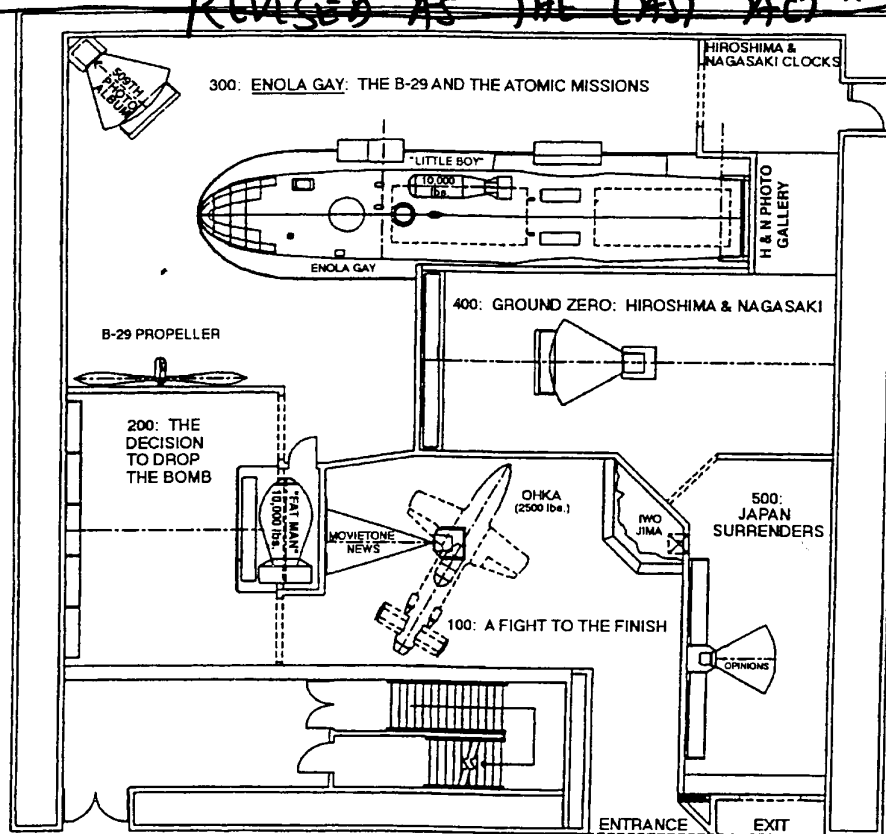


THE ORIGINAL "CROSSROADS" EXHIBIT
 REVEALED AS "THE LAST ACT"



Blueprints for the planned main exhibition gallery of the National Air and Space Museum's "The Last Act" from October 1994. Critics of the exhibition charged that the sections entitled "The Decision to Drop the Bomb" and "Ground Zero" embodied a revisionist interpretation of American motives and actions during World War II.
Courtesy National Air and Space Museum.

The violence of the Air Force Association's public assault—the personal attacks on Smithsonian secretary Robert Adams and Air and Space director Martin Harwit, the accusation that the museum had been neglecting its primary task of preserving its priceless artifacts, the charges of political correctness—indicated something deeper at work.²⁴ Just as that first script cannot be understood apart from the museum's history of the previous ten years, so the Air Force Association's public

²⁴ For my initial reading of Correll, "War Stories at Air and Space," see Richard H. Kohn to editor, *Air Force Magazine*, 77 (June 1994), 6.