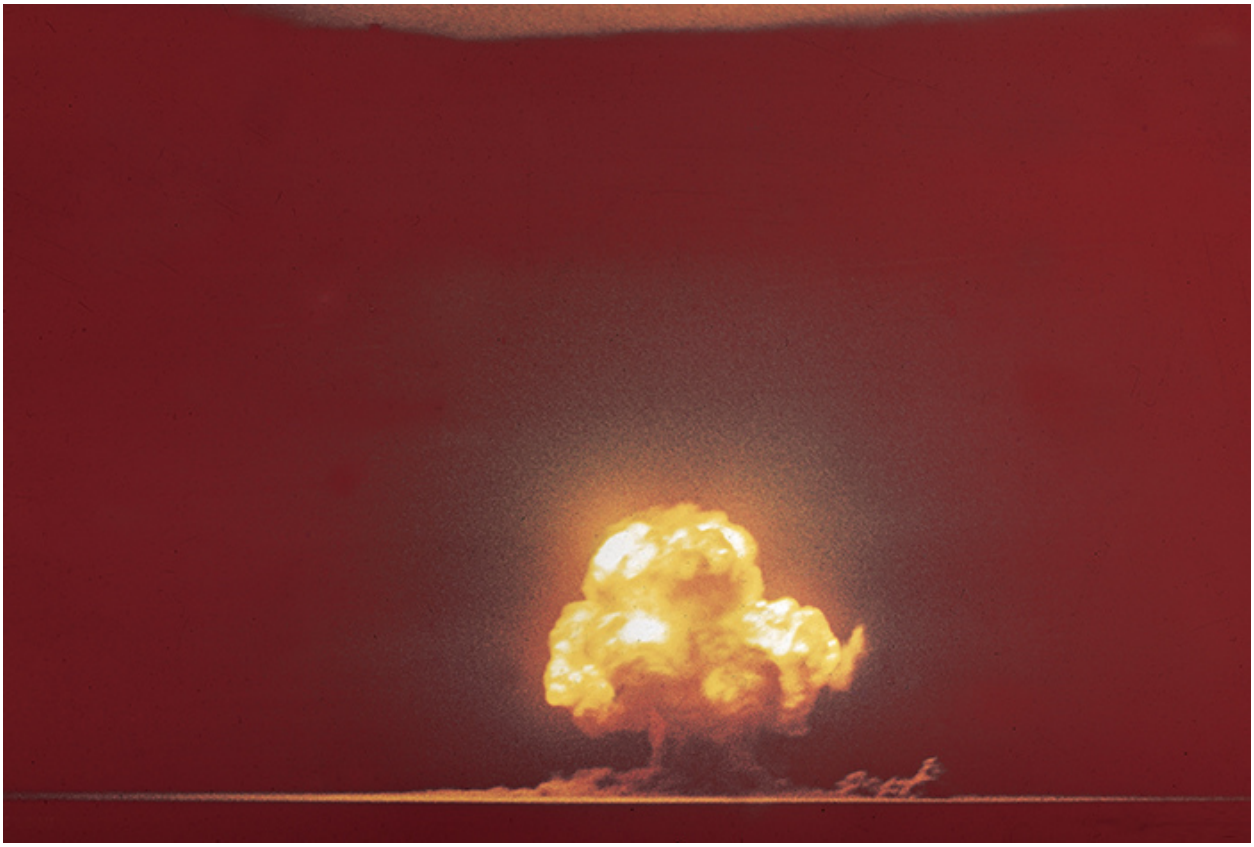
Picture of the Week: The Trinity Test

July 10, 2015



At 5:29:45 July 16, 1945 Los Alamos scientists successfully conducted the world's first nuclear weapons test. The test, which Robert Oppenheimer named "Trinity" after a line from a poem by John Donne, produced a blast equivalent to 21,000 tons of TNT. Jack Aeby, a member of the Optics Group headed by Italian physicist Emilio Segrè, captured this color image of the test with a handheld camera. "I wasn't a photographer, that wasn't my job, except I did carry a camera ever since high school almost daily and, of course, I couldn't anywhere around Los Alamos," Aeby told the Voices of the Manhattan Project in a 2013 interview. "But Segrè decided he wanted a photo history of what the group was doing, so he got me appointed official photographer for the group." Aeby died June 19, 2015 at his home in La Mesilla, New Mexico. He was 91.

Read more: Jack Aeby's "Voices of the Manhattan Project" interview from the Atomic Heritage Foundation: https://youtu.be/WRjEhFf75uY