



THE BRAINS BEHIND THE BOMB

By our chief reporter
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SCIENTISTS from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard in Cambridge have been revealed as members of the secret “Manhattan Project” that built the first atom bombs during World War II.

Everett-born Vannevar Bush (top left), who joined MIT after World War I, initiated the U.S. government project to develop nuclear weapons.

It has also emerged that Harvard played an important role in the development of the bomb.

Harvard University president James Bryant Conant (top middle) became an adviser to the Manhattan Project and to U.S. President Harry Truman, who authorized its use. And J. Robert Oppenheimer—“father of the atomic bomb”—was a Harvard graduate, while Army officer Leslie R. Groves, who oversaw the production and security of the bomb, attended MIT.

The U.S. entered WWII in 1941 when Japan bombed the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii. Nazi Germany was eventually overrun by American and Allied forces. Japan surrendered yesterday, after atom bombs were dropped on two cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Japanese surrender has avoided the need for Allied troops to mount what military chiefs predicted would otherwise be a treacherous invasion of the country.

Supported by Britain and Canada, the U.S. recruited some of the world’s finest minds to work on the Manhattan Project, whose



WHILE not very well known, the Indigenous people of Massachusetts have taken part in every war that America has been involved in. During the colonial, Revolutionary, and Civil wars, people fought for a variety of reasons. Native people also fought in World Wars I and II, Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Pictured above is George Belain, the great-grandson of a whaler. This Aquinnah Wampanoag soldier died in combat at the age of 25 in World War I in France.

secret facility has been revealed at Los Alamos, New Mexico.

In the U.S. armed forces, people from Massachusetts have again achieved an outstanding military record. National Guard troops, who make up a large part of the 26th “Yankee” Infantry Division, fought in France before advancing into Germany and liberating a concentration camp.

About 20 men connected to Massachusetts received Medals of Honor, one of the highest number of decorations for a U.S. state. More than half never returned home.

Among them was Holyoke-born Raymond O. Beaudoin, an Army officer who sacrificed his life to save his men in Germany. Quincy-born U.S. Marine William R. Caddy smothered a grenade blast to protect colleagues at the Battle of Iwo Jima. Wounded Frederick C. Murphy, a Boston-born Army medic, braved a German minefield to treat U.S. soldiers. Killed in an explosion, he saved many lives at the cost of his own.

On the “home front,” women often filled the skilled jobs of men who had gone off to fight. More than 8,000 women worked at the Charlestown Navy Yard during the war; 1,000 women worked in Lowell making parachutes.