

(DENTAL OFFICERS PASS EXAM)

SAIPAN, JUNE 21 (MNS) --- FOUR TRUST TERRITORY DENTAL OFFICERS HAVE PASSED THE BOARD EXAMINATION ADMINISTERED BY THE NEWLY CREATED TT BOARD OF LICENSURE AND THEIR LICENSES TO PRACTICE DENTISTRY IN THE TT WILL BE ISSUED TO THEM SOON, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES DR. AROBATI HICKING. 1974
L1

THE EXAMINATION, WHICH WAS ADMINISTERED IN YAP DISTRICT LAST WEEK, WAS TAKEN BY DR. MANUEL O. SABLAN, MARIANAS DISTRICT; STANISLAUS GUEFAG AND IGNATIUS RUGUE OF YAP; AND YALBERK K. ENLET FROM TRUK DISTRICT.

ANOTHER DENTAL OFFICER, FROM THE MARSHALLS, DR. MASAO KOREAN, HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO TAKE THE SAME EXAMINATION IN TRUK DISTRICT AND THE RESULT OF HIS EXAMINATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON.

MEMBERS OF THE TT BOARD OF LICENSURE WHO CONDUCTED THE EXAMINATION ARE: DR. JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND HANARO SABINO, BOARD MEMBER. TWO U.S. PHYSICIANS--DRS. ROBERT SHELLWORTH, DDS, PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO PALAU DISTRICT, AND GORDON NOLON, DDS, FROM THE U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL ON GUAM WERE INVITED TO ASSIST THE TT BOARD IN ADMINISTERING THE EXAMINATION.

DR. HICKING, IN CONGRATULATING THE DENTAL OFFICERS FOR PASSING THE DIFFICULT EXAMINATION, SAID: "WE TRUST THAT AS DENTAL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES TEAM, YOU WILL DO YOUR UTMOST TO UPHOLD YOUR PROFESSION WITH DIGNITY, AND HELP TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH CONDITIONS IN MICRONESIA."

(SPC CONSULTANT TO VISIT)

SAIPAN, JUNE 21 (MNS) --- A SPECIAL CONSULTANT FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION, DR. GEORGE PITTMAN, WILL ARRIVE ON TRUK NEXT WEEK. DR. PITTMAN WILL HEAD A WORKSHOP ON BI-LINGUAL EDUCATION.

THE WORKSHOP WILL BEGIN ON JUNE 24TH AND WILL RUN FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS.

DR. PITTMAN IS AN AUTHORITY ON TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, ACCORDING TO MARCELLINO UMWECH, ENGLISH PROGRAM SUPERVISOR IN THE TRUST TERRITORY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

ANOTHER LANGUAGE EXPERT, MS. PATSY LANE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO LEAD A SIMILAR WORKSHOP NEXT WEEK. THE SECOND WORKSHOP WILL TAKE PLACE IN YAP, UMWECH SAID.

(NEW REPAIR PROGRAM)

SAIPAN, JUNE 21 (MNS) --- THE TRUST TERRITORY MAY SOON START A NEW CONCEPT IN MAINTENANCE WORK IF A PILOT PROGRAM UNDERWAY ON EBEYE PROVES SUCCESSFUL.

ACCORDING TO RAYMOND L. MATHEWS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION OF THE TT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, A "CYCLICAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM" PROJECT IS CURRENTLY BEING TESTED ON EBEYE. THE PROGRAM CALLS FOR A GROUP OF TRAINED TECHNICIANS TO ESTABLISH A MAINTENANCE ROUTE AND TIMETABLE IN THEIR DISTRICT.

THE GROUP, SAID MATHEWS, WILL FOLLOW THEIR SCHEDULE GOING FROM ONE BUILDING TO THE NEXT, DOING REPAIR WORK ACCORDING TO THEIR TIME TABLE. ESSENTIALLY, THIS MEANS THAT AFTER THE THIRD OR FOURTH ROUND THE BUILDINGS WILL REACH A SET LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE. FURTHER VISITS, NOTED MATHEWS, WILL MAINTAIN THAT HIGH LEVEL.

"WE THINK THIS PROGRAM HAS GREAT POTENTIAL," MATHEWS SAID. "WE HOPE TO ESTABLISH ONE OR MORE CREWS PER DISTRICT." 0.231

THE PILOT PROJECT ON EBEYE HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR THE PAST MONTH. ONE OF THE REASONS EBEYE WAS CHOSEN WAS THAT IT HAS A HIGH POPULATION DENSITY AND IS SMALL ENOUGH TO OFFER A CONTROLLED STUDY.

MATHEWS SAID THAT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HOPES TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAM WITHIN THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR.

(THE INVASION OF SAIPAN---THIRTY YEARS LATER)
(AN MNS FEATURE STORY BY FRANK ROSARIO AND FLOYD TAKEUCHI)
SAIPAN, JUNE 21 (MNS)---THIRTY YEARS AGO THIS MONTH THE END OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE EMPIRE WAS DETERMINED ON THE BEACHES AND HILLS OF SAIPAN. THAT BLOODY BATTLE, IN WHICH OVER 14,000 AMERICANS AND 30,000 JAPANESE WERE KILLED, WOUNDED, OR REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION, WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT TURNING POINT IN THE PACIFIC WAR. ONCE THE STRATEGIC ISLANDS OF THE MARIANAS WERE SECURED, AMERICAN B-29 BOMBERS WERE FINALLY WITHIN STRIKING RANGE OF THE JAPANESE HOMELAND. IT WAS FROM SAIPAN, AND TINIAN TO THE SOUTH, THAT AMERICA WAS ABLE TO CRIPPLE IMPERIAL JAPAN'S MILITARY MIGHT.

FOR SOME OF THE RESIDENTS OF SAIPAN, MEMORIES OF THE INVASION ARE AS CLEAR TODAY AS THEY WERE THIRTY YEARS

"IT WAS SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1944, WHEN THE FIRST WAVE OF AMERICAN PLANES CAME," RECOUNTED IGNACIO M. SABLAN. NOW THE MARIANAS DISTRICT BUDGET OFFICER, SABLAN WAS FIXING HIS BICYCLE IN GARAPAN WHEN THE BOMBING STARTED. "U.S. PLANES BOMBED CHARLIE DOCK AND DESTROYED SEVERAL OIL TANKS. I COULDN'T ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF PLANES THAT WERE COMING IN. I LOOKED UP IN THE SKY AND THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO RAIN BECAUSE THERE WAS SO MUCH BLACK SMOKE."

JOSE S. PANGELINAN WAS A CAPTAIN IN THE SECOND DIVISION OF THE KEIBOO-DAN, A SAIPANESE MILITIA GROUP. "WHEN THE INVASION BEGAN, I TOLD THE OTHERS IN MY GROUP TO TAKE THEIR FAMILIES AND HIDE IN THE CAVES."

PANGELINAN, WHO WAS 40 AT THE TIME OF THE INVASION, SAID, "I WAS QUITE FORTUNATE THAT THE COMMANDING OFFICER, GENERAL KUROTA, HAD BEEN MY CLASSMATE IN JAPAN. HE HID MY FAMILY IN A CAVE AND GAVE US A PASS TO SHOW JAPANESE TROOPS."

"JAPANESE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS SURROUNDED OUR CAVE," HE SAID "WE JUST SAT AND WATCH THEM FIRE AT THE WAVES AND WAVES OF AMERICAN PLANES FLYING ABOVE."

SABLAN WITNESSED MUCH OF THE BOMBING, TOO. "ON JUNE 12," HE RECALLED, "PLANES BEGAN BOMBING AGAIN. BOMBS EXPLODED BEFORE THEY REACHED THE GROUND. WE SAW MANY JAPANESE ZEROS SHOT DOWN."

LIKE PANGELINAN, SABLAN AND HIS FAMILY SOUGHT SAFETY IN A CAVE. "WE STAYED IN ONE CAVE, BUT DECIDED TO MOVE ON THE EVENING OF THE 12TH. WE FOUND ANOTHER CAVE AND STAYED THERE UNTIL JULY 2ND. FROM THAT CAVE WE COULD SEE FROM AGINGAN POINT TO THE BEACH AT OLEAI."

THERE WERE 63 PEOPLE IN PANGELINAN'S CAVE. THE CAVE WAS ONLY 15 FEET SQUARE. "WE SAW THOUSANDS OF JAPANESE WOUNDED. MY TWO SONS, DONALD AND JOHN, WERE VERY YOUNG AT THE TIME. BUT THEY HELPED ME TAKE WATER TO THOSE DYING SOLDIERS. WE WERE LUCKY NO ONE SHOT US."

PANGELINAN, NOW A CO-EDITOR OF THE SAIPAN NEWSPAPER I GASETA, REMEMBERS WELL THE DAY AMERICAN SOLDIERS REACHED HIS CAVE. "IT WAS JUNE 16TH. I TOLD THE OTHERS IN THE CAVE TO KEEP STILL AND NOT SAY A WORD.

"MY DAUGHTER, ELPHIDIA, WAS SIX AT THE TIME. I TOLD HER WHAT TO SAY WHEN SHE SAW THE AMERICANS COMING. SHE WENT OUTSIDE, WAVED A WHITE CLOTH, AND SHOUTED, "WELCOME AMERICANS!""

"THEY TOLD US TO COME OUT, ONE BY ONE" HE SAID. "WE COULDN'T TAKE ANYTHING WE OWNED. WE ARE TAKEN TO A CAMP IN OLEAI, STAYED THERE FOR TWO DAYS, AND THEN WE WERE

TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER ONE IN CHALAN KIYA."

MANY SAIPANESE, ONCE IN THE SAFE CUSTODY OF THE ADVANCING AMERICAN TROOPS, VOLUNTEERED AS SCOUTS AND INTERPRETERS.

ANTONIO BENAVENTE, NOW SAIPAN'S SHERIFF, WAS 18 WHEN THE FIRST AMERICAN TROOPS WADED ASHORE. "I VOLUNTEERED AS A COUT AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 4TH MARINE DIVISION," HE RECALLED.

BENAVENTE WORKED WITH ANOTHER SAIPANESE, MIKE TENORIO. ACCORDING TO BENAVENTE, TENORIO LANDED WITH THE MARINES. "MIKE HAD BEEN A SAILOR ON A JAPANESE SHIP WITH FIVE OTHER SAIPANESE. HE WAS ON KWAJALEIN WHEN THE AMERICAN INVASION STARTED THERE. OF THE FIVE," BENAVENTE SAID, "HE WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR. THE AMERICANS CAPTURED HIM AND TOOK HIM TO HAWAII FOR INTERROGATION. THEY WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE JAPANESE FORCES ON SAIPAN WERE LIKE."

TENORIO IS NOW A PAINTER FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. BUT IN 1944, HE AND BENAVENTE ASSISTED AMERICAN FORCES IN THE INVASION OF TINIAN AND THE ROUTING OF JAPANESE SNIPERS ON SAIPAN.

"MIKE SAVED MANY SAIPANESE LIVES," BENAVENTE SAID. "HE HELPED DIRECT MUCH OF THE U.S. NAVAL GUNFIRE. HE TOLD THEM TO SHOOT AT THE HILLS, AND THE BEACHES, AND TOLD THEM WHERE JAPANESE GUN EMPLACEMENTS WERE.

"WE TRAINED FOR SIX MONTHS," REMINISCED BENAVENTE, "AT THE CAMP OF THE SIXTH MARINE DIVISION. THAT WAS LOCATED ON WHAT IS NOW CAPITOL HILL, WHERE THE TT HEADQUARTERS IS."

DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME, TENORIO AND BENAVENTE HELPED CAPTURE ABOUT 50 JAPANESE SNIPERS.

JOSE PANGELINAN ALSO SERVED AN AN INTERPRETER AND SCOUT. HE WENT WITH AMERICAN TROOPS TO ASSURE SAIPANESE STILL HIDING IN CAVES THAT THEY HAD NOTHING TO FEAR IF THEY SURRENDERED.

HE NARROWLY MISSED BEING KILLED ONCE. "I WAS WITH TWO CAPTAINS, TWO SERGEANTS, AND TWO PRIVATES WHEN WE WERE AMBUSHED NEAR MATANSA. ONE CAPTAIN GRABBED HIS WALKIE-TALKIE AND WITHIN THREE MINUTES SEVERAL PLANES BEGAN CIRCLING US AND DROPPING BOMBS."

THE SAIPANESE SCOUTS HELPED SAVE MANY LIVES. FAMILIES THAT HAD TAKEN REFUGE IN THE HILLS CAME OUT DURING THE NIGHT HOURS UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS. THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY WERE JAPANESE OR SAIPANESE, AS BOTH WORE SIMILAR CLOTHING.

THE TOLL PAID BY BOTH SIDES WAS ENORMOUS. SAIPAN'S HILLY TERRAIN MADE IT DIFFICULT, AND COSTLY, FOR THE ADVANCING AMERICAN ARMY. ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT, SAIPAN SEEMED TO BE ONE HILL AFTER ANOTHER FOR THE MARINE AND ARMY UNITS. SOME OF THOSE HILLS WERE NICKNAMED AS REMINDERS OF THE BLOODY BATTLES THAT TOOK PLACE ON THEM: DEAD MAN'S GUCH, POISON RIDGE, IMPOSTER'S HILL, DEATH VALLEY, NAMELESS CRAG, AND BACK BREAK HILL.

ONE MARINE REGIMENT WORKED THEIR WAY TO THE TOP OF MOUNT TAPOCHAU, SAIPAN'S HIGHEST PEAK. THEN THEY FOUND THEMSELVES SURROUNDED BY JAPANESE AND WERE ORDERED TO WITHDRAW. THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER DECIDED TO REMAIN WITH THEIR WOUNDED AND FIGHT IT OUT. BY MORNING, WHEN ANOTHER AMERICAN PATROL REACHED THEM, ONLY FIVE OF THE ORIGINAL GROUP WAS ALIVE.

BUT PERHAPS THE BLOODIEST FIGHTING TOOK PLACE WHEN MARINE AND ARMY UNITES CORNERED THE REMAINING JAPANESE TROOPS IN SAIPAN'S MARPI AREA, THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF THE ISLAND.

IT WAS HERE THAT THE BLOODIEST BATTLE OF THE SAIPAN CAMPAIGN TOOK PLACE. ON THE EVENING OF JULY 6 OVER 3,000

JAPANESE SOLDIERS, SOME ONLY ARMED WITH POINTED STICKS, CHARGED AMERICAN POSITIONS NEAR TANAPAG VILLAGE.

THE JAPANESE TROOPS STORMED OVER THE BELEAGURED AMERICANS. IT WAS BLOODY HAND TO HAND COMBAT. MANY OF THE AMERICANS WHO MANAGED TO RETREAT TO TANAPAG WERE KILLED FROM U.S. NAVAL GUNFIRE DIRECTED TOWARD THE AREA.

BY THE TIME REINFORCEMENTS BROKE THROUGH, OVER 900 AMERICANS HAD BEEN KILLED OR WOUNDED AND ALMOST EVERY JAPANESE SOLDIER HAD DIED.

IT WAS ALSO IN MARPI THAT ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC EPISODES OF THE WAR TOOK PLACE. MANY OF THE JAPANESE AND SAIPANESE CIVILIANS WERE CONVINCED THAT THE "AMERICAN DEVILS" WOULD KILL THEM IF THEY SURRENDERED. PUSHED TO THE NORTHERN END OF THE ISLAND BY THE AMERICAN ADVANCE, THEY CHOSE TO KILL THEMSELVES RATHER THAN TO DIE IN THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY.

SUICIDE CLIFF AND BANZAI CLIFF WERE THE SITES OF THIS MASS CARNAGE. "I SAW MORE THAN 3,000 JUMP," BENAVENTE RECALLED. "WHOLE FAMILY GROUPS, MOTHERS AND FATHERS, WERE PUSHING THEIR CHILDREN, THEN LEAPING THEMSELVES.

"THE U.S. TROOPS GAVE ME A LOUDSPEAKER TO BEG THEM TO STOP. I YELLED IN JAPANESE TO THEM: 'DON'T DO IT. COME DOWN. THE AMERICANS WILL NOT HURT YOU.'

"BUT THEY CONTINUED FOR HOURS," HE SAID. "HUNDREDS OF THEM," LEAPING FROM THAT CLIFF."

IN THE SEA AROUND BANZAI CLIFF, HUNDREDS OF BODIES WASHED AGAINST EACH OTHER AS STILL OTHERS JUMPED TO THEIR DEATHS.

TODAY, SAIPAN'S BEACHES ARE QUIET SAVE FOR THE LAUGHTER OF CHILDREN PLAYING IN THE CALM WATER. HOTELS AND SWIMMING POOLS MARK THE SITES OF SOME OF THE HEAVIEST BEACHFRONT FIGHTING. THE ONLY JAPANESE GUNS THAT REMAIN ON SAIPAN ARE SILENT, RUSTY REMINDERS OF A VIOLENT PAST.

TOURISTS, BOTH JAPANESE AND AMERICAN, NOW CROWD THE RAILINGS AT THE TOP OF SUICIDE CLIFF TO PEER DOWN THE AWESOME DROP TO THE ROCKY GROUND BELOW. AND AT BANZAI CLIFF, A PEACE MEMORIAL STANDS IN SILENT VIGILANCE OVER THE WATERY GRAVE OF MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN, MANY OF WHOM WERE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF EVENTS THAT WERE BEYOND THEIR CONTROL.