For the people of Guam, war came early and stayed late.

### 1941

Dec. Dec 7, 8. Guam and other points west of International Date line (now Japanese base) was the target of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Japanese attack on Guam was a surprise and much of the island was taken by the Japanese without a fight.

Jan 10, 1942. American military and civilian personnel on Guam were taken prisoner and forced to work as laborers for the Japanese.

Feb. - May. The Japanese renamed the island of Guam as Okinawa, the island that was to become a major American and Allied base.

### 1943

Under Japanese rule, Guam was forced to become a major Japanese naval base. The Japanese used Guam as a base for their operations in the Pacific. Guam was also used as a base for the Japanese military and as a staging area for their operations in the Pacific.

### 1944

In order to protect the island, the Japanese built a network of bunkers and fortifications around the island. The Japanese also used Guam as a base for their operations in the Pacific, and the island was used as a staging area for their operations in the Pacific.

Every morning we would come out of our house to salute the Emperor. We saw the Japanese flag flying in the wind, and the Japanese soldiers were marching down the street. We knew that the Japanese were still in control, and we were afraid to leave our homes.

But one day, we decided to take a chance. We went outside and saw that the Japanese soldiers were gone. We ran back to our house and told our parents that the Japanese had gone. Our parents were overjoyed, and they told us that we were free.

### 1945

The American military forces landed on Guam on July 24, 1944, and took control of the island. The Guam Japanese surrender was the final blow to the Japanese military in the Pacific. Guam was liberated by the American forces, and the Japanese were forced to leave the island.

For the people of Guam, war came early and stayed late. But with the arrival of American forces, Guam was finally free of Japanese rule. Though the war was over, the effects of the Pacific War would continue to be felt on Guam for many years to come.
Experience Your National Park on Guam

PLAN YOUR VISIT

War in the Pacific National Historical Park introduces Guam’s World War II experience as its natural world.

Start at the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center on Main Drive (Rt. 1) interactive exhibits and very personal tours of the events of the battle of Guam and tell the stories of combat veterans, as well as Chamorros and other Pacific Islanders.

The Pacific Historic Parks Brochure, operated by the park’s nonprofit partner group, offers a comprehensive selection of Pacific Theatre publica­tions, films, and in­teraktiv­ities.

STAR SIGHTS: PROTECT THE PARK

The museum has a di­latory equipment and artifacts like foxholes and trenches date from the 1940s or newer and are very fragile. Help us protect these features by not disturbing them.

Federal law protects all natural and cultural features on land and in the water. Please leave them alone.

Accessibility: We strive to make our facilities, programs, and services accessible to all. To learn more, ask at the visitor center or check our website.

More Information: War in the Pacific National Historical Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about National Park Service programs, visit www.nps.gov.

EXPLORE—AND MORE

Amphibious assualts. Bombardments. Jungle fighting against well-entrenched Japa­nese forces. The events on Guam who the island-to-island combat throughout the Pacific Theater. Learn more at these park sites.

ASAN BEACH UNIT

On July 21, 1944, US Navy ships bombarded the island while the US Third Marine Division rushed ashore to retake the island in a battle against the Japanese. As the US forces advanced, many Japanese soldiers and civilians took up positions on the beach. The US forces suffered the hardships of war and who lost their lives.

PTI GUN UNIT

A trail leads you to the ASAN BAY OVERLOOK. Viewed the entrance to the airfield and defense guns, Chamorro artifacts, and the defenses that protected the takehina and his staff. Nearby is a former quarry from which coral was taken for road construction on the island.

FONTE PLATEAU UNIT

This is the former com­mand post of General Takehana, commander of the Japanese forces on Guam. It is located in the field and houses the visitor center. The visitor center provides visitors with a glimpse of the Japanese defenses that protected the main post of General Takeshina, commander of the Japanese forces on Guam.

MORE INFORMATION

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION.

www.nationalparks.org

MODERN BATTLES ON A NEW FRONT

The park protects coral reefs (right), weagre beds, mangroves, wetlands, bogs, streams, limestone forests, coastal and for­ested lowlands, and a mangrove forest.

With rare and endan­gered animals, these habitats create a unique environment for the species. They also face threats from disease, invasive species, habitat loss, and climate change.

An astounding number of organisms live in and around the park’s reefs, and they are thus very diverse—com­prising more species of invertebrates, fish, and corals than all of Hawai’i’s. This biodiversity forms a complex ecosystem that sustains the balance of nature.

These fish were an im­portant part of the tropical Chamorro diet and are now taken for food today. Over time, coral reefs have been over­exploited and are now at risk. Natural occurrences like storms and wildfires permanently alter shorelines, human­made structures like these, and the weather. Coral reefs are also affected by global warming and burning vegetation.

As you explore the park’s lands and waters, keep in mind your role as a steward of these irreplaceable treasures.