

The All-consuming Flame

Mr. Fukuichi Yoshimura

I was 55 years old back then and I was running a bathhouse in Hamaguchimachi with my 45 year old wife, Tsuyuno.

When I went to Fujioka oil shop in Motofunamachi to buy some oil, the bomb hit, but because I was far from the center of the explosion, I was safe and didn't even have a scratch on me.

But the area around my house was close to the center of the explosion and there was nothing left but burnt out ruins, so I stayed at my older brother's house in Takahiramachi [now Aburayamachi] on that day.

On the next day, I found the bodies of mine and my younger brother's wives at the remains of my house. Because my brother had gone off to the war, his wife and their two children were living with us. But, I wondered if those two children had been blown somewhere else with the bomb blast, as I couldn't find them. I could only identify the charred black body was my dead wife's because a small piece of her clothing was unburnt and recognizable. I cremated the two dead bodies myself and picked out their bones and put them into a jar.

As I had lost everything, I was at a loss as to what to do, but after that, I worked at my brother's bathhouse and moved on with life.

A few years later, I got remarried and now we both are living in the Genbaku Home.

[Location at Bombing: Hamaguchimachi]