

**4-53, 4-54 Hiroshima Gas Company, 800 feet south of ground zero. This structure also appears along the far left edge of 4-50. The City Commercial Display Building stands at far right in the first photo of this pair.**



**4-55 Koa Fire Insurance Company, 1,300 feet from ground zero. Brick buildings did not fare as well as those of concrete and steel.**

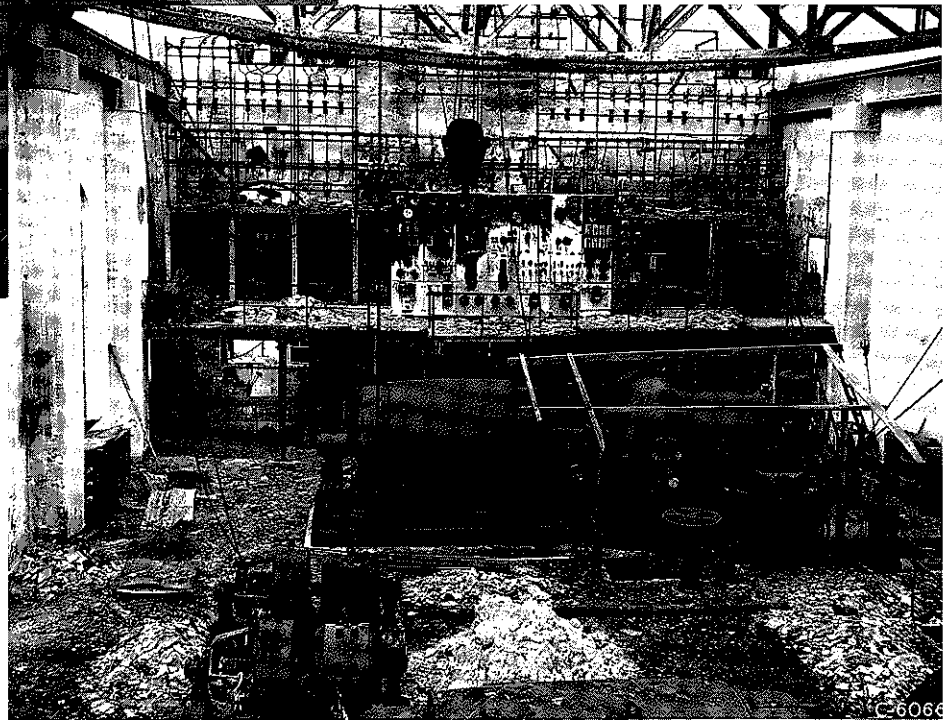
ance Company's headquarters, located 1,300 feet from ground zero, little remained but the vault (4-55). Photos 4-56 and 4-57 give a before-and-after view of the Chugokyu Electric Company's Minami substation, 1,500 feet from the hypocenter.

A little farther along, in the 2,000-foot radius, the Shimomuna Watch Shop had been pushed off its foundations and listed at a 10-degree angle (4-58). Five hundred feet farther from ground zero, the Hiroshima Telephone Company's switch and relay rack room was destroyed (4-59), mute evidence of why the news of the





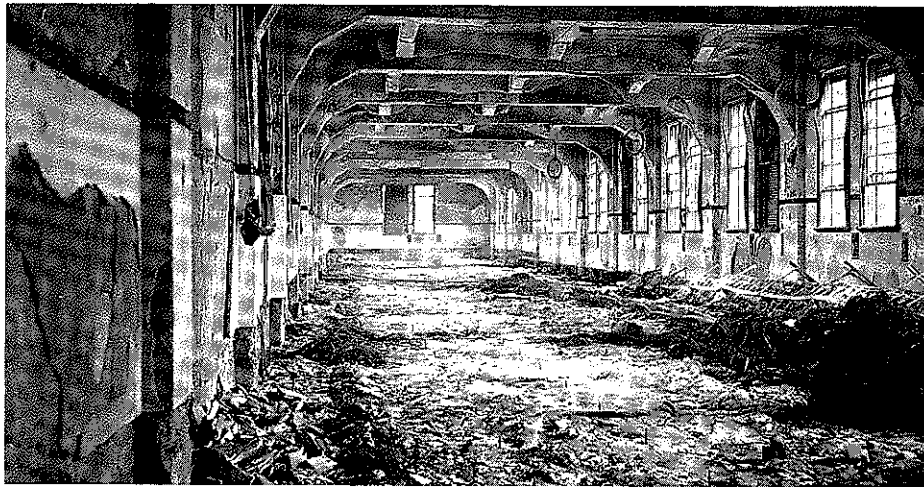
**4-56, 4-57 Chugokyu Electric Company's Minami substation, before and after the bombing, 1,500 feet from ground zero.**



C-6066



**4-58 Shimomuna Watch Shop, a steel-frame building, 2,000 feet from ground zero.**



**4-59 Hiroshima Telephone Company, 2,500 feet from ground zero. Here, the switch and relay rack room lies destroyed. This picture was taken on October 28, 1945.**

disaster did not get through immediately. At 3,000 feet, Hiroshima's city hall had been gutted by fire (4-60). Incredibly, this city with so much wooden construction had only one hook-and-ladder truck, and it was destroyed (4-61).

As usual in disasters, there were some freakish survivals. The earth-and-log air-raid shelter pictured in photo 4-62 survived intact, although neighboring buildings succumbed. Photo 4-63 shows the Hiroshima Red

Cross Hospital, about one mile from ground zero. Some buildings stood and considerably more heaped rubble remained at this distance.

Beyond the one-and-a-half-mile boundary, some wooden structures remained, albeit badly damaged (4-64). Many steel and concrete buildings appeared intact at first glance, but their outer walls hid internal damage of the type associated with the downward pressure of the air burst (4-65, 4-66, and 4-67). At the Chugokyu

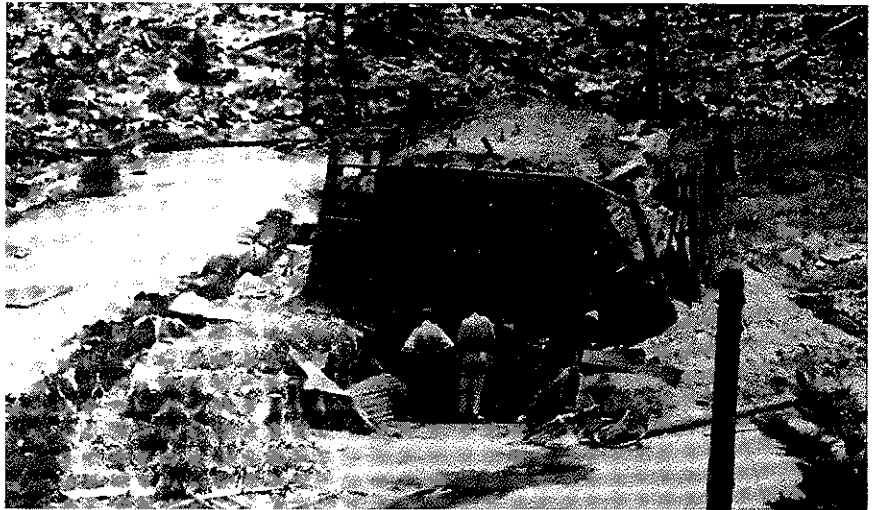


**4-60 Hiroshima's forlorn city hall stands empty, gutted by fire, some 3,000 feet from the hypocenter. This photo was taken on November 1, 1945.**

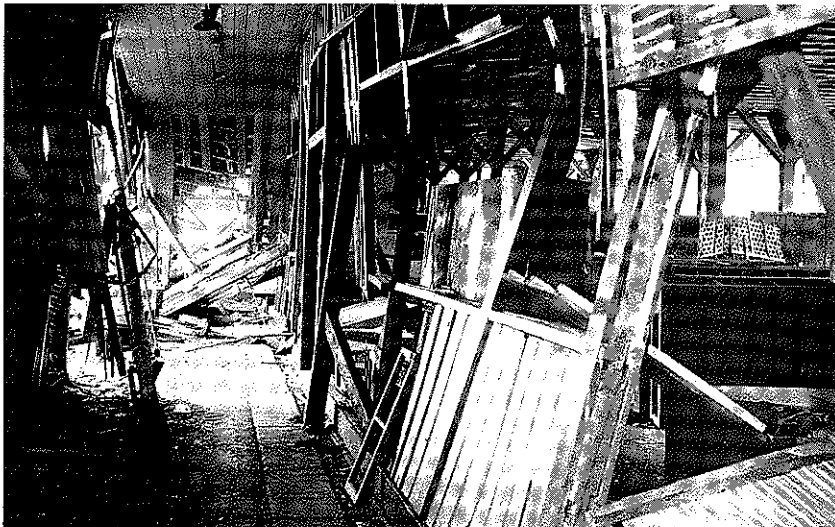
**4-61 At a branch of the Hiroshima Fire Department, the city's only hook-and-ladder truck lies charred alongside two other vehicles, 4,000 feet from ground zero.**



**4-62** The earth-and-log air-raid shelter at center survived the blast intact 5,000 feet northeast of ground zero, although other buildings did not.



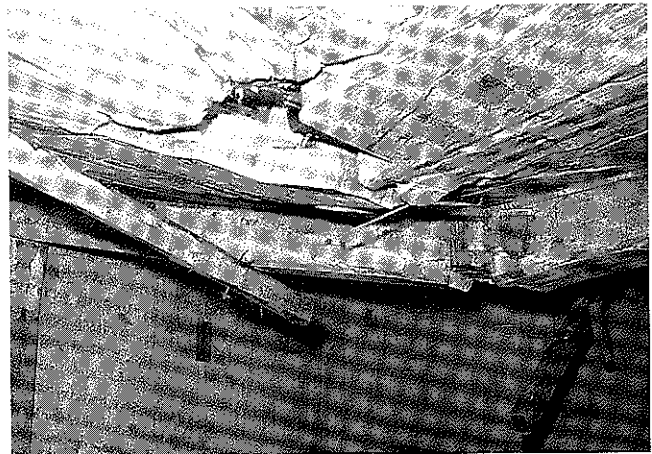
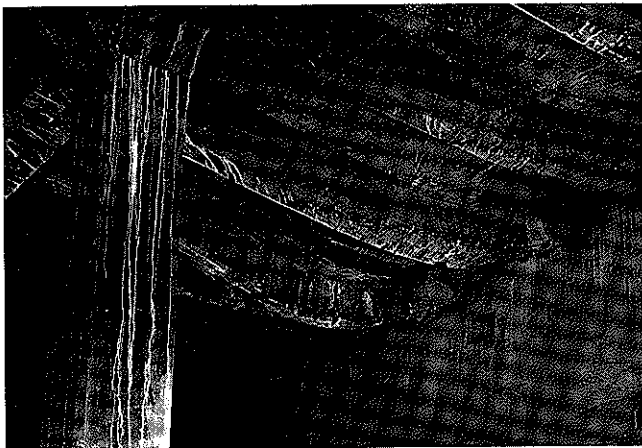
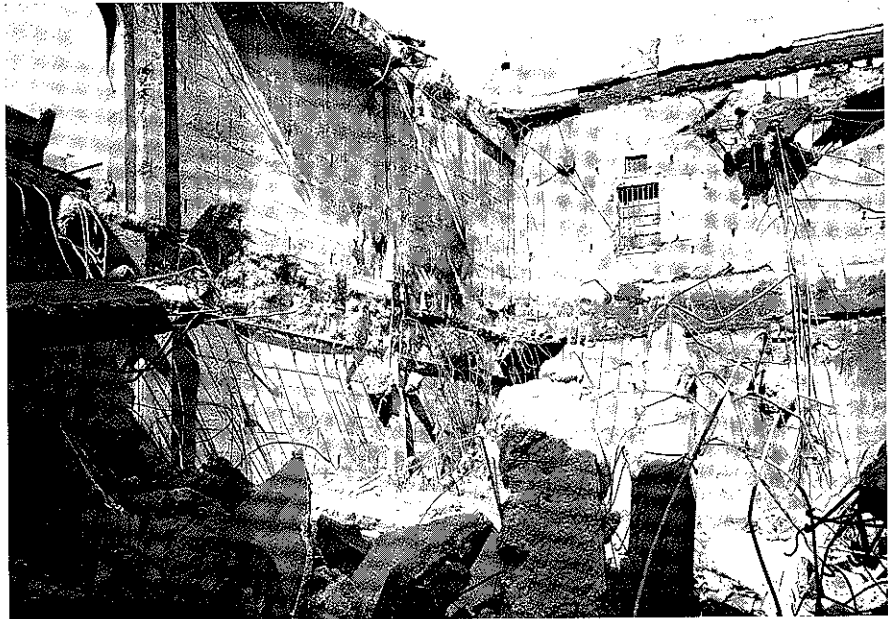
**4-63** Farther south, looking northwest. Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital lies at center near the river, about one mile from ground zero.



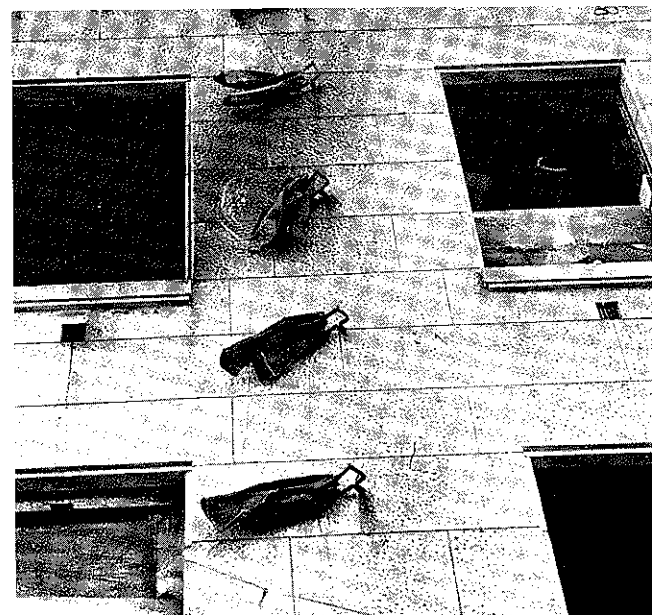
**4-64** Beyond  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from ground zero, some wooden buildings, such as this one 7,600 feet away, survived, although badly buckled and knocked about.



**4-65, 4-66, 4-67** At the Misawa Credit Association Warehouse, the walls stand but the ceiling and the entire second floor have been pushed down to ground level. Where the ceilings have held, they appear as if battered by a demolition ball.



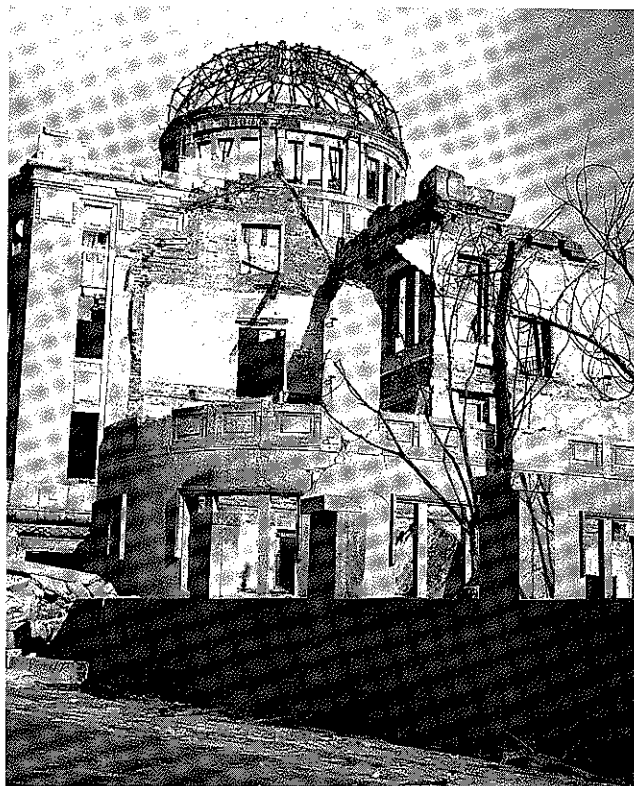
Power Company's offices, the blast carried away portions of the building's downspouts (4-68). A reinforced concrete smokestack had fallen, and at a little distance a power pole canted in the opposite direction, pushed by the blast and then sucked back by air rushing into the partial vacuum (4-69). The Commercial Display Building and its annex were still prominent features. Even a few nearby trees still stood (4-70, 4-71, and 4-72). The streets, too, had suffered damage, perhaps in part from collapsed storm drains or sewers (4-73). One thing was



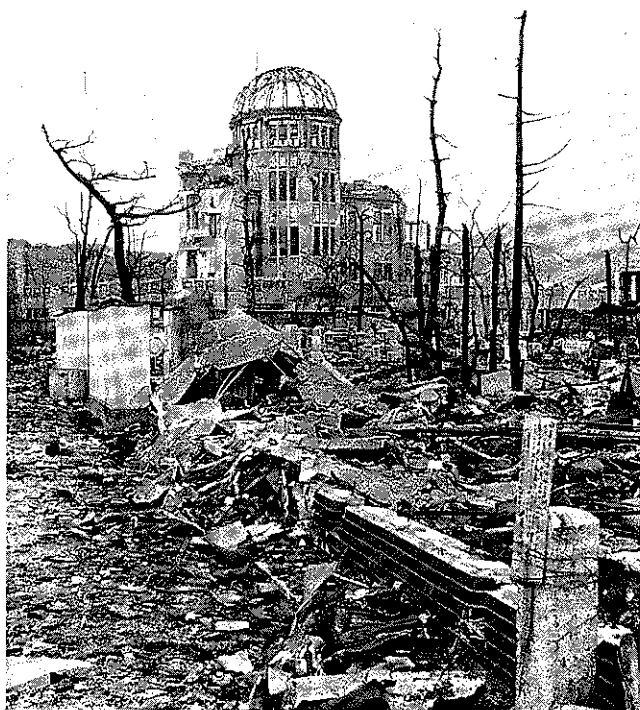
**4-68** The blast carried away portions of the Chugokyu Power Company's downspouts.



**4-69** A reinforced concrete smokestack lies on its side. Note the power pole in the distance leaning in the opposite direction.



**4-70** Near the Commercial Display Building, trees still stand at right with branches charred, but intact.



**4-71** The rubble-strewn courtyard of the Commercial Display Building. Unfortunately, the text on the board bound to the concrete post at lower right is illegible.



**4-72** The annex adjacent to the Commercial Display Building.



**4-73 A Hiroshima street.**  
Note the drainpipe,  
which the vacuum  
created by the atomic  
blast has pulled up  
through the pavement.



**4-74 A cemetery in disarray, possibly the army burial grounds about 1 1/4 miles from ground zero.** The only legible stone, that of army captain Akira Sasaki, is at lower right.

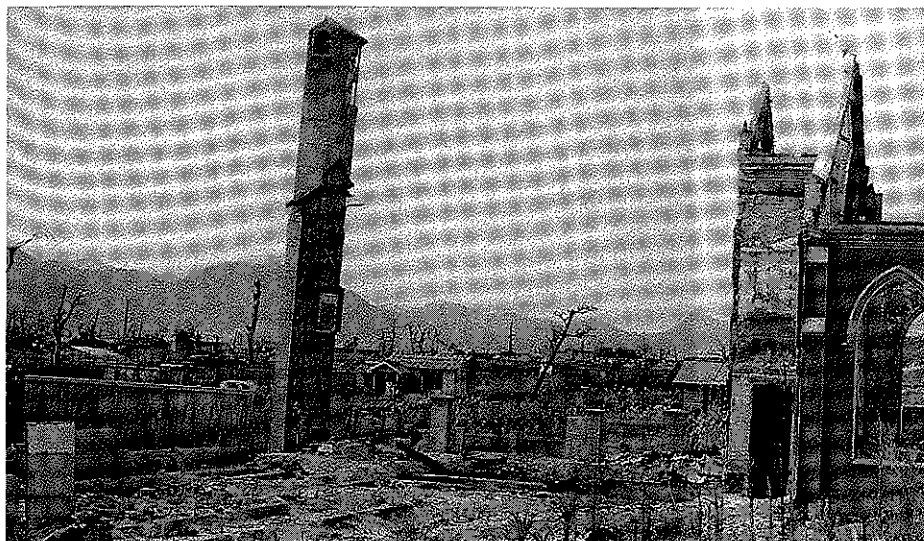
abundantly clear: If Hiroshima was to arise again, the mammoth task of rebuilding would start literally from the ground up.

Even the dead had been disturbed, as evidenced by photo 4-74 of a cemetery. This was probably the Army Burial Grounds on the east bank of the Kyobashi River. Among the casualties was a Christian church (4-75, 4-76, and 4-77). Many years later, when Fuchida visited Hiroshima as a Christian evangelist, he met a pastor who had clung to a picture of the ruins of his former church—probably this very edifice. Fuchida persuaded him to get rid of it, turn his back on the past, and devote himself to his new church and flock.

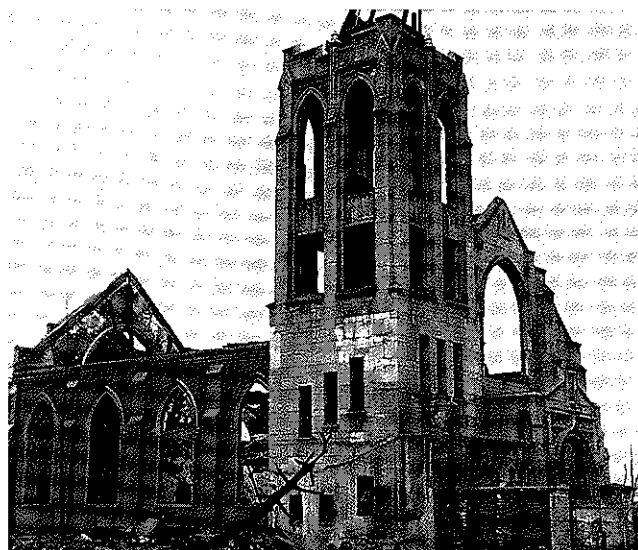
For both Fuchida and Okumiya, their memories centered on people rather than property, however horrifying

the destruction. In later days Fuchida could not allow himself to go too deeply into details. He particularly remembered the bodies piled higher than his head along the rivers and canals. Burn victims had sought cooling water, but the water was hot, and thousands died on the banks. Fuchida never forgot the pall that covered much of the city from a “black rain” that had fallen within about half an hour of the explosion—a rain made black by mud, dust, and soot that swirled upward.

Okumiya’s account was more graphic, although he knew that neither words nor film could convey the horrible actuality—the screams of the dying, the “dust and ash swirling around the burned bodies,” the stench of burning flesh, survivors placing the dead and dying in long rows of mats and planks.



**4-75, 4-76, 4-77** Christianity was (and remains) very much a minority religion in Japan. Ruins of churches in Japan seem to have been of particular interest to Americans. This particular church caught the eye of at least three different photographers—one each from the U.S. Army Air Forces, the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey (USSBS), and the U.S. Navy.







6-6 Every American town rejoiced at the news of the Japanese acceptance of the surrender terms.

6-7 The headlines of this Washington *Times-Herald* extra for August 15, 1945, said it all.

headline in Washington's *Times-Herald* for August 15 summed it all up (6-7).

Perfect strangers embraced in the fellowship of peace with victory (6-8). Unfortunately, some used the celebration as a cloak for criminal activities; here and there rape, looting, and even killing marred the euphoria. Many, however, found this an occasion for prayer, for solemn reflection, and for remembrance of what this victory had cost in American and other Allied blood (6-9).

Of course, the event had a special significance for members of the armed forces, particularly so for those in the Pacific theater. They would not have to invade Japan in what many expected to be the bloodiest battle of all; if they went to Japan, it would be as part of the Occupation. But above all, they would be going home. No wonder sailors on board the escort carrier *Bougainville* broke into a dance of victory (6-10). At the naval amphibious base on Manus in the Admiralty Islands, members of the 22nd Special Naval Construction Battalion posted triumphant signs: WAR IS OVER! GOODBYE PACIFIC, HELLO USA (6-11).



By WILLIAM K. HUTCHINSON  
The White House, Aug. 14.  
The war is ended.  
President Truman announced tonight that fighting in the Second World War ended when Japan accepted complete unconditional surrender.  
He officially declared August 15 and 16, Wednesday and Thursday, legal holidays to permit payment of time and a half to essential workers.



6-8 A sailor enfolds a young nurse in an impromptu embrace. Many people have claimed to be the couple shown here. Although very similar to the photo by Albert Eisenstaedt appearing in the August 27, 1945, issue of *Life* magazine, this one was actually taken by a Navy photographer, one Lieutenant Jorrensens. Jorrensens stood about two steps to the right of Eisenstaedt. The sailor in whites behind the embracing pair also appears in the *Life* photo.