DEDICATED
to those who sacrificed their lives...

70 years ago, Guam was an integral part of the Pacific Theater of the Second World War. On December 10, 1941, Guam was invaded and captured by battle-hardened Japanese troops. Renamed Omiya Jima, or Great Shrine Island, the Japanese military occupied the island for two and a half years until July 21, 1944, when nearly 55,000 US Marines and Army soldiers landed on the shores of Guam and fought to reclaim the island.

For three weeks, US forces battled the Japanese in a fierce campaign—and at a costly price. Nearly 1,800 American troops died and another 6,000 were wounded. More than 18,000 Japanese—virtually the entire Imperial contingent—died. Many Chamorros lost their lives, trapped in a war not of their doing or choice.

July 21, that first day of liberation, has since become an important holiday to island residents. Every year, the observance of the event honors and pays tribute to the heroic efforts of those whose courage led to the island’s liberation.

Revisit that era with this commemorative guide to Guam’s WWII history and sites and join us in honoring those whose lives and actions shaped our island’s history.
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HONORING GENERATIONS OF SERVICE

On this 70th anniversary of our Liberation Day, let’s take a moment to reflect. In the days just before the big Liberation Day parade, families are preparing for their traditional gathering. Some families will be camping, others barbecuing. Their children will play together and teens will walk up and down the parade lane looking for their cousins and friends.

It’s a heartwarming scene and something we look forward to every year because the celebration of our Liberation is a tradition that we are sharing with the younger generations and with our visitors. That means the stories of our Greatest Generation lives on. That means the knowledge and acknowledgement of our manamko’ of our liberators lives on. It means their bravery, their courage, their sacrifices and their selflessness won’t be forgotten.

It’s a wonderful way to reflect on this year’s theme “Meggae Na Hinirasion Setbisio Yan Sakrifisia,” or “Generations of Service & Sacrifice.” We reflect on the bravery of the generations who came before us. Some are gone. And so the job of ensuring their stories live on remains with those of us here today. Let’s make sure we live up to that task.

Happy 70th Liberation Day, my fellow Guamanians. God bless you and your families, and we pray He continues to bless our island.

Eddie Baza Calvo
Governor of Guam

Ray Tenorio
Lt. Governor of Guam
Háfa Adai!

I join the people of Guam in commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and celebrating our freedom that came at a great sacrifice to our people and nation. Today is an opportunity to remember and pay tribute to our man’amko who suffered the atrocities of war. We also honor the bravery of the U.S. servicemen who fought to liberate our island in 1944, nine of whom are participating in this year’s liberation celebrations. We welcome these brave men back to Guam, and thank them for their service and sacrifice.

On December 8, 1941, Guam was attacked by enemy forces during World War II, which began the darkest period in our island’s history. For 32 months, the people of Guam endured a brutal enemy occupation, and suffered horrific atrocities at the hand of the enemy. Yet despite these atrocities, our people remained loyal to the United States and never lost faith that the U.S. would return to free them.

Exactly 70 years ago, on July 21, 1944, U.S. Marines landed on the beaches of Asan and Agat and began the campaign to liberate Guam. Nearly 50,000 U.S. servicemen fought during the liberation, including 1,783 who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Battle of Guam. We are honored by the presence of nine of these brave liberators, who have returned to Guam to celebrate the 70th anniversary with us.

Since that first Liberation Day, generations of Guamanians have been instilled with a strong sense of loyalty to our country and island. Today we this unwavering loyalty and the many sons and daughters of Guam, and their families, who have given so much to maintain the freedom and liberties that were won 70 years ago. Their sacrifice is immeasurable, and our community honors their service.

I am proud to join you in celebrating this important milestone in our island’s history. Today we reflect on the legacy of our man’amko and the courage they exhibited throughout the occupation. We also look forward to the future, and we recommit ourselves to improving our island for generations to come.

Happy Liberation Day! May God bless the United States, and may God continue to bless our beautiful island of Guam!

Sincerely,

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress
Buenas yan Háfa Adai!

We are deeply moved by your trip to Guam, and commend you for this journey that you have made in light of the memories and the tragic experiences of the war in 1944. Your efforts then have made a vast impact on the people of Guam, and our history. In thoughtful celebration of the anniversary of the re-occupation of Guam, we sincerely welcome you back with both remembrance and perseverance, as we bear in mind the calamity of the war but above all, how far we have all come.

The Guam that you set foot on seventy years ago, in your noble service to the U.S. recapture, was a war-torn land afflicted by massive air and sea bombings. As you return to this stage, which played a critical strategic role in the Second World War, we hope that you find closure and peace in the vision of our thriving island-home, healed from the destruction of war, in reclaimed prosperity and intrinsic resiliency.

Our island shall remember your proud service, and the remarkable legacy that continues to heal us all from the instance of war. We are honored to host you on this 70th commemoration of the re-occupation with a warm welcome, and we wish you peace and good spirits into the future.

Senseramente,

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.  
Speaker,  
32nd Guam Legislature

Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Vice Speaker,  
32nd Guam Legislature
Håfa Adai,

As we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Guam’s liberation during the second World War, let us be reminded of the sacrifices made for our freedom and honor our past.

It’s not uncommon to hear of war survivor stories in July or re-visit historic sites that were key parts of the re-taking of Guam by American forces. Although it is a time of reflection and paying homage to those who sacrificed their lives, it’s also a time to celebrate life. The Liberation Carnival in Tiyan will highlight the summer, the annual Liberation Day Parade will close down Marine Corps Drive with floats and community bonding and several of our liberators that were present on July 21, 1944 will return.

In 70 years, Guam has developed into a thriving paradise full of diversity and values founded in the 4,000-year-old Chamorro culture. We are thankful for the generations of service and sacrifice that led to the island’s modern era.

While we continue to move forward and grow a sustainable visitor industry and quality of life for all island residents, we know Guam’s welcoming Håfa Adai spirit and traditional Chamorro values will forever shine through any adversity and triumph.

The resilience of our people is strong and for that, we commend and salute all the men and women that serve our country and our island in their own ways.

Here’s to another 70 years of liberation! Biba Guam!

Mark Baluyga  
Board Chairman, GVB

Karl A. Pangelinan  
General Manager, GVB
The history of Guam can be divided into several eras, beginning with the Pre-Latte/Latte Period (2000 BC–1521 AD) defined by ancient Chamorros life before Spanish explorer Ferdinand Magellan discovered the island in 1521. The Spanish Era (1565–1898), which began a few years after the discovery and extended more than 300 years later, when Spanish missionaries introduced Catholicism to Guam, accounts for a significant portion of the island’s history. Evidence of the American Period (1898–1941), followed by the Japanese Occupation (1941–1944), Liberation and U.S. Territorial Status (1944–Present) can be seen throughout the island at several historic and scenic spots.

Pre-Contact Period (2000 BC–1521 AD)
Archaeological evidence suggests the Chamorro culture has existed on Guam for more than 4,000 years, after the first settlers traveled from Southeast Asia in canoes that took them through the Pacific Ocean’s rough waters.

Because written history does not exist prior to the arrival of Europeans on Guam, much of what we know about this period has come from archaeological research — cooking tools, hunting artifacts, pottery, and drawings that have been left behind. Researchers have further divided this era into two periods – pre-latte and latte. The designation is characterized by use of latte, a limestone pillar (haligi) capped by a curved stone (tasa), that served as foundation for homes and other buildings. Lattes can be found throughout the Marianas archipelago, on Guam and on nearby islands including Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Throughout both the pre-latte and latte periods, Chamorros were known as expert seamen, fishermen, farmers, and artisans. Their “flying proa” — a lightning fast canoe used for trade within the Marianas Islands - set them apart from other cultures.

From the beginning, Guam possessed a strong matriarchal society. The power and prestige of women enabled much of the Chamorro culture, including the language, music, dance and traditions, to survive.
The Spanish Era (1565 – 1898)
Although many conquerors, merchants, and adventurers landed on Guam prior to the arrival of Spanish explorer Ferdinand Magellan on March 6, 1521, he is credited with the island's "discovery." Magellan, a native of Portugal who was sailing on behalf of the Spanish Crown, arrived on Guam during his attempt to circumnavigate the globe from 1519–1522.

During his three-day stay, Magellan’s chronicler — Antonio Pigafetta — documented tales of thatched houses atop solid coral foundations (lattes). The crew went on to become the first to sail from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and the first to cross the Pacific.

It wasn't until three years later, in 1565, that Miguel Lopez de Legazpi officially claimed Guam and its northern islands for Spain. The Marianas Islands were named after Queen Mariana of Spain, who funded Magellan’s journey.

The Spanish Era, which didn’t reach its full potential until more than 100 years later, had a tremendous political, social, religious, and economic impact on the Chamorro culture. While several positive advancements including farming techniques and animals (cattle) were introduced, the population also suffered several setbacks from the introduction of a new culture to their island. Disease and genocidal practices damaged the culture severely.

In 1668, Jesuit missionaries took a different interest in Guam. Led by the venerable Padre Diego Luis de San Vitores, Spanish Catholics arrived to introduce their religion and establish a European civilization, complete with a trade network. Native Chamorros were taught how to cultivate maize, raise cattle and tan hides. They were also introduced to a new Westernized style of clothing.

As the Catholic Church gained prominence, Guam became a regular port-of-call for Spanish galleons that crossed the Pacific Ocean from Acapulco, Mexico, to Manila, Philippines. The ships, heavily laden with gold and silver mined in the New World, often stopped on Guam before continuing on their trek to trade for Chinese silks and spices. This continued for nearly 250 years, during which time the Spanish civilization grew, and the Catholic Church became the center of village activities.

The Galleon Age ultimately ended in 1815 following the Mexican Revolution. Throughout the last century of Spanish occupation, however, Guam continued to host a number of scientists, voyagers, and whalers from Russia, France and England.
American Period (1898 – 1941)
Although the Spanish maintained control on Guam and in the Marianas for 333 years, the island was ceded to the United States following the Spanish-American War of 1898. A year later, in 1899, the U.S. formally purchased Guam and other Spanish-held territories for $20 million.

U.S. President William McKinley issued an executive order placing Guam within the administration of the Department of the Navy. Under control of the U.S. Naval Government, improvements occurred including the institution of agriculture, public health, sanitation, an education system, land management, taxes, and public works. It was also during this period that Helen L. Paul, the wife of a U.S. Naval Officer, designed the official Flag of Guam in July 1917.

An oceanfront site in Hagåtña called the Navy Yard Reservations, where the diverted Agaña River once emptied into the Philippine Sea, inspired the scene in the center of the flag. Following a disastrous typhoon, a single coconut tree was left standing at the site, which struck Mrs. Paul as a sign of determination. The shape of the center image represents the sling stone used by ancient Chamorros in hunting and survival. Inside, images of the coconut tree, a proa, and the cliff line of Two Lovers Point are displayed. Guam’s flag consists of two primary colors with red for the borders and a deep blue making up the rest of the flag. Taken from the center portion of the Guam Flag, U.S. Naval Gov. Roy C. Smith approved the design as the “Official Coat of Arms” for the island on July 4, 1917. On April 4, 1930, Gov. Willis W. Bradley Jr. formally adopted it at a special dedication ceremony.

Life as a U.S. territory continued uninterrupted until 1941, when the island fell to invading Japanese forces during WWII. Until then, the U.S. used Guam as a coaling and communication station.

Japanese Occupation (1941 – 1944)
On December 10, 1941, Guam surrendered to the Japanese South Seas detachment forces after a valiant defensive struggle by the island’s Insular Force Guard, shortly after the fall of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

For 31 months, the people of Guam were forcibly subjected to the Japanese lifestyle. Guam was even renamed “Omiya Jima” or “Great Shrine Island” and brought under Japan’s Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. This period, marred by forcible subjection of Chamorros to the Japanese lifestyle, is a low point in the island’s history.

In 1942, when Japan transferred control of the island to the Japanese Navy, limited freedom for religious practice and business activities was allowed. Chamorro people were forced to dig several cave fortifications through the island that served as air raid shelters for the Japanese.
Liberation and U.S. Territorial Status (1944 – Present)

On July 21, 1944, known locally as Liberation Day, American forces landed on Guam with the sole purpose of taking back control of the island from Japanese forces. Their mission was two-fold: to liberate the Chamorro people from Japanese rule and to reclaim the island as a strategic stronghold for the ongoing battle of WWII.

U.S. Marines landed on both sides of Guam. The 3rd Marine Division landed near Hagåtña, to the north of Orote, at 8:28 p.m., while the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade landed near Agat to the south. By 9 a.m., tanks were ashore at both beaches.

By nightfall, the Americans had established beachheads (a military term used to describe the line created when a unit reaches a beach by sea) about 1,000 meters deep. Japanese counter attacks were made throughout the first few days of the battle, mostly at night, using infiltration tactics.

U.S. Forces struggled the first few days in battle. Landing ships could not come closer than the reef, several hundred yards from the beach. On July 28, however, forces were able to join the two beachheads, enabling the capture of Orote airfield and Apra Harbor by July 30.

Counterattacks around the American beachheads quickly took their toll on the Japanese. In early August 1944, they were running out of food and ammunition and had only a handful of tanks left. Japanese Lt. Gen. Hideyoshi Obata - a longtime member of the Japanese army - withdrew his troops from southern Guam, and planned to make a stand in the mountainous central part of the island. By that point, U.S. forces controlled the sea and air around Guam, solidifying their trek to victory.

Following WWII, the Naval Government of Guam was re-established in May 1946. The Organic Act of 1949, signed by U.S. President Harry S. Truman granted Guam status as an unincorporated territory with limited self-governing authority. The move allowed for the people of Guam to vote for a governor, lieutenant governor, senators and mayors, and it granted U.S. citizenship to the “native inhabitants” of Guam.

By 1962, the U.S. Navy also lifted the WWII security clearance requirement for travel to and from Guam, paving the way for the birth of tourism and economic prosperity.

Later on that decade, in May 1967, a historic Pan American Airways flight signified the dawn of a new era on Guam. The airline’s inaugural service ultimately led to the buildup of tourism-related businesses, new construction, the addition of retail options, hotels, and financial services. Guam was evolving from a quaint island to an urban paradise.

Magnificent luxury hotels, a wealth of fine restaurants, and fabulous duty-free shopping options have helped establish Guam as the premier destination it is today. Due to its status as a U.S. territory and its position across the international dateline, Guam has been coined “Where America’s Day Begins.” About a million visitors arrive on the island each year from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, China, Russia, and beyond.
of her small brothers and sisters. She tied her three-year-old brother to her back, carried her four-year-old sister with her right arm, and carried her six-year-old sister with her left. She said they walked day and night, and she couldn’t keep up with everybody. When she got tired, she just laid on the ground and slept.

The families who were forced to march were gathered in a hurry, had no food to eat along the way, and had to scavenge for fruits or anything edible along the route. There are also many accounts of beatings on the march to Manenggon, including the beating of those who tried to leave the path to get water or food.

**No food or shelter provided**

Once the Chamorros arrived at Manenggon, there were about 18,000 or so of them camped out in different spots along the Manenggon river. They built temporary huts using tangantangan sticks and coconut leaves. No buildings, latrines, food, or medicine were provided at the campsites. The Chamorros used water from the river and foraged for anything edible in the area.

Some learned that the Japanese soldiers had set up machine guns surrounding them, and later found out that a machine-gun massacre was planned.

Many accounts of experiences at Manenggon exist. Carmen Matias gave birth to a baby girl, July, while her family was encamped in Manenggon. Her husband, Leonardo, was beaten by a Japanese soldier for building a fire.

Eighteen-year-old Ann Borja was among a group of young women at Manenggon who were gathered by Japanese soldiers to be transported to Ta’i Mangilao for unknown reasons. But before Borja and the new group of women boarded the truck, they spotted an American soldier hiding behind a nearby bush. He was with eleven other American soldiers, and they told the girls they were on patrol and not to follow them. The girls didn’t listen, and about 300 ragged people dropped everything and followed the Americans. Borja also described a Japanese truck full of young Chamorro women reaching Manenggon a few days after American troops landed at Asan and Agat. The women were allowed to disembark, according to Borja’s later account, and all the girls were shaking, apparently with fear, and wouldn’t say what had happened to them. She later found out that the girls they were to replace had been raped by Japanese officers.

The soldiers also rounded up men from the Manenggon camp and took them in work groups to carry munitions and other supplies in other parts of the island. Many people in the work
groups were later killed. In one account, forty Chamorro men were tied, hands behind their backs, to trees, and then beheaded in order to prevent the Chamorros from escaping and helping the Americans.

Others described the final hours at Manenggon after the Chamorros had been there for more than a week. The Japanese rounded up many of the children and told them that there were cookies in a large hole. The children later found out that they were going to be massacred. But word of American soldiers approaching came just at that moment, and the Japanese scattered at the news. The Americans soon arrived, to the relief of the Chamorros, and took the Chamorro refugees to camps in other parts of the island.

*Americans come to the rescue*

The American patrols had reached the outskirts of the Manenggon camps late in the afternoon of July 30, 1944, and on July 31, troops of the 77th Division overran the main camps. Some of the Japanese guards were killed, and the rest fled. The Americans handed out C-rations, candy, and cigarettes to the hungry refugees, and the Chamorros then trekked westward across the center of the island to American refugee camps at Finile in Agat and Asan.

No records exist of how many people died at or en route to Manenggon or the other camps in the south.

**TINTA AND FAHA CAVE MASSACRES**

*Acts of desperation in Merizo*

On July 15 and 16, 1944, with the American forces approaching Guam near the end of the Japanese occupation of the island in World War II, Japanese soldiers massacred nearly fifty Chamorro men and women from Merizo in two separate confrontations in caves in the Tinta and Faha areas just outside the village of Merizo.

The massacres are significant not only because of the tragedy of the two events, but because they led directly to a rebellion of the Merizo people in which they attacked and killed nearly all the Japanese soldiers in the area, thus liberating themselves.

The Tinta and Faha massacres are two of a number of such atrocities that occurred at the very end of the Japanese occupation period. Other such events include the Fena Caves massacre, and torture and murders at Yigo, Ta’i, and Manenggon.

On July 15, 1944, the 800 or so Merizo residents were rounded up and taken by soldiers to the Geus River Valley. The Japanese commander of the area read aloud the names of the most influential citizens of the southern village, which included twenty-five men and five women who were school teachers, the village commissioner, parents of sons in the U.S. military, a mother who refused to bow to the Japanese and her two daughters, and other rebellious Chamorros.

The thirty people were told they were going to be part of a work crew and were marched to a cave in the Tinta area to rest and spend the night. Soon after they went into the cave, the soldiers tossed hand grenades through the opening, killing many of the Chamorros. The Japanese soldiers then took swords and bayonets and began stabbing anyone still alive. Still, by pretending to be dead, fourteen of the Chamorros survived.

The Chamorros at the Faha caves were not as lucky. On July 16, with almost identical circumstances, another group of men were marched to a cave in Faha. The exact details are not known, but it is speculated that the Japanese again used machine guns, grenades, and bayonets.

*Memorial service for the Tinta and Faha cave massacres.*

None of the Faha victims survived. It wasn’t until days later that the Merizo villagers learned the full extent of the massacre. Thirty men who were considered some of the tallest and strongest villagers had been killed.

*Merizo men rebel*

When the Merizo people learned of the massacres, they were outraged. On July 20, in broad daylight, a group of Merizo men stormed the Japanese quarters at Atate (another area of the village) and killed ten Japanese soldiers. Only one Japanese soldier escaped, fleeing towards the neighboring village of Inarajan.

In April 1948, the victims of the Tinta and Faha cave massacres were memorialized with a monument listing their names on a bronze plaque. The memorial still stands near the shore of Merizo.
FENA MASSACRE

Massacres in final days of WWII
The Fena Caves Massacre occurred on July 23, 1944, shortly after American troops invaded the island on July 21, when Japanese soldiers killed more than thirty young men and women from Agat and Sumay with grenades and bayonets in the caves near Fena Lake, raping many of the women before killing them. In some accounts, it is reported that sixty-six others barely survived the massacre.

The massacre at Fena was one of several such atrocities that took place in the final days of the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II. The Japanese forces became increasingly pressured by the American air attacks on the island, and by a dwindling food supply, and as the American forces landed on Guam, the Chamorros were rounded up and forced into long marches, mostly to the Manenggon concentration camp in Yona.

Young men and women rounded up
In the case of the southern villages of Agat and Sumay, a group of about fifty young women and about the same number of young men were selected to serve as a basic work force and stay behind in the Fena area. Japanese soldiers were sent out to each family, ordering them to go to an area known as Manenggon, which is in the interior of the island where a concentration camp was set up, and ordering the sons and daughters to stay behind as part of the work force. Parents who refused to send a son or daughter were threatened with beheading.

Told it was a celebration
The young men and women in the work force were to assist the Japanese soldiers in various tasks, including clearing jungle paths for the movement of heavy war vehicles, the construction of temporary wooden bridges over rivers and streams, and cooking and furnishing other needs for the enemy soldiers.

Later in July, as the American bombings became more intense, Japanese officials began to order dozens of Agat and Sumay residents into caves located in the Fena area in the village of Sumay. Most of the men and women were between the ages of sixteen and nineteen. Many of the men were given whiskey and Japanese sake (a liquor distilled from rice) to drink and were told it was a celebration for all their hard work. Many of the men got drunk, and they celebrated by eating rice and salmon with their alcohol.

But then, suddenly, the Japanese soldiers used machine guns and grenades on the Chamorros in the caves, and then went in to bayonet those who were still alive. Many of the Chamorros survived, after being buried under dead bodies and pretending to be dead. A number were wounded by bullets and bayonets and couldn’t move. A few were able to go deeper into the caves and hide or escape.

Women repeatedly raped
The timeline of events at Fena are not clear, as it is pieced together from numerous survivor recollections, but during this time further atrocities were done to many of the young women. One group of about dozen women were ordered alone into a cave, and were then repeatedly raped by Japanese soldiers. When it was over, a few escaped. Others waited in the cave until morning, and some of them ended up being beheaded by the Japanese.

On another night, the Japanese taicho (commander) of the Fena area, an officer named Takebana, ordered seven girls sent into a cave. They were hungry after several days without food. Takebana and his soldiers arrived with food and sake, and the girls ate and drank. Takebana then told the women they were to give themselves freely to the soldiers, or face death. Throughout the night, the women were raped by soldiers. Nearby, in another cave eighteen other women suffered the same atrocities.

The next morning, some of the girls escaped into the jungle as the U.S. Marines approached the area and killed some of the Japanese guards. Some of the girls fell victim to Japanese grenades.

Memorial services
In 1998, some members of the Guam Legislature, along with members of the Agat–Santa Rita communities, began holding an annual memorial service for the victims and survivors of the Fena Caves Massacre. Santa Rita was a village
established after the war, and many of the displaced residents of Sumay and their descendants live there, in an area close to Fena.

During the memorials a number of survivors have recounted their personal recollections of the tragedy, and a mass service and candlelight prayer are also held. In most years, the memorial service has been held at various sites in Agat and Santa Rita, as the Fena Caves are located in what is now U.S. Naval Magazine, a munitions supply area that is off limits to local residents.

OTHER ATROCITIES

Beatings, murder, beheadings
While remembrance of World War II atrocities against the Chamorros occur every year for the massacres at Fena in Santa Rita and Faha and Tinta in Merizo, as well as the Manenggon concentration camp, there were atrocities by Japanese soldiers against the Chamorros that took place on smaller scales in other areas.

The other atrocities also took place in the weeks that preceded the American invasion of Guam in July 1944, at places such as Ta’i (in Mangilao), Hagåtña and Yigo. They included the murder of Father Jesus Baza Duenas, his nephew and several other men at Ta’i; the killing of eleven men, women, and children in Hagåtña on July 20; and the beheading of dozens of young Chamorros in early August who had carried war supplies to Yigo for the Japanese military.

In Ta’i, Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan witnessed the beheading of three Chamorro men by a Japanese taicho (head officer). Manibusan wrote about that day fifty years later.

Manibusan was the leader of a team of Chamorros assigned to dig several holes, which were used as graves for the three beheaded men, and he and his team members witnessed the executions along with several nurses. Several of his team members were later killed in Yigo, according to Manibusan, and one of the nurses—Mariquita Perez Howard—was soon after killed by the Japanese. Manibusan described several other occasions when Japanese officers who threatened him with their swords, in one instance wounding him and leaving a scar on his forehead.

Also in Ta’i, Father Duenas, known as an outspoken defender of the Catholic faith and of the Chamorro people, was tortured and executed by the Japanese only nine days before the return of American forces. Duenas was arrested by Japanese authorities in Inarajan on July 8, 1944. He had often angered the Japanese by opposing their directives and was suspected of aiding American fugitive George Tweed and other American efforts. He was arrested along with his nephew, former Island Attorney Eduardo Duenas, and both men were tortured in Inarajan and the Kempeitai headquarters in Agana Heights. On July 12, they were beheaded in Ta’i along with Vicente Baza and Juan (Mali) Pangelinan, who had also helped Tweed.

In Hagåtña, on the night of July 20, eleven Chamorro men, women and children who were accused of signaling U.S. aircraft were bayoneted to death by the Japanese. Two teenagers escaped by faking death after being stabbed by bayonets.

Some of the largest massacres occurred in Yigo towards the end of the American invasion. As the American forces drove the Japanese northward, the Americans came across scenes of atrocities inflicted against Chamorros. On August 8, a Marine patrol found thirty dead Chamorros around a Japanese truck north of Yigo village. The next day, near the same area, another patrol came across another twenty-one bodies. These dead Chamorros were forced by the Japanese to carry ammunition and supplies to the north, and then were killed by the Japanese to prevent them from providing information to the Americans.

![George R. Tweed](image1.png)  ![Father Jesus Baza Duenas](image2.png)  ![Judge Joaquin Manibusan](image3.png)
“Thank you again for this opportunity to address the little known history that ended WWII. My eyewitness story has been communicated by book; The History Channel and featured on Paul Harvey’s The Rest of The Story. A Screen play has been written and I’m hoping for a movie while I’m still on my feet. Incidentally, I’m the last surviving member my B-29 crew, The Boomerang and the shadows are lenthening. We must get the Last Mission story out there for the sake of history...

...I ended up a Radio operator of the B-29 crew, The Boomerang based at Northwest Field, Guam. We arrived Guam in May 1945 as a top secret 315th Bomb Wing featuring the new M.I.T. secret APQ-7 radar system in which the radar operator, the pilot and the bombardier were all involved in the bomb drop. We were called the All Weather Blind Bombers.”

The Last Mission, Jim Smith’s story

“. . . War came to Guam on December 8, 1941 when Japanese planes from Saipan strafed and bombed the island. Then on December 10, 5,000 enemy troops landed on the beaches and captured the island...

...During the next thirty-one months, the people of Guam were tortured, beaten, shot and beheaded by the Japanese, but they knew we would return. They had never lost faith in the United States.

To keep their faith they sang a song, that if caught meant a beating or even death, but they continued to sing it until we returned. The song went like this:

Early Monday morning, before the crack of dawn
Eight of December, Japanese dropped their bombs
Eight of December 1941
People all go crazy right here on Guam.
Sam, Sam, dear old Uncle Sam,
Won’t you please come back to Guam.

And we did come back on July 21, 1944, thirty-one months later. During our absence over 700 Chamorros were murdered by the enemy, and a number of women were raped and brutalized...”
It seems many years ago that I arrived in Guam (1945) when the Japanese were still running around. When the war ended, I was a Signalman on a submarine chaser, in Apra Harbor, for almost a year. I got to know Guam very well and my wife and I went back in 1993 and a gentleman from the Governor’s Office took us around the Island. We loved our five days stay and we have great affection for the people of Guam. Sincerely,

Alan S. Hodges

WWII Guam Liberator
Capt. Alan S. Hodges, USNR
My WWII career started in November 1942 when I was enlisted in the U.S Marine Corp...

We arrived in Guam early morning on July 21, 1944. We (Company B) went ashore in 3d wave at Asan Beach. We dismounted USN Higgins boats in area that boat could operate in without damage from Asan Reef. Our unit then worked on July 21, 1944 carrying ammo, water, and food to infantry units at Asan. We continued this procedure the entire day. We were lucky—under mortar, artillery and heavy machine gun fire but my LTV (vehicle) was not hit...

...Guam remains a very great part of my life, something I can never forget, 18 when I landed...

Proud to say that I was once a U.S. Marine, proud to know we helped the people of Guam. Semper Fi!

Ernest Lee  
Company B, 5th Field Depot  
Attached: 3D Marine Division  
III Amphibious Corps

Alfred K. Newman, Sr. was born on July 21, 1924 at Rehoboth Hospital east of Gallup, New Mexico and attended the Mission Boarding School, which is still in operation today. His family lived in Coolidge where his father worked as a silversmith and his mother wove rugs for traders who sold crafts in the Trading Post to tourists who traveled along the historic Route 66.

Alfred served from 1943 - 1946. As an eighteen year old on the front lines, he witnessed many of his fellow marines die in battle as bullets flew all around them. As Code Talkers they remained close to the communication specialists. When the Japanese couldn’t break the code they tried jamming the airwaves. About 400 were trained as Code Talkers, but not all of them served in battle. Some were there later in the occupation force.

Earl J. Braun  
Torres Thám That! As soon as I was sent on Guam, I was sent into the Chiding the Japs & trying to get the Chamoros coming back from temporary housing, food & clothing. I always had much to do. I had many more opportunities. One of my many duties was to help provide security around this one temporary
WWII Guam Liberator
Cpl. Robert I. Prieskorn

Robert I. Prieskorn landed at Ga’an Point in Agat during the original Liberation Day as part of the sixth wave of U.S. forces.

When we went to Guam I was on the Sixth Wave. We went in to shore at 8:00 a.m. The first five waves were combat and the following waves were technology. I was a signal man. I immediately set up a switchboard behind the front lines and I had five men who reported to me. We rotated 24 hours a day operating the switchboard, extending the telephone lines up to the front line to connect the waves of marines that were in different locations. We were at Guam for 26 days.

Where I went in at Agat we were back from the ocean about 300 feet. There was a big coral mount there. It had a cave in it. This cave had been dug by the Japanese. It was not a natural cave. There was also a palm grove. The first night we “bugged” down for the night the Japanese ran out of there. They literally jumped over my head to get out of there.

While I was at Agana, Cpl. Frank Rhodes (from Spokane, Washington) was at Agat. As we moved into the town he and I would keep each other informed and I was connected to the front lines flank and we would pass this information on. I had 12 lines on my switchboard. My friend, Wiltzie Bitsie, a Navajo code talker, was with me. He would communicate some of the messages.

I remember children gathering around us. They were extremely friendly. They would watch an “air dog fight” and the children were able to identify the American planes and the Japanese planes. They would say, “That’s an American plane – it has square wings.” And they would cheer when the Americans shot at a plane. They told us that they had to move out of their houses because of the war.

Guam is a beautiful island and I always wanted to go back. I was fortunate to be able to return in 2008. We had a driver while I was back at Guam in 2008. I told him that I wanted to go Agat and I described the coral head. He took me there. I went down to where my foxhole had been and as I stood in it I cried.
Bill Toledo enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in October 1942. Following boot camp in San Diego, California, he attended Navajo Code Talker School at Camp Elliot, California. Upon completion he was assigned to the 3rd Marine Division. He shipped from Camp Pendleton, California to New Zealand and then on to Guadalcanal. He was active in three combat landings using the new Navajo code. Bougainville in the British Solomon Islands, November 1943; Guam in the Marianas Islands, July 1944 and Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands, February 1945. He was discharged from active duty October 1945.

While on Guam, a particular assignment from the platoon sergeant, earned him a body guard. The assignment required him to retrieve a radio from behind the front lines where he was stationed. He had to run approximately two miles, 200 yards in plain sight of a sniper. Fellow Marines were hollering at him to go back. Unaware of the shouting, focused on his mission, he ran zigzag across the open field. Upon reaching his destination he was met by a fellow Marine who mistook him for the enemy. Bill was marched, at gunpoint, to the officer in charge. Once the officer found out who "the enemy" was, the Marine who captured him received a serious chewing out. From that point on Richard Bonham became Bill's bodyguard. Richard and Bill were reunited in 1986 at Camp Pendleton. Richard was speaking to a group of Navajo Code Talkers when he recognized a familiar voice. They kept in touch for the next 27 years when Richard passed away.
Just a word about what I did in Guam. I was Navy Pussycat and ship Maybe I was a Navy Pilot. I stayed on Guam till Nov. 1945. I made many good friends during my long stay on Guam. I made many good men. If my health were better, I would like to go back. I would like to go back. I would like to go back. I would like to go back. I would like to go back. I would like to go back. I would like to go back. I would like to go back.

WWII Guam Liberator
John A. Ward, D.D.S.
SIGHTSEEING & HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

South Pacific Peace Memorial Park
To commemorate all those who died on Guam during World War II, a Japanese nonprofit group called the South Pacific Memorial Association Mission funded the construction of this memorial, completed in May 1970. Located just off Marine Corps Drive at the foot of Mt. Matagi, it is known as the site of the last Japanese command post held by General Hideyoshi Obata, commander of the Imperial Japanese Army during WWII. The 50-foot tower, shaped like praying hands, commemorates the 500,000 Japanese lives lost throughout Micronesia during the war.

Mount Santa Rosa
Known as the highest point in northern Guam, Mount Santa Rosa is an extinct volcano that can be identified by the dome-shaped structures that sit at its peak. The point offers a bird’s eye view of nearby Andersen Air Force Base as well as the nearby island of Rota.

Battle of Yigo Monument
Commemorating one of the last WWII battles between the Japanese and U.S. Forces following the American invasion on July 21, 1944, the monument stands as a solemn reminder of the casualties of war. It is located across from a gas station off Marine Corps Drive in Yigo, where U.S. forces made their way through Japanese roadblocks on Aug. 8, just two days before Americans declared the island secured.

Ritidian Point
Known as the site of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ritidian Point is an unspoiled jewel of natural beauty on the island’s northernmost tip. Once a restricted military area, the site is now open to the public and has grown into a popular weekend spot for family gatherings. With teeming marine life, the 772-acre refuge consists of 371 acres of native limestone forest and 401 acres of marine habitat that hosts endangered hawksbill and green sea turtles.

Japanese Bunker
Near the southern end of Tumon Bay, adjacent to Gov. Joseph Flores Memorial Beach Park, visitors will find a WWII fighter plane’s propeller and Japanese 12mm gun. Just a few yards north of both items, a Japanese bunker built during the country’s occupation of Guam from 1941 to 1944 also sits as a reminder of the island’s WWII history.
**Gun Beach**
This remote beach, located at the northern end of hotel row in Tumon, hosts the remains of a Japanese pillbox housing a cannon from WWII. The gun’s rusting barrel points out to the Philippine Sea, which served to protect the island from invading U.S. forces. The site is one of two areas on Guam where there is a Japanese gun sitting in its original position. A winding adventure trail along the cliffline features beautiful ocean scenery and a unique view of downtown Tumon. A favorite spot for local divers, the best time to enjoy the water surrounding Gun Beach is when the water is calm. Otherwise, beware of dangerous rip tides.

**Plaza de España**
Home to the governor’s palace during the Spanish period, the Plaza de España is a favorite site for visitors. Although most of the palace was destroyed during the retaking of Guam during WWII by U.S. forces, three structures are still standing – the three-arch gate, the Azotea (or back porch), and the Chocolate House.

**Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica**
The center of Catholic faith on Guam, many believe this magnificent Church was built on the same site as Guam’s first Catholic church. The original structure survived from its completion in 1670 until the bombings of WWII. The present church, completed in 1959, houses the original statue of Guam’s patron saint, Our Lady of Camarin.

**Fort Santa Agueda**
Also known as Fort Apugan, this Spanish historic site was built in the 1800s near the Government House overlooking Hagåtña. Recently restored by the Hagåtña Historic Foundation, the site was originally built to keep the bay and city safe from intruders. Three historic cannons still sit on the site.

**Government House**
The architectural design of the Government House, the Governor’s official residence, incorporates elements of the Chamorro and Spanish heritage in its architectural design. Located on Kasamata Hill in Agaña Heights, the residence commands an excellent view of the city of Hagåtña and Agaña Bay. Construction on the original building began in 1952 and was completed two years later. Major reconstruction followed the destruction wrought by Super Typhoon Pamela in 1976. The expanded structure occupies 22,000 square feet.
Piti Bomb Holes
One of five marine preserves on Guam, the Piti Bomb Holes located near the Fisheye Marine Resort and Observatory attracts a large amount of fish and other marine life. Although the large underwater craters appear manmade, they are natural coral formations. The site is a favorite among beginning divers and snorkelers.

Guam Veterans Cemetery
Located in Piti, the 18-acre Guam Veterans Cemetery is reserved exclusively for veterans of the Armed Forces. A chapel in the center of the park is open daily for visitors.

War in the Pacific National Historical Park
Comprised of seven different park areas — both on land and under the sea — the War in the Pacific National Historical Park operated by the National Park Service honors all who participated in the Pacific Theater of WWII, including those from the United States, Japan, and the Allied nations. Spanning a total of 1,000 acres, the park hosts thousands of residents and visitors each year. Information can be obtained at the T.Stell Newman Visitor Center near the U.S. Naval Base Guam entrance on Marine Corps Drive. You may also contact the park at 1(671) 333-4050 or visit www.nps.gov.

The seven sites of the park include:

1. Asan Beach Overlook Unit
The overlook provides visitors with virtually the same view the Japanese had of Apra Harbor as U.S. Forces arrived on the shores of Guam. This site is a World War II memorial that includes bronze signage explaining the war. Visitors can also learn from carved bronze walls that display the names of American soldiers and people who faced adversity during the war and the Japanese occupation. The site, where U.S. Forces landed on July 21, 1944, contains guns, caves, pillboxes, and 445 underwater reef and relics.

2. Asan Bay Unit
Between the War in the Pacific National Historical Park’s Visitor Center and the War in the Pacific Park Unit in Asan is a small memorial dedicated to more than 16,000 U.S. soldiers who contributed to the island’s liberation from Japanese forces in 1944. The jungle near this area encompasses caves, pillboxes, a bridge, several foxholes, and a 75mm mountain gun.
3. Piti Guns Unit
One of several defense positions devised by the Japanese, this site houses three Vickers type Model 3 140mm coastal defense guns. Under the Japanese occupation, local Chamorros were forced to build this site and others like it. The guns present have a firing range of more than 10 miles, which was detrimental to approaching U.S. Forces. Later on, the site housed an Experimental Agricultural Station funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

4. Mount Chachao/Mount Tenjo Unit
This southern site provided Japanese defenders with a view of approaching U.S. troops landing at Asan Beach. The trail, a popular site for hikers, leads to foxholes, trenches, and an American gun placement.

5. Agat Beach Unit & Ga’an Point
This southern area was strategically chosen by U.S. Forces as a landing point during their invasion of Guam in 1944. While ultimately, the plan was to capture Orote Point to the north, Ga’an Point and the entire Agat beachfront was used to first offload supplies and equipment used in the inland advance. Two heavily camouflaged guns near the beach helped Japanese forces subdue some approaching troops, although they were ultimately overcome. A pillbox still remains at the site, where the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, followed by the 305th Regimental Combat Team and the 77th Army Infantry stormed the shores.

6. Mount Alifan
Home to bomb crater remains, this undeveloped unit is the former site of a WWII Japanese command post. Due to its location, access is difficult for visitors.

7. Fonte Plateau
Once a Japanese naval communications center located on Nimitz Hill, the site was one of the more bitter battles between the U.S. Marines and the Japanese. The unit was later renamed Nimitz Hill, after Admiral Chester Nimitz, who served as Commander in Chief for the Pacific Command (CINCPAC) headquarters.

Adelup Point
South of Hagåtña, Adelup Point is the government complex where the Governor’s Office and other government agencies are located. There are meeting rooms and a small display of pre-contact artifacts. At the top of the complex are the recently dedicated Hall of Governors and the Latte of Freedom. The two structures, completed in May 2010, offer a meeting venue and site for visitors. Both are historically significant and host a spectacular view of the island’s coast.
Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex
The 20th Guam Legislature dedicated the Governor’s office and surrounding complex at Adelup to the late Gov. Ricardo Bordallo in 1997. He is noted as one of Guam’s great leaders for having sound business sense, vision for the island’s future and a love of farming.

SMS Cormoran Monument at U.S. Naval Cemetery
Now a favorite dive site in Guam’s Apra Harbor, the German cruiser SMS Cormoran II arrived on Guam in August 1914 requesting fuel. Then-Gov. William Maxwell refused to comply with the cruiser’s request, forcing it into internment on Guam. The ship is also said to have been the site of the first shots fired by the U.S. military in WWI. As German crews preparing to scuttle the ship worked aboard, nearby U.S. Forces fired a shot over the bow. A monument dedicated to SMS Cormoran is located at U.S. Naval Cemetery.

Apra Harbor Shipwrecks
Dive shops across the island offer numerous boat dives each week to Apra Harbor including the unique site of the German SMS Cormoran II and the Japanese Tokai Maru. The site is the only place in the world where two ships from two different countries and two different wars touch beneath the surface. The German cruiser, scuttled by the ship’s captain in 1917, lies at 130 feet underwater, just beneath the Tokai Maru, an 8,300-ton passenger-cargo ship that sunk amid fierce fighting in 1944.

The harbor is also home to the 1,900-ton freighter Kitsugawa Maru sunk in 1944, which sits upright at 160 feet, and an American Tanker.

Apaca Point
In 1944, Apaca Point played a pivotal role to the American liberation of Guam. Located at Agat Beach, this point offers visitors an opportunity to view unique limestone formations along the shallow reef. In addition to the limestone, explore the labyrinth of tunnels and caves hastily excavated in July 1944.

I Memorias Para I Lalahita
Dedicated in 1971 to the Guam men who died in Vietnam, this site offers a view of Guam’s southern mountains that’s hard to match. A two-foot high wall surrounding the coral and stone memorial pavilion allows you to take a seat and admire surrounding water fall valleys, mountain ranges, and the village of Umatac below.
Fort Nuestra Señora de la Soledad
Fort Soledad, as this site is commonly known, is the last of four Spanish fortifications built in the village of Umatac. Located atop a steep bluff, the fort provides a superior view of the village, the bay, the rugged coastline, and the imposing southern mountain range. It was constructed to strengthen the defenses of Guam’s most prominent Spanish-era bay.

Tinta and Faha Massacre Sites
As U.S. Forces approached Merizo in WWII, Japanese soldiers massacred nearly 50 Chamorro men and women at these sites in two separate incidents on July 15 and 16, 1944. The incident sparked revolt from the village’s people, who ended up killing all Japanese soldiers in the area, thus liberating themselves from their control. Each year, the people from Merizo hold a ceremony at these sites in remembrance of the men and women killed during the liberation of Guam.

Talofofo Falls
Talofofo Falls, the main attraction at Talofofo Falls Resort Park off a road leading through Malojloj, is a 30-foot waterfall that cascades into the Ugum River to a deep pool. Although the falls is often used as a hike destination, visitors can easily access it through the park. A replica of the cave occupied by Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi, a Japanese soldier who hid for 28 years in the jungle after U.S. Forces liberated Guam in 1944, can be found near the site.

Yokoi’s Cave
A well-known Japanese soldier among both residents and visitors of Guam, Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi hid for more than a quarter century in the jungles of Guam. After hiding from invading American Forces in 1944 for years, he was discovered by Talofofo farmers in 1972. Tools of his survival are now displayed in the Guam Museum in Hagátña.
# 4-Day Suggested WWII Tour Itinerary

## Day 1
### Northern Guam
- **7:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **8:30 a.m.** Northern Guam
  - Tumon Bay Coastal Sites
  - Tumon Bay Marine Park
- **9:30 a.m.** South Pacific Memorial Park
  - Battle of Yigo Monument
- **11:30 a.m.** Lunch in Dededo or Tamuning
- **1:30 p.m.** Andersen Air Force Base Tour (Civilian access is restricted, prior arrangements required)
- **3:00 p.m.** Dive, Snorkel or Dolphin Watching tour option
- **5:30 p.m.** Return to hotel for rest and relaxation
- **6:00 p.m.** Sunset cocktails in Tumon Bay
- **7:00 p.m.** Light dinner and entertainment
- **9:30 p.m.** Free time

## Day 2
### Central Guam
- **7:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **8:30 a.m.** Central Guam Tour:
  - Hagåtña
  - Plaza de España
  - Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basílica
  - Adelup Point and Latte of Freedom
  - Fort Santa Agueda
  - Pacific War Museum
- **11:30 a.m.** Lunch in Hagåtña
- **1:30 p.m.** Manenggon (light walk/hike)
- **3:00 p.m.** Return to hotel for rest and relaxation
- **6:00 p.m.** Sunset cocktails in Hagåtña Bay
- **6:30 p.m.** Cultural Dinner show
- **8:30 p.m.** Free time

## Day 3
### Southern Guam
- **7:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **8:30 a.m.** War in the Pacific National Parks
  - Asan Beach and Overview
  - Fonte Plateau
  - Piti
  - Mount Tenjo/Mount Chacho
  - Mount Alifan
  - T. Stell Newman Visitor Center
  - Agat
- **12:00 p.m.** Lunch in Southern Guam
- **1:45 p.m.** Guam Veteran’s Cemetery
- **3:00 p.m.** Return to hotel for rest and relaxation
- **6:00 p.m.** Light dinner and shopping
- **8:30 p.m.** Free time

## Day 4
### Southern Guam
- **7:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **8:30 a.m.** Southern Guam Tour
  - Naval Station Historical Sites and War
  - Dog Cemetery (Civilian access is restricted, prior arrangements required)
- **11:00 a.m.** Lunch in Southern Guam
- **12:45 p.m.** Umatac Bay Landing Site
- **1:30 p.m.** Inarajan Village
- **2:30 p.m.** Merizo Massacre Sites (light walk/hike)
- **3:30 p.m.** Yokoi’s Cave (hiking involved)
- **4:30 p.m.** Jeff’s Pirates Cove
- **5:30 p.m.** Return to hotel for rest and relaxation
- **7:00 p.m.** Dinner
- **8:30 p.m.** Free time

*NOTE: Some of the sites listed here are located on U.S. military property and are subject to security restrictions and access limitations. Access is granted to those who can be sponsored by anyone affiliated with the United States military. Civilian access may be arranged with prior notification to the proper military offices.*
On the 70th anniversary of the World War II Battle for Guam,

the War in the Pacific National Historical Park and Pacific Historic Parks honor the Chamorros who were occupied and the servicemen who liberated them.
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As we honor and celebrate “Generations of Service & Sacrifice” during Guam’s 70th Liberation, the Triple J group of companies pays special tribute to the Guam families who have answered the call to military service.

Let us all remember to put more into the pot of life than we take out and leave some for those less fortunate.
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