



Straight Talk

By Muriel Sluyter

Let's Talk Numbers From 50 Years Ago

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

Each August 6th, we are subjected to replays of the Nagasaki and Hiroshima atom bomb attacks. Each year, the survivors carry on as though we unjustly victimized them. Japanese soldiers committed atrocities beyond description for over half a century, yet when we stopped them, we were the bad guys.

As I contemplated the annual guilt trip put on Americans, I realized few who lived in Japan were subjected to the horrors their soldiers forced upon others. To them, the bomb attacks stood alone, without just cause. Their school children are still being taught that they were victims of American aggression.

Listening to the annual verbal bashing, I decided to get the numbers of victims of Japan's imperialistic obsession, so I called our son, a researcher extraordinaire, and, while we were on the phone, he sent me 72 pages of statistics!

Let's start in Japan: 237,062 Japanese died from the atomic attacks. If no more were known, as may be the case with Japanese civilians, that number would be devastating. But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Japan had been given the Potsdam Declaration, which pretty much said, "Give up or else!" There was disagreement within their government, but the cold blooded murderers prevailed. They would fight to the last man, woman and child. They planned to arm their women and children with sharp sticks to repel the American invasion forces, knowing they would be killed. They had 11 million civilian men who could be inducted for defense, but the real deal was the 14 (eighteen by the time the bombs were dropped) army divisions amassed at Kyushu, our anticipated invasion point.

Perspective: In anticipation of the American casualty rate during the projected invasion, our government ordered 400,000 Purple Hearts, which, because we didn't invade, were still being used in the 1995 Bosnian action.

The rough estimate of expected American casualties at Kyushu was 210,000 to 280,000. The intelligence chief rounded it down to 200,000, though the overall expectation to take all the Japanese islands was from 500,000 to 1,000,000, so the 400,000 Purple Hearts ordered were not excessive.

Let's compare the 237,062 Japanese killed in the atom bomb attacks to those butchered by the Japanese army in WWII

alone. Here are breakdowns from only three countries:

China: 377,400 corpses were disposed of in Nanking, alone.

Germ warfare in Yunnan, Ningbo, and Changde killed 200,000.

Of Manchukuo, The Discovery Channel says "(A)s many as 200,000 people...had died. Deaths from bombing reached 71,105.

Burma: 16,000 POWs and 50,000 Burmese civilians died. Grenville said the civilians killed were more like 100,000.

Indonesia: 70,000 died during occupation, while 60,000 (13 percent of the population) East Timorese were killed outright. 25,000 imprisoned Dutch died.

In Singapore at least 50,000 were killed. Japan Newswire says it was 50,000 to 100,000.

Rummel says 5,964,000 humans were killed by the Japanese, broken down this way: POWs: 539,000. Forced labor: 1,010,000. Massacres: 3,608,000. Bombing, etc.: 558,000. Imposed Famine: 250,000.

The final rounded estimate in all countries who were attacked is 11,000,000 civilians and 4,500,000 soldiers killed, all because of Japan's imperialistic dreams. And that was during WWII, alone. They had been at it for decades!

Comparison? We killed 237,062 in Japan in August, 1945. Japan killed 15,500,000 in the rest of the world in WWII, alone.

Was our attack unjustified? All such attacks are horrifying, especially when they include civilians, but unjustified? Somebody had to stop their half-century-long global slaughter, and we were the only ones who could do it.

A curious side note: Had they not attacked us, had we not defeated them, they would have conquered all Asia. Then what? Would they have stopped there?

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