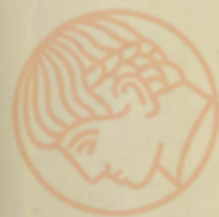
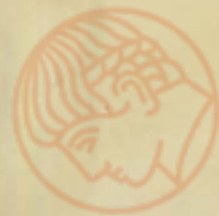


OPERATION SANDSTONE



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FIREBALL FROM FISSION. Complete pictorial records are made as the newest atomic weapons are tested at the Atomic Energy Proving Grounds on Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

Operation Sandstone

The Story of Joint Task Force Seven

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Edited by
CLARENCE H. WHITE

WASHINGTON
INFANTRY JOURNAL PRESS

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FIRST EDITION

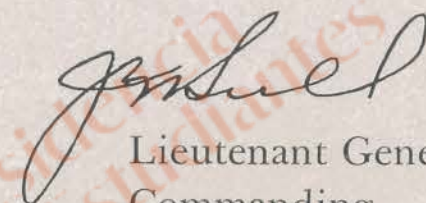
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FOREWORD

This pictorial history of Operation Sandstone stands as a testament to the individual and collective contributions of the members of Joint Task Force Seven in the attainment of a milestone in the development of atomic energy. Although this operation was concerned with the testing of atomic weapons, valuable information pertaining to civilian employment of atomic energy was gained. It is my devout hope that these developments ultimately will become the servants of all mankind in peaceful, day-to-day living.

Members of Joint Task Force Seven were not permitted to have cameras in the Eniwetok area. This group of pictures has been compiled therefore as a substitute for the pictures they might have taken had individual photography been authorized.

The operation performed by Joint Task Force Seven was the optimum of integrated effort, involving approximately 10,000 individuals drawn from the Armed Forces and from civilian pursuits. The fact that the conduct of this operation was unmarred by failure of any kind provides absolute testimony to the high professional competence, devotion to duty and patriotism of this body of Americans. Their task was not ordinary. Their accomplishments are of highest import. It was my great privilege to command this elite Force.



Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding.



AT THE TOP: Chosen to direct the atomic tests at Eniwetok—officially designated Operation Sandstone—was Lt. Gen. John E. Hull, U. S. Army. General Hull with his staff meet aboard the USS Mt. McKinley soon after the first weapon had been fired.

First Row L to R: Maj. Gen. John D. Barker, USAF; Rear Adm. William S. Parsons, USN; Maj. Gen. William E. Kepner, USAF; Lt. Gen. John E. Hull, USA; Dr. Darrol K. Froman, AEC; Rear Adm. Francis C. Dennebrink, USN; Capt. James Russell, USN; Rear Adm. Augustus J. Wellings, USN.

Center Row L to R: Capt. Harry H. Haight, USN; Col. James P. Cooney, USA; Col. Thomas J. Sands, USA; Brig. Gen. Claude B. Ferenbaugh, USA; Brig. Gen. David A. D. Ogden, USA; Capt. Charles H. Anderson, USN; Lt. Col. Peter Schmick, USA; Cmdr. Christian L. Engleman, USN; Col. Benjamin G. Holzman, USAF.

Back Row L to R: Cmdr. Frank I. Winant, Jr., USN; Col. Paul T. Cullen, USAF; Col. Joseph A. Morris, USAF; Lt. Col. James H. Brown, USA; Lt. Col. Garlan R. Bryant, USA; Cmdr. Horacio Rivero, Jr., USN; Lt. Col. Philip R. Cibotti, Jr., USA; Cmdr. Robert M. Whittemore, USN; Major Jesse D. Willoughby, USA; Capt. Clifford H. Duerfeldt, USN; Lt. Col. James K. Woolnough, USA.

THE STORY OF JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN

The atomic era was dramatically announced to an awe-struck world by the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945. Less than 30 days earlier, the first controlled explosion of an atomic weapon had flashed over the desert near Alamogordo, New Mexico. Bombs 4 and 5, air and subsurface atomic bursts, were detonated at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands in July, 1946 during Operation Crossroads by Joint Task Force I, to determine the effect of atomic weapons upon naval vessels.

New atomic weapons were developed and in June of 1947, President Truman approved a series of tests of these weapons. As a result, Joint Task Force Seven, under the command of Lt. Gen. John E. Hull, USA, was established October 18, 1947 by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Its mission was to construct an atomic energy proving ground for the Atomic Energy Commission at Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands and to assist the AEC in conducting the first series of tests—known as Operation Sandstone—during the months of April and May, 1948.