

Wartime Malaria

During World War II, Okinawa Prefecture became the scene of a land battle involving all of the civilian population, resulting in the loss of over 200,000 lives and of irreplaceable cultural assets. Even though the Yaeyama Islands did not suffer the direct combat conditions endured on Okinawa Island, it did receive heavy bombing both from the air and sea. Of special note is the loss of life from malaria in the jungles. Over 3,000 deaths resulted as numbers of civilians contracted malaria when forced evacuations to malaria-infected areas were ordered by the Japanese Imperial Army.

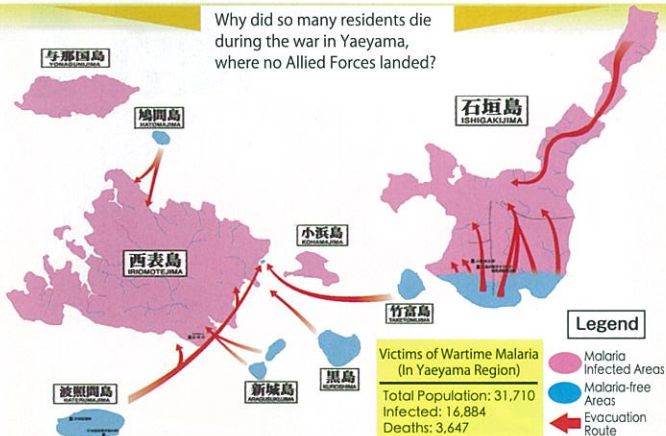
Infection and Deaths from Malaria in the Yaeyama Islands during WWII

Municipal District (At the time)	Island	Designated Evacuation Area	Population (A)	Number of People Infected (B)	Number of Deaths (C)	Death Rate (C/B)
Ishigaki Town	Ishigaki	Ishigaki Island: Shiramizu, Kaarayama, Fukayamada, Ugado	13,531	5,130	1,388	27.06%
Ohama Village		Ishigaki Island: Bunatabaru, Nakamizu, Fukai	5,519	4,930	1,108	22.47%
Subtotal			19,050	10,060	2,496	24.81%
Taketomi Village	Taketomi, Kohama, Kuro, Aragusuku, Hateruma, Hatoma	Iriomote Island: Ohara, Haimi, Komi, Kasazaki, Uehara, Funaura, Yubu Island	7,906	3,653	785	21.49%
Yonaguni Village	Yonaguni	-	4,745	3,171	366	11.54%
Total			31,701	16,884	3,647	21.60%

Compiled from "Wartime Malaria in the Yaeyama Islands in 1945" (Published by the Yaeyama Civil Administration, 1947)

Military Orders Forced Wartime Evacuations to Malaria-Infected Areas

Why did so many residents die during the war in Yaeyama, where no Allied Forces landed?



The Basic Concept of the Yaeyama Peace Memorial Museum

Our purpose has been to construct a center for peace that accurately conveys the truth about wartime malaria to future generations.

Many precious lives were lost to the mosquito borne disease after rejections of the Yaeyama Islands were forced from their homes under military order during World War II to settle in malaria infested areas.

It also sends an appeal from Yaeyama to the world for the building of societies in which human dignity is protected and a lasting peace is achieved.

Museum Information

[Address] 79-3 Shinei-cho, Ishigaki City, Okinawa Prefecture 907-0014

[TEL/FAX] 0980-88-6161

[Hours] 09:00 - 17:00

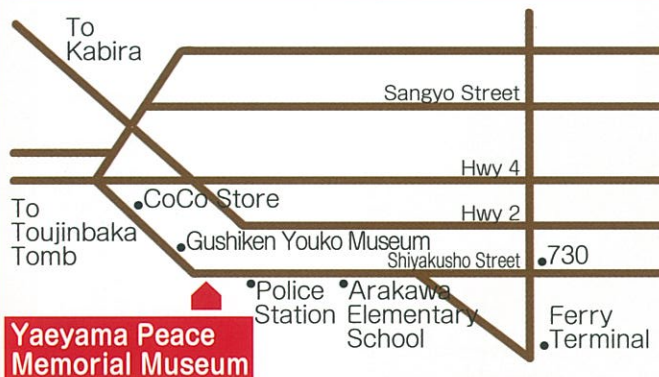
[Dates Closed] Every Monday

(except when Monday is a holiday), and Dec. 29 - Jan. 3.

[Admission]

Category	Individual	Group (over 20 people)
Adult	100yen	70yen
Child	50yen	35yen

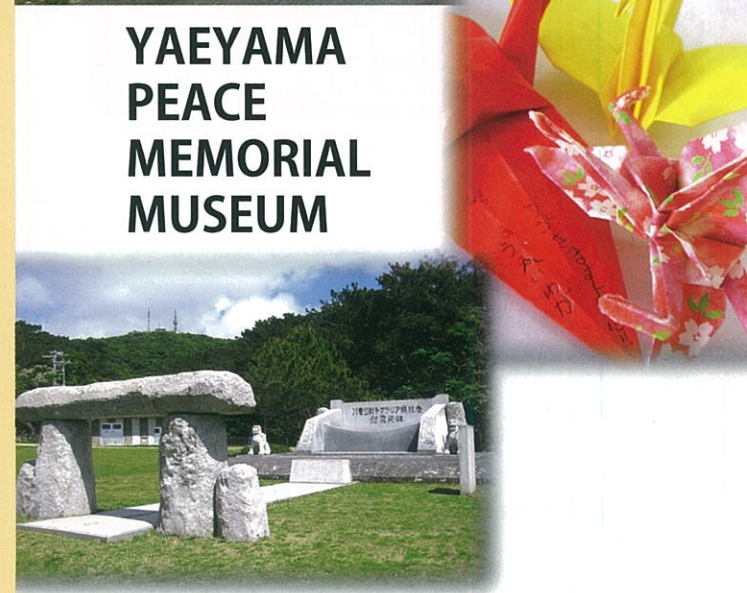
Map to the Yaeyama Peace Memorial Museum



Guide to Yaeyama Peace Memorial Museum



YAEYAMA PEACE MEMORIAL MUSEUM





Permanent Exhibit



Yaeyama and the Battle of Okinawa

Tragedy of Wartime Malaria



Efforts to Eradicate Malaria



Wartime Malaria Reference Material~



マラリアの特効薬である「アテブリン」



- <On Permanent Exhibit>
- ① Mother and Child Suffering from High Temperature
 - ② Anti-Malarial Medication, "Atebrin" (Quinacrine)
 - ③ Okinawan talisman, "San"



Reference Material Viewing / Search Desk



Names of individuals who died from malaria during the war are compiled in the database.

"Beyond Sorrow", a compilation of testimonies of people who experienced malaria, is available for reading.



Exhibit Room 2 / Lobby



Special exhibits and video shows are offered several times a year in Exhibit Room 2.



Peace Studies

Yaeyama Peace Memorial Museum is open to schools and organizations from within and outside of Okinawa as a venue for learning about peace.

Examples of Peace Study Sessions at the Museum

Viewing of the permanent exhibit (with explanation for about 30 minutes), special exhibits, and videos on peace and human rights; convening of peace assemblies.



Message of Peace

Symbol of prayers for peace, paper cranes donated by museum visitors are on display inside the museum.

