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Osaka, after an Allied incendiary bomb run. From U.S. Army in World War II, Pictorial Record, The War Against Japan, Section VI, page 447.

The determination to make peace was the prolonged bombings by the B-29s.

> Prince Fumimaro Konoye Premier of Japan

During the early morning of November 1, 1944, an F-13A named <u>Tokyo Rose</u> (a photo-reconnaissance version of the B-29) left Saipan. Its mission was to fly over Tokyo and Nagoya, photographing aircraft and engine plants. Over the next several weeks, F-13s flew seventeen more sorties over Japan.

Using thousands of pictures to help them pinpoint their <u>targets</u>, American bombing crews were ready to <u>severely damage</u> Japan's war-supply industry. The first strike on Tokyo was <u>November 24th</u>. Bomb crews, in the

WHY IWO JIMA WAS CAPTURED



ensuing months, crippled or destroyed various facilities such as the <u>Kawasaki</u> aircraft <u>plant</u>, north of Tokyo (January 1945).

When Japan controlled Iwo Jima, its island-based fighter planes would frequently <u>intercept</u> American bombers on their way to Tokyo. Those <u>defensive activities</u> would end if the island were in U.S. hands. Many more Allied planes, carrying incendiary bombs, would be able to reach the Japanese capital, and damaged or disabled <u>B-29s</u> would have a safe place to make emergency landings.

On the 4th of March, while the battle for Iwo Jima still raged, a crippled B-29 (dubbed the "<u>Dinah Might</u>") made an emergency landing on an American-controlled Iwo landing strip. Beginning on March 9, a fleet of B-29s reached the Japanese home islands. Their carpet-bombing caused tremendous devastation in key Japanese cities.

The bombs (known as <u>M-69</u>) were filled with jellied gasoline called napalm. Nearly 1,700 tons of those <u>bombs</u> <u>fell on Tokyo</u> - a city of wooden buildings - shortly after midnight on <u>March 10, 1945</u>. People who were still <u>in</u> <u>the city</u> were shocked at the conflagration. It is estimated that between 83,000-100,000 died.

Fusako Sasaki later described what happened that night and in the ensuing months:

Stacked up corpses were being hauled away on lorries. Everywhere there was the stench of the dead and of smoke. I saw the places on the pavement where people had been roasted to death. At last I comprehended first-hand what an air-raid meant. I turned back, sick and scared. Later I learned that 40% of Tokyo was burned that night, that there had been 100,000 casualties and 375,000 left homeless.

A month after the March raid, while I was on a visit to Honjo on a particularly beautiful cherryblossom day, I saw bloated and charred corpses surfacing in the Sumida River. I felt nauseated and even more scared than before.

We ourselves were burned out in the fire raid of May 25th 1945. As I ran I kept my eyes on the sky. It was like a fireworks display as the incendiaries exploded. People were aflame, rolling and writhing in agony, screaming piteously for help, but beyond all mortal assistance.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WHY-IWO-JIMA-WAS-CAPTURED-Flags-Of-Our-Fathers

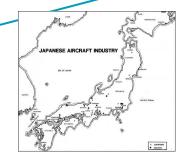
See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WHY-IWO-JIMA-WAS-CAPTURED-Flags-Of-Our-Fathers

Media Stream



<u>Tokyo Rose Left Saipan November 1, 1944</u> <u>Image online, courtesy the Anderson Air Force Base website.</u> <u>View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tokyo-Rose-Left-Saipan-November-1-1944</u>



<u>Map of Japanese Engine and Aircraft Plants the U.S. Targeted</u> Image online, courtesy the <u>ibiblio.org</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-of-Japanese-Engine-and-Aircraft-Plants-the-U.S.-Targeted</u>



Japan's Severely Damaged War Supplies after U.S. Bomb Image online, courtesy the <u>ibiblio.org</u> website. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Japan-s-Severely-Damaged-War-Supplies-after-U.S.-Bomb

U.S. Bombs Destroy Kawasaki Plant in Tokyo

Image online, courtesy the <u>ibiblio.org</u> website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/U.S.-Bombs-Destroy-Kawasaki-Plant-in-Tokyo

<u>Aerial Photograph of Kawasaki Aircraft Plant</u> Image online, courtesy the <u>ibiblio.org</u> website.

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Japanese Fighters Intercept U.S. Bombers Image online, courtesy the <u>ibiblio.org</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Japanese-Fighters-Intercept-U.S.-Bombers</u>

U.S. Bombers Without Japanese Force After U.S. Took Iwo Jima Image online, courtesy the <u>ibiblio.org</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/U.S.-Bombers-Without-Japanese-Force-After-U.S.-Took-Iwo-Jima</u>

Dinah Might, Crippled B-29, Lands at Iwo Jima This image is a USMC Photo. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dinah-Might-Crippled-B-29-Lands-at-Iwo-Jima

<u>B-29s Safely Land at Iwo Jima</u> This is a USAF photo. Online, courtesy the <u>ibiblio.org</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/B-29s-Safely-Land-at-Iwo-Jima</u>



Bombing Japan - Incendiary Bombs Over Tokyo, Part 1

Battle of Iwo Jima - First Airfield Captured

American narrator was spoken during a time of war.

Clip from "<u>World War II Battlefront</u>" - segment on "The Last Stronghold (November, 1944)," produced by Madacy Entertainment Group, Inc. (2001). Copyright, Madacy Entertainment Group, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the production.

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Bombing-Japan-Incendiary-Bombs-Over-Tokyo-Part-2

Video produced by the US Government Office of War Information (1945). Note the language used by the

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Clip online, via <u>National Geographic</u>. View this asset at:

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Bombing Japan - Incendiary Bombs Over Tokyo, Part 3

Bombing Japan - Incendiary Bombs Over Tokyo, Part 2

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Bombing Japan - Incendiary Bombs Over Tokyo, Part 4

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