

## Ophthalmology Department

At that time, the medical staff were called up one after another, and apart from Professor Yamane, there were only two assistants, Lin and Yang. The staff who were working outside the department were Dr. Nakashima, Dr. Sakimoto, and Dr. Moriji. There were 15 nurses under the supervision of Head Nurse Uchida, and others were research assistants Kazuko Chikagawa, staff members Mizoguchi, and Maeda.

The situation at the time of the bombing

Professor Yamane was exposed to the atomic bomb in the lavatory on the second floor of the Ophthalmology Department and suffered severe injuries to his face and thighs from shards of glass. Later, he was carried to Nameshi outside the city, but died on the 15th while receiving treatment due to tetanus infection.

Lin and Yang appeared to be absent.

Other department members were also exposed to the atomic bomb in the hospital ward. Mizoguchi, Maeda, and five nurses, including Head Nurse Uchida, died.

As we have made most of the inpatients return home, there were only a few remaining, some of whom were killed instantly.

Biography of the late Prof. Dr. Hiroshi Yamane

Senior Fourth Rank, The Fourth Order of Merit, M.D, Ph.D., Professor of Ophthalmology

25 March	1895	Born in Shimane Prefecture
July	1921	Graduated from Kyoto Imperial University School of Medicine
September	1922	Appointed assistant at Kyoto Imperial University
September	1926	Appointed assistant professor at Kyoto Imperial University
Mar	1931	Appointed Associate Professor at Nagasaki Medical College
November	1936	Studied in Europe and the U.S. for ophthalmology research, returning to Japan in October of the following year
March	1942	Appointed professor at Nagasaki Medical College
June	1942	Appointed Senior Official, the Second Order
9 August	1945	exposed to the atomic bombing at the College, died in the line of duty on 15 August 1945

Main subject of the research

A few clinical and microscopic studies of corneal pannus with trachomatous inflammation

## Official position and name of the deceased

Official Position	Name
Professor	Hiroshi Yamane
Staff	Asano Mizoguchi
Staff	Isuzu Maeda
Head Nurse	Toshiko Uchida
Fourth-year nursing student	Takeno Ozaki
Fourth-year nursing student	Sachiko Matsumoto
Third-year nursing student	Miyo Nishishita
Third-year nursing student	Hiro Yamaguchi

## Memories of my father

Takao Yamane

Ten years ago, on 9 August, my father returned to his professor's office after his morning lecture, and was going to the lavatory on the west side of the second floor of the Ophthalmology Department, and it was at that time when the atomic bomb was dropped. He received shards of glass all over his body, spent the night in an underground air-raid shelter, and the next day, as the air-raids continued and most of the hospital buildings were destroyed, he was evacuated to a nearby air-raid shelter. At that time, my father was in fairly good health, and he encouraged the late Professor Nagai and told him to “cheer up.” I do not know the details of how he was transported to the Daijingu Shrine in Nameshi later, but I have heard that he and President Tsuno'o received care from Professor Shirabe there. But on 14 August, his condition suddenly deteriorated with symptoms of tetanus, and he died.

I heard that as he loved *sake*, when he thought that there was no hope for him, he put some alcohol in his mouth, but it did not go down his throat anymore.

At the time of the atomic bombing, none of the family members were in Nagasaki and my father was staying with a fellow countryman, Professor Nagai, so we had no way of knowing anything other than that a new type of bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, and the newspapers reported only that “minimum damage done,” but in few days, some students from our hometown who have been studying in the College returned and we gradually started to lean about the situation of Nagasaki. However, my family was not worried so much as we received information that my father had only a minor injury and was all right. On the 20th, Mr. Miyata, who used to live near our house in Nagasaki, suddenly brought my father's ashes to our house,

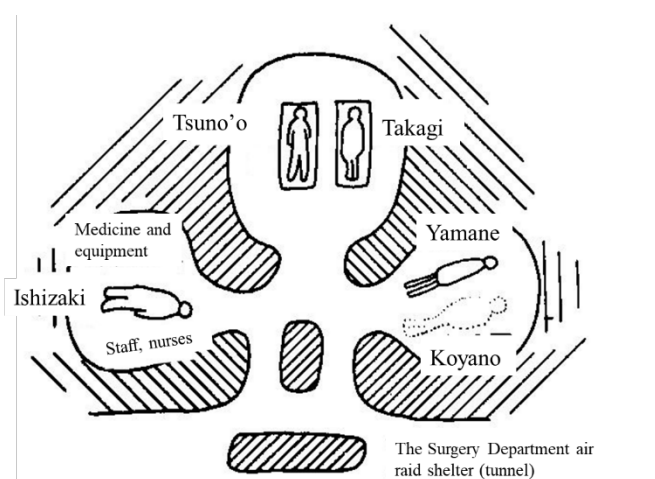
and everyone in the house in the countryside was surprised to learn about his death. Fortunately, thanks to Mr. Miyata, who cremated my father's body amid all those deaths and confusion and carried the ashes to the countryside of Shimane Prefecture, we were able to bury his remains in a rural cemetery.

On 21 August, a funeral was held at my home. On that morning, I returned from Edajima after serving in the military and, without knowing about my father's death, arrived at Izumo Imaichi Station and was waiting for the bus to take me back to my village, when the conductor greeted me saying, "my condolences." I asked: "Did anyone die?" and upon learning about my father's death, I borrowed a bicycle in a hurry and finally made it home in time for the funeral. I was fortunate to at least make it home in time for the funeral in the chaos at the end of the war.

Professor Hiroshi Yamane

Written by Koyano

Professor Hiroshi Yamane, a poet of the Araragi school, had been busy since before the war as he was writing about vitreous diseases in the Japanese Journal of Ophthalmology, but when he finally finished submitting the article, he became even busier as his staff had been called for military service. When the war was getting worse, he evacuated his family to his hometown of Shimane and commuted with Associate Professor Yasuno (Pathology) from the home of Associate Professor Nagai, who was also from Shimane. Yasuno was in somewhat poor health and was lying on the second floor of Nagai's house on the day of the atomic bombing when he was killed by the explosion.



Professor Yamane was in the lavatory in the Ophthalmology ward when he met the disaster, and was injured with severe split wounds and lacerations on his face and thighs. He spent the

night of the 9th in a shelter under the Psychiatric Department, and on the following day, the 10th, was accommodated in an air-raid tunnel shelter next to the Surgery Department together with Tsuno'o, Takagi, and others. We laid Tsuno'o and Takagi on surgical beds, but as Yamane was carried in later, we laid him on a wooden floorboard in the corridor, which we placed on the ground. We couldn't leave them outside because there was still the possibility of an air-raid. That night, I slept with Yamane by my side. The board was narrow, but Yamane would be in pain if I moved, so I could not move freely. I wanted to treat Yamane's wound, but as we had neither the tools nor the materials, I could only apply red tincture and bandage the wounds. That night, we didn't talk much to each other, except for the occasional moaning and asking, "Are you in pain?" "Do you want water?" Two days later, we appealed to the Mitsubishi Relief Team to move Tsuno'o and Yamane to the Iwaya Club in Nameshi, five kilometers away from where Professor Shirabe had been evacuated. Then we accommodated them in a worship hall of a shrine. During these days, Yamane, along with Tsuno'o, could receive relatively good care for their injuries from Professor Shirabe. However, on the 14th, he suddenly developed tetanus and was given a serum by Tsuno'o. They did everything they could do. He was in such a miserable and helpless condition that he developed convulsions at the sound of drums being beaten by the worshippers in the shrine early in the morning. He passed away without his family or his department staff, but under the care of Professor Shirabe.

However, he must be relieved now as his family is safe and his eldest son graduated from the School of Medicine at Nagasaki University this year.

Reminiscent of Dr. Yamane

Shinroku Murata

He has been friendly since I was in College simply because I graduated from the same high school as him. In four years of our clinical study, it was said that there were three most difficult places where you want to avoid. They were Hirai's Pediatrics, Shimizu's Gynecology, and Ophthalmology. Even so, Dr. Yamane examined patients every other day, so we were all able to get little rest and occasionally could find time for casual conversation with the doctor. After becoming a professor, I heard that Dr. Yamane has become quite strict.

One day, he visited Xinjing with Dr. Kitamura from Dermatology. I still have the photograph of the welcome party at a traditional Japanese restaurant, and the contrast between Dr. Kitamura's beer company poster-like smile and Dr. Yamane's long-faced, wry smile cannot help but make one smile. As I was the youngest person in Xinjing, I was entrusted with the task of gathering information about where to visit on the following day, but I think it would not have

been so impressive for Dr. Yamane, who had travelled around Europe in the good old days. We had dinner at a small restaurant, and went from place to place, but the number of glasses of alcohol was five to one, and of course, five was for the doctor. By the time we visited our last café, it became 10 to 1, and finally 10 to 0. I was forced to wake up from my snoring position leaning against a desk and taken not by a car but by a carriage to the home of the late Hiroshi Nagayama while the doctor looked as if he had just had a cup of tea. Even now, I feel like I can still hear the sound of the carriage bell.

I visited the department for about 10 days during an academic conference in Okayama, when he hosted a grand (?) welcome party for me with sake, which was already hard to get at that time, but he was able to obtain two bottles, which were specially distributed to the late Dr. Sumitaka Goto for his wedding. This was the last drink I had with him.

It was deep into the autumn of 1944 when I received a very unlikely, polite thank-you letter from the sensei for the extra-large bottle of Genghis Khan whisky I delivered to him through my senior Dr. Kakiyama, who returned to Nagasaki as I heard about back home that the war was going against us and that the same was true for alcohol.

After returning to Japan, I heard from Dr. Asanuma about Dr. Yamane's final days and the situation caused by the atomic bombing. I was somehow relieved as he shared with me that the doctor requested a glass of sake for his final water, which was customarily given to those dying.

## Aftermath

Nagaaki Ogasawara

Soon after, I heard from a military doctor who had passed through Hiroshima at the treatment room of the Army Hospital in Hitoyoshi City, about a detailed account of the horrific conditions immediately after the Hiroshima paratrooper bombing, news of the Nagasaki bombing came in. My colleague, military doctor Muraoka, had often told us that the atomic bomb would determine the future of this war, and he was right. The prediction of Dr. Muraoka (Isahaya City), a warm-hearted, sincere pacifist and competent military doctor, came true.

With a strong desire to go back immediately and quickly, in early September, I took four days' leave to visit Nagasaki. I visited a temporary residence of Toryo Junior High School where Dr. Kunitomo, my father-in-law, was staying when he was about to move to Professor Kunifusa's house in Sakurababa. Fortunately, at the same time, Rear Admiral Yasuyama, Director of the Omura Naval Hospital, brought relief supplies to Dr. Kunitomo in an ambulance, and I was allowed to ride together to his residence. The next morning, I visited the Urakami area while I got caught in an electric wire, stepping over the debris. There were still electric poles, wires, and

timber scattered about, and even a dead horse was rolled on the slope to the College. I went into the department, getting under the debris, but could not pass through the corridors, and I was so lost that I had no choice but to turn back. In the evening, I prayed for the victims and returned to Hitoyoshi Military Hospital.

In mid-September, immediately after being discharged from Hitoyoshi Military Hospital, I visited the headquarters of Nagasaki Medical College, which was a temporary setup in Nagasaki Commercial High School, where I was asked by Professor Kageura to take charge of the clean-up work at the site.

Fortunately, I had the support of Takagi, Morita, Jinnai, and others who had just been discharged from the Navy and were in high spirits, as well as Chikagawa, a research assistant in the Ophthalmology Department, and nurses and staff, and we started to clean up the Ophthalmology Department first. Books were transported to the morgue while we rented a room at the high school for storage. Back then, we walked to Urakami every day, and the nurses would serve us baked potatoes from the fields for lunch. Later, the traffic department of the prefectural government rented us a truck. I wonder how many times we went back and forth carrying beds and other equipment, which can be used in Shinkouzen. The College administrative officer at the time was very kind to inform me that the College wanted to give us a commendation, and encouraged me to continue the cleaning work, saying that they would make it possible for us to have a meal, but I remember that we only received potatoes one time.

It was at this time that we found the body of Professor Okura in the Hygiene Department, and one day, the Occupation Forces informed us that there were several dozen microscopes and spectrometers in the basement of the Biochemistry Department. The interpreter for our group was Soichiro Takagi, a.k.a. Mr. Tall (*taka*) - tree (*gi*). I remember Takagi, who was very proud when he received a bottle of 100 Diazine tablets from an American military doctor. We carried away the safe of the Physiology Department, or opened the safe of the Forensic Medicine in the presence of the bereaved family, but only one gold ring was found.

When the Occupation Forces established the Jikei Hospital, we had to help them with conscripted laborers from various towns and cities to carry electric refrigerators for the ophthalmology laboratory, centrifugal sedimentation equipment for the Dermatology Department, and incubators for eggs. Once the cleaning of the Ophthalmology Department came to an end, after a month of cleaning work, I started to have a fever of around 38.5 degrees Celsius of unknown origin in mid-October and had to return home because the fever continued.

After two weeks of bed rest in my hometown, I returned to Nagasaki in early November.

It was not until much later that I learned that it was atomic bomb sickness caused by working in the radiated area.

While I was lying in bed back home, Takagi and others continued to clean up, and almost all

the beds at Shinkozen were carried by their hands.

Most of the College staff had moved to the Omura Naval Hospital, but Director, Dr. Shirabe, became acting chief of Ophthalmology, and I alone was in charge of ophthalmology treatment at Shinkozen Elementary School. In December, Kuma-san came as a Head Nurse, and students such as Goto and Oshima helped with ophthalmological treatment, which was a great help. In April, I was requested to submit students' grades, and I was dumbfounded.

There was no one in charge of ophthalmology at Omura Hospital, and I was repeatedly advised to take charge of the Ophthalmology Department, but I was determined to start the College reconstruction in Urakami, so I did not comply. Soon, Dr. Goto returned from Kawatana Hospital and took charge of the Ophthalmology Department at Omura Hospital. The mainstream opinion back then was that there could be no reconstruction of the College if Omura was abandoned, and this opinion was strongly opposed by Dr. Mori and the rest of us in Shinkouzen. As you all know, the reconstruction of the College was largely delayed while relocating from Omura to Isahaya.

It was fortunate that by the end of 1945, Professor Yamane's son came and packed the books as Professor's relics, and then the managing director of a fisheries company who a patient of Professor Yamane's cataract operation on one eye, kindly made several boxes for us and we were able to send all the books that had been evacuated to professor's office by around June the following year (1946.)

In June 1946, Take, a graduate of the Gyeongseong Special Medical Vocational Department who had been demobilized from the military in China, joined the department, and the Ophthalmology clinic became more and more active. By the hand of a capable and strong Take, we could finish painting, setting up desks, and bookshelves. We were also able to raise rabbits. My brother-in-law, Dr. Kunitomo, who returned from Taiwan at the end of March 1946 and is currently Professor of Ophthalmology at the Nihon University School of Medicine, also assisted me in ophthalmic surgery from April until his transfer to Tokyo in July.

I am deeply grateful for the support of all, which enabled me to take charge of the Ophthalmology Department for almost a year until Professor Hirose's appointment in October of the same year.

It is regrettable that, as Dr. Yang and Dr. Hayashi were evacuated to Nagata, I did not know when they returned to Taiwan, and did not have a chance to meet them.

Professor Yamane received extensive medical treatment after the atomic bombing, but died of tetanus at Michino'o, and Associate Professor Tsuchie was killed in the atomic bombing in Hiroshima while serving in an army hospital. I pray for the repose of their souls from afar. I regret that this is a rough recollection, with the submission of insurance claims just around the corner. I join my hands in prayer.

(Written on 2 September 1955)