

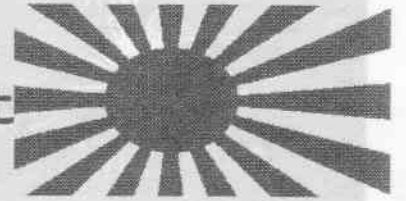
What's Happening

in Obihiro?

English Newsletter



The First and Last Atomic Bombings



This month's issue of WHIO is going to start on a very solemn note because 61 years ago, August was a very momentous month in the history of this planet.

The year was 1945, and war was raging across the world. While one large European power was in its death throes, two great armies were still clashing in the Pacific. These two powers were Japan and the United States of America. There were many casualties on all sides of the grand conflict: military and civilian. The Americans struggled island by island to push the Japanese back, while the Japanese fiercely defended their homeland and various captured territories. The Americans fought all the way to Okinawa, and now comes the controversial part of this story.

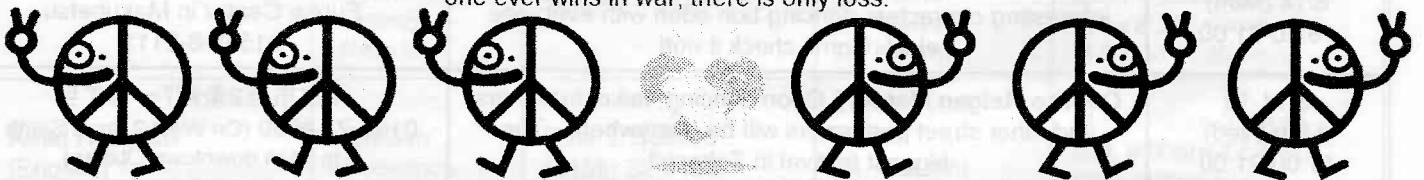


On August 6th, the first atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Three days later, the second was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. Thousands of lives were extinguished like candles in a matter of moments. This event could be said to be the most terrible to ever occur on this Earth, and the creation of these new and horrifically devastating weapons has ushered in a new age of fear for all peoples everywhere. After the bombs were dropped, a somber peace was reached, and thankfully, no similar nuclear attacks have occurred since.

The decision to drop the bomb is still under debate today. There are motives on both sides of the debate, political and otherwise, to exaggerate or marginalize the number of lives lost in the bombings. Some argue that the bombs ended the war and saved many lives. Others argue that Japan was about to surrender, and the bombs, especially the second one, were unnecessary. However, my goal with this article this month is not to debate numbers or motives.

My goal is to remind everyone of the atrocities of war, "legal" and illegal; to remember the countless numbers of lives lost in World War II in the hopes that history will never repeat itself. It seems that these days young people, our future leaders, have no idea what war is, much less how devastating it can be. This can create a very dangerous environment, especially now with millions of lives threatened by the push of a single button.

We should mourn the loss of so many lives, but also fear the terrifying power of the new weapons we have created. With Japan seemingly tumbling towards a militarized constitution, it is more important now more than ever for Japanese people and all peoples of the world to remember the catastrophic events of World War Two and that no one ever wins in war; there is only loss.



August's Atomic Events

Here is a listing of some events being put on by the Committee for Peace and the Abolishment of Nuclear Weapons, and by the City of Obihiro

Name and Date	Location	Description
Video: Scars of the Atom-Bomb Aug. 4-10 th , 9:00-17:00	Obihiro City Hall, 1 st Floor Shimin Hall	A brief overview of the damage done by the Atomic bomb
Peace Concert and Survivors' Diaries Aug. 9 th , 12:15-13:00	Same as above	Soreshagaiku Chorus and 2 diary readings
Atomic Bomb Panel and Haiku Exhibition Aug 4-10 th	Same as above	Pictures and poems related to these devastating events on display



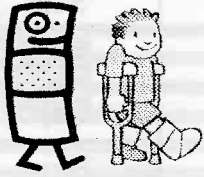
Tokachi Events

August 2006

When	What	Where/Contact #
8/4 (Fri) to 8/7 (Mon)	Tanabata Festival at the Arcade: People of all ages write their wishes on strips of paper and tie them to bamboo trees in the hopes that they'll come true.	帯広市広小路アーケード Obihiro Hiro-koji Arcade Contact: 0155-23-5675
8/4 (Fri) to 8/6 (Sun) 6:00-19:00	Hokkaido Balloon Festival: Let's heat up the sky with some hot air balloons! Free to watch, ¥1000 to go for a 5 minute ride in the sky.	上士幌町航空公園 Kamishihoro Kohkoo Park Contact: 01564-2-2111
8/5 (Sat) 15:00 - 20:30	Otofuke Festival: Games, Stage Shows, a Beer Garden, and to top it all off, fireworks! How could life get any better?	音更町新通会館特設会場 Otofuke Shindori Kaikan 0155-42-2246
Start: 8/5 (Sat) 17:00 Finish: 8/6 (Sun) 5:00	All-Japan Mama-Chari Endurance Race : Teams from far and wide compete in this 12 hour race riding mama style bikes around a racecar track! Some compete seriously, others... well, you'll see.	十勝インターナショナルスピードウェイ Tokachi International Speedway 0155-52-3910
8/13 (Sun) 19:30 - 20:45	Kachimai Firework Festival: The biggest fireworks display in Hokkaido! A Laser Light Show, Music, and approximately 20,000 fireworks to be fired! The display will be over the Tokachi river downstream from the Ohashi (the big bridge in Obihiro)	十勝毎日新聞社 Tokachi Mainichi Newspaper 0155-22-7555
8/14 (Mon) 18:00-21:00	Furusato Bon Odori Festival: There will also be some interesting characters dancing bon odori with everyone else! Come check it out!	ふれあいセンター福寿駐車場 Fureai Center in Makubetsu 01558-8-2111
8/14-16 (Mon-Wed) 11:00-21:00	Obihiro Heigen Matsuri: Obon dancing, taiko drummers and other street performers will be everywhere. The biggest festival in Tokachi!	帯広市西2条南7~11丁目 0155-22-8600 (On West 2, from South 7 to 11 in downtown Obihiro)
8/26 (Sat) 19:30-20:30	Dohshin Tokachigawa 3-Part Fireworks Display: Come celebrate the summer with some fire in the sky! Approximately 10,000 fireworks will be launched over the Tokachi River near the Ohashi Bridge.	北海道新聞帯広支社 Hokkaido Newspaper-Obihiro 0155-24-2154
8/27 (Sun) 10:00-15:00	Sarabetsu Furusato Matsuri: There will be drumming, singing, and other performances, an acorn race, and a raffle with "gorgeous" prizes!.	更別ふるさと館 Sarabetsu Furusato Kan 0155-52-2111
8/31 (Thu) 16:00-21:00	RALLY JAPAN: Ceremonial Start: Come see all the race cars and get autographs of drivers from around the world! The cars "start" the race ceremonially at 18:30. Everyone's going to be there. Come have some fun!	藤丸百貨店の前 In front of the Fujimaru Building (1 block east of City Hall: West 2, South 8) 0155-21-3799

Obihiro

Survival Guide



Medical Care



Now that you have your National Health Insurance taken care of with help from last month's Survival Guide, I'm going to give you some information about actually going to the doctor.

The first thing you should know about Japanese hospitals and clinics is that they have very limited hours and usually don't take appointments. Make sure to check a hospital's hours before you trek all the way over there to find out they're closed.

Also, Japanese medicine can be weaker than other countries' (like the U.S.), so if you get a cold or seasonal allergies, you might want to use medicine that you brought from your own country.

Many doctors and nurses only speak Japanese, so your trip to the doctor may get a bit stressful if you don't prepare some key vocab words. Here's a good site with a big list of words you might need to use:

<http://www.pmcguam.com/resource/japandic.htm>

I'll give you one more website that may be helpful in the future: www.healthhokkaido.com

It's still under construction, but it has some health stories and some forms you can fill out before going to the doctor that will make your experience go much smoother. (it translates from Eng. to Jpn.)

I wish you the best of luck, and if you ever need a confusing form translated, etc., come talk to me, Greg, on the second floor of the Obihiro City Hall, and I will definitely help you out!

Late night emergency care and English speakers

Here is a short list of Obihiro hospitals, clinics, and dentists that offer their services in foreign languages, and one late night emergency center. For a more complete listing, please visit

<http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp/hp/data/page000002800/hpg000002786.htm#links>

Name-Languages	Specialty	Location - Phone#	Doctor(s)	Hours
Night-time Emergency Medical Center	Late Night Emergency	East 7, South 9 0120-20-8699 Toll Free	Changes (but 1 is always on duty)	365days/year 21:00-8:00
Obihiro Daiichi Hospital (English)	-Internal Medicine -Surgery -Neurology -Urology -Neurology	West 3, South 8 (0155)25-3121	Dr. Ota/Dr. Iwata Dr. Tominaga Dr. Kanno Dr. Moriya Dr. Kamaya	M-F 8:30-11:00 M-Sa 8:30-11:30am M-Sa 8:30-11:00am M-Sa 8:30-11:30am M-F 8:30-11:30am
Keiai Hospital (English)	-Ob/Gyn -Pediatrics	East 3, South 9 (0155) 22-4188	Dr. Noriyuki Sanai Dr. Takeshi Maruyama	M-F 9:00am-5:00pm Sat. 9:00am-12:30pm Closed Sundays
Adachi Clinic (English, Chinese, German)	-Internal Medicine -Pediatrics	East 7, South 5 (0155)23-5526	Dr. Kei Adachi	MTuThFSat 9:00-Noon MTueF 14:00-20:00 Closed Wed and Sun
Tsugayasu Dental Clinic (English)	-Dentistry -Children's Dentistry	West 10, South 9 (0155)21-2002	Dr. Hideki Tsugayasu	M-F 9:00am-5:00pm Sat. 9:00am-12:30pm Closed Sundays
Yamazaki Dental Clinic (English)	-Dentistry -Children's Dentistry	West 9, South 34 (0155)48-9222	Dr. Megumi Yamazaki	MonTueThuFri 9:00-13:00 & 14:30-18:00 Wed & Sat 9:00-Noon

Times are subject to change. To confirm, call or check online at

<http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/index.html>

This August At Cinema Taiyo Obihiro

(Nishi 3, Minami 7) Tel: (0155) 20-1525

Title	Language	Starts	Ends
Mission Impossible III	Jpn. Subtitles	Aug 1	Sept
United 93	Jpn. Subtitles	Aug 12	Sept
Naruto 3	Japanese (J)	Aug 5	Sept
Udon	J	Aug 26	Sept
Superman Returns	Jpn. Subtitles	Aug 19	Sept
Cars	Jpn. Voiceover	Jul 1	Sept
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest	Jpn. Subtitles	Jul 22	Sept
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest	Jpn. Voiceover	Jul 22	Aug 18
Brave Story	J -Animation	Jul 18	Aug 18
Nihon Chinbotsu	J	Jul 15	Sept
Pokemon	J-Animation	Jul 15	Aug 25
Tales from Earthsea (Ghibli Studios)	J	July 29	Sept

Special Showing →



Nagasaki 1945: Anzeras no Kanei
(Japanese)

August 5th (Sat): 10:30, 14:00, 19:00



Tokachi Plaza, Rainbow Hall
(Nishi 4, Minami 13)
Adult Ticket: ¥1000

Editor's Board



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What's Happening in Obihiro?

can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro University International Center, Obihiro Tourism and Convention Center inside the Obihiro JR Station, Obihiro Public Library, and the Joy English Academy

online at www.city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp

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