

Tateyama Naval Air Squadron Akayama Underground Tunnels

◆What is Akayama Underground Tunnels?

One of the ruins 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.

◆Why was it constructed in Tateyama?

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.