



~~TOP SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS, TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



8 August 1945

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OF HIROSHIMA
FIRST ATOMIC BOMB MISSION

1. The attached photograph has indicated on it in red, destruction of areas and specific targets as listed.
2. Destroyed areas are considered to be those in which all buildings with the exception of a few concrete buildings, are completely destroyed.
3. The average maximum radius^{of} damage as indicated in blue, is approximately 9500 feet in radius from the point of impact.

DECLASSIFIED

By: Air Force Declassification Office
27 May 2010

William F. Fisher
WILLIAM F. FISHER
Colonel, G.S.C.

5/14/10

[Handwritten mark]

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SPECIAL TELETYPE CONFERENCE
HELD 7 AUGUST 1945 AT 1500 EWT

PRESENT IN WASHINGTON:

COLONEL W. P. FISHER
MAJOR J. A. DERRY

PRESENT IN GUAM:

COLONEL BLANCHARD
COLONEL KIRKPATRICK

FISHER: CANNOT OVER-EMPHASIZE URGENCY HERE FOR RESULTS OF ATOMIC BOMB ATTACK ON HIROSHIMA. HAVE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PHOTOGRAPHS BEEN OBTAINED AND IF SO WHEN SHOULD THEY ARRIVE HERE? PLEASE GIVE NOW AS COMPLETE A REPORT AS POSSIBLE ON RESULTS AS NOW KNOWN USING EITHER VISUAL OR PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE. OPEN TELECON CIRCUIT IMMEDIATELY WHEN ANY INFORMATION OF THIS NATURE BECOMES AVAILABLE. THIS IS MOST URGENT.

BLANCHARD: POST STRIKE PHOTOS JUST ARRIVED. HAVE NOT BEEN THOROUGHLY ANALYZED YET. UNTIL FIVE MINUTES AGO WE WERE UNABLE TO GIVE YOU ANY MORE DETAILS THAN FURNISHED LAST NIGHT. AN OFFICER COURIER WILL DEPART GUAM IN A FEW HOURS FOR SPECIAL DELIVERY OF ALL STRIKE AND POST STRIKE PHOTOGRAPHS. CAPTAIN CARRUTHERS ACTS AS COURIER. PRELIMINARY SUMMARY FOLLOWS: MISSION DEFINITELY COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL. AREAS OF EXTREME DESTRUCTION EXTENDS TO THE RIVER ON THE EAST OF THE CITY TO THE EASTERN FORK OF THE WESTERN MOST RIVER NORTH TO THE NORTHERN FORKS OF THE RIVER SOUTH TO A POINT JUST ABOVE DOCK AREAS. TWO FIRES STILL BURNING IN NORTHWESTERN SECTION OF CITY. BOMB WAS APPARENTLY PLACED ON PLANNED POINT OF IMPACT. COMPLETE PHOTO INTERPRETATION WILL BE READY IN THREE HOURS. APPROXIMATELY 4.1 SQUARE MILES OF CITY DESTROYED, OR 60 PERCENT OF BUILT UP AREA OF CITY WHICH TOTALLED 6.9 SQUARE MILES. CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE OUTSIDE THEIR AREA INTERPRETATION UNFINISHED. LOOK FOR NEXT REPORT IN ABOUT TWO HOURS. NO SHIPPING AT DOCKS

- 1 -

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27 May 2010

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BLANCHARD: AND ONLY ONE SHIP OUT IN HARBOR THAT CAN BE SEEN ON PHOTOS.
(Continued) SEVERAL SMALL BOATS AND HARBOR CRAFT IN HARBOR. THAT IS ALL WE HAVE HERE NOW.

FISHER: REQUIRE CLARIFICATION OF EASTERN BOUNDARY. DO YOU MEAN THE RIVER JUST EAST OF THE CITY OR THE BRANCH MAKING A BIG CURVE WAY TO THE EAST? WHAT WAS THE AIMING POINT? ARE THERE ANY SIGNS OF ACTIVITY? ARE ANY TRAINS IN OPERATION? CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE DAMAGE TO THE OUTSKIRTS?

BLANCHARD: WE MEAN RIVER JUST EAST OF THE CITY WHICH RUNS STRAIGHT UP FROM THE BAY. AIMING POINT WAS THE FORK OF THE CENTRAL TWO RIVERS. NO SIGNS OF ACTIVITY OBSERVED. NO TRAINS SEEN IN OPERATION. DAMAGE TO OUTSKIRTS WILL BE FURNISHED AFTER MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS.

FISHER: AFTER DAMAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT MUST HAVE ALSO THE SCHEDULED READINESS DATE, PLANNED TIME OF ATTACK, AND TARGETS OF THE NEXT 509th STRIKE; NOT PRACTICE MISSION BUT NEXT STRIKE.

BLANCHARD: IN REPLY TO YOUR QUESTION: NEXT SCHEDULED TAKEOFF TIME IS 09/1700Z (09/1900 EWT; 10/0200 THEATER TIME) WITH TIME OF ATTACK AT 09/2315Z (09/1915 EWT; 10/0815 THEATER TIME) AGAINST ONE OF THREE AREAS (NAGASAKI, KOKURA, NIIGATA) CLEARED, DEPENDING ON BEST WEATHER.

FISHER: WE ANTICIPATE THAT AUTHORITY TO CLEAR PRESS MATERIAL WILL BE PASSED TO THE THEATER WITHIN A MATTER OF HOURS. LOOK FOR A TELECON OR A RADIO GIVING YOU CLEARANCE IN THIS MATTER. THAT IS ALL THAT WE HAVE FROM THIS END.

BLANCHARD: ALL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE BY 07/2300Z.

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| DC/S P&A | | 6819 |
| DC/S TME | | TYPED BY |
| A.O. | | emc |

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| TELECOM MSG NO. FN-08-01 | SUBJECT SUPPLEMENT TO SPECIAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT 3 PRM 391 FLOWN 7 AUGUST 1945 | DATE 8 August 1945 |
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| TO: COMGENUSASTAF GUAM | INFO: COMGENUSASTAF (REAR) WASH Attention Gen. Norstad | FROM: COMGENAAF 20 GUAM |
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080020Z
AIRMOR 5341

- 8.30-735 Army Transport Base - 25 percent destroyed.
Fifteen warehouse-type buildings along the western quay are damaged. 5 of these buildings have gutted damage. The others seem to be distorted. Many piles of open stores in the quay area have been strewn about. Seven office type buildings in the N part of the plant are destroyed. Some 30 barracks-type buildings around the large antisircraft compound are destroyed. The south western part of the plant is obscured by clouds. (12,000' - 15,000' S of PI.)
- 90.30-796 Army Ordnance Depot.
Only 6" coverage. Cannot be assessed accurately. Two large storage type buildings gutted. (9,000' SE of PI.)
- 90.38-738 Army Food Depot - 35 percent destroyed.
Seven small store-type buildings, 2 large warehouse-type buildings and several long store-type buildings are destroyed. Residential area immediately E of Depot is destroyed. (12,000' SE of A.P.)
- 90.30-738 Army Clothing Depot - 85 percent destroyed.
Ten very long, narrow warehouse-type buildings, 3 saw-tooth roof buildings and 6 buildings located in NW part of the Depot are destroyed. Two large buildings distorted. (10,000' SE of A.P.)
- 90.30-740 East Hiroshima R.R. Station - 30 percent destroyed.
Partial 24" coverage shows the Round House and Shop area to have disappeared. Western section of the RR yard shows 2 RR sheds destroyed and some debris on the tracks. (10,000' NE of A.P.)
- 90.30-1889 Ujina Shipbuilding Co.
Apparently undamaged (6,000 yards SE of A.P.)
- 90.30-6055 Unidentified industry - 90 percent destroyed.
Completely wiped-out except for 3 warehouse type buildings located in the S part of the plant and 3 damaged structures remaining in the central part of the area, (7,500' SE of A.P.)
- 90.30-6164 Signal Corps 2nd Co. - 25 percent destroyed.
Eight long, narrow buildings distorted - 5 similar buildings gutted. (7,500' SW of A.P.)
- 90.30-6293 Kinkwa Rayon Mill - 10 percent destroyed.
Nine small ship-type buildings destroyed. One large store-type building gutted. (12,000' SE of AP)

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| TELECON MSG NO. FN-08-01 | SUBJECT Cont'd from Page 1 | DATE 3 August 1945 |
| TO: | INFO: | FROM: |

90.30-XXI 6164 - Destroyed (5,500' SE of PI).
 90.30 -743 - A rectangular building 2600' NE of P.I is damaged but still stands.
 A building in a revetment 4,000' NNE of PI has only roof damage (3,500' NE of PI).
 90.30-XXI 6163 8800' South of P.I. - Tsikoku Textile Mill.
 All buildings show blast damage.
 Power plant adjacent and W of XXI 6163 (8,800' S of P.I.)
 Damage is not apparent. Two tall smoke stacks remain standing.
 Rivers: In general the rivers, around bridges are clogged with debris and splintered small boats. In several places the river banks are caved in.
 Damaged Bridges: Distances measured from center of bridge to probable point of impact. Bridges are located as follows on XXI BOMCOM Litho-Mosaic, Hiroshima Area,
 Target 90.30 Urban:
 050104 - About 1/4 of bridge missing, N end (Bridge about 4,750' from probable impact). Debris lodged on E side of bridge.
 058107 - Large bridge seems to be shattered but still intact. Debris lodged at bend of river East of bridges. Bridge's about 4,000' from probable impact.
 064112 - Large hole in west side of bridge. (About 4,700' from probable impact. Splintered boats in river west of bridge.
 063098 - Debris on bridge, but is still intact (about 900' from probable impact). Banks of river caved in just north of this bridge.
 055098 - Both approaches to bridge cluttered with debris, but still intact.
 056094 - Both bridges still intact. (About 2600' from probable impact). Small boats and debris clog stream on both sides of bridges.
 036094 - 100 percent destroyed (200 feet from probable impact).
 062092 - Severely damaged - River is littered with debris (500' from probable impact).
 067092 - Destroyed, short span (20 percent on W bank still standing but appears as a shell (500' from probable impact).
 065087 - Severely damaged, appears shattered and inoperative. Considerable debris directly downstream (500' from P.I.).
 066083 - Bridge intact, slight damage visible (1200' from P.I.).
 062083 - Both approaches severely damaged. Bridge intact and in use (1400' from P.I.)
 Bridges reported are covered by 40" photography.
 General: 8 small river craft in motion in harbor.
 Fire in oil storage 600' S of P.I.
 Electric Railway Power Station - Guttled (8100' S of P.I.)
 Electric Power Generator - Destroyed (3000' S of P.I.)
 Telephone Company - Destroyed (3000' E of P.I.)

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| TELECOM MSG NO. FN-08-01 | SUBJECT Cont'd from Page 2 | DATE 8 August 1945 |
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| TO: | INFO: | FROM: |
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Hiroshima Gas Works - Destroyed (8500' SE of P.I.)
 Hiroshima RR Station - Destroyed (10,000' E of P.I.)
 RR Station - Destroyed (6000' N of P.I.)
 No activity visible on railroads.
 Very few moving vehicles and people are visible, no moving streetcars.
 Two small fires are still smouldering near center of city
 Average maximum radius of destruction - 7,000'
 Average maximum radius of damage - 9500'
 No cloud visible in photography.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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From: CG, US Army Strategic Air Forces, Guam

To: War Department

Date: 07/180

7 August 1945

Re Graves from Blanchard and Kirkpatrick

Post strike photos just arrived. Have not been thoroughly analyzed yet. Until five minutes ago we were unable to give you any more details than furnished last night. An officer courier will depart Guam in a few hours for special delivery of all strike and post strike photographs.

Preliminary summary follows:

Mission definitely completely successful. Areas of extreme destruction extends to the river on the east of the city to the eastern fork of the western most river north to the northern forks of the river south to a point just above Cook cross. Two fires still burning in north western section of city. Bomb was apparently placed on planned point of impact.

Approximate 4.1 square miles of city destroyed or 60% of built up area of city which totalled 6.9 square miles. Considerable damage outside this area.

Interpretation unfinished look for next report in about two hours.

No shipping at docks and only one ship out in harbor that can be seen on photos. Several small boats and harbor craft in harbor. No signs of activity observed. No trains

CG-TH-7201

(7 Aug 45)

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Page 2

From: CG, US Army Strategic Air Forces, Guam

INFO: O7/WFE

7 August 1945

seen in operation. Damage to outskirts will be furnished
after more detailed analysis.

In reply to your question 091700Z is scheduled time
for next take off, with 092315Z strike on one of three areas
selected depending on best weather.

End

ATTN: Major Derry
INFO : Gen Arnold
Gen Hull
Gen Bissell
C of S

CG-TH-7201

(7 AUG 45) LEG O7/WFE

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| DC/S TNE | | TYPED BY |
| A.G. | | CWS |

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| TELECON MSG NO. FN-07-19 | SUBJECT Special Damage Assessment Report 3PRM 391 FLOW 7 August 1945 | DATE 7 August 1945 |
| TO: COMGENUSASTAF GUAM | INFO: COMGENUSASTAF REAR | FROM: COMGENAAT 20 GUAM |

AIRWR 5336

(This tentative report is subject to change after a more detailed study and is to be considered strictly as advance information)

Damage to Hiroshima - 90.30 - Urban

20AF SBM 13, 6 August 1945. 509th Bomb Gp.

Built-up Area: Sq. Mi. Total 6.9 Sq. Mi. Destroyed: 4.15 destroyed: 60

Targets damaged by current strike, 5 numbered, 0 other.

Quality and Limitations of Photographs: Good 24" cover.

Damaged targets are:

Target 748 Army Div. Hq.

Target 1889 Ujima Shipbuilding Co.

Target 6055 Unidentified

Target Teikoku Textile Mill

Target 6164 Signal Corps 2nd Co.

Note: Destroyed area given above (4.1 Sq. Mi.) is that area in which all buildings are destroyed. Additional damage is seen outside this area. Concrete buildings within the destroyed area are still standing. No bomb crater is visible.

END

30D: 2102Z

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27 May 2010

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