My memory of the war

Tadakazu Ashida (Shimizuguchi,85 years old)

During World War II, I used to be an elementary school pupil and used to live in Fukuchiyama City, Kyoto Prefecture.

The work of my house was a farmer who grew rice, vegetables and silkworms.

Kyoto and Nara including Fukuchiyama, are culturally important such as Budha statues and temples, so they were not bombed at all.

That been said, but I often saw the B29 filed from off the coast of Kobe to Maizuru in Kyoto Prefecture, which was a military port, and I often saw the clouds that it created because it flied in high skies.

Fighters loaded with machine guns flew low and their pilots peered down through binoculars.

We were taught by our teachers to jump into nearby river or escape into the forest

I had three older brothers and an older sister who was four years older than me.

My two older brothers were in the army with conscription when the war began.

My third brother was in middle school, then.

My oldest brother was 17 years older than me, and he was discharged in 1941 (16th year of Showa) and worked for City Hall.

Six months before end of the war, he was called up again and went to Korea as a soldier.

He was able to return home safely at the end of the war, so he was able to come face to face with his child who was a fetus at the time of his call-up.

My second brother was discharged as a second lieutenant in 1943 (18th year of Showa)   and became a teacher at a youth school.

After that, at the request of our uncle, he changed his job to a textile company in Osaka and moved to the Philippines under Japanese occupation to research hemp.

After the war, we learned the truth, but he was called up in the Philippines and became a soldier, and was killed in action a months before the end of the war.

Because of been killed in action, he was promoted to two ranks and became a colonel.

My third brother graduated from middle school in 1944 (19th year of

Showa) and worked at City Hall from that April.
He was called up in that June and got to serve in the military.
We had not known where he had been dispatched, but we received a notice that he was killed in action in China a month before the end of the war.
Even though it was a small village of more than 20 households, about 8 people including my two brothers were killed in action.
There was the person who went to the battlefield as a student, and even though he came back alive due to the end of the war , he got mentally and physically ill and died soon after returning home.

If there had been no war, how would all of these people have lived？

Each country might have a variety of reasons that led to the war.
No matter what the reason, war must never happen again and we must never wage war again.

◆A youth school was a school for elementary school graduates as a vocational practical education and youth training center that also played a role in military training under the guidance of the Ministry of Education and the Military of Army before and during World War II.