FIRE BOMBS OVER TOKYO



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Impact of B-29 incendiary bombing of Tokyo on May 26, 1945. Library of Congress.

Pictures from the Library of Congress, the U.S. National Archives and official military histories show bombers in action and depict the damage they caused:

- B-29s (known as the "Superfortress") dropping fire bombs over Japan.
- <u>Bombers visit</u> the industrial section of Yokohama on May 29, 1945. Widespread destruction is clearly visible in the city's <u>harbor area</u> in September, <u>after</u> the Japanese surrender.
- Incendiary bombs shower the Kobe dock area, and other parts of the city, during June of 1945.
- Amongst the burned-out ruins of Tokyo, a survivor tries to drink from a broken water pipe.

- An oil refinery in the Tokyo area was another major B-29 target.
- Not much was left of a power and generator plant in Ube.

Japanese aircraft production dramatically fell after the B-29s began their attacks. Still, the hardened military rulers of the country refused to end the war.

When President Truman learned how many lives would likely be lost if the Allies had to invade Japan's home islands, he believed the cost would be too great for both sides. Instead, he authorized the use of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Many of the men who fought on the Pacific Islands, like Iwo Jima, rarely (if ever) spoke about their experiences to family members. What happened to the flag-raising survivors? What happened to the Japanese defenders?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/FIRE-BOMBS-OVER-TOKYO-Flags-Of-Our-Fathers

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/FIRE-BOMBS-OVER-TOKYO-Flags-Of-Our-Fathers

Media Stream



B-29 "Superfortress" Dropped Fire Bombs Over Japan Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/B-29-Superfortress-Dropped-Fire-Bombs-Over-Japan



B-29s Dropping Fire Bombs over Japan Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Fire Bombs to be Dropped Over Japan by B-29s Image online, courtesy the <u>ibiblio.org</u> website.

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U.S. Bombing of Yokohama on May 29, 1945

Image online, courtesy the ibiblio.org website.

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Yokohama's Harbor Area Destroyed by U.S. Bombing

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Bombs Shower Kobe Dock Area, June 1945

Image online, courtesy the ibiblio.org website.

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Destruction at Yokohama After U.S. Bombing

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Bombs Destroy Kobe, Japan in June, 1945

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Survivor of U.S. Bombing in Tokyo Tries to Drink from Water Pipe

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Oil Refinery in Tokyo that was Target of U.S. Bombing

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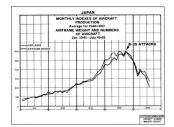


Power and Generator Plant in Ube, Japan, After U.S. Bombing

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Japanese Aircraft Production Before and After B-29 Attacks

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