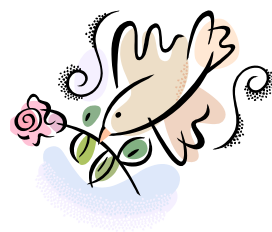


Committee for the Declaration of Musashino



as a Nuclear-free City and the Promotion of Peace

— A World Free of Wars and Nuclear
Weapons Starts with Musashino —

Panel Documents

November 24, 1944[~]

Musashino Air Raids and

Nakajima Aircraft Co.

***Why was Musashino targeted?**

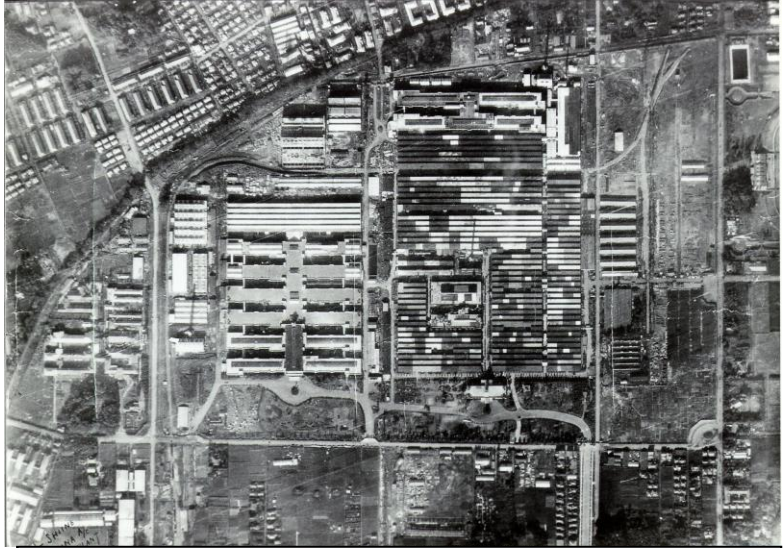
Sponsor: Committee for the Promotion of Peace under the Declaration of
Musashino as a Nuclear-free City

Cooperation and materials: Association for the Preservation and Recording of
Musashino Air Raids and War Relics

1. Why was the city bombed? —The Nakajima Aircraft Co. Musashi Plant

Did you know that Musashino Municipal Chuo “Harappa” Park, Musashino Municipal Apartments, Midoricho Park Town, and the Municipal Office were once home to a huge military factory that was bombed during World War II?

That factory was the Nakajima Aircraft Co. Musashi Plant (“Nakajima



Recon. photograph taken early November, 1944

Musashi Plant”), which produced engines for one of the largest aircraft producers in pre-war Japan. At the peak of its operations, the factory ran 24 hours per day and had a staff of over 50,000 who worked to manufacture engines for fighter aircrafts such as the Zero and Hayabusa used by the Japanese military. The factory’s production constituted nearly 30% of Japan’s national production of these engines.

The Musashi Plant’s facilities were vast, covering a total area of 560,000 square meters, or 12 Tokyo Domes, from the present-day Musashino Athletic Stadium in the east to Yahatacho, 4-chome in the west.

So, why are there no remains of such vast facilities? That would be because the plant and its facilities were destroyed in the air raids conducted by the US military toward the end of World War II (1941-1945). These attacks by B29 bombers out of the Northern Mariana Islands commenced on November 24, 1944, and the first target of these raids was the Nakajima Musashi Plant. As part of the escalation of its air raids against Japan, the U.S. Armed Forces expanded its potential targets to include not only large cities such as Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya, but also more rural cities. This escalation culminated in the dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Nakajima Musashi Plant was bombed 9 times during this period of escalation, resulting in over 500 casualties of plant personnel, including over 200 deaths. Casualties, however, were not limited to plant personnel. Many bombs meant for the plant ended up falling on the surrounding area, which resulted in the deaths and injury of many civilians.

It is thought that no fewer than 500 residents of Musashino, Nishitokyo, Mitaka, Higashikurume and Nerima were killed in these bombings. Especially tragic is the fact that many of these victims were small children, a characteristic of air raids that is just as true today as it was in the past.

2. How were the air raids on the Musashi Plant Conducted?

How were the 9 bombings of the Musashi Plant conducted?

The breakdown of damages and losses at the plant are shown in the table to the right. The 9 bombings can be split up into 4 distinct groups.

Air Raid Date	Damages (%)			Deaths (persons)	Injuries (persons)
	Buildings	Facilities	Machinery		
11/24	1	0	2.4	57	75
12/3	5	2	0.1	60	21
12/27	5	2	0.9	8	40
1/9	2	0	0.2	6	8
2/17	25	5	3.2	80	115
4/2	4	0	1.1	3	2
4/7	10	0	0.6	1	1
4/12	10	5	0.5	1	1
8/8	60	80	0	4	3
Total				220	266

From "The United States Strategic Bombing Survey Report

(1) Initial high-altitude bombings (from 11/24)

The first four bombings, which were conducted between November 24th, 1944 and January 9th of the following year, can be grouped together.

These bombings share one defining characteristic, which is that US forces dropped 250-kilogram bombs from an altitude of 10,000 meters.

Breakdown of the 9 Bombings

Though these first four bombings are grouped together, the number of casualties varies greatly, depending particularly on the weather and the level of preparation on the part of the plant.

The **November 24th** bombing began nearly simultaneously with the bomb warning. The reason for this is uncertain, but it is known that the plant's primary directive was to "continue production regardless of air raids" and that personnel were therefore unable to leave the plant facilities. Those within the plant took refuge in on-site bomb shelters and tunnels beneath the plant, but over 50 still perished.

On **December 3rd**, students and women were given priority and made to take refuge in air raid shelters outside of the plant. These shelters, however, were also hit during the bombings. The air raid shelters built under the stadium, Shitanoya (present-day Higashi-fushimi Sakaue), and Musashino Joshi Gakuin were all hit as well. 16 of the 60 who died in the shelters were students as young as middle school-age who were employed to cover labor shortages during the war. It is apparent from this data that there was virtually no safe place to take refuge in or around the plant. This was the first bombing to result in civilian casualties in Musashino-cho.

The bombings of **December 27th** and **January 9th** were conducted in a similar manner. On the 27th, the plant's on-site hospital (present-day Yahatacho, 4-chome) burned down. Luckily, the number of casualties was minimized thanks to the evacuation of various sectors by place of work (the hospital was included, and was therefore empty at the time of the bombing). The bombing of January 9th, however, included targets outside of the plant, including OSG Screw Grinding Co. in Sekimae where 2 workers were killed and Nishikubo (present-day Midoricho and the area south of Genshoji Temple) where there were a number of civilian casualties.

(2) The Bombing of February 17—the highest number of casualties, East Plant inoperable Attack from Aircraft Carriers

Though the other eight bombings were comprised of a force of mostly B29 bombers, the attack of **February 17th**, 1945 consisted of a force of smaller bombers based on naval aircraft carriers. In conjunction with the Iwo Jima front, the US forces' aircraft carrier-based attacks in the Kanto region of Japan intensified on the 16th and the 17th. The Musashi Plant naturally became one of the targets of these carrier-based attacks.

These attacks were carried out at a lower altitude than any of the previous bombings, resulting in 80 deaths, the greatest number of casualties at the plant among the 9 bombings. The East Plant was also destroyed during this bombing.

(3) April 2—a nighttime assault using flares and delay-action bombs

The manner of air raids on Japan changed drastically after the devastating bombing of Tokyo conducted on March 10th. On **April 2nd**, the Musashi Plant was targeted in a low-altitude nighttime air raid. Each B29 bomber was equipped with 4 flares to be used to aid in visibility. Despite this, the mission failed to pinpoint the intended target. Instead, most of the bombs (over 1,000 tons' worth) rained down upon the Kita Tama area. There were damages to not only the surrounding Musashino, Mitaka and Nishitokyo areas, but

also present-day Higashikurume, Higashimurayama, Nerima Ward, and southern Saitama Prefecture.

Within the Musashi Plant, both the Musashi Daiichi School of Youth (currently Musashino Daiyon Junior High School) and the school dormitory were burned down. Sekimachi in Itabashi Ward (present-day Nerima Ward) and the general Musashiseki Station area were also hit by bombs. The Sakai Water Treatment Plant and Yokogawa Electric in Musashinocho also suffered damages from the bombing.

The most devastating part of this bombing was the fact that 160 civilians were killed in the Kitatama area, particularly in Tanashicho and Hoyacho (present-day Nishitokyo).

Township	Explosives			Killed	Injured	Buildings damaged	Victims
	Bombs	incendiary	unexploded				
Musashino	113			20	3	26	520
Tanashi	155			31	2	23	
Higashi-murayama	81			3	0	11	
Mitaka	51		7	28	2	24	
Kodaira	162		5		0	18	
Kiyose	30			18	-	14	
Hoya	Over 100			46	1	25	
Kurume	322		24	6	1	5	
Musasizeki	96		7	8	1	2	
TOTAL	1,110		43	160	10	148	

* Statistics by the Metropolitan Police Department, *Tokyo Air Raid / War Damage, Volume 3*

(4) April 7, 12, August 8—1-ton bombs

April 7th was the first attack that used 1-ton bombs which were dropped from a lower altitude. It was the recent capture of Iwo Jima and subsequent deployment of approximately 90 P51 fighter aircraft there which made this possible; the P51 fighters would be used to cover the more exposed B29's. The weather forecast for the 7th called for clear skies and excellent visibility, which is why US forces decided to drop most of their 1-ton bombs on the already heavily damaged East Plant, thereby destroying it. It is believed that approximately 500 1-ton bombs were dropped, 138 of them within plant grounds.

The bombings of **April 12th** were conducted in the same manner, but the weather was

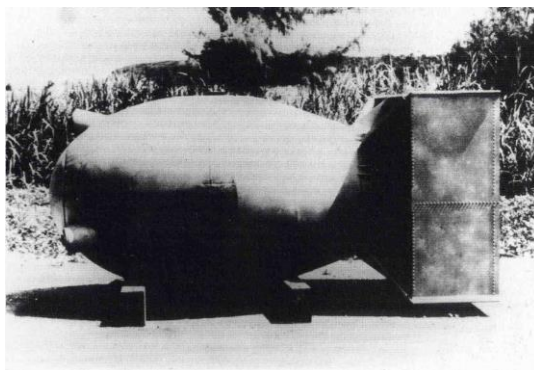
foggy on that day, requiring the B29 pilots to rely solely on radar to locate their targets. This resulted in several bombs missing their intended targets. Over 100 civilians are believed to have died near Tanashi Station North Exit and Kitahara on Tokorozawa Kaido. The anti-aircraft forces in Sekimae, Musashinocho took a direct hit, resulting in nearly 30 fatalities among the soldiers stationed there.

The bombings of **August 8th** were insurance, for all intents and purposes. The primary target on this day was the West Plant, which had survived up until this point. 1-ton bombs were used again, and the attacks were successful in destroying a portion of the West Plant. However, surrounding areas once again suffered damages, including the loss of entire families in Hoyacho (present-day Nishitokyo) and Sekimae in Musashinocho.

(5) A Non-Nuclear Test-bomb Dropped on Yagisawa!

That covers all 9 bombings that targeted the Nakajima Musashi Plant. There were, of course, other types of attacks against Japan toward the end of the war, including strafing by fighter aircraft.

There was also one extremely powerful bomb that was dropped in an agricultural field south of Yagisawa Station on **July 29th**, 1945. Three civilians; a woman and two children working in the field were killed by this bomb. The reason for this bombing was for a long time shrouded in mystery, but the truth was finally uncovered over 30 years after WWII ended. This bomb was in fact an imitation nuclear bomb used for testing and training purposes. It weighed approximately 4.5 tons (about 2 tons of which were conventional explosives) and was similar in shape to the Fat Man nuclear bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki. It was called the Pumpkin Bomb due to its yellow color. We know now that these test bombs were dropped on approximately 50 locations across Japan. The B29 that dropped the Pumpkin on Yagisawa was nicknamed “Boxcar,” and it was the same aircraft that dropped the Fat Boy on Nagasaki on August 9th.



Non-Nuclear Test-Bomb = Pumpkin Bomb

3. The Scars and Monuments of War

68 years have already passed since those violent bombings. At a glance, Musashino and the surrounding area are a peaceful region filled with lush greenery; nothing about the

place would remind one of the war that once raged here.

Look a little closer, however, and you'll see here and there all sorts of things that tell of the war. These are the remnants and relics of the war that still remain today, as well as memorials and monuments erected to promote peace and honor the lives lost during those times.

Such memories of war are fleeting things that fade with time. Why not take this opportunity to visit these historical locations? This Panel Exhibition is meant to allow guests to do exactly that. Below is a list of the many sites of ruins, relics, memorials and monuments from World War II.

(1) Midoricho / Yahatacho Area

- ① NTT Musashino R&D Center—Former Musashi Plant East (Northern Section)
- ② Musashino City Athletic Stadium and Swimming Pool—Former Nakajima Grounds and Pool
- ③ Musashino Daiyon Junior High School—Former Nakajima Aircraft Co. Musashino School of Youth
- ④ Municipal Apartments—Former Musashino Plant (East Plant)
- ⑤ Center for the Elderly—Location of Musashino Plant Main Entrance
- ⑥ Musashino Municipal Chuo Park—Former Tama Plant (West Plant)
- ⑦ Yahatacho Housing Complex (4-chome)—Former Nakajima Affiliate Hospital
- ⑧ Senkawa Elementary School—Former Nakajima Aircraft Co. Tama School of Youth Dormitory

(2) Itsukaichi Kaido Ave. and Sekimae

- ① Civic Cultural Hall—Former Location of Town Hall Building Daiichi Junior High School to the South was a field of bomb craters.
- ② Genshoji—Led the land negotiations for Nakajima Aircraft Co. Main Hall was destroyed in the bombings, and many damaged gravestones remain. A monument is erected here with the inscription “Kue Issho” (“Meet Together in the Pure Land”)
- ③ Enmeiji Temple—schrappel from a 250 kg bomb, shells from strafing attacks, Heiwa (“Peace”) Kannon Bosatsu Statue, Heiwa no kane (“Peace Bell”)
- ④ Musashino Joshi Gakuin (Shinmachi, Nishitokyo City)—“Sange Otome no Hi” (“Maiden of Fallen Flowers Monument”)
- ⑤ Green Park Promenade—Preserved service line into Nakajima
- ⑥ Ginnan Bridge, crossing Tamagawa Aqueduct next to the Sakai Water Treatment

Plant-former service line

⑦ Mitaka Station North Entrance-“World Federation Peace Statue” at the former Musashino entrance specifically constructed for Nakajima, sculpted by Seibo Kitamura to promote world peace

(3) Yagisawa and Higasifushimi Area along Ome Kaido Ave.

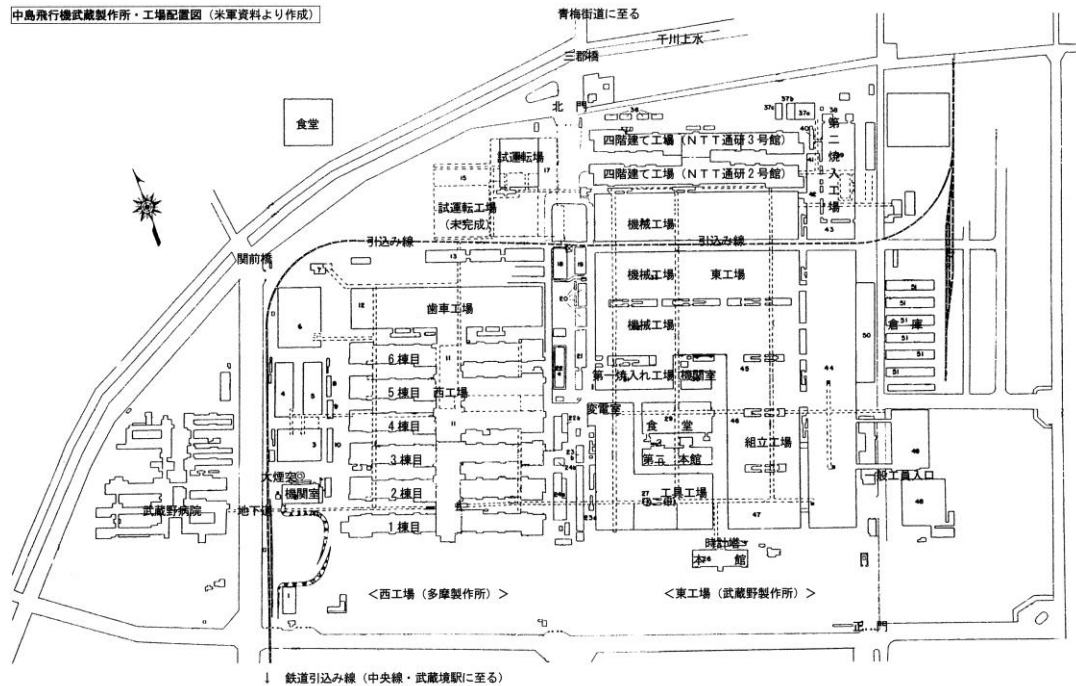
① Higashi-Fushimi Inari Shrine-Memorial to Nakajima Musashi Plant workers who lost their lives, national flag pole

② Higashi-Fushimisakaue - Remains of air-raid shelter located under Shitanoya Archeological Site

③ Shijukara Daini Park-Location where Pumpkin bomb was dropped

Plant Layout

中島飛行機武蔵製作所・工場配置図 (米軍資料より作成)



中島飛行機武蔵製作所 工場配置図 (米軍資料より作成)	Layout of Nakajima Aircrafts Co. Musashi Plant (from Military archives)	試運転場	Testing Room
武蔵野病院	Musashino Hospital	試運転工場 (未完成)	Testing Room (never completed)
食堂	Cafeteria	歯車工場	Gear Plant
関前橋	Sekimae Bridge	西工場	West Plant
大煙突	Large Chimney	四階建て工場 (NTT 通研 3号館)	4-story plant (NTT Laboratories Building 3)
機関室	Mechanical Room	四階建て工場 (NTT 通研 2号館)	4-story plant (NTT Laboratories Building 2)
地下道	Underground Passageway	機械工場	Machinery Plant
鉄道引込み線 (中央線・武蔵境駅に至る)	Railway siding (connected to Musashisakai Station on Chuo Line)	東工場	East Plant
引込み線	Railway Siding	第一焼入れ工場	Quenching Plant No. 1
6棟目	Bldg. 6	変電室	Transformer Room
5棟目	Bldg. 5	組立工場	Assembly Plant
4棟目	Bldg. 4	第二本館	Second Main Building
3棟目	Bldg. 3	工具工場	Tool Factory
2棟目	Bldg. 2	時計塔	Clock Tower
1棟目	Bldg. 1	本館	Main Building
<西工場 (多摩製作所)>	<West Plant (Tama Plant)>	<東工場 (武蔵野製作所)>	<West Plant (Musashino Plant)>
青梅街道に至る	To Ome Ave.	第二焼入れ工場	Quenching Plant No. 2
三郡橋	Migoori Bridge	倉庫	Warehouse
千川上水	Senkawa Aqueduct	一般工員入り口	General Workers' Entrance
北門	North Gate	正門	Main Gate

“Bombings Against the Nakajima Aircraft Co. Musashi Plant”

1. Expansion of Nakajima into Musashino Area

1925: Tokyo Plant established in Ogikubo (Ogikubo Plant) ...Development and productions of engines

Around 1933: Ogikubo Plant [Test Grounds] placed in Yato, Tanashi

→ Complaints of noise pollution

1938: [Musashino Plant] placed in Nishikubo, Musashino

..... Exclusively produces engines for army

1939: [Nakajima Aero-Metal Co.] established in Yato, Tanashi

1941: [Tama Plant] established in Yahatacho, Musashino

..... Exclusively produces engines for navy

[Mitaka Research Facility] established in Osawa, Mitaka

1943: Musashino Plant and Tama Plant merge → to establish [Musashi Plant]

1944: November–Air strikes out of Mariana Islands begin

→ Evacuation of various manufacturing facilities (Asakawa Underground Plant, others)

August 15th, 1945: Surrender

Timeline

- 1925** Public Security Preservation Laws
- 1931** Manchurian Incident
- 1932** May 15 Incident
- 1936** Feb. 26 Incident
- 1937** Second Sino-Japanese War
- 1938** National Mobilization Law
- 1941** Pacific War Begins
- 1942** Battle of Midway
- 1943** Withdrawal from Guadalcanal
- 1944** Employment of middle school students to cover labor shortages
- 11/1944** Air raids
- 3/1945** Bombing of Tokyo
- 4/1945~** Battle of Okinawa
- 8/1945** Atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Soviet-Japanese War. (Japan defeated)

What do the former military plants look like today?

District Year	Yahatacho 4-chome	Yahatacho 2-chome	Midoricho 2-chome
1938			Musashino Plant Opens
1940	Hospital Opens		
1941	↓	Tama Plant Opens	
1943	↓	[West Plant] –October: Combined/renamed “Musashi Plant” – [East Plant]	
1944	Evacuation	First air raid November 24. Raids continue.	
1945	Destruction	9 bombings total Japan Surrenders	
1948	Sekimae City Housing	Memorial erected in honor of personnel who lost their lives	
1950	↓	Left in state of disrepair	
1951			Electronic Coms Research Lab opened Green Park Baseball Stadium opened
1952	Sekimae City	Development US military housing	Municipal Housing built
1953	Daini Housing	US military Green Park housing opened	
1958	↓	Midoricho Housing constructed	
1964	Government properties	Monument moved to newly-constructed Fukushi-Kaikan Hall	
1976	sold to private citizens	Green Park Demolition (~77)	
1978			Green Park Promenade opened
1989		Musashino Municipal Chuo Park opened	
1999		Bulletin board installed	Former Daiichi Quenching Plant
2001	Yahatacho 4-chome Apts.	Halls 2 and 3, underground tunnels dismantled	

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