

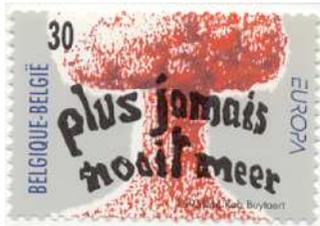
A Catalogue of Nuclear Explosions on Stamps

Catalogue Numbers are from either the
© Stanley Gibbons Catalogue or © Scott



Aitutaki – Cook Islands	1980	SG 284-289
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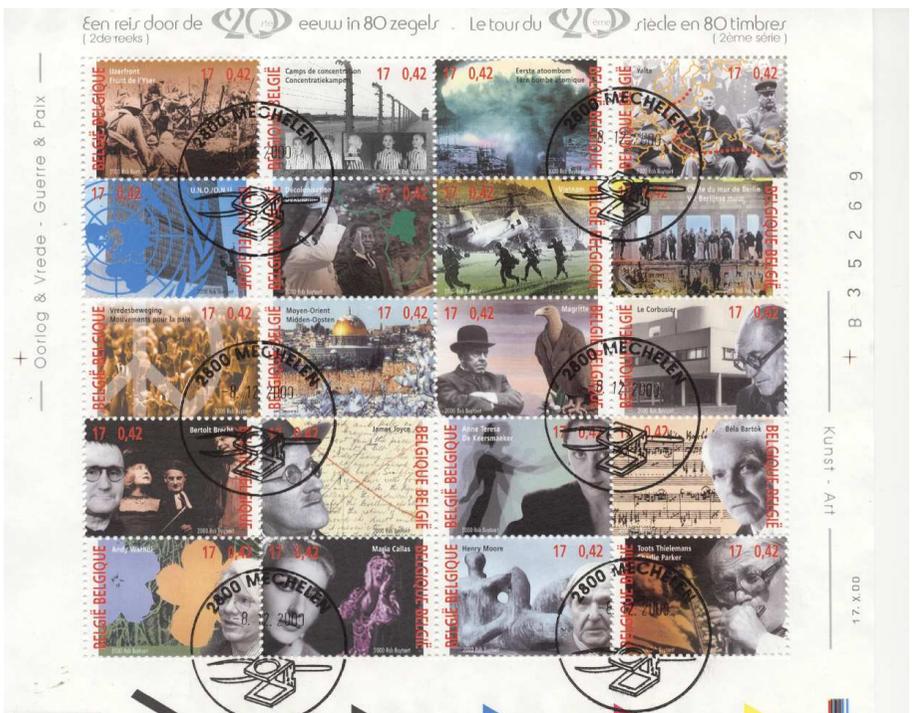
25th Anniversary of death of Albert Einstein
Voted 'Man of the Century'



Belgium	1995	SG 3264-3265
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Peace and Freedom 'Never Again'

This stamp from Belgium, part of the 1995 Europa issue, commemorated the 25th anniversary of the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty** and depicts an atomic mushroom cloud.



Belgium	2000	SG 3613
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The Twentieth Century (2nd Issue) War, Peace and Art



Bulgaria	1982	SG 3038
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This 1982 issue from Bulgaria was issued to promote Nuclear Disarmament and depicts an Atomic Bomb mushroom cloud and globe.



China	2004	
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Pre-stamped post card, used with Deng Xiao Ping postmark. China celebrates successful Test launching of Hydrogen Bomb, Atom Bomb and satellite

CONGO 1984
goes here

The 1940's

Millennium 1000-2000

1940

- Winston Churchill designated prime minister of Great Britain
- Regular TV broadcasting begins in US

1941

- Japan bombs Pearl Harbor
- United States enters World War II

1942

- Anne Frank hid in Amsterdam where she wrote her Famous Diary
- Atomic Bomb tested in New Mexico

1944

- D-Day Invasion marks the beginning of Germany's defeat in World War II

1945

- Big Three at Yalta to determine the shape of Postwar Europe
- United Nations is officially established
- Germany surrenders, horrors of Nazi Holocaust, concentration camps exposed
- A Russian soldier hangs the hammer and sickle atop the gutted Reichstag

1946

- "Eniac" becomes world's first computer

1947

- India gains independence
- Bell Labs produce first transistor

1948

- Ghandi assassinated by Hindu fanatic
- Israel achieves statehood
- Soviets blockade West Berlin; Western Allies respond with massive airlifts

1949

- Mao Tse-Tung establishes People's Republic of China; Nationalists flee to Formosa (Taiwan)



Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



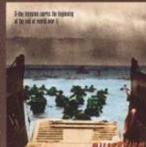
Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



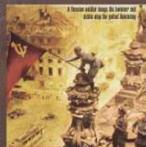
Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



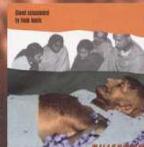
Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



Commonwealth of
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Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



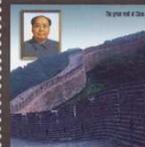
Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢



Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢

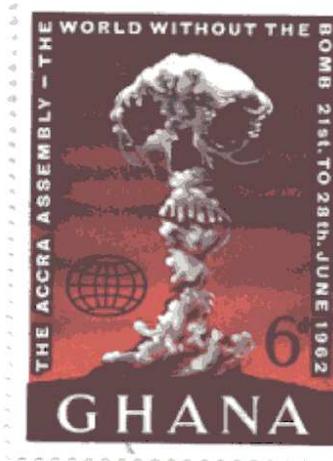


Commonwealth of
Dominica 55¢

Dominica

1999

SG 2735



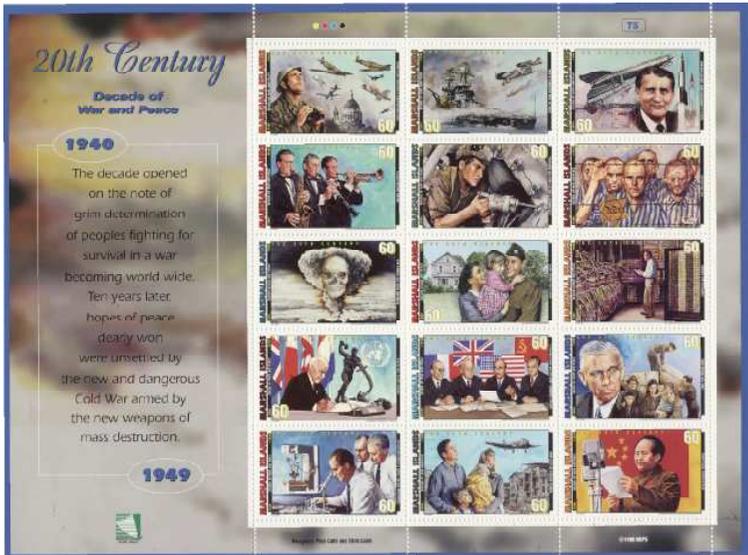
Ghana	1962	SG 284
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The Accra Assembly commitment to disarmament



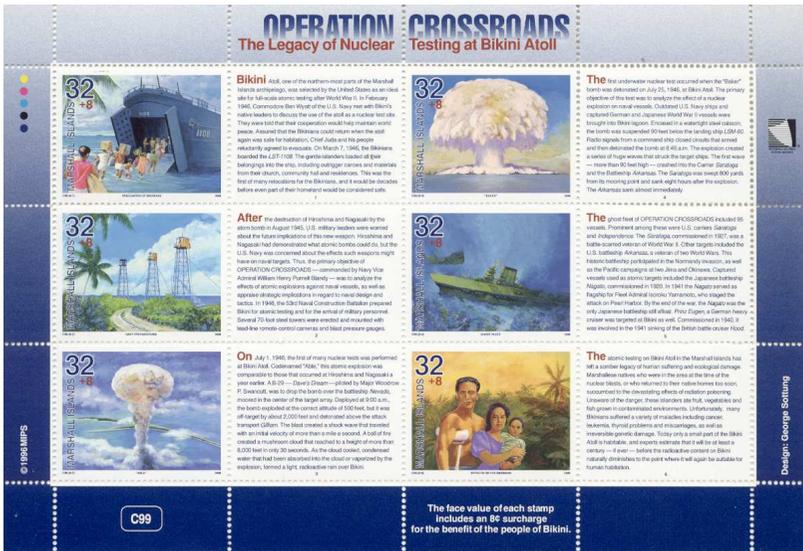
Marshall Islands	1988	SG 194-198
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25th Anniversary of Assassination of
John F. Kennedy. Depicts the signing of the Test Ban Treaty
in Moscow between USA, UK and USSR, 5th August 1963



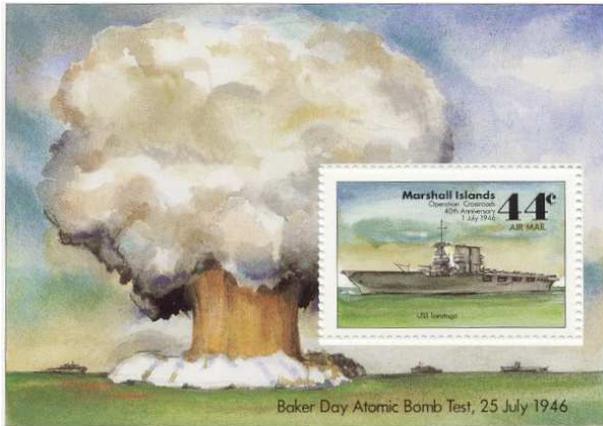
Marshall Islands 1998 1073

The C20 'Decade of War and Peace'



Marshall Islands 1996 SG 721-726

50th Anniversary of Operation Crossroads



Marshall Islands	1986	Scott C7
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40th Anniversary of Operation Crossroads

This 1986 souvenir sheet from Marshall Islands (Scott #C7) was created to mark the 40th anniversary of **Operation Crossroads**, the atomic bomb tests conducted in the Pacific following World War II. The sheet contains an image of the "Shot Baker" explosion in July 1946, and the USS Saratoga, one of the target vessels sunk by the blast.



Marshall Islands	1995	SG 591
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Dropping of Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima



Marshall Islands	1998	SG 1073
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The Twentieth Century (5th Series) Decade of War and Peace



Mexico	1977	1396
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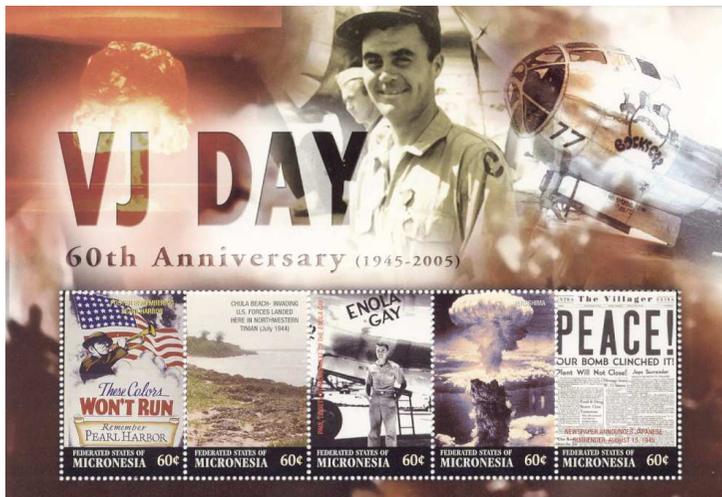
10th Anniversary of Treaty of Tlatelolco



Mexico	1997	2438
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30th Anniversary of Treaty of Tlatelolco

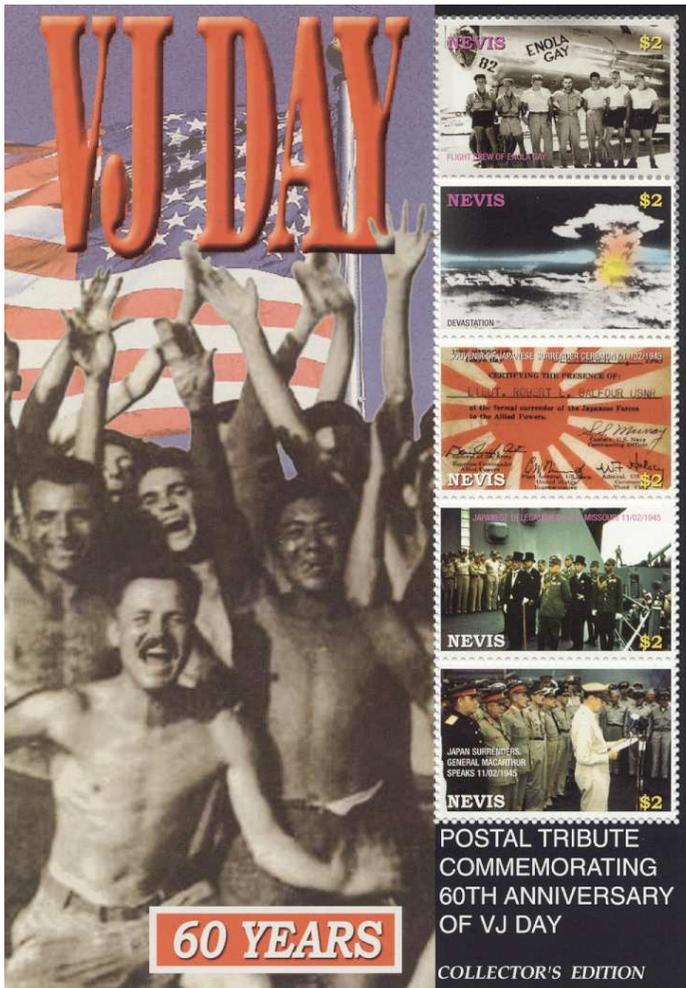
This 1997 issue from Mexico prompted the Tlatelolco Treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. The stamp depicts an atomic mushroom cloud with the date "1967", and a tree with the date "1997".



Micronesia

2005

No details in SG 2006 Catalogue



Nevis		
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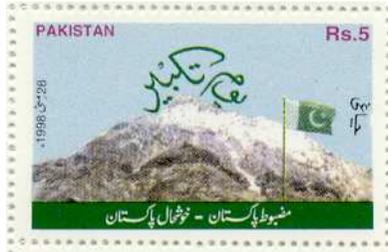
No details available in SG 2006 Catalogue



Nicaragua	1971	1765
Scientific Formulae – Einstein's Law		



Nicaragua		
No details in Stanley Gibbons 2006 Catalogue		



Pakistan	1999	
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Pakistan joins the Nuclear Club of USA, UK, Russia (formally The Soviet Union), People's Republic of China, France, Israel and neighbour India. (2006 – North Korea)



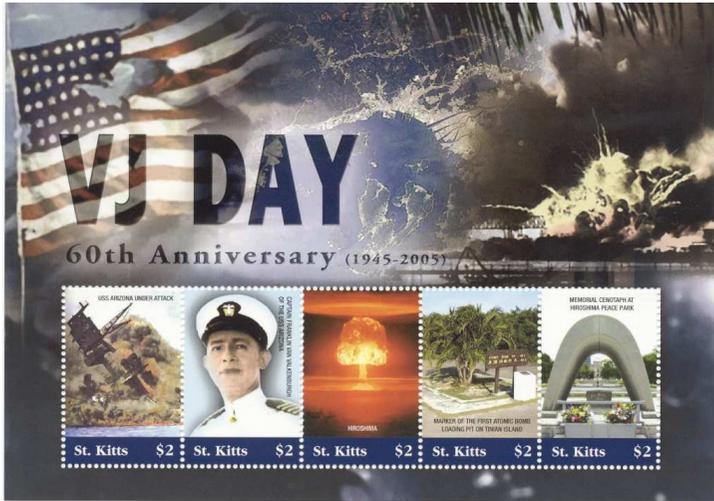
Penrhyn – Cook Islands	1995	SG 514
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50th Anniversary of End of Second World War



Russia	1998	SG 6795
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Achievements of the 20th Century – Nuclear Energy



St Kitts	2005	821-825
60 th Anniversary of Victory in Japan		



St Vincent	2000	MS4697
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Wars of the C20



The 1930's

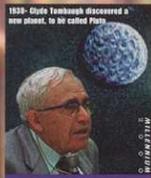
MILLENNIUM
1000 - 2000

1930

- Mahatma Gandhi defines law in Salt March
- Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona announces that astronomer Clyde Tombaugh has discovered a new planet, to be called Pluto.



1930- Mahatma Gandhi leads Salt March
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



1930- Clyde Tombaugh discovered a new planet, to be called Pluto
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



1931- Chrysler Building opens
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



1931- Spain becomes a republic
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢

1931

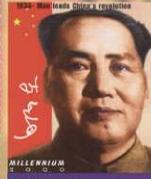
- Empire State Building opens
- Spain becomes a republic.



1933- FDR launches "New Deal"
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



1933- Reichstag burned in Germany
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



1934- Mao leads China's revolution
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



1934- Spanish Civil War
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢

1933

- FDR launches "New Deal", sweeping federal economic, Public Works legislation to combat The Depression
- Reichstag burned in Germany

1934

- Mao leads China's revolution

1936

- Spanish Civil War led by General Franco
- Edward VIII King of England, abdicated from the throne to marry Wallis Simpson, an American divorcee
- Diego Rivera, the Mexican muralist, turns 50



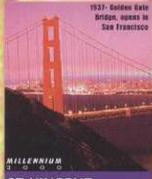
1936- Edward VIII King of England, abdicated from the throne to marry Wallis Simpson
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



1936- Diego Rivera, the Mexican muralist, turns 50
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢

1937

- The Hindenburg explodes in a ball of fire
- Golden Gate Bridge, largest suspension bridge in the world, opens in San Francisco



1937- Golden Gate Bridge, opens in San Francisco
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



1937- First atomic reaction achieved
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



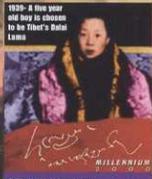
1939- World War II begins
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



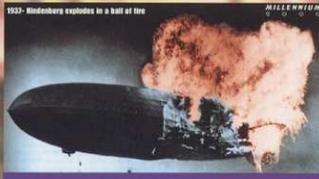
1939- Sikorsky builds first practical helicopter
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢

1939

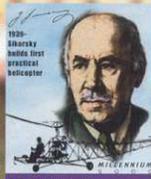
- First atomic reaction written by Leo Szilard with the signature of Albert Einstein
- World War II begins (Germany invades Poland)
- Television debuts at the New York World's Fair
- A five year old boy is chosen to be Tibet's new Dalai Lama
- Sikorsky builds first practical helicopter



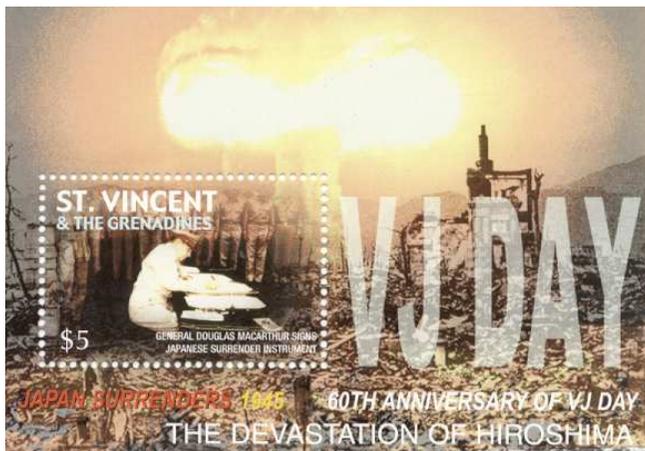
1939- A five year old boy is chosen to be Tibet's new Dalai Lama
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



1939- Hindenburg explodes in a ball of fire
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES 60¢



1939- Sikorsky builds first practical helicopter
ST. VINCENT THE GRENADINES 60¢



St Vincent

2005

No details in SG 2006 Catalogue



During WWII, Japan was given an ultimatum to surrender on July 28th 1945. When this was ignored, the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, and then on Nagasaki three days later. On August 15th, 1945 the Allies then celebrated their victory over Japan, although the Japanese administration under General Koiso Kuniaki did not officially surrender with a signed document until September 2nd. On that date Japan signed an unconditional surrender to the Allies. Both of those days are known as VJ Day.

Sierra Leone

2005

MS4330

60th Anniversary of Victory in Japan



Tanzania	1995	SG not listed Scott 1351h
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This 1995 issue from Tanzania was part of a set created to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. The stamp design features nuclear physicist Enrico Fermi, the mushroom cloud of an atomic bomb & the caption "A-Bomb Blasts Hiroshima (Enrico Fermi Worked to Produce First Chain Reaction)".



Tanzania	1996	SG not listed Scott 1500
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This 1996 issue from Tanzania was part of a set created to mark the centenary of Radio. The stamp design features President Harry Truman, a radio, the mushroom cloud of an atomic bomb & the caption "Harry S Truman announces U.S. Drops Atomic Bomb".



The Gambia	2005	
No details available in SG 2006 Catalogue		



Tuvalu	1995	743
50 th Anniversary of End of WWII		



United Nations	1964	133
Cessation of Nuclear Testing		



United Nations	1972	227(English) G23 (Geneva)
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Non-prolifération of Nuclear Weapons



Upper Volta	1977	455
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Nobel Prize Winners



Venezuela	1997	SG 3346 - 3355
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30th Anniversary of Tlatelolco Treaty

Paintings by Alirio Rodriguez from his 'Hiroshima' sequence.

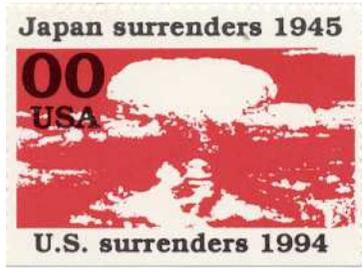


Vietnam	1967	SG N494
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1st Chinese 'H' Bomb Test. Stamp shows Atomic Symbol and Gate of Heavenly Peace, Peking

Cinderella's





Cinderella	1995	
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1994 President Clinton stopped a stamp design showing atomic blast over Hiroshima and so several 'Privateers' issued their own Cinderella labels



Cinderella	1994	
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This sheet of (20) privately-produced poster stamps/seals (c.a. 1994) was created in response to the U.S. government's decision to eliminate the Atom Bomb stamp from the "World War II - 1945" sheet.

The 1995 USPS issue was to have included one stamp depicting the explosion of an atomic bomb over Japan. In response to protests by the Japanese government and others, the Clinton Administration ordered the USPS to change that stamp to a different subject.

Each stamp on this sheet depicts the explosion of an atomic bomb, the text "Remember Pearl Harbor" and the dates of the attack on Pearl Harbour and the dropping of the Hiroshima bomb.

On the reverse side is text which (in part) complains that it has become "politically correct to forget why we dropped the Atom Bomb" and urging the purchaser to affix one of the seals to their outgoing letters.

British Nuclear Test Timeline

The following is a list of events that contribute to the story of the British Nuclear Test Veterans

1940 April 10

The MAUD Committee formed. Headed by Sir Henry Tizard, this committee worked out the basic principles of both fission bomb design and uranium enrichment by gaseous diffusion. Britain was the first country to seriously study the feasibility of nuclear weapons.

1947 January 8

The decision to proceed with development and acquisition of atomic weapons is made by the secret GEN.163 Cabinet committee of six Ministers (headed by PM Attlee).

June

Design of the first weapon, a plutonium bomb, began at Fort Halstead in Kent under William Penney. His group, located in a secret enclave within the Armaments Research Establishment, was known simply as 'High Explosive Research' - HER.

1952 February 25

Windscale (now Sellafield) begins plutonium operation.

September 15

The plutonium core for the first British nuclear device leaves England.

October 3

25 kiloton detonation aboard HMS Plym in Main Bay, close to Trimouille Island, one of the Monte Bello Islands, Australia. Test name 'Hurricane'. HMS Plym was mostly vapourised except for small scattered fragments of hot metal that set fire to the spinifex scrub covering Trimouille Island. William Penney is awarded a knighthood.

1953 October 14

10 kiloton detonation on a 31 meter tower on Emu Field, Australia. Test name 'T1', part of "Totem" series.

October 26

8 kiloton detonation on a 31 meter tower on Emu Field, Australia. Test name 'T2', part of 'Totem' series.

1955 UK announces it's decision to develop a hydrogen bomb.

1956 May 16

15 kiloton detonation on a 31 meter tower on Tremouille Island, Monte Bello, Australia. Test name 'G1', part of the 'Mosaic' series.

June 19

56 kiloton detonation on a tower on Alpha Island, Monte Bello, Australia. Test name 'G2', part of the 'Mosaic' series.

September 27

15 kiloton detonation on a 31 meter tower an Maralinga, Australia. Test name 'One Tree', part of the 'Buffalo' series.

October 4

1.5 kiloton detonation on the ground at Maralinga, Australia. Test name 'Marco', part of the 'Buffalo' series.

October 11

3 kiloton land airburst detonation at 150 meters at Maralinga, Australia. Test name 'Kite', part of the 'Buffalo' series.

October 22

10 kiloton detonation on a 31 meter tower at Maralinga, Australia. Test name 'Brekaway', part of the 'Buffalo' series.

1957 May 15

300 kiloton airburst detonation at 2200 meters over the ocean near Malden Island, Pacific Ocean. Test name 'Short Granite', part of the 'Grapple' series.

May 31

720 kiloton airburst detonation 2400 meters over the ocean near Malden Island, Pacific Ocean. Test name 'Orange Herald', part of the 'Grapple' series.

June 19

200 kiloton air drop detonation 2400 meters over the ocean near Malden Island, Pacific Ocean. Test name 'Purple Granite', part of the 'Grapple' series.

September 15

1 kiloton detonation on a 31 meter tower in Maralinga. Test name 'Tadje', part of the 'Antler' series.

September 25

6 kiloton detonation on a 31 meter tower in Maralinga.

Test name 'Biak', part of the 'Antler' series.

October 9

25 kiloton balloon detonation 300 meters over Maralinga.

Test name 'Taranaki', part of the 'Antler' series.

November 8

1.8 megaton air drop detonation 2200 meters above the ocean off Christmas Island. Test name 'Short Granite', 'Grapple X' test.

1958 April 28

3 megaton air drop detonation 2500 meters above the ocean off Christmas Island. Test name 'Grapple Y'.

August 22

24 kiloton balloon detonation 450 meters above the ocean off Christmas Island. Test name 'Pennant', part of the 'Grapple Z' series.

September 2

1 megaton air drop detonation 2800 meters above the ocean off Christmas Island. Test name 'Flagpole', part of the 'Grapple Z' series.

September 11

800 kiloton air drop detonation 2600 meters above the ocean off Christmas Island. Test name 'Halliarda', part of the 'Grapple Z' series.

October 23

25 kiloton ballon detonation 450 meters above the ocean off Christmas Island. Test name 'Burgee', part of the 'Grapple Z' series.

Moratorium on atmospheric nuclear weapon tests announced

1962 March 1

9.5 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Pampas', part of the 'Nougat' series. Joint US/UK test.

April 25 - July 11

38 explosions up to 7.65 Megatons each, on an almost daily basis. "Weapons related Airdrops" which were as close as 10 miles south of Christmas Island. US test name 'Dominic', UK test name 'Brigadoon'.

May 15

0 kiloton surface storage & transportation test at Nellis Air Force Range, Nevada, USA. Measured plutonium dispersal risk. Test name 'Double tracks', part of the 'Roller Coaster' test series. Joint US/UK test.

May 25

0 kiloton surface storage & transportation test at Nellis Air Force Range, Nevada, USA. Measured plutonium dispersal risk. Test name 'Clean Slate I', part of the 'Roller Coaster' test series. Joint US/UK test.

May 31

0 kiloton surface storage & transportation test at Nellis Air Force Range, Nevada, USA. Measured plutonium dispersal risk. Test name 'Clean Slate II', part of the 'Roller Coaster' test series. Joint US/UK test.

June 9

0 kiloton surface storage & transportation test at Nellis Air Force Range, Nevada, USA. Measured plutonium dispersal risk. Test name 'Clean Slate III', part of the 'Roller Coaster' test series. Joint US/UK test.

December 7

20 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Tendrac', part of the 'Storax' series. Joint US/UK test.

1964 July 17

20 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Cormorant', part of the 'Whetstone' series. Joint US/UK test.

September 25

0 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Courser', part of the 'Whetstone' series. Joint US/UK test.

1965 September 10

200 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Charcoal', part of the 'Flintlock' series. Joint US/UK test.

1967 Clean-up of Maralinga and Emu test sites – Operation Brumby - commences.

1974 May 23

200 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Fallon', part of the 'Arbor' series. Joint US/UK test.

1976 August 26

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Banon', part of the 'Anvil' series. Joint US/UK test.

1978 April 11

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Fondutta',

part of the 'Cresset' series. Joint US/UK test.

November 18

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Quargel', part of the 'Quicksilver' series. Joint US/UK test.

1979 August 29

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Nessel', part of the 'Quicksilver' series. Joint US/UK test.

1980 April 26

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Colwick', part of the 'Tinderbox' series. Joint US/UK test.

October 24

20 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Dutchess', part of the 'Guardian' series. Joint US/UK test.

December 17

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Serpa', part of the 'Guardian' series. Joint US/UK test.

1981 November 12

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Rousanne', part of the 'Praetorian' series. Joint US/UK test.

1982 April 25

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Gibne', part of the 'Praetorian' series. Joint US/UK test.

1983 April 22

20 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Armada', part of the 'Phalanx' series. Joint US/UK test.

May

The formation of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association.

1984 May 1

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Mundo', part of the 'Fusileer' series. Joint US/UK test.

December 9

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Egmont', part of the 'Grenadier' series. Joint US/UK test.

1985 December 5

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Kinibito',

part of the 'Charioteer' series. Joint US/UK test.

1986 June 25

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Darwin', part of the 'Charioteer' series. Joint US/UK test.

1987 July 16

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Midland', part of the 'Musketeer' series. Joint US/UK test.

1989 December 18

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Barnwell', part of the 'Aqueduct' series. Joint US/UK test.

1990 November 14

150 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Houston', part of the 'Sculpin' series. Joint US/UK test.

1991 November 26

20 kiloton shaft detonation at Nevada Test Site. Test name 'Bristol', part of the 'Julin' series. Joint US/UK test.

Nuclear Weapons – Who has got what?

The United States

More than 5,000 strategic warheads (powerful bombs to be fired long distances), and more than 1,000 operational tactical weapons (less powerful, and meant for more close-range battlefield use)
Approximately 3,000 reserve warheads.

Russia

Nearly 5,000 strategic warheads, and approximately 3,500 operational tactical warheads. More than 11,000 other warheads in storage.
Exploded its first bomb in 1949.

France

Approximately 350 strategic warheads. Exploded its first bomb in 1960.

China

As many as 250 strategic warheads and 150 tactical warheads.
Exploded its first bomb in 1964.

Britain

About 200 strategic warheads. Exploded its first bomb in 1952.

India

Between 45 and 95 nuclear warheads. Exploded its first bomb in 1974.

Pakistan

Between 30 and 50 nuclear warheads. Exploded its first bomb in 1998.

Israel

Refuses to confirm that it has nuclear weapons, but is generally assumed to have up to 200 nuclear warheads. Unknown when it may have carried out a test explosion.

North Korea

Believed to have enough nuclear material for about half-a-dozen weapons, but estimates vary widely and are unverifiable.

Operation Crossroads

OPERATION CROSSROADS

The Legacy of Nuclear Testing at Bikini Atoll

	<p>Bikini Atoll, one of the northernmost parts of the Marshall Islands, was selected by the United States as an ideal site for full-scale atomic testing after World War II. In February 1946, Commander Ben Wyatt of the U.S. Navy met with Bikini's native leaders to discuss the use of the atoll as a nuclear test site. They were told that their cooperation would help restore world peace. Assured that the Bikinians could return when the atoll again was safe for habitation, Chief Auba and his people reluctantly agreed to evacuate. On March 7, 1946, the Bikinians boarded the USS LST-1168. The goods loaders loaded all their belongings into the ship, including outdoor clothes and materials from their church, community hall and residences. This was the first of many relocations for the Bikinians, and it would be decades before even part of their homeland would be considered safe.</p>		<p>The first underwater nuclear test occurred when the "Baker" bomb was detonated on July 25, 1946, at Bikini Atoll. The primary objective of this test was to analyze the effect of a nuclear explosion on war-time vessels. Outfitted U.S. Navy ships and captured German and Japanese World War II vessels were brought to Bikini lagoon. Encased in a watertight steel casing, the bomb was suspended 90 feet below the leading edge LST-1168. Radio signals from a command ship closed circuits that allowed and then detonated the bomb at 8:42 a.m. The explosion created a series of huge waves that struck the target ships. The first wave — more than 100 feet high — crashed into the Center, Starbuck and the Barbette, Arkansas. The Starbuck was swept 800 yards from its mooring point and sank eight hours after the explosion. The Arkansas sank almost immediately.</p>
	<p>After the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the atom bomb in August 1945, U.S. military leaders were worried about the future implications of this new weapon. Hiroshima and Nagasaki had demonstrated that atomic bombs could do, but the U.S. Navy was concerned about the effects such weapons might have on naval targets. Thus, the primary objective of OPERATION CROSSROADS — commanded by Navy Vice Admiral William Henry Purnell Burns — was to assess the effects of atomic weapons against naval vessels, as well as evaluate strategic implications in regard to naval design and tactics. In 1946, the Ship Repair Construction Battalion removed Bikini for atomic testing and for the arrival of military personnel. Several 70-foot steel towers were erected and mounted with test line remote-control cameras and blast pressure gauges.</p>		<p>The first fleet of OPERATION CROSSROADS included 65 vessels. Prominent among these were U.S. carriers Starbuck and Independence. The Starbuck, commissioned in 1927, was a battleship converted to a fleet oiler. Other targets included the U.S. battleship Arkansas, a veteran of two World Wars. This battleship had participated in the Hawaiian invasion, as well as the Pacific campaign at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Captured vessels used as atomic targets included the Japanese battleship Akagi, commissioned in 1925. In 1941 the Akagi served as flagship for Fleet Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who staged the attack on Pearl Harbor. By the end of the war, the Akagi was the only Japanese battleship still afloat. Prinz Eugen, a German heavy cruiser was targeted at Bikini as well. Commissioned in 1932, it was involved in the 1941 sinking of the British battle cruiser Hood.</p>
	<p>On July 1, 1946, the first of many nuclear tests was performed at Bikini Atoll. Code-named "Able," this atomic explosion was comparable to those that occurred at Hiroshima and Nagasaki a year earlier. A B-29 — Daisy Queen — piloted by Major Woodrow P. Sweeney, was to drop the bomb over the battleship Nevada, moored in the center of the target area. Deployed at 500 m., the bomb exploded at the correct altitude of 500 feet, but it was off target by about 2,000 feet and detonated above the attack transport Gilliam. The blast created a shock wave that traveled with a velocity several times that of sound. A ball of fire created a mushroom cloud that reached a height of more than 8,000 feet in only 30 seconds. As the cloud cooled, condensed water that had been absorbed by the cloud or evaporated by the explosion, formed a light, radioactive rain over Bikini.</p>		<p>The atomic testing on Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands has left a somber legacy of human suffering and ecological damage. Marshall Islanders who were in the area at the time of the nuclear blasts, or who returned to their native homes too soon, succumbed to the devastating effects of radiation poisoning. In addition, they suffered a variety of illnesses including cancer, leukemia, thyroid problems and miscarriages, as well as increased rates of birth defects. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is ahabitable, and experts estimate that it will be at least a century — if ever — before the radioactive content of Bikini is safely eliminated to the point where it will again be suitable for human habitation.</p>

C99 The face value of each stamp includes an 8¢ surcharge for the benefit of the people of Bikini.

Design: George Scotting

Bob Hope was right! He said: "As soon as the war ended, we located the one spot on earth that hadn't been touched by the war and blew it to hell."

On 7th March 1946 the total inhabitants of a tiny atoll in the Pacific began an epic journey – into evacuation.

These postage stamps issued by the Marshall Islands in 1996 commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the evacuation of Bikini Atoll so that the USA could experiment with atom bombs.

And so on 7th March 1946 the total inhabitants of a tiny atoll in the Pacific began an epic journey – into evacuation.

It began with President Truman's directive of December 1945, which stated: (Nuclear Weapons Tests will take place) "...to determine the effect of atomic bombs on American warships." So began a joint Army and Navy joint task force. Because of its isolated location away from all major air and shipping routes (*Two thousand miles southwest of Hawaii and 250 miles north of Kwajalein island*), Bikini Atoll was chosen although it was lightly inhabited.

The Marshall Island group has had an unsettled history. A German trading company had an outpost in 1885, and Japan conquered and occupied in WWI and treated the indigenous population harshly, and the United States invaded in 1944 and then administered the group as a Trust Territory and finally a Republic was established in 1979 with a 'Compact of Free Association' with USA signed in 1986. And so – Bob Hope wasn't entirely accurate!

And so it was a Sunday in February 1946 that Commodore Ben Wyatt (Military Governor) went to Bikini to meet with the assembled inhabitants after a church service. He asked them to abandon their homes and land and way of life 'temporarily' so that USA could test atomic bombs "For the good of mankind." King Juda and the people were confused and distressed as they discussed this proposal. After a full discussion the King told Wyatt, "We will go believing that everything is in the hands of God." In March 1946 all 167 inhabitants

of Bikini were transported on a Navy LST to Rongerik Atoll, which is 125 miles east. There is a long story about Rongerik which cannot be told here. They were given food for just a few weeks and they soon found out that coconut trees and local crops yielded little fruit. It was too late to go home as over 42,000 military and civilian personnel had swamped Bikini to prepare

for **Operation Crossroads**. In the years to come the Bikini people



were relocated several times.

Vice Admiral William P Blandy was appointed Commander of Operation Crossroads. He tried to pacify the concerns of many: **“The bomb will not start a chain reaction in the water, converting it all to gas and letting all the ships on all the oceans drop down to the bottom. It will not blow out the bottom of the sea and let all the water run down the hole. It will not destroy gravity. I am not an atomic playboy.”** [picture: Admiral W.H.P. “Spike” Blandy,



Mrs. Blandy and Rear Admiral F.J. Lowry celebrate the end of

Operation Crossroads in November of 1946 in Washington, D.C. This photograph, entitled “Atomic Age Angel Food,” drew heavy criticism from throughout the nation and from around the world.]



The atoll was prepared with various measurement devices including 70 feet high towers together with an assembled fleet of old war ships, which included an aircraft carrier, captured Japanese warship and some concrete barges. Animals were secured in various places to further test the effects of the atomic explosion.

A B-29 called ‘*Dave’s Dream*’ adorned with a Rita Haworth picture from 509 Wing and piloted by Gen (Ret) Woodrow P. Swancutt, Pilot (then a Major) [But this is now disputed and Roswell Deputy Base Commander Lt. Col. Payne Jennings is claimed to be Pilot].

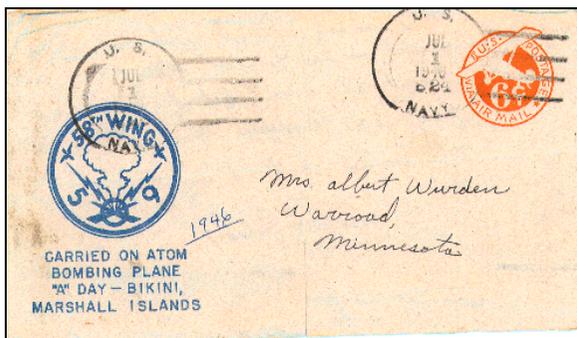


The plane dropped a 'Fat Man' bomb on 1st July 1946. The bomb run was made at 28,000 feet and was detonated forty-eight seconds later 518 feet over the lagoon's surface. It had the explosive energy of



23,000 tons of TNT. The surface temperature of the fireball was over 1,000,000 degrees Fahrenheit, hotter than the surface of the sun. The operation went smoothly except that the bomb missed the target area by 2000 ft. Instead of exploding over the battleship *Nevada*, the bomb went off almost directly over the

aircraft carrier *Independence*. Of the 95 vessels assembled to be tested for fallout, most were too badly contaminated or had damage that sunk them. There is now a thriving diving



business to view the wrecks at Bikini Atoll. Quad 21 inch torpedoes from USS *Lamson* at the bottom of Bikini Atoll can be seen on each dive.



The first bomb was named 'Able' and the second was an underground test named 'Baker' and detonated on 25th July. This caused considerable damage to the test moored ships. The atomic testing involving 23 tests on Bikini has left a sombre legacy of human

suffering and extensive ecological damage. There is a claim that the US authorities deliberately exposed some native islanders to radiation. Subsequent illnesses of islanders include cancers, leukaemia, thyroid problems and miscarriages.



Grandchildren have been born with horrendous abnormalities.

Development of the infrastructure to support the clean up and resettlement programs on Bikini Atoll started early in calendar year 1991.

The program was

concentrated at Eneu Island, which had been declared safe for habitation, and is the main support base for the clean-up activities. In 1998, cleanup activities began on Bikini island with a 300 acre land clearing project. In 1999, however, because of the adoption by the Nuclear Claims Tribunal of the 15 millirem EPA radiological cleanup standard in December of 1998, the cleanup of Bikini was put on hold pending further funding from the U.S. government. The reason for this is that the new standards caused a dramatic rise in the overall cost for the radiological cleanup, money which the Bikinians just do not have.

The Bikinians began a class action and a USA Tribunal was convened and after many years a settlement was reached. On March 5, 2001, the **Nuclear Claims Tribunal** handed down a decision on a seven year lawsuit the Bikinians had brought against the United States for damages done to their islands and their people during the nuclear testing on Bikini. The Tribunal gave them a total award of \$563,315,500.00 [loss of value \$278,000,000.00, restoration costs \$251,500,000.00, suffering and hardship \$33,814,500.00], which is the final amount after deducting the past compensation awarded by the U.S. government. The problem is that the Nuclear Claims Tribunal, which was created by the Compact of Free Association of

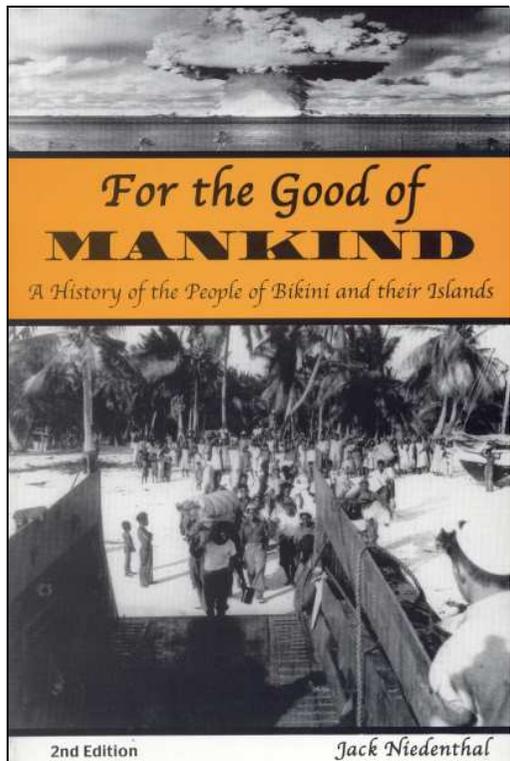
1986, was under funded and does not have the money to pay for this claim. It is now up to the people of Bikini to petition the U.S. Congress for the money to fulfil this award. This is expected to take many years and it is uncertain if the United States will honour their claim. So far, as in UK, there is little sign that promises will be honoured.

At this time the people of Bikini remain scattered throughout the Marshall Islands and the world, as they still wait (60 yrs) for the

cleanup of Bikini to begin in earnest, mostly due to the fact that the money they have received from the U.S. government is not adequate to fund a full radiological cleanup of the entire atoll.

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The Author

John Walden MA, F.InstSMM, APS is a nuclear veteran. John was sent to Maralinga Australia in 1957 to participate in the 'Antler' series of nuclear tests. He was with the Royal Air Force Balloon Unit and tasks included man-handling the atom bomb. John did receive an overdose of radiation. John has been a philatelist for 60 years and lives in Norwich.



The British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association is not an anti-nuclear or an anti-war association. It is a non-profit voluntary Association supporting past and present United Kingdom Nuclear Test Combined Services Veterans and their families

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