

Pilots Went on Special attack Missions



The Morning of the Mission



Remains of the Kaiten Training Base

Visitor Information

Open / 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Closed / Wednesdays, New Year Holidays
(If a holiday falls on a Wednesday, the museum is closed on the following day.)
Admission Fees / Adult: ¥310 (¥250)
*Free admission for students 18 years of age or younger and children
Group admission fees (see in the parentheses) apply to a group of 30 or more.

Kaiten Memorial Museum Map



Transportation

- Two-minutes walk from JR Tokuyama Station (South Exit) to the Tokuyama Port.
- 44 minutes from the Tokuyama Port to the Uma-Shima Port by ferry. 18 minutes to Ozu-Shima by passenger ship (direct).
- Ten-minutes walk from the Uma-Shima Port to the Kaiten Memorial Museum.

Contact

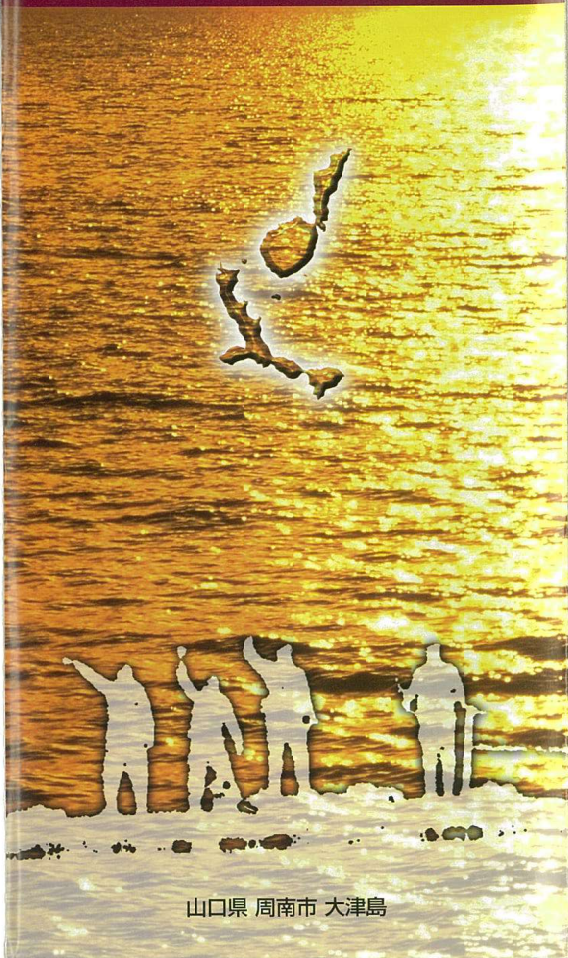
Shunan City Kaiten Memorial Museum
1960 Ozu-Shima, Shunan City 745-0057
TEL · FAX 0834-85-2310

Shunan City Section of Culture and Sports
1-1 Kisan-dori, Shunan City 745-8655
TEL 0834-22-8622 FAX 0334-22-8428

2010.9

Kaiten Memorial Museum

回天記念館



山口県 周南市 大津島

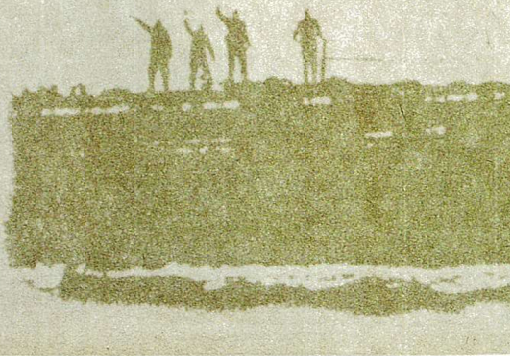
To Protect Country and Loved Ones,

“Kaiten” Human Torpedo

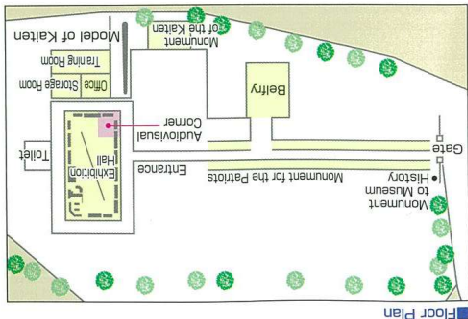
The human torpedo “Kaiten (Heaven Shaker)” was invented in the last years of World War II in the hope that it would shake heaven to turn the war.

These special attack weapons carrying a tremendous amount of explosives were operated by pilots who attacked enemy battle ships with their own vessels. A training base was established here on Ozu-Shima, where elite pilots around age twenty were gathered from across the nation and took part in intense daily drills. Many of these young pilots went on special attack missions from this little island in order to protect their country, which was in dire straits.

We must continue to remember the historical facts of the “Kaiten” human torpedo and hand these stories down to younger generations. This will keep the wishes for the future left by those who sacrificed their own lives for their country and loved ones.



Kaiten Memorial Museum



Floor Plan

● Facility Outline
● Established on / Nov.20, 1968
● Renovated on / Nov.3, 1998
● Structure / Reinforced Concrete Flat Building
● Floor Space / 362㎡
● Exhibition Hall / 229㎡
● Training Room / 44㎡
● Storage Room / 34㎡
● Office / 22㎡
● Collection / Approximately 1,000 items including farewell letters, letters, military uniforms, photos and belongings of the pilots.
● Outline / Articles and information materials related to the Kaiten units as well as the history of the Kaiten are on display, and descriptors of the lives at the time are on information panels. The museum also offers a conference room and audiovisual corner for you to learn about world peace through the future hopes of the Kaiten.
● Administered by / Shunan City Board of Education



Training Room



Audiovisual Corner



Exhibitor Hall Corner



Exhibition Hall Corner



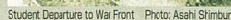
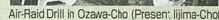
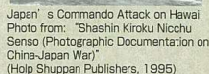
Exhibition Hall Corner



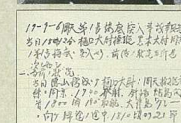
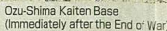
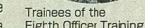
Model of Kaiten



Achieving rapid economic development after the end of World War I, Japan started to move in on the continent seeking markets and resources to economically catch up with or even surpass Western countries. Consequently conflicts between Japan and other countries including the United States and Great Britain were frequent and eventually led to a world war.

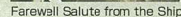
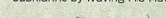
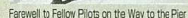


In the summer of 1943, Japan was suffering defeat on most battlefields when two young officers decided that special attacks would be the only operation left for the nation to change the course of war and thus devised the concept of human torpedoes. The war situation then deteriorated, and the Ministry of the Navy finally created a prototype of the Kaiten, which was officially adopted as a weapon in 1944. Kaiten, the special attack weapon, was born from enthusiasm to protect the home nation. There had been a test launch site on Ozu-Shima, so a Kaiten base was established here in September, and a number of young pilots came to this little island from all over Japan.

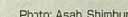
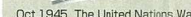


Report on the Accident in Which Captain Kuroki Was Killed

A Farewell to Home

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After the end of World War II, the world started on the road to peace. However, a number of problems are still left unsolved in the world. Each of us in the modern times must think about various problems in the global community and act accordingly for true world peace.



■ Kaiten Chronology

1931	Sept.	Manchurian Incident
1932	Mar.	Japan declares foundation of Manchukuo.
1937	Jul.	The Marco Polo Bridge Incident occurs. The China-Japan War breaks out.
1938	Apr.	The National Mobilization Law is promulgated.
1940	Sept.	The Axis Powers Pact is signed by Japan, Germany, and Italy.
1941	Dec.	Japan attacks Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The Pacific War breaks out.
1942	June	Battle of Midway Island
1943	June	Student Labor Mobilization
1943	Sept.	The concept of the Kaiten is created.
	Oct.	Send-Off Ceremonies for Student Soldiers
	Oct.	Kaiten Recruitment Activities
1944	Feb.	Order for Kaiten Prototype
	Aug.	The Kaiten is adopted and created as an official weapon.
	Jul.	The prototype ship is completed
	Jul.	The troops in Saipan are defeated
	Sept.	The Kaiten base is established on Ozu-Shima.
	Oct.	The Kamikaze units go on their first mission.
	Nov.	The Kikusui Team goes on a mission. The kaiten mission begins.
	Nov.	The Kaiten base is established on Hikari.
	Dec.	The Kongo Team goes on a mission.
1945	Feb.	The Chihaya Team goes on a mission.
	Feb.	The Kaiten base is established on Hirao.
	Mar.	The Jimmu Team goes on a mission.
	Mar.	Massive air raid in Tokyo
	Mar.	The Takara Team goes on a mission.
	Apr.	The Teruru Team goes on a mission.
	May	The Shinbu Team goes on a mission.
	May	The Kaiten base is established on Oga.
	May	The Tokoriki Team goes on a mission.
	Jul.	The Tanon Team goes on a mission.
	Aug.	Atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
	Aug.	End of World War II
	Nov.	The Kaiten monument is built on Ozu-Shima.
1946	Nov.	The Constitution of Japan goes into effect.
1985	Nov.	The first Kaiten memorial service takes place.
1956	Nov.	Japan becomes a member of the United Nations.
1968	Nov.	The Kaiten Memorial Museum opens.
1988	Nov.	The Kaiten Memorial Museum renovation project begins.

| Kaiten (Maru-Roku Kanamono, Type I)

For operational secrecy, the Kaiten was called the Manu-roku arm. The original model of the Kaiten, type 93 torpedo was a highly-functional oxygen torpedo and kept secret until the end of war. It was excellent for covert operations and carried a large amount of explosives. The torpedo also remarkably surpassed those of other countries in cruising range and power. With a cockpit and other functions equipped in the center of the body, the torpedo was remodeled into the Kaiten.

Volunteer for Kaiten Special Units

By the end of the war, the number of trained Kaiten pilots reached 1,375. Most of them were young people from military school or naval engineering college, students and preparatory students, and preparatory flying students under 20 years of age. Their ages ranged from 7 to 28, and most of them were around 20. A total of 145 pilots and engineers were killed in the Kaiten units. The average age at the time of death was 21.1.

Previous Schools	Number of Crewmembers	Number of War Deaths
Naval Academy	89	19
Naval Engineering College	32	12
Naval Torpedo School	9	9
Preparatory Students	210	26
Class I Preparatory Flying Students	935	40
Class II Preparatory Flying Students	100	0
Total	1,375	106



Photographs of the Kaiten
Pilots Killed in the Unit

