

A War Memorial for Children

The March 1945 invasion of the Kerama Islands by US forces was the trigger for mass civilian suicides. Entire families were wiped out, including young children. This monument specifically commemorates the children who lost their lives, hence the word *kobato* which means “dovelets” or “baby pigeons.” The memorial was sited to overlook the town and school so that the spirits of the children would feel at home.