

Kageura Internal Medicine Department

The department staff back then were: Professor Kageura, Associate Professor Kikuno, Assistants Furukawa, Wu, Junior Assistants Morisawa, Koga, a provisional graduate of the Medical College Shibata, provisional graduates of the Special Medical Vocational Department Yoshikawa, Hayashi, Staff Kondou, Tagawa, Head Nurse Nagashima, and 24 nurses.

The situation at the time of the bombing

Professor Kageura was on a business trip to Isahaya, and escaped the disaster while Associate Professor Kikuno was killed by the atomic bombing as he returned home in Takenokubo-machi after work. Assistant Furukawa was exposed to the atomic bomb and died after being rescued. Assistant Wu was killed in his lodging by the bombing.

Junior Assistant Morisawa and six nurses, including Head Nurse Nagashima, were in the Nurses' Room and were exposed to the atomic bomb, but had almost no injury. Others who were in the same room were also safe. Provisional graduate of the Medical College, Koga was exposed to the atomic bomb in Kohoku Ward. Provisional graduates of the Special Medical Vocational Department, Yoshikawa and Hayashi, were absent.

Kondo was killed in the Institute, and Tagawa was killed in the department building by the bombing.

Nurse Fukuda and Hara were off duty and were exposed to the bombing at the dormitory. Nurse Hara was killed instantly, and Nurse Fukuda died a few days later in her house in Takashima. Nurse Yamashita was exposed to the atomic bomb while taking a bath in Kohoku Ward, and died about a month later in her house in Oura. Nurse Matsumoto was exposed to the bombing in Konan Ward and died about a month later. Nurse Yukawa and Nurse Kashiya were exposed to the atomic bomb in the department building and died later, one after the other.

Official position and name of the deceased

Official position	Name
Associate Professor	Seijiro Kikuno
Assistant	Ichiro Furukawa
Assistant	Wu Fushun
Tentative graduate of the Medical College	Kiyoshi Shibata
Staff	Tsuguyoshi Kondou
Staff	Kiku Tagawa

Nurses

Fourth-year nursing student	Tsuyako Fukuda
Fourth-year nursing student	Eiko Yamashita
Fourth-year nursing student	Eiko Hara
Third-year nursing student	Riki Matsumoto
Second-year nursing student	Akiko Yukawa
Second-year nursing student	Fusae Kashiya

Recalling the time of the atomic bombing

Naomi Kageura

On 9 August 1945, shortly after 11:00 a.m., our Nagasaki Medical College was annihilated in an instant, and at the same time, more than 850 lives became victims.

President Tsuno'o passed Hiroshima on the way back from Tokyo three days ago on the 7th (right after the bomb hit Hiroshima) and immediately came to work after he arrived in Urakami at 8:00 a.m. on the 8th (Imperial Rescript Acceptance Day), summoned everyone, and gave an instruction and speech. That is to say, it was night when he passed Hiroshima, but the damage caused by the new weapon was truly horrific. Summarizing what he heard from those who were relatively less injured about the incident at the time, there was a flashing light, then houses were crushed down by the blast winds, followed by fire, but the bomb did not hit the earth, and some saw a singular-shaped or strange colored cloud while others saw a parachute. They will soon come to Nagasaki. When we watch the sky for defense, it is not enough to take caution only from the explosive sound. He insisted that everyone should therefore make their best effort to be even more vigilant. In the emergency professor's meeting in the afternoon, it was decided that all the classes will be cancelled from the 10th. If this had been done a day earlier, on the 9th, the number of student victims and others would have been significantly less.

Since November 1944, I held a dual position including Director of the Prefectural Teachers Sanatorium, so I traveled once a week on Thursdays to Isahaya. On Thursday, 9 August, I went to Isahaya as usual, gathered staff and patients, and requested to be on special alert, sharing about the new weapon.

When I was treating a few patients while hearing an explosive sound of the B-29 overhead, I saw a flash of purple light (alike flame of magnesium with small amount of yellow color combined), so we lay down immediately on the corridor at the same time when we heard a huge sound of an explosion, then the hospital trembled terribly. The sound was made by an air defense canon on the mountain top nearby, which targeted the B-29, and considering the time, they

targeted the B-29 returning after dropping the atomic bomb in Nagasaki.

When I went out to the pine forest outside of the hospital, I saw a strange cloud far above the sky of Nagasaki, followed by a grotesque figure of extraordinary colored smoke rising. Soon, I saw two parachutes going down slowly. As we feared that another bomb was to be dropped, we evacuated to an air-raid shelter, but the parachutes were dropped as they had already finished dropping the bomb, so they were dropped in the direction of Enoura.

Fortunately, there was no damage in the Sanatorium. However, the transportation between Isahaya and Nagasaki was completely lost. In addition, the situation was extremely dangerous during the day, even if I walked back to Nagasaki, so I started my journey in the evening. Luckily, by a rickshaw driver's kindness, I arrived in Nagasaki at midnight. When I arrived, the Ima-machi area was already in hell on fire, and I saw Keika Kinder Garden burnt down. The following morning, I waited for the dawn and crossed over Mt. Kompira. Once I reached the College, I searched for President Tsuno'o first. He was lying on a cart in a tunnel outside the hospital with a national uniform stained with fresh blood. He said: "I am fine. Takagi seems to be in pain. With Koyano as a new President, please make your effort for the recovery of the College." When I looked, I saw Professor Takagi lying on a cart with the President next to him, complaining about severe pain in his chest. (He died two days later.) I was astonished to hear that most of the professors had already fallen victim. What we found out later was that 12 of the 16 professors, which was three-quarters, died. So one can imagine how serious the damage was. Those who were on the mountain top, where the Basic Science Department was located, literally lost 100% of their lives. It was because of some unlucky circumstances, such as the building being close to the hypocenter, and it was a wooden structure, as well as the fact that the lectures were held at that time. The air-raid alarm was lifted at that time. Most of those who were in the hospital survived as the building was concrete and was relatively far from the hypocenter. In the end, we lost two-thirds of the entire College staff in total, including immediate and later deaths.

President Tsuno'o was moved to a shrine in Nameshi village in the Togitsu direction in the next few days. This was probably because his attending physician, Professor Shirabe, was in the area as his family was evacuated, and it was convenient to get his treatment. Food was more available, and the area was much cooler as the shrine was in a forest.

Professor Tsuno'o was treating patients when he was exposed to the atomic bomb, but the room was in the most unfavorable location as it was at the corner of the building with a huge glass window facing the hypocenter. At a glance, there were only wounds from glass sherds on his back and buttocks, so it was initially considered non-life-threatening. We did not have any knowledge about his bone marrow, which was damaged.

A strange thing was that we did not see any suppuration of his wounds. The condition of the

granulation was extremely bad. Back then, disinfection was far from perfect. It was impossible to count white blood cells at the time, but as we did not see suppuration, it must have been damage to the bone marrow. He had severe mouth ulcers, and there was no salivation. He suffered severely as the inside of his mouth was dry. By the time he was dying, he had no appetite but anemia and emaciation. He went into cachexia, but his consciousness remained clear until the evening a day before his death.

What we should note in the process above is that there was no suppuration; there was extreme dysfunction of salivation and consciousness, which was clear until almost the end. President Tsuno'o finally died 13 days after the bombing on the morning of 22 August. It was truly regrettable.

However, if he sees the full reconstruction of Nagasaki Medical College today, despite the challenges that it was once in danger of not being rebuilt, he will be satisfied.

Memories of those days

Kazuko Nagashima

After the air-raid of radiation, many years have passed, and this year marks the 10th year with the Peace Statue constructed and a Cultural Center established, pointing high into the sky on the hill. I feel like a messenger of peace is approaching us.

10 years ago, 9 August at 11:02 a.m. As a citizen of Nagasaki, the memory is engraved as a memory I will never forget. When I look back on those days, I feel like I have been pushed into a pit of sorrow, and I am still filled with an indescribable anger and sadness today. The other day, a messenger came from the Medical College to my house and asked me to write about the atomic bomb memories incident back then, even if it would be only a part of what I have experienced. I felt it would be wrong to decline, so I decided to write about some of my memories of that time.

Right after 11:00 a.m., I took down my emergency bag and hood as the air-raid alarm was lifted. In order to write name tags of the inpatients and hang them in Dr. Kageura's room, I had an enamel brush in my hand. Nurse Ikei came to my side and said, "Head Nurse, let me clean the tag," and stood beside me, wiping. Next to us, I remember that Dr. Morisawa, Nurse Yamada, Uchikawa, Fujinaga, and two or three nurses were deep in conversation. At that moment, there was a bang, which sounded like an explosion. At the same time, the area suddenly became pitch-black, and I could not see anything. I heard someone's voice calling "Dr. Morisawa!" I instinctively thought that a big bomb had been dropped.

I was sitting in a chair in the darkness, but stood up immediately and covered my face with my hands. Oh, I felt that I was still alive. I thought that I should get out by any means, so I went down

to the basement in the dark, guessing the way, but there was no one in the room.

I thought that there was a direct hit in the Internal Medicine Ward, and I was sitting alone in the basement. I remember people all covered in blood, and they were crying as they came down. Dr. Nakamura of Tsuno'o Internal Medicine Department also came and told: "Head Nurse, we were attacked. If we go out now, we may be shot by the machine guns, so it is better to go out after a while." While waiting, everyone started to come down one by one. As the basement was used by the Radiology Department, which was relocated, I met Head Nurse Hisamatsu there, and we were glad to see each other, then parted. Soon, the fire started in the area, so I told people in the basement to escape in the direction of the mountain. I was the last person to pass in front of the Main Building, then went to Anakobo and in the direction of Nishiyama. Dr. Morisawa, Okano-san, Uchikawa-san, Fujinaga-san, Anemoto-san, and others were also with me. On the way, we met Dr. Shirabe and Dr. Koyano with others, who were all fine. When I rested for a while on the mountain, I looked up at the sun, which looked just like the moon. It was the first time I saw the sun like that when it was usually bright and shining.

Here, Dr. Ohwadano of the Koyano Surgery Department was sitting. "Doctor, you were safe." When I talked to him, he replied: "I don't know anything." I did not see any serious injuries on him, but as he walked towards Isahaya, he became sick, and I heard later that he passed away. I also met Head Nurse Uchida of the Ophthalmology Department there. I spent the night in an air-raid shelter in a house in Nishiyama. The plane was flying in until late at night and scattered leaflets.

On the following day, Dr. Morisawa asked a few of us who were fine to go down to the Medical College, so we went as far as Anakobo, while planes were flying over us. There, Dr. Iwanaga of the Koyano Surgery told us to help him as he was at least trying to help those related to the College. He took out things needed for the treatment, such as tincture of iodine, cotton wool, and tweezers, and I helped him the entire day under the planes buzzing, and spent a night near Anakobo, where dead people were lying around. It was burning hot during the day, but the evening was cold, and we could not sleep. Everyone woke up and spent the night stretching at midnight.

The next day, Dr. Kageura visited us. He was away on a business trip to Isahaya on the day of the atomic bombing. He was the Director of Teacher's Sanatorium back then, and traveled every Thursday. When I saw his face, I could not help but cry and cry.

When he was away, I always evacuated with an emergency bag of diabetic patients' records and other items during air-raids, but it was a pity that I could not bring any of them out this time. . .

At Anakobo, I also met Dr. Sobue of the Pharmacology Department. He asked: "I don't have any money. Could you please tell Dr. Kageura if I could borrow from him?" When I went back

later, someone from his lodging came to pick him up and carried him away on a wooden shutter. I heard that he finally passed away later. It had not been a long time since he was appointed in Nagasaki, so I felt sorry for him, as if he had come here to be killed by the atomic bomb.

I also met Oura *sensei*, who was a dormitory superintendent. He had just been admitted to the Kohoku Ward because of dysentery. His eldest son was killed at home by the bombing, and his second son, who was a student of the Special Medical Vocational Department, rescued him on his back. They both died later.

Three of us, I, Head Nurse Kawaguchi, and Head Nurse Sakamoto, went to visit their graves in Hirado. His wife cried and shared about that day, saying that she wished that at least one of the three of them had lived. I did not have any words to console her.

On the early evening of the third day, the father of Nurse Yamada came to pick her up. He said: "Although you have luckily survived and are fine, if you do not eat anything for three days, you will soon become ill too. So please come with us." I decided to accept his kind words and left Nagasaki with Dr. Morisawa, Nurse Yamada, Hirose, Uchikawa, Kitamura, Ohguro, Shinozaki, and those who survived. While taking shelter from the airplanes flying, we walked to Michino'o. Since Dr. Hayashi was in the dormitory of Mitsubishi, we stayed overnight in Michino'o. Although I was worried, I could wash my face and sleep on a *tatami* mat protected by a mosquito net for the first time in three days. On the following day, Nurse Shinozaki and I stayed in Yamada-san's house for a while, and the others parted as they went back to their home.

I did not have many wounds and was bored every day, so Shinozaki-san and I went to Oura-san's house in Ikiriki, covering our heads with towels and walking in the mountains. As we met Oura-san, we cried spontaneously in joy seeing each other in good health. Oura-san was a little injured and was taken back by the defense guards. Her family was also glad, so we stayed for two or three nights. On the day the war ended, but as there was no radio or newspaper, we evacuated when the planes were flying low, which we mistook as air-raid. Then, the defense guard informed us that the war had ended.

On the way back to Nagayo, we met people saying, "The enemy is landing, and they are right there at this moment. There is an order to evacuate ahead," and running away with their food and other goods. We continued to head to Nagayo with anxiety. On 31 August, since I did not hear anything, I went back to my hometown. I did not think Nagasaki Medical College would ever be reconstructed, and I was just glad to be alive.

Then, the Nagasaki Medical College moved to the former Shinkouzen Primary School site. In December 1947, when the College was on the way to reconstruction at the Naval Hospital in Isahaya, I resigned without contributing to the recovery of the College.

Finally, I would like to conclude this memoir with my prayer for those young girls in white coats with many dreams who passed away because of the atomic bombing, and the restoration of

Nagasaki Medical College.

(Former Head Nurse of Kageura Internal Medicine Department)