

file Sasebo U/A

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NOT TO BE TAKEN  
INTO THE AIR ON  
COMBAT MISSIONS

TARGET: Sasebo Urban Industrial Area  
OBJECTIVE AREA: 90.36

T A R G E T I N F O R M A T I O N S H E E T

SASEBO URBAN INDUSTRIAL AREA

Latitude: 33° 10' N  
Longitude: 129° 44' E  
Elevation: 20 Feet

1. SUMMARY COMMENT: One of Japan's four principal naval bases, Sasebo is important for the construction, repair and maintenance of naval vessels. In addition, it serves as defense base for the area, base port and defense headquarters for convoy escort throughout the East China Sea and down the Ryukyu Island chain to points south. It is also a supply base for the mainland/the naval administrative center for Kyushu.
2. LOCATION AND IDENTIFICATION: Sasebo, the westernmost large city in Japan, lies at the head of Sasebo Bay. It is located just southeast of Tsushima Strait, which is off the NW tip of Kyushu, and guards the important narrows between Kyushu and Tsushima. It therefore commands the upper end of the East China Sea and the lower end of the Japan Sea. Sasebo Bay, which serves as a fleet anchorage, is very irregular in shape. There are two main inlets from the Bay. One extends due north and comprises the inner harbor with the city of Sasebo and the adjoining naval base at its northernmost tip. The other inlet extends NE. A channel on the SE side of Sasebo Bay is the only entrance to landlocked Omura Bay. The city is cut by three rivers: the Sasebo River which flows south and two smaller streams which parallel it on the east. Moderately steep hills hem in the naval base and the NE border of the city, but a small plain opens out to the north along the upper reaches of Sasebo River.
3. TARGET DESCRIPTION: Sasebo lies in a NW-SE direction along the shore of the bay and the lower valley of the Sasebo River. The residential section has expanded north, northeast and southwest, into the valleys of the streams which run through the city. The population of 206,000 is concentrated mainly in an area about 3 1/4 sq. miles (see Air Objective Folder 90.36-Sasebo). Average population density in this city is about 62,000 per sq. mile, with the heaviest population congestion in Zone I.

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Although many of the buildings are of brick, concrete or of ferro-concrete construction, wood is the predominant structural material. Most of the residential section is built up in the regular Japanese hodge-podge fashion, with houses built close together and with no regular pattern of streets.

There are three adequate firebreaks in the city area and they divide it roughly into four sections. The Sasebo River is the widest and most effective, and the two streams running through the city to the east are also considered wide enough to halt the spread of fires. In the northern sections, the streams are not wide enough for firebreaks, but the ridges between them break the residential section into narrow corridors. There are no wide avenues in the city, and the streets in the commercial section are only of medium width.

The industries all lie along the waterfront area, and include an aircraft factory, a gas plant, a power station, the Sasebo Naval Dockyard, shipbuilding and ship repair plants, and minor industrial establishments.

4. IMPORTANCE: Sasebo is one of the four principal naval bases in Japan. It has all the facilities for servicing and repair of all types of naval units, and a harbor which can accommodate the fleet. The port also attracts many Japanese commercial ships.

Two miles SE of the city is an aircraft assembly plant, the Sasebo Aircraft Factory, Target 834. Sasebo is important, also, for its central situation with respect to the coal field on the peninsula north of the city.

TARGETS WITHIN THE FIRE ZONE:

- \* SASEBO RR STATION, YARDS, AND SHOPS - Moderately extensive yards and warehouses serving the Sasebo waterfront. Round house and secondary repair facilities.
- \* PROBABLE GAS WORKS - See Objective Folder 90.36 - Map M-13.

TARGETS OUTSIDE THE FIRE ZONE:

- 90.36-834 - SASEBO AIRCRAFT FACTORY - This plant has assembled some small naval observation planes and probably repairs and overhauls fleet aircraft. Several major buildings have been removed from the area, and it is believed the plant is being moved to Omura.

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- 90.36-754 - SASEBO NAVAL AIR STATION - Operational field for coastal patrol and fleet aircraft training and maintenance. Ten shop-type buildings, two small; three large hangars and one large sawtooth roof building. Shops and storehouses at north end.
- 90.36-757 - SASEBO MINE AND TORPEDO STORAGE - Located in NE corner of Harbor. Destruction of this storage would effect the operations of the destroyers and submarines from this base.
- 90.36-762 - SASEBO FUEL AND MUNITIONS DEPOT - Covers a large area between target 757 and 754. Northern portion includes several shop-type buildings, concrete magazines, storehouses and quays. Southern part includes 2 large underground fuel tanks, revetted magazines and underground storage in the hillsides. The Japs probably depend on this source for the supply of their operations from the base.
- 90.36-755 - SASEBO OIL STORAGE - Located on west side of Sasebo Bay about one mile south of the dock yards. Three separate tank farms, some with concrete walls, some underground. This is another source of fuel supply. Bunkering piers are nearby. Loss of this installation and Target 762 would severely cripple the movement of the fleet.
- 90.36-752 - SASEBO NAVAL DOCKYARD - One of three principal naval shipyards in Japan and a major fleet repair base. Has two building ways 600 ft. and one 350 ft. long drydocks big enough to accomodate the largest Jap naval vessel. Repair basin about 9 aces, accommodates 10-12 ships alongside. Concrete, granite-faced construction repair shops equipped for complete repair and maintenance.
- \*90.36-758 NAVAL ARSENAL AND ENGINEERING DEPT. - An integral part of the dockyard. Produces ships, engines, turbines, boilers, machinery, guns, gun mounts and shell casings. Principal function is repair work.
- \*90.36-845 SASEBO PROVISION WHARF - Large "U" -shaped dock at west edge of Sasebo river mouth. Congested with storehouses and shop-type buildings. Probably the main supply depot.

\* Partly inside the fire zone.

5. AIMING POINTS: Aiming points will be specified in the Field Order.

27 June 1945.

Target Section, A-2  
XXI Bomber Command