



FACT SHEET #6: Gutsy Samurai Girls - Hangaku

Hangaku was the daughter of a prominent bushi family in Echigo province, and was renowned for her strength and accuracy with the bow and arrow.

She supported her nephew against the shogunate by helping him to defend the besieged

Tossaka Castle. She put on a suit of men's armor, and took to one of the castle turrets as an archer.



After being wounded in both legs by spears and arrows, she was captured and taken before the Shogun Yoriei. Described as a rare and dignified beauty, she immediately attracted the attentions of Lord Yoshito Asari of the Kai Genji family. The two were married, and she spent the rest of her life as his wife.

It is said that she died defending Torizakayama Castle against an army of 10,000 with only 3000 soldiers of her own.

