

Wound of My Heart that I Received with the Atomic Bomb

Mr. Yoshimatsu Kawata

When the atomic bomb was dropped, I was making weapons to help get Okinawa back at a shipyard [Yamagata Steelworks] in Tategamimachi. Back then, everybody thought “Japan will win” and “This is for the country” and so we worked hard. It was getting close to noon, I thought there was a flash and at that moment, roof tiles fell off and I broke my shoulder. Because it was a minor injury, I couldn’t get treatment immediately and I almost passed out from the pain.

I was worried about my wife in Shiroyamamachi so I hurried home. But there was no trace of our house and it was just a heap of timber and rubble. Where is my wife...?

I called her name loudly and looked for her but couldn’t find her. My neighbor told me that she was under the house so I tried to remove rubble with desperation but I couldn’t use my arm as I wanted to because of my broken shoulder. I was desperately impatient but couldn’t do anything.

My neighbor helped me and I finally found the lifeless form of my wife on the 4th morning after. I had prayed “Please be alive!”, “Please be alive” but my prayers were in vain. I held my wife in my arms and cried out loudly.

She was too good for me and people envied our relationship. I cremated her body at a shrine near us and picked up her bones. We didn’t have a grave so I buried her at Goto Island where she was born. I hoped that one day I would be able to bring her back close to me. And 37 years later I was able to build a grave in Na-

gasaki.

I pray for the repose of my wife's soul and I spend my remaining days looking forward to seeing her in heaven.

[Location at Bombing: Tategamimachi]