



Saipan Dedicates War Memorial

On June 15, 1944, Vice Admiral Richmond K. Turner, USN, gave the order that began the liberation of Saipan. After 25 days of fighting the island was declared secured. The battle took the lives of 3,144 American fighting men.

For many years military men and civilians on Saipan have longed for a monument dedicated to those who lost their lives in that battle.

That longing became reality late last month when ceremonies were held dedicating the Servicemen's Memorial.

Erected on the invasion beach on the West coast of Saipan the triangular pillar stands 16 feet high and is topped by a cross and helmet.

Original design work for the monument was prepared by J. B. Johnson, Land Title Officer of Saipan; Frank Brown, civil service employee; and Lieutenant Tom O'Brien, USN, Saipan Public Works Officer. Final design approval was given by Lieutenant Commander LeRoy Hippe, Commanding Officer of the Saipan Administrative Unit.

Contributions by members of the Administrative Unit paid for the construction

materials used to build the monument. Thirty officers, enlisted men, and civil service employees completed the construction work on April 23.

Among those present at the dedication ceremonies were three men who took part in the 1944 invasion of Saipan. They were: J. B. Johnson, who served in the USS Stafford, DE-411; LT Cotton, then serving in the USS Pocomoke, AV-9; and PFC Burmeister who served with the second Marine Division.

Eight members of the Saipan Insular Constabulary who joined the US forces after landing, as provisional Marines were also present at the ceremony.

Rear Admiral Waldemar F. A. Wendt, USN, Commander Naval Forces Marianas and Major General John M. Reynolds, USAF, Commander Third Air Division, took part in the ceremonies.

*Green
Crossroads
27 May
1960*