

City of Kurume **Kurume History**
Walks

No.22 平和への願い－久留米の戦争遺跡(1) War Remains 1

World War II ended in 1945. The number of people who have experienced it is decreasing every year. In the future, the war remains will come to take an important role in handing down its memories. So, it is necessary to investigate and preserve them to show the reality of the war to the younger generation.

“War Remains” are buildings, architectural structures or traces which are related to the war, both within and outside modern Japan. In Kurume, the site of the 48th Infantry Regiment was established in 1897. Subsequently, other military facilities such as division headquarters, regimental headquarters, hospital, fort, and maneuvering ground were built across the city. Then, the city was called a Military Town. Today we have those remains and traces, which include the severe damages caused by the US air force in August 1945.

Figure1 -Location of the former military facilities

*Figure in a pink circle indicates that of the description on the right and also to that of Table 1 on the next page.

- ① 12th division headquarters
- ② Clothes Warehouse

③ Kurume Kaikosha (Organization



of retired military servicemen of high-rank)

- ④ Ordnance Department
- ⑤ Western 48th troop
- ⑥ Western 49th troop
- ⑦ Western 50th troop
- ⑧ Western 51st troop
- ⑨ Western 52nd troop
- ⑩ Western 54th troop
- ⑪ Kurume Garrison Hospital
- ⑫ Military Police Headquarters
- ⑬ 1st Preliminary Military Academy to Foster Junior Army Officers
- ⑭ 2nd Preliminary Military Academy
- ⑮ Division Commander Residence
- ⑯ Military Engineer Corp Workshop
- ⑰ Military Engineer Corp Training Ground for Crossing River
- ⑱ 1st Military Water Supply
- ⑲ 2nd Military Water Supply
- ⑳ Army Cemetery
- ㉑ Kurume Drill Court
- ㉒ Uchino Training Ground
- ㉓ Koradai Maneuvering Ground
- ㉔ 24th Brigade Headquarters of Foot Soldiers
- ㉕ Korauchi Firing Range

Table 1 – List of the former military facilities

*Figure in a circle indicates that of the map on the previous page.

	Name	Area	Current	Square Measure of ground(m ²)	of floor space(m ²)	Notes
①	12th division headquarters	Suwano	Revenue Office, Social Insurance Office	41,497.19	8,304.12	Figure between brackets indicates the area of ②
②	Clothes Warehouse	Suwano	Suwa junior high school	(13,742.4)	(2,382.8)	
③	Kurume Kaikosha	Higashi	Kurume Gakuen high school	38,695	—	
④	Ordnance Department	Suwano	Elpia Kurume, residences, factories	132,806.6	1,265.12	Including a powder house
⑤	Western 48th troop	Kokubu	Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, 4th Artillery Regiment	135,487.59	28,115.7	Excluding its workshop (16,337 m ²)
⑥	Western 49th troop	Korauchi	Kurume School for the Deaf	168,828.1	21,332.3	
⑦	Western 50th troop	Minami	Mutayama junior high school, Minami elementary school	85,725.61	11,259.5	
⑧	Western 51st troop	Minami	National Kurume elementary and junior high school.	130,363.63	23,804.96	
⑨	Western 52nd troop	Mii	Kurume University Mii Campus	60,849.58	11,229.75	
	Western 53th troop	Kokubu	Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, 4th Artillery Regiment	—	—	Located in ⑤
⑩	Western 54th troop	Minami	Municipal houses, nursery, shops, etc	92,029.75	17,818.18	
⑪	Kurume Garrison Hospital	Kokubu	Kurume University Medical Center	32,928.67	21,937.19	Excluding ⑫ (2,524.5 m ²), which used to be adjacent.
⑫	Military Police Headquarters	Hotarugawa	Office building	1,563.6	595.98	
⑬	1st Preliminary Military Academy to Foster Junior Army Officers	Korauchi	Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Officer Candidate School	214,836.6	46,823.7	Excluding its training area
⑭	2nd Preliminary Military Academy to Foster Junior Army Officers	Minami	Kurume commercial high school, Kurume school for special needs education	73,652.7	36,507.9	Former barracks of Mountain artillery battalion
⑮	Division Commander Residence	Suwano	Takamure Kaikan (center for cultural and educational uses)	5,148	605.5	Excluding Adjutant Residence (557.7m ²)
⑯	Military Engineer Corp Workshop	Mii	National Agricultural Research Center for Kyushu Okinawa Region	256,712.96		
⑰	Military Engineer Corp Training Ground for Crossing River	Tarobaru	Private houses, farms	18,578.51	2,763.63	
⑱	1st Water Supply	Kokubu	Shirakawa Square	5,771	92.4	Water Source
⑲	2nd Water Supply	Mii	(Administered by the Ministry of Finance)	2,191.2	69.3	Reservoir
⑳	Army Cemetery	Nonaka	Kurume Bicycle Race Track, parking area, park	71,074.7	350.4	
	Kurume Drill Court	Minami, Kamitsu	Private houses, etc	467,216.51	2,095.87	
	Uchino Training Ground	Korauchi Fujiyama	Land for Self-Defense Force Private houses, farms, etc	2,739,128		Forest occupies 60 percent of its land.
	Koradai Maneuvering Ground	Kamitsu, Araki etc	Maneuvering ground, factories	4,435,411.2	6,933.2	

Source about the square measures of each facility:

- Documents concerned with the properties of the former Army after World War II (Kyushu Finance Bureau)
- Application for the transfer of the jurisdiction over lands for the former Army (Fukuoka prefecture) etc.

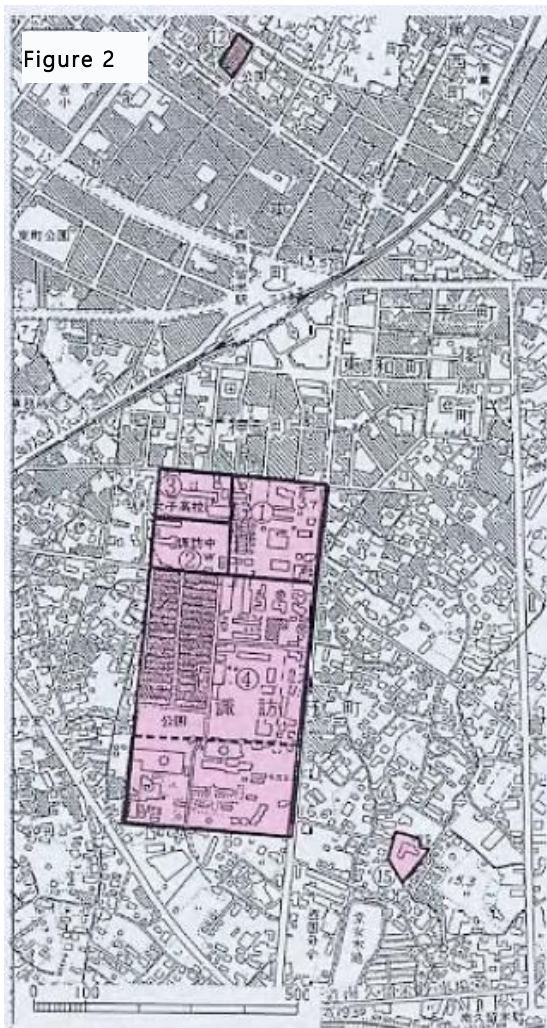


Figure 2

* Figures 2, 3, 4, 5 are current maps. Pink squares indicate the former sites of the military facilities and figures in circle correspond to that of Table 1 and that of captions.

Around Nishitetsu Kurume Station (Fig. 1, 2 and Table 1)

The military facilities of the former Japanese Army used to exist around the current location of the Revenue Office –in its premise, there are still the brick mortar walls, the gate pillar, and a boundary marker inscribed with “Army”.

Besides, the building of the Division Commander Residence is currently reused as a center for culture and education.

- ① 12th division headquarters
- ② Clothes Warehouse
- ③ Kurume Kaikosha
- ④ Ordnance Department
- ⑫ Military Police Headquarters
- ⑮ Division Commander Residence



Takamura Kaikan (⑮) Division Commander residence

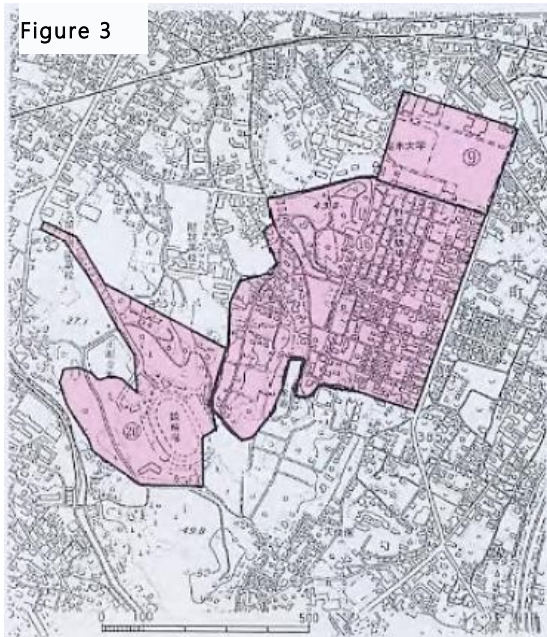


Figure 3

In Mii and Nonaka Towns (Fig. 1, 3 and Table 1)

There are the former military sites that were ceded to Kurume University, National Agricultural Research Center for Kyushu Okinawa Region, Kurume Bicycle Race Track, etc.

The grounds of the Race Track used to be the army cemetery. There are still a cenotaph, an Army Bridge, a tower to bow toward the Imperial Court in Tokyo (*yohai to*), and an amphitheater.

- ⑨ Western 52nd troop
- ⑯ Military Engineer Corp Workshop
- ⑳ Army Cemetery



A monument within the grounds of the National Kyushu-Okinawa Agricultural Research Center. Its pedestal was that of a bronze relief of the war heroes, which was lost due to the metal contribution during World War II

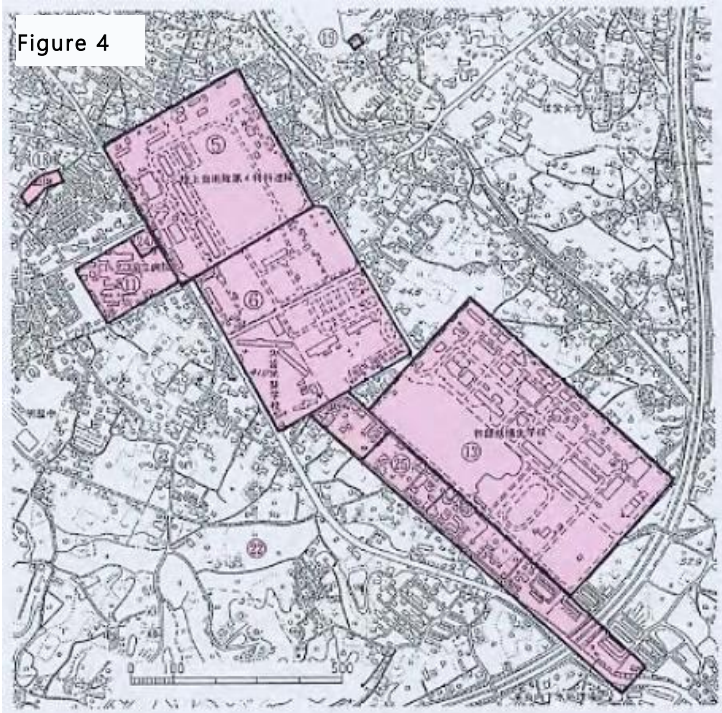


Figure 4

In Kokubu and Korauchi Towns (Fig. 1, 4 and Table 1)

Here, it is the first area in which a military base was placed. Some parts of the land are now used for a school and other purposes, while there are still military facilities such as Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, the 4th Artillery Regiment, and the Officer Candidate School. It is possible to visit their museum, which is located in an old building built in 1897 (reservation required).

- ⑤ Western 48th troop
- ⑥ Western 49th troop
- ⑪ Kurume Garrison Hospital
- ⑬ 1st Preliminary Military Academy to Foster Junior Army Officers
- ⑱ 1st Military Water Supply
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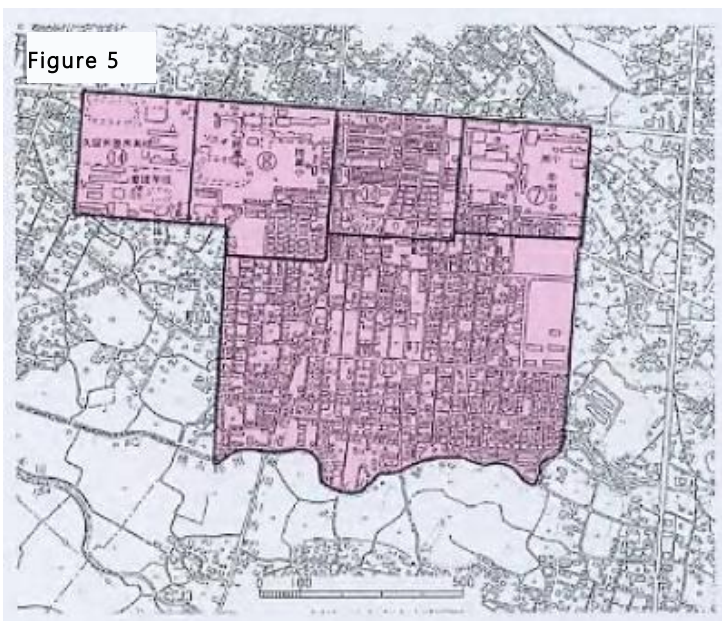


Figure 5



A Monument related to Kurume Garrison Hospital (⑪ Kurume Garrison Hospital)

In Minami Town (Fig. 1, 5 and Table 1)

This area was converted into schools and residential quarters. The street runs along the northern side of schools, which are located side by side, and then it is called School Street. But before World War II, it used to be a military road.

- ⑦ Western 50th troop
- ⑧ Western 51st troop
- ⑩ Western 54th troop
- ⑭ 2nd Preliminary Military Academy
- ㉑ Kurume Drill Court

Cultural Properties Protection Department of Kurume

Address: 15-3 Jonan Kurume Fukuoka Japan 830-8520

Tel: 0942-30-9225

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