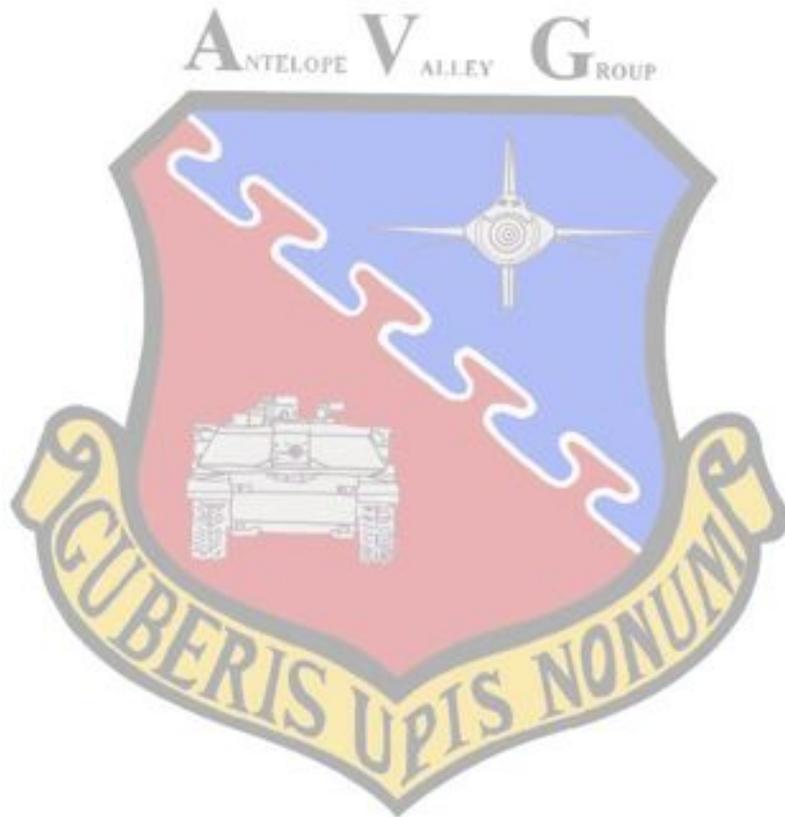


The Smoking Hole

A Publication of the Antelope Valley Group IPMS
Volume 19, Number 2



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2014 Club Officers

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Club News and Business

NEXT MEETING February 15, 2014, 1 PM AT ROSAMOND LIBRARY

General Meeting Notes:

The first meeting for 2014 was devoted primarily to plans for 2014

In-Club Contests

The first of three in-club contests is coming up on us very soon in March. Theme is “M is for March”.

Pretty simple, really. Build a model with “M” in the name (a Mustang, the Mummy, etc)

“7 Decades of Aviation at Edwards” Display

There was further discussion on the display, but there is more to do. Participants should bring in 1/144th kits they plan to build (or to donate for others to build) so we can get an idea of space requirements.

The B-36 Build

The club Monogram 1/72 B-36 commission build is finally complete! The final result came out quite well.

Thanks to all the club members that donated time and resources to the build.



Mike B. Fuselage construction
 Curt S. Wing and tail construction, major assembly, paint
 Rich R. Wheels and props construction and painting
 Matt G. Decal application, final assembly and finishing
 Niilo L. Transport box construction

Dwight Daugherty's Kit Collection

Bill P will be bringing late AVG Member Dwight Daugherty's kit stash to the meeting for sale. Dwight had quite a collection, so if you're interested, bring money. Proceeds will go to Dwight's family

2014 Meeting Schedule

We need volunteers for both demos and refreshments for 2014. Please review the open months and let one of the officers know if you want to sign up for either a demo, refreshments or both.

Primary	Activities	Refreshments	Demo	Review
18 Jan	Member Dues Collected			
15 Feb		Rich R.	Drybrushing (Tom H.)	
15 Mar	"M is for March" In-House Contest		Scaffolding (Bill P.) (tentative)	
19 Apr		Mike O.	"Things Under Wings" (Henry)	
17 May				
21 June	"Build an Airfix Kit" In-House Contest			
19 July				
16 Aug	"Triathlon" In-House Contest	Tom H.		
20 Sept				
18 Oct	Judge's Clinic			
1 Nov	2015 Desert Classic			
15 Nov	2015 Club Officer Nominations	Bill P.		
20 Dec	Christmas Potluck Gift Exchange 2015 Officer Elections	All		

The Tool Crib

If you've got a neat tool you'd like the club to know about, bring it to the meeting or give me a write-up and I'll include it in the newsletter.

Club Demo

We already have some great demos set up for this year. If you're interested in doing a demo for 2014, let me know and I'll schedule it.

Modeler of the Month

January's "Modeler of the Month" is... Tom Hamel



Here's Tom's Nomination: "He builds more models than anyone in the club and builds extremely well. His service to the club as vice president and contest director has been outstanding. Tom is a motivator who gets things done. He is also very helpful to new club members, giving them kits and advice on how to improve their skills."

Tom's Bio: "I began modeling as a teen doing aircraft, mainly airfix, Hawk, and Aurora. In college, I began painting figures for wargaming/fantasy play. Later I developed a taste for armor models. I like WWII armor of all countries. In 1979 I attended my first model contest and have liked them ever since. I joined the AVG Club to find contests but liked having something in

common with other members. I like seeing the other club members' models and seeing how they progress. Eventually I would like to try building ships but that's a big step and I have my work cut out for me. I like our club and as it grows it can only get better as more ideas and techniques become more commonly known."

Member Show and Tell

I don't have the usual detailed write-ups this month, but here's what the members brought to show in January.



Luis' 1/48 Airfix Seafire XVII



Luis' 1/35 PzII



Tom's 1/35 Stuart



Mike O.'s 1/35 15cwt Chevy Truck





Rick's Eduard 1/48 Fw-190D Dual Combo

Military History Sites on Guam

By Matt Graham

I recently returned from a deployment to Guam as part of my work. As a student of military history, I was quite interested in seeing first hand some of the battle sites from the Pacific Campaigns of WW2. Guam was a very strategic location during the war years (and continues to be so today).

For those not familiar with Guam, it is an unincorporated territory of the United States. The US acquired Guam at the conclusion of the Spanish-American War and it has been a US territory continuously except for the period it was occupied by Japan in WW 2. Guam is the largest and southernmost island in the Marianas island chain, which also includes Saipan and Tinian. It is located in the western Pacific, approximately 1000 miles east of the Philippines and 1500 miles southwest of Japan.

Despite being the largest island in the Marianas chain, Guam is not physically very large, being about 33 mi long and 10 miles wide at the widest point. There is a significant US military presence on Guam, with both Navy and Air Force installations on the island. Guam is on the other side of the International Date Line, so is one day ahead of the Continental US.

During WWI, the Japanese captured and occupied the northern islands in the Marianas chain, which had been sold to Germany following the Spanish-American war. In the years leading up to WW2, Japan, recognizing the strategic importance of Guam to its "Sphere of Influence", made plans to invade and occupy Guam. On 8 December 1941 (7 December in Pearl Harbor), the Japanese began an air assault of Guam. The US Government, believing Guam impossible to defend, had only committed a small military force, comprising approximately 150 Marines, 120 Navy personnel and the 260 man Insular Force Guard. They were lightly armed, with only rifles and light machine guns. On 10 December, the Japanese landed an initial force of approximately 400 troops on the island. After 2 hours of skirmishes and a brief battle between the Japanese and Insular Guard and Marine forces, the US Governor surrendered the island to the Japanese. In the meantime, the Japanese had landed an additional 5500 troops on the island.

The Japanese quickly consolidated control of the island. Many of the local islander population (the Chamorros) were placed in detention camps, and others were forced into labor for the Japanese. Chamorros thought to be aiding the enemy were executed. Despite this, Chamorro families protected 5 Navy personnel who had evaded capture. One, Radioman George Tweed, survived until US forces recaptured Guam and provided intelligence in the interim.

In early 1944, preparing for the possible invasion of Guam by the US, the Japanese had 15000 troops and nearly 400 aircraft on the island.

In 1944, US forces continued steadily westward toward Japan. Following destruction of the major Japanese naval facility at Truk (Chuuk), the US prepared for invasion of the Marianas. Guam was considered a high priority, as it had a relatively large land area for constructing airbases for B-29 bombers and possessed a deep-water harbor (Apra Harbor). The invasion of Saipan was planned for 15 June, with Guam planned for 18 June. However, heavier than anticipated resistance on Saipan cause the invasion of Guam to be postponed for one month.

The assault on Guam began with aerial and submarine attacks on shipping, depriving the Japanese of critical supplies. On 21 July 1944, two divisions of Marines landed on either side of the Orote Peninsula, location of the Japanese airfield, with the initial goal of capturing the airfield. By the evening, the Marines had established a beachhead. The Japanese counter attacked, often penetrating US lines, but by 21 July, they had been repelled, the beachheads had been combined and the Orote airfield and Apra harbor captured. The Japanese began to retreat to the north, with the 3rd Marine Division sweeping from the west of the island and the 77th Army Division from the east. The Japanese establish a line and Mt. Barragada, the highest point on the island. By 4 August, US forces had broken the Japanese line at Barragada and continued pursuit

of the Japanese to the northern shore of the island. By August 10, the Japanese had been defeated and Guam declared secure. Casualties had been severe, with over 4000 US soldiers and nearly 18000 Japanese killed.

Guam became a major base for B-29 operations (along with Saipan and Tinian). Seebees constructed several airfields on the island, one of which is still currently in operation as Andersen AFB.

Interestingly, some Japanese soldiers held out and hid in the jungle as ‘stragglers’ for many years. The most famous, Sgt. Sohichi Yokoi was not discovered until 1972!

The US National Parks Service operates the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam. The park is composed of several important sites throughout the island. The primary visitor center and museum is located just outside the main gate of the Naval Base Guam on the Orote Peninsula. The small museum has numerous displays, some interactive, giving the history of military operations on Guam, the War in the Pacific and the aftermath of the war. Many of the displays focus on the impact to the people of Guam. The museum has an excellent gift shop with many books and videos on Pacific War subjects. On display in front of the museum is a Japanese two-man mini submarine, which ran aground in Apra harbor just a few days after the end of the battle on August 10. This sub was on display for many years on the Navy base, but was recently moved to the visitor center.



Japanese Ko-hyoteki –class, Type A 2-man midget submarine

A few miles north, at the top of Nimitz Hill in the village of Piti is the Asan Bay Overlook. This site provides a panoramic view of some of the important sites, such as the Agan Bay Site (part of the park and site of the 3rd Marine Division landing) and Apra harbor and Orote Peninsula. There is a beautiful bronze plaque depicting the Marine landing and a large curved wall with 36 bronze plaques with the names of the US service men killed in the liberation of Guam and of native Chamorros that suffered during the Japanese occupation, in detention and forced labor camps and killed by the Japanese.



Agan Bay landing site (center of photo)



Apra harbor. Orote Peninsula is to the left.

Near the base of Nimitz Hill is the Piti Guns Site. A short hike up the hill reveals 3 140 mm Vickers artillery guns. This site has a clear shot to Agan Bay. Fortunately for US forces, the Japanese were not able to complete the installation of these guns prior to the invasion. Forced Chamorro labor was used to haul the guns up the hillside.



Piti Guns. 140mm Vickers gun



Breech of Vickers gun

Around the loop road, on the opposite side of Nimitz Hill from the Piti Guns is the Pacific War Museum.



This small, privately owned museum was founded by a retired Marine. It has two wings of artifacts and historical documents, one devoted to the Japanese and one to the Marines. These halls are a treasure trove of information, photos and military artifacts found on Guam. The entire Japanese order of battle is detailed on the Japanese. On the Marine side, there is a fascinating piece of equipment, used to estimate the height of approaching aircraft for anti aircraft purposes. It is a tube about 12 feet long with lenses on each end that mounted on a tripod, with an eyepiece in the center. I had never seen one of these devices before, or was even aware of its existence. Unfortunately, the halls are very narrow and it is difficult to photograph in them. Outside is the crown jewel of the museum, a collection of military vehicles, most of them operational. All though many of them are of a decidedly post-war nature (V-100, Gamma Goat), there are some vintage vehicles, including a GMC half-ton truck that was on the Guam Navy base when the Japanese invaded, and a Jeep that served on Tinian. There is also some large Japanese artifacts, such as aircraft components and guns. Admission is a \$3 dollar donation, an incredible bargain.



Ki-100 Windscreen



1940 GMC Truck



Aichi D3A "Val" tail section



Val engine



Japanese Naval gun

Across the street from the Museum, in the parking lot of an equipment supply business is a rusting Japanese light tank. It incongruously shares space with several fiberglass dinosaurs!



Type 95 Ha-Go Light Tank

On the southeast side of the island, near Talofofu Falls is Sargent Yokoi's cave. Unfortunately, this is a replica, as the actual cave collapsed in the 1980's

Andersen AFB is on the north side of the island. It was originally constructed as a B-29 base. To the west of the current base is a second set of abandoned runways, also used for B-29 operations. It was from this facility that the last large scale B-29 mission prior to the Atomic flights was launched. It consisted of 143 B-29's and there is a bronze plaque commemorating the event.

Andersen, of course, played a part in later conflicts. Most of the "Arc Light" bombing campaign against North Vietnam was staged from Andersen. On the main base is the Arc Light Memorial. The memorial has an actual B-52D and plaques with the names of the crews lost in the raids. There is a similar memorial to F-4 crews on the southeast side of base.

For those that are scuba divers, there are some great underwater wrecks to observe in Apra harbor, including the "Tokai Maru" freighter, a Val bomber and Rufe seaplane.

There are other military sites all over the island. There was even an old Japanese pillbox at the beach at my hotel! Guam is indeed an fascinating place if you are interested in military history.



25mm AA gun at Ga'an Site



Japanese barge wreckage in Apra harbor

Calendar

2/15/2014	Santa Rosa Model Expo IPMS Sonoma	Petaluma Community Center 320 N. McDowell Blvd Petaluma, CA
2/24/2014	ModelFest	CAF Southern California Wing 455 Aviation Dr. Camirillo, CA
3/2/2014	ValleyCon	Pasedena Civic Center 300 E. Green St. Pasedena, CA
4/5/2014	Silicon Valley Classic IPMS Silicon Valley	Naperdek Hall 770 Montague Expressway San Jose, CA
5/3/2014	Best of the West IPMS Las Vegas	Railroad Pass Hotel and Casino 2800 S Boulder Hwy Henderson, NV
6/28/014	Minicon IPMS Ontario (Region 8 Regional)	Ontario Senior Center 225 E. B St. Ontario, CA
8/6-9/2014	50 th Anniversary IPMS National Convention	Hampton Roads Convention Center 1610 Coliseum Drive Hampton, VA
9/6/2014	15 th Annual Invitational IPMS Reno "High Rollers"	Desert Heights Elementary School 13948 Mt. Bismark Reno, NV
9/28/2014	TriCity X Classic IPMS Fremont Hornets	Milpitas Community Center 457 E. Calaveras Blvd Milpitas, CA
11/1/2014	2015 Desert Classic IPMS AVG	AV College 3041 W. Ave. K Lancaster, CA