

The Atomic Bomb

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I lived in Kazusa, on the Shimabara Peninsula, when I was little, but moved to Nagasaki when I got married and then had four children. I was 30 years old. We hired workers and were making bricks in Tamanamimachi, but after a while he started to work for a company called Kouzensha and we moved to Motohakatamachi, where we experienced the bombing.

On August 9th in 1945, my husband was out working but my children, except my second son, were all home because the school was off. My second son who was an elementary school student had gone into the neighborhood to play. I, who was 33 years old back then, was cradling our newborn baby, who had been born 20 days ago, at home.

Suddenly, with a flash and big booming sound, we had no idea what was happening and we all cowered and gathered inside the house. Therefore we were covered with the earthen dust that came down from the roof and were covered in white. After we calmed down a bit we looked around and fortunately the house was still standing but none of the *shoji* were and the front door and all the sliding shutters were down. I and all the children in the house were safe; however I was terribly worried about my husband and my second son who were out.

My husband came home shortly. He was working near Hamanomachi and he immediately went into a theater nearby right after the bomb was dropped. Therefore he was safe. By that time, we knew that the bomb that had been dropped was huge so my husband urged us to move into the shelter nearby. Many neigh-

bors were already there and I also found my second son. My second son had no injuries either.

The nearby Shinkouzen Elementary School became a hospital right away and the patients were carried in one after another. Also, the space next to the school became a crematory and many people were dying there. While I was watching all these people dying like this I thought about how fortunate it was that I and my husband and 5 of our children were all safe without any injury.

[Location at Bombing: Motohakatamachi]