

8. *America December 31, 1941, to December 2, 1942*

A chain-reacting uranium-graphite system was put into operation in Chicago on December 2, 1942.

(Hist. G)

bbs #3.

Recording, 5/22/56

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While negotiations for materials formerly had to go through the
Bureau of Standards now ~~now~~ negotiations for materials had to go through
the purchase of
Murphy of Standard Oil of New Jersey. This division of authority hampered us
throughout the first half of 1942. In spite of this somehow A. H. Compton
managed to make arrangements for obtaining uranium purified in the right way
so as to _____ uranium from neutron absorbing substances which the older
way of preparing it did not remove. As purer grade uranium was obtained
and _____ uranium metal began to come in it became clear that a self-
sustaining chain reaction would be achieved. This much was clear to most of
us including A. H. Compton, Director of the Project, in the spring of 1942.
And on December 2, 1942 the chain reaction was actually started at _____ Field
Stagg?
on the campus of the university.

SECTION 8

The material illustrating this period also covers part A of the Section 9 period; see Section 9 folder.