

WAR IN THE PACIFIC

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NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
GUAM

REVISION OF
1967 PROPOSAL

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Prepared by
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
September 1977

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INTRODUCTION

The proposal for a War in the Pacific National Historical Park, as described in this document, attempts to identify those most important sites on the Island of Guam that should be preserved and interpreted in a manner that will adequately portray the background of World War II in the Pacific and the complex military engagements that occurred in that huge geographical area. The document also describes lands needed for the proposed park, general interpretive concepts, land management principles, and developments deemed necessary to serve interpretive use and historic preservation programs.

Studies by the Federal Government on Guam's historic and recreation resources began in 1952 when the National Park Service was asked by the Office of Territories to assist them in making archeological and recreational studies. The result of this effort was primarily an inventory of resources related to prehistoric people and the period of Spanish influence and a special report on park and recreation areas.

In June 1965, a National Park Service study team visited the island at the request of Governor Manuel F.L. Guerrero and the Office of Territories to determine whether there were sites of National significance on Guam. The resulting report identified two areas as potential units in the National Park System: a Philippine Sea National Seashore and a War in the Pacific National Historical

Park. The purpose of the latter would be to interpret World War II in the Pacific, with special emphasis on the battle for Guam.

The 1965 report was favorably received by the reviewing governmental bodies; and as a result, a master plan study team was sent to Guam in early 1967 to conduct field investigations and prepare detailed proposals for consideration by Congress.

Interest in the proposal for a War in the Pacific National Historical Park has continued, but some concern has been expressed over various aspects of the park proposal in view of rising land costs and recent rapid development of the island. In addition, the government of Guam, in response to this rapid development, is embarking on a program of planned growth and establishment of land use controls. This includes a program of historic preservation and provision of public parks and recreation areas.

The War in the Pacific National Historical Park as proposed in this document is the result of a review of previous proposals, several field investigations between 1973 and the fall of 1976, and a series of discussions with the Governor and representatives of various territorial agencies.

RECENT HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ON GUAM AND THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC

As far as the United States was concerned, the War in the Pacific began at Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941. This incident was the final result of a rivalry that resulted from conflicting imperialistic ambitions. The United States had gained an interest in the western Pacific as a result of the Spanish American War in which it took the Philippines and Guam from the Spaniards. This destruction of the last vestiges of Spanish power in the Pacific also lured Germany into the region. In 1904, Germany purchased Micronesia from Spain. After Germany's defeat in the First World War, the Micronesian Islands were mandated to Japan by the League of Nations. The Japanese acquisition of these islands (including the Marshalls and the Carolines) stimulated the imperialistic aims of the Japanese; and during the "twenty years' peace" that followed the Treaty of Versailles, the Japanese pursued visions of a Pacific empire, fortifying their island possessions and ultimately invading Manchuria in 1931. This latter event was the actual beginning of the War in the Pacific. Japan would not again know peace until 1945.

The Philippines and the various British, French, and Dutch possessions in the southwestern Pacific and Indochina interfered with Japanese plans for regional hegemony; but nothing could be done until the commencement of war in Europe rendered England, France and Holland weak and vulnerable in the Pacific.

Japan still hung back. Not until mid-1940, after the situation in Europe was clearly going in favor of Germany, did the Japanese government commit itself internally to a war with the United States and Britain. (By 1941, France and Holland were under German control; and the Japanese were taking control of portions of their Pacific possessions.) Japan knew that Britain would not be a major problem in the Pacific as long as Hitler kept up the pressure at home. Only the United States stood in the way.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was a logical beginning to the war from the Japanese strategic point of view. The political geography of the Pacific assured that the United States would have to wage an aggressive, long-distance, oceanic war if it were to defeat the Japanese. What more logical first step in such a war than to eliminate the United States Pacific Fleet on the first day of the conflict? The Pearl Harbor strike did not entirely destroy the Pacific Fleet (the carriers were luckily absent), but it hurt it badly. Within hours of the temporary neutralization of the fleet, Japanese forces were assaulting Guam and the Philippines. The small garrison on the former was able to mount only token opposition. Japanese subjugation of the Philippines took several months.

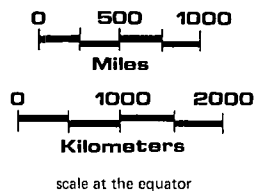
By May 1942, the United States found itself in a somber and threatening situation in the Pacific. The well-prepared and efficiently organized Japanese were moving forward toward Samoa and

Australia. In desperation, the United States Navy attempted to halt the Japanese advance in the Coral Sea. A combination of luck and determination resulted in an American victory. The Japanese invasion fleet turned north to seek refuge. A month later in June 1942, a similar outcome in the naval battle of Midway again turned back a Japanese invasion force. The naval encounters at Coral Sea and Midway marked the end of the first phase of the War in the Pacific. A point of stalemate had been reached. The Japanese advance had been halted.

The United States took the offensive two months after Midway when it invaded Guadalcanal. The bitterly contested Guadalcanal campaign was not successfully resolved for the Americans until February 1943. The Japanese had been thrown back, but the priority assigned to the European War by the U.S. war planners slowed further advances. Not until November 1943 did the United States attempt to capture more Japanese territory. The U.S. did so on two fronts. Beginning in the fall of 1943, two U.S. columns advanced toward Japan, one through New Guinea to the Philippines and the other through Micronesia aimed to the Marianas.

Both campaigns were largely amphibious. Island after island presented much the same story. First air strikes and a naval barrage to weaken Japanese defenses, then a carefully planned amphibious landing using a variety of newly designed vehicles and weapons. Usually the landing was followed by anywhere from several days to several months of fierce Japanese resistance. The Japanese defense

THE PACIFIC THEATER OF WAR 1941-1945



Limit of Japanese Advance - January 1943

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forces on the islands usually fought to the death. Their loyalty to the Emperor was intense. After the backbone of Japanese resistance had been broken on an island, several additional months were usually required to control the small bands of determined Japanese who escaped defeat in the main battles. While this mop-up was going on, the next island was already under attack. The United States made no attempt to capture every Japanese island. A policy developed that was not so much "island-hopping" as "leap-frogging." Major Japanese bases were neutralized by air attacks, then by-passed. The bastions of Truk and Rabaul are good examples.

The Marianas campaign of June and July brought the war closer to Japan than any previous Pacific island effort. Saipan was fiercely defended; and in the naval battle of the Philippine Sea, the Japanese Navy made its last major stand against the advancing Americans. Tinian, Rota, and Guam were also taken after the capture of Saipan.

The capture of the Marianas gave the Americans for the first time an island close enough to Japan to allow land-based aerial bombing of the homeland with the new B-29 aircraft.

After the capture of the Marianas in the summer of 1944, the American offensive proceeded to Iwo Jima and Okinawa in the spring of 1945. Manila fell in March 1945 to the American force that had come through New Guinea. In a period of less than three years, the immense spider web of Japanese defenses spread across

the Pacific had been destroyed. The Japanese had underestimated the determination of the United States to protect its Pacific interests.

Once the heavy bombing of Japan by B-29's began, it was obvious to many Japanese that they were doomed. Cut off by sea from their sources of raw materials and reeling under the impact of the unending bombing, their ability to wage aggressive war ebbed. The two atomic bombs delivered by the B-29's from Tinian in August 1945 were the end.

Placed within this larger context, the Battle for Guam in July and early August 1944 was a secondary affair. The Battle of the Philippines Sea and the successful campaign on nearby Saipan had already determined the ultimate fate of the Marianas. The recapture of Guam had several attractions nevertheless. First, it was United States soil. (Guam's pre-War military importance had been small, however--a result of the 1921 Naval Arms Limitation Treaty in which the United States gave up rights to fortify the island in return for Japanese consent to naval reductions.) Secondly, like the rest of the Marianas, Guam was strategically located for the purpose of long-range bombing. Lastly, it was too close to Saipan to be left in Japanese hands.

The actual invasion of Guam began at 8:29 a.m. on July 21, 1944, when Marines landed near the village of Asan. Within minutes, a second force landed several miles south at Agat. Both areas

had been severely bombarded by both aerial and naval weapons in the weeks preceding the invasion. Nevertheless, the Japanese mounted a strong resistance. The major counterattack came before dawn on the morning of July 22. The suicidal determination of the island's defenders was not sufficient to overcome the efficient firepower of the invaders. It took several more days of fierce combat before the Marines and regular army troops fought their way to the top of the ridges overlooking the two invasion beaches. Beachhead resistance ended after the capture of General Takashima's headquarters on July 28. The entire island was in American hands by August 12, 1944. A detailed description of the Guam invasion from the American point of view is included as Appendix A of this report.

Except for the fact that Guam was American soil prior to the war, the campaign to take it was typical of several dozen other amphibious campaigns undertaken between 1942 and 1945. The air and naval barrages, the amphibious assault, the contested landing, the hard jungle fighting against well-entrenched Japanese, and the ultimate victory were all part of the pattern. The only question was how long would it take and how expensive it would be for the Americans.

Why, then, has Guam been singled out to be the site of the proposed War in the Pacific National Historical Park? First, it is the only island in the western Pacific that is clearly a part of the United States. For the purpose of park development, this

is essential. Secondly, Guam is readily accessible. The island has become an important stop on trans-Pacific air routes and has also become a tourist objective in its own right, especially for Japanese. Hence, Guam offers a typical insular battlefield of the War in the Pacific that is both under United States Government control and readily accessible via the modern commercial air transport network.

At the present time, the northern Marianas have established a commonwealth relationship with the United States. (They have been a part of the Pacific Trust Territory since 1945.) The battlefields on Saipan are of much higher significance than those on Guam, while the airfield on Tinian that launched the first atomic attack is of obvious importance. Sometime in the future, these sites should be studied as possible additions to the War in the Pacific National Historical Park. The Saipan and Tinian sites are not interchangeable with those on Guam. Ultimately, a park containing units on Guam, Saipan, and Tinian might be ideal.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

PURPOSE

Provide an opportunity to tell the epic story of World War II in the Pacific, from the attack on Pearl Harbor to war's end. Emphasize the battle of Guam as a classic example of the island-by-island fighting, which was an important factor in the prolonged struggle for control of the immense expanse of the Pacific Ocean, and how this affected the final outcome of the war.

OBJECTIVES

Preserve important geographical and historical features in order to provide a setting with enough historic integrity to adequately tell the story of the battle for Guam.

Develop an interpretive program which will view the war and the battle for Guam as a part of history. This would include the particular interests and attitudes of both Japanese and Americans.

Manage historic and natural resources in order to retain, as nearly as is practical, the historic setting of those sites to be interpreted.

Provide only such developments as are needed to interpret and inform visitors. Provide access to important features and viewpoints, and permit adequate administration and management of the park.

Cooperate with the Government of Guam in assembling local artifacts of Japanese occupation and American invasions to the extent that they are necessary for interpretation.

Cooperate with Japanese historians in developing bicultural and bilingual interpretation.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

GUAM'S HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Guam's history involves the complex mixture of a unique ancient immigrant culture, the overlay of a totally foreign culture, the overwhelming changes precipitated by that overlay, and the military operations that gave Guam its present strategic importance in the Pacific Basin.

The island's earliest known settlers are believed to have migrated from Southeast Asia between 2000 B.C. and A.D. 500. They developed a complex civilization and an estimated population of up to 100,000 by the time of the first European contact in 1521, when it is generally believed that Ferdinand Magellan landed on the island during his historic circumnavigation of the world. The Jesuit missionaries headed by Father San Vitores established Catholicism as a focal point of a changing culture beginning in 1663. The resulting clash of European and Chamorro cultures led to bloodshed and epidemic diseases, which killed many of the original inhabitants of Guam and destroyed much of their culture.

The Spanish then populated the island mostly with Filipino laborers and fortified it to protect and supply the Manila galleons, laden with silver, which sailed annually from Acapulco to the Philippines between 1568 and 1815.

Guam became American soil in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American War and was governed by Naval governments until

taken by Japan in 1941 during World War II. Japan occupied and fortified the island until 1944, when it was retaken by American forces.

In 1950, the Organic Act of Guam granted U.S. citizenship to all Guam residents and replaced the Naval government with an appointed civilian administration; and in 1971, Guam's citizens elected their first governor and territorial legislature. In 1973, Guam gained a nonvoting seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The requirement of security clearance for entry into Guam ended in 1962. This was partially responsible for the resulting boom in business and tourism. And more recently, the referendum vote of 1976 confirmed a continued local interest in improving political ties with the United States.

By virtue of its location in the Southwest Pacific, Guam has historically filled an important supporting role in Pacific commerce and military strategy, beginning with the first Spanish contact and continuing for 400 years into the twentieth century. During much of its recent history, Guam was commonly thought of as only a military base. But since 1967, tourism has taken on considerable importance and has begun to present the island as an area of considerable beauty lying at an ocean crossroads. Local residents and economic interest are now seeing Guam as much more than a military base.

REGIONAL SETTING

Encompassing a land area of about 210 square miles, Guam is the largest and southernmost of the 15 islands of the Marianas or Ladrones Islands, which stretch for some 425 miles in an arc running generally north and south about 1600 miles east of the Philippines. They start with Farallon de Pajaros, 335 miles southeast of Iwo Jima, and end with Guam, 250 miles north of the Carolines. The four largest islands, Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam, are all at the southernmost end.

The map on page 7 indicates the location of Guam in relation to various points in the Pacific and in the continental United States.

Guam is the natural focus of activity within Micronesia. It is the largest and most populous island between Hawaii and the Philippines; has an excellent, well-equipped port; and is a major communications center. In effect, it is the "metropolitan" center of a vast Pacific area. It is a crossroads of major air routes, only about 3 to 4 hours by jet from such major Asian cities as Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong, Manila, Shanghai and Taipei.

GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Guam is 32 miles long and 4 to 9 miles wide. The northern half of the island is a limestone plateau, ringed by cliffs 500 to 600 feet high.

The island's southern half is a range of volcanic mountains and hills paralleling the west coast and rising steeply to more than 1000 feet above sea level and sloping more gently toward the east.

Fringing reefs surround most of the island at a distance of less than 3000 feet from the beach; beyond this, the ocean floor drops quickly to great depths (more than 30,000 feet in the Marianas Trench 60 miles off the south and east coasts).

The coastline varies with location, from pitted, emerged coral limestone to low swampy lands or sandy beaches. Pillow lavas and dikes are also exposed in many places.

SOILS AND HYDROLOGY

There is essentially no surface water in the porous limestone of the north end of Guam, but the central northern area does contain an important ground water lens. Soils are mostly lateritic limestone.

By contrast, the volcanic hills at the south end of the island are interlaced with more than 40 rivers and streams, some with dramatic waterfalls. Several of these streams have been impounded to form the Fena Valley Reservoir, the largest body of fresh water in Micronesia.

Soils have developed from limestone and volcanic formations.

Regardless of parent material, the result is generally a clay.

The soil mantle on limestone is usually thin with good percolation

of rainwater. Deeper soil forms over most volcanic materials and results in areas which are more impermeable with resultant rapid runoff and erosion problems. Flats and valleys contain alluvium consisting of sediments from limestone and volcanic uplands. The water table on the Asan Point area is believed to be close to sea level.

VEGETATION

Vegetative cover can be grouped into five basic types: limestone forest, ravine, marsh, swamp, and savanna. The upland area proposed as a national historical park includes predominantly savanna-type cover with some isolated ravine areas and some limestone forest. Coastal areas are nearly all coral limestone with only isolated sections of sandy beach.

Limestone forest communities comprise over 90 percent of the vegetation found on the northern half of Guam. Pure or climax communities are seldom encountered; however, the areas generally include banyan, wild breadfruit (threatened species), fago, jojo, and chopag along with lismas and epiphytes.

Ravine communities exist along lowlands where moisture accumulates, especially in the valleys and ravines of the southern half of Guam. These include pago (wild hibiscus) federico, betel nut palm, coconut palms, pandanus, lianas, and various ferns and orchids.

Marshes of fresh or brackish water exist in lowland areas. These include clusters of bullrush or karriso surrounded by acicennia (endangered), pago, acrostichum aurcum, sedge (threatened), and scattered clumps of taro, ginger, and mosses.

Swamps of three types are found on Guam. The mypa palm swamps are found at the mouths of the Pago, Ylig and Inarajan Rivers on the southeast side of the island. The mangrove swamps (threatened species) are found along Apra harbor and mouths of the rivers along the southern tip of the island. Another swamp containing some endangered species is found at the mouth of the Talofofo River.

Savanna is one of Guam's largest plant communities covering almost all of the southern half of the island. The two dominant grasses are swordgrass and dimeria. There are also scatterings of ironwood, Philippine ground orchid, mint, ferns, and several members of the myrtle family.

Tangantangan, a type of legume, was introduced on Guam soon after World War II. Since then it has become one of the more common plants on the island and is now considered a weed. It is a shrub or small tree forming almost impenetrable thickets in many areas. Fortunately, the plant appears to favor the limestone plateau at the north end of the island and, to date, has not invaded the volcanic soils on southern Guam to any great extent. It has, however, changed the vegetative cover in some of the battle areas proposed for inclusion in the national historical park. It is especially widespread in the

Piti area and on the bluffs south of Asan Point. These points are noted on the map on page 42.

ANIMAL LIFE

The most common vertebrates on Guam are domestic cattle, dogs, cats, pigs, and chickens. Deer and wild pig roam much of the island's undeveloped area. Public hunting is permitted in season, both on military and other public lands. Carabao or water buffalo roam much of the savanna area of south central Guam. These animals were traditionally used by Guamanians as beasts of burden.

Two native animals deserve special mention. The Guam Rail, a flightless bird, lives in the forest area of the northern plateau but is absent from the open savanna areas of the south. The Guam fruit bat, an endangered species, has only a few remaining colonies. Neither animal is known to be found within the area proposed as a national historical park.

The reefs fringing Guam abound in a variety of sealife. This living coral reef edge is easily accessible to swimmers and divers at many locations. Due to the rough sea conditions on the east coast, at most times of the year, human collecting of sea life is confined to the west coast and Apra Harbor.

Hunting for gastropods is popular along protected reef flat areas, as the shells are highly valued by collectors. Octopi, a lobster-

like crustacean, and various small game fish are also found in the near-shore waters. Laws presently restrict the collecting of living corals to depths below 10 fathoms.

CLIMATE

Guam is within the tropical zone, resulting in a mild, even climate. The temperature averages 81 degrees Fahrenheit with extremes of 64 and 95 reported over the last 26 years. The yearly average rainfall of 90 inches can be divided into two seasons. About two-thirds occurs from July to mid-November, when some rain falls on 20 to 25 days per month. January through April is the dry season, with 5 to 10 percent lower humidity and lower temperatures. Easterly tradewinds are very common with an average speed of 6 to 10 miles per hour.

The wet season is associated with tropical storms or typhoons. The chances are about one in three that in any year one or more typhoons will cause considerable damage on Guam. In May of 1976, super-typhoon Pamela caused millions of dollars in damage throughout Guam and clocked winds up to 190 mph. Such storms are also accompanied by high seas and flooding from very heavy rainfall.

The ocean temperature around Guam is about 81 degrees Fahrenheit the year around. The current generally sets in a westerly direction near the island with a velocity of 1/2 to 1 knots, and tidal fluctuation is a maximum of about 3.5 feet.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Earthquakes are common on Guam with an average of two shocks a day strong enough to be recorded and about two a month strong enough to be felt.

Design and location of structures, resource management, and visitor use should be planned with due concern for the following factors:

Structures and facilities must be designed to withstand typhoon winds.

Mildew in this warm, humid climate causes damage to supplies, equipment, records, etc. Air-conditioning is needed for protection in some storage areas, and dehumidifying devices may be required in other instances.

Flooding of shore areas results from wind-generated waves during intense storms, and low valleys may be flooded by heavy rainfall.

Erosion of soft volcanic soils is widespread and results from torrential rainfall on land where vegetation has been removed.

Corrosion of metal equipment and objects is accelerated by warmth, humidity, and the salt air.

The grassland savannas and tangantangan thickets are highly inflammable during the dry season. Unless checked,

the resulting denuded land is then susceptible to severe erosion.

Steep terrain in certain areas within the park proposal, combined with the possibility of slumping and accelerated erosion of volcanic soils, suggests that particular care be taken in location and design of park developments. The bluffs above Asan and Piti beaches are particularly susceptible to such problems.

GUAM TODAY

Population

Guam's current resident population of about 104,000 can be divided into three distinct groups. These consist of about 57,000 Guamanians, 31,000 military and dependents and 16,000 others (including U.S. Mainlanders, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans, etc.).

By 1980, projected growth is expected to result in a total of about 140,000 with about 100,000 of those being local and 40,000 military and dependents.

Along with the growth in population, there is rapid increase in urban development in the Agana, Tamuning and Tumon areas. These constitute the center of government, business and tourist development. The Asan and Piti units of the proposed national historical park are directly adjacent to this central urban core.

Access and Circulation

Commercial airlines are the primary means of access to Guam, although a few visitors from western Pacific countries arrive by cruise ship. The Guam Air Terminal is centrally located, and there are rental cars and taxis available. Several international airlines provide service from Japan, the Philippines and other points in the Orient. Pan American Airlines provides daily non-stop service between Guam and Hawaii, and Continental Airlines offers service to Guam, Hawaii and several of the smaller Marianas and Micronesian Islands.

On Guam itself, a network of good paved roads offer convenient access to much of the island, including almost the entire coast of southern Guam and many points on the northern plateau.

Units of the proposed national historical park are all located within the populous central section of Guam and are crossed by or are close to Marine Drive, a 4-lane road. Asan Point unit is only 3 miles west of Agana, Guam's capital, and is reached by a 15-minute drive from the air terminal.

Economic Base

Guam is undergoing rapid economic changes due, in large measure, to removal of restrictions imposed by military requirements. The changes are most dramatic, as they have permitted a new tourist industry. This is a significant attempt at diversification of an economy previously almost solely

ACCESS AND POPULATION CENTERS



ISLAND OF GUAM

dependent on military activities. It should be noted that although there are some U.S. mainland tourists visiting Guam, the predominant visitation is from the Orient, particularly from Japan. Moreover, the visitor industry has until very recently grown at a fantastic rate. In 1963, the island received about 1500 visitors. By 1972, there were over 150,000 visitors. About 75 percent of these were from Japan and about 15 percent from the United States.

Construction of hotels has attempted to meet the increasing demand for accommodations; and by the end of 1972, there were approximately 2500 hotel rooms available on the island.

Although military activities and the visitor industry are the major sources of Guam's income, international banking is expected to play a more important role in the island's economic future. Moreover, Guam serves as Pacific center for an increasing number of firms maintaining economic ties with the United States.

Current Planning Efforts

Following the economic boom of the late 1960's and early 1970's, the government of Guam is embarking on planning efforts to control growth and land use.

An island-wide plan is now being prepared, and discussions with the planning staff indicate they may follow the general philosophy

of the State of Hawaii by establishing land-use districts for the entire island. District designation may also be similar to Hawaii's four zones--Urban, Rural, Agricultural and Conservation.

In 1973, the Territorial Departments of Commerce and Land Management completed a study entitled Outdoor Recreation on Guam. This document includes an inventory of existing recreation facilities, analyzes demand for additional recreational opportunities and identifies potential recreation areas. It also proposes development of additional facilities and acquisition of lands where necessary.

All recent planning efforts are recognizing the potential role of the Federal Government in managing and interpreting a War in the Pacific National Historical Park. Discussions with the Governor's office and Guam's planners indicated a generally favorable attitude toward the proposal as described in this document. Moreover, there is no known major conflict with future land use plans or recreation development as now envisioned.

Historic Preservation

In addition to general planning efforts, there has been a recent effort to formulate procedures for preserving important elements of Guam's history. A 1976 report, entitled Guam Historic Preservation Plan, contains an inventory of known historic and archeological sites and planning tools for preservation implementation.

It is expected that there will be continuing efforts to inventory new sites as they are discovered. Already, Guam has about 44 sites

on the National Register of Historic Places which are affected by the regulations of the Historic Preservation Act. The map on page 31 of this report indicates all known significant World War II-related sites and identifies those currently on the National Register. Within the boundaries of the proposed national historical park, there are 6 register sites; and 3 other register sites are in the immediate vicinity.

HISTORIC RESOURCES RELATING TO THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC ON GUAM

Since 1944, Guam has been markedly transformed from a tropical island shattered by the war to a modern outpost of late-twentieth-century America. Expansion of population and the ensuing construction of new residences, shopping centers, roadways and powerlines have changed the primitive character of the island. Moreover, evidence of the 1944 invasion in the form of defensive structures, command post sites, military vehicles, armor, weapons and other debris has understandably disappeared by degrees, not only eroded away or overwhelmed by construction but also picked up by junk and souvenir collectors.

In addition to the normal impact of civilian growth on an island of limited size, the requirements of national security have dictated that large portions of Guam remain in the control of the U.S. Defense Department--in particular, Orote Peninsula, Apra Harbor, the Fena Watershed, and a large part of the northern plateau.

Exploration of those portions of the island heavily involved in the 1944 invasion, coupled with a study of pertinent military records, reveals that there still remain available substantial sections of battlefield terrain which are not unalterably spoiled and, most surprisingly, a considerable number of wartime artifacts and structures.

The most intensive and significant action was concentrated in the two main invasion beach areas--Asan and Agat--plus the Orote

Peninsula, but other areas were also involved in the total picture. It is possible to identify many related historic sites and features, which, for purposes of clarification, have been divided into 8 geographic categories. The descriptions are not related to the National Register Site Program, since the historic research was accomplished before the National Register was set up.

Agana Vicinity

Little is left of the pre-1944 capital city that was pulverized by U.S. Naval bombardment. The rebuilt city is still the Territorial Capital, and it contains several sites and physical remains of the 1944 invasion:

Reputed ruins of old Spanish Fort Santa Agueda, overlooking Agana, near Government House, adjoining site of the memorial proposed by the American Battle Monuments Commission. This was the site of a Japanese gun emplacement.

A large Japanese community bomb shelter, an extensive system of interconnected rock tunnels, on Esperanza Road.

A series of individual and multiple caves and concrete shelters along O'Brien Drive.

Site of first command post of Major General Turnage, 3d Division, U.S. Marine Corps, Marine Drive.

Concrete Japanese pill-box on Paseo de Susanna Drive, adjoining Agana Harbor.

Asan Invasion Beach

Adelup Point, at the intersection of Marine Drive and Halsey Road, was once heavily fortified; one Japanese pill-box still faces Agana Bay.

Chonito Cliff and Bundschu Ridge were the Marine names for the steep jungle-clad hillside between Adelup Point and Asan River where some of the bloodiest fighting occurred. There is some commercial development near Adelup Point, and an earth-moving project destroyed all but two Japanese concrete bunkers. Visually, Asan Village remains much as it was in 1944, since it remains on the lower slopes and flat land near the shoreline.

The invasion beach itself and the coral reef, with a break caused by the flow of Asan River, is paralleled by Marine Drive. Asan Village extends on both sides of Marine Drive to the Navy Hospital Annex at Asan Point. On the beach is a modest concrete marker with artillery shell ornament memorializing American dead.

Asan Point is largely occupied by structures which were the Navy Hospital Annex. In 1976, Typhoon Pamela seriously damaged the structures to the extent that they are no longer usable. Only one small part of the annex area is now being used by the territorial parks division as a maintenance facility.

HISTORIC SITES RELATED TO THE BATTLE FOR GUAM



ISLAND OF GUAM

The entire point is within the U.S. Naval Reservation. This was the lower end of the Northern Invasion Sector and offers impressive views of the invasion beach, Bundschu Ridge and the Matgue (Nidual) River Valley. In addition, the south shore of this peninsula contains a remarkably well-preserved series of damaged Japanese fortifications and gun emplacements.

Asan-Piti Battle Zone

Piti Beach: Many American amphibious vehicles were knocked out here in later invasion waves. This is also the site of General Geiger's command post. The Piti Beach, intended as an auxiliary supply area, became heavily involved also in combat. It was raked by guns along Asan Point as well as on the heights.

Matgue (Nidual) River Bridge: At the mouth of this river, just behind Asan Point, is a concrete bridge which miraculously survived American bombings and Japanese dynamitings. Around it swirled fierce hand-to-hand fighting and tank battles.

Matgue (Nidual) River Valley: This is a short, narrow valley between steep jungle hills and a key to invasion plans. It contains numerous caves built by the Japanese. One of their most effective counter-attacks came down this valley. It is largely unimproved except for a gravel road.

Asan Ridge: This area was the scene of heavy fighting before the force beachhead line was secured.

Road through jungle, connecting Mague (Nidual) River and Tepungan, the village just below Piti. This was the scene of severe fighting by Marines to gain the heights and the locale of extensive Japanese shelters and defenses.

Japanese coastal battery: A cluster of three big Japanese coastal or naval guns have miraculously survived the enterprise of scrap dealers. In various stages of damage, these guns are found in the jungle, just above Piti.

Fonte Plateau Battle Zone

The top or seaward edge of Nimitz Hill, now within U.S. Navy Reservation (ComNavMar), was the scene of the climactic battle in achieving control of the Northern Sector.

The Battle Area: The Japanese High Command was cornered here. Most officers and over 800 Japanese soldiers were killed in a last ditch action which also took the lives of many American Marines. The actual battle area is clearly identifiable on Marine Corps maps.

General Takashima's last stand: The final phase of the Battle for Fonte Plateau raged within a spherical crater-like depression fringed with jungle growth. It remains miraculously untouched, close to ComNavMar, the U.S. Navy island headquarters.

A large concrete underground structure with two tunnel entrances, believed to be the main Japanese Command Post, is located just off Halsey Road as it curves upward to ComNavMar. Well-protected

from bombardment, it sheltered the high command until the Marine advance, which led to the battle noted above.

Force Beachhead Line

From Nimitz Hill, a road, partly paved and partly graveled or unimproved, follows closely below the high ridge which the Marines called FBL (Force Beachhead Line), the initial objective. Three prominent anchor points, Mount Alutom, Mount Chacho and Mount Tenjo have sweeping views of much of the battleground. There are, however, few, if any, physical remains of the engagement on site.

Agat Invasion Beach

Rizal Beach: This was the northern end of the Agat invasion beach and is now a public beach park. From here is a good view of a portion of the Orote Peninsula, scene of heavy fighting. There is also an excellent view of the invasion beach itself as well as of Mount Alifan. There are also Japanese caves here.

The crescent-shaped beach itself is lined with development, mostly residential; but structures are low; and with the dense coastal vegetation, the beach maintains some historic integrity. Present features include a simple concrete monument erected by the Marine Corps and the site of General Shepherd's command post.

Gaan Point near the center of the invasion area was a crucial Japanese strong point which inflicted heavy losses before it was reduced. The site still has a number of cave shelters as well as a heavy concrete fortification and gun emplacement. Some battle

litter is still to be found among the rocks, and along the beach nearby are remains of coconut log and oil drum trenches.

Bangi Island was the lower anchor of the Agat invasion beach.

Among interesting remains to be found here is a machine gun nest, a heavily sheltered but damaged big gun emplacement, and a concrete pill-box. From here also are superb views of Mount Alifan, as well as Yona and other small islands.

Hill 40 was the name given by the Marines to a low hogback just inland from Bangi Point, where there was a bitter struggle at the cost of many lives. It finally fell to invading forces.

Mount Alifan Battle Zone

A Japanese gun emplacement, shattered by Navy shelling, and an extensive system of earth-tunnels characterize a low hill between Agat and Santa Rita, just above the Government of Guam housing area.

Mount Alifan itself was a pivotal point in the invasion strategy, the scene of intensive fighting, including a Japanese banzai charge, and contains surviving Japanese defensive works. The rapid growth of Guam housing development has stopped at the edge of this battle zone.

Phase II, Battle of Guam

Securement of the mountain ridge from Fonte Plateau (Nimitz Hill) to Mount Alifan enabled the invading American Marines to regroup

and launch the clean-up phase to complete the capture of Guam.

There are a number of key sites related to Phase II:

Maanot Pass at the Navy check point for Fena Reservoir on the road above Santa Rita. This was a key point in the final battle for southern Guam.

Site of Island Command: This was General Larsen's headquarters beginning August 18, 1944, at the intersection of Marine Drive and Apra Heights Road.

Tiyan Airfield, in vicinity of present Naval Air Station and the commercial airport, was the scene of the first scattered fighting in Phase II.

Barrigada Village was the scene of a Japanese effort to stall the American drive toward Mount Santa Rosa and the location of a water supply.

Finegayan was the site of another holding action by Japanese defenders.

The cross-island road, Agana to Pago Bay, was secured by American units and rapidly improved by engineering units.

Pago River: The attainment of this line by the American 77th Division marked the sweep from Mount Alifan, with negligible Japanese resistance encountered.

Manengon Valley, near the village of Yona, was where large numbers of Guamanians were held in a concentration camp before the island was taken by American forces.

Mount Santa Rosa's slopes were fortified by the remaining units of the Japanese, and a sizeable battle had to be fought by the 77th Infantry before this hill was finally captured with the aid of call fire from battleships.

Mataguac Hill, near Yigo, is where General Obata of Japan led a last resistance until killed with all his men in an improvised fort. This was the end of all organized Japanese resistance on the island.

Ritidian Point is the northernmost tip of Guam. Here were many Japanese caves and reported mass suicides.

"Tank Battlefield:" One more site must be mentioned since it has become woven into island lore, but its authenticity must be seriously questioned. On the grassy central plateau, about 1/2 mile north of Manengon and about 2 miles southeast of Mount Alutom, are the remains of six armored vehicles: two Japanese tanks, two American Sherman tanks, and two other U.S. amphibious-type vehicles. According to local tradition, these hulks are grim evidence of a "tank battle." However, there is no military record of such a battle here. On the contrary, the 77th Infantry swept this area without recordable incident. The two Japanese tanks are doubtless authentic by themselves, being abandoned here during retreat.

However, the American tanks, which are not within sight of the Japanese tanks, have all the earmarks of having been hauled to this remote spot for post-1944 gunnery or target practice.

RELATED RESOURCES ELSEWHERE IN THE TRUST TERRITORIES

The previous description of historic sites relates only to the Island of Guam. There are, however, many other sites throughout the Pacific where physical remains of the war still exist on site. These sites are largely on lands not politically associated with the United States.

The Trust Territories (the Marshall and the Caroline Islands) contain several sites of historic significance in relation to the War in the Pacific, some of them with much better cultural remains than those found on Guam. In Trust status, however, they are not open to United States park development.

THE PROPOSAL

In order to establish a War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam, Congressional action will be necessary to include it in the National Park System and to authorize expenditure of Federal funds for management, interpretation, research, development of facilities, and acquisition of private lands included in the boundaries. The following is a description of the proposed historical park.

INTERPRETIVE CONCEPTS

As stated on page 11 of this document, the purpose of the park is to provide an opportunity to interpret the Pacific Theater of World War II, utilizing Guam as a focal point for the interpretive story. In order to accomplish this purpose, the implied interpretive concepts translate themselves as specific basic needs in order that the visitor may appreciate and visualize the Battle of Guam as an example of the island-by-island fighting that was such an important part of the War in the Pacific.

Although this is an "American" national park, a very large percentage of the visitors will be Japanese. Thus, the interpretive program will portray the rationale and actions of both protagonists in the conflict. Moreover, it is imperative that all interpretation be bilingual.

There should be an opportunity to view some of the sites of the major battles, both on the site itself and from a distance. Moreover, the sites chosen should be preserved, as nearly as is feasible, as they were in 1944.

An opportunity should be provided to envision the Battle of Guam from psychological and physical points of view of both the Japanese defenders of the island and the American attackers.

The major initial landing areas and their immediate surroundings should be interpreted both on site and from a distance.

Where there are remains of war materials or defense structures in place, special attention should be given to providing access and interpretation.

There should be provided a central, easily accessible facility to dispense information to visitors and to use interpretation of the Battle of Guam as a springboard to interpretation of the entire Pacific conflict, its causes, implications, and consequences.

LAND REQUIREMENTS

To satisfy the needs of the interpretive program, to preserve a representative portion of the many sites relating to the Battle for Guam, and to provide a manageable park unit, it is proposed that there be five separate units of land included within the authorized boundary of the national historical park. The total within the proposal is 883 acres of land more or less and about 1,000 acres of offshore or water area (offshore areas are owned by the Government of Guam). The current land ownership breakdown is as follows:

Federal Government	655 acres
Government of Guam	44 acres
Private Land	204 acres

The park boundary, as now proposed, includes the two prime invasion beaches (Agat and Asan), significant portions of the upland battleground areas, examples of remaining on site fortifications, and high elevation sites from which to view the entire battle area. The individual units are described as follows. The map on page 49 indicates their location and boundaries.

Asan Unit

This is the prime complex of battleground areas, landing beaches, and on-site remains within the proposed park. It also provides the best opportunity for interpretation from both the American and Japanese points of view. Even Asan Village (not included within the boundary) remains, visually, much the same as it was in 1944.

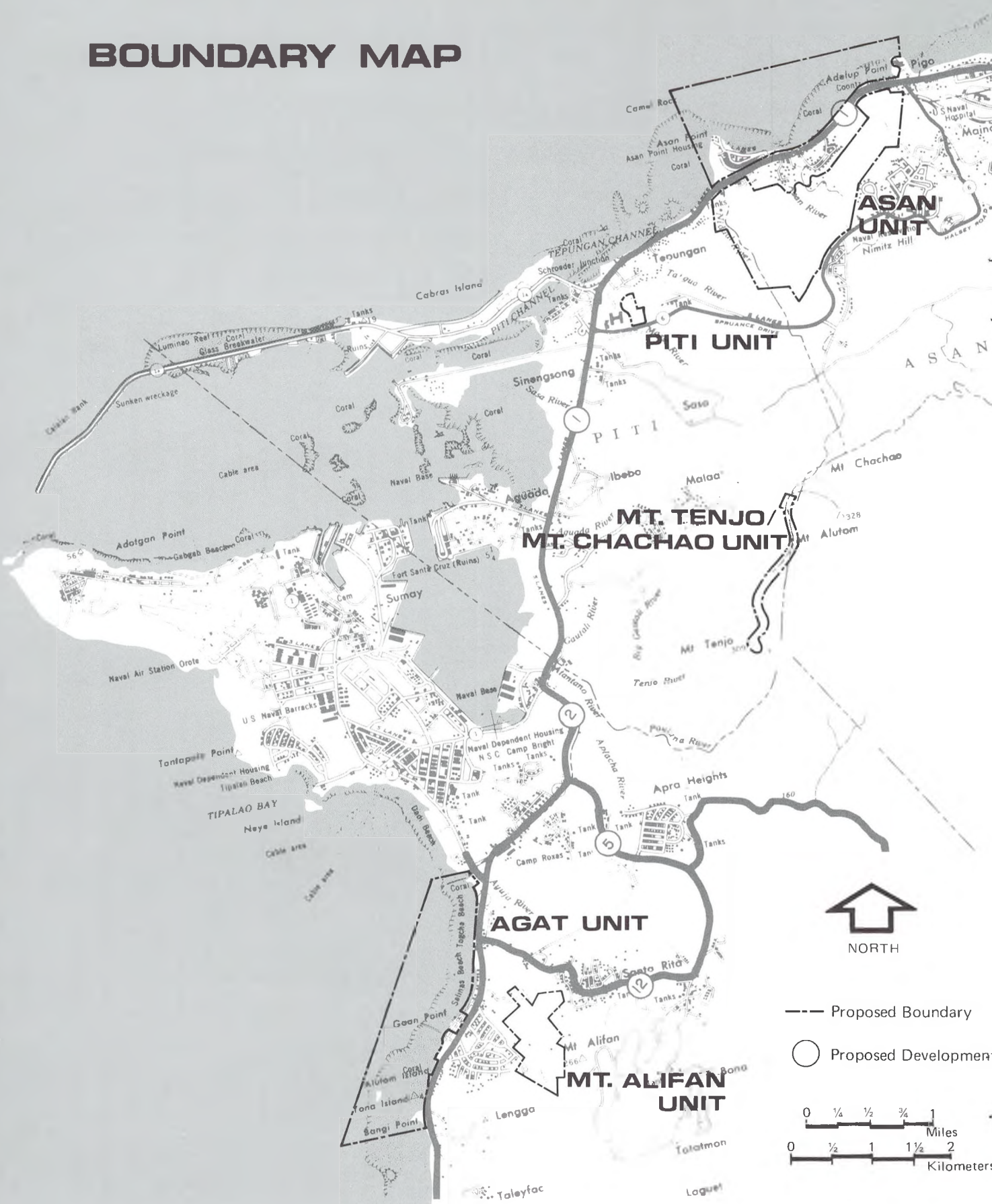
Land included in this unit totals about 625 acres plus about 450 acres of offshore area. Current land ownership is as follows:

Federal	456
Government of Guam	19
Private	150

Piti Unit

The existence of three on-site coastal guns is the main reason for including this unit in the park. They are also, perhaps, the most dramatic physical remains of the Battle for Guam in the proposed park. Boundaries for this unit include the guns themselves and sufficient land for a short entrance road, parking area, and interpretation. Total acreage in this unit is about 21. All land is owned by the Government of Guam.

BOUNDARY MAP



Proposed WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK-Guam

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Agat Unit

This unit is almost entirely beach and offshore area, plus a few small parcels at either end and near the center of the beach itself.

The major purpose of this unit is to preserve this second major invasion beach, a few remaining on-site remains of the battle, and to provide space for interpretation on-site. Total land area in this unit is 30 acres plus about 550 acres of offshore area.

Current ownership is as follows:

Federal Government	21 acres
Government of Guam	4 acres
Private	5 acres

Mount Tenjo/Mount Chachao Unit

This unit is along what was termed by the Marines as the FBL or Force Beachhead Line, the initial objective of the attacking American forces. There are few known physical remains of the war in this unit. Its purpose is to provide, along a section of the Force Beachhead Line, two excellent overlook points and a connecting road right-of-way. This unit encompasses a total of 51 acres, all of which are privately owned.

Mount Alifan Unit

This unit also encompasses a major battlefield area. The lower slope, just above the villages of Agat and Santa Rita, still contains a system of tunnels and the site of a Japanese gun emplacement. The summit of the mountain is not included in the proposal since it is part of a U.S. Naval Magazine. The upper slopes, however, do include some remaining defense works. This unit, about 158 acres, is all Federally owned.

Additional Interior Lands

In anticipation of legislative action on a War in the Pacific National Historical Park, the Government of Guam deeded certain lands to the Department of the Interior. Of the 635 acres of Federal lands, noted in the landownership breakdown about 552 acres are part of these deeded lands; the remainder (about 83 acres) are U.S. Navy lands. The location of those lands deeded to Interior by the Government of Guam was based on earlier park proposals. As a result of the revisions made in the current proposal, a portion of these deeded lands are now outside the proposed park boundaries. Since there is no known need for retaining them in Federal ownership, it is proposed that these lands be considered as potential trading stock for private lands within the proposed boundary.

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

Proposed development for the national historical park will fulfill two primary purposes. Access and interpretation will be provided for the major sites and physical remains associated with the 1944 Battle for Guam, and one special site will be developed where the general story of the War in the Pacific can be adequately interpreted.

In addition, there are two secondary purposes for park development. A park administration/maintenance function must be provided for; and because of the large amount of coastal land included in the park, shoreline recreation facilities for both visitors and residents is considered appropriate.

The General Development Map on page 46 indicates the location of specific facilities.

Access and Circulation

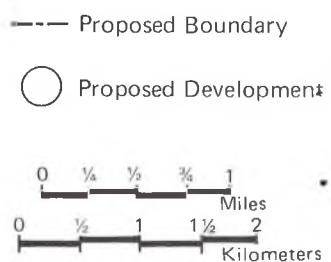
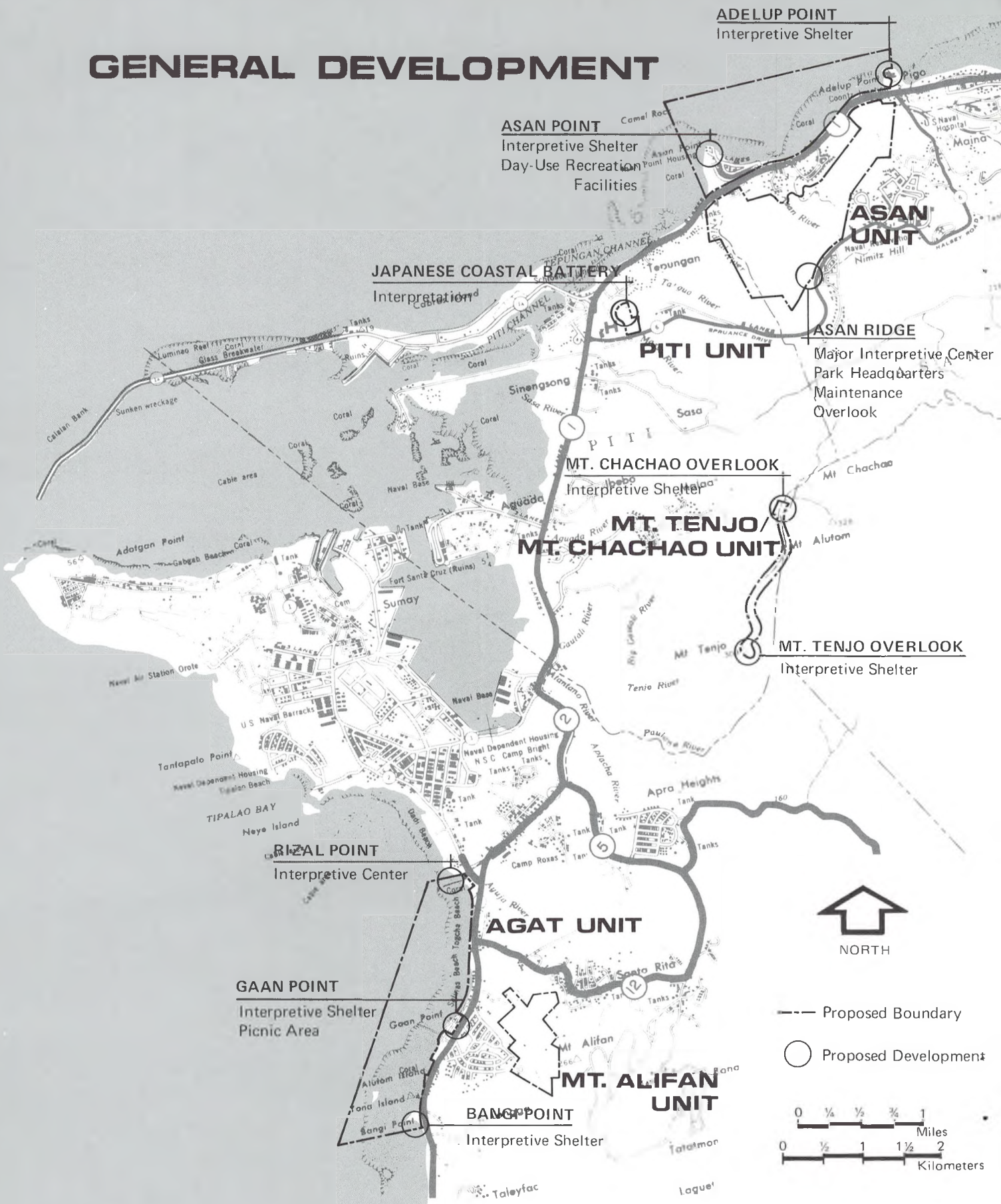
Nearly all access will be on existing roads, and all units will be made accessible to visitors except for Mount Alifan, which will be interpreted from Rizal Point. Marine Drive follows the shoreline in both Agat and Asan Units; and Spruance Drive, following the rim of the Fonte Plateau, leads to the primary viewpoint. This is also the site for a major interpretive facility.

To provide access to the Japanese guns at Piti, a short access road (about 1/4 mile long) and a small parking area (about 8-10 spaces) are proposed. Such access will be designed to minimize disturbance to the small community of Piti, which is directly below the old gun emplacements.

The only major new access will be in the Mount Chachao/Mount Tenjo Unit. Here a new road, about 1 3/4 miles long, is proposed to begin at the existing public right-of-way near Mount Chachao and to terminate near the summit of Mount Tenjo. Parking for about 10 to 15 cars will be provided at the overlooks at either end of the road.

Opportunity for walks along the beach at Asan and Agat will also be provided. In addition, the valleys and ridges between Asan Village and the Fonte Plateau will have short hiking trails.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT



Proposed WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK-Guam

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This is an opportunity for the visitor to view the vegetation and landforms of Guam at close range. Also, since this was the scene of some of the fiercest fighting in the Battle of Guam, it provides an excellent opportunity for historical interpretation. Precise location and length of trails will be determined after more detailed study of the terrain and field research of possible historic remains. Total length of trails will likely be about 3 to 5 miles.

Interpretation

The general story of the War in the Pacific will be interpreted in a structure on the rim of the Fonte Plateau, overlooking the Asan Beach-head. This will include an overlook, interpretive exhibits and audio-visual facilities. Some interpretation of the Battle for Guam will also be provided in this structure.

Most interpretation for the Guam battle, however, will be at specific sites such as Asan Point, Adelup Point, Rizal Point, Gaan Point, Bangi Island, and at various other locations as noted on the development plan. As previously noted, interpretation at Rizal Point will also include Mount Alifan, since its slopes are easily visible from Rizal. A more detailed interpretive plan will be required to identify types of facilities and prepare the content of interpretive material.

Recreation

As shown on the Development Plan, page 46, recreation facilities are proposed at Gaan Point and in the vicinity of Asan Point.

Both developments are expected to be used mostly by local residents.

At Asan Point, there is considerable shoreline suitable for recreation development within 3 miles of Agana. Thus, it has the potential for being an excellent regional park complex. Discussion with the Government of Guam indicates interest in such a complex, and it is proposed that such development be authorized with the following restrictions:

Recreation will be limited to day-use activities.

Construction and maintenance of facilities will be the responsibility of the Government of Guam.

Plans and designs will be approved by the National Park Service in order to maintain historical integrity both at the site and as seen from the major overlooks on the Fonte Plateau.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

If the War in the Pacific National Historical Park, as now proposed, becomes a reality, park administrators will be confronted with a variety of problems. These will relate to management of historic resources, a major research project, protection of natural values, and coordination with the Government of Guam concerning the division of responsibilities on such matters as enforcement, provision of recreation facilities and adherence to Federal laws on historic preservation and rare and endangered species. Many of these problems have been anticipated during the preparation of this proposal and will

be discussed below. Others will become apparent when and if the area comes under jurisdiction of the Federal Government.

Preservation of Historic Remains

The Battle for Guam left numerous physical remains on the lands proposed for national historical park status. Some of these have been identified and will be part of the park's historic preservation program:

Japanese coastal guns at Piti Point.

Tunnels and other fortifications along the Matgue (Nidual) River.

Pill boxes along the coast, both at Asan and Agat beaches.

Remains of coconut log fortifications at Agat beach.

The remains of an American landing craft on the coral reef at Asan.

Tunnels and defense works on Mt. Alifan.

There are other significant remains outside the park boundary, such as pill boxes, tunnels, and the site of General Takashima's last stand. Authorizing legislation should include provision for funding the marking and interpretation of these remains in cooperation with the Government of Guam and the U.S. Navy.

Additional Research Needed

There are likely many additional remains of the Battle of Guam within the proposed park that are as yet undiscovered. There are also a number of additional sites on the island relating to World War II that have not been adequately studied and evaluated in terms of integrity. Thus, a high priority project will be to conduct a detailed historic resources study to clarify several important issues. Within the proposed park boundary, research should concentrate on the following areas:

The main complex of valleys and ridges that form a sort of amphitheater between Asan Beach and the Fonte Plateau.

The jungle area of Bundshu Ridge, both for identification of historic remains and significant biological features.

Mount Tenjo's summit and vicinity for possible fortifications.

The reef areas at both Agat and Asan for possible additional remains of assault vehicles or other like artifacts.

Agat beach itself, which contains some unidentified artifacts.

Perhaps of greater significance is the proposal for research outside of or relating to the current park boundaries concentrating on the following:

World War II-related sites throughout Guam, which could be added to the National Register of Historic Sites, receive recognition and/or interpretation by the Territory of Guam, or be added to the National Historic Park.

Sites within the National Historical Park, which, by reasons of significance, manageability, or other reasons, should be removed from the boundary.

Any World War II-related sites on Saipan and Tinian which possess such significance that, when it is politically feasible, could be added to the park.

Improvement of Historic Scene

It is not the intent, nor is it considered possible, to "recreate" literally the battle scene as it was in 1944. There are certain specific projects that will greatly improve and help maintain reasonable historic integrity:

Removal of abandoned sewer lines at Adelup Point, Asan Point, and Agat.

Removal of the now abandoned naval hospital annex on Asan Point.

Removal of miscellaneous debris in the amphitheater between Asan beach and the Fonte Plateau.

Removal of debris in the Piti Unit.

Clean up of Gaan Point vicinity.

General clean up of all of Agat Beach.

Moderate clean up and control of vegetation along the Tenjo Road right-of-way.

The removal or control of tangantangan, particularly on the Piti Unit, will be a continuing resource management problem. In the other three units, this plant will also likely require some control. To date, however, it has not invaded the areas of volcanic soils to a great extent and appears to favor those portions of Guam underlain by limestone. Management's major concern will be to monitor the spread of tangantangan and expand control or eradication where it becomes necessary.

APPENDIX A

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVASION OF GUAM BY AMERICAN FORCES

On July 21, 1944, at 6 a.m., the attack on Guam by American forces began. The total number of ground forces used approximated 55,000, composed of some 37,000 Marines and 18,000 Army troops of the 77th Division. As landing craft carried the first waves to shore, battleships, cruisers, and carrier planes blasted Japanese shore installations. When the troops were 1200 yards from shore, the barrage lifted. At 8:29 a.m., troops of the 3rd Marine Division "hit the beach" at Asan. Three minutes later, men of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade waded ashore at Agat.

The most complete and detailed published American account of the action is to be found in the Marine Corps monograph by Major O.R. Lodge, The Recapture of Guam. The following, however, are excerpts from the vivid condensed account by Samuel E. Morison (Vol. VIII, History of the U.S. Naval Operations in World War II):

"Amphtracs (both armored and personnel) issued from the LSTs for the first assault waves; control officers were in PCs and LCCs, marking the lanes to the beaches, big transports stood six miles offshore to lower troop-filled land craft, LSDs disgorged tank-filled LCMs; dukws loaded with artillery milled around; and over all there was the terrific din of gun and rocket fire, of air bombs bursting, of diesel and gasoline engines roaring, of LST and landing-craft ramps clanking, while flags striped with kthe beach colors gave the whole spectacle, to an outsider,

the air of an utterly confused and inconceivably noisy motorboat race enlarged several dimensions.

Northern Sector--the Asan Beaches, July 21-28

"...[T]he wide fringing reef presented an obstacle that could be surmounted only by amphtracs. The LVTs, after debarking assault waves, moved out and took troops off landing craft for the final leg over the reef; some even kept LCMs nosed against the reef edge so that tanks could roll ashore.... The day before, UDTs had buoyed flagged the over-reef paths for the tanks to follow, and naval bombardment had been very careful not to pothole the reef. All three regiments of the 3rd Division landed abreast on a 2,000 yard front, the 3rd on Beaches Red 1 and 2, the 21st on Beach Green in the center, and the 9th on Beach Blue. The fires wave landed at 0829, and by early afternoon practically the whole division...was on dry land.

"Once ashore on the Asan beaches, the 20,000 men of the 3rd Marine Division found themselves in a precarious situation between the two 'devils' horns,' Asan and Adelup Points, the deep blue sea and a semi-circle of hills.... The Asan beachhead, beyond the gravel road that followed the shore, consisted of a semicircle of about 1200 yards in depth, almost all covered with dry rice paddies. Beyond the paddies rose an irregular arc of steep hills, partly covered with kunai grass and partly with heavy jungle growth, culminating on the left flank on Chonito Cliff, a shoulder of which touches the sea at Adelup Point. Around the back of it led a rough dirt road, across the Fonte plateau,

to Mounts Chachao and Tenjo. From the middle of this arc the two branches of Asan River flow through narrow, steep defiles and debouch into the rice paddies. All this high ground was held by the enemy.

"While the Japanese brought up troops, pack artillery and mortars to their prepared positions on the crests and reverse slopes, the Marines were getting their divisional artillery ashore and sited on the edge of the sea near the mouth of Asan River. The beachhead was so covered with troops that almost every projectile dropped into it by the enemy inflicted casualties, and during the first two days the loss of (Marine) officers was heavy....

"At daybreak 22 July the Japanese counterattacked in strength but were thrown for a loss. Once that was over, small combat units of the 21st Marine Regiment, supported by their own and naval artillery, began pushing relentlessly up the hills and cliffs, blasting Japanese out of caves and defiles. By the 24th they had reached almost every point of the crest.... Elements of the 9th Regiment performed a smart shore-to-shore operation in LVTs, supported by 40-mm fire from LCI gunboats, to Cabras Island on 22 July, and secured that north prong of Apra Harbor next day. Turning over Cabras to a defense battalion, the 9th then stormed up the Aguada Valley on the beachhead's right flank. On the left flank the 3rd Regiment fought and clawed its way up a steep ridge (Bundschu) to ground overlooking the beaches, suffering heavy casualties.

"On the night of the fifth day--25 July--the Japanese delivered their most serious counterattack.... Toward midnight they began probing and infiltrating all along the line. All night the Marine's left flank was showered by heavy mortar fire, punctuated by occasional banzai charges, and certain small bands of infantry crept down the Asan (and Nidual) River valley and almost overran the divisional artillery command post. Several hundred reached the rice paddies and engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the Marines; but these seasoned amphibians dealt with each assault as it came, and by noon 26th July had repelled the attack. The Japanese lost most of their officers in the first assault, and they were unable to reinforce because naval gunfire broke up their troop concentrations in the rear.... After it was over, 3500 enemy dead were counted on the battlefield. This was the decisive battle on Guam itself.

"Now the Marines exploited their advantage to secure the Fonte plateau. [After a vicious battle to secure the crest to this hill, and the extermination there of some 800 Japanese defenders, the Marines closed in and] General Takashima was killed there on July 28 by machine-gun fire as he was trying to retire from his command post.... The elderly General Obata...now assumed the responsibility of directing the final defense of Guam. On this northern sector the assault phase ended 28 July when the 3rd Division made contact with the 77th Infantry on the slopes of Mount Tenjo.

"The first week ashore had been costly for the Division. A large majority of its total casualties for the operation (753 killed and missing, 3147 wounded) were then incurred. Casualties both here and at Agat were transferred by LVTs or dukws to specially equipped LSTs until hospital ship Solace arrived 24 July.

Southern Sector - Agat Beaches and Orote July 21-28

"Rear Admiral Reifsnider, Connolly's deputy, had full charge of a different landing here by the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, which landed two regiments abreast; while the 305th RCT of the 77th Division acted as floating reserve.

"These four beaches in Agat Bay, stretching for over a mile between Agat Village and Bangi Point, were overlooked by high cliffs on the Orote Peninsula and by two islets, Neye and Yona. Gaan Point stuck out in the middle of the line.... The greatest potential danger was flanking fire from Orote Peninsula, but...fire support ships took care of that.... Behind the beaches the Japanese defenders were driven out of their trench system.... Left intact were a row of 25 concealed coconut-log bunkers, one 72-mm gun on Yona Islet, and a concrete blockhouse on Gaan Point, with one 75-mm and one 37-mm gun, sited to enfilade the beaches.

"Initial opposition to the landing was stronger than at Asan. The amphtracs encountered brutally effective mortar and artillery fire as soon as they hit the edge of the reef. Twenty-four of them, more than one in eight of the total, were disabled, mostly by rifle, machine-

gun and artillery fire as soon as they hit the beach. They had little medical aid until the afternoon as one first-aid station was blown apart and most of the corpsmen killed by a direct hit. Before noon, 75 dead Marines were counted on Beach Yellow 2.... But the 1st Regiment fought its way through the rubble of Agat Village and at 1130 reached its first objective, Harmon Road that leads to the slopes of Mount Alifan. Fifteen minutes later General Shepherd landed and established his command post in a coconut grove about 200 yards southeast of Gaan Point.

"The strong point on Gaan was not disposed of until the afternoon, by a tank attack from the rear.... The 4th Regiment, which landed on the White beaches, encountered several pockets of resistance on small hills that were not shown on the map; but they swept over the canefields at the foot of Mount Alifan and reached their objective line in the early afternoon....

"Supplies did not move ashore here as smoothly as had been planned. The loss of 24 LVTs hampered transshipment at the reef's outer edge, and a deposit of silt at its inner edge caused both amphtracs and dukws to bog down.... Even so, an average of about 3000 tons of cargo per day was unloaded over the Agat beaches during this assault phase.

"As early as 1030 the 2nd Battalion of the reserve regiment, the 305th RCT of the 77th Division, was boated and ready.... No Marine amphtracs were available when their landing craft hit the reef, and the troops had to wade ashore through water, avoiding as best they could

the coral heads and potholes. Fortunately the Japanese were then too busy with the Marines to fire on the GIs....

"The Marines expected a counterattack that night and at 2230 it came, in the center and on the right. Hill 40, a low uncharted knoll behind Bangi Point, was crested from them for a short time but recaptured. On the left flank a column of Japanese tanks followed by mobile artillery rumbled downhill along the Harmon Road at 0230, with the intention of capturing Agat and raking the entire beachhead. A bazooka-armed Marine disposed of the first two tanks before he was killed, and the rest of the Japanese armor was destroyed by a platoon of General Sherman tanks.... As usual the naval vessels helped with star shell illumination and call fire....

"On 22 July the Brigade captured Mount Alifan, whose northern slopes were honeycombed with caves. Demolition teams sealed the caves, and hand-grenade attacks disposed of coconut-log bunkers. The top of the ridge consisted of almost vertical cliffs covered with thick, tangled undergrowth and creepers; but the Marines swarmed up and captured the summit....

"While the Brigade next concentrated on taking Orote Peninsula (killing virtually all of its 3,000 defenders, the 77th Division was pushing east and north from the beachhead to join hands with the 3d Marine Division.... It was discovered, with the aid of loyal natives, that the entire Japanese force had moved

out of the southern massif into the northern half of the island. Accordingly, on 27 July General Bruce asked permission of General Geiger to seize Mount Tenjo. Permission was readily granted, and 0830 a company of the 305th had reached the summit. That afternoon the 307th Regiment tied in with the 3d Marine Division, which had already captured Mount Chachao. American lines were now continuous. FBL (Force Beachhead Line) had been attained and main objective secured; it only remained to clear the enemy out of the northern half of Guam. [See Appendix B - troop movement maps]

Island Secured, 29 July-10 August

"Although the more rugged half of the island and the strategic points around Apra Harbor were now in American hands, and half the Japanese garrison was dead, General Geiger knew well enough that the rest of the campaign would be no pushover. The ruins of Agana were still in enemy possession. Beyond it lay marshes, from the edge of which a rolling plateau, covered with densely matted jungle growth, sloped up to 600-foot cliffs at Ritidian and Pati Points.

"General Obata now withdrew the bulk of his forces, for a last stand, to Mount Santa Rosa, overlooking the sea (to the east); but General Geiger could only guess where enemy troops could be found in the great expanse of jungle that lay ahead. His plan [was] for the 3d Marine Division to advance with three regiments abreast on the left,

while the 77th took the right flank....

"Both divisions jumped off 31 July. Ruined Agana was entered by the Marines before noon, while the GIs hacked their way through jungle to the east coast, liberating a concentration camp of Chamorros enroute.... Seabees and Marine Corps engineers were put to work improving the dirt roads and trails that had become overgrown during the Japanese occupation. On 1 August they had the Agana-Pago Bay Road open right across the island. General Geiger pushed his troops hard with the object of engaging the enemy before he could organize defensive positions around Mount Santa Rosa.... On 2 August the Tiyan airstrip was captured, and on the 3d the 77th took Barrigada Village.

"...The first real trouble was encountered on 5-6 August when the American troops came under artillery fire from Mount Santa Rosa. At least seven guns there had escaped destruction by air bombing and naval gunfire.... Strong points around Finegayan, the outer bastion, were captured 5 August.... To the 77th fell the honor of taking Mount Santa Rosa 7-8 August with a loss of only 41 killed or missing and 104 wounded. That such light casualties were incurred in storming a major strong point was due largely to the intensive naval shelling for three days. There had been 5000 Japanese troops...on the position before the action. All guns and tanks were destroyed, and 530 dead were counted on and around the hill....

"Marine patrols reached Ritidian Point on the afternoon of 8 August; next day elements of the 77th Division got to Pati Point.... At

1130 August 10 General Geiger announced that organized resistance on Guam had ceased. This was somewhat premature. On the forenoon of 12 August General Obata's last command post near Mount Mataguac was stormed by units of the 77th; everyone including the General was killed or committed suicide.

"...Major General Henry L. Larsen, USMC took over on 15 August. At least 9000 Japanese troops were still at large in the jungle, so mopping-up activities continued until after the end of the war."

APPENDIX B
STUDY PROCEDURES AND ALTERNATIVES

The War in the Pacific National Historical Park as proposed in this document is the result of over 10 years of comparing and examining various alternative park boundaries and development options. All alternatives have been discussed, at sometime during their preparation, with Government of Guam officials. The current proposal was prepared in cooperation with the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation and reviewed in detail with Governor Bordallo. The following is a general description of prior preliminary proposals, which are alternatives to the historical park as now proposed.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK -- 1967 RECOMMENDATION

This first formal recommendation consisted of two major units: the Asan Unit and Agat Unit, representing the two principal geographic segments toward which major beachhead landings were directed during the invasions of 1944. In addition, the Mount Tenjo approach and overlook would provide a panoramic view but also marked the attainment of the FBL (Force Beachhead Line), and the end of Phase I of the battle. The plan also provided that certain outlying sites around the island representing Phase II of the Battle of Guam remain in Territorial ownership but be interpreted by the National Park Service through cooperative agreements.

The boundary lines in this recommendation are shown on the accompanying boundary and development plan. A hiking trail was also proposed to connect Mount Tenjo with Mount Alifan. Arrangements for its right-of-way were to have been worked out under cooperative agreement with the Government of Guam.

Park headquarters were to be located on Asan Ridge. It would include not only an overlook of the Asan invasion area but also would be a major interpretive facility where the whole background story of the War in the Pacific could be presented. Related residential quarters and maintenance would be in the same general location. This headquarters facility would

serve the administrative requirements for the proposed Guam National Seashore. The latter proposal is no longer under consideration.

Development required a limited amount of road circulation to supplement existing public roads to bring visitors to viewpoints and interpretive facilities. The principal internal circulation within the Asan unit, however, was to connect the proposed headquarters to the Apra Harbor overlook by means of a one-way interpretive-type road. Circulation for the Agat unit consisted almost entirely of spur road connections or parking pull outs related to the existing public road. Refer to the boundary and development plan for location and types of facilities recommended.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK -- 1972 RECOMMENDATION

By 1972, the earlier recommendation had been tailored and refined but with little substantive change.

The hiking trail connecting the Mount Tenjo and Mount Alifan Units was abandoned as impractical. The Mount Alifan Unit was reshaped to avoid impinging on the U.S. Naval Magazine. The Mount Tenjo Unit was reduced in size, and Mount Alutom was eliminated from it; but an interpretive overlook was proposed for the shoulder of Mount Chachao. The Asan Unit boundaries were redrawn to conform more closely to landownership lines, and the Agat Unit was extended to include Nimitz Beach.

With the exception of adding an overlook and the Nimitz Beach recreational facilities and subtracting a trail, the interpretive concept and proposed development remained essentially as recommended in 1967. Acreages were slightly altered for all four units, but the total acreage was little changed.

APPENDIX C
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