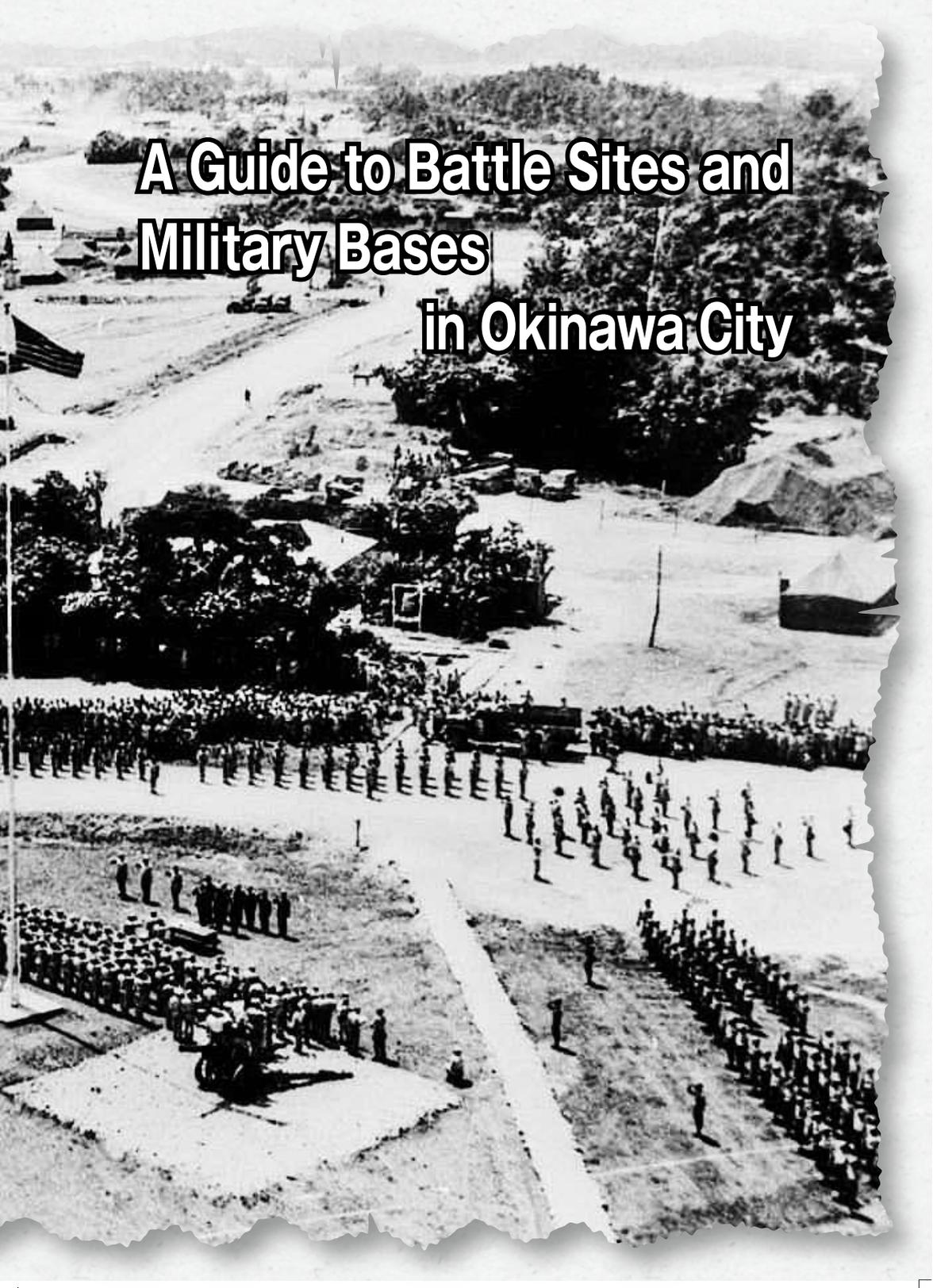


A Guide to Battle Sites and Military Bases in Okinawa City



September 7th is Citizens Peace Day in Okinawa City.

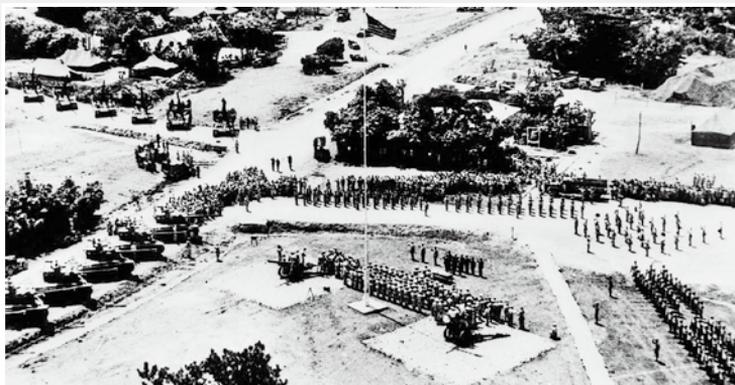
August 1st thru September 7th is Peace Month

On September 7th in 1945, the surrender document between the US and Japanese military was officially signed in Morine, Goeku Village (presently Kadena Air Base), thus concluding the Battle of Okinawa.

Our City thought it fitting to commemorate the day that peace was restored to our island and so our City designated Sep 7th as Citizens Peace Day and Aug 1st to Sep 7th as Peace Month.



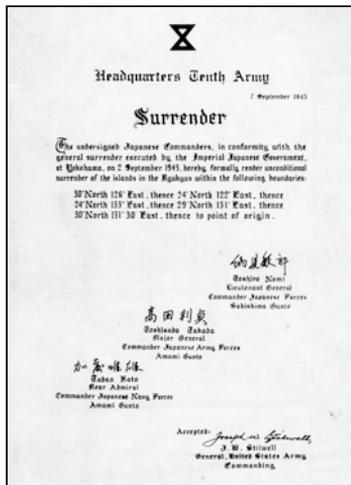
Monument of Surrender Ceremony at Kadena Air Base (Peace Garden)



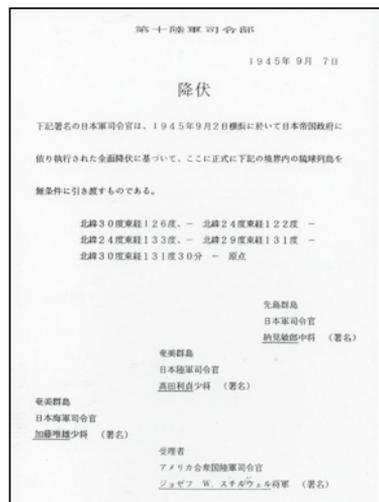
Scene of Surrender Ceremony



Lieutenant General Stilwell accepts and signs the Japanese surrender document. (Morine, Okinawa Sep 7, 1945)



The Document of Surrender signed on September 7, 1945.



This is the written agreement stating the unconditional surrender of the Ryukyu Islands in conformity with the general surrender by Japanese military defending the southern islands of Japan. Surrender Ceremony was held at Morine,Goeku Village(Presently Kadena Air Base)

Preface

In 1993, Okinawa City established the 'Municipal Ordinance to declare Citizens Peace Day in Okinawa City.' In accordance with this ordinance, we host events to raise awareness about the meaning behind the establishment of citizens' peace day and promote thinking about peace in general.

This booklet, *A guide to Battle Sites and Military Bases in Okinawa City*, shares with you a glimpse of the conditions in Okinawa City during the war, and the people's experiences at the time. The second half of this booklet includes information about the US military bases that still occupy 36% of city land since the war concluded more than 60 years ago.

It is our heartfelt wish that a tragic battle like the Battle of Okinawa never occurs again and this booklet was put together to help our readers understand what peace means to our city and hopefully contribute to raising awareness about the importance of peace.

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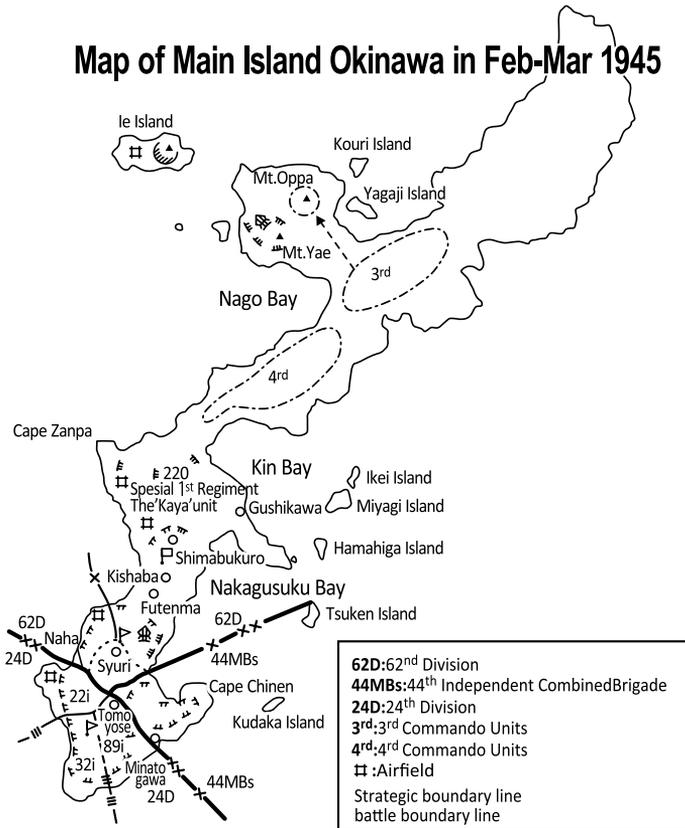
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Prior to the Battle of Okinawa

The US military strategy to defeat and occupy Japan was to be carried out in the following steps: 1. Operation Iceberg (Take over Okinawa in Mar-Oct 1945) 2. Operation Olympic (Land at Southern Kyushu in Nov 1945-Feb 1946) 3. Operation Coronet (Land at the Kanto Plain on Mar 1946). The US goal was to not only to occupy Okinawa, but to build the largest US base in the Western Pacific region, making it the nucleus of the Cold War structure in East Asia.

Ultimately, the Battle of Okinawa became the final and decisive battle of the Pacific War.

Map of Main Island Okinawa in Feb-Mar 1945



Quote from [Army Tactics Toward Okinawa](The National Institute for Defense Studies Military History Office)

The Battle of Okinawa

The mission of the Okinawa Defense Army (Japanese 32nd Army) was not to defend Okinawa, but to use it as a sacrifice. The strategy of the Japanese military for Okinawa was to wound and exhaust the US army forces and prolong their stay in Okinawa as long as possible, so the mainland forces had time to prepare for an attack. The manpower of the 32nd Army was approximately 100,000 men. The core of the army was comprised by the 9th Division (that moved out to Taiwan later), the 62nd Division, the 24th Division, the 44th Independent Combined Brigade, the artillery and the Navy. Also, the 28th Division, 59th and 60th Independent Combined Brigade were placed on Miyako Island, the 45th Independent Combined Brigade on Ishigaki Island, as well as one brigade on Amami Island and one regiment on Daito Island. The 32nd Division requisitioned farmland to fortify Okinawa, and drafted local residents regardless of their age or gender. They also forced the construction of new airfields in Ie Island, Yomitanzan (Kita Airfield), Kadena (Naka Airfield), Urasoe (Southern Airfield), Shuri, Nishihara, Naha, Itoman, Minami Daito Island, Miyako Island and Ishigaki Island.

Based on a Japanese Cabinet Decision, about 100,000 children and elderly women were evacuated from Okinawa to Southern Kyushu or Taiwan. Many evacuation ships were sunk by American submarine torpedoes. Also, in Okinawa mainland, elderly women and children from the southern and central regions were evacuated to the northern, mountainous region.

In March 1945, US Land Forces left Guam; they had more than 1,500 warships, with 183,000 troops in the front landing army, and a total of 548,000 troops when counting the rear support force. The first target of the US army were the Kerama Islands. On March 26th, US landed on Aka Island, Keruma Island and Zamami Island. On 27th, they landed on Tokashiki Island, and by the 29th, all the Kerama Islands were occupied

by the US military.

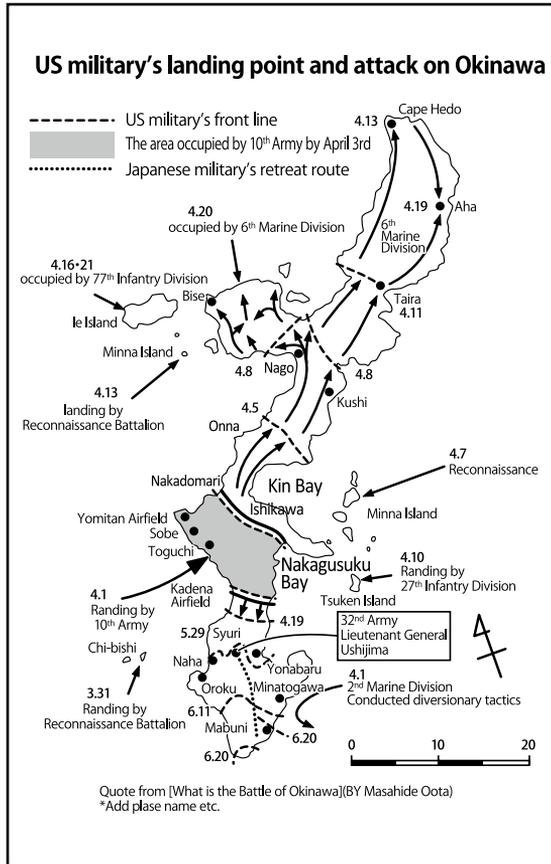
During this time, on Keruma, Zamami and Tokashiki Island, horrific mass suicides by the residents took place, allegedly forced by the Japanese military.

The US military bombed Okinawa with 40,000 shells along with gunfire from 1600 warships for one week before landing.

On April 1st, US landed at Yomitanzan and Chatan on the central west coast and took over Kita Airfield and Naka the central region of Okinawa north of Ginowan by April 5th.

The core of the US forces moved toward Shuri, while another division moved north along the coastline.

On April 16th, the US military landed on Ie Island, and by the 21st, the island was completely occupied; this island ultimately became an important forward base for the US. Meanwhile, around April 7 the US army launched an assault against the Japanese Army in Shuri. A forty day battle ensued in the high plains of Maeda, Urasoe and Kakazu, Ginowan, and during this time the Japanese Army lost 80 percent of their fighting potential. By the end of May, Shuri was under US occupation, and Commander Ushijima of the Japanese forces escaped from Shuri to the southernmost part of Okinawa mainland, Mabuni.



By the middle of June, 30,000 Japanese soldiers and 100,000 civilians had fled and were cornered in southern part of Okinawa. The residents hid in caves and it is said that Japanese Army took over the shelters, forcing the locals out or co-residing with them, killing crying babies that might give their hiding place away. The US military called upon those hiding in the caves to surrender. However, the civilians who tried to go out were shot to death by the Japanese army. The US attack on Okinawa was massive; shells were fired simultaneously on land and from the sea. The amount of shells used in the attack is equivalent to one shell per square meter in Okinawa. The people hiding in caves were eliminated one by one with flame tanks and hand grenades, military and civilians killed indiscriminately in the so-called Jap Hunting by US troops.

On June 18th, the commander Ushijima contacted the Imperial Japanese Army General Staff Office to issue his last command. On 22nd, Ushijima and others committed suicide in a cave in Mabuni, thus ending the organized resistance of the 32nd Army. However, Ushijima's last order was that the battle should be continue until the last soldier was gone.

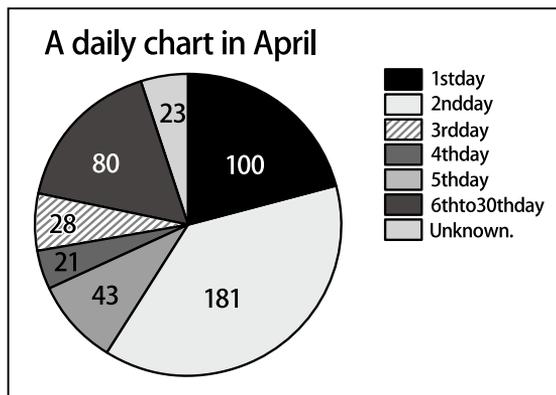
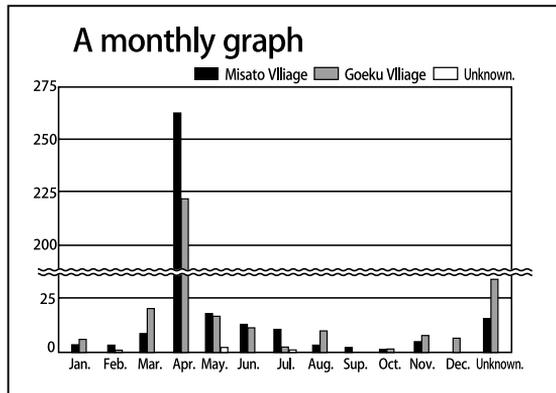
***Some theories give Ushijima's date of death as the 21st or 23rd.

The Battle of Okinawa in Okinawa City

On April 1st 1945, US military landed on the west coast of central Okinawa mainland. On the following day, they advanced as far as Awase, of Okinawa City, and the mainland was divided into two parts, north and south. Most of the city victims died in the period of 5 days following the US landing.

In the city area near the landing point, Misato village, forced mass suicides occurred. During the fifteen years of war counting from the Manchurian Incident (1931) to the end of the Pacific War, more than 5,400 city residents died.

The fate of the civilians during the Battle of Okinawa depended largely on the region they lived in. Some were already in concentration camps under US occupation by April 2. Most of the residents were moved to a concentration camp in the northern area such as Ginoza and Fukuyama, where they saw the end of the war.



Number of war casualties in Okinawa city (1945)

A Chronological Table of the Battle of Okinawa

The Battle in Okinawa is the decisive Japan-US battle of the Pacific War. For the Japanese Imperial Army, this battle concluded the fifteen years of war beginning with the Manchurian incident in 1931.

1944 (19th year, Showa)

The construction of the underground position in Shuri castle begins.

March

The Imperial Headquarters establishes 32nd Army.

(Regular Army: 90,000 troops, Mobilization of the civilian population: 110,000 people)

May

The construction of airfields begins.

July

Group evacuation is decided in an emergency Cabinet meeting.

(80,000 people to Kyushu, 20,000 to Taiwan)

***Mass suicide on Saipan Island (Okinawan people: 6,000, people from Okinawa city: 680)

August

***School children's evacuation ship, The Tsushima Maru is attacked and sunk (177 survivors out of 1,788). Bito School Children included.

The 24th Division starts constructing Kurashiki Shelter.

October

US military formulates Operation to take over Okinawa.

10th ---Massive aerial bombing attacks on Southeast Islands (10.10 aerial attack)

National Defense Draft (Men, age 21-45)

The formation of Commando units → Remaining Intelligent Forces and Prefectural Education Head decide to draft middle school children.

December

9th Division moves out to Taiwan

***24th Division abandons construction of Kurashiki shelter, shifts their position to south of Okinawa.

1945 (20th year, Showa)

January

900 planes from US carrier ships attack Amami, Yaeyama and the Okinawa mainland.

Second National Defense Draft (age 17-45)

February

The formation of National Defense Volunteer Army starts in every town.

Evacuation plan for 100,000 residents in southern Okinawa to move north, in midst of move, the Battle of Okinawa begins. On the 19th, US military lands on Iwo Island.

March

The 32nd Division orders the destruction of Ie Island Airfield.

The formation of Imperial Iron Blood Squadron is ordered.

Approx. 23,000 Japanese troops die an “honorable death” on Iwo Island

March 23 -- US begins assault on Okinawa (1,500 warships, 180,000 landing troops, 548,000 troops in total)

March 24--- Students of normal school, middle school and girl's school are drafted and assigned to their units.

March 26-- US military land on Kerama Islands; mass suicides and slaughters occur.

***March 26 ---Misato School is burned down by air raids.

***March 28 --Seshiza Bridge is destroyed by bombing.

***March 31 ---Goeku School is burned down by air raids.

April

***April 1 ---US military makes landing at the central west coast, occupies Naka and Kita Airfield within the same day.

April 5 --- US military establishes military government in Hija, Yomitan Village.

April 7--- US military advances to Nago (On 13th, arrives at Cape Hedo)

April 16-- US military landing on Ie Island (occupied on 21st)

April 21-- Okinawan Defense Forces retreat from Kakazu District.

***April US military establishes propaganda headquarters at Kamara.

May

Battle between US forces and the 32nd Division in Shuri, Japan retreats to Mabuni by the end of the month.

May 22--- Wartime Education Ordinance is issued (formation of Student Troops from National Schools as well as from schools for the blind and deaf)

June

Student Troops dissolved (Field Hospital stop functioning by the end of May.)

Civilians forced out of shelters. Food robbery, slaughter, forced suicide occurs in many areas.

The remainder of the 32nd Division and Student's Troops launch an all-out attack, but most are killed.

June 22-23 --- Commander Ushijima commits suicide. Japanese organized resistance ends.

***June 7, while the final battle continues in southern Okinawa, the election of the village mayor and deputy mayor is held at Kamara Camp.

July

July 2 --- US military announce the end of the Ryukyu Operation.

***Refugees of Southern Okinawa are transferred to Kin Village and Kushi Village.

***On the 10th, three local elementary schools are opened. Koza 1st Elementary School (Goeku Elementary School), 2nd Elementary School (Koza Elementary School), 3rd Elementary School (Ageda Elementary School)

August

August 6--Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

August 9--Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

August 14 ---Japan accepts the Potsdam Declaration.

August 15--- Japanese emperor reads the Imperial Rescript (signaling that the war is ended) on national radio. (Gyokuon Hoso)

August 29---General of the Army Douglas MacArthur comes to Okinawa (On his way to Atsugi)

September

September 2 ---Signing of the Japanese Surrender on the Missouri.

***September 7 --- Japanese military officials sign the document of surrender in Morine, Goeku Village. Toshiro Noumi from Miyako Island, Tadao Kato and Toshisada Takada from Amami Island were summoned to sign the surrender.

<The Battle of Okinawa officially ends. Citizens Peace Day in Okinawa City is associated with this day.>

October

***Oct Repatriation from the South Sea islands begins and the Innumi Camp is opened to accommodate the repatriates.

December

US military extends occupation to include Miyako and Yaeyama islands

*** stands for 'matters concerning Okinawa City'

List of airfields constructed by Japanese army and US military in Okinawa

-Airfields constructed by Japanese army-

Ie Island airfield was constructed just before the Battle of Okinawa. It was boasted as the largest-scale airfield in both size and function in the Far East. It was destroyed by the Japanese army just before US military landed, but the US military quickly restored and utilized the airfield. This airfield has continued to be in use since then.

*On August 9th 1945, the B29 that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima flew to Ie Island and made a refueling stop, and then returned to Tinian Island, Micronesia.

*Torashiro Kawabe and his retinue of 13 used this airport as they went back and forth between Tokyo and Manila (to arrange the terms of surrender) (August 19th 1945).

*General Douglas MacArthur made a stop at Ie Island on his way to Atsugi (August 29th 1945).

Kita (North) Airfield (Sobe Airfield) was constructed by the Japanese army just before the battle of Okinawa. It was maintained and expanded by the US military when they began occupation of Okinawa. After the war, US military used this airfield as Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield (used for parachute training).

* Airborne special force unit 'Giretsu Kuteitai', flying from Kumamoto Army Airfield, made a forced landing here. ("forced" because airfield was under US occupation) (May 24th 1945)

Naka (Central) Airfield (Yara Airfield) was constructed by Japanese Army from the end of April to September in 1944. It was maintained and expanded by the US military when they began occupation of Okinawa.

It is presently known as Kadena Air Base.

* Airborne special force unit 'Giretsu Kuteitai', flying from Kumamoto Army Airfield, made a forced landing here ("forced" because airfield was under US occupation) (May 24th 1945)

Minami (South) Airfield (Nakanishi Airfield) was constructed in Nakanishi, Urasoe Village by Japanese Army just before the battle of Okinawa. After the US occupation of this airfield, it became Makiminato supply base.

Nishihara Airfield was constructed in Onaha, Nishihara Village by the Japanese Army just before the battle of Okinawa. The US military used this airfield until April 1959 when it was returned to Okinawa.

Ishimine Airfield was still under construction when the war broke out, so no aircraft flew from this airfield. After the war, it became a military station of the Republic of China Armed Forces.

Oroku Airfield was completed as a Japanese Naval Air Facility in 1933. In 1936, this airfield was put under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Communications and Transportation, and was used as a civilian airway to connect Fukuoka, Naha and Taiwan. In 1942, jurisdiction of the airfield was returned to the naval forces again. In June 1945, after US occupation, the airfield was enlarged extensively. It is presently known as Naha Airport.

Itoman Airfield ---- The construction of a runway was started after December 31st 1944.

-Airfields constructed by US military-

Motobu Airfield was constructed after US occupation and used to accumulate and store gunpowder. It was later used for maneuvering training. The airfield was returned to Okinawa on June 30th 1971.

Kin Airfield was constructed in Kin Village late in April 1945. Intermediate-range bombers utilized it when dropping bombs in south central Okinawa and Japan. After the war, the airfield was for a time abandoned, and then was reconstructed and named Camp Hansen in the 1950s.

Awase airfield was constructed by US military though May - July of 1945. In 1950, US Navy and US Air Force both constructed communications facilities here. With the exception of the point of Awase peninsula, most of this airfield was returned to Okinawa by March 1977.

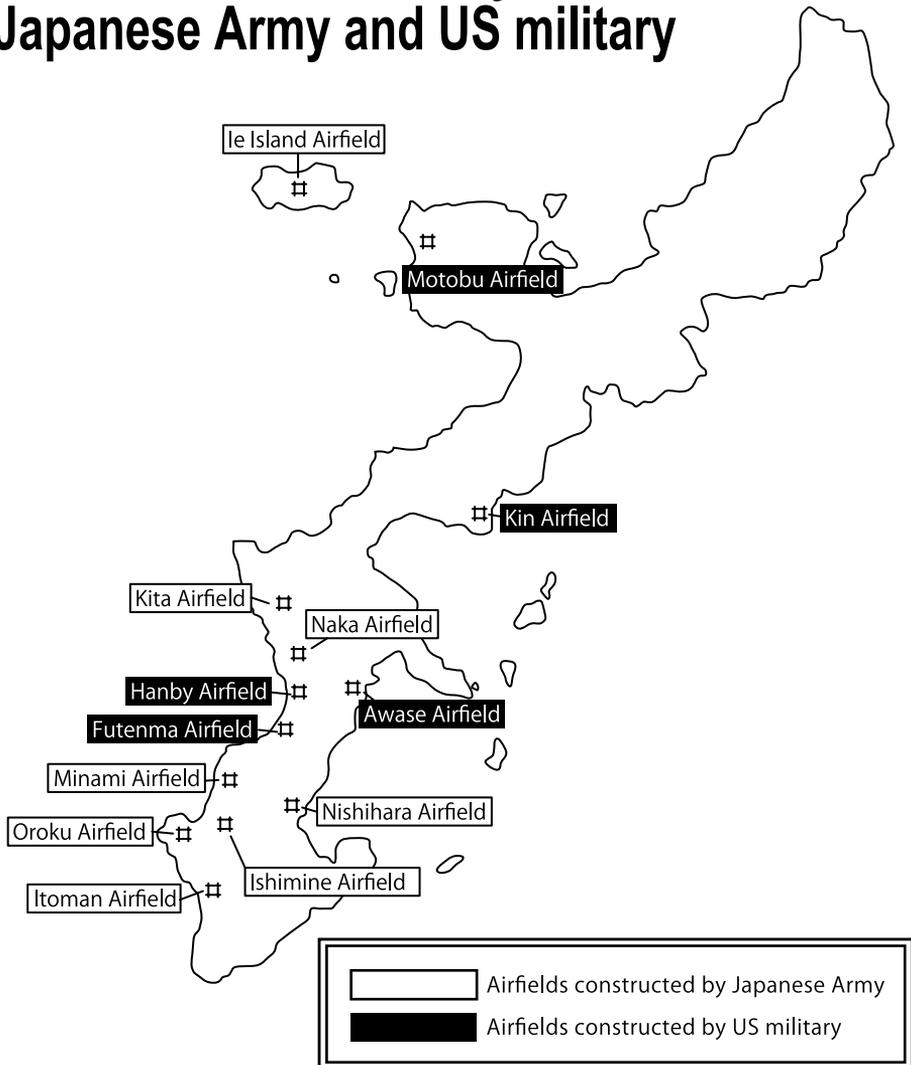
Hamby Airfield was constructed in Chatan Village. It was used as a US Marine helicopter base during the Vietnam War. It was returned to Okinawa in 1981.

Futenma Airfield was constructed in Ginowan City at the battle of Okinawa. It became an US Marine Air Base in 1960. In April 1996, both Japanese and US government announced that all of the Futenma base would be returned within 5-7 years.

Bolo Point was located in on cape Zanpa, Yomitan Village. The cape was used as a missile training center and had its own airfield.

Okuma Rest Center is a US welfare facility in Kunigami Village, and in the beginning it had its own airfield as well.

Airfields constructed by Japanese Army and US military



Guide map to battle-related sites in Okinawa city

- ① Point of US military landing on the main island.Okinawa(Chatan Coast)
- ② Kurashiki shelter(caves)
- ③ Hoanden(Enshrliment Hall).The Chukonhi(Cenotaph)
- ④ Mass Suicide at Aza Misato
- ⑤ The Hiyagon shelter(caves)
- ⑥ Military aircraft hangar at Naka Airport
- ⑦ Morine.Goeku Village-Site of the Surrender Document Signing Ceremony
- ⑧ The Repatriation camp in Innumi



① Point of US military landing on the main island, Okinawa

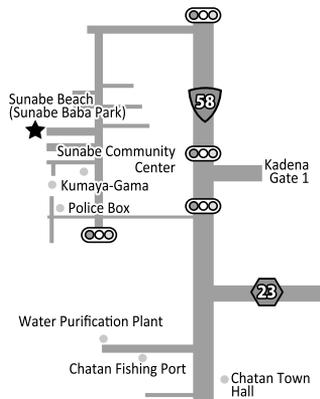
The Japanese army anticipated several potential landing points of the US troops, and one of these the Chatan and Yomitan coastline (central west coast) did indeed become a US landing point.



On April 1st 1945, at 8:00 a.m., US battleships, battle cruisers and destroyers simultaneously fired at the central coast with 45,000 guns, 33,000 bazookas and 22,000 mortars. US landing vessels and amphibious tanks spread over 13 kilometers along the coastline.

The manpower of the US army was enormous; the ground force alone had 7 divisions, more than 180,000 troops. When including the navy, supply and rear support troops the number of troops totaled 550,000. The strategy for taking over Okinawa was called Operation Iceberg; it was the biggest operation during the Pacific War.

The fighting that followed the landing became an unprecedented ground battle that came to be known as the ‘Typhoon of Steel’.

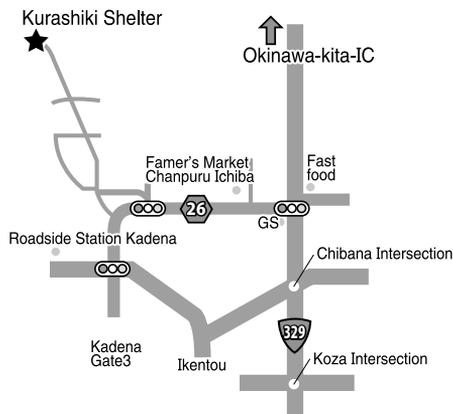


② Kurashiki Shelter (Caves)



Shelters constructed all over the mountainous terrain.

Shelters were constructed all over the mountainous terrain by the Japanese 24th division (Mountain troops) from August to December of 1944, before they moved to the southern part of the island. These shelters were designed to defend Kita (Yomitan) Airfield, Naka (Kadena) Airfield in case of a US assault on the west coast. There are hundreds of shelters in the Kurashiki area alone, in several different sizes and shapes such as fox-holes, crank-shaped and L-shaped ones. The local residents were mobilized in great numbers to complete the construction; however, due to a change in Japanese strategy the shelter was largely abandoned, leaving behind just a few groups to defend the area. The whole district here turned into a fierce battle scene when US military landed.



③ Hoanden

The Hoanden was a building that housed the sacred photograph of the Emperor and Empress of Japan called the Goshinei, which was distributed to schools throughout the nation. Schools in Okinawa prefecture received the Goshinei in 1887, in advance to other prefectures. The Goshinei and the Kyoiku Chokugo (His Royal Majesty's Imperial Rescript on Education) were reverently kept in the Hoanden and school children were expected to bow deeply from the waist (out of deepest respect) to the Hoanden whenever they passed by.

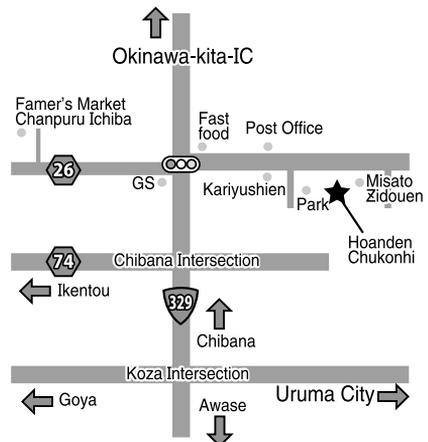
Goshinei was considered to be an embodiment of the Emperor and Empress, so the school principal and teachers were to protect the Goshinei at risk to their own lives in case of disaster.

In January 1945, the Goshinei was moved to Inamine National School in Nago, and later to Oshittai for safety. However, as the war situation worsened, rather than fall into enemy hands the Goshinei was incinerated in the mountainous terrain of Oshittai on June 30.

Presently, the only existing Hoanden in Okinawa is that located on the grounds of the Misato children center in Aza Chibana (former Misato national school).



The Hoanden (constructed around 1935)



Chukonhi (Cenotaph)

The Chukonhi was a monument erected to honor the faithful who died in battle.

The Chukonhi first began to be constructed during the Meiji Restoration period in honor of people who died in the Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War.

As death in the Emperor's name is the ultimate sacrifice, this monument emphasized the virtue of loyalty and was often used as a symbol of militarism when forming ideology prior to the Pacific War.

The Chukonhi were erected in Okinawa during the end of the Meiji Era, however the only remaining monument in Okinawa is that in the grounds of the Misato children center in Aza Chibana (former Misato national school).



The chained and Elevated platform remain as a reminder of the past

④ (Forced) Mass Suicide at Aza Misato

On April 1st 1945, US military achieved a “bloodless” landing on the central west coast. The next day, they advanced to Misato area and many of the local residents who were hiding in shelters or tombs lost their lives, including those who committed mass suicide.

More than 340 residents of Aza Misato died; 33 of them died by mass suicide.

Tragically, people set fire to their bed and clothes and burned to death, some took their own lives in solitude, some killed others with knives, and some were forced to take the lives of their own family.

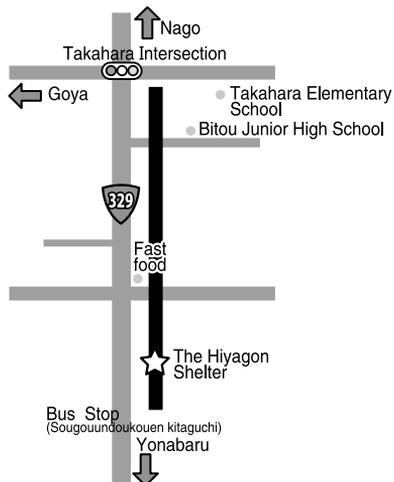
⑤ The Hiyagon Shelter(caves)

The Japanese army anticipated that the US military might land at Nakagusuku Bay, and on eastern coast area of Okinawa City can be found many reminders of the war.

The 62nd division of the Japanese Army which was stationed at Bito National school began preparation for battle by placing bunkers along the coast, surrounding the bay area. Then, an anti-tank battle shelter was built in from Takahara to Yogi. At the entrance to the athletic park in Hiyagon there are remains of shelters that were dug along the perimeter of the anti-tank battle shelter This area was hit in the Oct 10 air raid; the homes in the Awase area were hit especially hard because of their proximity to the bay. The locals who lost their homes in the attack dug shelters or lived in tombs in the Hiyagon and Takahara area.



A defense shelter on the anti-tank battle shelter perimeter



⑥ Military aircraft hangar at Naka Airport

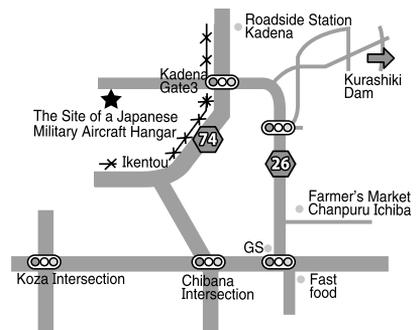
This airfield is the predecessor of the present Kadena Air Base. In September of 1943, the state of the war was in favor of the allied forces. Therefore, the strategy of the Japanese Imperial Headquarters was to establish an 'absolute defense sphere' which referred to the territorial point to be defended at all costs. An elite army was placed on the battle line on the Mariana Islands in the Pacific. The Japanese military girded for the air battle at the Marianas by constructing airports in Okinawa and Taiwan which were located 2,200 kilometers in the rear.

Naka Airport is one of the many airports in Okinawa constructed in the summer of 1944 as part of this operation. The construction of Naka Airport was started in late April of 1944 and completed in late September. In the beginning, the airfield construction team was made of about 3,000 workers



An old Japanese military Aircraft hangar located on a US base.

a day and consisted of draftees or volunteer army members. However later on in the rush to complete the work, local residents, including elderly men and women and school children of third grade or more were also forced to work. No distinctions were made between military members or civilians; all were mobilized in the attempt to fortify the island. However, ultimately the airport was abandoned because of a change in Japanese military strategy. As a result, the US military achieved a bloodless landing.



⑦ Morine, Goeku Village - Site of the Surrender Document Signing Ceremony -

The battle in the Miyako and Yaeyama Islands continued until August 15th. The Japanese Army in Miyako and Yaeyama was disarmed in early September.

The Japanese government declared surrender (the Potsdam Declaration) on August 14 and had begun the legal procedures that came with defeat. However, the battle still continued in Okinawa.

On August 26th, the US 10th headquarters received orders from the Headquarters of the Allied Powers to “Accept the surrender of Japanese Army in Ryukyu Islands after September 2nd”. Shortly after this order was given, the Allied Forces accepted the surrender of the Japanese Army at a ceremony aboard the Missouri in Tokyo Bay on September 2nd.

The Battle of Okinawa was concluded on September 7th, when Captain Toshiro Noumi of the Japanese 28th Division from Miyako Island, Major General of the Army, Toshisada Takada, and Major General of the Navy, Tadao Kato from Amami Island, were summoned to Kadena Base to sign the document. The ceremony was held in Morine, of Goeku village. The three generals signed six copies of the Capitulation and offered unconditional surrender of the Ryukyu Islands on behalf the Japanese military defending the Southern islands of Japan. Thus the Battle of Okinawa was officially ended.

The official number of local citizens who died in the Battle of Okinawa is 94,000. The number of soldiers who died is roughly the same. However, when including the local residents who died of causes related to war such as those who were forced out of their shelters, those who were robbed of their food and died of hunger, those who were slaughtered on suspicion of spying, and those who were forced to commit suicide, the estimated number of dead is more than 150,000.



Monument of Surrender located in Kadena Air Base

Camps

During the Battle of Okinawa, the Yaka Camp was one of the camps used to hold prisoners of war. Other types of camps include the refugee camps that held the local residents and the camps for repatriates from overseas.

Just after the end of the war, a great number of refugees were gathered in the Northern area of Okinawa mainland, and 12 refugee camps were set up in the island of Okinawa.

The southernmost camp was the Kamara refugee camp. Another camp located on a plateau in Okinawa City was the Innumi Repatriation Camp.

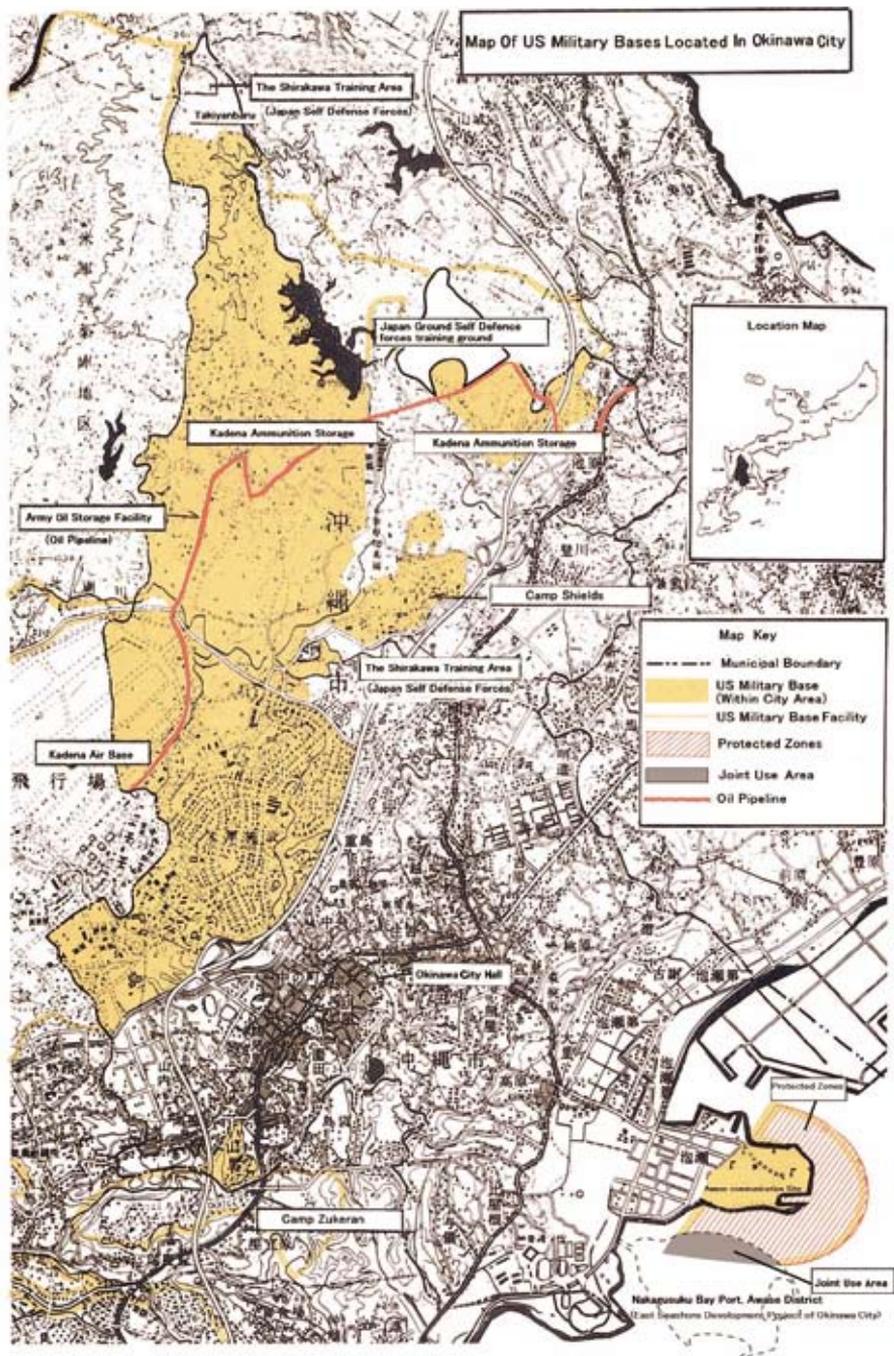


Camp Castello , otherwise known as the Innumi Camp 1946

⑧ The Repatriation Camp in Innumi

In October 1945, repatriation from the South Sea Islands began, so the US military temporarily established the Innumi Repatriation Camp. And then both Kubasaki and Innumi camp were officially opened on July 1 1946. Kubasaki camp closed in December 31st of the same year, but Innumi camp was open until July 23 1949. Innumi was known by many different names, but officially it was referred to as Castello Camp.

The number of the repatriates to that came to Okinawa reached 170,000 by the year 1957. Most of them went home via the Innumi Camp.



Outline of US military bases in Okinawa city (statistical data)

	Total area	Civilian Land Area	Land Area of US Military Bases	Land Area of Japan Self-Defense Forces	Land Area of US Military Base and Japan Self-Defense Forces Base
Square measure (km ²)	49	31.420	16.890	0.69	17.580
Percentage (%)	100	64.1	34.5	1.4	35.9
Note	Data from Geospatial Information Authority of Japan as of October 1st 2008	Data from Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau as of March 31, 2009			

Data as of March 31 2009 (unit: km²)

Facilities	Total Land Area	Land Area in Okinawa City	Ownership of Land Area in Okinawa City			
			National	Prefectural	City	Private
Kadena Air Base	19.855	7.425	0.4	0.002	0.021	7.003
Kadena Ammunition Storage	26.579	8.023	0.281	0.005	4.248	3.489
Camp Shields	0.7	0.7	0.031	0	0.001	0.669
Awase Communication Station	0.552	0.552	0.024	—	0.001	0.527
Camp Zukeran	6.425	0.176	0.006	0.006	1.162	
Army Oil Storage Facility	1.277	0.014	0.002	0.002	0.007	0.003
Total area of US military Facilities	55.388	16.891	0.744	0.015	4.279	11.853
Japan Self Defense Army Shirakawa training area	0.157	0.119	—	—	0.09	0.029
The Japan Ground Self Defense Forces Okinawa training ground	0.576	0.576	0.001	—	0.418	0.157
Total area of US military and Self Defense Army	56.121	17.585	0.745	0.015	4.787	12.039
Percentage (%)		100	4.2	0.08	27.2	68.4

- '0' stands for 'less than the unit indicated above'
- '-' stands for 'it does not apply to this case'

Outline of US military bases and Japan Self-Defense Force bases located in Okinawa city (as of March 31st 2009)

1. Current conditions

① 75% of the total land area used exclusively by the US military in Japan is located in Okinawa Prefecture, and 7.1% of that area is located in our City. The total land area of Okinawa City is 49km²; 16.890km² (34.5%) of city land is used by the US military bases, and 0.69km² (1.4%) of city land is used by the Japan Self-Defense Forces. Combined, the military bases occupy approximately 36% of Okinawa City land area. Our City has the fifth largest area mass occupied by bases following the municipalities of Kunigami, Higashi, Nago and Kin.

② The statistics regarding land ownership of US military bases in Okinawa City are as follows: national land is 0.744 km² (4.2 %), prefecture land is 0.015km² (0.08%), city land is 4.279km² (27.2%), private land is 11.853km² (68.4%). One characteristic of the bases in Okinawa is the significantly larger proportion of privately owned land.

③ There are six US military facilities in Okinawa city: Kadena Air Base, Kadena Ammunition Storage Area, Camp Shields, Awase Communications Station, Camp Zukeran and the Army POL Depots. The area used by Kadena Air Base and the Ammunition Storage Area accounts for approximately 92 % of the total area used by bases.

The Japan Ground Self- Defense Forces have two facilities in Okinawa City as well, the Shirakawa Training Area and Okinawa Training Area.

④ The land used by the US military bases in Okinawa City was acquired in three ways.

1. The US took over bases used by the Japanese Army, expanded and maintained them.
2. The land was taken over by the US Army during US occupation.
3. The land was taken by official announcement of the US military after signing a Treaty of Peace with Japan.

Kadena Air Base belongs to category 1.

Kadena Ammunition Storage Area, Camp Zukeran, Awase Communication Site, and Camp Shields fall under category 2.

The Army Oil Storage Facility belongs to category three.

2. Outline of bases located in Okinawa city

- ① **Kadena Air Base (size: 19.855km² , occupies 7.425km² of city land ; number of landowners 9.467)**

Kadena Air Base is a huge base that sprawls over three municipalities: Okinawa City, Chatan Town, and Kadena Town. The Japanese Army completed construction of Naka Airport in September 1944, but it fell to US hands after the landing in 1945 at the Battle of Okinawa. Shortly after taking over the base, the US military lengthened the runway to 2,250 meters.



Kadena Air Base was used as a strategic bombing station for heavy bombers such as B29 and B47 during the Korean War. At the time, the number of sorties made from Kadena Airfield and Yokota Base totaled a little over 720,980.

The two runways were lengthened to 3,689m in 1967. During the Vietnam War, the base played an important role as a Supply Station for

B52 Strategic Bombers.

With the reversion of Okinawa to Japan in May 1972, Kadena Airfield, Camp Sansone and the Army residential district were integrated into Kadena Air Base.

In May 1975, the P-3C antisubmarine patrol planes were moved to Kadena Air Base from Naha Naval Air Facility. The AV-8 Harrier aircraft were also moved to Kadena in 1977, however, they withdrew at a later date.

In August 1976, 200 units of housing from the Makiminato residential area were moved on to Kadena Air Base and by 1989, additional military family housing construction was completed. Inside the base, there are schools, churches, US civilian houses and a golf course. “It is just as if a whole American town was transported here” is how it is described.

In 1991, the units in Kadena Air Base were integrated into 18th Wing which is in turn under the jurisdiction of the 5th Air Force in Yokota Base. The role of Kadena Air Base is to respond quickly and flexibly to regional conflicts that occur in the post-cold war Asia arena.

In the period from April 15 2002 through September 30 2003, the 18th Wing was reorganized into its current structure of five groups: operations, maintenance, mission support, medical and civil engineer. Around the time of Okinawa’s reversion to Japanese administration, the US Navy also underwent reorganization. It relocated and consolidated its units to Commander Fleet Activities located on Kadena Air Base. Their primary mission is to provide supplies and support to the Seventh Fleet as well as other troops in the Pacific Arena.

Approximately 100 aircraft are currently stationed on Kadena Air Base. This includes the Air Force’s fleet of fifty-four F-15 Eagles, two RC-135 fighters, and fifteen KC-135 Stratotankers. The Navy has a detachment of 3 to 10 P-3C anti-submarine warfare/ reconnaissance planes as well.

In addition, aircraft frequently fly in from carriers and from other bases in Japan or other countries. Training includes touch-and-go maneuvers

And low altitude flying and engine testing. Because they are conducted in close proximity to residential area they are a source of chronic noise pollution. Citizens must constantly deal with this issue of noise pollution, as well as the occurrence of military aircraft crashes and emergency landings.



An F-15 which crashed in the Ammunition Storage Area (1994)

② **Kadena Ammunition Storage Area (size: 26.579km² , occupies 8.023km² of city land; number of landowners 3.739)**

The Ammunition Storage Area is located north of Kadena Air Base; it extends over five municipalities: Okinawa City, Uruma City, Kadena Town, Yomitan Village and Onna Village.

Use of this facility began in 1945, just after the US military began its occupation of Okinawa. In the beginning, the area was separated into several independent facilities; Kadena Ammunition Storage, Hijagawa site, and Namihira Ammunition Storage were constructed, then Yomitan Ordnance Disposal Range, Army Ammunition Storage, Chibana Ammunition Storage, Kadena Takan Ammunition Storage, Kadena Boltac Ammunition Storage and Higashi Onna Ammunition Storage were built. In May 1972, with the reversion of Okinawa to Japan, these nine facilities were integrated into Kadena Ammunition Storage Facility in the Agreement between Japan and the USA concerning the Ryukyu and Daito Islands.

Originally, this was an Army facility. When the units in Okinawa were reorganized in July 1978, the army ammunition storage was moved to Korea and the Middle East, therefore the facility was transferred to the 18th Tactical Fighter Wing in October of the same year.

Before the reversion of Okinawa, the presence of the facility was a major issue because of the poisonous gas stored at the Chibana Ammunition Facility. The poisonous gas has since been removed to Johnston Island. Still today, there is a veil of secrecy of the actual conditions of the facility; many suspect the presence of nuclear weapons.

Rare vegetation (Ryukyu pine, Sudaji: a species of chinquapin etc.) can be found in this area. This rich and abundant land is also the source of many rivers (Nagata River, Hirayama River, Yonabaru River, Hija River etc.). The Takiyanbaru forest is located in this area, but as it is surrounded by bases it cannot be accessed by the local residents.

Currently the facility is operated by the 400th Munitions Maintenance Squadron which belongs to 18th Air Force Station. Their mission, known as Predator, is to store weapons and ammunition for the Air Forces in the Pacific Ocean.

In actual contingency they must support the fighting force by receiving, preparing and transporting ammunition.

The routine mission of the 400th Munitions Maintenance Squadron is to supply ammunition needed for training and in times of emergency to the units on Kadena. It is the largest squadron of its kind in the Pacific Arena.

They manage roughly half of the total land used by US forces in Okinawa. This facility also has 226 family residences which were constructed using



Funding from the Omoiyari Yosan, as well as fire fighting facility.

③ **Camp Shields(size: 0.7km² , number of landowners 0.326)**

The facility is located in the northern part of Okinawa City, adjacent to Kadena Ammunition Storage. This area was forcefully taken over for use by the US military on July 1, 1950 despite strong opposition from the locals. The 9th Naval Construction Force was established here and the facility was known as Camp Kinser. Later, the name was changed to Camp Shields.

It is a deployment base of the Naval Construction Force called the Seabees.

In the past this facility was used by the 30th Naval Construction Force commanded by the Guam Naval Forces and the Welfare Division and Printing Service Division under the Naval Air Corps. At the time this area was a center of issue because of nature in the northern area was destroyed during construction of a road for military tanks. Presently, 650 troops of 5th Naval Construction Regiment from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii are stationed here. Their main duties are expansion and maintenance of bases, and in times of contingency to build bridges and roads at the battlefield. In times of emergency, they must be on the site within 48 hours to construct a forward operating base for the Marine Corps.

On the facility are factories and storage related to construction, and residential area and welfare facilities for personnel on Kadena Base.

In 1971, based on an agreement between Japan and US, approximately 0.605 km² of land was returned. In the period after Okinawa's reversion to Japan, land has been returned a total of 5 times, so the initial 1.41 km² is down to 0.701 km² . In 1981, 353 houses and educational facilities were constructed using funding from Omoiyari Yosan (Japanese "sympathy" budget for US troops stationed in Japan).

Another incident involving this facility was the pollution of the Hija River in 1988 caused by wastewater from washing US military vehicles.

④ **Awase Communication Site(size: 0.552km², number of landowners 533)**

This is a US Naval communication facility located on the small Awase peninsula in Nakagusuku Bay. An airfield was constructed at this site just after US occupation began, and the facility was used as a US military base in the planned attack against mainland Japan until the end of the war. It continued to be used as a base for a short period afterwards until about 1950 when both the US Air Force and Navy built separate communication facilities, and it became a center of base communications.

This base can be divided into two areas: the area at the top of the peninsula is the division that sends low-frequency waves from a prominent antenna tower, and the other division on the inland side near the front gate sends high-frequency waves. This base is responsible for correspondence with the 7th



Awase Communication Site

Fleet, and all radio transmission of the US Naval Forces in Okinawa. The base is incorporated into the Defense Communications System (DCS) and plays a central role in national emergency scenarios. This communications system functioned as a part of a nuclear weapons support system, the base is still operated on a twenty-four hour day basis. The Naval Communication Detachment in Okinawa has approximately 20 personnel who operate the system.

In the past, this facility was a division of the Naval Aviation

Headquarters at Kadena Air Base, but currently appears to function as an independent communication division. The 500m offshore water zone around the base is an area provided for US military use by Japan.

In July 1974, it became known at the House of Representatives Committee on External affairs that this facility was a part of the US nuclear strategy system, and had OTH (Over The Horizon) radar to detect ICBM(Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) at very long ranges. This news came as a great shock to Okinawans, and became a huge issue.

The OTH was removed in May 1975, the reason stated that the system had become old and obsolete. 1.861 km² of land was returned to Okinawa over a period of two years (1976,1977). The total area of land returned from this facility including the 0.648km² that was returned before Okinawa's reversion is 2.509km². The current land area of the Awase facility is 0.552km². The land area that was returned is currently being utilized by public land projects in Awase and Hiyane.

⑤ **Camp Zukeran (size: 6.425km² , occupies 0.176km² of city land; number of landowners 4.704)**

Camp Zukeran is a huge base; its area extends over four municipalities: Okinawa City, Chatan Town, Ginowan City and Kitanakagusuku Village. An airfield was constructed on part of the base just after US occupation began, and the facility was used as a forward operation in the planned attack against mainland Japan until the end of the war. It was used just after US occupation. After the war, it was continued to be used for accumulation and storage of US Army goods and as a motor pool. The Revolution in China and the Korean War



contributed to the permanent placement of the base. In the 1950's, further land for the base was requisitioned from Isahama of Ginowan City with bayonets and bulldozers though the local residents opposed intensely.

Until Okinawa's reversion to Japan, the base boasted the high-level function of housing the top US Military Commander in Okinawa; US Army headquarters was the Office of the High Commissioner of the Ryukyu Islands .

With the reversion of Okinawa, Camp Zukeran and Camp Foster was integrated into present Camp Zukeran. This base continued to be the US Army headquarters until the reorganization of the bases in 1974; the function of the base was scaled down and renamed US Army Okinawa. In April 1975, the headquarters was moved to Makiminato depot (Camp Kinser).

Management of the base was changed over to the US Marine Corps. The 12th Marine Regiment was transferred from Camp Hague in July, and the headquarters of US Marine Corps was transferred from Camp McTureous to Okinawa in August. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was also transferred from Iwakuni Base in April 1976. This base presently continues to play a major role in the US Marine Corps in Japan.

Camp Zukeran can be divided into the following main areas. The first is the Butler area which houses the Marine Headquarters on Okinawa. The second is the Foster area which has weapons and maintenance facilities as well as barracks for its servicemen. Third is the Hagner area which is used by the 58th Signal Battalion. And finally, there is the Plaza area which is for military housing. The Butler area also functions as Marine Headquarters on Okinawa. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Headquarters and the Okinawa Area Office is located here. This camp, along with Camp Courtney plays a central role in the US Marine Corps policy.

The south gate of the base, the Lower Plaza district is located in Okinawa city. According to SACO final report which was compiled in

December 1966, this area was time lined to be returned by the end of 2007, but there has no specific schedule specified as of yet.

⑥ **Army Oil Storage Facility (size: 1.277km² , occupies 0.014km² of city I and; number of landowners 737)**

This facility extends over five municipalities: Okinawa City, Uruma City, Kadena Town, Chatan Town and Ginowan City. The US military built oil depots in Uruma, Kadena, Chatan and Naha from 1945 to 1952, and connected them by pipeline from 1952 to 1953.

There were two main pipelines. One based in Naha Naval Port, went north 27 kilometers to include Futenma and Kadena Air Base. The other based in Tengan Naval Port in Uruma City went south for 15 kilometers to Kadena Air Base.

A great portion of the north line in Okinawa City, Chatan Town and Kadena Town was returned in 1984, and by December 1990 the line between Urasoe and Ginowan was completely removed.

Pipelines are usually made from 2 to 4 pipes, and are used to transport jet engine fuel, diesel and other similar substances.

Presently, most of the south line has been moved on to either Kadena Air Base or The Ammunition Storage Facility and the only remaining line is the one used to fuel Futenma Airfield and Kadena Air Base.

In Okinawa City, the pipeline is located at two points: the area of Ikehara on Route 329 to the entrance of former Higashi Onna Ammunition Storage and on the southeast side of Kurashiki Dam.

The facility consists of pipelines, valve boxes and oil depots, and fire-fighting facilities, many of which were funded from the Omoiyari Yosan.

⑦ **The Shirakawa Training Area (currently used by Japan Self Defense Forces stationed in Naha) (size: 0.157km², occupies 0.119 km² of city land; number of landowners 27)**



This training area is made up of two parts: the management facility in the Shirakawa area of Okinawa City and the training area adjacent to the Takiyanbaru forest area. This facility was originally used by the US military. After the Okinawa reversion it was known as the Chibana site. Also, part of the facility was jointly used with the Japan Defense Forces until 1973 and 1977 when the joint use area was returned and became a Japanese Defense Force facility.

The facility is currently managed by the Japan Self Defense Army's 1st Composite Brigade and houses Hawk Missiles. The area is accessed through a road goes through the Kadena Ammunition Storage area which jointly used by both militaries.



Keep out sign at a military base

⑧ **Japan Ground Self Defense Forces training ground**
(size:0.576km²) (number of landowners:106)



This facility is located near the US military's Kadena Ammunition Storage Area and Taiyo Golf Club. Other facilities located nearby include the Prefecture's Kurashiki Dam, the Kurashiki Hygiene Facilities Union Waste Center and Okinawa Citizen's Farmland.

This training facility was formerly used by the US military but returned in November 2006. Since then, in accordance with the wishes of the landowners, it was decided that 58 hectares of this land would be used as firing range training facility for the Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces. Construction of the facility began in January of 2007 and was completed in September 2008. A small firearms evaluation system was put in place in December 2008, it was formally opened on January 13, 2009 and has been in used since January 15, 2009.

Nine tsubo for a bottle of Coca-Cola (tsubo is a unit of land measurement; 3.31m² or 3.95 square yards)

In April of 1953, the US military put Ordinance No. 109 into effect, this is the ordinance which stipulated procedures for compulsory acquisition of land to be used by the US military.

The land was taken from the locals by force; the land was literally robbed using bulldozers and bayonets. It was as if the Okinawan people had no human rights at all. When the (Melvin) Price Report was released it only reemphasized the need for requisition of land and lump sum payment. It served as further fuel to the already raging fire; the whole island was involved in the protest known as the Shimagurumi Toso.

Incidentally, the annual rent fee per tsubo at that time was 1.80 B-yen and the contract term was set for twenty years. A bottle of Coca-Cola was worth 10 B yen at that time, so approximately nine tsubo was worth a bottle of Coke. This example indicates the unjustifiable treatment of the local Okinawas.

The four principles of 'Shimaburumi Toso' were as follows:
1. Opposition to lump sum payment, 2.Demand of Proper Land Compensation, 3.Demand for Damage Compensation and, 4.Opposition to Further Requisition of Land.
(exchange rate at that time:1 dollar = 120 B yen)

City Ordinance No. 18

The Municipal Ordinance to declare Citizens Peace Day in Okinawa City

Came into effect as of April 1st 1993

(Purpose)

Article 1

The establishment of this ordinance is based on the consensus of our citizens who know that war is destruction; this was experienced firsthand at the sole land battle of Japan that was fought on this island and the subsequent separation from Japanese rule. We recognize and shall base city plans on the principles stated in The Constitution of Japan as well as The Declaration for the Abolishment of Nuclear Weapons and the Establishment of a World Peace City that all people have the right to live in peace and prosperity. Therefore we hereby establish Citizens' Peace Day in Okinawa City.

(Citizens' Peace Day)

Article 2

Citizens' Peace Day in Okinawa City shall be held on September 7th.

(Memorial projects)

Article 3

1 Okinawa City shall host memorial projects on Citizens' Peace Day.

2 Okinawa City may establish the Peace Month to promote the dignified ideals of peace

(Delegation)

Article 4

Matters necessary for the enforcement of this ordinance shall provided by the Mayor of Okinawa City.

Supplementary Provisions

This ordinance shall come into effect as of the date of promulgation.

City Regulation No.8 Regulations Concerning the Establishment of Peace Month

Came into effect as of April 1st 1993

(Purpose)

Article 1

Based on the terms set in Article 3 part 2 of City Ordinance No. 18

The Municipal Ordinance to declare Citizens Peace Day in Okinawa City our City hereby establishes Peace Month , the purpose of which is to promote the dignified ideals of peace.

(Peace Month)

Article 2

Peace Month shall be held from August 1st to September 7th every year.

(Projects during peace month)

Article 3

During the Peace Month, following events shall be held.

- (1) Projects that raise awareness about the ideals of peace stated in the Constitution of Japan
- (2) Projects that promote peace through education
- (3) Projects concerning peace through exchange.
- (4) Other projects deemed necessary by the Mayor.

Supplementary Provisions

This regulation shall come into effect as of the date of promulgation.

Aug 1st – Sep 7th Peace Month

Sep 7th Citizen Peace Day in Okinawa city

**Peace Message from you to the world
Let us each take action for peace.**

Date of publication February 2012

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