

広島で原爆テスト―極秘情報―

水田 泰次

昭和六十二年十月付廣高部史刊行委員会発行の廣島高等学校排球部史「われらの青春、皆実が原」に左記出稿をしたことを思い出しました。

広島で原爆投下は昭和二十年八月六日で、当時小生は京大・工・冶金の学生でしたが、四月に入学して、五月に冶金の教室主任教授の西村英雄先生に呼び出され、広島市内に住居があり、親の居る冶金の学生が小生一人だけなので、内密に情報を教えて頂きました。米国の学会から秘密裡にニュースが先生に送られ、当時原爆製作を競争していた日本より先に、米国の成功し、その第一回現地テストを広島で行う予定が決まったから、出来るだけ早く親を疎開させなさいということです。早速帰広し、特高警察等の関係のため、誰にも話すことが出来ないまま、父を無理矢理、理由も言わずに、廿日市まで大八車で、家財を積んで疎開させたものです。

終戦から四十年以上経過してはじめて打ち明けた事実ですが、原爆死没者に対して、今更乍ら複雑な心境であることは、五十年以上たった現在でも変わりありません。此の本が発行されて暫くして、朝日新聞広島支社の某記者より電話があり、此の内容が本当かどうかを証明する第三者が居るかどうかの質

戦後

問があった。早速、京大の湯川教授と西村教授の御子息に、その情報を生前、御尊父より聞いて居られるかどうか尋ねたところ、一切その話は無かったとの返事が来て、その真偽は証明できないようになっていきます。併し、湯川教授から、生前に小生が聞いた話では、先生が戦時訪米された折、アインシュタイン博士と会われた際、アインシュタイン博士が、日本の広島の方々に大変な御迷惑をかけたと、重々詫言て居られたそうです。科学者が研究熱心のあまり、善悪の判断は出来ませんが、結果として我々人類に多大な罪悪を行ったことに対する、良心の呵責は相当なものだと信じます。

原爆投下の八月六日に大学に行ったら、早速、教授室に呼ばれて、すぐ広島に帰る様、西村先生から勧められました。当時、急行といっても、大変遅い列車に乗って、翌朝向洋（東洋工業前）の駅でストップ。そこから出てくると広島市内に入って、大変な惨状を目撃しました。古い皮靴は破れて、捨てて裸足で、市内を抜けて（もうその時は、どの川も死骸で一ぱいでした）廿日市まで無事帰ることが出来たと記憶しています。

書くべきか、書かざるべきか、大変迷いましたが、中学時代お世話になった松浦先生のお顔を思い出して、寄稿させて頂き、原爆死没者の冥福を改めてお祈りする次第です。

（茨木市在住）



"New Atomic Bomb Testing" in Hiroshima

--- Confidential Information ---

Taiji Mizuta

Ibaraki-shi, Osaka

When the atomic bombing of Hiroshima occurred on August 6, 1945, I was a student of metallurgy in the Engineering Department of Kyoto University. Just before that time, I entered the university in April, and in May I was called by Professor Hideo Nishimura, in charge of our class in metallurgy, to his office. I was his only student with a domicile in Hiroshima, where my father was living. The professor told me he had received confidential information from someone of an academic society in the United States. Japan and the U.S., he said, were each racing to produce a "new type of bomb". He said the U.S. was ahead of Japan, was going to conduct the first on-site test possibly in Hiroshima, and I should make my father leave the city as quickly as possible. I immediately returned home. Without being able to tell the reason why, either to my father or anybody -- in fear of the special political police -- I gave my father no choice but to load his belongings on a large cart and evacuate to Hatsukaichi City.

With complicated feelings about the victims - continuous feelings I have to this day -- I told the story for the first time some 40 years after the end of the war for the first time. Some time after I first wrote it, a reporter from the Asahi Shimbun's Hiroshima Branch called me, asking if there was any third party who could verify what I said. I immediately contacted the sons of Professor H. Yukawa of Kyoto University and the sons of Professor Nishimura to ask if they had ever heard anything about it from their fathers before they died. They both said they had not, leaving no way to prove my story.

By the way, Professor Yukawa, however, told me later, before he died, that when he visited the United States after the war and met Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein repeatedly expressed his apology for causing such terrible trouble for the people of Hiroshima. Scientists, I think, from their enthusiasm for their work, cannot always make moral judgments about it, and sometimes do great harm. I am sure their sense of guilt must often be great, too.

On August 6, 1945, the day of the bombing, I was called by Professor Nishimura as soon as I reached school, and was advised to go back to Hiroshima immediately.

Taking an express train -- not as fast as now -- I got off at Mukainada St. the following morning and walked the rest of the way to Hiroshima. By that time, all the rivers in Hiroshima were filled with dead bodies. My old leather shoes had fallen completely apart, and I continued walking barefoot through the city. I managed somehow to get back to Hatsukaichi City where my father was living in safety.

Hesitant for so long to tell of this, I eventually wrote about it 40 years after it happened. I pray again for the souls of the A-bomb victims.