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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
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INTELLIGENCE



## SASEBO - OIL STORAGE AND NAVAL CENTER

After Yokosuka and Kure comes Sasebo - third ranking naval base in Japan and site of the largest underground oil storage system in the home islands.

Sasebo also is Japan's principal fleet repair base, with an estimated 30 per cent of the Empire's naval ship repair facilities centered there. Situated on the northwest coast of Kyushu, Sasebo now is the major operating base for escort vessels striving to protect convoys crossing Tsushima Straits, one of Japan's most important life lines to the Asiatic mainland. And of Japan's major naval bases, Sasebo is nearest to U.S.-occupied area, approximately 500 miles from Okinawa.

An enlarged aerial photograph of Sasebo harbor, taken 30 April 1945, is presented as an enclosure in this issue of "Weekly Intelligence." It is the eighth of a series of enclosures on important enemy naval and shipping localities.

Sasebo is headquarters for Japan's Third Naval District, responsible for defense of western Kyushu. It is the site of the Navy's Torpedo School, credited with a noteworthy development of Japan's torpedoes and torpedo techniques. Moreover, it is reported that Sasebo is the center of the air raid warning network for all Kyushu.

Shipyards of Sasebo have produced the light cruisers AGANO, KAHAGI and SAKAWA, the TERUTSUKI class large destroyers -- HARUTSUKI and NATSUTSUKI -- submarines of the I and RO Classes, and many smaller surface craft.

Paradoxically, Sasebo symbolizes the deterioration of the Imperial Fleet. Those huge drydocks, giant cranes, sprawling shops and supply piers that were built to serve BBs, CVs and larger fleet units now minister almost exclusively to DDs, escorts and auxiliaries. Among these minor craft finding haven at Sasebo are remnants of the YAMATO task force that sortied to an inglorious end in April. Recent photographs show the CVs HAYATAKA and KASAGI and an unidentified CVL moored in a distant, undeveloped part of the harbor. But there is no evidence that their presence is for any purpose other than camouflaged dispersal. The KASAGI went to Sasebo in mid-April shortly after coming off the ways at Nagasaki. And there is no indication that she has ventured out of the harbor since.

Other ships appearing in the 30 April photograph include five DDs, nine SSs and nine merchant vessels. Most of them are in the inner harbor, which is three miles long and varies in depth from three to seven fathoms over a mud bottom that provides good anchorage. Surrounding hills shield this and most other portions of Sasebo Ko whose only approach from seaward is through a narrow entrance to the west, between Kogo-saki and Mizushiri-hana. Coast defense guns and, reportedly, mines and booms guard the entrance. At least seven large artillery installations have been located around Sasebo. Some have dual purpose guns but most of the weapons near the harbor entrance have been identified as large CD type. A plan of the base was carried as an enclosure with "Weekly Intelligence", Vol. 1, No. 21,

In addition to its large oil storage capacity, Sasebo is the repository of ammunition and other stores of war -- mines and torpedoes in particular. The base has six drydocks, one more than 1000 feet long. Repair and servicing equipment is complete for all types of naval vessels. The entire area has been widely used by the Japanese for naval training operations. This, no doubt, explains why the naval

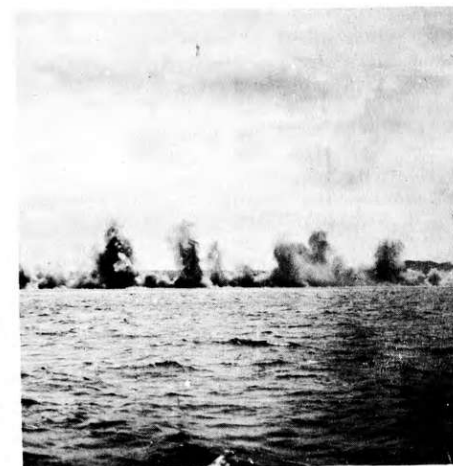
port of Sasebo, which includes Omura Wan to the southeast, has been closed to foreign ships and visitors for years.

The city of Sasebo, separated from the naval base by Sasebo Gawa, exists almost solely to service the base and to house its working personnel. Its 1940 population was about 206,000. Coal fields on Hizen Hanto (peninsula) contribute to an economic self-sufficiency of the seaport. Rail lines and major highways link Sasebo with other key points on Kyushu and, by way of Shimonoseki, with Honshu.

Sasebo's Naval Arsenal and Engineering Department is a secondary producer of such naval ordnance as large caliber guns, shells and instruments. Its main purpose is the manufacture and repair of ship engines and, according to recent reports, aircraft engines. The adjacent Sasebo Aircraft Factory is known to have produced the PETE, Type O reconnaissance float plane. This plant does not rank among primary enemy aircraft producers, however.

The Naval Air Station has an emergency landing field, but is primarily for sea-planes. It is a major ASW center.

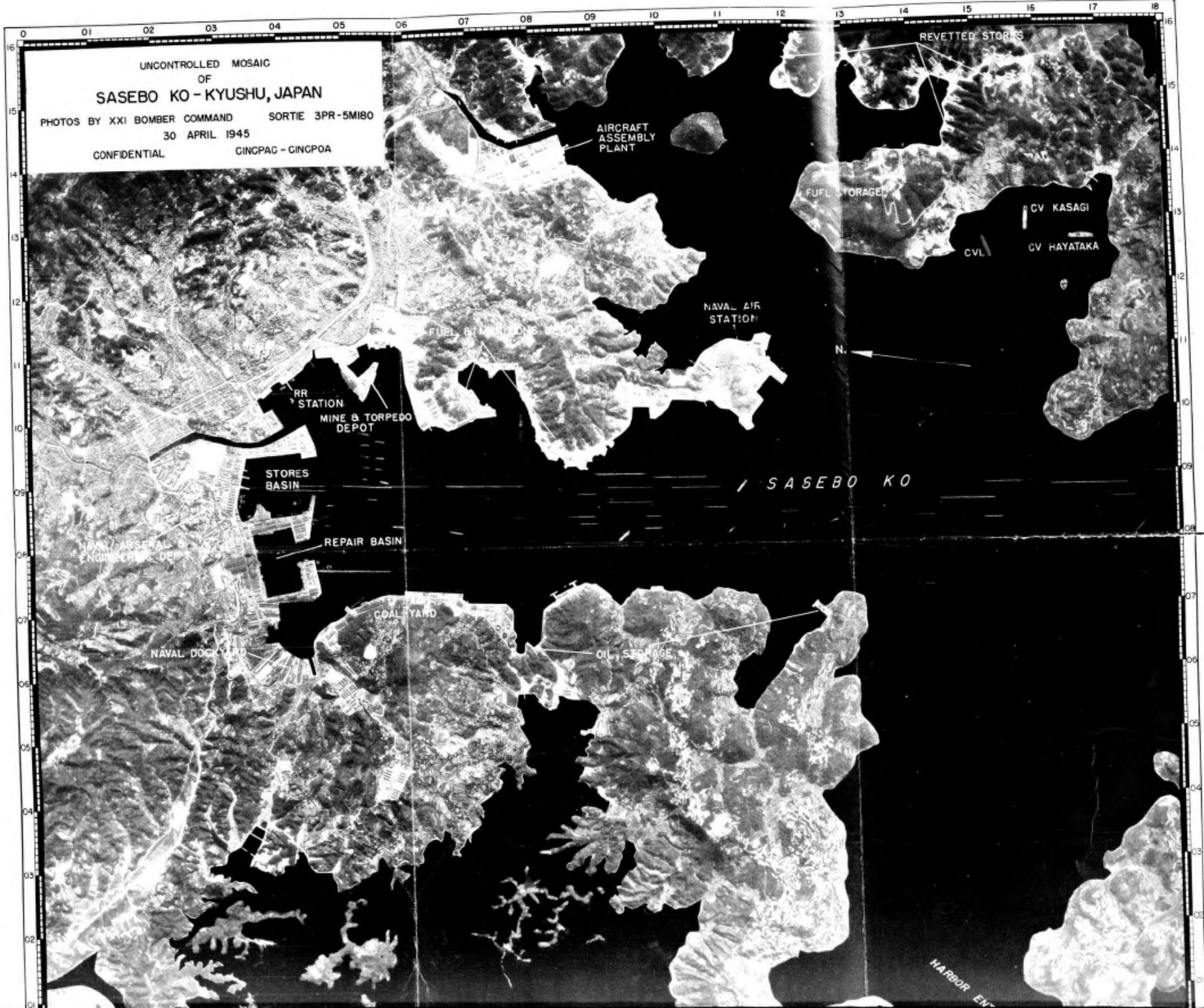
## BEACH OBSTACLES BLASTED BY UDTs



These pictures made off southern Hagushi beaches of Okinawa Jima on L-2 Day by Underwater Demolition Team No. 4 tell a typical story of invaluable pre-invasion work by UDT personnel. In the upper photograph are some of the 1050 anti-invasion posts that had to be removed before U.S. landing craft could put troops ashore on Purple Beaches. Within 2 hours and 15 minutes, 64 officers and men, operating from LCPs and rubber boats, fixed a block of tetrytol to each post obstacle, connected their charges and fired them together, as shown in the lower photograph.

UNCONTROLLED MOSAIC  
OF  
SASEBO KO - KYUSHU, JAPAN

PHOTOS BY XXI BOMBER COMMAND SORTIE 3PR-5M180  
30 APRIL 1945  
CONFIDENTIAL CINCPCAC - GINGPOA



AIRCRAFT  
ASSEMBLY  
PLANT

REVETTED STORES

FUEL STORAGE

CV KASAGI

CVL

CV HAYATAKA

NAVAL AIR  
STATION

FUEL STORAGE

RR  
STATION

MINE & TORPEDO  
DEPOT

STORES  
BASIN

REPAIR BASIN

NAVAL ARSENAL &  
ENGINEERING DEP.

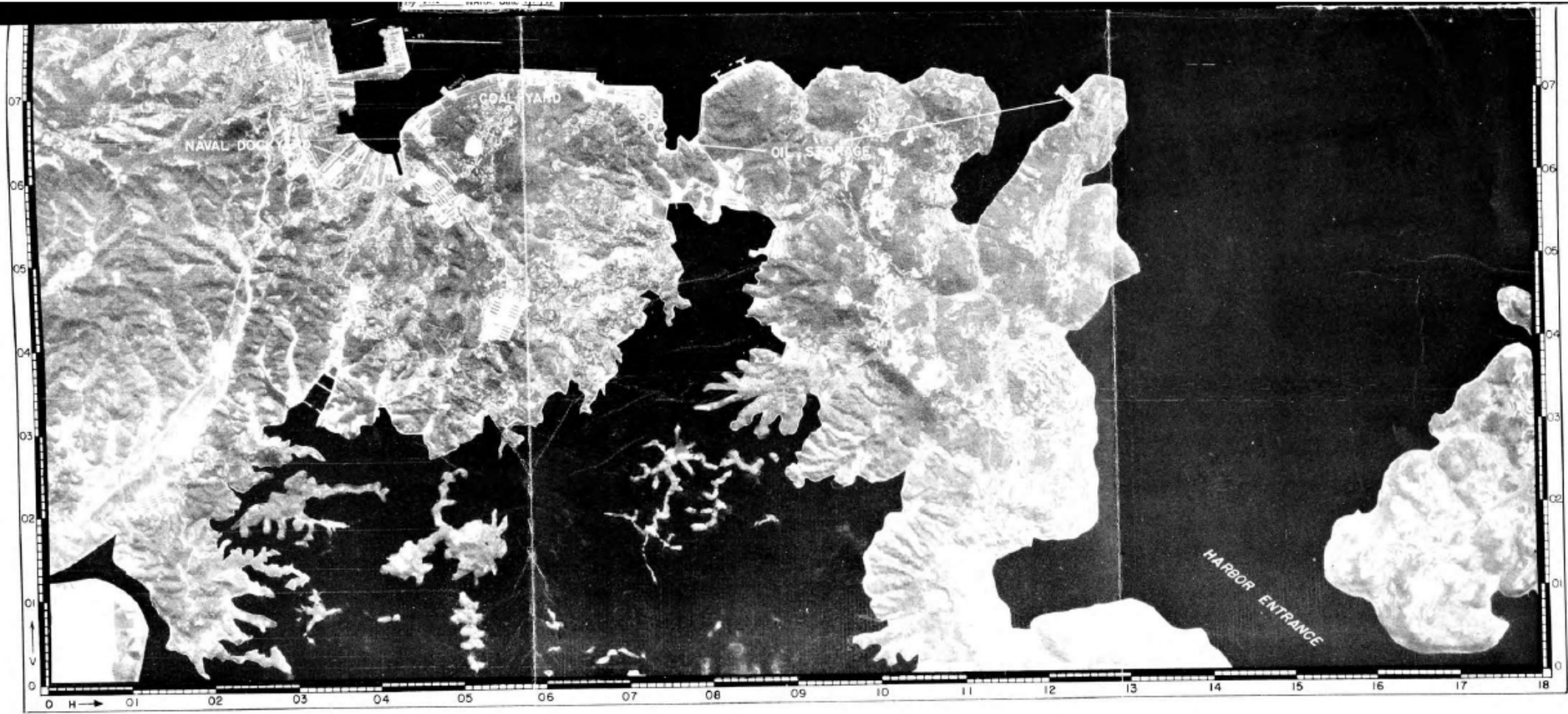
NAVAL DOCKYARD

COAL YARD

OIL STORAGE

SASEBO KO

HARBOR ENTRANCE



Scale: 1:50,000