

Survivor

Only one person survived both nuclear bombs dropped in Japan in 1945

August 6, 1945

Tsutomi Yamaguchi is on a business trip in Hiroshima. He is in an office meeting a client.

Suddenly there's an explosion and a flash across the sky. Mr Yamaguchi loses consciousness. He remembers nothing until he wakes up in a hospital ward.

'What happened?' he asks.

'A bomb,' people tell him. 'A terrible bomb!'

Mr Yamaguchi has very bad burns. But the patients around him have much worse injuries.

'I'm going home,' he says, climbing from his bed.

Nobody stops him from walking out of the hospital

Hiroshima is in chaos. Its transport system has broken down. For many hours Mr Yamaguchi wanders around the city.

Eventually he reaches the railway station. To his surprise, it is open.

Mr Yamaguchi catches the first train to his home town. Later that night, he is back in his own bed. 'I am a very lucky man,' he thinks.

The next morning Mr Yamaguchi goes back to work. His boss is furious. 'Where have you been?' he shouts. 'Why weren't you back yesterday?'

Mr Yamaguchi is surprised. 'Didn't you hear about the bomb in Hiroshima?' he asks.

But the Japanese media has not reported the explosion. And his boss doesn't want to listen to Mr Yamaguchi's excuses.

'There was no bomb!' he shouts, banging his fist down on the desk. 'Those stupid bandages don't fool me!'

At that moment there is a blinding flash. The second atomic bomb has struck.

High above Mr Yamaguchi's office is another American plane. It is flying away from his home city – Nagasaki. Mr Yamaguchi is the only known survivor of both atomic bombs. He [died, aged 93, in January 2010](#).

About 140,000 people were killed in Hiroshima. 70,000 died in Nagasaki. Many more later died from radiation-related illnesses.

Put these events in the right order:

- a) Mr Y leaves hospital.
 - c) He leaves his office to go another appointment.
 - d) The atomic bomb falls on Hiroshima
 - e) Mr Y wakes up in hospital.
 - f) The second atomic bomb falls.
 - g) Mr Yamaguchi travels to Hiroshima
 - h) Mr Y returns to work.
 - i) A train leaves Hiroshima for Nagasaki.
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