

## Emperor, empress remember war dead on Palau's Peleliu Island

1. PELELIU, Palau (Kyodo) -- The Japanese emperor and empress commemorated on Thursday those who lost their lives during World War II and prayed for peace by visiting monuments dedicated to Japanese and U.S. soldiers on Peleliu Island, part of the western Pacific nation of Palau.
2. Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko returned to Japan in the evening after spending two days in Palau on their second overseas trip to pay tribute to the war dead, with this year marking the 70th anniversary of the end of the war. They visited Saipan in 2005 for the same purpose.
3. Some 16,000 Japanese soldiers died in Palau in fighting against U.S. forces who landed on Peleliu and nearby Angaur Island in September 1944. Nearly 2,000 U.S. troops also died. On Peleliu Island alone, around 10,000 Japanese troops and 1,600 U.S. soldiers were killed in a fierce battle.
4. Traveling to the island by helicopter from the Japan Coast Guard patrol ship Akitsushima, the imperial couple laid white chrysanthemum flowers and bowed deeply at the Monument of the War Dead in the Western Pacific, offering silent prayers. They also bowed toward Angaur Island, with former Japanese soldiers who survived the fighting and families of the war dead observing.
5. The emperor and empress gave them words of encouragement such as, "I hope you are well. Everyone, take care of yourself." Among them, Kyoko Tanaka, a 74-year-old resident of Aomori Prefecture in northeastern Japan, dangled from her neck a photo of her father who died in the Battle of Peleliu. The empress asked her where the photo was taken, according to Tanaka. "I'm pleased the battle (in Peleliu) has become widely known to the public thanks to the visit by the emperor and the empress," said 95-year-old Kiyokazu Tsuchida, a former Japanese seaman who survived the bloody battle on the island and was on his 14th trip to Palau to mourn for his comrades.
6. The Japanese government erected the monument in 1985 at the southern tip of Peleliu, which commands a view of Angaur Island.
7. The imperial couple also laid a wreath and offered silent prayers at a separate monument for the 81st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army on the island, which is located some 3,000 kilometers south of Tokyo.
8. They were then briefed about the nearby Orange Beach, where the U.S. military landed and the fighting began.
9. Palauan President Tommy Remengesau, Micronesian President Emanuel Mori and Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak, as well as their wives, accompanied the imperial couple. The island nations were under Japanese rule for around 30 years until the end of the war in 1945.
10. The imperial couple were to visit the countries in 2005, the 60th anniversary of the end of the war, but the plan was aborted due to transportation constraints.
11. Before leaving Peleliu, the emperor and the empress met with some 20 local islanders including the elderly and children. Shaking hands with each person, the emperor told a 73-year-old man, "You must have had a hard time during the war." He was also quoted as saying to another man, "Although there was a war (in the past), Peleliu in peace time is a beautiful place."
12. The emperor and empress, both in their 80s, spent Wednesday night on a 6,500-ton Japan Coast Guard patrol vessel for the purpose of reducing the burden on them, as the vessel carried a helicopter that took them directly to Peleliu from Koror, the central city of the island nation, and shortened the transportation time. Last month the Japanese government found human bones that appear to be the remains of six soldiers in a cave on Peleliu Island. But the remains of roughly 2,600 Japanese soldiers have yet to be recovered. 【April 09, 2015/Mainichi Japan】

5. dangle ぶらさげる comrades 戦友 7. the 81st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. 米陸軍第81歩兵師団 10 constraints 制約

### ★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. Briefly say something about what you know during the World War II.
2. What are the similarities and differences between the wars at that time and the wars today?
3. What is the role of the Imperial family in Japan?
4. What is the significance of the Emperor and Empress visiting the once battle fields outside Japan?
5. Recently, the movement of recovering remains of the war dead is underway.  
What is the importance of such efforts?
6. Some people say, "If you want peace, you must prepare for wars."  
What is your opinion about this?
7. Make sentences using the following words: commemorate, monument, dangle, comrade, infantry and constraint.

世界遺産に登録されるエメラルドグリーンの海に浮かぶ諸島群パラオ州にあるペリリュー島。1914年第1次世界大戦開始後日本がパラオを含む独領ミクロネシアを占領し、1920年国際連盟が承認。日本はインフラ整備や雇用創出等でパラオの発展に深く関わった。パラオ、ミクロネシア、マーシャル諸島の島々では4万1000人以上が米軍の攻撃と飢餓で亡くなった。「美しい島々でこのような悲しい歴史があったことを、私どもは決して忘れてはならない」天皇陛下は述べられた。