

**CHURCH OF PEACE
NEAR MACHINATO OKINAWA
1945
854TH ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALION**

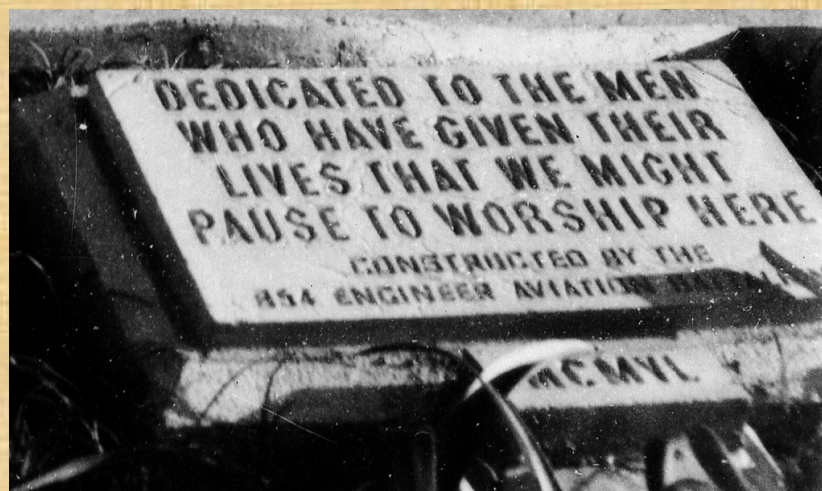


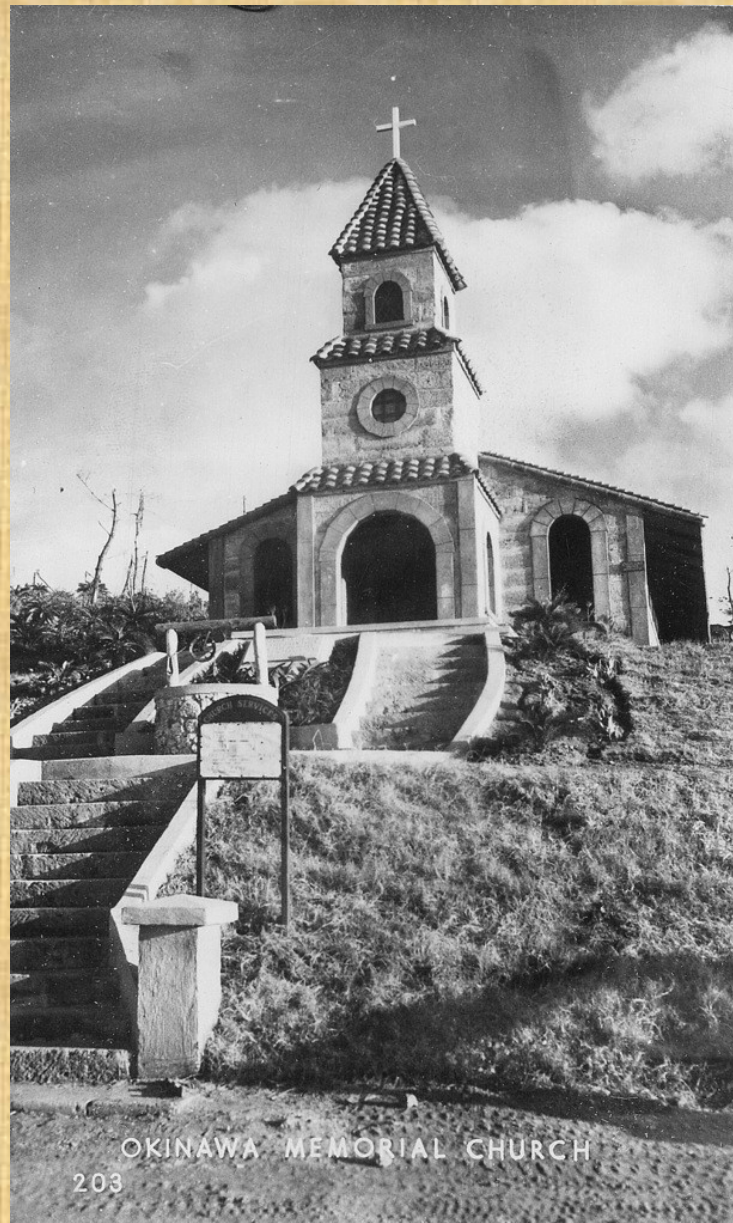
**FIRST AMERICAN CHURCH TO BE BUILT ON OKINAWA
AFTER THE INVASION ON 1 APRIL 1945**



The 854th ENGINEER BATTALION was constituted 14 December 1942 in the Army of the United States as the 854th Engineer Aviation Battalion and activated 1 January 1943 at March Field, California. Departed the San Francisco Port of Embarkation 1 December 1943 and arrived in the Territory of Hawaii on 11 December 1943. Moved to Kwajalein on 2 February 1944, to Guam on 7 October 1944, to Ie Shima Island on 24 June 1945 and Okinawa 25 June 1945 and assumed duties in the Army of Occupation. The Battalion was on Okinawa at the end of World War II (15 August 1945 location). Inactivated 15 March 1946 on Okinawa.

While some accounts of the building of the Church of Peace say it was done under fire, the battalion did not reach Okinawa until 25 June 1945 per the above information, and the Japanese on Okinawa surrendered on 21 June 1945.





**DEDICATED TO THE MEN WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES THAT WE MIGHT
PAUSE TO WORSHIP HERE**

CONSTRUCTED BY THE 854TH ENGINEER AVIATION BATTALION.

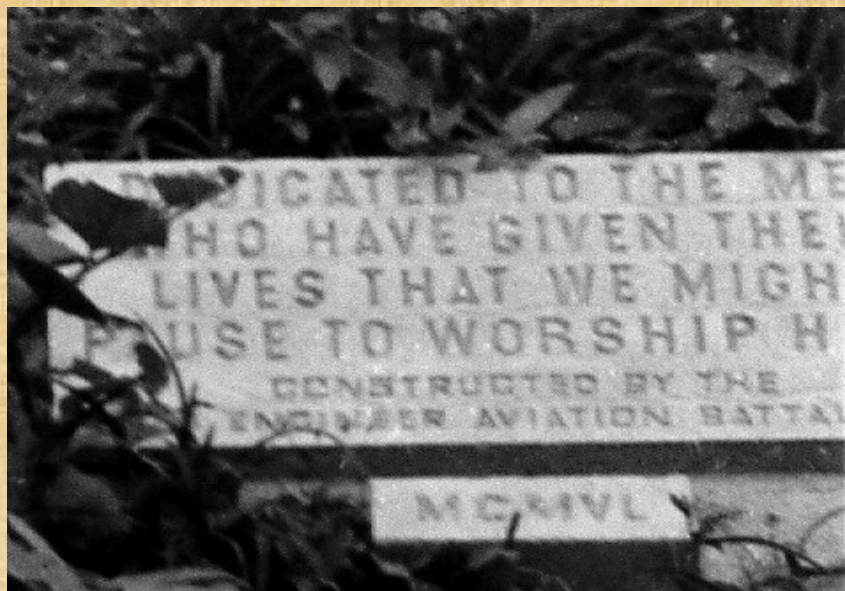
MCMVL on plaque converts to 1955

1945 converts to MCMXLV

Appears they had a problem with Roman numeral conversion.



THE CHURCH WAS ABANDON AT SOME POINT , IT WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN MOVED AND REBUILT AT CAMP MERCY ARMY HOSPITAL AREA, BUT EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT PERHAPS JUST THE INTERIOR WAS MOVED AND THE STONE WORK REMAINED.





CHURCH OF PEACE AT CAMP MERCY ARMY HOSPITAL.

NOTE THAT THE REBUILT CHAPEL HAD A DIFFERENT DESIGN TO THE FRONT

