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"LITTLE BOY" DESTROYS TWO-THIRDS OF HIROSHIMA

On the morning of August 6, 1945, a B-29 plane named the *Enola Gay* took off from a US military base on Tinian Island, a small island in the Western Pacific Ocean. The *Enola Gay* carried a 10-foot-long

(3-m) atomic bomb. The bomb was called "Little Boy." Its target was Hiroshima, Japan.

At 8:15 a.m., the *Enola Gay* dropped "Little Boy" over Hiroshima. Forty-



Hiroshima after the atomic bomb was dropped

16

80,000

Estimated number of people killed instantly when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

- On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped the first atomic bomb.
- Its target was Hiroshima, Japan.
- Two-thirds of the city was destroyed.

three seconds later the bomb detonated 1,900 feet (579 m) above the city. Below, the city was bustling with life on a sunny Monday morning. Hundreds of soldiers were training on the ground. People were biking or walking to work. Children were in school.

The people closest to the hypocenter, or ground zero, died instantly. Some were vaporized by the intense heat. Temperatures at the hypocenter reached up to 122 million degrees Fahrenheit (50 million °C). The blast wave that followed knocked people off their feet. It collapsed buildings. Within minutes, 90 percent of the people

ENOLA GAY

The *Enola Gay* was one of 15 B-29 Superfortress bomber planes. These were planes that had been modified to carry an atomic bomb. Pilot Colonel Paul Tibbets named the plane after his mother. His squadron was stationed on Tinian Island.

within a half mile (0.8 km) of ground zero were dead.

Nearly every structure within a mile (1.6 km) of the hypocenter was destroyed. Even within three miles (4.8 km), buildings were severely damaged. As these structures burned, individual fires merged. They formed an immense firestorm. It engulfed 4.4 square miles (7 square km) of Hiroshima. The fire killed almost everyone within that area who had survived the bomb. After 15 minutes, a radioactive “black rain” began to fall. This stained people’s skin and clothing. It contaminated food and water.