

Losing Family Members ②



A mother searches for the body of her small child.

①Chizuko Shiraishi ②14→44 ③8/7 ④—

Looking for her beloved child, a half-naked woman was loading a small child's body parts into a warped bucket. Brightly colored organs protruding from the bucket glistened in the sunlight.



"Where shall I burn the body of my dead child?"

①Kazuo Matsumuro ②32→61 ③8/7 ④Fujimi-cho

White maggots crawled in the face burns of the child she carried on her back. She probably picked up the metal helmet as a receptacle for her child's bones. She had to walk quite a distance to find combustible materials for the fire.



I cremated my eldest daughter myself

①Tamaki Ishifuro ②35→65 ③8/7 ④—

I cremated my own oldest daughter, Naoko (3). I could not help crying. "You go ahead. I will follow you soon," I joined my hands in prayer. Oil started to ooze from the burning body in surprisingly large amounts, this being one perfectly healthy child. Poor, poor thing. The sight was unbearable and maddening to watch. An absolute hell on earth.



Receiving bones at the city hall

①Tomiko Miyaji ②34→64 ③9/15 ④Hiroshima City Hall

On the list of patients who had been taken in at the relief station on Ninoshima Island, I found only one entry that read: "First-year, Second Junior High, name unknown." Thinking that could be my child, I took a fistful of bones out of the box and wrapped them in a dirty handkerchief. When I realized that the spine was too large to be a child's, the tears flowed.