A Memory of World War II in an Elderly Japanese Man

Takeshi Saraya, MD, PhD, Naoki Tsujimoto, MD, Kosuke Ohkuma, MD, and Hajime Takizawa, MD, PhD

Kyorin University School of Medicine, Department of Respiratory Medicine

Keywords: World War II, Great Tokyo Air Raids

On a clear night in March 1945, more than 300 U.S. B-29 bombers launched the great Tokyo air raids. By dawn, more than 100,000 people were dead, a million were homeless, and large parts of the city were destroyed. Thereafter, the high altitude bombing attacks persisted against Tokyo, and on Aug 10th, five days before the end of World War II, shrapnel from a bomb became lodged in a 14-year-old boy who lived in Itabashi-ku and has remained in his body since that time. In 2015, 70 years passed after World War II, the number of people who experienced the war has gradually decreased. However, chest (Figure 1A)
and abdominal X-ray (Figure 1B) still demonstrated the bomb fragments scattered in his subcutaneous tissue. We should keep an attitude of gratitude to the peace and the people who survived the era of World War II.¹

Reference