MEET THE MARIANAS

A POCKET GUIDE

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MEET THE MARIANAS

ON December 10, 1941, a Japanese task force steamed to a small island 3,300 miles west of Pearl Harbor. Their cruisers and destroyers opened fire, and a tiny band of United States Marines and Naval personnel prepared to face a powerful enemy landing force. It was not a mighty battle. Our garrison was too small. They had no heavy guns, no planes to give them air cover, no ships to deal with the Japanese fleet. They were surrounded on all sides by islands that belonged to the enemy. They were thousands of miles from the nearest American soil.

So the Stars and Stripes were hauled down in Guam, and Americans on the island became prisoners of Japan.

Thirty-one months later, on July 20, 1944, American troops stormed back onto the beaches of Guam. They were tough, trained, equipped. They were flushed with the victory at nearby Saipan. They were ready to raise again the flag that had been lowered on this piece of American soil five thousand miles from home.

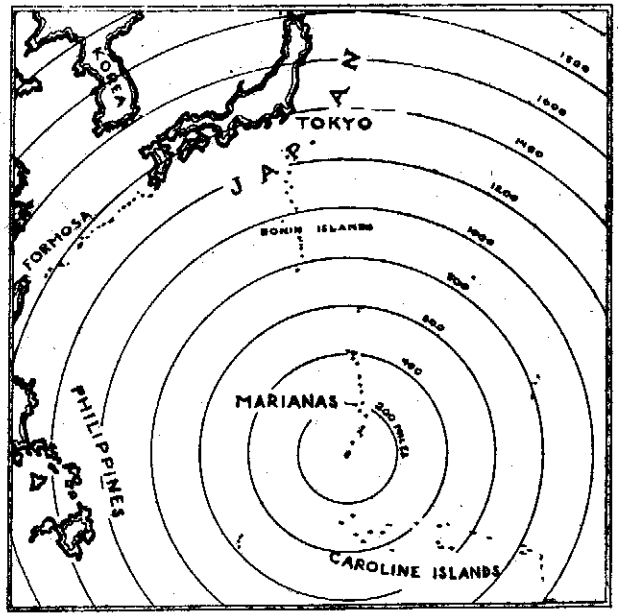
Now you are headed for the Marianas yourself. You know about the fighting that took place there. You want to know about these islands, and what kind of places they'll be to live on. This booklet is your introduction to the Marianas.

FIFTEEN PACIFIC POLKA-DOTS

Look over the map of the Pacific. Its myriad islands remind you of the polka-dot curtains in the kitchen back home. Geographers separate these polka-dots into three big groups. To the southwest is Melanesia—"islands of the blacks." To the southeast, Polynesia—"many islands." Farther north, Micronesia, —"tiny islands." You are going to the tiny islands.

Stepping-Stones. Among these tiny islands are the fifteen Marianas, our island stepping-stones to victory. Guam lies 1565 miles south of Tokyo, 1590 miles east of Manila, 1500 miles west of Wake Island. It is dead center of the waters which are now our Navy's Pacific battlefield. The other islands curve northwestward from Guam on a 450-mile arc, the bottom third of an island arrow aimed straight at Tokyo. Secretary of the Navy Forrestal says the Marianas are the "key which will unlock the door to Japan, the Philippine coast, and to China."

Add the area of all the Marianas together, and you would have a piece of land a little larger than Los Angeles. They total 472 square miles. Guam is almost as big as all the rest of them put together, with 225 square miles. Saipan has 71 square miles, Tinian 38, Rota 28. Some of the other islands are hardly more than rocks jutting out of the sea. But Guam will probably seem big to you after you have been in the Marianas a while. It is the largest island in five thousand miles of ocean from Hawaii to the Philippines, and in two thousand miles from New Guinea to Japan.



Smoking Marianas. Like the Hawaiian Islands, the Marianas are a chain of volcanic mountaintops, some of them rising out of a valley six miles below the surface of the Pacific. The volcanoes still smoke on several of the northern islands. On others, they have been asleep for a long time. On Saipan, Tinian, Rota

and Guam, the volcanoes rest in peace: dead.

So Sorry, No Sarongs. Don't expect glamor in the Marianas. For one thing, you're likely to be too busy. Besides, these are not Hollywood backdrop islands. No glamor girls. No sarongs. Many of the islands are picturesque. Before the war, Guam was considered the garden spot of the group. Tinian is considered to have the best scenery. And, to a soldier who hails from the non-desert part of Arizona, Saipan's looks and climate will recall home.

Hot But Pleasant. Marianas climate is tropical, tempered by the ocean breezes, but it changes with the altitude. If you are stationed on the heights of Rota, you will be cooler and wetter than you would be on the lowlands of Guam. At Saipan the average temperature is 78 degrees, ranging from 95 in June to 61 in February. Humidity is very high, and you will perspire freely. It showers a lot at night, and rains hard from July through October. The Marianas have about twice as much rain as Atlantic City, St. Louis or Washington, D.C. On the whole, though, the climate is healthy and rather pleasant if you can manage to stay out of the sun.

Sumonsong. Worst time of year for storms is the fall. The Chamorros call it "sumonsong"—remain-in-the-village time. The typhoons generally just miss the islands, but once every couple of years a typhoon does hit with all the punch of a Kansas cyclone. Before it strikes, the air will be hazy and still, with a halo around the sun and moon. Surf on the beaches will break more slowly. Then come dense, dark, low clouds and strong winds. If you see these warning signs, better prepare in a hurry. Lash your tent securely, as well as all other light structures and loose gear. When the storm comes, watch out for flying wreckage.

The lee side of a cliff will give you good protection. But remember that the wind will do a backflip and come at you from the rear if the whirling "eye" of the storm passes nearby. A foxhole is good shelter, and many buildings have dug-outs that you can use in a pinch.

Don't get caught offshore in a small boat if you see a typhoon coming. The swells will be terrific, and you'll be swamped. Life-saving is no cinch at a time like that. So be careful.

By the way: You may hear a lot about earthquakes in the Marianas. Sometimes you'll feel the ground tremble. Don't be too worried. Earthquakes are common but rarely dangerous.

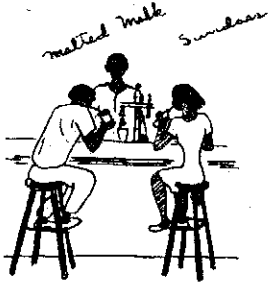
THE BIG FOUR

Guam is the largest and most important island of the Marianas. It is about 30 miles long and 4 to 8 miles wide, and lies 130 miles southwest of Saipan. All Guam is divided into two parts—a cliff-faced wooded plateau of raised coral reef on the north, and a range of grassy volcanic hills on the south. The reef

extends south along both sides of the island, forming Orote peninsula on the west and a series of cliffs on the east coast.

Although Guam is pretty far from the great peacetime steamer lanes across the Pacific, it was an important stopover for Clippers flying from America to the Orient. It was also important as a cable station and naval coaling station. Its major industry is copra, the dried kernel of the coconut, used in making soap. The island also grows fruit and vegetables, but not enough to keep the people on the standard of living they have learned from us.

Before the war, Agana—the capital of Guam—had 12,000 people, half the island's population. It was an attractive place, with comfortable homes, prosperous stores and clean streets. The architecture was a mixture of Spanish and American. The buildings are mostly white, with a few rather sickly yellows and greens mixed in. Some were strikingly Old World in appearance, with Alhambra balustrades and barred windows. Agana had bars, movie theaters, drug stores and even a soda fountain. There were few sidewalks, and because there isn't much level ground at Agana, the town looked rather overcrowded, with no lawns and few gardens. But there was a good sewage system, an abundant water system, an electric plant,



and in general all the conveniences of an American town of the same size. What war has done to Agana you will be able to see for yourself.

Saipan is second only to Guam in size and importance. It is 18 miles long and 5½ miles wide. It has a chain of mountains running north and south. The eastern slopes are steep and rocky, but west and south they level off gradually.

To the Japanese, Saipan meant two things: war and sugar. For war, Japan built powerful fortifications manned by picked troops—though in the end neither fortifications nor troops could stand against the American onslaught. But the Japanese also concentrated on growing sugar on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. As in Hawaii, the agricultural corporations plant the cane and harvest, haul and grind it in the mills. One enterprising firm used to distill whiskey from the sugar molasses and sell it in Tokyo as "Genuine Old Scotch Whiskey Made in Saipan." It cost about eight cents a bottle.

Before the fight for Saipan, Garapan town with its 10,000 people looked like almost any town of the same size in Japan proper. But it was practically wiped out during the battle. What you'll find now will be only what U.S. troops have done in the way of reconstruction, plus a few charred and ruined buildings.

Tinian is less than three miles southwest of Saipan.

Nearly 11 miles long and 4½ wide, it has an area of 38 square miles. It is the lowest and flattest of the islands, the hills never reaching six hundred feet. These hills are covered by forest growth, and the plains by canefields and truck gardens criss-crossed by fine coral roads. The island has a population of more than 15,000, mostly Japanese civilians. On August 2, 1944, American troops completed the occupation of Tinian.

Rota has seven other names and the one you use is pronounced "Lota." It is 11 miles long and about 4 miles wide. Its volcano died a long time ago. It is a plateau with many hills, one of them at the end of a long narrow neck. Palms, breadfruit, pandanus and sugar cane cover the plateau and the steep slopes. Rota has a population of more than 5,000, mostly Japanese.

The other eleven islands are described briefly at the end of this booklet.

ENEMY CIVILIANS

Most of the civilians on Saipan, Tinian and Rota are Japanese brought in to work on the plantations. They are generally Okinawas, of mixed Chinese-Japanese blood, who came from the Ryukyu Islands, southwest of the big islands of Japan. Their standard of living is low, but they are considered hard, honest workers. There is not much love lost between the Okinawas and the people from Japan proper.

When we took Saipan, most Japanese civilians were put into temporary internment camps. They are the first large group of this kind to fall into our hands. In a sense, therefore, they are guinea pigs for future American policy in dealing with enemy civilians in this theatre.

Justice, Honor, Humanity. The over-all policy is described in our Basic Field Manual on Military Government:

"As military government is executed by force, it is incumbent upon those who administer it to be strictly guided by the principles of justice, honor, and humanity —virtues adorning a soldier even more than other men for the very reason that he possesses the power of his arms against the unarmed. Not only religion and the honor of the Army of the United States require this course but also policy.

"The object of the United States in waging any war is to obtain a favorable and enduring peace. A military occupation marked by harshness, injustice, or oppression leaves lasting resentment against the occupying power in the hearts of the people of the occupied territory and sows the seeds of future war by them against the occupying power when circumstances shall make that possible; whereas just, considerate and mild treatment of the governed by the occupying army will convert enemies into friends."

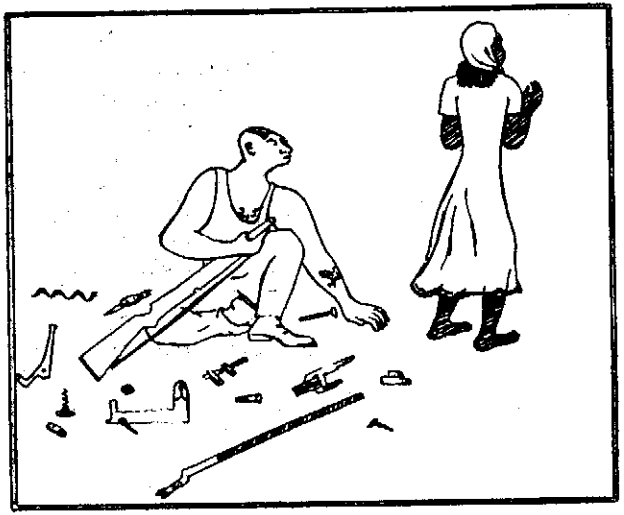
The Jap as a Human Being. The Japanese civilians in the Marianas are considered enemy nationals, and must be treated accordingly. To American sol-

diers who have seen Japs only in battle, or who know them for their deceitful methods of making war, the Japanese civilian may be something of a surprise. He turns out to be a human being, and may even be a rather likeable person. Probably you will have very little personal dealings with him. But, if you do, you should be careful not to allow your personal feelings toward him to interfere with your duties as an American citizen and soldier.

The Soldier's Emily Post. At no time will you "fraternize" with enemy civilians. This means that you must have no friends among them. Some enemy civilians may be looking for important military information. They may try to get it by making friends with a soldier. You won't want to take any chances and therefore you will avoid taking any enemy civilian into your confidence. Naturally, you will respect their privacy, but you will make sure that they respect yours even more.

If you run across an enemy civilian who speaks some English, don't get involved in lengthy conversations with him. Don't start an argument so that you can tell him your opinion of Japan. Wars are not won with oratory.

You are expected to be especially careful to respect the property rights of the enemy population. No American soldier, under any circumstances, is allowed to loot or pillage. Enemy troops may do that. We don't. If you like souvenirs, there are legal and proper



ways of getting them. Don't swipe them from civilians.

The same rule holds for other things belonging to them. You will not invade their property, or seize anything on it, or molest their persons, unless a superior authority orders you to do so. Such orders will be given only if they are necessary for the protection and maintenance of our forces.

Never touch an enemy civilian, unless you must in self-defense. Many Orientals resent physical contact with strangers. Treat the women with politeness and the children with kindness. Don't jostle other pe-

destrians in the village streets. Handle yourself as you would back home.

People Must Eat. The Marianas have to import certain foods and other supplies from bases thousands of miles away. We are responsible, not only for our own welfare, but also for the welfare of the civilian population. If we were to take food or other stores from the civilians, we would strain our own supply system and increase the danger to ourselves. Food shortages heighten the chances of an epidemic. Our forces—including you—might be hit badly if there were an outbreak of disease in the Marianas. Don't take food away from the civilians. Don't waste your own food.

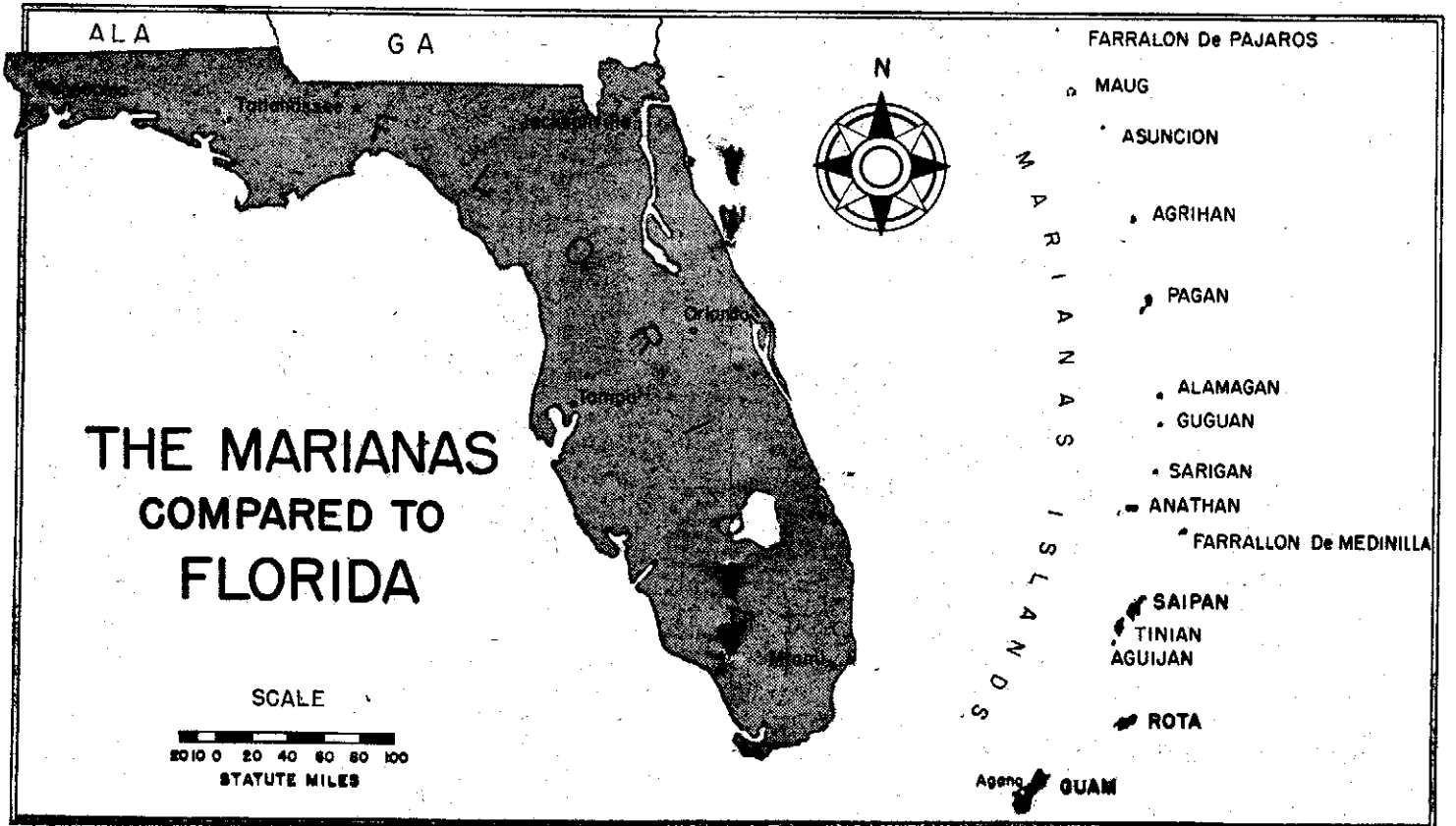
Lingo. Practically all civilians in Saipan, Tinian and Rota speak only Japanese. If you want to understand what they are saying you'll have to learn the lingo. It takes years to learn how to read Japanese, and more to learn how to write. But learning to speak it is not so hard. There are Army Training Manuals (TM 30-341 and TM 30-275) to help you. Might do some good, too, especially since you'll be wanting to know how to talk your way around when you get to Japan proper.

THE CHAMORROS

Descendants of the original island inhabitants are known as Chamorros. Most of them live on Guam, and most of the 23,000 people on Guam are Chamorros. There are only four or five thousand on the other islands.

Barber's Delight. The name was given to them by Magellan. When he came, he saw that they wore their hair short. Since this was not the custom in Europe at the time, he was outraged. So he called them Chamorro, which in Spanish and Portugese means "one who cuts his hair."

Chamorros are generally light brown in color and short in stature. The men average about five feet four inches in height. They have round heads, broad faces,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high cheekbones and short flat noses. Their hair is generally straight and black. As a result of intermarriage, they have much European blood in them. Most of them have attended school and some have studied abroad. They know western ways, and wear western clothes in the Filipino or Spanish style.

They have been Catholics for a very long time, and their customs are traditionally Spanish. On Saints' days, you may see a solemn religious parade marching through the streets of Agana. Or you will see Chamorros of an early morning on their way to mass, with possibly a Spanish mantilla adorning one of the girls.

Wards of Uncle Sam. The Chamorros on Guam are not enemy civilians. They are wards of the United States, and consider themselves Americans. Before the war, they asked Congress to grant them full U.S. citizenship. You'll find them friendly, and familiar with American ways. They detest the Japanese, who treated them with harsh brutality during their occupation of Guam. Throughout the occupation, the Chamorros kept alive the spirit of resistance, hid their American flags, followed the news with short-wave receivers in the bush, and sang this ditty:

"Oh, Mr. Sam, Sam, my dear Uncle Sam,
Won't you please come back to Guam?
My life is in danger, you'd better come
And kill these foreign rats on Guam."

Chamorros expect you to treat them with the same respect and courtesy you would show to Americans

back home. For nearly three centuries they have had much contact with people from the western world, and much European blood runs in their veins. They are fully aware of western standards of politeness. They are peaceful, good-natured, law-abiding, hardworking, easy to get along with.

Their religion is very important to them, and fiestas are popular with them. If you are lucky enough to be invited to a fiesta, generally held at weddings, baptisms and religious holidays, you'll have a good time eating, singing and dancing. Be especially courteous to priests, women and old people. As devout Catholics, they consider it irreverent to work on Sundays, and would be outraged by any sign of disrespect in a church or cemetery.

Most Chamorros, certainly all the younger ones, speak English. Most of them speak it as well as you do. The Chamorro language is unusual, musical and hard to learn. You can probably get along without it.

THE STORY OF THE MARIANAS

The first white men to visit the Marianas came in 1521. They had three sailing ships, each about the size of an LCT. Their admiral was Ferdinand Magellan, the first round-the-world explorer, who flew the Spanish flag. They had discovered the Straits of Magellan near the lower end of South America, and now they were crossing the unknown Pacific. For more than three months they had sailed through open sea, somehow managing to miss every important Pacific polka-dot until they came to Guam.

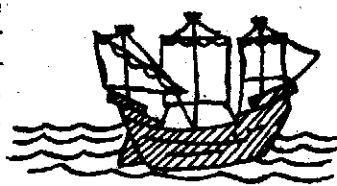
Many of the crew had died of scurvy and starvation. The rest were eating the ship's rats, or leather of the rigging. The islanders came out to greet them in sleek, fast "flying proas," outrigger canoes fitted with three-cornered sails. They brought fruit and food, and the grateful Spaniards pressed trinkets on them in return.

Las Ladrones. The island people swarmed over the ships like twentieth-century souvenir hunters, and began grabbing everything not nailed down. Finally they cut loose a ship's boat and took it ashore. The Spaniards went after them with firearms, and bows and arrows. In a fierce fight, Magellan's men killed half a dozen islanders, burned fifty houses, took back the ship's boat, stole all the provisions they could find, named the place "las Islas de las Ladrones" (Islands of Thieves), and took off.

White Man's Burdens. Spain ruled these islands for many years. She renamed them the Marianas after Queen Maria Ana, patroness of the Jesuit missionaries who arrived to convert the islanders. But there was much trouble. The Chamorros were a proud people who liked their ancient customs and beliefs and disliked the heavy hand of Spain. They saw the white men bring religion, and over the years they were to become devout Catholics. But the white men had also brought rats, mice, fleas, mosquitoes, disease, bloodshed, terror and famine. When Magellan arrived, there were perhaps a hundred thousand Chamorros living on the islands. By 1764, about 240 years later, there were little more than fifteen hundred, most of them women and children. But the islanders have not died out. Spaniards, Filipinos and Mexicans intermarried with them, and today there are some twenty-five thousand. Practically none is pure-blooded Chamorro.

Galleons and Buccaneers. During the early years of Spanish rule, there was romance as well as death in the Marianas. Here rich galleons from Mexico would put in on the way to Manila, to return home laden with treasure. Here English buccaneers would stop off and enjoy "making Holes in the Hides of the Infidels." Here, in the last century, American whaling ships would down anchor to rest their crews, refit their vessels and take on food. In 1810, an American named Captain Brown tried to settle an American colony on Saipan. He brought some American and Hawaiian families, planning to sell supplies to the whalers. But the Spaniards wiped out the settlement and carried the Hawaiians off into slavery.

A Salute for the Governor. The world heard little about the Marianas during all this time. Then, one morning in June, 1898, the American cruiser Charleston steamed into Apra harbor and opened fire. The Governor asked about the noise, and was told that the Americans were probably paying their respects to him by firing a salute. So the captain of the port rowed out to apologize for not answering the salute because there was no ammunition. That was when Guam learned



that the United States and Spain were at war. Next day the Governor, with 110 soldiers, quietly surrendered to the Americans. The island was turned over to the United States Navy for administration.

Two Promises. Spain sold the rest of Micronesia to Germany for $4,500,000. They were a German colony until Japan joined the Allies in the last war and pounced on all German possessions in the Pacific. In October, 1914, a Japanese squadron took over the German Marianas. After the war, the League of Nations let Japan keep them as a "Class C" mandate. This meant, among other things, that Japan had to promise not to build fortifications or military bases. For a few years Tokyo apparently kept the promise. Then the islands were closed completely to outsiders. By the time Japan was ready for Pearl Harbor, she had built Saipan and the other Marianas into powerful bases.

Meantime, under a treaty signed in 1922, the United States agreed not to fortify Guam, and kept her promise. That was why Japan captured it so easily three days after she started the war.

RETURN OF THE STARS AND STRIPES

In June, 1944, America went back to the Marianas. Marine and Army divisions landed on Saipan and took the island after 25 days of hard fighting. The enemy lost more than 21,000 troops on Saipan alone. In July, after giving the Japs a heavy pounding from the air and sea, our forces waded onto the beaches of Guam and Tinian.

Nimitz Re: Saipan. Commenting on Saipan's strategic importance, Admiral C. W. Nimitz said on July 13:

"It is now clear that Saipan Island was built by the Japanese as the principal fortress guarding the southern approaches to Japan, and as a major supply base for Japan's temporary holding in the south seas area. Saipan was long the seat of the Japanese government for the mandated Marianas, and Garapan town was the headquarters of the Commander in Chief of the Central Pacific Area." (NOTE: Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, who led the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, committed suicide on Saipan July 7.) "The topography of the island lent itself well to defense and elaborate fortifications manned by picked Japanese troops testify to the importance which the enemy attached to the island. The seizure of Saipan constitutes a major breach in the Japanese line of inner defenses, and it is our intention to capitalize on this breach with all available means."

That is why you are going to the Marianas.

WATCH YOUR STEP

Any territory hit by war holds a threat to your health for many months after the fighting has ended. If you want to get home in one healthy piece, be careful. Nobody ever had a good time with a case of dysentery. So keep flies off your food;

they may come straight from the latrine. Don't drink untreated ground water. Don't eat raw or unwashed vegetables unless you can peel them; that's one way to get intestinal worms. Wash your hands before eating, whenever possible.

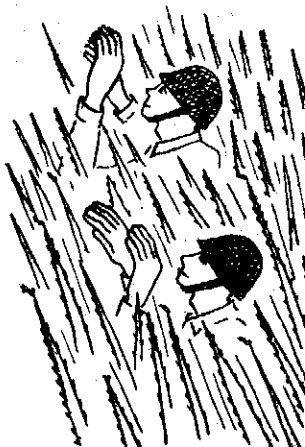
Latrines. On Guam there are public latrines for the Chamorros. If you have to use one, try not to touch anything. Chamorros are clean, but in the backwash of any war people become careless about sanitation. On islands with large Japanese civilian populations, you'll be smart to stay away from public latrines entirely and use the facilities of your own outfit.

Handle with Care. Protect yourself against the insects—flies, fleas, mosquitoes, as well as centipedes and scorpions. Dengue fever is carried by Marianas mosquitoes, but not malaria. Use the GI insect repellent and mosquito nets. Never go barefoot. That's how you catch hookworm, which eats its way through the skin. Watch out for skin diseases, which are very common among the islanders. Eye diseases imported from Japan are also widespread. The best way to avoid both is to keep away from infected persons.

Coral. Coral is hard, bony stuff built by tiny plant-like sea creatures. Whole islands can be made by them through the centuries, and the Marianas have many coral reefs. Often these reefs have treacherous holes with razor-sharp edges. Coral cuts can be brutally painful, so be sure your feet are well protected. Sometimes these holes may contain a Pacific variety of eel, which bites viciously.

Where the water is muddy or silty, you may run across fishes with sharp spines or crabs with powerful claws, and you'll be sorry if you are barefooted. Or you may spot a cream-colored anemone, eight or ten inches across, opening up from a hole in the sand, and spreading itself out in the clear sea water like a flower. Keep away! It has a terrific sting, and leaves painful welts for a long time afterward.

Swordgrass. Watch out for swordgrass on the islands, especially Guam. It's tough stuff to walk through. Don't use your hands. If you try to push the swordgrass out of your way, you'll be cut. Chamorros generally clasp their hands above and in front of their heads, fending the sharp blades away from their eyes. This position is tiring but safe, unless a machete trail is cut.



Caves. There are a lot of caves in the Marianas. The Japanese used many of them during the fighting, and remnants held out in some of them long after the formal battle was over. One or two of the caves may even now—months later—harbor a handful of Jap soldiers, waiting for a chance to throw a single bullet or

grenade at you. Don't explore the caves unless you know they're cleaned out, or unless you are going in on business.

Watch out for souvenir stuff in out-of-the-way places. Booby traps can keep for months. Dug-outs may still be mined. Pins may have been pulled out of enemy shells lying around loose.

What Every Boy Should Know. In the old days before the Spaniards came, the Chamorros had liberal ideas on relations between the sexes. They thought it was shameful for a girl to be a virgin by the time she was m a r r i e d. But wait! — that was four hundred years ago. Times have changed—so have the Chamorros. A Chamorro girl is supervised very closely now, under the Spanish chaperon system, a defense in depth which defies all landing operations. Even in the old days, the freedom that was encouraged before marriage stopped with the wedding night. A man who fooled with a married woman was always attacked and sometimes killed by the villagers.

Among the imports from Europe was prostitution. It is not as widespread now as it used to be. But it has left its stamp on the islanders. The venereal disease rate in the Marianas is very high. There is much gonorrhea; perhaps one-third of the islanders suffer from it. Yaws, a South Seas version of syphilis, is even more common. In 1931, it was reported that every adult native on Saipan had yaws. It is the principal disease on Guam. It rarely occurs among white people, but don't take any chances!

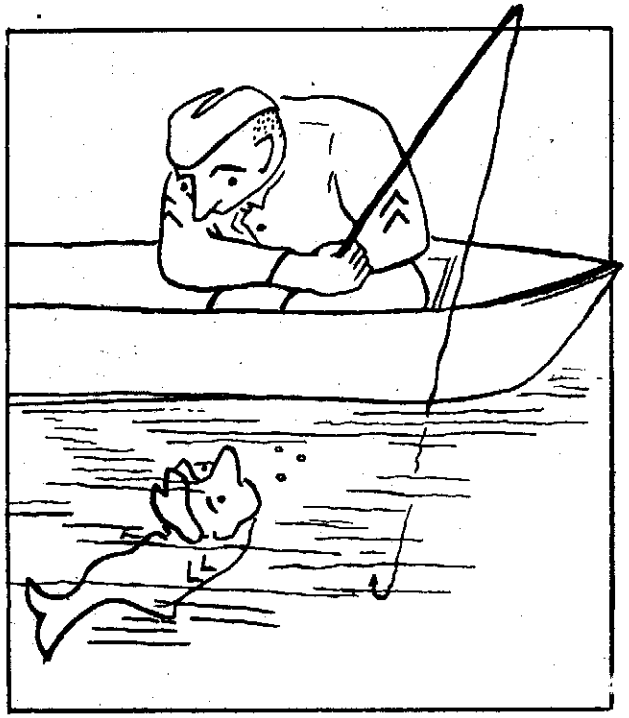
FLYING FOXES AND TAIL-DROPPING LIZARDS

Don't blame Japanese beer if you see flying foxes hanging from trees like tiny Tarzans. They are really fruit bats. They are small and smelly, but the islanders consider them a tasty dish. You net them in the moonlight, or shoot them in the daylight, if you like to eat small smelly bats.

But you've really had too much to drink when you see snakes. The only snake in the Marianas has a name bigger than its size—Typhlops braminus. It looks like a somewhat seedy earthworm, hardly longer than your finger. Harmless, too.

You can carry a gecko around in your pocket if you want to. It's a small lizard which lives peacefully around the house or barracks. It chirps like crazy, and loves to chase insects upside down on the ceiling. You can scare the tail off a gecko by chasing one yourself. His cousin, the monitor lizard, wouldn't fit into your pocket. He's four feet long. He's got sharp teeth and claws. Give him a chance to run away from you. He likes you less than you like him.

Wasps and ants are pretty mean here. They sting. So do scorpions. Centipedes don't sting. They bite. It feels the same either way: hurts like hell.



RECREATION

You'll want to go **swimming.** Don't try it on the weather side of the islands (generally the northern and eastern shore.) There is a heavy surf, the reefs

are jagged, the shores rocky. But the larger islands have some fair beaches with light surf. If you go boating, stay inside the reefs. The modern Chamorro canoe is not too safe. It is generally an outrigger dugout, with a plow-shaped paddle. Sometimes the Chamorros rig up a bamboo mast with a cotton sail for speed, but they are not the navigators their ancestors were.

You'll want to go **hunting.** In the open season for wild cattle, goats and deer, there is plenty of game. But the favorite sport on the islands is pig-hunting. For this purpose the islanders unleash a pack of native dogs, which look like small Great Danes. When the dogs corner a wild pig, a Chamorro finishes him off with a blow of the machete. They net fruit pigeons, and use slip-noose snares to catch wild ducks and jungle fowl.

You'll want to go **fishing.** You can do it practically anywhere off the shores and reefs of Guam, but the good places are the lagoons near Sumay and Merizo. In the fresh-water streams you'll find perch and eels, which you can eat. There are plenty of fish in the lagoons and out in the open waters. Along the shores and reefs you'll spot lots of shellfish. No pearl oysters, though. Between January and March, you may see sperm whales offshore.

Practically any deepwater fish around the Marianas can be eaten. But don't touch the fish living in the shallow flats along the shore. They feed on polluted matter from the land. Watch out for a small grey species of land crab. It's poisonous. On the other

hand, you can eat a coconut crab. It has a dark brown color, and a small soft body with large and powerful claws. You can also eat sea crabs, but make sure that they have just been caught. Seafood in the Marianas spoils quickly.

Odds and Ends. The man who raises a thirst in the Marianas can find satisfaction in the coconut. The water inside an almost ripe nut is fresh and cool. Poke a hole through the stem opening and one of the two eyes, and the water will come out easily. Drinking up more than four coconuts at a time, though, will entitle you to a ringside seat in the latrine. You'll need one.

The coconut has other uses. Chamorros make tuba out of the fermented sap in its blossoms. Fresh tuba is like hard cider. When it gets very hard, it's powerful stuff, like the sake which the Japanese drink. Before the war, tuba used to cost forty cents a quart. Old-timers say you should go easy till you get used to these drinks and know how much you can take.

The islanders will walk a mile for a chaw of betel, which they sometimes mix with home-grown tobacco. It makes them powerful spitters, and takes the place of lipstick, discoloring teeth and lips. Younger Chamorros like chewing gum. To make yourself popular, be liberal with your gum and your cigarets. Don't presume to offer either of these to the dignified old women on the islands. They prefer a good pipe.

Running from north to south, these are the Marianas:

Farallon de Pajaros is an active volcano about a mile across and about a thousand feet high. It has steep slopes kept smooth by the flow of lava and ashes. There are always dense clouds of yellowish smoke and fire coming from the cone. No inhabitants.

Maug is really three small islands surrounding a deep lagoon. They are all bordered by steep cliffs and have a few bushes and palm trees. No civilians.

Asuncion is an almost perfect volcanic cone rising steeply to a height of nearly three thousand feet. The crater hasn't been active for many years, except for a little white smoke that seeps out occasionally. No civilians.

Agrihan is about 6 miles long and 3½ miles wide, covering some 13 square miles. It has two volcanic peaks, one of them the highest in the Marianas: 3,166 feet. The island has steep slopes, deep gorges, luxuriant vegetation. A few civilians, mostly Chamorros.

Pagan is the largest of the northern volcanic isles, 8½ miles long and 3½ miles wide. It has three volcanoes, separated by a narrow plain. From a distance, Pagan looks like two islands. Two of the volcanoes are active, the southern one steaming, the northern smoking, but neither has erupted since 1922. The whole island is rocky and barren, except for some savanna grass and a few trees. Steep cliffs cut the island in

two, and make travel from one part to the other very difficult. The coastline is rocky and unfriendly. A few civilians.

Alamagan is a small island with a dormant volcano. It has steep slopes and deep gorges. Along the coast are gable-shaped ridges which cave in when they are undermined by the sea. In the southwest there is a deep valley with caves used by the few inhabitants as shelters against storms.

Guguan is a small, round island with two volcanic peaks, one active, the other extinct. Between the two are deep ravines. Smoke sometimes comes out of the active volcano, as well as sulphur which looks like snow from a distance. No civilians.

Sarigan is an extinct volcano cut by a number of ravines and valleys. Dense tropical vegetation fills the valleys, some of which are long and broad, and there are many coconut palms. The island is surrounded by sheer cliffs. A few civilians.

Anatahan is an extinct volcano with two peaks. A few civilians.

Farrallon de Medinilla is a narrow raised coral island a mile and a half long. No civilians.

Saipan and **Tinian** are described on pages 9 and 10.

Aguijan is a small volcanic island five miles southwest of Tinian. It is a high table-land surrounded on all sides by rough walls of sheer rock. A few Japanese farmers live here.

Rota and **Guam** are described on pages 8 and 10.