



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

JAPANESE DEFENSE FORTIFICATIONS ON GUAM

B. Associated Historic Contexts

JAPANESE WORLD WAR II DEFENSIVE FORTIFICATIONS ON GUAM, 1941-1944

C. Geographical Data

The territory of Guam.

Known sites are indicated as dots on the USGS quadrangle maps submitted with the nomination forms.

___ See continuation sheet

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

D. C. [Signature]
Signature of certifying official

1/17/91
Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

3-4-91
Date

E. Statement of Historic Contexts

Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

The nomination of Japanese Defense Fortifications on Guam includes concrete bunkers and pillboxes, gun emplacements, firing positions, and artificial caves. These features are generally located along the coastline of Guam. Excluded from the nomination are the Japanese fortifications located within the boundaries of the War in the Pacific National Park and the Department of the Navy. Asan and Agat, the two beaches on the west coast where the U.S. forces landed during the capture of Guam, are within the park boundaries. Numerous fortifications related to World War II have been indentified within the Park (Thompson, 1977). These properties are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. National Park Service. The former Japanese airfield located on Orote Peninsula is presently under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy, which is responsible for the indentification and preservation of resources located within its boundaries. The Japanese fortifications located outside these two jurisdictions are the focus of this nomination. However, two Japanese fortifications located within the project area were excluded from the current nomination because they were previously placed on the National Register of Historic Places. One site is the two-gun 20cm short barrel battery located on Dungca's Beach on the east side of Agana Bay, which was placed on the Register in 1976. The other is General Obata's Matugan Hill Command Post which was placed on the Register in 1975. National Register nomination forms were prepared for each of the Japanese coastal fortifications which were previously identified in the project area by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Government of Guam. Reconnaissance surveys to locate additional features within the project area were conducted. While this nomination includes the majority of the existing fortifications, the possibility remains that a number of sites are yet to be indentified.

During the more than 40 years since World War II, many of the coastal fortifications which survived the war were subsequently removed. For example, barriers and obstacles were extracted from the reefs around the island by U.S. military clean-up crews soon after they arrived in 1944. Tank traps and trenches on the beaches have been filled in. Positions constructed of coconut logs decayed over time leaving little or no evidence of their existence and recent attempts by Denfield (1981:6) to locate traces were unsuccessful. Of the fortifications that survived the war in the project area, only those built of stone and concrete are visible today. The condition of these fortifications is somewhat variable. While the majority of fortifications included in this nomination were not directly involved in the battles associated with the recapture of Guam by U.S. forces in 1944, some show evidence of being bombed or shelled. Others, especially those located along Tumon Bay, have been affected by post-war development. Damaged by construction activities, they are only partially intact. High waves, associated with storms, have caused damage to fortifications located near the high tide line. But, despite the ravages of time, development, and the weather, a considerable number of the fortifications remain intact. These are located on the beaches, behind the beaches, in the rocky headlands near the shoreline, and in the upland cliffs and ridges behind bays and beaches.

The fortifications were built during the Japanese occupation of Guam, a period of time extending from December 1941 to July 1944. Shortly after the news of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor reached Guam on the morning of December 8, 1941, planes based on Japanese-held Saipan, located 209km north of Guam, bombed Orote Peninsula and Apra Harbor. The next day, Japanese naval vessels appeared offshore.

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On the morning of December 10, an invasion force of about 5000 Japanese Army and Navy soldiers landed and captured Guam in the name of the Japanese Empire. With the acquisition of American-held Guam, Japan gained control of the entire Marianas Islands and extended the perimeter of the Japanese Empire east to the Marshalls, thereby strengthening its position in the Pacific Ocean.

Due to the provisions of an agreement which restricted military fortification of the islands of the Western Pacific, signed in 1922 by Japan and the United States, Guam possessed no strong defensive fortifications at the time of its capture by the Japanese (JICPOA 1944:19). There was no air strip, no big guns, and few supplies when the Japanese arrived in December 1941. By the end of January 1942, all Americans on the island, except for a few stragglers who hid in the jungle, were taken to Japan as prisoners of war. In the early part of 1942, the Japanese Army garrison was transferred from Guam to other bases in the Pacific, leaving the naval force, estimated to range from 400 to 700 men, on Guam (Carano and Sanchez, 1964:279).

From 1942 to the early part of 1944, the residents of Guam were largely self-sufficient, living and working on their ranches. However, each village supplied a labor force of able-bodied males to work on the construction of airfields and other defense projects. Much of the work was accomplished with hand tools (Owings 1981). Local informants recall that caves and trenches were excavated with shovels and picks. Furthermore, coral rocks to mix with the concrete used to build pillboxes were broken into small pieces with a hammer. From oral history, the Japanese utilized the Chamorro men to build the airfields located at Halaguak, Orote and Machanao. The first airfield was built in 1943, largely by hand, on Orote Peninsula.

Apparently, fortification of the island escalated in the early part of 1944 as Japan's position in World War II deteriorated. After the loss of the Gilberts and the Marshalls, the Japanese concentrated on strengthening the defense of the Marianas and Palau. Japan's strength in the Marianas centered on Saipan and Tinian (JICPOA 1944:1). Tinian was utilized as an airbase while Saipan was designed as an army base. Although Guam was not a major Japanese base, the number of military personnel stationed on the island increased beginning in March 1944. The 29th Division, commanded by Lt. General Takeshi Takashina, IJA, arrived. In addition, a military support group responsible for agriculture was assigned to Guam. Headquarters for this unit was established at Tai (Carano and Sanchez, 1964:287). As the number of military personnel assigned to Guam increased, it became more and more difficult to feed and equip them. This was due, in part, to the fact that Japanese ships carrying provisions and supplies to the Marianas were frequently attacked at sea and either disabled or sunk (Hoyt, 1980:117). With few goods and materials coming in, the residents of Guam were forced to provide food for the Japanese soldiers. This often meant that Guamanians went hungry. Not only did

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the Chamorro people suffer from a lack of food at this time, but they were also required to work for the Japanese (Carano and Sanchez, 1964). For example, all Guamanian females over the age of 12 were forced to participate in activities related to food production. All able-bodied Guamanian males from 12 to 60 years of age were required to work on defense projects such as constructing fortifications, digging caves or trenches and constructing and repairing the airfields which were being bombed by U.S. aircraft.

In June 1944, Japanese troops were stationed throughout Guam. The 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry was assigned to the northern part of Guam near the present Anderson Air Force Base. The 48th Independent Mixed Brigade and part of the 29th Division covered the area between Agana Bay on the west coast and Pago Bay on the east coast. The 54th Independent Guard Unit was located at Orote Peninsula. The 38th Infantry, except for the 5th Company which was on Cabras Island, was assigned to Agat. The 20th Independent Mixed Regiment spread out from Umatac on the southwest side of the island around the southern end to Yona on the southeast side of the island (Carano and Sanchez, 1964:295).

The Japanese defensive strategy had two objectives, to protect the airfields and to destroy the enemy at the beach (Takeda, 1946:2). Therefore, fortifications were built along the coastline and near the airfields. Crowl (1960:369) states that some 250 pillboxes and gun emplacements were built to protect Orote airfield. Not certain where an attack on Guam would be directed, fortifications were built along the coastline particularly at the entrances to bays along the east coast and on the beaches of the west coast. The best landing beaches were the most heavily fortified (Crowl, 1960:327). Included among these were Tumon, Agana, Asan, and Agat Bays. Crowl (1960:325) reports that about 25 pillboxes were located along the beach at Agat. Numbers of fortifications along the other beaches are lacking.

The fortifications along the coastline were laid out in four parallel lines (Denfield 1981, Apple 1980, Crowl 1960:332-335) beginning at the reef where obstacles were placed. The second line was located on the beach, the third line was situated further inland, and the fourth line of defense was planned so that enemy troops could be fired upon wherever they moved (Hoyt 1980:262). American aerial photographs taken prior to the recapture of Guam indicated 512 artillery emplacements, 36 anti-aircraft positions, and 141 machine gun and mortar posts (Hoyt 1980:257).

In addition to mines, obstacles placed on the reef, or on the first line of defense, included coral-filled palm log cribs and wire cages filled with coral. Obstacles on the beaches consisted of trenches, tank traps, coconut log barriers and wire. A typical tank trap was approximately two meters deep and as much as six meters wide with a parapet on the landward side (Denfield 1981:6).

The third line of defense, consisted of machine gun positions, pillboxes, heavy

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weapons, artillery and coastal defense guns generally located at the landward edge of the beach. Pillboxes, averaging about 9m square and 1.50m high were constructed of palm logs, sand bags, reinforced concrete, or earth and coral rocks. Log pillboxes had firing slits cut into the logs. Sand was frequently used to cover the roof (Denfield 1981:17). The pillboxes, which housed machine guns, were often connected by trenches with firing positions. Pillboxes were situated where they could provide enfilading fire against the enemy lines (Denfield 1981:7). They were mainly meant to cover the reef and beach, consequently, these structures were vulnerable from a landward approach (Denfield 1981:18). Natural features, such as caves, were also used for gun emplacements. Walls constructed across the cave entrance, protected the gun (Denfield 1981:7). Large caliber guns and field pieces such as the 37mm and 47mm anti-tank guns and the 75mm pack gun were located in these sheltered positions which were often situated near the shoreline so that they could destroy landing craft.

The fourth line, which was the secondary line of defense, consisted of longer range weapons and artillery placed on high ground (Crowl 1960:334). Anti-aircraft guns were in open emplacements often dug in with revements of concrete or earth and coral-filled 55-gallon drums. Coastal defanse guns ranging in size from 75mm to 200m were located on higher ground behind the beaches (Denfield 1981:7). Caves in the headlands or cliffs behind the beaches were used as observation posts, command posts, workshops, communication centers, storerooms and air raid shelters (Denfield 1981, Shaw et al 1966). Many of the positions were camouflaged with local vegetation and materials. Furthermore, the actual positions were supplemented by mock positions which included "dummy guns" (Owings 1981).

The American plan to recapture Guam involved simultaneous landings at two points on the west side of the island. The 3rd Marine Division was scheduled to land at Asan and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade followed by the third corps artillery was to land at Agat. After landing, the troops were to advance inland and converge on Orote Peninsula (Carano and Sanchez 1964:297). Prior to the invasion, American planes and ships bombarded the coastlines of Agat and Asan. The Japanese, figuring that the invasion would occur on these two beaches relocated their troops. Colonel Tsunetaro Suenaga, from his headquarters located on the slopes of Mt. Alifan, was responsible for the defense of Agat, and Major General Togashi Shigematsu, from his command post on Fonte Plateau, was responsible for the defense of Asan and Cabras Island (Apple 1980:42). Soldiers assigned to other parts of the island were moved into these two areas. apparently the Japanese made a final effort to further fortify the beaches of Asna and Agat by placing additional obstacles on the reef and beaches. Just prior to landing, American demolition teams removed 640 obstacles from the reef at Agat andf 300 obstacles from the reef at Asan. The Japanese also placed mines in the town of Sumay which was located near Orote airfield and Apra Harbor (Carano and Sanchez 1964:303).

The pre-invasion bombarding destroyed all of the Japanese planes on the ground. Although some of the coastline defenses were destroyed as well, many remained

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operative. When the American soldiers landed on July 21, 1944, they encountered a force of 18,500 Japanese soldiers. Fierce fighting ensued and it was eight days before Orote Peninsula was captured. Fighting continued until August 10, the day the island was finally declared secured. As the Americans gained the beaches and moved inland, the Japanese withdrew to the northern end of the island. With the death of General Takashina, General Obata assumed command and set up his headquarters in the northern part of the island at Mt. Mataguac where he was killed. Defeated in the Marianas, the Japanese were forced to fight nearly on their doorstep, in the Philippines, Okinawa and Formosa (Hoyt 1980:278). Guam became the base for the U.S. Pacific Fleet and the forward headquarters for the Pacific Ocean Command (Crowl 1960:443).

F. Associated Property Types

I. Name of Property Type JAPANESE DEFENSE FORTIFICATIONS ON GUAM

II. Description

These fortifications erected by the Japanese during the occupation of Guam from December 1941 to July 1944, consist mainly of four basic types. The most common type is the free standing pillbox. There are 12 of these structures and no two had exactly the same configuration. The next most common type of fortification is the pillbox built into the limestone cliff. Conforming to the environment, these also varied in size and shape. Another type utilized the natural rock shelters and niches in the cliffs near the shoreline. Simple rock walls with gun ports were built across the opening. A fourth type of fortification is the artificially excavated cave. Weather and heavy development both pose threats to the preservation of these structures.

III. Significance

The Japanese Defense Fortifications on Guam meet three criteria of significance for nomination, these are: 1) sites that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, 2) sites that embody a distinctive characteristic of a type, period or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic value, and 3) sites that have yielded or are likely to yield important information to history and prehistory.

These sites are important within the historical context of World War II. They serve as reminders to the combatants of both sides of their struggles and sacrifices made during the battle for Guam. The Marianas Islands were practically on the doorstep of Japan, accordingly, this campaign played a pivotal role in the outcome of the war. Perhaps of special significance is the association of these fortifications with the Guamanian people. While they were not considered U.S. citizens, they were nationals of this country, and as such they were among the few U.S. nationals forced to work directly under the direction of the enemy. In the construction of these fortifications, the Guamanian people were forced to build the defenses designed to repel their liberators.

Although not all of the World War II defensive fortifications included in this nomination were directly involved in the battle, as a group, they represent a model of the overall defensive system designed and implemented by the Japanese on Guam. They are among the dwindling number of features built by the Japanese to defend Guam during the occupation period of 1941 to 1944. They are representative of the Japanese defensive doctrine at that time, a doctrine that changed before the battle of Iwo Jima. Furthermore, these fortifications demonstrate the Japanese attempt to create defensive fortifications in the face of severe shortages of construction materials and machinery. Other Japanese-held islands of that time period share similar defensive fortifications as those mentioned in this nomination.

Much important information has been provided by the study of these fortifications. They have yielded insight concerning the strategies employed by the Japanese in the defense of Guam. Accordingly, these sites can be compared to fortifications on other islands to examine how this doctrine changed in the face of the constant advance of American forces. And as mentioned before, they are excellent examples of the practical application of Japanese defensive strategy because of inadequate supplies. These sites can also provide information as to the possible location of other sites by examining their fields of fire and applying that information in the search for hidden or destroyed fortifications.

IV. Registration Requirements

In order to qualify for listing, the fortifications must have been constructed by the Japanese occupation force to perform the task of defending Guam from the U.S. invasion force. The following properties should all possess integrity in location, design, setting, and materials.

The properties are eligible under Criterion A in the role they played in the defense of Guam, and the role that the Marianas Campaign played during world War II. They meet Criterion C by the fact that their styles show a definite trend in the manner in which the Japanese constructed these fortifications, not only on Guam but throughout the Pacific. These fortifications meet Criterion D in the information these structures have provided about Japanese defenses during World War II, and because of the possibility of them yielding even more information.

__See continuation sheet

__ See continuation sheet for additional property types

G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing

The multiple property listing for Japanese defense fortifications on the territory of Guam is based on the study and survey of the sites begun by Susan J. Sajnovsky in 1975 and completed by Darlene Moore in 1986. Historic contexts were derived from the guidelines set forth by the Guam Historic Preservation Office completed in 1989. The properties that were deemed significant and included in this listing, are all known defensive fortifications that were built by the Japanese. This however, does not include those sites that rest on properties of the War in the Pacific National Park and the Department of Defense.

___ See continuation sheet

H. Major Bibliographical References

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x See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify Repository: _____

I. Form Prepared By

name/title Antonio E. Martinez, Jr./ Archeological Technician I

organization Guam Historic Preservation Office

date November 13, 1990

street & number 490 Chalan Palasyo

telephone (671) 477-9620

city or town Agana Heights

state GU zip code 96910

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