

Historical and Cultural Context

for

Joe O'Donnell's

Japan 1945: A U.S. Marine's Photographs from Ground Zero

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Mass (p.3)

In September, 1945 23 year-old Marine Sergeant Joe O'Donnell landed with the Fifth Marine Division at Sasebo, Japan. By early 1946, these Marines were withdrawn, turning over occupation duties to U.S. Army units.¹ O'Donnell would remain in Japan for the next seven months.²



¹ https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/npswapa/extContent/usmc/pcn-190-003143-00/sec2.htm

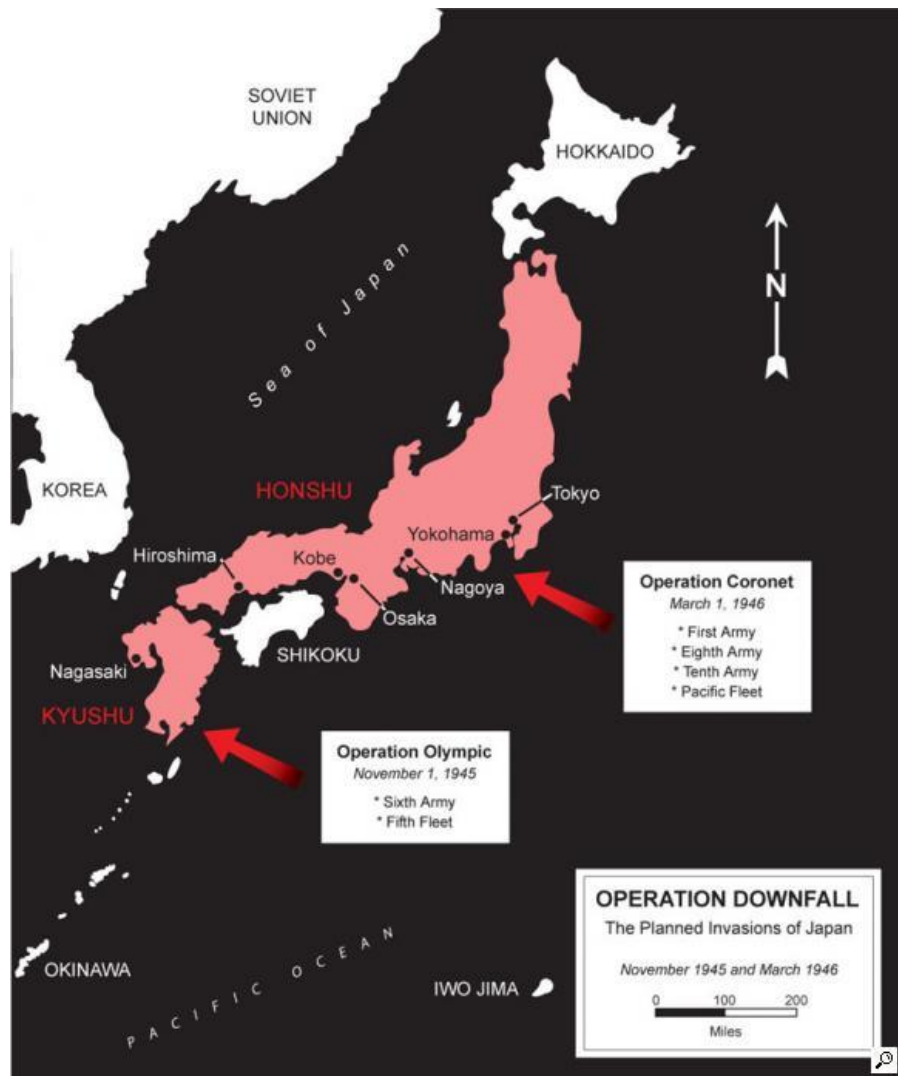
² <https://amse.org/2013/01/28/exhibit-of-1945-post-war-japan-photos-at-amse/>

³ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/3772737.stm>

Sasebo Harbor (p. 11)

A) During World War Two, Sasebo was one of Japan's largest naval ports. From 1945 to today the city is home to a large U.S. Navy installation as well as a base for the Japanese Self-Defense Naval Forces.

B) The invasion that O'Donnell references is the US led invasion of the Japanese mainland, scheduled to begin November 1, 1945. The first phase of the attack would seize the southern third of the island of Kyushu. This territory would provide the necessary airbases and logistical support for the second phase of the invasion, the attack upon the Tokyo Bay area, scheduled for March 1, 1946. These invasions were given the code name Operation Downfall.



⁴ <http://www.karencarr.com/portfolio-images/Maps/Modern/United-States-Marine-Corps/Operation-Downfall/270>

Joe in front of Tent City (p. 12)

During the American occupation of Japan from 1945 to 1952, U.S. forces in Sasebo experienced extraordinary cooperation from Japanese civilians and authorities.

From the outset the wholehearted cooperation of the civil populace and the excellent cooperation by the Japanese military and naval authorities was immediately apparent.

In general, no occupation force could expect more complete cooperation from a defeated enemy.⁵

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When war broke out in Korea four years later (1950), Sasebo became the main launching point for the United Nations and U.S. Forces. Millions of tons of ammunition, fuel, tanks, trucks and supplies flowed through Sasebo on their way to U.N. Forces in Korea. The number of American military personnel in Sasebo grew to about 20,000.⁶



Sasebo during the Korean War⁷

⁵http://www.mansell.com/pow_resources/camplists/fukuoka/fuku_18_sasebo/sasebo_history/5thAmphibCorps_Occup_Japan_excerpts_NOV1945.pdf

⁶ https://cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrj/installations/cfa_sasebo/about/history.html

⁷ <http://www.sarahkovner.com/>

Standing on the Roof (p. 12)

A) O'Donnell was stationed in Japan from September, 1945 to March, 1946.⁸

B) In a 1995 article for *American Heritage Magazine*, Joe O'Donnell wrote:

The Marines had issued me a camera back in the States. Then, in the best bureaucratic tradition, they issued me another one. I put them both in my trunk and kept them there. A Speed Graphic is heavy—it must weigh six or seven pounds—but its 4-by-5-inch negatives make really sharp enlargements, better than any 35-millimeter camera. Carrying one Speed Graphic by shoulder strap was bad enough. But since I had to send one set of negatives to Pearl Harbor to be developed and then to Washington, I hauled both cameras with me. When I got a shot I wanted, I usually took two pictures, one for the Marines and one for me.⁹



The type of camera used by Joe O'Donnell: Special US Navy and Marine Corps 4"x5" Speed Graphic wooden body camera designed for the Pacific war.

⁸ <http://www.americanheritage.com/content/%E2%80%9Cstraight-path-through-hell-%E2%80%9D>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/52276513@N03/6099775735/in/photostream/>

*Sasebo, Aerial View (p. 13)*¹¹

And as the Japanese came home to a country destroyed by the Allies, the thousands of Chinese and Korean slave laborers used for everything from construction to farming had to be sent back home as well. Like the Japanese, they too had no idea what to expect as much of China had been destroyed in Japan's eight-year long war of attrition over their homeland.

The Sasebo Regional Repatriation Center at Uragashira was set up by the U.S. Marines days after they landed on Kyushu in 1945. By Sept. 26, 1945, a mere three weeks since the end of the war, they were receiving and processing nearly 3,000 repatriated and demobilized Japanese troops a day.

The biggest issue with repatriation was shipping or the lack of it, to keep the humanity flowing. Six months into the occupation 3,000 Chinese and Koreans left and 6,000 Japanese returned through Uragashira every day. A truly busy day could see 20,000 people pass through the center. Uragashira took its last boatload of repatriates on Apr. 25, 1950 and had processed 1.4 million people during its five years of operation.



Uragashira Repatriation Center Peace Museum

¹¹ All information on this page taken from: <https://japan.stripes.com/travel/beginning-end-near-sasebo>

Grave of an American Flyer, Yahata (p. 21) and Plane Wreckage (p.22)

The date given for the crash of this airplane, September 16, 1944 is likely incorrect. The Japanese language version of this same O'Donnell photo book gives the crash date as June 16, 1944.¹² The only U.S. airplane to crash in the Kyushu village of Takasu was a B-29 bomber, flying from China. That plane was shot down on the night of June 15/16, 1944. The American flyer's grave and wreckage shown on page 21 and page 22 are likely from the crash of a B-29 bomber, named the Limber Dugan.

On this night, US XX BC (20AF) launches 68 Boeing B-29s against the Yahata seitetsu-sho (Yawata Steel Works) near Kitakyushu, Japan. This raid is the first strike against Japan since the Doolittle raid and the second of the B-29's combat career. Due to a combination of poor weather and training, it is later revealed that only a single bomb hit the primary target. Interceptors struggle to reach the B-29's operational altitude during this strike, with only 12 fighters coming within 500 yds of the bombers. Still, one of the bombers, Limber Dugan (42-6230, 468BG), is shot down by a Ki-45 Nick piloted by Rikugun Jun-i Sadamitsu Kimura (4 Sentai). Although not recognized by the Japanese, Limber Dugan is the first B-29 lost in aerial combat.¹³

¹² O'Donnell, Joe, *JAPAN 1945, IMAGES FROM THE TRUNK* (トランクの中の日本: 米従軍カメラマンの非公式記録) (Tokyo, Shogakukan Inc., 2005).

¹³ <http://www.gblume.com/timeline-of-strategic-aviation/timeline-of-strategic-aviation-second-world-war-1944/>

Rice Harvest (p. 23)

Common contemporary Japanese methods of harvesting and drying rice.



(left) *Combine ... is a machine which unites reaping and threshing at the same time. The machine gathers and cut rice plants, and separate rice and stems automatically.*
(right) *After rice is reaped, rice need to be dried by drying machine. The machine dries rice slowly taking 12-24 hours.*¹⁴

*In 1960, the average annual consumption (of rice) was 118 kilograms per person. Now it's 61 kilograms — we (Japan) consume about half the rice we used to eat 50 years ago.*¹⁵

¹⁴ <http://discover-jp.blogspot.com/2006/09/harvesting-rice-in-japan.html>

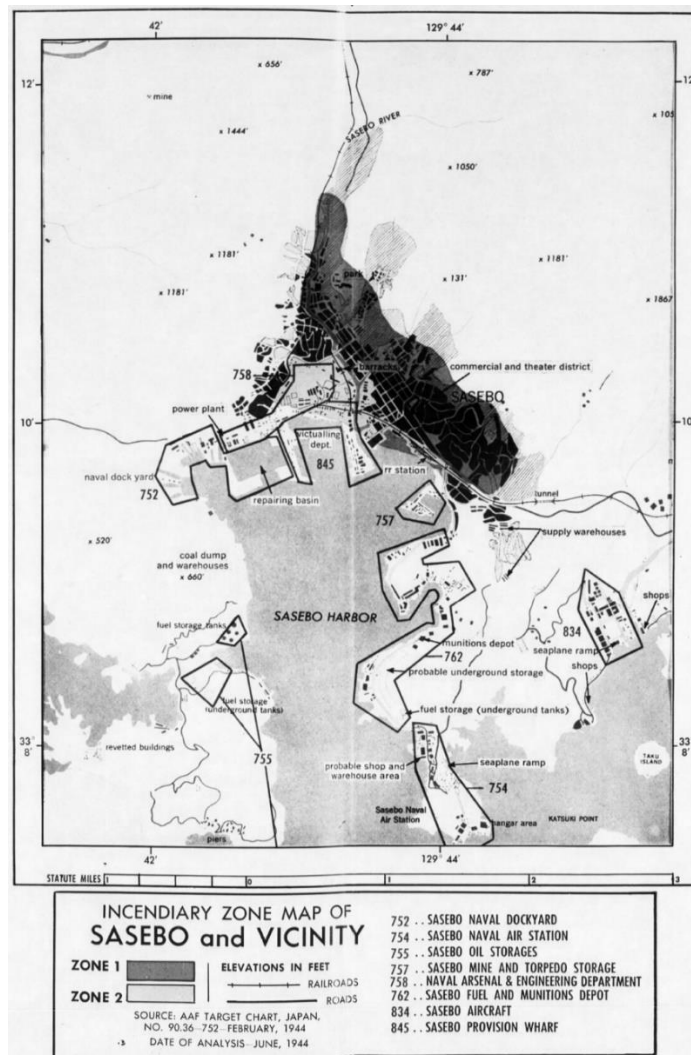
¹⁵ <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/life/2016/01/29/food/the-future-of-rice-farming-in-japan/#.WuXL5ogvzcs>

Passing the Cremation Site (p. 24)

During 1945 the United States conducted a massive firebombing campaign against the Japanese homeland.

Overall, by one calculation, the US firebombing campaign destroyed 180 square miles of 67 cities, killed more than 300,000 people and injured an additional 400,000, figures that exclude the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.¹⁶

Although previously targeted in smaller raids during 1944 and 1945, the city of Sasebo suffered a much larger and more destructive attack on the night of June 28-29, 1945, when 141 B-29 bombers targeted Sasebo, destroying .97 square miles or 48% of the city area.¹⁷ The raid "...killed 1000 persons and left 60,000 homeless, but failed to do much damage to the Navy yard."¹⁸



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¹⁶ <https://apjff.org/-Mark-Selden/2414/article.html>

¹⁷ <https://user.xmission.com/~tmathews/b29/56years/56years-4506b.html>

¹⁸ <http://pwencycl.kgbudge.com/S/a/Sasebo.htm>

¹⁹ http://www.mansell.com/pow_resources/camplists/fukuoka/fuku_18_sasebo/sasebo_history/sasebo_vicinity_incendiary_zone_194406.jpg

Shoes (p. 29)

Joe O'Donnell comments on this photo, *"In a house of worship, the two sides of war finally came together in peace."* Perhaps this photo is an icon for the United States led occupation of Japan (1945-1952). In his 1999 benchmark on the subject book about the occupation of Japan, *Embracing Defeat*, historian John Dower writes:

What matters is what the Japanese themselves made of their experiences of defeat, then and thereafter; and, for a half century now, most of them have consistently made it the touchstone for affirming a commitment to "peace and democracy." This is the great mantra of postwar Japan.²⁰

²⁰ Dower, John W., *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (New York, Norton, 1999) 30.

Old Man (p. 35)

Like the man in this photograph, there were a significant number of American-born Japanese who spent the years of World War 2, living in Japan.

The precise number of Nisei (“second generation”) students in Japan during the 1930s is difficult to estimate. According to some contemporary sources, there were 40,000 to 50,000 American-born Japanese in the island country in any given year during the decade. The vast majority of them, however, probably resided in Japan permanently with their parents, who had returned home for good. Only about 18,000 Nisei were considered “Americans” by the Japanese police, who had kept a close eye on any “foreign” elements. Still, most of them had spent a substantial amount of time in Japan, receiving much of their formal education there rather than in the United States.²¹

²¹ http://www.mansell.com/eo9066/NIHIMS/Azuma_Pacific_Era_Has_Arrived_2003.pdf

Athletic Day, Fukuoka (p. 40)

A) Today, Fukuoka is the island of Kyūshū's largest city and Japan's sixth-largest city. It is 70 miles northeast of Nagasaki.²²

B) Japanese schools have a long tradition of hosting “Undōkai” or “sports days.”

What are the common races?

The tug of war, relays, “kumitaiso” (groups of gymnasts forming pyramids and other shapes), and “kibasen” (cavalry fights), in which a male team leader carried by three members fights to get the opponent’s bandanna. “Tama-ire,” in which participants toss small beanbags into a bamboo basket attached to a high pole, is also a popular game. Junior high and high schools often have “oendan” (cheering squads) that are usually composed of boys. Many wear black “gakuran” (school uniforms) or long happi coats. The oendan cheer by waving flags, beating drums and yelling. Female cheerleaders are also common.²³



An example of a sports day activity: The Centipede Race

As the name implies, for this game you tie your legs in a line and transform into a running centipede. If you can't get in sync then you're moving nowhere. It's pretty hard.²⁴

²² <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/japan/kyushu/fukuoka>

²³ <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2010/10/19/reference/no-escaping-annual-sports-days/#.WsvPkojwbc>

²⁴ <http://goinjapanesque.com/04779/>

Spectators at Athletic Day (p. 41)

*This park was once a site of the battle between Mongolian and Japanese army at the time of the Bun-ei (Mongol) invasion (1274). The old battle field was reconstructed into the present park. There is a statue of an old emperor Kameyama who was in the reign at the time of the invasion and of Nichiren, a famous Buddhist monk of the same age. Inside the park is also Mongolian Invasion Museum and Toka-ebisu Shrine, which is dedicated to the god of happiness Ebisu. "... on the base of the statue, you can see the inscribed calligraphy letters ("the enemy has surrendered"...).*²⁵



²⁵ <https://yokanavi.com/en/spot/26828/>

²⁶ https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sculpture_of_Emperor_Kameyama_in_Higashi_Park,_Fukuoka.jpg

Children Working (p. 43)



Japanese schoolchildren being evacuated
August 1944²⁷



1940's Japanese Postcards "Comfort to
Imperial Army" Art of Homefront Children
(Matsumoto Katsuji)²⁸

Like other wartime governments, the government of Japan needed to mobilize hitherto marginal elements of the population, notably women and children, into the workforce. Children were mobilized through the school system, which sent large numbers of students to work, though at a notoriously low level of productivity.²⁹

²⁷ Mainichi Newspapers Company, *Showa History Vol.11: Road to Catastrophe*.

²⁸ <http://japanwarart.ocnk.net/product/3654> (The Japanese writing on the postcard says "Homefront (defense duty) in my hands" and "boost production").

²⁹ 2003 lecture, "*Coercion and Consent: The Home Front in Japan*", by Duke University assistant professor of history, Simon Partner. https://today.duke.edu/2003/03/japan_lecture0321.html

Schoolhouse (p. 44)

By the end of World War Two, over sixty other Japanese cities suffered damage similar to Sasebo, shown in the photo. (For additional background information on this subject, see *Passing the Cremation Site*, p. 24.)

This unparalleled campaign of destruction started in spring of 1945. From bases on Guam, Tinian and Saipan, hundreds of B-29 "Superfortress" repeatedly attacked Japan.

Stripped of their guns to make more room for bombs, and flying at altitudes averaging 7,000 feet to evade detection, the bombers, which had been designed for high-altitude precision attacks, carried two kinds of incendiaries: M47s, 100-pound oil gel bombs, 182 per aircraft, each capable of starting a major fire, followed by M69s, 6-pound gelled-gasoline bombs, 1,520 per aircraft in addition to a few high explosives to deter firefighters.³⁰

"Overall, bombing strikes destroyed 40 percent of the 66 Japanese cities targeted."³¹



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³⁰ <https://apjif.org/-Mark-Selden/2414/article.html>

³¹ <https://www.globalresearch.ca/bombs-bursting-in-air-the-us-firebombing-and-atomic-bombing-of-japan/5365530>

³² <http://www.historynet.com/when-fire-rained-from-the-sky.htm#prettyPhoto/2/>

Babysitters (p. 45)

After the explosion of the atomic bomb in Nagasaki, eighteen schools and universities were totally destroyed.³³ At the end of the war, an American estimate put the number of destroyed schools throughout Japan at 4,000.³⁴

³³ Hamm, Paul, *Hiroshima Nagasaki: The Real Story of the Atomic Bombings and Their Aftermath* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2011) 412.

³⁴ Beauchamp, Edward, *Education and Schooling in Japan since 1945* in *Reforming Education in Postwar Japan: American Planning for a Democratic Japan, 1943 to 1946*, edited by Edward Beauchamp (New York: Rutledge, 1998).

Kamikaze (p. 47)

A) Certainly, some kamikaze pilots were reluctant to fly their assigned missions.

"I would say 60-70% of us were eager to sacrifice ourselves for the emperor, but the rest probably questioned why they had to go," 94-year-old Osamu Yamada (kamikaze pilot) told me at his home in Nagoya. Before he carried out his mission, the war ended."³⁵

B) Most kamikaze attempted attacks were unsuccessful. Of 2,550 kamikaze missions in the Philippines and Okinawa during 1944-1945, only 474 (18.6%) were counted as "hits or near misses."³⁶

C) After the Japanese surrender over 11,000 Japanese aircraft were destroyed or scrapped.³⁷ O'Donnell is mistaken when he states on page 49, "Only 400 Japanese aircraft were left at the end of the war."

³⁵ *How Japan's youth see the kamikaze pilots of WW2*, November 3, 2017.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-39351262>

³⁶ Office of Naval Research, *Defense against Kamikaze Attacks in World War II and its Relevance to Anti-Ship Missile Defense* (Washington D.C., 1970) 73.

<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/725163.pdf>

³⁷ Reports of General MacArthur, *MACARTHUR IN JAPAN: THE OCCUPATION: MILITARY PHASE, VOLUME I SUPPLEMENT* U.S. Army, Center of Military History, Facsimile Reprint, 1994.

https://history.army.mil/books/wwii/MacArthur%20Reports/MacArthur%20V1%20Sup/ch5_notes.htm#e42

Hiroshima, Arial View (p. 54)

In 1945 the Reverend Kiyoshi Tanimoto (1909 – 1986) was a Methodist minister serving at the church shown in this photo, Hiroshima Nagarekawa Church. At the time of the atomic bombing, Reverend Tanimoto was outside the city and escaped serious injury. He would minister to the sick and dying and later was known for his work with the Hiroshima Maidens. He was one of the six Hiroshima survivors featured in John Hersey's book *Hiroshima*.



Reverend Tanimoto's May 1955 appearance on the American television program "This is Your Life", where he was introduced to Captain Robert Lewis, copilot of the Enola Gay.

(For more information of this unusual television moment see:
<http://conelrad.blogspot.com/2010/08/hiroshima-this-is-your-life.html>)

³⁸ <https://alchetron.com/Kiyoshi-Tanimoto>

Aioi Bridge (p. 55)

A few days before the Enola Gay's Hiroshima mission, bombardier Major Thomas Ferebee was asked to pick an aiming point. He chose the unique T-shaped Aioi Bridge.³⁹ "The bridge that had been built in 1932 as a bridge only for streetcars" and had a "unique T-shape that was a rare sight in Japan."⁴⁰ During its 51 second fall from the airplane the bomb drifted slightly. It exploded one-third of a mile above the city over a hospital located 1000 feet from the bridge.⁴¹ "The fierce blast deformed the girders, the handrail on the northern side fell into the river and a part of the sidewalk was lifted up."⁴² The "blasts impact lifted the Aioi Bridge ... into the air and dropped it back, twisted by the heat in almost the same place."⁴³ "The bridge was reconstructed after the war but gradually deteriorated and a new bridge replaced the old one in 1983."⁴⁴



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³⁹ Wainstock, Dennis, *The Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb* (Westport, Connecticut, 1996) 84.

⁴⁰ http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/virtual/VirtualMuseum_e/tour_e/ireihi/tour_06_e.html

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ Wainstock, *The Decision*, 86.

⁴⁴ http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/virtual/VirtualMuseum_e/tour_e/ireihi/tour_06_e.html

⁴⁵ https://www.tripadvisor.in/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g298561-d8505164-i190227197-Aioi_Bridge-Hiroshima_Hiroshima_Prefecture_Chugoku.html

Airstrip and Highway (p. 60)



A) The graphic above is a contemporary view of the city of Nagasaki, looking southward, and taken from approximately the same viewpoint, as the 1945 *Airstrip and Highway*. (Google Earth Pro - 2018)

B) Hypocenter is a term used in Japan to mark the ground locations of the point of detonation of the atomic bombs, one third of a mile in the air above Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hypocenter is synonymous with the term ground zero.

C) "Atomic Field" was the name given to an airstrip constructed by American occupation forces in October, 1945. The airstrip was located 800 to 1000 feet from the hypocenter.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ McRaney, W. and McGahan, J., *RADIATION DOSE RECONSTRUCTION U.S. OCCUPATION FORCES IN HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI, JAPAN, 1945-1946*, (McClain, Virginia: Science Applications, Inc., 1980) 24.

“Atomic Field” (p. 61)

In his commentary on this photo O’Donnell discusses radiation exposure in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. An often asked related question is “Are Hiroshima and Nagasaki still radioactive?” The authoritative Radiation Effects Research Foundation, responds:

The practical answer is, "No."

The Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs exploded at altitudes of 600 meters and 503 meters, respectively, then formed huge fireballs that rose with the ascending air currents. About 10% of the nuclear material in the bombs underwent fission; the remaining 90% rose in the stratosphere with the fireball.

Subsequently, the material cooled down and some of it started to fall with rain (black rain) in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki areas, but probably most of the remaining uranium or plutonium was dispersed widely in the atmosphere.

Nowadays, the radioactivity is so miniscule that it is difficult to distinguish from trace amounts (including plutonium) of radioactivity caused by worldwide fallout from atmospheric (as opposed to underground) atomic-bomb tests that were conducted around the world in past decades, particularly in the 1950s and 1960s.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ http://www.rerf.jp/general/qa_e/qa12.html

Returning Home (p. 62)

In the sixteen months following the end of World War II in Asia, from September 1945 to December 1946, the Allied military forces repatriated over 5 million Japanese nationals to Japan. During the same period, the Allies also facilitated the deportation from Japan of over a million former colonial subjects—Koreans, Taiwanese, Chinese, and Southeast Asians—to their countries of origin. The Allies viewed these transfers as an unwelcome but unavoidable part of their primary goals: the demobilization of Japan's military forces and the demilitarization of Japan. The transfers were also a part of the dismantling of Japan's fifty-year imperial project.⁴⁸



Japanese to be Repatriated: August 1945⁴⁹

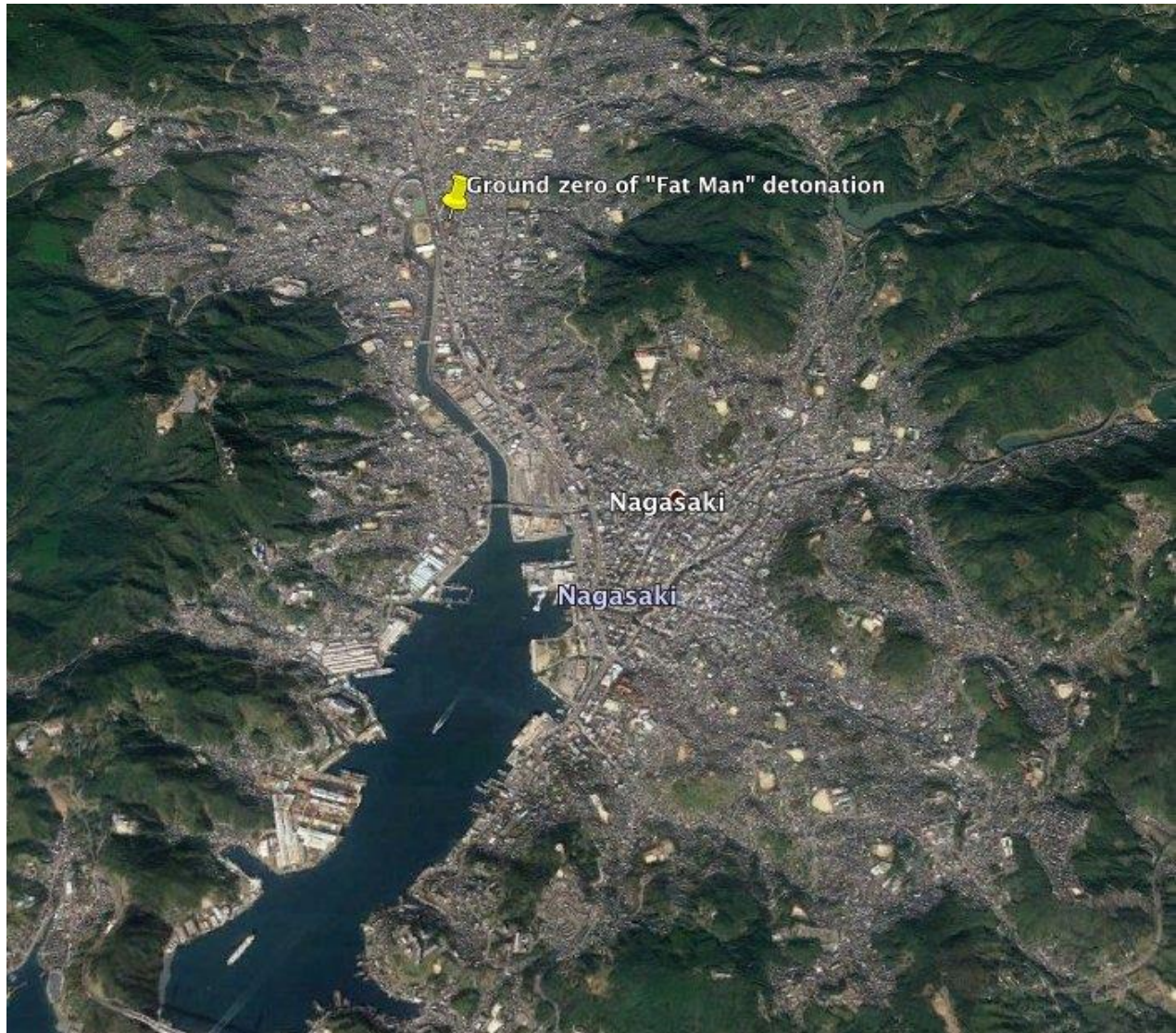
⁴⁸ Watt, Lori, *When Empire Comes Home: Repatriation and Reintegration in Postwar Japan* (Harvard University Asia Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2009) 1.

⁴⁹ <https://history.army.mil/books/wwii/MacArthur%20Reports/MacArthur%20V1%20Sup/ch6.htm>

Nagasaki, Ground View (p. 64)

This photograph was taken looking northward up the Urakami River Valley.

The pattern of destruction in Nagasaki was shaped by the city's geography. The bomb was dropped over the Urakami Valley, an industrial and residential area. The center of Nagasaki, the harbor, and the historic district were shielded from the blast by the hills flanking the Urakami River. But in the valley, about 12,000 buildings were destroyed by the blast or burned in the ensuing fires. The more powerful bomb and the focusing effect of the surrounding hills resulted in even greater destruction in the Urakami Valley than in Hiroshima. Virtually nothing was left standing.⁵⁰



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⁵⁰ Smithsonian Institution, *The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II*, (Washington, D.C.: National Air and Space Museum, 1995) 131-132. (note: This text is the original exhibition script for the Smithsonian's "Enola Gay" Exhibit.) <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED401218.pdf>

⁵¹ <http://silvermedals.net/entries/nagasaki-bomb>

Mitsubishi Steel Works, Nagasaki (p. 65)

“At the beginning of August 1945, just before the atomic bombing, Mitsubishi had at least 26 facilities based around the Nagasaki metropolitan region”⁵² ..., and was the dominant employer in the city.

During the later years of World War Two, Japanese industrial production was significantly impacted by shortages of raw materials and labor. “To deal with the severe labor shortage, Mitsubishi and other Japanese companies turned to very young Japanese workers, including students (known as *gakuto-dōin*) who were not yet adults; Korean and Chinese foreign forced labor; and Allied prisoners-of-war.”⁵³

Today this area along Nagasaki’s Urakami River remains a Mitsubishi company facility. It is known as the “Saiwaimachi Plant” and manufactures special machinery such as boilers, turbines, and fuel cells.⁵⁴



A contemporary view of the area. (Google Earth Pro - 2018)

⁵² Van der Linden, Marcel and Rodriguez Garcia, Magaly, editors, *On Coerced Labor: Work and Compulsion after Chattel Slavery* (Brill, Leiden and Boston, 2016) 166.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 169.

⁵⁴ <https://www.mhps.com/company/network/work/nagasaki/>

Panorama of Ground Zero, Nagasaki (p. 66 and p. 67)

A) Estimates of the number of people killed by the atomic bombing of Nagasaki range from 35,000 to 74,000 deaths. For an explanation of the discrepancies in atomic bombing casualty estimates, see the 1995 *Washington Post* article "A Fallout Over Numbers."⁵⁵

B) *The area within a 2.5 kilometer (1.5 mile) radius of the hypocenter was utterly devastated, and the rest of the city was left in ruins.*⁵⁶

C) Today at the Nagasaki, the ground zero or hypocenter point of the detonation of the atomic bomb, one third of a mile above the city, is marked by the memorial monolith shown below. The memorial was constructed in 1968.⁵⁷



⁵⁵ https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1995/08/05/a-fallout-over-numbers/d9c5fb21-880b-4c6c-85f1-b80e16a0a0ee/?utm_term=.1208f33cf55c

⁵⁶ <http://visit-nagasaki.com/photos/index/page:4/back:1>

⁵⁷ <http://www.visit-nagasaki.com/spots/detail/548>

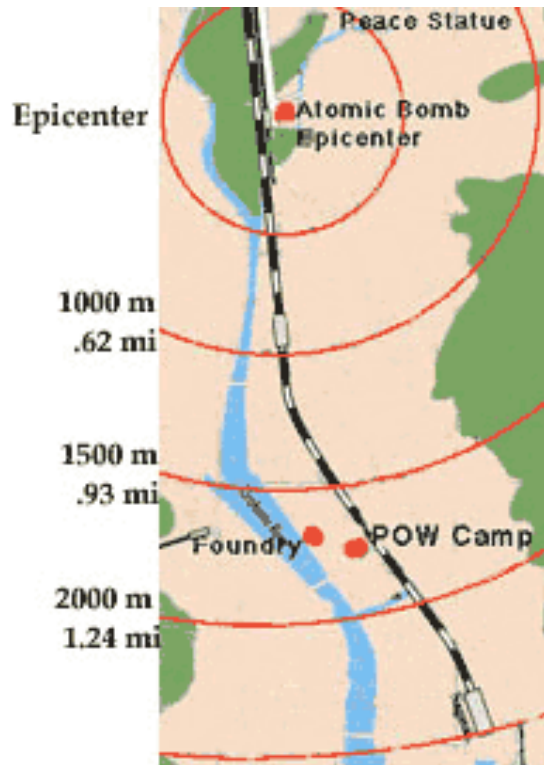
Prison, Nagasaki (p. 68)

The prison O'Donnell is referring to in this photograph did not contain prisoners of war but housed convicts of the Japanese criminal justice system.

Present-day Peace Park, site of the Peace Statue, is the former location of the Urakami Branch of Nagasaki Prison, situated closer to the hypocenter than any of the other structures on the list of prominent buildings. All employees and inmates were killed, and the buildings, concrete walls and other structures were instantly pulverized. ...All the facilities of the Urakami Branch of Nagasaki Prison, located at the hypocenter, were instantly demolished by the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki. It was the worst catastrophe in the history of prisons in Japan. All 18 employees including Branch Office Manager Soejima, as well as 35 employee family members living in the official residence, 48 convicts and 33 defendants in criminal cases (total 134 persons) were instantly killed.⁵⁸

The closest POW camp, which was impacted by the Nagasaki bomb, did not contain American prisoners of war, unlike Hiroshima where twelve American POWs were killed by the atomic bomb.

The POWs were used by Mitsubishi Heavy Industry Company. 195 POWs (152 Dutch, 24 Australian and 19 British) were imprisoned at the end of the war. 113 POWs died while imprisonment (sic), 8 of whom were killed by Atomic Bomb.⁵⁹



⁵⁸ Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, *Nagasaki Atomic Damage Records, Part 2: The Atomic Bomb, Section 2: Damage, Chapter 2: Damage in the Hypocenter Zone.*

<http://www.peace-nagasaki.go.jp/abombrecords/b020202.html>

⁵⁹ http://www.mansell.com/pow_resources/camplists/fukuoka/fuk-14-nagasaki/fuku_14_nagasaki.html

Victim with Rope (p. 69)

It would be nearly an hour after the bombing when he (the governor of Nagasaki Prefecture) first learned, with great anguish, that almost none of the city's emergency medical services had survived the nuclear attack: The Medical College and its hospital were destroyed, and a large number of its staff and students were dead. A minority of the city's other hospitals, clinics, and designated relief stations were also gone. Too late for evacuation measures, the governor ordered the mobilization of doctors and nurses in the old city to provide aid to the victims – but even they were mostly helpless because nearly all medicines had been destroyed in the blast. Few treatment options remained beyond water, pumpkin juice, sesame oil, machine oil, Mercurochrome (an antiseptic), zinc oxide cream, and an occasional tin of petroleum jelly. Mothers applied cooking oil to their children's burns and some boys removed their bleached cotton loincloths to use as bandages.⁶⁰

⁶⁰ Southward, Susan, *Nagasaki, Life after Nuclear War* (New York: Penguin Random House, 2015) 55.

Burn Victim (p. 70)

excerpts from: *The New York Times*: Sumiteru Taniguchi, 88, Who Survived Nagasaki to Become Activist, Dies

On the day of the bombing, Mr. Taniguchi, then 16, was delivering mail on his bicycle in the northern corner of the city, just over a mile from ground zero.

When the bomb detonated overhead, the force of the explosion tossed him into the air, and the heat it radiated melted his cotton shirt and seared the skin off his back and one arm. He spent a total of more than three and a half years in the hospital after the bombing. Sometimes he was in so much pain, he said, that he would scream to the nurses, "Kill me, kill me!"

A decade after the war, when Mr. Taniguchi had learned to sit up, stand and walk again, he joined a youth group for survivors and began working as an activist. He spoke at memorial ceremonies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and took part in antinuclear marches in New York. He continued to speak out until close to death, (August 30, 2017) traveling last year to Malaysia to deliver a speech against nuclear proliferation.⁶¹

from: *CROSSROADS: A JOURNAL OF NAGASAKI HISTORY AND CULTURE* (an 1993 to 1998 annual English-language publication) issue NUMBER 2 (SUMMER 1994).

REUNION

One of the most shocking exhibits in the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum is a color photograph of a 16 year-old boy lying face down in hospital with bright red open burns all over his back. The boy, whose name is Taniguchi Sumiteru, had been exposed to the atomic bomb explosion 1.8 kilometers from the hypocenter while delivering mail in the Sumiyoshi district of Nagasaki.

Despite the fame of the photograph, the person who actually took it was unknown, unknown that is until Mr. Joe O'Donnell, an American visiting the Atomic Bomb Museum this past November, identified himself as the photographer.

It seems that Mr. O'Donnell came to Japan in September 1945 as a U.S. marine cameraman and stayed here for seven months to record the war damages in approximately 50 cities around the country.

Mr. O'Donnell (71), who came to Nagasaki for the first time in 48 years, was stunned to hear that the boy, Mr. Taniguchi Sumiteru, is now 64 years old and one of Nagasaki's most prominent atomic bomb survivors and anti-nuclear activists. Said the former photographer: 'It was such a ghastly wound that I thought the boy had no more than a few days to live.'

A reunion was immediately arranged, and Mr. Taniguchi agreed to Mr. O'Donnell's request to photograph his healed wounds. 'It is a miracle that I survived,' said Mr. Taniguchi. 'There are still many other survivors who are suffering from the effects of the bombing.'

Mr. O'Donnell meanwhile has requested the cooperation of Nagasaki City is holding an exhibition of his photographs on the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings in 1995. In parting, the photographer and his former subject shook hands vigorously and promised to work together to rid the world of nuclear weapons.⁶²

⁶¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/31/world/asia/taniguchi-nagasaki-atomic-bomb.html>

⁶² http://www.uwosh.edu/home_pages/faculty_staff/earns/year.html

Three Brothers, Nagasaki (p. 71)

Is it possible that the children Sergeant O'Donnell encountered were orphans whose parents were killed by the atomic bomb?

There are few official records regarding the children orphaned by the atomic bombing. Even the reports issued by Nagasaki Prefecture up to September 1 state simply that: "War orphans were initially cared for by Nagasaki City but later accepted by appropriate community service organizations, except those adopted by relatives."

Assistance to orphans had relied to a large extent from prewar times on religious groups and other benefactors, and in the turbulent period after the end of the war, the city came to depend even more on the goodwill and services provided by these people and organizations.

Some of the children accommodated in these benevolent facilities ran away, a situation that reflected postwar Japanese society as a whole.

The exact number of children orphaned by the atomic bomb remains unknown, but it has been estimated to reach into the thousands.⁶³

⁶³ <http://www.peace-nagasaki.go.jp/abombrecords/b030105.html>

Dressed Up Little Girl (p. 72)

A) It is likely that the girl in this photo was a participant in a Japanese celebration known as “Shichi-go-san.” At the ages of three and seven, Japanese girls dress in formal kimono and visit a shrine with their family.⁶⁴

B) Public attention to the plight of Nagasaki’s hearing impaired hibakusha grew when:

On August 9, 2003, at the 58th Peace Ceremony in Nagasaki in Memory of the Victims of the Atomic Bomb, Ms. Eiko Yamazaki, 76, represented the surviving A-bomb victims and delivered her “Peace Message” in sign language. Ms. Yamazaki used her hands and body eloquently and succeeded in conveying the full impact of her experiences and importance of her message. Her Peace Message in sign language touched the hearts of the participants and many looked on with tears in their eyes.”



Ms. Eiko Yamazaki delivering her “Peace Message” in Sign Language

Also in 2003 an unveiling ceremony of the “Monument in Memory of the Deaf Victims of the Atomic Bomb” was held in the playground of Hiroshima Deaf School in Hiroshima Prefecture. The monument is dedicated to deaf victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings.



Ceremony participants offering flowers at the monument.

⁶⁴ <https://www.tsunagujapan.com/10-japanese-traditional-rituals-to-give-every-child-a-happy-life/>

⁶⁵ <https://www.jfd.or.jp/en/2003/09/01/pid277#more-277>

Classroom (p. 73)

An examination of life in Nagasaki after the atom bombing of 1945 is offered by Susan Southward in her book, *Nagasaki - Life after Nuclear War*. Southward examines the reestablishment of the schools in Nagasaki immediately after August 9, 1945:

The most severely damaged schools could not hold classes inside their skeletal buildings, but in October, small teams of surviving administrator and teachers organized groups of as few as fifteen students and held classes in stairwells and school yards surrounded by ashes and bones. Some were able to resume classes inside functional buildings or local temples.

The return to school was a stabilizing activity, though not necessarily a happy one. Countless students had lost one or both parents, and some came to class with their bald heads covered with pieces of cloth. ... Some colleges reopened as well, but there were no textbooks and little food, and as the weather cooled, students wrapped themselves in blankets to study. Schools began the process of creating registries to account for their deceased students and teachers⁶⁶

⁶⁶ Southward, Susan, *Nagasaki, Life after Nuclear War* (New York: Penguin Random House, 2015) 127-128.

Cremation Site, Nagasaki (p. 74)

A) Disposal of Corpses – In the first several days after the explosion of the atomic bomb, the City of Nagasaki faced a grisly and daunting task – how to identify and dispose of tens of thousands of corpses. The rescue headquarters developed the following procedures:

Disposal of corpses

The retrieved corpses should be disposed of as follows:

- 1) Identified bodies should be handed over to the bereaved families.*
- 2) Unidentified bodies and those that go unclaimed should be taken immediately to City Hall.*
- 3) At City Hall, the bodies that had been identified but gone unclaimed should be cremated at the crematory or other appropriate place, and should be respectfully taken care of. Unidentified bodies should be temporarily buried at the predetermined places.*
- 4) Bodies of persons associated with factories should be taken care of by workers of Mitsubishi Nagasaki Shipyard and subsidiary factories. The surviving workers should also give assistance to the work agency of the 21st Naval Arsenal Division.*

Outdoor cremation was conducted in various places under the coordination of the postmortem examination team.

Outdoor cremation was still being conducted after the announcement of surrender on August 15. Nagasaki Prefecture reported a total of 19,743 cremations as of September 1, 1945.⁶⁷

B) Late in 2017, Catholic Pope Francis distributed a card with the message "il frutto della guerra" (the fruit of war)." This O'Donnell photo was printed on the card. The Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano* said: *In an international context in which a mistake could trigger a full fledged war, it is necessary to work for nuclear disarmament. Pope Francis stressed this on Monday morning, 15 January. The paper also stated: Pope Francis said that he had come across the photograph and, very moved, had wanted to share it because such an image "says more than a thousand words".⁶⁸*

In August, 2018 ...The Roman Catholic Church of Japan, in line with calls by the pope for the abolition of nuclear weapons, will deliver 200,000 copies of the card, which carried the photo titled "The boy standing by the crematory."

Distribution of a translated, Japanese-language version was proposed by Archbishop Mitsuaki Takami, a hibakusha atomic bomb victim who represents the Catholic Archdiocese of Nagasaki, during a meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan.

⁶⁷ Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, *Nagasaki Atomic Damage Records, Part 3 Rescue and Medical Relief, Section 1 Emergency Measures, Chapter 2: Disposal of the Dead.*
<http://www.peace-nagasaki.go.jp/abombrecords/b030102.html>

⁶⁸ <http://www.osservatoreromano.va/en/news/work-nuclear-disarmament>

“The photo symbolizes the pain, suffering and sorrow of humans induced by war,” said Takami, whose mother was pregnant with him in Nagasaki when a second atomic bomb leveled the city on Aug. 9, 1945. “I want as many people as possible to clasp this card in their hands.”

Church officials in Japan said they obtained approval from the Vatican and from O'Donnell's family.

Copies of the card will be sent to local churches via parishes and handed to followers during the Ten-Day Period of Peace from Aug. 6, the anniversary of the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima, through Aug. 15, when Japan surrendered in World War II.⁶⁹

C) A Japanese hibakusha (survivor of the atomic bomb) for many years has unsuccessfully attempted to identify the boy in this photo. For more information see:

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180122/p2a/00m/0na/019000c>

⁶⁹ <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201807250005.html>

Trees (p. 75)

In both Nagasaki and Hiroshima, many trees and other plants lived through the atomic blasts. The rapid renewal of greenery in the two cities was said to have given inspiration and hope to the Japanese people when they were dazed by defeat. Dr. Klekowski (plant geneticist at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst) said that in Nagasaki specimens of numerous trees including ginkgo, black locust and camphor trees, some of which were only 650 yards from the hypocenter of the blast, withstood the searing heat and are still growing.

Apart from burn scars, most of these trees appear healthy. But Dr. Klekowski said he "would bet on it" that some sustained genetic damage and reproductive difficulties.⁷⁰



71

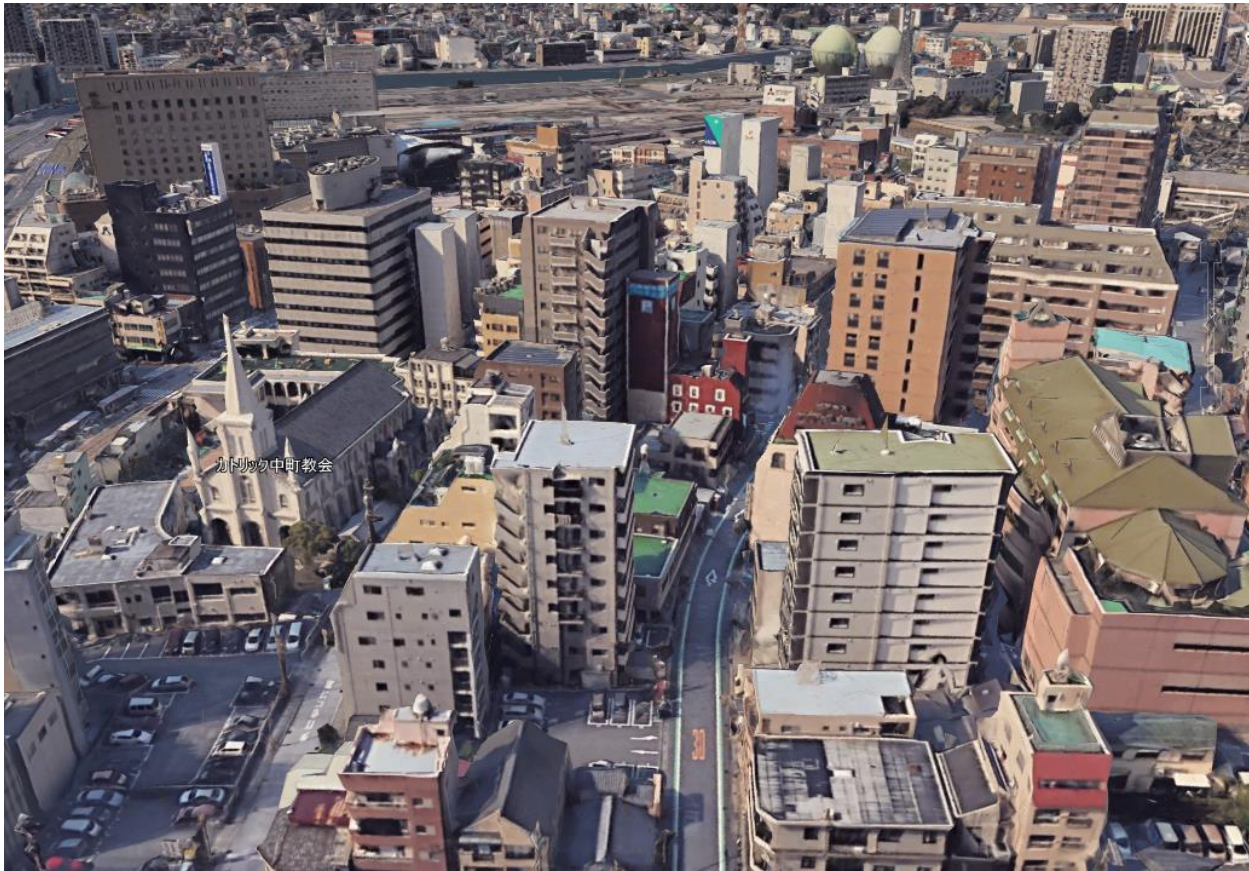
(left) Newly budding camphor trees, months after the Nagasaki atomic bombing.

(right) The same camphor trees of Sanno Shinto Shrine, present day.

⁷⁰ <https://www.nytimes.com/1985/08/09/us/study-finds-genetic-damage-in-plants-after-atomic-blast.html>

⁷¹ <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/QRdn47QA>

Clock Tower (p. 76)



A) The graphic above is a contemporary view of the city of Nagasaki, looking westward, and taken from approximately the same viewpoint, as the 1945 *Clock Tower* photo. (*Google Earth Pro* - 2018)

B) The Nagasaki Nakamachi Catholic Church, shown in left of the photo, was built in 1896, destroyed by the atomic bomb in 1945, and rebuilt by parishioners in 1951.⁷² The church is 1.5 miles from the hypocenter, to the north.

C) Catholicism has existed in Japan for over 450 years old, starting with the arrival of St. Francis Xavier in 1549. Over 200 years of that time was spent under persecution and difficult social conditions. Suppressed Christianity in Japan that survived did so underground until the Meiji Government accepted freedom of religion in Japan in the latter half of the 19th Century.⁷³

D) Today, about four percent of Nagasaki residents are Catholic, the highest percentage of any Catholic diocese in Japan. About .35 percent of the Japanese national population is Catholic.⁷⁴

⁷² <http://visit-nagasaki.com/spots/detail/550>

⁷³ *Nagasaki Pilgrimage: a Guide to the Churches and Christian Sites of Nagasaki*, Nagasaki Prefecture Tourism Association, page 3.

⁷⁴ *Statistics of The Catholic Church in Japan 2012*, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan, page 1.

Calvary in Nagasaki (p. 79)



(pre1945 photo of Urakami Church)



(Urakami Cathedral today)

Urakami Cathedral, is located 500 meters north of the hypocenter. It was once renowned for being the largest Roman Catholic church in the East (Asia) but was completely demolished by the nuclear blast. Now you can see the headless statues of the saints, the bell tower that was blown off by the atomic bomb and a wooden figure of the Virgin Mary which miraculously survived the heat of the nuclear blast.

In 1895, the Christian faithful began the construction of Urakami Cathedral. In 1914, a ceremony was held to bless the church and dedicated it to the Virgin Mary. However, just 30 years later, on August 9th, 1945, the church was devastated by the atomic bomb. Nevertheless, on Christmas Eve that year, the survivors rang the church bell that they dug out of the ruins, and went on to rebuild the church.

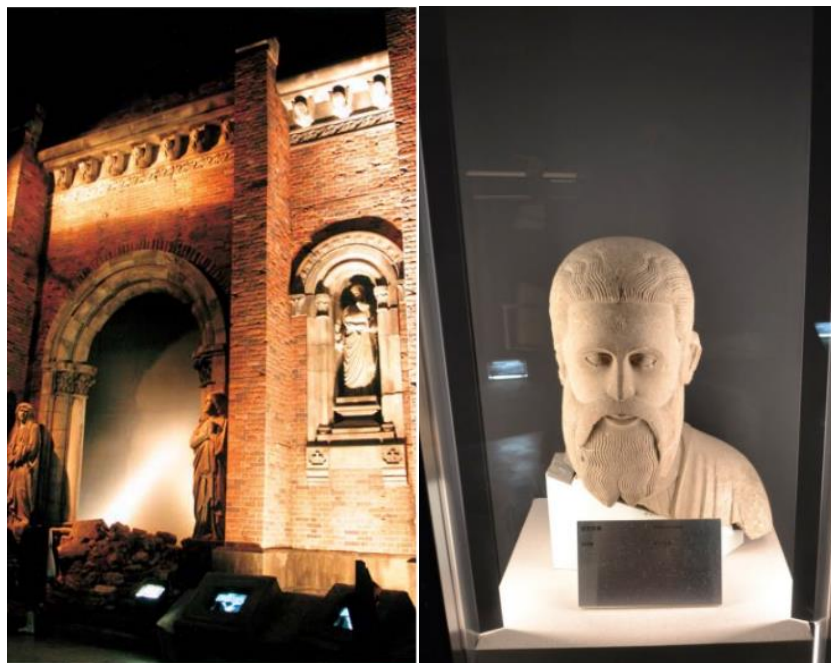
The new reinforced concrete building was completed in 1959, and an outer layer of bricks was added in 1980. In 1962, meanwhile, the new Urakami church replaced Oura Catholic Church as the Cathedral of the Nagasaki Archdiocese.⁷⁵

⁷⁵ Photos and text on this page taken from: http://nagasaki-jp.com/churchs/urakami_cathedral.html

Concrete Head, Urakami Cathedral (p. 81)



(left) Today, outside the rebuilt Cathedral, fragments of the pre1945 church are displayed.⁷⁷
(right) A portion of the original Cathedral was moved to the hypocenter site.⁷⁸



(left) A replica of the façade of the Cathedral is exhibited at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum.⁷⁹
(right) Statues, similar to the one in the 1945 O'Donnell photo, are part of the exhibition.⁸⁰

⁷⁷ https://bwareaus.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/dsc_0282.jpg

⁷⁸ <http://muza-chan.net/japan/index.php/blog/tag/Nagasaki+travel>

⁷⁹ http://nagasakipeace.jp/content/files/english/abm/leaflet_e.pdf

⁸⁰ stayingglobal.blogspot.com/2014/04/nagasaki-atomic-bomb-museum.html

Recommended Additional Reading

Recommended Books

The Joe O'Donnell photographs used for this lesson, as well as additional 1945-1945 O'Donnell photographs are displayed in his book:

O'Donnell, Joe. *Japan 1945: A U.S. Marines Photographs from Ground Zero*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2005.

O'Donnell provides additional background and information about the photos in a 2005 *American Heritage Magazine* article.

O'Donnell, Joe. "A Straight Path Through Hell." *American Heritage Magazine*, 56:3.

<http://www.americanheritage.com/content/%E2%80%9Cstraight-path-through-hell-%E2%80%9D>

A widely published 1949 book written by Takashi Nagai, a radiologist, convert to Catholicism, and a survivor of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

Nagai, Takashi. *The Bells of Nagasaki*. New York: Kodansha USA, 1994.

*In Resurrecting Nagasaki, Chad R. Diehl examines the reconstruction of Nagasaki City after the atomic bombing of August 9, 1945. Diehl illuminates the genesis of narratives surrounding the bombing by following the people and groups who contributed to the city's rise from the ashes and shaped its postwar image in Japan and the world.*⁸¹

Diehl, Chad. *Resurrecting Nagasaki: Reconstruction and the Formation of Atomic Narratives*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2018.

Southward follows the lives of five survivors of the Nagasaki atomic bombing. Through the survivor's experiences, the author explores consequences associated with the use of nuclear weapons.

Southward, Susan. *Nagasaki, Life after Nuclear War*. New York: Penguin Random House, 2015

Recommended Websites

The Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall posts an in-depth examination of Nagasaki's wartime background, the use and impact of the atomic bomb on the city, and the rescue and relief activities in the immediate aftermath of the bombing.

<http://www.peace-nagasaki.go.jp/abombrecords/index-e.html>

A website that takes a great deal of information about the Nagasaki atomic bomb (testimonials, photographs, graphics, maps) and interactively superimposes that information upon *Google Earth* maps.

<http://e.nagasaki.mapping.jp/p/nagasaki-archive.html>

⁸¹ https://books.google.com/books/about/Resurrecting_Nagasaki.html?id=NNI6DwAAQBAJ