

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Special Exhibition

Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Damage and Restoration as Shown in Collections from Overseas



ca. October, 1945 Photo by U.S. Military Donated by Mrs. John V. Peterson
Courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command Collected in 2016

Introduction

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum has continuously searched, collected, and organized various materials relating to the atomic bombing such as A-bomb artifacts, relics left behind by the victims, and photographs. Photo materials have an important meaning to better understand the real aspects of the atomic bombing. Besides a number of photographs that we are already aware, it is believed that many photos still exist overseas without being unveiled; there were many foreigners who entered Hiroshima after the atomic bombing.

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum has acquired photographic data from the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in 2011 and 2012, and dispatched staff members to the U.S., U.K., and New Zealand in 2013, 2016, 2017, and 2019 to collect photographic materials held by various institutions and private individuals.

Acquiring materials related to the atomic bombing is one of the important duties of the Museum, as well as conservation, research,

exhibition, and education. As the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing is approaching, we are faced with the aging of the remaining A-bomb survivors. Thus, the collection, careful organization, and preservation of materials which present the atomic bomb damage has become even more important.

In this exhibition, we look back on the atomic bomb damage suffered by Hiroshima and the restoration after the atomic bombing, with a focus on photographic materials and witness accounts that we have collected from overseas in recent years.

Trying to make it clear that throughout the world are scattered many materials relevant to the atomic bombing, we hope that this opportunity will serve to help you to learn about the importance of collecting materials, which plainly portray the reality of the atomic bombing.

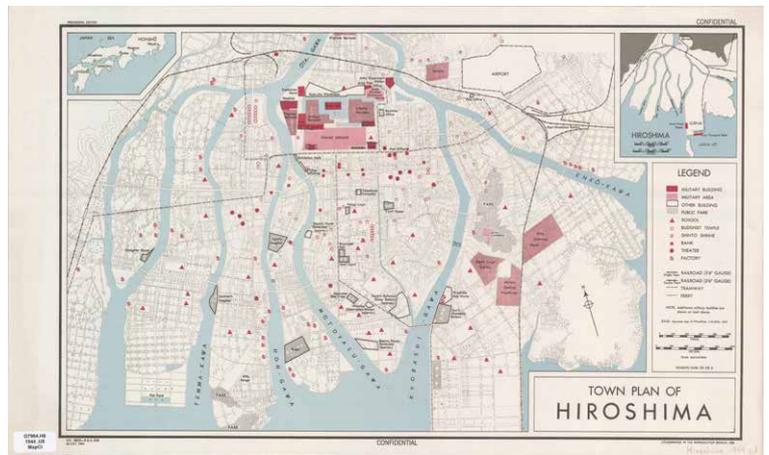
December 2019
Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

1. Before the bomb was dropped

In July 1944, Saipan, a mandated territory of Japan, was occupied by the U.S. military. This island and other locations in the Mariana Islands became bases for air raids on the mainland of Japan. From those islands, the U.S. military's long-range B-29 bombers first deployed that year could reach mainland Japan without refueling.

The U.S. military had started a photo reconnaissance and the collection of information on cities throughout Japan on November 1, 1944, prior to the start of air raids on mainland Japan on November 24.

Special units were organized for the atomic bombing, and a base was placed on Tinian Island, southwest of Saipan.



1-1. Map of Hiroshima created before aerial photography

July 30, 1944 Courtesy of Map Collection, University of Chicago Library (2017)

This map was created before the start of the photo reconnaissance from the bases on Mariana Islands. Information on military facilities and other locations is shown in English, based on a map published in Hiroshima in 1933.



1-2. Image based on aerial photographs

From April to August 1945 USMC (2017)

This image of the location of military and production facilities was based on aerial photographs taken on April 13, 1945.



1-3. Enola Gay at the Northern Airfield on Tinian Island

September 2, 1945 Photo taken and donated by Kenneth L. Eidnes NMUSAF (2016)

This is the Enola Gay B-29 bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The name of this aircraft came from the mother of the pilot Paul Tibbets. This photograph was taken in color on Tinian Island on a personal basis by Technical Sergeant Kenneth L. Eidnes of the 509th Composite Group atomic bomb unit.



1-4. North Field Airfield on Tinian Island taken from the Enola Gay

August 26, 1945 Photo taken and donated by Kenneth L. Eidnes NMUSAF (2016)

Taking off from here, the B-29s dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A pit constructed to load the atomic bombs is visible on the left side of the four runways. Since a note attached to the photo at the time of the donation says that this photograph was taken by Technical Sergeant Eidnes from the Enola Gay during a mission on August 26 after the atomic bombings, what is seen on the upper right of the photo is supposed to be the left wing of the aircraft.

2. Large photos donated by The Stimson Center

The museum received a donation of 21 large photographs from The Stimson Center, a research institute in the U.S. named after Henry Stimson, the Secretary of War when the atomic bombs were dropped.

They are considered to have been used when briefing President Truman and Secretary of War Stimson after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

High-definition images taken by HASHIMOTO Kensuke (Hiroshima City University) are used.



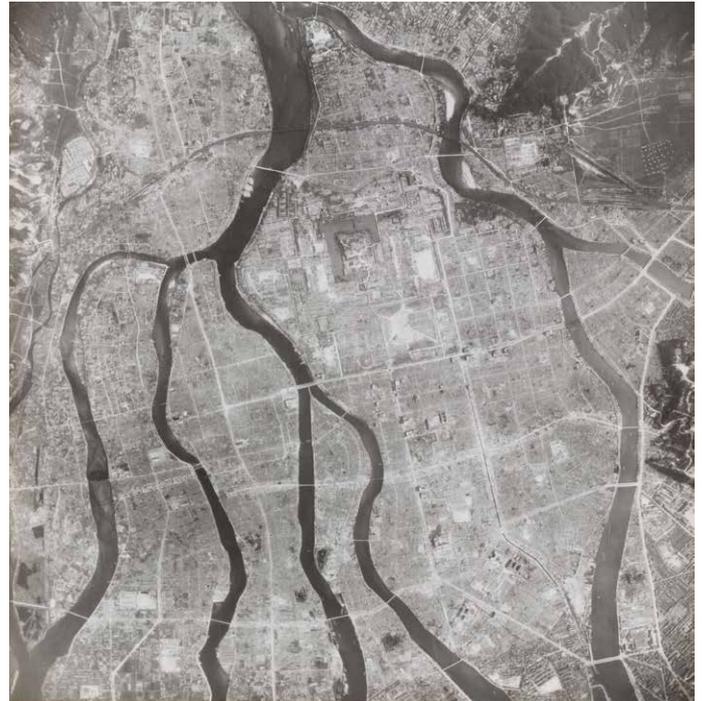
In this box the large photos were donated.



2-1. Aerial photograph taken before the atomic bomb was dropped

Photo by U.S. Military Donated by The Stimson Center (2016)

This image, showing information on military facilities and other locations, is based on aerial photographs taken on March 28, 1945, before the atomic bombing. The target for the bomb near Motoyasu Bridge is clearly marked.



2-2. Aerial photograph taken the day after the atomic bomb was dropped

Photo by U.S. Military Donated by The Stimson Center (2016)

This photograph was taken on August 7, 1945, the day after the atomic bombing. We can see that houses had burned down extensively.



2-3, 2-4. Aerial photographs taken after the atomic bomb was dropped

Photo by U.S. Military Donated by The Stimson Center (2016)

These are aerial photographs of Hiroshima City that were taken on September 7, 1945, after the atomic bombing.

3. Atomic bombing

On August 6, 1945, the B-29 bomber Enola Gay flew from Tinian Island and dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m.

As Hiroshima suffered devastating damage, with people suffering and dying on the ground, or fleeing to the suburbs while desperate rescue and relief activities were being carried out, the U.S. military was taking aerial photographs starting on the day the bomb was dropped to assess the extent of the damage.



3-1. Mushroom cloud taken from the Enola Gay

August 6, 1945 Photo by U.S. Military Courtesy of Library of Congress (2016)

This mushroom cloud is considered to have been taken from the Enola Gay shortly after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The photo was newly discovered by the research conducted by the museum. Two photographs of the mushroom cloud taken from this aircraft were previously known.



3-2. Aerial photograph taken on the day the atomic bomb was dropped

August 6, 1945 Photo by U.S. Military [NARA] (2013)

After the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a U.S. photo reconnaissance aircraft reached above Hiroshima at around 12:25 p.m. In this photo, we can see the area from Hijiyama Hill to Ujina, but the center of the city is covered by smoke.

4. Aerial photographs taken after the war

After Japan accepted an unconditional surrender and signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on September 2, the Allied Forces were stationed on mainland Japan.

In recent years, the museum has collected many aerial photos of the damage to Hiroshima that were taken after the Allied occupation began. While most photos during the war were taken from directly overhead at high altitudes, after Japan's surrender many photos were taken at lower altitudes, and show the damage caused by the atomic bomb in greater detail.



4-1. The Funairi, Yoshijima, and Senda districts from the west

September 8, 1945 Photo by U.S. Military Donated by Victor E. Blenkle [NMUSAF](#) (2016)

This photograph was taken at a low altitude. We can see that there is less damage on the right side (south) than the left side (north). The hypocenter of the atomic bombing is at the back left of this photograph.



4-2. Vicinity of Hiroshima Castle and Hakushima districts

September 8, 1945 Photo by U.S. Military Donated by Victor E. Blenkle [NMUSAF](#) (2016)

This photo was taken of the Moto-machi and Hakushima districts from the north at a low altitude. The upper right of the photo shows Hiroshima Castle, in which the Chugoku Regional Military Headquarters was settled. We can see debris of the collapsed buildings scattered on the castle grounds.



4-3. Vicinity of Hiroshima Station

September 8, 1945 Photo by U.S. Military Donated by Victor E. Blenkle [NMUSAF](#) (2016)

This photo was taken from the north at a low altitude. We can see that the area in the upper left (east side) of the photograph suffered little damage. As the photograph was taken on September 8, Taisho Bridge, which was washed away by the Makurazaki Typhoon on September 17, is visible.

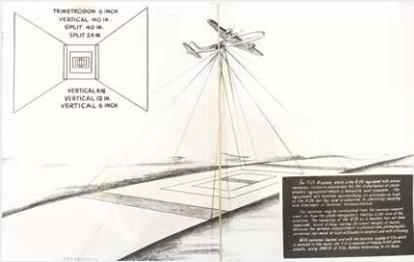


4-4. Looking west from near Hijiyama Hill

September 8, 1945 Photo by U.S. Military Donated by Victor E. Blenkle [NMUSAF](#) (2016)

This photo was taken from over Hijiyama Hill at a low altitude, facing west. The line running vertically through the center of the image is present-day Peace Boulevard, and the areas along both sides of the boulevard look whitish as buildings were demolished before the atomic bombing.

Aerial photographs taken by the U.S. military



Maximum range of shooting of camera loaded on F-13
NMUSAF (2016)

Reconnaissance from the air in the battlefield are said to have begun with balloons in France at the end of the 18th century. The invention of the aircraft in the 20th century led to these machines being used for full-fledged military

purposes, frequently for reconnaissance purposes from WWI.

Air raids on the Japanese mainland by the U.S. military with B-29s based in the Marianas started on November 24, 1944 and continued until August 1945. As only B-29s could fly to and from Japan without refueling, the U.S. military remodeled B-29s into photo reconnaissance planes and named them F-13s. These F-13s took photographs before and after air raids: to gather information in advance and to confirm the damage afterward.

The first photographs were taken over Tokyo on November 1 and a total of 460 such reconnaissance missions were conducted by August 15, 1945. F-13s were normally equipped with a total of six cameras of three types that made it possible to create detailed maps. In this case, these photographs were taken at a high altitude.

As mentioned earlier, many photographs were taken at a low altitude after Japan

surrendered. These photographs seemed to have been taken by the cameramen holding their cameras in their hands through the windows and doors of the aircraft.



Glass window made at the bottom of F-13's airframe for shooting
 August 12, 1945 photo by U.S. Military **NMUSAF** (2016)



4-5. Looking north from near Yoshijima

ca. October, 1945 Photo by U.S. Military Donated by Mrs. John V. Peterson **NHHC** (2016)

This photo was taken at a low altitude. We can see that the closer to the hypocenter located at the top of the photograph, the greater the damage is. The part that looks white at the bottom of the photo is the army's Yoshijima Airfield that was newly landfilled during the war and then used from around 1940. Parked aircrafts are visible there.



4-6. Looking east from Nakajima

ca. October, 1945 Photo by U.S. Military Donated by Mrs. John V. Peterson **NHHC** (2016)

This photo was taken at a low altitude. Driftwood are piled up in the upper reaches of the T-shaped Aioi Bridge (left) which served as a target for the atomic bombing. It seems that they were washed up here due to the Makurazaki Typhoon that struck on September 17.



4-7. Looking south from Motomachi

ca. October, 1945 Photo by U.S. Military Donated by Mrs. John V. Peterson **NHHC** (2016)

This photo was taken at a low altitude. Ninoshima Island, Etajima Island, and Nomishima Island are pictured. Ninoshima Island was home to the quarantine station of the Japanese army at that time. With medical equipment and goods, it served as a temporary reception center for the injured.



4-8. Looking southwest from near Hiroshima Station

ca. October, 1945 Photo by U.S. Military Donated by Mrs. John V. Peterson **NHHC** (2016)

This photo was taken at a low altitude. In addition to the central area of the city, Minami-kan-on, Kusatsu, and even the Itsukaichi area are pictured.



4-9. Looking toward downtown Hiroshima from the north

January 1946 Photo taken and donated by William E. Jones **[NMUSAF]** (2016)

This photo of the town was taken from the sky, near the train tracks of the Sanyo Main line. Capturing a wide range, this shot makes it possible to confirm the differences in the damage according to the distance from the hypocenter.

Registration of "Shinshu Gakuryo" in the A-bombed Buildings Registry



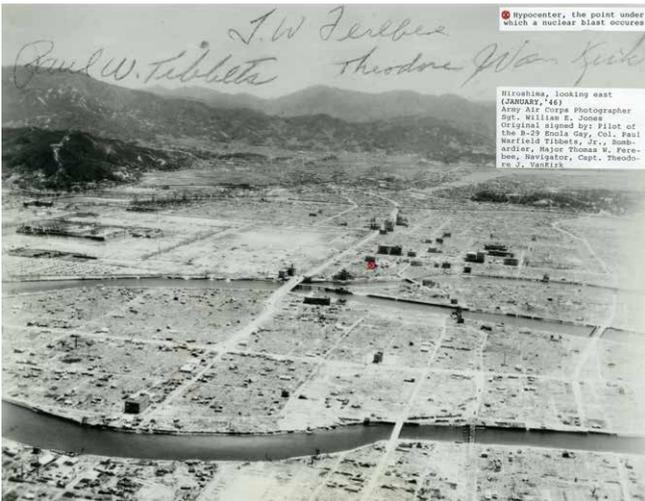
Auditorium and dormitory of Shinshu Gakuryo ca. October 1945 Photo by US Military Donated by Mrs. John V. Peterson **[NHHC]** (2016)

On October 31, 2019, the City of Hiroshima added the "Shinshu Gakuryo" buildings to the registry of A-bombed buildings. This is a registry of still-existing buildings located within 5 km of the hypocenter at the time of the atomic bombing. There are 86 buildings registered.

Shinshu Gakuryo was a private school where students could study Jodo Shinshu, a school of Buddhism. It was established in Saikoji Temple in Saiku-machi (currently Ote-machi, Naka-ku) in 1906, and relocated to new buildings in Minami-kan-on-machi (currently Minami-kan-on, Nishi-ku) in 1926.

Immediately after the bombing, the site became a temporary relief station where many injured people gathered. Afterward, the buildings continued to be used. However, it became clear that these buildings had not been registered as A-bombed buildings during the process of producing video testimonials of atomic bomb survivors for the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims.

An aerial photograph that was taken after the end of the war, and acquired in the U.S. during the research in 2016 was referred to when determining the registration of the buildings to the A-Bombed Buildings Registry. On the enlarged image "Looking southwest from near Hiroshima Station" on page 6, we can see the auditorium and dormitory of Shinshu Gakuryo.



4-10. Looking east from near Temma-cho

January 1946 Photo taken and donated by William E. Jones **[NMUSAF]** (2016)

We can see that houses are already being built around the center to the east in the photograph. The top of the photo is signed by Paul Tibbets, Thomas Ferebee and Theodore Van Kirk, the pilot, bombardier and navigator of the Enola Gay respectively. The donor said that these signatures were obtained in later years. The red mark indicating the hypocenter and the comment pasted on the photograph were made by the donor.



4-11. Looking toward downtown Hiroshima from the south

January 1946 Photo taken and donated by William E. Jones **[NMUSAF]** (2016)

This photo was taken from near the mouth of Temma-gawa River. Centering around the hypocenter, the damaged area appears whitish.

William Jones who took aerial photos of Hiroshima after the atomic bombing



Jones giving an interview to a museum staff member September 29, 2017 Indiana, USA

William E. Jones was engaged in reconnaissance photography missions in the Fifth Air Force in the U.S. Army Air Corps (integrated into the U.S. Air Forces in 1942 and called the U.S. Air Force since 1947). He donated aerial photographs of Hiroshima that he took as an aerial cameraman to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Jones received orders to take photographs over Hiroshima when he was stationed in the airfield in Fukuoka (now, Fukuoka Airport) at the end of December 1945. He took photos over the skies of Hiroshima in January and then proceeded to do the same in Nagasaki later.

Mr. Jones shares about his impressions upon seeing Hiroshima as follows:

I had nothing to do with the bombing except photographed the damage. And when I saw the damage, it was devastating. (...) When I realized the deaths there, it made me very sad. I'm not proud of the fact that we bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, although it did end the war.

I saw many things that I didn't want to see. But I saw them. And man's inhumanity to man. (...) I found that I could love the Japanese people like my own people. And I wondered, "Why? Why war? Why?" I cannot understand it.

Using the photos that he took, he had given more than 600 lectures about his experience to schools, U.S. state legislators, and members of the U.S. Air Force.



4-12. Looking northeast from Dambara

ca. February 1946 Photo by U.S. Military [NASM](#) (2019)

This aerial photo was taken from near Dambara, facing the hypocenter. It shows the difference in damage to buildings between the area near Hijiyama Hill and the rest of the city.



4-13. Looking south from Motomachi

ca. February 1946 Photo by U.S. Military [NASM](#) (2019)

This aerial photo taken from near Motomachi shows the town and the hypocenter.



4-14. Near Yoshijima airfield

ca. February 1946 Photo by U.S. Military [NASM](#) (2019)

Yoshijima Airfield was constructed on a landfill site. Today this is an urban area.



4-15. Looking north from near Funairi

Photo by Ronald Vingoe [MMA](#) (2017)

This aerial photo shows Yokogawa Station and other areas to the north. The whitish areas near what is known as Peace Boulevard today are locations where buildings were demolished before the atomic bombing.



4-16. Looking west from near Hijiyama Hill

Photo by Ronald Vingoe [MMA](#) (2017)

This aerial photo shows the town of Hiroshima to the west. We can see houses built along the Honkawa River on the west side of Hiroshima Castle.



4-17. Looking the burned-out ruins of Odamasa Store from Fukuya Department Store

Robert Nolan Papers [USMC](#) (2017)

This aerial photo taken from northwest shows the steel frame of Odamasa Store. It was distorted by the blast, and deformed by the intense heat of fire. The Kirin Beer Hall is visible on the top left side of the image.

5. Ruins of Hiroshima

Many soldiers of the occupation forces visited Hiroshima soon after they were stationed in Japan, and many photos that were taken at that time remain. While some were clearly taken as part of their military duties, others appear to be personal photos.

What do you suppose they were thinking when they saw the ruins of Hiroshima?



5-1. Wooden structures destroyed by the blast

November 1945 [TNA](#) (2019)

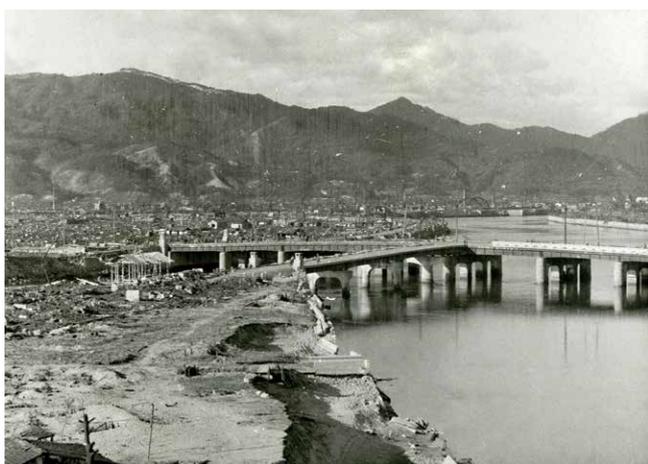
This building is believed to be the Hiroshima Prefectural Commercial School. In 1944, the school relocated from Eba-machi to Minami-machi, into the building of the former Hiroshima Prefectural Higher School of Education. The school staff and students were injured. Facing east-northeast, the photo shows Hijiyama Hill in the background.



5-2. Burned-out ruins of Kyobashi-cho

November 1945 [TNA](#) (2019)

In the middle of the ruins, we can see what appears to be pots on a table. Facing northeast, the photo shows the Hiroshima Station building in the background.



5-3. Looking north-northeast from Nakajima-hon-machi

November 1945 [TNA](#) (2019)

Due to the A-bomb blast, the railing of the T-shaped Aioi Bridge, which was the target for the bombing, collapsed. In the foreground we can see the northern tip of the area known as Jisenji-bana, which later became Peace Memorial Park. The photo shows Japanese inns lining along the riverside and houses being built on the ruins.



5-4. Shimomura Jewelers

November 1945 [TNA](#) (2019)

This photo was taken from behind the building, facing north-northeast. Fukuya Department Store is visible in the background. The first floor of this reinforced concrete building collapsed, leaving the second floor and the clock tower.



5-5. Hiroshima Nagarekawa Church

ca. October 1945 Donated by Thomas F. Pollock [NHHC](#) (2016)

A military man standing in front of the church was the donor. This church was completed in 1927 and part of the building was used as a military uniform manufacturing factory from 1943 during the war. The chapel was designated as a temporary shelter during air raids because of its concrete structure. Only the steeple and the outer wall remained after the bombing.



5-6. Soldiers from India talking with Hiroshima residents in the burned-out ruins

June 1946 [IMW](#) (2019)

This photo shows the burned-out ruins of Hondori Street, which had once bustled with shoppers visiting the many shops. Indian soldiers were stationed in Hiroshima as members of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. Facing northwest, the photo shows houses in the center background.



5-7. View of the Western Drill Ground

September 1945 Photo by Wayne Miller **NARA** (2009)

This view looks northwest from the southeastern corner of the Western Drill Ground. The parade ground in the wake of the atomic bombing was full of bodies of soldiers killed while performing training exercises, and people with severe burns lying in agony.



5-8. Looking northwest from Nobori-cho

September 1945 Photo by Wayne Miller **NARA** (2009)

This photo was taken from the streetcar road in Nobori-cho. The tree in the center appears lopsided, perhaps as a result of the bomb blast. The photo shows the wall of Nobori-cho Elementary School on the right and Hiroshima Nagarekawa Church next to it.



5-9. People lying on the floor

September 1945 Photo by Wayne Miller **NARA** (2009)

This photo taken of the interior of a relief station shows a mother and child lying in the center.



A sake cup with glass fragments picked up by Wayne Miller in Hiroshima
Donated by Jeanett Miller Collection of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

The U.S. well-known photographer Wayne Miller [1918-2013] served as a U.S. Navy photographer from 1942 to 1946. After the atomic bombing, he came to Hiroshima in September to take photos at relief stations and other locations. Miller picked up this sake cup from the ruins of Hiroshima and brought it back home to keep with himself.



5-10. Interior of Honkawa Elementary School, converted into a relief station

August 1945 Photo by KAWAMOTO Toshio (estimated) **NAS** (2017)

The Honkawa Elementary School was converted into a relief station. The research conducted by the Museum discovered this photo among photo collections that had been collected by the U.S.



5-11. Hiroshima City Hall with a new sign in English

Around autumn 1945 Photo taken and donated by F. Clay Nixon **USMC** (2017)

A photo of Hiroshima City Hall. The English sign "HIROSHIMA CITY HALL" covered the original lettering in Japanese.



5-12. Young girl standing in the ruins of the Hiroshima Gas

Around autumn 1945 Photo taken and donated by F. Clay Nixon **USMC** (2017)

A young girl is standing in the rubble of the burned-out ruins. We can see the plant's chimney standing behind her.



5-13. Hiroshima Nagarekawa Church and an overturned car

Around autumn 1945 Photo taken and donated by F. Clay Nixon **USMC** (2017)

This photo shows the Hiroshima Nagarekawa Church, viewed from the southwest. Someone with a young child on his/her back is walking between a burned-out car and the church.

6. Hypocenter

Many foreigners visited Hiroshima after the atomic bombing, including soldiers of the Occupation Forces and officials who were involved in the occupation. Many of them came to the hypocenter. There was a sign that marked the hypocenter, and a souvenir shop nearby sold bottles and roof tiles that had been deformed by the atomic bomb.



6-1. Commemorative photo at the hypocenter

December 30, 1948 Donated by Laurence I. Hewes Jr. [MMA](#) (2017)

Hewes worked as a GHQ employee. He took this photo during his personal visit to Hiroshima. A sign on the steel tower that says "CENTER OF IMPACT" is visible.



6-2. Near the hypocenter

December 30, 1948 Donated by Laurence I. Hewes Jr. [MMA](#) (2017)

This photo near the hypocenter was taken by Mr. Hewes. His comment "Showing amazing reconstruction around center of impact" is written in the album with this photo.



6-3. Commemorative photo at the hypocenter

from December 1947 to first half of 1948 [ATL](#) (2017)

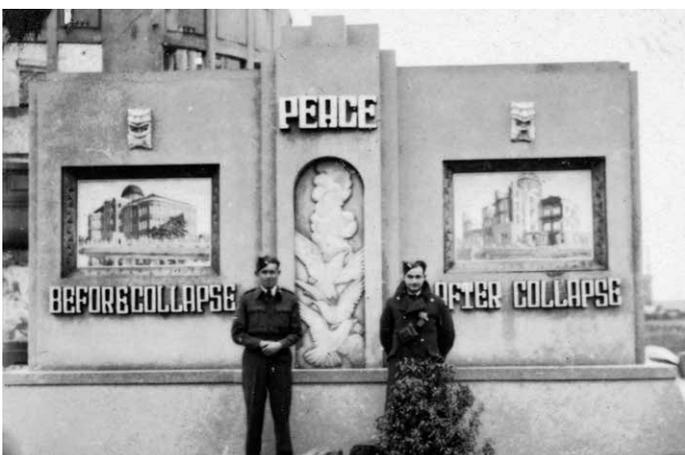
This photo of soldiers from the New Zealand Army was taken in front of the sign at the hypocenter. The occupation of the Chugoku and Shikoku regions was handled primarily by England and other members of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, as part of the Allied Forces.



6-4. Vicinity of the hypocenter

January-February 1947 Donated by Mrs. Claire Burgess Phillips [MMA](#) (2017)

This photo was taken by George V.T. Burgess, who was a member of Overseas Consultants, Inc. (OCI) when the company visited Hiroshima for a reparations survey of Japan.



6-5. Monument on the north side of the A-Bomb Dome

from December 1947 to first half of 1948 [ATL](#) (2017)

These New Zealand soldiers took a commemorative photo at a monument that was built in front of the A-Bomb Dome. This monument was called the "Peace Memorial Monument." It was erected in 1947 when Emperor Showa visited Hiroshima and remained until around 1955.



6-6. Shop of Kiyoshi Kikkawa, "Atomic bomb victim No.1"

After 1951 [MMA](#) (2017)

Kiyoshi Kikkawa, who was described in an American magazine as "Atomic bomb victim No.1," opened a souvenir shop near the hypocenter. Mr. Kikkawa suffered serious burns on his back from the atomic bombing. He would sometimes show his keloid-scarred back, when asked by customers.

7. Restoration

After the severe damage caused by the atomic bombing, efforts began immediately for the restoration of Hiroshima.

This section introduces photos that were taken 1, 2, and 3 years after the atomic bombing, one scene of the occupation, and the construction of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

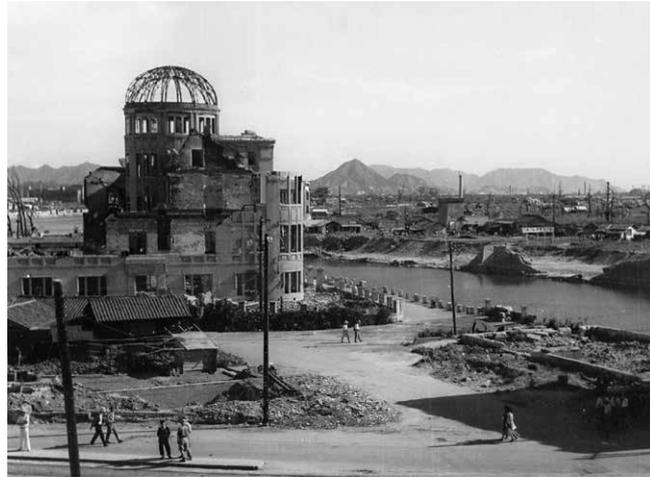
The exhibit includes photos that were originally taken by a Japanese photographer and then collected by the U.S.



7-1. Aioi Bridge 1 year after the atomic bombing

August 5-7, 1946 Photo by KAWAMOTO Toshio **NAS** (2017)

While debris from the atomic bombing still remain under the bridge, people can be seen coming and going in their everyday clothes.



7-2. A-Bomb Dome 1 year after the atomic bombing

August 5-7, 1946 Photo by KAWAMOTO Toshio **NAS** (2017)

The area around the A-Bomb Dome has been cleaned up to some extent, and wooden buildings can be seen nearby.



7-3. Ruins of Hiroshima Gokoku Shrine 1 year after the atomic bombing

August 5-7, 1946 Photo by KAWAMOTO Toshio **NAS** (2017)

People gather at the ruins of Hiroshima Gokoku Shrine for the *bon* dance festival that was held one year after the atomic bombing. A Japanese drum on top of a yagura tower is visible on the right side of the photo.



7-4. Peace Declaration on the 1st Peace Festival

August 6, 1947 Photo by U.S. Military **USAHEC** (2019)

Mayor Shinzo Hamai reads the Peace Declaration during the 1st Peace Festival held near Jisenji-no-hana, which became known as "Peace Square." At this Peace Festival, a message from Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, was read.



7-5. "Hiroshima Peace Song" at the 1st Peace Festival

August 6, 1947 Photo by U.S. Military **USAHEC** (2019)

Musical performance and chorus singing Hiroshima Peace Song at the 1st Hiroshima Peace Festival



7-6. "Hiroshima Peace Song" at the 1st Peace Festival

August 6, 1947 Photo by U.S. Military **USAHEC** (2019)

Musical performance and chorus singing Hiroshima Peace Song at the 1st Hiroshima Peace Festival



7-7. The 1st Peace Festival

August 6, 1947 Photo by U.S. Military **USAHEC** (2019)

Parade held as part of the Peace Festival



7-8. The 2nd Peace Festival

August 6, 1948 **ATL** (2017)

The 2nd Hiroshima Peace Festival was held near the Nakajima Jisenji-bana. Lieutenant General Robertson of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force is on the platform.



7-9. "Safety Week" – A "Safety First" sign for streetcars

June 9-15, 1947 **ATL** (2017)

"Safety Week" was held under the guidance of the Occupation Forces in response to an increasing number of traffic accidents. The streetcar that has stopped at Hatchobori in this photo has a sign that says "SAFTY FIRST" in Japanese and English, but the English spelling is incorrect.



7-10. "Safety Week" - Releasing fliers from the sky to raise awareness

June 9-15, 1947 **ATL** (2017)

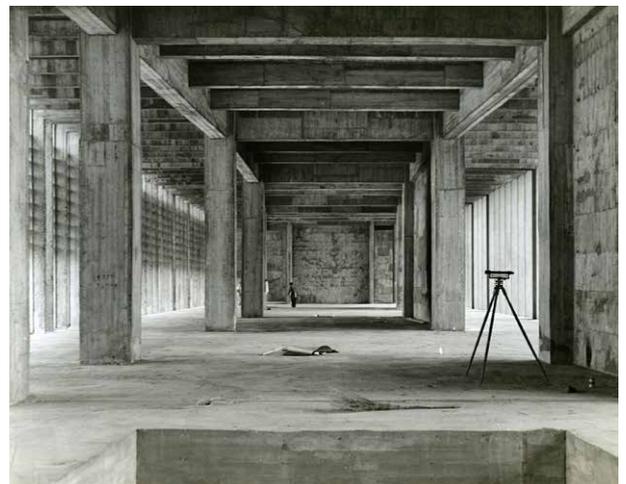
An aircraft of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force releases fliers with information to appeal for traffic safety. This photo was taken from the Chugoku Shimbun Building located in Hatchobori at the time.



7-11. Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum under Construction (exterior)

ca. 1951-1955 **NAS** (2017)

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum under construction, taken from the southwest.



7-12. Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum under Construction (interior)

ca. 1951-1955 **NAS** (2017)

Interior of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum under construction. It was taken from the east, facing west.

8. Assistance from overseas: “Houses for Hiroshima” project

After the atomic bombing, a lot of assistance was extended to Hiroshima from overseas.

One such effort was the “Houses for Hiroshima” project led by Floyd Schmoie from Seattle in the U.S.

The project involved building houses for those who lost their homes due to the atomic bombing. 15 buildings for 21 families were built while the project was active from 1949 to 1953. In this exhibition are photos showing the construction of these houses at the foot of Ebasarayama Hill.



8-1. Project slogan put up at the construction site

1951 Donated by Tomiko Shmoe Entrusted by the Group of Learning from Floyd Schmoie (2017)

This slogan was put up at the construction site at Ebasarayama Hill.



8-2. Writing the words “WORK CAMP”

1951 Courtesy of Jean Walkinshaw (2019)

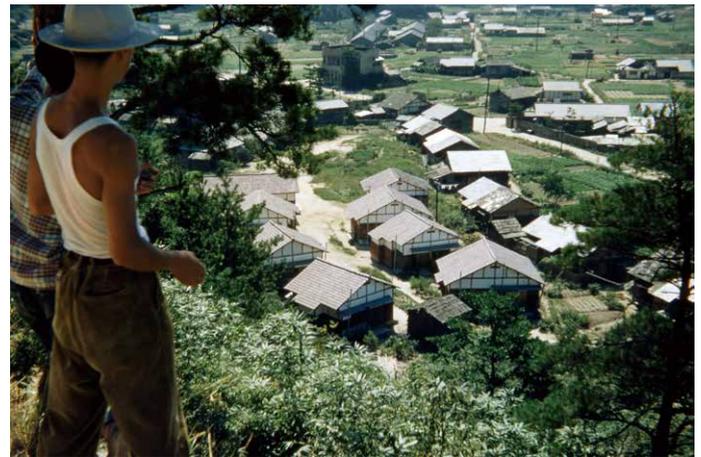
The words “WORK CAMP” written in the steps that were built at the Ebasarayama Hill construction site.



8-3. Friends building houses together

1951 Courtesy of Jean Walkinshaw (2019)

Jean Strong from the U.S. and Masahiro Kitagawa from Tokyo came to Hiroshima to build houses. When Mr. Kitagawa met Jean, who came to the train station to meet him upon his arrival in Hiroshima, he truly felt that the war was over.



8-4. View of the “Schmoie Houses” from Ebasarayama Hill

ca. 1952 Donated by Tomiko Shmoe Entrusted by the Group of Learning from Floyd Schmoie (2017)

This photo shows a view of the completed houses from Ebasarayama Hill. Today, only one of these structures remains. It has been converted into an exhibition facility called “Schmoie House.”

Schmoie House

Annex of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum



Floyd Schmoie [1895-2001] Donated by Brooks Andrews August-September 1949
At the construction site in Minami-machi

Shocked by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Floyd Schmoie, an American, launched a project called “Houses for Hiroshima” to build houses for those in Hiroshima who had lost

their homes. From 1949 and 1953, the project had built a total of 15 buildings for 21 families in various places in Hiroshima: Minami-machi, at the foot of Ebasarayama Hill, Eba-machi, and Ushita-machi. A community center and houses were built also in Nagasaki.

The only building still existing is a community house which was built at the foot of Ebasarayama Hill. In 2012, due to the Hiroshima Minami Road project, the building was moved 40 meters northwest to the



Construction site in Minami-machi August-September 1949
Donated by Sumiko Yoshida Entrusted by the Group of Learning from Floyd Schmoie

location where it has been preserved; in November of that year it was reborn as “Schmoie House,” a gallery in which to tell stories about the assistance that Hiroshima received from overseas.

After its opening, a number of materials related to the Schmoie House have been donated, and it enabled the permanent exhibit on the “Houses for Hiroshima Project” to be updated in February 2019.



Exterior of the Schmoie House

Overview of the collections from overseas in recent years

Since the first research survey was conducted in the U.S. in 1974 in collaboration with the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the City of Nagasaki, the Museum has explored the Archives of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) searching mainly for photographic materials.

From FY2009 to FY2012, we acquired photos taken by the United States Strategic



Research at the National Museum of the United States Air Force December 2016

Bombing Survey through written request, without staff members traveling to the U.S. In 2013, the Museum dispatched staff members to NARA to conduct surveys and collect photographic materials.

Since 2016, the Museum has reached out to a total of 13 institutions in the U.S. other than NARA and collected materials. In some cases, private individuals have also provided interviews and relevant materials. The research and collection of materials has also been conducted at institutions in New Zealand in 2017, and in the U.K. in 2019.

We refer to the online catalogs of

collections of the institutions and make direct inquiries by e-mail to narrow down the number of sites to be visited.

Collections owned by foreign institutions include a wide variety of materials, such as official documents prepared by government agencies and the military forces, and personal photos and records donated by soldiers.

Photographic materials that have been collected are organized and verified, and those available to the public are shared in the Museum's "Peace Database" on the Internet.



Archive boxes with materials October 2019 United States Army Heritage and Education Center



Peace Database <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/database>

Photographs of the Atomic Bomb Damage to Nagasaki

The material collecting institutions also have many photographs that capture the atomic bomb damage suffered by Nagasaki as well as Hiroshima.



Low Altitude Photograph of the A-bombed Downtown Nagasaki: Looking toward Hypocenter from the south ca. January 1946 Photo taken and donated by William E. Jones **NMUSAF** (2016)



Near Mitsubishi Steel Works September 17-19, 1945 Photo by Frederick L. Marvil Jr. Donated by Emilie M. Marvil **NHHC** (2016)



Low Altitude Photograph of the A-bombed Downtown Nagasaki: Looking South ca. September 1945 Donated by Thomas F. Pollock **NHHC** (2016)

Finding a "New Discovery" from Photo Materials

A vast number of photographs are stored in the material collecting institutions in different countries. The media of these is varied and includes print photographs, negative films and positive films. We obtained these by taking close-up shots with cameras or scanning them.

They also have lots of photographs relating to the A-bomb damages of Hiroshima. However, in many cases these are the same photographs that we already knew about. Therefore, we need to compare these photographs with the known information to see if these are newly discovered ones.

Each institution has received materials from different sources. All materials have been organized by their specialists. However, that does not necessarily mean that information on the shooting location, date and the name of photographer was properly identified for each photograph.



Photo taken of the briefing by the personnel involved in the atomic bombing (upper) and its back (lower) Photo by U.S. Military Courtesy of Library of Congress

It is written that this photograph was taken at a briefing held in Guam on August 5, 1945. However, there is no indication in documents of such a briefing being held on that day. There is a similar photograph of a press conference held on August 7, so we presume that this was taken on the same day.

If accurate information on a photograph is insufficient, we need to surmise it from what the photograph depicts. Comparing with other photographs and documents that are already known, we narrow down the shooting location, time, and so on.

Even if some descriptions remained on the back of a print photograph, this information may not be accurate. In such cases, we need to comprehensively examine all information which the photo presents to identify the photograph. This takes a long time, but is very important work.

Almost 75 years have gone by since the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. It is hardly possible that a single photograph or a single set of documents would reveal a "new discovery" which overturns history itself. Nevertheless, accurately determining each of these photographs helps us to better understand the damage wrought by the A-bombing one step at a time.

We would like to express our gratitude to the following institutions and individuals for their cooperation with our research and the exhibition.

1 . Institutions

United States

University of California at Los Angeles Library (Los Angeles, CA)
National Air and Space Museum, Archives Division (Chantilly, VA) **NASM**
National Museum of American History (Washington, D.C.)
Map Collection, University of Chicago Library (Chicago, IL)
Smithsonian Institution Archives (Washington, D.C.)
Naval History and Heritage Command (Washington, D.C.) **NHHC**
United States Marine Corps History Division (Quantico, VA) **USMC**
National Academy of Science Archives (Washington, D.C.) **NAS**
Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.)
National Museum of the United States Air Force (Dayton, OH) **NMUSAF**
National Archives and Records Administration (College Park, MD) **NARA**
United States Army Heritage and Education Center (Carlisle, PA) **USAHEC**
MacArthur Memorial Archives (Norfolk, VA) **MMA**

England

The National Archives (London) **TNA**
National Army Museum (London) **NAM**
Imperial War Museums (London) **IWM**

New Zealand

Alexander Turnbull Library (Wellington) **ATL**
Auckland War Memorial Museum (Auckland)

2 . Individuals

IIDA Kaori (the Graduate University for Advanced Studies)
WALKINSHAW Jean
KUDO Yozo
KREPON Michael (The Stimson Center)
KUBOTA Akiko (Research Institute for Radiation Biology and Medicine, Hiroshima University)
SCHMOE Tomiko
JONES William E.
NISHIMURA Hiroko (The Group for Learning from Floyd Schmoie)
FIELD Norma (University of Chicago)
MCGOVERN Tim
YOSHIMURA Ayako (University of Chicago Library)
REUSSER Kayleen

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Special Exhibition:
Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Damage and Restoration as Shown in Collections from Overseas

Period December 27, 2019 - Late July 2020
Place Special Exhibition room, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
Curatorial Division, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
1-2, Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima, JAPAN 730-0811