

The Sacrifice: 1919-1943

By Don A. Farrell

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Historian Don Farrell has completed the third installment of his *The Pictorial History of Guam* trilogy, *The Sacrifice: 1919-1943*. The book links the two volumes of the series that already have been published, *The Americanization: 1898-1918* and *Liberation — 1944*.

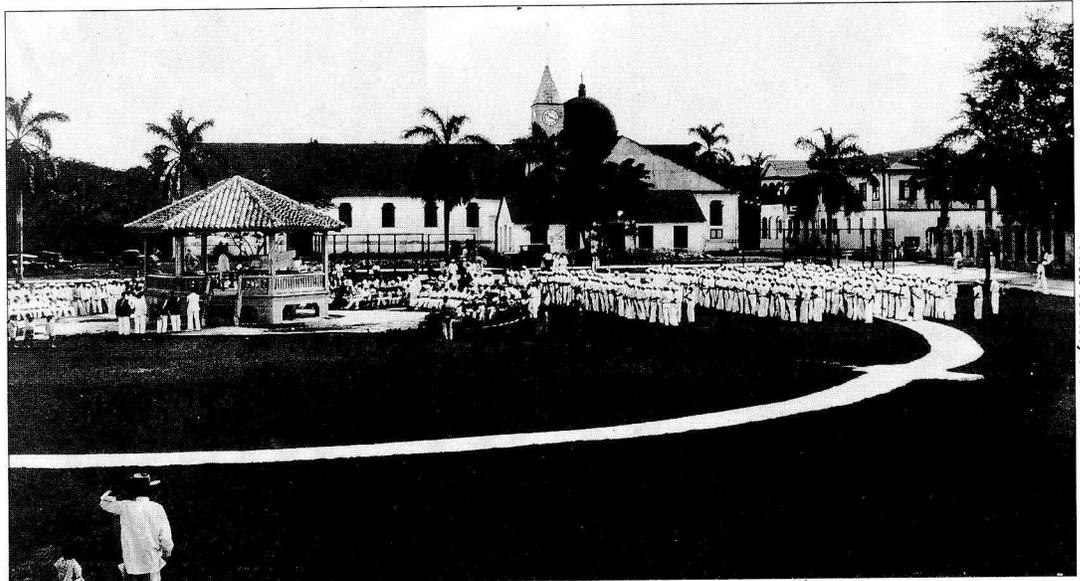
The title of *The Sacrifice* refers to Farrell's assertion, based on historical fact, that the United States — both Congress and President Roosevelt — intentionally sacrificed Guam to Japan at the beginning of World War II simply by refusing to fortify the island. The 1939 decision to not defend the island resulted from the desire to avoid

any action that might antagonize Japan, and from a strategy of concentrating U.S. naval forces in the Atlantic Ocean while maintaining a defensive stance in the Pacific. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, of course, changed all that.

The Sacrifice documents how Guam was "used as a pawn of American foreign policy during a period of international turmoil," as Farrell puts it, and details the Chamorros' early efforts to be recognized as full-fledged U.S. citizens. But beyond this, the book also is valuable as a chronicle of life on Guam between the two world wars.

After an introductory chapter about the United States' acquisition of Guam in 1898 and the island's transformation into a ship-shape Navy outpost by the end of World War I, the book shows how during the peaceful 1920s the seeds for the next world war already were being planted as Japan grew increasingly aggressive in the Pacific.

The chapter "Status Quo" is a tantalizing look at Guam during the 1920s and '30s, when life, Farrell writes, in many ways resembled that in any small Midwestern town on the U.S. mainland. Through the accounts of journalists who visited the island, and articles in the *Guam Recorder*, the



Naval personnel conduct New Year's Day military exercises at the Plaza de Espana in Agana in this photo taken circa 1930.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Naval Historical Center

chapter provides some insight into social, cultural and economic conditions of the times. It was during this period that Guam's business community first became organized with the creation of the Guam Chamber of Commerce in 1924, and the island first began to receive regular commercial air service with the arrival of Pan American Airways System's China Clipper in 1935.

The next chapter, "Citizenship Denied," focuses on the Chamorros' pre-World War II quest for political status as U.S. citizens. These pleas for recognition fell on deaf Congressional ears, despite moral support from Guam Gov. Willis W. Bradley Jr., who in 1930 signed a proclamation establishing a U.S. Constitution-style bill of rights for Guam, and despite a petition for citizenship that in 1937 was brought to Washington, D.C., by Fourth Guam Congress representatives Baltazar J. Bordallo and Francisco B. Leon Guerrero.

After a chapter on the Congressional controversy that surrounded the issue of whether or not the United States should have fortified Guam as World War II loomed on the horizon, the book describes the brief administration of Gov. George J. McMillin, who was unfortunate enough to be Guam's

governor when the Japanese invaded the island in December 1941. The concluding chapters of *The Sacrifice* are a detailed account of the attack on Guam, the valiant but futile attempts by U.S. soldiers and local militia to defend the island against the Japanese juggernaut, and McMillin's inevitable surrender.

In passages describing the Japanese attack on Guam, Farrell uses material from interviews with surviving eyewitnesses to recreate dialogue and personal perspectives. The effective use of this device injects into the events a gripping sense of immediacy that would not be possible with an ordinary narrative style. The book also contains a wealth of historical photographs, which Farrell has assembled from sources including the University of Guam's Micronesia Research Center, the National Geographic Society, and the National Archives.

The Sacrifice was designed by Barbara Schwendiman and ably edited by Phyllis Koontz. Artist Ariel Dimalanta has contributed some hand-drawn illustrations. Copies of the book can be obtained by writing to Faith Book Store, 105 Agana Shopping Center, Agana, Guam 96910; or the author at P.O. Box 5, Tinian, MP 96952. ■