from Nagasaki to the world 2
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“Little Boy” and “Fat Man”

The two atomic bombs dropped on Japan

In 1945, two atomic bombs were dropped by United States Armed Forces.

*At 8:15 am, August 6th 1945, over Hiroshima*
*At 11:02 am, August 9th 1945, over Nagasaki*

Those two atomic bombs killed a lot of people and destroyed the cities. What happened in those days?

**The history of the atomic bombs**

During World War II, the U.S.A. worried that Germany had made nuclear bombs similar to the ones they had developed in 1942. At first, they had been making them in order to drop over Germany and finish the war. However, Germany surrendered earlier than they had expected. So, they changed their target; the
next one was Japan. On August 6\(^{th}\) and 9\(^{th}\) in 1945, nuclear weapons (the atomic bombs) were used in order to attack people and cities for the first time on the earth.

**Features of the atomic bombs**

They used energy generated by the fission of uranium and plutonium. Compared with a bomb which was made from existing gunpowder, it had incomparable explosive power. When they explode, they cause strong radiation, heat rays and a strong blast. The temperature in the vicinity of ground zero is 3000~4000 degrees. Two atomic bombs were dropped. The one dropped on Hiroshima was called “Little Boy” and the second bomb called “Fat Man” was dropped on Nagasaki.

**Differences between the two atomic bombs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Little boy</th>
<th>Fat man</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>3m</td>
<td>3.25m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter</td>
<td>0.7m</td>
<td>1.52m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weight</td>
<td>4t</td>
<td>4.5t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Damage

(Hiroshima: reported in August 10th 1946
By Hiroshima City investigation department)
(Nagasaki: reported in July 1950
Genbaku Hibakusha taisaku jigyō gaiyou)

People (estimated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hiroshima</th>
<th>Nagasaki</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fatalities</td>
<td>118,661</td>
<td>73,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>injured people</td>
<td>79,100</td>
<td>74,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>197,791</td>
<td>148,793</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Buildings (estimated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hiroshima</th>
<th>Nagasaki</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>burned down</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>11,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>completely destroyed</td>
<td>6,820</td>
<td>1,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>partially destroyed</td>
<td>3,750</td>
<td>5,509</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nagasaki City
Before dropping the atomic bomb ↑

Nagasaki City
After dropping the atomic bombs ↑
(photographs by the US Armed Forces)
Question

1. When were the atomic bomb dropped?

Hiroshima
year ( ) date ( / ) time ( : )

Nagasaki
year ( ) date ( / ) time ( : )

2. How many people were killed by each atomic bombs? (estimated)
And how many times are these numbers as large as population in your city? Compare these.

Hiroshima: ( ) people

Nagasaki: ( ) people

The atomic bombs killed, ( ) as many people as that of my city were killed.
3. How many nuclear weapons like atomic bombs are there in the world? And what will happen if people use all of them?

Now, there are (         ) nuclear weapons in the world.

If all of them are used on the earth...
Experience of Mieko Watanabe

When I was exposed to radiation, I was 16 years old. In those days, United States Armed Forces came to our town and they did machine-gun firing every day. I worked for Bureau of Postal Savings as an office worker.

On that day, On August 9th in 1945, air-raid alert was canceled on the morning. About 11:00 a.m. I was doing office work. Suddenly, my sight turned red and a strong blast hit me. I hid under the desk quickly. I felt some pieces of broken glass sticking into my body. I had no idea what was happening at that time and thought “It is the end of the earth!”

After a while, my co-workers and I walked to the dugout. A lot of pieces of glass and wood were scattered
on the road. Though I was under such a situation, I didn’t think about my death and wasn’t frightened of it. Maybe I had no sense of death.

We narrowly arrived at the dugout. After our arrival, people brought wounded people one after another. Our dugout was filled with them all in a short time. I saw charred people and heard a lot of moans of pain. We couldn’t bear to see or hear them, so we decided to leave the place.

We went to the grave. We could see big fires like waves burning our city, but no one could do anything against it. I thought it was like hell. The situation of our city was beyond description.

9 years after, I got married to Satoshi. He was a Hibakusha. When he was exposed to radiation, he was 17 years old and worked for Mitsubishi steel mill due to student mobilization. He was badly wounded and many of his friends were killed. He survived then, but when he was 32 years old, he died from the illness caused by atomic-bomb radiation. We could not receive
any support from the government. I had to pay ¥50,000 (about $500) for medicine. I managed to pay for that, but he had gone. He never got better because his cause of death was not illness but the effect of radiation.

the city after dropping the atomic bomb
(photograph by Torahiko Ogawa)
Experience of Takeshi Yamakawa

I was born in 1936. When I was a child, the war was placed at the center of society at that time in Japan. The signboard in Tokyo said, “Luxury is enemy!”

“We won’t want anything until we win a war!” The world was suffocated due to the strict rules in Japanese society.

Wars changed schools. Teachers taught us that Americans and British were ogres. Women and girls were trained to kill enemies with a bamboo spear. Schools educated children for wars.

For me to live this way was natural, so I didn’t feel it as unusual.

In 1945, I was 8 years old and lived in Minamiyamate town. (4.3km from hypocenter) On the morning of August 9th, I played alone by the ocean. I heard air–raid alert once, but it was soon canceled. I continued playing. All at once, a lookout shouted, “Enemy! Enemy!” I put my toy
on the ground and stood up. Then, a strong flash hit my eyes. It was very glaring and everything vanished from my sight. I ran into a dugout. Soon, a strong blast blew in and I felt fierce rays. I got a burn.

That night, I saw the red sky in the direction of Urakami (around hypocenter).

Several days later, I walked there. There was the smell of the dead. But I had to escape there. I had been walking all night.

After many years, I became an elementary school teacher. In 1970, one day, I sent questionnaires about the atomic bombs to elementary school students. Seeing the results of them, I was shocked. Many children don’t know about the atomic bombs. This is because teachers hadn’t taught them. As a Hibakusha, and as a teacher, I felt responsible. So, I started to face up to peace education.

Many teachers who experienced the attack of atomic bombs gathered and made an association. We made teaching guidelines and materials on atomic bombs. This is the beginning of peace
education.

I’ve been engaged in peace activities. I’ve told children about atomic bombs and wrote some books based on my experiences. I’ve conducted peace activities. However, even now there are a lot of nuclear weapons all over the world.

Mushroom cloud
(photograph by Hiromichi Matsuda)
The second generations of Hibakusha

The second generations of Hibakusha are children of Hibakusha. Their children are called the third generations of Hibakusha.

The second generations of Hibakusha were also damaged. After the war, some of them got sick, such as leukemia, suddenly and deformed children were sometimes born in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Not only the sick people but also the healthy people were discriminated. So, many people don’t publicize “I’m a second generation of Hibakusha.”

Now, the number of Hibakusha is decreasing. Some of the second generations of Hibakusha have been trying to make a peaceful world. Instead of aging Hibakusha, their activities are expected.
What do you think?

We asked three people the following questions.

Q1. When were the atomic bombs dropped?  
Q2. Have you ever studied about peace?  
Q3. What do you think about dropping the atomic bombs? Was it right or wrong?

**Interview 1**  
High school student (15) from China / Female

A1.  
August 19th in 1945? I don’t remember the time. But I remember that the date was a few days before Japan surrendered.

A2.  
I have studied about atomic bombs in history class in elementary school and junior high school. I learned the importance of peace.
A3.
Dropping the atomic bombs has two sides. One is right because it helped end the war. The other is wrong because it lost a lot of lives. But I think dropping the atomic bombs and killing a lot of people was cruel.

Interview 2
Three intern students (around 20) from the U.S.A., Canada and England

A1.
No one could answer the date and time completely.

A2.
They have never studied about peace but we studied about wars.

A3.
All of them think dropping the atomic bomb was wrong. (Reason: The atomic bombs destroyed schools and hospitals. Damage was very bad.)
Do you remember when the atomic bombs were dropped?
Have you ever studied about peace?
What do you think about dropping the atomic bombs?
How about you?
Let’s discuss!!

Let’s talk about the following topics with others and learn various perspectives.

**Topic 1.**

The following passage is the interview of an American history teacher. He discussed the descriptions about the atomic bombs in the history textbooks used for teaching in America.

Learning about the atomic bombs is the standard of learning in the U.S.A. But descriptions about the atomic bombs depends on textbooks. Some textbooks mention a lot about them, while others mention little. Most of textbooks mention “Two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan in 1945.” But there are not many text books that mention the date and time.

When he was a student, he learned the fact from only an American perspective. “*Two atomic bombs killed a lot of people. But they are necessary to end the war.*” We call it a *necessary evil.*
Textbooks used in Japan mention details of the atomic bombs and don’t mention a *necessary evil*. However, there are few descriptions about the Nanjing Massacre. (In December 1937, Japanese Armed Forces occupied the capital of China, Nanjing, and killed many people in Nanjing city.) What do you think about differences of description about history?
Topic 2.

On July 7th 2017, the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty was adopted in the United Nations.

If you were a delegate of a developed country (the U.S.A., Russia, France, Japan…), would you conclude it? Study about situations of each country and features of this treaty. Let’s discuss what would you do.
Message to you

*Please make an effort in order not to carry out wars. We must not use and make more nuclear weapons.* It takes a long time and costs a lot of money to make them. Using nuclear weapons leads to destruction.

The number of Hibakusha is decreasing every year. This means the number of people who can tell of the fear of the atomic bombs and wars is decreasing. *Please tell it to the world. Please make a peaceful world.*

from Mieko Watanabe

Appendix DVD ~Story of Mieko Watanabe~

This DVD was made for people who don’t have a chance to listen to stories of the experiences of atomic bombs from Hibakusha. Listen to her experience.
“Do you want to return to the dark days of the war?” I ask students who listen to me. Maybe no one wants to.

I want you to know the actual state of the atomic bombs in 1945 correctly and the world situation. Apathy is the worst thing. **We Hibakusha don’t want another Hibakusha on earth.** To realize our wish, we should reduce nuclear weapons and violence to zero. It will lead us to a peaceful world. It seems that peace is distant, but I believe we’re getting close to it.

from Takeshi Yamakawa
Editors’ postscript

Our city, Nagasaki, is one of the cities where the atomic bombs were dropped. How many people in the world know about it? Many people may not know about them. We made this material for them.

After WWII, we are approaching a peaceful world very slightly. But on the other hand, there are still many problems of nuclear weapons and diplomacy. If we get careless even once, humans may repeat the mistake like in 1945. We have to prevent it and promote world peace.

Learning about history of wars and the atomic bombs is the first step for making a peaceful world. Learn, Think and Take an action. If this tide spreads around the world, the world will be peaceful. This material is the first step. We hope it will deepen the understanding about the atomic bombs and develop consciousness of peace. Let’s make a peaceful world together.

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Reference & Cooperation

Ms. Noguchi

Mr. Minesita, Peace Promote Association

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum
Photos in p.6, p.11, p.14 are owned by
Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

Teachers of Nagasaki Higashi High School

『from Nagasaki to the world』
made by a group of GS II in 2016

『Saishin Nihonshi Zuhyou』
Daiichi Gakusyu Sha

http://nagasakipeace.jp/japanese/atomic/record/scene/1103.html