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Bluff Story 2 (Historical strolling of Bluff)

**Gracious life of foreign residents in the settlement in the late Meiji to Taisho periods,
the Great Kanto earthquake and the recovery from there**

Yamashita-cho in the pre-quake days in postcards

The former settlement Yamashita-cho was an exotic port town. Not only tourists from foreign countries but from all over the country came to see the town strolling the "Bund" (Kaigan-Dori)

Kaigan-Dori

The Grand Hotel

In front, the new building designed by Sarda, in the back the old building designed by Bridgens, (18,19 Yamashita-cho,)

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View from Mizumachi-Dori street to Yato-bashi bridge (in the back). Kuhn & Komor, a fine arts dealer in front right and Arthur & Bond beside. A brick-made building right in the back is French Consulate.

French Consulate designed by Sarda, 185 Bluff,

Overview of the port of Yokohama from the top of Yato-zaka

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Bluff in the pre-quake days in postcards

In 1899, the settlement system was abolished and Bluff has become Yamate-cho. The lot numbers in Bluff were continuously used as the lot numbers of the town. Yamate-cho reached its prime.

Top of Yato-zaka, British Naval Hospital at the front (currently Harbor View Park)

Yokohama port seen from the hill of Bluff

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Yamate-Hon-Dori United States Naval Hospital on the left

235, Bluff, Christ Church, The holly shrine of Anglican Christ Church designed by Conder

212, Bluff, Yokohama Kyoritsu Junior & High School (Kyoritsu Jo Gakko)

Sakura-Michi street Tunnel View from Mugita to Bluff

Mission Catholique at 44, Bluff is seen on the far right

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Gracious life in Bluff

160, Bluff

These photos seem to have been taken around 1893, soon after the company housing of Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation moved from 119, Bluff to this place. On Sundays, foreign residents in Bluff enjoyed horse riding, picnic and sports events during the day. At night, they have full schedule of community interaction, such as going to concerts, plays, club meetings and dinner parties. *Luxurious or Fantastic* exotic life in Bluff kept going after the abolishment of the settlement system in 1899, until the Great Kanto earthquake in 1923.

Garden party in an extensive garden

Dinner in the dining room

Dining room full of Japonism

Upright piano in the living room

Coal stove in the sunroom typical in Bluff

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Guest bedroom with a fireplace

Main bedroom with family photos on a dresser

Dress party, Foreign residents formally dressed in tuxedos

View from 160, Bluff

Facility of Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation

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Sports and Foreign residents

Foreign residents introduced various kinds of sports through their social activities. Lawn tennis was played for the first time in Japan in Public Garden (Yamate-Park) that was the first Western-style garden in Japan. Tennis was born in England and was introduced to Yokohama in 1876, soon after its birth. In the next year, the first Wimbledon open was held, which is the oldest tennis tournament in the world.

Tennis game in Public Garden (Yamate-Park)

Race Course was the first modernized full-scale racecourse. In April 1880 Nippon Race Club was organized, and foreign residents as well as Japanese high-level officials enjoyed horseracing.

Stands in Race Course

Racecourse was the place of social function for the foreign residents

MENU

by the Executive Committee of the Nippon Race Club

The Grand Hotel. November 1, 1911

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Yacht racing and regattas in Yokohama port, ball games in Cricket Ground, shootings in Tateno, Negishi (currently the area from Yamato-cho market street to Tateno Primary School) were also introduced. In 1868, a Scottish J.P.Mollison and his group established Yokohama Cricket Club and in 1884 Yokohama Cricket & Athletic Club (YC&AC). These Western style sports come to stay in Yokohama, gradually became popular among Japanese and spread around the country. Entertainments such as plays and music, and sports were social dealings for foreign residents

in Yokohama. Exercising sports to keep good health and develop deep relationship with people promoted spreading Western culture.

Succor game

Sports facility within Yokohama Park

Back in the ground Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club (left) and Yokohama Social Club (right)

Baseball team of Yokohama Cricket & Athletic Club (YC&AC)

* YC&AC name was changed in July 1912 from "Yokohama Cricket & Athletic Club" to "Yokohama Country & Athletic Club" and moved from Cricket Ground to the hill in Negishi (currently Yaguchi-dai, Naka-ku)

Yacht racing in Yokohama Port

In 1875, a rowing match organization named "Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club" was established. In 1886, "Yokohama Sailing Club" and in 1894 "Yokohama Yacht Club" were organized.

Yacht racing in Yokohama Port

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Children watching yacht racing on bicycles just imported from French Pier on Kaigan-Dori (Bund)

Inter-port Rugby Match (Cricket Club)

Kobe regatta & Athletic Club (KR&AC) and Yokohama Cricket & Athletic Club (YC&AC) had periodical matches. Photos are of the rugby game held in 1906 in Yokohama.

Touchline

Yokohama Rugby Team

Kobe Rugby Team

* Photos are from an album formerly owned by a British Mr. Gladstone (Photos were taken by Mr. Lambert)

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Kaigan-Dori "Yokohama United Club"

Yokohama United Club was a place for information exchange. Foreign residents stopped at the club during their noon recess or on their way back home from their work in trading houses to read newspapers and magazines from their home countries. Yokohama United Club was constructed in 1900.

Library, Yokohama United Club

* from an album formerly owned by a British Mr. Gladstone (Photos were taken by Mr. Lambert)

The Club Hotel, Ltd. (left), Yokohama United Club (No.5 Yamashita-cho) designed by Conder (right)

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Around Yamate-cho "Kitakata-cho"

Photos taken before the Great Kanto earthquake, in 1920

View from 826, Daijingu-yama

Around 826, K Daijingu-yama

Going up steps with drain to the entrance at 826, Daijingu-yama

Residence of Moccock, O. F., according to the directory of 1921

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Shopping street in Kitakata-cho

In front of Fushimi-ya, Rice milling store

Not so many houses had plumbing installed in their homes. A woman is fetching water from a Lion's head water hydrant imported from Glenfield Company, Scotland, standing at roadside.

Children playing in front of Nakamura Store / Nakamura Beef Meat Shop

Honmoku

Honmoku-Kaigan seashore

Honmoku Ju-ni-ten

Inside a house in Bluff No.46D, in 1920

* from a photo album formerly owned by Mr. Hill

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Bluff at the time of Great Kanto earthquake

The Great Kanto earthquake is a massive earthquake occurred on September 1, 1923 around 11:58:32 JST (M7.9). The fault spreading from West of Kanagawa prefecture to the Sagami Bay and to the Boso Peninsula started moving just below Odawara region. This slip on the fault was so huge and extensive that the shock of the earthquake was extremely strong and resulted in immense loss and damages. 2:30 later, an after quake followed having the epicenter in the center of Tokyo Bay, and 2 minutes later of it another one having seismic center in the east of Yamanashi prefecture (to the west of Tokyo). In total three big earthquakes within 5 minutes hit the region and after quakes continued.

In Yokohama, so many large fires burned all over the city. Communication and transportation networks were blocked and the city was completely isolated for several days. It was almost

two days after the earthquake when the first rescue team in a destroyer arrived and landed near Yamashita bridge.

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Start of the earthquake was described in a report on the quake-damage written by the City of Yokohama.

" All of sudden, we heard an earthquake sound like a faraway thunder from somewhere and immediately after that, the ground started to move as if we were in giant waves and the violent up-and-down shakings attacked us." It hit the city just before noon, lunchtime.

Yamate-cho was on a steep hill and inclined grounds scatters throughout the town. Houses were constructed on the embankments. Many of buildings were built in bricks so the first hit of the earthquake destroyed them at once and caused many people crushed to death. Places on the top of the hill having had superb outlooks were collapsed and houses fell down from there. Temple Court (Nikkou-yashiki) at the top of Jizou-zaka was crashed and fell down beneath the hill.

At Ferris Seminary, all the school buildings were crashed except for a newly built gymnastic hall. The school head, Miss Kuyper was dead on duty being buried under rubble.

Houses in Yamate-cho were built on large sites with trees, so normally could escape from a fire. However, at the time of the Great Kanto earthquake, strong wind blew and the fires began everywhere spread to the region was burned to ashes.

Great Pier in the Port of Yokohama before & after the earthquake

Great Pier on the departure date

Empress of Australia (right)

Andre Le Bon, French mail boat (left)

Just before the departure with paper tapes exchange, the Great Kanto earthquake took place

Photographer : Jack McClure (wireless officer) photos VMM

Empress of Australia (the Canadian Pacific) was pulling up the anchor and just to leave the port for Vancouver at 11:59 AM on Saturday September 1, 1923. At that moment, the Great Kanto earthquake occurred.

The strong and quick vibration of the earthquake heavily shook the ship. The terrible shaking still continued after that.

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There were 3 to 4 hundreds people on the Great Pier came to see the vessels off. It turned out just scenes from hell. Two thirds from the landside of the pier was disrupted and fell down in the ocean. Lots of people got thrown off the pier, but saved by lighters and passenger vessels near the pier. Great Pier was broken down and people could not access to the shore from the sea. Empress of Australia could not leave the port since its anchor winded around the screw of Steel Navigator which was anchored in harbor next to. Quays no. 1 to 13 in Shinko Pier were also heavily damaged. Some vessels tried to rescue as many victims as possible and could managed to escape from the port.

Yokohama Port burst into flames

Great Pier hit by the earthquake Quays destroyed Piers blocked Photos are taken from a vessel

Photographer: Jack McClure photos VMM Photos taken from Empress of Australia

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Wreckage at Great Pier

Original of the first wire photo distributed outside Japan

First photo of great Japanese Disaster. The devastation wrought by the great earthquake was especially heavy at the water front of Yokohama Photo shows wreckage at one of the largest piers.

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Kaigan-Dori in ruins, photo taken on the next day from a ship

Kaigan-Dori and piers shot from a ship

Imperial Japanese Customs, Control Department on the left

Mast and frame of the time ball station in the East Wharf remained

Disastrous scenes of the piers seen from a ship

Shinko Pier

During the day of Sunday September 2, 2101 people affected by the disaster came on board (592 Europeans, 705 Chinese, 604 Japanese and others). On September 3, Empress of Canada came from Vancouver received many victims and injured from Empress of Australia and headed off to Kobe where a refugee camp was set up. After the screw of Empress of Australia was repaired by divers of the battleship Yamashiro of the Imperial Japanese Navy, Empress of Australia left Yokohama for Kobe with 600 refugees (many of them are from the European Community in Yokohama). Empress of Australia returned to Yokohama and left for Vancouver at 8 a.m. September 12 after unloading drinking waters and foods.

* Based on the Official Report of Capt. S. Robinson, R.N.R. Commander of the Canadian Pacific S.S. Empress of Australia

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Disastrous scenes in Yamate-cho and its surrounding area

Pre-quake

View of Bluff from Hanazono-bashi. On the top, there were Ferris Seminary and Mission Catholique. Photo owned by Mr. Hiroshi SUZUKI

Post-quake

View of Bluff from Yoshihama-bashi. Ferris Seminary and Mission Catholique were collapsed. Smoke was puffing out from the coal storage area on the right. The only Western-style house remained was former Owston's house in 48, Bluff. Photo owned by Mr. Hiroshi SUZUKI

From Yato-bashi to Mizumachi-Dori A large-bore boiler chimney pipe on the right indicates where the Grand Hotel, Ltd. was.

View of Yato-bashi and Yamashita-bashi from Hori-kawa Canal French Consulate on the right

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Camp Hill (Yato-zaka)

United States Naval Hospital

99, Bluff Before and after the earthquake

Front gate, United States Naval Hospital

Hospital ward, United States Naval Hospital

Yokohama Foreign Cemetery, before the earthquake

United States Naval Hospital at the far end

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Yokohama Foreign Cemetery, after the earthquake

Photos taken by Mr. R.P.West, who lost his uncle in Bluff

Yamate-Hon-Dori

Collapsed foreign residence

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40, Bluff German Hospital

Photo taken after the earthquake showing Lot No.40

Temple Court (Nikkou-yashiki) 9, Bluff

Temple Court before the earthquake, at the top of Jizou-zaka

Temple Court after the earthquake, Statue of lion on the gatepost fell down, debris of a burnt car beside

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Yamate-cho and its surrounding area, before and after the earthquake

pre-quake **post-quake**

Kaigan-Dori The Grand Hotel, Ltd.

Kaigan-Dori devastated Time ball station built in 1903 is right in the back. Almost all trading houses and hotels were crashed and have become ruins.

Motomachi-Hyakudan, Sengen-jinja, View from Maeda-bashi

Stone steps fell down at once by the earthquake vibration and buried a house right below.

Motomachi shopping street Zo-toku-in temple in the back

Motomachi shopping street Zo-toku-in temple collapsed and burned down

Zo-toku-in temple on the canal side of Hori-kawa and Ice Works with a chimney

Zo-toku-in temple, Ice Works, French Consulate, all have been crashed and burned down

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pre-quake **post-quake**

View of Motomachi, Yamashita-cho, Yokohama Port from Bluff

Motomachi, Hori-kawa Canal and Yamashita-cho devastated and burned down

View of Bluff from Ooka-gawa river Nishi-no-hashii bridge. On the left of the street car is China Town, Ferris Seminary is on the hill.

View of collapsed Bluff from Nishi-no-hashii bridge. Riverbanks were also ruined.

Maeda-bashi, China Town, Shu Piano on the left front On the right Suzuki Baber and Chinese restaurant Tou-Ha-Rou beside

China Town, worst affected area

The Kirin Beer Factory in Amanuma crashed by the earthquake photo of the barley factory

* Photo from an album collection of the same image as put in "The Photo Album of Yokohama Great Earthquake (possessed by Yokohama Central Library)"

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Ferris Seminary (postcard set)

Pre-quake

School buildings of Ferris Seminary on Bluff

Post-quake

Collapse · Crash · Burned down Photo taken from Hori-kawa canal

Classes restarted in temporary school buildings

Teachers' office in temporary building

Commemorative photo in front of temporary buildings

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THE TENT HOTEL YOKOHAMA No.37 Yamashita-cho

The Tent Hotel, originated from the tents set up by the rescue team and sold thereafter

Full view of the Tent Hotel in early times (Hotel for foreigners set up just after the earthquake)

Restaurant in the hotel served tasty meals and has got popular

The last tent

Brochure of the hotel

Label of a match

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View of the Tent Hotel from Yato-zaka (photo by Mr. Katsusaburo Amakawa partial expansion)

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Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction Reborn to a new port city

On September 11, 1923, city assembly was held on the roof terrace of temporary building of Yokohama city office and it was resolved that the reconstruction could be proceeded at the discretion of the Mayor Watanabe. On 30th, political and financial key persons of Yokohama launched Yokohama Recovery Committee chaired by Tomitaro (Sankei)Hara. Construction of hotels was a matter of urgency among all to bring foreigners back to Yokohama. The Mayor Chuichi Ariyoshi, took up the post in 1925 started constructing hotels in cooperation with Yokohama Recovery Committee. On December 1, 1927, Hotel New Grand was open. It became the symbol of the recovery of Yokohama.

Kaigan-Dori under reconstruction

Sticker of the Hotel New Grand for guests trunks

Martin, C.K. Marshall advocated an idea to use wreckage of the disaster for reclamation and from June 1927, development of Yamashita Park on the landfill started. On March 15, 1930, it was completed.

Opening of Yamashita Park

Reconstruction of Yamate-cho was considerably delayed in comparison with its surrounding area, since almost all the foreign residents left there immediately after the earthquake to move to their mother countries or other places in Japan.

Yamate-cho April 1926 Photographer: Mr. J.D. Holmes

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Around Yamate-cho, Yato-zaka after the earthquake

After the earthquake Fuji-ya Florist, Yato-zaka

Team No.3, subgroup No.1, Yamate Fire Company

Yato-zaka after the earthquake

(all the photos provided by Mr. Katsusaburo Amakawa)

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Yamate-Hon-Dori after the earthquake

To bring back the foreigners who left Yokohama, the City constructed 23 municipal rental houses from 1925 to 1929 in Yamate-cho. During the time, private sectors also built modern style houses of earthquake-proof structure. These accelerated the reconstruction of Yamate-cho and foreigners were back. The Bluff No. 234, a flat for foreigners constructed around 1927 was an example of such houses.

234, Bluff Yamate-Hon-Dori Christ Church in the left end

In front of Bluff No.234 (2 photos provided by Ms. Julie Dergregg)

Yamate-Hon-Dori Red steeple is Church of the Sacred Heart at 44, Bluff

(end)

(Translated by Yoriko KAMEYAMA and Yoko SHIRAKAWA)