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The Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - August 6 and 9, 1945



During the final stage of World War II, the United States detonated two Atomic weapons over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, respectively, with the consent of the United Kingdom, as required by the Quebec Agreement. The two bombings killed around a quarter of a million people, both instantly and later by way of radiation sickness.

The bombings were carried out by two B-29 bombers of the USAAF's 509th Composite Group. The aircraft, which flew from the Pacific Island of Tinian, were the 'Enola Gay' (named after the mother of the pilot, Colonel Paul H. Tibbets) and 'Bockscar' commanded by Major Charles Sweeney.

The missions were planned to force the surrender of Japan, thus obviating the need to invade the Japanese Home Islands which were expected to take up to two years and cost up to 1 million Allied (primarily U.S.) deaths and up to 10 million Japanese fatalities (including many millions of civilians).

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