

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 12 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Asan Ridge Battle Area

AND/OR COMMON

Asan Ridge, Bundschuh Ridge and Chorrito Cliff

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Between Asan and Nimitz Hill

CITY, TOWN Asan

VICINITY OF
CODE 66NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Guam

STATE Guam

COUNTY N/A CODE 410

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Unused

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

(See Continuation Sheet)

NAME Jason Guam, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER Post Office Box 8013

CITY, TOWN Tamuning

VICINITY OF

STATE Guam 96911

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Department of Land Management

STREET & NUMBER Administration Building

CITY, TOWN Agana

STATE Guam 96910

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Guam Historic Survey

DATE 1974

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Department of Commerce, Post Office Box 682

CITY, TOWN Agana

STATE Guam 96910

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Asan Ridge Battle site is located immediately inland (S) of Asan Village and Bay between Asan and Adelup Points on the USGS Agana Quadrangle Map (1968). From NE to SW Chorrito Cliff Bundschuh Ridge, and Asan Ridge are the high ground which dominates the terrain above the Asan invasion beach. Chorrito Cliff, whose shoulder touches the sea near Adelup Point, is ca. 100 feet high. Bundschuh Ridge, a nose of rock jutting out just below Fonte Plateau, measures ca. 300 feet in height. Asan Ridge varies in height from 100 to 150 feet. Two branches of the Asan River, which empties into the sea near Asan Point, trisect the western area of the ridges. At the time of the battle, the flat areas leading up to the ridges were rice paddies. The lower slopes of the ridges were covered with kunai (?) grass, while the tops of the ridges were concealed by undergrowth and some coconut palms. Although the Japanese realized that the high ground overlooking the beach and the rice paddies created a natural defensive position, they nevertheless dug many caves on the slopes of the ridges. On the lower slopes of Asan Ridge they constructed coconut log bunkers--these have not yet been located or examined. Mortars and 40 mm guns were located on Fonte Plateau, a position which commanded the entire beachhead. Two concrete pillboxes, one incomplete, were located at the top of Chorrito Cliff. Nearby was a battery of 4 inch (?) guns which, owing to their being unfinished positions, did not take part in the battle.

The concrete pillboxes are the only remains of the battle so far located. The top of Chorrito Cliff shows evidence of heavy shelling. The ridges are now covered by almost impenetrable undergrowth.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE One

Manuel C. Cruz
H31 W. Abascourt
Liguan, Dededo, Guam 96912

Antonio C. Artero
Post Office Box 732
Agana, Guam 96910

Josefa L. Santos and Joaquin S. Santos
c/o Commissioner of Asan
Asan, Guam

Government of Guam
Agana, Guam 96910

National Park Service
Hawaii Group
677 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 512
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Item Number 9 Page One

Arthur, Robert A. and Kenneth Cohlma
n.d. The Third Marine Division. Infantry Journal Press, Washington, D.C.

n.d. Guam, Operations of the 77th Division (21 July-10 August, 1944), American
Forces in Action Series Historical Division, War Dept., Washington, D.C.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES July 21-26, 1944

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On July 21, 1944, the 3rd Marine Division landed and moved across the rice paddies at the base of the ridges. The Japanese 320th Independent Infantry Battalion, which held the ground between Adelup Point and Asan Point, poured down heavy defensive fire on the Marines who began to scale the ridges. The Chorrito Cliffs were taken by noon but Adelup Point did not fall until 1500. Bundschuh Ridge, which dominated the central high ground of the beachhead, was attacked but could not be taken because of heavy defensive fire. Here Marine Captain Geary Bundschuh lost his life leading an attack up the ridge on July 21. On July 22, Bundschuh Ridge was attacked again and the Japanese abandoned the position. A few Marines reached the top but were driven back by 90 mm mortar fire. On July 23rd, General Turnage, commander of the 3rd Marines, ordered the Marines to attack the ridge again. They met with resistance, and the terrain--gullies, ridges, and valleys--favored the enemy defense. The Japanese counterattacked, but it was broken up by Naval gunfire. Bundschuh Ridge was taken without resistance on July 25th. By July 26th the ridges had been secured and Gen. Turnage ordered his troops to take Fonte Plateau. That attack began the next day.

American efforts to take Chorrito Cliffs, Bundschuh Ridge, and Asan Ridge involved some of the most vicious fighting of the entire campaign to liberate Guam. This area was the most important Japanese defensive position on the beachhead. When it fell and Fonte Plateau with it, effective Japanese resistance collapsed.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crowl, Philip A.

1960 Campaign in the Marianas. Office, Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C.

Lodge, Major O.R.

1954 The Recapture of Guam. Historical Branch, G-3 Division, Headquarters, U.S.M.C.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 550 acres

UTM OK
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A	5,5	25,351,0	1,419,110,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
c	5,5	25,148,0	1,418,910,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	5,5	25,394,0	1,419,021,9
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	5,5	25,166,0	1,419,010,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

30

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE David T. Lotz, Planner

ORGANIZATION Parks and Recreation Resources Division

DATE April 25, 1975

STREET & NUMBER Department of Commerce, Post Office Box 682

TELEPHONE 646-1279

CITY OR TOWN Agana

STATE Guam 96910

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer Signature

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Chief, Parks and Recreation Resource Division

DATE MAY 02 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7/18/75

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE JUL 14 1975