G. M. VOLKOFF

GRADS BRING BY ATOMIC

Probably the most important news story in past years was the atomic bomb story which broke upon an unsuspecting world last summer. "Unsuspecting" is a very apt word, for very few people knew that research had been going on for years to perfect this mighty instrument of war.

The scheme of the work is now general knowledge. Scientists in many hundreds of research laboratories worked, each at his small part of the common objective. When all the research was fused together, the result was one of the greatest contributions ever made to scientific knowledge.

U.B.C. graduates played no small part in the many months of painstaking effort that preceded the actual manufacture of the bomb. The Dominion Government has now released the names of some of the U.B.C. people engaged in the work and they are a credit to the University.

Dr. George Michael Volkoff, 31, one of U.B.C.'s most brilliant graduates, was among scientists who worked on atomic bomb research in Montreal. Dr. Volkoff was born in Moscow, coming to B. C. in 1924. He attended Lord Roberts public school, then returned to Harbin, Manchukuo, where his father was a professor in the Polytechnical Institute. He came back to U.B.C. to lead his class every year, and won the Governor-General's Medal in 1934, with an average of 97.9 per cent. He taught at U.B.C. before going to the University of California at Berkeley on a teaching fellowship in 1936. In 1939 he was awarded a Royal Society of Canada fellowship of $1500 to work on atomic research at the University of California. His wife is the former Olga Okulitch, also a U.B.C. graduate.

Dr. Volkoff at present is directing the theoretical and mathematical work of the Montreal Laboratory of the National Research Council and is rated one of the top theoretical physicists in Canada.

Four women were among the atomic researchers. Anne B. Underhill was one of these. Brilliance has marked the career of Miss Underhill. The daughter of Col. F. Clare Underhill, she attended Prince of Wales School and was graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1942. Last year she was awarded a scholarship of $850 by the Canadian Federation of University Women, to enable

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HONOR TO U.B.C. BOMB RESEARCH

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her to take post-graduate work.

Dr. Muriel Wales, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Wales, won her B.A. at the University in 1934, her Master's in 1937, and her Ph.D. from University of Toronto in 1941. She has been engaged in government research work in Toronto.

Mrs. Lillian M. Grassie, daughter of Mrs. L. M. Butler of 2640 West Fourteenth, and the late Albert Butler, was one of four University of British Columbia women graduates whose work contributed to the successful development of the atomic bomb. Mrs. Grassie, whose present home is in Arden, Man., is a graduate of the 1943 class of U.B.C.

Mrs. Joyce Laird, the former Joyce Morris of Penticton, was a member of the class of '41.

All these women were members of a group of scientists which gathered in Montreal to work on the atomic bomb.

Dr. Andrew Guthrie, son of Sam Guthrie, M.L.A., and Mrs. Guthrie of Cedar District, near Ladysmith, is another British Columbia scientist who has been working on the perfection of the atomic bomb.

Dr. Guthrie has been working on the problem of splitting the atom for the past three years, with headquarters at Berkeley, Cal., but travelling from there to Tennessee and other parts of United States for the Washington government.

Dr. Guthrie was born at Ladysmith 30 years ago. He graduated from U.B.C. with first class honors in 1934, specializing in physics.

He won a scholarship to Perdue University, Indiana, where he received his doctorate three years ago. He was immediately enlisted by the United States Government in the corps of scientists who were planning the atomic bomb.

Denis W. Pearce, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Pearce, 4454 West Fourth, who worked on the development of the atomic bomb, is a graduate of the University of British Columbia. He specialized in inorganic chemistry and it was along these lines that he was engaged when helping to create the world's most destructive force. Dr. Pearce was awarded a fellowship, and received his doctorate at the Illinois University in 1935.

Still others in the groups of researchers were James Michael Fell, B.A., '43; Dr. Fred Troop Fitch, B.A. '38, M.A. '40, Ph.D., and John William Ozeroff.

LILIAN GRASSIE

D. W. PEARCE

JOYCE LAIRD