

Project or Obsession?

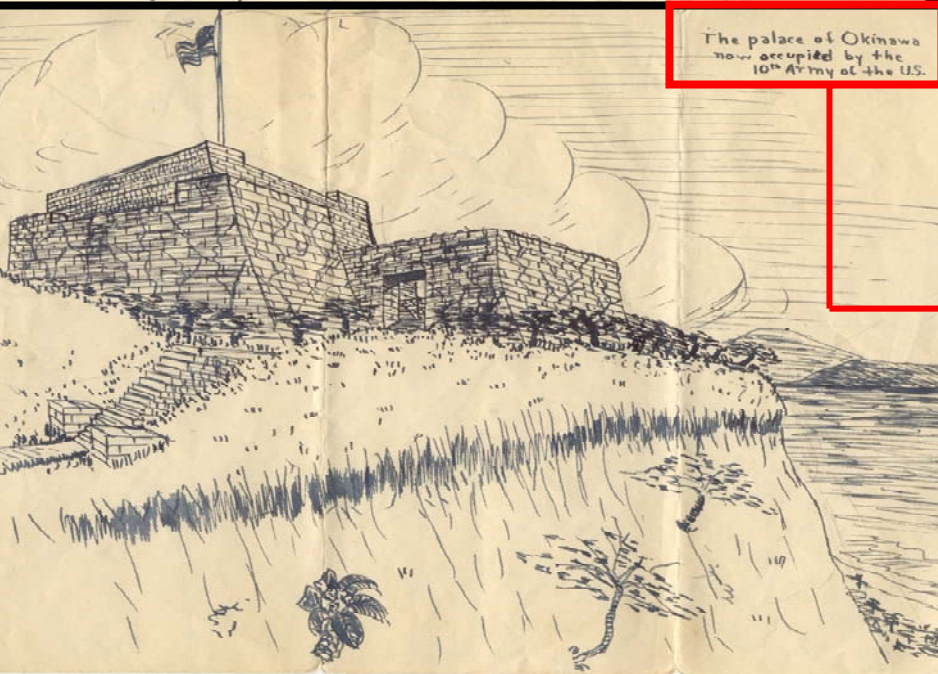
How much can be learned about an unidentified sketch?

The next group of slides cover a sketch that dad made of an unidentified castle ruin. They explain how I determined which castle it was, provide a study of dad's sketch, and offer the positive proof of the true identity of the ruin. They also reveal that although dad's sketch was clearly an abstract interpretation in which he altered some features, his detail in other areas was no less impressive. From an altered stone wall to two seemingly insignificant hills in the distance (which turned out to be accurately placed), dad's movement between the abstraction allowed by artistic license to the reality expressed by the inclusion of minute details, make this simple sketch particularly fascinating. It could be argued that his deviations from reality are even more remarkable than his literal recordings of this castle ruin because they are a product of his imagination and not just his artistic talent alone.

On one of my runs I had to go about five miles to pick up some forms for the company and the place I had to go to was where once the King and Queen ruled the people of Okinawa. The palace is now

6

occupied by Gen. Hodge of the 24th Corps and his staff. I made a rough sketch of it to show you what it looks like. From this point you can see far out into the China sea. There are many ships out and around the island. At night it looks like a very large city with all the light on. A pretty picture indeed. (I started this letter about three days ago and I hope to get it done sometimes this year.)



The palace of Okinawa
now occupied by the
10th Army of the U.S.

Identifying this castle ruin became an interesting project. Actually, there isn't any place called "The Palace of Okinawa". Names for unknown sites were named by the GI's as they saw fit and handed down to other GI's. There are over 300 of these castle ruins spread all over Okinawa. Identifying this one took a lot of effort and a little luck. Two men, who coincidentally shared the first name of Benjamin, would provide the positive proof that I needed.

The sequence of the following slides is in reverse order – in the sense that I first show the hard evidence that identifies the castle and then show the study of the sketch comparing it to actual photos of the ruin. In reality, I discovered the proof only after doing the "sketch study".

The palace of Okinawa
now occupied by the
10th Army of the U.S.

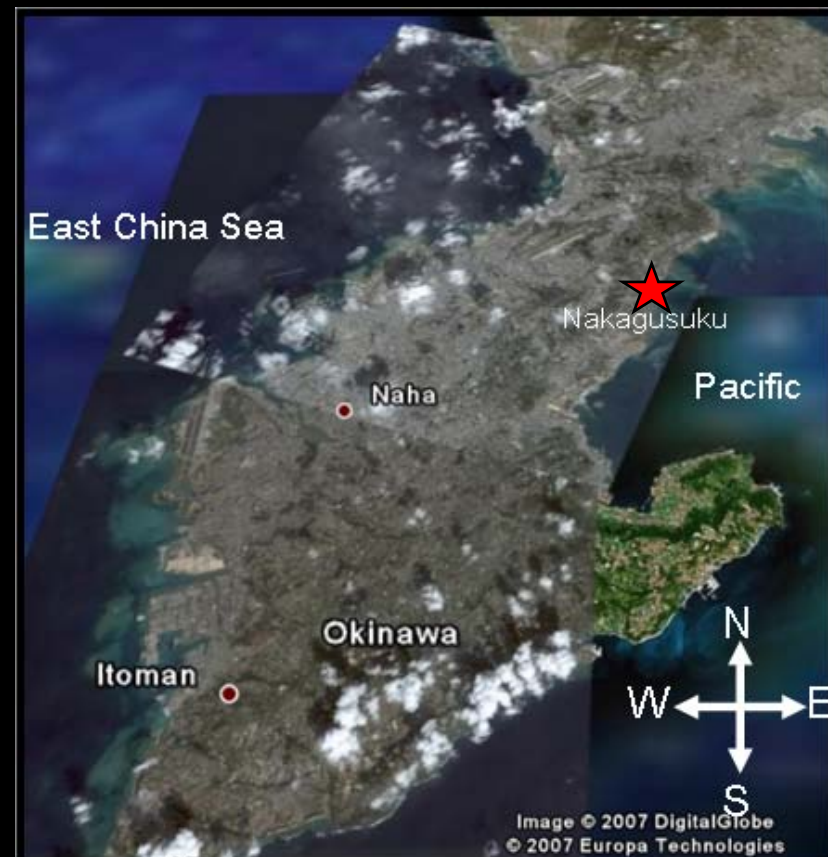
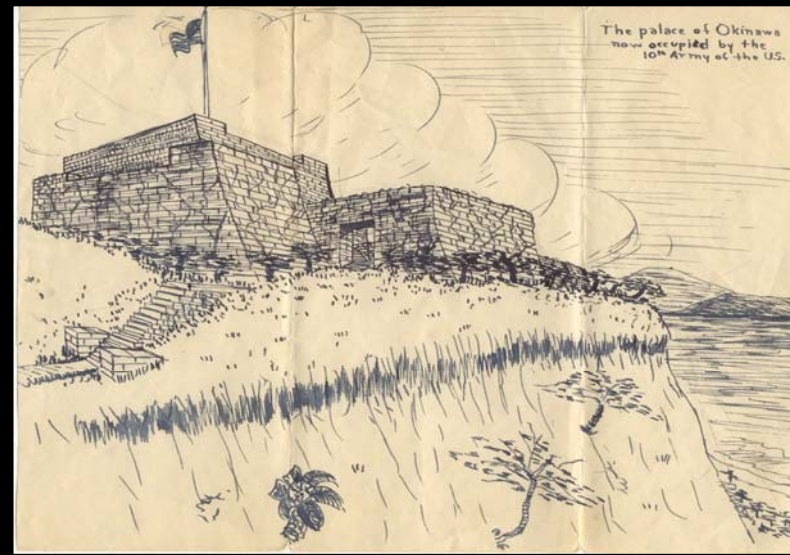
How the mystery castle was identified

Off and on for the last few years I tried to identify this castle that dad drew while on Okinawa. Even though dad called this one “The Palace of Okinawa”, there are over 300 castle ruins on Okinawa and not one of them is referred to by that name. I looked at the most popular ones and was able to eliminate most of them. Dad gave some clues though.

First he said that this castle was occupied by General Hodge of the 24th Corps (which was part of the 10th Army). He also said that he drove about 5 miles to get to this castle and that he could see “far out into the China Sea” from its location.

Because I believed him to be near the capitol city of Naha, this eliminated castles much further than 5 miles from Naha. I tried many internet searches to link the 24th Corps to the occupation of a castle on Okinawa but could never find any information.

I found some photos of a castle called Nakagusuku Castle. It looked very similar to dad’s sketch but had some features that were different. One of the walls was arched or curved, a stairway was in a different place, and it was on Okinawa’s east coast when I believed (mistakenly) that dad’s castle had to be on the west coast. I believed this because Naha is near the west coast, closer to the East China Sea. If dad drove about 5 miles to this castle and could see far out into the China Sea as he claimed, then it made sense that this castle was in the west. As I began to look at maps of Okinawa I realized that it was much smaller than I thought, only 2 to 18 miles wide and 70 miles long, about 463 square miles. If dad was camped in the west, near Naha as I thought, he could drive the 5 miles he wrote about and be on the east coast. As for seeing far out into the China Sea, the elevation of Nakagusuku Castle provides a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean to the east, and of the East China Sea to the west. I then started to closely compare the photos of Nakagusuku and dad’s sketch. I would later stumble upon the positive proof that I needed while doing this comparison. **Finding some documentation linking the 24th Corps to the use of this castle became my goal.**



The last clue to the puzzle was finding the castle that the 24th Corps used as its headquarters. This information was very hard to find because it isn't of major historical significance. I came across the following two pieces of information. The first is from The University of Anchorage Alaska's website. It has a section containing the archives of a man named **Benjamin B. Talley**. He was an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, commander of the First Engineer Special Brigade on the Okinawa beach head, and he retired as a brigadier general in 1956. Taken from this site was just an footnote entry to a study he donated to the university. The study itself is not of interest here, but **where** it was created is. It says:

2. Korea: Intelligence Documents; Aug. 1945.

-Summary of PW Interrogation Reports, Kyongsong-Inch'on-Pusan (Korea); Study by Headquarters XXIV Corps, Nakagusuku Castle, Okinawa; Aug. 26, 1945 (8 pp.). ← **Nakagusuku Castle used for the 24th Corps headquarters**

The palace is now occupied by Gen. Hodge of the 24th Corps and his staff. (General Hodge commanded the 24th Corps)

The above footnote refers to intelligence documents pertaining to the handling of Japanese POW's in Korea. It was created by the 24th Corps at Nakagusuku Castle on Okinawa. Like the 24th Corps, dad would soon be in Korea.

What's interesting (coincidence really) is that dad was most likely at Nakagusuku Castle on the day of this report or the day before. I believe this because dad's letter was dated August 25th, and postmarked August 26th. The second piece of supporting information is from a statement made by a man named **Benjamin H. Hazard** who was the 24th Corps language officer and served on Okinawa. He also verifies that the 24th Corps occupied Nakagusuku Castle. (see next slide)



Maj. General Hodge



Benjamin B. Talley

Note: Benjamin B. Talley was the commander of the 1st Engineer Special Brigade on Okinawa. This possibly was dad's brigade as well. He was commander of the brigade until September, 1945. Just like dad, Talley went on to Korea after leaving Okinawa.

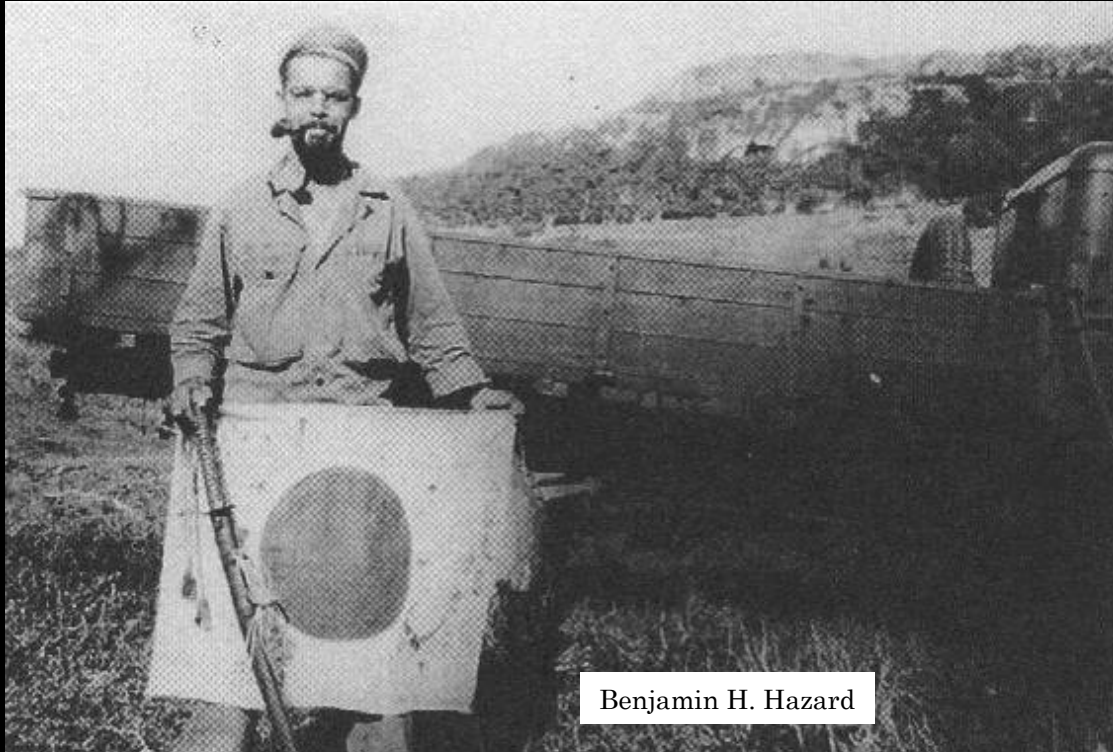
Two men with the same first name left behind two different pieces of documentation that proved the identity of the Okinawan castle. **Benjamin B. Talley** (shown near left) and **Benjamin H. Hazard**, shown on the next slide.

Below: Statement from Benjamin H. Hazard...24th Corps Language Officer:

“XXIV Corps joined the III Amphibious Corps (Marines) to form Tenth Army (under General Simon Bolivar Buckner). XXIV Corps Headquarters first set up its headquarters in defilade to the enemy to the south, but open to the sea where the landing force ships sat.”

“When its forward divisions advanced several miles to the south, Corps Headquarters moved into Nakagusuku Castle where it remained until it moved to Seoul when the war ended.”
-Benjamin H. Hazard

This is the “other” Benjamin who left behind a statement that proves that the 24th Corps was using Nakagusuku Castle as it’s headquarters. This proves that the castle in dad’s sketch is the same castle.



Benjamin H. Hazard

defilade:
(noun)
(def-i-lade)
fortifications or protection designed to guard against enemy gunfire that might be aimed at a line of troops. To set up protective fortifications to protect troops or a position.

A native of South Lancaster; Massachusetts, Hazard was educated largely in Los Angeles area schools in the 1930s where his interest in Japanese was stimulated by friends in the Nikkei community. When he entered UCLA in 1940, he foresaw the possibility of war with Japan and enrolled in Japanese language courses. The upshot was that he volunteered for the Military Intelligence School (Japanese) at the University of Michigan on December 15, 1942, studying there until June 1943. He commanded the 306th Headquarters Intelligence Detachment during the Battle of Okinawa, and after the surrender of Japan, led the detachment during the initial stages of the Occupation of Korea. He was discharged at Camp Beale, California, on 29 July 1946. After discharge from active duty, Hazard served as professor of Asian history on the faculties of the University of California, Santa Barbara, and of San Jose State University. Among his numerous publications is the reference work, *Korean Studies Guide* (1954). He is now Professor of History Emeritus.

NAKAGUSUKU CASTLE

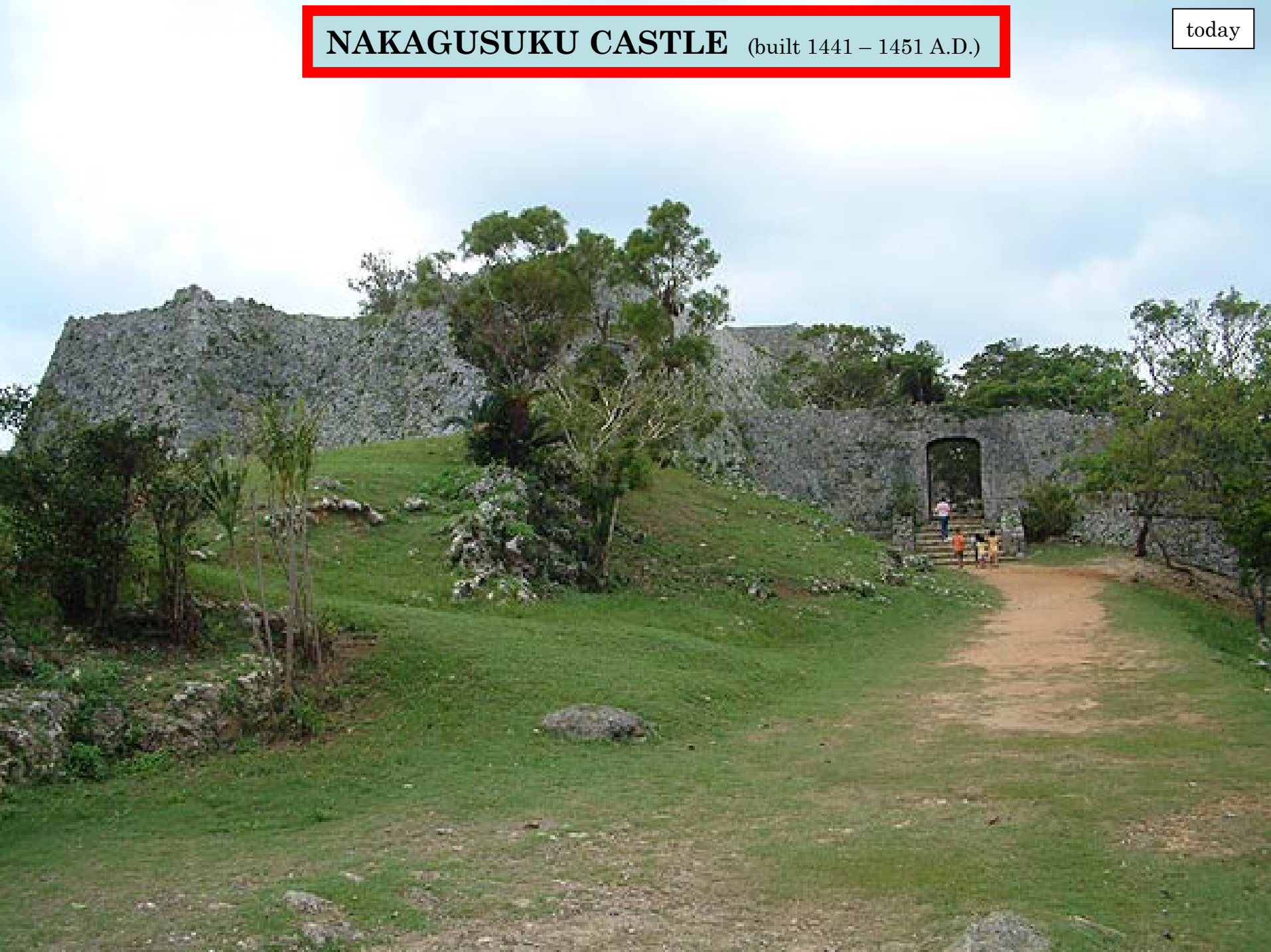
August, 1945



The palace of Okinawa
now occupied by the
10th Army of the U.S.

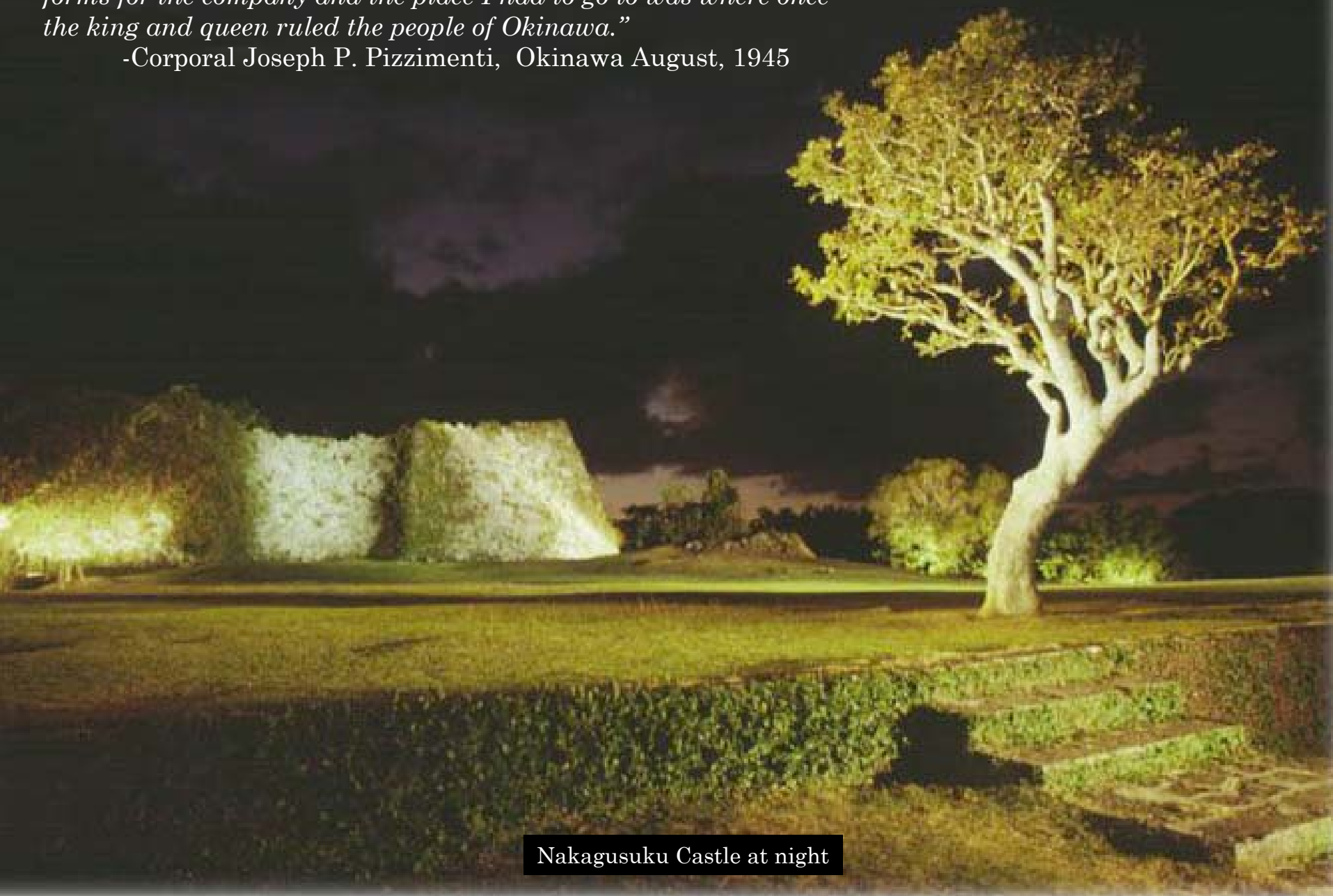
NAKAGUSUKU CASTLE (built 1441 – 1451 A.D.)

today



“On one of my runs I had to go about five miles to pick up some forms for the company and the place I had to go to was where once the king and queen ruled the people of Okinawa.”

-Corporal Joseph P. Pizzimenti, Okinawa August, 1945

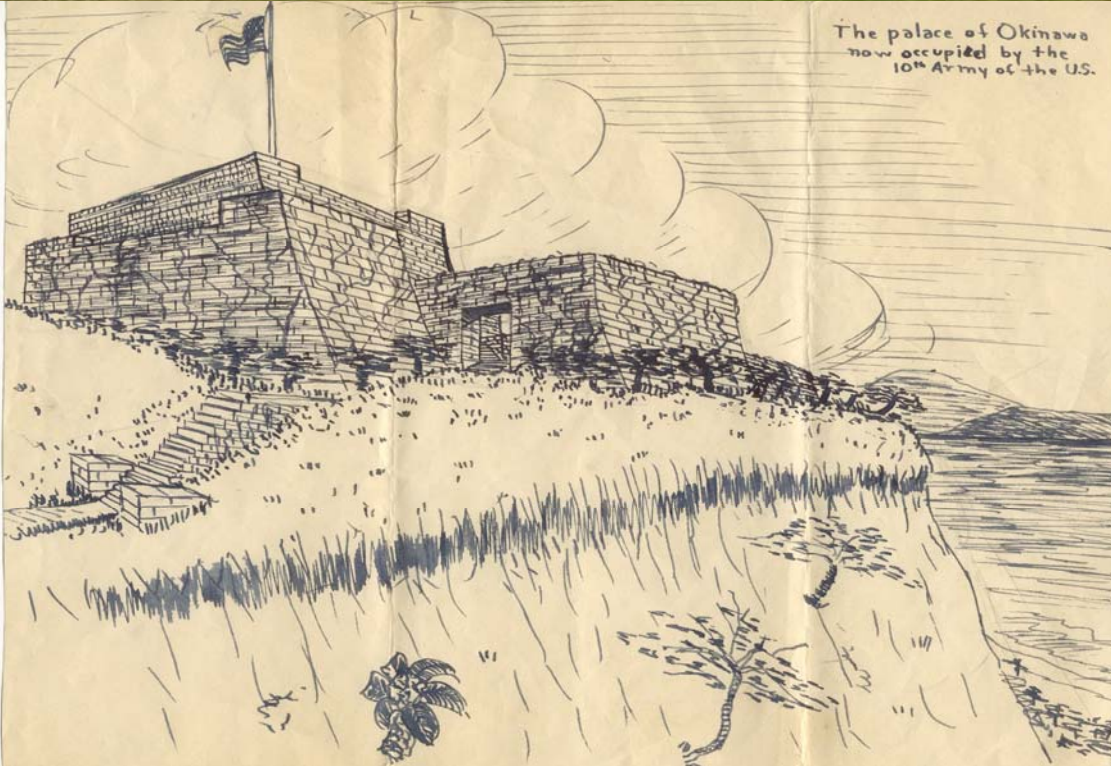


Nakagusuku Castle at night



Nakagusuku Castle

Photo altered to show U.S. flag as it was in August of 1945 when Dad was there. (according to his sketch)



The palace of Okinawa
now occupied by the
10th Army of the U.S.

Nakagusuku Castle



East China Sea

Nakagusuku-wan

Pacific Ocean

XXIV Corps Headquarters Nakagusuku Castle

The palace of Okinawa
now occupied by the
10th Army of the U.S.



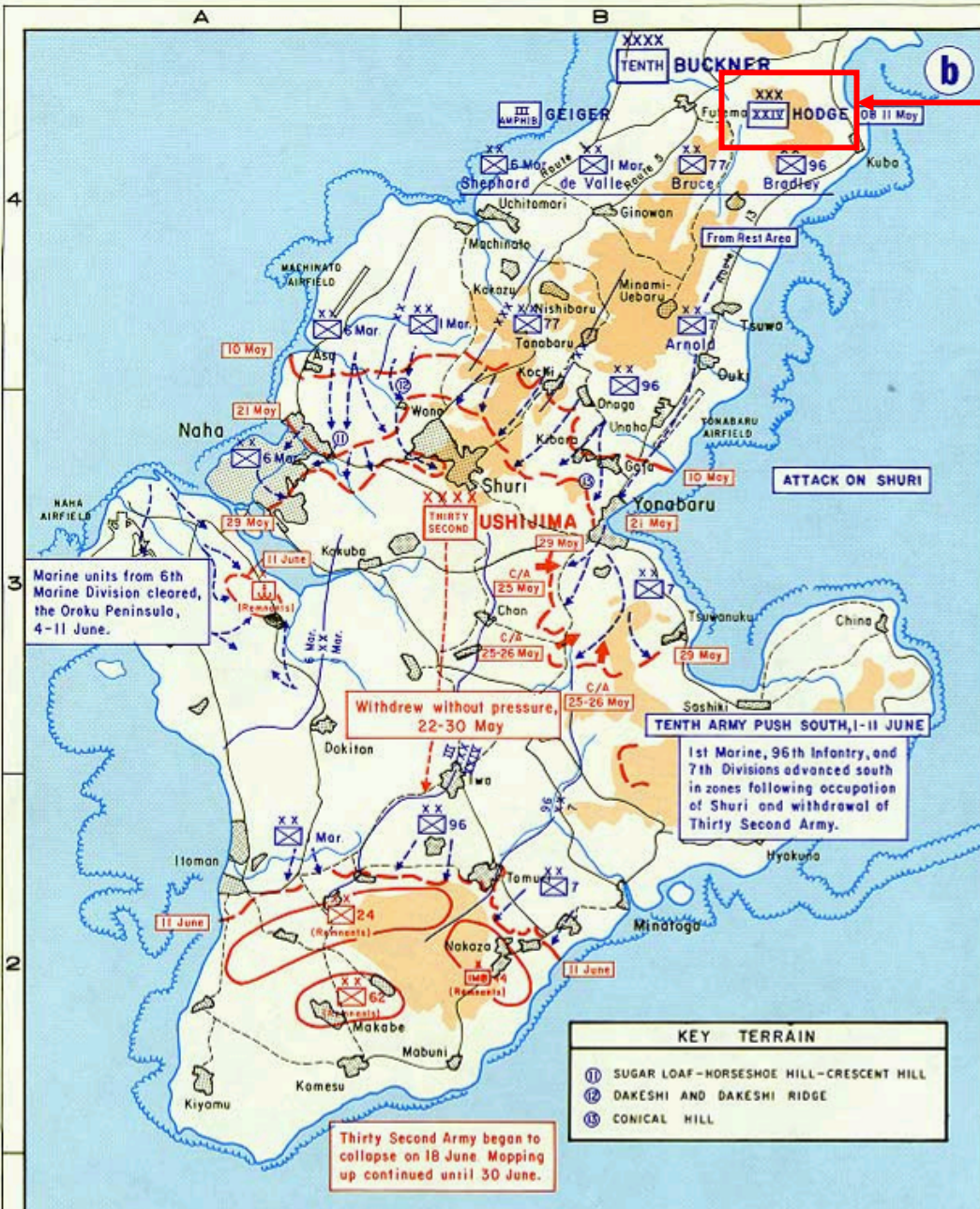
Maj. General John R. Hodge

The palace is now
occupied by Gen. Hodge of the 24th Corps
and his staff. I made a rough sketch of it

The XXIV Army Corps consisted of the 7th and 96th Infantry Divisions and was commanded by **Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge**, a veteran leader of troops who had met and defeated the Japanese on Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Bougainville, and Leyte. It fought on Okinawa as part of the **10th Army** commanded by General Buckner, who was killed in action.

By the evening of 5 April the 7th Division had pulled up almost abreast of the 96th. The 7th had fallen about two miles behind on the preceding day, when its center elements encountered a high, wooded ridge paralleling the coast line just west of Kuba and defended by a group of Japanese estimated as of company strength. On this ridge a great castle had been built in the sixteenth century by a feudal lord who chose the commanding height as a vantage point from which he could observe movement through this narrow part of the island. Now there remained only attractive green terraces encased on several levels within massive stone walls intricately pieced together by Okinawans of a former day, 10,000 of whom labored for ten years to build this castle for their lord.⁶

excerpt from "Okinawa: The Last Battle" (about Nakagusuku Castle).



The map on the left shows the battle of Okinawa, labels General Hodge's XXIV Corps at the location where Nakagusuku Castle is. The map on the right pinpoints the castle's exact location. The two points are consistent.

The Nakagusuku Castle

From pamphlet published by Nakagusuku Castle Site Cooperative Management and Consultation Committee

Nakagusuku Castle site is located two kilometers from the old trading port of Yagi on an elevation of 150-160 meters above sea level. Its steep slopes and jagged cliffs offer a natural landscape for a castle site. This historic site runs from the north-western portion of Nakagusuku Village and up to the southern side of Kita-Nakagusuku Village. Of the approximately 300 castle ruins found in the prefecture, this castle is one of the best preserved in its original state. Standing upon its stonewalls, visitors can enjoy the panoramic view of Nakagusuku Bay (Pacific Ocean) to the east and the East China Sea to the west. The Katsuren peninsula appears to the left of the bay and the Chinen peninsula to the right. In between the two peninsulas the sandy shores of Tsuken and Kudaka islands are visible in the horizon.

The castle is believed to have been constructed in the 1st half of the 15th century by Lord Gosamaru. However, recent studies have raised the theory that Gosamaru's predecessor may have been the first to set the foundations of the castle since the 1st, 2nd, and third citadels differ in style from the north citadel. Ancient builders made skillful use of the limestone

precipice and the surface configuration by raising the level of the six groups of citadels in the castle. The cut Ryukyu limestone is the basic material which has been utilized in constructing the exquisite curving walls surrounding the premises. The traditional skills used in the building process show artistic ingenuity which has enhanced the historical and cultural value of this ancient fortress.

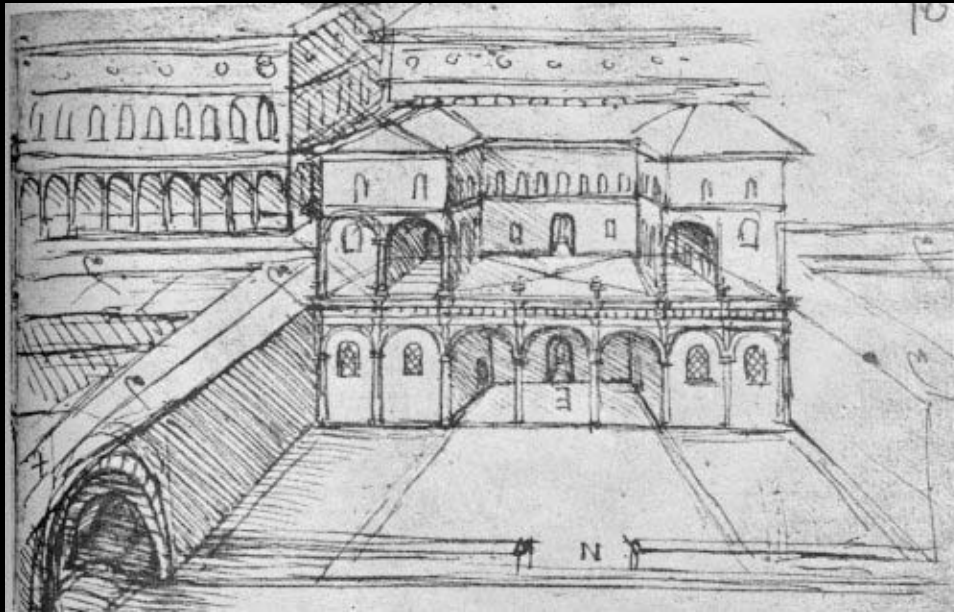
Upon Okinawa's reversion to Japan which occurred on May 15, 1972, the Nakagusuku Castle was also designated as a National Historic Site. Its total area measures 112,399 square meters (34,000 tsubos) of which 14,473 square meters (4,378 tsubos) is located within the castle citadels. At present, the castle has been nominated for listing under the International Treaty of World's Cultural Legacy. It is certain to be the center of interest and attention in years to come.

.....A breath of romance captivates the old castle of the Southern Seas. The wind blows over the stonewalls and visitors alike are enchanted as they enter this world, the world of ancient Ryukyu.

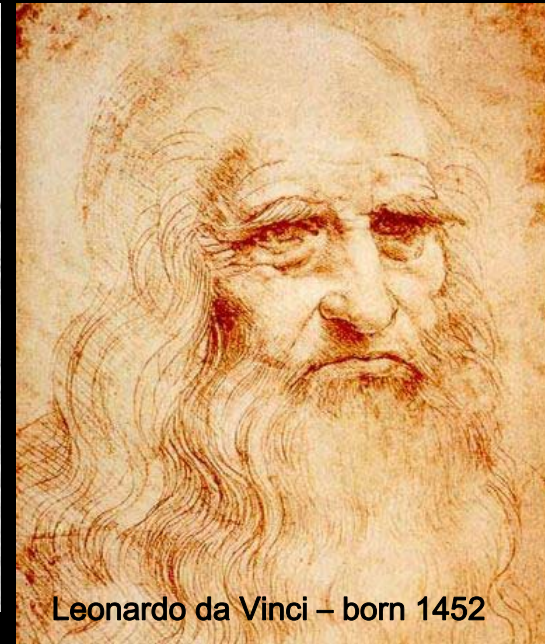
Nakagusuku Castle was completed in 1451 – one year before Leonardo da Vinci's birth

The Sketches of A Renaissance Man
Leonardo da Vinci

Architecture



da Vinci's "Plan for a Town" sketch 15th century



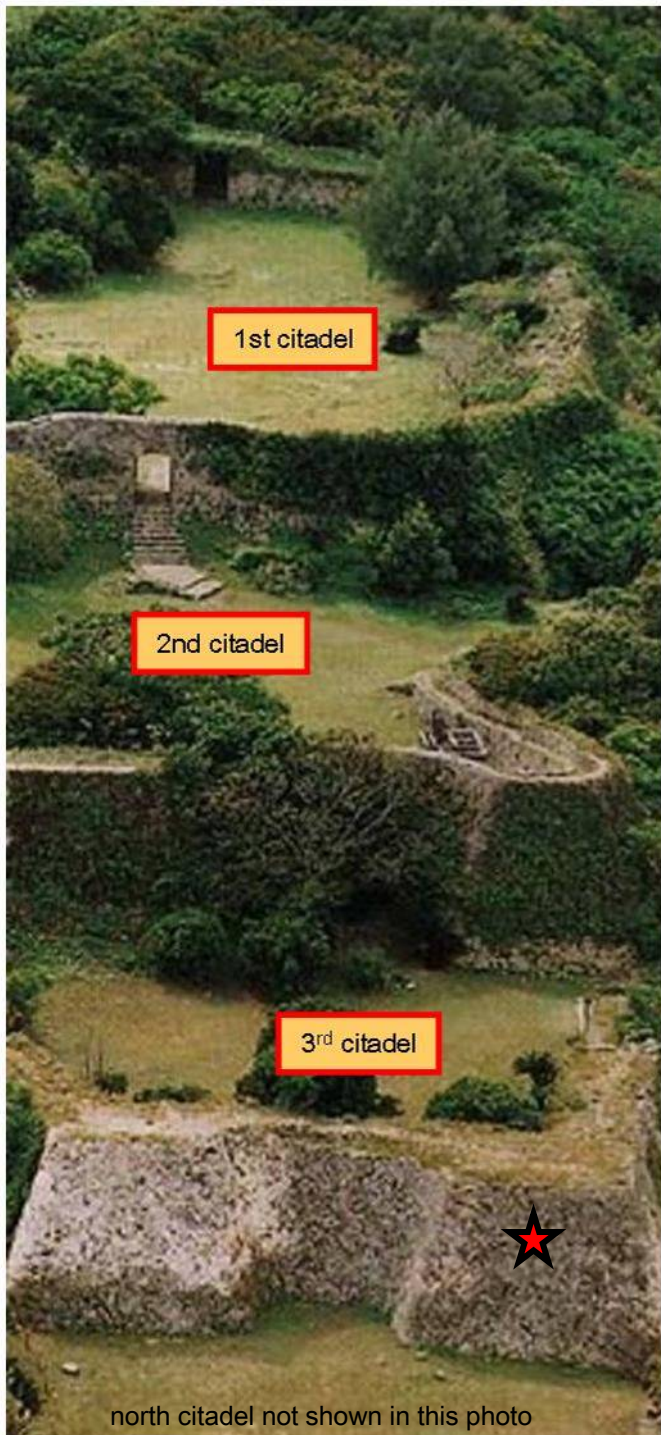
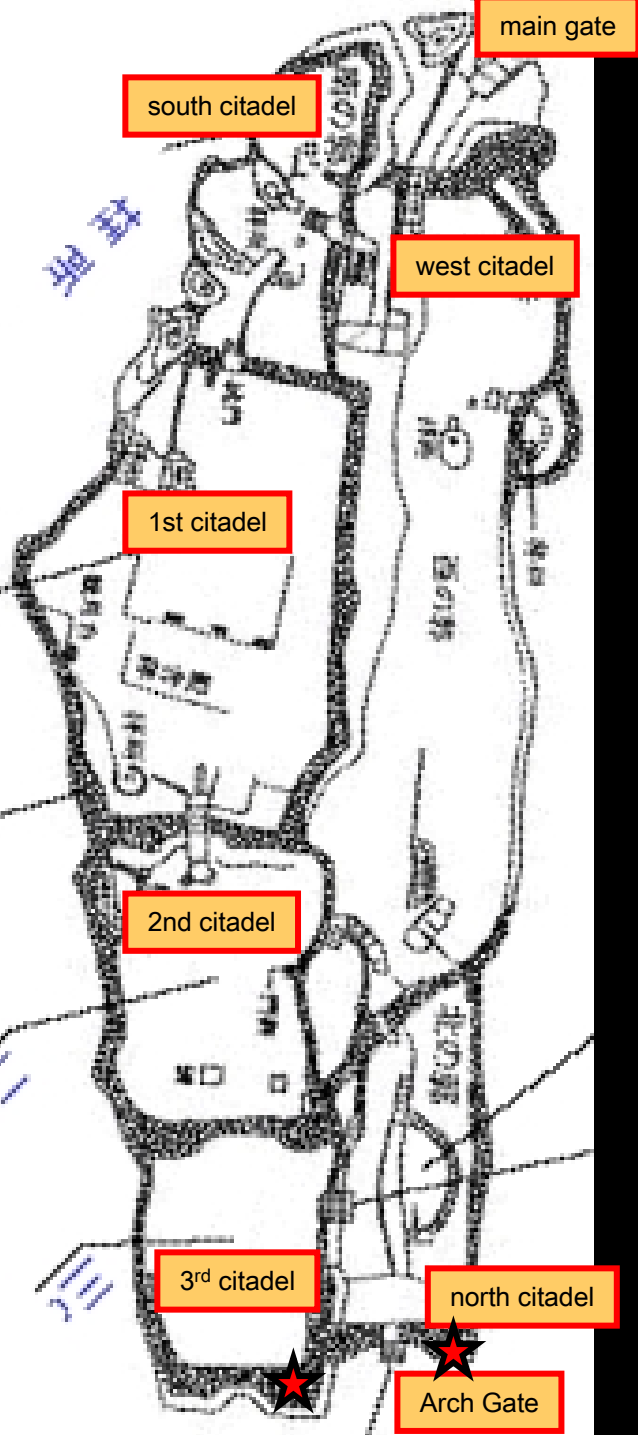
Leonardo da Vinci – born 1452



Pizzimenti's "Palace of Okinawa" sketch 20th century



Joseph P. Pizzimenti – born 1917



Dad sketched the arch gate, the 3rd Citadel wall and the North citadel wall - located in the back of the castle ruin, at the bottom of these images.

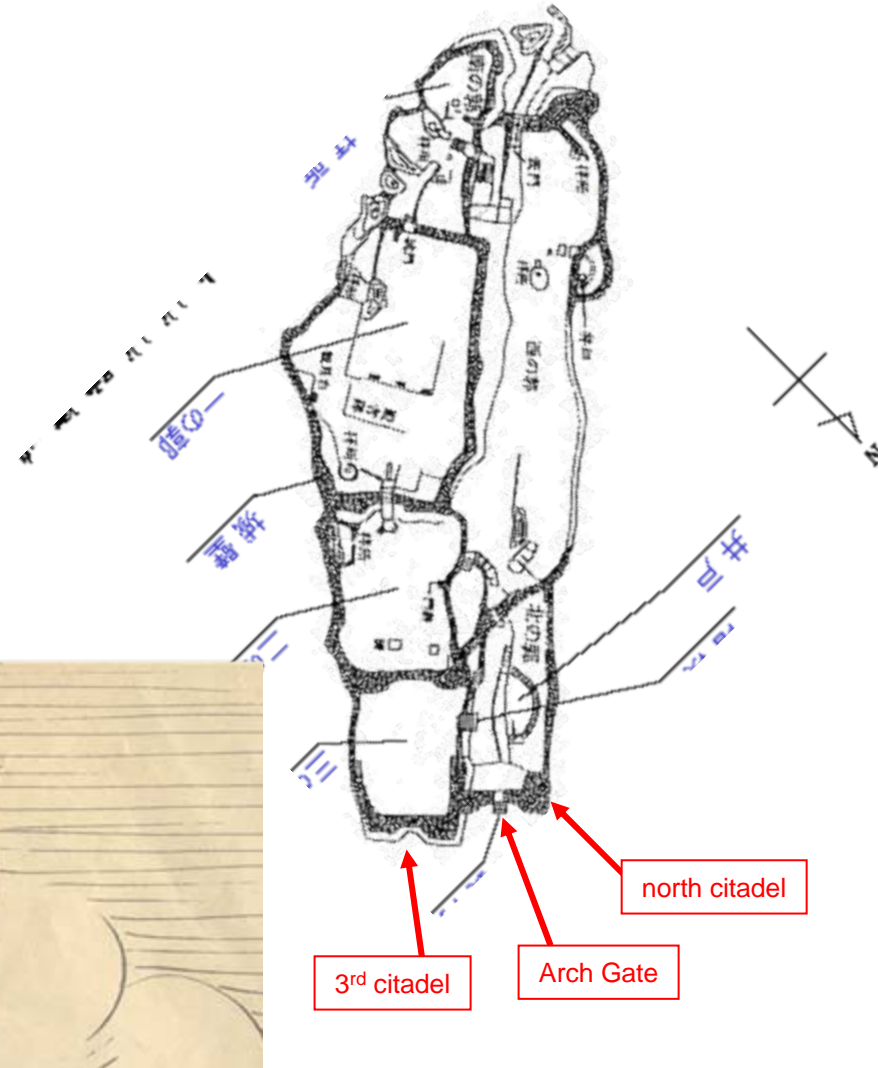
cit·a·del *n.*

[French citadelle, from Italian cittadella, diminutive of città, *city*, from Latin *n* : a stronghold into which people could go for shelter during a battle.

A fortress in a commanding position in or near a city.

A stronghold or fortified place; a bulwark.
citadel

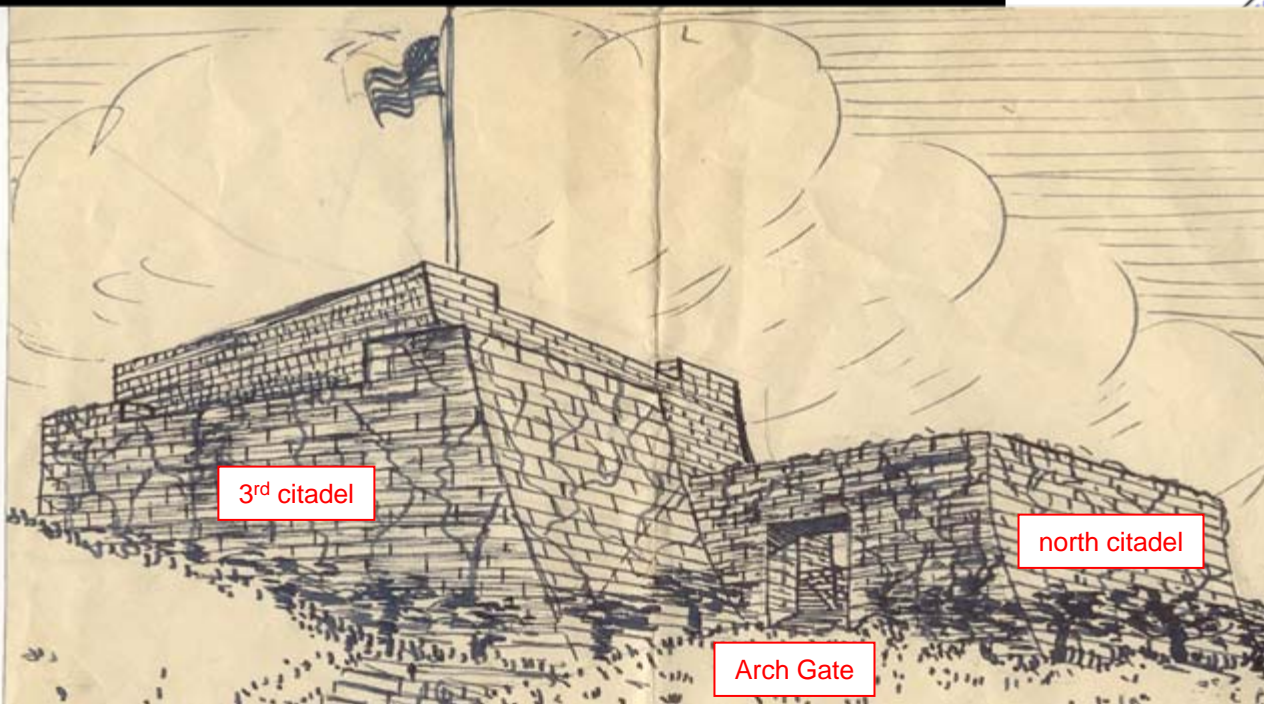
Dad drew the exterior walls of the 3rd citadel and of the north citadel. It's the north citadel wall that includes the gate (entry).



3rd citadel

Arch Gate

north citadel



3rd citadel

north citadel

Arch Gate



Nakagusuku Castle – Sketch study

Note: The castle/sketch comparisons on the next several slides were constructed before I found the proof on the previous slides that identify this castle as Nakagusuku. I was trying to show that this was the castle that dad sketched when I came across the writings of Benjamin B. Talley and Benjamin H. Hazard which removed what little doubt remained anyway . Even though no doubt can remain now, I retained the following slides because they are interesting and present a comparison study between dad's sketch and the actual structure.



Graphical Perspective

Perspective in the graphic arts, such as drawing, is an approximate representation, on a flat surface (such as paper), of an image as it is perceived by the eye. All perspective drawings assume a viewer is a certain distance away from the drawing. Objects are scaled relative to that viewer. Additionally, an object is often not scaled evenly. Objects are drawn **smaller** when their distance from the observer increases and may become **foreshortened** due to the sight angle employed by the artist.

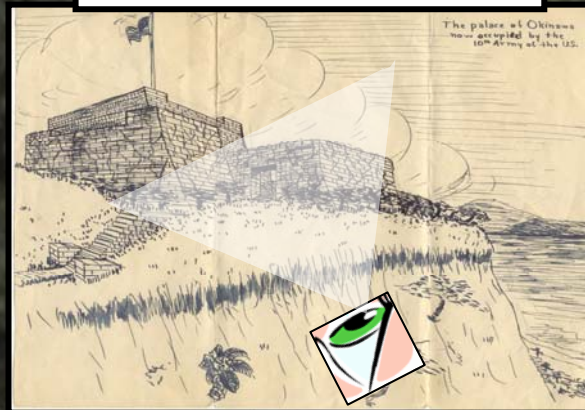
- Objects become **smaller** when their distance from the observer increases
- Objects can become **foreshortened**. Foreshortening refers to the visual effect or optical illusion that an object or distance is shorter than it actually is because of how it is angled toward the viewer.



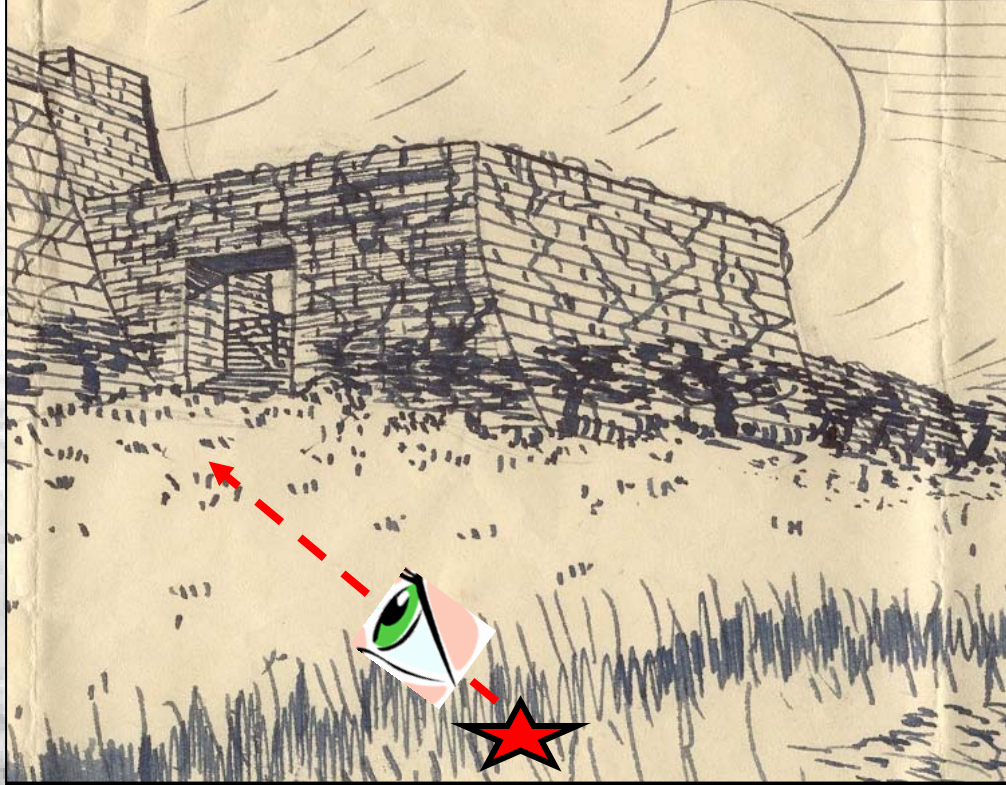
Nakagusuku Castle can be located on Google Earth by moving the pointer to 26.284 ' LAT / 127.801' LONG



Dad's angle of view for sketch

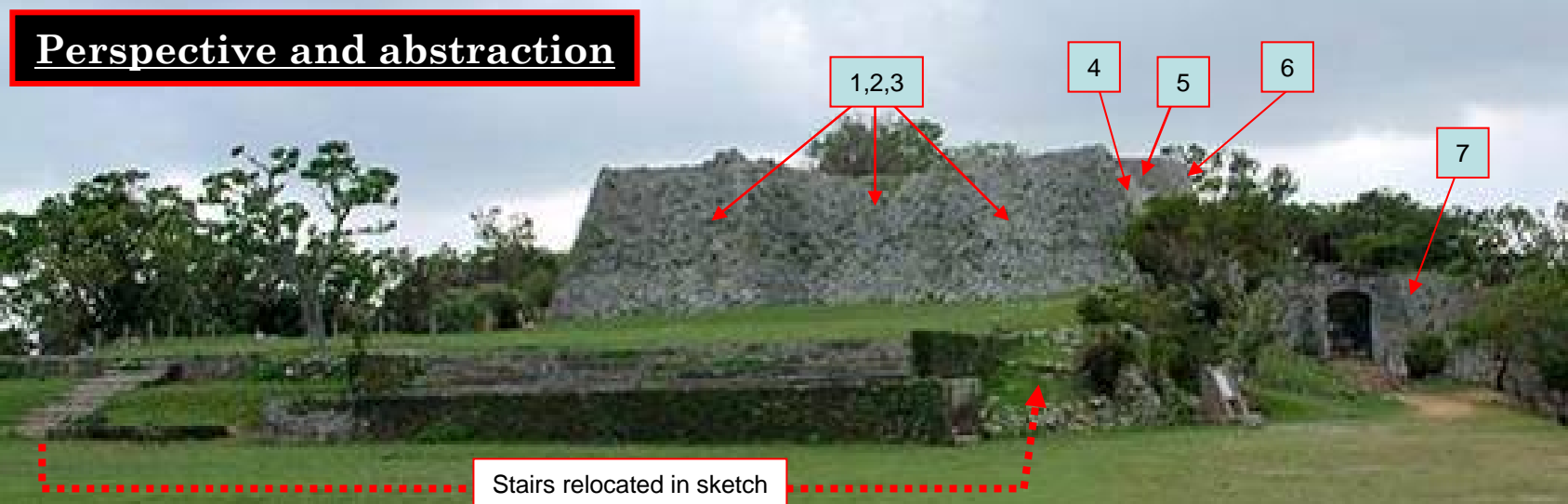


© 2006 Europa Technologies
Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

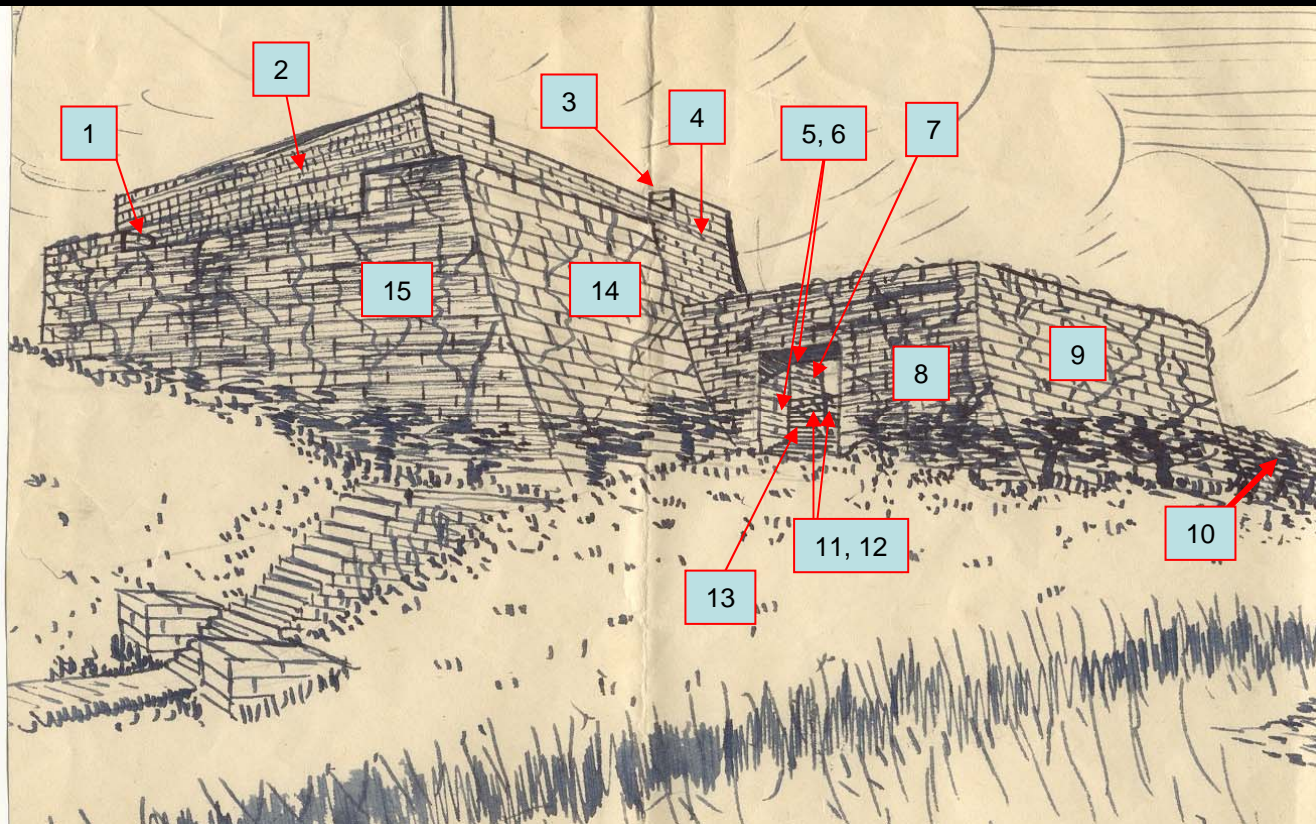


Dad made his sketch from this approximate area.

Perspective and abstraction



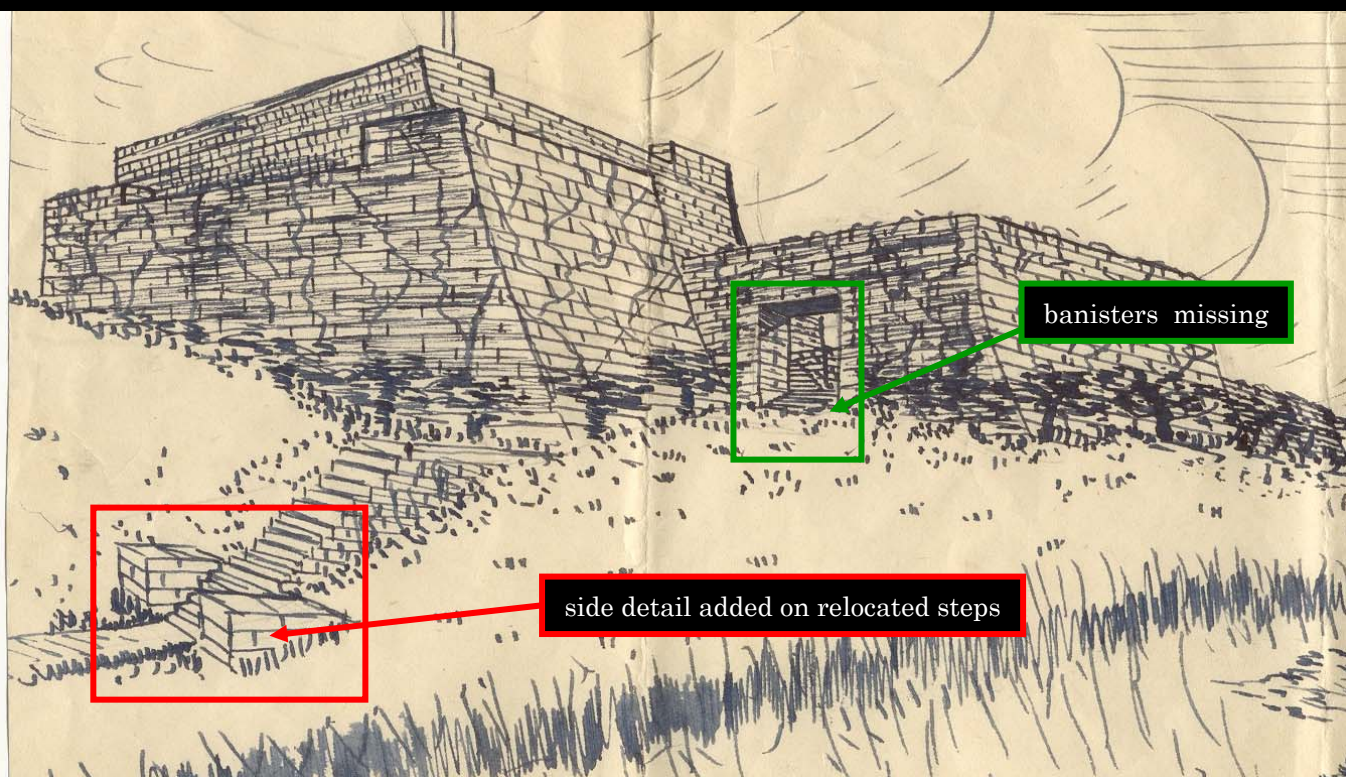
Stairs relocated in sketch



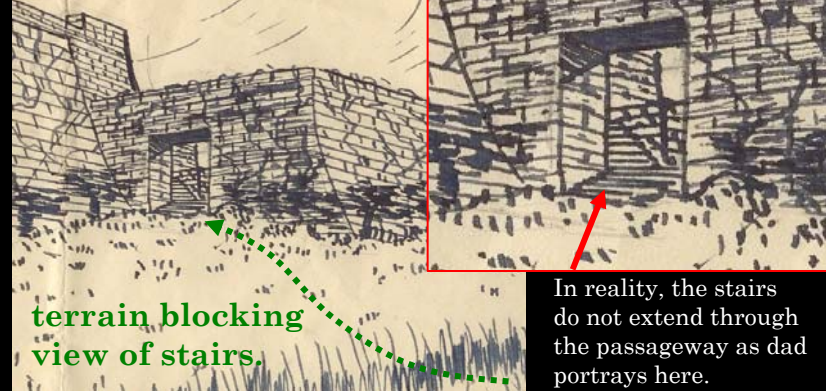
Left: For his sketch to include the stairway that approaches the castle's rear wall as it actually appeared, dad would've needed to back up quite a bit or move more to his left (as in the photo). Doing so would've changed his preferred perspective or forced him to draw the castle too small. Either one of those options would've eliminated the detail he included inside the entrance. Instead, he chose the most interesting perspective and made the stairway fit. In comparing this photo to his drawing, his sketched perspective is much more interesting and allowed the interior detail visible through the gate entrance to be drawn. Dad's perspective shows over 15 different walls or surfaces, the photo's perspective shows only 7. As can be seen by this example, perspective is critical in art and photography.



Over 60 years later, the staircase that dad relocated in his sketch is being enjoyed by a little girl who is most likely the daughter of a U.S. soldier. American military might is still present on this strategically located island that is in close proximity to potential enemies such as China and North Korea, while being close enough to offer support to the U.S. friendly nations of Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea.



Another interesting deviation from the scene is that in dad's sketch, he chose to add stone details flanking the relocated steps (compare red boxes). In reality, this type of detail was present only on the steps leading to the gate entrance (compare green boxes). Dad omitted this detail where it was, and included it where it wasn't. A strong possibility for this is that he thought that these stone banisters would have blocked or cluttered the view of the detail inside the gate entrance, but decided to artistically represent this stone detail on the relocated stairway, where it wouldn't clutter his vision of the scene.

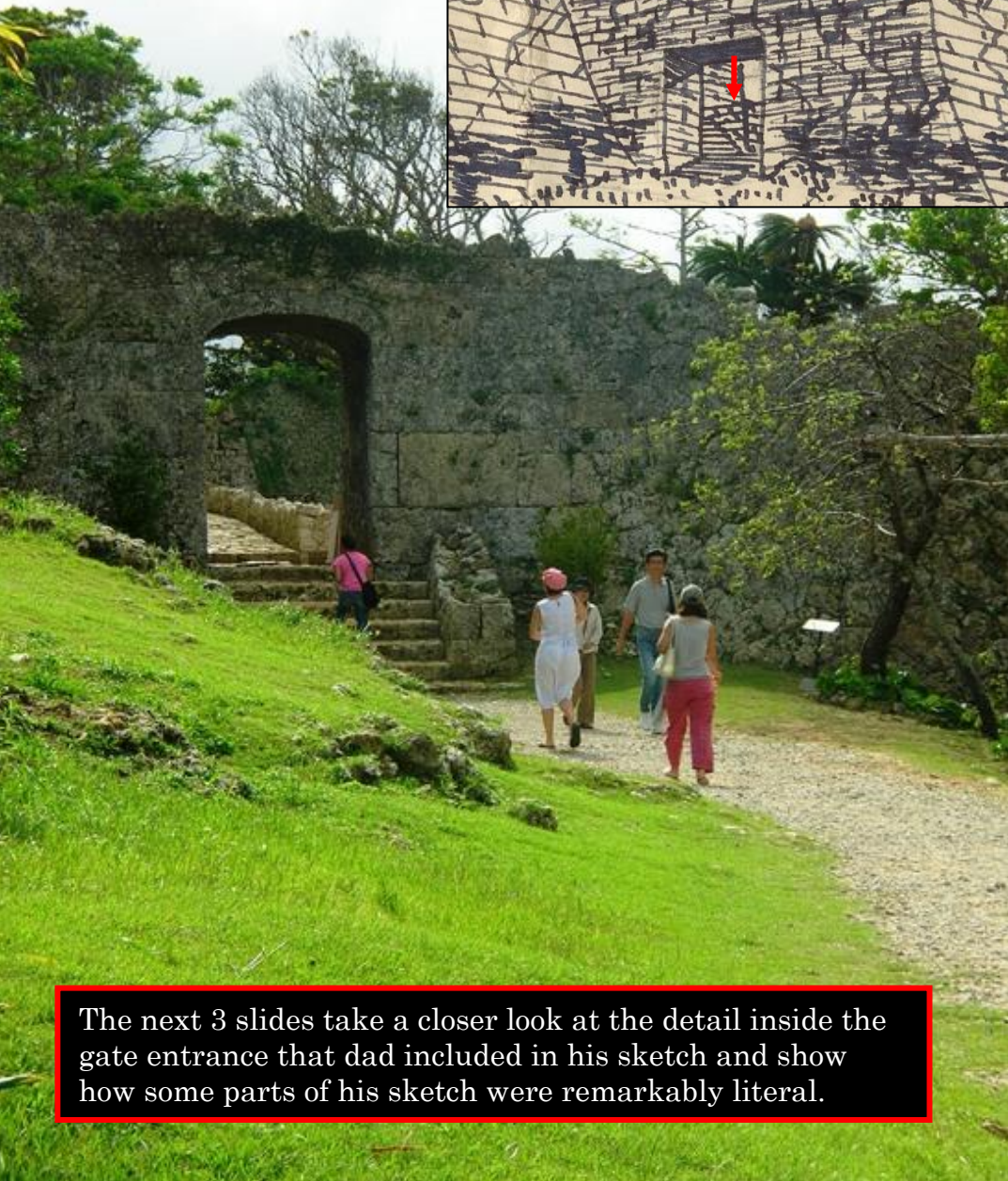


**terrain blocking
view of stairs.**

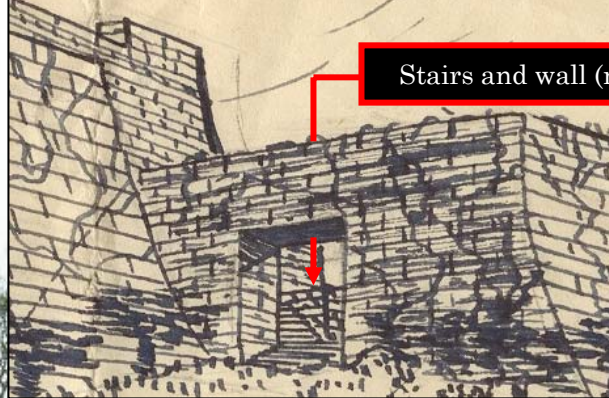
In reality, the stairs do not extend through the passageway as dad portrays here.

Dad sketched the stairs as if they were extending through the gateway when in reality, they only went up to the entrance. Looking at the perspective from which he drew, it's clear that the stairs would've been obscured by the terrain that was elevated relative to his position. Rather than leave the detail out, he included the stairs but had to portray them as extending through the gateway. The beauty of this sketch not being a literal interpretation is that one is invited to look closely and see what dad was attempting to communicate to the viewer, what he thought was important, and how he combined artistic talent and ingenuity to solve the constraints of perspective and reality. Perhaps a literal drawing, while having its own merits in that it reveals more about reality, reveals less about the artist. Of course, dad never dreamed his simple sketch would be studied so closely or compared to an actual photo, which makes his efforts all the more appreciated.

Arched gateway to the north citadel



The next 3 slides take a closer look at the detail inside the gate entrance that dad included in his sketch and show how some parts of his sketch were remarkably literal.

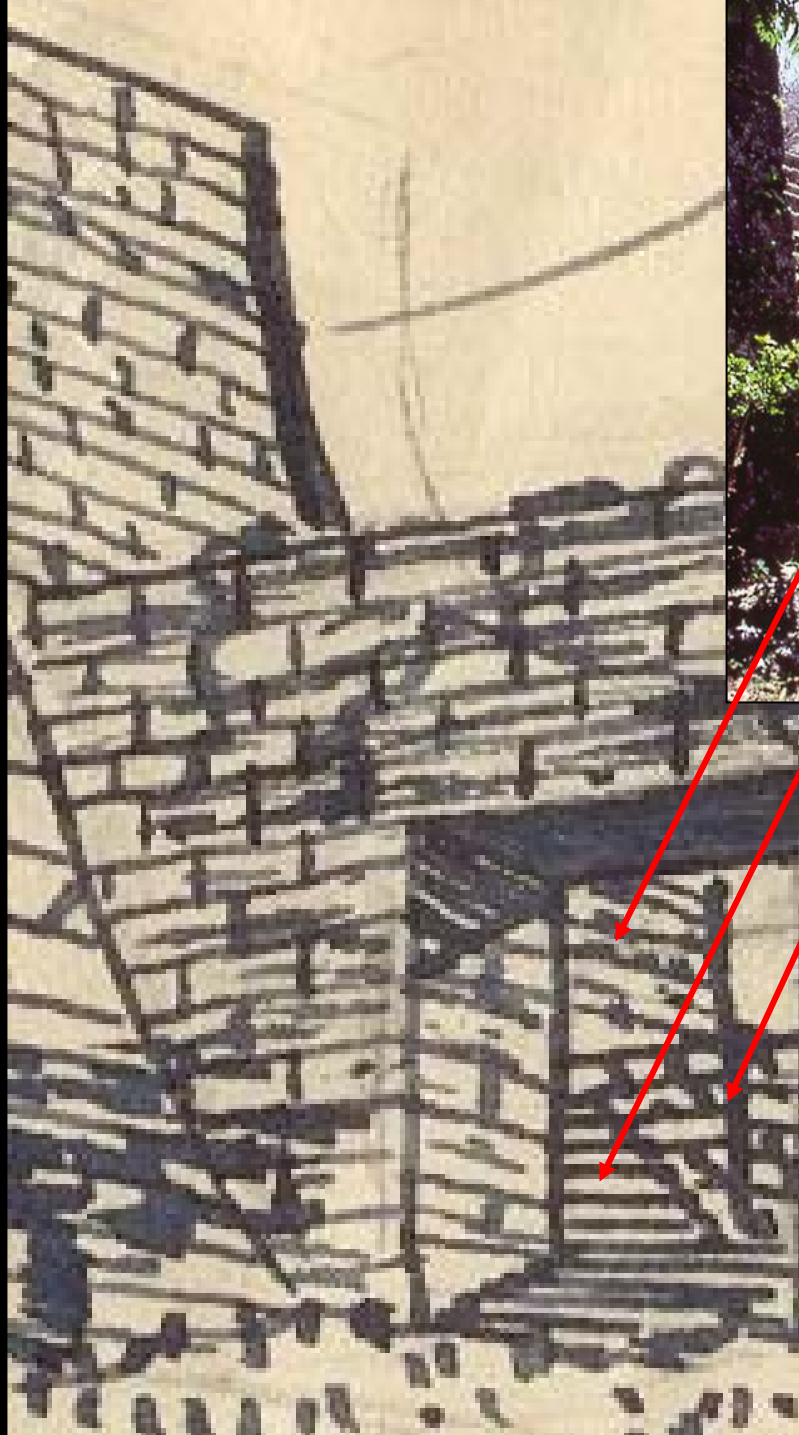


Stairs and wall (north citadel to 3rd citadel)



stairs to 3rd citadel

North Citadel



Dad drew the gate that leads to the north citadel. Inside the gate opening, the stairway leading to the 3rd citadel can be seen.

Advance to next slide to see photo detail inside the gate opening



Dad's strong attention to detail that is demonstrated by this comparison didn't prevent him from altering other features as needed, to fit his vision of this scene.



Comparing features inside the north citadel gate

The photo at left shows the gate opening from nearly the exact angle that dad saw it from:

- 1) Stairs from north citadel to 3rd citadel
- 2) exterior corner of two walls
- 3) rampart wall of 3rd citadel

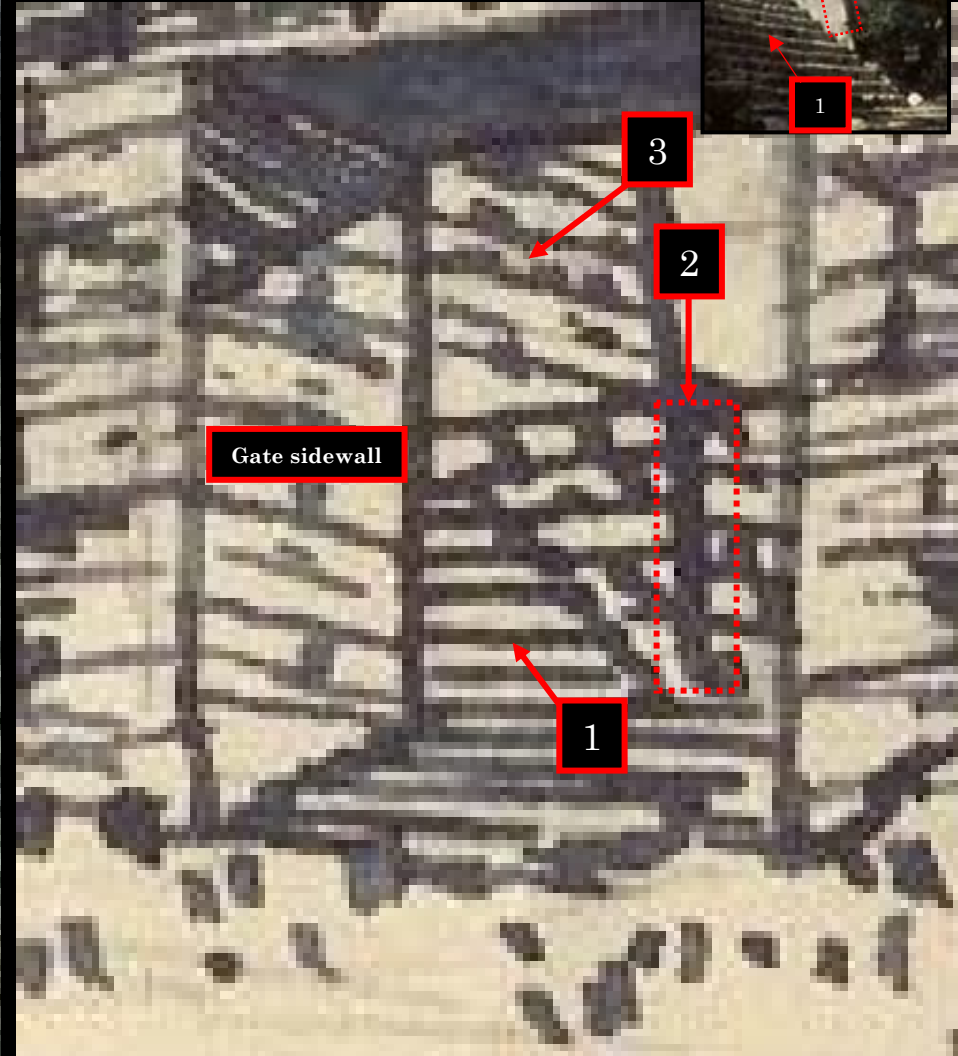
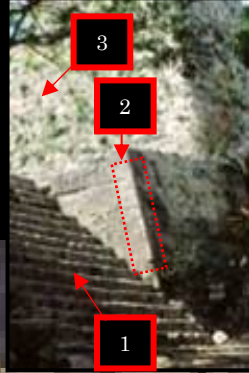




Photo taken just inside gate shown on last slide



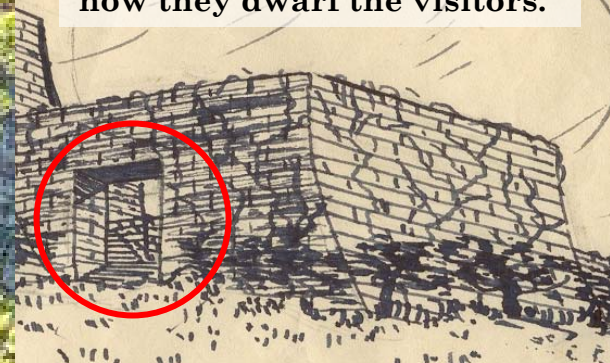
stairs to 3rd citadel

north citadel

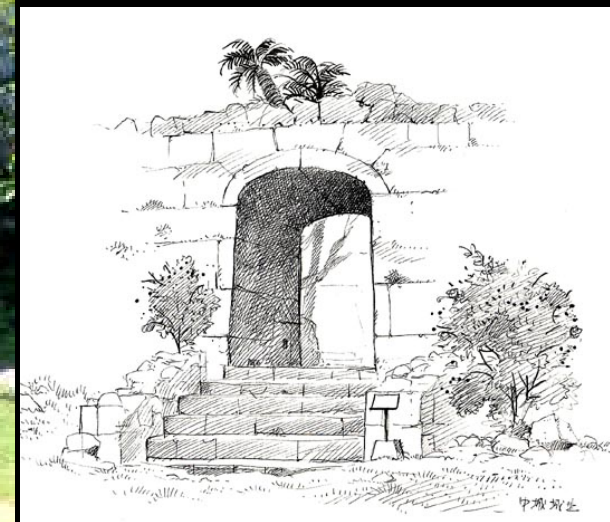
path from arched gate



The people in the photo to the left give a sense of scale to the genuine size of Nakagusuku Castle. The massive size and actual thickness of the stone walls become easier to grasp given how they dwarf the visitors.

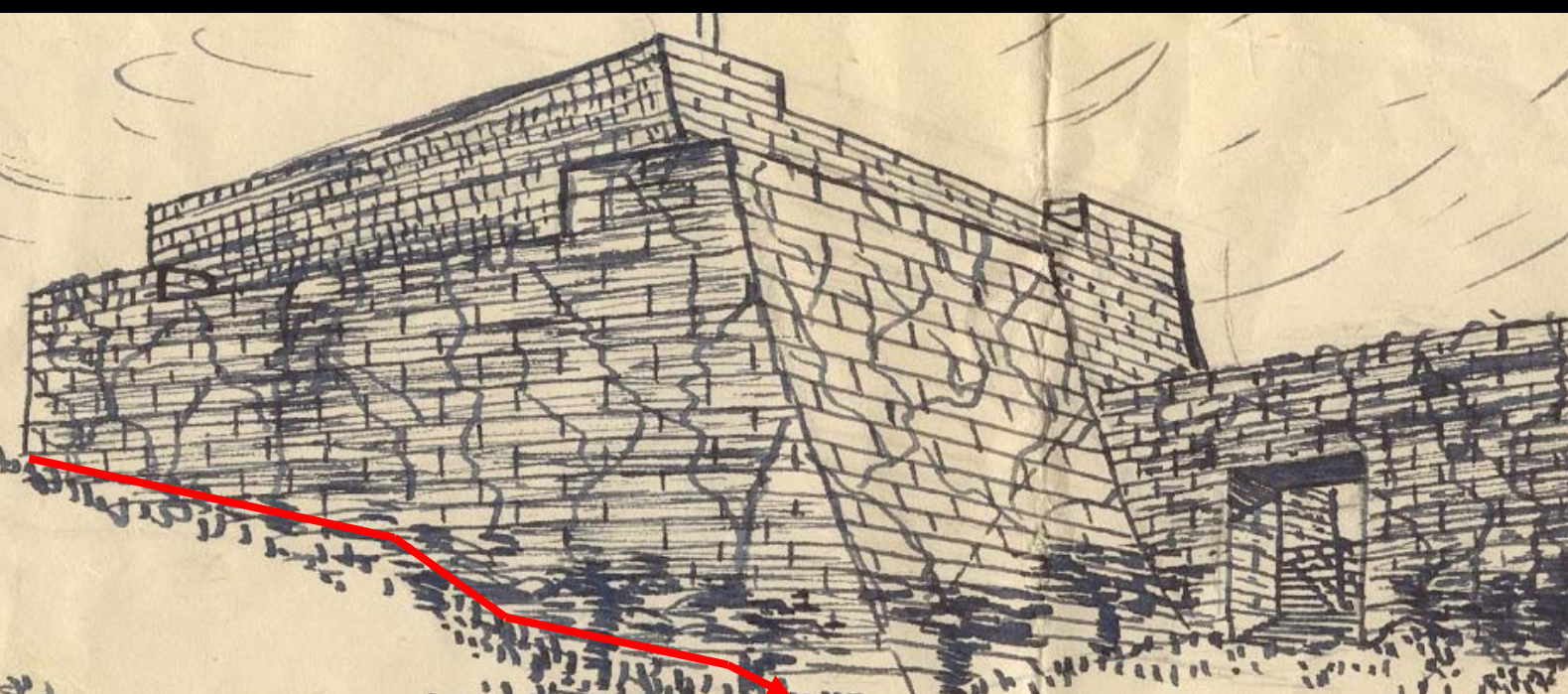


Below: Another artists sketch of the gate entrance is less abstract than dad's. Had dad chosen to concentrate his sketch on this specific a feature, he could have included more detail as did this artist.





More feature comparisons.....
slope of land and structure



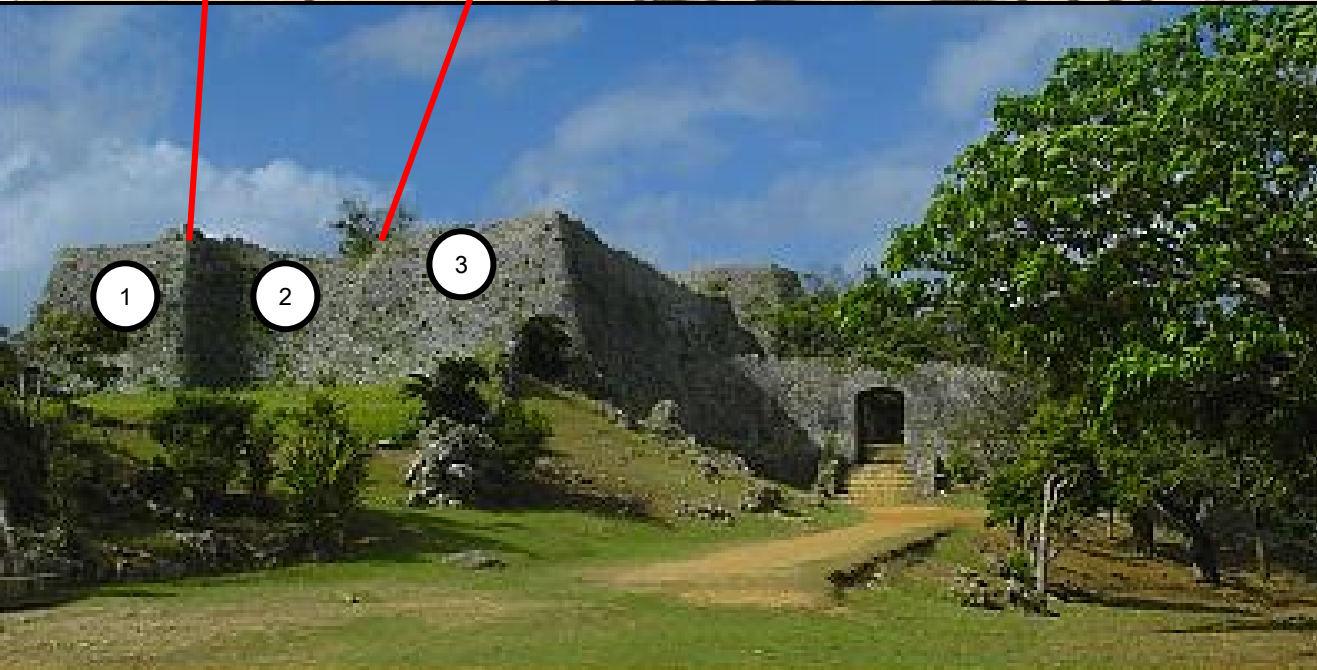
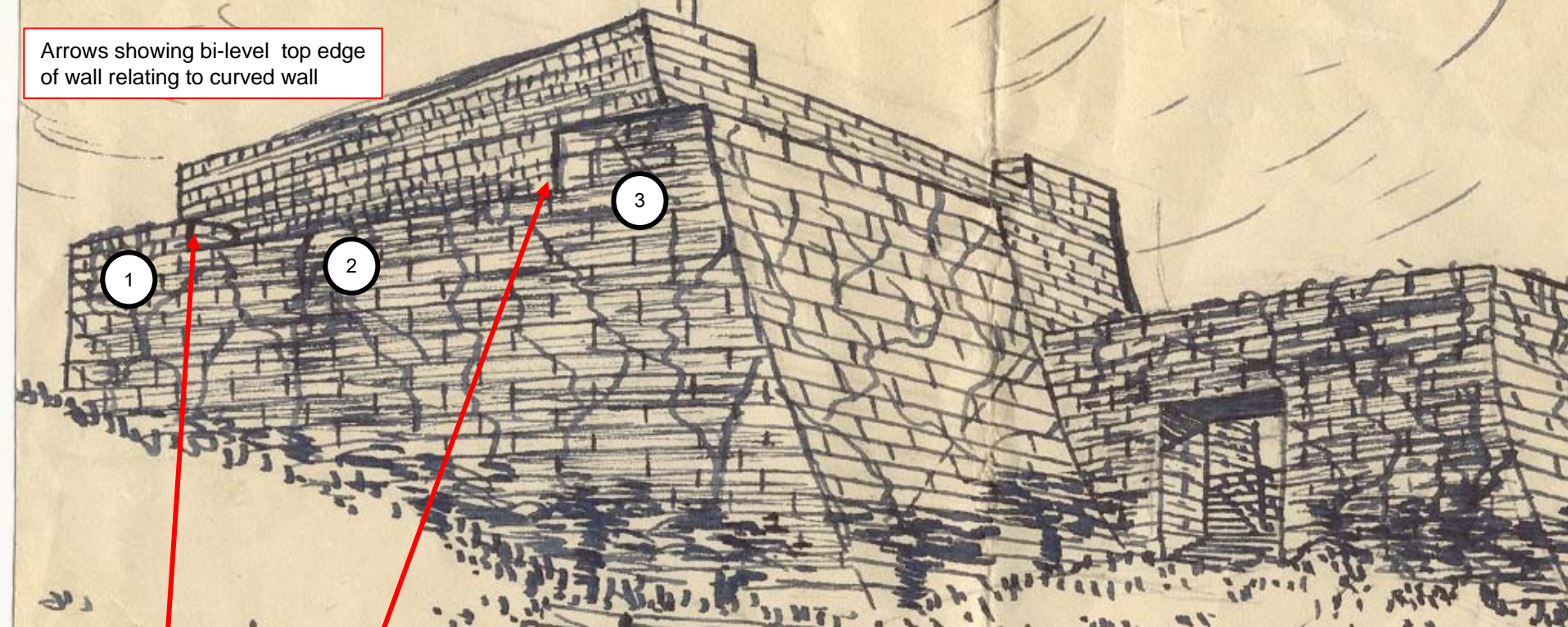




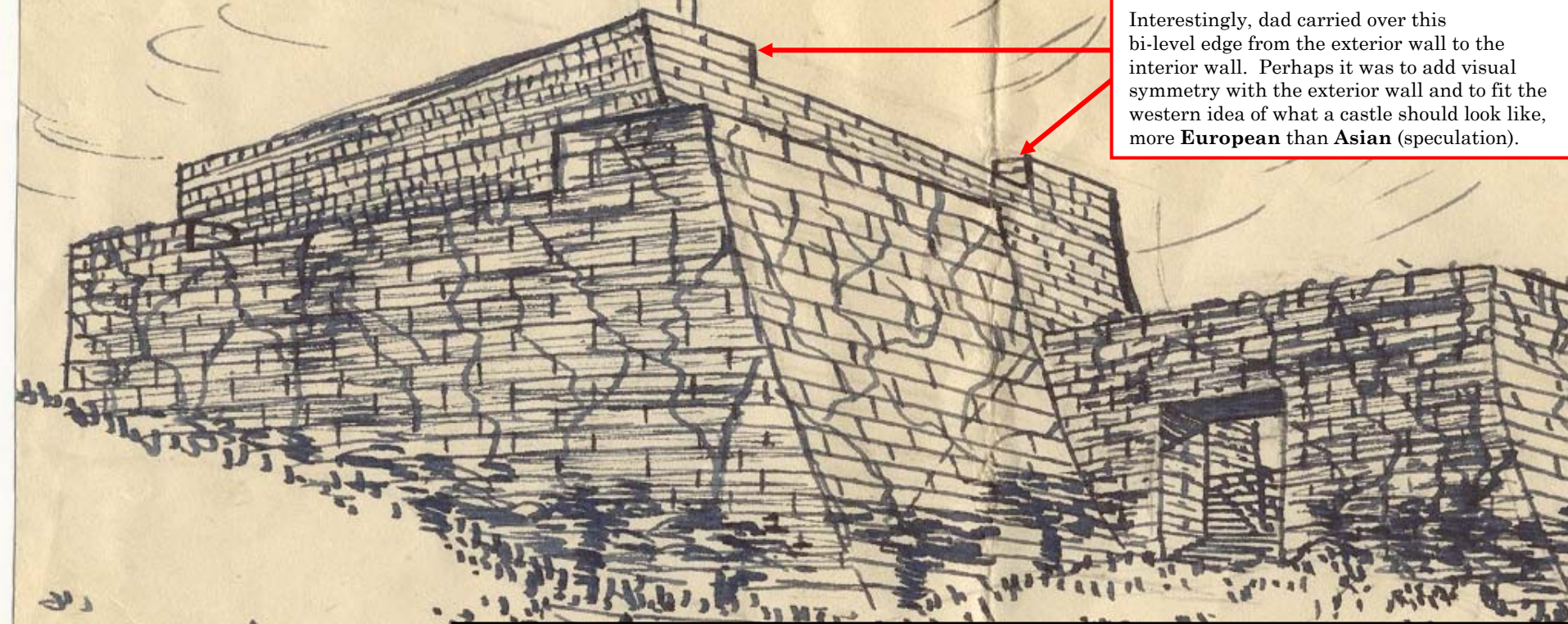
The photos below show the vines and plants growing on the walls. Dad included these things in his sketch.



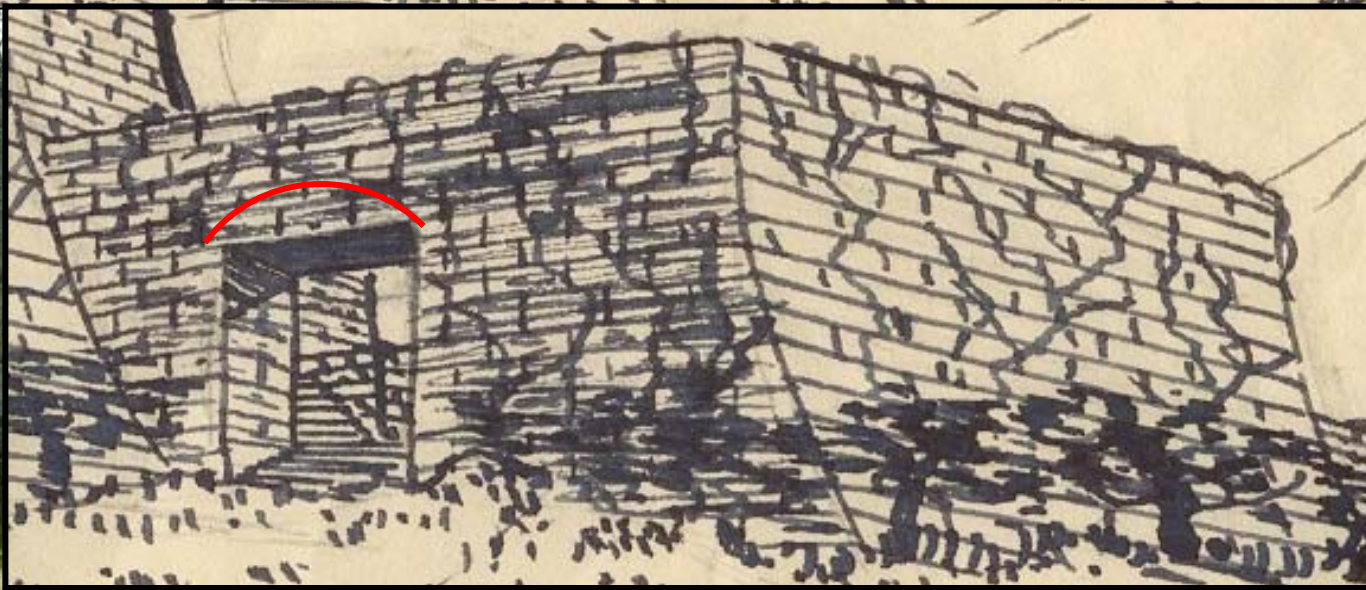
Arrows showing bi-level top edge of wall relating to curved wall



A third major difference in dad's sketch from the literal view, is that dad left out the curve in the wall. It could have been that he didn't think it was worth the extra effort and time required to render it. I don't believe it's a coincidence that he drew the wall as having a bi-level top edge in it. Visually, this divides the wall into 3 sections. This most likely was in reference to the curve that he chose to omit. Initially, this difference misled me, but all of the other similarities were too overwhelming to ignore. Dad's sketch is more an abstract than literal interpretation.



Interestingly, dad carried over this bi-level edge from the exterior wall to the interior wall. Perhaps it was to add visual symmetry with the exterior wall and to fit the western idea of what a castle should look like, more **European** than **Asian** (speculation).

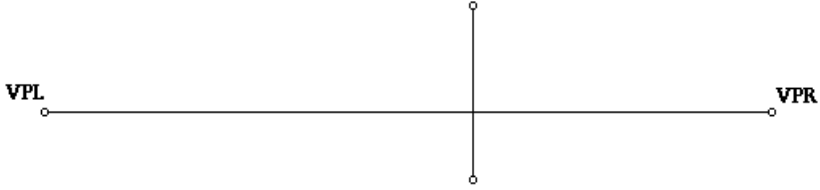


Dad sketched the gate opening with a square top, not arched. This was probably because it was quicker. The next slide demonstrates straight line drawing in 2 point perspective.

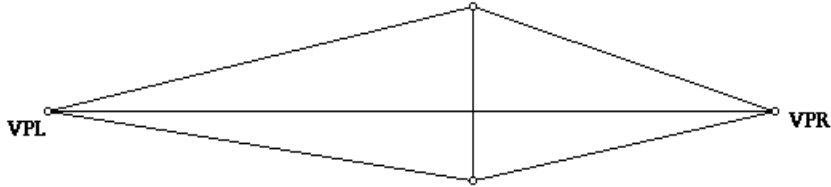
Drawing in Two Point Perspective



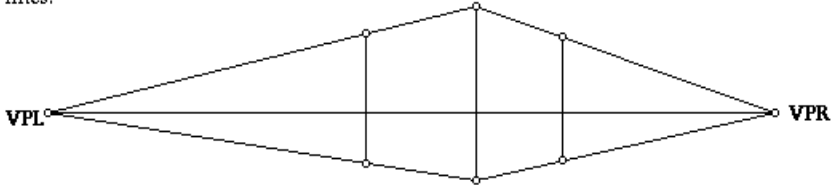
Next, draw a vertical line as shown below. This line will be the front-most corner of your building.



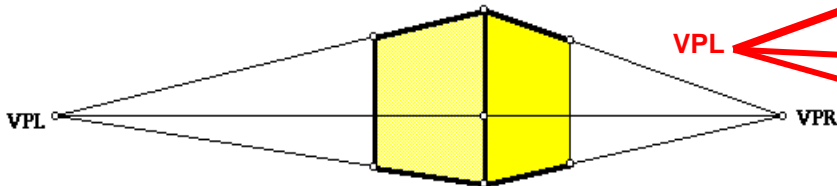
Now, draw lines from the top and bottom of this vertical line to the VPL and VPR as shown:



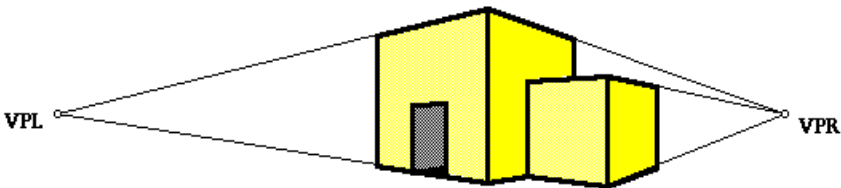
Draw a vertical line to the left and another vertical line to the right to represent the far edges of the building. Note: in 2-point perspective, lines that would be vertical on the real building (corners of the building, flagpoles, etc.) will be vertical on the drawing. Lines are horizontal on the real building (the top edge of a wall, a handrail on a balcony, etc.) will converge to the two vanishing points. The only lines in a 2-point perspective that are drawn parallel are vertical lines.



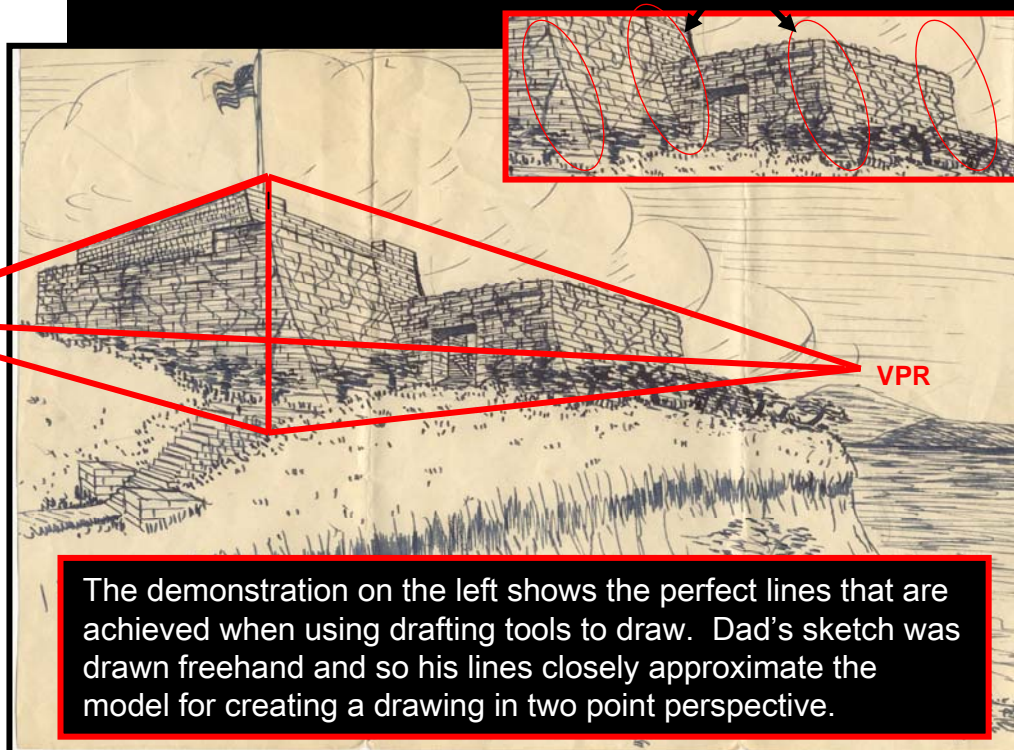
Now darken the final lines, and you will see a simple building in 2-point perspective.



You can add many other lines, following these same rules, to make a very interesting perspective drawing!



Dad used two point perspective to make this sketch. The vertical lines run parallel but horizontal lines converge to vanishing points. Two point perspective can be a mechanical technique of drawing, using drafting equipment to achieve perfect lines. It can also be used in **freehand sketching**, not with the aid of a straight edge, but by eye. Two point perspective lends itself well to straight line drawings because lines are either parallel to each other or meet at the vanishing points. Using it to draw curves requires additional steps and is more time consuming. This is a possible reason why dad didn't draw the curve in the wall or the arched top in the gate (doorway). He did draw the corners of the walls with a slight curve to show how they angled out from top to bottom. These are the only curved lines that dad drew that were a part of the structure itself.

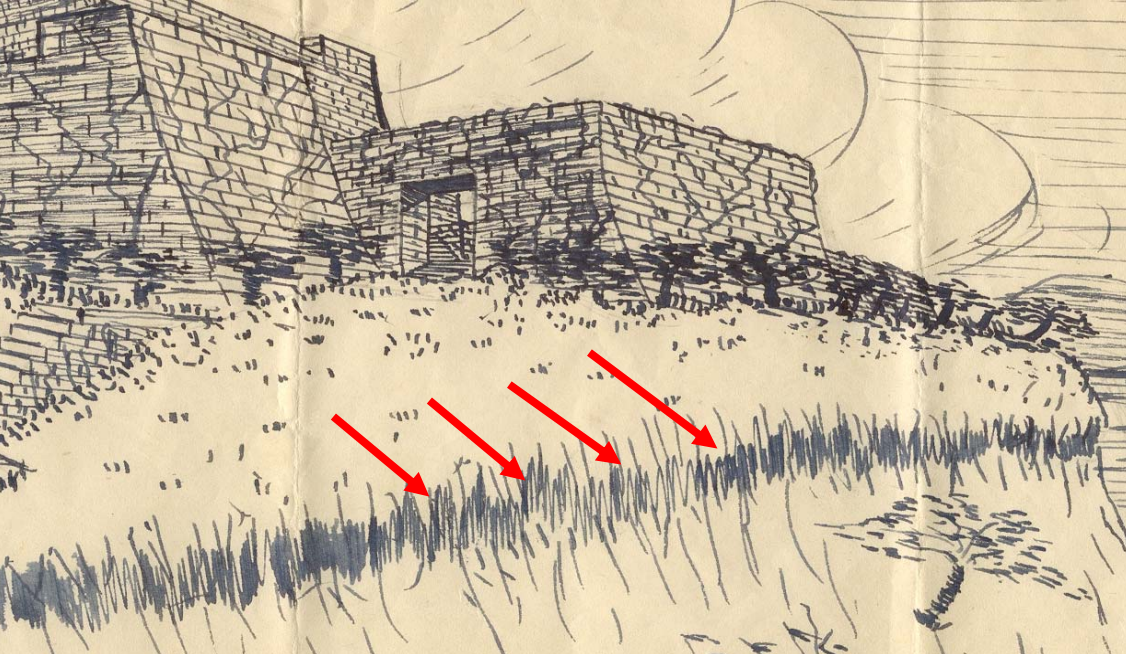


The demonstration on the left shows the perfect lines that are achieved when using drafting tools to draw. Dad's sketch was drawn freehand and so his lines closely approximate the model for creating a drawing in two point perspective.



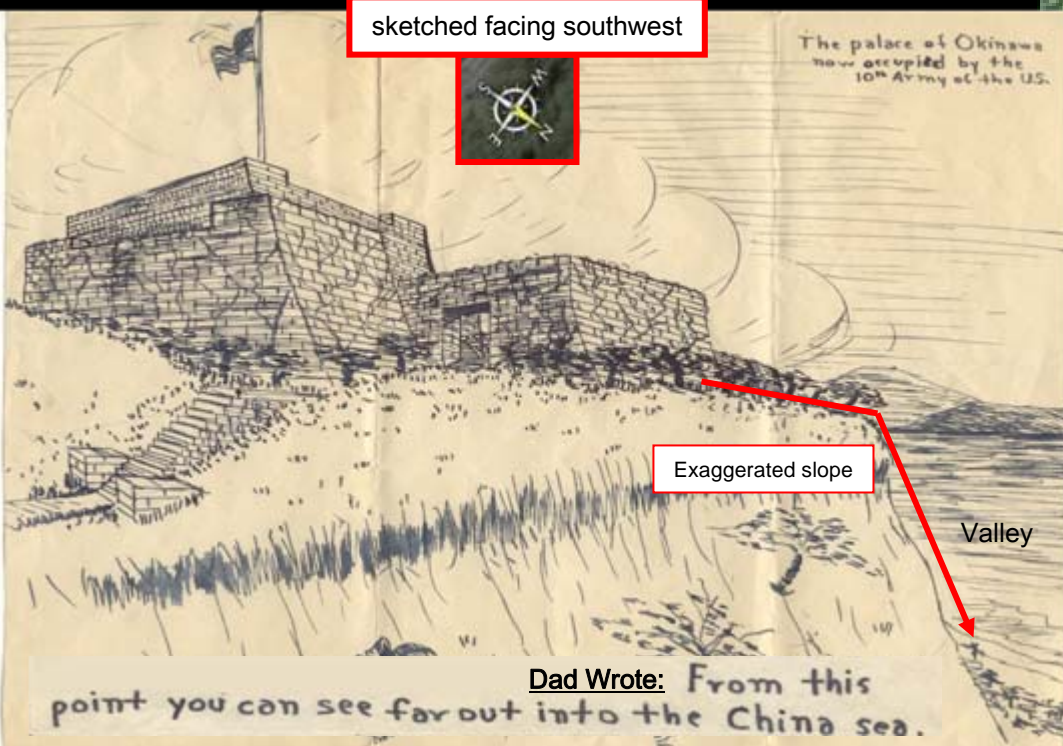






Arrows showing the slope of the land. Note that dad drew the slope much steeper...more like a cliff.

sketched facing southwest



Exaggerated slope

Valley

Dad Wrote: From this point you can see far out into the China sea.



West: 4 miles to East China Sea

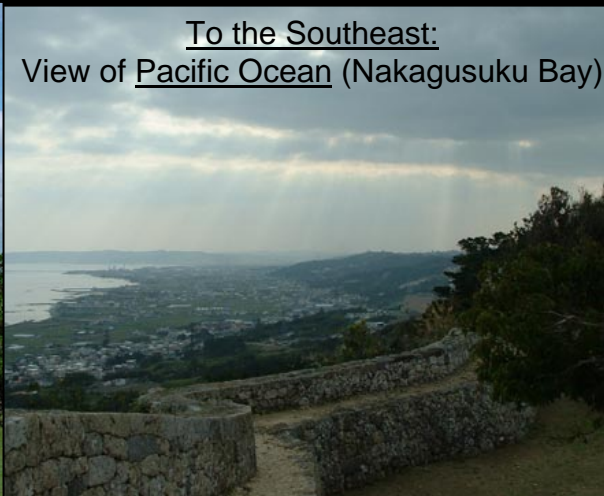
The photo shows that dad, for a fourth time, chose to render his sketch a little differently than reality. Nakagusuku Castle sits on a hill top that is nearly 500' above sea level and both coasts of Okinawa are visible from here. He illustrated this relatively high elevation and the panoramic view that he wrote about by exaggerating the slope down the hill. Nakagusuku Castle is on Okinawa's east coast but the view goes clear across the island to the East China Sea in the west. **Below:** views from castle



Facing northeast



Facing west
View of East China Sea



To the Southeast:
View of Pacific Ocean (Nakagusuku Bay)



2nd citadel





Area that dad made sketch from



3rd citadel



Main Gate

south citadel

1st citadel

2nd citadel

3rd citadel

North citadel

Arch gate



View of east coast, Pacific coast (Nakagusuku Bay, looking south-southeast)



View of east coast, Pacific Ocean (Nakagusuku Bay, looking east-southeast)

View to the northwest: The East China Sea. The stairway leads from the 2nd citadel to the 1st citadel

East China Sea



View of west coast, East China Sea





This image of Nakagusuku Castle shows why dad was able to see the East China Sea from this location. Note the hill that the castle sits on, it is on a narrow ridge that is 490 feet above sea level.

Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

Google

at 26.283793° lon 127.801354° elev 490 ft

Streaming ||||| 100%

Eye alt 899 ft



490 feet above the ground

Detroit River



490 feet above the sea

to East China Sea

to Pacific Ocean

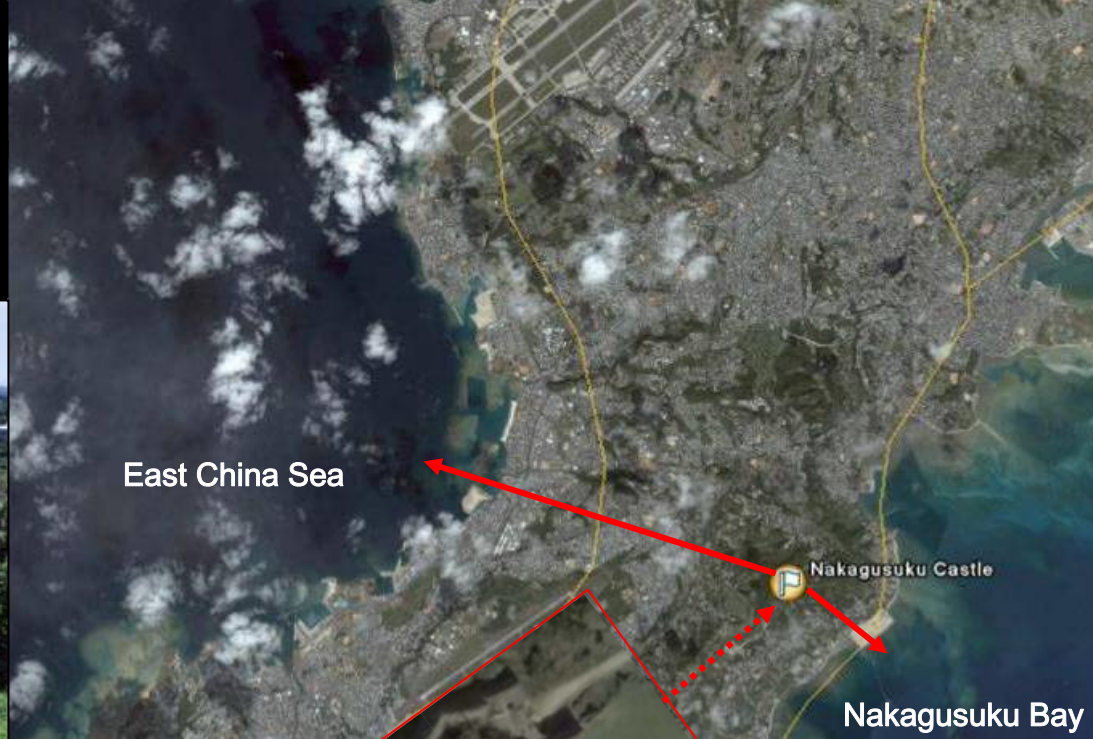
© 2006 Europa Technologies
Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe
© 2005 Google
26.283793° lon 127.801354° elev 490 ft Streaming 100% Eye alt 899 ft

Nakagusuku Castle was built on a 490 foot high ridge that the 24th Corps called “Castle Hill” during WW2. This elevation isn’t very high as far as mountains go but consider that the island is only 4 miles across at this point.

To help illustrate this height, imagine the view you would have from atop the 490 foot Guardian Building in downtown Detroit if it was on an island only 4 miles wide at the point it was built on, and 70 miles long from end to end. This was the view that dad enjoyed and wrote about in this letter, dated August 25th, 1945.

Right: Nakagusuku enlarged on satellite image of Okinawa to show orientation of castle and views of both coasts, just as dad wrote about.

Below: Views from Nakagusuku Castle of the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean (Nakagusuku Bay).



occupied by a small force of the 1st Corp and his staff. I made a rough sketch of it to show you what it looks like. From this point you can see far out into the China sea. There are many ships out and around the island. At night it looks like a very large city with all the light on. A pretty picture indeed. (I started this letter about three days

Nakagusuku Bay

1 mile from Nakagusuku Castle to the Pacific Ocean



Nakagusuku Castle



© 2006 Europa Technologies

Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

© 2005 Google

East China Sea

3.7 miles from Nakagusuku Castle to the East China Sea

Nakagusuku Castle

Atsuta

Nakagusuku Bay

© 2006 Europa Technologies

Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe

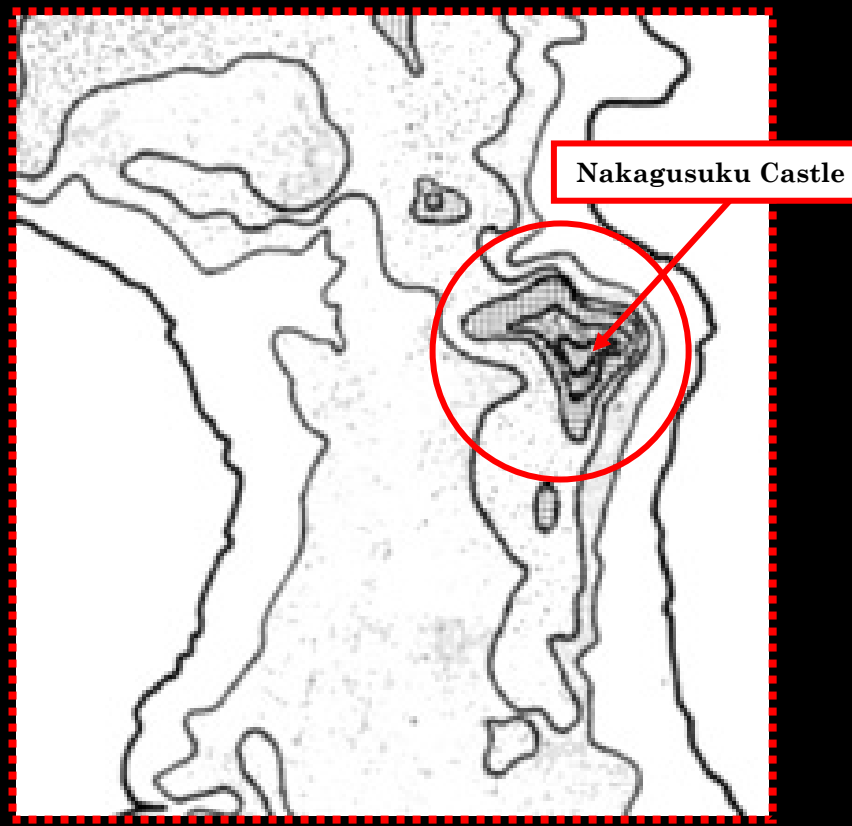
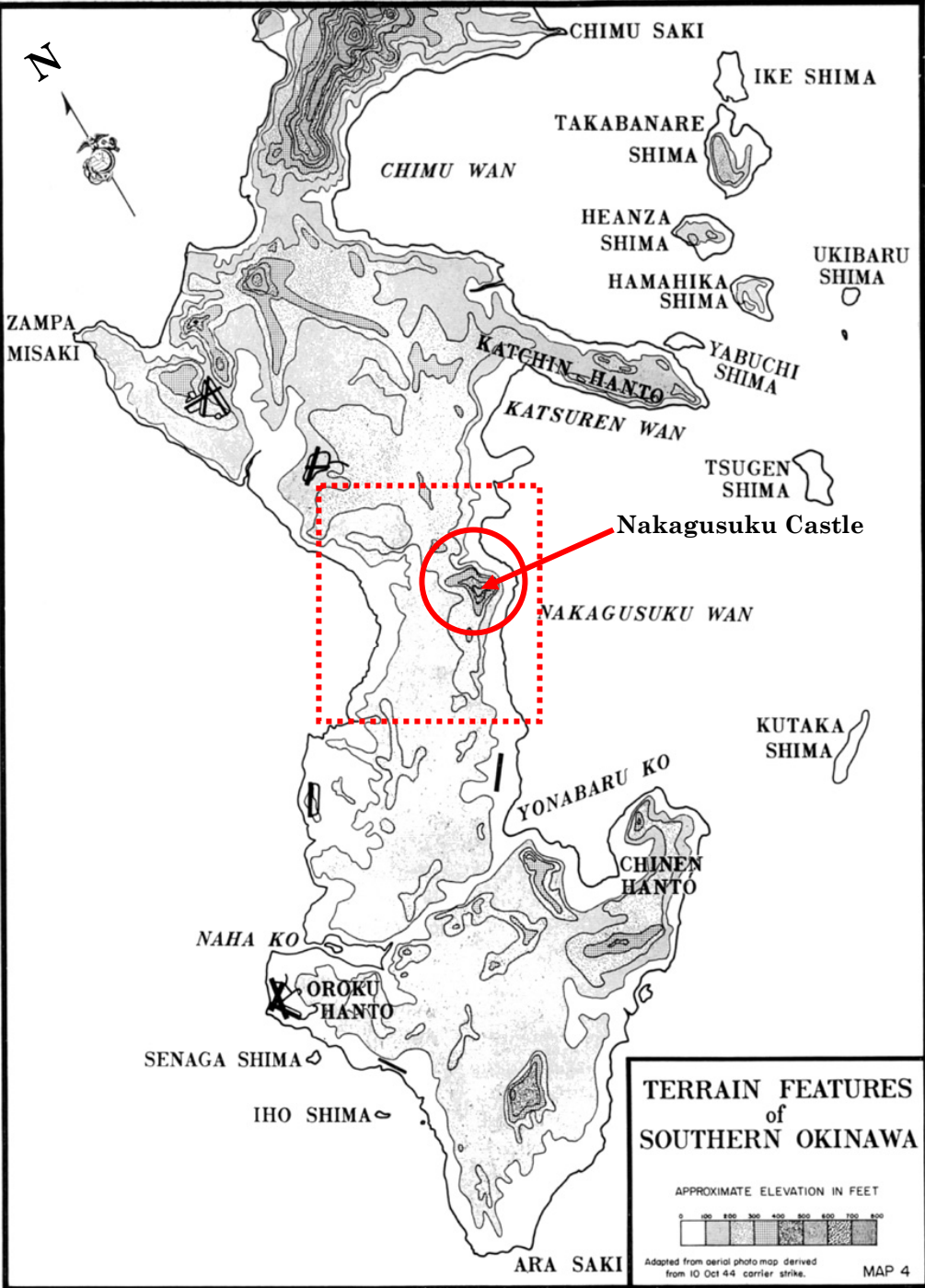
© 2005 Google



Pointer lat 26.289831° lon 127.778652° elev 246 ft

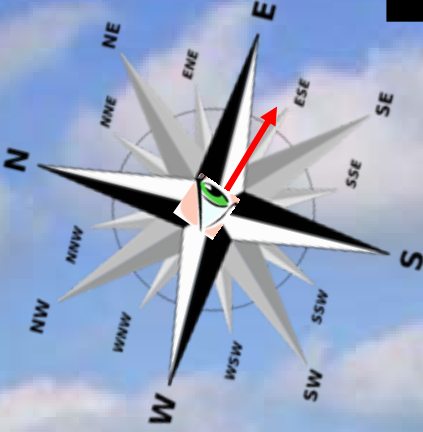
Streaming ||||| 100%

Eye alt 25266 ft



This topographical map of Okinawa graphically represents the hill that Nakagusuku Castle was built on.

Nakagusuku Castle as viewed looking ESE. The high ground it was built on is noticeable, and the Pacific Ocean on Okinawa's eastern shore can be seen in the background.





East China Sea

Nakagusuku Castle

Nakagusuku Bay (Pacific Ocean)

Naha

OKINAWA 1945



An Okinawan native helps identify a feature that I missed.

The next group of slides were motivated by an email that I received. Mick McClary lives in Montana and is an expert on Okinawa. I contacted him earlier to ask his help in verifying dad's castle sketch as that of the Nakagusuku ruins, as I strongly believed it to be (this was before I found the proof). He posted my "sketch study" on his website. An Okinawan native who is with The Ryukyu America Historical Research Society on the island of Okinawa viewed dad's sketch on Mick's website and wrote Mick with his analysis of it. His insight not only verified the fact that dad visited and sketched Nakagusuku Castle, it made clear that the hills drawn in the background weren't just artistic features that dad included for interest (as I thought them to be), but were actual details that he included because they were a part of the scene. It also made clear that what I believed to be an abstract interpretation of the East China Sea in the background of the sketch, was actually the valley between the ridge that the castle sat on and that of the distant hills he included in his sketch.

One of the interesting things about this sketch is how dad used "artistic license" to alter reality in some areas, but was very detailed and literal in others. He was a very good artist with impressive drawing skills. These deviations from reality that are mixed in with realistic interpretations were clearly his choice. I have speculated on the possible reasons for this in the sketch study shown earlier.

Alex Kishaba, an Okinawan native, writes about dad's sketch of Nakagusuku Castle

Early in my attempt to verify the identification of the mystery castle, I contacted a man by the name of Mick McClary. He is an expert on Okinawa and maintains a web site dedicated to Okinawa. I sent him a scan of dad's drawing in early 2006, in the hope that he could verify my belief that the sketch was indeed that of Nakagusuku Castle. He wrote back saying that he believed it to be another castle, possibly Shuri Castle. This was my initial guess as well before I found photo's of Nakagusuku. I emailed Mick back with a short "analysis" of the sketch and why I was certain that it was Nakagusuku. After viewing my comparisons he became convinced that I was correct and kindly posted my short "study" on his web site. Until today, our last correspondence was in April '06. I just received the email shown below from Mick. As he explains, an Okinawan native from the Ryukyu American Historical Research Society has verified the identification of dad's sketch.....see the next slide to read his comments.

Joe P.

From: "S. A. Mick McClary" <mickmc@mcn.net>
To: "Joe P." <jazzman500@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2006 11:06 PM
Subject: Fw: Castle Sketch Mystery

Hi, Joe!

I'm thinking that you might be interested in this....

I've added his comments to your feature on the website too.

He's a very nice fella - and smart on Okinawa!

Hope all is well, Joe!

Mick

----- Original Message -----

From: "Ryubei" <kishaba@ryubei.com>
To: "S. A. Mick McClary" <mickmc@mcn.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2006 7:19 AM
Subject: Castle Sketch Mystery

Letter from Alex Kishaba on dad's sketch. Sent to Mick McClary, November 28, 2006

Mick,

The sketch is definitely that of Nakagusuku Castle and the deep ravine to the right is the steep hill that definitely goes down but not to the ocean. The Pacific Ocean is to the left of the walls located approximately 2 miles away.

Commodore Perry's men climbed up the hill shown in the background of the sketch and that is referred to as "Banner Rock" where they planted an American flag and fired off some shots which must have scared my ancestors who live on the other side of that hill. I presently live down the right slope of that hill. Perry's men also scaled the walls of the castle and measured them. And yes, the 10th Army intelligence made of educated **Nisei`s** occupied the front concave part of the walls and stacked up sandbags and deciphered captured Japanese diaries and maps. Things they couldn't read like old Chinese writings were sent aboard the ship off of Chatan and were never heard of again. Our society is still searching for them but that's another story for another time.

There are no other castles like in the sketch except for Zakimi Castle in Yomitan. The reason for the similarity is because Lord Gosamaru was the same occupant of the two castles and used the same slaves from Amami Oshima to construct his domains.

Finally from atop the castle walls you can see the East China Sea, particularly where the ships were berthed during the war. My mother, before escaping to the southern of Okinawa where she lost most of her family members, recalls that there were so many ships in the bay that you couldn't see the blue waters.

Alex Kishaba
Ryukyu America Historical Research Society
541 Arakaki, Nakagusuku, Okinawa, Japan 901-2422



Shizuo (Alex) Kishaba
Chairman
Ryukyu America Historical Research Society, NonProfit Incorporated
541 Arakaki, Nakagusuku, Okinawa, Japan 901-2422

Interesting Comparison

The last paragraph of Mr. Kishaba's letter speaks about his mother's description of the view of the East China Sea and the Navy ships during the war. Compare it to dad's account of the same view below.

From Alex Kishaba (about his mother): Finally from atop the castle walls you can see the East China Sea, particularly where the ships were berthed during the war.

My mother.....recalls:

“there were so many ships in the bay that you couldn't see the blue waters.”

-mother of Alex Kishaba (commenting on Okinawa – 1945)

From dad's Letter

“From this point you can see far out into the China Sea. There are many ships out and around the island. At night it looks like a very large city with all the lights on. A pretty picture indeed.”

- Corporal Joseph A. Pizzimenti August 1945 (from Okinawa)

As mentioned earlier, Mr. Kishaba's comments unexpectedly added some insight into an aspect of dad's sketch that I originally misinterpreted. This and the following slides explain and clear up this error.

The palace of Okinawa
now occupied by the
10th Army of the U.S.

Banner Rock

Valley

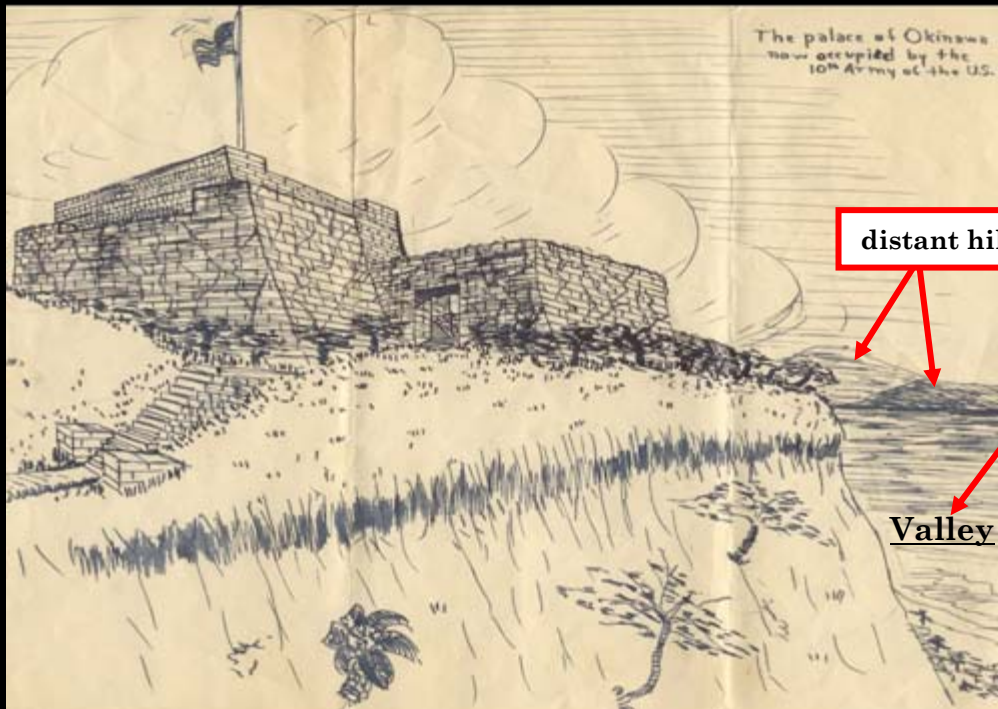
Below: The words of Alex Kishaba – Ryukyu American Historical Research Society

Commodore Perry's men climbed up the hill shown in the background of the sketch and that is referred to as "**Banner Rock**" where they planted an American flag and fired off some shots which must have scared my ancestors who live on the other side of that hill. **I presently live down the right slope of that hill.** Perry's men also scaled the walls of the castle and measured them. **And yes, the 10th Army intelligence made of educated Nisei's occupied the front concave part of the walls and stacked up sandbags and deciphered captured Japanese diaries and maps.**

What I mistook for a symbolic or abstract view of the East China Sea is actually a valley and is quite literal in it's representation even though the steepness of the slope down to it is not.

A helpful clue clears up a misinterpretation

Mr. Kishaba's words on the previous slide about dad's sketch provided a clue that further explains this interesting sketch. Because he identified the hill in the background as "**Banner Rock**", I realized that these hills weren't simply an artistic touch that dad included, but were real peaks that were actually in the background. I initially suspected dad was drawing *imaginary peaks* rising from the East China Sea. However, this presented a problem because the East China Sea is further away and more to the west than where dad appeared to have located it. Because of Mr. Kishaba's comments, I realized that dad wasn't drawing the East China Sea at all, but was sketching the valley below that separated Nakagusuku Castle and the distant hill tops. I originally thought that dad used "artistic license" to abstractly include the view that was "outside the boundaries" of the paper he was sketching on. In other words, I thought he condensed the actual view to fit in the scene he sketched (like the stairway that he "relocated"). But I now know that he drew this as it actually appeared and that what I believed to be the ocean below was actually a valley. Once again, Google Earth provided some interesting proof as the hilltops are visible from dad's perspective. (see next few slides)

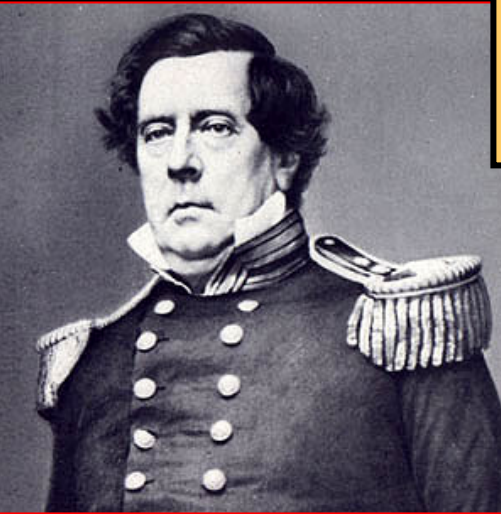


distant hilltops

Valley

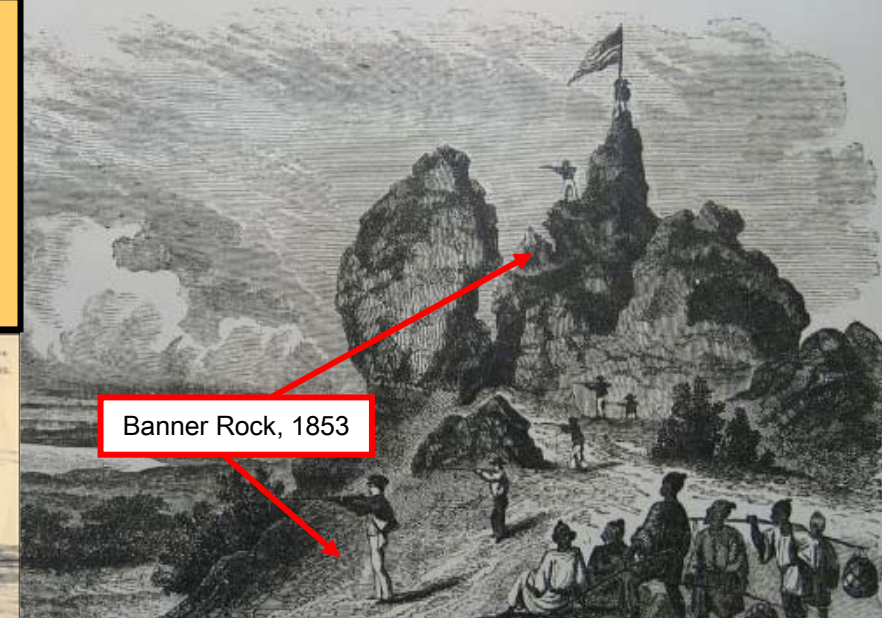
What I originally thought to be the East China Sea in this sketch is really the valley between the hill that the castle sits on the ones in the distance. This is accurate because the view of the East China Sea is more to the west. This view is looking too far south of west to include the sea.

Some background info about Commodore Perry and Banner Rock



Commodore Mathew C. Perry 1794 - 1858

The pen and ink drawing on the right is of Banner Rock and shows the event that Alex Kishaba wrote about in his email. **Note:** *Dad drew the peak that Banner Rock is located on. Banner Rock itself is too small a feature to appear in the distant hill top of dad's sketch.*



Banner Rock, 1853

The drawings above and below are from Commodore Perry's historic expedition to Japan, which included an exploration of Okinawa. The drawing below is of the same castle that would be sketched by dad 92 years later. His sketch included the hill that Banner Rock was on.

Commodore Perry

In 1853, Commodore Mathew C. Perry was sent on a mission by President Millard Fillmore to establish trade with Japan – a country that had been isolated from the outside world since the 17th century. In July of that same year, Perry leads a squadron of four ships into Tokyo Bay and presented representatives of the Japanese Emperor with the text of a proposed commercial and friendship treaty. The Japanese rejected Perry's demands and Perry withdrew. Perry returned to Japan in February, 1854. This time he appears with seven ships - four sailing ships, three steamers – and one thousand, six hundred men. After a standoff, Perry landed for peace and trade talks on March 8, 1854, and began to negotiate with the Japanese to establish a trade agreement.



Nakagusuku Castle, 1853

From this point you can see far out into the China sea.



East China Sea

Pacific

Nakagusuku Castle

Banner Rock

valley

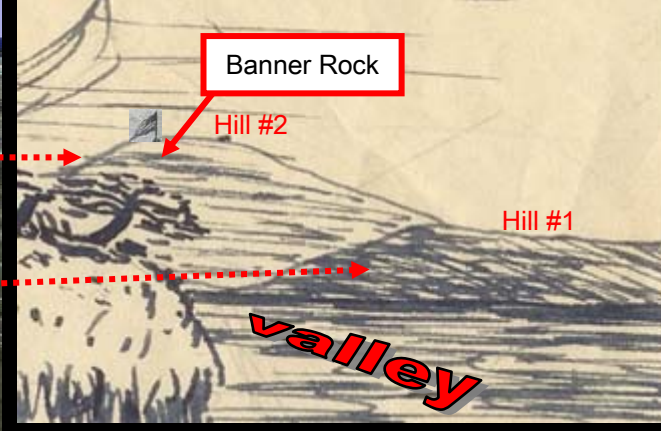
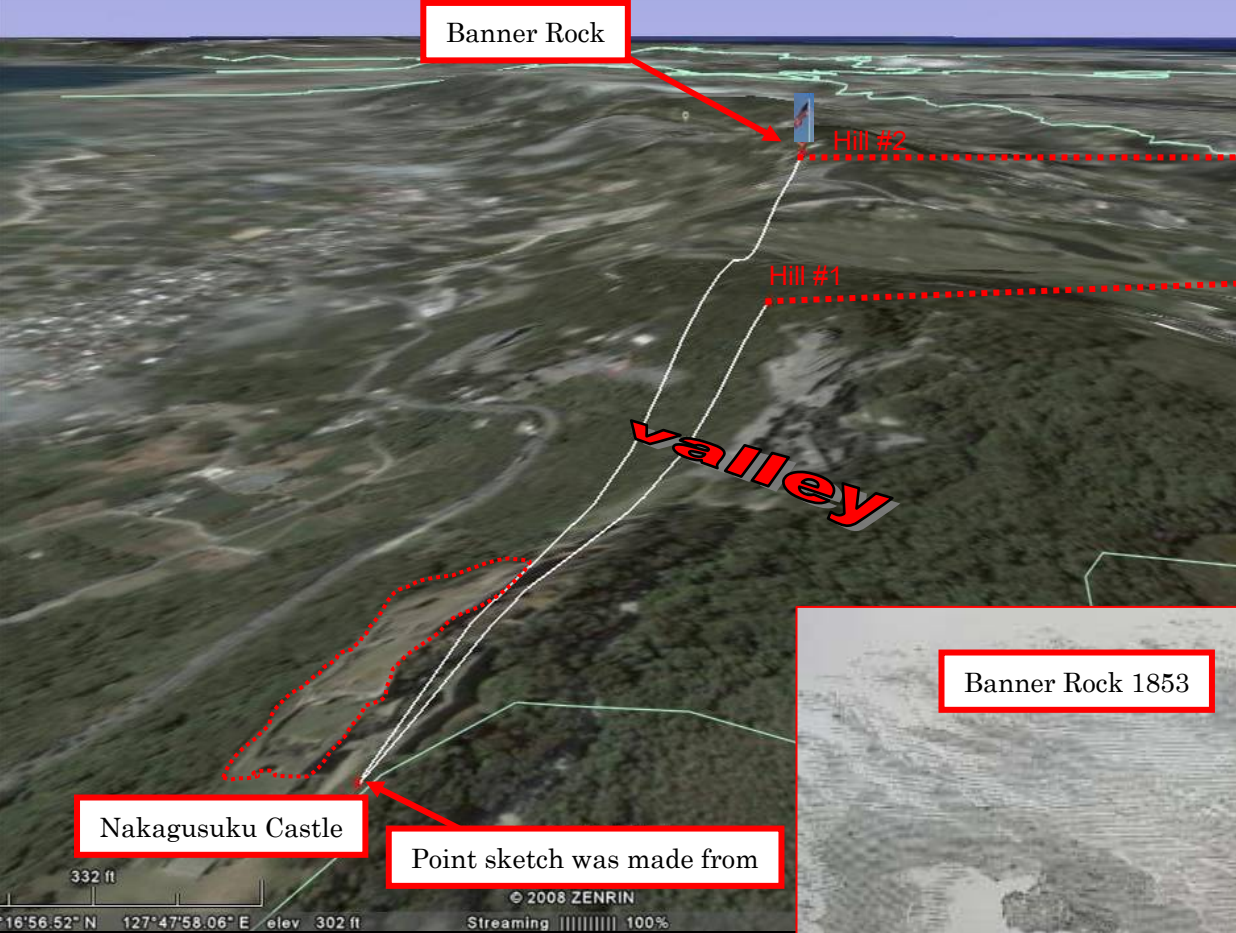
elevation increases to 490 feet

1080 ft

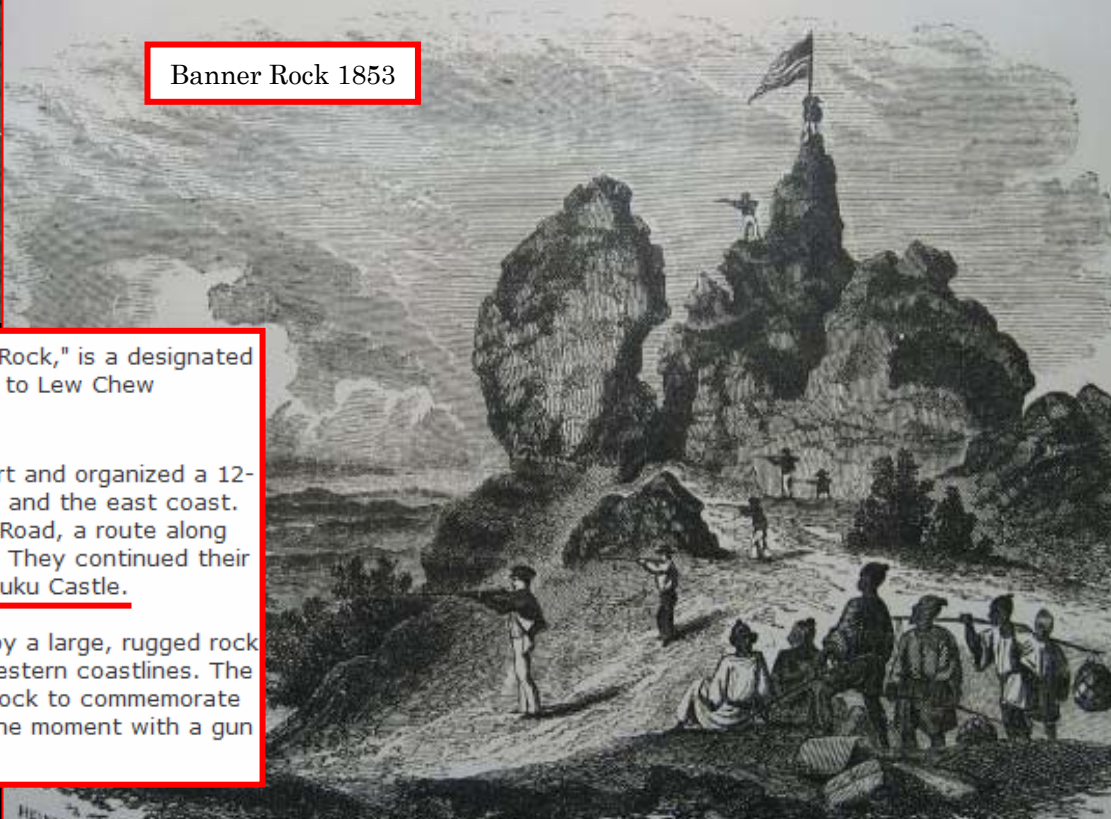
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View of Okinawa looking southwest in same direction dad made sketch. Red arrows point to east and west shores and the green arrow points to banner rock. The black arrow shows the contour of the land as it increases in elevation to the 490 foot ridge the Nakagusuku Castle is on. From this perspective it becomes apparent that Banner Rock was in dad's field of vision.



Banner Rock sits on the hill that dad sketched in the distance



Banner Rock 1853

Nakagusuku Castle

Point sketch was made from

Officially named "Perry's Banner Rock," Taachii Ishi, meaning "Two Rock," is a designated historical site commemorating Commodore Matthew C. Perry's visit to Lew Chew (Okinawa).

On May 26, 1853 Commodore Perry and his party entered Naha Port and organized a 12-member expedition team to explore the inland of mainland Okinawa and the east coast. Leaving Shuri Castle on May 30, the team traveled through Hanta Road, a route along the east coast, and entered Nakagusuku Village via Nishihara City. They continued their journey through Minami Uebaru, Kita Uebaru, Arakaki, and Nakagusuku Castle.

As the team was passing through Arakaki, they took a short rest by a large, rugged rock that showed the magnificent beauty of the island's eastern and western coastlines. The expedition team then placed the American flag on the top of this rock to commemorate their conquest. They named it the "Banner Rock" and celebrated the moment with a gun salute.

“Commodore Perry’s men climbed up the hill shown in the background of the sketch and that is referred to as “Banner Rock” where they planted an American flag and fired off some shots which must have scared my ancestors who live on the other side of that hill. I presently live down the right slope of that hill.”

-Words of Alex Kishaba in reference to dad’s sketch. (artwork below depicting Mr. Kishaba’s historical accounting



Banner Rock location was located using Google Earth: 26 16' 29.46" N, 127 47' 18.54" E

Banner Rock sits on hill #2

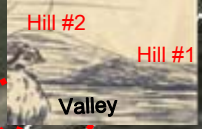
*"Commodore Perry's men climbed up the hill shown in the background of the sketch and that is referred to as **"Banner Rock"** where they planted an American flag and fired off some shots which must have scared my ancestors who live on the other side of that hill. I presently live down the right slope of that hill."
- Alex Kishaba (Ryukyu America Historical Research Society)*

Alex Kishaba's neighborhood

Hill #2

Hill #1

valley



Nakagusuku Castle

When viewed from dad's vantage point, the hill that a rock formation called Banner Rock sits on is clearly visible. Amazingly, dad included these two hills in this sketch.

Same as last slide but from a slightly different perspective



The Pinnacle

Hill #2

Hill #1

valley

Nakagusuku

146

slope

Hill #2

Hill #1

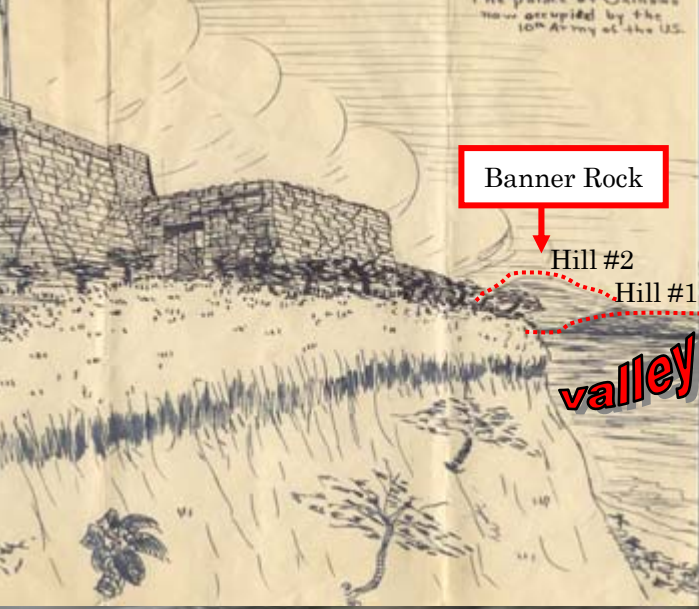
valley

exaggerated slope



Image © 2009 GeoEye
Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe
Data © 2009 MIRC/IHA

367 ft



Banner Rock

Hill #2

Hill #1

valley



Banner Rock

Hill #2

Hill #1

valley

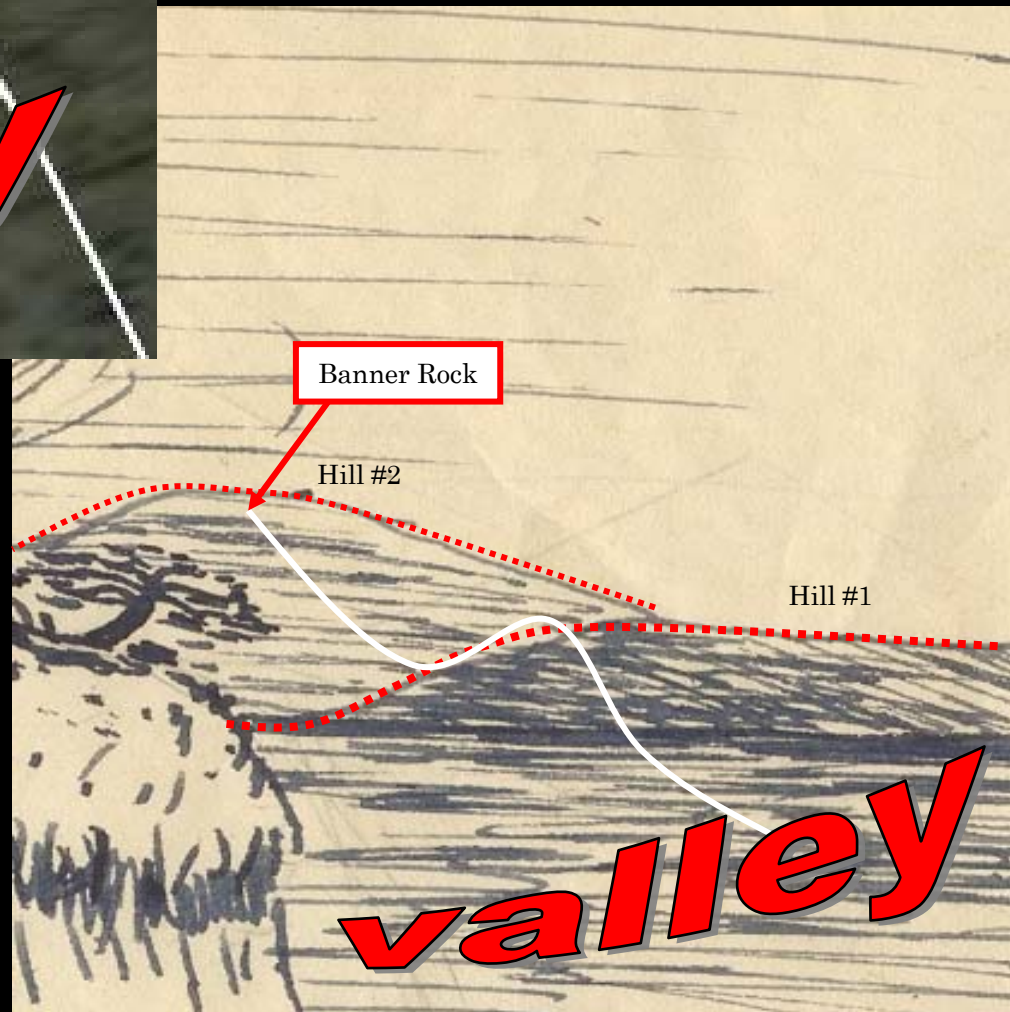
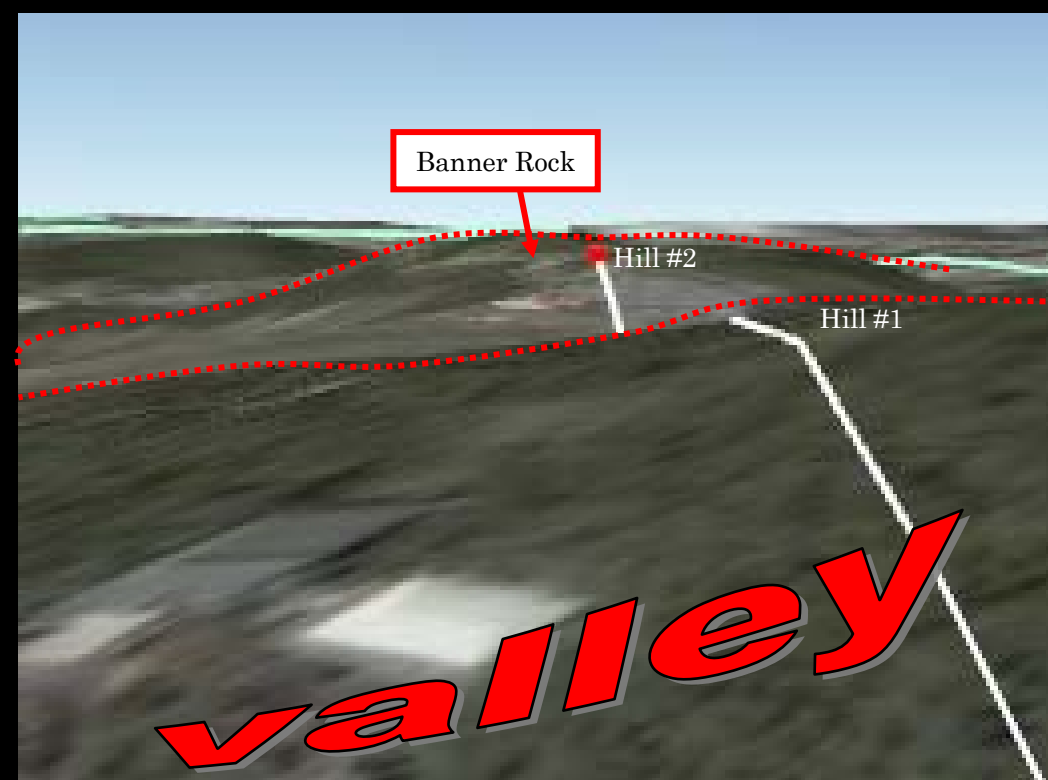
Nakagusuku Castle

Dad's vantage point

55 ft

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Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe
© 2009 AND

© 2009 G



View from Banner Rock looking back towards Nakagusuku Castle.



Nakagusuku Castle

Hill #1

valley

Hill #2

Banner Rock



178 ft

Image © 2009 TerraMetrics
Image © 2009 GeoEye
Data © 2009 MIRC/JHA
Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe

© 2009 Google

26°16'47.30" N 127°47'33.75" E elev. 290 ft

Eye alt 895 ft

The village of Arakaki (a.k.a Arakachi)

Hill #2 (Banner Rock)

Hill #1

Nakagusuku Castle

Shizuo (Alex) Kishaba
Chairman

Ryukyu America Historical Research Society, NonProfit Incorporated
541 Arakaki, Nakagusuku, Okinawa, Japan 901-2422

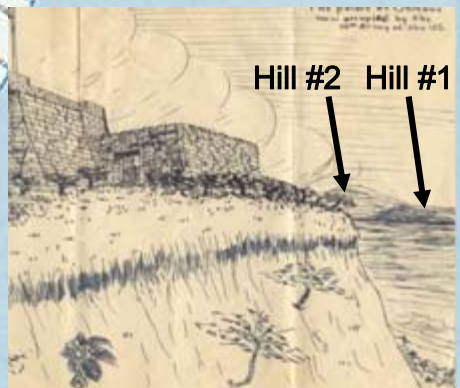
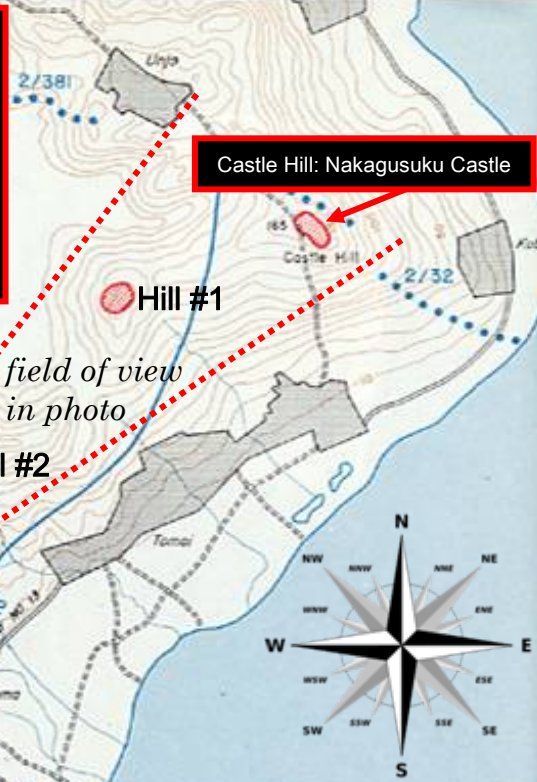
2007 10

The Ryukyu America Historical Research Society where Alex Kishaba is the chairman, is located in this village of Arakaki. The ridge that Nakagusuku castle sits on and both of the hills that dad sketched can be seen from this village

The XXIV Corps (that dad writes about) was involved early on in the battle for Okinawa. This battle field map shows the location of Nakagusuku Castle and the map legend indicates that it's a main enemy outpost, as are both hills that dad drew. This would make sense since these areas were high ground. Nakagusuku Castle is located on a ridge that the US Army named "Castle Hill". It also shows the area of Banner Rock and identifies it as a Japanese outpost as well. The Japanese defenders abandoned Nakagusuku Castle on the night of April 4, 1945 to escape the advancing US forces.

The palace is now occupied by Gen. Hodge of the 24th Corps and his staff.

This view looking back towards Nakagusuku Castle and of Banner Rock that was used in a previous slide was taken from a hilltop called "The Pinnacle". It was another Japanese outpost. (not to be confused with "The Pinnacle" of Ie Shima Island, just off the west coast of Okinawa)

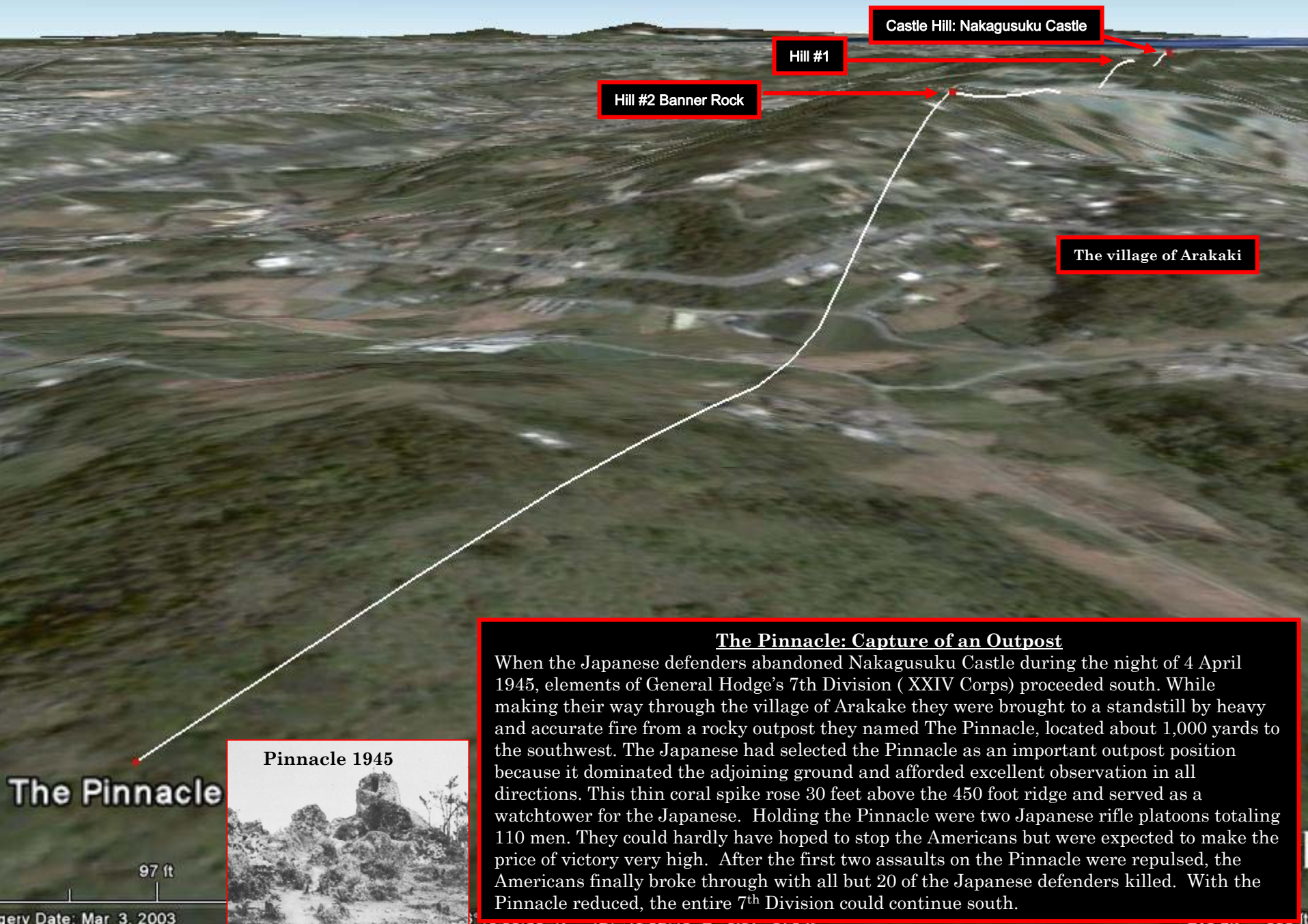


THROUGH THE OUTPOSTS
XXIV CORPS 4-8 APRIL 1945

- FRONT LINE 3 APRIL
- — — FRONT LINE 5 APRIL
- — — FRONT LINE 8 APRIL
- MAIN ENEMY OUTPOST
- Contour interval 10 meters

500 0 500 1000
YARDS

Interesting history of the area that dad traversed



Castle Hill: Nakagusuku Castle

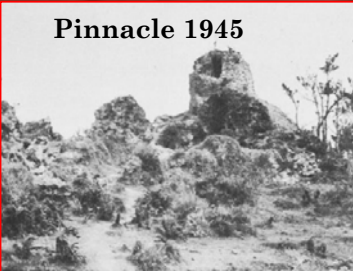
Hill #1

Hill #2 Banner Rock

The village of Arakaki

The Pinnacle: Capture of an Outpost

When the Japanese defenders abandoned Nakagusuku Castle during the night of 4 April 1945, elements of General Hodge's 7th Division (XXIV Corps) proceeded south. While making their way through the village of Arakake they were brought to a standstill by heavy and accurate fire from a rocky outpost they named The Pinnacle, located about 1,000 yards to the southwest. The Japanese had selected the Pinnacle as an important outpost position because it dominated the adjoining ground and afforded excellent observation in all directions. This thin coral spike rose 30 feet above the 450 foot ridge and served as a watchtower for the Japanese. Holding the Pinnacle were two Japanese rifle platoons totaling 110 men. They could hardly have hoped to stop the Americans but were expected to make the price of victory very high. After the first two assaults on the Pinnacle were repulsed, the Americans finally broke through with all but 20 of the Japanese defenders killed. With the Pinnacle reduced, the entire 7th Division could continue south.



Pinnacle 1945

The Pinnacle

97 ft

serv Date: Mar 3, 2003



The Pinnacle 2006



The Pinnacle 1945

The view from the Pacific side shows the 490 foot elevation that Nakagusuku Castle was built on, as well as hills 1 and 2

