

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C.

20 July 1945

TO: General Carl Spaatz
Commanding General
United States Army Strategic Air Forces

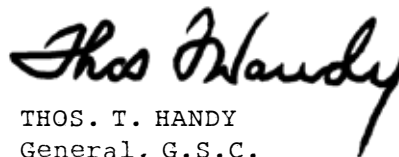
RE: OPERATION JOHN HENRY

1. The 509 Composite Group, 20th Air Force will deliver its first special bomb as soon as reliable visual intelligence is available on its target: the so-called "Midgard Serpent." To carry military and civilian scientific personnel from the War Department to observe and record the effects of the explosion of the bomb, additional aircraft will accompany the airplane carrying the bomb. The observing planes will stay several miles distant from the point of delivery of the bomb.

2. Additional bombs will be held in readiness pending analysis of OPERATION JOHN HENRY as soon as made ready by the Project staff. Further instructions will be issued concerning targets other than the one listed above.

3. Discussion of any and all information concerning the use of the weapon is reserved to the Secretary of War and the President of the United States. No communiques on the subject or releases of information will be issued by Commanders in the field without specific prior authority. Any news stories will be sent to the War Department for specific clearance.

4. The foregoing directive is issued to you by direction and with the approval of the Secretary of War and of the Chief of Staff, US Army. It is desired that you personally deliver one copy of this directive to General Eisenhower and one copy to Admiral King for their information.



THOS. T. HANDY
General, G.S.C.
Acting Chief of Staff

cc: General Leslie Groves