

# Hiroshima Rebuilt 10 Years After A-Bomb

(Editor's Note: Nine tenths of lives again—a city dedicated to peace, without bitterness that it was one of history's stepchildren. This article is the first of three telling the story of the new Hiroshima and the old.)

By KENNETH ISHII  
HIROSHIMA (INS) — On Aug. 6, ten years ago, the Japanese city of Hiroshima was hit and 90 per cent destroyed by history's first atomic bomb dropped in war.

Of approximately 350,000 residents, 78,150 were killed, 13,983 left missing, 3,428 seriously injured, and 27,997 others moderately injured.

In physical damage, some 92 per cent of the 48,000 acre city was completely or almost completely destroyed; 6,820 buildings and houses were crushed, another 3,750 damaged. Fires that swept Hiroshima in the hours following the blast reduced another 55,000 buildings and houses to ashes and partly destroyed 2,290.

All important roads and bridges were wrecked or made impassable in the militarily important city; its water, sewage and power systems were rendered almost totally useless.

Such destruction to such a city, so swiftly, never had happened before. No one, on that day or the days that followed, thought Hiroshima ever would live again.

Yet today, ten years after, Hiroshima is as much alive as any U. S. city of comparable size—a throbbing, bustling, busy city of 350,000.

It is haunted, but not embittered, by its tragedy.

The feelings of those who survived are summed up in eleven words on a cenotaph in the city's "Peace Park" whose tombstone contains the names of 59,105 identified victims. It says:

"Repose ye in peace, for the error shall never be repeated."

One of the survivors is a widowed Japanese named Goichi Oshima. He is 73 years old and when the bomb was dropped he was working only 100 yards from the explosion center. He is the only man in that 100 yard radius who lived.

This is how he describes, from memory, that brief, terrifying instant:

"A sudden flash, an explosion that defies description, then everything went black."

"When I came to," he said, "the Hiroshima I knew was in ruins."

Today the city has been completely rebuilt—literally from the ground up. Glaring neon signs, 33 movie houses and honking taxis are all part of the landscape.

A casual visitor would find it hard to believe that only a decade ago Hiroshima was virtually wiped off the map by an atomic bomb that killed more than twice the death toll of American soldiers in the entire Korean War.

Oshima's miraculous escape is supported by statistical reports on the percentage of deaths in varying areas of proximity from the blast center.

The death rate for persons within a 550 yard radius of the blast center was 98.4 per cent. The rate for persons between the 550 yard to 1,100 yard radius was 90 per cent.

From that point the fatality percentage dropped sharply to 45.5 per cent for those between 1,100 and 1,600 yards away. Of persons from 1,700 to 2,200 yards away, 22.6 per cent were killed.

Eyewitnesses vividly recall that peaceful sunny morning when a lone B-29, its engines shut off, swooped down on the city as it awoke.

The silver-winged plane, the "Enola Gay," attracted little attention from a people accustomed to mass formation air raids.

One witness described what followed this way:

"The bomb fell rapidly trailed by a thick red column of flame. One and a half minutes later, at the height of about 600 yards above ground level, it exploded with a terrific detonation in a fireball 65 yards in diameter."

"The explosion sent reddish blue and dark brown flames shooting out against the ground at an astounding velocity, radioactivating some 40 per cent of the city."

"Simultaneously a cluster of white smoke became visible . . . It mushroomed upward and was topped by a crest of white cloud."

The hour was 8:15 a. m.

"Fifteen minutes later rain began to fall, a muddy rain for the first two hours, then another six hours of steady drizzle."

Thousands of terrified survivors, many with painful burns from the thermal heat, streamed towards the city's outskirts.

Hiroshima itself was littered with charred corpses and many of the wounded were indistinguishable from the dead as they lay prostrate awaiting medical help that too often, came too late.

Army Captain Yoshiya Marumoto, who was stationed with the Japanese 104th regiment in barracks a mile from the blast center, had a reaction typically military. He told I. N. S.:

"I racked my brains and ran through the whole list of weapons known to exist. I simply couldn't conceive that any single explosion could wipe out an entire city."

Marumoto, now a newspaper reporter in Hiroshima, was one of an estimated 70 to 80,000 troops stationed in the huge Hiroshima army base at the time of the explosion.

"The only reason I and my company weren't killed was because we had been on night maneuvers and weren't required to turn out for roll call."

Another recollection of that day was given INS by the then deputy mayor, Shigetaru Shibata, now president of the city assembly. Shibata was the highest city official who survived the disaster.

Shibata said: "On the morning of August 7th, I made my way through the debris to what remained of the city office building. I found 20 city employees there."

"It was a weird feeling. Only two days ago the city administration was teeming with some 1,000 workers."

"The commander of an army regiment outside Hiroshima walked up to me to offer help."

"Looking back now it seems almost comical—the two of us standing in the middle of a street of rubble and bodies, holding the first official conference since the A-bomb on how to tackle the problem of rehabilitation."

"They decided first on a road clearance program and removal of

## GOP Leaders Relieved As Talbott Quits

Secretary Of Air Resigns Position Effective Aug. 13

WASHINGTON (INS) — Air force secretary Harold E. Talbott's resignation was praised today by Republicans who saw it as depriving Democrats of a 1956 political issue.

Talbott quit his post Monday night. His resignation will take effect Aug. 13. No successor was named.

In his letter to President Eisenhower, the air secretary — under fire because of private business dealings — declared he had never done anything improper but that he wanted to spare the chief executive any embarrassment.

Mr. Eisenhower replied that, "under the circumstances," his decision to leave was "the right one" but praised the secretary's services to the government.

Welcoming the action, GOP spokesmen called it a symbol of clean government in the present administration.

They pointed out that Talbott quit even though he was guilty of no more than "poor judgement" in aiding his private business firm from his Pentagon office.

White House sources insisted the resignation was not requested by the President, who said last Wednesday that he alone would decide the case on the basis of "ethics" involved.

Political implications, from the GOP standpoint, were summed up by Sen. Barry Goldwater (R. Ariz.), chairman of the senate Republican campaign committee.

He said: "It's difficult for me to see how it can be made a political issue by the Democrats in view of the absence of any criminal intent and in view of the fact that he has of his own volition withdrawn."

Sen. George Bender (R. Ohio), said: "... his resignation will serve notice that in President Eisenhower's administration we shall never have a repetition of the scandals which marked his predecessor's regime."

Bender is a member of the senate investigations subcommittee, which touched off the resignation by holding four days of public hearings on Talbott's business affairs.

The hearings centered around Talbott's activities on behalf of Paul B. Mulligan and Co., a New York clerical efficiency firm in which he was a full partner. He resigned as of last Sunday to ward off complaints about the company's doing business with defense contractors.

Mr. Eisenhower studied transcripts of the hearings so that he could act on the Talbott matter personally.

Subcommittee chairman John L. McClellan (D. Ark.) told newsmen "the matter the committee had under inquiry has now been satisfactorily resolved."

He added: "I shall take up right away with the committee the matter of a report, which I trust in view of these developments will be brief and unanimous."

Sen. Karl E. Mundt (R. S. D.) another subcommittee member, said he "would assume the Talbott book is closed" unless any evidence comes up beyond charges which were made last week by Sen. Wayne Morse (D. Ore.) Talbott's severest critic since the hearings began.

Mundt said he agreed both with the resignation and the President's the dead.

On August 8th, fresh Japanese troops arrived and with the assistance of civilian volunteers under the direction of the handful of city officials unharmed, Hiroshima began struggling for a new life. There is only one child now living today who was born in Hiroshima the day it was destroyed by the atom bomb.

A fourth grade school girl and one of the brightest students in her class, Hiroko Tomita, who is ten years old this August 6th, was born exactly 20 minutes after the atomic explosion less than one mile from the blast center.

Two other babies, both girls, born the same day, died in infancy. But their deaths were unrelated to effects of the atomic bomb.

To most citizens of Hiroshima who survived the terror of the world's first atomic attack, "That Day" is one that would rather not talk about in detail. They cannot or would prefer not to search for the words necessary to portray the horrors of that fateful August 6th.

The chief reminders in the city today are the memorial peace park to the atom bomb, the ruins of the industrial promotion hall, and an occasional sight of a keloid scarred victim.

Otherwise Hiroshima is like any other thriving postwar Japanese city.

(Next: Hiroshima from then till now.)

acceptance of it. He said it "dramatizes the new standard of ethics and propriety which President Eisenhower has established . . . in Washington."

## Blame Brake Failure For Trucker's Death

MADISON, Ind. (INS) — Investigators said today that brake failure apparently caused the runaway crash of a wheat truck which killed Edgar Robinson, 61, of Saltsburg, Ky., on a steep hill in Madison.

The truck rolled out of control down Michigan Hill on U. S. 421 Monday afternoon before it struck a tree.

## Cites Government Works Against Self

Figures Cited By State Housing Head

INDIANAPOLIS (INS) — State director Charles M. Dawson of the housing home and finance agency declared today that the federal government has been working against itself as far as housing is concerned.

Dawson made the charge in predicting that a newly ordered increase in down payments and monthly payments for government insured home buying may be in time to avoid default of several large apartment building projects.

The Indiana director said:

"The government has been working against itself in the housing program. On one hand it has encouraged large apartment projects and has underwritten millions in construction costs. On the other hand, it was encouraging people to move out by offering them houses to buy for less than they were paying in rent."

Dawson cited national figures showing that the vacancy rate in federally financed apartment projects is 11.6 per cent. He said seven percent had been considered the maximum in advance planning by the borrowers.

The Hoosier director of the HHFA explained that minimum down payments for homes financed through his agency have been five percent of the first \$9,000 and 25 percent of the remainder, with a maximum 30 years to pay. Under the new rules, the down payment is seven percent of the first \$9,000 plus 27 percent of the balance, with the time to pay cut to 25 years.

## Stella Daugherty Funeral Wednesday

Mrs. Stella Daugherty, 85, formerly of Geneva, died Sunday night at a Bluffton nursing home, where she had been four years. Surviving are a brother, Harvey Ford of Walkerton, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday at the Hardy & Hardy funeral home in Geneva, the Rev. A. B. McKain officiating. Burial will be in Riverside cemetery.

## Youth Drowned In Farm Pond Monday

Attempted To Swim To Avoid Walking

SULLIVAN, Ind. (INS) — Sixteen year-old Harold Nicholson of Austin, Ind., was drowned Monday night when he attempted to swim across a farm pond to avoid walking around the edge of it.

The youth, an employee on the farm of Francis Bogart, of near New Lebanon, was swimming with several other boys in the pond. The other youths said that Nicholson, a beginning swimmer, swam across the pond, then remarked that he wasn't sure he could make it back, but didn't want to walk around the pond to return.

Police said the boy apparently suffered cramps on the return trip and disappeared under the water.

A frantic call to the Sullivan fire department for a pump to pump out the pond to recover the body failed to mention that the youth had just drowned. As a result the firemen did not bring a resuscitator, but when they reached the pond and found the body had just been recovered, they radioed for the device.

The resuscitator was used, but efforts to revive the youth failed.

## State Police Turn Back Radar Units

Devices Not Sued To Law Enforcement

INDIANAPOLIS (INS) — State police have returned three radar units to the state highway department after tests proved the devices were not suited to law enforcement down on the farm.

Supt. Frank Jessup said the equipment was not sufficiently selective or with enough range for open highway operation and did not have a recorder to make a permanent record of an infraction.

Jessup said: "We'll use radar when we can get machines which guarantee fairness in enforcement."

He said he is interested in radar equipment which will indicate the highest speed on a clock dial; sound a signal when a speeding car approaches so police can identify the vehicle and witness the violation; carry a recording device to make a permanent tape, and be easily portable for wider use.

## Indianapolis Youth Shot During Breakin

INDIANAPOLIS (INS) — A 16-year-old Indianapolis boy was reported in good condition today in General hospital where he was taken after he was shot during an attempted breakin.

Russell P. Sincclair, 37, shot the youth when he saw him crawling from the window of a neighbor's house.

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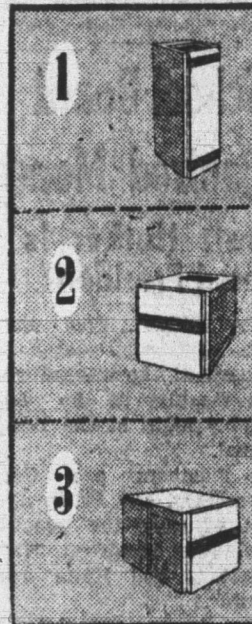
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