

## **RARE HOSPITAL REGISTER OF NAGASAKI BOMB VICTIMS GIVEN TO NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE**

WASHINGTON – The National Museum of Health and Medicine has received a 55-year-old handwritten register of patients admitted to a Japanese hospital with injuries suffered from the dropping of the atomic bomb over Nagasaki. The document, which has lost its first page over the years, originally was 20 pages and listed the condition of 221 patients.

The donation was made by Dr. Thomas M. Brown of Edwardsburg, Mi., who served as a battalion surgeon for the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II in the Pacific Theater. He received the document in September 1945 from Dr. Shigeru Kawada, chief of Saga Prefectural Hospital, located about 10 miles from Nagasaki.

“During the time my unit was stationed there I often made rounds with the clinical staff of the hospital,” Dr. Brown said. “More than 80 percent of the hospital’s beds were occupied by persons injured by the atomic bombing. It was my privilege to visit the bedsides of many of those unfortunate souls.”

The meticulous pen and ink notations on the pages of the 12 ½- by 17-inch document list the age, sex, and occupation as well as where each victim was when injured by the blast. Many of the 16 columns for each patient deal with symptoms, tests, and outcomes. A majority of the patients were burn victims, and most did not survive.

“I think this will be a valuable piece for historical research and am glad that Dr. Brown chose to entrust it to us,” said Michael Rhode, the museum’s archivist. “The document nicely complements our existing collection of material on the medical effects of the bombing.”

Saga hospital was originally constructed in 1910 as a small emergency facility for military personnel. After the start of World War II it was enlarged to 100 beds with a medical ward, a surgical ward, an isolation ward for tuberculosis patients, and a ward for patients with other infectious diseases.

“Some are ill to such a degree that they will of necessity be hospitalized at least two more months,” Dr. Brown wrote in an October 1945 report to his commanding officer. “All supplies are insufficient,” he added.

Copies of the hospitals’ patient register were given to the Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie, Ind., where Dr. Brown practiced for 43 years, and to the Village of Edwardsburg’s Historical Society.

Dr. Brown received his medical degree from the University of Indiana Medical School in 1942 and completed pathology and internal medicine residencies after the war.

Dr. Brown received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1954 and has received for his actions during the war a Purple Heart medal and a Bronze Star medal for meritorious service at Iwo Jima. He practiced internal medicine in Muncie, Ind. from 1949 to 1992.

He is a member of the Indiana and American Medical associations as well as the American College of Physicians – American Society of Internal Medicine. He is a past president of the Indiana affiliate of the American Heart Association.



Michael Rhode, archivist at The National Museum of Health and Medicine, inspects a 55-year-old handwritten register of patients admitted to a Japanese hospital with injuries suffered from the dropping of the atomic bomb over Nagasaki. The document, with meticulous pen and ink notations across 16 columns, was donated by Dr. Thomas M. Brown of Edwardsburg, Michigan.