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20 Jun 92

Dear Iwo Jima Guest,

Welcome to the island of Iwo Jima and the U.S. Coast Guard LORAN Station. This island and its many caves, monuments, bunkers and solemn memorials represent one of the most unique events in American military history. I invite you to enjoy the tour, take advantage of the crew's hospitality and ask the tourguide any questions that come to mind. The Unit Historians, MK2 Thomas Byrd and FNMK Kale Adam, have put together the attached in-depth history and sight-seeing package. If you have any questions that your tourguide cannot answer, please ask one of the Unit Historians.

The station's weekly flight usually arrives at 1100 on Fridays and departs at 1500. We are on the same time as Tokyo. Station hats and T-shirts will be made available for purchase prior to your tour. The post office will be open during your visit to send letters with an Iwo Jima seal. In order to ensure the smooth operation of the LORAN station and preserve the island for future visitors, please observe the following guidelines:

- a. Use only the bathroom marked as the "SPACE A HEAD."
- b. Do not enter the Barracks or Operations area unless escorted by a crewmember. Air crews may request to use the barracks head to change.
- c. Keep in mind that you are on sovereign Japanese territory. The raising of flags on Mount Suribachi is prohibited by treaty. Only as part of special ceremonies on Invasion Day (February 19), Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day is the American flag flown from the mountain top.
- d. Do not go near the runway, taxiways, Japanese Self-Defense Force buildings, or the hot fueling facility.
- e. Do not remove any souvenirs from the station's garden.
- f. Do not remove food or drink left at the memorials. These are left there in memory of those who died on Iwo Jima.
- g. Do not pick up items that look like shells or mines. There is still a great deal of unexploded munition on the island.
- h. Do not enter caves marked "Poisonous Gas."
- i. Conserve water on the station. We depend on a rain catch system, and must ration water throughout the year.
- j. Be careful of the wide variety of insects and scorpions, which inflict a painful sting.
- k. Observe caution on the sulphur flats. In certain areas, the surface crust can give way under a person's weight.
- l. Never enter a cave alone. They can be very hazardous places.

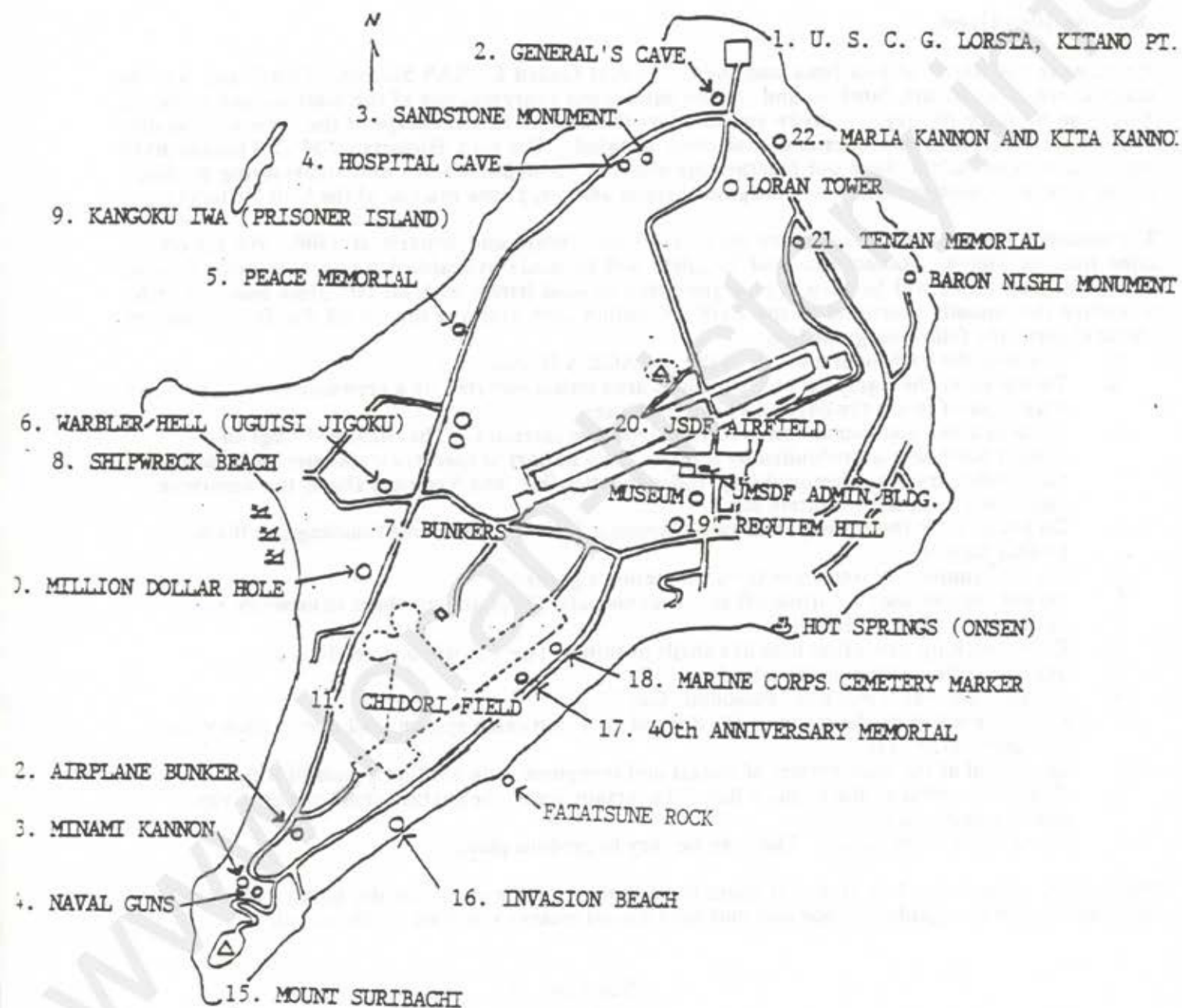
Once again, welcome to Iwo Jima. If there is anything I or the crew can do, please bring it to the attention of your tourguide. I hope that you have a most memorable time on the island.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Markus D. Dausses".
Markus D. Dausses
Lieutenant, U.S. Coast Guard
Commanding Officer

Encl: (1) LORAN Station Iwo Jima Island Tour Package
(2) Iwo Jima: An Island History

ENCLOSURE(3)

IWO JIMA TOUR MAP



IWO JIMA TOUR

The island of Iwo Jima is one of the most unique places in the world, both geographically and historically. Following World War II, the island was administered by the United States until 1968. Currently the only American presence is the U.S. Coast Guard Loran C station at Kitano Point. This station is scheduled for turnover to the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency (the Japanese Coast Guard) in late 1993. The airfield you arrived on is operated by the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and the Air Self Defense force. Following the departure of the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy will conduct mock carrier landings and other training with the Japanese on Iwo Jima.

1. U.S. COAST GUARD LORAN STATION, KITANO POINT: Kitano Point and the group of ravines to it's west, known as Bloody Gorge or Death Valley, is the location of the last group of Japanese organized resistance. This area was secured March 26, 1945.

The first LORAN Station A station was located on Kangoku Iwa, a small islet located 2,100 yards west of Iwo Jima, shortly after the invasion forces landed. The station was relocated to Kitano Point in 1949. This station was constructed of quonset huts and located below the present station. On September 25, 1955 Typhoon Louise destroyed 98% of Iwo Jima. Winds were estimated at 180 knots after wind equipment was blown down at 130 knots. The station was rebuilt and consisted of three concrete block buildings, one of which is still used as the DC Shop and storage. In 1963 LORAN C was added to the station mission and additional concrete block buildings were erected. At the same time modification of the existing buildings was accomplished. In March 1964 the 1,350 foot LORAN C tower collapsed, resulting in several deaths. Construction of the new LORAN C tower and transmitter building was completed in late 1964.

LORAN (Long Range Aid to Navigation)- LORAN is an electronic system using shore based transmitters and shipboard receivers to allow mariners to accurately determine their position at sea. It works in all weather, 24 hours a day, and has a maximum error of 1/4 nautical miles within 1,000 miles of the transmitter.

2. LT. GEN. KURIBAYASHI'S HEADQUARTERS CAVE: Lt. Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the Commanding General of the Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, had his headquarters in this elaborate system of tunnels. This cave was originally topped by a concrete bunker used as an observation and communications area. The cave was sealed and bypassed by the Marines and later opened and investigated by the Army's 147th Infantry Regiment. 46 Japanese were taken prisoner and 52 found dead.

3. SANDSTONE MONUMENT: This carving of the famous Suribachi flag raising was carved by Waldon T. Rich, a member of the 31st Naval Construction Battalion, in July 1945.

4. HOSPITAL CAVE: This cave was opened in February 1984 by Reverend Wachi and members of the Iwo Jima Association (Iwo Tou Kyokai). At the entrance are some of the artifacts found in the cave: medical canteens, baskets, shoes and gasoline drums, to list a few. When opened, the cave was found to contain the mummified remains of 53 Japanese Servicemen.

5. PEACE MEMORIAL: This memorial was dedicated by Reverend Wachi and the Iwo Jima Association in March 1991 and is located over the original resident's cemetery. It has shaded areas with seating and offers a good partial view of the western beach.

6. WARBLER HELL (UGUISU JIGOKU): Measuring approximately 90 feet in diameter and 30 feet deep this is one of the largest active sulfur pits on the island. The crater grows at an approximate rate of 3 feet each year and produces a continuous flow of sulfurous gas and steam. After the battle this sulfur pit was used as a refuse dump by U.S. Forces and erupted quite frequently emitting great lava boulders.

7. JAPANESE BUNKERS: This group of three bunkers are part of the defenses constructed to defend the west beach.

8. SHIPWRECK BEACH: In September 1945 the U.S. Navy sank eight concrete and four American, Russian, and Japanese ships here in the shape of a square to provide a breakwater for small landing craft. Due to the actions of storms and tides this caused a peninsula to form between Iwo Jima and Kama Iwa (Sickle Rock). Prior to the civilian evacuation of the island in 1944, the local residents kept the incurably ill on Kama Iwa. One of the concrete ships has been modified and is in use as a pier.

9. KANGOKU IWA: This island was used by the local residents to keep those who broke the law. After the residents were evacuated in August 1944 Korean forced laborers (gunzoku) were kept here. After the island was secured by U.S. Forces, it became the location of the original LORAN A Station.

10. MILLION DOLLAR HOLE: A series of three extinct craters; here it is rumored that the American Forces dumped vehicles and equipment after the battle. Some time around 1981 a group of Coast Guard personnel made an attempt to repel to the bottom of one of the craters. It was aborted at 200 feet due to bad air and excessive heat.

11. CHIDORI/MOTOYAMA AIRFIELD #1: Now heavily overgrown. Chidori was the largest airfield built by the Japanese on the island. It was originally constructed in 1933 by civilian contractors and the first plane landed there that year. A subterranean explosion occurred in the vicinity of the airfield that same year. The explosion left a large hole and on the following day, after the steam had settled down, the men were able to enter the cave for quite a distance. In 1938 the field was enlarged to the size found upon the invasion. From this airfield the Japanese raised havoc on B-29s based in the Marianas. More B-29s were lost on the ground due to Iwo Jima based fighter planes than were lost on bombing raids over Tokyo. While fighting was still taking place on the island members of the 31st Seabees rushed to rebuild the runway to accommodate crippled B-29s damaged on bombing raids over Tokyo. The first crippled B-29, The Dinah-eight, landed here March 4, 1945. After the war Motoyama Airfield was used predominately and Chidori Field fell into neglect. It is now used as a road leading to the quarry operated by the Kajima Construction Company.

12. AIRPLANE BUNKER: This is one of approximately 150 Japanese bunkers, pillboxes, and machinegun nests located on the peninsula between Mount Suribachi and Motoyama Airfield (This is the location of the present airfield). This bunker was built around the fuselage of an American or Japanese medium bomber and reinforced with concrete and stone. This bunker is believed to have been used as Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine's field headquarters during the battle.

13. MINAMI KANNON: This is a monument to the Japanese war dead inside and around Mount Suribachi. The statue represents Kannon, the Buddhist goddess of peace. The monument was erected in 1952 and is one of 72 monuments erected on the island by Reverend Wachi and the Iwo Jima Association.

14. NAVAL GUNS: Two of four large guns originally covering the east and west beaches. These guns were brought to the island by Reverend Wachi who was a Captain and the island Commander prior to Lt. Gen. Kuribayashi's arrival. The bunker located below the guns is American built and is currently used to store unexploded ordnance still found from the war. 5 tons of unexploded ordnance are destroyed every year. The antenna located near the bunker is a solar powered microwave seismological relay used to detect earthquakes and tremors. There is definite volcanic activity deep within the island as indicated by numerous vents emitting sulfurous gasses, significant ground faults, and minor eruptions, one as recent as 1957.

15. MOUNT SURIBACHI: "Suribachi" is Japanese for mortar, a bowl used to grind grains into powder, and is so named because its shape resembles an upturned bowl. At its highest point Suribachi raises 568 feet above sea level and its vertical slope is 80-85 degrees in some places. It is an active volcano that last erupted in 1727. Looking into the center of the crater steam and sulfur fumes can be seen rising from a vent at the crater's center. Occasionally one or more of the four white goats that live on the mountain can be seen. They are believed to be the descendants of goats brought to Iwo Jima before the war. Looking to the north from the summit gives a panoramic view of the island. Fatatsune rock, which can be seen at the center of the east beach, is the approximate dividing point of the 4th and 5th Marine Division landing zones during the invasion. To the center of the island the remains of several pillboxes, bunkers, and machinegun nests can be seen. Many of the clumps of green leafy bushes cover other emplacements. On a clear day Minami Iwo Jima can be seen 35 miles to the south. It rises to a height of 3,180 feet. 40 miles to the North Kita Iwo Jima can be seen. It rises to a height of 2,600 feet. Both Kita and Minami Iwo are active volcanoes, the last eruption occurred on Minami Iwo January 18, 1986 and created a small island off its shore. The eruption ceased on the third day and the island has since eroded back below the surface. It is believed that both islands were used as observation posts by Japanese Naval Units during the war.

At the summit of Mount Suribachi is a group of four monuments:

Marine Corps Monument- This simple but impressive memorial atop Mount Suribachi commemorates the raising of Old Glory here on February 23, 1945 by Marines of the 28th Regiment, 5th Division. Erected in late 1945 by the Seabees and dedicated by Brigadier General F. M. Hopkins, Commanding General of Iwo Jima. It is a tribute from the island command to the gallant Marines. The small red "X" behind the monument marks the location of the second flag raising made immortal in a photograph by Joe Rosenthal.

Kamikaze Monument- This series of three monuments is dedicated to the kamikaze pilots who died during the battle for Iwo Jima.

Mount Suribachi Monument- This monument is dedicated to the war dead in Mount Suribachi.

Japanese Map Monument- This is a monument to the war dead. Each region is represented by the stone that is predominant for that region.

16. INVASION BEACH: On this stretch of beach, 2.5 miles long, Marines of the 4th and 5th Division landed on February 19, 1945. The initial invasion forces met light resistance but succeeding forces were decimated by the guns on Suribachi in the south and cross island defenses in the north. The 4th Division fought its way off the beach to the base of Chidori Field while the 5th Division swung to the south to cut off the Japanese forces within Mount Suribachi.

17. 40th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL: This monument, located midway between the 4th and 5th Division boundaries, was erected October 1984 and dedicated February 19, 1985 during a ceremony attended by American and Japanese Survivors. It was commissioned by the John Wayne family and The Iwo Jima Survivors Association and completed in Japan under the supervision of Reverend Wachi. The inscription is in both English and Japanese.

18. MARINE CORPS CEMETERY MARKER: This marker is located on the site of the former cemetery, of the 3d and 4th Marine Division, used during the battle. It contained the remains of 3,160 American Marine, Seabee, Army, and Navy servicemen as well as a section for war dogs killed in action. The 5th Division cemetery was located just south of Chidori Field and contained the remains of 2,280 Marine, Seabee, Army, and Navy dead. It was constructed in the form of a large cross and located in the area where, on the second day of the battle, the 5th Division cut across the neck of the island to isolate the Japanese Forces in Mount Suribachi. All the remains of the

American dead were removed from the island prior to the return of Iwo Jima to the Japanese in 1968.

19. REQUIEM HILL: This memorial to the war dead of both nations is located over Awatzu cave. The monument was designed to allow natural irrigation from the pool at the southern end to the plants at the northern end. It was funded at an approximate cost of \$200,000 by the Tokyo City Fire Department. The monument was the site of the 40th Anniversary Reunion reception and is used for other ceremonies. Looking south, Suribachi can be seen framed by the monuments many flowers.

20. JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCE AIRFIELD: Motoyama Airfield was built in March 1944 by Korean gunzoku (forced laborers) and Japanese Forces. The present airfield was built over the site of the original runway by men of the 133d Naval Seabees while fighting was still going on in the north. In 1968 the island was returned to the Japanese and the airfield is currently in use by JASDF and JMSDF personnel. The airbase is continually being updated and construction is currently underway on barracks for use by the U.S. Navy for night landing operations.

The large pillbox located east of the airstrip is situated on a hill known as Turkey Knob. It overlooks a valley known to the Marines of the 4th Division as the Amphitheater. The Amphitheater, once the site of some of the bloodiest fighting on the island, is now a golf course. Along with Radar Hill (382), located north of the original runway, this area was dubbed the Meatgrinder. The radar station was leveled when the runway was extended. A small museum containing artifacts from the island is housed in the pillbox. If you would like to visit the museum contact the OOD at the JMSDF building to be admitted.

21. TENZAN MEMORIAL (HEAVENLY MOUNTAIN): This hill (362 C) was the location of a natural sauna before the war. Two large naval guns were located in pillboxes here during the battle. The valley to the south known is Cushman's Pocket. The hill is now the location of a pagoda used for the temporary storage of remains and Shinto ceremonies. Access to the cave below is by the stairs to the right of the monument.

22. MARIA KANNON AND KITA KANNON: Erected in 1952 by Reverend Wachi, this is the only Christian monument on the island.

This information was compiled May 1992 using existing literature. If you are aware of any incorrect information or know of any additional information that might be of interest, please contact the Unit Historian.