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### THE ATOMIC CANNON

Operation: Upshot Knothole Shot Name: Grable Shot number: 10 Date: May 25, 1953 Detonation: Airburst	Yield: 15 kt Height of Blast: 524 ft Location: Frenchman Flat - Nevada Test Site Mark 9 Gun Weapon Sponser: Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory
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The Atomic Cannon, at 280 mm, was the largest nuclear capable mobile artillery piece manufactured by the United States. On May 25, 1953, a 280 mm cannon fired an atomic projectile a distance of 7 miles at the Nevada Test Site. Twenty 280 mm cannons were manufactured. None were used in battle.

SEE MORE ABOUT THE ATOMIC CANNON IN ["TRINITY AND BEYOND"](#) and ["ATOMIC FILMMAKERS"](#).



Original AEC Press Release - UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE OPERATION - GRABLE EVENT ...Frenchman Flat, Nevada, May 25, 1953. Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson and designated Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Arthur W. Radford observing history's first atomic artillery shell explosion here today. The shell, fired from the Army's new 280 mm artillery gun, burst with precision accuracy over the designated target area where railroad cars, trees, bridges and other equipment had been located.

- MOVIES -

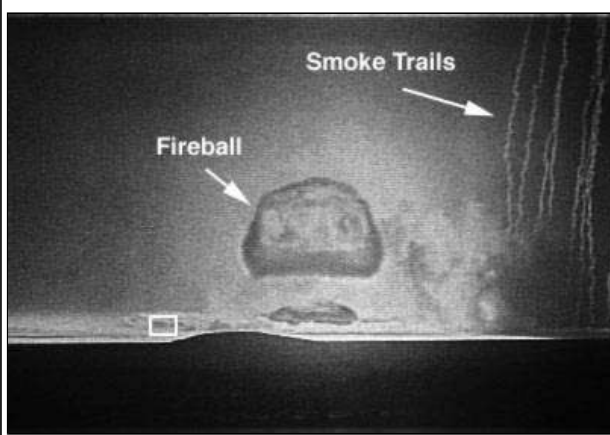
[Cannon Detonation](#) - 1.3 Mb

[Widescreen Bomb](#) - 1.2 Mb

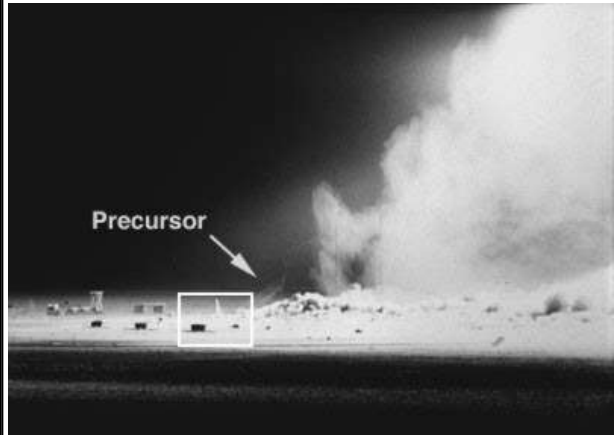
[Trees](#) - 489Kb

[Vehicles](#) - 881 Kb

[Blastline](#) - 605 Kb



Within milliseconds of the detonation, the fireball is formed. The smoke trails are visible to the right. The small box at bottom left indicates the area covered on the bottom frame.

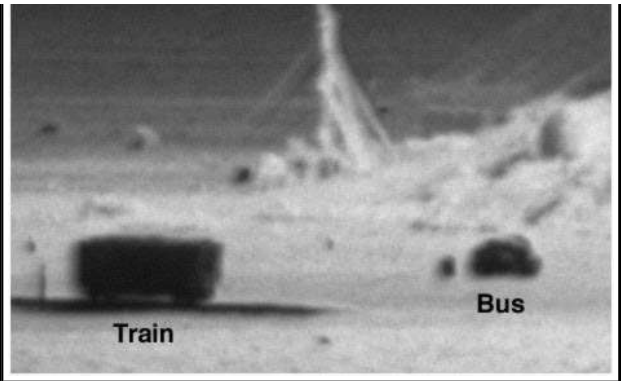


This frame shows the precursor which is formed by the blast. The boxed area indicates the area covered on the bottom frame.

This frame is an enlargement of the frame above and shows a train and bus. The device in the background is a very tall tower containing cameras and instruments. The precursor is visible in the upper right of frame.

Other Links

[Atomic Cannon Pictures](#)



The ATOMIC CANNON is now a beautifully restored 14 x 20 [Collector's Edition Print](#) from VCE

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