

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
Special Exhibition

What The **Items** Tell Us

“Why did I have to be transformed like this?”



ナゼ、私ハコンナ姿ニナラナケレバナラナカッタノ？

Sept. 17, 2021 – Feb. 13, 2022

Introduction

“Did people wear makeup even during the war?”

One day, the curator who developed this exhibition wondered when seeing a cosmetic bottle that had been exposed to the atomic bombing. It was a time when even food was not readily available, but nonetheless, women found small ways to adorn themselves. It must have been something that women could hardly give up. As if to prove it, more than 50 bottles of cosmetics exposed to the atomic bombing have been donated to the museum.

Whether 76 years ago or today, it seems that people always seek a little joy and comfort in their lives. No matter how severely deformed, items that had been used in daily life help us realize that people at that time had some of the same feelings as we do today.

In this special exhibition, we trace the lives and memories of people of that time by using items found at burnt-out ruins after the atomic bombing as clues. We hope that these items will give you an opportunity to feel closer to the people of that time and think about why their lives and everyday life had to be taken away.

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

1 Tracing everyday life through the items

Hiroshima city was burned down by the atomic bombing, and deserted with only the remains of buildings. However, the pottery and glass bottles scattered in the charred debris tell us that people were certainly living there. Using the items found among the charred debris as clues, this section traces how those things had been used in those days.

Tracing women’s attire through cosmetics

Since the start of the second Sino-Japanese War in 1937, women had been asked to refrain from using fancy makeup to raise the fighting spirit, but they continued to wear light makeup as “midashinami (being well-groomed)”. During the war, women were desired to be more bright, youthful, and healthy than in ordinary times, so “natural beauty” and “healthy beauty” became the key phrases of makeup. Through cosmetic items exposed to the atomic bombing, we can visualize a picture of women who were trying to be as beautiful as possible even when their lives were difficult.



Compact

1,500 m from the hypocenter
Showa-machi
Donated by Mihoka Ishii



Sayoko

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It is a compact of Sayoko Uchida (then 14). It contained face powder. Sayoko was exposed to the atomic bombing on her way to work and suffered burns over much of her body. Sayoko came home and asked her mother to show her a mirror to check her face, but her mother felt so sorry for her that she said, “I’ll show you when it gets a little better” and didn’t give her a mirror. Sayoko died on August 19.



Bottle of cosmetic cream

The words "Club Body Beauty Cream" are barely legible on the deformed lid of this bottle. As metal lid production was started to be suppressed in 1938, this bottle is supposed to have been produced before then.



Cosmetic bottle

The shape of this bottle indicates that it was a bottle of "Club Emulsion" or "Club Liquid Face Makeup". Melted glass fragments were stuck on the bottle surface.

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Wartime cosmetics

There was a shortage of glass and metal at that time, so bottles were made of pottery instead of glass. Lids were often made of wood.

Left: Club Emulsion

Right: Club Liquid Face Powder



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Wartime cosmetic advertising

Left: "To eliminate skin troubles of working women" (Club Body Beauty Cream)

Takarazuka Revue Snow troupe February performance pamphlet, 1942

Right: "To keep your wartime skin healthy" (Club Emulsion)

Takarazuka Revue Moon troupe June performance pamphlet, 1942

With the start of the second Sino-Japanese War, cosmetic advertisements began to include war-conscious catchphrases. As women were now required to work outside the home to make up for the labor shortage, we can see words targeted toward working women.



⑧



Women working in western clothing

The photo shows the faculty and staff members of Hiroshima Prefectural College for Women. As the number of women working in cities had increased since the Taisho era (1912-1926), more and more women started wearing western clothing. Makeup and hairstyles became Western-style to match the clothes, and perms became popular. When the second Sino-Japanese War broke out, there was a tendency that people considered perms a luxury and tried to ban perms, but in reality, women continued to get perms until the end of the war. When electricity became scarce, customers sometimes brought charcoal from their homes to beauty salons and used them as a heat source for perming.

ca. 1943
Hiroshima Prefectural College for Women

⑨



Clothes for air raids: *Monpe*

Monpe is work trousers that had been mainly worn by Japanese women in the farms for a long time. As the crisis of air raids on mainland Japan increased, however, more and more women wore *monpe* on a daily basis in cities. *Monpe* was easy to make and could be remade from *kimono* available at home, so women made their own *monpe*.

⑩

Tracing food situation through a *sushi* restaurant

When the second Sino-Japanese War broke out, primary workforces in the farms were taken to munitions factories and battlefields. Additionally, a fertilizer shortage and other reasons resulted in a serious food shortage.

As the war situation deteriorated, eating and drinking establishments had difficulties staying afloat, partly since obtaining ingredients became difficult and partly because eating out was regarded as an unnecessary and nonurgent luxury.

These tableware items belonged to a *sushi* restaurant that was closed because of such circumstances. They were buried underground in case of air raids and then hit by the atomic bombing. The huge number of tableware items were kept even after being discolored by the heat from the fire. That exudes the regret of the owner who could not reopen their restaurant.



Sushi restaurant tableware

1,000 m from the hypocenter Eno-machi
Donated by Yoshiro Yoshida

Seikichi Yoshida ran a *sushi* restaurant. When rice became unavailable due to the worsening war situation, he used brown rice, wheat, and millet instead of regular rice to continue making *sushi*. In the end, however, it became impossible.

On August 6, Seikichi was exposed to the atomic bombing at the factory where he was mobilized. He managed to survive, but his restaurant was burned down and never reopened.

The tableware items were used at the *sushi* restaurant and were excavated from the burnt-out ruin of the restaurant shortly after the war. These items are part of the collection of more than 80 pieces.

⑪

Tracing alcoholic beverages in wartime through a *sake* set

During the war, alcoholic beverages were also subject to be rationed. As entertainment continued to be restricted, alcoholic beverages had become one of the few remaining pleasures for the people. These *choshi* (*sake* servers), *sakazuki* (*sake* cups), and beer bottles were collected from among the charred debris. If you look closely at the *choshi* and *sakazuki*, many of them have beautiful patterns; they must have been the favorites of their owners.

Choshi (*sake* server), *sakazuki* (*sake* cup), and *sakazuki's* saucer

2,100 m from the hypocenter Minami-kan-on-machi Donated by Takuji Kimura

These items were used daily by Yoshitaro Kimura (then 48). Yoshitaro went missing after he left his house by bicycle to go to the city hall to submit a notification of the change of his address. These were picked up at his burnt-out home by his wife, Sadako (then 45). She used them carefully even after the war as a remembrance of Yoshitaro, who loved *sake*.



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Choshi (*sake* servers) and *sakazuki* (*sake* cups) collected from among the charred debris

Donated by Shizuko Takeda

Gakuro Takeda traveled around the city from July 1946 for a few years to collect more than 100 pieces of melted bottles and potteries as items to convey the tragedy of the atomic bombing.

These items are part of the collection. Some are deformed by heat, while some have melted glass fragments stuck on them.

Beer bottles

Left: Item discovered during a building reconstruction about 50 years after the atomic bombing

900 m from the hypocenter Nagarekawa-cho

Donated by Atsuo Okamura

Right: Item excavated during construction in front of Hiroshima Station about 40 years after the atomic bombing

Donated by Nobuyoshi Morioka



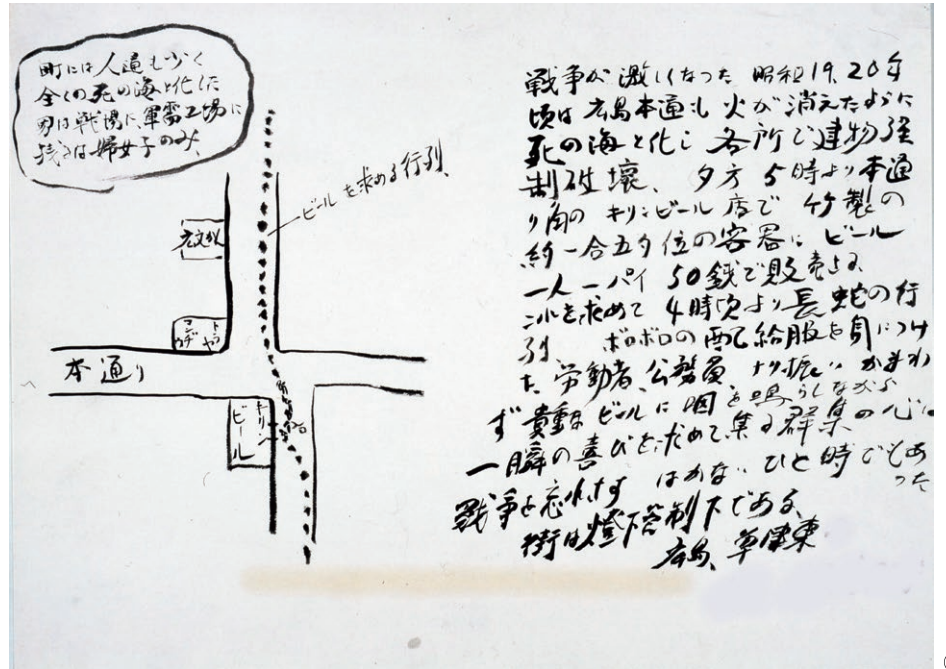
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Alcoholic beverages in wartime

The most consumed alcoholic beverage at the time was sake. It had an overwhelming share of about 70% of alcoholic beverages before the war, but when the war broke out, there was a shortage of rice from which sake was made. Low-quality sake that was as thin as water was on the market. It was called "Kingyo-zake (goldfish sake)," meaning that it was thin enough for goldfish to swim in. The shortage of sake became serious from around 1940, and sake for households began to be rationed nationwide from October 1941. The shortage of sake increased the demand for beer to make up for it. This served as the reason why beer became popular in many households. However, around May 1945, beer production also became difficult, and it ended up with the halt of production.



Kirin Beer Hall, located at the eastern end of the Hondori Shopping Street, was one of the few bars where people could drink beer even at the last stage of the war. The line formed from one hour before the beer sale started at 5 p.m., and there were days when it would sell out. This picture depicts the line extending beyond Hondori to the direction of Hatchobori.

ca. 1944-1945 670 m from the hypocenter Horikawa-cho Drawn by Teruto Hori

2 With just one bomb—heat rays and fires

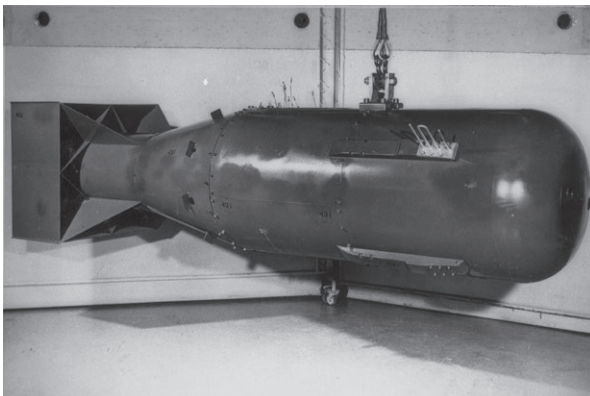
Melted items prove how high the temperature reached. The traces left by the heat rays of the atomic bomb and the fires that followed tell us the horror of nuclear weapons; just one single bomb can annihilate and burn down an entire city.

Enola Gay, the B-29 bomber which dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima

The Enola Gay was named after the mother of the pilot, Paul Tibbets.



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Little Boy dropped on Hiroshima

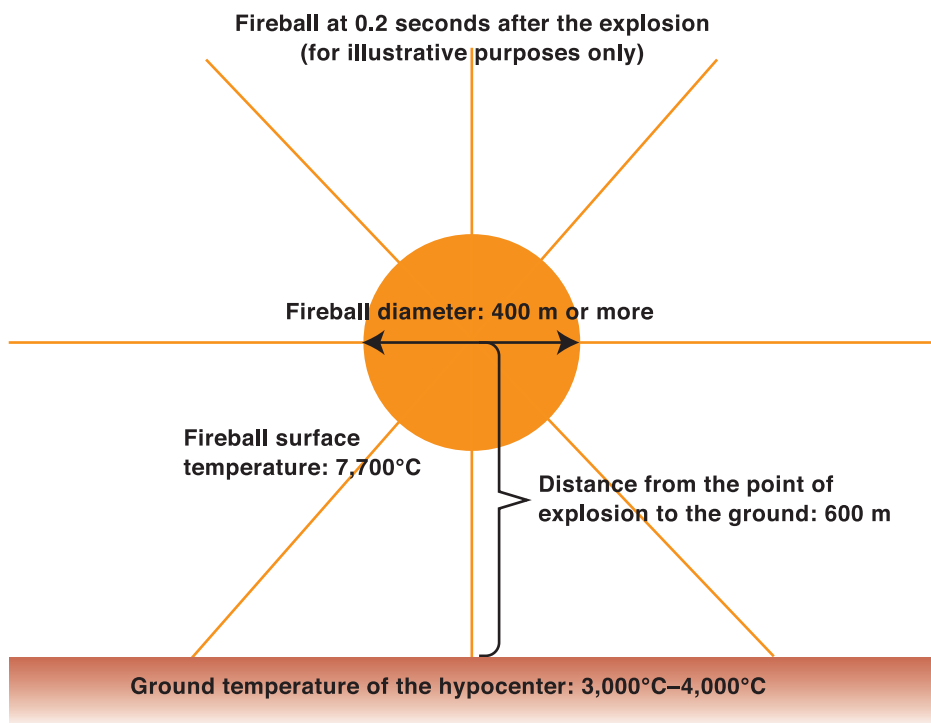
Length: Approx. 3 m

Diameter: Approx. 70 cm

Weight: Approx. 4 t

The bomb generated radiation, heat rays, and blast at the moment of its explosion.

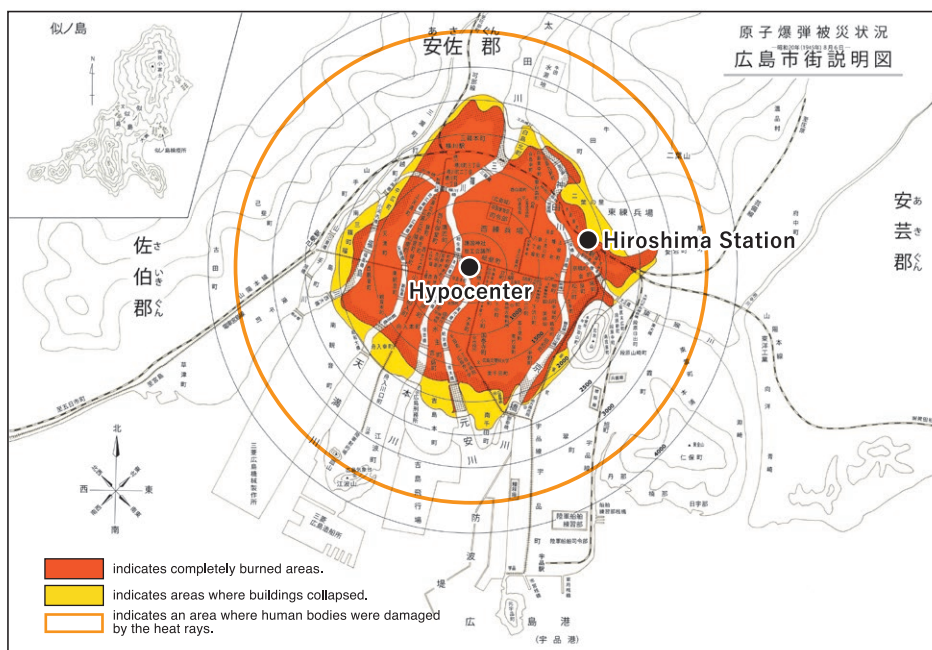
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“Heat rays” emitted from the fireball

When the atomic bomb exploded, the air temperature around the bomb soared to millions of degrees Celsius, creating a fireball at the point of explosion. The rapidly expanding fireball radiated a huge amount of infrared rays, ultraviolet rays, visible light rays, etc., and affected the ground for a few seconds. The “flash” that people felt at the moment the atomic bomb exploded was caused by visible light rays. The “heat rays” that caused burns to the human body, as well as melting, evaporation, and igniting of items refer to infrared rays.



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The range affected by the heat rays and fire

The closer to the hypocenter, the stronger the effect of the heat rays, but the effect greatly differed depending on whether there was something blocking them. For example, there was a person who was in a place where heat rays were blocked, such as inside a building, and was not burned by the heat rays even when the building was within 500 meters from the hypocenter.

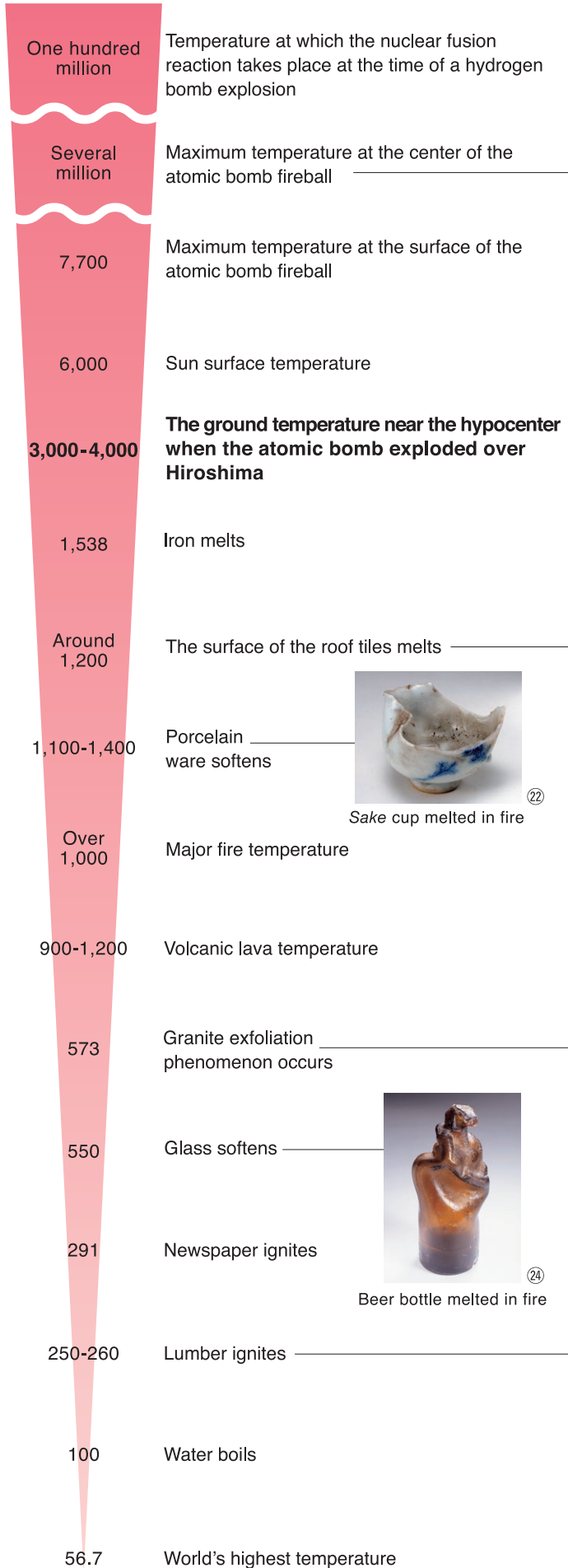
On the other hand, there was another person who was outdoors where nothing blocked the heat rays and suffered fatal burns even though the person was 2 kilometers away from the hypocenter. The area where the heat rays burned the exposed skin not covered by clothing extended to a point 3.5 kilometers away from the hypocenter.

August 6 8:15 a.m.	The atomic bomb exploded. Flammable materials, such as wood, paper, and cloth, were ignited by the heat rays. The blast collapsed buildings in an instant.
Around 8:30 a.m.	Combustion by heat rays and kitchen stoves of collapsed buildings caused eruptions of fires in various parts of the city.
Around 9 a.m.	The fires grew bigger.
Around 10 a.m.–2 p.m.	The fires were fierce. The entire city was engulfed in smoke from the fires.
Around 11 a.m.–3 p.m.	Severe local tornadoes occurred.
From the evening to the night on August 6	The momentum of the fire slightly slowed down, but the fire still continued burning. In some places fires started for the first time at this point.
August 7–9	There were embers everywhere. Some reignited and developed into big fires.

The course of fire

Almost everything was burned down within a 2-kilometer radius of the hypocenter. The fire did not subside in one day. In some places, it continued burning for three or four days straight, and it took as long as a week until the fire was completely extinguished.

Matters of high temperatures and temperature at which matters change (°C)



Sake cup melted in fire



Beer bottle melted in fire

The world's first atomic bomb test



Three weeks before dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the United States conducted the world's first nuclear test with an explosion in New Mexico.

July 16, 1945
Alamogordo, New Mexico

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Roof tile affected by the heat rays

The surface of a roof tile is normally smooth, but roof tiles affected by the heat rays show signs of melting (glass-like parts) and evaporation (bubbling parts) on the surface. Melting occurs around 1,200 degrees Celsius or higher. Evaporation is thought to occur at even higher temperatures. Roof tiles affected by the heat rays were found in Hiroshima at least 600 meters from the hypocenter, and it is reported that the closer to the hypocenter, the more intense bubbling was observed. Since the heat rays did not hit the parts where the tiles overlapped, the surface of those parts were not affected.



Roof tile collected at the hypocenter

It was collected near Shima Hospital located at the hypocenter. Not only the evidence of melting, but also of evaporation can be seen.

Donated by Kenichi Suge

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Granites affected by the heat rays



The whitish side A was exposed to the heat rays, and side B, which retains the original color, was not.

500 m from the hypocenter

The geology of Hiroshima and its surroundings contains a large amount of granite, which has often been used as stone material for buildings and tombstones. When the heat rays of the atomic bomb hit the granite, the dirty surface peeled off (exfoliated), and a new white surface from underneath was exposed. This phenomenon does not occur unless the quartz contained in granite reaches 573 degrees Celsius or higher and was observed within about 1,000 meters from the hypocenter. The "Human Shadow Etched in Stone" that is currently on display in the main building of the museum also shows this phenomenon.

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A wooden fence that ignited and burned by the heat rays



The heat rays also ignited railroad ties and fences along the railroad tracks.

End of August, 1945
2,100 m from the hypocenter Yamate-cho

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The intense, large-scale fire caused by the atomic bombing reduced Hiroshima to a city of ruins, completely covered with debris.

Photographs shown in this section were taken by the U.S. military using color film from October to November 1945. The contrast between the blue sky and rivers and the color of the debris covering the ground gives us a sense of emptiness, with everything destroyed and burned.



Only concrete buildings remained

October 12, 1945

Photograph of the central area of Hiroshima city, including the hypocenter, taken from the sky above Teppo-cho, when the U.S. military flew from Tokyo to Hiroshima. There is almost nothing left but concrete buildings.

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Recent aerial photograph showing the same areas

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Comparison with incendiary bombs

At the end of the Pacific War, incendiary bombs were often used in air raids on Japanese cities. The purpose of the weapon, which was packed with flammable agents, was to cause fires. A huge number of incendiary bombs were dropped from many bombers, burning down Japanese cities where many of the houses were made of woods. The number of bombers and bombs used in air raids on cities other than Hiroshima indicates how powerful the atomic bomb was—just a single bomb destroyed the entire city.

The most disastrous air raids that each Japanese city suffered	Number of bombers	The amount of bombs dropped (in tons)	Death toll
Great Tokyo Air Raids (March 10, 1945)	279	1,665	83,793
Great Osaka Air Raids (March 13, 1945)	274	1,733	3,987
Great Nagoya Air Raids (March 19, 1945)	291	1,858	826
Great Yokohama Air Raids (May 29, 1945)	454	2,569	3,649
Great Kobe Air Raids (June 5, 1945)	474	3,079	3,454
Atomic bombing of Hiroshima (August 6, 1945)	1 (Two accompanying observation aircrafts)	Approx. 4 tons (One bomb)	Approx. 140,000 (by the end of 1945)



Downtown

October-November 1945

30

Western area of Hatchobori that used to be a bustling area. There is no sign of it left in the burnt-out field.



Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall

October-November 1945

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Photograph of the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall (currently the Atomic Bomb Dome) taken from the Hiroshima Prefectural Commerce Association. Islands floating in Hiroshima Bay beyond the burnt-out field can be seen. Ninoshima Island became a large-scale relief station, and many victims were transported there. The rescue team rushed from Etajima Island on that same day.



A view of Miyajima Island seen from burnt-out ruins

October-November 1945

32

Photograph taken from the Hiroshima Prefectural Commerce Association, facing southwest. The foreground is the northern end of the current Peace Memorial Park. Miyajima Island is visible beyond the scorched field. Even Miyajima Island, which is 16 kilometers away from the hypocenter, suffered damages such as broken windowpanes.

Although the items were discolored and/or deformed by the atomic bombing and could no longer be used, donors carefully kept them for many years. Regardless of the appearance, the items were important memorabilia to the donors that could not be thrown away. When looking at these articles closely, we are reminded of the feelings of the people standing in the burnt-out ruins. They must have felt inconsolable feelings of loss, regret, anger, etc. over the ordinary life that had been lost forever.



Tableware items dug out from the ruins of my home

470 m from the hypocenter Ote-machi 4-chome
Donated by Toshio Honda

Toshio Honda (then 36) ran a store with his three older brothers at his home in Ote-machi. Of his eight family members who lived together, five of them—two older brothers, one older sister, one older sister-in-law, and one niece—died. These are some of the items that Toshio dug out from the burnt-out ruins of his home. Toshio tried to throw them away many times, but when he thought of the chagrin of his deceased family members, he couldn't bring himself to throw them away and carefully kept them. There were 145 items in total.

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Fukusuke doll (good luck charm)

1,400 m from the hypocenter
Hiratsuka-cho
Donated by Hideo Takayama

This was placed in the alcove of Toraichi Shirai's house. His house was completely destroyed and burned down, and Toraichi lost seven family members to the atomic bomb. Toraichi kept this *Fukusuke* doll as a family relic.

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Head of Buddha statue

1,700 m from the hypocenter
Hirano-machi
Donated by Mikio Karatsu

This head of a Buddha statue was found and picked up by Yoshio Karatsu among the charred debris of his home around October, two months after the atomic bombing. Yoshio lost his second and fourth sons to the atomic bomb. He carefully kept this item as a keepsake to remember them by.

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Fukurokuju (God of happiness, prosperity, and long life) figurine

1,400 m from the hypocenter Kami-yanagi-cho
Donated by Yoshiko Yamamoto

It was picked up by Yoshiko Yamamoto (then 43) at the burnt-out ruins of the home of her cousin, Waichi Kajikawa (about 75 years old at that time). At that time, Waichi, his wife, and a young soldier were at Waichi's house, but when Yoshiko visited, the house was completely burned down, and all of them had died. Yoshiko found the remains that seemed to belong to Waichi and the *Fukurokuju* figurine that had been usually on the shelf. She took the figurine home as a memento and carefully kept it for about 40 years.



37

Single-flower vase

500 m from the hypocenter
Moto-yanagi-machi
Donated by Kinuyo Nishiguchi

This had been Kinuyo Nishiguchi's memento of her husband, Haruo. Kinuyo's older brother dug it out of the air-raid shelter behind Kinuyo's house and delivered it to her. Kinuyo had evacuated out of the city at that time and was safe, but Haruo, who was running a barber shop in Moto-yanagi-machi, went missing. Kinuyo had young children and, to earn a living, reopened a barber shop after the war. She had been displaying this single-flower vase in her shop.



Haruo 1932

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Small bowl

350 m from the hypocenter
Tenjin-machi
Donated by Kanji Yamasaki

This bowl was found at the burnt-out ruins of Kanji Yamasaki's home. In mid-September 1945, Kanji and his older sister dug up the burnt-out ruins of their home to search for the remains of their mother, as well as their aunt and three cousins who lived with them after evacuating from Nagoya; however, they were unable to find any. The bowl that was dug out at that time is what Kanji had used since childhood to put pinto beans, vegetable side dishes, etc., and this became the only keepsake of his family.

39



Hot water bottle

200 m from the hypocenter
Nakajima-hon-machi
Donated by Katsumi Tomita

Hayakichi Tomita (then 72), his wife Sai (then 67), and his fifth son's wife Fumiko (then 21) were exposed to the atomic bombing at home. While everything was burned down and no remains were found, Tadao (then 28), the fifth son, found this hot water bottle that was used daily by Hayakichi in the charred debris. Tadao kept it as a keepsake to remember them by.

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Garrison relics

1,000 m from the hypocenter Nobori-cho Nobori-cho Elementary School
Donated by Jitsuto Chakihara

Donor Jitsuto Chakihara (then 31) was exposed to the atomic bombing while stationed at Nobori-cho Elementary School as a member of the Hiroshima District First Special Guard, which was set up in preparation for the decisive battle on the mainland of Japan at the end of the war. Jitsuto managed to escape, but the majority of the approximately 300 guard members in the school building died.

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Nobori-cho Elementary School (center)

42



Jitsuto

43

After the war, Jitsuto worked hard to find the survivors and bereaved families of the unit and devoted himself to constructing a memorial monument. He collected relics that had been excavated during the park construction work which was carried out at the site of Nobori-cho Elementary School in 1981 and donated nearly 90 articles to this museum.

Fighting the flames

Of the two government fire departments (East Fire Department and West Fire Department) and a total of 22 branch offices and divisions in Hiroshima city, 13 were able to dispatch units after the bombing. With a shortage of personnel and fire engines, firefighting efforts were extremely difficult. Still, there were places in the surrounding area where fires were successfully contained from spreading by the fire suppression efforts. Civil defense unit members were also engaged in the firefighting activities. The border between the completely burned areas, colored in red on the disaster map (P.7②), and the other areas was created by the desperate struggle of the people engaged in firefighting.

West Fire Department Minami Branch Office that collapsed

Around 2 p.m., August 6
2,600 m from the hypocenter
Midori-machi

The collapsed building behind the window is the West Fire Station Minami Branch Office. The firefighters rescued members who were under the building that collapsed due to the blast, then managed to pull the fire engine out and dispatched it to the scene of the fire.



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Fused lump of glass and choshi (sake server)

250 m from the hypocenter
Nakajima-hon-machi
Donated by Hatsumi Tsushima

④5

This item was collected by Takeichi Tsushima from the burnt-out remains of the kitchen of the Fukukame Ryokan (an inn) in Nakajima-hon-machi about one week after the bombing. Takeichi often used the Fukukame Ryokan for work-related gatherings and meetings. In addition to two employees, one guest is believed to have been killed in this inn. Across the road, in the home of the Fukushima family, the inn owner, four people were killed in the bombing.



Kyusu (tea pot)

750 m from the hypocenter
Shin-semba-cho
Donated by Makiko Mori

④6

This is the remembrance of Takeko Ishida's parents. She dug it up from among the charred debris and carefully kept it. Shinichi Komura, Takeko's father, was exposed to the bombing while taking a walk in his neighborhood and went missing. Kiwa, her mother, was exposed to the bombing during labor service near Hijiyama Hill and suffered burns. The burns started to heal due to the earnest care provided by Takeko, but the diarrhea would not stop, and Kiwa died one month after the bombing; Takeko herself cremated her body.



Weight

1,600 m from the hypocenter
Higashi-kan-on-machi 2-chome
Donated by Shigeki Omae

④7

It was one of the work tools of Kikue Nakamura (then 33), who was a pharmacist. They were found in the burnt-out ruins of her home. Back then, Kikue closed her pharmacy since medications were no longer available due to the worsening war situation, and she was working in Tokaichi. She went missing after the atomic bombing, and her body is yet to be found.



Kikue 1944

④8

Words of Keiji, Kikue's son

"I will never forget that on March 25, 1945, on the day of the closing ceremony of the second grade in elementary school, I went to the hospital where my mother was hospitalized, and said that I would go to my grandfather's house where I was evacuating to. That was the last time I saw her. Never did I dream that such farewell would be for good. I clearly remember my mother working with these weights and tweezers. I always used these weights to help my mother."



Flower vase

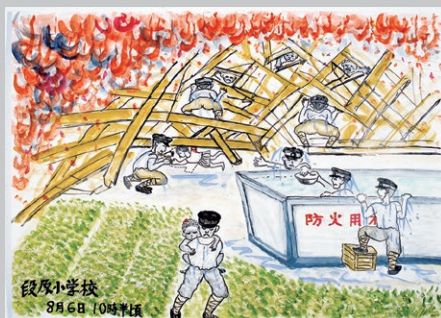
800 m from the hypocenter
Sorazaya-cho
Donated by Taizo Ishida

④9

It used to be at the entrance of Taizo Ishida's house, and its color turned ochre due to the heat of the fire. At his home, the donor's mother, older sister, and grandfather were exposed to the atomic bombing. Half-burnt bodies of his mother and sister were found at home, and his grandfather who managed to escape and flee to the suburbs also eventually died. His house was completely destroyed and burned down, but this flower vase mysteriously remained unbroken. Taizo displayed this vase in the alcove of his home and always cherished it as a keepsake of his family.

Rescue activities at an elementary school

At Dambara Elementary School, members of the Niho Branch Office and students from Hiroshima Technical College rushed to extinguish the fire and rescue those inside, but the entire school building was engulfed in flames, and they were forced to pull back, leaving the children behind. They could not unhear the voices of children crying for help.



About 10:30 a.m.
1,800 m from the hypocenter Kanaya-cho
Dambara Elementary School
Drawn by Yoshinori Kato

⑤0

A series of difficulties

Photograph of burnt fire engines at the East Fire Department. The departments and branch offices in the city center suffered many casualties and lost fire engines. The units that were able to be dispatched also had difficulties. Due to the heat of the fire and road obstacles, tires blew out one after another, and the water level of the river lowered because of the ebb tide, making it impossible to pump the water from the river to extinguish the fire.



720 m from the hypocenter
Hatchobori, East Fire Department

⑤1

Tea ceremony bowl

450 m from the hypocenter
Onomichi-cho
Donated by Hiroko Kume

Yasokichi Kihara (then 65) and his wife Teru (then 60) died after being exposed to the atomic bombing at home. Their daughter Hiroko (then 16) continued to search for the remains of her parents for days all by herself and finally found a small portion of their remains in the ashes of her home. This tea ceremony bowl was found at that time and is the only relic of Teru, who had a deep knowledge of tea ceremony and flower arrangement.



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Opal

950 m from the hypocenter
Shimo-nagarekawa-cho
Donated by Mitsue Yamane

Jiichi Ikeda (then 43) and his second baby daughter, Hiromi, who had been born in July that year, died after being severely burned by the atomic bombing. The watch jewelry store that he ran was also burned down, and his wife, Takayo (then 35), and eldest daughter, Mitsue (then 15), lost everything to the atomic bombing. This opal was found in the burnt-out ruins of the store. The stone was burned inside like pumice stone.



53



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Buddhist altar articles of Seijuji Temple

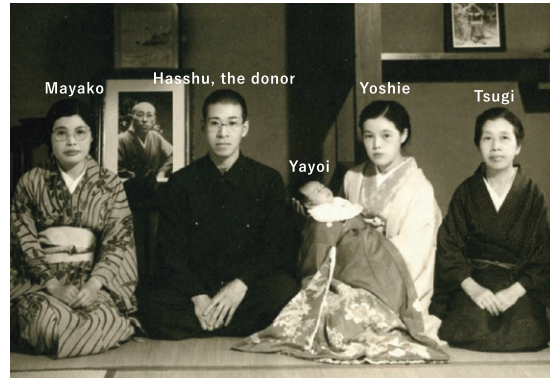
530 m from the hypocenter Takajo-machi Donated by Hasshu Koda of Seijuji Temple

These items are part of what Hasshu Koda (then 33), the 20th Chief Priest of Seijuji Temple, picked up from among the charred debris of the temple. At that time, Hasshu was drafted and felt the flash of the atomic bombing away in Hamada city, Shimane prefecture. He immediately returned to Hiroshima, but the temple was burned down, and five people at the temple—Tsugi (mother), Yoshie (wife), Yayoi (daughter), and Mayako Nakamura (younger sisiter) with her daughter, Kunimi—were all dead. Hasshu picked up everything he could from the burnt-out ruins and kept them in the temple grounds, never letting them go. However, he never spoke about how he felt about his deceased family. The temple is still lined with tombstones and garden stones collected by Hasshu.



Seijuji Temple and its vicinity after the bombing

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The Koda family 1943

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Meteorological phenomena caused by the heat of the atomic bombing

The ascending currents created by the atomic bomb explosion and the heat of the fires caused various weather phenomena that would not normally have been observed. It generated rain and tornadoes and changed the wind direction. The heat from the atomic bombing was so powerful that it changed even the weather, which usually only nature can do. Such unusual weather events greatly affected the spread of fires, evacuation routes, and firefighting activities. It was also a major threat to those who didn't know what had happened.

Black Rain

After the atomic bomb explosion, black rain began to fall from the mushroom cloud. It is reported that there were places where the rain started falling as early as 20 minutes after the bombing. Subsequently, the fires caused thunderstorm clouds to form, resulting in a heavy downpour in some areas, but even this rain did not extinguish the fire in the city. The black rain contained radioactive substances emitted from the bomb, dust and mud blown up into the air by the explosion, soot from fires, etc. The rain fell widely, far beyond the city area of that time.



1,400 m from the hypocenter
Around 9 a.m., August 6, 1945
Higashi-kan-on-machi 2-chome

Drawn by Yoshie Koma

57



Lead lump

520 m from the hypocenter
Tsukamoto-cho
Donated by Yoshinari Nakamoto

⑤8

Katsuto Nakamoto (then 20) found this at the burnt-out ruins of the printing shop run by his father, Katsuzo. It made from typographic printing types that have melted and hardened in a *sake* bottle. The bottle was used as a flower vase. Being drafted, Katsuto was not in Hiroshima. He and Katsuzo, who was at home at the time of the bombing, were safe, but almost all 35 employees, including his older brother Yasuo (then 26) and older sister Fumiko (then 25), who were at the printing shop, were killed in the bombing. Katsuto carefully kept it until his death, saying, "This is the solidified form of the souls of my brother, sister, and employees."



Wristwatch

800 m from the hypocenter
Moto-machi
Donated by Mitsuko Yamanouchi

⑤9

Yutaka Tateda (then 42) had it with him at the time of the bombing. Exposed to the bombing at the Chugoku Regional Military Headquarters, his work place, Yutaka died. His wife, Sawame (then 31), who was at home, was worried about Yutaka and tried to immediately rush to the scene but was stopped from doing so. From August 9, Sawame repeatedly went to the burnt-out site and received the remains that Yutaka's subordinates had picked up. After that, Sawame dug out Yutaka's relics from the place where the remains were found and carefully kept them.



Ink bottle

1,600 m from the hypocenter
Senda-machi 1-chome
Donated by Kazuo Watanabe

⑥0

This is the ink bottle of Kazuo Watanabe (then 15). Kazuo was exposed to the atomic bombing while resting at the guest house of his home because of a stomachache. As Kazuo wasn't seriously injured perhaps because he was sleeping covered with his *futon*, he helped the wife of a junior high school teacher who was living in the main building, and the two of them fled to Yoshijima and reunited with the teacher. The next day, on the 7th, Kazuo and the teacher returned to the burnt-out site of his house to dig up the food buried in the air-raid shelter. It was then that he found this ink bottle that was on the study desk in his room.



Denture

300 m from the hypocenter
Tenjin-machi
Donated by Tsuneyo Okahara

⑥1

This item belonged to Masataro Okahara (then 49). Masataro was exposed to the atomic bombing at his workplace in Tenjin-machi. From the 9th, his wife, Tsuneyo (then 38), and eldest daughter, Nobuko (then 18), walked around asking for Masataro's whereabouts. One week after the bombing, they dug up the area where Masataro's seat was located at the burnt-out ruins of his workplace. They found the skeleton of a person sitting in a chair, with dentures in between, and the right hand was reaching out to the lunch box and other articles. The two were stunned on the spot.



Clock

500 m from the hypocenter
Zaimoku-cho
Donated by Haruzo Ogawa

⑥2

Haruzo Ogawa (then 33) dug it out from the burnt-out ruins of his home. His wife, Itsue (then 21), died after being exposed to the atomic bombing at her home in Zaimoku-cho. From his suburban workplace, Haruzo rushed home while wading through a large number of the injured and dead, but he couldn't get close to it because of the fire. Finally, in the morning of the 8th, he managed to reach his home. He dug the soil that was still hot. He dug out the remains of Itsue as well as her belongings and took them home.

Excerpt from Haruzo Ogawa's memoir

"I too stand at the burnt-out site, holding the trowel that I found. Fire erupts every time I dig. The soles of my canvas shoes are hot. A small table clock rolls out. It's burned but retained most of its shape. The long and short hands are both there, pointing at just around 8:30. My family home was probably reduced to ashes around this time. After digging here and there, I finally found some skeletal remains. Although there are no marks, there is no doubt that these are the remains of Itsue. Tears and sweat plopped on the white bones. Every time I pick one up, I feel the heat on my fingertips."

Source: *My Atomic Bomb Experience*, manuscript of Haruzo Ogawa, collection of the Hiroshima Municipal Archives

Tornadoes

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., intense whirlwinds occurred locally in the northern half of the city, including Hiroshima Station, Shukkeien Garden, and the Yokogawa Station area, which are located on the border between the south winds and north winds. The tornadoes are thought to have been caused by the collision of different air currents with large temperature gaps—ascending air currents generated by fires on both sides of the river and descending air currents created on the river surface whose temperature was relatively low. The tornadoes were so powerful that metal plates, metal barrels, large bottles, and even human bodies were lifted.



1,500 m from the hypocenter
On the afternoon of August 6
Misasa District Drawn by Chiyoe Kagawa

⑥3

Changes in wind direction and wind speed

During a normal summer in the southern part of Hiroshima city, a south wind (sea breeze) blows during the daytime, and a north wind (land wind) blows at night. The wind direction switches in morning and night, but on the day the atomic bomb was dropped, the fires continued throughout the night; therefore, the temperature on the land did not drop, which meant that the wind direction did not change and that the sea breeze continued until the next morning. In addition, the wind became stronger than normal from evening to night.

