



Collection of Reminiscent Essays “*Ryuto*”

<Special Exhibition>  
January 1 – December 29  
2019

Collection of Essays in Memory of A-bomb  
Victims of “ICHIJO” (Hiroshima Daichi  
Girls High School)

“*Ryuto*”  
or  
*Lantern Floating*

Featuring a documentary film  
(approx. 30 minutes)

<Exhibition>

Due to the intensifying of the war in Japan, Ministry of Education decided to suspend classes at schools from April 1945. Students were mobilized for labor to produce food and weapons, and for demolition of buildings throughout the year.

Approximately 7,200 children fell victim to the A-bombing in Hiroshima. The students who were engaged in demolition work near the hypocenter especially suffered by the damage by the bomb. 666 students from Hiroshima Municipal Daiichi Girls High School (commonly known as “ICHIJO”) who were working by the hypocenter were killed.

In August 1957 at the 12th anniversary of their deaths, “*Ryuto*” (or Lantern Floating), a collection of essays in memory of A-bomb victims, was issued by bereaved families. This collection contains the detailed historical record toward the end of the war, the reminiscence of bereaved families, and posthumous manuscripts by the deceased students.

Together with the documentary film, we also exhibit the portraits and the artifacts of the victims who appear in “*Ryuto*”, conveying the tragedy of war and the A-bombing as well as the sincere wishes for peace.

## <Main Contents>



Murako

Name of the student: **TSUKIYAMA Murako (Ms.)**  
2<sup>nd</sup> year high school student (13 years old) at the time of the bombing

### Testimony by **SAKAMOTO Fumiko, the mother**

I walked around calling “Murako, Where are you?!” and I finally found a girl who replied “I am here”. I put my hand on her shoulder and asked, “Are you really Murako?” She answered, “It’s me! But I am dying soon.” I hugged her, and she hugged my husband and me back. The parts of her arms that had been covered with her sleeves looked all right. But the skin of her arms below the sleeves were all peeled off, and hanging from her nails.  
And yet, she tried to grasp my hand, and said “I am dying.”



Masako

Name of the student: **IRITA Masako (Ms.)**  
1<sup>st</sup> year high school student (12 years old) at the time of the bombing

### A letter from Masako to her younger sister Sumiko who was at the evacuation

Dear Sumiko,  
Thank you for your first letter to me. I am very glad to know that you are doing fine. These days, I have been working very hard to make myself useful for our country, clearing the debris of houses demolished after the owners have evacuated. When we die, we die graciously like falling cherry blossoms.  
My Dear Sumiko, follow your teachers and the matron, and be a good girl.  
Masako



Sachie

Name of the student: **MORIMOTO Sachie (Ms.)**  
1<sup>st</sup> year high school student (13 years old) at the time of the bombing

### “Record of Reminiscence” written by **MORIMOTO Tokiko, the mother**

The following is what I heard from my daughter Sachie.

After working for an hour, while we were taking a break, I heard students saying, “Look! Three parachutes! So beautiful!” The moment I looked up, I saw a flash of light. I fell down to the ground with my eyes closed and my thumbs in my ears.  
As I looked around, I found my friends with their eyes popping out of their head and their hair and clothes burning.  
“Help me, Dad! Help me, Mom! Help me, Teacher!”  
They were all crying and shouting for help.

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