

Their Last Mission: The Akatsuki Corps Standing to Rescue the City of Hiroshima

—The Reality of the Atomic Bombing Through the Eyes of the Akatsuki Corps Soldiers—



Transporting countless victims to Ninoshima Island by boat
Drawn by Giichi Hanasato

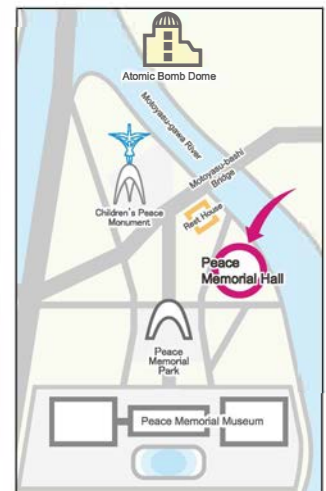
In conjunction with the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims' special exhibition "Akatsuki Corps in the Face of Apocalyptic Fires: Hiroshima and the Child Soldiers of the Suicide Attack Squad," we introduce related materials from the collection of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.



Pocket watch (replica)
Donated by Kazuo Nikawa



Blouse Donated by Tokuo Omoto



Note: This venue is NOT the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

Period August 1 (Thursday) – August 31 (Saturday), 2024
8:30 – 19:00 (until 20:00 on August 5 and 6)

Venue Seminar Room, Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims

Admission: Free of Charge

The soldiers of the Akatsuki Corps had spent their time training for battle, but the last mission they received was to aid the suffering people in the burnt-out city of Hiroshima.

This exhibition conveys the inhumanity of nuclear weapons through the horrific reality of the atomic bombing as witnessed by the Akatsuki Corps.

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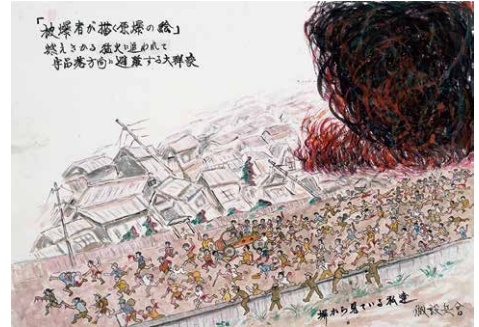
1. In the Confusion of August 6 The Flash, Blast, and Mushroom Cloud / Influx of Injured People
 “What in the world had happened in Hiroshima City?”



Mushroom cloud
 Photo by Gonichi Kimura



Encountering boats full of injured people
 Drawn by Toshifumi Goto



Large crowd taking shelter from the flames
 Drawn by Tadayoshi Nagamine

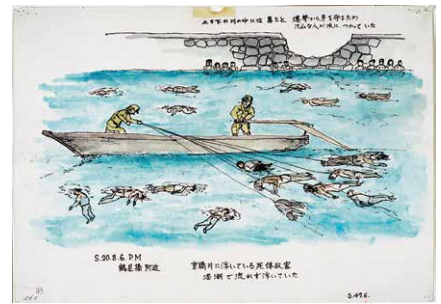
2. All-Out Effort Relief and Rescue / Disposal of Bodies / Firefighting and Recovery
 “By evening, the special cadets sat down exhaustedly. We, the medical corps, couldn't even swallow our meals.”



Soldier, quickly! Even if you have to cut off my leg
 Drawn by Tomeo Imura Donated by Dai Sugiyama



Burning the dead on Ninoshima Island all day
 Drawn by Toshifumi Goto



Retrieving bodies floating in the river
 Drawn by Kazuo Matsumuro



Temporary relief station crowded with survivors
 Photo by Masami Onuka



Petroleum jelly



Sterile gauze



Canteen
 Donated by Yoshio Arai

3. End of the Fight Sacrifices within the Corps / Remains
 “What a horrifying sight! Can humanity inflict any greater cruelty upon itself?”



Boy receiving treatment for burns
 Photo by Hajime Miyatake
 Courtesy of the Asahi Shimbun Company



Bag
 Donated by Saburo Sunakawa



Buckle
 Donated by Toshiko Yamada



Wristwatch



Ring
 (Belongings excavated from Ninoshima Island)