

Still Fighting with the Pain

Mrs. Tora Murata

I had been living in Daikokumachi in Nagasaki, but I was evacuated to Mie.

On August 9th, I had gone to the house of my husband's sister who lived in Ishikawamachi in Nagasaki, from Mie. There was an air raid but then it was called off, so I went to my sister's house, which was in Daikokumachi, from Iwakawamachi. Just as I got to the front porch of my sister's house, the bomb struck. It went entirely dark, all around, and I couldn't tell what was what, then there was a big cloud in the sky.

I don't know how my sister, my niece Teruko and I escaped from Daikokumachi to the graveyard at a temple in Chikugomachi. Because I wasn't with my daughter, Setsuko, my niece Matsue and my brother in law Minoru, I decided to prepare myself for the probability that they were gone. I could see Daikokumachi was burning from the graveyard. On the fifth day, because my brother's child was in Irabayashi, we evacuated to Irabayashi from the graveyard. And then, there they were; the three people I had given up on were alive!

We moved back to Mie from Irabayashi. We suffered from lack of food.

My brother in law's younger brother was in Uwamachi but the brother and his wife rented a house somewhere else, so my sister bought that house in Uwamachi and we also imposed upon her hospitality. My brother and his wife were in Uwamachi when it hit, and they died about 3 years later. I also have suffered the ill effects of the bomb and have since had difficulty walking, and

I was in Juzenkai Hospital for 8 years. It was caused by radiation getting into my waist. I had an operation on the back of my neck and got better for a while, but then it got worse. After that, I was in Wajinkai Hospital in Koga for one and half years.

Not only me, but my daughter still has a weak body and she says her back and legs hurt. When the bomb hit my niece, Matsue, she was out the garden and looking up at the sky so she got radiation directly onto her face. Blood run down from her gums but there was a doctor nearby, so she could get treatment and was saved. She still goes to Genbaku Hospital every day.

My husband's sister was hit in Iwakawamachi. Because the University Hospital was destroyed by the atomic bomb, wounded people were cared for at a primary school. My sister in law was taken to Shinkouzen Primary School and her back was infected with maggots and there were flies all around. People inside the primary school were just stacked up like a pile of potatoes and there was no place to stand. I could hear voices saying "Give me some water." My sister in law died 11 days after the atomic bomb was dropped.

We cremated her body on a *tatami* mat at Shinkouzen Primary School, but because it didn't burn well we had to turn it over like when you grill fish. We picked up a pot and put her bones into it, then because there was no lid for it, put a board on top and dedicated it to a temple.

I still have paralysis in my legs and my treatments are medicine and rubbing my legs in warm water. When I sit, it feels like I'm sitting on needles. I'm suffering like this because of the dropping of the atomic bombing. I don't want that to ever happen again.

[Location at Bombing: Daikokumachi]