

Horrific Atomic Bomb

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When I was 42 years old, I lived in Kotobukimachi [now Yachi-yomachi]. I was in a shelter on that day. Someone came and told us there wouldn't be any air-raid (even though the siren had gone) so most of the people had gone home. They were at their homes when the atomic bomb hit, but we came out from the shelter a bit later.

Just as I came out from the shelter, the atomic bomb hit with a flash and boom. As soon as the flash and powerful force of fire came, the houses caught fire and burned up, and then everywhere became completely enveloped in flames. I thought they must have sprayed oil from the sky.

People who were inside the houses didn't have a chance to escape and I couldn't help them even if I tried. It was a living hell. I barely escaped with my life, running through the field in Zen-zamachi. The sight in that situation was appalling.

Those people who had been exposed to the atomic bomb directly had their skin peeling off from their body and it just hung off their bodies like they had put thatching on. The left side of my face caught fire and was burned. I lost my eyebrow and it took a long time to come back.

At the time of nightfall, I went to the small shelter which I had dug before and stayed there for 2 or 3 days, doing nothing, like my body was without a soul.

After that, I went to my niece's house in Kogakura and stayed a night. Then, the next day I took a ferry to Oseto because my sister and brother were there. We got to our parent's home and af-

ter that we lived together. When the atomic bomb hit, my husband was injured on his back and also his left arm.

My three sons were not home because they were soldiers. My eldest son died in battle on the Palau Islands in 1944 when he was 25 years old. Fortunately, my two other sons came home. My husband died two years after the bomb.

I am living happily now, but when I remember the past it's terrifying and don't want to think about it.

[Location at Bombing: Kotobukimachi]