



Name: Leslie Richard Groves, Jr.

Years: August 17, 1896 – July 13, 1970

Residence: Albany, New York;

Brief Biography: Leslie Richard Groves, Jr. was born to Leslie Richard Groves, Sr. and Gwen Griffith. Groves attended both the University of Washington and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before he attended the U.S. Military Academy in 1916-1918. After his graduation from U.S. Military Academy, Groves spent an additional year at the Engineer School at the Camp A.A. Humphreys when he was made a second lieutenant of engineers. This was followed by a brief tour with the American Expeditionary Force in France soon after the end of World War I. In 1921 he graduated from the Engineer School. In 1922, Groves married Grace Wilson with whom he had two children with. From 1921-1931 Groves traveled extensively to Hawaii, San Francisco, Texas, Delaware, and ending up in Nicaragua in 1931. The work he conducted in Nicaragua led him to receive, from the Nicaraguan government, the medal of merit. Ambition led Groves to attend and graduate from the Command and General Staff College, in 1936, and the Army War College, in 1939. He then received the ranks of lieutenant colonel, which lead him to the War Department where he became the head of the Operations Branch, Corps of Engineers. During this time Groves became responsible for the design of the new Pentagon Building. During World War II he was picked to lead the Manhattan Engineer District, what would later be referred to as the Manhattan Project. Groves involvement in this project resulted in the a promotion to the rank of brigadier general. The progress and work that Groves conducted lead to another promotion in early 1944 to the rank of major general. A little more than a year later the first testing of the atomic bomb would take place. Groves would become an driving force that would led President Truman to drop the two atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Groves would be rewarded for his important work in 1948 with the Distinguished Service Medal and a promotion to lieutenant general. Following these remunerations Groves promptly retired, only to

work as vice president of research of the Sperry Rand Corporation. He would work there until his retirement in 1961 and would then die in 1970.

Major Achievements:

One of the greatest achievements of Groves' career was his involvement in the Manhattan Project. As the head of the project Groves steady leadership was responsible for the success of the Project, bringing the World into the Atomic age and the deaths of millions.

More Information:

Now It Can Be Told: The Story of the Manhattan Project by General Leslie Groves
Racing for the Bomb: General Leslie R. Groves, the Manhattan Project's Indispensable Man by Robert S. Norris

Sources:

American National Biography Online, Encyclopedia Britannica