

## Air raid in Chiba city on May 5<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup> and July 7<sup>th</sup> 1945

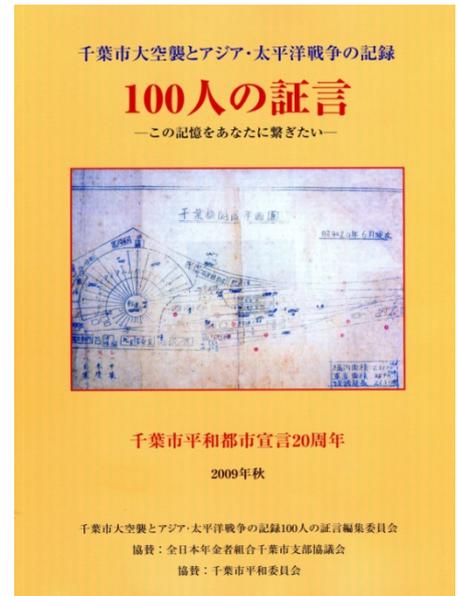
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This book was planned to publish on the back ground when Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the concept of “Beautiful Japan”, when Japan constitution revision voting act was passed with majority in Diet and when Japan Air Self Defense general commander Mr. Toshio Tamogami described “Was Japan an Invader country?” Mr. Abe also thought that Imperial Japan in pre-war days was beautiful.

In 2015, Liberal Democratic Party and Komei Party, ruling parties passed security laws including mass defense right which completely goes against the article 9 at the constitution. Now they target revision the article 9.

Late Mr. Sadao Matsumoto, a secretary of editors, had published in 1980 “Record of Air-raid in Chiba City” 36 years ago. In its book, Chiba air-raids at 10 June and 7 July in 1945 were described in detail. But even in those days, in order to make the memory of war fresh, the grass-root movements that continues to tell air-raid and war to generation to generation be necessary. All Japan Pensioner's Union Chiba branch and Chiba Peace Committee published the book of A4 size 400 pages with price ¥1000 in cooperation publishing 3000 copies.



### 1. Testimony collection activity

As for air-raid by bombing at 10 June in 1945, I, an editor visited Mr. Kanaya at Soga district, who was born after the war. But he remembered the craters, 10 meter diameter, made by bomb blast. The craters became pond in rice fields. He played in the pond. He drew the position bomb pond in map. He is a member of air-raid victim's family in his district. Then the editor visited and collected testimonies at Fukushoji temple with a monument, Chiba women's school, Chiba resurrection Church, Chiba hospital, Chiba women's teachers college and Chiba national railway locomotive yard. As for air-raid by bombing at 7 July in 1945, the editor visited Honcho primary school, In-nai primary school, Chiba shrine, Hotoin temple, Chiba municipal engineering school, and Soinji temple. There were no name lists of air-raids victims in Chiba municipal grave yard which used to be having burned dead bodies, and Chiba Toke municipal center.

## **2. Content of Chiba air-raid and other testimonies**

At the beginning, although we started to hear and to research Chiba air-raid as 100 testimonies, we collected other testimonies that have experienced the war in other area, other than Chiba city. Totally we could grasp the war as victims by air-raids and as people of invader nation in colonies. Now, testimonies are 53% as Chiba city air-raid, 22% and 5% as war experiences in Japan and over sea areas, 18% as members of military including army nurse. Men and women are fifty- fifty. Average age of testimonies is 13.6 years old at 15 August 1945. They happen to become 85 years old in 2016. 75% of testimonies were collected by interviewing for about one hour without tape recorder. The editor made testimonies from interview notes. Based on the note, the testimonies corrected and added the article. We repeated the action till we satisfied in detail. Before the interview, editor showed the testimony 3 conditions such as not to beatify the war and death during war, to scribe concrete truth, and not to need to be work as a literature.

## **3. Position of this book published by democratic group in Chiba prefecture**

Quarter century has passed since “Record of Chiba city air-raids” by Mr. Sadao Matsumoto (1985) and one third century has passed since “Record of war experiences” by Kazuto Kojima (1972, 1973, and 1976). It seems difficult to continue to publish at those intervals in future. Mr. K. Kojima concluded with next phrase, “May experience records be published each area in Chiba prefecture”. So we could contribute historical duty to continue and develop peace movement.

## **4. Introduction of some testimonies**

### **(1) Soga 1 chome**

At around 7:50, US air force to Hitachi military air plane factory missed to drop bombs on residential area East next to the factory. Then bombs destroyed Soga 1chome residential district. Soga is 4km far from the center of Chiba city, the bombing target. Many of 129 dead bodies of residential victims were carried to Sakuragi grave yard to be burnt. We collected 4 testimonies there. The most miserably damaged family was 7 members killed instantly together. Then the house has been inherited by uncle family. One father found air-raid on his town after he left for work shop. He died on the way to home in order to work for defense against air-raid as a member of guard group.

### **(2) Chiba women’s school and Chiba women’s teachers college**

Both schools were for women. Both schools had “School Factory” in their school. Their students were forced to work for producing parts of military air plane. Students of Chiba women’s teachers college worked for 24 hours with 3 shifts. When the air-raid took place, it was Sunday morning. Night shift students ended their duty and day shift students were coming. If it were peace Sunday, students could stay in their house safely. Women victims of both schools were killed before they reached at air-raid shelters. Japan government had made light of people’s life. The shelters were not made strong enough to protect students from 500 pound bomb.

Some witnesses insisted that US air force targeted Hitachi air plane factory or locomotive yard of national rail way and that women's schools were not targets. The air-raid can be indiscriminating attack. The bombing to women's school including school factory missed to Chiba hospital in which many patients and staffs were killed. But it is suspicious that US had caught information of "School Factory" in women's school by air photograph. Numbers of victims are 12 in women's teacher college and 2 in women's school on that day. On 7 July, Chiba women's school principal died by air-raid. People misunderstand students and principal died on the same day.

### (3) Tragedy of Honcho national primary school

Honcho primary school had semi under-ground pass in front of the main gate as a new building style. The both entrances inside and outside had iron doors. At midnight on 6 and 7 July of air-raid by incineration bombs attack, people and soldiers escaped there as they thought the under-ground pass might be a shelter. But long and tight air-raid and fire caused high temperature, dry and short of oxygen. People and soldiers died in the pass with their bodies scorched. It is said that iron door did not open because electric motor could not move when electricity did not provided or door was locked.



Late Mis. Sachiko Higurashi. "the next day morning" 1975 Soldiers worked to convey dead bodies into track for burning site in early morning.

### (4) Chiba Shrine and Dainichidera Temple

In prewar days, Chiba Shrine had located next to Dainichidera Temple in the center of Chiba city. On 7 July air-raid, neighbors rushed into shelter in Chiba Shrine which was dug out not only for the Shrine but for neighbors. The manager let the family to go to rice fields. But as the air-raid continued for long hours, air and earth soil became too hot to stay in shelter. The priest persuaded the people to go out to well site. The priest pumped up water and poured water to bodies and earth to cool temperature. They drank water for life. The Temple burned out but people could survive. The well site did not burn. As for Dainichidera Temple, as air-raid was imminent, the priest made family members go to rice fields. Unfortunately wife and 3 daughters were hit by incineration bombs. They died. Now, Dainichidera moved to Todorokicho. There is a tomb with family victims names in the new temple.

## 5. Military look education of National Primary School

Every National Primary School had Ten-no (emperor) and his wife's Shrine. There was a two-shot picture of Ten-no and his wife as Gods. In front of it, all people had to stand straight,

then to bow and passed. When principal began to read Imperial Rescript of Education in several events a year in school, all including teachers had to keep their heads down. As militarism education was unreasonable, school children looked with curiosity people in shrine, who bowed deeply. It is interesting. Children evacuated from other to Chiba prefecture, were bullied by local village children. There was no education that bullying was not good during invasion of war. The war was bullying by the state. An evacuee school girl to Akita prefecture experienced mutual "Binta" (slapping or beating other's face). Teachers ordered children to make girl's 2 lines and boy's 2 lines respectively. Teachers made children, including even girls, do "Binta". When "Binta" was seen mild, teachers ordered to do again. Teachers expected children to have fight spirit through making enemy in friends. But children was so clever, they did not hit hard. In some schools, school children was forced to learn by heart 124 Ten-no's names from myth to Showa era, or Imperial Rescript on Education, or Imperial Rescript to Military Service-men. When military troops stationed at school, children were forced to collect clay fish (zarigani) for foods of soldiers. In school yard, children were forced to bring up rabbits or goats to make use of fur skins. At Oihama primary school in Chiba, so many air plane parts were carried in classrooms in order to escape from air-raid to Hitachi factory. As the school children could not use class rooms, the school had to move to near temple or shrine temporarily. When air-raid alert was announced, children had to go home. In addition, US air fighters traced and shot even children on their way home. So primary school children did not study in good condition.

## **6. People who resisted the War**

In old military song, there was a phrase "Being sent by voices of cheer". There were no soldiers and family to be willing to go or send a family to battle fields. The wife and mother could not allow crying before public, because crying was prohibited by military government. But primary school children observed the scene that mother cried behind the people. As the fathers, husbands and brothers were important workforce; the bereaved family could not sustain life level well, and become poor. It was hard for women to work in man-superior and woman-inferior system society. If men died in the war, family would feel sad very much. One man escaped the military physical check through he played a role as a deaf. Military examiner doctor was deceived as a real deaf. We are proud of his resistance, because he did never kill and he did never die. But he was so called as "a not patriotic person" during the war. There were positive resistance whose activists were against invasion of war and Emperor's system. Sometimes we hear such opinion that Japanese race or people are not democratic etc. But Japanese are not same uniformly. Why did the Japanese people co-operate the war? People had lived under Ten-no ism through education from the childhood. But a few members who studied world history and democracy, were against the Ten-no system and invasion of war. Opposite parties, organizations and persons were suppressed severely, arrested and tortured to death by the Maintenance of the Public Order Act. There is a testimony whose father was against the war. He was arrested and tortured. His wife supported him. In this book, we are proud of



US men and British men shot down in Chiba prefecture in 1945 during WW2							
case	date	crash situation	place	number of dead	crews situation	torture or murder	base
1	1944.12.3	One B29 of 75 planes was crashed by body attack of Japanese fighter	Jindai village(Tonosho town)	5 died out of 12 crews	1 killed instantly, 4 died in army hospital.3 returned. Major Pilot Gall Swazy returned to US	4 injured might be tortured and died. After the war, war criminal was not questioned.	
2	1945.5.25	One B29 plane crashed on the ground	Chousei county Hiyosi village (Nagara town)	6 died out of 11 crews	5 escaped out of 11 crews. 1 died next day. Heavily injured second lieutenant Emry was killed with sword, next day dead body was used for stab exercise.	Leader of execution with sword was sentence to be hung, stabling executor was sentence to be crime 25 years labor	
3	1945.6.23	Fighter P51 shot down by Japanese fighter	Shot at Yokaichiba (Sosa city)and crashed in Kuga village( Tako town)	one crew	When lieutenant Junior was going down, was shot from the ground and was bound by rope and was stabbed by villagers with bamboo spear and stabbed by bayonet by military man. The pilot was killed by exited violent people with allowance by military.	Chief staff officer was prisoned 40 years labor, resident who executed prisoned 5 years laboer	
4	unknown	unknown	Almost naked white tall dead man was found at beach between Inage and Kemigawa by Sigeru Ichihara, 10 years boy.	one crew	He seemed to be a US pilot. His abdomen was swollen. He might have been shot and drifted to Chiba from Kanagawa or Tokyo in Tokyo Bay.	When 10 children looked down the dead white body, An adult orderd to stab the dead body. They could do nothing. Military police conveyed it other place.	100 testimonies of Asia Pacific War. P102 and hearing at 2016.11.8
5	1945.5.23		One B29 was damaged and crashed at rice field in Enomoto, seveal hundreds meter far from Minowa district, Nagaramachi.	one crew	One heavily injured pilot	Leader Mabuchi executed by sword injured pilot. Mabuchi was sentenced by military court to be hung and executed.	History of Mobaracity(p717)
6	1945.7.18	B29. one plane crashed on the ground	One B29 was shot by anti air craft canon and broken in 飛空 and crashed	one crew	The pilot was politely burryed being wrapped with parachute at Senmori by people. They built his monument.	none	History of Mobaracity(p717)
7	1945.8.15 when surrender announce broadcastin g		British man crashed with parachute on his back not opened on rice field in Shimonogo Shinohara	one crew	Soon battle in the air began, British plane crashed. People burried him politely at under the Tsukisiodai with unknown man monument.	none	Mtsusawa town history( P948) Pacific War and homeland( p933)
	sum			14			

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