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**Harrison-Bundy Files**  
**Relating to the**  
**Development of the Atomic Bomb**  
**1942-1946**



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*Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers*

*Record Group 77*

HARRISON-BUNDY FILES  
RELATING TO THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ATOMIC BOMB  
1942-1946

On the nine rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of George L. Harrison and Harvey H. Bundy, two special assistants to Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. The Harrison-Bundy Files, also known as the Arneson Files, document the Army's role in the development and production of nuclear weapons. Although created and maintained in the Office of the Secretary of War, the records are now among those of the Manhattan Engineer District, which are part of Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Record Group (RG) 77.

Most of the documents are dated 1942-46, but occasional items date from as early as 1940 and as late as 1950. Harrison and Bundy served as liaisons between Stimson, Brig. Gen. Leslie R. Groves of the Army Corps of Engineers, and other officials participating in the Manhattan Engineer District Project. Harrison was a special consultant to the Secretary of War from 1943 to 1947 and served as an alternate chairman of the Secretary's Interim Policy Committee on Atomic Energy. Bundy was a special assistant to the Secretary of War from April 1941 to September 1945. Capt. R. Gordon Arneson served as administrative secretary to the special assistants and maintained the files.

#### History

U.S. Government involvement in the nuclear energy field dates from 1939. Experiments conducted in Germany during the previous year had resulted in the discovery of nuclear fission, and subsequent work in the United States and France demonstrated the feasibility of uranium chain reactions, releasing massive amounts of power. Prompted by nuclear scientist Leo Szilard, economist Alexander Sachs, of the Lehman Corporation, made a personal call on President Franklin D. Roosevelt in October 1939, to urge Government support of nuclear research. Sachs carried a letter from Albert Einstein that summarized recent developments in the nuclear field, indicated the possibility of constructing powerful bombs, and warned of possible German interest in uranium.

Shortly after the meeting with Sachs, President Roosevelt appointed an Advisory Committee on Uranium. With the establishment of the National Defense Research Committee (NDRC) in June 1940, Roosevelt gave instructions that the Uranium Committee was to become an NDRC subcommittee reporting to the NDRC Chairman, Vannevar Bush. In the summer of 1941 the Uranium Committee was enlarged and redesignated the Uranium, or S-1, Section of NDRC.

Roosevelt's Executive Order 8807, June 28, 1941, established the Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) to mobilize the nation's scientific resources for national defense. Bush became director of OSRD and was replaced by James B. Conant as head of NDRC. After December 1941, the uranium program was administered by OSRD directly, first through an OSRD S-1 Section, and then, beginning June 1942, through an OSRD Executive Committee headed by Conant. Under OSRD auspices, an intensive research program in nuclear fission was underway by late 1941.

In December 1941, Roosevelt designated Vice President Henry A. Wallace and Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall, along with Stimson, Conant, and Bush, as a Top Policy Group to determine procedures for the uranium project. At a meeting on December 16, 1941, the group recommended expediting research and planning, with an emphasis on constructing pilot plants for producing fissionable materials. Bush advocated that the Army take over direction of the project once full-scale construction of the plants was underway, and further recommended that a technically trained Army officer be put in charge. Subsequently, General Marshall appointed Brig. Gen. Wilhelm D. Styer as the Army's principal S-1 contact; and Styer assigned Col. James C. Marshall as the S-1 Engineering Officer. Colonel Marshall initially referred to his new command as the DSM (Development of Substitute Materials) Project; but on June 18, the Chief of Engineers instructed him to form a new Engineer district to manage the project. The district was designated the Manhattan Engineer District by General Order 33 of the War Department, Office of the Chief of Staff, August 13, 1942. On September 17, 1942, General Styer's superior, Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, appointed then Col. Leslie R. Groves of the Corps of Engineers to take complete executive charge of the Manhattan Engineer District project.

On September 23, 1942, the Top Policy Group appointed a Military Policy Committee "to consider and plan military policy relating to the project, such planning to cover production, strategic and tactical problems, and research and development relating thereto." Bush was appointed chairman (with Conant as alternate), with Adm. W. R. E. Purnell and General Styer as the other members. Groves was to "sit with the Committee and act as Executive Officer to carry out the policies that may be determined." Periodically, the Committee was to submit progress reports to the President's Policy Group. By late 1942, OSRD began to assume an ancillary role in the atomic project, but not until May 1943 did the Army assume complete responsibility under the Military Policy Committee. The OSRD S-1 Executive Committee, though not formally dissolved, became inactive at that time. Groves, as commanding general of the Manhattan Engineer District, reported to the Secretary of War, the Chief of Staff, and the Military Policy Committee.

The Manhattan Engineer District (also known as the Manhattan Project) was initially headquartered in New York City. It had no prescribed territorial limits and functioned as a special district for directing the atomic bomb project. As such, the Manhattan Engineer District supervised research, development and testing projects, plant construction, and production programs relating to the project. The District also administered numerous laboratories and field installations, including: the Clinton Engineer Works at Oak Ridge, Tenn., which performed separation of uranium isotopes; the Hanford Engineer Works at Richland, Wash., which produced plutonium; and the laboratory at Los Alamos, N.M., which performed final processing of the fissionable materials and assembled the finished atomic bombs. The District also maintained facilities in over 30 cities, and during its peak operations, employed over 129,000 persons. By the end of 1945, overall cost of the Manhattan Project had reached nearly \$2 billion. On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was successfully detonated at Alamogordo, N.M. On August 6, 1945, and August 9, 1945, atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, respectively.

During the summer of 1944, the problem of postwar control of nuclear energy began to receive serious consideration. In a memorandum of July 27, Conant advocated the formation of a "commission on atomic energy" to be charged with postwar development of nuclear energy for civilian and military purposes. Over the next few months, Conant, along with Bush, urged the establishment of such a commission. On May 4, 1945, Stimson appointed an Interim Committee on S-1 "to survey and make recommendations on postwar research, development, and controls, as well as legislation necessary to effectuate them." The committee was chaired by the Secretary of War (with Harrison as alternate) and included the Secretary and Assistant Secretaries of State, Undersecretary of the Navy Ralph A. Bard, Karl T. Compton, OSRD, Bush, and Conant.

The work of the Interim Committee eventually resulted in the establishment of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) by the Atomic Energy Act of August 1, 1946 (Public Law 585, 79th Cong., 60 Stat. 755). All phases of nuclear energy research and production came under the control of the AEC on January 1, 1947. The Manhattan Engineer District continued about 6 months longer, solely as an administrative agency to close out the project and to be responsible for personnel assigned to the Commission during the transition period. On December 31, 1946, a joint Army-Navy organization, the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (AFSWP), was established to assume the military functions of the Manhattan Engineer District.

Stimson maintained custody of the Harrison-Bundy Files until his retirement in September 1945, at which time he transferred them to Groves. Groves subsequently incorporated the files with those records of the Manhattan Engineer District of

which he retained custody. Of the 12,300 linear feet of Manhattan Engineer District records on hand as of June 1946, Groves kept some 72 linear feet. When Groves became Chief, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, he maintained the files in the custody of the Project. This practice was continued during the tenures of his successors, Gen. Kenneth D. Nichols and Gen. Herbert B. Loper.

Upon General Loper's retirement, the records were removed to the custody of General Nichols, then Chief, Research and Development, Office of the Army Chief of Staff. When Nichols retired in 1953, the files were transferred to the physical custody of the Adjutant General of the Army, under arrangements made by Groves with the Office of the Army Chief of Staff. In 1958, they were transferred, along with many other Army records, to the custody of the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) in Alexandria, Va. Physical transfer to the National Archives Building, Washington, D.C., was made in 1968.

#### Records Description

##### *Arrangement, Indexing, and Content of Records*

The Harrison-Bundy Files are arranged in 113 folders according to a subject-numeric scheme. For numerical and alphabetical lists of folder headings, see appendixes A and B to these introductory remarks. Appendix A lists the headings for the 113 folders in numerical order; appendix B lists the same headings, but in alphabetical order. Within individual files, documents are arranged in accordance with accompanying descriptive lists prepared by the AFSWP. The lists for each folder are filmed first, as a finding aid for the documents, which follow. A consolidated collection of lists for all folders has been filmed at the beginning of roll 1.

Most of the documents in the Harrison-Bundy Files consist of letters, reports, and memorandums. Other types of records include: messages; telegrams; directives; notes; minutes and agenda of meetings; histories; draft and published copies of speeches, press releases, legislation, and international agreements; petitions; maps and charts; receipts for documents; and miscellaneous printed material. A number of duplicate documents were retained in the files, as noted in the accompanying AFSWP lists for folders. In most instances, however, the duplicate copies have not been microfilmed.

The correspondence is primarily either to or from the following officials: the Secretary of War and his special assistants; the Under Secretary of War; and General Groves and his principal subordinates. Among the correspondents are included: top-level Government officials in the White House and

Departments of State, Interior, Justice, and Commerce; officials in OSRD, particularly Bush and Conant; prominent Senators and Congressmen; British and Canadian officials, including the prime ministers, ambassadors, and lower echelon civilian and military representatives involved with nuclear policy and development; U.S. military officials from the Office of the Army Chief of Staff, Offices of Chief of Engineers and Ordnance, Army Service Forces, and War Production Board; scientists and scientific organizations; and officials from private industry and labor. The subject matter of the correspondence relates to such matters as: technical, scientific, and fiscal problems; relations with allied powers in nuclear matters, including U.S. involvement in international agreements and accords, such as the Quebec Agreement of August 19, 1943, and the Combined Development Trust of June 13, 1944; relations with the Congress, including congressional attempts to investigate the Manhattan Engineer District; dealings with private industry and labor organizations; personnel and security problems; the search for vitally needed natural resources; legislation and plans for postwar development and control of nuclear energy; and official Government policy.

#### *Security Classification*

Although none of the documents reproduced on this microfilm publication are now security classified, many of them were at one time or another. Some documents were classified "Top Secret" or "Secret" and had these security classification markings stamped, typed or written on them. The AEC reviewed the security classification of the entire series in February 1961, marking various folders "Declassified" and not containing "Restricted Data." The Department of the Army subsequently reviewed the classification and marked various folders "Regraded Unclassified." Between 1973 and 1979, NARS staff members reviewed and declassified documents and cancelled classification markings. All records and collections of records that are currently security classified have been withdrawn from the files. A few other documents have been withdrawn because they contain information of a privileged nature or because their release could constitute a violation of personal privacy. NARS has replaced removed documents with withdrawal notices, which cite the authorization for removals.

#### Related Records

In addition to the Harrison-Bundy Files, the Manhattan Engineer District records in RG 77 include general correspondence; directives; investigatory, fiscal, and intelligence files; and reports relating to bomb tests. Available as a NARS microfilm publication is *Correspondence ("Top Secret") of the Manhattan Engineer District, 1942-1946*, M1109. Records of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project and its successors, the Defense

Atomic Support Agency and the Defense Nuclear Agency, are in Records of the Defense Nuclear Agency, RG 374. Included therein, and also reproduced as a NARS microfilm publication, is the *Manhattan Engineer District History*, A1218. This multivolume work was compiled at Groves' direction by Gavin Hadden, a civilian employee of the Manhattan Project. Groves' personal papers, dated 1941-70, are found in National Archives Gift Collection, RG 200. They include correspondence, speeches, publications, newspaper clippings, diaries, and photographs, much of which relate to Groves' role in the Manhattan Project and the postwar development of nuclear energy. Records of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, RG 227, include information relating to the atomic bomb project, and are important for the years preceding the formation of the Manhattan Engineer District. Of particular interest is a series of Bush-Conant correspondence dated 1941-47, relating to S-1.

These introductory remarks were written by Clifford L. Muse and revised by Robert H. Gruber, who also prepared the records for filming.



## Appendixes

### A. Numerical List of Contents of Subject Files

<u>File No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1	Minutes of Meeting, Sept. 23, 1942 (Top Policy Group)
2	Appropriations - Hearings on the Hill
3	Discussion on Atomic Energy with British and Canada
4	Du Pont and Imperial Chemical Cos.
5	Memos - Harvey H. Bundy to Henry L. Stimson
6	Military Policy Committee Papers - Minutes
7	Miscellaneous
8	Manhattan (District) Project
9	Minutes of Meeting, Sept. 8, 1943 (Combined Policy Committee)
10	Minutes of Meeting, Dec. 17, 1943 (Combined Policy Committee)
11	Minutes of Meeting, Feb. 17, 1944 (Combined Policy Committee)
12	Minutes of Meeting, Apr. 13, 1944 (Combined Policy Committee)
13	Minutes of Meeting, Sept. 19, 1944 (Combined Policy Committee)
14	(Minutes of) Meeting, Jan. 22, 1945, Combined Policy Committee
15	History of Atomic Bomb
16	Harvey H. Bundy's Memo Regarding United Kingdom
17	CAN-AM (British Cable) File
18	Patent Question (Agreement between U.S. and Great Britain)

<u>File No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
19	Bohr, Dr. Neils
20	Russia
21	Legal Opinions
22	Harrison, George L. - His Own Papers
23	Quebec Agreement
24	Personnel
25	MacArthur, Gen. Douglas - Letter from Stimson to (Mar. 31, 1944)
26	Intelligence Reports (Germany)
27	Raw Materials - Supply and Demand Study
28	Subcommittee (of the Combined Policy Committee) - Minutes
29	(Maj. Gen. L. R.) Groves' Compilations and Reports
30	Germany
31	Code Instruction (Special)
32	Canadian Project - N. R. X. (Chalk River Reactor)
33	T 10-7.17 (A) (Incorporated with File 32)
34	Brazil
35	Belgian Supply Agreement
36	French Situation
37	(Minutes of) Meeting, July 4, 1945, Combined Policy Committee
38	(Minutes of) Meeting, Oct. 13, 1945, Combined Policy Committee
39	(Minutes of) Meeting, Oct. 13, 1945, Combined Policy Committee (Incorporated with File 38)
40	(Minutes of) Meeting, Dec. 4, 1945, Combined Policy Committee

<u>File No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
41	(Minutes of) Meeting, Feb. 15, 1946, Combined Policy Committee
42	(Minutes of) Meeting, Apr. 15, 1946, Combined Policy Committee
43	(Agenda of) Meeting, July 31, 1946, Combined Policy Committee
44	African Metals Contract
45	ANCAM (British Cable) File
46	(Minutes of) Meeting, Mar. 8, 1945, Combined Policy Committee
47	Exchange of Information Agreement (United Kingdom and U.S.)
48	Trust Agreement Between U.S. and Great Britain (June 13, 1944)
49	Signed Original Documents
50	Revision of Agreements with United Kingdom and Canada
51	Manhattan District Project
52	British - Conversation with Harvey H. Bundy
53	Sweden
54	Declaration of Trust Agreement
55	U.S. Cables
56	Winant (John G.) - (Henry L.) Stimson Correspondence - Cables
57	(Contract, African Metals Corp. and Combined Development Trust) - Sir Charles Hambro
58	(Vannevar) Bush Report - Mar. 1942
59	(Arthur H.) Compton Report
60	White House
61	California Trouble

<u>File No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
62	Security (Manhattan Project)
63	Working Committee (State Department)
64	Interim Committee - Potsdam Cables
65	Combined Policy Committee Papers
66	Interim Committee - Legislation - Testimony and Statements
67	Interim Committee - Legislation - Amendments
68	Interim Committee - Legislation
69	Interim Committee - (Miscellaneous)
70	Interim Committee - Miscellaneous
71	Interim Committee - British Committee
72	Interim Committee - Legislation (Draft Bills)
73	Interim Committee - Secretary of War Statement
74	Interim Committee - President Truman's Statement
75	Interim Committee - Publicity
76	Interim Committee - Scientific Panel
77	Interim Committee - International Control
78	Personal - (George L.) Harrison
79	Manhattan District (Project)
80	Manhattan District Project
81	Declassification of Documents
82	Atomic Energy Bill
83	Miscellaneous Statements, Resolutions, etc.
84	Reports to Congress, Bureau of the Budget, etc.
85	Secretary of War - Speech and Press Release (Mar. 9, 1946 and Oct. 20, 1945)

<u>File No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
86	Letters to and from Scientists, (William L.) Marbury, etc.
87	Committee Reports, etc., Hearings, President Truman's Message
88	Analyses of Bills (U.S. Senate and House of Representatives)
89	Amendments, Analyses, etc., of May-Johnson Bill
90	Reports to the Bureau of the Budget and McMahon Committee
91	Secretary of War - Radio Speech (Sept. 3, 1946)
92	Drafts of Secretary of War Testimony (Senate Special Committee on Atomic Energy)
93	Congressman (Walter G.) Andrews
94	General Accounting Office
95	White House
96	Bills (U.S. Senate and House of Representatives)
97	Miscellaneous
98	Interim Committee - Log
99	Traynor, Maj. Harry S., Report of
100	Interim Committee - Minutes of Meetings
101	(Interim Committee) - Receipts
102	Interim Committee - Receipts
103	(Major) General (L. R.) Groves - Combined Policy Committee Files (Armed Forces Special Weapons Project)
104	Maj. Gen. L. R. Groves
105	T 10-7 (United Kingdom-U.S.-Canadian Cooperation)
106	T 10-7.7 John G. Winant Negotiations
107	T 10-8 (French Situation)

<u>File No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
108	Miscellaneous Papers
109	Annexes - Diplomatic History of the Manhattan Project
110	Photostat Negatives - Diplomatic History (of the Manhattan Project)
111	Diplomatic History of the Manhattan Project
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113	Proposals for Research and Development in Field of Atomic Energy

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