

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 13 1975  
DATE ENTERED JUN 10 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Mataguac Hill Command Post

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 3,000 Feet West of Route I

CITY, TOWN

Yigo

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Guam

STATE

Guam

VICINITY OF

CODE 66

COUNTY N/A

CODE 1000

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 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**

NAME South Pacific Memorial Association Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

C/O Mon. Oscar L. Calvo Post Office Box 518

CITY, TOWN

Agana

VICINITY OF

STATE

Guam 96910

**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		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mataguac Hill Command Post is located on the NE part of the island in the Yigo Municipality some 50 m E of the Japanese War Memorial on USGS Ritidian Point Quadrangle Map (1968). It may be reached by driving 700 m N of the junction of Highway 1 and the Yigo-Gayinero Road. On the W side of Highway 1 at this point is a road leading to the Japanese War Memorial.

The Japanese Command Post consists of two concrete bunkers which were constructed sometime in the spring of 1944 in a hollow 30 m long and 10 m deep at the base of Mataguac Hill. It may be surmised that among the reasons that the Japanese chose this site was the presence of fresh water and the thick bamboo groves, which shielded the area from American air reconnaissance and air attack. The northernmost bunker is 12.4 m long, 5.8 m wide and ca. 2.5 m high. The north end of this bunker may have been the entrance and is now filled with rubble and debris. The concrete used in the construction of the bunker is ca. 15 cm thick. The second bunker, located ca. 10 m S of the other, has an L shape. The large leg of the L is the main portion of the bunker and measures 15 m long, 4 m wide, and ca. 4 m high. The smaller leg of the L, which was the main entrance, faces directly eastward into the gully and measures 4 m long, 2 m wide, and ca. 4 m high (?). The entrance is nearly closed by dirt rubble, and debris. Inside the bunker at the S end is a square opening in the concrete wall ca. 3 m from the floor, this opening is the entrance to a small tunnel leading eastward which is now completely blocked by earth. The floors of the bunkers are pounded earth and the bunkers contain many large rocks. The second bunker contains two empty metal barrels, the origin of which is unknown. No remains of the battle exist today.

In the gully itself are the remains of ca. 10-15 hardened bags of cement. Their origin is unknown. At Mataguac Spring itself are two square concrete structures erected to retain the waters of the spring. Above them ca. 10 m is a large concrete reservoir, which once had a large water tank above it. All of these structures were built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sometime after WWII. They have since been abandoned.

# 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 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 August 11, 1944

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lt. Gen. Hideyoshi Obata, commander of the 31st Army and Marianas Area commander, was returning from an inspection tour of the Palau Islands when he was trapped on Guam by the American invasion of Saipan. The General had intended to lead the defense of Saipan himself. On Guam he left responsibility for the island's defense in the hands of Lt. Gen. Takeshi Takeshina, commander of the 29th Division, while he supervised the defense of the Marianas area. After the death of Gen. Takeshina on July 28th, Gen. Obata assumed command of the scattered Japanese forces. It is unknown precisely when he and his staff moved into the command bunkers on Mataguac Hill. Civilians reported the existence of the command post to the advancing Americans. Several attempts to check the area drew heavy fire from concealed ambushes. On August 11th the 306th Regiment, 77th Infantry Division, attacked with supporting tanks and a mortar barrage. The Americans advanced into the hollow and attacked the bunkers. Throwing white phosphorus grenades and using pole charges and more than 400 blocks of TNT, they blew up the front of the caverns, closing them. Three days later engineers reopened the caves and found the bodies of 60 Japanese including that of General Obata.

This command post marks the last organized resistance by the Japanese to the American liberation of Guam during World War II and therefore is considered a highlight of the invasion of Guam.

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crowl, Philip A. Campaign in the Marianas. The United States Army in WWII; The War in the Pacific. Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C. 1968.  
Lodge, Major O.R. The Recapture of Guam Historical Branch, G-3 Division, Headquarters, USMC; 1954.

### 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 5 Acres *NFM OK*

UTM REFERENCES

A | 5, 5 | 2 7 0 8 0, 0 | 1, 4 9, 8 2 3, 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | |  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | |  
D | | | | | | | | | | | |  
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

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      STATE X 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  
*[Handwritten Signature]*  
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Chief, Parks and Recreation Resources Division

DATE MAY 02 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 6/10/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST *[Handwritten Signature]*

DATE JUN 9 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER