For Bechtel, the Doomsday study was one of a series of early projects the company carried out for the AEC in conjunction with a number of its energy-minded customers like PG&E. It was work that in the coming years would do much to define the emerging nuclear industry. Not coincidentally, it would also establish the Bechtel corporation as the world's largest purveyor of nuclear power" (Laton McCartney, Friends in Highplaces, The Bechtel story : the most secret corporation and how it engineered the world, Simon and Schuster, 1988, p.101)

Our first nuclear test explosion in San Francisco

Port Chicago just north of San Francisco, was the site of a first nuclear test explosion at 10:17 P.M. on July 17, 1944. The devastation to the town of Port Chicago was complete. Many were blinded by the brilliant flash of light that accompanied the explosion. 320 men, 202 of whom were black enlisted men, were killed. Another 390 military personnel and civilians were injured, including 233 black enlisted men. (...)

In the aftermath of the explosion 300 uninjured African-American enlisted Navy men on the base en masse refused to comply when ordered to return to their assigned duty loading ammunition into the cargo holds of ships destined for the Pacific Theater of war. Following confinement below decks on a barge at Mare Island the assembled men were addressed by the Commandant of the 12 Naval District (San Francisco) and instructed that they were subject to summary execution if they remained in defiance. Two hundred seventy-five men then agreed to return to duty as ordered and in summary courts-martial were convicted of insubordination and other offenses. Fifty of the men remained obdurate and were charged with mutiny-in-warfare and convicted of that charge by formal Navy court-martial. The Port Chicago mutiny is the largest mutiny in United States military history. (...) With Capt. Parsons and Maurice M. Shapiro [Chief Scientist Emeritus Laboratory for Cosmic Physics, United States Naval Research Laboratory], GEORGE T. REYNOLDS [Professor of Physics Emeritus, Princeton University], conducted extensive onsite investigations of the physical effects of the Port Chicago explosion in the immediate aftermath, which in comprehensive analysis were reported in several hundred pages transmitted by Capt. Parsons to Military Policy Committee member Adm. William R. Purnell between July 27, 1944 and October 1944 (source : Peter Vogel, The Last Wave from Port Chicago, 2002).



Our bohemian friend tests some nuclear weapon in Alaska

After World War II, Alaska was chosen as the favorite site of the Pentagon for testing nuclear weapons. It was near Russia so the fallout would contaminate Siberia and remote enough from the mainland U.S. to hide the effects of the "shots" or testing. The coordinator of Alaska nuke testing was Dr. Edward Teller—the so-called "father of the H-bomb". Under the guise of the peaceful use of nukes he tested several H-bombs in Alaska under the code name Project Chariot. Teller tested a hydrogen bomb in Alaska on April 1, 1946. The Pentagon controlled world press reported it as an "earthquake" and tsunami.

Teller was a founding member of "High Frontiers", a lobbying organization dedicated to promoting space-based defense systems. Other members include Karl Bendetsen and Jacquelin Hume, members of the Bohemian Club.