

Thorium in History

“Professor Thomson described the physico-chemical changes which occur during emanation, and demonstrated the similarity of the transformation **in the cases of radium and thorium.**”

The Chemical Trade Journal and Chemical Engineer
1913

"You are asked not to publish or broadcast any information whatever regarding war experiments involving: Production or utilization of atom smashing, atomic energy, atomic fission, atomic splitting, or any of their equivalents. The use for military purposes of radium or radioactive materials, heavy water, high voltage discharges, equipment, cyclotrons. The following elements or any of their compounds: polonium, uranium, ytterbium, hafnium, protactinium, radium, rhenium, **thorium**, deuterium."

OWI (Office of War Information)
June 1943

“Can we do anything with the thorium?”

Prof. Bunsaku Arakatsu (Japanese atomic scientists)
during WWII

“The elements presently utilizable for manufacture of the bomb are uranium **and possibly thorium**. All major powers have access in some degree to the necessary raw materials, but control of areas of rich deposits and assured communications thereto will assume increasing strategic importance.”

FRUS (Foreign Relations of the United States)
January 1946 (top secret)

“If these fissionable materials are used in installations where there is no additional uranium **or thorium**, they will not produce further fissionable material. The operation of the reactors will use up the material.”

A Report on the International Control of Atomic Energy
1946

Maj. R.A. Fisher (Manhattan Project) suggested that the following information be determined whenever possible: (a) “**Reported geological deposits of uranium and thorium in the China-Manchuria area.**”

Strategic Services Unit (SSU), HQ, China Theater
to Office of the Asst. Secretary of War, War Department
April 25, 1946

“It is thought that buildings in this area **were used to process monazite sand which is a primary source of thorium** and other elements in the atomic energy program. I believe this was an excellent mission conducted by one [Air Force bomb] group. The results will likely have far reaching implications.”

Commanding General of the Far East Air Force
Hungnam, North Korea
August 1950

The above quotes were compiled by the co-author of “Dr. Fritz J. Hansgirg: The Father of Wartime Heavy Water Production” by Bill Streifer and Kenneth N. Ricci, PhD. Bill Streifer can be reached by e-mail (bill.streifer@gmail.com) or phone (850-730-6230)

Thank you.
Bill Streifer

