

**70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF
SAIPAN AND TINIAN 1944
JUNE 8—16, 2014**

Military Historical Tours



As a follow-up to the June 2013 *On Target* Newsletter, here is the additional information regarding the 70th Anniversary Celebration taking place in June 2014. Military Historical Tours (MHT) has been chosen to coordinate the group of 505th Veterans and family members who are interested in being a part of this tour. Enclosed is the brochure from Military Historical Tours tailored for the 505th Bomb Group which will give you the information you need to determine if you want to join in on this tour. The June 2013 newsletter also stated that your 505th Bomb Group Association Board made the decision to supplement the cost for the veterans and that amount could be as much as \$1,000 depending on how many veterans are able to make the trip. In addition to that, all veterans receive 10% off the listed price in the brochure. Plus if we have more than 20 members (veterans and family members) on the tour, the price per person would be reduced by \$120.00. So bottom line — cost to veterans could be as

low as \$1,155.00. (this does not include air fare, however). Below and to the left is the contact information of who you will call to make your arrangements for the Tour. I have talked with John Powell and he is a delight to work with and a veteran himself.

Other items to note: Military Historical Tours will also arrange your air transportation if you like or you can do that on your own. They have a group rate with United which connects through San Francisco, Los Angeles or Houston (depending on your origination departure city) and then flies direct to Hawaii. You can opt to overnight in Hawaii or continue on to Guam and then Saipan. They will tailor to whatever suits your needs. Also, you will see information for a post tour to Guam in the brochure and MHT will also arrange for a post tour on Hawaii if you want to spend a few days there on your return and get a special guided tour of the Missouri, etc. You would work that out directly with MHT.

Let me know if you are booking a tour so we can keep track of the count and also so we can communicate with MHT the amount the 505th BG Association will supplement for the veterans' costs. My contact information is included to the left.

Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions. — **Kathy Dahood**

On a side note, Nancy Samp passed on information that Jack Bond had open heart surgery this past Sunday. He is recuperating at Christus Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria, LA. Best wishes to Jack for a speedy recovery so that he will be able to make the trip to Tinian and Saipan next June.

Veterans who have already responded that they plan to join the Tour or expressed interest in the Tour:

Buck Bunn
 John Cody
 Bob Gale
 Russ Kelly
 Jim Green
 Jack Bond—**see side note**
 Alexander Rearick
 Including family members who will accompany them that brings the total to 24.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
AND TO CONFIRM THAT YOU**

ARE BOOKING A TOUR

CONTACT

Kathy Dahood
 505th Bomb Group
 Association Coordinator
406-523-3851
kdahood@alpsnet.com

TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

CONTACT

John W. Powell
 Director of Operations
 or Anne Swenson
 Military Historical Tours
 13198 Centerpointe Way,
 Suite 202
 Woodbridge, VA 22193
 703-590-1295
 jpowell@miltours.com

70th Anniversary of 505th Bomb Group on Tinian Mainland Japan Bombing 1945 8—16 June 2014

Veterans of the 505th
Get 10% Discount!
Don't Miss This
Year's Ceremonies

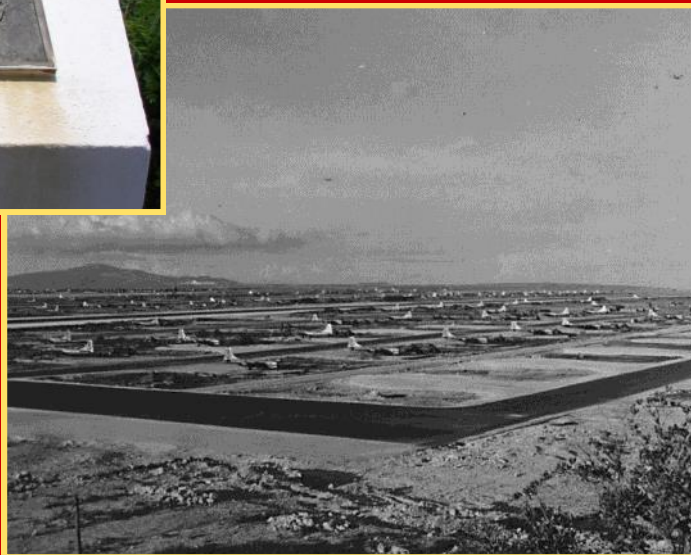
Tour Leaders: Tour
Leader: LtCol Gary Andrejak, USAF



Wreath Laying Saipan



Japanese Headquarters Building
Tinian



Atomic Bomb Pit North Field Tinian

(Ret) **MILITARY™**
HISTORICAL TOURS, INC



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Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285
703-590-1295 * FAX 703-590-1292

E-mail: mhtours@miltours.com * Website: www.miltours.com



Travel back with **MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS** to Tinian where you will awaken to the lush, tropical setting of the Dynasty Resort. The 505th was deployed to Pacific Theater of Operations (PTO)

in late 1944, being assigned to the XXI Bomber Command, 313th Bombardment Wing in the Northern Mariana Islands; being stationed at North Field, Tinian. It entered combat in February 1945 with strikes on Iwo Jima and the Truk Islands. It then began flying very long range strategic bombardment missions over the Japanese Home Islands, attacking military, industrial and transportation targets. Switched to night incendiary raids attacking major Japanese cities in the spring of 1945, causing massive de-



struction of urbanized areas and hastened the eventual Japanese surrender.

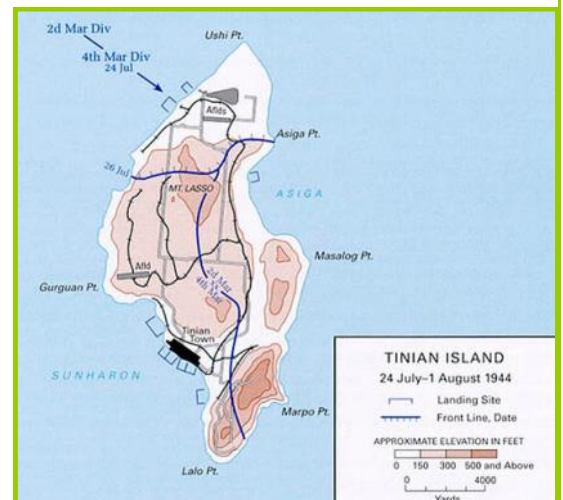
The 505th Bomb Group received a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for a strike against the Nakajima aircraft factory at Ota in February 1945. The 505th conducted incendiary raids on area targets in Japan, carrying out these missions at night and at low altitude as well as bombing in support of the Allied assault on Okinawa in April 1945. They were engaged in the unique mission of mining operations against Japanese shipping, receiving a second DUC for mining the Shimonoseki Strait and harbors of the Inland sea, June–July 1945. The group continued strategic bombing raids and incendiary attacks until the Japanese Capitulation in August 1945. We will also enjoy the Saipan Pacific Island Club (PIC) overlooking a beautiful beach where the Marines landed, and coral reefs beyond. You will stay on the very beaches on which the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions landed on 15 June 1944 and the Army's 27th Infantry Division the next day. We are participating in the Liberation Ceremony on Saipan and also on Tinian. Travel back with MHT to these two important island battles.

Tour Price per person: \$ 2,395
(based on double occupancy)
Single Supplement: \$ 495
Guam Post Tour (pp/bodo): \$ 1,095
Guam Single Supplement: \$ 325

Tour Price Includes:

- Deluxe Hotel Accommodations - Dynasty Casino Resort, Tinian & The PIC, Saipan *
- Air-conditioned deluxe motorcoach *
- Meals as indicated in itinerary *
- Historical Trip information packet, containing maps & other tour information *
- Admission fees to all sites, museums and special attractions *
- Services of experienced Tour Leaders

DISCOUNT AIRFARE AVAILABLE: MHT can book you from your home city to Saipan via MHT's Air-line Partners. Discount airfare from anywhere in the continental U.S. is available upon request.



DAILY ITINERARY

8 June Sun (Day 1)

Depart on your flight for Saipan (Cross International Dateline - lose a day.)

9 June Mon (Day 2) Arrive Saipan in evening with a traditional Saipan island welcome. Check into our hotel and relax remainder of evening. Lodging: Pacific Island Club (PIC) (Meals: Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) (in-flight))

10 June Tue (Day 3) After a buffet breakfast, we begin a full day WWII history tour of Saipan with local and MHT guides. We start on the 2nd and 4th Marine Division landing beaches where you can feel how exposed the Marines were to Japanese observers on Mt Tapotchau towering 1500 feet above us. We will follow the progression of the battle south to Aslito (now Isley) Airfield Complex. Here, next to the runway we landed on (the same one used by the first B-29 strike on Tokyo), we will explore recently cleared B-29 hardstands,

Japanese bomb magazines and assembled battlefield relicts.

Lodging: PIC (B/L/Welcome Aboard Dinner (D) provided)

11 June Wed (Day 4) This morning we will continue retracing the battle up the west side of the island. You will see the Japanese bunkers defending the beaches and a Japanese tank on display. We will observe the turrets of American Sherman tanks visible in the surf offshore from the Sugar Plantation/Refinery Dock. From there we proceed to Hill 500, Death Valley, and have the opportunity to go to the top of Mount Tapotchau. We proceed north toward Garapan and visit the northern invasion beaches. We will see Hari-kari Gulch, Prudential Hill, Paradise Valley, and the Last Command Post and conclude our day on top of suicide cliffs. Lodging: PIC (B/L)

12 June Thur (Day 5) After breakfast, we depart for Tinian by air followed by a full day of touring. We will participate in Tinian portion of the Memorial of Honor for the Tinian Liberation. You will marvel at the small, narrow invasion beaches where the Marine landings surprised the Japanese defenders and see pillboxes and the rusted hulk of a landing craft. From the high ground on

the southern end of the island, you will look down on Tinian Town and the harbor. This was

where the ill-fated USS Indianapolis delivered the components for the atomic bombs before its tragic sinking while steaming to the Philippines. Nearby are the imposing "suicide cliffs" where hundreds of Japanese, Okinawan and Korean civilians perished. You will get your first look at the former B-29 West Field, home of the 58th Bomb Wing, (where the present Tinian Airport is located) and the now abandoned North Field of the 313th Bomb Wing and the 509th Composite Group (Atomic). In 1944-45 these airfields contained hundreds of B-29 bombers and thousands of airmen and support troops. You will visit the "bomb pits" where the atomic bombs were loaded and see Runway Able from which the Enola Gay took off for Hiroshima. Old concrete Japanese headquarters buildings, bomb shelters, and parking ramps still remain and the 2nd Marine Division Monument. This evening is a Welcome Back Bar-B-Que hosted by the Mayor of Tinian. Lodging: Dynasty (B/L/D)

13 June Fri (Day 6) We will continue touring the island. We return to Saipan by air in the afternoon, followed by a fireside chat as part of the Memorial of Honor. Lodging: PIC (B/L)

14 Jun Sat (Day 7) Today is the Memorial of Honor Symposium for the Saipan & Tinian Liberators with invited historians and veterans recollections. Lodging: PIC (B/L)

15 Jun Sun (Day 8) This morning we will conduct a memorial service and veterans recognition at the Memorial of Honor for the 70th Anniversary of the initial assault on the island by US forces which led to the liberation of the island. We conclude our tour with a visit to the CNMI museum, followed by the Visitors Center and Gift Shop. Time will allow for enjoying the hotel amenities and beach. The evening will conclude with a Farewell Dinner on the Beach. Lodging: PIC (B/L/D)



16 June Mon (Day 9) Early morning departure from Guam to Mainland US. (Cross International Dateline - gain a day.) and arrive Los Angeles same day. Or stay and begin our 4-day, 3-night Guam post tour.
Post Tour to Hawaii available upon request

17 June Tue (Day 2): Full day touring the southern part of the island including Asan Beach and Overlook, Agat Point and the War Dog Memorial. Late lunch at the famous "Jeff's Pirates Cove." Hotel: Outrigger Resort (B/L)



Note: Itinerary may change vary due to local events by the people of Saipan & Tinian to honor the veterans. Dive Adventure portion of tour available upon request.

18 June Wed (Day 3): We see the Spanish influence downtown and enjoy a cultural village where you will learn about local historical crafts, entertainment and a have traditional Chamorro meal. Hotel: Outrigger Resort (B/L)

19 June Thur (Day 4): Depart for the mainland in the early morning, and arrive home the same day.

GUAM POST TOUR 16 – 19 June

16 June Mon (Day 1):

Arrive on Guam in the morn-ing and transfer to the Outrigger Guam Resort. We tour Big Navy and the War Dog Memorial. After lunch we tour the Museum of the Pacific War. Remainder of afternoon at leisure. Hotel: Outrigger Resort (B/L)

Post Tour to Hawaii available upon request!

**Post Tour Price \$ 1095
Single Room Supplement \$ 325
Tour Includes:**

- ◆ Deluxe Hotel accommodations on Guam at the Outrigger Resort Hotel
- ◆ Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- ◆ Deluxe air conditioned motor coach transportation
- ◆ Roundtrip airport transfers
- ◆ Battlefield tours

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