

Saipan American Memorial

GPS N15 13.083 E145 43.190



The Saipan American Memorial is situated near Tanapag Harbor. It lies within the American Memorial Park, at the north end of paths leading from other park features.

American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 29 memorials, monuments and markers in 16 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

American Battle Monuments Commission

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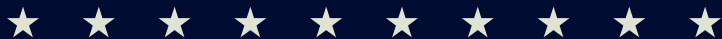
American Battle Monuments Commission



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The Saipan American Memorial commemorates the Americans and Chamorros who died during the liberation of Saipan, Tinian, and Guam from June 15, 1944 to August 11, 1944.

The memorial is a 12-foot rectangular obelisk of rose granite that lies within the American Memorial Park, administered by the National Park Service. The bells in the adjacent 20-foot carillon tower ring every half hour between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p. m. The inscription on the obelisk reads:

THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO ITS SONS WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE MARIANAS.

1941-1945

Seizure of the Marianas was essential to the campaigns against the Japanese. U.S. forces based in the Marianas could cut off Japanese air and maritime support of its units in the region. Aircraft based on Saipan, Tinian, and Guam would be within bombing range of the Japanese home islands. Operation FORAGER was conducted to capture those locations.



June 15, 1944. Marines of the first wave landing on Saipan take cover while waiting for more waves to arrive.



June 15, 1944. Navy and Coast Guard landing craft carrying the Marine Corps 2nd and 4th Divisions approach Saipan beaches.



Photo: The National Archives

November 23, 1944. A B-29 Superfortress takes off from Isely Field on Saipan for the first bombing mission to Tokyo.



JUNE 11, 1944: U.S. Navy carrier-based aircraft began strikes against Imperial Japanese aircraft and positions on Saipan.

JUNE 13: Guns of U.S. Navy ships began pounding Japanese positions.

JUNE 15: The 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions conducted amphibious landings along the southwest coast of Saipan. Fierce combat ensued against determined Japanese resistance.

JUNE 17: The U.S. Army's 27th Infantry Division landed in pre-dawn hours to join the attack. Japanese counterattacks slowed the advance of U.S. forces, but they continued across the breadth of Saipan.

JULY 9: Saipan was declared secure and its population liberated.

JULY 21-AUGUST 11: Guam was seized.

JULY 24-AUGUST 1: Tinian Island was seized.

OCTOBER 12: B-29 Superfortress bombers of the XXI Bomber Command began arriving on Saipan.

NOVEMBER 24: 111 B-29 Superfortress bombers flew from Saipan on the first raid against Tokyo from the Marianas.

Hundreds more raids were flown from the Marianas against Japan before fighting in the Pacific ended on August 15, 1945.



Photo: The National Archives

June 17, 1944. Soldiers of the Army's 27th Infantry Division wade ashore to reinforce the Marines on Saipan.