

August 6—I'll never forget that horrifying day Ichiro Osako, 32, staff writer in the Chugoku Shimbun's news division



On the evening of August 5, 1945, Chugoku Shimbun's headquarters, located in Kaminagarekawa-cho, Hiroshima (present-day Ebisu-cho, in the city's Naka Ward), about 900 meters from the hypocenter

Despite the war, people went about living their lives.

"Tomorrow, I'm going to work on dismantling buildings to create fire lanes around the prefectural government offices area."

"It'll be a tough day."

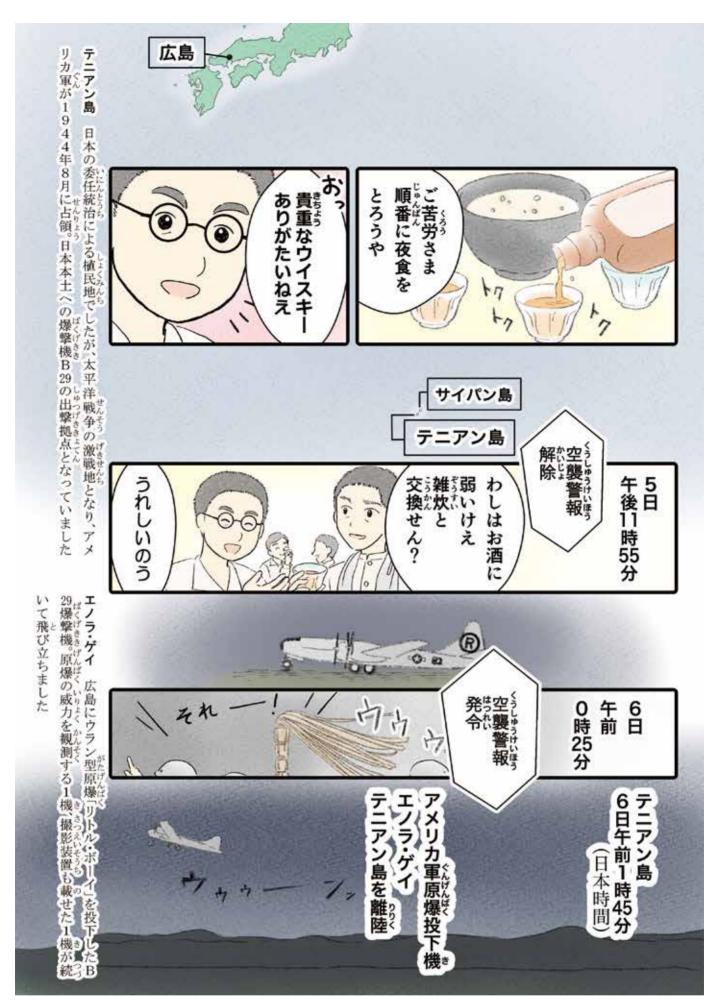
"Osako, you're on night duty for defense purposes."

(Night duty for defense purposes:In preparation for enemy nighttime air raids, the Chugoku Shimbun placed 14 employees on standby every night.)

"Yeah, that's right."

August 5, 9:27 p.m. Air raid alarm sounds (WAAAAH)

"Hey, everyone, hurry up and take your positions!"



"Good evening. Let's take turns eating at night…" (GLUG, GLUG, GLUG)

"It's great to have some of this hard-to-come-by whisky."

Hiroshima

Saipan

Tinian

(Tinian—The island used to be a colony under Japan's rule, but it turned into an intense battlefield in the Pacific theater of World War II. It was occupied by the U.S. military in August 1944. The island was then used as the base for B-29 bombers to attack Japan's mainland.)

August 5, 11:55 p.m.

Air raid alarm lifted

"I can't drink, so do you want to trade my whiskey for your boiled rice?"

"It's a deal!"

August 6, 0:25 a.m.

Air raid alarm sounds

(WAAAH)

Tinian, August 6, 1:45 a.m. (Japan time)

U.S. bomber Enola Gay leaves Tinian carrying the atomic weapon

(Enola Gay—B-29 bomber that dropped the uranium atomic bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima. Taking off afterward were an aircraft for surveilling the destructive force of the atomic bomb and another plane carrying photographic equipment.) (WHIRRRR)



August 6, 2:10 a.m. Air raid alarm lifted

"Phew, that was a long alarm."

(SIGH···)

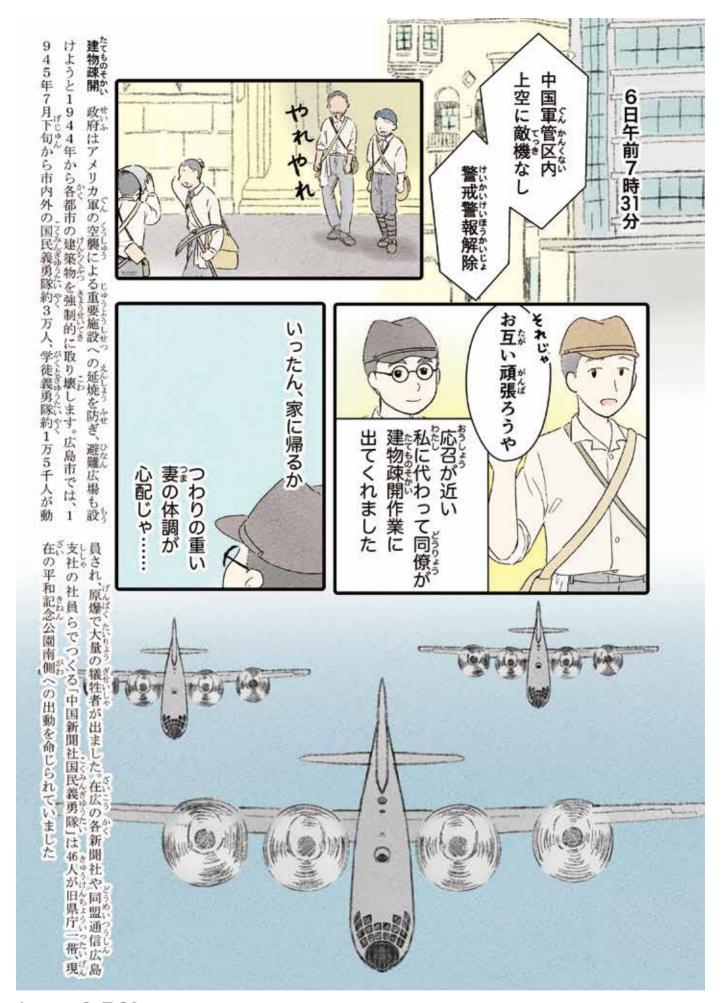
"Mr. Osako, you'll soon start your second tour of duty. That's tough."

(Responding to draft order—Mr. Osako received a call-up notice on August 2, 1945, ordering him to join the Chugoku Unit 104th, at which time he started serving in the military.)

"I'm a soldier; I'll do what I'm told."

Japan looks likely to lose the war.If possible, I'd like to continue working as a staff writer \cdots

August 6, 7:10 a.m. Warning alarm sounds Tension rises



August 6, 7:31 a.m.

"No enemy planes found in the sky above the Chugoku military district. Warning alarm lifted."

"That's a relief."

"See you later. Let's do the best we can."

Because I had to respond soon to the call-up notice, a colleague offered to handle the building demolition work in my place.

Perhaps I'll go home now.

I'm worried about the health of my wife, who has bad morning sickness...

(Building demolition work for the creation of fire lanes—Starting in 1944, the Japanese government forcibly demolished buildings in numerous cities to prevent fires caused by the U.S. military's air raids from spreading to crucial facilities and to create space for evacuations. In Hiroshima, starting around the end of July 1945, about 30,000 domestic volunteer corps and 15,000 student volunteers were mobilized in and around the city to engage in the demolition work, and the atomic bombing took the lives of many of them. A total of 46 members of the Chugoku regional newspaper companies national volunteer corps, consisting of employees of newspaper companies located in Hiroshima and the Domei News Agency's Hiroshima bureau, were ordered to work on building demolition in the areas of the former prefectural government offices and the south side of the present-day Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.)

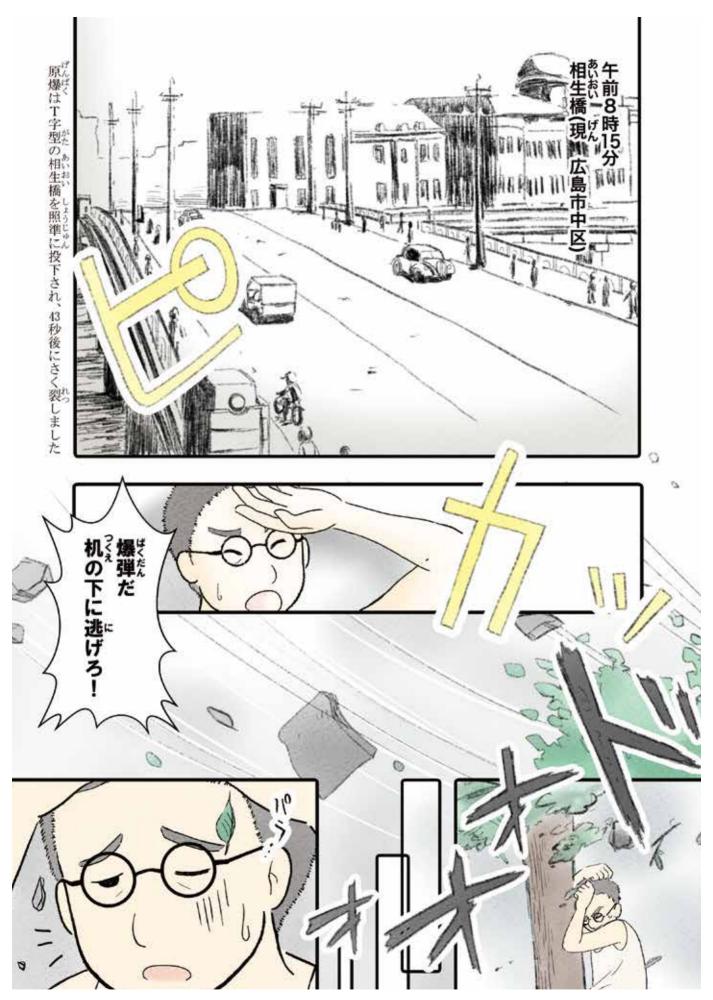


Mr. Osako's evacuation lodging, located in the area of Fuchu-cho, in the suburbs of Hiroshima

[&]quot;I'm home. How are you feeling?"

[&]quot;Oh, hi; you're back. I'm still not feeling well."

[&]quot;It's dry and windless again today. It must have been hot during the daytime." (SQUEAL) (GASP)



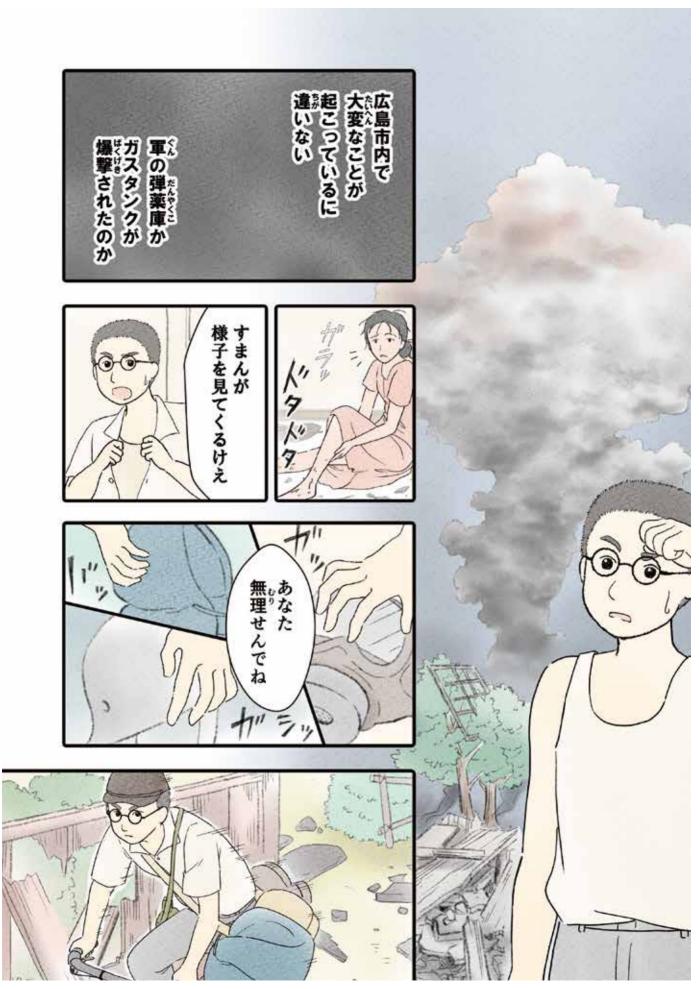
8:15 a.m., Aioi Bridge (now part of Hiroshima's Naka Ward) (FLASH) (BOOOM)

"A bomb. Go hide under the desk!"

(The atomic bomb was dropped using the T-shaped Aioi Bridge as a target and exploded 43 seconds later.)



[&]quot;Yukie! Are you okay?"
"They got us."
"What happened?"



Something terrible must have happened in Hiroshima. Was a military ammunition depot or gas tank bombed? "Let me go and check it out." "Please be safe."



Riding a bike is sure hard.

Oh my

What happened here?

Perhaps it was one of the uranium bombs that military higher-ups were talking about. I don't think I can go any farther.



Hours after the bombing, the city center became engulfed in raging flames. I walked around the ruins and over bridges.

The hellish scenes I witnessed there were so horrifying my mind went numb. "Mom, mom···"

"Hey, is your mother missing? I'll take you to a doctor. Hang in there."

"I'm so hot." "Please give me water."

"Help me..."



(Temporary relief stations—Aid stations were set up at locations such as the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital as well as schools and temples that had escaped incineration and collapse, amounting to more than 240 such sites in and around Hiroshima City.)

"Please do what you can to save him."

"Hang in there until your mother comes to get you."

He is so young...how cruel.



"Oh…"

"The Chugoku Shimbun building is still standing!"

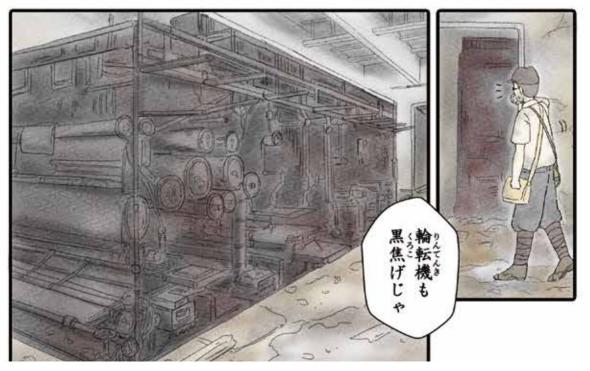
"Mr. Osako! You're alive. Everything inside the building is totally incinerated. We can't use the telephones or the two rotary presses for printing the newspaper."

"Unbelievable···l'II go take a look."

(Trudging heavily)







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I was right here until 30 minutes before the bomb was dropped. "The rotary printers are also burnt to a crisp."

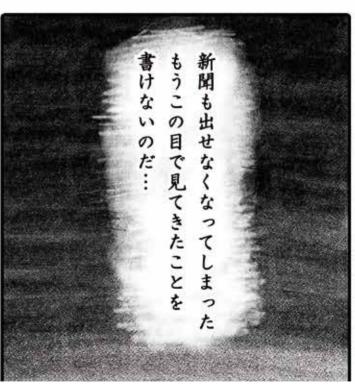








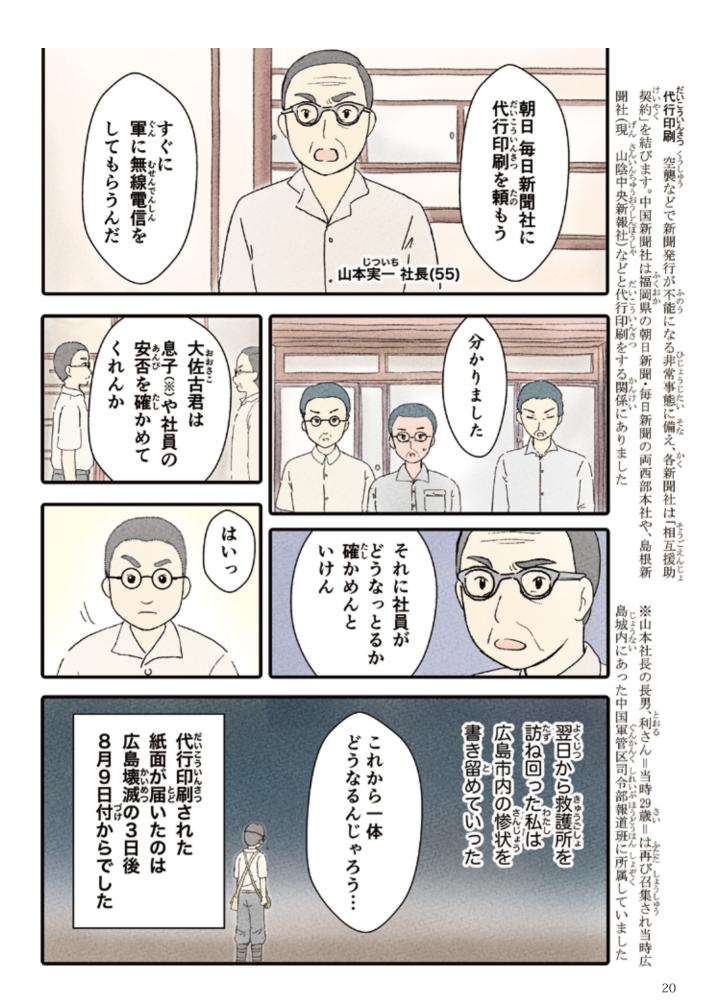




Everyone, please be alive!
A little after 8:00 this morning, there was a sudden explosion. I then witnessed unimaginable cruelties one after the other...

Why did this happen? I've lost all ability to reason so I simply can't comprehend.
We can no longer publish the newspaper, so I can't write about what I witnessed…
I'll first head out to where President Yamamoto has evacuated, in the area of Fuchu-cho.

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"Let's ask the Asahi Shimbun and Mainichi Shimbun to print our newspaper for us." Chugoku Shimbun's President Jitsuichi Yamamoto, 55

(Newspaper printing in collaboration with other companies—To prepare for an emergency such as air raids that might prevent a newspaper from being published, newspaper companies entered into what were known as 'mutual assistance agreements.' The Chugoku Shimbun had an agreement with other newspaper companies such as the Asahi Shimbun/Mainichi Shimbun's west Japan headquarters in Fukuoka Prefecture as well as with the Shimane Shimbun (present-day Sanin Chuo Shimpo Newspaper) to create a collaborative system for newspaper printing using other companies' facilities.)

"Ask the military to send a message by telegraph to the other papers, immediately." "Understood."

"We also have to find out the status of our employees."

"Mr. Osako, would you look into the whereabouts of my son* and our employees?) "Yes, sir."

(*Toru Yamamoto, the oldest son of President Yamamoto who was then 29, had been drafted again and was working in the Imperial Japanese Army's Chugoku District Military Headquarters news team on the grounds of Hiroshima Castle.)

The next day, I went around to numerous relief stations and took notes about the horrific situation in Hiroshima.

"What's going to become of us..."

The newspaper began printing once again on August 9, three days after Hiroshima's destruction, through the collaborative printing system with other newspaper companies.