

前橋空襲と広島・長崎原爆パネル展 2021

Maebashi Air Raid and Hiroshima/Nagasaki Atomic  
Bomb Panel Exhibition 2021

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## はじめに

終戦からわずか10日前のこと。昭和20年（1945年）8月5日の日曜日は、朝から晴天で風も無く、とても蒸し暑い日だったそうです。夜の9時に警戒警報、9時45分には空襲警報が鳴り響きました。10時半、前橋市上空東側から爆音を轟かせながら、92機のアメリカ軍機B29が次々とやってきました。アメリカ軍は1時間半以上攻撃を続け、約724トンの爆弾を投下しました。木造家屋が大部分であった市内は瞬く間に炎につつまれ、市街地の80%が焦土と化しました。死者535人。負傷者600人以上。前橋の先人たちが築いた街並みは破壊され、かけがいのない多くの命が、そして人生が一晩にして奪われました。

終戦から75年以上が経過し、当時のことを知る方々も少なくなりつつあります。

前橋市では前橋空襲のあった8月5日及び終戦記念日の8月15日に合わせ、戦争体験の証言や写真をパネル化した「前橋空襲と広島・長崎原爆パネル展」を毎年開催しています。

皆さんがこのパネル展を通じて戦争の実態や悲惨さを再認識し、毎日が平和に過ぎていくことの大切さを感じていただければ幸いです。

## 資料の見方

6ページ以降、文章タイトル左横の番号と展示パネル左横の数字が一致します。

日本語の証言の次に英語要約の順になっています。

## Preface

It was only 10 days before the war ended. Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1945 had been a very hot and humid day with clear skies and no wind since the morning. At 9 p.m. there was preliminary alert, and at 9:45 p.m. the alarm signaling an air raid blared. At 10 p.m., an explosive sound roared through the eastern sky as 92 American B29 Superfortresses came one after the other. The U.S. forces continued their attack for over an hour and half, dropping approximately 724 tons worth of bombs. The city center, which was mostly made of wooden structures, was instantly engulfed in flames. 80 percent of the metropolitan area was reduced ashes. 535 people lost their lives and over 600 injured people. The city that was built by the pioneers of Maebashi was destroyed. Many irreplaceable lives were taken, and the daily lives of many people were uprooted in a single night.

75 years have passed since the end of the war, so fewer people know about what happened on that day.

Using war testimonies and pictures, Maebashi City holds the “Maebashi Air Raid and Hiroshima/Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Panel Exhibition” every year on August 5<sup>th</sup>, when the Maebashi air raid occurred, and on August 15<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary of the end of the war.

By becoming aware of the tragic reality of the war through this panel, we hope that everyone will come to understand just how important these days of peace are.

### **How to read the documents:**

From page 6 onwards, the numbers on the left side of the text title and the numbers on the left side of the exhibition panel match.

The Japanese testimony is followed by an English translation.

## 悲惨な戦争を忘れずに

前橋も空襲で多くの犠牲者を出すとともに、市街地が焦土と化すなど壊滅的な打撃を受けました。今では戦争を知らない人も増えています。

この機会に、前橋大空襲の様子や投稿いただいた戦争体験談などを通して、平和の尊さを考えましょう。

## 前橋大空襲の被害

本市は、太平洋戦争が終わる10日前の昭和20（1945）年8月5日に、大空襲を受けました。前橋大空襲の翌日に広島、4日後には長崎へ原子爆弾が投下され、多くの犠牲者を出しました。そして、15日、日本は無条件降伏し終戦を迎えました。

8月5日午後10時30分、4か所に投下された照明弾で前橋空襲が始まり、続いて岩神町に焼夷弾が投下され、県立第一工業学校（現在の前橋第三中学校付近）と共愛女学校が炎上しました。こうして、市内中心部に爆撃が開始され、空襲かはそれから1時間15分にわたり続きました。

本市を爆撃したのは、B-29型爆撃機92機です。その夜、691トンの焼夷弾、17.6トンの破碎爆弾、15.2トンの一般爆弾が本市に投下されました。

空襲で死者535人、負傷者600人、被災面積は2,657平方キロメートル（全市域の22%、市街地の60%）でした。被災戸数においては、11,000戸（全戸数の55%、市街地戸数の75%）を超えるものでした。

この空襲で最も多くの死者を出した所は、広瀬川に架かる比刀根橋<sup>1</sup>わきの防空壕と細々沢十字路<sup>2</sup>（住吉町一丁目）の水路でした。市内で模範とされていた比刀根橋の防空壕周辺は、一面火の海となり、豪内に入った多くの人々が煙と熱気で窒息死しました。また、十字路では、市外へ逃げる途中の人たちが、猛火に巻かれ水路の中で死んだのです。

空襲の被害は、昭和29年以降に本市に合併した周辺市町村にも及びました。上川淵、下川淵、芳賀、桂萱、東、元総社、南橋、木瀬（永明・城南の一部）の各地域を合計すると、死者47人、負傷者114人、被災戸数511戸（8月14日の空襲分を含む）でした。

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<sup>1</sup> 読み方：ひとねばし

<sup>2</sup> 読み方：こまかざわじゅうじろ

## Remembering the Tragic War

In addition to the countless people who fell victim to the air raids, Maebashi suffered devastating damage that scorched the metropolitan area. Even now there is an increasing number of people who know nothing about the war.

Let us take this opportunity to meditate on the importance of peace through looking the state of the Maebashi air raid as well as the testimonials that we received.

## The Damage of the Maebashi Air Raid

10 days before the end of the Pacific War, on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1945, Maebashi suffered an air raid attack. The next day after the Maebashi Air Raid, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and four days after that, one was dropped on Nagasaki, which resulted in the deaths of many people. Then, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Japan surrendered unconditionally and the war ended.

The Maebashi Air Raid began with flares going off in four locations on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Following the flares, incendiary bombs were dropped and Iwagami-cho, Prefectural Daiichi Technical School (in the vicinity of modern day Maebashi Daisan Junior High School), and Kyoai Girl's School went up in flames. Thus, the bombings began in the city center and the air raid continued for an hour and 15 minutes thereafter.

Maebashi was attacked by a B-29 Superfortress bomber. That night, a 691 ton incendiary bomb, a 17.6 ton daisy cutter bomb, and a 15.2 ton general bomb were dropped on Maebashi. As a result of the bombing, 535 people lost their lives, 600 people were hurt, and 2,657 square kilometers (22% of the whole city area and 60% of the metropolitan area) of the area was affected. More than 11,000 homes (55% of all the homes and 75% of the metropolitan area homes) were affected.

The places that had the most victims during the air raid were the Hitonebashi (a bridge that spans Hirose River) air-raid shelter, and the Komakazawajūjiro (modern day Sumiyoshi-cho 1 chome) canal. The area around the Hitonebashi air-raid shelter became a sea of fire, and the people who took refuge in the shelter died choking on the smoke and hot air. There were also people in Jūjiro who were trying to escape to the outside of the city but, they were enveloped in the raging flames and died in the canal.

The damage of the air raid also reached the surrounding municipalities that Maebashi annexed in 1954. If you combine the various regions of Kamikawafuchi, Shimokawafuchi, Haga, Kaigaya, Azuma, Motosōja, Nankitsu, and Kise (Part of Eimei and Jōnan), there were 47 people who lost their lives, 114 people who were injured, and 511 homes (including the portion damaged by the air raid on August 14<sup>th</sup>) that were affected.

## ①悲しみを乗り越えて

稲荷新田町 高橋 美子（証言当時60歳）

父は昭和16年6月に出征しました。私は6歳、弟3歳、妹1歳でした。国旗を手に、弟や妹、母と一緒に父を群馬総社駅で見送ったあの日のことが、今も目に焼きついております。

あの日から、私たちの留守家族の生活は戦争のようでした。農家の大黒柱が出征し、祖父が中心となり、私たち幼い姉弟が農業を助ける毎日でした。

学校へ行く前に手伝い、また帰って来て手伝うという、幼心に母や祖父を助けようという気持ちでいっぱいでした。

昭和20年終戦となり、父が帰る日を私たち家族は待ちました。復員する人が次々とある中に、父は帰って来ませんでした。昭和21年、戦死の公報が届きました。終戦となり、すぐ帰ってくればとくやしくてたまりませんでした。母や祖父の日ごとにやつれるのが見えるようでした。

公報を手に握りしめ妹だきて泣きくずれたる母を見たりし父の弟も戦死でした。祖父は二人の子を戦争で亡くしたのです。

戦後は物が不自由で、みそ、塩は配給で並んで買いました。布地は切符で、点数以外は買えません。農家で一番必要な肥料もありません。農家は町から下肥を野菜と交換でくんできて、肥料としました。

二年前に弟が、ミャンマーへ親善訪問団として行って来ました。父の眠る地に一度行ってみたいと思っていたことが念願かなって、大変感激して帰って来たとのことでした。

父ねむるミャンマーより弟の持ちたる小さき石に話しかける

戦争犠牲者に、今の平和の時代を一目見せてあげたかったと思います。この平和がいつまでも続くことを祈ります。

## ①Overcoming Sorrow

Tōkashinden-machi Yoshiko Takahashi (Age 60 at the time of testimony)

My father left for war in June 1944. I was six years old, my younger brother was three years old, and my younger sister was one year old. With the national flag in hand, my younger siblings, my mother, and I all went to see my father off at Gunma Sōja Station. That day is still burned into my memory even now.

From that day on, the life of our remaining family was like war. With the backbone of our family out to war, my grandfather became the center of the family. My siblings and I spent every day helping with farming.

We would help before going to school, as well as help after we returned home. Our little hearts were overflowing with the urge to help our mother and grandfather.

The war ended in 1945 and our family awaited the day my father would return. My father was not among the demobilized people who had returned. A year later in 1946, an official report of those who had died in the war arrived. It was so vexing waiting for him to return after the war had ended. It seemed as though my mother and grandfather were suffering every day.

I watched my mother clutching the report in her hand as she hugged my little sister and broke down crying. My father's little brother had also died. My grandfather had lost both of his sons to the war.

There was a lack of supplies after the war. We had to line up to buy miso and salt rations. We could buy fabric using tickets. We weren't able to buy more than the amount shown on the ticket. Even fertilizer, the most important thing to farmers, wasn't available. Farmers would exchange manure from the town for vegetables and made fertilizer.

Two years ago my younger brother went on a goodwill trip to Myanmar. He wanted to visit our father's resting place at least once. He was incredibly moved by the experience when he came back.

I talk to the small stone that my brother brought back with him from our father's resting place in Myanmar.

I would have liked to show all the victims of the war a glimpse of these peaceful times. I pray that this peace lasts forever.



## ②前橋大空襲

紅雲町一丁目 清水 家寿子（証言当時67歳）

梔子<sup>3</sup>の匂いがかぐと、50年前の空襲の夜を思い出す。「今度こそ本物だっ」と庭に勢ぞろいしたとき、暗闇の中に匂っていたからだ。

母、祖母、下の弟三人は時沢へ疎開し、私と前橋中一年の弟は前代田の親戚へ。父は一人で桑町の店（小川屋靴店）を守っていた。

不気味に鳴り響く警報と同時に、伯母の先導で、私たちは畦道を南へ南へと逃げ、行き着いたのは六供河原だった。

空は灰色とピンクのまだらに染まり、銀色に光るB-29が、座布団ぐらいの大きさで、頭上を回旋していた。幸い至近弾はなく、じっと桑畑の陰にうずくまり、恐怖に耐えた。空が白み始め、立ち上がるとガスタンクが見え、伯父の家が助かったと思った。家に残った伯父は一人で、ひさしを突き抜いた焼夷弾を消し止めていた。

桑町が気になり、今のテルサの角まで来ると、見るも無残な焼け野原で、祖父母が苦勞の末に手にした土蔵造りの我が家は跡形もなく、ただ、小山のような焼土を残すのみだった。

炎天下を時沢へ向かった。弁天通りにさしかかると、大蓮寺<sup>4</sup>の庭に遺体らしきものが積み重ねられていたが、正視できなかった。父は、私たちの無事を確認するや、時沢へ母を迎えに行き、自転車に付けたリヤカーに乗せ、焼け跡に戻る途中堀に転落、前歯を折り、唇を切って疎開先で寝ていた。

父が避難したのち、町内のお年寄りが逃げ惑い、私の家の屋内防空壕に飛び込み、焼死された。遺族がお骨を拾われたあと、一個のバケツが残っていた。のぞくと、黄色い脂肪と毛髪の付着した頭部だった。あとで父はビンの底に焼け残った酒を振りかけ、浄めた。

17歳の私を頭に、母の背中にくくり付けられていた弟は、生後10か月。今にして両親の戦後の苦勞がしのばれるのは、自分が幼い三人の孫を持つ身になったせいかもしれな<sup>5</sup>い。

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<sup>3</sup> 読み方：くちなし 夏に香りの高い白い花を開く。染料や漢方になり庭木にすることが多い。

<sup>4</sup> 読み方：だいにんじ

## ②Maebashi Air-Raid

Kōun-chō 1-chōme Yasuko Shimizu (Age 67 at the time of testimony)

Whenever I catch the scent of gardenias, I remember the night of the air-raid 50 years ago. I could smell them as we huddled together in the darkness that night thinking, “it’s happening for real this time.”

My mother, grandmother, and three younger brothers evacuated to Tokizawa, while I and my brother who was in his first year at Maebashi Junior High went to our relatives in Maeshirota. My father protected the store (Ogawaya Shoe Store) in Kuwa-machi.

The alert reverberated eerily in the background as my aunt lead us south on footpaths between the rice fields until we reached the Rokku riverbed.

The sky was tinged with specks of grey and pink, and the silver-shining B-29 Superfortress looked to be the size of a zabuton (square-shaped floor cushion) as it revolved overhead. Fortunately there wasn’t a point blank shot. We crouched in the shadows of the mulberry fields as we endured our fear. The sky began to turn white, and I could see a gas holder. I thought that my uncle’s house was saved. My uncle, who had remained at home, was putting out the fires caused by the incendiary bomb that penetrated the eaves of the house.

I had wondered about Kuwa-machi, so I headed there and arrived at what is now the corner of Maebashi Terasa. There was nothing but a miserable burnt field. There were no traces of our house that my grandparents had labored to get. All that was left was burnt soil that resembled a small mountain.

We headed towards Tokizawa under the blazing summer sun. As we made it to Benten Street, I saw what looked like a pile of human remains in the garden of Dairenji Temple, but I couldn’t look at it directly. My father checked on us to make sure we were safe and then headed to Tokizawa to meet my mother. He put her in a rear car attached to a bike, but on his way back through the fire-devastated area he fell in a ditch, breaking his front teeth and busting his lip. That night, they slept in the evacuation area.

After my father had evacuated, the elderly people in the neighborhood had fled in a confused stupor and barged into our house’s air-raid shelter, where they were burned to death. Once their surviving families had collected their bones, only a single bucket was left. Looking in the bucket I saw yellow-colored grease,

and a cranium with hair still attached to it. Afterwards my father poured some alcohol that survived the fire into the bottom of the bucket to cleanse it.

With me as the lead, my mother followed behind me with my 10 month old little brother clinging to her back. Perhaps the reason I find myself reflecting on the struggles my parents faced after the war is because of my three young grandchildren.

### ③忌まわしき八月五日、前橋空襲

荒牧町 豊田 勇一（証言当時56歳）

昭和20年8月5日の夜は、私たちにとって一生忘れることができない、忌まわしく悲しい日となりました。

当時6歳の私は母に起こされ、弟と妹の4人で庭の防空壕に避難しました。しばらくすると、辺りが急に明るくなったので、外に出てみると、それは投下された照明弾の明かりで、木の葉一枚一枚がハッキリと映し出されていました。くわえて西の空が真っ赤に染まるのを見た母は、ここには危険ないと判断。火の手のない母の実家（現、三河町一丁目）に逃げようと広瀬川沿いに、私たちの手を引いて走りだしました。

その途中、投下された焼夷弾による火災にはばまれ、比刀根橋の所にあった防空壕に逃げ込んだのですが、私は後から避難してくれる人たちに、奥へ奥へと押し込まれ、ここで母や弟妹と離れ離れになりました。壕の中は煙が充満し、蒸し焼きになるほどの熱さのため、安全であるはずの壕内が、助けを求める悲鳴でいっぱいでした。私も「かあちゃん苦しいよう」といったままでを記憶に残して気を失い、気がついた時は、壕から一キロ近くも離れた病院でした。近くで倒れていた私を、見知らず人が助けてくれたとのことですが、そのことも、壕からどう逃げ出したのかも覚えていません。私を助けてくれた方に、心からお礼を申し上げます。

翌日、看護婦さんに近くの小川で汚れた体を洗ってもらい、背負われて、うろ覚えの父の実家（現、平和町二丁目）に向かう途中、私たちの家族を探してくれていた祖母の姿を見つけ、おもわず「おばあちゃん」と叫びました。

お世話になった看護婦さんと別れ、祖母の家で、大きなおにぎり三個を食べたとき、生きていることを実感するとともに、寝かされた私は、一人で起き上がれないほど、疲労していたことを覚えています。

母や弟妹はこの前橋の空襲で、忌まわしい戦争の犠牲者となりました。母よ弟妹よ、安らかに、そして私たちをお守りください。

### ③A detestable August 5<sup>th</sup>: Maebashi Air-Raids

Aramaki-machi Yūichi Fujida (Age 56 at the time of testimony)

The night of August 5, 1945 is a detestably tragic night that we can never forget.

I was six years old at the time when my mother woke me up and took me, my younger brother, and my younger sister, to evacuate to our garden's air-raid shelter. After a while, the surrounding area became bright all of the sudden. When we went outside, we saw that it was the light of a flare that had been dropped. We could see every leaf on the trees being illuminated by the light. My mother, who saw the western sky dyed in a bright red, decided that it was too dangerous to stay there. Our mother pulled us by the hand as we fled along Hirose River to our grandparent's home (modern day Mikawa-chō 1-chōme) where there was no fire.

On the way, our path was blocked by a fire that was started by an incendiary bomb. We took refuge in an air-raid shelter, but I was pushed further and further into the shelter by the people who were evacuating us, separating me from my mother and younger siblings. The inside of the shelter filled with smoke, making it so hot in there it felt as though we were being cooked. The inside of the shelter was supposed to be safe, but it was full of screams for help. "Mommy, it hurts," I cried out. That was the last thing I remembered before losing consciousness. When I woke up, I was in a hospital 1km away from the shelter. A nearby stranger had saved me, but I have no memory of how we escaped. I am eternally grateful to the person who had saved me.

The next day, a nurse took me to a creek where she washed the grime off of me, put me on her back, and took me to my paternal grandparent's home (modern day Heiwa-machi 2-chōme), which I only had a faint memory of. On the way there, I spotted my grandmother, who was looking for our family. Without thinking I shouted, "Grandma!"

I parted ways with the nurse who took care of me. When I ate three big rice balls at my grandmother's house, I could feel that I was alive. I remember being so tired that, once I had laid down, I was unable to get back up on my own.

My mother and my younger siblings lost their lives during the Maebashi Air-Raids, becoming victims of that detestable war. Mom, my siblings, be at peace and please protect me.

#### ④遺骨を胸に抱いて

総社町植野 立見シヅエ（証言当時77歳）

主人のもとへ渡満したのが昭和14年、ソ満国境を次々と転属し、昭和20年6月、またまた主人は転属を命じられ、その時私は妊娠6か月、長女4歳7か月、長男1歳4か月、内地へ帰る準備の最中でした。運悪く親子三人赤痢にかかり、ハローアルシャン<sup>6</sup>という奥地の陸軍病院に入りましたが、主人不在ゆえ心細く不安だったことは、今考えてもぞっとするほどです。

やっとの思いで退院し、12時間も汽車にゆられ官舎についたのが8月9日、発熱に苦しむ幼い長男の看病で眠れぬ一夜が明けたとたん隣りの部落が空襲され、避難命令が出ました。病み上がりの、しかも身重なうえ熱のある長男を背負い、四歳の長女の手を引き、手に持てるだけの荷物を持って、白城子<sup>7</sup>まで仲間と必死で避難しました。「あんよが痛いよ」と泣く長女をなだめながらのつらい道中でした。途中駅にも道にも死人が転がっている中を、生きて帰りたい一心で黙々と歩き続け、やっとのことで通化にたどりついた、その翌日が敗戦でした。

しかもそれ以後は想像を絶する生き地獄の生活です。食糧難の責め苦に耐えられず、9月20日、ついに長男は栄養失調で死亡、続いて長女がハシカで高熱に苦しんでいる最中に暴民に襲われ、寝具出産用の荷物を根こそぎ盗られ、長女が「寒いよ寒いよ」と泣き叫ぶ姿に狂う心で廊下へ出たとたん、流れ弾が左腰にあたり直径二センチ深さ八センチの傷を負い、倒れてしまいました。チャムス医大の先生と看護婦さんの温情に奇跡的に一命は助かり、八路軍<sup>8</sup>がいつ急襲するかわからない不安の中で10月14日、40度の高熱と悪寒の中で次男の出産、4日後に避難命令、乳も出ないためひもじさで泣きつづける次男、長女と親子三人で死を考えたのはその時でした。やがて冬將軍の到来、ペチカ<sup>9</sup>に燃やす燃料はなし、私にとって心のささえであった長女もとうとう力尽きて、氷でキラキラ光る冷たい部屋でこの世を去りました。生き地獄の中、次男を背に、長男長女の遺骨を胸に、故郷総社にたどりついたのは昭和21年の末のことでした。

<sup>6</sup> ハロンアルシャンともいう。旧満州国に存在していた省内の地区。中国東北部の北西地域。

<sup>7</sup> 読み方：はくじょうし

<sup>8</sup> 読み方：はちろぐん 中国共産党直系の中国国民革命軍第8路軍の略称

<sup>9</sup> ロシア式の暖炉。ペチカともいう。

## ④Holding Their Remains Close

Sōja-machi Ueno Shizue Tatsumi (Age 77 at the time of testimony)

It was 1939 when I went to be by my husband's side in Manchuria. He was assigned the Soviet-Manchuria border at the time. In June of 1945 he was reassigned again. At the time I was 6 months pregnant, and had two children; a daughter who was 4 years and 7 months old, and a son who was 1 year and 4 months old. We were preparing to move back to Japan when my husband had gotten his orders. Unfortunately, my children and I had contracted dysentery so we had to stop at a war hospital in the hinterland of Heilongjiang. Even now, I shudder just thinking about how forlorn and anxious I was because my husband was absent.

We were finally dismissed from the hospital, and after 12 long hours on the train, we finally arrived at our official residence on August 9<sup>th</sup>. At daybreak, after a sleepless night of taking care of my son who had a fever, there was an air-raid attack on the neighboring hamlet. An evacuation order was issued. Pregnant, I put my convalescent son on my back, took my four year old by the hand, and carried all the luggage I could in one hand as I frantically fled to Hakujōshi along with the others who lived in the area. "My feet hurt!" My daughter cried out. I tried to comfort her as we continued on this difficult journey. We silently trudged along, passing cadavers at stations and on the road. We had finally made to it Tonghua City, and the next day it was announced that we had lost the war.

Life was an unimaginable living hell after that. My son, unable to withstand the torture of the food shortage, passed away due to malnutrition. My daughter then fell ill with the measles. While she was suffering with a high fever we were attacked by a mob. They took all of the bedding, and all of the childbirth items. "It's cold. It's so cold," my daughter cried out. I felt myself going insane so I left the room to go into the hallway and as I did, I was hit by a stray bullet in my left hip and I fell to the floor. It left a wound 2 centimeters in diameter and 8 centimeters deep. I miraculously survived thanks to the kindness of a doctor and nurse from Jiamusi Medical School. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, while being anxious about when the Eight Route Army would attack and with a fever of 40°C, I gave birth to my son. Four days later an evacuation order was issued. I could not produce milk so my son cried from hunger, and at the time, I



had contemplated taking the life of my children and myself. A harsh winter had come before long. There was no fuel to burn for the Russian stove. My daughter, who was like my emotional support, was no longer able to carry on, and she left this world in a cold room that sparkled with ice. I carried my son on my back, and held the remains of my eldest son and daughter to my chest, and by the end of the year in 1946 I arrived in my home town of Sōja.

## ⑤前橋空襲体験記

千代田町一丁目 中澤 清（証言当時62歳）

昭和20年8月5日夜、断続的に出されていた警戒警報が突如「敵数目標九十九里浜方面より侵入しつつあり、北関東地区空襲警報発令」のラジオで父に起こされた。

私は、数日前のB-29によるビラの投下で前橋空襲は今夜との予感を子供ながらに持った。

父は自転車を裏の川に沈め、祖母と弟は前橋公園に、残りの家族は自宅の防空壕に避難させた。避難すると同時に照明弾が投下されて、辺り一面が明るく浮かび上がった。と思う間もなく、共愛女学校の方向に火の手が上がった。すると空からザーという油をまくような音と共に無数の焼夷弾が炸裂落下し、瞬時にして我が家の二階も炎につつまれた。父は、ここでは危ないといい、それこそ身一つで川に飛び込み、川づたいに五間道路に出た。それから火の手のない暗がりの方向を求め、現在の自治会館裏から裁判所前（裁判所の木造庁舎に消防車が放水中であった）を抜けて、県庁横から利根川へと避難した。この間、空からは焼夷弾が花火のようにすき間なく落とされ、身体に当たらなかったのが不思議なくらいだった。

この地獄絵のような中で、私は市民の方からこれをかぶりなさいと一枚の布団を頭にかけていただき、また避難先では貴重な水を脱脂綿に浸して口に含ませていただいたことが、仏に巡り会えたように思えた。

翌朝、わが家の焼けトタンとぶすぶす煙を出している黒焦げの木片の上に立って見ると、水道の水がポタリポタリと落ちて、その水たまりが熱湯のように湯気を立てていた。

私は、前橋空襲を中学一年で体験し、戦争のむなしさと恐ろしさをもう二度と繰り返してはならないと思っている。と同時に、人間の極限の中で私がいただいた市民の方々からの温かい真心が、いくつもの輪になって、戦後いち早く、県都前橋復興の原動力になったと信じている。

## ⑤ Experiencing the Maebashi Air-raid

Chiyoda-machi 1-chōme Kiyoshi Nakazawa (Age 62 at the time of testimony)

On the night of August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1945 I was awoken by my father because of the sudden and incessant warning on the radio, “The enemy is invading from the Kujūkuri Beach area, and an air-raid warning has been issued in the northern Kanto region.”

Even though I was child at the time, I had the feeling that the Maebashi Air-Raid would happen that night because of the flyers that were dropped by the B-29 a few days prior.

My father put his bike into the river out back and evacuated my grandmother and little brother to Maebashi Park while the rest of the family took refuge in the house’s air-raid shelter. As we were evacuating, a flare was dropped, brightly lighting up the area all around. Before I knew it, a flame rose in the direction of Kyōai Girls’ School. I could hear faint sounds of multiple mid-air incendiary bomb explosions, and as they fell our house was engulfed in flames in an instant. My father noted that it was dangerous here, and with no belongings he jumped into the river, following it to Goken Dōro. Heading towards the darkness where there were no flames, my father came up from behind the current government assembly hall, through the front of the courthouse (fire trucks were spraying water at the courthouse which was made out of wood), and from the side of the prefectural office he evacuated toward Tone River. During that time, incendiary bombs were dropped from the sky like fireworks without any gaps, and it was wonder he was not struck by one.

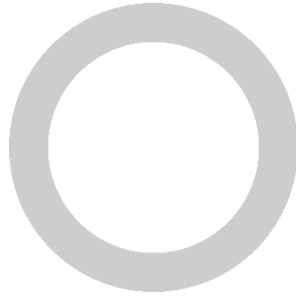
In the midst of this hellish situation, I was given a futon by a citizen who told me to put it on my head, and at the evacuation site, I was given precious absorbent cotton that had be soaked in water to hold in my mouth, which made me feel as though I had met Buddha himself.

The next morning, I stood over our house’s burnt galvanized iron sheet and the blackened pieces of wood that were smoldering, and saw that the water from the tap had fallen and collected into puddles that were steaming like boiling water.

I experienced the Maebashi Air-Raids when I was a first year in junior high school. I don’t think something as empty and horrifying as that war should ever happen again. At the same time, I believe that

the warmth and sincerity I received from the citizens of Maebashi in the midst of human extremes had helped and became the driving force behind the reconstruction of Maebashi, the prefectural capital, soon after the war.





## 平和都市宣言

私たち前橋市民は、ふるさと前橋を愛し、豊かな水と緑に恵まれた自然を守り、平和なまちづくりをめざしています。

しかし、世界の平和と安全にとって、核兵器の存在は大きな脅威をもたらしています。この核兵器の速やかな廃絶は人類共通の願いです。

私たちは、平和を希求する市民総意のもとに、真の永久平和が実現することを願い、ここに「平和都市」を宣言します。

平成元年3月27日 前橋市議会

We, the citizens of Maebashi, hereby declare our love for our city, our intent to protect our natural blessings and our desire to make Maebashi a city eternal peace.

We feel that it is our duty to fully support the rapid disposal of all atomic weapons for the sake of mankind.

We offer our prayers for eternal peace and declare Maebashi "a City of Peace".

March 27, 1989. Municipal Assembly

編集 市民部生活課

翻訳 文化国際課

国際交流員 ジェイレン・コックス