U.S. ATOM BOMB SITE BELIES TOKYO TALES
By WILLIAM L. LAURENCE Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

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Tests on New Mexico Range Confirm That Blast, and Not Radiation, Took Toll

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ATOMIC BOMB RANGE, New Mexico, Sept. 9 (Delayed)—This historic ground in New Mexico, scene of the first atomic explosion on earth and cradle of a new era in civilization, gave the most effective answer today to Japanese propaganda that radiations were responsible for deaths even after the day of the explosion, Aug. 6, and that persons entering Hiroshima had contracted mysterious maladies due to persistent radioactivity.

To give the lie to these claims, the Army opened the closely guarded gates of this area for the first time to a group of newspaper men and photographers to witness for themselves the readings on radiation meters carried by a group of radiologists, and to listen to the expert testimony of several of the leading scientists who had been intimately connected with the atomic bomb project.

The ground, visited for the first time even by Maj. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, over-all director of the atomic project, since that historic morning of Monday, July 16, gave awesome testimony on a number of subjects.

It revealed, even at a glance, the tremendous power of the atomic explosion that had blasted the

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been caused by the tremendous sequent fires. By far the majority power of the blast and by the heat and fires resulting from the temperatures, estimated at millions of degrees.

Degree Respossion's effectiveness had subsequent fires. By far the majority of the deaths came from the blast, they believe.

Persons in the center of the explosion.

Before entering the area white canvas sandals to pull over our shoes were furnished to us. This, General Groves explained, was to make certain that some of the radioactive material still present in the ground might not stick to our soles.

As we walked over the ground we were preceded by radiologists carrying Geiger counters, sensitive

explosion the radiations on the sur- might have kept on fighting for a face had dwindled to a minute longer period."

quantity, safe for continuous human habitation.

The Japanese are still continuing their propaganda aimed at cre-

mediate habitation.

At the rate the radiations have diminished during the past two months, it was pointed out, the entire area will be free of them

within a relatively short time.

The atomic explosion in New Mexico was from a steel tower only 100 feet from the ground, whereas the bombs over Hiroshimand Nogogalia was drawn drawn from whereas the bombs over Hiroshima who were sent into Hiroshima beand Nagasaki were dropped from fore the bombing to evacuate the
a bomber and exploded in the air city on prior order. They simply
from a much greater height, a scientist pointed out. Detonation at were hurt in the original blast and
entist pointed out. Detonation at were not examined and treated as
that height over the Japanese
cities, he said, greatly reduced the
absorption of the gamma rays in who represented the United States
the ground, so that there were fewer of these radiations in Japan
than in New Mexico.

This finding is borne out by a scientific research and develop-

admit, according to General Far-rell, were owing to the blast and its consequent collapse of build-ings and flying debris and to depth of twenty-five feet.

It showed that by far the maits consequent collapse of buildjority of deaths within the radius ings and flying debris and to
of the explosion's effectiveness had

Hiroshima from surface radiations. Vegetation growing on the Hiroshima parade grounds supports this belief.

Foe's Propaganda at Work

"The Japanese claim," General Groves added, "that people died from radiations. If this is true, the

number was very small.
"However, any deaths from gam-

we were preceded by radiologists carrying Geiger counters; sensitive instruments that respond instantly to any radiation in their vicinity, revealing on a graduated dial the exact quantity present.

Instruments Belie Japanese

The Geiger counters supplemented the testimony given by the ground's appearance. They showed sooner. It was the final punch that that less than two months after the knocked them out. Otherwise they explosion the radiations on the sur-

man habitation.

Only in the center of the saucer, ating the impression that we won over a radius of about fifty yards, the war unfairly, and thus atwere the radiations higher than the tempting to create sympathy for standard tolerance dose for continuous exposure. In this area it examination of their present state-would take 600 hours of continuous ments reveals.

Thus, at the beginning, the Japaccording to the scientists present.

Furthermore, it was pointed out did not ring true. More recently that the radioactive material on they have sent in a radiologist, the fused surface constituted only and since then the symptoms they about one-eighth of an inch. It decribe appear to be more authenwould therefore be relatively easy tic on the surface, according to to remove this surface material the radiologists present here to-and make the ground safe for immediate habitation.

"Relief" Workers Misnamed

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The Japanese, for example, had sent out a report that relief workers sent into Hiroshima after the blast had received radiation burns. "We now know from Japanese sources," General Groves went on, "that these were actually workers who were sent into Hiroshima be-

U.S. ATOM BOMB SITE report just recieved by General ment of the bomb; Prof. Kenneth Groves from Brig. Gen. Thomas F. T. Bainbridge of Harvard Univer-BELIES TOKYO TALES Farrell, his next in command, who sity, who was in charge of the hisis now in Japan with a group of toric test explosion that gave the American scientists to study the go-ahead signal for the atomic effects of the bombs on the scene. bombings of Hiroshima and Naga-The studies of the American sci- saki; Dr. Victor R. Weisskopf, theentists are still in the preliminary oretical physicist of the Univer-earth over a radius of 800 yards stage, General Groves stated. But sity of Rochester (N. Y.); Prof. from the center. he added that, according to Gen- Robert F. Bacher of Cornell Uni-It gave mute testimony of the eral Farrell, Japanese sources now versity, Dr. Richard W. Dodson, enormous temperatures developed admitted that eleven days after the radiochemist of Pasadena, Calif.; at the split instant of the explosion, fusing the earth for a radius
of 1,200 feet into a green, glasslike coating resembling fine jade.

It told of the enormous pressure
that had compressed the earth below it over an area of 400 yards
into a giant bowl that reached a
depth of twenty-five feet

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bomb had pulverized Hiroshima
the radiation there was much ologist of St. Louis, Mo.; Dr. J. G.
Hoffman of Buffalo, and Major
Ridge, Tenn.

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