The Bomb

Ms. Yoshi Yonekura

On that day, I was on duty rationing out Tofu around the neighborhood. The people in the houses that didn't have children weren't allowed to evacuate and I was afraid, wondering when the next air raid would come.

Close to noon, the moment I thought I had seen a flash like lightning, black smoke was rising up into the sky, puffing out higher and higher, and in it, there was a burning red pillar of fire. I thought that a bomb must have landed quite nearby. When I was able to gather my senses, I found that the roof had been blown off and my leg was injured.

"This is serious." I ran and escaped to a mountain in Kazagashira. I couldn't get into a shelter because it was full so I hid myself in a graveyard. I don't know how long I stayed there, but my husband came to look for me. I was ordered not to go anywhere until we got instructions from the Emperor so I stayed put. A great number of people with burns all over their bodies and others who were injured came running away from the city center and where dying all over the place. People from a civil defense unit gathered the dead bodies together and burned them under a bridge. The stench was unbearable. There was no water or food, and no roof left on my house. So, we gathered up our umbrellas, with neighbors, and used them as a roof and spent the next two days there.

All I could do was to keep myself alive and was not even able to think of taking care of other people. There was a mother carrying a dead child on her back, a mother who died while giving

birth, and dead horses and so on; it was an awfully wretched scene. When I think of it now, I wonder how I was able to survive safely and for that I'm grateful to God.

[Location at Bombing: Higashifurukawamachi]