

# LIBERATION



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## *Guam remembers*

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~ A Golden Salute for the 50th anniversary  
of the Liberation of Guam ~





## *A grateful Guam remembers*

*In commemorating the 50th anniversary of Guam's Liberation, this book is dedicated to the nearly 1,600 members of the U.S. armed forces who died in the invasion or in the recapture of the island, and to the more than 700 Chamorros who were executed by occupying authorities or who died during the occupation period from the pains and sufferings brought about by war. Also honored are those men who perished defending Guam in the very first days of the war and those sailors who died in the months afterward.*

*Created on behalf of the people of Guam, this book is also a gesture of appreciation to the members of the U.S. armed forces who arrived on these shores on July 21, 1944, and in the days and months afterward. You came to wage war, but in a spirit and manner seeking peace in the Pacific and throughout the world.*





*At right, in the first Memorial Day after the 1944 Liberation, services are held to honor those who died in the battle to recapture Guam. Chaplains of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths officiated at the 1945 ceremony. Though figures differ, it is estimated that 1,200 to 1,600 members of the U.S. armed forces were killed in the Liberation of Guam.*



*Below, in July 1945, a year after 46 villagers of Merizo were massacred by enemy soldiers, the people of Merizo honored their memory. It is estimated that 700 Chamorros died during the 31-month-long occupation of Guam by the Japanese military. Many of these people died by execution but many more individuals died from wounds and injuries they had received at the hands of enemy soldiers.*



Agana, Guam  
August 10, 1944

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz  
Commander in Chief of U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Pacific Ocean Areas, and  
Military Governor of Guam

Dear Sir:

In behalf of the people of Guam, we take this opportunity to express to you and our common nation our heartfelt thanks for the recapture of Guam by the strong and invincible forces under your command.

The recapture of Guam was opportune. Had it been delayed longer the native inhabitants would have barely withstood the ill-treatments and atrocities received from the Japanese. What kept us up throughout the thirty-two months of Japanese oppression was our determined reliance upon our mother country's power, sense of justice, and national brotherhood.

We rejoice the recapture of Guam and are extremely grateful for the timely relief we are now getting.

In closing we request of you that should you deem it expedient that this our note of appreciation be transmitted to the Honorable President, and to the people of the United States of America.

Gratefully yours,

*F. B. Lemesuerro*  
*P. R. Amato*  
*Edna M. ...*  
*Agueda V. Johnston*  
*Govt. ...*  
*Jose Roberto*





### ***MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR***

On behalf of the people of Guam, it is our privilege to greet you on this most special occasion for the island of Guam and our people - the 50th anniversary of the Liberation of our island in World War II.

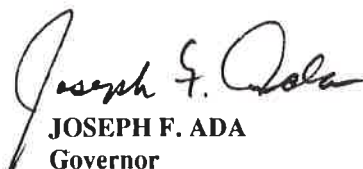
Fifty years ago, Guam and its people were liberated from an enemy's occupation of the island. From 1941 to 1945, war had come to Guam, and enemy force was occupying the island, its soldiers brutalizing and virtually enslaving our people. That horrible time ended July 21, 1944.

The courage and sacrifice of the members of the U.S. armed forces who came to these shores on July 21, 1944, have not been in vain. In the 50 years since that first Liberation, the people of Guam have stood tall with the people of the United States in fighting those around the world who hinder the way to freedom. Our people, in that July of 1944, learned a precious lesson - that freedom is worth fighting for, worth any sacrifice, worth any amount of work.

The last 50 years have seen Guam rebuild from war's devastation, the island's society mature in democracy, and its people glow in prosperity. Those blessings have come from God and our people's determination and enduring nature to overcome adversity. The Liberators of July 21, 1944 gave the people of Guam the torch of freedom, and we have earnestly taken it. Even now, the fight for Commonwealth status continues on as Guam's people stand ready to join the Pacific community and the world as a truly free people.

Before we conclude, we ask you that sometime in this observance of the 50th anniversary of the Liberation to say a prayer for those who cannot be with us - the men and women of Guam who died in the occupation and the members of the U.S. armed forces who gave their lives for the sake of freedom on these shores. The people of Guam are forever blessed by their ultimate sacrifice.

May God bless the Liberators of Guam, and may God continue to bless the people of our beautiful island.

  
**JOSEPH F. ADA**  
Governor



  
**FRANK F. BLAS**  
Lieutenant Governor



U.S. PACIFIC FLEET  
COMMANDER NAVAL FORCES MARIANAS  
PSC 489  
FPO AP 96536-0051



The fiftieth commemoration of the Liberation of Guam is a time of pride for many people. Those of us in uniform feel pride as we reflect on the heroic accomplishments of our predecessors. The people of Guam feel pride as they recall courageous stories of the Liberation and share those stories with their children and grandchildren.

This period during the month of July is a special time every year. On this occasion in particular, with the great number of veterans returning to see how time has changed the island that holds so many memories for them, it is a chance for military and civilians alike to offer a Golden Salute to these Sailors, Soldiers and Marines, and remind them of the friends they made here and the comrades they left behind.

I encourage everyone to come out and take part in this special event to help celebrate and reflect on this important time in our nation's history.

  
E. K. KRISTENSEN  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-5301**



**CONGRATULATIONS FROM CONGRESSMAN ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**  
**ON THE**  
**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF GUAM**

**Hafa Adai todus hamyo! Liberation Day is always a dignified time of remembrance, deliberation and celebration for the people of Guam. The courage and strength of our people during the brutal occupation, followed by the bravery and heroism of Guam's liberators are the legacies of World War II on Guahan.**

**It is the supreme sacrifice of our people to the principles of freedom, and of the U. S. armed forces to Guam which we are called upon to remember on this day. Our island suffered the only sustained occupation of U.S. territory during World War II. Thirty-two months of Japanese domination were ended by the simultaneous landings of the American liberators on the shores of Agat and Asan, and finally by the battles of Yigo and Finegayan. This was amongst the longest Pacific battles of the entire war, leaving thousands dead, both military and civilian.**

**We now gaze upon the invasion beaches, the ocean bottom and into the hearts and faces of our 'manamko' and the veterans for the stories of World War II. The cost of freedom is buried there, as it is entombed in the cliffs of Asan, Red Beach and the caves near Malessso.**

**Let us recall the past, as together, we forge our way into the future. And, above all, let us remember as we celebrate our liberation in 1944 and our march toward freedom.**

**SI YU'OS MA'ASE,**

**Robert A. Underwood**  
**Member of Congress**



## Messages from the Co-chairmen of the Golden Salute Committee

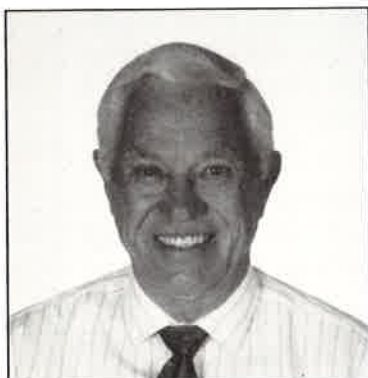
On behalf of the members of the Golden Salute Committee, I would like to extend my personal appreciation and thanks to those Liberators of Guam who have come to the island for this special 50th anniversary celebration of the Liberation of Guam. Our island and people are forever blessed by your demonstration on July 21, 1944, of courage and sacrifice in the name of freedom.

It was just 31 months before the arrival of Liberation forces that Guamanians too fought for the sake of freedom. The Insular Force Guard, despite facing a force of greater numbers that invaded the island, challenged and then confronted the enemy, but were ordered to stand down by their commanders. During the occupation, many members of the Insular Guard Force suffered from the enemy's brutality and even died through execution because of their association with America through the Guard. They too are Liberators as all who died and suffered in defying the enemy on these shores. We honor those who lived in Guam during those trying times, those who came to the island as part of the Liberation force, the civilian Scouts, the Guam Combat Patrol - we honor all of them for their courage and sacrifice in the spirit of Liberation and their desire to fight for freedom.

In closing, I thank the many members of the Golden Salute Committee - from the private sector, the Government of Guam, the federal government, and the military community - for your hard work and dedication to make this 50th anniversary of the Liberation a tremendous success. To all of you, thank you and gof dankulu na si Yu'os ma'ase.



*Frank F. Blas*  
FRANK F. BLAS  
Lieutenant Governor,  
Committee Co-chairman



Perhaps the most tumultuous period in Guam's history was the decade of the 1940s when the island was seized by a foreign enemy. Its good people, the Chamorros, suffered miserably during the 31 months of brutal occupation and the eventual confrontation between American and enemy forces in the struggle to liberate the island and people of Guam.

As we commemorate the golden anniversary of the Liberation of Guam, let us pay tribute to those thousands of Liberators who paid the supreme sacrifice on the bloody shores and jungles of our island, and to the hundreds of our own people who perished in this tragic period.

It is my own personal prayer that the blessings of peace, freedom and goodwill shall prevail forever, and that the causes of war will be erased from the face of the earth.

It has been my fortune to have been among the Liberators, as a member of the 25th Seabees, and to have spent most of my life in Guam, my home.

*Kenneth T. Jones Jr.*  
KENNETH T. JONES  
Committee Co-Chairman

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## Events of the War in the Pacific

*Throughout this 50th anniversary commemorative book is a timeline of events in the Pacific theatre of World War II. The timeline highlights events of the two-pronged offensive by Allied forces in the Pacific that led to the defeat of Japan. The items in this timeline were written by Dave Lotz, Rose S.N. Manibusan and Paul J. Borja.*



*At Agana Bay, a fisherman throws his talaya (throw net). Pre-war Guam was a society of subsistence. Farmers and fishermen secured their family's food for the day from the abundance of the sea and the fertility of the land.*

## Guam obstacle to Japan's ocean empire

By PAUL J. BORJA

In pre-World War II Guam, life was generally as it had been for decades. Except for the presence of those responsible for the naval administration of the island, Guam was basically a land of farmers and fishermen, the people living a simple lifestyle where they met their essential needs.

So when war came to this kind of community, this kind of society, it was devastating, bringing unstoppable change.

The first war to visit the island and its people came in the Spanish colonization. Though Ferdinand Magellan had come upon the island in 1521 and the explorer Legaspi had "claimed" Guam for the Spanish crown in 1565, it was only in 1668 that the Spanish

attempted to colonize the isle.

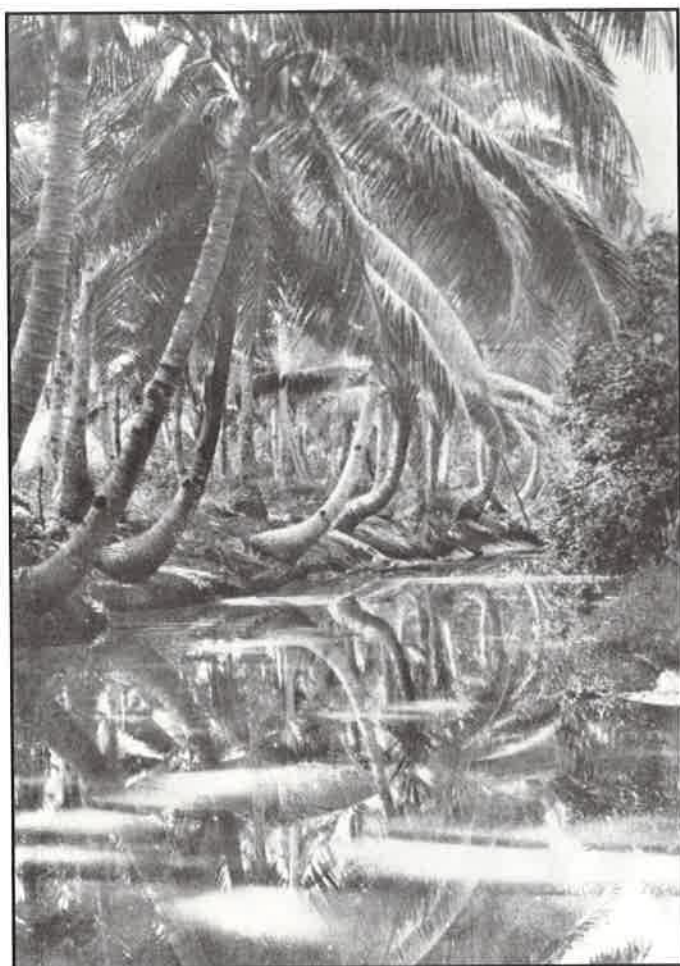
In that year, Guam found itself the focus of Catholic missionaries, notably the padre Luis de San Vitores, and their accompanying military protectors. The effort to bring Catholicism to the island was successful - today, the great majority of the people call themselves Catholics - but the price to Guam and its native people was costly. The resistance of the indigenous people to the Spanish resulted in conflict and war with the Spanish military. So by the time the United States came unto the island in 1898 in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War, the war of colonization and disease brought by Western man reduced the native Chamorro population from a high of perhaps as many as 100,000 people in 1668 to 9,000 by 1898.

By 1898, the people and the island were at peace, but both

# 26 July 1940

*Relations between Japan and the United States deteriorate as America initiates first trade embargo on war-related goods to the Asian nation.*





*At left, palm trees and their reflections upon a river's tranquil surface are captured in this tropical scene. Above, members of the Marine barracks fire a cannon during a ceremony at the Plaza de Espana. Below, Guam residents enjoy a parade along the streets of Agana. In the float, note the little girls making up the flower bouquet, much to the delight of the spectators.*

people and island were neglected by a Spain whose empire was fading into history. In spite of America's rise in power and influence around the world, the life of the people of Guam saw relatively little change in the transition from being one nation's colony to being a possession of another. A great part of the reason for that was the ambivalence, and ignorance, of the United States toward the Pacific and Oceania. As a result, of all the Spanish islands of the Marianas, only Guam was taken as a spoils of war under the Treaty of Paris between Spain and the United States. Spain retained the northern Mariana islands - Saipan, Tinian and others - and sold them to Germany in 1899.

Because Guam was merely looked upon by the Navy as a coaling station for its ships as they sailed the Pacific, the island changed little, although the military did add to the economy by buying from farmers and fishermen and employing people.

Naval administrators of the island did initiate and sustain typical government departments such as schools, a hospital, courts and police,





*Men build the framework of a house and prepare its roof for sections of woven palm leaves. In spite of the American presence since 1898 when the Spanish-American War ended, little had changed in the pre-war society of Guam.*

but overall the island's lifestyle changed little.

Chamorros had gained in terms of democratic government; a House of Assembly served as a legislative body but it was merely advisory. Chamorro self-determination was non-existent. The naval governor still possessed absolute authority - he was legislator, chief executive, judge, all under one hat.

Japan, though, was much more active in its efforts around the Pacific islands. When the opportunity arose in World War I as Germany was reeling from its defeats in Europe, the Japanese were unfurling the flag of the Rising Sun in German-held islands above the equator. Their presence in the central and western Pacific was vast, as vast as the area of the continental United States: from the Marshall Islands in the east, to the Carolines, to the Marianas and anchoring the line of Japanese-occupied islands was the Palau archipelago. In the Treaty of Versailles which ended World War I, Japan's occupation of these islands was formalized under a mandate of the League of Nations.

Japan wasted little time in solidifying its claim to these islands. The Japanese, who had a strong economic presence in the islands even before World War I, was now sowing its influence upon the islands through schools, agricultural programs, and, what would later prove deadly to American Marines and soldiers, the fortifica-

tion and buildup of the islands as military installations.

With little political or financial support coming from Congress to fortify Guam, the United States signed an agreement with Japan in 1921 at the Washington Naval Conference. The two nations along with other world powers agreed not to fortify their possessions in the Pacific.

However, Japan's designs on the islands began taking on a militaristic tone, and by 1935, the country refused inspection of the islands under the mandate and walked out of the League of Nations. The action was typical of Japan in those times as the nation, causing worry and concern for all those in Asia and in the Pacific, was growing more and more committed to a policy of aggression.

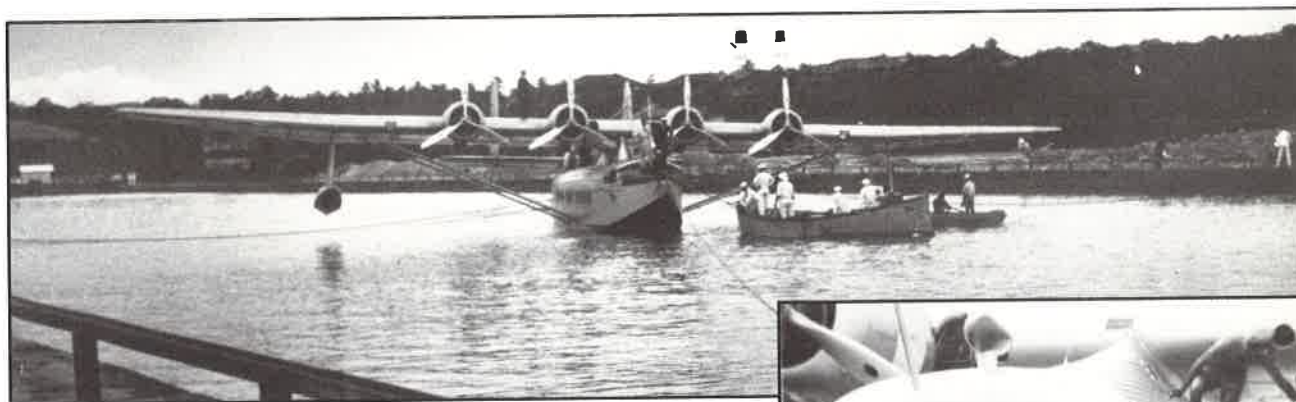
Only then did the United States begin thinking of fortifying Guam, and in 1938 a Navy study did recommend that the island's naval facilities be improved to the point where they could support a fully-equipped and operational fleet to help in the defense of the Philippines. But the price tag - possibly tens of millions of dollars - needed for such a buildup was considered too high.

It was in this atmosphere that in December 1941 the people of the United States and Guam began paying - in blood - for a war that suddenly swept the nation and the island into years of struggle, years of sadness, years of tragedy. ~

## 27 July 1940

*Japan declares the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere concept, desiring to ensure its dominance in Asia and the Pacific and its ability to take raw materials from its neighbors. Japan's determination to realize the concept through a policy of expansion through aggression would lead to direct conflict with numerous nations, particularly the United States and Britain.*





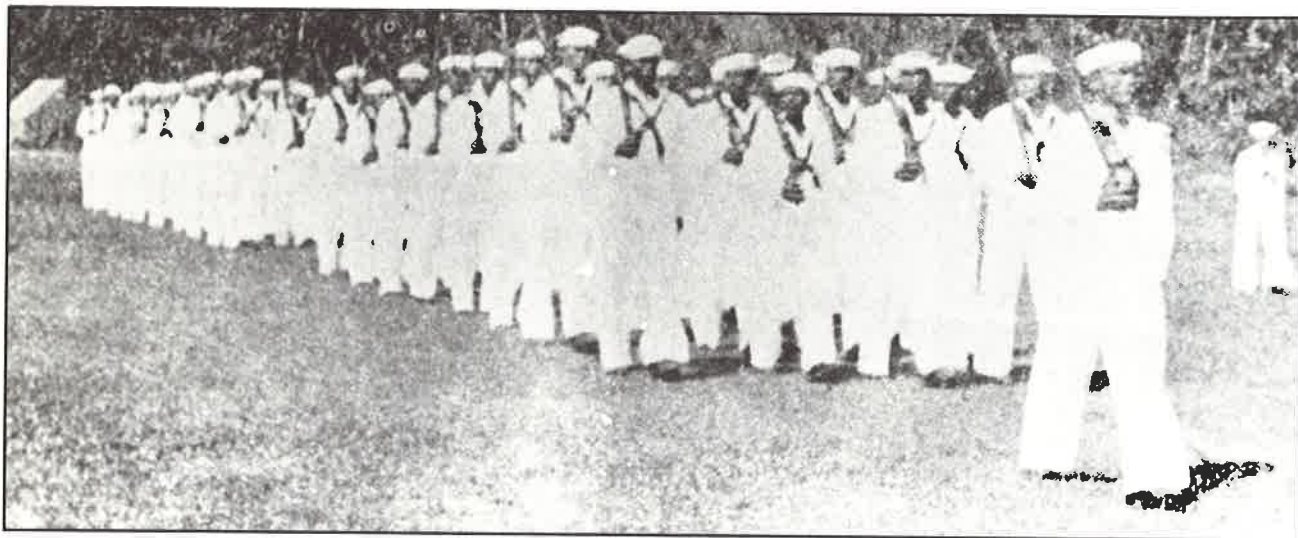
*In top photo, the Governor's Palace, adjacent to the Plaza de Espana, was the headquarters for the American naval governors responsible for the administration of the island.*

*Above, the China Clipper, a Martin flying boat of Pan American Airways, docks off Sumay in November 1935 on the first transPacific air mail flight. The aircraft, with its 130-foot wingspread, began its 16,000-mile voyage from Alameda, Calif., soared over the seas to Honolulu, Midway Island, Wake Island, Guam, and Manila, then doubled back the same way for the return.*

*At right, Marine Henry Delooff poses near the bow of the Clipper. The Pan American base and the Marine Barracks were both located in Sumay, which was devastated in the Liberation.*

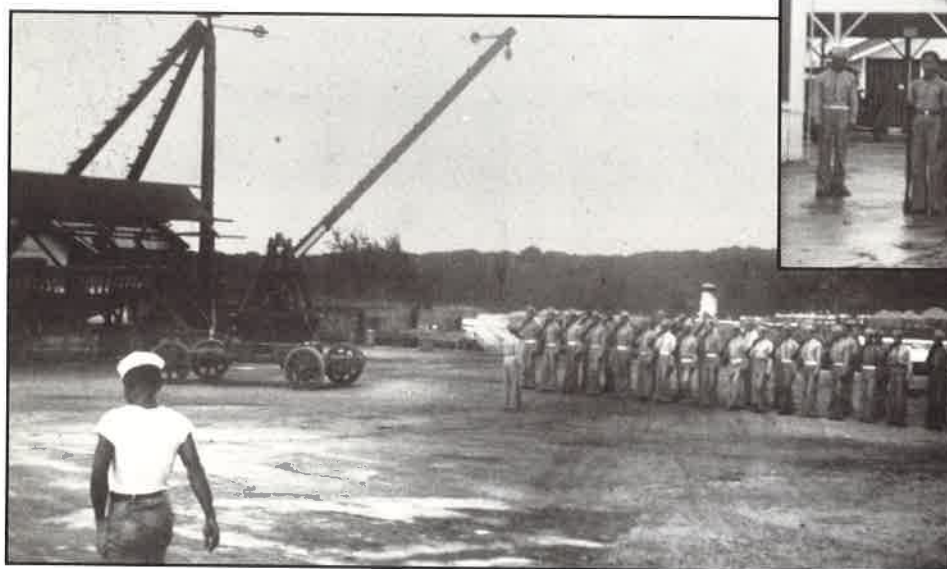






*Above, men of the Insular Force Guard march in parade. Paid \$30 a month, they performed duties of naval enlisted men and dressed like Navy personnel; the group was attached to the Naval Station garrison. The Insular Guard, members of which challenged the Japanese invasion force at the Plaza de Espana on Dec. 10, 1941, were part of this group. The group was established only months before the war's beginning.*

*At right and below, members of the Guam Militia drill in formation at the Piti Navy Yard. The pre-war, quasi-military organization was manned by volunteers.*



## 7 December 1941

*Aircraft of the Japanese navy launch a surprise strike on U.S. military facilities on Oahu, Hawaii. The attack cripples the Navy at Pearl Harbor as the U.S. is thrust into World War II. Killed were more than 2,500 Americans; 21 warships were either destroyed or damaged; 169 aircraft demolished. The attack and others nearly simultaneous across the Pacific, including Guam, and Asia would eventually net Japan an empire of more than 20 million square miles.*



*Above, Sumay village, in what is now the Naval Station, rivaled Agaña as the island's commercial center in pre-war Guam. Atright, three Chamorro women pose for a photograph. Below, Governor George McMillin and his family in a portrait. He was the naval governor of Guam on Dec. 8, 1941.*







*During the occupation of Guam by Japan, officials inspect a rice paddy in Inarajan. Rice paddies were located in Piti, Inarajan and Merizo as part of the agricultural program established by occupation authorities.*

## Rising Sun dawns on Guam

BY TONY PALOMO

Saburu Kurusu, diplomatic pouch in hand, stepped off the Pan American Airways Clipper at Sumay while rumors persisted in Guam that war with Japan was imminent.

But news reports elsewhere were saying that the Washington-bound Kurusu, special envoy for Emperor Hirohito appointed by the Japanese imperial government, was enroute to peace talks with high American officials.

It was November 1941. Japan's imperial soldiers were administering Japanese influence in Manchuria and aggressively expanding south into more of China. Adolf Hitler had grabbed much of Europe, and his forces locked in battle with the Russians.

Then, a month later, it happened. Guam was struck by disaster on December 8, 1941. Out of the east that morning came nine Japanese planes flying high at first, then swooping down like vultures, their guns spitting death and destruction.

Just four hours earlier, Pearl Harbor was attacked with more than 2,500 Americans killed and America's proud Pacific Fleet badly crippled.

In Washington, Kurusu was still talking peace; he was unaware of the Japanese military's plan to strike at Pearl Harbor.

In Guam, terror gripped the people as the warplanes, flying in formation of threes, bombed Sumay and later strafed Piti, Agana and other populated areas.

The date was the feast of the Immaculate Conception and many families were still in church when the planes struck. The city of Agana, the hub of the island, was instantly transformed into a city of shocked people. Mothers and children wept and wailed. Fathers sought missing members of their families in efforts to flee

### **Omiya Jima, the Great Shrine Island (Guam, in the 1942 Japanese view)**

**Population:** in early 1942, 22,000 Chamorros (indigenous populace); 14,000 Imperial Army and Navy forces; about 500 members of the white race, the Americans, are to be exiled to camps in Japan on Jan. 10, 1942

**Capital:** Akashi (Red, or Bright, City), formerly Agana or Hagatna

**Other villages:** Asama Mura, formerly Asan; Showa Mura, formerly Agat; Sumay, now a military headquarters

**Government:** Administered by the Japanese Imperial army and navy as a part of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, the concept which will bring together in unity the Asiatic peoples.

## 8 December 1941

*Across the dateline and shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack, Japanese divebombers - from bases in Saipan, the Marshalls and Formosa - strike Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippines. \* On this day in the U.S. mainland, President Roosevelt, elected Nov. 5, describes the attack on Pearl Harbor as "a date which will live in infamy." U.S. formally declares war on Japan as do Canada and Great Britain.*



from the town.

Among the first victims of the attack were Teddy Cruz and Larry Pangelinan, young Chamorro kitchen workers who perished when a bomb hit the Pan American hotel at Orote Point. Also killed was Ensign Robert White, who manned an anti-aircraft gun aboard the USS Penguin. The vessel, the only seaworthy ship in Guam at the time, fought the Japanese aircraft off Orote Point, but to no avail. The Penguin commander then decided to scuttle the ship.

By the end of the day, the feast that was to be was transformed into the beginning of one of the most tragic periods in the history of Guam.

A day later, the planes returned for more, again striking military facilities and the Pan American Airways station.

Then, on Dec. 10, Japanese forces invaded Guam, and they were more than fully prepared for the undertaking. By mid-October, the Japanese 18th Air Unit, a small force of reconnaissance seaplanes, had begun survey flights over and near Guam. By November, the unit was flying secret photo reconnaissance missions over the island at altitudes of 3,000 meters or higher.

Assigned to capture Guam were the South Seas Detachment, a unit of about 5,500 army troops under the command of Major General Tomitara Hori, and a special navy land force of about 400 men, led by Commander Hiroshi Hayashi and drawn from the 5th Defense Force stationed in Saipan.

The Guam defending force was woefully undergunned: 274 Navy personnel, more than half of them non-combative personnel; 153 Marines; and about 120 Insular Force Guards, whose military training was minimal at best.

The Guam defenders' total arsenal were three machine guns, four Thompson submachine guns, six Browning automatic pistols, fifty .30 caliber pistols, a dozen .22 caliber regulation rifles, and 85 Springfield rifles. Most of the weapons were of World War I vintage. Imprinted on the Springfield rifles were labels with the following notation: "Do not shoot. For training only."

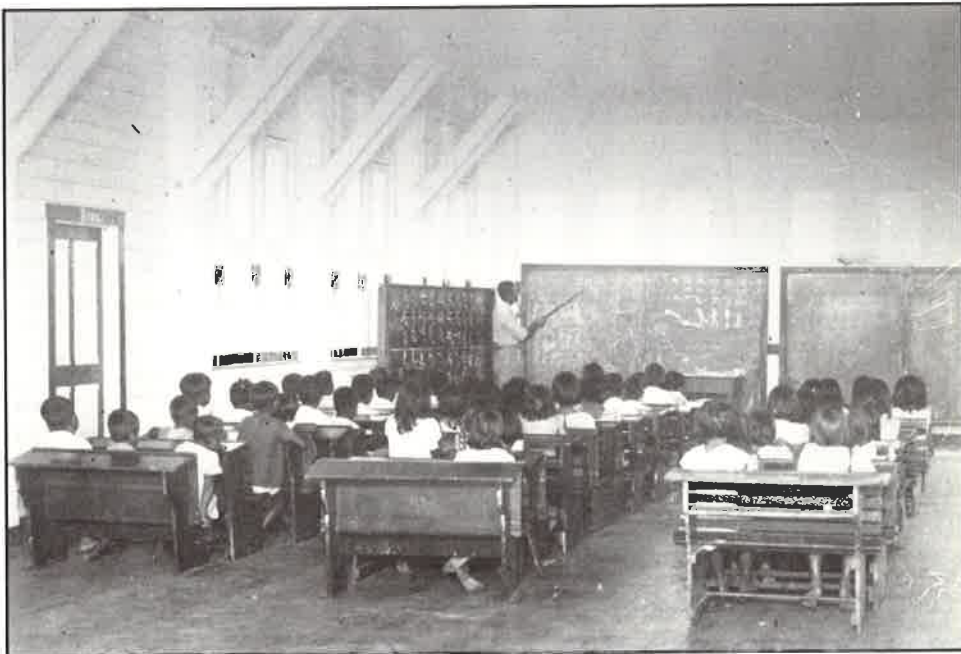
In terms of firepower, the outcome of the invasion was certain, the scenario in the early morning of December 10, 1941, this: 400 strong, a well-trained and well-disciplined Japanese invasion force landed on Tamuning's Dungca's Beach; the larger invasion force of 5,500 made beach landings around the island - in Tumon, in Yona at Togcha, between Facpi Point and Merizo. This group in southern Guam, finding no road to Agat, was forced to reboard their supporting craft and relanded in Agat.

The invaders at Dungca's Beach, after regrouping, made their way to Agana, through the jungles and barrios (neighborhoods) along the way to the town. Somewhere in between, the troops ran into a group of Chamorro families, fleeing the area in a small bus. The troops fired their weapons - the shots were heard in the Plaza de Espana in Agana where a defending force had mustered and established its fields of fire. Those not killed were

bayoneted; 13 men, women and children perish. Still other chance meetings with local people result in deaths; an unknown number of people were killed.

At the plaza, a small contingent of Insular Guardsmen, a few sailors and Marines had taken their assigned positions and awaited the invaders. (The bulk of the Marines were assigned a defensive position at Orote peninsula near their firing range.)

In spite of the odds, the defenders in the plaza seemed spirited. Pedro Cruz, one of the three platoon leaders who manned the machine guns, perhaps best expressed the sentiments of Guam's defenders: "The only thought in my mind was: If I must die, I hope



***Guam children learn Katakana, one of the three Japanese alphabets used in writing. Children's attendance was mandatory at occupation era schools, but of 5,000 children attending pre-war schools, only 600 took part in schools opened by the Japanese.***

to God I kill some Japanese."

The battle lasted less than an hour, and ends only after Governor George McMillin realized the futility of the situation. So, at 7 a.m. on Dec. 10, 1941, Guam was surrendered. Dead in the fighting at the plaza and in small incidents around the island were 21 U.S. military personnel and civilians. The Japanese, though superior in force, apparently suffered more casualties.

With the surrender, Guam, Wake Island and two isles in the western part of the Aleutian Islands chain, Kiska and Attu, would be the only parts of the United States to be occupied by enemy forces in World War II. (The Alaskan isles are taken by the Japanese in mid-1942 and recaptured by U.S. forces a year later.)

Japanese officials immediately issued a proclamation informing the populace that their seizure of Guam was "for the purpose of restoring liberty and rescuing the whole Asiatic people and creating the permanent peace in Asia. Thus our intention is to establish the New Order of the World." The local population also were assured that "you good citizens need not worry anything under the regulations of our Japanese authorities and my (sic) enjoy your daily life as we guarantee your lives and never distress nor plunder your property. . ."

For three months after the Japanese invasion, Guam was a veritable military camp. Soldiers and other military personnel traveled to Guam, coming primarily from Saipan and Palau, both

islands occupied by Japan since the end of World War I. Under the Minseisho, the civilian affairs division of the South Seas Detachment, some 14,000 Japanese army and navy forces took over all government buildings and seized many private homes.

Troops were stationed in various parts of the island, a dusk-to-dawn curfew initiated; cars, radios, and cameras confiscated.

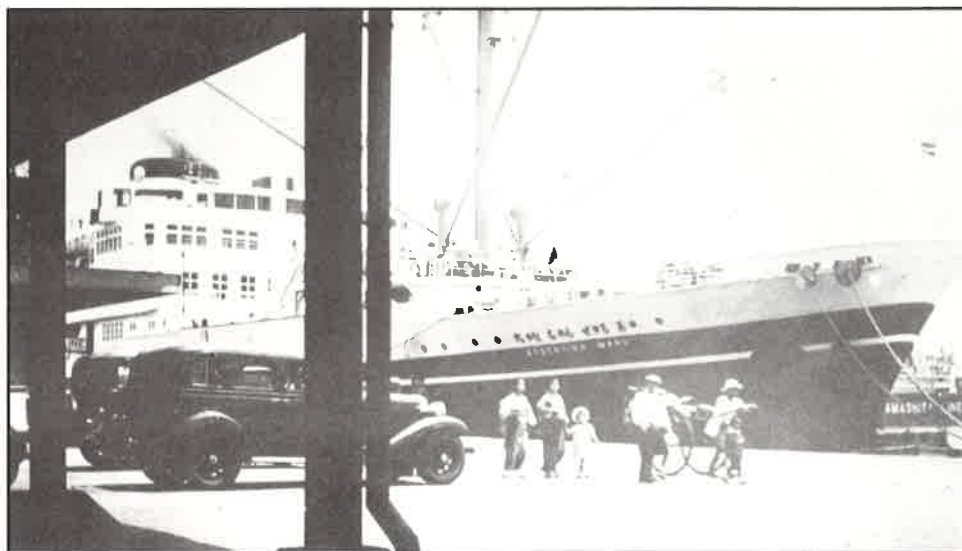
In Sumay, which was the island's commercial center, all of the 2,000 residents were evicted from their homes. Some, however, were given permission to dismantle their homes and many people built temporary shelters at nearby Apla and other farm areas. But still, the small, bustling community adjacent to Apra Harbor vanished almost overnight.

In many instances, Japanese soldiers moved into private homes without notice or formality. Members of the family of Juan Cruz, a carpenter, were having lunch in their kitchen when armed Japanese soldiers ordered them to get out of the house. The family members gathered the food on the table and collected whatever utensils they could carry, and moved to an unoccupied house nearby where they finished their meal. Leon Gumataotao and his family were forced to surrender their concrete house, and had to build a wooden-framed house nearby. There were also abuses of the people; as the Japanese moved to take Sumay, soldiers raped five young women.

To impress upon all that they meant business, Japanese authorities executed two young Chamorro men before a group of stunned residents of Agana. Killed were Alfred Flores, who was accused of delivering a secret message to an American internee, and Frank WonPat, an employee of an American company, from whose warehouse he helped himself with some goods, after obtaining permission from his American supervisor. Flores' message sought advice on what to do with a batch of dynamites at a worksite at the harbor.

About one-fourth of Agana's residents returned from hiding but the great majority chose to stay away from the village. The historic Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral was converted into a propaganda and entertainment center, and a church building in Santa Cruz became a workshop and stable for the Japanese's Siberian stallions. The island's Baptist church, also in Agana, was also seized; Japanese officials used the first floor of the church as a storage area for food, and the second floor was utilized as a Shinto shrine.

All local residents were required to obtain passes - a piece of cloth with Japanese characters - in order to move about the island.



***On Jan. 10, 1942, on Guam, more than 400 American military and civilian personnel, and others are taken aboard the vessel Argentina Maru. The people are taken to Japan and put in prisoner-of-war camps near the city of Kobe.***

All local officials, including municipal and village commissioners and policemen, were ordered to return to work.

Dozens of men, particularly members of the Insular Force Guard, were interrogated and beaten during the first few weeks of occupation. Many were suspected of either hiding machine guns or other weapons, or of harboring American fugitives.

Japanese military officials were intent on erasing from Guam the influence of the United States and thus immediately imprisoned Governor McMillin, other U.S. citizens, as well as some Spanish clergy, notably Bishop Miguel Olano, head of the Catholic church in the island.

The prisoners were exiled to camps in Kobe, Japan. When the Argentina Maru sailed from Guam on January 10, 1942, aboard were over 400 people - military personnel, five nurses and a number of civilians. All Americans prior to the invasion were accounted for except six Navy sailors:

Al Tyson and George Tweed, both radiomen first class; A. Yablonsky, yeoman first class; L.W. Jones, chief aerographer; L.L. Krump, chief machinist mate; and C.B. Johnston, machinist mate first class.

Without exception, the six sailors believed the war would not last more than three months and they felt they could survive in the dense jungles of Guam until the Americans returned to the island.

Only Tweed survived the war, thanks to the dozens of people who harbored him during the 30-month occupation period. Krump, Jones and Yablonsky were discovered in the Manengon area in September 1942 and were beheaded by the Japanese. Two months later, Tyson and Johnston were found and shot in Machananao.

The Japanese government, besides its troops, also dispatched "comfort girls" to the island. Five homes were selected to house the women, three in Agana, one in Anigua, and one in Sasa, a farming

## 9 December 1941

*Japanese aircraft return to Guam to bomb and strafe Agana, Piti, Sumay and other villages.*



# Symbol of hope, controversy

By PAUL J. BORJA

When the Argentina Maru sailed from Guam on Jan. 10, 1942, all American prisoners of war were accounted for except six Navy sailors:

A. Yablonsky, yeoman first class; L.W. Jones, chief aerographer; L.L. Krump, chief machinist mate; C.B. Johnston, machinist mate first class; Al Tyson, radioman first class; and perhaps the most famous of the group - George Tweed, also a radioman first class.

Only Tweed survived the war, thanks to the dozens of people who harbored him during the 30-month occupation period.

Krump, Jones and Yablonsky were discovered in the Manengon area in September 1942 and were beheaded by the Japanese. Later, Tyson and Johnston were found and shot in Machananao.

But it was Tweed that was a thorn in the side of the Japanese ... and the Chamorros.

To both Japanese and Chamorros, Tweed represented the United States, but in vastly different perspectives. To the Japanese, he was a threat and a sore point in their desire to extinguish the influences of America upon Guam.

To Chamorros, Tweed could be seen



George Tweed

two ways. In one perspective, he did indeed represent the United States; his presence and continued existence symbolized hope in America's return to Guam. As a result, many people aided him to evade capture by members of the Minseibu, the policemen and investigators of the Japanese naval militia charged with civilian affairs on Guam. Those who felt this way cited a responsibility to the United States in helping Tweed keep his freedom.

The second perspective was less kind: Tweed was willing to allow Chamorros to suffer and die as he lived in freedom in the jungles of Guam. Those of this second view note, in their opinion, Tweed's lackadaisical attitude in staying hidden, often looking for better shelter and sometimes for female companionship.

Authorities tried all through the occupation to arrest the Navy radioman. Questioning many, torturing some, Japanese authorities did indeed execute people, using Tweed as a rationale.

As U.S. forces approached Guam, the efforts to capture him intensified. Among those executed just prior to the July 21 liberation was the popular Catholic priest, the Rev. Jesus Baza Duenas.

Despite the brutalities inflicted upon the local populace, the secret of Tweed was kept just that ... a secret. All Japanese efforts to capture him failed.

Tweed, who was then living in a cave overlooking the northwest coast of Guam, eventually signaled a Navy destroyer, the McCall, which was shelling the island prior to the July 21 invasion. Picked up by a small boat from the ship on July 10, Tweed was probably the first person in Guam to be actually liberated from the Japanese occupation by U.S. forces.~

area near Piti.

The invasion detachment departed Guam January 14, 1942, sailing to Truk (now Chuuk) with carriers and other ships of Japan's 4th Fleet; this force would later take Rabaul and make it one of the empire's major military bases in the Pacific.

Left to administer Guam was the keibitai, the Japanese naval militia with less than 500 men. Directly managing the people were the minseibu, the keibitai's cadre of policemen and investigators. Under the minseibu, life on island was relatively quiet.

However, there were still attempts to convince the Chamorro populace of Japan's superiority over the Americans. After every Japanese conquest in the Pacific or Far East, military parades were held through the streets of Agana. When Singapore fell on February 15, 1942, sabers rattled through the narrow streets of the barrios of San Ignacio and San Nicolas; the march of soldiers would end at a Buddhist shrine on a hillside above Agana. Other shows of might by the Japanese military were given when General Douglas MacArthur fled to Australia from the Philippines and later when General Jonathan Wainwright surrendered that archipelago on May 6, 1942.

In these parades, invariably at least one float showed a young boy attired in Japanese army uniform pointing an over-sized rifle at the heart of another youngster wearing an American naval uniform. Spread on the floor of the float was an American flag, and one foot of the Japanese-clad youngster was stepping on it. And to make the occasions even more festive, at least for the occupation forces, sake was made available afterward to those in the parades.

While many Chamorros believed the war would last no longer

than 100 days, the Japanese came to stay at least 100 years. Accordingly, the new rulers brought school teachers, along with their families by the middle of 1942, and on the following November, two Japanese Catholic priests came to the island to help pacify the local people.

Soon after the invasion, the Japanese authorities acted to battle a shortage of medical personnel. Training began and Chamorros did assist Japanese nurses and doctors, but eventually, the language difference and other factors lessened the program's effectiveness.

Among the first things the new rulers imposed was the renaming of the island and all municipal districts. Guam became "Omiya Jima" (The Great Shrine Island). Agana became "Akashi" (the Red City). Asan was "Asama Mura" and Agat became "Showa Mura."

The practice of bowing as a sign of respect was instituted and strictly enforced. Essentially, bowing was a sign of respect to another person, an institution or the supreme ruler of the land, the emperor. Bowing to a friend required only a slight nod of the head. Bowing to an officer or to an institution, like a police station, required the bending of the head and body at a forty-five degree angle. The supreme bow, which was reserved only to the Japanese emperor and members of his family. This required a person to face north and then bend his entire body forward and down to a ninety degree angle. And in doing so, the person must bow slowly and solemnly.

By mid-1942, all public schools were reopened and the young students were required to bow to the emperor before classes commenced in the morning. In the classroom, they learned the Japanese





*In the occupation, Japanese authorities, facing a shortage of medical personnel, instituted a program to train students to become nurses. The program faltered because of language differences.*

language and culture, and mathematics. Children attended school during the week for four hours daily; adults were required to attend two evenings a week. But attendance was less than spectacular; over the occupation period, perhaps only 600 children and adults participated in the Japanese-run schools.

As part of the educational program, Chamorros were also taught songs, some of them Japanese patriotic songs, but there was one very popular song that the occupying authorities detested and even punished people for singing.

Though forbidden, both children and adults learned and sang the song throughout the occupation period - it was a ditty urging the return of the Americans. One version went like this:

"Eighth of December 1941

People went crazy  
right here in Guam.  
Oh, Mr. Sam, Sam  
My dear Uncle Sam,  
won't you please  
come back to Guam."

Although possession of a radio was strictly prohibited, a number of Chamorros were daring enough to operate radio receivers throughout most of the occupation period — until about late in 1943 when American forces were pummeling the Japanese in the south and central Pacific.

Members of the underground radio network included Jose Gutierrez, Augusto Gutierrez, Frank T. Flores and Atanacio Blas;

Adolfo Sgambelluri, Mrs. Ignacia Butler, Ralph Pellicani, Carlos Bordallo, Juan and Agueda Roberto, Manuel F. L. Guerrero, James Butler, Joe Torres and Herbert Johnston; Agueda Iglesias Johnston; Frank D. Perez, the Rev. Jesus Baza Duenas, E.T. Calvo; Luis P. Untalan, Jose and Herman Ada, and Pedro M. Ada. The radio receivers had to be destroyed or abandoned after Japanese officials obtained copies of news reports, including the following:

- "Rabaol, (sic) New Guinea — Japanese forces are being hammered in their positions by American Flying Fortresses from Australia, enemy losses: planes 17 downed."

- "Burma — Flying Fortresses heavily bombed Japanese positions along the Burma Route causing heavy damage, killing many Japanese soldiers. 21 Japanese planes shot down. 2 of our planes returned slightly damaged."

Most of the radio reports received originated from KGEI, a radio station located at the top of the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. Newscasters included Bob Goodman and Merrill Phillips.

While Japanese forces were being defeated everywhere in the Pacific - the Solomons, New Guinea, the Marshalls, New Hebrides and the Gilbert Islands - a Japanese freighter at Apra Harbor was sunk by an American submarine, and a second Japanese ship off Talofofo was struck by another American submarine. The vessel was aflame after the attack. Adrift and useless, the vessel settled at the mouth of the bay, a sign of the attack to Guam.

There were other signs that American forces were nearing Guam. Cristobal Paulino, an Insular Force musician, and fellow

## 10 December 1941

*In the darkness of early morning, troops of Japan's South Seas Detachment invade Guam; one group of 400 soldiers lands at Dungca's Beach in Tamuning; other units, totaling 5,500, come ashore south of Agat village, at Togcha, and at Tumon. After a brief but futile firefight at the Plaza de Espana between the Guam Insular Guard and the detachment, Capt. George McMillin, naval governor of Guam, surrenders the island to the Japanese about 7 a.m.*

Chamorro workers were laboring at the Orote air strip on February 23, 1944, nine American fighter planes swooped onto the runway and blasted away, killing four Japanese and damaging at least four aircraft. By the time Japanese pilots boarded their Zeroes, the American planes were gone.

With the twin American offensives - the MacArthur and Halsey drives through the Solomons and Papua New Guinea and the Nimitz thrust through the central Pacific - moving into high gear, the Japanese empire was crumbling. Japanese major bases, as those in Truk (now Chuuk) and in Rabaul, were neutralized and its airpower superiority vanquished; with the loss of airpower, its surface ships were doomed in any part of the central Pacific and in vast areas of the southwest Pacific.

Their empire shrinking and the battle lines moving closer and closer to Japan, military leaders acted to enhance the defensive capabilities of Guam.

Part of the preparation for the island's defense was the massive influx of Japanese troops from Asian battle zones, including Manchuria, from where a huge troopship brought more than 5,000 war veterans, fully equipped and ready for Japan's last stand on Guam. By the time U.S. forces invaded Guam in July 1944 the island was being defended by about 20,000 men.

Part of the strategy for Guam's defense was to make the island self-supporting through agriculture. The Japanese plan was to accelerate agricultural production so that it could support as many as 30,000 troops for as long as necessary in defense of Japan's periphery. Brought to Guam were the members of the Kaikontai, a quasi-military group specializing in agriculture; they came with mechanized farm equipment, including about 20 small tractors, a number of plows and cultivators to realize this defensive strategy.

By early 1944, the Chamorros were mere tools to be utilized without regard to their safety or well-being. Most of the male population were used either at the two operational air strips at Orote and Jalaguac, or at a new one being developed at Agui in the northeastern corner of the island.

Some of the younger males were utilized to help construct pillboxes and man-made caves. Still others were used to install real and dummy cannons at several coastal areas, and to transport food and ammunition to key defense outposts. The women were used primarily to plant and harvest farm crops.

At the southern end of the island, the Japanese - in desperation - ordered groups of Chamorro men to lay coconut tree trunks across the road, ostensibly to stop American



*Early in the occupation era, men of the Japanese naval militia charged with the island's administration stroll in Agana.*

tanks. In Asan, forced labor constructed a tank trap consisting of trunks buried vertically and arranged in a maze-like pattern. Laborers also piled huge mounts of rocks along the beach, and dug massive holes in the sand in an attempt to block and disable American tanks.

Some local men were directed to hunt and kill all dogs they could find, the rationale being that dogs gave away the presence of people.

In these last days, the Japanese forces were hostile, cruel to the people. Men were beaten at best; at worst, they were executed. Women fared no better and there were numerous rapes reported throughout the island.

While American forces were bombarding the island from off-shore in July in preparation for the eventual invasion, wholesale massacres were taking place in the

island — at Fena, Merizo and Yigo.

A group of about 30 young men and women from Agat and Sumay were packed into a large cave in Fena and massacred. According to John Ulloa, 22, of Sumay, he and six other young men were sleeping in a cave when he and others were awakened by cries coming from a second cave nearby. They were utterly shocked when they discovered that all their friends were murdered.

Six days before American forces hit the beaches of Guam, 46 men and women in Merizo were massacred. Two groups of 30 men and women each were forced into two separate caves - Tinta and Faha, now names forever associated with death, tragedy and sadness - located on the outskirts of the southern village. At Tinta, 16 of the first 30 were killed; a rainstorm erupted after soldiers had initially fired into the cave and prevented them from finishing their task.



# Agueda Iglesias Johnston: Patriot

In February 1942, two months after Guam was invaded and captured, Japanese officials introduced classes to educate island children and adults about the Japanese culture and language as well as mathematics and reading.

The first classes were held at George Washington High School, then located in Agaña and just five years old. And chosen to lead the school was someone eminently qualified to do so - the high school's principal and perhaps the island's leading educator, Agueda Iglesias Johnston.

Mrs. Johnston was the wife of William G. Johnston, who was sent to a prisoner-of-war camp in Japan in January 1942 along with about 500 other Americans living on the island at the time; she was left to alone care for their children. The tragic events of the time made her a single parent, decades before the term was even in use.

But the young woman also took on another responsibility - as an island leader, as a patriot.

As the occupation continued, Mrs. Johnston helped raise the morale of Chamorros through her communication of the progress of the war. Much of the information was obtained by radios, kept hidden from the Japanese military occupying forces. Messages were sometimes passed inside the wrappers around the bars of soap made by her family. The soap was given to Chamorros, sometimes under the very eyes of Japanese guards.



She was also involved in the efforts to help Navy radioman George Tweed evade capture by the Japanese. Mrs. Johnston provided food, clothing, and reading materials for Tweed. When the Japanese began to suspect her involvement, she was interrogated about his hiding place. She was beaten and whipped before she was freed.

During the occupation, she received a note from Japanese authorities. Written in Chamorro, the note informed her of the death of her husband William in a POW camp in Kobe, Japan. A part of her life gone and her heart broken, Mrs. Johnston continued on, caring for her family and eventually helping them safely reach Manengon, a concentration camp for Chamorros established by the Japanese prior to the Liberation.

Mrs. Johnston, her family, and the others in the Manengon camp were freed by American forces. A year later, she was back to being a principal, the head of the new George Washington High School, a school made of canvas and tin and running on materials - paper, chalk, pencils - donated by the U.S. military.

Born in 1892, the lifelong educator passed away in 1977. But her place in Guam history, as an educator, as a community leader, as a patriot lives on. To recognize her memory and her courage, the people of Guam renamed George Washington Junior High School in Ordot in her honor. The school is now Agueda I. Johnston Middle School.~

All of the second group perished when they were victims of grenades and those surviving were bayoneted.

When the other Merizo residents learned of the massacres, they decided to attack the Japanese. In broad daylight, about 20 Merizo men stormed the Japanese quarters, seized whatever weapons they could lay their hands on, and killed every soldier in sight. A hefty Merizo man killed a Japanese soldier with his bare hands.

The number of Chamorro deaths in Yigo was never accurately determined but the mutilated bodies of 51 Chamorros were found by American patrols. The beheaded bodies of 30 men were found stacked in a truck near Chaquina, and the bodies of 21 others were found in the jungle near Mount Mataguac.

The besieged Japanese killed virtually everyone in sight during the occupation's last days. Three teen-agers in the jungle looking for food in Yona were grabbed by soldiers, tied to coconut trees and then beheaded. Many others perished in similar situations.

Another danger late in the occupation was the American bombardment of Guam. Many people, their number unknown were killed, victims of naval or aerial bombing.

Brutality took its toll as the Japanese were becoming more and more desperate with the Americans approaching Guam. Hannah

Chance Torres, after having been beaten and berated by Japanese soldiers while she and others were enroute to the Manengon concentration camp, seemed to lose the will to live after the incident. She would later pass away in the night at the camp as relatives sought her husband, Felix. The two had been separated from each other in the hysteria of the forced march to the camp.

There were victims of the intensifying American shelling and bombing of the island as well. Elderly Jose Delgado and two young women were saying the rosary in a makeshift shelter in Agaña Heights when a missile blasted the shelter, killing all three people. No one ever knew definitely whether the missile came from Japanese anti-aircraft guns at Jalaguac some three miles away, or from an American plane. Both were trying to destroy each other at the time the elderly man and the two women were killed.

Don Pascual Artero described Guam as a veritable hell: "So green is vegetation and so pretty a sight had Guam always been, now it was all burned. It had neither a tree nor a coconut with leaves. All now was burned or destroyed by bullets and bombs."

With the coming of the American invasion forces on July 21, for the Japanese defenders responsible for repelling the Americans, Guam would indeed become a hell on earth.~

## 11 December 1941

*Germany and Italy, partners with Japan since the signing of the Tripartite Pact in September 1940, declare war on the United States. The United States answers in kind.*



# A man of courage and conviction

By TONY PALOMO

If ever a man stood proudly for his people, the Chamorros, for his church, the Catholic Church, and for his adopted country, America, during the trying days of World War II, he was Jesus Baza Duenas.

A young Catholic priest who challenged the might of the Japanese imperial forces throughout the occupation period, Father Duenas was unceremoniously executed during the darkness of night 50 years ago on July 12.

Great men die young is an ancient proverb. It applies perfectly to Father Duenas, who was only 30 when Japanese forces seized Guam on that fateful day, Dec. 10, 1941. The good padre, scion of a deeply religious family, was still adjusting to his calling when the bombs fell, creating havoc and pandemonium throughout this tiny island.

Almost instinctively, Father Duenas gathered some of his young followers - no doubt, acolytes at St. Joseph's Church in Inarajan - grabbed whatever weapons they could find - rifles and sidearms primarily - commandeered a small truck, and waited for the enemy. Fortunately, sober minds prevailed and Father Duenas and his small ragtag militia accepted the inevitability of a Japanese conquest.

Father Duenas was the ranking Catholic prelate in Guam at the time; the only other being Father Oscar L. Calvo, who had been ordained a priest just a few months before the war. Father Duenas could have chosen to stay in Agana, the seat of the vicariate, but instead chose to remain in the southern village of Inarajan, as far away from the Japanese as possible.

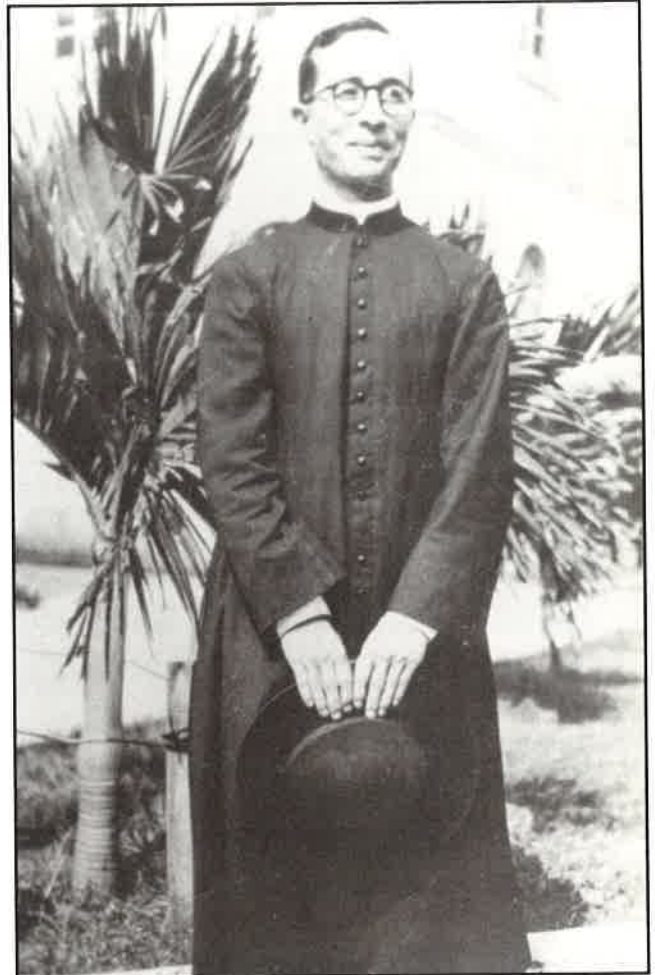
Early during the pacification period, the Japanese government dispatched two Catholic priests - Monsignor Fukahori and Father Peter Komatzu - to Guam to proclaim from the pulpit the greatness of the Japanese government and people. Though the monsignor presented Father Duenas with a letter from Bishop Olano - he had been sent to a prisoner-of-war camp in Kobe, Japan - naming the Chamorro priest the head of the Catholic church in Guam, Father Duenas angrily told them that they were not true men of the cloth but spies.

He told them that he would have nothing to do with them, or with any other Japanese official except on matters where the welfare of his people was concerned. In a biting letter to the two Japanese priests, Father Duenas asserted: "According to a letter of Pope Benedict XV to the bishops and priests all over the world, he said 'never preach the honor and glory of your country but only the word of God.'" Duenas told them, if he should survive the war, he would have them removed from the Catholic church as clergy.

Father Duenas was adamant in his refusal to cooperate with Japanese officials. During one confrontation, the fighting padre was heard to say, "I answer only to God, and the Japanese are not God."

When questioned about the whereabouts of six American sailors who fled into the jungles of Guam rather than surrender, Father Duenas was quoted as saying, "It is for me to know, and for you to find out."

Father Duenas was part of network of men and women who knew the movements of the American fugitives, the identities of the daring men and women who assisted and harbored them, and even the plans of Japanese search teams. He also made it a point to visit certain friends who clandestinely operated radio receivers and were well informed of the progress of war up until mid-1943, when the



**Father Duenas, shown above, and Father Oscar Calvo were the only two Chamorro priests allowed to stay on island after the Japanese invasion in 1941.**

eventual outcome of the brutal conflict was no longer in doubt.

Although Father Duenas was responsible for ministering to the needs of the people residing in the southern half of the island - Father Calvo taking care of the flock in the rest of the island - Father Duenas traveled as far north as Tamuning from time to time, thanks to "Flashy," a stallion that served him well during the occupation period.

Perhaps a more important reason for the good padre to visit the north was the fact that during a six-month period in 1942, two of the six American fugitives - Al Tyson and C.B. Johnston - were hiding out in Oka, Tamuning, and Father Duenas was giving them religious instructions in anticipation of converting them to Catholicism.

Father Duenas' consistent refusal to make peace with the Japanese forced the authorities to consider exiling the recalcitrant padre to the island of Rota, but Japanese authorities had to cancel such a move. They lacked evidence against Father Duenas to justify such a drastic action, and his transfer may have created more problems with the populace since the priest enjoyed high esteem throughout the island.

At village meetings called by the Japanese, propagandists often emphasized that the new rulers were in Guam to save the Chamorros from the white race, and that they meant to stay for at

least a hundred years. Father Duenas belittled their interpretations of events, and even at one point began humming "God Bless America."

The Japanese authorities, when it appeared that U.S. forces were soon to invade Guam, would exact their revenge on Duenas. The following is a story of the last hours of Father Duenas as told by Joaquin Limtiaco, among the few men who last saw him alive:

Three days before Father Duenas and his nephew, Eddie Duenas, were beheaded, I was ordered by a Japanese official to report to Mrs. (Engracia) Butler's ranch house in Agana Heights. I had no idea why I was summoned. The Butler residence had been taken over by the Japanese who had built fortifications around the premises by this time.

When I arrived - I and my family were then staying near Sinajana - I found Father Duenas, Eddie, Juan (Apu) Flores (of Inarajan), and Juan (Eto) Leon Guerrero. Father Duenas, Eddie and Eto had their hands tied behind their backs. Father Duenas and Eto were tied to the posts of a chicken shack near the residence and Eddie to a camachili tree nearby.

Father Duenas was wearing a yellowish polo shirt and black trousers. Eddie also had a white polo shirt and khaki trousers. There was a nasty cut on his head and I could see blood clots around the wound.

Eto, who was then 19, had been apprehended and brought to Agana Heights for building a fire while it was still dark that same morning. The boy told me later that he was cooking bread-fruit to take along with him to a Japanese work camp.

I was asked by a Japanese official, through an interpreter, whether I knew Father Duenas. I said I did. He asked me whether I knew anything about a rumor that the priest was aiding American holdouts. I replied that I did not.

Father Duenas was suspected of harboring Americans, either at Inarajan where he was parish priest, or some place else. He and Eddie had been taken to Agana Heights from Inarajan a few hours before my arrival. Flores was brought to the same place from Inarajan on a subsequent trip.

While it was still daylight, Flores and I were ordered to gather rocks and pile them against a cave in which the Japanese planned to hide in the event of an American invasion which was just a matter of days then.

At the Butler residence at the same time were two Saipanese, one was an interpreter, the other a cook.

Late that night - at about midnight or 1 a.m. - the cook made some coffee, poured it into a large can, then went to sleep in the house. The few Japanese who were there had gone to sleep inside the cave. The interpreter was still in the building and I asked him whether I could offer some coffee to Father Duenas and the other two men. I told him they must be thirsty and must have smelled the boiling coffee. He said it was all right and he (the interpreter) then left for the cave to retire.

I took the can of coffee, and Flores and I went to Father Duenas, who like the others, was sitting on the ground tied to the chicken shack post. We offered him the coffee and he said: "Thank you, I appreciate it." I then suggested in a whisper that we all flee from the place.

I felt it was a great opportunity since none of the Japanese was awake and neither was the Saipanese interpreter and the cook. I said: "Father, Flores and I are willing, if you are, to escape from here. We can easily untie you, Eddie and Eto, and we can all flee. You know that the American bombardment has begun and it won't be long now before the invasion starts.."

Father replied: "No, I would rather not. The Japanese know they can't prove their charges against me. I appreciate your offer but we must also think of our families. You must know what would happen to them if we escape. I'm positive the Japanese will retaliate against them. Go and look after your own families. God will look after me. I have done no wrong."

Flores and I then went to Eddie and also suggested that we escape. He replied: "I'm here with Father and I'll do whatever he wants to do. If he says we'll escape, I'm for it. If he says no, then we won't. I'm with him all the way. It's up to him."

We then went back to Father Duenas and begged him again to consider our plan. He still refused.

Eddie, I learned later, had been beaten up - probably in Inarajan - and his head was splattered with blood. He appeared to be in very serious condition. I

believe he was clubbed before he and Father were taken to Agana Heights in a truck.

Early the next morning, the three captives were still tied when Flores and I were ordered to go to Toqua (now NCS) and to bring back Antonio Artero, who was suspected of harboring (George) Tweed. If we couldn't find Antonio, we were to bring back any member of the Artero family. That was the order.

Before we left, we were made to take an oath that our allegiance was to the Japanese government. We went through the formalities, of course. Father Duenas and Eddie were still tied to their respective places when Flores and I left the place.

We reached Togua - we walked all the way - and found Don Pascual Artero, his son, Jose, and other members of the family, but Antonio was not around. We told them we wanted to talk to Antonio. They said he would return soon. The family had been preparing to leave their ranch and were loading a truck with things they needed for the journey. They said they expected to be summoned to Tai.

When Antonio showed up, Flores and I told him we would like to talk to him alone. We moved some distance away and then we revealed our mission. I said: "Ton, you probably know why we are here. It's about Tweed. The Japanese have been informed that you are harboring him and they sent us here to take you to Agana Heights. I don't know what you plan to do. Whether they'd kill you, I don't know. But I know that the moment the Japanese see you,

*"God will look after me. I have  
done no wrong."  
— Father Jesus Baza Duenas*

## 23 December/Christmas 1941

*On 23 December, after repulsing an initial Japanese landing on 11 December, U.S. sailors, Marines and others surrender Wake Island. Forty-five Guam men participate in the island's defense; 10 of those die in the 12-day siege. Initial Japanese force receives support by some ships and aircraft involved in the Dec. 7 attack on Pearl Harbor.*

*~~~~~ On Christmas Day, the Japanese capture Hong Kong.*





*In this photo taken after the Liberation, Father Oscar Calvo poses with members of his congregation.*

they'd start beating you up unmercifully. I suggest that you and your family find a good hiding place here in the jungle and wait for the Americans. The bombardment is being intensified. It won't be long now."

Mrs. Artero was so grateful that she cooked us one of the best meals we had in a long time. She cried when I told her what we had discussed with her husband.

After the meal, Flores and I started on our way back to Agana Heights. We decided to tell the Japanese that we looked everywhere at the Artero ranch, from Togua to Upi, but failed to find a trace of the Arteros. The only thing we found, we decided to tell them, was a dog in one of the Artero chicken ranches.

On the way down, we were given a ride by a Japanese navy truck. We had special passes which permitted us to move freely. The passes informed Japanese officials we may encounter on the way to cooperate with us.

When we reached the Butler residence, we told the Japanese we could not find Artero. We made believe we were very hungry and they gave us supper - some rice and corned beef - some of the foodstuff seized from the Butlers.

We looked about and noticed that Father Duenas and Eddie were not around. Eto was released and worked about the premises.

A Japanese kempetai officer later told us to leave that night for Tai and that we - Flores, Eto and I - must be there by midnight. He said Father Duenas and Eddie were taken to Tai earlier and we were to work with them in the field the following morning. Tai then was an agricultural area where local residents were made to toil in the fields. It also was the place where several local people were executed, including Juan (Mali) Pangelinan, who had hidden and fed Tweed before the Navy man went to the Arteros.

On the way to Tai, we came across many Japanese civilians rushing and shouting enroute to Agana. It appeared that they were ordered to the city to battle the invading American troops. The only weapons they carried were spears and sticks. Each time we saw a group coming, we jumped into the roadside bushes.

We spent the night at a ranch owned by Juan (Lala) Cruz in Chalan Pago. At about seven o'clock the next morning, we left the Cruz ranch, arriving at Tai about a half-hour later. We went to Jose Lazaro's ranch, which had been commandeered by the Japanese. There was no one around except one Japanese, a civilian who spoke Chamorro well. He was sort of a supervisor in the fields. Father Duenas and Eddie were nowhere.

I asked the Japanese where the other workers were and he told me he had been in the area since 2 o'clock and that he had not seen any. The only other people there were Mr. Pedro Martinez and his late brother, Vicente, and their families. They told us they had seen no one since they arrived.

It suddenly occurred to Flores and me that Father Duenas and Eddie may have already been killed, probably sometime between midnight - the time we were supposed to report there - and 2 a.m.

Flores and I then proceeded to check the area, from place to place. We searched as far south as Sinajana where we entered a ranchhouse owned by Ismael Calvo. The place had been ransacked, no doubt by the Japanese. Everything was smashed.

We learned later that on the night we were to report to Tai, two Guamanian men were ordered by the Japanese to dig a grave in the area where Father's and Eddie's remains were later recovered. The two diggers did not know then what the Japanese were up to. It was not until much later that the two pointed out the spot where they were told to dig.

Our suspicion was confirmed when we came to Manengon later in the day. Through Juan (Ila) Duenas, we learned that Father Duenas and Eddie had been executed. Ila got the shocking news from a Saipanese relative, Joaquin Duenas, who was at Tai with the Japanese and had witnessed the killing."

In early 1945, the body of the beloved priest was exhumed from a crude grave. In a later ceremony attended by hundreds of people and the island's highest officials, the body of Father Duenas was laid to rest under the altar of San Jose Church in Inarajan, the church where he had served his island flock during the occupation.~



# Song of hope, song of faith

By JOSEPH SANTO TOMAS

I used to listen to my auntie's stories about the invasion, occupation, liberation and other things concerning the Japanese on Guam back then. She told me all about the "Uncle Sam" song and used to sing different versions of it, all the while a smile upon her face.

Both children and adults learned and sang the song throughout the occupation period though forbidden by Japanese authorities. It was a ditty urging the return of the Americans.

One version of the song, not so silly to the Japanese occupying authorities went like this:

**"Eighth of December, 1941  
People went crazy  
right here in Guam.**

**Oh, Mr. Sam, Sam  
My dear Uncle Sam,  
won't you please  
come back to Guam."**

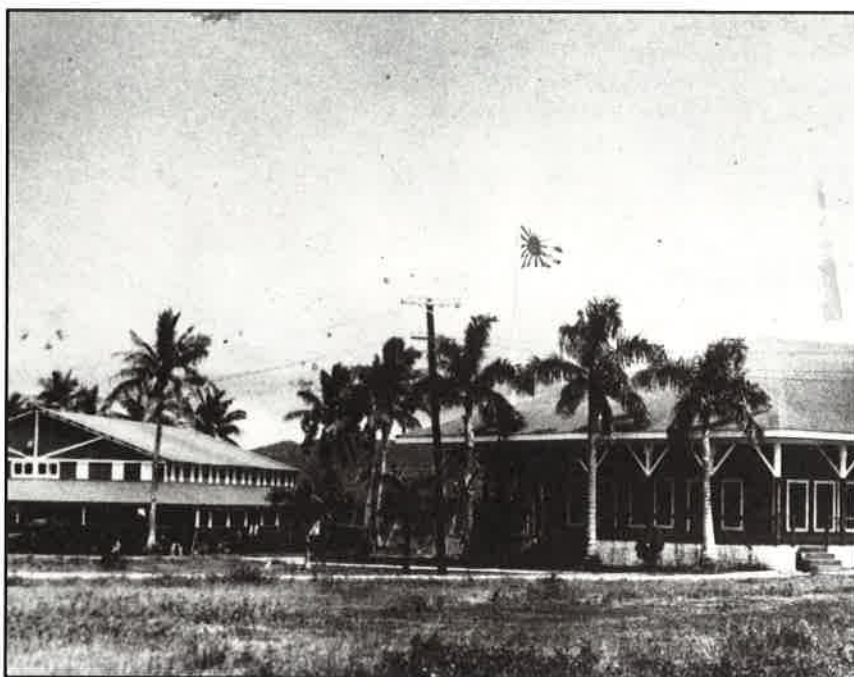
Other versions included a stanza telling the Americans to "Hurry up and come back with Camels and Chesterfields, because we're tired of smoking the (Japanese cigarettes)."

She said that "Pete Rosario and his gangs" invented the song, and that printed versions of it nowadays aren't always the same as the ones she knew. Additional verses, as written in the Carano-Sanchez "History of Guam" follow:

**Early Monday morning  
The action came to Guam,  
Eighth of December,  
Nineteen forty-one.**

**Oh, Mr. Sam, my dear Uncle Sam,  
Won't you please come back to Guam?**

**Our lives are in danger  
You better come  
And kill all the Japanese  
Right here on Guam.**



*The flag of the Rising Sun sways in the wind above the Marine Barracks in Sumay. Though reminded every day of the Japanese presence in Guam, Chamorros never lost hope that America would return to liberate the island.*

Part of the ditty's popularity was that one could make up anything about the Japanese, and no matter how silly, it would still be appropriate.

The song got so popular, she said, that even humming the tune around the Japanese infuriated them, and they would "binta" (slap) you or dole out some other kind of punishment.

Rosario and his friends sang a little concert to some of the first Marines on island in the area of the Agana cemetery, and after that, it became a hit with the liberators.

It wasn't the only song in the psychological fight with the Japanese occupying authorities. One other song, or saying by the Chamorros that made a mockery of the Japanese propaganda effort was about the flag, which depicts a sun on a white field.

Chamorros took advantage of the language barrier for a song that they were taught about Japan's flag, the one with the red ball as the sun.

But instead of using the given lyrics, which used the word "apaka" which means white in Chamorro, Chamorros hid a devious smile and sang instead the word, "aplacha," which means dirty in Chamorro. Apparently no one ever caught on.

My auntie insisted that she remain anonymous, but our thanks still go out to her for sharing her enjoyment of that old, that silly, but oh, so precious song.

It may be old and may be silly, but even now the song sings loud of the Chamorro faith in those times, of the hope that kept people's spirits high in a time of despair.

Thank you, Uncle Sam.~

## 10 January 1942

*In Guam, American military and civilian personnel, Navy nurses, as well as American and Spanish priests are forced to march to Piti and board the ship Argentina Maru. Their destination: Prisoner-of-war camps in Japan.*



*Baptist Pastor Joaquin Flores Sablan, the only Protestant minister on Guam during the occupation, is shown with his family after the Liberation. He was beaten by occupation officials for his Protestantism, "the American religion." In photo, Pastor Sablan gathers in Frederick and Irene as wife Beatrice holds infant Franklin.*

## Sablan never afraid to preach

By PAUL J. BORJA

The late Joaquin Flores Sablan loved to teach. He lived a long life and career as a school teacher before and after World War II and was a professor at the University of Guam. But he possessed a greater love - to preach the Word of God.

Sablan, who died just last fall, was the only Protestant minister in Guam during the Japanese occupation. But through the hardship of the occupation and war, Sablan's ministry as a Baptist preacher continued despite Japanese threats of reprisals against those who practiced "the American religion."

Annie Sablan Aldeguer, now 79 years old and residing in Agana Heights, said her brother, the first Chamorro Protestant minister and just 29 years old in 1941, continued preaching though the Japanese military officials attempted to intimidate him. "Yes, the Japanese beat my brother, slapped him, telling him that they were going to erase America from Guam, and that he was teaching people Protestantism, 'the American religion'," Mrs. Aldeguer said.

She said that the late Pastor Sablan, who was schooled and ordained in Indiana, traveled around Guam by bicycle, by walking, and by carabao cart to Inarajan, to Talofofo, to Agat, and also even Yigo to minister to Guam's Protestant families. "But they chased

him away from the church; the church was right there in the heart of Agana," Mrs. Aldeguer said.

The Japanese confiscated the Baptist church, using the building's first floor to store food and the second floor as a Shinto place of worship; the occupation authorities also kept the church organ for their own use. The Catholic cathedral in Agana was likewise converted for the Japanese as a center for propaganda and as a site for Japanese entertainment.

"They told him that he should not preach, but my father told him not to be afraid to preach the Word of God, that if he couldn't preach in a church, he should preach in the jungle, preach the truth of God anywhere."

And that Sablan did.

Pastor Sablan's ministry to people seemed to be fairly normal despite the occupation and the Japanese presence, said the Rev. Angelo Sablan, the late pastor's younger brother and the current pastor of Agana Heights Baptist Church. "Everything was the usual," said Pastor Angelo. "There were services, Bible studies, baptisms — we did those in rivers - and funerals."

Deacons and members of the Christian Endeavor Society also assisted in ministering to the people's spirits during the occupation. But the Japanese did not want things to be normal by any means.

Sablan and the two Roman Catholic priests, the Rev. Jesus



Duenas and the Rev. Oscar Calvo, were allowed to remain in Guam and tend to the spiritual needs of the people ... but only under conditions set by Japanese Governor Homura, the head of the occupying authorities.

The Chamorro clergymen were ordered to start every service by having all present bow to the emperor; they were only to speak in Chamorro, no English was allowed; they were to meet with the Japanese governor every month and brief him on their religious activities, "and to cooperate by telling the people that the Japanese were winning the war," Pastor Sablan wrote in his memoirs, "My Mental Odyssey".

"No sermon was permitted to be preached unless it was approved by the governor a week prior to its delivery."

At his very first service after the Japanese invasion, Sablan was monitored by a Japanese officer. "I had been speaking in English, but immediately shifted to the native language, aware that the unexpected guest would not know what I said. I asked my people to stand, face northward to Japan and bow to the Emperor. Once again scared, they gave me dreadful expressions. The service turned into a Bible study and meditation without singing because we could not make use of the hymnals written in English. After giving a short talk, I dismissed the congregation with a benediction," he wrote.

Despite the fact that he lived in a valley and in a time of darkness, Sablan was led to the mountain top. In December 1942, he and the members of the General Baptist Church met - as a preacher and his congregation. Together, they spent a very special Christmas, at Mount Santa Rosa in Yigo.

There, at the mountain top, they gathered "...in order to be as far away as possible from the enemy. Church members also appreciated the fact that the place offered a panoramic view of the island and people could be sighted approaching from a far distance," wrote the late Pastor Sablan in his memoirs.

He wrote that the all day service included "pep talks" by brothers John San Nicolas Taitano and Jose San Nicolas Taitano who encouraged the people not to lose faith that Americans would liberate the island. "The DeLeon sisters came in an oxcart from Barrigada, a distance of 10 miles, to sing special songs. The women, as usual, served sumptuous meals throughout the day and we ate sugar cane in place of candy because the Japanese had taken over all the stores where we might have obtained candy."

That Christmas was a blessing but still the Japanese did their best to discourage him, coming to their family farm in Maina. In his book, he noted that he and his wife, Beatrice, finally tired of the harassment. "Besides taking our bananas, chickens and eggs and killing one of my cattle, they forced me to climb the tallest coconut

trees in the Fonte Valley, and beat me several times for being pro-American. We finally abandoned our farm to go back to Yigo and be with my in-laws."

He wrote of one mandatory meeting with the Japanese naval Governor Homura where the official berated him in particular. "He told me that the Japanese had come to do away with all American influences, and that meant me and my religious people, being the Baptist denomination, of American origin."

Homura then ordered him to conduct a census of Baptists "by name, age, village, and submit it to him as early as possible." Sablan conducted the census; only one family refused to be listed as Baptists "...yet the rest of my people bravely maintained their willingness even to die for their faith, if need be."

Though Sablan feared the worst, it was late in the war and the

census data was never submitted, never requested. Sablan and his wife, however, never forgot the threat that the Japanese official had made about erasing American influences. When their son was born in 1944, they named him Franklin Delano Sablan in honor of President Roosevelt.

The late Pastor Sablan also described of a meeting between the three Chamorro clergymen and Homura. The governor told the Catholic priests in particular to discourage people from celebrating patron saint days and weddings with elaborate fiestas. He told them that war might be

prolonged and the people might experience hunger and even starvation.

Sablan wrote that Duenas objected, saying that the people believed that the saints gave them necessary assistance in time of danger and that he would not suggest to his people, in spite of hardship, that they should do less to demonstrate their love and devotion to these saints. "The governor became so furious that I thought he might use his Samurai sword on Duenas' neck, because of the priest's uncompromising attitude toward the conquerors," Pastor Sablan noted in his writings.

Duenas, who was to be executed by the Japanese just prior to the Liberation, was a man of courage, Pastor Sablan wrote. "Witnessing Father Duenas in his courageous and firm stand for his faith, he represented religion at its best and spoke for his people without any concern for his own safety."

Likewise in character was Sablan, a preacher of peace in a time of war, a man who received his strength and calling from a power higher than those who occupied his homeland.

"Oh my goodness," said Mrs. Aldeguer when asked what gave her brother Joaquin so much strength in those occupation years. "You know, my brother ... he was preaching of Christ until he died."

"When you have faith, faith in God, you can move mountains," she said.~

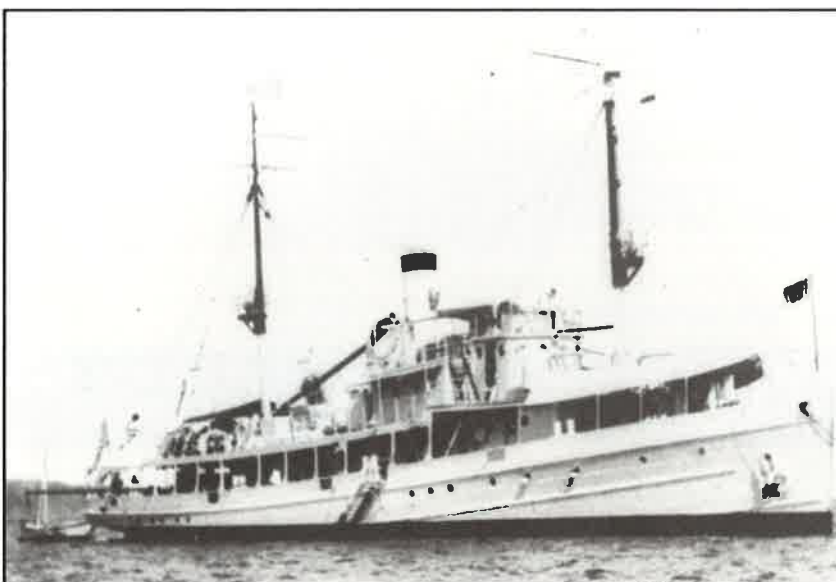
*"... he was preaching of Christ until he died. When you have faith, faith in God, you can move mountains."*

*— Annie Sablan Aldeguer,  
about her brother Pastor  
Joaquin Flores Sablan*

## 17 March 1942

General Douglas MacArthur, ordered by President Roosevelt to leave the Philippines 11 March, evades capture by Japanese forces and arrives in Australia. There, he makes a vow and one of the war's most famous declarations: "I came through and I shall return."





*In top photo, Japanese sentries stand guard. In occupied Guam, many families were evicted from their homes as military officials desired the residence for their own.*

*In photo above, a huge mound of coal sits in the Piti Navy Yard, a facility utilized during the occupation by the Japanese naval garrison charged with the administration of Guam.*

*At left, the USS Penguin, a mine-sweeper scuttled by her crew after an attack by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 8, 1941. Ensign Robert White was killed in that engagement.*

## 45 Chamorros caught in Wake invasion

By TINA D. AGUON

Before the outbreak of World War II, 45 Chamorro men were employed by Pan American Airways at the company's facilities in Wake Island, one of the stops on the Pan Am Clipper transPacific air service initiated in 1935.

The men worked as kitchen helpers, hotel service attendants, and laborers. But the peaceful life on Wake was shattered Dec. 8, 1941, when Japanese aircraft bombed the island, killing five men from Guam and wounding five others.

A day later, those wounded died when a bomb destroyed their hospital. The remaining Chamorros joined the island's garrison, asked by Wake's American military commander to help fortify and defend the island.

The defenders repulsed on Dec. 11 the initial landing force of the Japanese, and for 12 more days the defenders held out. But the inevitable happened. Supported by the arrival of additional ships and aircraft, some of which participated in the Dec. 7 attack

on Pearl Harbor, Japanese troops stormed ashore and on Dec. 23, Wake fell.

Garrison members, including the 35 surviving Chamorros, were taken as prisoners of war, tortured and then incarcerated in a camp in Shanghai, China, where two men from Guam were later killed.

The remaining 33 Chamorros were eventually transferred to a POW camp in Osaka, Kobe, Japan where they were imprisoned for the war's duration.

Today, of the original 45 Wake Island defenders from Guam, there are only four remaining survivors: Sergio Maanao Mendiola, Antonio Mendiola Peredo, Alfonso Meno Camacho, and Francisco Chaco Carbullido.

On Jan. 22, 1982, under Public Law 95-202, Congress granted the Guamanian Wake Island Defenders veteran status under the Navy. On POW-MIA Day in 1988, the surviving Wake Island defenders from Guam were officially awarded their POW medals.



*Above, Japanese soldiers pose for a group photograph. The men were to serve in Guam as reinforcements to Japanese defenders, but while their gear and personal effects arrived on island, they did not. At the time of their scheduled deployment to Guam, the U.S. Navy effectively blockaded resupply and reinforcement of the island, stranding the garrison.*



*At right, in Agana, Japanese naval militia take a break from their duties.*

## 30 March 1942

*President Roosevelt appoints MacArthur as Supreme Commander Southwest Pacific Area and Admiral Chester W. Nimitz as Commander-in-chief, Pacific Ocean Area.*



# Marine endures war in POW camp

By **RAJ SOOD**

World War II was an experience that shattered lives around the globe, leaving few countries little affected by the conflict. History was unfolding before people's eyes everywhere.

But retired Marine Brig. General Charles S. Todd saw little of World War II. For him, World War II was a prisoner-of-war camp in Japan. Todd was among the American military and civilian personnel taken from Guam in January 1942 after the Japanese invasion of the island.

The Japanese occupation of Guam overturned Todd's world. He and his wife Marcelline, and their child, loved their life on Guam. He had come to the island in 1939 after 18 months of duty at sea, and he and his wife lived in a home between Piti and Asan.

Todd served as the aide to naval Governor George McMillin, was named by the governor as chief of police, and was also part of the naval justice system. "I was wearing three hats," he said.

Assisting him in the police department were Juan Roberto, Adolfo C. Sgambelluri and Juan Taitano; Todd described his staff and those men as "outstanding," and the crime rate as practically nil.

When Japanese planes attacked Guam on Dec. 8, 1941, (the same day as Pearl Harbor because of the International Date-line), McMillin ordered Todd to imprison Japanese residents of the island. "He said, 'Charlie, round up all these Japanese (local residents), put them in the jail and turn all the other prisoners loose, which I did.'"

Later, as the Japanese sent aircraft to strafe and bomb the island prior to a troop landing, explosions rocked the jail, causing some distress to the prisoners inside. "Some of the bombs fell close to the jail - didn't hit them, but jarred the building. They were not very happy about that. Anyway, I had a hard time when they were finally released. After that, I was taken prisoner, of course."

After Gov. McMillin surrendered Guam, all Americans, military or civilian, and some Spanish clergy, notably Guam Bishop Miguel Olano, were imprisoned. Todd's wife and child, however, had already left Guam and were in the United States at war's beginning.

On Jan. 10, 1942, the prisoners were taken to Piti to board the *Argentina Maru*. "Who can forget that day?," Todd said. He and the 500 or so prisoners from Guam were transferred to camps in Kobe, Japan to be prisoners of war.

"It was cold there, and those of us taken from Guam had no warm clothes, not til the fall of Singapore (in February 1942) when we were brought captured British uniforms. These uniforms were odd sizes - none of them fit, but at least they kept us warm."

The prisoners were made to work. Officers spent their time caring for a garden, and others were conscripted to load food from one train to another. But the prisoners took advantage of the situation - they were able to take some of the food being transferred from train to train. "That, along with what we grew in the garden, helped our chow," Todd said.

About news of the war, the POWs were able to obtain some, at least the Japanese views of the conflict. "The Japanese civilian labor used to carry newspapers which our people would snag. We had a person who knew Japanese and he would translate for us," Todd said.

But there were some rough times for Todd and the POWs. "They gave us a bad time when (Army Air Force Lt. Col. James) Doolittle took off from a carrier and flew over Japan." On April 18, 1942, just months after Pearl Harbor, Doolittle led a raid of B-

25 bombers on Tokyo and other cities.

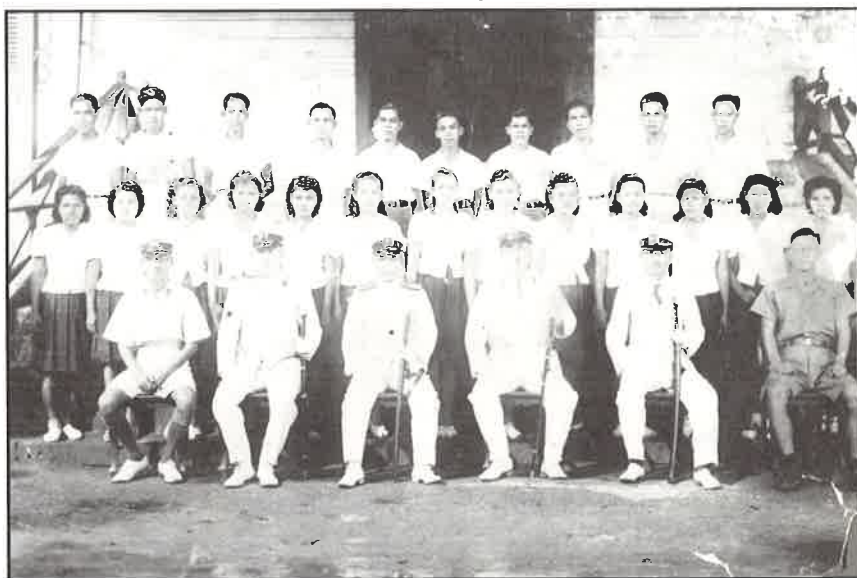
"It shook them up. Their mood changed drastically for awhile. They were mean, real mean. That was even before the B-29 raids started (in 1944)."

As the war's momentum switched to the Allies, conditions for the POWs worsened. "When things really started going badly for them, it got worse for us too. A few times they lined us up facing their soldiers with fixed bayonets. We thought that was it, but for some reason they changed their minds."

In August 1945, the Japanese began to rant about "the inhuman bomb," the retired general said. Todd and the POWs did not have any knowledge of the atom bomb, so they believed that this "inhuman bomb" was some kind of gas. "We had no idea."

A few days after the atomic bomb, the camp commander gathered all the internees together. "He told us that Japan had quit fighting in the interest of world peace," Todd said.

The men, after more than four years of imprisonment, would be repatriated to a world so greatly changed by a war of which they saw so little.



*Japanese Governor Homura, third from left on bottom row, and other officials pose with students graduating from a teacher-training program. The eight-month-long training was held in Agana, with students staying in a dormitory, said Francisca Quintanilla Franquez, fourth from left, second row, and Dinang Atoigue Manibusan, to her left. Teachers were strict, but fair and very good, they said. Second row, left to right, are Ana S.N. Ofeciar, Maria Sablan Perez, Maria Garrido Taitano, Franquez, Manibusan, Teresita Perez Salas, Agnes Carbullido Tabor, Lois Charfauros Muna, Lourdes L.G. Toves, Maria Castro Ada, Maria Perez San Nicolas. Top, left to right, Edward Camacho, Antonio Charfauros, Alejo Quinata, Jose Rosario, Tomas Mendiola, Sabino Flores, Juan Tenorio, Jose Mafnas, Vicente Diaz, and Jesus Torres.*





*With U.S. forces poised to recapture Guam, Japanese officials acted to prevent any efforts by Chamorros to aid the coming invasion. On July 10, 1944, people were ordered to march to camps far from probable battle lines. Many people weakened from malnutrition, injury or illness, were only able to reach the camps with the help of others.*

## *The journey to Manengon*

By **RICARDO J. BORDALLO**  
and **C. SABLAN GAULT**

The American bombardment began on July 8, 1944, and continued until July 20. The Americans threw everything they had at the island. The continuous pounding nearly drove us insane. There was no escaping the noise. During a barrage, we couldn't speak, couldn't think. We could do nothing but wait for a lull and blessed silence. The lulls were painfully brief. As soon as our ears stopped ringing, the bombardment would begin anew. We would dive back into the shelter, muffle our ears as best we could, and cower in fear again.

At the height of the bombardments, Japanese authorities ordered all civilians into designated campsites around the island. The order was issued on July 10. We learned of the order a day or two later. Once again, we packed our belongings into the bullcart. . . we packed only a few items of clothing and some tools. Our main concern was our food supply. Mama had foreseen such an emergency and had stockpiled ample stores.

We didn't know why we were being concentrated or how long we were to be held. We didn't know if we would survive. As usual, Mama took roll before we set out. There was Daddy, Irene, Lorraine, Bobbie, Paul, Norma, Fred, Rodney, Donald, Junie, Josephine,

Michael, baby Rosamunde, me, our little Indian bull and Paul's fully loaded bullcart. We left Pado and joined other refugees on the trail. A huge throng of people was already at Tai when we arrived. The larger group had been removed from Yigo to make way for the Japanese stronghold and had been herded to Tai a day before us. Throughout the night and well into the next day, groups of people from other parts of the island arrived steadily. The Tai encampment soon turned into a sea of humanity wallowing in mud.

Later that morning, the Japanese routed the encampment and the march to Manengon began. Thousands of people arose slowly from their makeshift camps and prepared to move out. Precious belongings — pathetic bundles of every size and description — were carefully lashed onto bullcarts or shouldered by their owners. Fear filled the faces of every man, woman and child. At a barked command, a column of soldiers with fixed bayonets began the march. . . The seething chaos of humans and animals compressed and uncoiled slowly, like a huge snake. Flanked by armed soldiers, the great human snake inched forward.

More people joined the march when we reached the Chalan Pago crossroads. From there, we descended the steep road down to the Pago River.

Just before we entered Yona, a bullcart, about two or three carts ahead of ours, broke down and halted progress. Hannah Chance



***People forced to camp in Manengon used the Ylig River for a water source. In the photo, women are washing clothes as children play in the river's waters. People from throughout Guam camped at Manengon under Japanese order.***

Torres and her children were passengers. Like everyone else in the column, I could only watch as a soldier made his way towards Hannah's cart. He then jabbed his bayoneted rifle toward her in a threatening manner. Hannah began to scream. The soldier stormed off in disgust, but Hannah continued to shriek hysterically. . . She never recovered from the terror. Exhaustion eventually reduced her to semiconsciousness. She whimpered all the way to Manengon and gave up the will to live.

The Japanese would not allow a slow, careful descent into the Manengon valley; instead, they drove everyone downward at gunpoint. Just before we began our descent, heavy rain began to fall again. Soon, rivulets of rainwater and mud began to wash down the slopes. Blinded by the darkness and the rain, people slipped and fell, tumbling helplessly until they slammed into rocks, trees, or other people. Men, women and children dug their feet into the mud and tried desperately to keep heavy bullcarts from careening downward out of control.

In the wee hours of morning, I heard a man's voice calling out softly in the eerie silence, "Felix, Felix, mungi hao? Maila sa chachaflik si Hannah." Someone was calling Felix Torres, Hannah's husband. "Felix, Felix, where are you" the voice had said, "Come,

because Hannah is dying." When we awoke at daybreak, Hannah Chance Torres was dead. Felix and his family wrapped Hannah's body in a blanket and buried her near the camp. In the days that followed, many other burials took place in and around the camp.

When we first came to Manengon, the air was clean and sweet. Smoke from thousands of cooking fires would blend with the morning mist but dissipate as the day wore on. Within a few days, however, the smoke and mist began to accumulate into a thick, steamy layer above the hovels. It never dissipated. The blanket of smoke and steam sealed in all the odors in camp. As human and animal wastes piled up each day, the odors grew more and more foul. Soon, the whole camp reeked with a most horrible stench. The small stream that coursed through the valley was our only source of water. With several thousand people using it daily, it quickly turned into a cesspool.

Except to conscript laborers every morning, the Japanese left us alone. Two machine gun squads were posted at the edge of the camp, but otherwise, we were free to forage in the surrounding jungle. On one particular morning, Lorraine was among several women pulled from the ranks. They were loaded onto a truck and taken from the camp. Later, we learned that they were just being





*With Marines assisting them, people begin to load themselves and whatever personal belongings they had aboard a truck. This was the kind of scene typical in the liberation as U.S. military officials began to restore order to the island.*

used as cooks and domestics at Tai.

Among Lorraine's group was Maria Perez Howard, a pretty woman who once worked as Dad's secretary. Her husband, Edward, was a crewman on the USS Penguin and was among the American prisoners taken to Japan. Maria's good looks and her marriage to an American Navy man made her a favorite target for Japanese harassment. Just days before the American landing, Maria was led into the jungle at gunpoint. She was never seen again.

Once in a while, an American plane would fly over the camp and stir up everyone's excitement. On one such occasion, my brothers and sisters and I were splashing around with some other children in a popular swimming hole not far from the camp. As we splashed in the water, the American plane appeared overhead. It circled directly above us and came in closer. It flew so low that it barely cleared the treetops. Some of the children even claimed that they saw the pilot's face. Before I could yell, "Wave and smile at him, or he'll shoot us," my companions were jumping up and down and cheering enthusiastically.

When the pilot dipped his wings in acknowledgment, we got even more excited. But seconds later, our excitement turned to fear. The pilot suddenly opened fire with his machine gun. For an instant we thought the American was going to mow us down. Then suddenly, a man tore out of the machine-gunned thicket. His hands were tied behind him and he was barefoot. As he disappeared into the jungle, a Japanese patrol emerged from the thicket. I learned from my cousin, Joaquin Pangelinan, that the man was Ignacio "Kalandu" San Nicolas, who had been scheduled for execution that day. The grave in the banana grove was to be his. The American

pilot's machine gun fire scattered Kalandu's executioners long enough to allow his escape.

I was sitting in a thicket when I began to hear a strange sound rising from the camp. I could hear people laughing and shouting and whistling. Moments later, I heard my name. It was Paul. He galloped toward me, hollering, "Hurry! The Americans are here! We ran down the hillside and into the frenzy in camp. People were laughing and crying, hugging and kissing, shouting and jumping, dancing and singing. I worked my way into the densest part of the crowd and found Dad. Together, we elbowed our way toward nine dumb-founded American soldiers.

The Americans had not expected such a reception or so large a crowd. One of the soldiers was shouting and holding his rifle above the surging mob. "Follow" was all anyone heard. The word spread quickly: follow the Americans. Within a few minutes, hundreds of people fell into line and followed obediently behind the dazed Americans. The camp guards panicked and fled.

From the Manengon valley, the great throng climbed into the hills and headed west. We followed paths beaten down by soldiers who had fought their way up from the Agat beachhead. When we reached the slopes above the coast, we were greeted by the incredible panorama of American military might. Agat Bay was speckled by hundreds of ships of different shapes and sizes. There were so many, they darkened the ocean all the way to the horizon. The sight was awesome.~

*(Editor's note: This article was extracted from the late Governor Bordallo's autobiographical manuscript entitled "Uncle Sam's Mistress." Copyright 1987: R.J. Bordallo)*





*As U.S. forces approached Guam in 1944, the Japanese military began exercising their power over life and death, and their brutality to the Chamorro people turned evil. In this photo, which was taken in late June or early July 1944 and captured by the American military, Japanese military officers prepare to execute three Chamorro men. At left, barely discernible behind the fading in the photograph is Miguel Terlaje. At center is Jesus (Kiadas) Salas, and at right is Juan (Dondo) Perez, his hands clasped together as if he were praying. Jesus Salas and Perez were apparently executed because they had been members of the Insular Force Guard, a naval militia formed just months before the Japanese invaded Guam in December 1941. Miguel Terlaje was apparently executed for disobedience.*

## ***In Tai, a day of terror and tragedy***

By JUDGE JOAQUIN V.E. MANIBUSAN

Before the American bombardment, in late June or early July 1944, I and other members of my work battalion witnessed at Tai one of the most appalling and tragic sights - the execution by beheading of three Chamorro men by a Japanese taicho (head military man, an officer).

It is a day in my life that cannot be compared to any other.

It was that day 50 years ago when Tun Enrique White and I were teamed up by the Japanese at a Japanese camp in Tai, across from where Father Duenas school is now. It was late in the afternoon when we were ordered to dig a four-foot-deep hole. We did not know what the purpose of the hole, and others were ordered to dig two more holes.

I was a kucho (assistant team leader) at the time, and among members of my team were Juan Lujan Salas, Vicente (Eka) Blas, Victoriano (Chele) Camacho, Manuel N. Lujan, Charlie Martinez, Jose Garrido Salas, Candido San Nicolas, Enrique White, Enrique Peredo and Juan San Nicolas. They all witnessed the execution, along with several nurses - Mariquita Perez Howard, Concepcion Torre Tenorio (Connie Slotnik) and Simplicia Salas. Blas, Camacho, and Candido San Nicolas were later killed by the Japanese in Yigo; Mariquita was also killed by the Japanese.

I recall being there at the camp and my men being ordered to catch about 10 dogs. The dogs were tied up and hung upside down from a tree; the Japanese then would practice swinging their swords by killing the dogs. The taicho would demonstrate to us what he believed to be an art - the skill of slaying a dog. Of course, he was showing off the power of his sharp blade of the sword.

There were several occasions where he would tie my hands and those of others. He would then take his sword and run it across the back of my neck. The interpreter told me that I was supposed to have my neck slashed twice, but I escaped death.

Another fearful and agonizing moment was once when the blade of the sword actually nicked my forehead, a threat to me to be obedient to the Japanese commander. That scar is still on my forehead and although in these years past I have not associated this scar with the scars of the war, I am again reminded why that scar is there.

Again while others may have had their heads severed, I again escaped death in that instance.

I have kept this picture for almost 50 years; it was obtained by my father, the late Judge Jose Camacho Manibusan when he was chairman of the War Crimes Commission.

Looking at the picture, what Tun Enrique and I dug is the hole on the right; it is where Juan Perez was buried. In the middle of the



***With a man possibly laying injured inside the canoe's hull, three men wave to a Navy pilot. Three groups of Merizo villagers were picked up by the Navy, all fleeing Japanese brutality. With the massacres at Tinta and Faha fresh in their minds, the men were seeking help for families that were left behind.***

picture is Jesus Salas, shown kneeling, like Juan Perez, beside the hole dug for him. Both Perez and Salas were members of the Insular Guard Force and were from Piti.

The hole to the left was dug for Miguel Terlaje. He was nearly dead because he was severely beaten in Hagatna (Agana) because instead of going to get water, he was found doing something else.

I don't remember much about that man, but what I remember was that a ceremony always occurred before a beheading.

I remember that the tallest man, the taicho, was the Japanese in charge of slaying the men. You can see from the photo a Japanese soldier leaning to wipe off the sword. The sword was always cleaned before a beheading and then wiped off afterward.

One other command from the Japanese, part of their ritual, was to have the people in the camp surround the holes and witness what would happen if anyone would be found in disobedience.

Tun Enrique White has passed away, and I am the only one living to recall this agonizing and traumatic experience. Although I

forced myself to mentally block this memory from my mind, the scars on my legs and on my back are constant reminders every waking moment of my day.

And now, as I remember this terrible day, the pain grows stronger and the memories more vivid and I find myself reliving the fear and torture and I am in tears.

As the Chamorros honor the members of their Insular Guard Force who died in battle and throughout the war and other Chamorros who were beheaded or tortured to death, I want to part with this picture, this picture I received from my father, this picture which accounts for my painful memories of Tai.

I wish to tell stories to my children so they can tell the same stories to their children and to their children's children and so on.

It is time to talk about my experience during the war, and continue to talk. Maybe by talking and sharing my experience, I can finally let go of these painful memories and find peace - after 50 years of not telling my story — and now begin to heal.~





*Navy Cmdr. John B. Cooke, fourth from right, top row, and sailors Manuel Quenga, second man kneeling, and Anselmo Garrido, at Quenga's left, visit with Merizo men rescued at sea by Navy destroyers. The villagers used canoes to flee from Japanese brutality, paddling to ships offshore. With rescue date indicated, the men are, kneeling left to right, Jose Mata Torres (7/21), sailors Quenga and Garrido, Tomas Acfalle (7/22), and Juan Atoigue Cruz (7/21). Standing, left to right, are Castro (7/22), Juan Meno Garrido (7/21), Felipe Santiago Cruz (7/22), Joaquin Cruz Barcinas (7/22) and brother Jesus Cruz Barcinas (7/21), Cooke, Jesus Cruz Anderson (7/22), Joaquin Manalisay and Antonio L.G. Cruz (both 7/21). Those rescued 7/22, except for Jesus Castro, survived the massacre at Tinta, where 16 others died.*

## Men escape nightmare in Merizo

By PAUL J. BORJA

So near, yet so far.

In July 1944, the ships of the U.S. Navy could be seen off Merizo, almost as close as the waves rushing over the reefs that fringe the southern village.

For Juan Atoigue Cruz, just 16 years old then, those ships were the stuff of dreams.

"I would think about, make this idea for myself, for me to swim out to the ships, maybe go out there in the dark. Then I'd think, they'd never see me in the dark if I swam out ....," he said in a recent interview. At that time in the occupation, Cruz was a slave laborer for the Japanese troops in Merizo preparing defenses against an American invasion force.

Little did he know that his wish to be aboard one of the ships would come true. On July 21, 1944, led by the late Jesus Barcinas, Cruz would be in a canoe paddling to one of the Navy ships off Merizo. With them were Jose Mata Torres, who is still living, Juan Meno Garrido, Joaquin Manalisay, and Antonio L.G. Cruz.

The men were escaping from Japanese soldiers who were becoming more and more brutal to the people of Merizo - Imperial Army troops all around the island were brutalizing Chamorros as the American forces prepared to retake the island. Women were being taken from villages and raped; beatings were more frequent.

But the soldiers, their brutality turned more evil. In Yigo, 51 men were killed in two different incidents; at Fena in the interior of southern Guam, a dozen Chamorros were executed; at Tai, in early July, three men were beheaded, soon to be followed by the Rev. Jesus Baza Duenas and his cousin Edward.

Merizo was not spared its share of tragedy - On July 15 at Tinta, 13 men and three women were massacred by Japanese soldiers; 14 people survived but only because soldiers who were tasked to kill the wounded were caught in a heavy downpour in the hilly area and they decided to return to their encampment. They were chosen for death because they were former members of the Insular Guard Force, or considered pro-American or rebellious to the Japanese.

A day later at Faha, 30 Merizo villagers were massacred by

Japanese soldiers using grenades, machine guns and bayonets. There were no survivors.

The Faha victims, Cruz said, were chosen solely because of their physical size. He remembers one of them quite well: Vicente Acfalle Champaco, who was 6-foot, 7-inches tall or more. "They called him 'Carabao'," he said. Champaco was the owner of the canoe that would take Cruz, Torres, and other Merizo men to freedom.

Meanwhile hundreds of villagers were ordered to march to Manengon where the Japanese were incarcerating Chamorros to prevent them from assisting U.S. forces. In Merizo, people gathered their belongings and the Japanese made them leave food and other items at Tintinganom.

After about three days' march, villagers were encamped for the night at Atate, up the Geus River valley.

Torres, Cruz and other boys earlier that day were sent back to Merizo to forage farms for chickens, pigs and vegetables; whatever they found, they were to bring them to Atate, Torres said.

Meanwhile, Jose Soriano Reyes and other men were ordered to go to Tintinganom to also retrieve some food for the people at Atate. But at Atate was a large pit that villagers were earlier forced to dig. "My God, it was big - 50 feet by 50 feet square," said Cruz. "I was forced to work there one day and I helped dig some of that hole."

Reyes, who had heard through the grapevine the massacres at Tinta and Faha, was convinced that the pit was for the Merizo people now at Atate. He recruited about five men, some of whom were very scared, to attack their guards at Tintinganom.

Despite being unarmed, they succeeded in killing the guards and taking their weapons. Shortly afterward, arriving at Tintinganom were Cruz, Torres and other boys carrying food from the village's farms. "When we arrived there, we saw a guard they had killed, killed by Joe Reyes, and then Joe shot and killed the one guarding us. He was a big man, that guard," Torres said.

Killed by the same shot was 16-year-old Gregorio Santiago. "The bullet that hit the Japanese went right through him and hit Gregorio," Cruz said. Injured in the brief fight was Jose Garrido, who received a slight bullet wound on one of his elbows.



That fight over, they traveled toward Atate. Just before the camp, Reyes stopped the men and boys, who numbered about 15 or 16, and began planning the attack, Cruz said.

"He was telling us, assigned us to different places, to what place and what part of the camp, and then to kill the Japanese guarding there," Cruz said. Key to the attack was seizing the rifles of the guards after they had stacked them.

At the sound of a signal, with only Reyes armed with a gun, the men attacked the camp with sticks and crude clubs. "We fought them with our bare hands, but we killed them," Cruz said.

They managed to kill maybe eight guards but not before one of them shot at Reyes, Cruz said. "He had his rifle behind some boxes, and he shot Joe (Reyes)."

The shot missed Reyes. Unfortunately for the guard, at the time he was trying to shoot Reyes, the leader was hurriedly showing another man how to load and shoot a rifle so it could be used in the fight. "He was still behind the boxes but Joe just picked up the rifle he had and shot him. I think he shot him in the heart."

Torres said the attack on the guards at Atate was something they just had to do despite their fear. "We had never done anything before, until we thought they were going to kill us, kill us all - it's either them or us."

Only one Japanese guard survived, the civilian teacher of the village called "Wasi Sensei", Cruz said. He fled into the jungle.

After the fight, the Merizo men regrouped. Jesus Cruz Barcinas, a village leader, was in the jungle gathering food but hurried back to the camp when he heard shots. He was told that the reason for the attack was because the Japanese were thinking of killing all of the villagers there - thus the reason for the pit. "Sus (Barcinas) then asked for volunteers to go out to the ships, so we could get help for the people in the camps," Cruz said.

Cruz volunteered - for a very basic reason. "You know, in that time, you don't think about much - I just wanted to stay alive. If we didn't kill the Japanese, they were going to kill us."

Barcinas and Antonio L.G. Cruz had kept a canoe ready for such a situation for a year and a half. Though owned by Champaco, the boat was confiscated by the Japanese who gave it to Antonio so he could catch fish for them.

Always thinking ahead was Barcinas; he had anticipated a Japanese invasion of Guam in 1940 and had his children practice evacuating their home as though under attack. When Barcinas learned that the Japanese had given Cruz a boat, he told the man to take care of the canoe - it would be needed someday.

That day had arrived, but Barcinas and the volunteers still had to hike over hills and through jungle trails to reach the canoe. The boat was located at A'an, in the area where Naputi's Store is now, about 100 feet toward the Inarajan side of the village, Cruz said.

Torres said the attack at Atate ended about 5 p.m. on July 20, and it took the men until 1 a.m. to reach the shore.

The journey was like a bad dream - being chased in the dark by an unseen enemy. Torres said the experience that night was fearful. "Here we were, we had already killed some Japanese, and we didn't know how it would all end. There was a lot of trauma, and sometimes you don't want to think about it. I was scared the whole time."

Once at the coast, the men had another obstacle - a camp where the Japanese stayed in the village, about 100 feet from the canoe. To get to the boat, the men crawled on the ground, careful not to alert the 75 or so soldiers nearby, Cruz said.

Once at the boat, the men lifted it and took it to the shore, their task in evading the Japanese assisted by darkness. But their voyage to freedom was to be delayed. "Oh, it was a very low tide, we had to carry the canoe maybe two hundred feet out to the water," Cruz said.

He noted it was a big canoe - "it can carry maybe 15 men" - perhaps because of the size of its owner, the 6-foot, 7-inch Champaco.

Once in the channel, the men paddled furiously to Cocos Island, where they spent the night, waiting for the dawn so they could see the ships outside the Merizo lagoon.

Cruz said during the night - actually it was the morning of July 21 - the men kept busy. There was no time for sleep or dreams.

Four of the men went about the island checking for any Japanese presence and found none. The group also gathered coconuts to eat at sea.

Torres also noted that the boat was looked over. "We spent some time fixing the boat, fixing the outrigger. It had been untended for a bit, and we had to make sure, see if it was sea-worthy."

Torres said that during the night, the men also watched something to the north. "We saw that there were these flashes of light, like lightning. We didn't know what they were, but now we know that it was the Navy (shelling Japanese positions in support of the Marines)."

A little after dawn, with the tide high, the men pushed off Cocos and their voyage to freedom continued.

They approached what appeared to be a destroyer, but their attention was captured by a plane. "When we started going out there, there was a plane behind us, and then it started going down, down, down, and I knew it was going to shoot us. So I took out my two feet and put them on the side of the canoe and when the plane is still coming, on top of us, I threw myself down and stayed under the canoe," Cruz said.

When the canoe got to within 50 feet of the ship, the vessel steamed off, sailing toward Orote Point. "Oh, that made me feel bad. But with what we did, we had made up our minds that we weren't going to go back, go back to Merizo again. We were going to continue, to go out in open ocean, regardless if they don't pick us up," Cruz said.

"We weren't going to turn back, nai, because the Japanese were going to kill us if we turn back to Merizo," he said.

There were other ships, though, plenty of other ships, the men said. Torres said it seemed that there were hundreds and hundreds of ships; Cruz watched the first ship sail away, but taking its place were ships of every size and shape. "That one went to Orote, but there's a lot of ships. You can almost walk on the ships and reach the harbor, the harbor in Sumay."

Determined, the men paddled toward another ship, and this time, the vessel approached. Once near the ship, its crew seemed to hesitate to pick them up, but then someone, probably an officer, issued an order and the men were allowed to climb onto a net and then aboard the vessel, the USS Wadsworth. It was about an hour and a half since they had left Cocos, Cruz said.

"It's hard to say how I felt," Cruz said. "But when I saw that ship coming, I guess I'm lucky I didn't have a heart attack - I was just so happy - and I knew that I was going to be free; I was going to be a free man."

On board, the crew of the Wadsworth was anxious to get information from their counterparts aboard the canoe. "When we got on the ship, they were asking us, 'Did you see the Marines?'" Torres said. "We said, 'What Marines?'. They told us that the Marines were landing."

The men sailed aboard the Wadsworth and were soon transferred to the USS Clymer, a transport ship. The men, who were under-nourished, were checked by Navy doctors, fed, given a hair cut, and issued dungarees. Sailing off Agat, the men stayed aboard for about four or five days, helping the Navy staff with information about the island, Japanese defenses and the areas where civilians were located.

On the 22nd, the Navy had picked up a second canoe and five more men from Merizo - Jesus Cruz Anderson, Tomas Tajalle, Felipe Santiago Cruz, Jesus Cruz Castro, and Joaquin Cruz Barcinas, who was the youngest brother of Jesus Barcinas. All, except Castro who joined them later, survived the massacre at Tinta.

Days later, after the two groups were taken ashore to the secure Agat beachhead, four more Merizo men on a canoe were rescued - Frank Anderson, his son John, Joe Mansapit, and Joe Quinene.

The four men from the second canoe had lived to tell about the massacre at Tinta, but those in Jesus Barcinas' group did not know anyone had survived the attack. "Sus Barcinas was shocked, because he knew his brother was at that cave ... in Tinta. He didn't know his brother was alive," Cruz said.

"He looked down and he saw his brother Joaquin on that small boat, you know, by the side of the flagship, he was just..."

"He didn't know that his brother was still alive. He was crying and when his brother got up top, they started hugging, crying."

Yes, the stuff dreams are made of.~

**IN APPRECIATION BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM**  
**TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE,**  
**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY, GUAM**  
**CIVILIAN SCOUTS AND GUAM COMBAT PATROL WITH THE FOLLOWING UNITS THAT PARTICI-**  
**PATED IN THE LIBERATION OF GUAM:**

**FORCE TROOPS**

Headquarters and Service Battalion,  
 III Amphibious Corps (less detachments)  
 Signal Battalion, III Amphibious Corps  
 (less detachments)  
 4th Marine Ammunition Company  
 Detachment ARGUS 17 (Shore-based Fighter  
 Director Unit)  
 Detachment, Marine Air Warning Squadron-2  
 Detachment, 756th Air Warning Company  
 (Army)  
 Communication Unit 41 (Navy)

**III AMPHIBIOUS CORPS ARTILLERY**

Headquarters and Headquarters and Service  
 Battery, III Amphibious Corps Artillery  
 1st 155mm Howitzer Battalion (less Battery C  
 attached to Brigade Artillery Group on  
 landing)  
 2d 155mm Howitzer Battalion  
 7th 155mm Gun Battalion  
 Marine Reconnaissance Squadron 1

**3RD MARINE DIVISION (Reinforced)**

9th Combat Team  
 9th Marines  
 1st Battalion (less Companies B and C),  
 19th Marines (Engineers)  
 Company D, 19th Marines (Pioneers)  
 Company G, 25th Naval Construction Battal-  
 ion (plus detachment,  
 Headquarters Company)  
 3d Tank Battalion (less Companies B and C)  
 Reconnaissance Company (less 2 platoons), 3d  
 Headquarters Battalion  
 1st Messenger Dog Section (less 1 squad),  
 2d War Dog Platoon  
 1st Scout Dog Section (less 1 squad),  
 3d War Dog Platoon  
 Company A, 3d Motor Transport Battalion  
 Company A, 3d Medical Battalion  
 1st Band Section  
 Detachment, 3d Joint Assault Signal Company  
 21st Combat Team  
 21st Marines  
 Company B, 19th Marines (Engineers)  
 2d Battalion (less Companies D and F),  
 19th Marines (Pioneers)  
 Company H, 25th Naval Construction Battalion  
 (plus detachment, Headquarters Company)  
 1st and 2d Platoons, Company B 3d Tank  
 Battalion  
 2d Platoon, Reconnaissance Company, 3d  
 Headquarters Battalion  
 2d Messenger Dog Section (less 1 squad), 2d  
 War Dog Platoon  
 2d Scout Dog Section (less 1 squad), 3d War  
 Dog Platoon  
 Company B, 3d Motor Transport Battalion  
 Company B, 3d Medical Battalion  
 2d Band Section  
 Detachment, 3d Joint Assault Signal Company  
 3d Combat Team  
 3d Marines  
 Company C, 19th Marines (Engineers)  
 Company F, 19th Marines (Pioneers)  
 25th Naval Construction Battalion (less  
 Companies G and H and 2 detachments,  
 Headquarters Company)  
 Company C, 3d Tank Battalion  
 3d Messenger Dog Section (less 1 squad),  
 2d War Dog Platoon

3d Scout Dog Section (less 1 squad),  
 3d War Dog Platoon  
 Company C, 3d Motor Transport Battalion  
 Company C, 3d Medical Battalion  
 3d Band Section  
 Detachment, 3d Joint Assault Signal Company  
 12th Marines (Reinforced)  
 12th Marines  
 14th Defense Battalion (less 155mm Seacoast  
 Artillery group, 2 90mm batteries, 1 search-  
 light platoon and detachments,  
 Headquarters and Service Battery)  
 Artillery Liaison Group, III Amphibious Corps  
 1st Armored Amphibian Battalion (less Companies  
 A and B)  
 3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion (Reinforced)  
 Motor Transport Battalion (less Company C),  
 III Amphibious Corps (DUKWS)  
 Reserve Group  
 3d Headquarters Battalion (less 3 band  
 Sections and 3d Reconnaissance Company  
 less 4th Platoon)  
 Company B (less 2 platoons), 3d Tank battalion  
 2d War Dog Platoon (less 6 squads)  
 3d War Dog Platoon (less 6 squads)  
 3d Joint Assault Signal Company (less  
 detachments)  
 Detachment, Signal Battalion, III Amphibious  
 Corps  
 Engineer Group  
 19th Marines (less 1st and 2d Battalions)  
 2d Separate Engineer Battalion  
 Company B, 2d Special Naval Construction  
 Battalion  
 Garrison Beach Party  
 Service Group  
 3d Service Battalion (less detachments)  
 3d Medical Battalion (less Companies A, B, C)  
 3d Motor Transport Battalion (less Companies  
 A, B, C)  
 Detachment, Service Group, 5th Field Depot  
 2d Marine Ammunition Company (less 4th  
 Platoon)

**1ST PROVISIONAL MARINE BRIGADE**

Brigade Troops  
 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st  
 Provisional Marine Brigade  
 Military Police Company (less 1st and 2d  
 Platoons), 1st Provisional Marine Brigade  
 Signal Company (less detachments),  
 1st Provisional Marine Brigade  
 4th Combat Team  
 4th Marines  
 Tank Company, 4th Marines  
 Engineer Company, 4th Marines  
 Pioneer Company, 4th Marines  
 Medical Company, 4th Marines  
 Motor Transport Company, 4th Marines  
 Reconnaissance Platoon, 4th Marines  
 Ordnance Platoon, 4th Marines  
 Service and Supply Platoon, 4th Marines  
 1st Platoon, Military Police Company,  
 1st Provisional Marine Brigade  
 4th Platoon, 2d Marine Ammunition Company  
 Detachment, 5th Field Depot  
 1st War Dog Platoon  
 1st Joint Assault Signal Party, Signal Company,  
 1st Provisional Marine Brigade  
 22d Combat Team  
 22d Marines

Tank Company, 22d Marines  
 Pioneer Company, 22d Marines  
 Engineer Company, 22d Marines  
 Medical Company, 22d Marines  
 Motor Transport Company, 22d Marines  
 Reconnaissance Platoon, 22d Marines  
 Ordnance Platoon, 22d Marines  
 Service and Supply Platoon, 22d Marines  
 Band Section, 22d Marines  
 2d Platoon, Military Police Company, 1st  
 Provisional Marine Brigade  
 1st Provisional Replacement Company  
 Detachment, 5th Field Depot  
 Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 515  
 (Navy)  
 2d Joint Assault Signal Party, Signal Company,  
 1st Provisional Marine Brigade  
 Companies A and B, 1st Armored Amphibian  
 Battalion  
 Amphibian Tractor Group  
 4th Amphibian Tractor Battalion (Reinforced)  
 Company C, Motor Transport Battalion,  
 III Amphibious Corps (DUKWS)  
 Artillery Group  
 Artillery Headquarters Detachment, 1st  
 Provisional Marine Brigade  
 75mm Pack Howitzer Battalion, 4th Marines  
 75mm Pack Howitzer Battalion, 22d Marines  
 305th Field Artillery Battalion (attached on  
 landing)  
 Battery C, 1st 155mm Howitzer Battalion  
 (attached on landing)  
 305th Combat Team (USA)  
 305th Infantry  
 305th Field Artillery Battalion (detached on  
 landing)  
 Battery A, 7th Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic  
 Weapons) Battalion (detached on landing)  
 Company C, 706th Tank Battalion (less 1  
 platoon)  
 242d Engineer Combat Battalion  
 Company A, 302d Engineer Combat Battalion  
 Company A and 1 platoon, Company D,  
 302d Medical Battalion  
 1 platoon, Company A, 88th Chemical  
 Battalion  
 Detachment, 77th Signal Company  
 Detachment, 77th Ordnance Company  
 Detachment, 292d Joint Assault Signal  
 Company  
 Detachment, Prisoner of War Interrogation Team  
 Antiaircraft Group  
 9th Defense Battalion (less 155mm Seacoast  
 Artillery Group, 90mm Antiaircraft Group,  
 and detachments, Headquarters, Service  
 Battery  
 Battery A, 7th Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic  
 Weapons) Battalion (attached on landing)  
 53d Naval Construction Battalion  
 Medical Battalion, III Amphibious Corps  
 (Reinforced)

**77TH INFANTRY DIVISION**  
 Division troops  
 Headquarters, 77th Infantry Division  
 Special Troops  
 Headquarters Company, 77th Infantry Division  
 Military Police Platoon, 77th Infantry Div.  
 77th Ordnance Company (Light  
 Maintenance) (less detachments)  
 77th Quartermaster Company

77th Signal Company (less detachments)  
 77th Infantry Division Band  
 77th Reconnaissance Troop  
 Headquarters and Headquarters Battery,  
     77th Infantry Division Artillery  
 306th Field Artillery Battalion  
 302d Engineer Combat Battalion (less  
     Companies A, B, and C)  
 302d Medical Battalion (less Companies A, B,  
     C, and 1 platoon, Company D)  
 36th Field Hospital (less 2 platoons)  
 95th Portable Surgical Hospital  
 Company A (less 1 platoon), 88th Chemical  
     Battalion  
 92d Bomb Disposal Squad  
 292d Joint Assault Signal Company (less  
     detachments)  
 7th Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons)  
     Battalion (less Companies A, B, and C  
     less 1 platoon)  
 404th Ordnance Company (Medium  
     Maintenance)  
 Prisoner of War Interrogation Team  
     (less detachments)  
 Detachment, Counter Intelligence Corps  
 Joint Intelligence Center,  
     Pacific Ocean Areas Team  
 Signal Photo Sections 1 and 2  
 306th Combat Team  
     306th Infantry  
     304th Field Artillery Battalion  
     Company B, 302d Engineer Combat Battalion  
     132d Engineer Combat Battalion  
     Detachment, 292d Joint Assault Signal  
         Company  
     Company B, 302d Medical Battalion  
     Company B, 7th Antiaircraft Artillery  
         (Automatic Weapons) Battalion  
     Detachment, 77th Signal Company  
     Detachment, 77th Ordnance Company  
     Company B, 706th Tank Battalion  
     1st Platoon, 36th Field Hospital  
 307th Combat Team  
     307th Infantry  
     902d Field Artillery Battalion  
     Company C, 302d Engineer Combat Battalion  
     233d Engineer Combat Battalion  
     Detachment, 292d Joint Assault Signal  
         Company  
     Company C, 302d Medical Battalion  
     Company C, 7th Antiaircraft Artillery  
         (Automatic Weapons) Battalion  
     Company A, 706th Tank Battalion  
     Detachment, 77th Signal Company  
     Detachment, 77th Ordnance Company  
     2d Platoon, 36th Field Hospital

#### GARRISON FORCE

1st Provisional Base Headquarters Battalion  
 3d Marine Division (Reinforced)  
 14th Defense Battalion (less detachments)  
 9th Defense Battalion (less detachments)  
 2d Special Engineer Battalion  
 25th Naval Construction Battalion  
 53d Naval Construction Battalion  
 Company B, 2d Special Naval Construction  
     Battalion  
 Communication Unit 41  
 5th Field Depot  
 Detachment, 5th Naval Construction Brigade  
 Detachment, Marine Air Group 21  
 Detachment, Lion 6 Advance Naval Base  
 Detachment, Argus 17  
 Detachment, Marine Air Warning Squadron 2  
 Detachment, 746th Air Warning Company  
 Guam Civilian Scouts  
 Guam Combat Patrol

#### PACIFIC FLEET

##### Battleships

Alabama (BB-60)  
 California (BB-44)  
 Colorado (BB-45)  
 Idaho (BB-42)  
 Indiana (BB-58)  
 Iowa (BB-61)  
 New Jersey (BB-62)  
 New Mexico (BB-40)  
 Pennsylvania (BB-38)  
 Tennessee (BB-43)  
 Washington (BB-56)

##### Carriers

Bataan (CVL-24), Air Group 50  
 Belleau Wood (CVL-24), Air Group 24  
 Bunker Hill (CV-17), Air Group 8  
 Cabot (CVL-28), Air Group 31  
 Chenango (CVE-28), Air Group 35  
 Coral Sea (CVE-57), Composite Squadron 33  
 Corregidor (CVE-58), Air Group 58  
 Cowpens (CVL-25), Air Group 25  
 Enterprise (CV-6), Air Group 10  
 Essex (CV-9), Air Group 15  
 Gambier Bay (CVE-73), Composite Sqdrn 10  
 Hornet (CV-12), Air Group 2  
 Kalinin Bay (CVE-68), Composite Squadron 3  
 Kitkun Bay (CVE-71), Composite Squadron 5  
 Langley (CVL-27), Air Group 32  
 Lexington (CV-16), Air Group 16  
 Midway (CVE-63), Composite Squadron 65  
 Monterey (CVL-26), Air Group 28  
 Nehalem Bay (CVE-74), Composite Sqdrn 11  
 Princeton (CVL-23), Air Group 27  
 Sangamon (CVE-26), Air Group 37  
 San Jacinto (CVL-30), Air Group 51  
 Suwannee (CVE-27), Air Group 60  
 Wasp (CV-18), Air Group 14  
 Yorktown (CV-10), Air Group 1

##### Cruisers

Biloxi (CL-80)  
 Birmingham (CL-62)  
 Boston (CA-69)  
 Canberra (CA-70)  
 Cleveland (CL-55)  
 Denver (CL-58)  
 Honolulu (CL-48)  
 Houston (CL-81)  
 Indianapolis (CA-35)  
 Louisville (CA-28)  
 Miami (CL-89)  
 Minneapolis (CA-36)  
 Mobile (CL-63)  
 Montpelier (CL-57)  
 New Orleans (CA-32)  
 Oakland (CL-95)  
 Reno (CL-96)  
 St. Louis (CL-49)  
 San Diego (CL-53)  
 San Francisco (CA-38)  
 San Juan (CL-53)  
 Santa Fe (CL-60)  
 Vincennes (CL-64)  
 Wichita (CA-45)

##### Destroyers

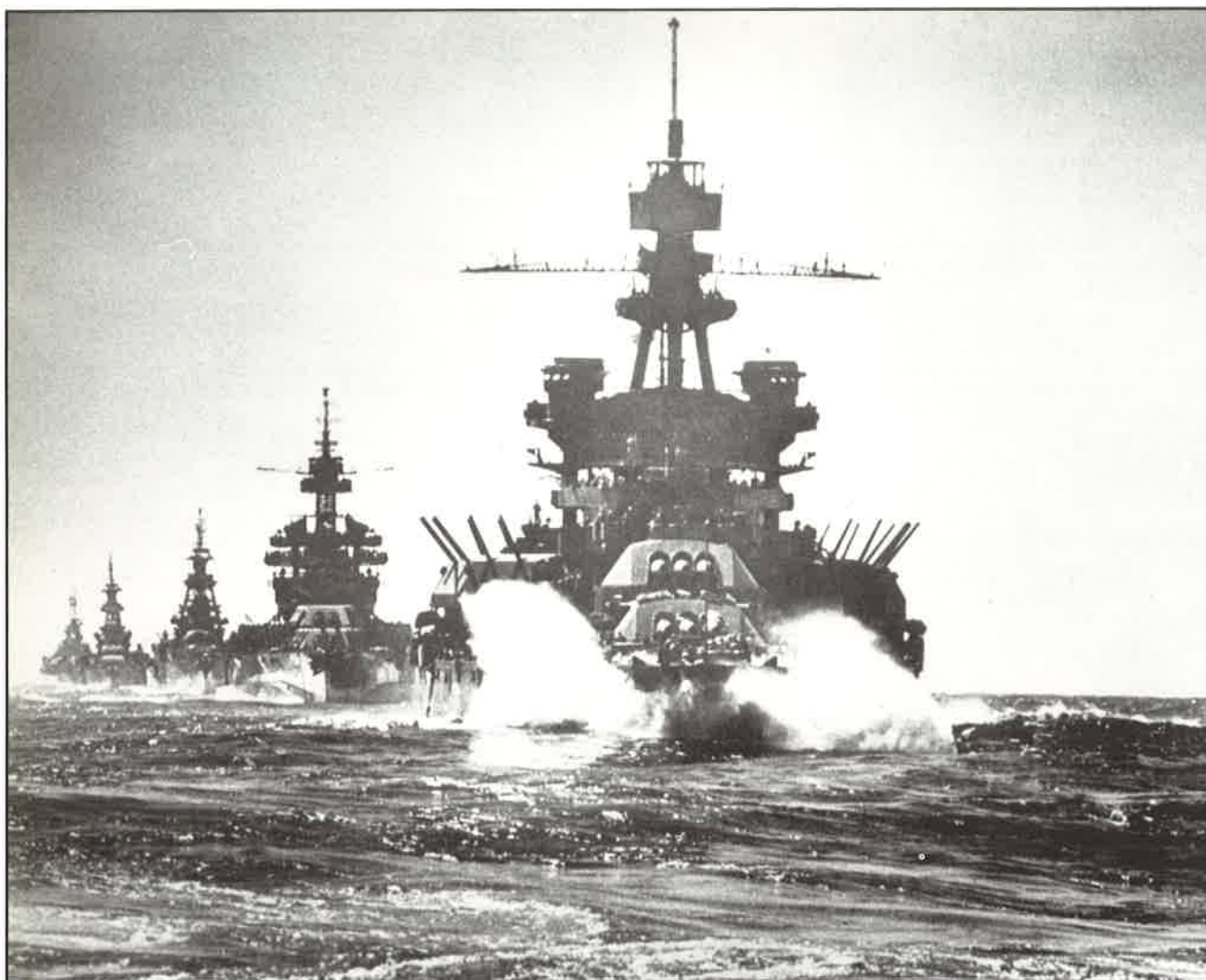
Abbott (DD-629)  
 Acree (DE-167)  
 Anthony (DD-515)  
 Aulick (DD-569)  
 Charles F. Ausburne (DD-570)  
 Aylwin (DD-355)  
 Bagley (DD-386)  
 Bangust (DE-739)  
 Baron (DE-166)  
 Bell (DD-587)  
 Benham (DD-796)  
 Bennett (DD-473)  
 Black (DD-666)  
 Boyd (DD-544)  
 Bradford (DD-545)

Clarence K. Bronson (DD-668)  
 Brown (DD-546)  
 Bullard (DD-660)  
 Burns (DD-588)  
 Cabana (DE-260)  
 Callaghan (DD-792)  
 Caperton (DD-650)  
 Capps (DD-550)  
 Case (DD-370)  
 Cassin (DD-372)  
 Charrette (DD-581)  
 Chauncy (DD-667)  
 Cloues (DE-265)  
 Cogswell (DD-651)  
 Colahan (DD-658)  
 Conner (DD-582)  
 Converse (DD-509)  
 Conway (DD-507)  
 Conyngham (DD-371)  
 Cotten (DD-669)  
 Cowell (DD-547)  
 Craven (DD-382)  
 Dale (DD-353)  
 Dashiell (DD-659)  
 Deede (DE-263)  
 Dewey (DD-349)  
 Dionne (DE-261)  
 Dorich (DD-670)  
 Dyson (DD-572)  
 Eisele (DE-34)  
 Elden (DE-264)  
 Ellet (DD-398)  
 Erben (DD-631)  
 Evans (DD-552)  
 Fair (DE-35)  
 Farenholt (DD-491)  
 Farragut (DD-348)  
 Fleming (DE-32)  
 Franks (DD-554)  
 Fullan (DD-474)  
 Gatling (DD-671)  
 Gridley (DD-380)  
 Guest (DD-472)  
 Haggard (DD-555)  
 Hailey (DD-556)  
 Hale (DD-642)  
 Halford (DD-480)  
 Paul Hamilton (DD-590)  
 Lewis Hancock (DD-675)  
 Harrison (DD-573)  
 Healy (DD-672)  
 Helm (DD-388)  
 John D. Henley (DD-553)  
 Hickox (DD-673)  
 Hilbert (DE-742)  
 Hunson (DD-4750)  
 Hull (DD-350)  
 Hunt (DD-674)  
 Ingersoll (DE-652)  
 Irwin (DD-794)  
 Izard (DD-589)  
 Johnston (DD-557)  
 Kidd (DD-661)  
 Knapp (DD-653)  
 Lamons (DE-743)  
 Lang (DD-399)  
 Lansdowne (DD-486)  
 Lardner (DD-487)  
 Levy (DE-162)  
 Longshaw (DD-559)  
 MacDonald (DD-351)  
 Manlove (DE-36)  
 Marshall (DD-676)  
 Maury (DD-401)  
 McCall (DD-400)  
 McCalla (DD-488)  
 McConnell (DE-163)  
 McDermut (DD-677)  
 McGowan (DD-678)  
 McKee (DD-575)



McNair (DD-679)	YMS-260	Saugatuck (AO-75)	LCI(G)-439
Meade (DD-602)	YMS-266	Schuykill (AO-76)	LCI(G)-440
Melvin (DD-680)	YMS-270	Sebec (AO-87)	LCI(G)-441
Mertz (DD-691)	YMS-272	Solace (AH-5)	LCI(G)-442
Samuel S. Miles (DE-183)	YMS-281	Tallulah (AO-50)	LCI(G)-449
Miller (DD-535)	YMS-291	Tappahannock (AO-43)	LCI(G)-450
Mitchell (DE-43)	YMS-292	Takesta (ATF-93)	LCI(G)-451
Monaghan (DD-354)	YMS-295	Tomahawk (AO-88)	LCI(G)-455
Monssen (DD-798)	YMS-296	Tupelo (AN-56)	LCI(G)-457
Mugford (DD-389)	YMS-302	Typhoon (IX-145)	LCI(G)-464
Murray (DD-576)	YMS-317	Zuni (ATF-95)	LCI(G)-465
O'Flaherty (DE-340)	YMS-321	Transports and Cargo Vessels	LCI(G)-466
Osterhaus (DE-164)	YMS-322	Alcyone (AKA-7)	LCI(G)-467
Owen (DD-536)	YMS-323	Alkes (AK-110)	LCI(G)-468
Parks (DE-165)	YMS-396	Almaack (APA-10)	LCI(G)-469
Patterson (DD-392)	Zane (DMS-14)	Alpine (APA-92)	LCI(G)-471
Porterfield (DD-682)	Patrol Vessels	Alshain (AKA-55)	LCI(G)-472
Stephen Potter (DD-538)	PC-549	APc-46	LCI(G)-473
Halsey Powell (DD-686)	PC-555	Appalachian (AGC-1)	LCI(G)-474
Preston (DD-795)	PC-581	Acquarius (AKA-16)	LCT(6)-962
Prichett (DD-561)	PC-1079	Ara (AK-136)	LCT(6)-964
Pringle (DD-477)	PC-1080	William P. Biddle (APA-8)	LCT(6)-965
Renshaw (DD-499)	PC-1125	Bolivar (APA-34)	LCT(6)-966
Ringgold (DD-500)	PC-1126	William Ward Burrows (AP-6)	LCT(6)-968
Robinson (DD-562)	PC-1127	Centaurus (AKA-17)	LCT(6)-982
John Rodgers (DD-574)	PC-1136	Clemson (APA-31)	LCT(6)-989
Saulfley (DD-465)	PCS-1396	George Clymer (APA-27)	LCT(6)-995
Schroeder (DD-501)	PCS-1457	Comet (AP-166)	LCT(6)-1059
Sederstrom (DE-31)	SC-504	Cor Caroli (AK-91)	LCT(6)-1061
Selfridge (DD-357)	SC-521	Crescent City (APA-21)	LCT(6)-1062
Shaw (DD-373)	SC-667	Custer (APA-40)	LST-24
Sigsbee (DD-502)	SC-724	Degrass (AP-164)	LST-29
Spence (DD-512)	SC-727	Dickerson (APD-21)	LST-38
Stanly (DD-478)	SC-1052	Doyen (APA-1)	LST-41
Stembel (DD-644)	SC-1273	Draco (AK-79)	LST-70
Sterett (DD-407)	SC-1319	Du Page (APA-42)	LST-71
Stevens (DD-479)	SC-1325	Elmore (APA-42)	LST-78
Stockham (DD-683)	SC-1326	Fayette (APA-43)	LST-117
The Sullivans (DD-537)	SC-1328	Feland (APA-11)	LST-118
Swearer (DE-186)	Submarine	Frederick Funston (APA-89)	LST-122
David W. Taylor (DD-551)	Tarpon (SS-175)	Golden City (AP-169)	LST-123
Terry (DD-513)	Fleet Auxiliaries	Kane (APD-18)	LST-125
Thatcher (DD-514)	Agenor (ARL-3)	Lamar (AP-47)	LST-207
Tingey (DD-539)	Aloe (AN-6)	Harry Lee (APA-10)	LST-219
Tisdale (DE-33)	Apache (ATF-67)	Leedstown (APA-56)	LST-220
Wadsworth (DD-516)	ARD-16	Libra (AKA-12)	LST-221
Walker (DD-517)	ARD-17	Monrovia (APA-31)	LST-227
Waller (DD-466)	Aastabula (AO-51)	Noa (APD-24)	LST-241
Waterman (DE-740)	Bountiful (AH-9)	Ormsby (APA-49)	LST-243
Weaver (DE-741)	Cache (AO-67)	President Adams (APA-19)	LST-244
Wedderburn (DE-684)	Cahaba (AO-82)	President Hayes (AP-20)	LST-247
Wesson (DE-184)	Caliente (AO-53)	President Jackson (APA-18)	LST-269
Whitman (DE-24)	Chowanoe (ATF-100)	President Monroe (APA-104)	LST-270
Wileman (DE-22)	Cimarron (AO-22)	President Polk (APA-103)	LST-276
Williamson (DD-244)	City of Daltart (IX-156)	Rixey (APH-3)	LST-334
Wilson (DD-408)	Concrete barge 1321	Sheridan (APA-51)	LST-341
Yarnell (DD-541)	Concrete Barge 1324	Starlight (AP-175)	LST-343
Mine Vessels	Enoree (AO-69)	Sterope (AK-96)	LST-398
Caravan (AM-157)	Grapple (ARS-7)	Titania (AKA-13)	LST-399
Hamilton (DMS-18)	Guadalupe (AO-32)	Vega (AK-17)	LST-446
Hogan (DMS-6)	Holly (AN-19)	Virgo (AKA-20)	LST-447
Hopkins (DMS-13)	Hydrographer (AGS-2)	Warhawk (AP-168)	LST-449
Long (DMS-12)	Kaskaskia (AO-27)	Warren (APA-53)	LST-476
Motive (AM-102)	Kennebago (AO-81)	Waters (APD-8)	LST-477
Palmer (DMS-5)	Lackawanna (AO-40)	Wayne (APA-54)	LST-478
Perry (DMS-17)	Lipan (ATF-85)	Wharton (AP-7)	LST-479
Sheldrake (AM-62)	Manatee (AO-58)	Windson (APA-55)	LST-481
Skylark (AM-63)	Marias (AO-57)	Zeilin (ALA-3)	LST-482
Spear (AM-322)	Mascoma (AO-83)	Landing Ships and Craft	LST-488
Stansbury (DMS-8)	Monongahela (AO-42)	Carier Hall (LSD-3)	LST-684
Starling (AM-64)	Neosho (AO-48)	Epping Forrest (LSD-4)	LST-731
Terror (CM-5)	Neshanic (AO-71)	Gunston Hall (LSD-5)	LST-986
YMS-136	Owklawaha (AO-84)	LCI(G)-345	Underwater Demolition Teams
YMS-151	Pakana (ATF-108)	LCI(G)-346	UDT 3
YMS-184	Pautuxent (AO-44)	LCI(G)-348	UDT 4
YMS-195	Pecis (AO-65)	LCI(G)-365	UDT 6
YMS-216	Pennant (Motor Ship)	LCI(G)-366	
YMS-237	Platte (AO-24)	LCI(G)-437	
YMS-241	Sabine (AO-25)	LCI(G)-438	
YMS-242	Samaritan (AH-10)		

**SEVENTH AIR FORCE**  
48th Bombardment Squadron (M)  
318th Fighter Group



*Above, sailing toward Guam in July 1944, a line of battleships impressively displays the U.S. Navy's dominion on the seas. At this point in the war, the Navy's power and reach in the Pacific was relatively unchallenged by Japan's Imperial Navy.*

*At right, a gun aboard a Navy ship aims toward Guam. With a vast array of vessels in its armada ready to recapture Guam, the Navy bombarded the island for nearly two weeks prior to the July 21, 1944 Liberation invasion.*







*As a 40 mm crew aboard the cruiser Honolulu waits on alert, Asan Point is rocked when a storage dump explodes after taking a direct hit. Smoke on the shore is from bombs from attacking planes and naval gunfire. Seen above left are a variety of vessels — a gunboat, a transport vessel; tougher to discern are planes flying over the beach (at left).*

# *Liberating Guam*

**By DAVE LOTZ  
and ROSE S.N. MANIBUSAN**

By early 1944, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz was preparing for Operation Forager — the capture, occupation, and defense of the Mariana Islands. Targeted were the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. The United States Pacific forces under Nimitz's command commenced the broad Pacific sweep of island-hopping that would by mid-summer 1944 result in the Liberation of Guam.

American naval forces were hard at work as the war moved west. America and Japan both considered the Mariana Islands important because of their strategic location. From Guam, airstrips would be built, where B-29s could make bombing runs to Japan. Apra Harbor, because of its deep water port, would serve as an excellent fleet anchorage in the Western Pacific. Outside the continental United States, Guam would become one of the largest naval bases in the Pacific. As a former U. S. possession, America had a moral obligation to liberate the Chamorro people.

American fast carriers attacked the Marianas Islands on Feb. 23, 1944. At the same time, American submarines concentrated on sinking Japanese ships. Both tactical elements would thus disrupt reinforcement of the islands. Ultimately the submarines sank at least 30 enemy ships at the cost of two submarines and prevented troops and equipment from reaching Guam and the other Marianas Islands.

~~ "Times were getting worse because the Americans had already bombed Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. That was what the Japanese told me in Yona, the one that knew English . . ."

Francisco Kelly Acfalle ~~

Unaware of the Japanese defense situation, the Americans' next step was the reconnaissance of the islands. In April 1944, for 27 days the submarine USS Greenling photographed possible invasion beaches. Shortly thereafter, the Navy and Army Air Force B-24s took daring low level photos up until June.

By the end of May the invasion forces had assembled at Pearl Harbor and Guadalcanal to commence their long voyages to the Marianas. The invasion fleet for Guam sailed initially to Kwajalein



***Shot down by anti-aircraft fire, a Japanese warplane crashes into the ocean, narrowly missing the USS Cabot. With Japanese air capabilities destroyed, U.S. pilots ruled the skies above Guam prior to and through the battle for the island.***

and then sorted on June 9-12 only to return later to Eniwetok.

The invasion of Saipan began on June 15, 1944, following massive shore bombardment. For the Americans, Saipan was the most costly Pacific battle to that time. Saipan was not secured until July 9, due to heavy determined Japanese resistance including desperate battles and banzai charges in such places as Death Valley and Tanapag. The cost for Saipan was high. American losses totalled almost 3,100 dead, about 11,000 wounded, and 128 missing. More than 24,000 Japanese defenders died and 300 civilians.

The date for the invasion of Guam was postponed from June 16 due to stiff Japanese resistance on Saipan and the approach of a Japanese fleet attempting to reach Saipan to help its defenders.

~~ "The ships (U.S. troop transports) steamed in aimless circles, while tropical sun beat upon them, the quality of food deteriorated and the swindling cigarette supply had to be rationed meagerly. No one who has never traveled to combat aboard an

overcrowded assault transport in the tropics can comprehend what those men went through during the forty-eight to fifty-two days the various elements were at sea." . . . The Island War, by Frank O. Hough ~~

On July 15, the invasion fleet finally left Eniwetok for Guam.

The American fleet's presence around the Mariana Islands brought a response from the Japanese navy to prevent another loss to the Empire. Approaching from the west, the Japanese aircraft carriers launched massive raids to attack the American aircraft carriers on June 19, 1944. When the greatest carrier air battle of the war ended, known as the "Marianas Turkey Shoot," the Japanese lost nearly 400 aircraft. Following its defeat, the Japanese fleet retreated. Plans to re-inforce the Marianas were no longer possible.

For the invasion of the Mariana Islands, command of the United States Fifth Fleet was vested in Admiral Raymond A. Spruance with Vice Admiral Richmond K. Turner in command of

## 9 April 1942

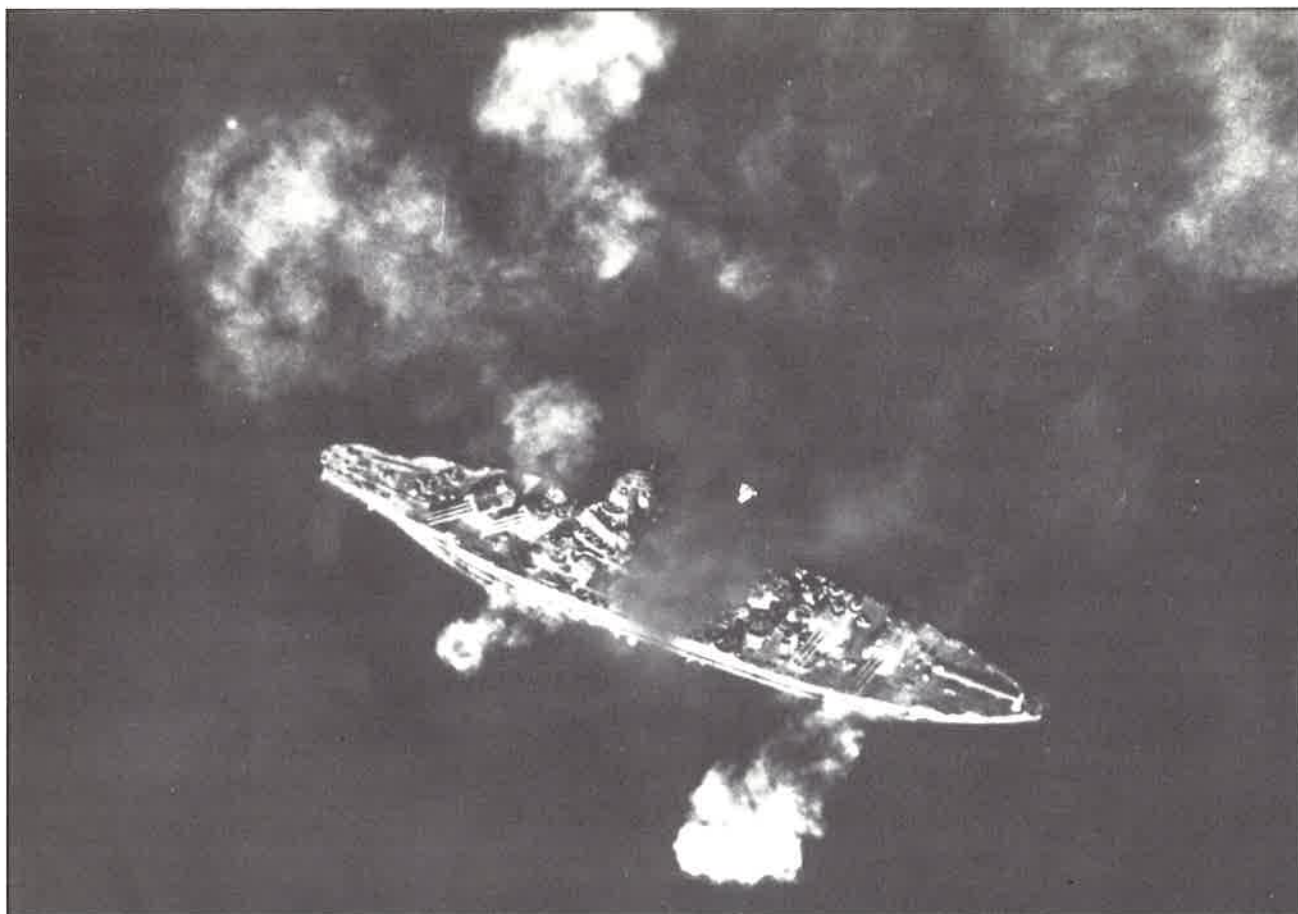
*American and Filipino forces on Bataan surrender to the Japanese army under General Homma Masaharu. The "Bataan Death March" begins. About 76,000 American and Filipino survivors are forced to march 60 miles to POW camps. As so many are in a weakened and starved state, 5,000 perish; still more die in the camps.*





*In top photo, smoke from explosions mar the airfield on Orote Peninsula after an attack by Navy planes prior to the July 21 invasion. The airfield's destruction was a priority for Admiral Nimitz and Vice Admiral Marc Mitscher, who is shown at right, in order to disable the ability of the Japanese to challenge the invasion force by air. Mitscher commanded the task force that defeated an Imperial Navy fleet in the Battle of the Philippine Sea, a battle that effectively nullified the Japanese navy and its aircraft for the rest of the war. Above, Avenger torpedo bombers, launched from carriers of Task Force 53, fly support on Liberation Day, soaring high above landing craft maneuvering to rush ashore.*





***The battleship Pennsylvania unleashes the thunder of its 14-inch guns as it shells shore fortifications south of Orote Point. By invasion day, July 21, 1944, a total of six battleships - the New Mexico, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Colorado, California and the Tennessee - nine cruisers and their destroyer escorts were pulverizing Japanese defense positions. Pre-invasion bombardment lasted for 13 days, not including July 21, the longest such action in the war.***

the Joint Expeditionary Force. Lt. General Holland M. Smith, United States Marine Corps (USMC) was in tactical command of all troops ashore in the Mariana Islands.

Rear Admiral Richard L. Conolly was in command of the Southern attack force for Guam's recapture. The assault troops, III Amphibious Corps, were under the command of Maj. General Roy S. Geiger, USMC. The III Amphibious Corps was composed of the Third Marine Division commanded by Maj. General Allen H. Tumage, USMC, to land at Asan and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade under the command of Brig. General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., USMC, to land at Agat.

The opposing Japanese on Guam were under the command of Lt. General Takashina Takeshi, Imperial Japanese Army (IJA), commanding the 29th Infantry Division and Southern Marianas Army Group. His superior, General Obata Hideyoshi, IJA, commander of the 31st Army, was present on Guam - his headquarters was in Saipan but was unable to travel to that island for its defense

- but he did not exercise local command until the death of Takashina.

Thus, the United States returned to liberate Guam, to liberate the Chamorros. W-Day was scheduled for July 21, 1944. But before that date, for 13 consecutive days, the skies thundered with naval and air bombardment. Targeted were the villages of Agana, Asan, Agat, and Sumay, along with Orote Peninsula.

~~"That evening, we ran away from the camp because the Americans started shooting at the island from ships. During the day, the incendiary bombs were constantly fired and at night, the cannon from the ships. The incendiary bombs were dropped from airplanes... Agana was completely destroyed. . . Engracio Damian ~~

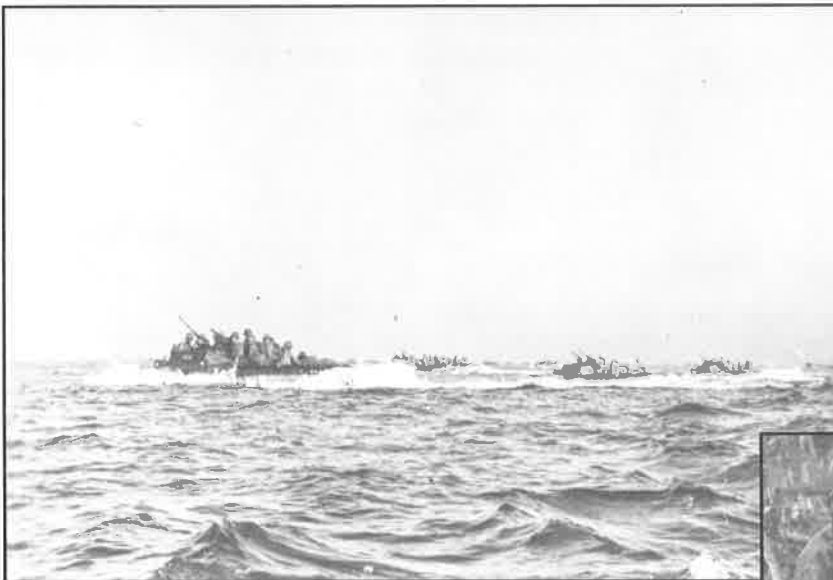
In preparation of the American landings, on July 14, for three days and two nights, and under the cover of naval gun fire, Navy underwater demolition teams conducted reconnaissance of the invasion beaches and removed over 900 obstacles from Guam's reefs. These frogmen proved to be effective.

Admiral Conolly stated that "positively, landings could not

## 18 April 1942

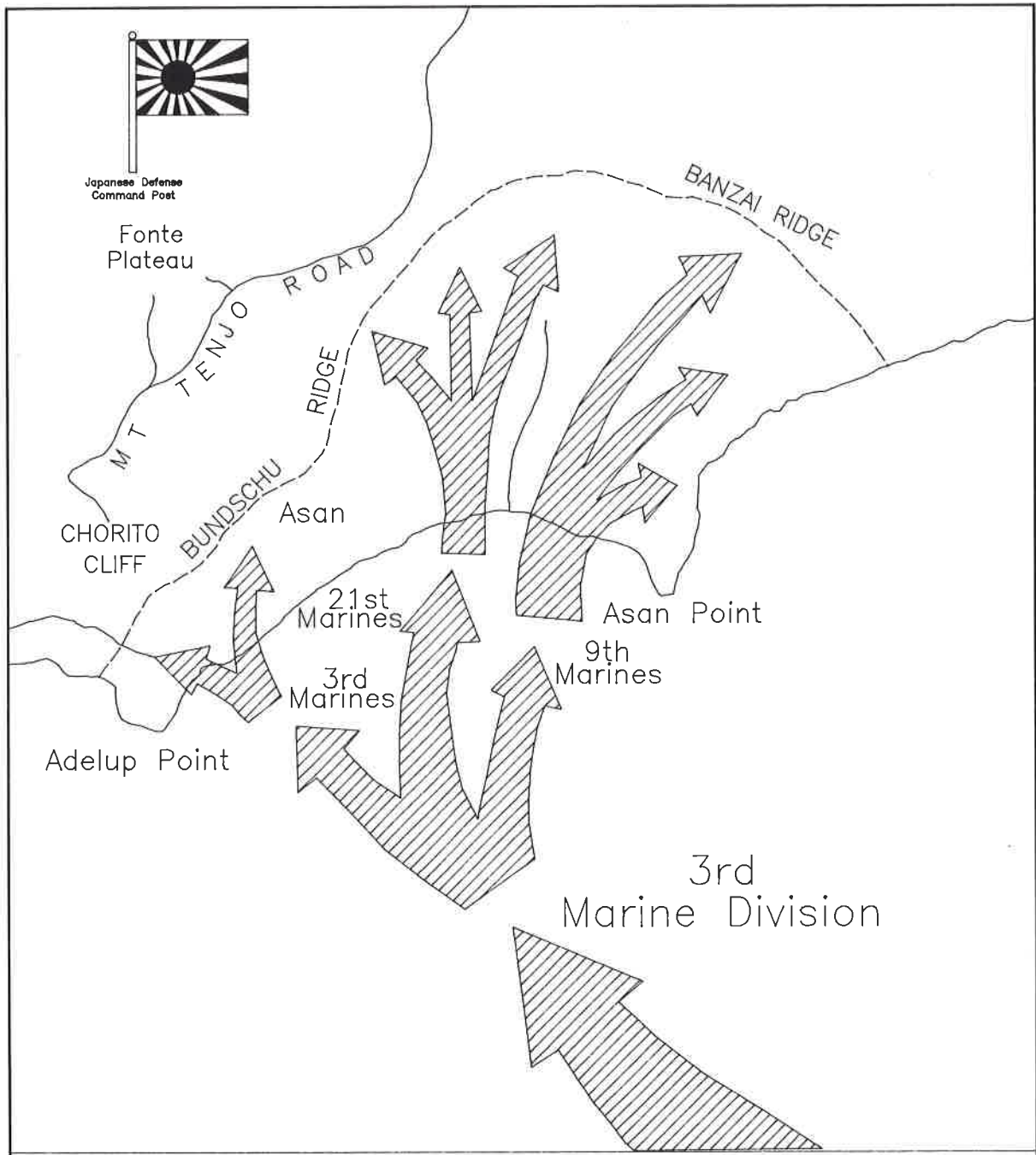
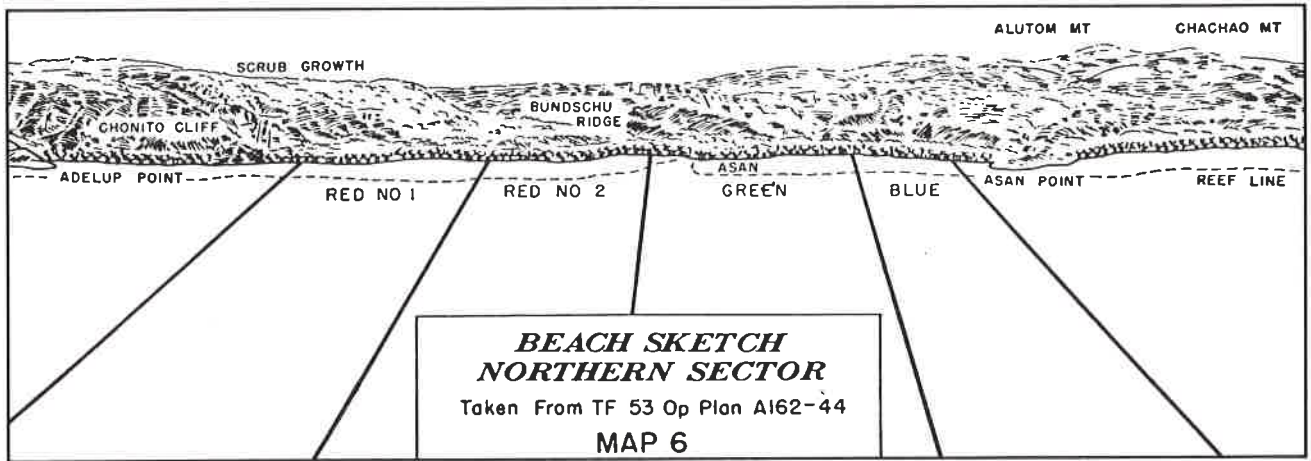
*Launched from the carrier Hornet, 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers, commanded by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, attack military facilities in several Japanese cities. The air strike uplifts America from coast to coast, as the nation is still in shock from Pearl Harbor and the reality of war.*



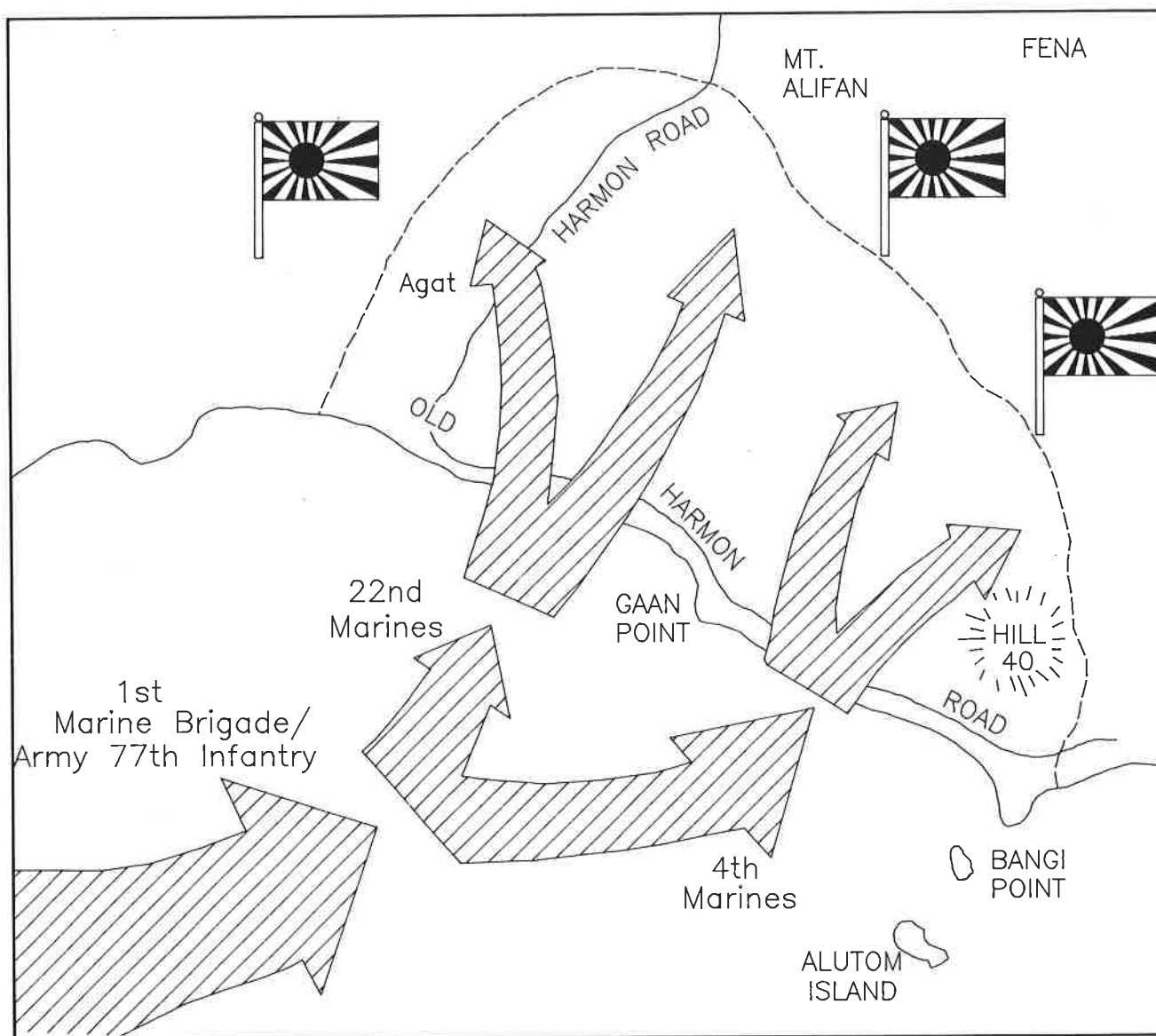
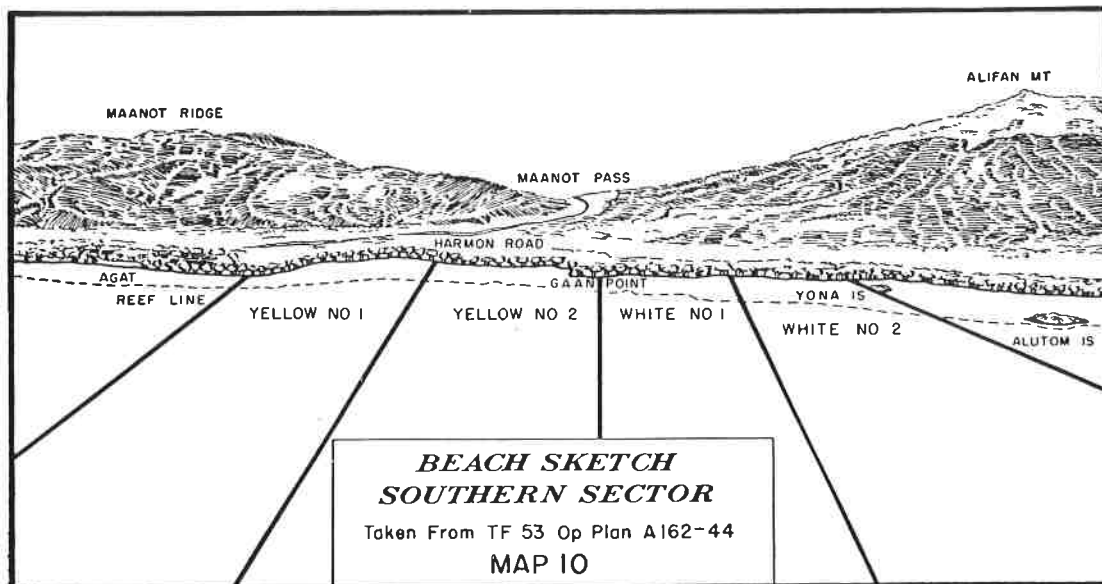


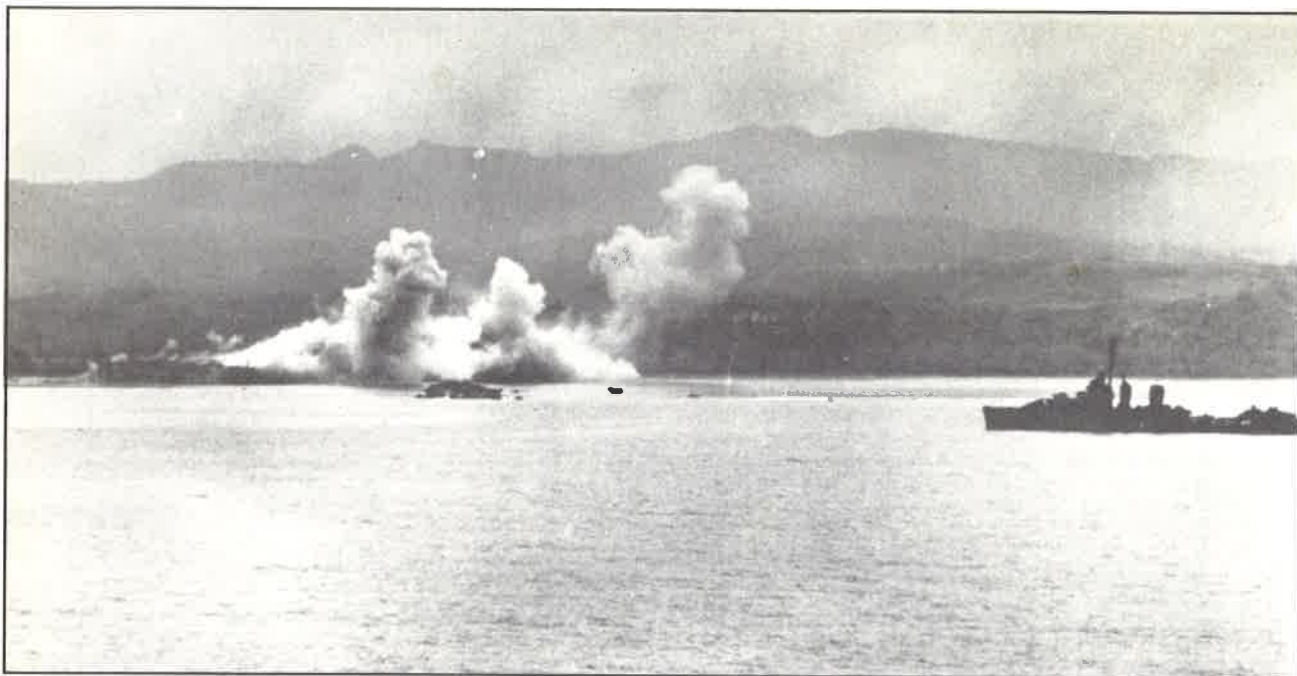
*At top, troop ships sail for Guam, carrying more than 50,000 Marines and Army infantry for the operation to recapture the island. Above, Marines aboard amphibious tractors head for the beachhead. At right, two Marines say "Thanks" to the men of the Coast Guard for their contribution to the invasion of Guam. The Coast Guard was responsible for the ferrying and transfer of troops from ship to shore, the helmsmen and crew of the landing craft undergoing the same intense fire as their Marine passengers.*











*Explosions on the coast spout water and toss debris high in the air in this photo taken from the battleship New Mexico.*

have been made on either Agat or Asan beaches nor any other suitable beaches without these elaborate but successfully prosecuted clearance operations."

During the night of July 20, the invasion fleet reached their assigned positions off Guam's western shore.

~~"The weather conditions on Guam on the morning of 21 July 1944 should have been perfect. According to the record, there was a clear, tropical, sunny sky without any clouds. However, no one should have enjoyed such a beautiful bright day. The island of Guam which soldiers saw on the 21st was entirely covered by cannon smoke. The sky, ocean and mountains were smoke covered. The U.S. landing had begun." . . . Masao Hiratsuka, Guam Fighting~~

~~"With the first gray of dawn and the sun showing its figure on the horizon, the ocean scene shook the Japanese defenders. In addition to large enemy battleships, over one hundred war vessels and over two hundred transport ships covered the early morning seaface." . . . Masao Hiratsuka, Guam Fighting~~

On July 21, 1944, beginning at 0530, for three hours the beaches off Asan and Agat were shelled and bombed.

~~"The Americans that we had been longing to come, came and dropped their bombs . . . Every time the bombs dropped, my brother and I would go into a shallow hole up a dokdok tree." . . . Francisco K. Acfalle~~

Off the reefs, to the horizon, American battleships, cruisers, destroyers, and landing craft, along with over 50,000 U.S. troops, prepared to retake Guam. At 0819, in Asan, the Marines, loaded into their amphibious Landing Vehicles, Tracked (LVT) for the assault, reached the line of departure. The first waves of LVTs hit the beach at 0829 in Asan and at 0832 in Agat.

"The traces of crafts' wakes were really beautiful, like floating threads of a loom. . . Then I realized the enemy would soon be invading the beach. . ." 2nd Lt. Yasuhiro Yamashita, Third Battalion of the 18th Regiment

#### THE NORTHERN BEACHHEAD

At Asan, the 3rd Marine Division landed between Asan Point on the west and Adelup Point on the east. Nearly 2,500 yards of beach rested between these two points, known as the "devil's horns." From the west to the east, the 9th Marine Regiment landed on Blue Beach, the 21st Marine Regiment on Green Beach, and the 3d Marine Regiment on Red Beaches 1 and 2. The Marine division's goal was to capture the rugged cliffs and high grounds inland.

The Japanese 320th Independent Infantry Battalion, along with Naval personnel hid in complex caves and bunkers, ready to man coastal defense guns as the Americans landed on the shores below.

#### THE SOUTHERN BEACHHEAD

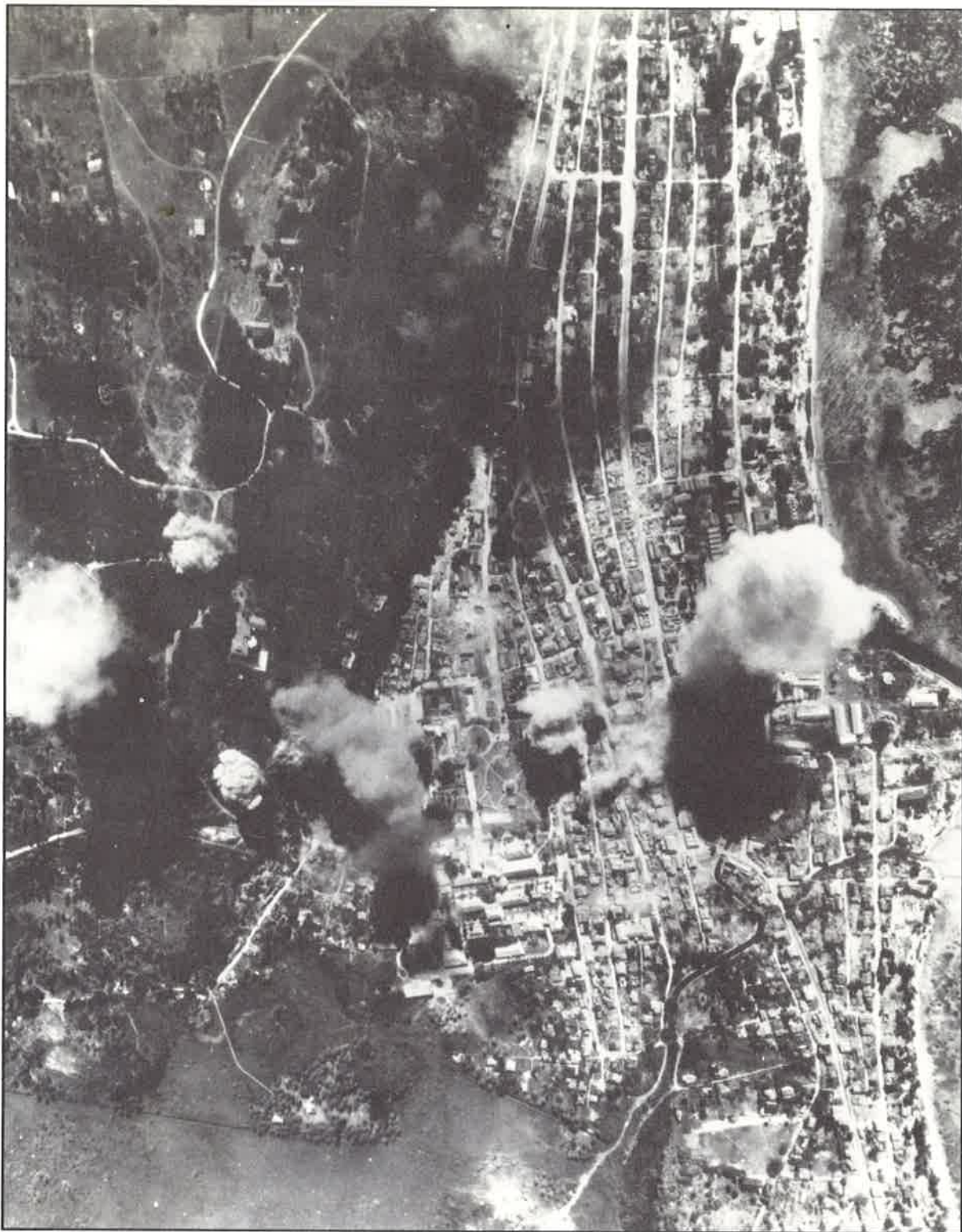
At Agat, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade landed between Bangi Point to the south and the village of Agat to the north. The 4th Marines landed to the south on White Beaches 1 and 2 to establish the beachhead and protect the right flank. The 22nd Marines to the north landed in Yellow Beaches 1 and 2 to occupy Agat and drive north to seal off Orote Peninsula. The 305th Regimental Combat Team of the Army's 77th Infantry Division would later land to protect the southern sector of the beachhead.

As wave after wave of LVTs crossed the reef, the Japanese 38th Infantry Regiment fired heavy mortar and artillery shells on the

## 4-8 May 1942

*The significance of air power on the sea is highlighted in the first naval battle in history pitting aircraft carriers against aircraft carriers. Although each side loses a carrier (the Lexington and the Shoho), the U.S. Navy defeats the Japanese navy in the Battle of the Coral Sea. The U.S. notches a strategic victory in the battle in the sea southeast of New Guinea and northeast of Australia. Japan is flustered in its drive to extend battlelines southward toward Australia.*





*This aerial photo shows Agaña in ruins, the result of naval bombardment and strikes from carrier aircraft.*

## 6 May 1942

*With the island fortress of Corregidor succumbing to the siege by the Japanese Imperial army, General Jonathan Wainwright, commander of U.S. and Filipino soldiers in the place of MacArthur, surrenders. The Philippines fall.*



*As landing craft stream toward the Asan shore, other amphibious tractors have already reached the beach. At top of photo, on right, destroyers are maneuvering offshore to provide covering fire for the men of the 3rd Marine Division.*

approaching Marines.

#### STALLED AT CHORITO CLIFF

To the east at Asan, Japanese troops emerged from their caves to take gun positions on Chorito (misnamed Chonito in 1944) Cliff. From their positions they fired down on the 3d Marines as they landed ashore. They waited and watched as American troops advanced on the steep, difficult terrain below Chorito.

~~“Nearly half my old company lies dead on the barren slopes of Chorito Cliff. Four times they tried to reach the top. Four times they were thrown back. They had to break out of a 20-yard beach-head to make way for later landing waves. They attacked up a 60-degree slope, protected only by sword grass, and were met by a storm of grenades and heavy rifle, machine-gun and mortar fire.

“The physical act of forward motion required the use of both hands. As a consequence they were unable to return the enemy fire

## 3-6 June 1942

*U.S. Navy carriers under Admiral Nimitz confront carriers of a fleet commanded by Japan's Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto in the Battle of Midway. After an initial Japanese air strike on Midway Island, U.S. Navy pilots seize the advantage when they catch Japanese aircraft on carrier decks refueling and rearming. At battle's end, sunk are the Japanese carriers Kaga, Soryu, Hiryu and the Akagi. Although the Yorktown sinks following the battle, the U.S. victory would prove to be a critical turning point of the war in the Pacific.*

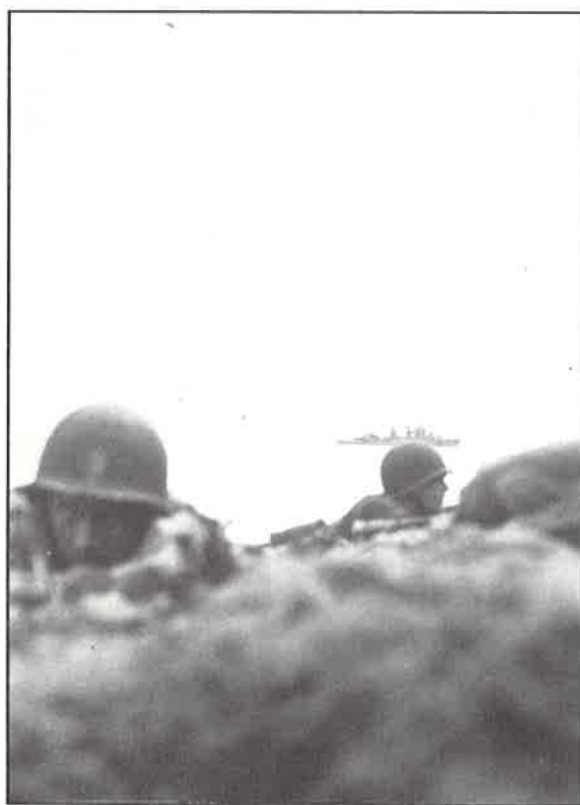
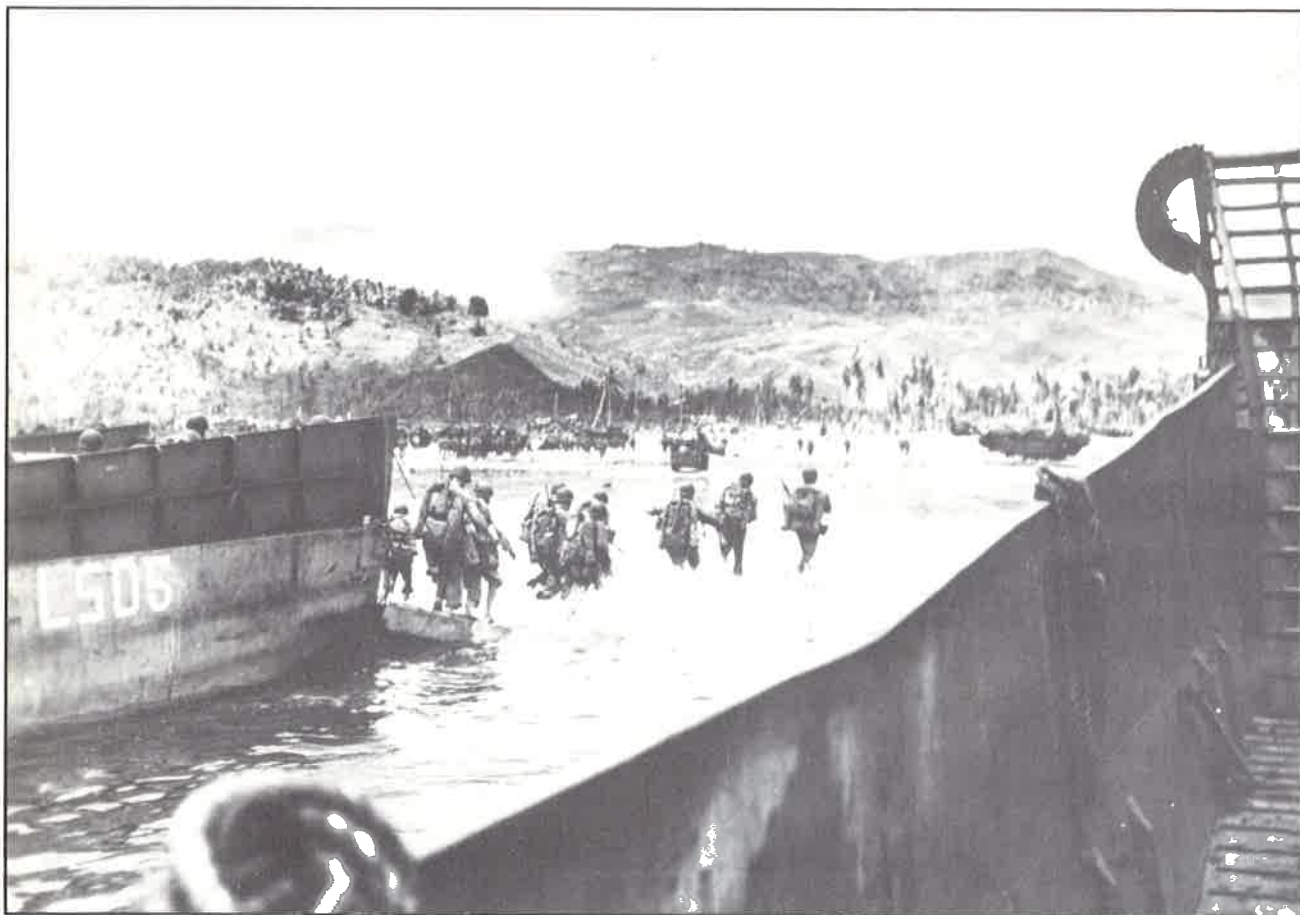




*Minesweepers clear the way to the Agat shoreline while smaller craft carry the first Marines to assault the beach. A burning minesweeper shows that the battle has already begun in this aerial view of the beachhead.*

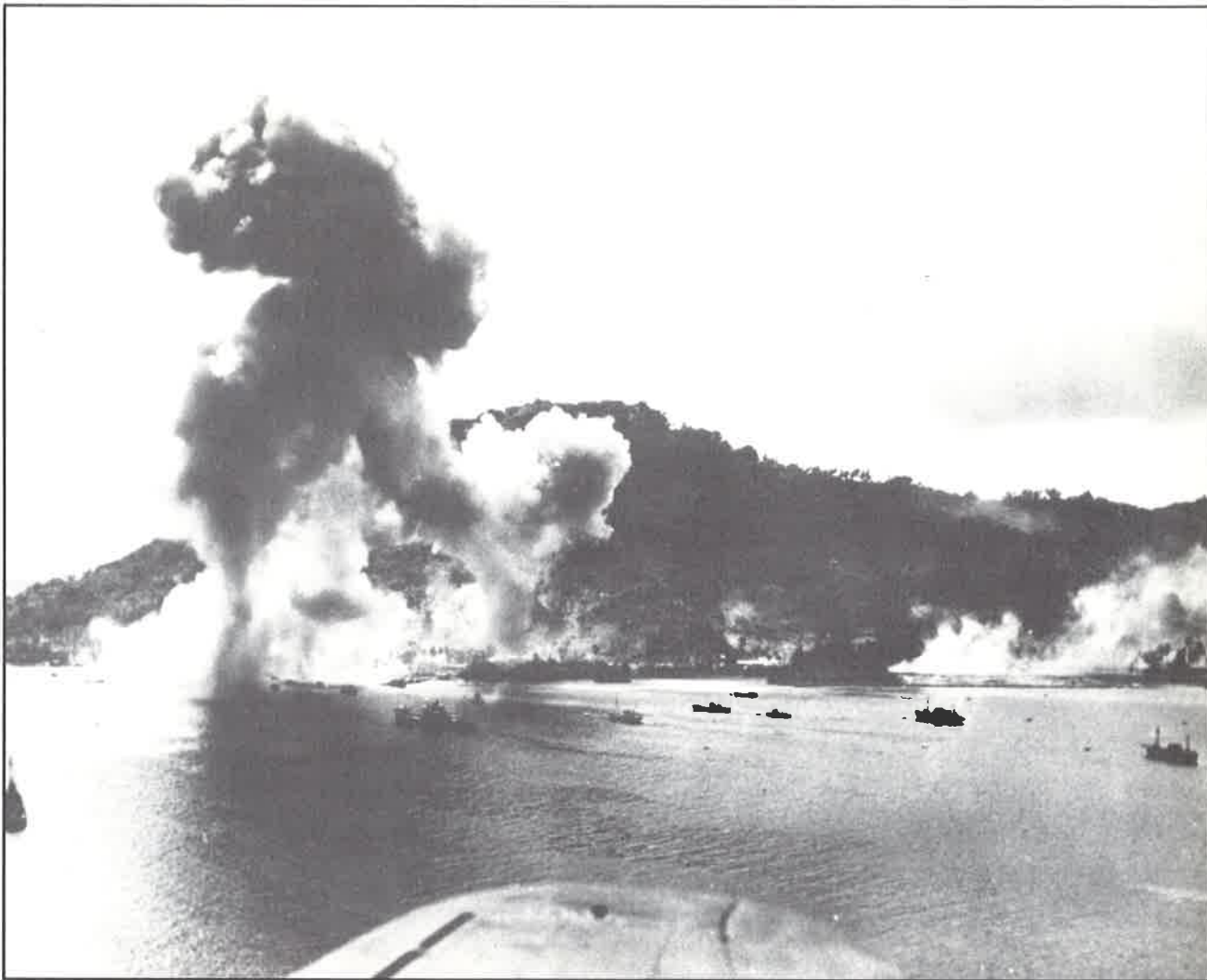
## 7 June 1942

*Japanese invade the American possessions of Attu and Kiska in the western region of the Aleutian islands in Alaska. The two islands, Wake Island, and Guam are the only American territories occupied by the Japanese in World War II. Indigenous Aleut native Americans are evacuated by U.S. from the island chain and transferred to vacant canneries and other facilities in the Alaskan panhandle; the transfer devastates Aleut traditional culture.*



*Above, Marines from the 3rd Marine Division churn toward the Asan shore on invasion day. These Marines, possibly from the 3rd Regiment, were given the task of rushing inland to capture cliffs and high ground, and prepare for further action to the east and southeast.*

*At left, a Marine takes cover upon hitting the beach; in foreground are what appears to be the legs of a comrade, perhaps wounded. Note the proximity to the shoreline of the destroyer in background.*



*Above, in Asan, Chorito Cliff and the beach below are engulfed in smoke from artillery, bombs, mortars; Marines rushing ashore at Red Beach 1, about center of photo, are met with intense fire from the hills and the cliff above. Atright, in Agat, Marine Captains Paul O'Neal and Milton Thompson plant the Stars and Stripes just eight minutes after U.S. forces land and attack the beachhead.*

effectively. Most of the casualties were at the bottom of the slope. They had been hit as they left cover." . . . Sgt. Cyril O'Brien, 3rd Marine Division~~

After intense fighting, the guns on Chorito Cliff were finally silenced by a destroyer and American tanks. And by the night of the first day in Asan, the beach was secured.

~~"Casualties here in one day exceeded the entire division casualties at Bougainville." . . .The 3rd Marine Division~~

During the first night at Asan, the Marines encountered only light shelling and occasional patrols by the Japanese.

## 22 July 1942

*Trying to push southward to extend its battlelines closer to Australia, Japan begins its Papua campaign with the objective of capturing Port Moresby. Soldiers attempt overland route through extremely dense jungle and rough terrain.*







*Marines jump off an amphibious tractor and take cover after landing at the beachhead.*

#### FIRST NIGHT IN AGAT

The goals of capturing Agat village, Gaan Point, and Bangi Point, and moving inland from 1,300 to 2,300 yards had been achieved in spite of Japanese resistance.

~~“The enemy had his defenses ashore, consisting of numerous pillboxes built in coral outcroppings, well organized. Concrete blockhouses, located on Gaan Point, held a 75mm and a 37mm gun which enfiladed the beaches . . . The emplacements did not show through the scattered clouds on aerial photographs available prior to the landing. The block houses formed large sand covered mounds, and many palm trees made detection difficult.” Maj. O.R. Lodge, Recapture of Guam~~

~~“They were waiting for us . . . “and there’s blood immediately with that kind of artillery. The half-inch armored plate sheathing our amphibious tractors was not much protection.” “Only the first wave was allowed to fire,” . . . “After that there was too much danger of hitting your own men.”

“On Yellow Beach 2 we lost 75 men in an area the size of a football field, most of them in the first 10 minutes, . . . And for every dead man, there are always two to three wounded. Our company had the most casualties of any in our battalion. . . .” “We were at point blank range, no place to go except straight ahead.” . . . Raymond G. Schroeder, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade~~

That night the Japanese attempted counterattacks in Agat. Led, by tanks, the Japanese mounted serious attacks from the north, east and south. These attacks were ultimately repulsed.

~~“We had quite an eventful night, completely separated from

all other friendly forces by several hundred yards of rice paddy. Our instructions were to dig in and hold Hill #40, and this we did in spite of the night long ‘banzai’s’. Credit for our success goes to our company commander then First Lt. Stormy Sexton (one of the Marine Corps legendary heroes) and to our veteran NCOs. It was quite a night!” . . . Charles H. Meacham, 4th Marines~~

~~“The executive officer of Battery A, Pack Howitzer Battalion, 4th Marines described that night: “At 2330, I challenged two figures edging along the side of the crater, but they turned out to be communicators checking a wire line. . . .30 minutes later, I saw four figures creeping along the same line, but when I challenged them, they hit the ground and rolled away from the hole, muttering in Japanese.

The “Gunny” in the hole with me threw a grenade, killing one and the other three were picked off by the gun sections. After this, reports of crawling figures starting coming in from gun sections and outposts all around the battery. Simultaneously with these reports, fire missions started pouring in. By about 0130, we were up to our necks in fire missions and infiltrating Japanese. Every so often, I had to call a section out for a short time so it could take care of the intruders with carbines and then I would send it back into action again. Somehow, one Japanese nambu machine gunner managed to get between our guns and the front lines and all night harassed us with fire.” . . . Maj. O.R. Lodge, Recapture of Guam~~

On 22 July, the Agat invasion force expanded its beachhead including the securing of the summit of Mount Alifan.

The night of the 22nd brought only isolated contacts with Japanese patrols. The following day, the 22nd Marines moved north to cut the neck of Orote Peninsula and encountered Japanese

## 7 August 1942

*In first U.S. amphibious operation of war, the 1st Marine Division lands at Guadalcanal, the largest island of the Solomons. Unveiled is the tactical blueprint for taking the war through the Pacific to Japan: a landing force attacks as aircraft and naval gunfire, in close support, strike at enemy ground forces. The Japanese, after months of bitter fighting, withdraw from Guadalcanal in February 1943.*



*At top, members of A Company 22nd Marines take a break on the slope of a knoll about 1,000 yards north of Agat in this photo taken on July 23, 1944.*

*At right, soldiers of the Army's 77th Infantry Division take cover as they use a cannon to blast away at a Japanese pillbox in the drive to take Orote Peninsula.*





strongpoints that could not be taken.

However, the next day, a coordinated attack resulted in the neck of Orote Peninsula being secured and the Japanese there isolated. By this time, more units of the Army's 77th Infantry Division had been brought ashore and placed into the line on the south and east of the beachhead. Both the 4th and 22nd Marines consolidated into a line at the neck of Orote Peninsula.

#### BUNDSCHU RIDGE A STRUGGLE

In Asan from July 22 to 24, the 3rd Marines struggled to gain Bundschu Ridge on the east.

~~"This ridge was named on board ship for Capt. Geary R. Bundschu, Company A commander, whose unit was assigned the mission of taking this terrain feature. Ironically, it was the fighting on this ridge that took his life." . . . Maj. O.R. Lodge, Recapture of Guam~~

The Marines were pinned in a gully. Japanese mortar and machine gun fire hit the Marines as they attempted to gain a foothold of the ridge. After bitter and intense fighting, the Marines suffered 615 casualties before Bundschu Ridge was taken.

In the center the 21st Marines had achieved, also after rough fighting, the first ridgeline inland. On the west, the 9th Marines had moved southwest along the coast and taken Piti and Cabras Island by a minor amphibious assault.

#### OROTE PENINSULA CAPTURED

At the Agat beachhead, patrols from the 9th Marines moving south from Piti briefly contacted the 22nd Marines near Atantano. The 4th Marines in the west and the 22nd Marines on the east attacked Orote Peninsula on 26 July after fighting off determined Japanese soldiers the night before.

~~"Thousands of saki-crazed Japanese dashed from the mangroves in front of 3rd Battalion, 22nd Marines. Brandishing baseball bats, sticks, broken bottles, and pitchforks, along with the normal complement of infantry weapons, the Japanese soldiers surged forward frantically, bent on an honorable death. The Marine commanders called in blocking fire to stop the advancing swarm. The area was saturated by 37mm guns, 81 mm mortars, machine guns, rifles, and grenades. Between midnight and two in the



**Marines take cover behind fallen coconut trees until the Japanese snipers in the area could be located and picked off.**

morning, 26,000 shells blanketed the mangrove swamp area." . . . Maj. O.R. Lodge, Recapture of Guam~~

~~"He was an extra-small Japanese soldier. His uniform hung limp like a scarecrow's trappings. A marine on Orote Peninsula asked him why he surrendered. "My commanding officer told us to fight to the last man," the prisoner answered. "Well?" queried the marine. A look of wounded innocence spread over the Jap's face as he declared, "I was the last man!" . . . MTSgt Murray Marder, Semper Fidelis~~

The 22nd Marines were then delayed in a mangrove swamp. However, by the 28th of July the 22nd Marines had reached the old Marine Barracks at Sumay. Joined by tanks of the Army's 706th Tank Battalion, the Marines finally secured all of Orote Peninsula by the end of 29 July.

In a ceremony, at the old Marine Barracks, for the first time in two and one-half years the American flag was officially raised

in Guam. Gen. Shepherd's words followed a "color guard" salute: "On this hallowed ground, you officers and men of the First Marine Brigade have avenged the loss of our comrades who were overcome by a numerically superior enemy three days after Pearl Harbor. Under our flag this island again stands ready to fulfill its destiny as an American fortress in the Pacific."

#### BATTLE FOR FONTE PLATEAU

On 24 July, the Marines still faced the Japanese in the hills above Asan. While the 9th Marines had advanced rapidly beyond Piti, the 21st Marines in the center had not reached Mount Tenjo Road although the 3rd Marines to the east had seized a section of the road.

However, the Japanese had planned and executed a massive counterattack during the night of 25-26 July. On the west, seven attacks were launched by the 10th Independent Mixed Regiment against the

## 12-13 November 1942

*Naval forces collide in the sea battle of Guadalcanal. The Japanese battleships Hiei and Kirishima are sunk. The sinkings follow those of the Japanese carrier Ryujo on 24 August, and the American carriers Wasp on 15 September, and the Hornet on 27 October. Though losing ships, the U.S. accomplishes a strategic victory as the battle demonstrates the Japanese inability to resupply or reinforce troops at Guadalcanal.*



# Japanese soldiers: Death before dishonor

By PAUL J. BORJA

The Japanese defender of Guam on July 21, 1944, was certainly fighting not only the enemy U.S. forces but also tremendous odds.

The Japanese defenders of Guam, numbering perhaps 17-18,000, would be engaging in battle more than 50,000 Marines and Army infantry. There would also be no relief from the strikes and strafing of U.S. warplanes; likewise, there would be no respite for the soldier from Japan from the shattering support of the guns aboard the U.S. ships cruising so close to shore. And there would be no resupply of his rapidly-dwindling resources.

Strategy, though of course vital, was not complex for the Japanese defending force. To perhaps oversimplify, the strategy on July 21, 1944 was this: defend on the shores the weakest points of the lines of defense, destroy the enemy on those beachheads, and deny him progress from beyond that battle line.

The trouble for the Japanese defender was that the American attacker would be ready to thrust himself onto those same beaches with massive effort to establish a beach head for continued attack.

"It seems evident that both we and the Japanese have been thinking along the same lines, that is, the beaches that we find best for landings are those the Japs find most dangerous to them and have fortified the most," wrote the intelligence staff of Marine Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger in making their conclusion of strategy prior to the invasion day.

U.S. planners and strategists also would be handed a tactical advantage by their foes. Although the physical geography of the Gilberts and the Marshalls — thin but long atolls — are quite different than the geography of Guam and Saipan -high islands, that is with mountains, hills, ravines — the Japanese doctrine of defense never changed. The Japanese standard greatly emphasized defending the beaches and consequently placed less significance on defenses beyond those areas.

American forces, with their superiority in the air and on the sea unchallenged, would capitalize on the Japanese failure to adapt their defenses to the terrain of Saipan or Guam.

So, the Japanese defender in July 1944 was stripped of support, without hope of relief, his strategy and alternatives fairly estimated by the enemy. But surrender even in the face of tremendous obstacles was not even a consideration. And the reason for that is stated in one word: *Bushido*.

The one characteristic of the World War II Japanese soldier that would never fail to amaze, confound, arouse fear in his foe was his dedication to the code of *Bushido*, the way of the warrior.

The code was Japanese chivalry in practice, with members of the Japanese army and navy its greatest followers, particularly officers. Emphasizing discipline, loyalty, courage and death before dishonor, the *Bushido* ethic of the samurai of feudal Japan

was entrenched in the mind and in the soul of the 20th century Japanese soldier. So many would give their lives in suicidal charges thought to be honorable, their lives given in sacrifice for the Emperor and Japan.

To Marines and soldiers who experienced a banzai charge, it was fearful. "Unbelievable. Just unbelievable. It was the most traumatic experience I ever had," said retired Marine Capt. Jack Eddy, a veteran of the battles of Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima. On the night of July 25, in Guam, Eddy and his platoon repulsed the charge of not one, not two, but seven banzai attempts.

Eddy had settled his platoon of the 3rd Marine Regiment, of the 3rd Marine Division, on the frontlines, near the present day Commander Naval Forces Marianas headquarters. Marines had fought their way all day from the ridges overlooking Asan to the top, near Fonte Plateau. As the Marines dug in, Japanese Lt. General Takashina was preparing a counter-attack in a gap that his patrols had detected between the 3rd Marines and 21st Marines. At 0300, the counterattack erupted; the Japanese were trying to roll down the gap and onto the beach to cut off Marines from supplies and reinforcements.

"I had expected to be in battle, but never anything like this. When you think about fighting, you think that you're 100 yards away, but this was pretty gruesome, fighting them from 20 feet away and they're running all around you and screaming.

"They were of a different culture. They did things that Marines wouldn't do - yelling, screaming. They didn't give a shit if they got killed, they just wanted to make sure that you got killed. That was what got to you - they wanted to die. They were willing to sacrifice themselves.

"It was a nightmare, truly a nightmare. I can still remember the flares, the eerie green light (of illumination) over the battlefield. And it was like the lights in ... in a disco, and all the people are jumping around, slow motion. It was completely eerie," said Eddy, who won a Silver Star for bravery during that night.

The next day, where Eddy's platoon and others were, Marines counted about 900 dead; through the gap and down to the beachhead 3,500 Japanese dead were found. "The numbers are no exaggeration," Eddy said. One of his machine gun section sergeants, Dale Whaley, received the Navy Cross for gallantry on that midsummer's night. "He was credited with 80 Japanese that night. I saw stacks of them in front of his machine gun."

Those soldiers, under their code, in the center of their mind and soul was tremendous loyalty to the Emperor, who was the symbol of Japan, and a reverence for authority.

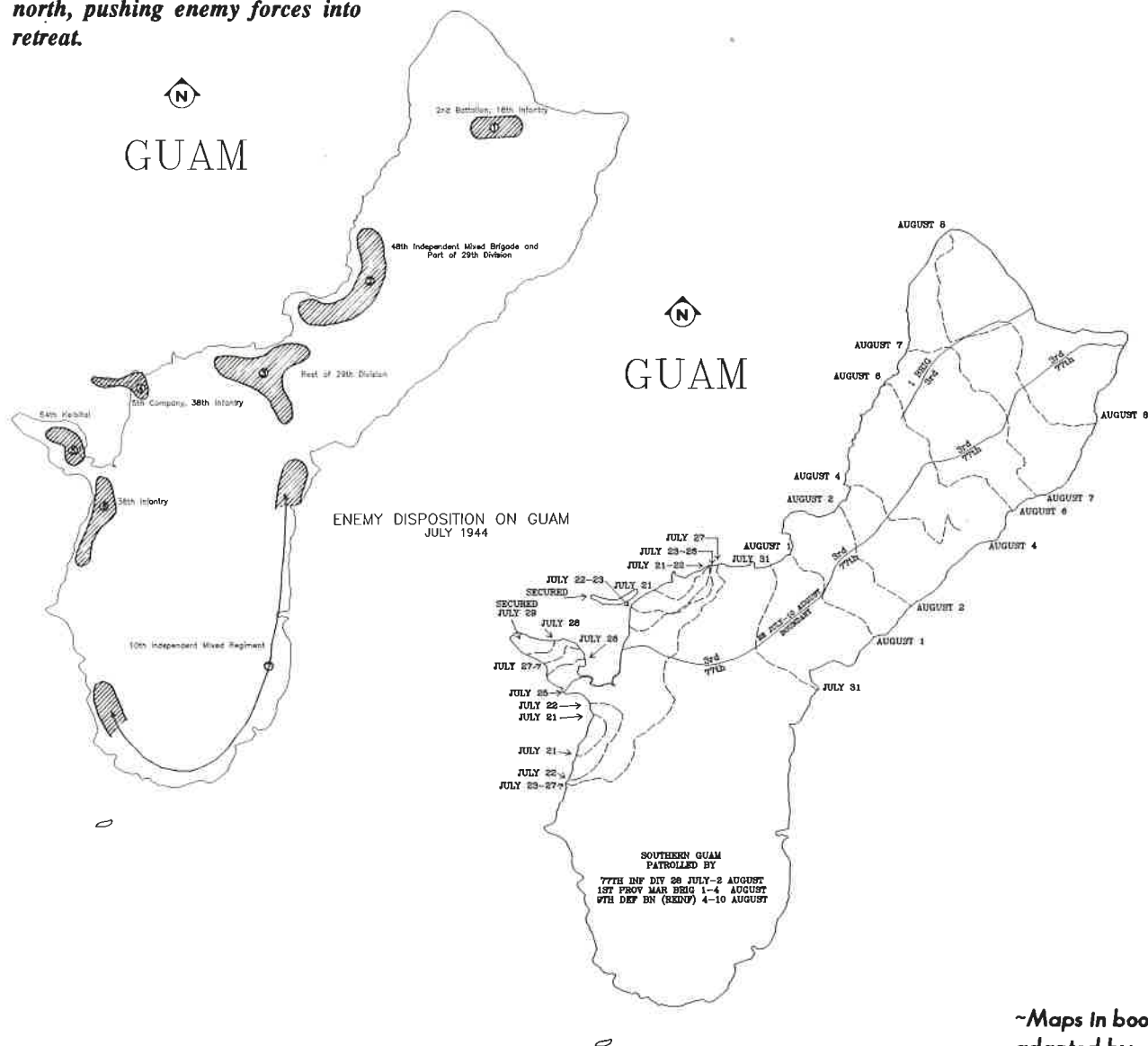
With *Bushido* at the heart of Japanese culture - in the home, in the schools, in the military, in general society - the Japanese soldier was a tremendous and fearsome opponent no matter the odds, the superiority of force brought up to face him, no matter the enemy to go before him.~

## 22 January 1943

At Buna and Gona in New Guinea, U.S. and Australian troops catch Japanese forces in retreat from a failed campaign to take Port Moresby. The Allied counter-attack ends the Japanese threat to Australia; the victory is the first decisive triumph on land for the Allies in the Pacific.

**Top map shows positions of Japanese defenses at time of Liberation.**

**Bottom map shows, by date, the advance of U.S. forces in thrusting off beachheads and then driving north, pushing enemy forces into retreat.**



~Maps in book adapted by Ray Caseres~

## 30 May 1943

U.S. forces land and retake Attu, in the far western Aleutian islands, from the Japanese, who occupied the island and nearby Kiska since 7 June 1942. (Kiska was taken 15 August 1943 without a battle because Japanese had evacuated secretly under the cover of fog more than two weeks earlier.



***In the middle of a banana patch badly mauled by shelling, bombs and gunfire, Marines dig in and establish their position.***

9th Marines resulting in 950 Japanese dead. In the center, the 18th Infantry Regiment attacked the 21st Marines and reached rear areas in hand-to-hand combat.

~~“The 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines were battered...The Japanese attacked with all they had, cause they knew unless they broke through, that the island, for all intents and purposes, would be lost, unless they could get down to our beach...and disrupt our supplies, our communications, possibly wreck our artillery, that they were done for...They got into our Division hospital, they got into our artillery...” . . . Lt. John J. “Jack” Eddy, 9th Marine Regiment~~

In the book *Liberation - 1944* by Don Farrell, a Japanese survivor recalled that night: “We had been thinking that the Japanese might win through a night counterattack ... but when the star shells came over one after the other we could only use our men as human bullets and there were many useless casualties and no chance of success.”

On the east, the 48th Independent mixed Brigade hit the 3d Marines. By daylight the Japanese attack had been repulsed and any surviving Japanese were fleeing into the hills. The Japanese lost

3,500 during the night attacks. The 3rd Marine Division suffered 645 wounded, 166 killed and 34 missing.

~~“It was estimated that it was no longer possible to expel the American forces from the island after the results of the general counterattack on the night of 25 July were collected in the morning to about noon of the 26th. After this it was decided that the sole purpose of combat would be to inflict losses on the American forces in the interior of the island.” . . . Lt. Col. Takeda, Operations Officer Japanese 29th Division.~~

Though defeated in the counterattack, the Japanese still held the high ridge of Fonte, and it took three additional days for the 3d and 9th Marines to clear out the Japanese including a last group of Japanese in a depression on top of Fonte Plateau on 29 July.

Japanese General Takashina was killed by Marines as he attempted to evacuate his troops from Fonte on the 28th.

#### THE FINAL BEACHLINE

On the 28th, the 9th Marines moving south fought their way to the top of Mount Chachao.

~~“It had become increasingly evident that the principal Japa-

## 30 June 1943

*With the Navy securing control of the Bismarck Sea in March, MacArthur, landing in New Guinea, and Admiral William “Bull” Halsey, his forces coming ashore in the eastern Solomons, put into motion Operation Cartwheel. The operation, which establishes airfields from which to bomb the major Japanese base of Rabaul, takes months to accomplish but dooms the base.*



nese battle position now lay along the Fonte-Chachao-Tenjo Ridgeline..." Maj. O.R. Lodge, Recapture of Guam~~

~~"On Mt. Chachao, the Japanese had constructed a concrete emplacement in the center of the summit, with a series of foxholes and machine-gun positions nested in the surrounding cliffs to protect it. Circular gun pits at either end of the crest guarded the trail running across the ridge and leading down the slope. Mannned by a company of troops, the Mt. Chachao fortification was formidable." ... Maj. O.R. Lodge, Recapture of Guam~~

With artillery fire, American tanks, and hand grenades, the crest was taken. The 9th Marines made contact with the soldiers of the 77th Division on top of Mount Tenjo. After eight days of fighting, the two beachheads were firmly linked up.

The positions on the Mount Tenjo ridge were then held until the 31st of July while Orote Peninsula was secured and the American line was organized to swing east across the island. Concurrently, reconnaissance patrols were made of southern Guam by the 77th Infantry Division from 28 July to 2 August.

~~"Five patrols of about five men each, with native guides, would penetrate six miles each way south and east of Alifan into unknown territory." ... Guam Operations of the 77th Division~~

These patrols determined that there was no organized Japanese resistance in the south and that the Japanese had withdrawn to the north.

~~"Approaching Ylig the scouts met a small group of Chamorros, who greeted them joyfully and reported that many Japanese troops were to the north but that only small groups of 10 or 15 were still in the southern area." ... Guam Operations of the 77th Division~~

After the defeat at Fonte, Japanese General Takashina ordered a general retreat to established positions along a Dededo to Barrigada line. Upon the death of Takashina, General Obata assumed command of the remaining Japanese forces and continued to follow the defensive plan of Takashina.

#### DRIVE TO THE NORTH

On July 30, General Geiger became aware of the Japanese withdrawal. He therefore issued plans to align American forces for the drive to the north. The 3rd Marine Division would drive up the western portion of the island while the 77th Infantry Division, under Maj. General Andrew D. Bruce, was designated to drive up eastern Guam. The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade was assigned to patrol southern Guam. Assisting in these efforts were the civilian scouts, the war dogs, and later the Guam Combat Patrol.

~~"The native guides who accompanied many of the Marine and Army patrols during the campaign proper and the mop-up period performed invaluable service in ferreting out Japanese troops and equipment." ...Maj. O.R. Lodge, Recapture of Guam~~

For the first time in the Pacific, "devil dogs" were used as patrol messengers, guards, and for scouting out Japanese soldiers who hid out in Guam's caves and dense jungles.

Provisional War Dog Company Commander, Lt. William Taylor told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, "No one can say how many lives they have saved. But we do know they have flushed a lot of snipers."

On 31 July, after two days of artillery fire preparation, the pivot move commenced with the 77th achieving Pago Bay by the end of the day after encountering only isolated and light enemy resistance.

#### CAMPS LIBERATED

During the same day, at Asinan, along the Pago River, the 307th Infantry liberated the concentration camp of 2,000 Chamorros and the next day the Americans liberated the larger concentration camp at Manengon.

~~"I was just climbing up a coconut tree when I hear this psst, psst. . . then I looked over the brush there was this big fellow, a white person, in camouflage uniform. . . He waved at me. So I just started walking over to him. . . Then I found that there was a whole bunch of them right behind him. I just couldn't appreciate anything more than that. . ."

"I thought it was really God-given, because our people are really suffering at that point and were running out of food and just about harvested everything that's edible in the jungle. . ." Rafael J.M. Reyes~~

~~"The first contact we had with the civilians came soon after we widened our perimeter to include the outskirts of the battered city of Agana.

"One day a radio message came back from one of our outposts: Twenty women, several babies, one cow, and a sewing machine coming through our lines." . . . "More groups followed - old, gnarled men with sticks; crones with wispy white hair, lace dresses, and no shoes; young girls in mud-stained rags, carrying naked babies; little boys and girls holding onto each other's hands fearfully. . . "One woman had a tiny American flag that she had made on her sewing machine in a cave; it had seven red and white stripes and a field of blue, and was fashioned from a dress." . . . Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., 3rd Marine Division~~

~~"The ex-captives were beside themselves with joy. Not knowing whether to kiss their liberators, bow to them, or shake hands with them, they tried to do all three at once. Many carried tiny American flags which they had hidden from the Japanese. ...The weary infantrymen were immensely moved by the joy of the natives as they passed back through the lines. Soldiers who had been complaining because their rations were low gave away what few cigarette they had. . . While watching the tiny children who carried huge baskets, and the women who trudged along with half their household possessions on their backs, the soldiers realized the meaning of liberation for these enslaved people." . . . Guam Operations of the 77th Division~~

On 31 July, the Marines continued north. The 9th Marines, on the right, reached Ordot. The 21st Marines in the center took Sinajana. The 3d Marines, on the left, overran Agana which was not defended by the Japanese.

~~"So green in vegetation and so pretty a sight had Guam always been, now it was all burned. It had neither a tree, nor a coconut with leaves. All now was burned or destroyed by bullets and bombs. . . From our cave in Toguag which looked towards Agana, we saw the destruction of the town where we had our property." Don Pascual Artero~~

The next day, Aug. 1, the Marines continued to advance to the

## 1 November 1943

*Still trying to isolate Rabaul, U.S. forces under Halsey invade Bougainville; among the units involved is the 3rd Marine Division, destined to invade Guam. Securing Bougainville takes until April 1944 but the operation sustains U.S. superiority in the region.*



*Above, Marines file from the front lines after successfully taking Mount Taene, in the background, an objective after the beachhead in Agat was secured.*

*At right, an Agat house became a surgical ward, courtesy of the personnel of the Army's 95th Portable Surgical Hospital, attached to the 302nd Medical Battalion.*



*Below, Marines and their "devil dogs" go toward the front during the siege on Orote Peninsula. In Guam, the dogs saved many a Marine's life by sniffing out enemy soldiers hiding in the island's caves or dense jungles. The War Dog Memorial on Naval Station honors the 25 "devil dogs" who gave their lives in the line of duty in the recapture of Guam.*



edge of the airfield at Tiyan with the 21st Marines reverting into reserve status.

The Army, to the east advanced north of Pago Bay and took the eastern end of the Agana-Pago Bay Road. Then General Geiger ordered a pursuit as quickly as possible to prevent the Japanese from digging in.

The Army's advance on the east side of Guam had the 307th Infantry on the left and the 305th Infantry on the right.

A soldier recalls the drive to the east:

~~ "The distance across the island is not far, as the crow flies, but unluckily we can't fly. The nearest I came to flying was while descending the slippery side of a mountain in a sitting position. . . After advancing a few yards you find that the handle of the machine gun on your shoulder, your pack and shovel, canteens, knife, and machete all stick out at right angles and are as tenacious in their grip on the surrounding underbush as a dozen grappling hooks. Straining, sweating, and swearing avails you nothing. . . The flies and mosquitoes have discovered your route of march and have called up all the reinforcements including the underfed and undernourished who regard us as nothing but walking blood banks. We continue to push on." . . . Guam Operations of the 77th Division~~

Advancing toward Barrigada, the 307th Infantry and the 706th Tank Battalion encountered Japanese resistance along with tanks around the water well on 2 August. That night the Japanese withdrew from Barrigada which was taken the next morning by the 307th.

After an artillery barrage, the 307th took Mount Barrigada on 3 August. On the extreme east, the 305th blazed trails through the jungle while advancing north on top of the northern plateau of Guam. That night, small groups of Japanese harassed the Army's front lines.

To the west, the 9th Marines captured Tiyan Airfield on the morning of Aug. 2. The next day, Aug. 3, the 9th encountered and captured a major Japanese strongpoint at Finegayan; that night, the Japanese counterattacked but were repulsed.

On 4 August, the 21st Marines took over the center of the Marines' line. On the evening of the 4th, the 9th Marines reached a Japanese roadblock along the Finegayan-Barrigada Road while the 3d Marines had reached Naton Beach on Tumon Bay.

On the 4th, the 307th advanced along the road to Finegayan to regain contact with the Marines to the north. Three road blocks were attacked with two taken from the Japanese. However, the third was held by the 9th Marines. In a case of mistaken identity, a firefight erupted and seven Marines were wounded but the two forces were linked up again.

On the east, the 305th battled the jungle more than the enemy as several units became confused and lost. Nevertheless, by the end of 4 August, the Army advanced north to Pagat.

On the 5th, the 306th Infantry replaced the 305th on the Army's left while the 305th Infantry continued its floundering advance through the heavy jungle on the right.

On the night of 5 August, a few Japanese tanks attacked a portion of the 305th line and then escaped. The next day, while advancing, the 305th encountered severe firing from two Japanese tanks, but finally took the area with mortar support. On the left on

the 5th, the 306th advanced from the east side of Mount Barrigada and encountered Japanese opposition when the Yigo Road was reached. Again advancing on the 6th, a concealed Japanese tank was found during the advance toward Yigo. By the end of the day, the 305th retook a position in the advancing line, this time in the center.

On Guam's western coast, during 5-6 August, the 3d and 21st Marines advanced north with little opposition reaching as far north as Ague on the western coastline. However, the 9th Marines fought to clear over 700 defending Japanese at Finegayan on the 5th with renewed scattered resistance on the 6th.

~~ "The elimination of 737 Japanese around the Finegayan positions broke the outer ring of Mt. Santa Rosa defense. . . The action also cleared the key road. . . This would now permit the movement of equipment and supplies to all corps units with less difficulty. The four days of close, almost hand-to-hand combat, however, had resulted in 18 Marines being killed and 141 wounded." . . . Maj. O.R. Lodge, Recapture of Guam~~

After attacks by P-47s and B-26s flying from Saipan and bombardment by offshore warships, the 305th and 307th Infantry attacked Mount Santa Rosa on the 7th and took the mountain on the 8th.

One Japanese officer later wrote:

~~ "The enemy airforce seeking our units during the daylight hours in the forest, bombed and strafed even a single soldier. During the night, the enemy naval units attempting to cut our communications were shelling our position from all points of the perimeter of the island, thus impeding our operation activities to a great extent." . . . Japanese Defense of Guam~~

The 706th Tank Battalion, driving north along the Yigo road encountered Japanese resistance on the 7th which was cleared the same day. The Japanese counterattacked the 306th Infantry the night of the 7th, but was repulsed. By night of the 8th, the Army was north of Yigo at Salisbury and Anao.

On the left, the Marines advanced now with the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade now on the left. On the 7th, the Third Marines overcame a roadblock of anti-tank guns and another on the 8th.

~~ "The capstone to the good news of 7 August was furnished by planes of MAG-21. During the day VMF-225 began flying routine combat air patrols from Orote, relieving Navy planes of this responsibility. . . With its own air defense garrison in operation, Guam was a long step forward in its development as a major Allied base for further moves against Japan." . . . Central Pacific Drive, History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II~~

GUAM SECURED: 10 AUGUST 1944

Moving quickly up the west coast, by mid-afternoon on the 8th, the 22d Marines reached Ritidian Point including sending a patrol down the cliff to the beach. That night, the 3d Marines encountered five enemy tanks. Then on 9 August, the 9th Marines reached Pati Point. On 10 August, General Geiger announced that organized resistance on Guam had ended.

~~ "Japan's grip on the Marianas was broken and the end of the war was now just slightly over a year away." ... War in the Pacific Park Brochure~~

## 20 November 1943

*Nimitz begins "island-hopping" in the central Pacific through Micronesia. The 2nd Marine Division invades heavily fortified Tarawa, and the Army's 27th Infantry Division lands on Makin (both part of Kiribati, formerly the Gilbert Islands). The battles in this eastern-most part of the Micronesian region are costly: while only 60 men were killed at tiny Makin, 1,056 die in 76 hours of fierce fighting at Tarawa. Future invasions, in the Marshalls and Marianas feature better intelligence, better ship- to- shore transfer of troops, equipment, and supplies.*



## THE LAST STAND

However, General Obata's command post in Mataguac, Yigo was not destroyed until the 11th by the 306th Infantry. Obata's final message to Japan: "I have accepted the important post of the army commander and although I exerted all-out effort, the fortune of war has not been with me. The fighting has not been in our favor since the loss of Saipan. We are continuing a desperate battle on Guam."

"Officers and men have been lost, weapons have been destroyed, and ammunition has been expended. We have only our bare hands to fight with. The holding of Guam has become hopeless. I will engage the enemy in the last battle with the remaining strength at Mount Mataguac tomorrow, the 11th. My only fear is that report of death with honor (annihilation) at Guam might shock the Japanese people at home. Our souls will defend the island to the very end; we pray for the security of the Empire."

"I am overwhelmed with sorrow for the families of the many fallen officers and men."

The search for the remaining Japanese soldiers would continue for over a year. Numerous stragglers would survive in Guam's jungles only to slowly starve and or be killed.

~~"It was our experience that the Japanese, remaining Japanese troops, the stragglers, were very strongly motivated not to surrender. I had an experience where, during one of these patrols, I was given a Japanese officer to help us and he had a speaker with him and his function was to speak out at the edge of the jungle for these people to come out. . . they were not all willing to do that." . . . "I thought they were very motivated, highly motivated. . . in keeping honor to their country as soldiers of Japan." . . . Lt. Pete Siquenza, 3rd Marine Division~~

In the Liberation, U.S. forces suffered over 7,000 casualties. More than 17,500 Japanese defenders died. In the 1970s, the Chamorro War Reparations Commission listed over 700 Chamorro people who died as a result of World War II.

~~"Perhaps, the blackest days of Guam's long and chaotic history were those endless months between spring and summer of 1944 when the population suffered the extreme miseries of occupation while awaiting the return of their American protectors. . . Many stories of heroism and brutality have come out of the Japanese occupation of Guam, . . . The Guamanian people suffered every possible kind of humiliation and many of them the most unspeakable and degrading death at the hands of the enemy." . . . Charles Beardsley, *Guam Past and Present*~~

After the Liberation, Guam was forever changed.



*Marines manning a 37 mm gun watch as tanks roll past in the final offensive drive against Japanese organized resistance.*

The Island Command's Civil Affairs Section took to the task of caring for over 18,000 homeless Chamorros. Refugee camps were set up in Anigua, Agat and Yona. Some people were allowed to return to their villages, as patrols declared the areas secure. However, some would never return to their original villages.

As the military build-up continued, lands were taken for "airfields, combat firing ranges, training areas, camp sites, and supply depots." Navy Seabees and Army engineers bulldozed the destroyed Agana, and constructed new roads and water pipelines. Orote, Agana, Harmon, North and Northwest airfields were built.

Over 200,000 military personnel were sent to Guam. Virtually, in a few short months, Apra Harbor Naval Operating Base was built and Guam became a major forward command base. Supplies, equipment, and ammunition were stored in immense facilities. Guam became known as the "Pacific Supermarket," one of the largest military supply points in history. All to further the end of the war with Japan. By 1945, Admiral Chester W.

Nimitz was directing the war from Nimitz Hill. From the Mariana Islands, specifically Guam, Saipan, and Tinian, B-29s flew bombing runs to Japan.

"To the average American participant in the Marianas campaign, the war was on a minute-to-minute basis. Big picture strategy had no place in his personal struggle to survive, and even today his picture of the operation is a compound of individual memories that probably missed this history and many others. Yet no matter how small a part an individual took in capturing these islands, he is justified in feeling he helped shorten the war. For it was from the Marianas that ships, planes, and men struck out to bring defeat to Japan." . . . Maj. O.R. Lodge, *Recapture of Guam*~~

In August 1945, the "Enola Gay" took off from Tinian. On board the bomber was the world's first Atomic Bomb, destined for Japan, for Hiroshima. A few days later another atomic bomb, dropped from the bomber Bock's Car, would hit Nagasaki.

In Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945, on board the battleship, the USS Missouri, surrender documents were signed. The two military leaders who oversaw the two-pronged Allied offensive in the Pacific led the officials accepting Japan's surrender. Representing the Allied powers as Supreme Commander was General Douglas MacArthur and representing the United States was Admiral Nimitz.

After 1,364 days, the War in the Pacific ended.

## 26 December 1943

*Forces under MacArthur achieve landings at New Britain in the Bismarck archipelago. From there, MacArthur begins to secure the western Solomons, New Guinea, and eventually the Philippines. With the operations of MacArthur and Halsey complementing each other in the southwest Pacific, the Allies mount another offensive to nearly parallel Nimitz's path through the central Pacific toward Japan.*



*On July 21, 1944, a Japanese mortar tallies a direct hit on a Marine amphibious tractor nearing the beach. Survivors of other blasted amtracks are swimming toward shore. Despite heavy pre-invasion shelling, defenders' fire was intense.*

## ***In Asan, banzai and bravery***

By PAUL J. BORJA

In Asan on July 21, 1944 and the days afterward, there was plenty of courage and a bit of confusion, all of which added to the American victory in Guam and the defeat of the Japanese.

But the victory was not easy, the defeat not conceded - everything at stake cost the lives of many, many men.

On that day, onto those beaches in Asan came waves - not the stuff of surfers' dreams but waves and waves of men and steel. Facing enemy fire of all types, coming ashore were the men of the Marine Corps' 3rd Marine Division.

On the shore waiting for the inevitable invasion were Japanese forces defending the island which they themselves had invaded and captured on Dec. 10, 1941.

It was, as the saying goes, the irresistible force meeting the

immovable object.

Jack Eddy was there that day, and so was Frank Chuisano, both of them now Guam residents and both then a part of that irresistible force on July 21, 1944.

Eddy, then a 23-year-old Marine lieutenant in the 9th Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division, recalled his platoon members expressing their nervousness in different ways as they approached the Asan fringing reef aboard their chugging Higgins boat. "Some guys were on the bottom of the boat on their hands and knees throwing up; and then there are other guys cracking jokes," said the St. Louis native.

The Higgins boats would travel to about 1,000 yards from the beach, which was out of range of all but the biggest of guns. At that point, the men would climb down into the amphibious tractors, the vehicles that would take the men ashore.

# 1 February 1944

*The drive by U.S. forces through Micronesia and the central Pacific continues. In the Marshall Islands, the 4th Marine Division and the Army's 7th Infantry Division attack Japanese forces on Kwajalein and on Roi Namur. Also invaded and captured is Majuro, the atoll which is the present-day capital of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The costly lessons of Tarawa pay off: only 334 men are killed in the landings.*

The action - in front of them, near them, all around them - was furious, Eddy said. "There were tractors being hit, being swamped. We had some near misses with some big stuff ... there were explosions in the water around us, but we made it to shore without being hit," he said about the harrowing trip from the reef to shore.

His platoon of 50 men was to take its initial position on Green Beach, but they ended up north of that, on Red Beach 2 where the 21st Marine Regiment was landing. Where that spot is today is east of where the Asan River meets the park area of the War in the Pacific National Historical Park.

A bottle-neck of Marines and equipment on Green Beach forced a change in plan. "There was real intense fire - we were in real harm's way. There were troops in front of us (on Green Beach), and we couldn't fire, so they slid us off to the left onto Red Beach where the 21st Marines were. We had to make our way back to the right spot, get back to the flank of the 9th Marines," he said.

Eddy and Chuisano could have bumped into each other in the initial confusion on shore - Chuisano also landed at Red Beach 2 but with the 21st. He was a Marine private on that day, all of 16 years old. "I lied about my age when I signed up," the New York City native said.

Chuisano said that the ride aboard his unit's Higgins boat seemed to be extraordinarily quiet. "I got up once to look, but someone yelled, 'Get your ass down. I didn't say that much. I guess we were scared - I know I was scared.'

"Boy I remember my mouth was dry - you know something? It's dry right now," Chuisano said in an interview.

He said that the atmosphere changed fearfully when his unit's amphibious tractor reached the interior section of the reef. There, "All hell broke loose. I remember telling a buddy, 'I'll see you when it's all over,'" Chuisano said about what he blurted out to fellow Marine Jimmy Barrett, also of New York City.

Explosions around them, machine gun fire challenging them, the unit was landed, but in the wrong place, possibly because of the bottleneck on the beach.

Chuisano's unit took cover, digging in, but then ... a great explosion, or a series of blasts right after the other - he couldn't distinguish whether it was artillery or mortars that hit their position. "Maybe it was mortars, but so many people ... it caught everybody at once."

Without being asked, Chuisano began an informal roll call of the men who were wounded and died from that blast "Jimmy (Barrett); Ed Kenzell from North Dakota - God, he was a big son-of-a-bitch, but he was a terrific man -; Tom Muir; Jimmy Carroll, he's from Brooklyn, ya know," said Chuisano, his voice retaining a bit of a Nuh Yawker accent.

"Ya know, Jimmy Barrett, he had both legs shot, and the chaplain came around, and he told the Father, 'I'm OK, Father. Take care of the other boys first,'" said Chuisano.

Eddy also remembered the deaths on that first day of many Marines, many of those officers, some of them his close friends. As he began to get wrapped up in the details of the landing and a little of some of the deaths he witnessed, he then hesitated, then stated he didn't want to talk about death. "You know, families, wives, brothers always want to know what happened. They'll visit soon and they'll want to know."

"Things happen...that's it...things happen, and there's nothing you can do about it. People should look at it and say, realize it's supposed to happen. It's war. People kill each other in war."

Though the 3d Marines Regiment would be strongly challenged by Japanese defenders on Chorito Cliff and Bundschu Ridge, both Eddy's and Chuisano's regiments would achieve their missions for that first invasion day.

The 9th, of which Eddy was a part, raced 1,500 yards inland, crossing the area's rice paddies, and took the high ground of Asan Point. The area of the rice paddies was the site planners had targeted to place Marine artillery batteries to support enlarging the beachhead.

The 21st, Chuisano's regiment was a part, would find fighting less difficult and rush forward and upward. Regimental units that first day would reach the clifftops where the Top O' The Mar restaurant is today.

As Chuisano was digging in atop the beachhead, Eddy and his platoon were called upon to help the efforts off of Red Beach 1, the landing beach on the east end of Asan, toward Adelup Point. "On the left flank, the 3rd Marines is just having a terrible time," Eddy said. Eddy's platoon was being sent into a situation becoming more and more desperate - the battle line along Chorito Cliff and the ridge that would be named after Capt. Geary Bundschu. "You know, the Marines are always doing things like that, moving units. So ... we are detached from F Company of the 2nd Battalion of the 9th Marines - we take the place of A Company of the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, - we take the place of the unit of Capt. Bundschu," Eddy said.

While the entire 3d Marines met stifling opposition on and near Red Beach 1, Bundschu and the rest of Company A were particularly mauled by the enemy. Caught in the ridge by machine gun fire from above, the unit could not move forward or backward.

Bundschu would lose his life on the ridge, becoming one of the 3d's 615 men killed, missing, or wounded in the first two days of fighting. As a unit, A Company was barely hanging on.

Eddy's unit was sent to help secure the area off and above Red Beach 1. "There were no reserves - the reserves were the Army but they were down in Agat with the 1st Brigade. They hadn't been in combat before, and they felt that they couldn't send them to Bundschu. For us, this was our second campaign and we had a bit more experience for the situation," said Eddy, whose unit had fought in Bougainville.

Harassed by well-placed and hidden machine guns atop the cliff and above on the ridge, the 3d managed to scale the cliff about noon of July 21, reach beyond the ridge later, and onto Fonte Plateau by July 25. But its frontline by July 25 still did not solidly contact with that of the 21st; a gap also existed between the 21st and 9th.

Those facts would be discerned by Japanese patrols the night of July 25 and seized upon by Lt. General Takashina Takeshi.

Takashina, the commander of the Imperial Army's 29th Division and Southern Marianas Army Group, was the officer responsible for the defense of Guam. He followed the Japanese standard of battle on islands: repel landing forces from the beaches; failing that, counterattack at the opportune time.

On that day, the 25th, the Japanese commander had reluctantly given his approval for a counterattack by the defenders at Orote Peninsula. The defenders were annihilated in the attempt.

## 7 February - 7 March 1944

*U.S. campaign seizes the Admiralty islands north of Papua New Guinea. U.S. forces now greatly hinder Japanese supply lines from Rabaul in the south Pacific to Truk, Japan's major naval base in the central Pacific. The path is clear for the capture of the Marianas.*



The time for Takeshina and a counterattack in Asan had come. There were gaps - 800 yards between the 3d and 21st, 1,000 yards between the 21st and the 9th - between the U.S. regiments, and the commander wanted to exploit those to their fullest. As his patrols scouted the lines, Takashina moved up reserves from Tumon, Pago and Agana for the counter.

Takeshina's operation would capitalize upon the heavy rains that hindered the resupply of Marines above the beachheads and maximize one advantage inadvertently handed him by the Marines: Their lines not in contact, the Marines' predicament was heightened by a lack of manpower. Units already undermanned were now strung out along a defensive line, itself broken in three, across the top ridges of what is now called Nimitz Hill.

After three hours of probes by his patrols, about 3 a.m. on July 26, onto a battlefield of muck and mire, Takashina committed his troops in counterattack. At four different places along the line, three above Asan and one on the eastern ridge above Piti, Japanese soldiers thrust their attack.

It couldn't have come at a worse time for Eddy's unit. They had just fought all day, uphill the whole way, and were readying their positions at the top of Fonte Plateau. They were preparing to defend their newly-achieved position, but also taking advantage of the situation to rest. "There we were, pretty beaten up and exhausted," he said. "We were at the top of Fonte Plateau - just about where ComNavMar is now - by late afternoon ...and that night, well, that's when, as they say, the stuff hit the fan.

"...They came," Eddy said, struggling to find a description of the events. "... and ... they just blasted their way through."

Takeshina's counterattack was unlike the banzai charges experienced before by the Marines in the Pacific. This one was well-planned and coordinated; the objective defined - to thunder through the gaps, down the ravines (between ComNavMar and Top O' the Mar restaurant) and onto the beachheads. There, troops of the Rising Sun would be able to put the Americans into disarray by disrupting their communications as well as halt resupply of Marines above, thus isolating them.

Through the night, Takashina sent thousands of his soldiers into the gaps, hoping that his counterattack force would reach the beachheads. The force was comprised of seven battalions funneling into four columns through the 3rd Marine Division's frontline.

Eddy, who had fought in Bougainville and Iwo Jima and in other battles, said the night of July 25-26 in Guam was a living nightmare. He and his men repulsed not one, not two but seven banzai charges that night.

"It was the most traumatic experience I ever had, it will live in my memory forever," he said. Fighting was at close quarters. "I had expected to be in battle, but never anything like this. When you think about fighting, you think that you're 100 yards away, but this was



*After the July 25-26 counterattack, the Japanese lost 3,500 men, including 90 percent of the officers involved in the attack, and much of their weaponry.*

pretty gruesome, fighting them from 20 feet away and they're running all around you and screaming.

"They were of a different culture. They did things that Marines wouldn't do - yelling, screaming. They didn't give a shit if they got killed, they just wanted to make sure that you got killed. That was what got to you - they wanted to die. They were willing to sacrifice themselves," Eddy said.

"They were screaming at us. There was 'Marine, you die,' - they were screaming all that kind of BS, and we'd return it. I remember George Tuthill - he was one of my machine gun section leaders - and he had a loud voice, extremely loud. He'd be shooting, yelling, just things that you couldn't print.

"It's all silly, like little kids yelling at each other, but it's all desperation too."

Along the line but on the western end, toward the present-day restaurant, Chuisano and his comrades watched illumination flares launched several times that night by the Japanese. Dug in with the rest of H Company of the 2nd Battalion, he was next to Anthony Abbetamarco - the New York City men enlisted together; Abbetamarco also survived the war.

The men along the front line were told that the enemy was 2,000 yards ahead. "We were beat - we were all trying to get some rest. Then a flare went up again, and like all of a sudden, I saw them. They were there, in front of us.

"Thousands ... they were like ants. Oh man, they kicked the shit out of us. They just kept coming, coming.

"Tony kept saying, 'We're gonna get it, we're gonna die, we're gonna get it,' and all I could say was 'Keep shooting. Keep shooting!'"

## 17-18 February 1944

*Borne by carriers of the fleet of Admiral Marc Mitscher, Navy aircraft conduct a series of raids on Truk (now Chuuk of the Federated States of Micronesia), a major Japanese naval installation in the western Pacific. One raid was the first nighttime bombing mission by the Navy. Japanese losses from the raids are heavy: 275 aircraft, 10 ships and 31 merchant ships. Ship tonnage lost - 200,000 tons - was the highest in the war for a single action.*



*Trying to establish their beachhead, Marines dig in on the beach, a familiar scene in Asan and Agat on Liberation Day.*

Chuisano said the night was simply incredible, with enemy soldiers fighting, clawing, grabbing, anything to go forward. "They crawled, they climbed over their dead. They were all on top of each other, two, three high," Chuisano said.

He said Marines were shooting the Japanese wounded because all through the night they would rise from where they had fallen and continue their rush into the Marine line. "We were yelling at each other, 'Keep spraying, keep spraying. Kill them all,' because they would get up and start shooting us again."

The banzai charges and the battle lasted through the early morning and despite the carnage all along the front line, Japanese attackers were able to reach the beachheads. Enemy soldiers threatened the divisional command post as well as that of the 21st. They also managed to get so far behind the line to roar toward the division's hospital. There, doctors, who had already evacuated the seriously wounded to the beach, joined corpsmen and less seriously wounded Marines to repulse the attack.

The charges were so furious and the Japanese so penetrating into the west end of the sector that cooks, communication personnel, headquarters staff, engineers - many kinds of noncombat staff were all pressed into hand-to-hand fighting.

But the Japanese troops who were to reach far down the ravines and onto the beachheads were without leaders, and the counterattack would fail; later, it was discovered that the attack had cost the Japanese 95 percent of its officers for that sector.

Where Eddy's platoon and others were, Marines counted about 900 dead; through the gaps and down to the beachhead a total of 3,500 Japanese dead were found.

"The numbers are no exaggeration," Eddy said. One of his machine gun section sergeants, Dale Whaley, received the Navy Cross for gallantry on that midsummer's night. "He was credited with 80 Japanese that night. I saw stacks of them in front of his machine gun."

Eddy did not offer the information that he had been awarded the Silver Star for bravery on that night so long ago - he had to be asked. Eddy was hesitant in answering, finally saying, "I was just a platoon leader. I was doing what I was supposed to be doing - I kept my men together and we stayed in the battle."

"There were other platoon leaders who were casualties, and those men and other units, they were all split apart, and they gravitated and joined us."

"Our problem was that there weren't that many of us. They came in a big group and we were spread out. A group of 50 would hit a spot where there were only seven or eight people - you're convinced that they're going to run right over you," he said.

Nevertheless, the Marine line, though seriously challenged, held its ground. Aided by naval gun support, which prevented the Japanese from receiving reinforcements, the Marines retained their foothold on Asan.

The counterattack cost the Marines 166 of their comrades' lives and 645 wounded but the Corps had preserved its beachheads; from those the Marines could base their attack to recapture Guam. Though they did not know it then, the Marines had broken the main strength of Japanese resistance on Guam.

Japanese survivors of the counterattack were to flee north, undermanned and disorganized, poorly armed and lacking supplies, and without officers to lead them. Takeshina himself was killed on July 28 by Marines as he was leading the retreat of his forces from Fonte Plateau.

There are images of that night that Eddy clearly remembers, some which he would clearly love to forget - all of it adding up to a gruesome experience. "It was a nightmare, truly a nightmare. I can still remember the flares, the eerie green light (of illumination flares) over the battlefield. And it was like the lights in ... in a disco, and all the people are jumping around, in slow motion, in a battle. It was completely eerie."~

## 19 February 1944

*U.S. forces under Nimitz continue westward through Micronesia toward Japan. Another atoll is taken when Eniwetok is invaded and taken by the 2nd Marine Division. Over 250 men are killed, light when compared to Tarawa.*



# The lasting legacy of a liberator

By PAUL J. BORJA

Written about something that happened fifty years ago, the letter certainly looked as if it could have been written in 1944.

Modest in thought and style, the correspondence wasn't the glossy product of the latest laser, inkjet printer.

It was the end result of a man who sat over his typewriter, rolled through its bail an ordinary piece of paper, and then wrote of the extraordinary pain of fifty years ago, of the pain that still lives today.

It was about the pain he still suffered, enough for a man to write a stranger and tell him that he and his family continue to miss their brother, the brother who was mortally wounded on a beach in Guam on July 21, 1944.

William C. Jerdonek of Parma, Ohio, wrote the letter to John Blaz, administrator of the Veterans Office on Guam on the behalf of his brother, Paul P. Jerdonek. William wrote that he had heard that Guam Governor Joseph F. Ada was inviting people who took part in the capture and liberation of Guam in 1944 to participate in 50th anniversary activities.

Without great emotion but filled with the feeling of a man who loves and misses his brother, William provided details about his brother:

"His name was Paul P. Jerdonek, a Private First Class in the Third Regiment, Third Division of the U.S. Marine Corps. He was the B.A.R. man in his squad and was mortally wounded on the first day (July 21, 1944) of the invasion of Guam. He was unable to be evacuated until the following day and suffered greatly until he was transferred to the "U.S.S. Solace" hospital ship, upon which he passed away from the wounds on July 27, 1944. He was buried on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands until after the war ended."

The letter continued on, matter-of-factly:

"Paul Jerdonek came from Cleveland, Ohio, one of a family of 15 children born to immigrant parents and raised through tough years of the depression, serving in the C.C.C. camp in Idaho in the late 30's. When the war started he worked in a defense plant in

Cleveland until he enlisted in the Marine Corps in Feb. 1943. While stationed in Virginia at an arsenal where the Marines had a Guard Duty detachment he volunteered for overseas duty and shortly after was shipped out in a Replacement Battalion and joined the Third Regiment in the Solomon Islands. The rest is history."

Onto his letter, William stapled a tiny, by today's standards, photo. Brown and faded, the image was from more than 50 years ago and merely a glimpse of his brother, Paul. In it, Paul, his strong-jawed face in a slight smile, has slung his rifle over his right shoulder. Wearing his dungarees which he has cut a few inches above the top of his boots, Paul has his left hand at his hip, his stance confident. He looks as any Marine would look posing for a snapshot to be sent to his family.

William also provided a copy of a July 28, 1944, letter sent by Chaplain Edward Monchton to comfort Mrs. Christine Jerdonek, he and Paul's mother. The Catholic chaplain wrote the mother noting that doctors had quickly attended to her 20-year-old son when he was transferred to the hospital ship Solace.

"Immediately our medical staff realized the seriousness of his condition. Forthwith they endeavored to check the ravages of the injury by supplying him with every aid that medical science could muster. Unfortunately they were unable to save him. He passed away peacefully at 7:30 a.m. July 27th, 1944," the chaplain wrote in his letter of comfort, probably one of the hundreds, maybe thousands he had to write during World War II, during that terrible time.

He wrote Mrs. Jerdonek that Paul had gone to confession before the day of battle and received holy communion. He noted to the mother that he had given the last rites to her son. "As he breathed his last he held the miraculous medal in his hand as it hung from the chain around his neck," Chaplain Monchton wrote in his letter.

In William's letter to the veterans office, he provided its purpose. "This letter is not intended for any other reason than to recognize one of the "liberators" of Guam. He was one of the 1290 who gave up their lives among a total of 7083 listed as casualties in that battle. They all deserve the unending gratitude of all the citizens of Guam and our country.

"All of the family had been saddened by the loss of our brother and son Paul and as the years have passed he surely has not been forgotten. His remains lie here at Calvary cemetery in Cleveland.

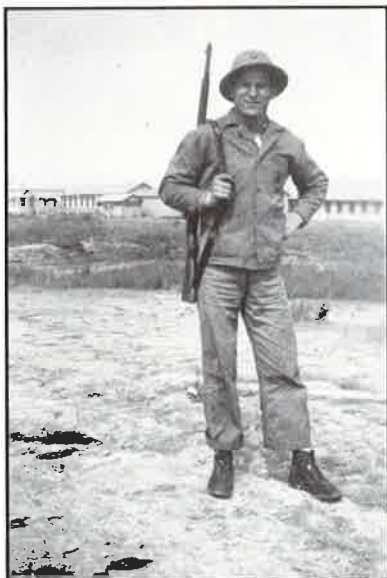
"Please remember the great sacrifices made by these valiant men.

Thank you.

William C. Jerdonek ..."

According to the staff in the Veterans Affairs Office, letters like William's about his brother Paul are received occasionally. They are written by people - brothers, sisters, cousins, friends - who possess a lingering sadness, a bit of grief that lives on despite the passage of years.

But they admit that William's letter somehow stands out, that William's letter is different, that William's letter is somehow



Paul P. Jerdonek

## 23 February 1944

*U.S. carriers carry on their program of destruction, this time their pilots unleashing their firepower in raids of the Marianas. U.S. Navy pilots down 168 aircraft and sink two freighters while losing only six aircraft.*





***On the Asan beachhead, Marines take cover behind fallen coconut trees and other debris, ready to go forward in assaulting Japanese defensive positions. Paul P. Jerdonek of the 3rd Marines was mortally wounded in Asan on July 21, 1944.***

special, possessing something that touches the heart.

It is all of that, and more, so much more.

Because without so much saying so, William has so simply written an extraordinary letter about love and the power of love - the enduring love of a family for one of their own, the love of a man for his country, the love for his country that would be so strong that a man would be willing to die for it. Simply said, it is a letter about how love cannot be extinguished, how these kinds of love cannot fade, cannot grow old over fifty years, not over any passage of time.

Yes, typewritten as it was, the letter appears that it could have been written fifty years ago.

But if this can be comfort to the Jerdonek family, the feeling that so fills William's letter - the love his family has for their brother, the love Paul had for his country - is as fresh today as it ever was, as fresh and sweet as it will always be.

William seems to query whether people consider his brother, who was mortally wounded on the first day of the battle to recapture Guam, a liberator of the island.

If this is any comfort to William and the rest of his family, Paul

is without question, without argument, a liberator of Guam.

But to be honest, recognition of Paul's sacrifice is not easily achieved by any ceremony, by any letter from any official. His sacrifice is honored in that democracy has sprouted, but not yet blossomed, in the island where he received his fateful wounds.

And perhaps his life and death are best honored through the men and women of Guam who have served and continue to serve in America's armed services.

In the fifty years since 1944, countless thousands of Guam's sons and daughters have faithfully served and now serve in the armed forces. Some have given the ultimate sacrifice, as Paul P. Jerdonek did, in serving their country.

These island sons and daughters have served in Korea, in Vietnam, in Grenada, in Panama, in Kuwait - wherever America and duty call.

It can be said that each one of them has been ready to pass on to others the torch of freedom given to them by men like Paul P. Jerdonek, Private First Class, United States Marine Corps Reserve, a liberator of Guam in July 1944.~

## 15 June 1944

*The 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions land on Saipan in the Marianas, beginning the first battle fought in Japan's inner defense line. U.S. forces find fighting extremely difficult against a Japanese enemy growing desperate. Americans complete capture of Saipan on July 9.*

# Medals of honor winners

## ... they gallantly gave their lives

**Pfc LEONARD MASON**

**UNITED STATES  
MARINE CORPS**

**2d Battalion, 3d Marines,  
3rd Marine Division**

**Place and Date:  
Asan-Adelup Beachhead,  
Guam, Mariana Islands  
22 July 1944**



"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as an automatic rifleman serving with the 2d Battalion, 3d Marines, 3d Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on the Asan-Adelup Beachhead, Guam, Marianas Islands on 22 July 1944. Suddenly taken under fire by 2 enemy machine guns not more than 15 yards away while clearing out hostile positions holding up the advance of his platoon through a narrow gully, Pfc. Mason, alone and entirely on his own initiative, climbed out of the gully and moved parallel to it toward the rear of the enemy position. Although fired upon immediately by hostile riflemen from a higher position and wounded repeatedly in the arm and shoulder, Pfc. Mason grimly pressed forward and had just reached his objective when hit again by a burst of enemy machine gun fire, causing a critical wound to which he later succumbed. With valiant disregard for his own peril, he persevered, clearing out the hostile position, killing 5 Japanese, wounding another and then rejoining his platoon to report the results of his action before consenting to be evacuated. His exceptionally heroic act in the face of almost certain death enabled his platoon to accomplish its mission and reflects the highest credit upon Pfc. Mason and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

**Pfc FRANK PETER WITEK**

**UNITED STATES  
MARINE CORPS RESERVE**

**1st Battalion, 9th Marines,  
3rd Marine Division**

**Place and Date:  
Battle of Finegayan,  
Guam, Mariana Islands  
3 August 1944**



"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division, during the Battle of Finegayan at Guam, Marianas, on 03 August 1944. When his rifle platoon was halted by heavy surprise fire from well-camouflaged enemy positions, Pfc. Witek daringly remained standing to fire a full magazine from his automatic at point-blank range into a depression housing Japanese troops, killing 8 of the enemy and enabling the greater part of his platoon to take cover. During his platoon's withdrawal for consolidation of lines, he remained to safeguard a severely wounded comrade, courageously returning the enemy's fire until the arrival of stretcher bearers, and then covering the evacuation by sustained fire as he moved backward toward his own lines. With his platoon again pinned down by a hostile machine gun, Pfc. Witek, on his own initiative, moved forward boldly to the reinforcing tanks and infantry, alternately throwing hand grenades and firing as he advanced to within 5 to 10 yards of the enemy position, and destroying the hostile machine gun emplacement and an additional 8 Japanese before he himself was struck down by an enemy rifleman. His valiant and inspiring action effectively reduced the enemy's firepower, thereby enabling his platoon to attain its objective, and reflects the highest credit upon Pfc. Witek and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

## 19-20 June 1944

West of the Mariana islands, the naval Battle of the Philippine Sea is joined when the U.S. fleet of Admiral Marc Mitscher intercepts the Japanese fleet of Vice Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa. Ozawa's force is rushing to catch the American invasion force on the beaches of Saipan. In what would be called "The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot", U.S. carrier pilots destroy more than 400 enemy planes, sink a carrier and other vessels. Mitscher's two subs join in the devastating defeat of the Japanese force by sinking two carriers. American losses were over 100 aircraft and slight damage to the battleship South Dakota.

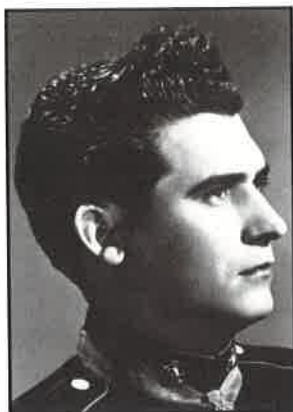
## ... above and beyond the call of duty

**Pfc LUTHER SKAGGS, JR.**

**UNITED STATES  
MARINE CORPS RESERVE**

**3d Battalion, 3d Marines,  
3rd Division**

**Place and Date:  
Asan -Adelup beachhead,  
Guam, Mariana Islands  
21-22 July 1944**



"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as squad leader with a mortar section of a rifle company in the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines, 3d Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on the Asan-Adelup beachhead, Guam, Marianas Islands, 21-22 July 1944. When the section leader became a casualty under a heavy mortar barrage shortly after landing, Pfc. Skaggs promptly assumed command and led the section through intense fire for a distance of 200 yards to a position from which to deliver effective coverage of the assault on a strategic cliff. Valiantly defending this vital position against strong enemy counterattacks during the night, Pfc. Skaggs was critically wounded when a Japanese grenade lodged in his foxhole and exploded, shattering the lower part of one leg. Quick to act, he applied an improvised tourniquet and, while propped up in his foxhole, gallantly returned the enemy's fire with his rifle and hand grenades for a period of 8 hours, later crawling unassisted to the rear to continue the fight until the Japanese had been annihilated. Uncomplaining and calm throughout this critical period, Pfc. Skaggs served as a heroic example of courage and fortitude to other wounded men and, by his courageous leadership and inspiring devotion to duty, upheld the high traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

**LOUIS HUGH WILSON, JR.**

**CAPTAIN, UNITED STATES  
MARINE CORPS**

**Commanding Rifle Company,  
2d Battalion, 9th Marines,  
3rd Marine Division**

**Place and Date:  
Fonte Hill,  
Guam, Mariana Islands  
25-26 July 1944**



"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of a rifle company attached to the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces at Fonte Hill, Guam, 25-26 July 1944. Ordered to take that portion of the hill within his zone of action, Capt. Wilson initiated his attack in mid afternoon, pushed up the rugged, open terrain against terrific machine gun and rifle fire for 300 yards and successfully captured the objective. Promptly assuming command of other disorganized units and motorized equipment in addition to his own company and 1 reinforcing platoon, he organized his night defenses in the face of continuous hostile fire and although wounded 3 times during this 5 hour period, completed his disposition of men and guns before retiring to the company command post for medical attention. Shortly thereafter, when the enemy launched the first of a series of savage counterattacks lasting all night, he voluntarily rejoined his besieged units and repeatedly exposed himself to the merciless hail of shrapnel and bullets, dashing 50 yards into the open on one occasion to rescue a wounded Marine lying helpless beyond the front lines. Fighting fiercely in hand-to-hand encounters, he led his men in furiously waged battle for approximately 10 hours, tenaciously holding his line and repelling the fanatically renewed counter thrusts until he succeeded in crushing the last efforts of the hard-pressed Japanese early the following morning. Then organizing a 17 man patrol, he immediately advanced upon a strategic slope essential to the security of his position and, boldly defying intense mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire which struck down 13 of his men, drove relentlessly forward with the remnants of his patrol to seize the vital ground. By his indomitable leadership, daring combat tactics, and valor in the face of overwhelming odds, Capt. Wilson succeeded in capturing and holding the strategic high ground in his regimental sector, thereby contributing essentially to the success of his regimental mission and to the annihilation of 350 Japanese troops. His inspiring conduct throughout the critical periods of this decisive action sustains and enhances the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."~

## 21 July 1944

*More than two and a half years after Pearl Harbor, the United States returns to Guam to liberate the island from Japan. Confronted by intense fire from Japanese defenders, the 3rd Marine Division lands at Asan, and to the south, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, followed by the Army's 77th Infantry Division, goes ashore on beaches in Agat.*



# Profiles of officers in command

Compiled by DAVE LOTZ

## **Admiral Chester W. Nimitz United States Navy**

Admiral Nimitz was Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet at the time of the Liberation of Guam. Born in 1885 in Fredericksburg, Texas, he graduated from the Naval Academy in 1905. He served on various ships in the Pacific and was once court-martialed for running the Decatur aground. Prior to his appointment as CinCPac, Nimitz was in charge of the Bureau of Navigation in Washington, D.C. On Dec. 31, 1941 he assumed command of the Pacific Fleet. He commanded the Fleet until the end of the war. At the end of the war, his headquarters was at Fonte Plateau, now called Nimitz Hill, in Guam. He later was promoted to Fleet Admiral and served as Chief of Naval Operations. He died in 1966 and is buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Francisco.

## **Admiral Raymond A. Spruance United States Navy**

Admiral Spruance was Commander, Fifth Fleet at the time of the Liberation of Guam. Thus, he commanded the U.S. Navy ships offshore of Guam and in the Battle of the Philippine Sea. Born in 1886 in Baltimore, he graduated from the Naval Academy in 1907. He served on several battle-ships with his first command being the destroyer Bainbridge. At war's beginning, he was in command of a cruiser squadron. Spruance was then in charge of the U.S. Navy forces at the Battle of Midway. Later he alternated the command of the fleet with Admiral Halsey. After the war, he became Commander of the Pacific Fleet, later ambassador to the Philippines and died in 1969.



*Members of the U.S. high command involved in the Liberation meet on Guam after the island was declared secure. From left to right, they are: Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, Commanding General of the 3rd Amphibious Corps; Admiral Raymond Spruance; Lt. Gen. Holland M. Smith; Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and Lt. Gen. Alexander Vandergrift. Establishing his headquarters atop Fonte Plateau in Guam, Nimitz made Guam the base for his Central Pacific Command.*

## **Vice Admiral Richmond K. Turner United States Navy**

Admiral Turner was Commander, Joint Expeditionary Force, and thus responsible for taking the three principal Mariana islands invaded. Born in 1885, he graduated from the Naval Academy in 1908. Turner was a gunnery officer in the First World War, qualified as a naval aviator in 1927, and at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack was director of the War Plans Division of the Navy Department. In 1942, Turner was appointed commander of the Amphibious Force of the Pacific Fleet. His first assault was the invasion of Guadalcanal. He later directed American attacks in the Solomons, Gilberts, Marshalls, Marianas, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. He was promoted to admiral in 1945, retired in 1947, and died in 1961.

## **Lt. General Holland M. Smith United States Marine Corps**

General Smith was in charge of all American troops ashore in the invasion of the Mariana Islands. He was born in 1882 and in the years prior to the war was director of operations and training at Headquarters, Marine Corps, Washington. In August 1942, Smith assumed command of the Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, later redesignated V Amphibious Corps. Thus, Smith directed the landings in the Marshalls and the Marianas. Smith later commanded the Fleet Marine Force, Pacific and the Training and Replacement Command at Camp Pendleton. He retired in 1946 and died in 1967.

## 24 July 1944

*Three days after U.S. forces land on Guam, and using Saipan as a staging area, the 4th Marine Division invades Tinian. Feigning a landing on beaches near the island's town, the Marines instead establish a beachhead at an undefended spot in the island's northwest, a spot thought to be too small by the Japanese defenders for an invasion force. The landing's success led to the island being declared secure eight days later.*



*Above, left, Lt. Gen. Takashina Takeshi was the commander of the Japanese forces on Guam at the time of Liberation. He planned the tactically-sound July 25-26 counterattack at the Asan beachhead, but the counter faltered and ultimately failed. He died on July 28 at Fonte Plateau, on what is now called Nimitz Hill, leading his troops in retreat. At right is Lt. Gen. Obata Hideyoshi, commander of all Japanese forces in the Marianas, Palau, and the Carolines. In Palau when Saipan - the location of his headquarters - was invaded, Obata took over Guam forces at Takashina's death. He committed suicide Aug. 11 in Mataguac, Yigo, as U.S. forces assaulted his command post.*

**Rear Admiral  
Richard L. Conolly  
United States Navy**

Admiral Conolly was commander of the Southern Attack Force, that was responsible for supporting the assault troops on Guam. He was born in 1892 and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1914. Conolly began the war with the rank of captain and served in both Europe and the Pacific. Prior to the Marianas operations, Conolly commanded a major amphibious task force in the invasion of Sicily in 1943 and in the Marshalls. After Guam's liberation, Conolly played a role at Leyte Gulf and in the liberation of the Philippines. He died in 1962.

**Maj. General  
Roy S. Geiger,  
United States  
Marine Corps**

General Geiger was commander of the III Amphibious Corps that was assigned the

responsibility to land on Guam for the Liberation. He was born in Florida in 1885 and graduated from Stetson University. He was an early marine aviator and commanded a squadron in France in 1918. Between the wars, Geiger commanded aviation squadrons in Central America. In 1942, he commanded all aviation units at Guadalcanal and the I Amphibious Corps in the invasion of Bougainville. After the Guam invasion, Geiger commanded amphibious operations at Peleliu and Okinawa and became the first Marine general to command an army. He died in 1947.

**Lt. General  
Takashina Takeshi  
Imperial Japanese Army**

Takashina was commanding general, 29th Division and Southern Marianas Army Group. He arrived on Guam in March, 1944 and was responsible for the defense of Guam. He was killed at Fonte, Guam by Marine

machine gun fire while in the process of retreating from his command post on July 28, 1944. After the death of Takashina, Obata assumed direct control of the remaining Japanese forces on Guam.

**Lt. General  
Obata Hideyoshi  
Imperial Japanese Army**

Obata commanded the 31st Army and was responsible for the defense of the Marianas, Bonins and Carolines. His headquarters was on Saipan. However, he was forced to stay on Guam during the invasion of Saipan in June 1944. He supervised the defense of the Marianas from Guam, but left the defense of Guam to Takashina until the death of Takashina. Obata then conducted the defense of northern Guam until he committed suicide at his command post at Mataguac, Yigo, Guam on Aug. 11, 1944 at the current site of the South Pacific Memorial Park.~

## 25-26 July 1944

*Unsuccessful in keeping U.S. forces from establishing a beachhead, Japanese forces in Guam counter-attack during the night at Asan-Piti but fail. Killed in a series of banzai charges are 3,500 Japanese soldiers.*

# Guam scouts guide Marines, infantry

By **TINA D. AGUON**

"It was raining very hard that morning. The jungle was dense with tall grass. Then suddenly I was surrounded by American soldiers who yelled 'Halt !' and I immediately put my hands into the air."

Jesus Toves Lizama was recalling his personal liberation of 1944. Just 15 years old, he was on an errand for his father and he was to take a basket of shrimp and trade it for salt with the Japanese.

Little did he know at that time that he was about to take on a responsibility of great significance: serve as guide and lead a unit of Army troops to where Japanese soldiers were hiding out.

Neither did Lizama know that as a civilian scout, he assisted in the liberation of hundreds of Chamorros at the Manengon concentration camp.

"I was angry, angry that my father sent me on a trek to trade a basket of shrimp for sale with the Japanese. Why me when there were others who were much bigger and stronger ?," Lizama said. He now realized that his father had given him the charge because he was the only one in a group of about 40 Chamorros hiding in the jungle of southern Guam who spoke Japanese fluently.

He went on to say that when he encountered the Americans, he was bombarded with such questions as "Are you a native ? Do you like the Americans ? Are you willing to go with the Americans ? From now on, you are in the hands of the Americans."

The Americans took the basket of shrimp and sent two soldiers to the area where Lizama's group were hiding. They told the boy not to worry about the salt, and that they were going to evacuate his family and friends.

Lizama then led the group of soldiers to Manengon. Upon arrival, four Japanese soldiers were sighted but fled from the area. Lizama recalled that the Chamorros were so happy and excited upon seeing the Americans that when they were told to stay low, they refused to listen. "One man ran and hid behind a tree nearby. Seeking refuge, a Japanese soldier ran up behind him and hid. Because the Japanese soldier was fully armed, the Americans had no choice but to shoot him, killing the Chamorro as well," Lizama sadly recalled. "The bullet went right through him."

Another civilian guide was Jesse Perez, then a 19-year-old Yigo man who joined a Marine patrol through pure coincidence. Perez was with 10 Japanese soldiers transporting food supplies and ammunition.

They were enroute to Yigo, but when they reached the Pago-Tai road junction, the young man saw an American soldier about 50 yards away. He simply switched sides, sneaking away from the Japanese party and joining the American patrol.

The patrol wiped out the Japanese and they proceeded toward Mangilao, with Perez accompanying them as their guide. He was now armed with a carbine. The Marines were part of Company A, 21st Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

Perez would later be wounded in Chaguian, Yigo, during a blistering fight with a large group of Japanese. "I was shot under my left armpit, a bullet piercing into my body and ripping my kidney," he remembered. "A second bullet is still lodged between my ribs. My arm muscle was smashed."

Perez was hospitalized for more than a year and had to be evacuated to Mare Island for medical attention. A snake muscle was used to mend his left arm. "The bullet in my ribs is encased in copper, and to this day, I must avoid electric shocks," Jessie said.

The experiences of Lizama and Perez were among many stories told about the civilian scouts. As American troops penetrated inland, their initial contacts were usually Chamorros. These native guides, familiar with the terrain of the island, led troops into the jungles to seek out Japanese hideouts.

Although never officially recruited, the civilian scouts were volunteers who became a part of the various combat and infantry units. Without them, the troops would have had difficulty accomplishing their mission.

Other Chamorro guides included Felix Wusstig with the 7th Armored Division, John Leddy with the 24th Armored Division, and Fred Taitano with the 5th Marine Brigade.

As quoted in "Guam Operations of the 77th Division (21 July-10 August 1944) Historical Division, U.S. War Department:" The mission of getting more intelligence about enemy strength in southern Guam fell to the 77th Reconnaissance Troop, which would move out on foot and search the ridge south of Mt. Alifan to Umatac, and the eastern coastal area between Ylig Bay and Talofofo . . . five patrols of about five men each, with native guides, would penetrate six miles each way south and east of Alifan into unknown territory."

Civilian guides pointed out enemy defense positions as the Army 77th Infantry Division, the 3rd Marine Division, and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade moved north to Barrigada and then on to Finegayan, Yigo, and Mt. Santa Rosa.

They combed through the foliage, foot by foot, to hunt out enemy snipers. The aid of the civilian scouts continued to be employed by the various military units throughout the pursuit phase up through Aug. 10, when the island was declared secured.

However, even after that date, many civilian scouts independently grouped together on their own and continued to comb the island for Japanese stragglers.~

## 28 July 1944

*In Guam, two American invasion forces link up at Mount Tenjo. With the final beachline secured, U.S. troops advance to the north, chasing retreating enemy soldiers.*



*The Stars and Stripes flies over the beachhead at Agat as Marines secure the area. After successfully facing down a counterattack by Japanese forces, the Marines and then infantry of the Army's 77th Division began moving to consolidate its lines with those of the 3rd Marine Division which had landed in Asan.*



*Guam's typical rains in July made it rough going for Marines as they trekked through jungles in search of Japanese soldiers fleeing from the front lines.*



*Marines make their way past a creek and up an embankment in the drive to push the Japanese northward. Possessing maps of poor quality and traveling through unfamiliar territory, both the Marines and Army infantry utilized local scouts as guides through Guam's jungles and hills.*

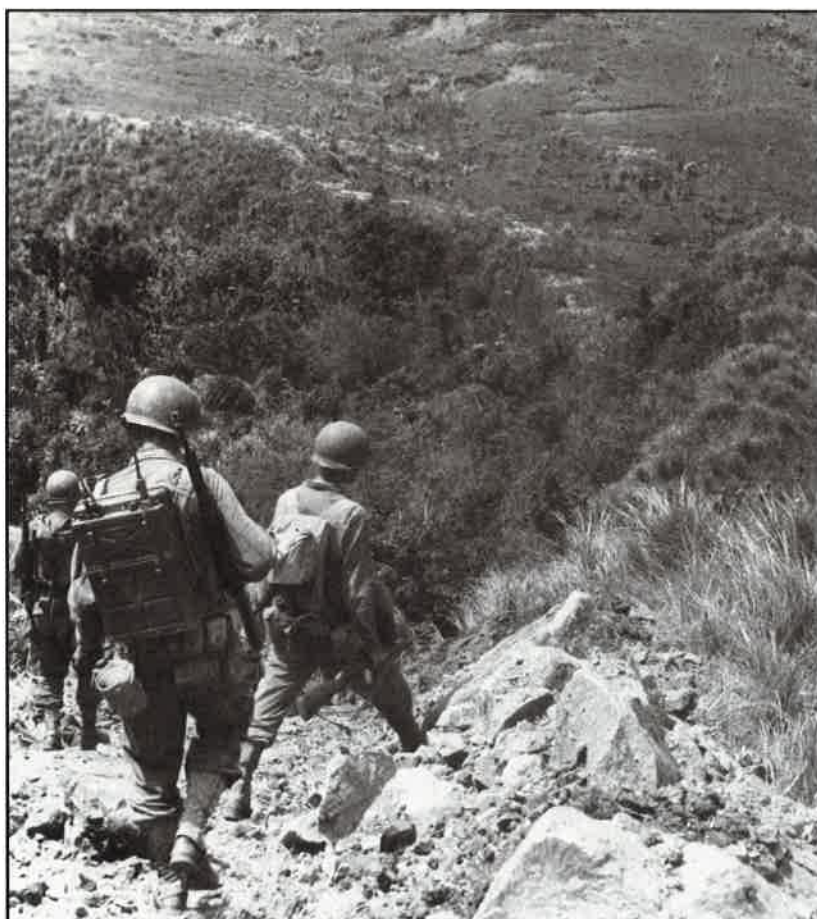
## 9 August 1944

*The Battle of Aitape in Papua New Guinea ends after a month of fighting. Unable to capitalize on a breakthrough of Allied lines, Japanese troops under General Adachi Hatazo falter, then are fatally enveloped in a counterattack. More than 10,000 Japanese soldiers perish in the last battle of Papua New Guinea.*



*Above, Marines take cover behind tanks as Japanese soldiers create a crossfire endangering them. After counterattacks at Orote and particularly at the Asan-Piti beachhead proved to be costly in terms of men and weaponry, Japanese units were forced north, many units in disarray but still determined to fight the enemy to the death.*

*At right, on the 31st of July, 1944, men of the 77th Infantry Division reach the front lines but the end of the road. The road was bulldozed into the hills and mountains of Guam by troops with the 302nd Engineer Combat Battalion.*



## 10 August 1944

*General Roy Geiger declares Guam secure by American forces. Military officials are now tasked with two duties: providing care to war-ravaged island residents and molding Guam as a staging area for naval and air operations against Japan.*



## Death's aftermath: A sobering realization

In war, taking another's life is simply a requirement, a necessity. The emotional consequences of killing another person are overlooked.

Simply stated, it's a matter of kill or be killed; think about the experience only after the killing has stopped.

Marine Cpl. Maury T. Williams, Jr., a reconnaissance scout in the 21st Marines, did just that.

In an excellent recollection of his participation in the Liberation of Guam, the Marine from Memphis, Tenn., wrote of his one face-to-face meeting with the enemy.

The chance meeting occurred while Williams was waiting for another Marine as they were to be on sentry duty together to protect their unit's position:

I was growing impatient with waiting for the other sentry to arrive, and at the same time becoming apprehensive at being completely alone out there, when I became aware of the sounds and movement of something or somebody up ahead. The tree limbs that hung over the trail were being moved around by something, but I could not make just what. Then I caught a fleeting glimpse of someone approaching. I could not tell whether there was more than one, and that troubled me most of all.

The only thing I was sure of was that it was a man in uniform. I also knew it was not a Marine patrol, as all our company had returned to the compound before that time.

With my carbine leveled at the source of the disturbance I suddenly found myself looking at a man wearing a butternut-colored uniform and a cap bearing the insignia of the Royal Japanese Imperial Marines.

The face, which I could now clearly see, was distinguished by dark slanting eyes, with a goatee at its chin. Straining to see beyond



*An American soldier gives water to youthful-looking Japanese prisoners of war. In the fury and rage of battle, men often forgot that those they were killing were in most respects just like them. As the old saying goes, "All men bleed red."*

had his name stitched on the inside of the lining, and we buried him beside the trail. I later sent the cap home with some other things I'd picked up.

I did not sleep that night.

This was my first and only one-on-one confrontation with an armed Japanese soldier, and I would never know if he were alone, or leading others. This was quite different from other similar incidents, when more than two people had been involved.

My sleeplessness did not come about as a result of excitement or fear. I had killed a human being. I had seen his face. I would never forget.~

the approaching figure, I detected further movement among the branches and a rustling sound that made me believe more soldiers followed behind. I knew I could be mistaken, and there was no way of knowing if there was a larger group on the trail. In any event, there was a possibility of a larger enemy force, and I was alone.

As the Jap rounded a turn in the trail, and I could see his entire body for the first time, I pulled the trigger two times. He went down immediately and I emptied my clip into the trees beyond. I quickly pulled the empty clip and inserted a new one, ducking for cover as I fully expected return fire from up ahead.

When nothing further happened, I remained at my post until Sgt. Wojner came up with a squad of men. Although I'd heard no further sounds from up ahead we moved in a skirmish line up the trail, expecting to encounter more of the enemy. When we had moved past the body and along the trail for some distance, we gave it up and returned to the dead Jap, who lay on the trail some 50 feet in front of my outpost.

I removed his cap, which

# 15 September 1944

*U.S. forces hit another Japanese stronghold, this time Palau. There, the 1st Marine Division invades Peleliu and the 81st Infantry Division strikes at Angaur. But the battle at Peleliu continues for weeks and is reminiscent of Tarawa's heavy fortifications but with a twist - Peleliu possesses caves. At battle's end, the dead: nearly 1,300 Marines and almost 300 soldiers from units called in to relieve the worn and ragged men of the Corps.*



## *Old Glory sways proudly once again*



*With civilians and military alike standing in salute, a small American flag, made by hand during the Japanese occupation, is raised on the flagpole at the Plaza de Espana in Agana. The site was where naval Governor George McMillin formally surrendered the island to the Japanese on Dec. 10, 1941.*

*At left, a Marine walks in the ruins of an Agana home where a statue of Christ is practically intact. Agana was devastated by pre-invasion bombardment because military officials did not want a repeat of the fierce house-to-house fighting experienced at Garapan village in Saipan in June 1944.*

## 20 October 1944

*MacArthur makes good on his vow to return to the Philippines as four U.S. Army divisions land at Leyte. By February, U.S. forces have landed in Luzon and go on to occupy Manila.*



*In photo at left, families take refuge in crypts at a cemetery in Agana. War's destruction had leveled Agana, the island's main residential center, and people resorted to finding shelter anywhere they could.*

*Below, Marines pose for a photograph using a torn and tattered American flag captured from the enemy. The island's two major villages of Agana and Sumay were both devastated in the pre-invasion bombardment. As a result, Agana never regained its pre-war population and Sumay, which rivaled Agana as a commercial center, simply ceased to exist, absorbed into what was to become the Naval Station.*



## 24-25 October 1944

*The Battle of Leyte Gulf, comprised of four separate engagements and the largest of the war, results in devastating defeat of the Japanese navy. Four Japanese carriers are sunk as the U.S. solidifies its ability to retake the Philippines. For the first time, "kamikazes" - pilots on suicide missions - are sent into battle in a desperate attempt to halt the U.S. advance toward Japan.*





*Exchanging salutes and smiles, Chamorro children and Navy Lt. Sheldon Dietz have some fun in Agat.*

## ***Liberators meet the liberated***

By PAUL J. BORJA

The Liberation of Guam was a matter of military necessity. Its people and their suffering aside, Guam was seen as a naval and air base from which to bomb Japan and supply the force needed to subdue the enemy.

But in Guam, the Marine in the jungle and the soldier in the trenches discovered something very special - that his effort was recognized and that he actually made a difference in people's lives.

Marine Cpl. Maury T. Williams, Jr., a reconnaissance scout for the 21st Marines, and Wesley T. Bush, of the 22nd Marines, both recall their experience in meeting Guamanians during the battle to recapture Guam.

For Bush, who wrote to the Guam Veterans Affairs Office asking for information on 50th anniversary activities, he first met with local people when his unit was relieved and he and his fellow Marines were moving back toward more secure areas.

"We had battled continuously for 14 days, then got a rest. As we marched to the rear, we went through an area where the lovely people of Guam had been gathered. The youngsters ran alongside of us holding on to our rifles. Old men held our hands and the women cried and cheered and patted our backs. All the hardship and misery



# **19 February - 16 March 1944**

*The siege of Iwo Jima nearly takes a month to complete. The volcanic isle leaves behind a legacy written in blood by the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions: U.S. casualties are 6,800 dead, 20,000 wounded. There are practically no survivors of the 21,000 Japanese defenders.*





*As the battle for Guam advanced from the beachheads and the concentration camps liberated, people began traveling from the camps or their jungle hideouts to safety behind the front lines. Above, boys on carabaos and on foot are part of the stream of people fleeing the fighting between the Japanese and American forces.*

and wounds we had suffered melted away at that moment and I said to myself, "It has been worth it all." I will never forget how grateful the people were."

Bush's unit was to fight in Okinawa but would return to Guam, where he would meet and befriend a local family. Invited to a party by the family, Bush would experience something he never experienced before - tuba, the fermented, and yes, alcoholic product of the coconut tree. The aftermath of the party was predictable.

"I made friends with a family named Cruz. They did my laundry and once, graciously invited us to their humble home, where the father plied us with something called TUBA and we tried to find our way back to camp."

Williams was also affected by the emotions of the people as they passed his unit in Agana where he and his comrades had been

assigned positions. Moving to the rear of the battle, Chamorros would walk past the positions held by Williams and other Marines.

"They (the people) were understandably quite emotional as they approached, considering their months of oppression under the Japanese, and nearly all had tears streaming down their faces. Many were on foot but some came in the trucks that had been dispatched to a pickup point a short distance ahead.

"But one large group, being brought through the lines in the back end of a six-by-six truck, were singing a song that must have been composed during the occupation. Their words expressed their love of America and Americans, including a line that said something like, 'Thank you, Uncle Sam.' I noticed that those people were not the only ones having tears streaming down their cheeks that day," wrote Williams, the Marine from Memphis.~

## 1 April - 22 June 1944

*With American forces nearing the Japanese home islands, the Japanese up the ante at Okinawa. Kamikazes spearhead the defense of the homeland, and nearly 2,000 soar to attack the U.S. fleet supporting the invasion force. It is bloody at battle's end: 12,500 American troops and 110,000 Japanese dead.*



*Combat Patrol members in photo are Joaquin S. Aguon, Vicente L. Borja, Jose S. Bukikosa, Francisco J. Cruz, George G. Flores, Roman N. Ignacio, Antonio Manibusan, Agapito S. Perez, Pedro A. Perez, Ignacio R. Rivera, Jose P. Salas, Pedro R. San Nicolas, Fred Taitano, and Felix C. Wusstig. Not shown is leader Juan U. Aguon.*

## Combat Patrol hunts for stragglers

By **TINA D. AGUON**

Although Guam was liberated on July 21, 1944, and declared secured by Aug. 10, efforts continued by the Third Marine Division to ferret Japanese troops who were hiding out.

Too proud to dishonor their country or their emperor, these Japanese soldiers chose not to surrender but instead took to the caves, jungles and swamps of Guam. They left trails of footprints, broken brush and other evidence of life. These stragglers roamed the island. They scrounged the military dumps for ammunition and other weapons. They stole and dressed themselves in GI fatigues,

khaki shirts and trousers to camouflage their appearance.

On Nov. 13, 1944, four months after the liberation of the island, Police Chief Jon Wigg, a Navy lieutenant and part of the command responsible for Guam's administration, issued a memorandum ordering the formation of patrols, which stated: "All information reaching any member of the (police) department relating to the location or hideouts of the Japanese will be used to the end that they will be tracked and captured or destroyed. Patrols will be formed for this purpose in Agana and all out-stations. Reports of all Japanese captured, wounded or killed by members of the police department will be forwarded to headquarters immediately. Records of all

# 6 August 1945

*Three months after Germany has capitulated to the Allies, U.S. officials desire to end the war quickly and without a bloody invasion of the Japanese homeland. It is decided to utilize a secret and terrible weapon. The "Enola Gay", a B-29 bomber of the 509th Composite Group based on Tinian, drops the first atomic bomb in history on Hiroshima.*



known killings of Japanese by others in each area shall be kept and forwarded to the headquarters in the tri-monthly reports.

"Also, the tri-monthly report shall include the number of patrols sent out from each station. Each time a hideout is found it shall be searched for evidence which shall be taken to the station: food, clothing, provisions and any type of shelter shall be destroyed. The job of cleaning up the Japanese on this island is a big one. General (Henry) Larson has placed his confidence in the department and results will provide that it was properly placed."

Thus, as part of the "mop-up" operation of the American liberation forces, the Guam Combat Patrol was formed to scout out the hundreds of Japanese who had taken to Guam's jungles. They moved on foot, combed the areas, and questioned islanders in their efforts to track, capture and destroy Japanese holdouts, locations and hideouts. The Patrol's mission was considered one of the most dangerous military combat duty in Guam after the invasion. They were considered "manhunters," killing more than 117 Japanese stragglers, and capturing five.

The Combat Patrol's efforts, however, were not without casualties. Two members were killed in action — Antonio P. Manibusan and Pedro R. San Nicolas — and two others — Juan L. Lujan and Vicente L. Borja — were wounded.

Now 69, Guam Combat Patrol member George Flores, of Yigo, distinctly remembers: "I was walking ahead of Antonio Manibusan when he signaled me. I turned and joined him. Next thing I knew, shots were fired from a cave and Manibusan was shot in the chest area right into the heart." Flores was a platoon sergeant then.

Vicente Borja, Joaquin S. Aguon and Flores were wounded while on patrol duty in Talofofo on May 1, 1945, when a Japanese soldier, who was believed dead, hurled a hand grenade. Borja and Flores were hospitalized as a result of the incident. Juan Lujan received his wounds on January 8, 1945, when he was shot through the leg by a straggler in Dededo.

All members of the Guam Police, these Guamanian volunteers functioned as regular patrol members during the first two years after the recapture of the island. The original 15 members were recruited from the police department, augmented later by other volunteers and were later attached to the Marine Corps.

The Guam Combat Patrol was led by Police Staff Sergeant Juan U. Aguon, who received many citations and endorsements from Naval Government officials for his "long hours, tireless efforts, faithful services, and excellent record of leadership." Of particular significance, Aguon was awarded the Silver Star by President Harry S. Truman for his participation in the Combat Patrol.

The presidential citation follows: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as a Member of the Loyal Security Patrol Force of Guam, Marianas Islands, from November 4, 1944, until the cessation of hostilities. Organizing and training a special patrol consisting of fifteen native members of the local Police Force, Staff Sergeant Aguon led his men into every section of Guam in order to rid the island of all Japanese remaining after the main force had been destroyed or taken prisoner. A fearless and inspiring leader, he

***Along with Juan U. Aguon, the original members of the Guam Combat Patrol were: Joaquin S. Aguon, Vicente L. Borja, Jose S. Bukikosa, Francisco J. Cruz, George G. Flores, Roman N. Ignacio, Antonio P. Pangelinan, Agapito S. Perez, Pedro A. Perez, Ignacio R. Rivera, Jose P. Salas, Pedro R. San Nicolas, Jose S. Tenorio and Felix C. Wusstig.***

calmly directed his unit in trailing and ambushing the enemy soldiers, killing 117, capturing five and probably killing 20 of the hostile armed forces on Guam throughout this period. Remaining in a forward position on April 4 when his patrol was fired upon by approximately 25 enemy troops, Staff Sergeant Aguon led his men in fighting the numerically superior Japanese group, mortally wounding five of the enemy, forcing 12 over a steep cliff to probable death below and routing others into the jungles. Under his direction, the patrol then destroyed two months' provisions in the hostile camp and returned to headquarters without a casualty. By his perseverance, indomitable spirit and outstanding courage at grave personal risk, Staff Sergeant Aguon strengthened the bonds of friendship between the peoples of Guam and the United States and rendered valiant service in combating a common enemy."

Along with Aguon, the original members of the Guam Combat Patrol were: Joaquin S. Aguon, Vicente L. Borja, Jose S. Bukikosa, Francisco J. Cruz, George G. Flores, Roman N. Ignacio, Antonio P. Manibusan, Agapito S. Perez, Pedro A. Perez, Ignacio R. Rivera, Jose P. Salas, Pedro R. San Nicolas, Jose S. Tenorio and Felix C. Wusstig.

Fourteen other police officers later joined the Patrol. They were: Edward G. Aflague, Joaquin M. Camacho, Felix T. Cruz, Jose D. Cruz, Mariano C. Cruz, Vicente Q. Duenas, Francisco C. Leon Guerrero, David L. Lujan, Juan L. Lujan, Charles H. McDonald, Antonio C. Perez, Juan A. Quinata, Pedro C. Santos, and Henry F. Taitano.

All members of the Patrol received the Bronze Star. George Flores, who is among a few survivors, also received a Purple Heart for wounds he received on his right hand when a hand grenade was thrown at him in Fena in 1946. "I take pride in saving lives, defending and serving the people of Guam, and for still being alive," Flores said.

The Combat Patrol was disbanded in November 1948.~

## 9 August 1945

*The decision is made to unleash another atomic bomb, this time on Nagasaki. Bock's Car, another B-29 bomber of the 509th Composite Group on Tinian, drops the weapon. In the two atomic bomb detonations, more than 100,000 people perish; still more will die from injuries and radiation.*



# The soldier who did not surrender

Compiled by PAUL J. BORJA AND JOSEPH SANTO TOMAS

In February 1943, Shoichi Yokoi arrived on Guam from Manchuria, a 28-year-old sergeant assigned to the Japanese naval garrison defending the island.

In February 1972, Yokoi departed from Guam, 56 years old and in all likelihood the Emperor's last soldier of World War II.

After U.S. forces liberated the island in July 1944, Yokoi lived the next 28 years as a straggler and recluse. Hiding in the island jungles, first evading American Marines and soldiers and then the Chamorros serving in the Combat Patrol, Yokoi systematically and calmly re-established his life.

A native of Aichi prefecture, in Nagoya, Japan, Yokoi became an unregistered resident of Talofofo, living for 25 years in the hills and recesses of the Talofofo River basin. Apparently the first three years of his life as a straggler were spent on the run, his hideout at different locations around the island.

Yokoi was not the first straggler from Guam to be found in the island's jungles. Two other men, Minagawa and Ito, were repatriated to Japan in 1960. Bunzo Minegawa was found by two local men harvesting breadfruit and captured; a few days later, the Japanese man would help officials persuade Ito to come out of hiding. The two stragglers lived in the Talofofo area as did Yokoi, but apparently had no knowledge of him.

When Yokoi was "captured" in late January 1972, his captors weren't soldiers or Marines on patrol - they were villagers from Talofofo hunting in the area near Yokoi's hideout, a cave he had dug near a creek's banks. Apprehending Yokoi, and instantly making him a legend in Guam and Japan, were Jesus M. Duenas and Manuel D. Garcia.

The men initially thought that the thin man they saw by the creek's banks was a boy that often strayed from the village. Yokoi was along the creek's edge, checking a fish trap that he had made from bamboo. After seeing the villagers, Yokoi dropped the trap and then rushed them in attack, Duenas told the press later.

The men overpowered the slight man, his hair long and matted and with a scraggly beard. They then took him to Agana to police headquarters.

Yokoi's habitat was inspected thoroughly, its contents both shocking and intriguing. Initial investigations were put on hold to safely move a bomb found in the back of the cave. Later, authorities found ingeniously made shrimp traps, simple handmade tools and weapons from the war that were rusted beyond use.

A tailor in Japan before the war, Yokoi had no trouble clothing himself. He wove a simple, yet quality wardrobe from old burlap sacks, coconut and pago fibers and other materials gathered from the jungle. His needles were handmade, his buttons for his suits made from discarded plastic and the various utensils used for his daily life

as a hermit were handmade as well.

He made fire by rubbing sticks between calloused hands, and kept himself clean by bathing in the Talofofo River to avoid infections and sicknesses.

Yokoi's capture captivated people all over the world, particularly in Japan, where his loyalty to the Emperor was lauded. A simple man was thrust into the spotlight after 28 years of solitude.

Not used to the attention, he later said through an interpreter, "You know, I wish I didn't cause so much trouble to everyone. I should have just stayed in my cave until I died."

In meetings with the press, he noted that he knew that the war was over but was afraid that he would be killed by Chamorros or the



*In a January 1972 press conference hosted by then Guam Gov. Carlos Camacho, at left, World War II soldier Shoichi Yokoi talks about his experiences as a straggler. He spent nearly 28 years in Guam jungles.*

military if he surrendered.

One of Yokoi's desires after his capture was to pay respects to the families of two men, also stragglers, who had died in Guam. Shichi Mikio, a soldier, and Nakabata Satow, a civilian worker for a labor battalion, apparently died of poisoning after eating federico nuts and toads. Both are poisonous if improperly cooked and prepared, and food was apparently scarce at the time because of the devastation of Guam by Typhoon Karen in November 1962.

Having never traveled aboard aircraft, Yokoi was astounded and unbelieving when he was told that he could travel from Guam to Japan in three hours. In a touching moment before the media, Yokoi cried when he heard the tape-recorded voices of relatives from Japan. Not at all familiar with the technology, he conversed with his relatives, asking them questions.

Commending his treatment by Guam officials and then Governor Carlos G. Camacho, Yokoi returned to Japan on Feb. 2, 1972, as a hero and symbol of enduring loyalty.

On March 30, 1972, in a celebration noted by all in Japan, Yokoi celebrated his 57th birthday.

## 15 August 1945

*In a radio broadcast which was the first public speech by a Japanese emperor, Emperor Hirohito announces the surrender of Japan*

# Sgambelluri's secret life

Compiled by RAJ SOOD

He must have been a unique man and quite a character, the late Adolfo Camacho Sgambelluri.

The son of a Navy man, Sgambelluri was a policeman in pre-war Guam and then a police official for the Japanese occupation authorities, a role which did not endear him to island residents.

Nevertheless, his record as a policeman and then as an investigator was sterling in pre-war Guam, and his abilities must have appealed to the efficiency-conscious Japanese authorities during the occupation.

Marine Capt. Charles S. Todd, the chief of police of Guam when World War II erupted, said Sgambelluri and fellow policemen Juan Taitano and Juan Roberto were "outstanding" staff. "Roberto and Sgambelluri were the detectives who investigated all the incidents involving the local people, and I don't recall their leaving any case uncleared. They were feared, but highly respected. In many instances, they assisted in other cases involving naval personnel and their dependents," Todd said.

The chief also tasked Sgambelluri with responsibilities that helped the policeman develop skills that would prove invaluable to American officials in the post-war period. "...they were also as-

signed as intelligence officers collecting information considered adverse to the military and United States government. They collected information and prepared profiles on all Japanese, German and other foreigners considered not friendly to the United States," Todd said.

During the Japanese occupation, Sgambelluri was a policeman of sorts, acting as a liaison between island residents and military authorities. His work brought him into close contact with Japanese officials. As a result, he was able to warn Chamorros about investigations and searches. The policeman was invaluable in particular in helping people move George Tweed, the sailor who was able to evade Japanese authorities for the 31 months of the occupation, whenever officials intensified efforts to locate the Navy man.

After the Liberation, Sgambelluri was incarcerated along with others accused of aiding or sympathizing with the Japanese. Because of that, he carried a certain stigma and his arrest was viewed by some as justice.

However, his incarceration was voluntary. Sgambelluri asked to be put in the stockade and, using the skills he gained while as an intelligence officer in pre-war Guam, he was able to obtain information that assisted prosecutors in their cases against people accused of war crimes and of assistance to the enemy.

His efforts, not only during the post-war era but also during the occupation when he helped circumvent Japanese investigations of Chamorros and their activities, were recognized and lauded by U.S. officials, including USMC Maj. General Henry L. Larson, Island Commander in the time immediately after Liberation, and Col. Teller Ammons, U.S. Army Judge Advocate, Military Commission of Guam.

"I personally appreciate all the assistance you have given, and you have rendered an exceedingly patriotic service to your people on Guam and the Government of the United States. Now I am sure you have a complete satisfaction that you served in the best interests of the people of Guam," Ammons wrote Sgambelluri.

Once jeered as an enemy sympathizer, Sgambelluri died at age 73 on Dec. 12, 1985, and he was buried with honors for outstanding service to his country.~

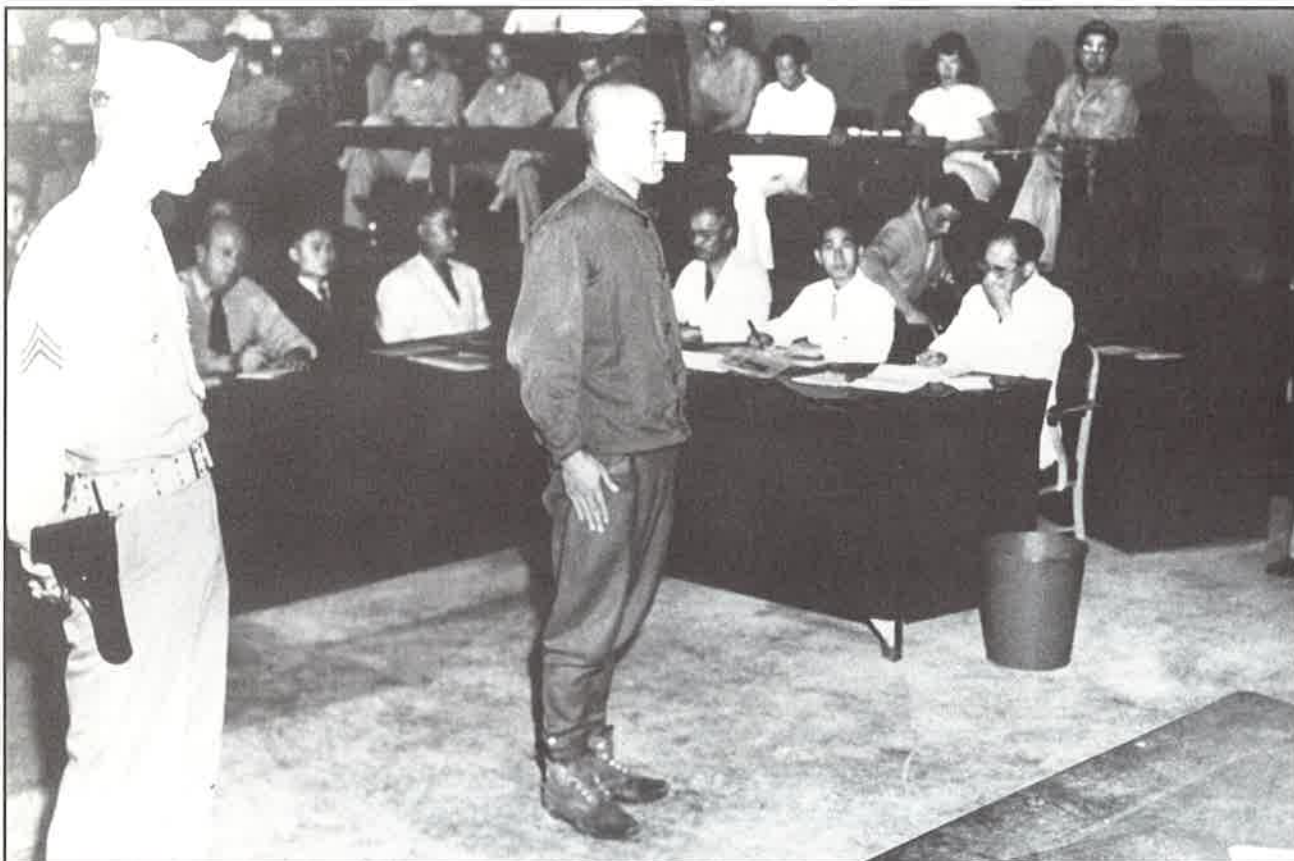


*In a camp in Guam, prisoners of war bow their heads as they hear a radio broadcast of Japanese Emperor Hirohito announcing the surrender of Japan in World War II.*

## 2 September 1945

*The Japanese formally surrender to the Allied powers in a ceremony aboard the U.S. battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.*





*Four charges of cannibalism upon American prisoners brought a death sentence by hanging to Major Sueo Matoba, shown here on trial. War trials and 13 executions by hanging were held in Guam after the war.*

## Guam site of Pacific war trials



*Closely guarded by two Marines, Vice Admiral Koso Abe awaits trial in Guam. He was accused of beheading nine American prisoners-of-war.*

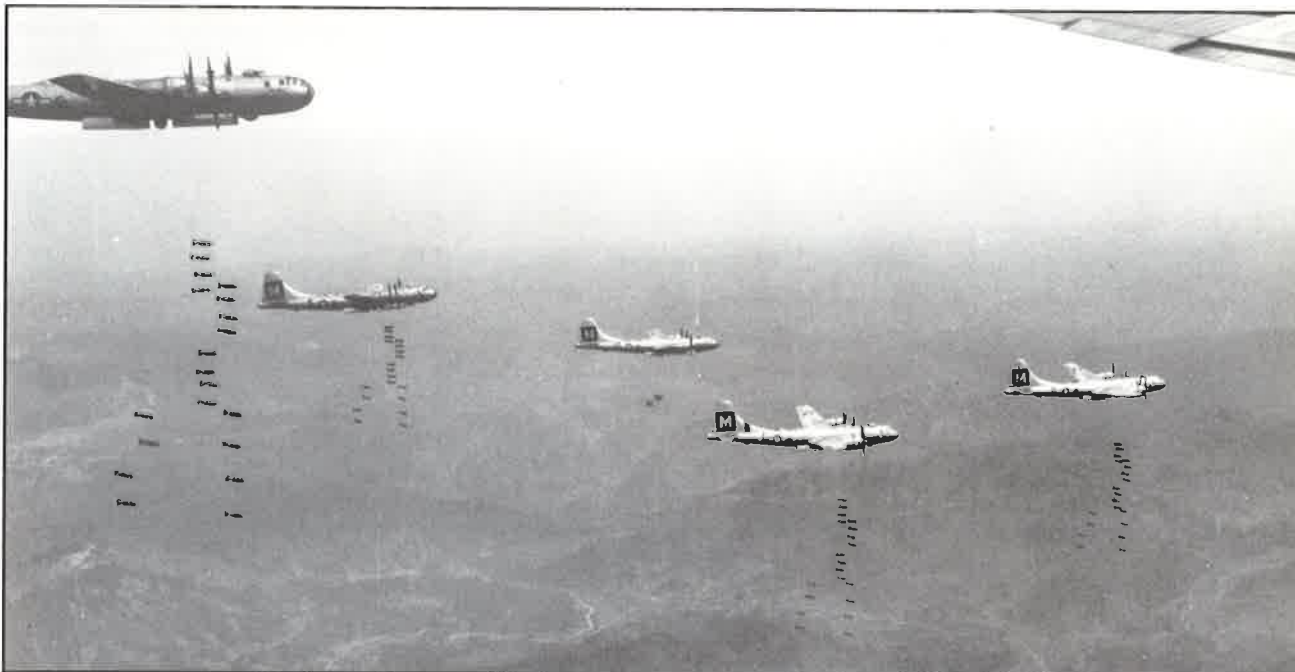
On the crest of Nimitz Hill, within Fleet Admiral Nimitz's Pacific Command Headquarters complex, there once existed a large quonset hut in which the Military Commission for Japanese War Crimes held its Pacific region trials. Of the 144 military and civilian war criminals, 136 were found guilty. Of these 136, 111 were convicted of murder in addition to other offenses. Five were found guilty of permitting subordinates to commit atrocities against prisoners of war; 14 were convicted of torture, cruelty or maltreatment of prisoners; two were convicted of cannibalism and several others of the mutilation of dead prisoners of war.

Among those convicted of war crimes were two lieutenant generals, two rear admirals, five vice admirals and the commanding officers of the Marshalls, Marianas, Gilbert, Bonin, Palau and Wake Islands.

Thirty-six death sentences were handed out — 20 of which were commuted to life imprisonment and one to 16-year sentence. Sixteen life sentences were passed out. Twenty-four individuals were sentenced to 10-15 years of hard labor, and the remaining 60 were sentenced to less than five years in prison.

Thirteen death sentences were actually carried out by hanging, inside a quonset hut constructed for that purpose. The gallows site is located on what is now the Federal Aviation Administration complex adjacent to the Navy Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station. Those sentenced to life imprisonment were transferred to Sugamo Prison in Tokyo.

*Editor's note: Navy Capt. Joseph Commette provided information for this article.*



*After the capture of the Marianas, Japanese cities became targets of B-29 bombers. A March 9-10 raid was the war's most destructive air attack - the fire bombs of 334 B-29s killed 83,793 people, wounded 41,000, destroyed 267,171 buildings.*

## Investigators view occupation

By RAJ SOOD

Aside from continuing to press the war against Japan and helping the civilian community of Guam get back on its feet, military officials also began to investigate the occupation of Guam under the Japanese.

Helping with that task was Capt. Nicholas Savage, who was in the headquarters of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Corps. His duties involved counter-intelligence and the responsibility for identifying collaborators and subversives.

"I was assigned essentially to bring some rhyme and reason to this very, very motley crowd of Saipanese, Chamorros, Japanese, petty officials that had to do with civilian operations, Okinawan fisherman, part Japanese and those suspected of being Japanese collaborators, most of whom had accumulated in stockades during the actual landing. Most of them had turned themselves in voluntarily, along with women and children."

"We had essentially the civilian elements of the Japanese occupation from Japan, Saipan, and those members of the local people who were thought to have been possibly implicated (for collaboration with the enemy)," Savage said. "We had a cumbersome, awkward and slow procedure but finally they were released. Only a very few were shipped back to Saipan."

Others imprisoned in U.S. stockades were captured or surrendered Japanese military personnel.

"There were also a number of women, the so-called comfort troops. They were a pathetic lot, totally unaware of what their rights were. They were later sent to Hawaii prisoner-of-war camps," he said.

According to Savage, investigating these cases, gathering information and evidence of war crimes, collecting intelligence, these activities were most demanding and vital. "This is where Sgamby (Adolfo C. Sgambelluri, late father of the current Chief

of Police A.P. Sgambelluri) played an absolutely critical role."

As part of his job, Adolfo C. Sgambelluri requested to be put in the stockade with the POW's where he was treated as just another prisoner, subject to all the indignities, so that he could gather information and intelligence.

"His role was entirely in keeping with his work during the occupation, risking his life in the service of his people," Savage said.

It was not until 40 years later, in 1985, that Sgambelluri's dedication to duty could be openly recognized and his undercover work freely discussed. All those years, he stoically bore the undeserved stigma of being labeled as a Japanese sympathizer. His work cleared many. And others received appropriate measures of justice at the hands of the War Crimes Tribunal because of evidence collected by Sgambelluri.

There were interesting moments for Savage and his staff, moments of history for Guam and the world. For example, Savage's unit maintained a well-equipped darkroom. One day, a military photographer came in from Iwo Jima requesting permission to process a few rolls of film. One of the prints he produced was one of the most famous photographs of World War II - Marines raising the Stars and Stripes on Mt. Surabachi in Iwo Jima.

And then there were other moments that were very satisfying for him. Savage recalled one regarding the Dejima family, a Nisei family who had called Guam home for many years.

The family, realizing in late 1941 that the Japanese attack was imminent, had collected all their cash and buried it. This location was known only to them and Mr. Thomas Tanaka (Sr.), family friend and associate. In due course, Savage, Tanaka Sr., and a colleague dug out the money and deposited back into the Dejima bank account. "That was very satisfying, knowing that it is safe and back in the hands of its rightful owners."~



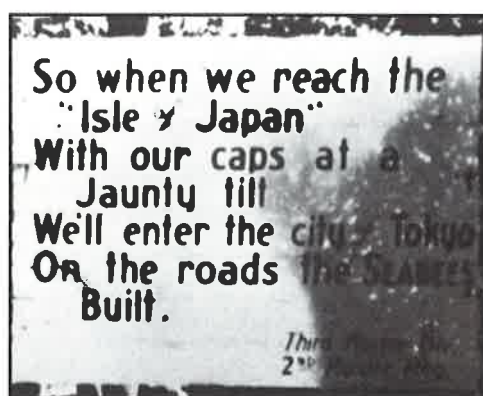
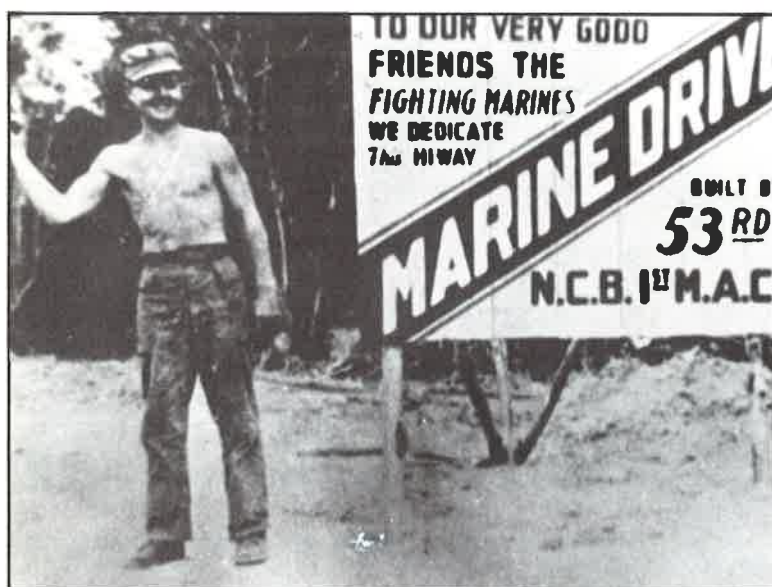


*After the Liberation, the Seabees took to heart their unofficial motto, "Can Do." The sailors built a devastated island into a staging area from which U.S. forces could continue the war against Japan. In one 90-day period, the men of the Navy's construction battalions took a short look at the island's coral and soil, then proceeded to carve out and surface 100 miles of road.*

*Left, a year after the Liberation, Marine Drive is just a baby.*

*Below, at left, a humorous soul poses near a sign by the Seabees dedicating Guam's leeward coastal road to the Marines.*

*Below, right, the Marines return the favor and thank the Seabees for paving the way to Tokyo.*





*Above, one can see the massive military buildup of Guam in this 1945 photo of Apra Harbor and what is now the Naval Station. By August 1945, more than 220,000 people called Guam home, but only 22,000 or so of those were Guamanians. The rest - 65,000 Army, 78,000 sailors, 59,000 Marines. The code name for the Liberation of Guam was Operation Stevedore, a clue to the island's future role in the war. Apra Harbor became one of the world's busiest ports, operating as a major conduit in the supply of U.S. forces pressing the attack on the outlying and home islands of Japan.*

*Below left, bombers approach North Field, now called Andersen Air Force Base, to land. The airfield and those in Tinian and in Saipan were home to more than 1,000 B-29 bombers, all of them setting their bombsights on targets in Japan. In Tinian, the Seabees' mark was indelible. The Navy construction battalions built the world's largest bomber base comprised of six mile-and-a-half airstrips and support facilities. In the process, the Seabees moved more than 11 million cubic yards of soil, rock and coral.*



# Chamorros yearn for freedom

By **BEN BLAZ**  
**B/GENERAL, USMC (RET)**  
**MEMBER, U.S. CONGRESS (1985-93)**

I can't think of anything that has happened to me lately that has touched me as much as being asked to recall and record in writing, as part of our commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Guam, some of the significant events that have transpired over the recent years that stand out in my memory.

To this day, whenever we speak of the period before the "war" and after the "war" we invariably mean World War II. We do this almost subconsciously despite that sons and daughters of Guam have been involved in other wars since World War II: in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. The invasion, occupation and eventual liberation of Guam made such an indelible impact on our people



*In a rare photo of Manengon in 1944, people are shown milling about the camp. The hardships of war and the occupation only served to intensify Guamanians' desire for a better future and for control of their own destiny.*

that it is likely to serve as the benchmark, the road junction, and the springboard for what we do for many, many years to come.

While this difficult period deprived those of my generation most of our tender teen years, it taught us more about life, family and ourselves than I, for one, had ever learned before or since in all the schools I have attended. The Chamorro spirit was not an abstraction; rather, it was demonstrably real during those years and I have drawn inspiration and sustenance from that reality my entire life.

Our World War II experience was harsh by any standard. Severe deprivation, indignities, and punishment were commonplace. There was always that pervasive sense of personal insecurity. Most members of my generation as well as the older generation prefer not to dwell on the scars of those difficult years.

But those of us who survived the trial of the war years bear witness to a side of the occupation that I will call the "inner Guam," one that the enemy was never privileged to enter. It was the purest product of that cauldron of war, the brightest star in the dark sky of those traumatic times.

They would recall, as I do, the manifestation and magnificence

of the Chamorro spirit. Though only a legend to some, it is a living, breathing reality to us; a source of strength that saw us through the worst of times and guides us in the challenging times ahead.

My generation was caught between childhood and adulthood. The unexpected and violent interruption of our lives and the common adversity that we shared gave our parents and elders an unusual opportunity to inculcate in us much more vital learning than we could have received in calmer times.

Challenged by the threatening experience of war and pressed to our limits, we learned things about human nature and ourselves that we might never have been able to grasp in peaceful, less demanding, times.

We learned: to be tolerant when conditions were intolerable; to be generous when there was so little to give; to be patient when our deepest desire was to end our bondage; to be ourselves, preserving our language and culture while the enemy was trying to impose his on us.

Life seemed more endangered, more tentative, and therefore, more precious then. We learned through toil the sweetness of the saltiness of the sweat that trickled down our faces at the peak of a hard day's work.

We clearly saw and keenly appreciated the basic choices of life, between freedom and bondage; justice and oppression; hope and despair; surviving and perishing. Through the heat and dust and smoke, we saw ourselves and what we stood for.

There were many painful experiences in that dark period in our history. But there were also many pleasant memories:

~The long hours on a log with our parents sharing their thoughts and experiences with us much like the generations before them had done; but with greater urgency as the winds of war swirled around the island;

~The groups of neighboring farmers who pooled their strength to push back the jungle so we could plant; The women caring for the sick, working the gardens preparing food over

open fires;

~The men echoing each other's folksong at twilight as they cut tuba;

~The labor camps where we realized how we had to protect each other, how we had to care for one another as an island family;

~The devout men and women who emerged as our natural leaders and who would always lead us in prayer during our most trying and fearful moments as we labored to finish our forced labor projects under incredible duress;

~There was the young Japanese officer who taught me elementary Japanese in exchange for my father teaching him English and who, after getting to know us, innocently asked by father why we were at war;

~There was this same officer who came to say good-bye and as he left to defend against the invasion, I felt an indescribably mixed emotion of seeing a new friend leaving to fight those coming to liberate us;

~There were the U.S. Marines, the soldiers, the sailors and the Coast Guardsmen who, after hopping from island to island, liber-

ated one of their own and seemed as glad as we were that they had come back to Guam;

~And there were the joyous faces of my fellow Chamorros, 23,000 strong, who had endured 31 months of harsh enemy occupation, including internment in concentration camps, in a war they had no part in starting.

As excruciating and as harrowing as the occupation was, our people did not surrender without a fight and did not stop fighting after the surrender. In the face of an overwhelmingly larger enemy force, a handful of U.S. sailors and Marines stood their ground. Standing beside them, with equal valor and courage but even with greater pride and determination, were the members of the Navy Insular Force Guard.

For these men, Chamorros all, the defense of Guam meant the defense of home, family and honor. Although they wore the same U.S. Navy uniforms, their pay was exactly one-half that of the stateside comrades. Although they fought under the same U.S. flag, they were considered only half-brothers in the patronizing, colonial society on Guam at that time.

Yet, when it came time to shed blood against foreign invaders, the Chamorros of the Navy Insular Force demonstrated their loyalty to the United States in the same way they demonstrated their love for the U.S. principles of freedom and democracy: not halfheartedly, but totally and wholeheartedly.

It is that commitment to home, family and honor that has sustained us over the years as a people. In the years since Magellan landed on Guam, our people have been colonized, proselytized, Catholicized, and subsidized. Guam has fallen under Spanish, American, Japanese and again American rule.

But never have we been asked what we as a people wanted. Progress, whatever there was of it, moved at a pace of the administering authority. It was his choice to uncover or cover at his will what he wished to know about us, and it was our lot to remain mute to the process. The attitude developed that the foreigners' right to dominate the land was established by their finding it, and the people - like the flora and fauna - had no alternative but to acquiesce in silence.

The Spaniards made Guam their own, but never did they ask the Chamorro people, the Old People, what relationship should be forged with them. Nor, centuries later, when the United States took control of the island did it ask the descendants of those Chamorros and those Spaniards what association should be formed.

We must wonder why the colonizing forces never asked this most fundamental question. Perhaps they felt that the new order they were bringing was so progressive that the people could not help but be overjoyed to embrace it. Or perhaps the ugly hand of racism was at work, and they believed the people could not tell the difference between freedom and subjugation.

Whatever the case, with the close of the war and with increased education opportunities becoming available to the people of Guam, those of my generation realized the disparities we had accepted without question for so long did not have to be the case. It was as if we had been born blind and then miraculously had been given sight.

It came as a shock to realize that darkness was not inevitable nor the natural state of the world. And so it was we who realized that we were not a second class people. Invisible barriers were just that — invisible and without reason. New horizons revealing incredible vistas began to open before us. We had been told for generations, for example, that should we join the Navy, we were worthy to serve as servants, as stewards. My generation began to ask: And why not officers? There was no reply.

And so slowly at first, and then with accelerating force, we set out on a quest to achieve our self-determination as a people — economically, culturally, and politically.



*A child peers out of a makeshift shelter in another rare photo of the Manengon camp where Japanese forced Guamanians to stay prior to the Liberation.*

Genuine self-determination, if the word is to have any meaning, is a self-help program. If you truly want it, if it truly means anything to you, you must reach out for it and grasp it as your own. That we have done.

During the 25th anniversary celebration in 1969, one of the most distinguished officers in the Marine Corps, Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, was our guest of honor. Having commanded one of the major units that liberated Guam, Gen. Shepherd had a very special place in his heart for the people of Guam and, in particular for those under his command who were killed in action during the fighting. I remember still his closing remarks before a full house at the Guam Legislature: "When I get to heaven," he said, "my men who died here during the war will be at the gate waiting for me with this question: 'Lem, was dying for Guam worth it?' My answer to them will be that having just visited Guam recently, the answer is, you damn right it was."

In closing my recollections of this very auspicious occasion, I cannot resist the urge to share an exchange I had with my own father as I was about to leave Guam after spending a week's leave following my graduation from Notre Dame and my being commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marines.

Departing with me that day was a group of young Guamanians who had just been recruited in the Army and on their way to basic training. As with me, most of them would eventually find themselves serving in Korea. Unlike me, however, some of them would die there and others would return home with lives and limbs shattered forever.

It made for a large group, the recruits and their mothers and





**A group of Guam men show their joy at hearing the news of Japan's surrender. Guam emerged from World War II optimistic about its future. However, despite 50 years of progress, Guam has yet to realize true self-determination.**

fathers, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and me and my family. We made our way to the tarmac for our final good-byes, and as I gathered my things for boarding, my father grabbed my arm.

In his eyes was the old fierceness, and despite his failing health, he was the robust and feisty man who had been a boxer and a fighter for equality. To my utter amazement, he said to me, "Since you are now an officer of the United States, Lieutenant, answer me this. Why is it that we are treated as equals only in war but not in peace?"

Still holding my arm, he pulled me to him and said, "You don't have to answer now. Just remember that the quest must endure."

My chest was tight as I said, "Yes, Sir."

As I finished kissing him good-bye, he whispered, "By the way, you never did return the salute I gave you when you first arrived." I stepped back from him, and standing ramrod straight, I brought my hand to my forehead in a crisp salute but my arm was trembling from the unexpected and affectionate admonition from my Navyman father.

To this day, my father's question continues to haunt all of us, but at least we now have that question formalized and on the Congressional table - the Commonwealth of Guam.

On this, the 50th anniversary of our liberation, we will be shedding a few tears — of gratitude to our liberators; of remembrance of our brothers and sisters who suffered with us but are unable to join us; and of thanksgiving as we thank Almighty God for all the blessings that have come our way during these golden years.

But after those tears have stopped and have become a precious

**"... we must remember that the work begun by the Liberators in 1944 is not yet complete. The people of Guam picked up the torch of freedom passed to them on July 21, 1944. All who call Guam home have worked so hard and so determinedly that the entire world can see the island and its people have come so far from that terrible time of long ago. But true self-determination and equality still evade our people. Thus, the quest endures."**

memory for us all, we must remember that the work begun by the Liberators in 1944 is not yet complete. The people of Guam picked up the torch of freedom passed to them on July 21, 1944. All who call Guam home have worked so hard and so determinedly that the entire world can see the island and its people have come so far from that terrible time of long ago.

But true self-determination and equality still evade our people. Thus, the quest endures.~



*Manuel Perez, USN, receives a warm homecoming from his family as he returns to Guam for the first time in five years, but as a part of the liberating U.S. forces. Welcoming Perez, left to right, are his sister, 24-year-old Mariquita; his 71-year-old grandmother; his 23-year-old sister, Conchita; kneeling is Perez's brother, Jose, Jr., and in his arms is the sailor's nephew, 2-year-old Jose III.*





*At left, Agana is left in ruins after the invasion. Though the city never regained its pre-war status as the island's main residential center, the people of Guam were able to rebuild their lives. They did so by first joining in the war effort as part of the military economy supplying and supporting U.S. forces fighting their way to Japan, then rebuilding and reshaping Guam in the postwar era.*



*Soon after the Liberation, two boys hold handmade American flags. The scene is reminiscent of when U.S. forces first came upon groups of Chamorros and were greeted by people waving aloft the Stars and Stripes - the flags in various shapes and sizes but nevertheless still the Stars and Stripes.*



*Above right, 16-year-old Juan Cabrera and 15-year-old Beatrice Perez (Emsley) are treated for their wounds. In the days just before the July 21 invasion, the two youths were among 11 people found in Agana and arrested by Japanese soldiers. After being held in a cave for two days and given no food and water, the 11 people were told to kneel before a bomb crater. An order was given and they were struck down by soldiers' swords and bayonets and left to die. Juan, who suffered five deep bayonet wounds, and Beatrice, all of her neck muscles severed, were the only ones to survive the execution. Beatrice, now 65, has several times testified before federal officials and Congress regarding war reparations to the Guamanian people. Her plea for justice and those of others has been, unfortunately, ignored.*



*At 9:04 a.m. on Sept. 2, 1945, aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, World War II ended. Above, signing on behalf of Japanese Emperor Hirohito is Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu. Conducting the ceremony and standing behind the microphone is General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. Standing near table with MacArthur is Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-chief, Pacific and Pacific Ocean Areas. Nimitz would sign the surrender document as the representative of the United States. Also signing were representatives of the Japanese military, and the Allied powers from the Republic of China, United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of Canada, the provisional government of France, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the Dominion of New Zealand. Witnessing the historic event were two Chamorro sailors, Ramon White and Frank B. Manibusan, both members of Nimitz's staff.*

In the surrender ceremony, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, representing the Allied Powers, expressed a hope for the world: "It is my earnest hope - indeed the hope of all mankind - that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past, a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfilment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance, and justice."

In representing the United States at the ceremony, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz remembered the great sacrifice of those who died in the war in the Pacific.

"They fought together as brothers in arms; they died together and now they sleep side by side.

"To them, we have a solemn obligation - the obligation to ensure that their sacrifice will help make this a better and safer world in which to live."~



*Gof dankulu na si Yu'os ma'ase - thank you*

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*Members of the subcommittee are:*

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***Symbol of the 3rd Marine Division***



***Symbol of the 77th Infantry Division***



THE JAPANESE SURRENDER  
U.S.S. MISSOURI  
TOKYO BAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 1945

To The Guam Museum - with best wishes and great admiration for the Citizens of Guam who helped make possible the above scene: C.W. Nimitz, Fleet Admiral, U.S. Navy

In this autographed photograph to the people of Guam, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz signs the document formalizing the surrender of Japan in World War II. Nimitz, whose fleet headquarters was in Guam, represented the United States at the ceremony aboard the battleship USS Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945, in Tokyo Bay. Immediately behind Admiral Nimitz are, front to back, General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in the Pacific; Admiral William "Bull" Halsey; and Admiral Raymond Spruance.

In this commemorative book for the 50th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam, numerous stories and historical photographs provide details of pre-war Guam, the 31-month-long occupation of the island by Japanese forces, the Liberation itself and other related topics. A timeline throughout the book also highlights the parallel Pacific campaigns of Nimitz and MacArthur that led to victory in World War II.

On front, top, men of the 3rd Marine Division rush the beach at Asan and look for cover from Japanese defensive fire. This photo is one of many in this commemorative book about the battle to recapture Guam.

On front cover, bottom, Manuel Cruz Perez, USN, gets a warm homecoming from his family as he returns to Guam as a member of the liberating force in August 1944. Welcoming Perez, right to left, are his 24-year-old sister, Mariquita; his 71-year-old grandmother; his 23-year-old sister, Conchita; his two-year-old nephew Jose III, and his brother, Jose, Jr.

