

Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims Special Exhibition

Passing Down the Stories The Atomic Bomb and



Free
Admission

Wartime School Emblem
Courtesy of Minami-Yuho Alumni Association

First Prefectural Girls School

Period March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027

Place Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims
Special Exhibition Area and Library (Upper Level)

1-6 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima, Japan 730-0811 Tel: 082-543-6271/ Fax: 082-543-6273

Hours Mar-Jul : 8:30 am–6 pm
Aug : 8:30 am–7 pm (8 pm on Aug 5-6)
Sep-Nov : 8:30 am–6 pm
Dec-Feb : 8:30 am–5 pm

Closed Dec 30-31



First Hiroshima Prefectural Hiroshima Girls High School (now Hiroshima Prefectural Hiroshima Minami High School), commonly known as "First Prefectural Girls School," was a prestigious institution that many students aspired to attend. However, on August 6, 1945, the atomic bombing claimed the lives of 301 people connected to the school, including students and faculty members. Among them were 223 first-year students who were engaged in building demolition work near Dobashi, approximately 800 meters from the hypocenter—all of them were killed. Through video and historical materials, this exhibition conveys the voices of the First Prefectural Girls School students who experienced the atomic bombing, as well as their family members who witnessed their final moments and later shared their stories. These voices are being preserved and passed on to future generations.



Mikiyo KIMURA
(then, 13)

The atomic bomb fell just as we had begun the building demolition work. I was at the very front of the line, lifting a roof tile to hand to the next person, and had just turned around when it happened. The blast hurled me through the air. For a while, I couldn't see anything. When my surroundings finally came back into view and I was able to move, everyone around me screamed, "Run!" and we all fled desperately. But, along the way, my classmates collapsed one after another, and before I realized it, I was all alone. When I reached a bridge, I suddenly felt an intense heat: my *monpe* work trousers had caught fire at the waist. I jumped into the river. There was a horse lying on its side on the bridge above me. After a while I managed to climb out of the river, but I was exhausted and unable to move. Just then, members of the Civil Defense Corps arrived, and I heard them shouting, "Students from the prefectural girls' school, go to Koi Elementary School!" I thought that if I collapsed and died there, burned and with my clothes gone, no one would know who I was. I didn't want such a miserable end. So I forced myself to stand and headed toward Koi Elementary School.

Mikiyo's own account of her atomic bomb experience, as she spoke it shortly before her death. Excerpted from the account of her older sister, Taeko.



▲Full text

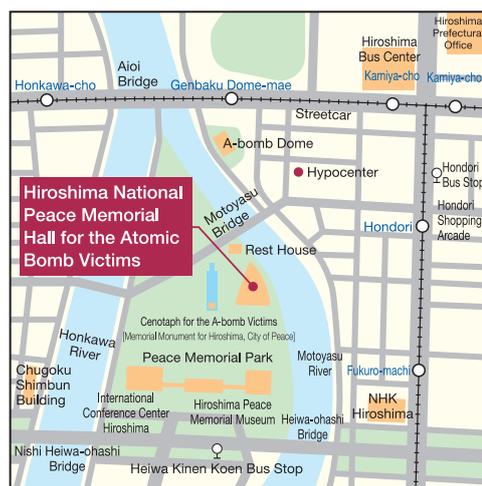


Kazuko MATSUBARA
(then, 13)

At 8:15, completely bewildered and unaware of the flash or the blast, I instinctively threw myself into the drainage ditch beside the school building. Immediately, everyone rushed into the air-raid shelter. At that moment, on the school grounds, a person appeared with burns over their entire body. Their face—eyes, nose, mouth—was a dark red, smeared with what looked like blood or mud. They were naked except for the scraps of ragged cloth that clung to them and hung loose. Like a ghost, their hands were stretched out in front, the skin peeled and dangling from their fingertips. It was impossible to tell if they were male or female. In a faint, barely audible voice, they managed to say something. A shock shot through my entire body. I trembled uncontrollably. Yet afterward, how many such people did I see? Hundreds? Thousands, perhaps. But strangely, my body never trembled again.



▲Full text



Access

Approx. 20 minutes from JR Hiroshima Station (South Exit)

From each stop below, it's about a 5-minute walk to the museum.

By Bus: Take the Hiroshima Bus bound for Yoshijima and get off at Hondori.

By Streetcar: Take the streetcar bound for Hiroshima Port (Ujina) via Kamiya-cho and get off at Hondori.

Take the streetcar bound for Miyajima-guchi or Eba and get off at Genbaku Dome-mae (Atomic Bomb Dome).

No parking is available.



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