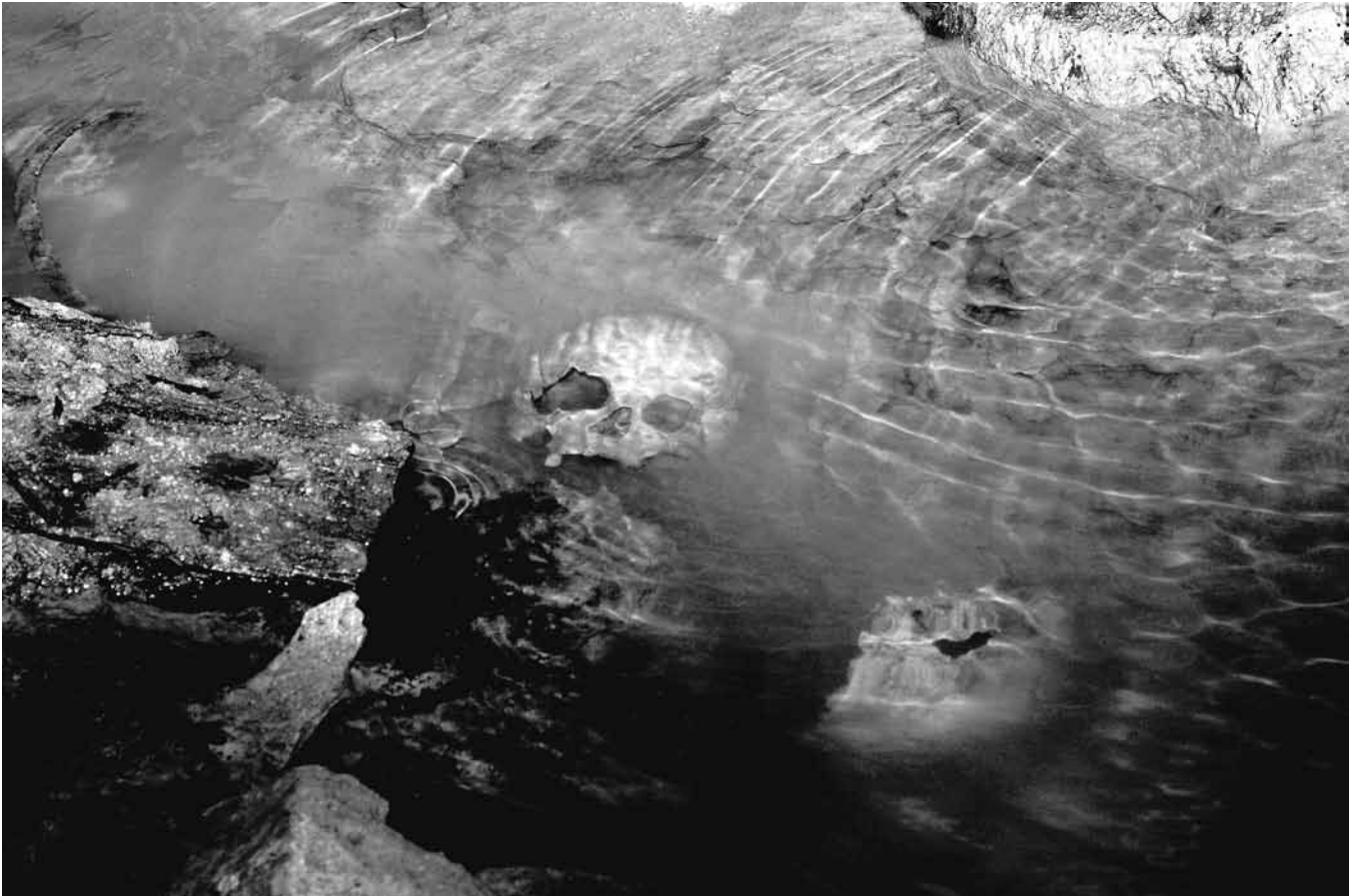


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Remains of the War dead in water in a gama (cave), Itoman City, Okinawa, 2012

(From "Photo Collection by Toyosato Tomoyuki – The Remains are calling - The Life of Kuniyoshi Isamu who excavated the bones and remains of the war dead in Okinawa")

Okinawans go on questioning

Why they were forced to die unintentionally in the name of the emperor

TOYOSATO Tomoyuki

KUNIYOSHI Isamu is a person who has been collecting the bones and remains of victims of the Okinawa war for about 60 years. Born in 1939, he is 79 years old. Born in former Mawashi village, he encountered the battle in Okinawa at the age of six. In the Battle of Okinawa, he lost a total of five family members i.e. grand-

mother, mother, elder brother (third son), younger brother (one year old at that time), and niece (one year old at that time). Kuniyoshi remembered he saw when he was in his fourth or fifth grade of elementary school that they were cremated on their own and their bones were put in urns by his aunts and others at the Nakaoji cem-

etry in the Haneji-son village (once in Okinawa Prefecture, a village in the Kunigami district of the Ryukyu government in the postwar period, now in the northwestern part of Nago city).

Kuniyoshi once had an adventure play with children nearby and