

## Research Activities



Since 2006, our research department has been involved in gathering, organizing, and analyzing accounts of air raids and other wartime events. We are involved in many such academic activities as part of our mission to investigate and consider all aspects of the air raid experience. We sponsor regular conferences and symposiums in addition to publishing reports of these proceedings as the "War Damages Research Department Newsletter" and other documents.

## Publications

In addition to reports of center-sponsored events, we also publish collections of survivor accounts. One popular booklet has been the "Walker's Guide to the Great

Tokyo Air Raid: Starting from The Center of the Tokyo Raid and War Damages." More and more people can be seen with this guidebook in hand as they make their own pilgrimages through the air raid sites.

## Events and Gatherings

Many events are scheduled around March 10 each year, including guest seminars and the "Remembering the Great Tokyo Air Raid" meeting for young people. We are happy to have the participation of many individuals



who hope for a peaceful world. In addition, there are survivor speakers for summer vacation programs, a meeting to commemorate the "Children's World Peace Statue" on May 5, and other themed events that all help us to interact not only with the residents of



the Koto area, but with citizens from all over Tokyo.

## Supporting Members and Donations

The center is maintained and operated through the generous donations of our supporters. Supporting members (Personal membership: ¥2000 / year; Group / Corporate membership: ¥10,000 / year) receive the center's newsletter twice a year. Subscriptions can be paid to 「東京大空襲・戦災資料センター」 through postal account number: 00170-6-123225.



## Access:

- **From JR Akihabara Station:** after passing through the central gate, go to the No.2 bus terminal on the left. Take the bus bound for "Kasai Eki" (秋26) for 35 minutes. Get off at Kitasuna Icchome. Two minute walk.
- **From JR Kinshicho Station:** from the No. 3 bus terminal outside the south gate, take the bus bound for "Toyochō / Tokyo Eki Marunouchi Kitaguchi" (東22) and get off at Ohgibashi Nichome. Ten minute walk.
- **From Tokyo Metro, Tozai Line, Toyochō Station:** from the No. 5 bus terminal on the Yotsume Dori side, take the bus bound for "Kinshicho" (東22) and get off at Ohgibashi Nichome. Ten minute walk.
- **From JR Tobu Line, Kameido Station:** from the No.2 bus terminal, take the bus bound for "Nagisa Nyu Taun / Nishi Kasai Ekimae" (亀29) and get off at Ohshima Icchome. Thirteen minute walk. Get off at Kitasuna Icchome. Seven minute walk.
- **From Kiyosumi-Shirakawa Station on either the Tokyo Metro, Hanzomon Line or the Toei Subway, Oedo Line:** from the No. 3 bus terminal, take the bus bound for "Kasai Eki" (秋26) to Kitasuna Icchome. Two minute walk.
- **From Tokyo Metro, Tozai Line, Kasai Station:** from the No. 3 bus terminal, take the bus bound for "Akihabara Eki" (秋26) for twenty minutes. Get off at Kitasuna Icchome. Two minute walk.
- Walk eighteen minutes from either **Toei Subway, Shinjuku Line, Sumiyoshi Station** (Exit A4) or **Nishi Ohshima Station** (Exit A1).
- Walk fifteen minutes from **Tokyo Metro, Hanzomon Line, Sumiyoshi Station** (Exit B1).

Located next to Iwaibashi Clinic on the Iwaibashi Higashizume Intersection of Kiyosubashi Street.



## The Center of the Tokyo Raid and War Damages

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Striving for Peace in the Future by Communicating the Horrors of War

## 東京大空襲・戦災資料センター

The Center of the Tokyo Raid and War Damages

Director: Katsumoto Saotome

Incorporated Foundation: Institute of Politics and Economy



The Center of the Tokyo Raid and War Damages

September 1945 photograph taken by the United States military showing extent of damage to the area around the present day Center of the Tokyo Raid and War Damages

# Striving to Teach the Value of Life and Peace to the Next Generation

In the early hours before dawn on 10 March, 1945, some three hundred American B-29 bombers took part in a carpet bombing raid on the Shitamachi (downtown) district of Tokyo. This highly populated area was quickly rendered a fiery hell that made refugees of one million persons and claimed the lives of an estimated one hundred thousand others. The raid was one of over a hundred such raids that eventually laid waste to fifty percent of the city's total area.

The Association to Record the Tokyo Air Raid has actively collected artifacts and documents detailing the extent of these air raids and war damages since 1970. In 1999, public plans for a Memorial Hall of Peace were frozen, and, in league with the Institute of Politics and Economy, the association saw no other choice but to seek private donations in an effort to build a proper edifice. With the cooperation of over four thousand donors, the present building was finally completed on 9 March, 2002. The land for the building, which is located in one of the areas most damaged by the raids, was donated by a single generous supporter.

In March 2007, further contributions from our kind patrons allowed additional space to be added to the building. As a result, we have been able to both expand our exhibits and create lecture space for groups of students touring Tokyo. This has enabled us to realize our objective of making the center a place of learning for young people.

We look forward to producing special exhibits in the future as well as to the center long serving as a focal point for further research and investigations into the topic of war damages. We sincerely desire that it serve as a place where young and old alike can learn the importance of life and foster a willing spirit to share that knowledge with others. With a firm determination to never allow the repetition of such tragic events and a refusal to allow the suffering of civilians to have been in vain, it is the center's earnest desire to pass knowledge on to future generations and stimulate the interaction of peace-loving individuals.

**Katsumoto Saotome**

Director, The Center of the Tokyo Raid and War Damages



"In Time of War" — Statue of mother and child by Shin Kohn.

"Children's World Peace Statue (Tokyo)" — Plans for this statue and diligent fundraising were conducted by Tokyo junior and senior high school students while studying about the effects of the conventional and atomic air raids.



Actual size model of incendiary bomb clusters. Each weapon was designed to release thirty-eight smaller bombs before reaching the ground.



Child's fire-scarred kimono.



Left: Tile and dish melted together by intense heat  
Right: Shoulder bag, hat, and milk bottle of a child who was carried on its mother's back.



A collection of incendiary bombs, victims' belongings, survivors' documents and photographs, and other war-related materials is housed in this room on the third floor.



Wartime education and the student relocation program are the themes of the "Children and War" room.



This room re-creates daily life during air raid blackouts.



The "Thinking about War and Peace" corner highlights the writings, activities, and vision for the twenty-first century of the center's director, Katsumoto Saotome.



American strategic documents detailing the plans and results of the Tokyo air raid.

## Visiting

**Open:** 12:00-16:00, Wednesdays through Sundays. (Please be aware that we are always open on the ninth and tenth of March regardless of the day of week)

**Closed:** Mondays, Tuesdays, and for the holidays from December 28 to January 4.

**Admission:** Adults: 300 yen; Jr. / Sr. high school students: 200 yen. Children under twelve years of age are free.

**Note:** Advance notice is required for groups of ten or more. Flexible hours and days (including regular holidays) can be arranged for group visits. Elevator and toilet facilities are available for visitors in wheelchairs. No parking is available on the center's premises.

This room on the second floor is used for viewing video material and holding seminars with survivor speakers for reserved groups. The walls are covered with photographs, maps, and original works of art that all illustrate the horrors of the air raid.

