

# Countdown to destruction

Forty seven years ago this week the first A-bombs were dropped on Japan. Each year on August 6, as thousands of people gather in the Peace Park in Hiroshima, a peal of bells traditionally sounds at 8:15 am to mark the moment when the city was destroyed by the world's first atomic bomb

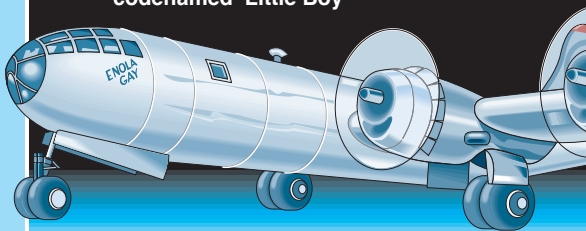
- ① July 16, 1945**  
U.S. scientists  
explode the first  
atomic device at  
Alamogordo in the New  
Mexico desert



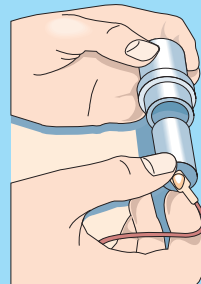
*Pacific Ocean*

Mariana Islands  
Guam  
Tinian

- ③ August 6, 02:45 hours**  
B-29 bomber, Enola Gay, takes off  
from Tinian carrying the 9,000lb bomb,  
codenamed 'Little Boy'

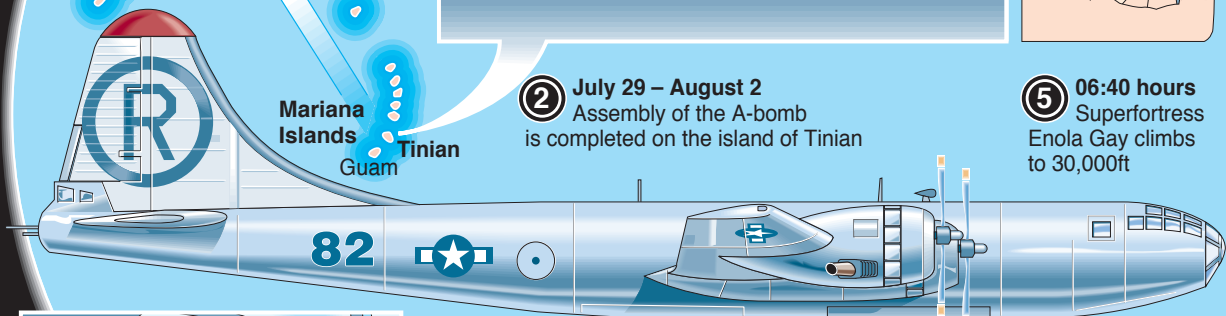


- ④ 03:00 hours**  
A U.S. navy  
weapons expert  
arms the bomb

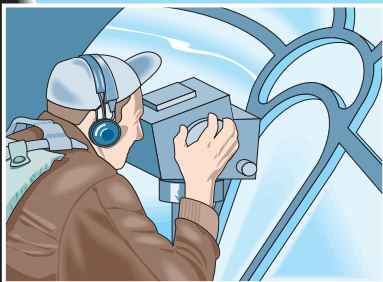


- ② July 29 – August 2**  
Assembly of the A-bomb  
is completed on the island of Tinian

- ⑤ 06:40 hours**  
Superfortress  
Enola Gay climbs  
to 30,000ft



- ⑥ 08:14 hours**  
The bombardier  
links his bombsight  
to the autopilot of the  
B-29. He sights the 'aiming  
point' – a bridge in the city centre  
**08:15 hours**  
The bomb is released



The bomb falls for  
almost six miles. At  
1,890ft the fuse fires and  
the bomb detonates;  
140,000 people  
will die in  
Hiroshima

