

In The Wake of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

"Atomic Bombing" Interviews with Crews of "Enola Gay" and "The Great Artiste"

U.S.A. *Production:* Army Air Forces 2nd CCU, *Print:* 35mm, sd., English, b&w, 886 ft., 15 August 1945.

Standing before the Enola Gay, the crews that dropped the atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima talk about their experiences on what one calls a "great, fantastic fairy-land project." The interviews are unedited, each beginning with a clap board and ending with a "cut." The tone of their descriptions is unexceptional;

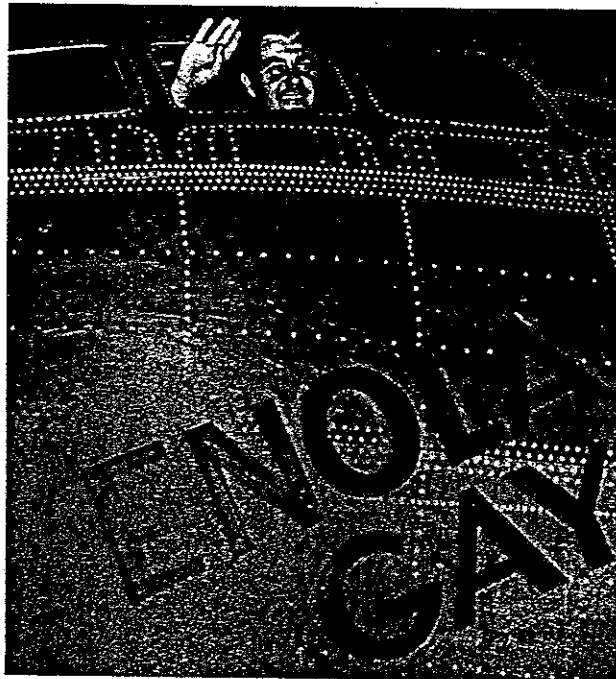


Fig. 29. Paul Tibbets and his machine.
(Credit: National Archives)

most of them express a shared relief at the explosion's flash of light — it worked. Paul Tibbets' (the pilot of the Enola Gay) matter-of-fact comments exemplify the lofty point of view of the crews: "The sight that greeted our eyes was quite beyond what we had expected because we saw the cloud of boiling dust and debris below

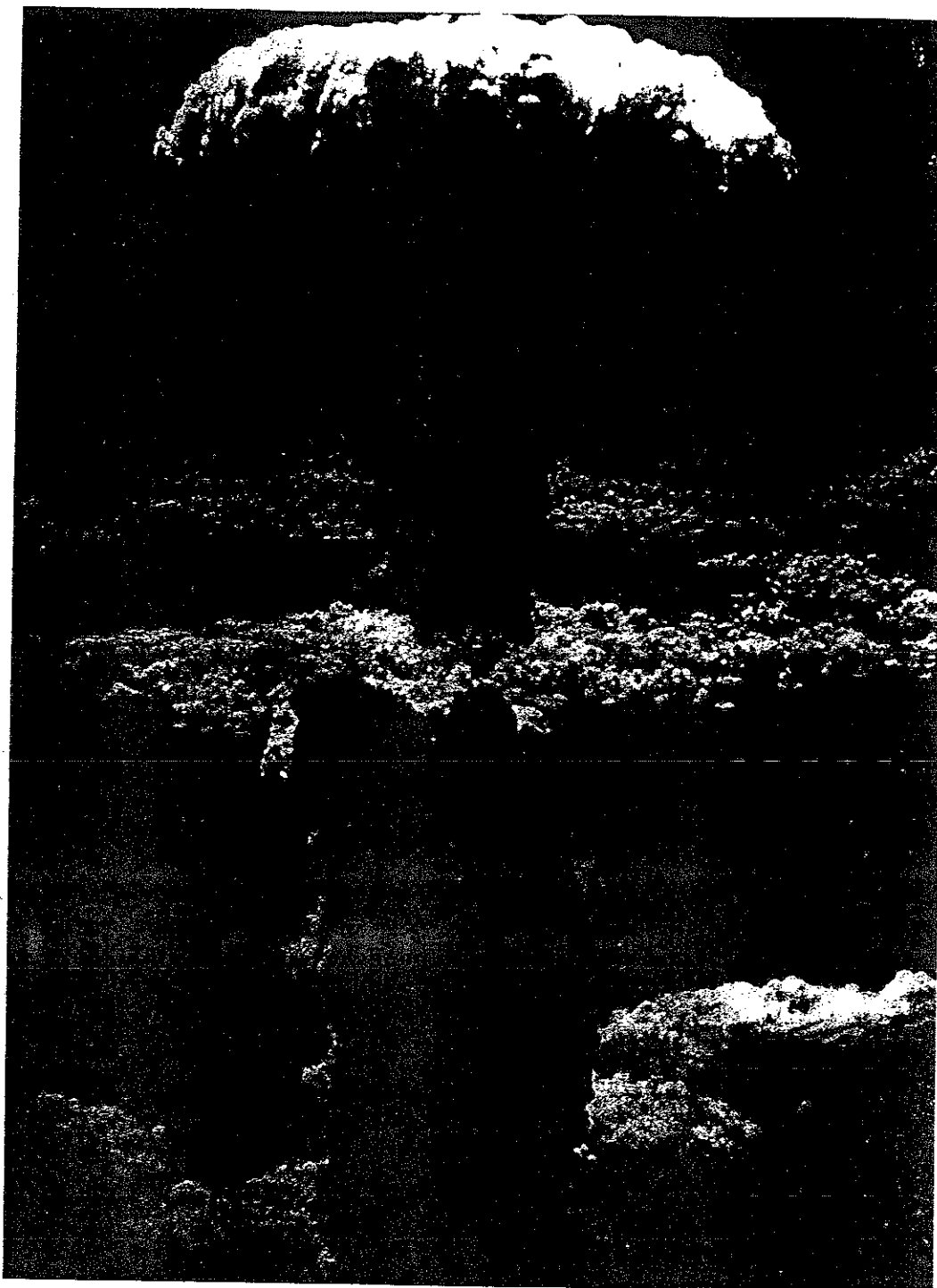


Fig. 30 The man-made cloud from America's "fairylnd project" — Nagasaki.
(Credit: National Archives)

us with this tremendous mushroom on top. Beneath that was hidden the ruins of the city of Hiroshima." In this tone, these raw interviews sweep us from atomic fairy-land to the deadly banality of war.

— *Abé Mark Nornes*

The Effects of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

U.S.A. / Japan *Production*: GHQ, Strategic Bombing Survey, Motion Picture Project, Naval Technical Mission to Japan, Nihon Eigasha, *Producer*: Iwasaki Akira, *Assistant Producer*: Kanō Ryūichi, Aihara Hideji, *Direction*: Itō Sueo, Obata Chozō, Okuyama Dairokurō, Yamanaka Masao, *Supervision*: 1st Lt. Daniel A. McGovern, Dan Dyer, *Narration*: Shimauchi Toshirō, *Photography*: Yamanaka Masao, Miki Shigeru, Suzuki Kiyoji, Mitano Kimio, Sakazai Koichirō, Fujinami Jirō, Kannō Kei'ichi, *Print*: 35mm, sd., English, 165 min., 1946.

A Japanese Tragedy

(*Nihon no higeki*, also *The Tragedy of Japan*)

Japan *Direction*: Kamei Fumio, *Producer*: Iwasaki Akira, *Editing*: Kamei Fumio, *Production*: Nippon Eigasha, *Print*: 16mm, sd., Japanese, b&w, 39 min., 1946.

Japanese Tragedy is a compilation film drawing on wartime footage from Nichiei. It was completed in May 1946, and received permission for public showing after initially being censored. There was no company to handle its release, although it was shown in several local theaters. After this, it was screened independently in one location within Tokyo. The following August, the Occupation censored the film a second time, and both the positive and negative were confiscated.

Producer of the film (and then head of production at Nichiei) Iwasaki Akira wrote in *Eiga-shi* (Film History, Tōyō Keizai Shinpō, 1961) that, "A Japanese Tragedy is a four reel documentary film that should be considered a history of the 20 stormy years of the Shōwa Era. Primarily through a montage of the period's newsreels, it



Fig. 31 & 32. Images of the end from both sides of the line: the flag raising on Iwo Jima and Japanese POWs listening to the Emperor surrender on radio.