

義鑑流骨法術

GIKAN RYU KOPPOJUTSU

Gikan Uryu

義鑑瓜生

10th Soke: Uryu Gikan 義鑑瓜生 had been fighting in the battle now known as "Tenchigumi no Ran". This took place on 17th August 1863, he was fighting for the Emperors Army, and unfortunately for him he was shot in the arm by a musket. He still continued to fight with the use of only one arm. When he became too exhausted to fight he retired to the safety of a nearby temple. It was at this temple that he was met by Ishitani Takeo Masatsugu, of the Kukishin Ryu (25th Soke Kukishinden Happo Biken). Uryu told Ishitani that the battle had already finished; Ishitani tended Uryu's wounds and helped him recover. Afterwards they both escaped to the province of Iga. Here they were safe. It was common after battles that the winning side would have their soldiers search the countryside for anyone from the losing side. It was usual practise to kill anyone that was found. As both Ishitani and Gikan, fled together we can not only assume that they were on the same side, but having to flee to the safety of Iga, they must have also been on the losing side.

A friendship was then formed, and Ishitani was taught the Gikan Ryu, as such when he attained the required skill level, Uryu presented him with the Menkyo Kaiden, and he became the next Soke of the Gikan Ryu, adding this lineage to two others that he was already the Soke. These being Kukishinden Ryu, and Hontai Takagi Yoshin Ryu.

I have tried to find details of the battle of 'Tenchigumi no ran'. I have found no record of it. Even in Turnbulls 'Samurai source book' he does not list anything after the 1600's. However this was a very turbulent and disruptive time for Japan. The west was forcing Japanese to open up their borders. Therefore as there is no record of this battle in English language books that I have access to, I can assume that this was possibly a local disturbance, and that these men were either originally from Iga or that Iga was a safe area not in any way controlled by the side they fought against.

Researched by Paul Richardson 1992