
Hell on earth - corpse disposal

8th August, Hiroshima, A soldier, 19 years old

Countless corpses were sent from Hiroshima city to the former Army Health Inspection Center at Ninoshima Island. We cremated a part of them using timbers and heavy oil, but - there was no choice - most of them we buried in pits we had dug.

Because of the midsummer's heat and the heat of the fire which was burning for three days after the bombing the corpses got decomposed and the awful smell was beyond words. Trying to carry them, we seized the corpses by the wrist, but the rotted flesh peeled off instantly, and we were holding their bones. Even with two pairs of army gloves it was like squeezing a piece of bloody flesh.

I live now a peaceful life. But when I look back, the corpse disposal was something like hell on earth.

この世の地獄 遺体処理 8月8日 広島 19歳 軍人

広島市内から、旧似島陸軍検疫所に送られてきた遺体は数知れず、一部は薪・油で火葬にしたが、大部分は壕を掘って、そのまま埋葬するより仕方がなかった。

真夏の暑さと、原爆により三日間燃え続けた火災の熱で、遺体は腐乱し、その死臭は言語に絶するものであった。運搬の際、遺体の手首をつかむと、腐った肉がズルッと剥けて、直接骨をつかむようで軍手二枚重ねていても、溶けた肉片と血を絞る有り様であった。

平和な生活が続く今思い出すと、この遺体処理は、この世の地獄の出来事であった。

