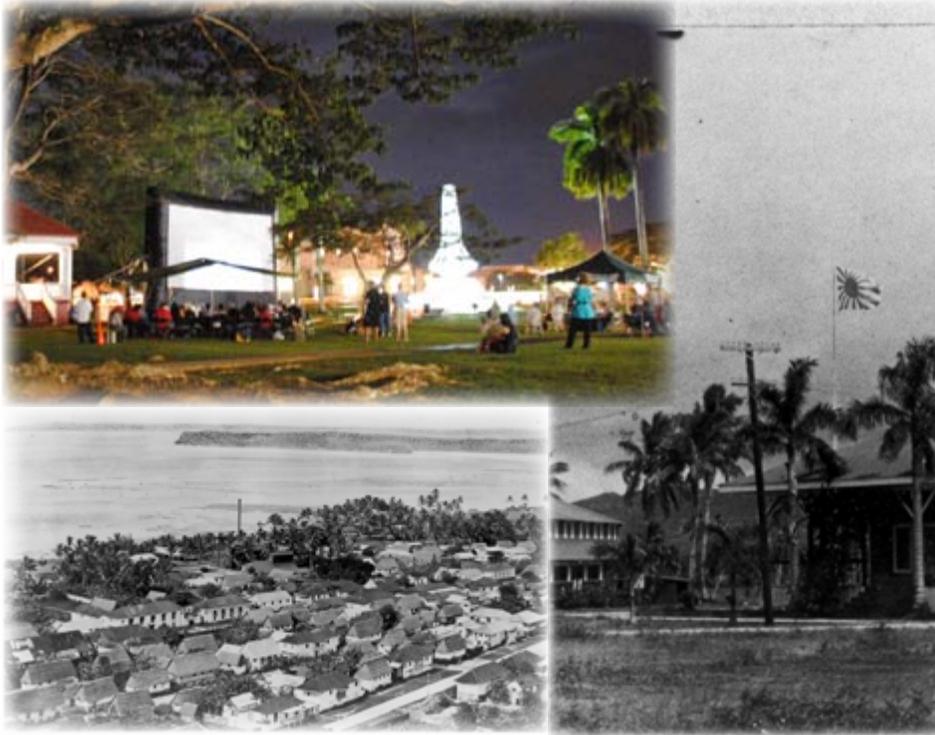




# Typhoon of War

## 70th Anniversary of the Japanese Invasion of Guam



Pictured clockwise from top left: Anniversary program on December 10, 2011; U.S. Marine barracks in Sumay under Japanese occupation; Pre-war Agaña.

For the people of Guam, December 8 is celebrated as Our Lady of Camarin Day and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, yet the date holds another significant meaning. On December 8, 1941, Japanese bombs shattered not only the tranquil holiday but peace itself. The War in the Pacific had begun.

A few days later, in the pre-dawn hours of December 10, hundreds of Japanese troops waded across the reef in Agaña Bay at Duncas Beach. Once ashore, they turned south towards Agaña. Waiting for them were members of the Guam Insular Force Guard. Poorly equipped and trained, the Guardsmen set up positions around the Plaza de España and prepared for battle. A brief

fire fight erupted as Japanese troops reached the Plaza. Seeing all hope was lost, U.S. Navy Captain George McMillin, Governor of Guam, ordered a cease fire. By 6:30 a.m. Guam belonged to Japan.

Seventy years later, the National Park Service held a special program to honor and remember the people who experienced the Japanese invasion of Guam. The program was held on Saturday, December 10, at the historic Plaza de España in Hagåtña and was presented in partnership with the 31st Guam Legislature, the Guam Museum, Guam Museum Foundation, Guam Preservation Trust, Pacific Historic Parks, and I Hila' (Guam Storytellers).

The program featured never before seen color movies of pre-war Guam presented on a giant screen, photo displays, and a memorial to those who lost their lives. The 30-minute film "Liberating Guam" was also screened, but the highlight of the event was oral testimony from two war survivors: Mrs. Francisca Quintanilla Franquez of Toto and Mrs. Virginia Untalan Hughes Potrusach of Agaña Heights.

Born September 30, 1920 in Agaña, Mrs. Franquez was twenty-one years old in 1941. During her interview, she recalled after the invasion, Japanese officials recruited her to continue working as an elementary school teacher. After agreeing to teach, Mrs. Franquez had to learn Japanese. Mrs. Potrusach was born November 3, 1923 in Agaña. Her father, William Rufus Hughes, came to Guam before World War II as a member of the United States Marine Corps. Mrs. Potrusach explained how her father was injured in the attack, captured, and then taken to Japan as a prisoner of war.

Finally, the program remembered the thirty people who were killed on Guam during the invasion, as well as the twelve Chamorro sailors who died during the Pearl Harbor attack, and the ten Chamorro men who lost their lives during the invasion of Wake Island.

War in the Pacific National Historical Park was created to honor the people who experienced the Pacific War. We invite you to join us for our programs and events in 2012 as we continue to honor the people of World War II.

## A Message from the Superintendent:

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe 2012 is upon us, but as a park that remembers history, we come to grips with the fleeting nature of time. 2012 promises to be an exciting year for War in the Pacific National Historical Park, and we hope you will be involved in many ways.

Most prevalent in my mind is the installation of new exhibits in our visitor center. The park has been planning a powerful museum experience for the public to better understand Guam's history and environment. After the installation is complete this summer, visitors will find the exhibits well worth the wait.

Unfortunately, many people are unable to visit Guam and experience the park or the visitor center. This year, we also plan the release of new methods of communication to reach thousands more with our compelling stories and resources. In the coming months, watch as we roll-out social media channels, updates to our website, and a park produced cell phone audio tour.

As always, we will continue to strengthen our existing programs. Did you know you can meet a park ranger each Saturday and Sunday for a talk or tour? These interpretive programs are well researched and very popular. I'm pleased to announce that we will also feature our crowd-pleasing Junior Ranger Academy and Reef Ranger camp this spring break and summer.

So have you made any resolutions yet? You can count on your park to make the best of this new year and deliver amazing opportunities for you to connect to Guam's past.

Sinceramente,

Barbara Alberti  
Superintendent

## March is Chamorro Month



Above: Chamorro cultural dancers perform at Asan Beach.

The first settlers on Guam sailed to the island about 3,000-4,000 years ago. During the early stages of human habitation here, a unique culture evolved known for efficiency in trading, reliance on nature, and loyalty to family. Guam today is a changing and dynamic place, but throughout the progression of each year, islanders dedicate one month to remember their roots. Thus, March has become known as "Chamorro Month" and is dedicated to sharing the history, traditions, and culture that progressed on the island over the millennia.

All over Guam, villages, government organizations, groups, and individuals will provide demonstrations, festivals, performances, and other special

## Volunteers needed for River Survey

Last year volunteers donated time to help National Park Service biologists perform the annual surveys of the Asan River. This year more volunteers are needed for the survey which is scheduled to begin this spring. If you want to learn about Guam's river ecosystems and you like to get down and dirty, this volunteer opportunity is for you!

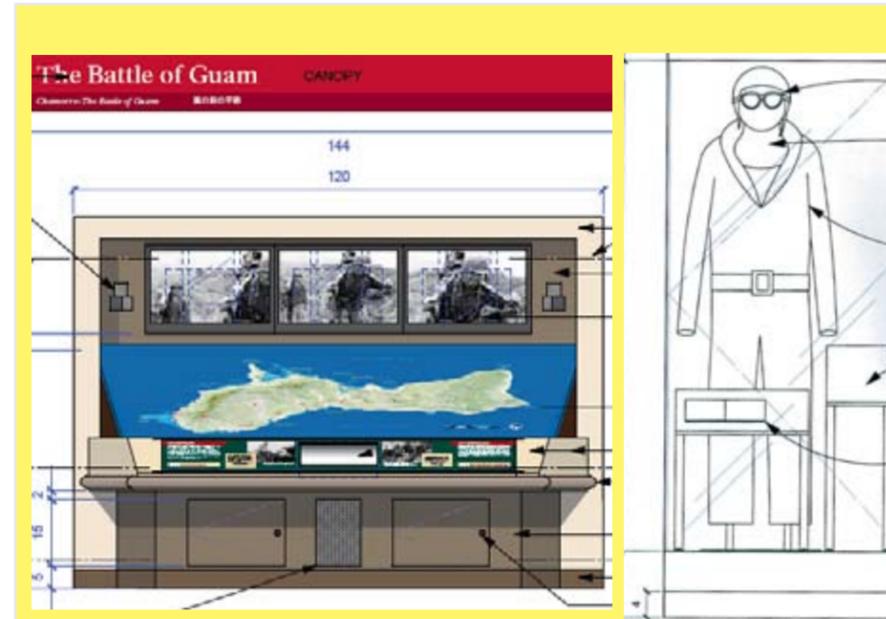
Volunteers will learn firsthand about Guam's river ecosystems. The Asan River winds down from the headwaters

entertainment to explore the heritage of our proud island. The National Park Service also takes pride in recognizing and celebrating the Chamorro culture of Guam. You can get involved, too!

As we've done in the past, the park will host a special "Movie in the Park" at Asan Beach. This presentation will bring alive the songs, sounds, and traditions of the Chamorros, pairing a vibrant film with a compelling traditional live dance performance. Please watch our news updates for details. Even if you aren't able to come to many park events in March we wish you a warm, inspiring "Chamorro Month" and an extra dosage of the "Hafa Adai" spirit.

in the Nimitz Hill area near Mama Sandy Road, cascades over waterfalls and cuts through grasslands and a bamboo forest before it reaches the Asan village. There, the river crosses under two bridges and cuts through the shoreline at Asan Beach. The river is home to many native fish, eels, snails, and crustaceans. Volunteers will hike with park biologists through the Asan uplands and Asan River, surveying fish, shrimp and snails and measuring water quality and river flow.

(Continued on page 3)



Above: A conceptual illustration and artifact display schematic of the future exhibits.

## Under Construction: New museum exhibits update

War in the Pacific National Historical Park is working hard to bring you amazing new exhibits at the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center. Featuring state of the art technology including video and laser map programs, interactive digital media stations, and gripping personal stories from war survivors, the new exhibits are scheduled to open in late summer 2012. To prepare for this exciting installation, temporary closures are required to complete facility upgrades. An expansion of the electrical system was completed in December and additional closures are planned during January, February and June. We thank you for your patience as we move toward bringing you the best visitor center in the Pacific.

### River Survey (continued from page 2)

This is an all-day affair, lasting five or six days a week for about three weeks, so there will be many opportunities to help. No experience is necessary, but volunteers must be in good physical condition, capable of hiking and carrying a pack through rough and slippery terrain. Volunteers should also be willing to learn hands-on and get wet and dirty. Interested individuals or groups of ten or fewer can choose which day or days they wish to participate but should confirm in advance. For more information, or to sign up, please contact park Biological Technician Amanda deVillers at 477-7278, extension 1013.



Above: Volunteers helped conduct the Asan River survey in 2011.

## Ranger Review

### So Sad to Fall in Battle

By Dan Brown

The vicious fighting on Iwo Jima, 67 years ago this February, cannot be forgotten. It is harsh reality. But the curious, often enigmatic General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, who defended the island until the very end, has remained elusive for World War II historians and students. As Kumiko Kakehashi presents in her book *So Sad to Fall in Battle*, he attained a legendary status for his courage and exacting detail, both highly respected Japanese traits.

Now, the mysterious general is revealed on a much more personal level, that of a sensitive husband and father who, despite being caught squarely in the war's most gripping, pivotal moments, never forgot the struggles his loved ones faced at home. It's hard having someone away at war.

To provide the rarely-seen Japanese perspective, *So Sad to Fall in Battle* draws on dozens of primary sources – personal letters and sketches Kuribayashi sent to his family, and military communiqués. Kakehashi also uses several interviews with veterans who served under the general to chronicle the tense months on Iwo Jima. She notes that the lessons he learned while studying in the United States in the 1920s proved invaluable as he radically altered the way Japan fought the war.

Can one truly reconcile one's life as a soldier with one's life as a father? Where should the greater devotion lie in Imperial Japan – to the battle or to the family? Kakehashi argues that Kuribayashi chose both. At the very least, he became a warrior cemented in time as a worthy opponent, who still commands respect from all who study the battle of Iwo Jima. And for those just beginning, this book is an excellent place to start. *So Sad to Fall in Battle* is available for \$14.95 from the Pacific Historic Parks bookstore at the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center.

# Mark Your Calendar - Don't Miss These Park Events!

## Junior Ranger Academy

Are you looking for something to do during spring break? Sign up for Junior Ranger Academy this April! It is a fun and exciting series of educational programs for 7th and 8th graders.

Junior Ranger Academy will begin on Monday, April 2 and continue daily through Friday, April 6. Programs begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon. Registration is required and space is limited, so sign up today!

For more information or to sign up, contact Pacific Historic Parks Education Specialist Jaclyn Zapanta at 477-7278, extension 1015.

### War in the Pacific National Historical Park

was established by Congress in 1978 "to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those participating in the campaigns of the Pacific Theater of World War II and to conserve and interpret outstanding natural, scenic, and historic values and objects on the island of Guam for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations..."

#### Superintendent

Barbara Alberti

#### Chief of Interpretation

Rose San Nicolas Manibusan

#### Contributors:

Dan Brown  
Amanda deVillers  
Ben Hayes

#### Comments? Write to:

War in the Pacific National Historical Park  
Attention: Newsletter  
135 Murray Blvd, Suite 100  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

#### Phone: 671-333-4050

Email: [wapa\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:wapa_interpretation@nps.gov)

Website: [www.nps.gov/wapa](http://www.nps.gov/wapa)

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

• **Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. – Discover the amazing resources and stories of your park with a ranger at an interpretive program. For more details, call 333-4050.**

• **January 21 – Outdoor Curator's Corner** at Asan Beach, 2 p.m.

We've all heard the terms climate change, global warming, sea level rise, and ocean acidification, but what does all that really mean? Come listen and watch as National Park Service biologist Amanda deVillers demonstrates some of the science behind climate change with experiments you could do in your own home. Amanda will also discuss the effects of these changes on the ocean and coral reefs. Meet at the Asan Beach restrooms. (One hour)

• **January 28 – Movie in the Park** at Asan Beach, 6 p.m.

Back by popular demand, join us for an outdoor screening of the classic "No Man is an Island," which dramatically portrays the suspenseful struggle of U.S. Navy Radioman George Tweed. Hidden and protected with the aid of several Chamorro families, Tweed miraculously avoided capture during the Japanese occupation. (Two hours)

• **February 18 – Outdoor Curator's Corner** at Asan Bay Overlook, 9 a.m.

Meet at the Asan Bay Overlook and we'll caravan to a hiking trail that leads to Mount Tenjo. Don't miss this opportunity to explore this rarely visited area with the park's cultural resources manager! Please be advised: this is an arduous hike over difficult terrain. Hikers will get dirty and possibly muddy and wet. Please bring water, a snack, gloves, sunscreen, and wear sturdy shoes, pants, a hat, and a long-sleeved shirt. (Three hours)

• **February 19 – Movie in the Park** at Asan Beach, 6 p.m.

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which led to the internment of 110,000 Japanese Americans. Join us for the movie "Snow Falling on Cedars," a murder mystery in which World War II prejudices against Japanese Americans plays a central role. The film is rated PG-13. (Two hours)

• **March 17 – "Hafa Adai" Celebration** at Asan Beach, 6 p.m.

Join us for a special Chamorro Month program and movie. (90 minutes)

• **March 24 – Curator's Corner** at the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center, 1 p.m.

Join our museum curator for a presentation on the Battle for Iwo Jima. This year marks the 67th anniversary of the American invasion of Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest battles of World War II. Visitors will learn about key points of the battle, how Guam played a crucial part in the lead-up to the invasion, and view related artifacts from the park's collection. (Two hours)

• **April 2 - 6 - Junior Ranger Academy**

7th and 8th graders, here is your chance to gain a deeper appreciation for the National Park Service and Guam's own National Park. Through a series of activities and programs all week long, you'll discover why history and science matter to your generation, make new friends, and earn an official Junior Ranger badge.

**Pictured behind text: Mount Alifan in Agat.**