

# 九鬼神伝八法秘剣

## KUKISHINDEN HAPPO BIKEN

### Kuriyama Ukongen Nagafusa

### 栗山右近源長臥房

**9<sup>TH</sup> Soke** 九宗家: Kuriyama Ukongen Nagafusa 栗山右近源長臥房 Concerning the second story of the creation of the Hanbo in the Kukishinden Ryu, takes place on 4th May 1575 when a Samurai in the service of Maeda Toshiie fighting for Oda Nobunaga, a Kuriyama Ukongen Nagafusa (9th Soke of Kukishinden Ryu Happpo Biken, 9th Soke Kukishinden Tenshin Hyoho, and 10<sup>th</sup> Soke Tenshin Soden Kukamishin Ryu ), fought against Suzuki Tango no kami Katsuhisa of the Kurama Ryu, a vassal of the Takeda.

Suzuki used a type of Tachi known as a Sanshaku Gosun Tachi (3 shaku 5 sun, approximately 3ft 5in - 96.2cm in length), Kuriyama and Suzuki were both on horseback. Kuriyama used a red Oak octagonal Rokushakubo (6ft – 1.8m staff). Suzuki cut the Bo in half at the centre, but as he raised his Tachi to Daijodan no Kamae, Kuriyama hit at Suzuki's hands. This caused Suzuki to drop his Tachi. A retainer of Suzuki's who was near by (a common practise at that time was for senior ranks to be followed into battle by a number of personal retainers who may not have been of Samurai rank, but who carried his extra weapons and came to his aid if required) passed him a Yari which he used to strike at Kuriyama. Kuriyama moved to the side, and he struck Suzuki on the head with the halved Bo (Hanbo) which caused him to fall from his horse bleeding from his head. Suzuki later died from his injuries.

Some research is currently under way to confirm if Kuriyama Ukon was also known as Takayama Ukon another Samurai known to have been in the service of Maeda Toshiie, at the same time as Kuriyama.

Apart from the Kukishinden Happpo Biken, Kuriyama is to be found recorded in the lineages of several other Ryu-ha. Three of these are listed below.

9th Soke Kukishinden Tenshin Hyoho 九鬼神伝天真兵法

10th Soke Tenshin Hyoho Kukishin Ryu 天真兵法九鬼神流

10th Soke Tenshin Soden Kukamishin Ryu

*Further research is currently underway to determine the connection between Kuriyama and Takayama Ukon another Samurai in the service of Maeda Toshiie.*