

Memorial Services for the War Dead

Overview

Outline of Memorial Services for the War Dead

Memorial Services for the War Dead

Recovery of the Remains of War Dead

Teams to collect the remains of Japanese war dead have been sent to former major battlefields since FY1952. As of the end of June 2011 approximately 1.27 million remains of 2.40 million war dead abroad (including those in Iwo Jima and Okinawa) have been collected.

DNA Profiling Projects on the Remains of War Dead Abroad

DNA profiling has been conducted at national expense upon request from a bereaved family since FY 2003 provided that [1] the family can be presumed to have been bereaved from documentation such as a war dead obituary, etc., [2] appropriate samples are provided by the bereaved family, and [3] usable DNA can be extracted from the remains.

Pilgrimages for Memorial Services and Visits to Burial Sites

The national government has systematically held pilgrimages composed mainly of bereaved families since FY1976 to conduct memorial services for the war dead at former major battlefields, on the ocean, and in other areas where collecting any remains is impossible.

Friendship and Goodwill Memorial Services

Because of the point of view that children of the war dead are also war victims, similar to the people living in areas that were the sites of major battlefields during the war, friendship and goodwill memorial services have been conducted since FY1991 at the aforementioned sites in thus holding memorial ceremonies for the war victims and to pledge a commitment to permanent peace.

Erection of Monuments to the War Dead

Since FY1970, monuments to all those who died in the war have been gradually erected at the sites of former major battlefields.

Detailed Data 1

Recovery of Remains of War Dead

(Unit: remains)

Region	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
The former Soviet Union	240	95	307	95	219
Mongolia (Nomonhan)	7	26	24	30	14
Sakhalin			3		4
The Philippines	45	161	1,230	7,740	6,289
Eastern New Guinea	5	94	114	415	214
Bismarck Archipelago/ Solomon Islands	66	119	146	102	165
Indonesia	35	115	108	301	216
Central Pacific	74	2		58	26
Kiribati		9			
Thailand					
Okinawa	84	96	80	173	128
Iwo Jima	84	43	26	51	822
Total	640	760	2,038	8,965	8,097

Source: Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau, MHLW

Detailed Data 2**Status of DNA Analysis of Remains of War Dead Abroad**

(Unit: case)

FY	Identified	Negative	Total
FY2003-FY2005	212	60	272
FY2006	168	245	413
FY2007	149	187	336
FY2008	145	71	216
FY2009	86	76	162
FY2010	46	60	106
Total	806	699	1,505

Source: Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau, MHLW

Detailed Data 3**Status with Pilgrimages for Memorial Services and visits to Burial Sites**

(Unit: person)

FY	Region	Number of bereaved participated
2006	The former Soviet Union, China, Nansei-shoto (southwestern islands), the Philippines, Marshall Islands, North Borneo, Iwo Jima	351
2007	The former Soviet Union, China, Central Pacific, Truk Islands, Eastern New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago/Solomon Islands, the Philippines, Iwo Jima	366
2008	The former Soviet Union, China, Bismarck Archipelago/Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Palau Islands, Eastern New Guinea, the Philippines, Myanmar, Marshall/Gilbert Islands, Iwo Jima	351
2009	The former Soviet Union, China, Iwo Jima, Mariana Islands, Eastern New Guinea, North Borneo, Bismarck Archipelago/Solomon Islands	324
2010	The former Soviet Union, China, Iwo Jima, Mariana Islands, Indonesia, Eastern New Guinea, Myanmar, Truk Islands, Gilbert Islands	458

Source: Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau, MHLW

Detailed Data 4**Status with Erection of Monuments to War Dead**

Name of monument	Location	Completion date
Iwo Jima Monument to the War Dead	Iwo Jima, Ogasawara village, Tokyo	Mar. 26, 1971
Philippine Monument to the War Dead	Kaliraya, Laguna state, the Philippines	Mar. 28, 1973
Mid-Pacific ocean Monument to the War Dead	Marpi, Saipan Island, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Island, U.S.A. (self-governing domain)	Mar. 25, 1974
South Pacific ocean Monument to the War Dead	Rabaul City, Eastern New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea	Sep. 30, 1980
Myanmar Peace Monument	Yangon City, Myanmar	Mar. 28, 1981
New Guinea Monument to the War Dead	Wewak City, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea	Sep. 16, 1981
Borneo Monument to the War Dead	Labuan City Sabah State, Malaysia	Sep. 30, 1982
East Pacific ocean Monument to the War Dead	Majuro, Majuro Atoll, Republic of the Marshall lands	Mar. 16, 1984
West Pacific ocean Monument to the War Dead	Peleliu Island, Peleliu State, Republic of Palau	Mar. 8, 1985
North Pacific ocean Monument to the War Dead	Attu Island, State of Alaska, U.S.A.	July 1, 1987
Monument to the War Dead in World War II	Parei, Biak Island, Papua, Indonesia	Mar. 24, 1994
India Peace Monument	Imphal, Manipur State, India	Mar. 25, 1994
Monument to the Japanese Dead	Khabarovsk City, Khabarovsk Province, Russia	July 31, 1995
Sakhalin and Chishima Monument to the War Dead	Smirnykh, Sakhalin Province, Russia	Nov. 1, 1996
Monument to the Japanese Dead	Ulan Bator, Mongolia	Oct. 15, 2001

Source: Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau, MHLW