

旧佐世保海兵団跡

Remains of the Imperial Japanese Navy Sasebo Naval Boot Camp
(Sasebo Kaihei-Dan)

海兵団とは、主に下士官や水兵の徴募と教育訓練、軍港警備、乗組員の補充を行う組織として、各鎮守府に設置された。佐世保海兵団も鎮守府と同時に開庁し、終戦までの56年間、九州・四国・沖縄から選ばれた百数十万の若者を鍛え、育てた。現在の佐世保公園とニミッツパークのほとんどは営庭であり各種訓練が行われていた。彼らは海軍の根幹を支える戦力として活躍する一方で、スポーツ界でも活躍した。特に水泳は有名で日本人初の五輪連覇を果たした鶴田義行（鹿児島市出身 1903～86）や遊佐正憲（香川県多度津町出身 1915～75）も佐世保海兵団で水泳に親しんだ。

Naval Boot Camps were an organization established in each Naval Station to enlist new recruits, provide them with education and training, guard naval ports, and fill up the vacancy of crew members. Sasebo Naval Boot Camp, which was established when Sasebo Naval Station was founded, drafted one million and several hundred thousand young men from the Kyushu, Shikoku, and Okinawa regions and provided training for 56 years until the end of the Pacific War. The current sites of Nimitz Park and Sasebo Park used to be a part of the boot camp compound and various physical and military training was conducted there. While working actively to support the Navy as the main fighting power, some enlisted officers belonging to Sasebo Naval Boot Camp made great achievements in the sports field. Especially in swimming, Mr. Yoshiyuki Tsuruta, the first consecutive Olympic titles winner in Japan, (from Kagoshima Pref. 1903 – 1986) and Mr. Masanori Yusa (from Kagawa Pref. 1915 – 1975) achieved good results. They both began their swimming careers at Sasebo Naval Boot Camp.

