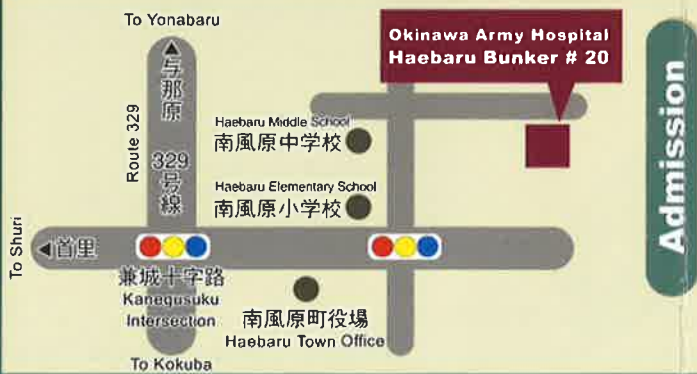


# Okinawa Army Hospital Haebaru Bunker #20 Map



# Okinawa Army Hospital Haebaru Bunker #20



|                                | Individuals | Groups (20+ People) |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Primary/Middle School Students | ¥100        | ¥50                 |
| High School Students           | ¥200        | ¥150                |
| Adults                         | ¥300        | ¥250                |
| Haebaru Students               | ¥50         | No Charge           |
| Haebaru Adults                 | ¥200        | ¥150                |

Open 9:00am - 5:00pm (By Reservation)  
 Closed Wednesdays, First/Last Days of Year

## Haebaru Town Museum

257 Kyan, Haebaru-cho, Okinawa 〒901-1113  
 TEL:098-889-7399 FAX:098-889-0529

# Okinawa Army Hospital

In May of 1944, Unit 18803-Tama was formed as the army hospital of the 32nd Army in Kumamoto, and from June, they commenced operations inside Naha city. On the 10th of October of that same year their facilities were destroyed in an air raid by United States forces, and as such they relocated to the grounds of the Haeburu public school building. Following this, about 30 tunnels were constructed in Kyan (presently Koganemori), and Kanegusuku (the hill north of the Haeburu town office), under the guidance of the 32nd Army's engineer unit. As the United States forces began naval bombardment on the island in the latter part of March in 1945, the army hospital facilities were moved into these tunnels.

Under the director of the hospital, Hiroike Bunkichi, around 350 surgeons, nurses, corpsmen, and other personnel worked as a part of the army hospital. Joining them from March 24th were some 222 students of the Okinawa Teachers School's Girl's Department and First Prefectural Girl's High School (Himeyuri Gakuto) who were mobilized under the direction of 18 instructors to work as nursing assistants to aid in the care of the wounded.

In order to compensate for the sharp rise in combat injuries after the landing of United States forces on the 1st of April, the army hospital's Surgical, Internal Medicine, and Infectious Disease departments were re-arranged to become the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Surgical Departments, respectively. In the latter part of May, the 32nd Army Headquarters had decided to evacuate to Mabuni (presently Itoman city), and evacuation orders were sent out to the army hospital. At that time, potassium cyanide was distributed to the more critically injured patients, who were forced to use it.

In 1990, the town of Haeburu designated the tunnels used by the 1st Surgical Group, and 2nd Surgical Group as cultural assets of the town to convey the tragedy of war, and to protect this history for future generations to learn from.



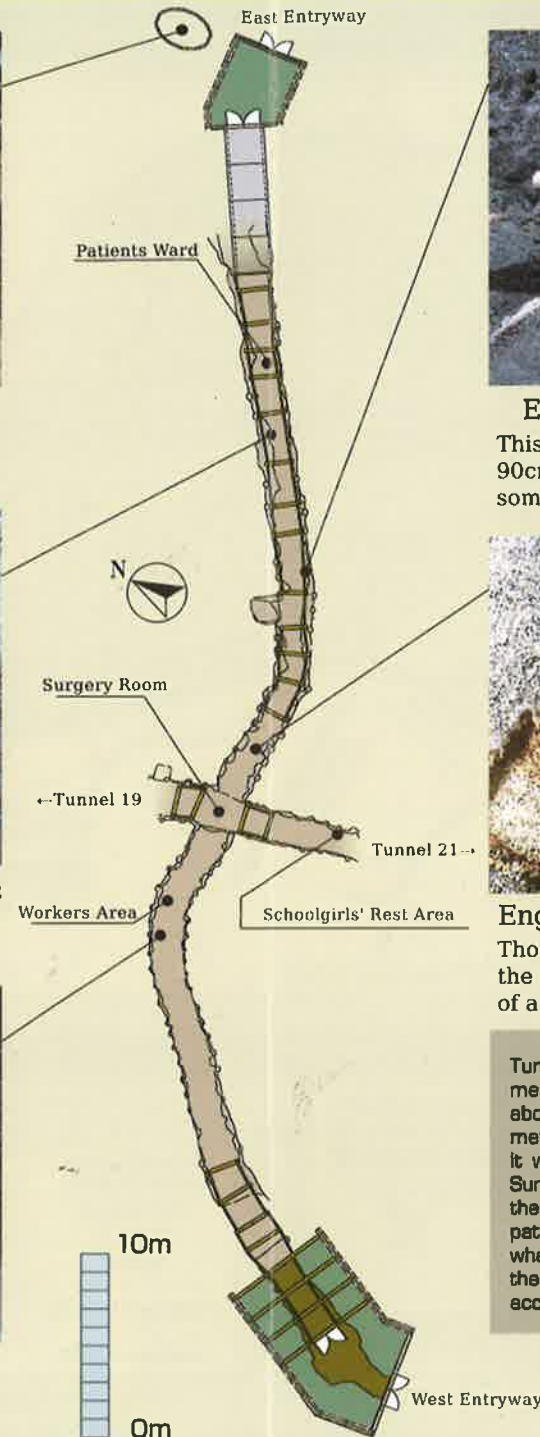
**Buried Medicines**  
Many medicines were found buried in the earth, as if intentionally hidden.



**Items Possibly Used By Patients**  
Soap Case • Pen Case • Gas Mask



**Charred Support Beams**  
Charring on surfaces and remains of beams, thought to be from a U.S. forces flamethrower.



**Excavated Human Remains**  
This area accommodated patients with 90cm wide, two-level racks. Here some skeletal remains were found.



**Engraved Character on Ceiling**  
Thought to be carved by a patient in the army hospital, possibly the name of a soldier of Korean origin.

Tunnel #20 is a manmade tunnel measuring roughly 70 meters in length, about 1.8 meters in height, and about 1.8 meters in width. It was the main tunnel used by the 2nd Surgical Department. The eastern part of the tunnel was used for accommodating patients; the central intersection was where surgeries were performed, while the western part of the tunnel accommodated those who worked there.

(Officially opened on June 18, 2007.)