

# The Memorial Pledges To Renounce War ~ For All Generations ~

This memorial honors more than 510,000 citizens victimized by aerial bombardment in Japan during the Pacific War. "Unlike victims of death in battle or their bereaved, the victims of aerial bombardment were never consoled by the government", so Motohide Iwami, Mayor of Himeji and Chairman of the National League of War Damaged Cities, proposed the erection of the citizens' war monument.

On 26 October 1956, this memorial was erected in Himeji for 80 million yen total construction cost, based on the resolution by the League consisting of 113 cities designated as War Damaged Reconstruction Areas, with nation-wide public donations.

The central tower represents a sword stuck in the ground and expresses a pledge for no more war.

This tower is the symbol of the eager wish of all Japanese people in hopes of successful revival from war damage and world peace. This is the only monument in Japan that comforts the spirits of air-raid victims and wishes eternal peace, in order not to forget the fact that many non-combatants were killed in the war.

Today we are blessed to have a peaceful and prosperous society because of the sacrifice of war victims and the great efforts by previous generations.



Perimeter Stone Columns

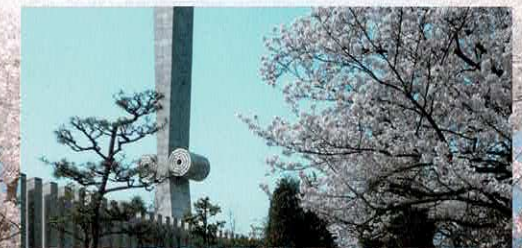
■ The Memorial tower is a 26.75m reinforced concrete structure covered with granite tiles and its apron part shows a Japanese map of the 280m<sup>2</sup> size with member cities inlaid. The perimeter stone columns record the date of air raids, the number of deaths and the number of victims, and also the names of city mayors are engraved respectively. This was designed by Takaya Ryutaro, selected from 151 entries.

■ Hours and Fee : Free



Peace Memorial Ceremony

Every year on October 26, the day when the memorial was completed, the Peace Memorial Ceremony is held to console the air-raid victims and pray for eternal peace by attendants from all over Japan including people from the member cities.



The Memorial in spring, filled with cherry blossoms (view from Fureai Hill)