

The air raid on Choshi and the end of the war

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I lived in Choshi with my family, but during the war, I was temporarily transferred to Kawasaki to work in a factory there for a national scheme of labor mobilization. As Kawasaki was totally ruined by air raids, I went back home in Choshi. Then, Choshi was air-raided on the night of March 9th, I remember. By this attack, Choshi was burnt out all over, including the railway station and the fishing port. A friend of mine died. I saw the large statue of Kannon (the Goddess of Mercy) at Manpukuji Temple, two kilometers away from where I took shelter, was burning. That temple was in a downtown area. Later, I heard that the large crowds of people were squeezing there and made the retiring to safe place very difficult. After the attack was over, I headed for my relatives' house to find out how they were. On the way, I saw quite a lot of corpses. Being illuminated by the flare bombs, many people, one by one, were aimed at and shot by the roaring strafing, and died. In Choshi area, the Japanese Navy stayed on the seashore, and the Army on the hilltop near my house. Therefore, the U.S. Force's attack was far too fierce. Then, the war was over. Grown-ups said, "Young girls should hide under the floor, and try not to be seen by American soldiers." I had my long hair cut short. My house was close to the seashore. When the U.S. Force landed upon the shore, we heard somebody shout "Look! The soldiers are coming. They are already on the shore. Hide yourself." We hurriedly hid ourselves. The U.S. Force debarked their square-shaped landing craft directly on the beach. We were peeping through the gap on the wall. A couple of soldiers were investigating the houses around. To be honest, I do not want to talk my memories, for I saw too many people died due to the war. I have been trying to forget my memories, but now I may say that I can be of any help to keep the current world peace by telling my experiences.