The present time and past

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I think the way we live now and its past are really different in various ways. In the wartime you can’t get what you want and good foods at all. Now there are many buildings or houses and you can get anything you want to eat or buy. It’s very happy days.

I watch TV programs related to war on 23rd of June(Irei-no-hi; it is the day to honor the memory of the dead in the battle of Okinawa). I shed tears watching it. There were so many suffering people in the wartime.

I examined the battle of Okinawa closely. The pacific war broke out in 1941 and there was the battle here in Okinawa as well. Since then people had been having hard days. Their houses were burned down, towns turned into blazing infernos and more than two hundred thousand people were killed in the battle. There were only dried potatoes or peas for food.

Men received military call-up papers when they reached the age of 17 and they had to go to the battlefield. Soldiers were far away from home and fought for the country and could not get back to their home in one piece. Many of them were killed in the battle front. On the other hand, women had to take care of wounded soldiers. But it was not easy. Many of them were killed on their way home. Kids had to protect their brothers and sisters.

People had to hide themselves in the dark air-raid shelters or caves. If babies cry in such situations, enemies would notice and attack. So it is said that sometimes Japanese soldiers killed the baby not to be found where they were by American troops. That’s really terrible and merciless.

In the war time, it was usual for people not to wear shoes when they walk. But of course we do now. We should be thankful for that. Otherwise, we’ll be easily get injured.

Japan started the Pacific War. One small air-raid suddenly changes a wealthy town into rubble. Houses and people get burned and every thing will be lost. Not only in Okinawa but in main land Japan, like Hiroshima or Nagasaki, a lot of people had hard days as. And not only Japan but also the countries fought against Japan suffered from the terrible war. So many people must have grieved over death around them and suffered for it.

I heard my grand mother had terrible experiences in the battle of Okinawa when she was a kid. But fortunately, she has survived. I’m thankful for that.

I could not have seen her face if she had been killed in the battle. It’s really sad. My grandfathers had both passed away. One grandfather got military call-up papers and fought. They must have seen each other in Heaven.

I think we should not have wars because people get only pains and sorrows. Our lives now still have bad things but compared with the life in the war time, I’m proud of it.

June 23rd is the day we pray for the people who were killed in the battle of Okinawa. I can’t hold back my tears thinking about them. We must not have wars again. Sometimes I think what our future is like though we have peace now. We can change the present situation for our bright future. If we do, all the nations in the world will be able to have peace. Then countries can act in harmony and our life will be more fun.

What I can do for it now is to help each other. If there are people in need, I want to help. If we all could have such kindness, people don’t kill each other.
I want the world to be the society where we can help each other.