

Saito Tatsuoki was just thirteen when he succeeded his father in 1561. In 1564, the Saito clan's military advisor Takenaka Hanbei (1544–1579) was insulted by a Saito clan samurai, and he demanded that Tatsuoki punish the offender. Tatsuoki refused, and Hanbei retaliated with a false attempt on Tatsuoki's life, attacking the castle with sixteen samurai. Thinking he was under attack from a much larger army, Tatsuoki fled, abandoning his castle and men. Hanbei took the castle easily, but later returned it to Tatsuoki, whose cowardly retreat was seen as a great humiliation.

When Oda Nobunaga (1534–1582) attacked in 1567, many of Tatsuoki's troops remembered their lord's cowardice and either fled or defected to the Oda forces. Nobunaga took the Saito fortress handily, and he chose to relocate it and rename it "Gifu." Tatsuoki also fled the castle and was later killed during the Siege of Ichijodani Castle in 1573.