

Forensic Medicine Department

By the air-raid attacks on 1 August, the department was damaged by a falling rock. The department staff at the time included Professor Kunifusa, Associate Professor Tokugawa (he was drafted and was in a unit in Japan), technical contractor Yamaguchi, staff Kurokawa, and Yoshida.

The situation at the time of the bombing

Professor Kunifusa was exposed to the atomic bomb in the department and was rescued the next day and accommodated in the basement of the Pediatrics Department, but passed away in the early morning of the 16th while receiving treatment at his home in Sakurababa-machi.

Other department staff were also killed in the department building.

Biography of the late Professor Jiso Kunifusa

Senior Fourth Rank, the Fourth Order of Merit, M.D, Ph.D., professor of forensic medicine

16 May	1901	Born in Fukuoka Prefecture
March	1929	Graduated from Tokyo Imperial University School of Medicine
April	1929	Appointed assistant at Gyeongseong Imperial University, specializing in forensic medicine
May	1931	Appointed associate professor at Gyeongseong Imperial University
July	1940	Appointed professor at Nagasaki Medical College
May	1945	Appointed Senior Officer, the Second Order
9 August	1945	Exposed by an atomic bomb at the college and died on duty on the 16 th

Main research topics

Study on subtype of ABO blood group

Official position and name of the deceased

Official position	Name
Professor	Jiso Kunifusa
Technical contractor	Yosaku Yamaguchi
Staff	Matsuko Kurokawa
Staff	Masae Yoshida

Memories of Professor Kunifusa

Takeo Sato

I was requested by Professor Tomonaga to share “Memories of Professor Kunifusa” to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the atomic bombing. When I think about the bombing, it brings back many memories, having lost many friends and colleagues. Among them, the memory of Professor Kunifusa is especially painful. It was in April 1929, when I was appointed at Gyeongseong Imperial University with an assignment to establish the Forensic Medicine Department. Of course, it was difficult to find department staff in Gyeongseong, so I visited my alma mater, Tokyo University, and looked for staff. At that time, Kunifusa did not prefer clinical work, and as I heard that he was joining Japan Red Cross Central Hospital, I asked him if he could come to Gyeongseong immediately, which he gladly did. Since then, my life in Gyeongseong had been connected to Kunifusa for more than years until he left the Forensic Medicine Department of Gyeongseong Imperial University, and was welcomed as a professor in Nagasaki. I can not share the numerous memories during this period in the limited pages of this memoir. So, I would like to write down one or two memories and pray for the repose of Kunifusa's soul.

Kunifusa was posted to Gyeongseong at almost the same time as I. At the time in Gyeongseong University, as there were no graduates yet, life at the department continued only with Kunifusa and me for a year.

At the time, I was carrying out research on “sedimentation rate and sedimentation value,” and we used to work together in the department until late into the night. When I observed his work, I saw him working steadily, and as he was also smart, our work progressed steadily. Sometimes, he would come to my house and we had dinner together, then went back to the department. When we shared a meal, he ate a plate of vegetables, and after finishing it, he moved to another plate, but never touched the other plates, so I was watching him. So I asked him: “Don't you like that food?” to which he returned: “Oh no, I will eat once I finish this.” It was indeed a quite peculiar way of eating.

Back then, in Gyeongseong and the rest of Korea, another doctor was in charge of forensic autopsies, so the number of autopsies we performed was small, but later, as opportunities gradually increased, the area of our work also became wider, and two of us would often travel to the interior regions of Korea to perform autopsies. One time, we went to a remote place where it would take a week to travel and did a single autopsy. Kunifusa looked older than his age, while I looked relatively younger, and probably because we were both quiet people, when we were invited, Kunifusa was led to the upper seat, and he was always embarrassed. He would later tell me about it secretly and say, “*Sensei*, could you please go to the upper seat quickly?” with his unique smile.

When I went abroad in 1931, and while I was away, he looked after all the assignments of the

department for about two years. There were no major problems during my absence until I returned in May 1933, but I encountered a major challenge in April 1933. That was, a head of a child was found abandoned by the roadside, but the body was never found, and Kunifusa examined the child's head. The torso had been found coincidentally on my first day after returning and was under examination at the University. The problem was that regarding the estimated time passed since the death, Kunifusa concluded when he examined the head only. Kunifusa's judgement was not in the least bit wrong. However, as the process by which the head had been cut off from the corpse, which was being exhumed and dumped on the roadside, was not clarified, some people judged based on their amateur point of view and claimed that the fact was different. It would be too long to share the details of the process, although it is an interesting story. It should be all about memoirs, so I will omit the story here. The point was that while Kunifusa's judgement was never wrong, some corrupt judicial police, with malicious intention, publicized it as if the doctor had made a mistake and used it for a political purpose. Furthermore, a newspaper reporter who was manipulated by the police blamed Kunifusa, so Kunifusa told me that he no longer wishes to work as a forensic doctor. I could fully understand that Kunifusa was not at peace at the time. I consoled him: "It is clear that your judgement is not wrong from a forensic point of view. No matter how you face their conspiracy, I will stand up for you and take care of everything, so do not be timid. There is nothing more frightening than idiots, so you should not fight with the fools." So he changed his mind again and devoted himself to forensic medicine.

Many memories come and go like a revolving lantern when I remember the cases, including mass murder known as "*Haku-hakukyou* incident," which shocked Korea in 1935. Kunifusa really took good care of the department after I was appointed director of the School of Medicine of Gyeongseong Imperial University, and I had less time to take care of the department. It was difficult for me to let him go, but when he was promoted as a professor in Nagasaki, I gladly sent him, thinking about his future. With his brilliance, he was paving a new way in his work in Nagasaki, but when the war situation became intense, he was unable to carry out his research with his great talent as he wished; in the end, he was killed by the atomic bomb. He must have been feeling sorry, and I am still in sorrow for losing such a good man. I was stunned to learn about Kunifusa's death later in my hometown. When I think about it, he was an unlucky man. He lost his talented and beautiful wife right soon after he was posted in Nagasaki, and then followed her by becoming a victim of the atomic bomb himself. If he had been alive to continue his research to this day, he would probably have achieved a breakthrough in research. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the atomic bombing, while I am also thinking about what happened to his sons, I would like to conclude this memoir.

(President, Shinshu University)

A tribute to Professor Jiso Kunifusa

Tokuro Tomonaga

9 August 1955, as the memorial day for the atomic bomb victims comes again for the tenth time, the burning sun in the clear sky is shining over our heads as it did on this day ten years ago, while we offer silent prayer in front of the cenotaph on the hill of Gubiroga. Ten years' time is short and long. At this occasion, I would like to remember the late Professor Jiso Kunifusa, and pray for the repose of his soul by writing as my pen freely dictates.

Professor Kunifusa was appointed professor of forensic medicine in Nagasaki in July 1940. He was an associate professor in Gyeongseong under the supervision of Professor Takeo Sato and succeeded Professor Houjo, following his transfer to Kyushu University. My former supervisor, Dr. Kagaya in Chiba, and Professor Sato were very close friends, so I shared some kind of affinity with Mr. Kunifusa. However, before Kunifusa's arrival in Nagasaki, he did not appear very often at the annual conference due to the geographical location of Gyeongseong. This is probably why I can not recollect any particular memories before his days in Nagasaki.

In April 1941, following Kunifusa's appointment in Nagasaki, the Forensic Medicine Conference was held in Taipei. On the way to the conference, I happened to board the same ship, *Katori-maru*, as Kunifusa, and we were even assigned to the same table. Of the four at the table, two others were the ship's director of administration and an executive from a company in Aomori Prefecture. At the table, there was a disagreement regarding the apples served between Kunifusa and "Mr. Aomori." Kunifusa claimed that the Korean apples were good, while "Mr. Aomori" said that the apples from Aomori were better, and as both were quite stubborn, they did not give up on their opinion. They argued again in the next meal and I and the director of administration smiled with amusement but had no choice other than listening to them. For the first time, I felt as if I had seen a very serious character of Kunifusa. He would not compromise at all, and with his heavy and little hoarse voice, he was talking almost with foam at his mouth. Soon, Kunifusa asked: "Where did you eat a Korean apple?" Mr. Aomori: "I ate them in Tokyo." Kunifusa: "It is not good. You cannot understand the true taste of Korean apples unless you eat them in Korea," Mr. Aomori. "So, where did you eat the apples from Aomori?" Kunifusa: "Of course, in Tokyo." Mr. Aomori: "Then you won't know the true taste. You have to eat them in Aomori." At that moment, I interrupted them and said, "Let me judge which is better. Please send me the best apples from both areas." This finally resolved the controversy over apples, which ended in roaring laughter. (By the end of that year, the Pacific War broke out, and the *Katori-maru* was soon sunk.)

At the conference in Taipei, I saw the seriousness of Kunifusa once more. One of the professors who substituted for his department colleague reported on the diagnosis of death by drowning, which I had reported twice before at the conference for several years. In response, Kunifusa

questioned: “Regarding the diagnosis of death by drowning, Dr. Tomonaga has reported in the previous conference, but have you read the abstract?” The professor: “I have not read it yet.” At this point, Kunifusa indignantly scolded: “What is the matter with a person who is about to present a research report at an academic conference, but he has not read the report of the previous conference?” silencing the presenter. I was just taken aback by his sudden response, so I simply listened in blank amazement, but respected him again in my heart for paying attention to my modest report. Surprisingly, I started researching death by drowning when I succeeded him in Nagasaki, and suddenly remembered the episode at the conference, and thought it was a strange coincidence.

After the conference in Taipei, I also accompanied him on an excursion, and some of us climbed to the top of the mountain in the early morning to see sunrise at a lodge in Mt. Alishan. I still have a photograph taken by Kage from Professor Kunifusa's laboratory, in which Professor Kagaya stands in the center, Professor Kunifusa and I on either side, a huge root of a cypress, and the sky in the back. The photograph also makes me feel another strange connection.

Another episode about which I find strange coincidence is that Professor Kunifusa appeared to devote himself to research: “Subtype of blood types” since he was appointed and in 1943, at Forensic Medicine Conference, he proposed to use “1, 2, 3. . .” for subtypes and “I, II, III” for partial antigens, thus unifying the previously somewhat different symbols. He was scheduled to share an assigned research: “Research on ABO blood group subtypes” at the conference in 1945, but the war situation was gradually becoming intense, and although the 1944 conference was held on 5 November, only a dozen or so people attended. The conference was held in the basement of the auditorium in Tokyo University to avoid air-raids, and it finally became impossible to hold in 1945. Moreover, Professor Kunifusa was killed by the atomic bombing, and his assigned research, “Research on subtypes of ABO blood groups,” was left. Ten years since then, in 1956, a Forensic Medicine Conference was to be held in Nagasaki, and the title of the symposium was to be “Problems of blood group subtyping.”

Professor Kunifusa lost his wife right after arriving in Nagasaki, and later remarried but had the misfortune to die in the bombing. His wife went back to her parents in Sendai, and his three sons, Kai, Toru, and Hisasi, were taken by the relatives in Tokyo, where, I believe, they are all grown up to be fine young men.

(Forensic Medicine Department)

The Forensic Medicine Department during wartime

Takeo Tokugawa

My relationship with the Forensic Medicine Department began after I joined the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department after graduation.

At the time, I was given a research theme related to serology by late Professor Shimizu and asked Dr. Taniguchi in the department for supervision in the preparation of a standard serum. In August 1937, I joined the military when the Second Sino-Japanese War broke out, and returned to the department in 1940. Around September of the same year, Professor Kunifusa was appointed from Gyeongseong University. In the following year, March 1941, Professor Shimizu retired, and through the professor's recommendation, I joined the Forensic Medicine Department in April. At that time, I think Uemura, Kage, Tokunaga, Furukawa, Sekimoto, and others were in the department. Back then, it appeared that we were able to work freely since there was still an abundance of experimental materials. I was again drafted in July of the same year and came back to the department two years later.

According to my memory, the department staff at that time were Uemura, Kikuchi, Kagawa from Korea, international student Zhang from Beijing University, and Maekawa. As the war situation became serious, there were calls for digging air-raid shelters and increasing food production, so every unused space turned into vegetable gardens, and in the Forensic Medicine department, we too cultivated all the vacant land and made potatoes and other vegetables to be self-sufficient. Professor Kunifusa also ploughed the fields himself with a hoe.

A little earlier, right after I was drafted for the second time, he lost his wife to a minor illness. Since then, he raised his three children by himself while engaging in research and supervision, which I believe must have been a lot of work. At the time, his main task in the department was assigned research on blood group subtypes, and he was making steady progress. They were Tokugawa's A₁, A₂ blood types, Kagawa's B₁, B₂ blood types, Maekawa's O₁, O₂ blood types, and my M and N blood types. Other research which were purely related to forensic medicine was Uemura's research on sudden underwater death and Kikuchi's asphyxiation research.

Meanwhile, the professor advocated blood type testing of the citizens in Nagasaki City, which was carried out by the entire college. All the department staff were involved in the preparation of the standard sera required for this, as well as the supervision of the coordination and guidance of the tests.

Forensic autopsies were also carried out steadily during this period, and a celebration was held in the department when Professor Kunifusa achieved 500 autopsies.

There were moments of fun too, when we had a small party in the spacious first laboratory, which no longer exists. With the students who donated their blood, we served chickens and rabbits

after antiserum was prepared, which were the only source of protein for the department during times of protein deficiency.

At the beginning of 1945, Kagawa, who was from Korea, probably thought Japan's defeat was certain, and he suddenly left in the middle of his work. The number of staff in the department gradually decreased, leaving the department empty. However, research continued.

All that research, including joint research, became ashes with the atomic bomb with Professor Kunifusa. Prior to this, in June 1945, I was drafted to serve in the Nagasaki military headquarters.

On 9 August, the day of the atomic bombing, I was away from Nagasaki due to official duty, but I still remember clearly the surprise when I saw Nagasaki from a distance when I returned the next day. I immediately went to the College. As far as I could see, in the ashes, only parts of the concrete remained. Of course, the Forensic Medicine Department was blown away by the blast, and most of it was burned. The books in the library were scattered far away to near the College gate, and everything in the semi-ground basement anatomy room, which was believed to be safe, so we stored all the important items, was burnt to the ground, leaving nothing except for the shapes of experiment equipment, glass equipment, and books. Yamaguchi, a technician, another staff member, and Ms. Kurokawa were found in the rubble of the laboratory.

Professor Kunifusa was blown by the blast to near the road, which was on the east side of the Department and spent the night in a nearby air-raid shelter. When I arrived, he was lying on a straw mat in a semi-ground basement of the Pediatrics Department and was suffering from high fever, burns, loss of appetite, and persistent diarrhea, but he maintained consciousness. The first thing he asked about was whether the basement of the anatomy room was safe. He lost his voice in sadness when I told him that everything was gone, and in hindsight, I regret sharing that. President Tsuno'o and Professor Yamane were also severely wounded and were lying in the air-raid tunnel under the basement of the former Konan Ward.

While on military duty, I often visited my professor, who had returned to his house in Sakurababa-machi to rest. He was still struggling with high fever, diarrhea, lack of appetite, and external wounds. In the early morning before dawn on 15 August, he said, "There is no airplane today. I feel a little lonely," and finally passed away as a victim of the atomic bomb, never losing his consciousness, and without the knowledge of the end of the war. The following day, on the 16th, I accompanied his body to the College and cremated him in the tennis court next to the former Konan Ward with the lonesome presence of his wife, Professor Sano, myself, and a few others.

For about a year afterwards, I was in charge of the Forensic Medicine Department until Professor Tomonaga's arrival, and I left the College for personal reasons.

Now, when I recollect the years I have spent with my *sensei*, many memories appear and fade like a lantern, and the only thing that remains is that he was a good *sensei*. May his soul rest in peace forever.