



SECRETS & SPIES RESEARCH PROJECT

**MU
SEA
UM**
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MARITIME MUSEUM

OAK RIDGE – SECRET CITY

Blog by Simon Kenton High School, Kentucky, USA

Hello, Simon Kenton High School is located in Kentucky in the United States. We are 15-16 year old sophomores studying World History.

This is our first time working on this project.

Our topic will be focusing on Oakridge, Tennessee, a secret city developed during World War II. Secret cities were created in Tennessee, New Mexico, and Washington and their purpose was to aid the Manhattan Project in its goal to secretly develop nuclear weapons. The town's creation revolved around production of these bombs. In our project, we are focusing on three main topics: the people who worked there, the city itself, and the creation of the bomb.

The first aspect of our project, people, focuses on the important individuals that made history within Oakridge. This could include a scientist who helped in the creation of the bomb, a citizen who kept the secret city secluded, or the spies who played a part leading up to the war.

The second part of our project is the secret city itself. People who lived in the rural area of Oakridge prior to its creation were forced to sell their land and in 1942, a new city was created for the workers of the facility. The city was originally designed to house 8,000 workers but ended up housing more than 80,000.

The third part is the secrecy relating to the scientific discoveries of the bomb development; this specifies the buildings, technology, and machines that helped make the atomic bomb.

Our school's concept is to develop a television news broadcast focusing on the three topics. Our news reporters intend to illustrate what secrets were kept, how secrets were kept, and who kept them in the city of Oakridge through mock interviews, mock on site investigation, and simulated newscasts. Our school year ends on May 30th so we don't have much time to complete this project but we are very excited to be a part of it.

