

## Shirabe Surgery Department

The department staff were drafted one by one, and at the time, there were Professor Shirabe, Associate Professor Kido, provisional graduate Sato, provisional graduates of the Special Medical Vocational Department Hidaka, Taiwanese Wu, Research Assistants Mizota and Aoki, Technician Kaneko, Head Nurse Murayama, and 21 nurses on duty.

### The situation at the time of the bombing

Professor Shirabe was in professor's room (currently a room on the second floor of the Radiation Department), Associate Professor Kido and Dr. Hidaka were changing bandages with few nurses in the basement, Dr. Sato and three nurses were in the Outpatient Examination Room, Research Assistant Mizota was in the laboratory, Head Nurse Murayama was on the second floor of the hospital ward, and other staffs were in the hospital wards and the Medical Office when they were exposed to the bombing.

Taiwanese Wu and Nurse Futagawa were outside Nagasaki City and escaped the bombing.

The two people killed in the bombing were Research Assistant Mizota, in the laboratory, and Nurse Kawada in the Gibbs Room (now the Surgical Operation theatre).

Department staff evacuated to the mountain behind the campus and spent a night there.

On the 12th, a rescue team led by Shirabe Surgery was organized to attend to President Tsuno'o, Professor Yamane, other department members, students, and nurses at the Nameshi Daijingu Shrine's worship hall and the Iwaya Club in Michino'o. The rescue team was disbanded on the 18th, so the students and nurses returned home.

### Official position and names of the deceased

Official Position	Name
Research Assistant	Teruo Mizota
Second-year nursing student	Hisae Kawada

### Recollections of the Shirabe Surgery Department at the time of the atomic bombing

Raisuke Shirabe

In August 1945, when the war was at its height, nearly 20 members of the department were called up one after another, and those who remained at the time were only four: Kido (currently director of Tagawa City Hospital,) a professor at Special Medical Vocational Department, Sato

(currently practicing in Arima Village, Minami Takaki,) a provisional graduate of the Medical College, Hidaka (currently practicing in Tanegashima Island, Kagoshima Prefecture,) a provisional graduate of Special Medical Vocational Department, and a Taiwanese staff (returned to his country immediately after the war). The nurses were Head Nurse Murayama (now Head Nurse of the Isahaya Branch Hospital), Sato, Kida, Honda, Abe, Sakai, Futagawa, Sasayama, Tanaka, Yaguchi, Deguchi, several nursing students, and the other staff member was Research Assistant Mizota in the laboratory. About 20 staff members were working at Shirabe Surgery.

Most of the inpatients had been discharged after the bombing on 1 August, so only a very few remained, but there were still a few in the East Ward (now the Radiology Department,) and West Ward (now the eastern half of the Surgical Ward), as well as several seriously ill patients in the Surgical Ward basement, so we could not evacuate when the air-raid alarm was issued, and all of us were working hard in the hospital. The nurses were not fully happy about the situation, but on the contrary, it seemed to have brought about a better aftermath.

At 11:02 a.m. on 9 August when the atomic bomb was dropped, I was in the Professor's Office (currently a room on the second floor of the Radiology Department,) Head Nurse Murayama was in the corridor on the second floor of the East Ward, Kido, Hidaka and several nurses were changing bandages in the basement, Professor Sato and nurses Sato, Abe and Deguchi were in the Outpatient Examination Room (currently the room to the south of the Anatomy Department) treating outpatients, Taiwanese Wu and Nurse Futagawa were out of the Nagasaki City, so escaped the atomic bombing. In the end, the only victims of the atomic bombing were Mizota in the laboratory, and two student nurses who happened to be working in the Gibbs Room (now the Surgical Operation Theatre).

Later, we organized a relief team, mainly consisting of Shirabe Surgery staff, and negotiated with the Chairman of Nameshi Town, Mr. Kataoka, to rent the Nameshi Daijingu Shrine worship hall and the Iwaya Club. President Tsuno'o and Professor Yamane were accommodated at the Shrine while about 30 injured people, including the department staff, nurses, and students, were accommodated at the Iwaya Club to be treated daily. At the same time, several hundred injured people who were carried into a private house in the neighborhood were also treated on house calls. Those who gathered at the time were: Kido, nurses Kida, Honda, Abe, Sakai, Futagawa, Sasayama, Yaguchi, Tanaka, Deguchi, and 67 other third-year students from the Special Medical Vocational Department. They took lodging at a house where my family had been evacuated, which was owned by a local man, and started the medical treatment on 12 August. We went around treating patients, moving about in confusion in the scorching heat for a week until the 18th, when a panic started by the rumors of the U.S. military's landing. When I look back, I am amazed at how everyone's body could continue to work under such conditions.

On the 18th, the nurses requested to go home for fear of the U.S. landing, so unfortunately, we

decided to close the Iwaya Relief Station. After transferring the remaining patients to Togitsu, Isahaya, and other places, we sent the nurses home. On the same night, I drank sake for a farewell with the students who helped us in a house where nobody remained, as the entire village fled for evacuation. However, Kido and two students (Ueno and Katayama) stayed with me until after Professor Tsuno'o's death on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the farewell ceremony on the 23rd, and then returned to their hometowns on the 24th. Until they left, I could somehow distract myself, but after they left, I became suddenly lonely, and could not stop thinking about my two boys who died in the bombing.

Kido and I started to suffer atomic bomb symptoms in early September, but thankfully, we both survived. But it was around this time when I received a report that Head Nurse Murayama lost all her hair, her entire body was weak, and she was in a critical condition. She was once on the brink of death, but it is no exaggeration to say that her recovery today is nothing but a miracle.

I was able to reunite with all the people in my department who had bid farewell after the war. Today, there is no one left in my department, but many of the nurses were blessed to be married, and those one or two who had health problems have been hospitalized in Shirabe Surgery, and they seem to be now completely healed. While the aftereffects of the atomic bombing are still being talked about today, I pray that all the surviving members will live happily in good health for a long time to come.