

# Guide to the Averill A. Liebow Collection

Ms Coll 28



Finding aid by Todd A. Lane and Toby A. Appel

2003

Yale University  
333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
203-737-1192  
203-785-5636  
historical.library@yale.edu  
<http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Case 1: "The Joint Commission for Investigation of the Effects of the Atomic Bomb in Japan. Planning and Personnel" .....	5
Case 2: "Joint Commission. Organization of Initial Problems and Activities" .....	5
Case 3: "Hiroshima. Physical Damage" .....	5
Case 4: "Effects of Heat, Trauma, and Radiation" .....	6
Case 5: "Early Aid Stations. Hospitals and Clinics" .....	6
Case 6: "Joint Commission. Operations" .....	7
Case 7: "Building, Shielding and Survival Surveys" .....	7
Case 8: "Joint Commission Report, and Diary" .....	7
Case 9: "Hiroshima. Books and Reports." .....	7
Case 10: "Joint Commission. Memorabilia" .....	8
Arrangement .....	8
Collection Contents .....	9
1.: The Exhibit .....	9
Oversize materials .....	10
2.: Additional Liebow materials .....	12
3.: Other writings and reprints .....	13
Appendix: Exhibit Case Contents .....	14
Selected Search Terms .....	15

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library  
Yale University  
333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
203-737-1192  
203-785-5636  
historical.library@yale.edu  
<http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** Ms Coll 28

**CREATOR:** Liebow, Averill A., 1911-

**TITLE:** Averill A. Liebow Collection

**DATES:** 1945-1966

**BULK DATES:** 1945-1966

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.5 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English; Japanese

**SUMMARY:** Averill A. Liebow, professor of pathology at Yale School of Medicine, was a member of the Joint Commission for the Investigation of the Effects of the Atomic Bomb in Japan organized by Col. Ashley W. Oughterson, on leave from Yale. Liebow spent four months in Hiroshima beginning in October 1945 and kept a diary. The collection contains photographs and documents from an exhibit on the Joint Commission and the medical effects of the bomb in Hiroshima that was prepared for the Medical Library in 1965 and then loaned for display in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1966.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0028>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0028>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Averill A. Liebow to the Medical Historical Library.

---

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

## Conditions Governing Use

Yale University does not own copyright.

---

## Preferred Citation

Averill A. Liebow Collection, Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT

---

## Processing Information

Folders and envelopes of photographs from a previous arrangement have been integrated into a single sequence of folders.

---

## Biographical / Historical

A native of Austria, Averill Liebow came to the United States as a young boy. He graduated magnum cum laude from City College of New York, and received his medical degree from Yale University in 1935. Appointed an assistant in pathology at Yale in 1935, he rose through the ranks to full professor in 1951. In 1968 he accepted the chairmanship of the department of pathology at the University of California, San Diego, which he held until his retirement in 1975. While on active duty during World War II, Liebow served as a pathologist with the 39th General Hospital, the Yale Unit in the South Pacific. During this time, he compiled elegant studies of cutaneous diphtheria that made specific treatment possible for a form of "jungle rot," which was a major problem in the South Pacific theater of the war. Immediately after the war, Liebow was recruited as a member of the Joint Commission for the Investigation of the Effects of the Atomic Bomb in Japan organized by Col. Ashley W. Oughterson, on leave from Yale, and Prof. Masao Tsuzuki of Japan. Liebow and the members of the Commission reached Hiroshima on October 12. During the four months Liebow remained in Hiroshima, he wrote an extensive diary in shorthand of his observations.

---

## Scope and Contents

This collection relates to the pathological studies in Hiroshima after the bombing conducted by Liebow and his colleague on the Joint Commission for the Investigation of the Effects of the Atomic Bomb. The main portion consists of the materials from a 1965 exhibit at Yale University which was then sent for exhibit in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan in 1966. It included portions of Liebow's original shorthand diary, correspondence, and reproductions of original photographs, charts and graphs. These document the damage to buildings, casualties, the flash burns and other injuries suffered by individuals, a case report, and other work of the Joint Committee. Much, but not all, of this material was published in "Encounter with Disaster: A Medical Diary of Hiroshima 1945," *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*, 38(2) (October 1965). The exhibit materials have been numbered by Madeline Stanton in Roman numerals by "case" and then with Arabic numerals (I.1, I.2, etc.). The collection also contains other items by Liebow among them, shorthand notes, typescripts, and another case report. Finally, the collection includes various typescripts and reprints related to the medical studies.

---

## Case 1: "The Joint Commission for Investigation of the Effects of the Atomic Bomb in Japan. Planning and Personnel"

- I.1 Origins of Joint Commission.
- I.2 Col. Ashley Webster Oughterson
- I.3 Personnel of the Joint Commission (names)
- I.4 Medical Personnel of the Joint Commission (names)
- I.5 Memorandum of Oughterson to Gen. Guy B. Denit
- I.6 Members of the Joint Commission - - see oversize photos
- I.7 Dr. Masao "Tsuzuki," Tokyo Imperial University
- I.7a Business card for Dr. "Suzuki"
- I.8 Captain J. D. Rosenbaum, on leave from Yale University
- I.9 Tokyo Imperial University campus, 1945
- I.10 Institute of Pathology, Tokyo Imperial University (exterior)
- I.11 Members of Joint Commission: Rosenbaum, Kramer, Loge
- I.12a Top: Members of the Joint Commission (Japanese members) Bottom: Dr. Ishii and two assistants
- I.12b Members of Pathology Section
- I.13 Tokyo First Military Hospital (exterior)
- I.14 List of "Japanese young doctors"

---

## Case 2: "Joint Commission. Organization of Initial Problems and Activities"

- II.1 Orders establishing the Joint Commission
- II.2 Orders providing broad authority for the medical study at Hiroshima
- II.3 Scribbled notes indicating possible sources of supplies for the Joint Commission
- II.4 42nd General Hospital, the major U.S. medical installation, Tokyo
- II.5 List of supplies requested
- II.6 Item from Japan Times, regarding the typhoon of September 17, 1945
- II.7 Receipt for rations and supplies used by Joint Commission
- II.8 Copy of early report by Japanese medical officers and scientists on studies of bomb casualties
- II.9 Landslide damage at Ono Hospital, September 17, 1945
- II.10 Tasks of the Joint Commission (list)
- II.11 Record forms used by the Joint Commission, English and Japanese - see oversize documents
- II.12 Receipt for jeeps
- II.13 Air passenger list for Hiroshima

---

## Case 3: "Hiroshima. Physical Damage"

- III.1 Termachi-dori, Street of many temples, in Hiroshima, pre-bombing.
- III.2 Copy of Japanese map of Hiroshima with ring zones superimposed
- III.3 Schematic map with ring zones used by the Joint Commission
- III.4 Aerial photograph, pre-bombing
- III.5 Hiroshima, post-bombing
- III.5 Panoramic Photograph of Hiroshima, pre-bombing.
- III.6 Pre-war view of Hiroshima from Mt. Hiji
- III.7 View across hypocenter toward the Geibi and Sanwa Bank buildings (color)
- III.8 Sake cups from Sanwa bank, tiles and vase found in rubble (not in collection, removed by Liebow)
- III.9 Scene in Japanese military area
- III.10 Inspection by Japanese officer of military shelter in headquarters area, August 9, 1945
- III.11 Aioibashi ("T" Bridge) before the strike -- postcard
- III.11a Bridge after the strike
- III.12 Views of Hiroshima on arrival, October 12, 1945.
- III.12a View across hypocenter from Sanwa bank.
- III.12b Aerial view across Hiroshima (Oct. 1945)

- III.12c View of Chamber of Commerce Building from Businessmen's Club.
- III.13 Twisted steel of theater building, 800m from hypocenter
- III.14 Ruins of Shima Hospital (Chamber of Commerce) before
- III.14a Chamber of Commerce Building after strike
- III.14b Close-up of rubble

---

#### **Case 4: "Effects of Heat, Trauma, and Radiation"**

- IV.1 "Shadow" of leaf of castor plant, October 31, 1945
- IV.2 Shadow of person on Bantai Bridge (1,000 meters from hypocenter)
- IV.3 Captain Charles Brownell standing in the position of exposed person at the moment of explosion.
- IV.4 Shadows of human beings and hand cart on Bantai bridge
- IV.5 Flash burn of an orange
- IV.6 Shadow of valve on gas storage tank
- IV.7 Rice paper name card. Differential of dark and light surfaces in absorbing heat.
- IV.8 "Shadow" of granite of monument near entrance to military encampment
- IV.9 Flash burn in acute stage
- IV.10 Officer exposed in military area
- IV.10a Profile-like nature of flash burns
- IV.12 Typical profile burn. The patient was a nurse at the Red Cross Hospital
- IV.13 Shadow on the prison wall at Hiroshima, 2,300 meters
- IV.14 Mask-like burn with hyperpigmentation
- IV.15 Differential absorption of heat by darker portions of clothing
- IV.15b Scorching of the dark blue stripe with less effect on the lighter stripes by heat waves at 17,000 meters.
- IV.15c 20 year-old female subject with ray burns
- IV.15d. 20 year-old female subject with ray burns
- IV.16 Multiple injuries caused by flying glass
- IV.17 Petechiæ associated with aplastic anemia
- IV.18 Ulceration of gingivæ with osteomyelitis of jaw and loss of teeth
- IV.19 Epilation in patient exposed within 1500 meters [item not in collection?]
- IV.20 Epilation in young girl

---

#### **Case 5: "Early Aid Stations. Hospitals and Clinics"**

- V.1 Street shortly after explosion, August 6, 1945
- V.2 Temporary tents - Hiroshima Second Army Hospital
- V.3 Nurse ministering to burned and injured patients
- V.4 Burned and injured patients
- V.5 Military ambulance, August 9, 1945
- V.6 Fukuromachi Aid Station
- V.7 Outpatient clinic at Fukuromachi, October 6, 1945
- V.8 Bulletins on a wall of Fukuromachi on the whereabouts and conditions of various persons.
- V.9 Fukuromachi Aid Station. Families of patients assisting in the care of their sick relatives
- V.10 Patients, Communications Department (Post Office) Hospital
- V.11 Patients waiting for treatment
- V.12 Professor Tamagawa (Autopsy Room of Communications Department Hospital)
- V.13 Doctor treating burn patient
- V.14 Name card of Dr. Fumio Shigeto, Vice-director of Red Cross Hospital
- V.15 Red Cross Hospital. Doctor treating burn patient
- V.16a Red Cross Hospital. Damage to steel window frames
- V.16b Exterior, Red Cross Hospital
- V.16c Interior damage, Red Cross Hospital
- V.16d Transportation of injured
- V.17 Red Cross Hospital. Microscopic examination of blood

---

## Case 6: "Joint Commission. Operations"

- VI.1 Permission for Col. Mason to enter Hiroshima for studies – no label
- VI.2 Aerial view Daiwa rayon mill (Ujina Hospital), which became headquarters for the Joint Commission
- VI.3 Entrance to Ujina Hospital
- VI.4 Workers dormitories, Daiwa Rayon Mill
- VI.5 Group in the Laboratory of the Joint Commission at Ujina Hospital
- VI.6 Team from the Joint Commission on visit to Iwakuni Naval Hospital
- VI.7 Notes made at Communications Department (Post Office) Hospital by Col. Mason interviewing the director, Dr. Hachiya.
- VI.8 Notes made by Col. Mason interviewing the assistant warden of Hiroshima Prison.
- VI.9 Hiroshima Prison plan
- VI.10 Lieut. J. Philip making a follow-up visit to a patient discharged from Ujina Hospital.
- VI.11 Follow up of patient Hirosi Okita.
- VI.12 Hirosi Okita showing almost complete healing of hemorrhagic and ulcerated lesions of the gums
- VI.13 Interview notes with Dr. Oguchi at Kaijin-Kai Hospital, Kure

---

## Case 7: "Building, Shielding and Survival Surveys"

- VII.1 Hiroshima school children. Map showing position of groups of students.
- VII.01a Mortality and casualty rates of "shielded" school children
- VII.01b Mortality rate of "unshielded" school children
- VII.2 Chart showing position of students in Yasuda Girls School.
- VII.3 Sketch of Hiroshima near the Tenna Bridge, 1000 meters from the hypocenter.
- VII.4 Reconstructed drawing of Tenna Bridge
- VII.5 Map showing position of Otake workmen's groups.
- VII.6 Map to indicate position of large buildings used in the shielding study.
- VII.7 Views of Nippon bank, 250 meters from hypocenter.
- VII.8 Position of certain persons in Central Telephone Office.
- VII.9 Medical notes on persons in VII.8
- VII.10 Drawing of relation of shielding to fate of patients in buildings.
- VII.11 Chart of mortality and casualty rates in relation to distance from the hypocenter.
- VII.12 Map of disposition of military units in region of Hiroshima Castle.
- VII.13a Hiroshima Castle before strike – postcard
- VII.13b Hiroshima Castle after strike
- VII.14 Headquarters of Chugoku Army before and after August 6, 1945
- VII.15 Exterior, communications bunker (800m)
- VII.15a Interior, communications bunker (800m) "VII.15" Copy of Clausewitz, On war, found in another bunker – see oversize
- VII.A Protection Studies and Population Surveys
- VII.B The Otake Women's Groups
- VII.C Building Studies

---

## Case 8: "Joint Commission Report, and Diary"

- VIII.1 Report of damage and casualties in Hiroshima Railroad Office
- VIII.2 Diary maintained in shorthand
- VIII.4 Preliminary draft in shorthand of portion of the report of the Joint Committee
- VIII.7 Draft of a letter recommending continued study of atomic bomb casualties
- [Other labels not in collection]

---

## Case 9: "Hiroshima. Books and Reports."

- IX.1 [no label or item – from the photograph of the panel, IX.1 is a photograph of the six published volumes of the Joint Commission Report]

- IX.2 [no label, no item]
- IX.3 [no label, no item.]
- IX.4 Eye-witness account of Father Siemes used in John Hersey's "Hiroshima"
- IX.5 Jesuit Monastery at Nagatsuka from where Father Siemes wrote his account
- IX.6a City in the process of regrowth (1949)
- IX.7 Father Kleinsorge
- IX.7a Letterhead of Catholic Hospital in Tokyo where Father Siemes was a patient
- IX.8 Rebirth of a city (label only)
- IX.8a Chamber of Commerce Building from balcony of Businessmen's Club.
- IX.8b Chamber of Commerce Building (post-attack)
- IX.8c Peace monument at the Chamber of Commerce Building (1949)
- IX.9 Name card of Doctor Hachiya

---

## Case 10: "Joint Commission. Memorabilia"

- X.1 "A postwar indication of some Japanese attitudes towards a symbol of militarism": Letter from Dr. Yasushi Mitani to Liebow, 1957
- X.2 Letter from Dr. Zeichiro Ishii to Liebow regarding his postwar situation
- X.3 Letter from Dr. Masashi Miyake to Liebow
- X.4 Letter from Luther L. Terry, USPHS, to Liebow
- X.5 Receipt for the first consignment of records and photographs of the Joint Commission

---

## Arrangement

Organized in three series: 1. The exhibit. 2. Additional Liebow materials. 3. Other writings and reprints.



---

## Collection Contents

### 1.: The Exhibit

The exhibit was shown at Yale in 1965 and then sent by Madeline Stanton, Librarian of the Historical Collections, Yale Medical Library, to George B. Darling, Director of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in 1966 for exhibit in ten panels in Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The paper labels, typed in New Haven, were keyed to the documents and photographs by Stanton using a Roman numeral for each case.

Arranged by exhibit case.

b. 1, f. 1	Publicity and correspondence concerning publication and exhibits Publicity on the publication of <i>Encounter with Disaster</i> , correspondence between Madeline Stanton, Librarian of Historical Collections, Yale Medical Library, and George B. Darling, Director of the Atomic Bomb Casuaty Commission on the lending of exhibit materials to be shown in Nagasaki and Hiroshima; and list of Japanese contacts. Also see Box 5 folder 1 for Yale Daily News article.	1966
b. 1, f. 2	Averill A. Liebow, <i>Encounter with Disaster: A Medical Diary of Hiroshima, 1945</i> Published as an issue of <i>Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine</i> 38(2) Oct. 1965. Many of the photographs in the exhibit are in this publication.	1965
b. 1, f. 3	Exhibit layouts for ten cases or panels	1965-1966
b. 1, f. 4	Photographs of the exhibit installation in Japan	1966
b. 1, f. 5	Case 1: Labels--"The Joint Commission for Investigation of the Effects of the Atomic Bomb in Japan. Planning and Personnel"	1965
b. 1, f. 6	Case 1: Memorandum of Ashley Oughterson to Gen. Guy B. Denit (copy)	1945 August 28
b. 1, f. 7	Case 1: Other documents See Box 4, Folder 2, for oversize mounted photos of members of the Joint Commission.	
b. 1, f. 8	Case 1: Photographs 7-13 Photograph 1.1a is in oversize, Box 4 folder 2.	
b. 1, f. 9	Case 2: Labels--"Joint Commission. Organization and Initial Problems"	1965
b. 1, f. 10	Case 2: Documents See Box 5, Folder 2 for two oversize documents.	
b. 1, f. 11	Case 2: Photographs and diagram	
b. 1, f. 12	Case 3: Labels--"Hiroshima. Physical Damage"	1965
b. 1, f. 13	Case 3: Photographs 1-10	
b. 1, f. 14	Case 3: Photographs 11-14	
b. 1, f. 15	Case 4: Labels -- "Effects of Heat, Trauma, and Radiation"	1965
b. 1, f. 16	Case 4: Photographs 1-10	
b. 2, f. 1-2	Case 4: Photographs 12-20	

b. 2, f. 3	Case 5: Labels--"Early Aid Stations. Hospitals and Clinics"	
b. 2, f. 4	Case 5: Card of Dr. Fumio Shigeto and photographs 1-9 Dr. Shigeto was vice-director of the Red Cross Hospital. The photographs include the Hirsohima Second Army Hospital and the Fukuromachi Aid Station.	
b. 2, f. 5	Case 5: Photographs 10-17 Communications Department (Post Office) Hospital, Red Cross Hospital	
b. 2, f. 6	Case 6: Labels--"Joint Commission. Operations"	1965
b. 2, f. 7	Case 6: Case Report for Hiroshi Okita Includes a transcript by a researcher. Hiroshi Okita, still alive, and the case report, were featured in a public television program in Japan in 2010.	1945
b. 2, f. 8	Case 6: Photographs Includes follow-up photographs of Hiroshi Okita.	
b. 2, f. 9	Case 7: Labels--"Building, Shielding and Survival Surveys"	1965
b. 3, f. 1	Case 7: Copies of maps and drawings	
b. 3, f. 2	Case 7: Photographs See Box 4, folder 2 for oversize photograph of views of Nippon Bank, 250 meters from hypocenter.	
b. 3, f. 3	Case 7: Carl von Clausewitz, <i>On War</i> , Japanese/English edition found in another bunker	
b. 3, f. 4	Case 8: Labels--"Joint Commission Report, and Diary"	1965
b. 3, f. 5	Case 8: Liebow's shorthand diary	1945
b. 3, f. 6	Case 8: Transcription of part of the diary, "The Encounter"	
b. 3, f. 7	Case 8: Liebow's shorthand draft of part of the Report of the Joint Commission	
b. 3, f. 8	Case 8: Recommendations for continued study of atomic bomb casualties	
b. 3, f. 9	Case 9: Labels--"Hiroshima. Books and Reports"	1965
b. 3, f. 10	Case 9: Documents	
b. 3, f. 11	Case 9: Photographs	
b. 3, f. 12	Case 10: Labels--"Joint Commission. Memorabilia"	1965
b. 4, f. 1	Case 10: Documents Original letters: Yasushi Mitani, Nagasaki University to Liebow, 1957 July 15; Z. Ishii to Liebow, n.d., M. Miyaki to Liebow, n.d., Luther Terry, USPHS, Tokyo, to Dr. Oughterson or Col. Mason, 1945 November 23; Receipt for the first consignment of records and photographs of the Joint Commission, 1945 November 25.	1945-1957
	Oversize materials	
b. 4, f. 2	Cases 1 and 7: Oversize photographs	

## Oversize materials (continued)

b. 5, f. 2	Case 2: Oversize documents	
b. 5, f. 6	Case 3: Maps and postcard	
b. 5, f. 3	Case 6: Other documents	1945
b. 5, f. 4	Case 7: Sketches and documents	1945

**2.: Additional Liebow materials**

b. 4, f. 3	Case report for Nakane, Eüchi	1945
b. 4, f. 4	Notes in shorthand on amenorrhea from Dr. Matsumoto and Dr. Mitani	1945
b. 3, f. 13	Typescripts and notes "Clinical Observations"; "Radiation Injury"; "Parts involved"	
b. 4, f. 5	Typescripts and notes "Study of Leucopenia"; "Patients dying after the sixth week"; "Patient from Enami Prison" (shorthand); "Notes on Misono" (shorthand)	
b. 4, f. 6	Typescripts and notes "Bone marrow" (some shorthand); Experimental human burns (shorthand); "X-rays of returnees" (shorthand)	
b. 4, f. 7	Averill Liebow, Shields Warren, and Elbert De Courcey, "Pathology of Atomic Bomb Casualties," reprinted from <i>Amerian Journal of Pathology</i> , 25 (1949): 853-1027.	

**3.: Other writings and reprints**

b. 4, f. 8	Recollections of the bombing of Hiroshima by Jiro Uraki and by Kiyoshi Yamashina Saeki-gun Typescripts of translations by the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission.	
b. 5, f. 5	Report of the Hiroshima Railway Division Office Very fragile mimeographed report. Also a (unrelated?) newspaper clipping.	ca. 1945
b. 4, f. 9	American Health Study (typescript)	
b. 4, f. 10	John Hersey, <i>Hiroshima</i> . New York: Alfred Knopf, 1946.	
b. 4, f. 11	Printed protocols for research on the medical effects of the atomic bomb In English and Japanese.	
b. 4, f. 12	United States, Army Medical Department, <i>What You Should Know About the Atomic Bomb</i>	ca. 1950
b. 4, f. 13	Reprints	1973

## **Appendix: Exhibit Case Contents**

See case labels for more information.

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Atomic bomb -- Blast effect  
Atomic bomb -- Health effects  
World War, 1939-1945

### **Geographic Names**

Hiroshima-shi (Japan) -- Bombardment, 1945 --  
Personal narratives

### **Names**

Liebow, Averill A., 1911-  
Oughterson, Ashley Webster, 1895-1956  
Stanton, Madeline E. (Madeline Earle)

### **Corporate Bodies**

Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission  
United States. Joint Commission for the  
Investigation of the Effects of the Atomic  
Bomb in Japan