

声の新聞 力の限り^{かぎ}

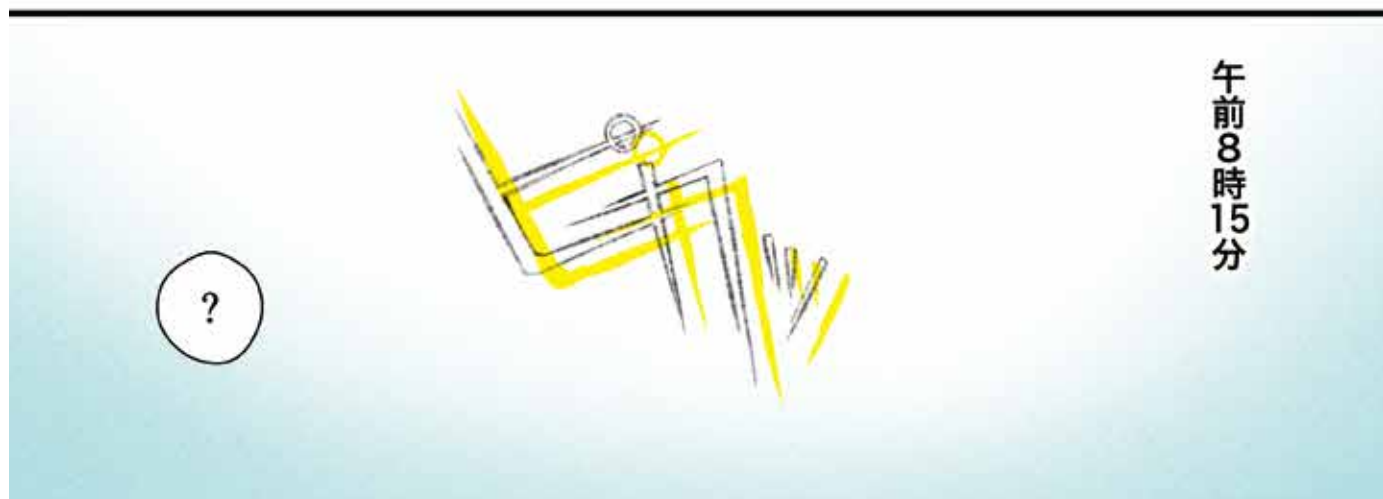
整理部記者

やしま
八島ナツエ

27^{さい}
歳



The newspaper working to serve as the voice of the people
Natsue Yashima, 27, journalist in the Chugoku Shimbun's copy editing department,
was a member of the news-communications group Kudentai



Morning of August 6, 1945

Entrance to Sandankyo Gorge in the area of Togouchi-cho (now part of Akiota-cho), about 32 kilometers to the northwest as the crow flies from Hiroshima City.

"I slept well last night."

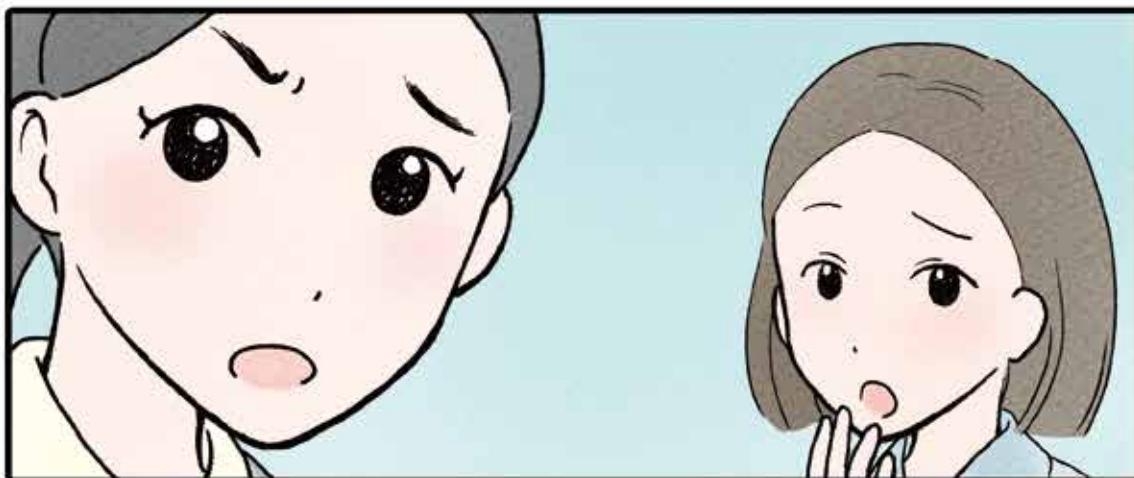
"Ah, this is so nice!"

"Natsue, it was good for you to come here, don't you think? You need a break sometimes."

"Yeah, that's true. Thanks."

8:15 a.m.

(FLASH)



"What was that...?"

(BOOM)

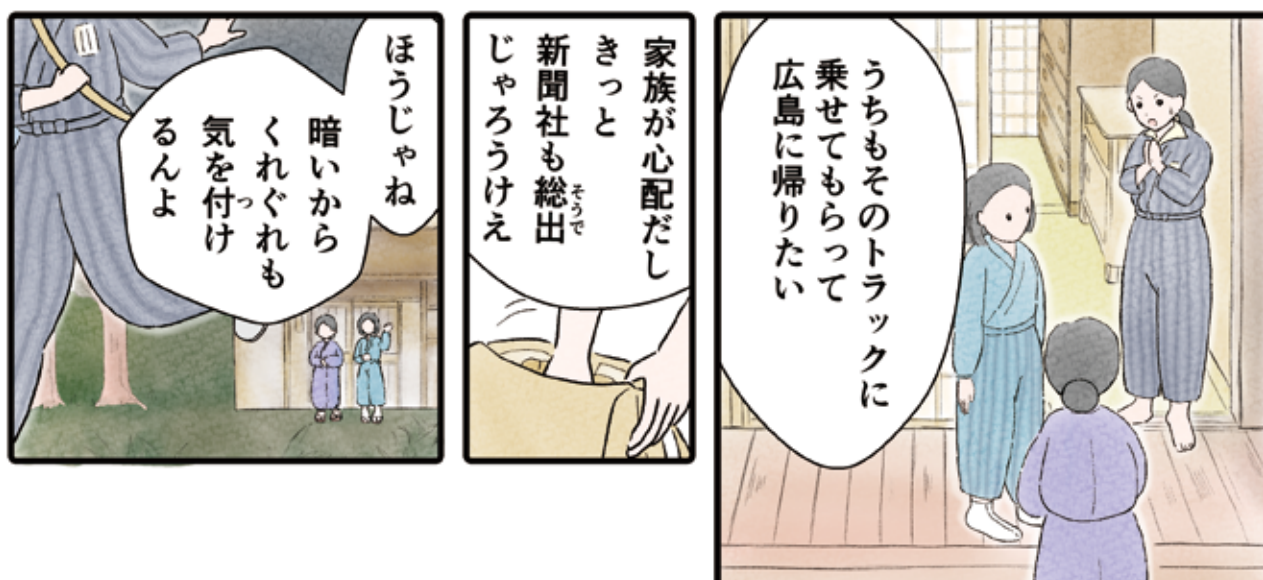
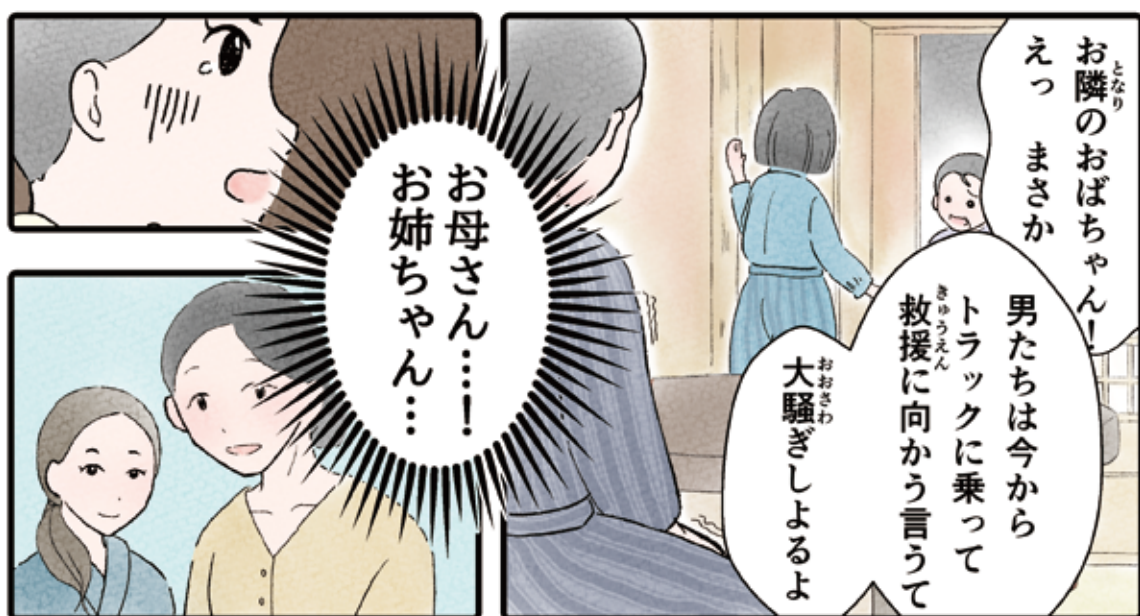
"...Did a bomb fall around here?"

"What?"

"And, then..."

(SHAKE, RATTLE)

"This is something serious!"



"I heard an incredible bomb was dropped on Hiroshima."

"So many wounded are coming to visit my relatives in Togouchi."

"Ma'am, are you in there?"

"Eh, you must be kidding."

"The guys are running around, saying they're gonna get on a truck and head to city to help out."

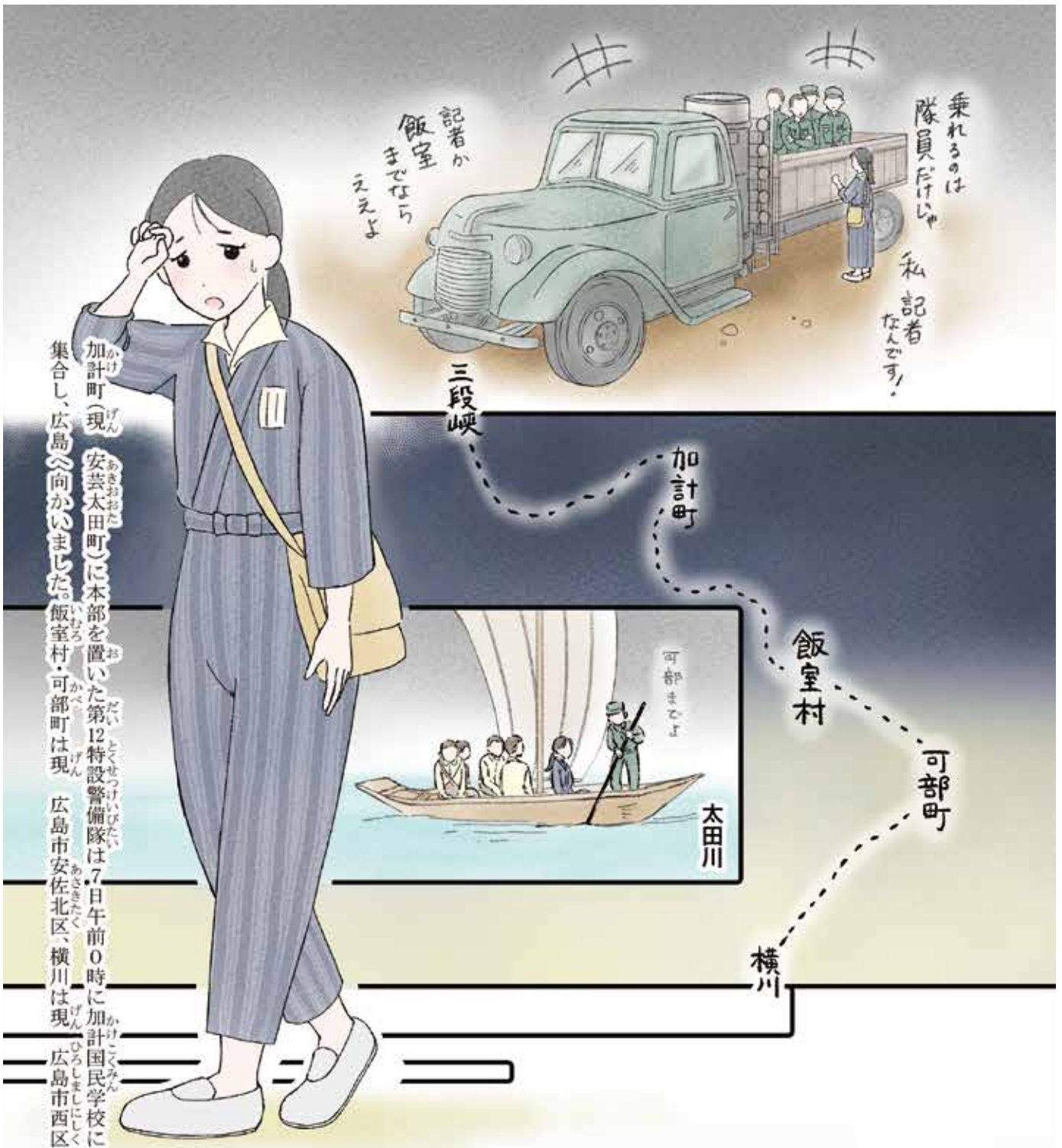
"Mom...! Sis..."

"I want to get on the truck and go back to Hiroshima, too."

"I'm worried about my family and imagine everyone at the newspaper needs to go in and work."

"Yeah, probably."

"It's dark, so be careful."



"Only group members can ride on the truck."

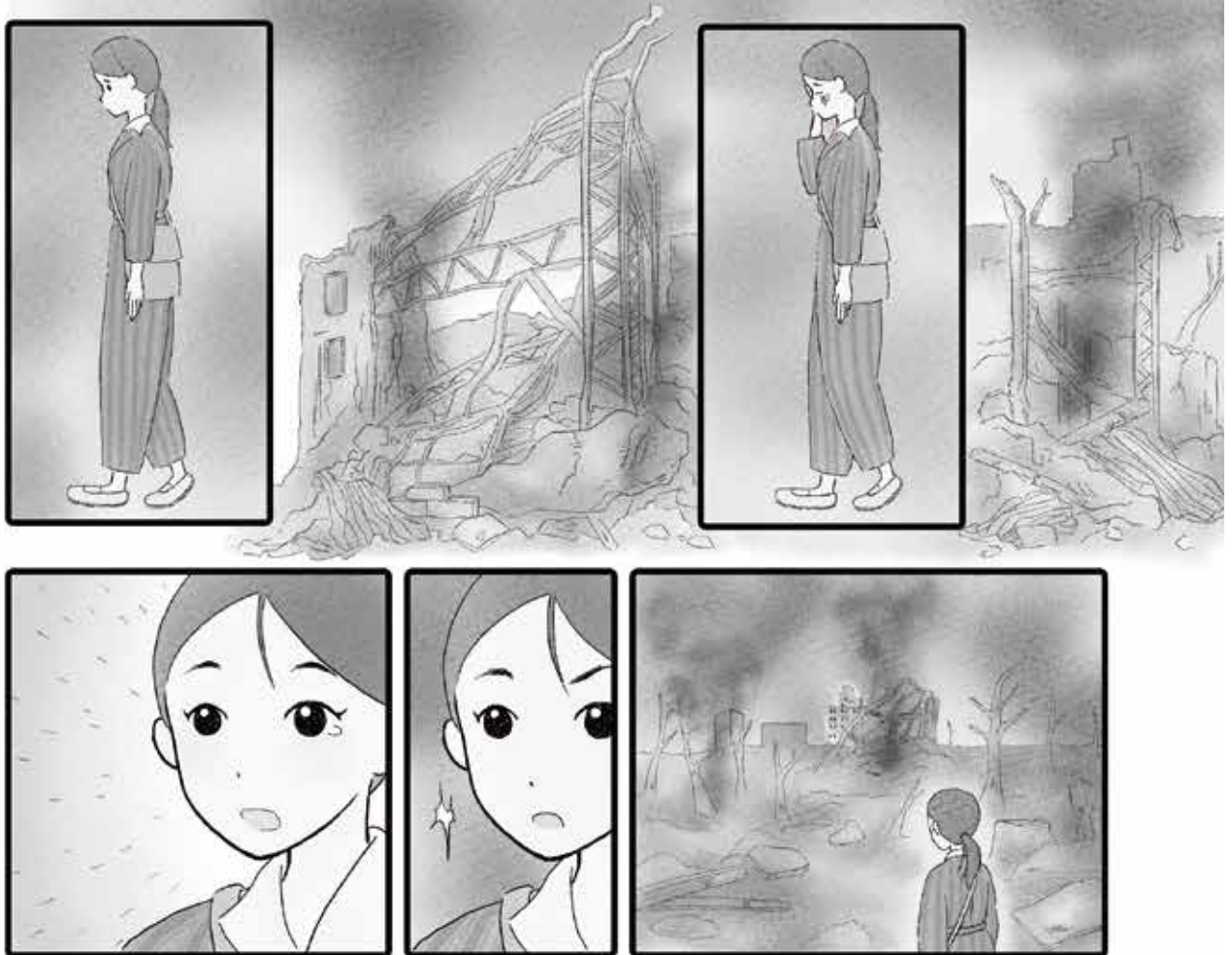
"I'm a journalist!"

"You're a journalist? You can ride with us until Imuro."

Sandankyo Gorge, Kake-cho, Imuro-cho, Kabe-cho, Yokogawa, Ota River... "You can ride with us until Kabe."

Around 1:00 p.m., August 7

"What on earth is this?"



“What happened!?”
“Hiroshima is gone…!”



アメリカ軍原爆投下機
エノラ・ゲイから落とされた
1発のウラン型爆弾

広島を壊滅させたのが
史上初の原子爆弾だと
その時は知る由も
ありませんでした



ああ…

中国新聞社が
見える！

締め切りが
迫つとるぞ

見出しは
まだ付かんのか

上流川町(現) 中区胡町

One uranium bomb was dropped by the Enola Gay, a U.S. military bomber
At the time, I had no way of knowing that the first atomic bomb in history had
destroyed Hiroshima.

“Oh…”

“I can see the Chugoku Shimbun building!”

“The deadline is close at hand.”

“There’s no headline yet?”

Kaminagarekawa-cho (now Ebisu-cho in Hiroshima’s Naka Ward)

せいふのめいれいにより当時、広島県内で配布される新聞は1945年4月21日付から中国新聞の1紙だけとなりました



整理部 記者が書いた記事に見出しを付け、紙面のレイアウトを担う部署です



Starting on April 21, 1945, based on a directive from Japan's national government, the Chugoku Shimbun became the only newspaper at the time distributed in Hiroshima Prefecture.

"Yes. I'm hurrying."

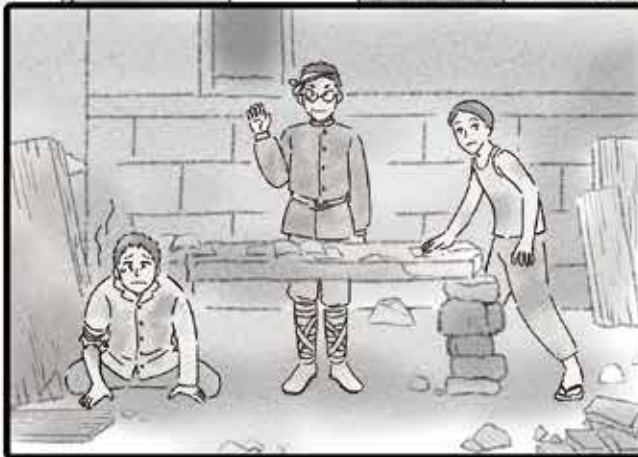
(The copy editing department is a section that creates headlines and does page layout work for articles written by staff writers.)

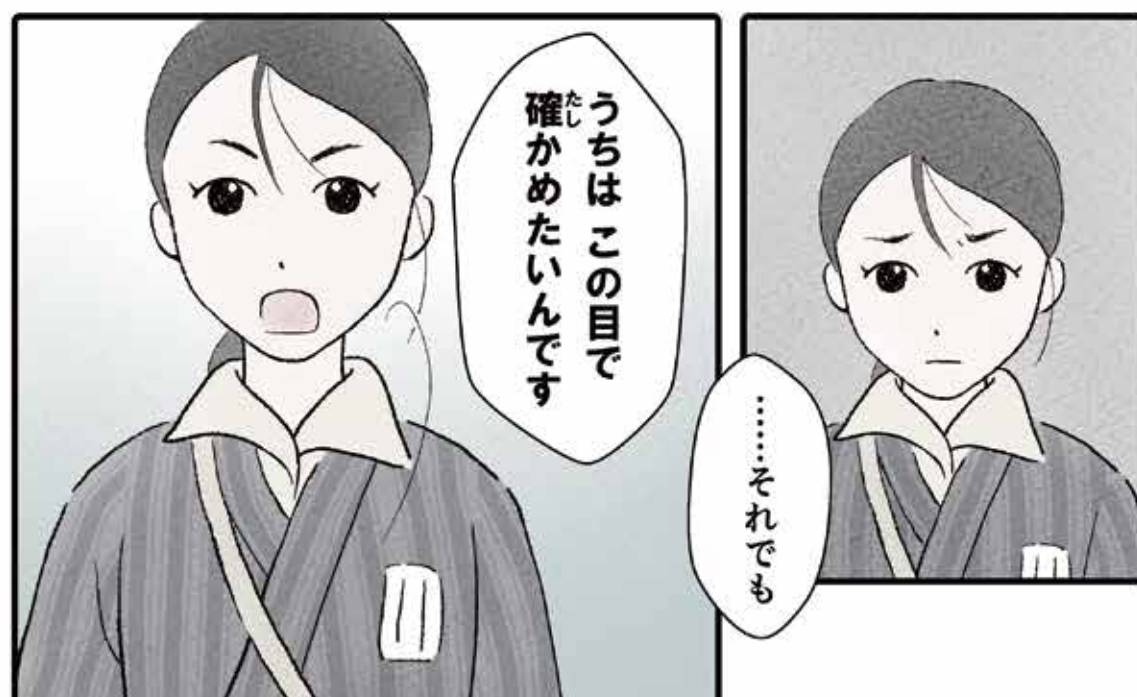
Ms. Yashima, you've become a real journalist.

"Nice headline!"

"Thank you!"

"Everyone, please be safe!"





"Ms. Yashima, you made it!"

"Yes. I took a vacation starting August 5 and was in Sandankyo Gorge."

"Many employees are still unaccounted for."

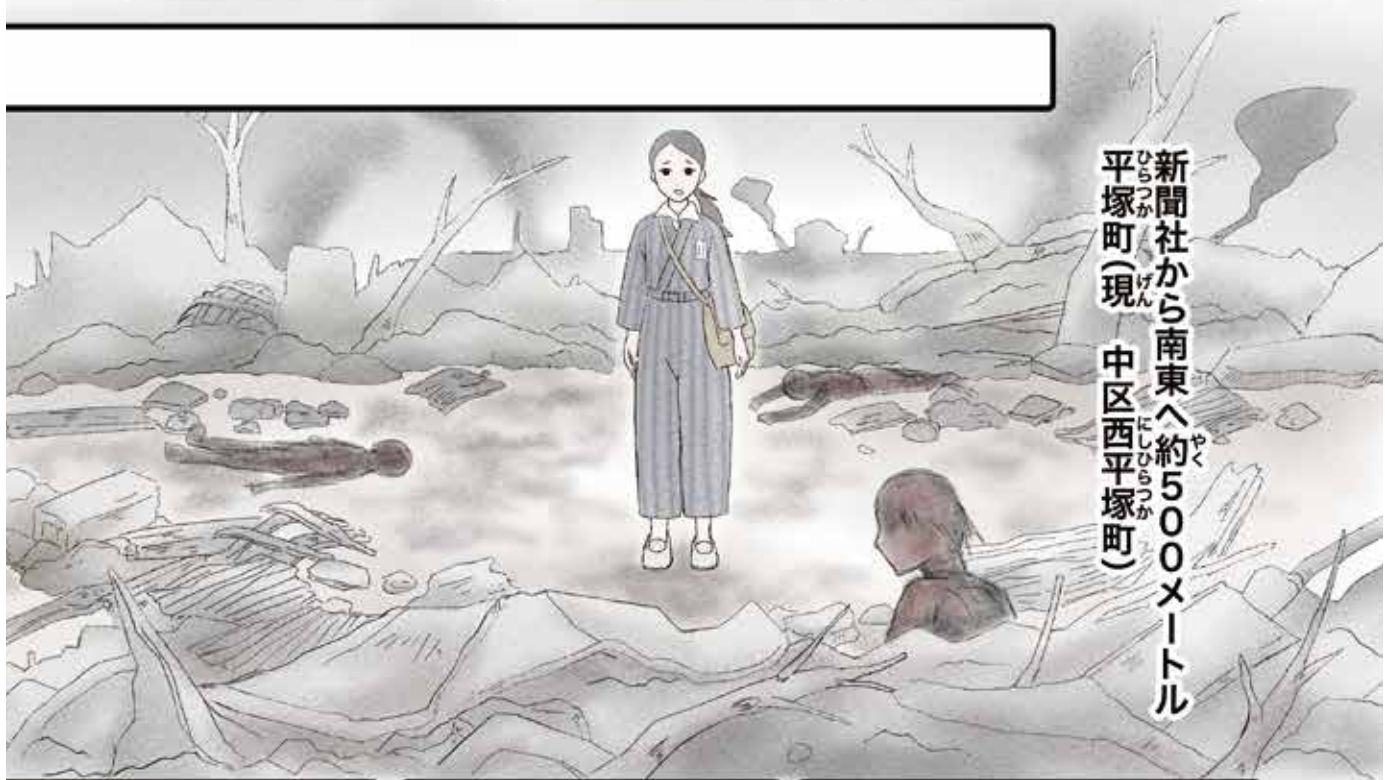
"Paper, rotary presses, everything was incinerated."

"We can't publish the newspaper in this situation."

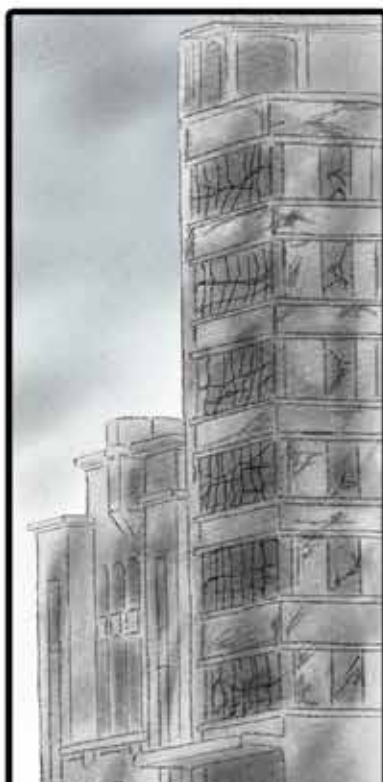
"I'm going home to Hiratsuka-cho to look for my mom."

"It's hard to say this, but even if you go there..."

"...Even so, I want to see it for myself."



Hiratsuka-cho (now Nishihiratsuka-cho in Hiroshima's Naka Ward), about 500 meters south of the Chugoku Shimbun building
"Mom!"



"My neighbor, Ms. Yamada!"

"Do you know where my mother and sister escaped?"

"Sorry, I don't know."

"Mom! Sis!"

"It's me, Natsue."

They don't seem to be here...Neither one.

"Natsue Yashima, at the newspaper"

"They must be alive somewhere!"



中国新聞社の東側、焼け残った広島東警察署には8月7日に臨時県庁が置かれ、救援救護の対策が始まりました



“Everyone, listen up!”

“Formulate a Kudentai oral communications group to give people hope. This is an order that came from the military.”

Temporary Hiroshima Prefectural offices were established on August 7 in the Hiroshima Higashi (East) Police Station—a building that survived the fires from the atomic bombing in its location to the east of the Chugoku Shimbun—and from that time initiated rescue and relief operations.

“Kudentai?”

“Since we can’t publish the newspaper, we need to deliver necessary information orally, using our voices instead.”

“Let’s go get some information on relief stations and food distribution.”

“All right!”

“Ms. Yashima, we need your help!”



Since no information is available amid the chaos, everyone must be feeling anxious.
 "I can do it!"
 "Without paper, we have to deliver the newspaper using our voices."
 "Okay, let's do it."
 Then, at the places we visit...
 I'm sure to find my mom and sister.





"The military is doing everything it can for rescue and relief efforts."

"Remain calm: rescue operations are making steady progress."

"Remain calm: Hiroshima prefectural and city governments are distributing rice balls, biscuits, and canned food at relief stations."

"Police officers in large numbers are arriving from various places in Hiroshima Prefecture, and doctors and nurses are rushing to Hiroshima from Okayama and Tottori."

"If possible for you, please return to work immediately."

"OK, let's move to the next spot."

"Okay"

"Remain calm:"

"Remain calm:"



くでんたい
口伝隊の活動は
毎日続きました



Despite the horrific conditions...
When we say "Remain calm," it only makes them feel a little better...
I still can't find my mom and others in my family.
Kudentai's work continued day after day.
"Excuse me"



"Are there any relief stations around?"

"Fukuromachi National School is the closest."

"Thanks for your help."

"Where can I see lists of people housed at shelters?"

"The Chugoku Shimbun has posted lists."

"Oh, I see. Thanks."

People are looking for the information we have!



"Many people are coming to help in rescue operations."

Let's hang in there.

"I'm back..."

"Your voice is so hoarse. Thank you for your hard work day in and day out."

"Thank you."



“The new bomb seems to have been an atomic bomb.”
“Atomic bomb?!”

(In the early morning hours of August 7, Japan's government got its hands on a radio broadcast of the U.S. president announcing the use of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. However, the Japanese military opposed disclosing the information to the public, fearing its devastating effect on the morale of the Japanese people. Instead of referring to an atomic weapon, Japan's Imperial Headquarters made an announcement at 3:30 p.m. on August 7 that used the wording “a new type of bomb”)

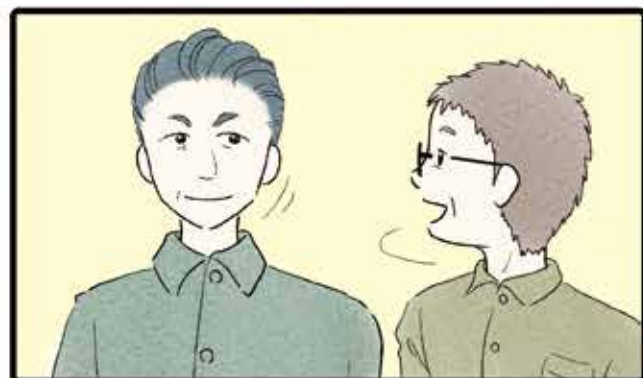
The military and Special Higher Police officials said to “never use the word ‘atomic bomb.’” That was their order. If you mention the word, you’ll be punished.”

(A special unit of the Hiroshima police department within the Special Higher Police was in charge of censoring newspaper coverage.)

We’re not allowed to use the word even in these circumstances?
However, people started to speak of “Pika-don,” and use of that phrase soon spread. The Special Higher Police didn’t prohibit use of that term, which was derived from the bomb’s flash of light and the sound of its explosion.



“Doctors are also arriving from outside Hiroshima Prefecture.”
 “Remain calm: Food is also being distributed at relief stations.”
 “Hey, aren’t you the daughter of the Yashimas?”
 “What? Oh, hi. How are you?”
 “I’m glad to see you made it, too.”



"Your mom is staying at a relief station on Hiji-yama."

"Really?"

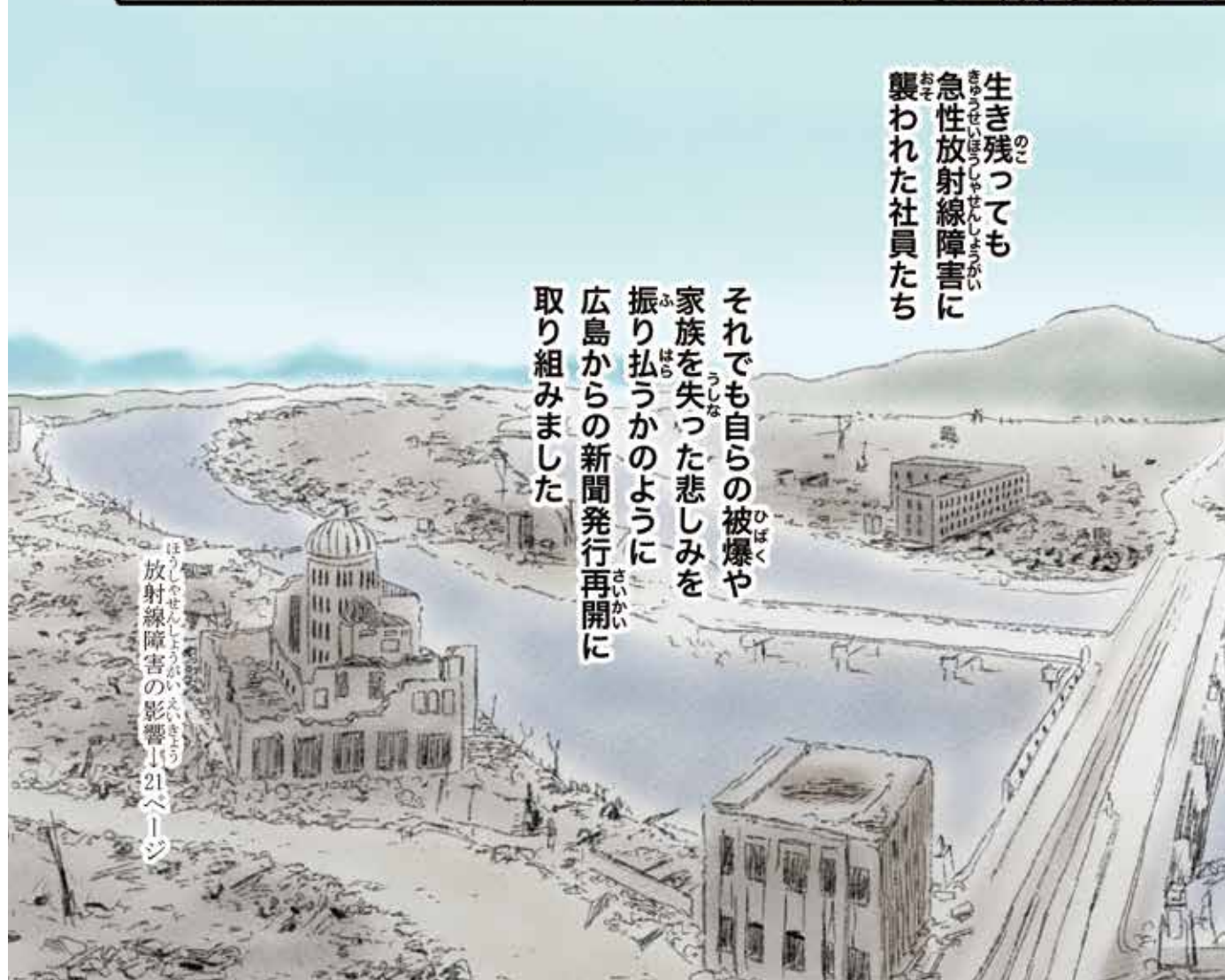
"Ah, Ms. Yashima, never mind about us, go and see her right away."

"Thank you so much..."



"Mom!"
"Natsue?"
"I'm so happy you're alive!"

When the bomb exploded, Natsue's mother, Mine, had been mobilized to join in the work of dismantling buildings for the creation of fire lanes in the area of Tsurumi-cho, and her older sister, Mitsue, a teacher, was at her school in Minamidanbara-cho. Both survived.



Kudentai's operations lasted until the end of the war.
Soon, Natsue found herself bedridden because she had been vomiting blood from exposure to radiation.

(A copy of a note Natsue had attached to her application for an Atomic Bomb Survivor's Certificate she submitted to the Hyogo Prefectural government in 1978.
(Provided by Daijo Yamada, her oldest son))

Employees were stricken by acute health effects from radiation exposure even after surviving the atomic bombing.
Despite that, they continued their work to resume publication of the Hiroshima newspaper as if sweeping aside their own A-bombing experiences and grief from losing loved ones.