
Cremating piles of corpses

8th August, Hiroshima, A soldier, 18 years old

We were dispatched from our original unit Onomichi to engage in collecting corpses one day after the bombing.

In the beginning, the transportation of the corpses was troublesome, but from the second day on, we got used to it. In pairs we carried them with bare hands, and cremated piles of corpses with old timber and heavy oil.

We transported the remaining bones in baskets and buried them in holes we had dug nearby.

Since we were soldiers recruited just before war ended, and since we never had a chance to engage in a real battle, the disposal of corpses was the only experience of war. But it was a hard and pitiful task. Even now I feel pain in my heart, when I am thinking about those dead persons and their families.

山のような死体を焼く 8月8日 広島 18歳 軍人

尾道の原隊から派遣された私達は被爆の翌日から死体収容作業に従事した。
死体を運搬する作業は、始めは手間取ったが二日目からは作業に慣れて、二人一組で素手で運び、死体の山に古材と重油をかけて火葬にした。
遺骨はバケツで運び、近くに穴を掘って埋めた。
終戦間際に集められた兵隊で実戦の機会はなく、この遺体処理がただ一つの戦争体験となった。
しかし、つらい、悲惨な作業で、死者や遺族のことを思うと、五十数年経った今でも胸が痛む。

