

Major war remains in Tateyama City

Locating at the entrance of Tokyo Bay, Tateyama was an important role in defending central government Tokyo (Edo), from Bakumatsu period (the last days of Tokugawa shogunate) through 1945 that the Pacific War was over.

Therefore, Tateyama has many war remains such as remains of gun batteries and remains from Naval Air Corps.

1, Tokyo Bay Fortress

In Meiji period, modernization had started in Japan. At that time, it was important for the government to defend Tokyo from foreign warships. For that reason, Imperial Japanese Army built many batteries around Tokyo Bay. Then, Tokyo Bay Fortress had ready to defend, and built the network of batteries within this region: In Tateyama City, there are Battery Sunosaki No.1 (completed in 1932) and Battery Sunosaki No. 2 (completed in 1927). In northern part of Tomiura cho, Minamiboso City, there is Battery Taibusa Misaki (completed in 1932).

2, Tateyama Naval Air Squadron

During World War I (1914-1919), new types of weapons such as planes or tanks were started to use. In 1930, Tateyama Naval Air Squadron was made up as the fifth operational air corps in the Imperial Japanese Navy. Until the end of World War II in 1945, between the area of Kouyatsu and Numa, there were various military facilities. For example, Tateyama Naval Aviation Arsenal that repairs planes and supplies equipments, and Yokosuka Navy Ordnance Corps Tateyama Warehouse that provides food, clothes, and fuels. These days, the former Tateyama Naval Air Squadron Base (Photo #1) has been used as the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Tateyama Air Base (Photo #2).



Photo #1 /
The former headquarter of
Tateyama Naval Air Squadron



Photo #2 /
The headquarter of Japan
Maritime Self-Defense Force
Tateyama



Photo #3 /
The stratum of inside of
Akayama Underground Tunnels



Photo #4 /
Differences in stratum are
observable

3, Tateyama Naval Gunnery School

Sunosaki Naval Air Squadron

Tateyama Naval Gunnery School was established in June 1941 as an educational facility for shooting aircrafts and landing force in Sano, Tateyama City. Sunosaki Naval Air Squadron was established in 1943 at the area between Kasana and Ooka, adjacent to Tateyama Naval Air Squadron. While Tateyama Naval Air Squadron formed as an operational air corps, this squadron formed for maintaining aircraft weapons, including courses of firing & bombing, radio, photograph, torpedo, and radar.

Thus, within Tateyama City, there were facilities for Army and Navy and two educational facilities. It was rare to have such various kinds of military facilities in Japan at that time.

What is Akayama Underground Tunnels?

One of the ruins from the war which represents Tateyama City is an intricate underground maze of tunnels with an approximate length of 1.6km. The size of this underground tunnel is quite unusual at the nationwide level.

When was it constructed?

Since there is not many related data left, nobody knows the exact date. However, there is no precedent constructing such a large underground tunnel before 1941. Comparing with other air-raid shelters in different regions, it seems like that the military at that time started constructing this air-raid shelter after 1942.

Generally, the lengths between underground air-shelters are around 10 to 20 meters long. For example, the Matsushiro Underground Imperial Headquarters in Nagano Prefecture has 25 meters long in Zozan Underground Tunnels. In this Akayama Underground Tunnels, the length is narrow as 5 to 10 meters, so it is obvious this was not constructed systematically. Some says the construction had started early 1935's covertly, but many people say the construction started after 1944 by soldiers of Tateyama Naval Air Squadron.

From there are evidences of that construction kept going until August 15, 1945, when Japan surrendered, it is certain that this Akayama Underground Tunnels were unfinished.

How was it used?

Supposedly, some rooms had used for telegraph and medical treatment according to the testimonies of workers who worked in Tateyama Naval Air Squadron at just before the end of World War II.

Structure and Visitor's Route of Akayama Underground Tunnels

(It had opened to public since 2004.04.01)

- Visitor's Route (total 250 m)
- Spot light
- Intercom
- Fences

Map from Tateyama Station to Akayama Underground Tunnels

From Tateyama Station:

Take Nitto bus to "Miyagi" about 10 minutes, get off at "Miyagi" bus stop and walk about 3 minutes.

Welcome to Tateyama

Historic Site designated by Tateyama City

(2005.01.27)

Tateyama Naval Air Squadron

Akayama Underground Tunnels

Please keep in mind of following things in Underground Tunnels:

- Always wear the helmet
- Do not bring hazardous materials
- Do not drink, eat, smoke
- Prohibition of use of fire
- Please watch your feet
- Do not write on the walls
- In case of emergency, evacuate immediately
- Child under middle school age needs to be with a guardian
- Do not climb over the fences

Access

●By JR (Japan Railway)

Tokyo Station — (JR Sazanami Limited Express) — Tateyama Station, 1h 53m, ¥3510

Chiba Station — (JR Uchibo line) — Tateyama Station, 1h 52m, ¥1450

●By car

Tokyo / Yokohama — (Higashikantou Expressway) Miyanogi JCT — 70mins — Tomiura IC

Tokyo / Yokohama — (Aqua Line) Umihotaru PA — 50mins — Tomiura IC

●By Highway Buses

Chiba Station — (Nanso Satomi gou) — Tateyama Station, 100mins, ¥1500

Tokyo Station — (Nanohana gou) — Tateyama Station, 120mins, ¥2400

Yokohama Station — (Keikyū Limousine Bus) — Haneda Airport — Tateyama Station, 110mins, ¥2500

●By Tokyo-Bay Ferry

Kurihama — (Ferry) — Kanaya — walk — Hamakanaya St. — (JR 30mins, ¥400) — Tateyama St.

(Tokyo Bay Ferry, 40mins, ¥700)

Thank you for visiting Akayama Underground Tunnels. Explanation into the underground tunnel is now started!

This facility tells you not only the history of Tateyama City but also the origin of the land.

Hills of Southern Part of Boso Peninsula were formed by layers from 24 million years ago, contain tuffaceous sandstone and conglomerate.

To Visitors

This facility is very important historic site.

Follow the rules, and let us leave it for next generations.

★Entrance Fee: Adults ¥200, Students ¥100

【Group (over 20 people)】 Adults ¥150, Students ¥50

【Discount Ticket from Municipal Museum】 Adults ¥400, Students ¥150

★Closed: Every 3rd Tuesday, Year-end to New Year (12/29-1/3)

★Hours: 9:30am — 4:00pm (entry is until 3:30pm)

★Reservation & Inquires: Toyotsu Hall

TEL: 0470-24-1911 Address: 192-2 Miyagi, Tateyama City, Chiba Prefecture

★Inquiries: Lifelong Learning Division (Syogai Gakushu ka)

TEL: 0470-22-3698 Address: 740-1 Hojo, Tateyama City, Chiba Prefecture

※Guides are available at NPO group depending on the cost.

3 interesting observation points:

- 1, How is the surface of walls in the tunnels?
- 2, How are differences in temperature and humidness inside and outside of tunnels?
- 3, How is the brightness inside of tunnels compared with brightness outside?