

(HISTORY OF THE KYOKUSHINKAIKAN)

1923

Masutatsu Oyama, later to become Kancho of the International Karate Organization, Kyokushinkaikan, was born in Tokyo, Japan, on the 27th of July; June 4th by the reckoning of the old Japanese calendar.

1925

Mas. Oyama was sent by his parents to his sister's house in Manchuria.

1936

Mas. Oyama entered primary school in Seoul, Korea, where he started his study of Chinese Kempo. In his 2nd year he gained Shodan.

1938

Mas. Oyama entered Yamanashi Airways School, Japan.

Studied Karate under Gichin Funakoshi, one of the first three to bring Karate to Japan.

1940

Mas. Oyama entered Takushoku University. Gained Karate 2nd Dan.

1945

Started the Eiwa Karate Do Research Institution in Suginami-ku, Tokyo, but 6th months later it was closed.

1946

Mas. Oyama entered the Physical Education Department of Waseda University.

Mas. Oyama visited Eiji Yoshikawa and Shiro Ozaki, two famous writers, to study more about the old Samurai way.

Mas. Oyama went to Mt. Minohu for training.

1947

Mas. Oyama entered the First All Japan Tournament since the war, in Karuyama Gymnasium, Kyoto, and became Champion.

1948

Mas. Oyama decided to devote his life to Karate and did 18 months training alone on Mt. Kiyosumi in Chiba to perfect his techniques and form his Karate way.



1950

Fought against a bull in Chiba. Acquired a room in a butcher's establishment and trained by killing bulls. Altogether he killed 47 bulls, 4 dying instantly.

1951

Started teaching Karate to the US Army stationed in Japan at Camps Zama, Fuchu, Tachikawa, Yokohama, Yokosuka, Yokota and Tokorozawa.

Stated training Judo at Sone Dojo, Chiba.

1952

A Karate Organization in Chicago invited Mas. Oyama to the USA, and over 11 months he did 32 demonstrations, taught in various states, and participated in 7 fights.

1953

Travelled to the USA again, where he fought with a bull in Chicago and became popular by chopping off the bull's horns.

1954

Returned to Japan to under-go 3 months training for a movie in Boso, Chiba.;

Opened his first dojo in a burned out area in Mejiro, Tokyo. The instructors were K. Mizushima and E. Yasuda.

1955

A USA promoter invited Mas. Oyama to the USA. He also travelled to South America and Europe fighting against many people. The whisky bottle cut was highly popular.

Fought against a bull in Chicago and the Animal Friends Club levelled much criticism about this.

1956

Starting in Okinawa, Mas. Oyama travelled through South East Asia studying many different fighting styles.

The Oyama dojo was started in a small studio behind Rikkyo University. The instructors were K. Mizushima, E. Yasuda, M. Ishibashi and T. Minamimoto. The dojo was the beginning of the Kyokushinkaikan, the beginning of a Karate based on the principle, 1,000 days training a beginner, 10,000 days training, a glimpse of the mysteries.

Mas. Oyama returned from South East Asia.

1957

Mas. Oyama travelled to Europe.

Mas. Oyama travelled to USA.

Mas. Oyama fought against a bull in Mexico and was injured requiring 6 months hospitalization. At home in Japan, Yajima and Matsui became new instructors.



1958

The book "What is Karate" was published becoming the first best seller of a book on Japanese Karate. Mas. Oyama travelled to New York, and returned to Japan in March.;

Mas. Oyama went to Hokkaido to fight with a bear, but he was unsuccessful.;

The first overseas branch was established in Hawaii under Mr. B. Lowe.;

The F.B.I. in Washington invited Mas. Oyama to teach and demonstrate.;

The Westpoint Army School invited Mas. Oyama to teach.;

1959

The First Hawaii Tournament was held and Mas. Oyama attended as the Supreme Judge. He also demonstrated at this tournament.

The Oyama dojo held its first Summer Training School, at Ichinomiya, Chiba.

Mas. Oyama went to USA and Europe.

1960

Again, Mas. Oyama travelled to USA and Europe.

The 2nd Hawaii Tournament. 72 Branches were started in 16 countries.

1961

San Francisco Dojo opened.

The 3rd Hawaii Tournament was held. The Los Angeles Dojo was opened.

Mas. Oyama started instructing classes three times a week in the Oyama dojo.

The first North American Open Tournament was held in Madison Square Garden, New York, to which Mas. Oyama attended as Supreme Judge.

1962

Mas. Oyama went to Europe and USA to study many kinds of fighting and to demonstrate Karate.

The 4th Hawaii Tournament was held.

Mas. Oyama returned to Japan and the Oyama dojo promoted 20 people to Black Belt. The Oyama dojo started attracting many foreign students.

1963

Mas. Oyama travelled to Europe, America and South Africa.

Construction started on the building to become the Kyokushinkaikan Honbu in Ikebukuro, Tokyo.

USA held its 2nd Open Tournament in Hartford City, Conn.

1964

Muai Thai, Kicking Boxing, challenged Japanese Karate, but this challenge was not accepted. The Oyama dojo then sent three students to Thailand, won 2 out of 3 fights, redeemed the name of Japanese Karate and in fact helped to give it a better name.



UCHI DESHI TRAINING.

E. Sato (former Prime Minister of Japan), who had recently won a Nobel Prize, became the Kaicho (President) of the Kyokushinkaikan. Mas. Oyama became Kancho (Director).

Tokyo Honbu was officially opened, and the I.K.O. was established.;

The Georgia State Public University invited Kancho for a one month teaching and demonstrating stay.

1965

Winter Training was held at Mt. Mitsumine for the first time.

“This is Karate” was published and became known as the Bible of Karate. 3,000 pages of preparation notes and 20,000 photos were used for this publication.

S. Arneil of Britain achieved the 100 men Kumite, the first student of Kyokushin to do so.

Kancho travelled to USA to arrange a future branch in New York.

1966

K. Kurosaki was sent to Europe to teach Karate.

“Dynamic Karate” (Jpn edition) was completed and the Japanese magazine “Modern Karate” was started.

This magazine gained great interest amongst the public.

S. Oyama and others were sent to the USA.

The USA I.K.O. was founded.;

The South American I. K. O. was founded.

Sean Connery of 007 fame came to Japan and received lessons.

S. Oyama achieved the 100 men Kumite.

1967

K. Kato was sent to Australia to teach. “Vital Karate” was published.

L. Hollander of Holland achieved the 100 men Kumite.

J. Jarvis of New Zealand achieved the 100 men Kumite.

1968

S. Ogura was sent to Brazil to teach.

The story book “Fighting Travel Around the World” (Jpn edition), was produced.

Kancho began a long overseas trip covering Hawaii, USA, Britain, Europe and Jordan.

The European I.K.O. was founded, and a European Branch-Chief Meeting was held in Amsterdam.

The Middle East I.K.O. was started. Kancho gave private lessons to His Majesty the now King of Jordan.

The South Pacific I.K.O. was founded.

1969

“Boys Karate”, “Karate for the Millions” (Jpn edition) and “Young Man’s Karate Self-Defence” (Jpn edition) were released.

The South African I.K.O. was started.

The South East Asia I.K.O. was started.



THE JAPAN WINTER CAMP

Y. Matsushima went to South East Asia to teach.

The 1st Japan Open Karate Tournament was held in Tokyo which attracted kick boxers, Judo-ka, other stylist and a large audience. There were 48 competitors.

1970

“Karate Class” (Jpn edition) and “Advanced Karate” were published.

The 2nd European Branch-Chief Meeting was held in London to which Kancho attended.

The First USA Branch-Chief Meeting was held in Los Angeles and was attended by Kancho.

The 2nd All Japan Open Karate Tournament was held.

1971

“For People who Start Karate” (Jpn edition) was published.

“Karate Baka Ichidai”, the story of Kancho’s life in comic book form started in a Boy’s magazine and gained instant popularity.

The USA Main Branch was established in Manhattan, New York, Kancho attended the opening with the N.Y. Mayor Mr. Lindzey.

The Area Chairmen were appointed.

N. Kishi was sent to USA to teach.

The 3rd All Japan Open Karate Tournament was held.

S. Kanemura was sent to USA to teach.

1972

“Fighting Spirit” (Jpn edition) was completed.

S. Isobe went to Brazil to teach.

The Mas. Oyama’s Correspondence School was opened.

The Nippon Karate-Do Renme team lost in the Non-Contact World Tournament in Paris. Kancho was most upset and published a long speech on his views.

Y. Oyama went to USA to teach.

The 4th All Japan Open Karate Tournament was held in Tokyo.

“Kenka Karate” (Jpn edition) was released.

Howard Collins of Britain achieved the 100 men Kumite.

1973

Kancho visited many Branches throughout the world in connection with staging a World Tournament, 2 years later.

M. Miura achieved the 100 men Kumite.

“My Karate Life” (Jpn edition) was released.

The 5th All Japan Open Karate Tournament was held.

1974

Kancho demonstrated for Prince Sharam of Iran and awarded the Prince with Hon. 2nd Dan.

Kancho was presented with 9th Dan from all the Branches.

The 6th All Japan Open Karate Tournament was held.

1975

Kancho attended a Branch-Chief Meeting in Hawaii in connection with the coming World Tournament.

M. Yamada went to Brazil to teach.

The First World Open Karate Tournament was held in Tokyo. 128 competitors attended from 36 countries.

“My Karate Gorensho” (Jpn edition) published.

1976

“Karate All Round the World” (Jpn edition) published.

The First World Tournament movie “The Strongest Karate” was released and gained great popularity.

Kancho went to the USA.

“The Way of Kyokushin” (Jpn edition) was published.

The 8th All Japan Open Karate Tournament was held.

“The Strongest Karate Part 2” was released.

1977

Kancho and 3 others attended the 1st Australian Open Karate Tournament.

M. Mizukoshi went to Brazil to teach.

The First Hawaii All Stars v/s Japan Kyokushin Tournament was held in Hawaii. Japan won 6 fights and drew 2.

T. Nakamura went to Britain to teach.

The 2nd of the Japanese 6 monthly Branch-Chief and Special Trainings was held. A South African Tournament was held.

The Second British Knockdown Tournament was held in London to which Kancho attended.

The annual summer training site was changed to Shizuoka.

The 2nd Brazil Open Karate Tournament was held and Kancho attended.

"Challenge to the Limits" (Jpn edition) was published.

The English quarterly magazine "Kyokushin-Karate" began.

The Japanese monthly magazine "Power Karate" started.

The 9th All Japan Open Karate Tournament was held.

1978

"The Godhand" comic strip started. Kancho went to Hong Kong, and later in the month the 2nd Australian Tournament was held. Also the Hawaii All Stars Tournament was held with Japan winning.

Kancho gave a grand and important speech in the ancient capital of Nara.

The 1st Kanto Silent (of Deaf and Dumb) Tournament was held.

T. Azuma and T. Sato attended the European Summer Training. Summer training camps were held in various countries around the world.

The First European Tournament was held in London.

The 10th All Japan Open Karate Tournament was held.

K. Sanpei and K. Kawabata attended the Malaysia Open Tournament and then taught in Malaysia and Singapore.

1979

Winter Training was held at Mt. Mitsumine.

The start of many tournaments around the world for selection of teams to attend the 2nd World Open Karate Tournament of this year.

The arrangement and start of Sankyo Kovie Co's movie location for the 2nd World Tournament Film.

The British Tournament and the 11th All Japan Open Karate Tournaments were held.

Kancho travelled to the USA. Many foreigners entered Tokyo Honbu.

A grand demonstration was held at the Embassy of the USSR in Tokyo. Kancho himself demonstrated.

Promotion for the 2nd World Tournament started in earnest. Three of Honbu's seniors attempted 100 men Kumite but all were unsuccessful.

The provisional Japanese team was sent to the USA for training.

A Branch-Chief meeting and refereeing practice were held.

World Tournament applications closed and earnest arrangements and preparations began.

Press meeting for the 2nd World Open Tournament.