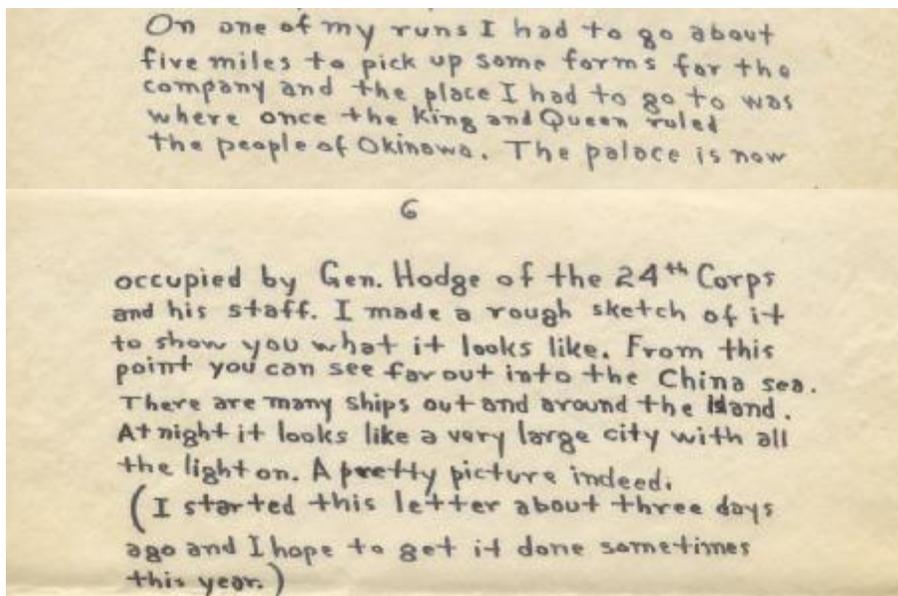


Hi Mick,

Below is part of my father's letter that talks about the castle. The letter was dated August 25th, 1945. My father was camped near Naha, or at least indicates on another page that he is near it and that it was the capitol of Okinawa. In the section below he states that he had to drive about 5 miles to get to the castle. Later, on the day that I originally emailed you, I found two indicators that the Army's 24th Corps (which was a segment of the larger 10th Army, along with Marine units), moved its headquarters to Nakagusuku Castle. In the letter, he writes that he could see far out into the China Sea. I've read that the East China Sea is indeed visible from the east coast of Okinawa from the site that Nakagusuku is on. Let me explain my theories and please give me your opinion.



Below you will find a cut and paste section from a web site featuring a man named **Benjamin B. Talley**. It was taken from an index of articles available from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Although I cannot access the actual article, the only part that is important to me is the last line of this index that proves the 24th Corps was using Nakagusuku Castle as its headquarters...just as my father states in the letter section above. On the actual sketch, he says occupied by the 10th Army, which it was. The date on the study indexed below is coincidentally, August 26th 1945, the day after my father made his sketch

Subseries 7d. Okinawa and Korea; 1945 (See also: Part 7, Series 9).

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

I also found a man named Benjamin H. Hazard on the web who writes:

“The teams landed on Okinawa in two echelons on D+2 (D Day was 1 April 1945), operating under JICPOA, rather than ATIS, SOP. 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.”

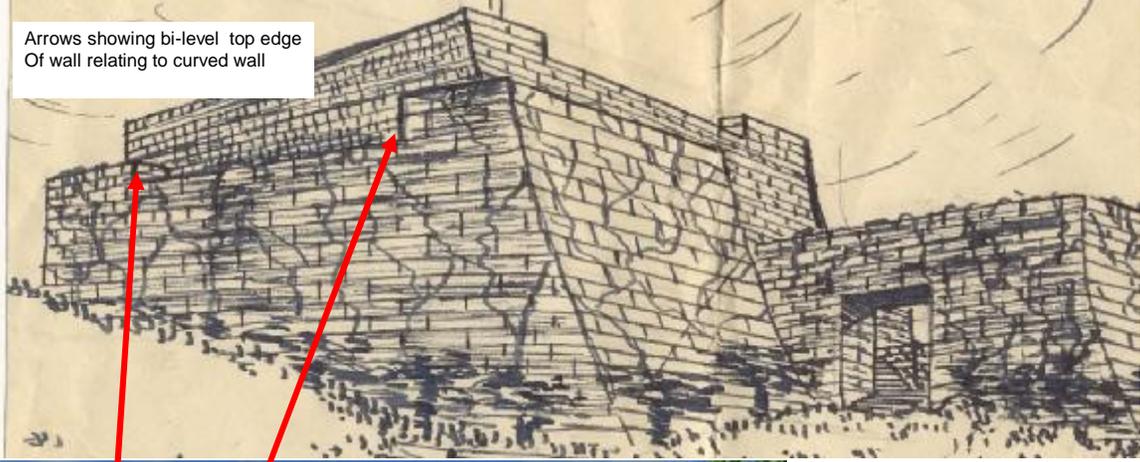
“When its forward divisions advanced several miles to the south, Corps Headquarters moved into Nakagusuku Castle where it remained until it moved to Seoul when the war ended.”

I think that this removes any doubt about which castle he drew, unless the 24th Corps used more than one castle as a headquarters in August of 1945.

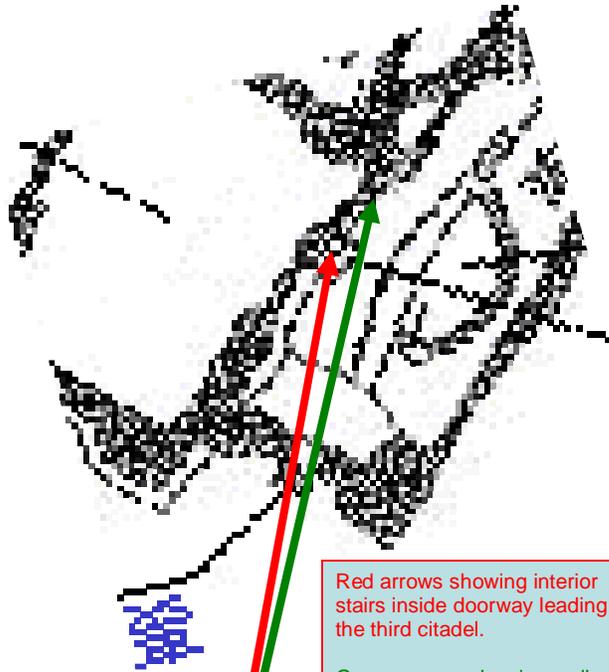
As far as the castle resembling the sketch, let's consider the differences first:

- 1) The steep cliff in the sketch is not reality. My father states in his letter that he could see far out into the China Sea. This view seems spectacular given the fact that it is on the other side of the island (about 7 miles?). Since my father was creating more of an artistic drawing than an absolute realistic one, I think that he rendered the sketch to appear as he did to emphasize the panoramic view that he implies in his letter. True, the castle is a lot closer to the bay on the east, but that isn't the view he mentions as impressive. I believe that he drew it like he wanted to portray it. Had he drawn it accurately, he wouldn't have been able to include the dramatic view to the west because it wouldn't have fit from the perspective he drew from.
- 2) The gate isn't arched in his sketch: This is true; but I don't feel that this is very important. Let's go on for now
- 3) The wall isn't curved and the top is not drawn even: I am including some Power Point slides that I've been working on (See next page)

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



The only major difference in dad's sketch from the actual wall 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.



Red arrows showing interior stairs inside doorway leading to the third citadel.

Green arrows showing wall to the right of interior stairs.



See next page also

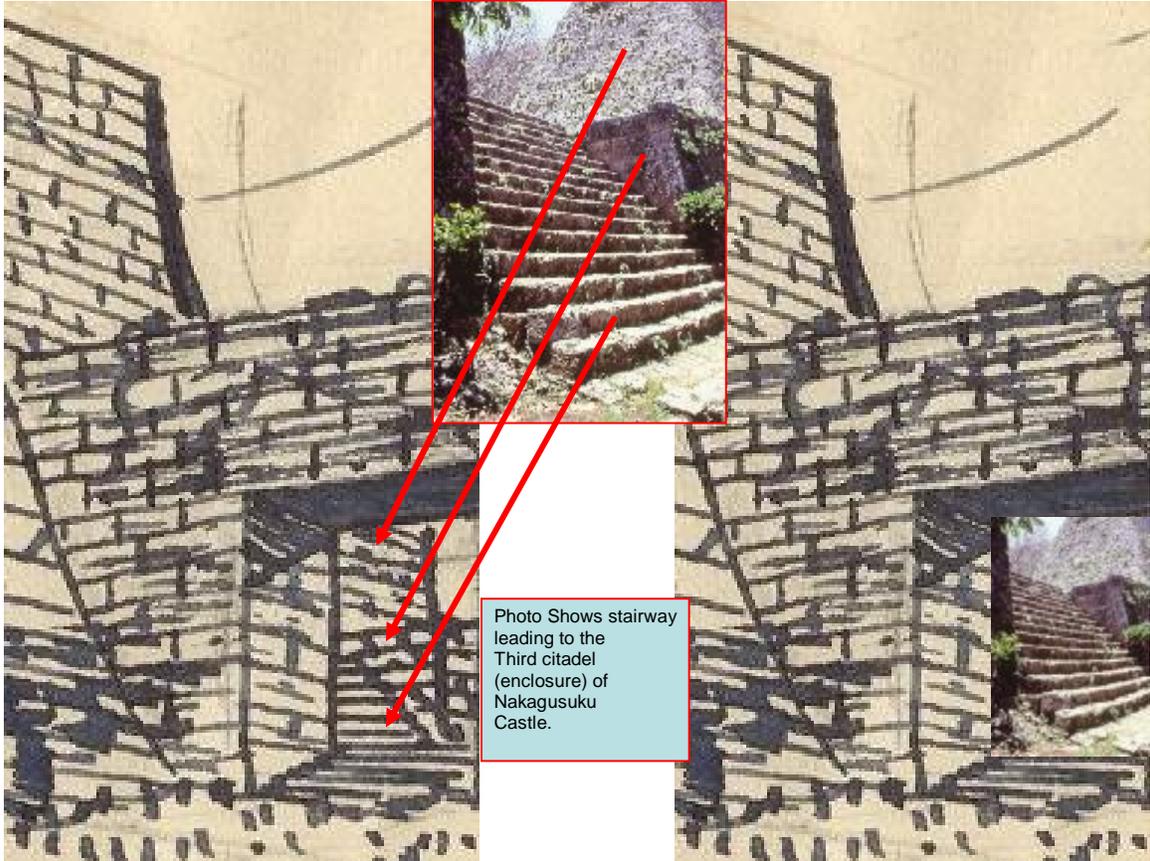
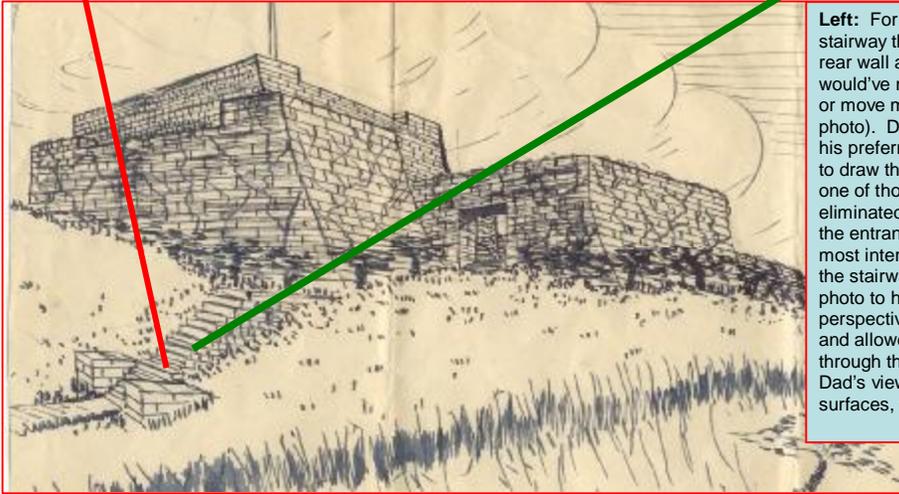
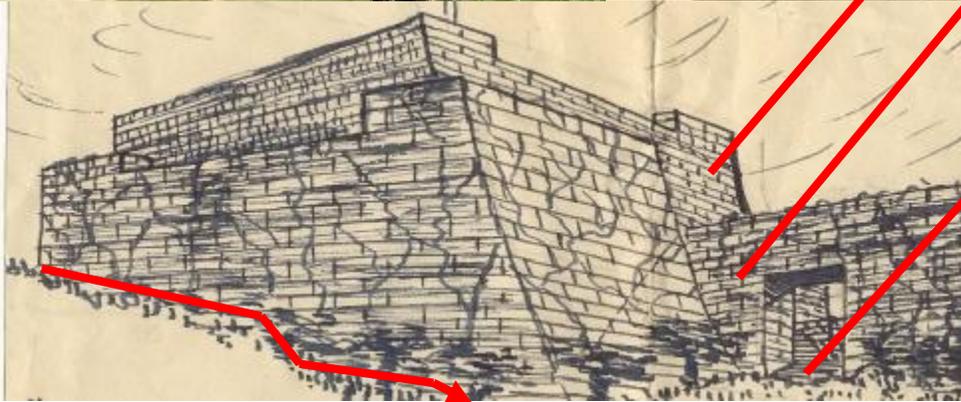
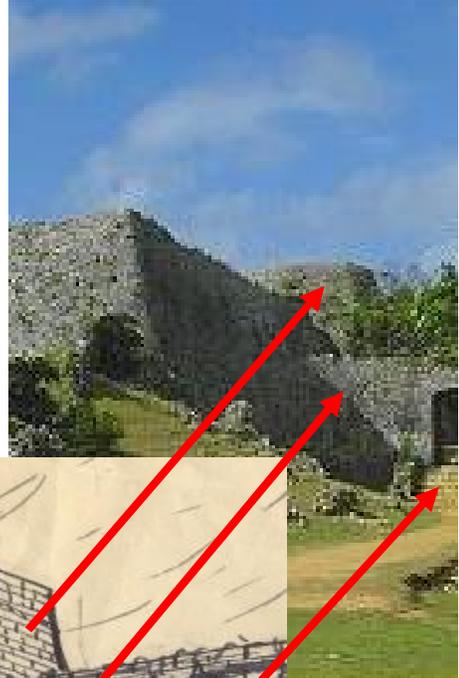


Photo Shows stairway leading to the Third citadel (enclosure) of Nakagusuku Castle.



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 the photo to his drawing, his sketched perspective is much more interesting and allowed the interior detail seen through the entrance to be seen. Dad's view shows ten different walls or surfaces, the photo only shows three.





The photo shows that dad, for a third time, chose to render his sketch differently than what was reality. He wanted to show the panoramic view he wrote about that included the China Sea to the west. Since Nakagusuku Castle is on Okinawa's east coast, this view goes clear across the island. For dad to show this view from this perspective he had to exaggerate the slope down to the East China Sea.

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 approximate 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 peninsula the sandy shores of Tsuken and Kudaka islands are visible in the horizon. To the north are the hilly regions of Okinawa; Baten Fishing Port can be seen to the south; the Kerama and Zamami islands can be seen in the western waters past Naha City; and Kudaka Island is to the southeast. For the romantic, Nakagusuku Castle is a noted site to view the full moon.

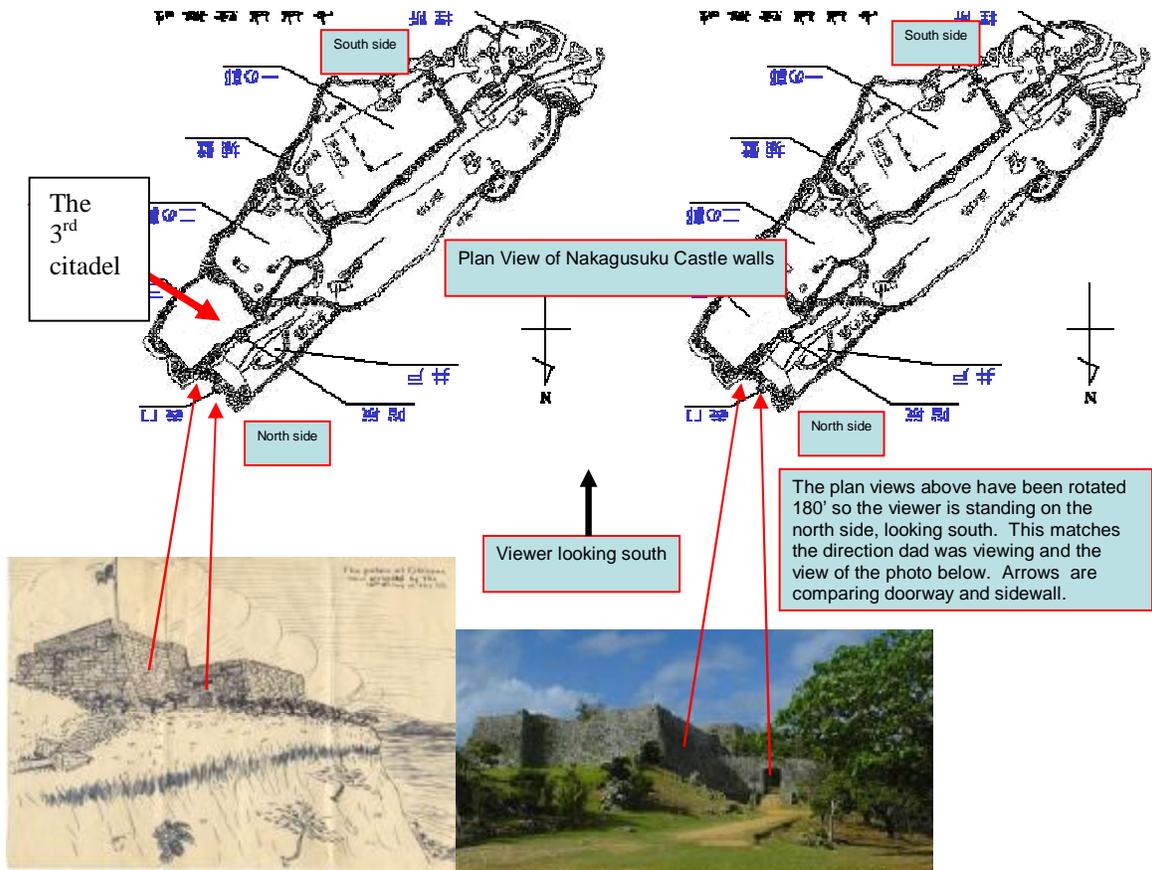
6
occupied by Gen. Hodge of the 24th Corps and his staff. I made a rough sketch of it to show you what it looks like. From this point you can see far out into the China sea. There are many ships out and around the island. At night it looks like a very large city with all the light on. A pretty picture indeed. (I started this letter about three days ago and I hope to get it done sometime this year.)



Off and on for the last few years I tried to identify this castle. Even though dad called this one "The Palace of Okinawa", there are over 300 castles 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". Because I believed him to be near the capitol city of Naha (he mentions Naha, but doesn't exactly say that he's staying there), 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 never could find any information.

Recently, I found 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 on the west coast as is the East China Sea. If dad drove about 5 miles to this castle and could see far out into the China Sea, 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 7 miles wide and 70 miles long, about 463 square miles. If dad was camped on the west coast near Naha as I thought, he could drive the 5 miles he wrote about and be near the east coast. As far as 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. According to the map, Nakagusuku Castle looks like it's about 7 miles from Naha; close enough to dad's "about 5 miles" estimation. I then started to closely compare the photos of Nakagusuku and dad's sketch. I would later stumble upon the positive proof while doing this comparison.



I think that the similarities are strong and the dissimilarities are explainable. My father was taking some artistic license to portray an interesting panoramic view in a limited frame of vision that would fit on the paper. The 24th Corps using it though seems to be the “smoking gun” that would remove any doubt. Please let me know if you agree or have another theory...this is fun.