

サセボ

THE TOWN OF

Sasebo, Japan is well concealed by its natural barriers of hills and narrow, twisting waterways. On the chilly mornings the last wisps of cloudbanks would steal up the hillsides, revealing the quaint, tile roofs of the houses, and the steep graded walks that lead to them.

In the town most of the male population, who were returned to civilian life, still wore Army clothes because of the clothing shortage. The shops had been depleted by many years of war, and the souvenir collectors found little to remind them of their visit to Sasebo.

On December 5, 1945, we left Sasebo for San Diego with 61 officers and 1,616 enlisted men from the Marine Camp at Ainuka, Kyushu. They were Marines of the Fifth and Second Divisions, who had seen action on Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima.



Japanese pilot guides the
Pondera into Sasebo Harbor.

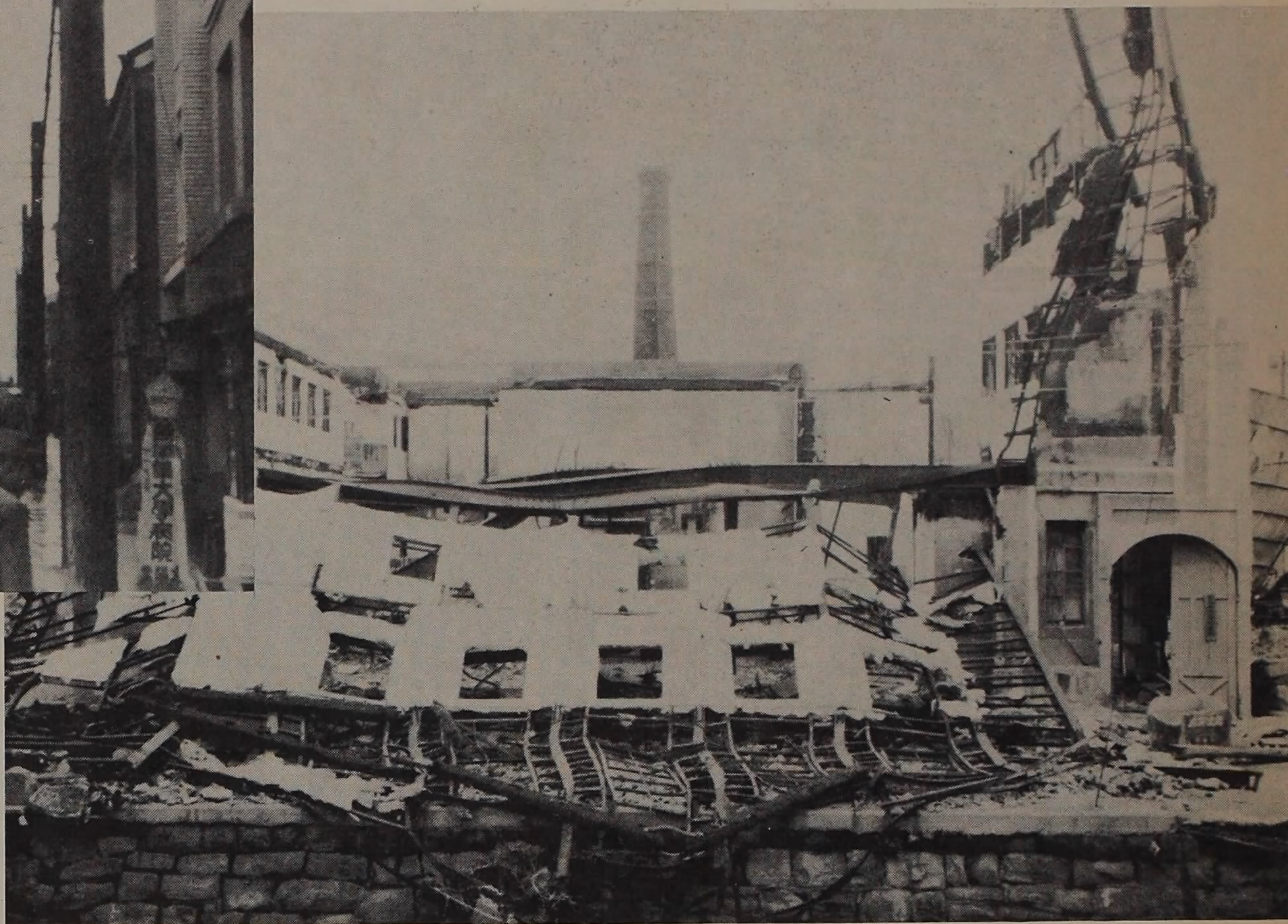


Japanese freighter in Sasebo Harbor



Sasebo's business district
had little to offer the
souvenir collector.

U. S. Army's B-29's flattened
a large section of the city.



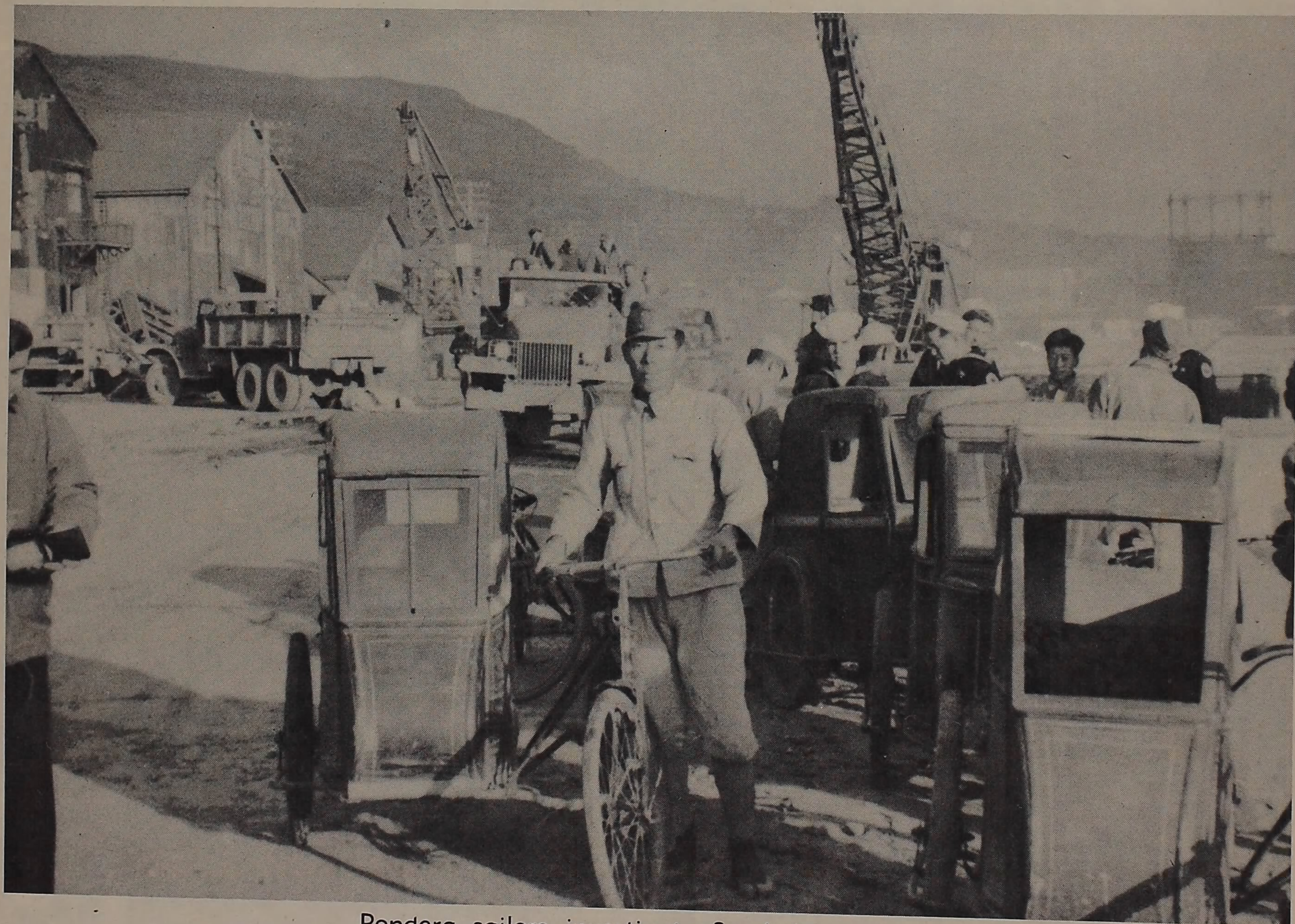
At Sasebo's railroad station Japanese wait for transportation.
In the background Sasebo's Catholic Church can be seen.



Japanese women carry their children pickaback.



Japanese children indifferently look on the ruins of their city.



Pondera sailors investigate Sasebo's taxi service, and decide to take a tour of the city in one.

Japanese housewife returns
from the market.



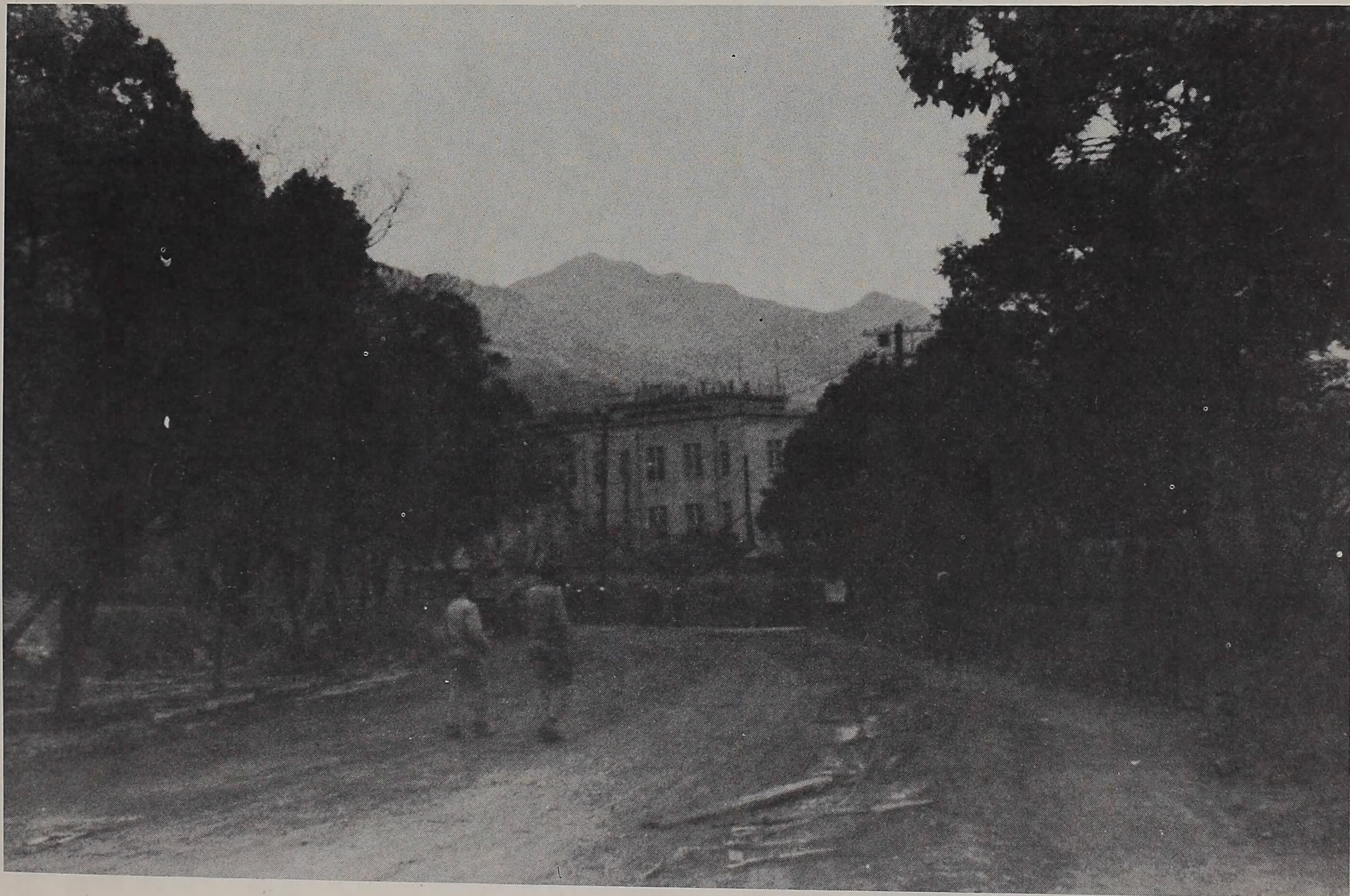
Two Geishas pose for
Pondera's cameraman.



Japanese girls pick
their way through
Sasebo's muddy streets.



A Japanese farmer brings to town a load of wood. It will bring a good price, for wood at Sasebo is very scarce.



Marine Barracks.

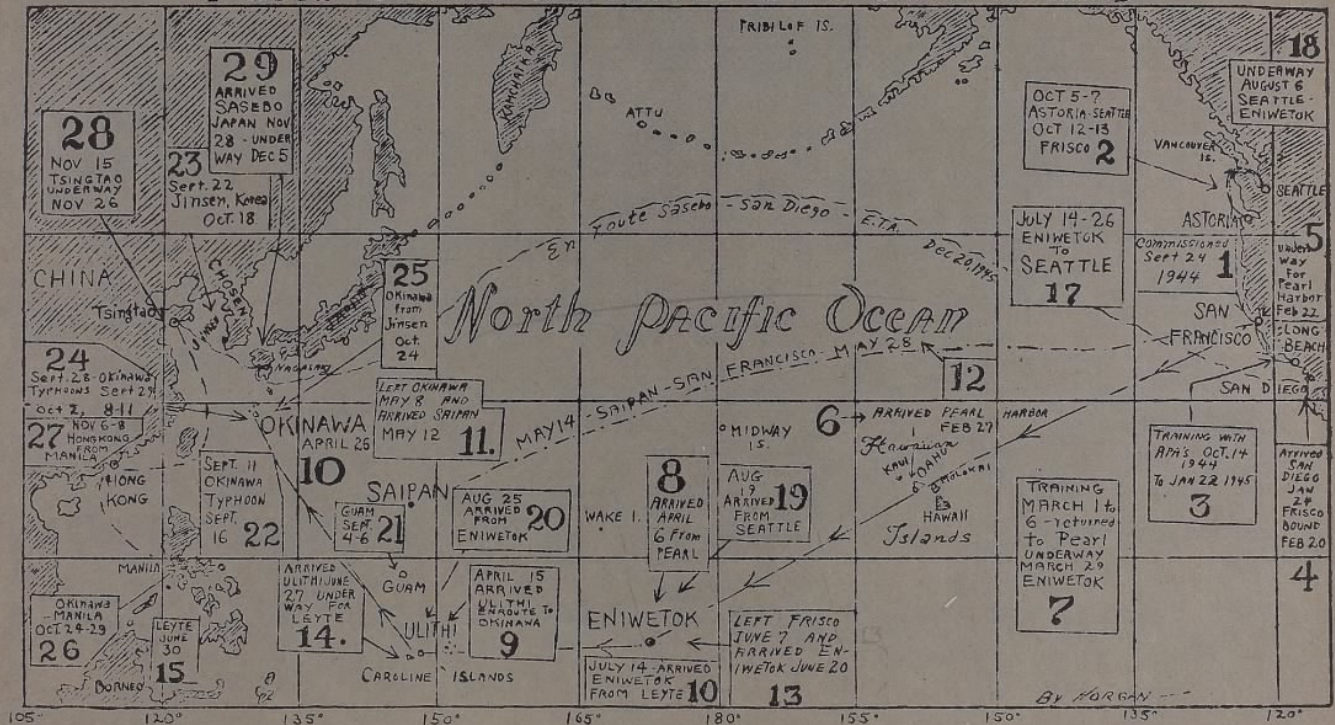


Shinto Shrine just outside Sasebo.




Japanese women clear the rubble from the streets of Sasebo.

Ports *Pondera* has Visited since Commissioning



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