

We continued to push westward and found ourselves in Peleliu, one of the Paulau Islands and the western most of the Caroline Islands. This is another island of coral formation. The history of these Islands dates back to their discovery by the Portugese in 1527. In 1686 they were annexed by Spain and renamed in honor of Charles II. In 1899 Germany purchased these Islands from Spain and after World War I, they were placed under Japanese Mandate. You have read the current history in the newspapers and know what is happening to them.

MABOHAY ang FILIFINAS! In case you don't know, the meaning is "Long life to the Filipinos". I am sure you hear it over the radio from General Mac Arthur's broadcasting station. Yes we were in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, of the Philippines. The bay is between the islands of Samar and Leyte, both a part of the Philippines. During our stay in this area the crew, the sections, had two liberty parties ashore. Of course there wasn't much opportunity to do much sightseeing, but we did get a chance to see a bit of these famed islands in the Philippines.

The islands are all mountainous and during the morning and early evening are covered with fog banks and low hanging clouds. The weather was hot and humid with very little rain during the time we were there.

A few of us did get into the province capitol of Leyte, Tacloban. One of the Saturday Evening Post correspondents wrote three articles about Leyte which appeared sometime during January and February. If you can, get these back copies from the public library.

The natives of Leyte and Samar are very small in stature, dark skinned and most of them look underfed, which they probably are. We saw little kids who couldn't have been more than four or five years of age, doing the family washing in one of the fresh water streams that run from the mountains into the ocean.

Tacloban, capitol of the province of Leyte, was fantastic. There were two main streets in the town which were at right angles to each other and met in the center of town. When we were there, that "State and Madison", "Times Square" or "Market and Fifth Street" crossroads of Tacloban was an ankle deep mudhole. The houses were mostly two stories and looked like they were built to last about two weeks. The province capitol building was a huge structure, modeled after one of the periods of Greek Architecture and surrounded by massive pillars. Closeup inspection revealed that the plaster was scaling off, the interior was the worse for wear due to the peculiarities of modern warfare and in general it looked like many of our real estate developments at home did after that "era of wonderful nonsense" which was climaxed in 1929.

With this we close Vol. I, No. 1. of TELFAIR TALES with the promise that in due time and within the limits of existing regulations, other chapters will be sent you. And SO - - - with Oceans of Love, I remain your nautical correspondent,

JACK TAR, Editor.

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