

The bombing of hiroshima



The Bombing of Hiroshima August 8, 1946 will be a day etched into the memories of the many people that survived the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima. John Hershey wrote a book titled, Hiroshima, which told the stories of six survivors from that day. The stories that are told by these brave people are heart wrenching, horrific, and almost painful to even read. Two survivors, Akihiro Takahashi and Eiko Taoka, tell a story about the air raid and what they saw after the large red flash had hit the ground. Many people went about their day knowing that there was an air raid in effect but also knowing that they could not stop their lives due to what could happen later on that morning. It was almost minutes after people of Hiroshima continued with their day to day lives that their world was turned upside down in just a few moments. Akihiro Takahashi was a 14 year old boy going to Municipal Junior High School. He was recalling the day that the bomb was dropped. He told of how the school children were standing in the school watching a B-29 flying close to the ground and the teachers running outside to tell the students to fall in and take cover. It was just minutes after that he was awoken and had been blown 10m away from where he was standing. The story that was told after that is a very heart wrenching story, but he knew that he had to recall his memories from that day so that others could know what his people had gone through on that day. Akihiro remembered waking up and feeling that his skin was peeling off of him. He ran to find anyone that had made it through the blast and came across one of his school mates that he was friends with. As they ran to find their home and also any other survivors, all they could see was fire and hear the screams of the other burning victims. Along his journey home his friend had gotten lost, but he knew that he couldn't stop, so he had to continue on. All that was on his

mind was that he had to find his family to make sure they were okay. On his journey he saw many people that did not make it through the blast. His friend that he had been traveling with had gotten lost, but this could not stop his journey to finding his family. As Akihiro continued on, he came across another friend that had his feet severely burned on the bottom. All that was showing now was the muscle under the skin. He stopped to help his friend walk and they went through a series of methods so that they could continue on. Although Akihiro had been burnt, he felt that he was still able to help the other that had been injured worse than he was. Eiko Taoka was a 21 year old mother that was on the street car that morning with her one year old son. She remembers seeing a bright flash and then she was shot to one side of the car and knocked out for 20-30 seconds. When she awoke she was greeted by her smiling son that clearly had been injured by the flying glass from the windows. Eiko will forever have that memory with her for the rest of her due to her son not making it by the end of the day. He began to drink the milk from her body which had poisoned him and caused his death. Eiko felt that her son had saved her life that day and that he had sucked all the poison from her body. Everyone knew that there had been an air raid issued for the morning of August 5, 1946, but they had to continue with their day as if it were any other day. The horrible tragedy that the town of Hiroshima went through on that will forever be remembered as one of the most horrific days in their history. Many innocent civilians were killed due to war. If there were no war, there would still be innocent lives living today. But since there is no peace between our nations, then there will always be a war to face. The Peace Memorial Museum has set up an exhibit showing what the people of Hiroshima had gone through on that day. The still images of the dying

people will forever be etched in their memory forever. All that we have are just pictures to look at and they had the memories of seeing this in their real life. This was not a justified part of war and these innocent civilians should not have had to lose their lives due to something they had no control over.