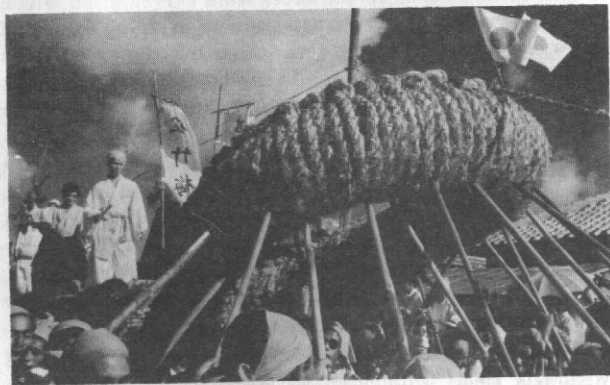


Children's Day (and many other days) whacking one another with wooden swords in imitation of their screen heroes. Wooden swords are as common here as cap pistols back home.

Harvest Festival, observed in the sixth month, is best known and most widely attended at Yonabaru. Two huge ropes of freshly harvested rice straw, representing male and female, are carried through the streets in a colorful procession and joined to symbolize fertility of the earth. The highlight of the festival is a tug of war between selected teams.



Harvest festival at Yonabaru.

On the seventh day of the seventh month comes *Star Festival*, when the stars Althair and Vega seem to approach each other. This gave rise to a charming legend of a herd boy and a weaving girl who, after a year of separation, meet on this night across a bridge made of swallows. At this time, homes and tombs are scrupulously cleaned and refurbished in preparation for *O-bon Festival*, when ancestral spirits are entertained by the living.

With the possible exception of New Year's, *O-bon Festival* is the most important of the year. The expression "*O-bon* and New Year together" means "This is just too much." There is nothing morbid about the 3-day event (13th to the 16th day of the seventh month), since ancestral spirits are assumed to be benevolent onlookers at the festivities and to expect the living to be happy. The spirits are welcomed with incense and various offerings. Family reunions, exchanging of gifts (not to be confused with Christmas gifts), feasting, dramatic entertainment, and dancing in the village square are all part of the celebration.

Dancing (*Bon Odori*) takes place on the third and final day of *O-bon* and may last all night long. Carefully rehearsed, the rhythmic dancing is accompanied by singing, chanting, hand-clapping, foot-stamping, the music of flutes, and the beat of drums. This is an excellent time to see ancient costumes and hear traditional music.

Guests are welcome to watch or participate.

The *Moon Festival*, in the fall, is frankly just an occasion to have a wonderful time enjoying the harvest moon. People get together at moon-viewing parties, write and exchange poems, and eat, drink, and enjoy themselves generally.

There are other holidays—political anniversaries, school holidays, local religious festivals, and the like—but the ones mentioned here are among the most significant.

PASTIMES—FAMILIAR AND OTHERWISE

In the Ryukyus, you will be able to spend your leisure hours much as you do at home, if you wish. Recreational facilities offered by the Armed Forces are among the very best. But unless you get out and mingle with the people among whom you serve, sample their foods, watch and try their sports, enjoy their traditional entertainment and festivals, you will be missing a wonderful opportunity to have new experiences and meet new friends.

Adventures in Eating

If you are adventurous, you will want to try local dishes not found on American menus. Some of them are very appetizing indeed. Eating with chopsticks will be fun, too, once you get the hang of it. For the most pleasant meal in an Okinawan restaurant, take an Okinawan friend along to advise and assist you.

Here are a few dishes to try for a starter. *Sukiyaki* (skee-yak-ee) is a delicious beef and vegetable dish cooked in sweetened soy sauce at the table. In addition to thin slices of tender beef, it contains bean curd, green onions, bamboo shoots, cabbage, and other vegetables. *Tempura* (tem-poor-ah) is the name of a variety of foods fried in deep fat—fish fillets, shrimp, or pieces of meat or fowl with or without vegetables, or perhaps vegetables alone.

O-sushi (o-soo-shee) is cold rice, seasoned with vinegar and spices, rolled into a cylinder about the size of your thumb, and topped with raw fish slices, an egg preparation, or seaweed. This is dipped in soy sauce and eaten in one bite. Raw fish slices, *sashimi*, dipped in a tangy, highly seasoned sauce, are also popular. Many Americans who didn't think much of raw fish at first have become quite fond of it later. Many Americans, remember, think they don't like raw oysters until they have eaten a few.

Places To Eat

Aside from the many clubs and messhalls provided for American servicemen, approved eating places are limited. A few commercial restaurants serve local foods in the local manner and setting. Several others specialize in Western-type meals, but the food and service are no better and considerably higher in price than at the Armed Forces clubs. Roof garden cafes in a few of the larger department stores are delightful, especially in the cool of the

evening. Food and beverages can also be obtained at hotels.

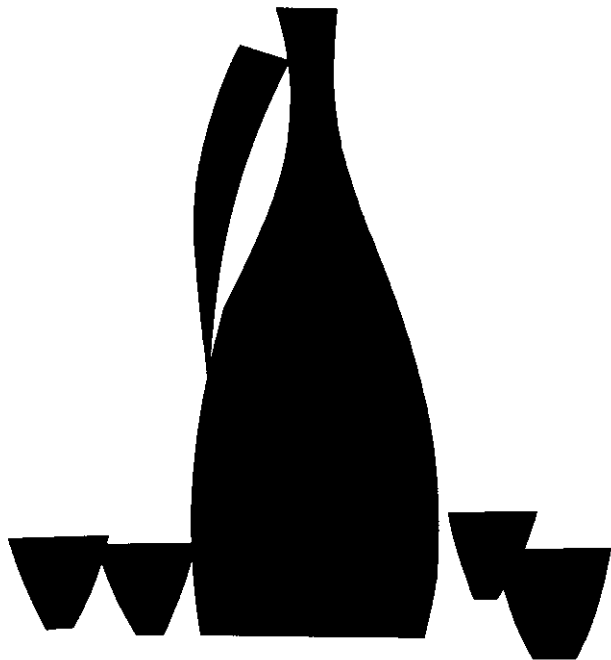
Okinawan restaurants are inspected by Ryukyuan Government officials and graded *One*, *Two*, or *Three*. When dining out, visit the restaurants rated *Grade One*—the safest from the standpoint of sanitation—and avoid those in the other categories.

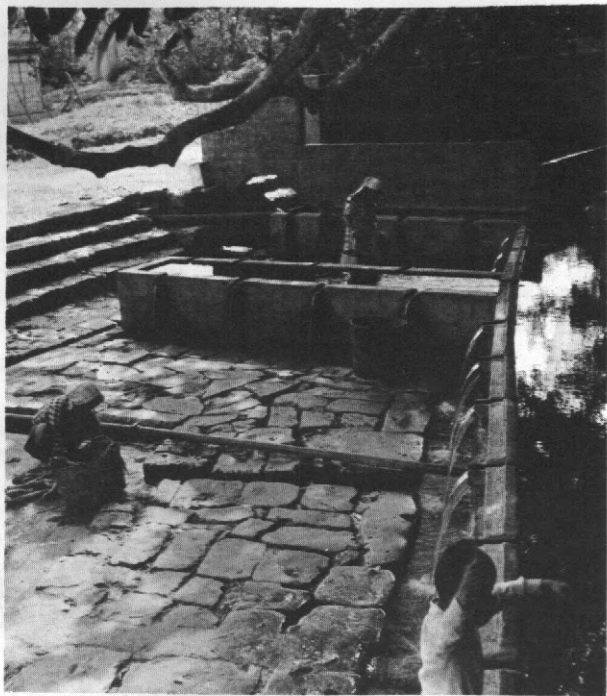
At the many Armed Forces clubs—officer, NCO, and enlisted—you can enjoy good food and bar service at very reasonable prices. These clubs offer orchestras for dancing and floor shows. If you belong to one, others in the same category may allow you to enjoy their facilities.

A Word About Drinks

Sake (sah-kay), a kind of wine, and *awamori* (ah-wah-more-ee), a whiskey, are produced locally from rice. These colorless drinks are served in tiny cups. Sake is heated before being served. In the villages a sort of brandy is made from sweet potatoes, and a drink resembling "white mule" from sugarcane. No matter what your estimated capacity is for familiar beverages, approach all of these with caution. Although *sake* and *awamori* are not highly alcoholic, the local custom is to serve them very freely.

Most nightclubs feature high-priced drinks, a multitude of friendly hostesses, and dancing to jukebox music. In some sections of Naha and Koza nightclubs are lined up side by side along the streets.





The village water point is a center of social life.

Stay Healthy

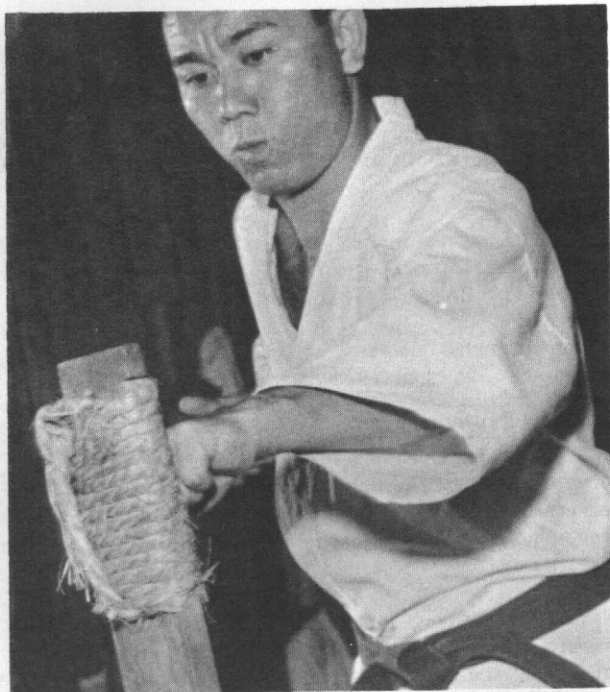
In the Ryukyus, as in many other countries, a few simple health precautions are necessary. As a newcomer, you will be more susceptible to local disease-causing germs and parasites than the Ryukyuan. The Ryukyuan, through the years, have built up some immunity to them, but they would probably flatten you.

When you are in the country, be careful what you eat and drink. Since night soil is still used to some extent as fertilizer, water and plant life in the raw may be contaminated. Be sure that the water you drink is from an approved source—not from wells, streams, or ponds. When in doubt, quench your thirst with hot tea instead of water. Avoid uncooked vegetables and unpeeled fruits.

Sports, Ryukyuan and American

The Ryukyuan people enjoy a wide range of sports, some of which will be thoroughly familiar to you. The great American pastime, baseball, introduced from Japan, is very popular. Also enjoyed widely are track and volleyball, as are basketball and table tennis where facilities exist.

The term "sport" is somewhat misused in describing karate, a type of boxing in which both hands and feet are used. To qualify for this, the hands and feet must be so tough that rocks, planks, and bricks can be smashed with them. A wonderful form of physical training, ka-



The karate enthusiast is developing tough fists.

rate has many devotees among young Americans stationed here.

Among the traditional Japanese sports enjoyed in the Ryukyus are judo (the art of self-defense), a variation of Japanese sumo wrestling, and kendo (a type of fencing with wooden sabres). If you are athletically inclined, you might like to learn judo or kendo. Judo, a splendid body conditioner as well as a means of self-defense, is also taught to classes of girls. Competitions are arranged between Ryukyuan and American athletes in most of the common sports. Be sure to participate whenever you can, for this is an excellent way to acquire Ryukyuan friends.

Local spectator sports include cockfighting, contests between the mongoose and a poisonous snake called the *habu* (hah-boo), horseracing, and bullfighting. The bullfight, a colorful and popular community sport, is much less gory than the Spanish type. Trained fighting bulls are pitted against each other by their handlers. Blood is seldom shed in these encounters.

An organized sports program conducted by U.S. military organizations affords you an opportunity to watch or compete in every well-known sport. You can organize competition in obscure sports through the Special Services if you wish.

You will find abundant opportunities for all kinds of water sports, including swimming, fishing, boating, and water skiing. There are many excellent pools and beau-

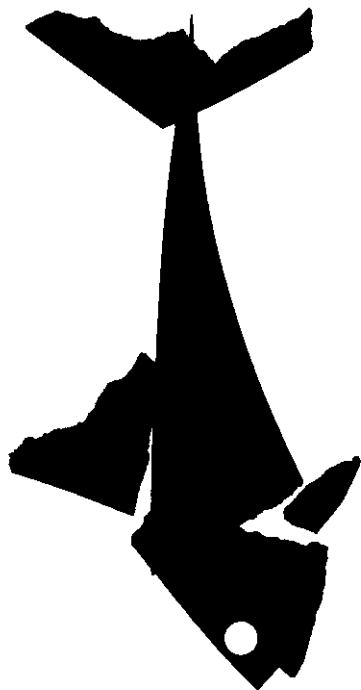
tiful white sand beaches.

Certain precautions are in order, however. Swim only at authorized beaches. A stretch of unauthorized beach may seem very inviting, but the water there may be contaminated with village sewage. Authorized beaches, too, are patrolled by lifeguards and equipped with lifesaving devices, as well as parking places, picnic areas, and facilities for showering and dressing.

If you like spearfishing or skindiving, do it as a member of an organized club. In the waters about the islands are creatures that may cause you trouble—sharks, rays, moray eels, barracuda, and the like. No injuries have resulted from properly organized water sports. The greatest danger is from drowning, through ignorance of currents and tides, and from faulty or misused equipment.

Coral reefs off the islands can cause a nasty cut. Should such a misfortune befall you, get first aid by all means, for the cut can become infected very easily.

Hikers venturing off the beaten path should beware of the deadly poisonous snake called *habu*. A night feeder and frightened of light, it is generally inactive during the day. The *habu* grows as long as 6½ feet and as thick as a firehose. Take care not to walk in any grassy or wooded area at night. Even when walking along the road at night, be sure to shine a flashlight on the ground in front of you. Boots and a stout stick afford some protection against the *habu*.





American teenagers make excellent "ambassadors."

Other Diversions

A number of motion picture theaters on Okinawa, several of them air conditioned, feature the latest films. Movie going is popular with the Okinawans, however, so don't count on getting a seat or even adequate standing room. You might enjoy the novelty of Japanese movies. For those who like "live" shows, there are American-sponsored Little Theater groups.

The Armed Forces Radio and Television Service provides up-to-date news, music, and local features, as well as rebroadcasts of first-rate American shows.

Nearly every well-known American organization has an active chapter on Okinawa, including Boy and Girl Scouts for children. Fraternal, professional, religious, military, and social organizations will welcome you. There are clubs for every activity—from stamp collecting to yachting. These are open to men and women—enlisted, officer, and civilian. Dependent children may enjoy those suitable for children when under parental supervision. Make new friends through your favorite hobby. Sports and hobby equipment can be purchased at Service exchanges.

For the more serious minded, there are libraries, music rooms, and self-improvement clubs. The officer or enlisted man who wants to continue his education can do so through U.S. Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) correspondence courses or by attending college-level classes available on the military installation.

Excellent schooling is provided for dependent children, from kindergarten through an accredited high school. Buses furnish transportation for school children who need it.

Shopping

Armed Forces exchanges, with conveniently located branches, offer excellent opportunities for shopping. In addition to PX's, a number of exchange concessions are operated for the benefit of Americans. These offer merchandise such as clothing and textiles by the yard, and such services as tailoring, barbering, drycleaning, shoe repairing, and photograph developing.

Among the excellent Ryukyuan-made items available are lacquered bowls and trays, useful and ornamental pottery, beautifully printed textiles, woven mats and baskets, and dolls.

GETTING AROUND

You will have no trouble getting around on or from Okinawa. The island is a stopover point for flights to Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, and airplanes follow the schedule closely. A flight from the airport at Naha to Tokyo takes less than five hours. The same distance can be covered by steamer in approximately three days. Traveling by air, Taiwan is only about two hours away and Hong Kong three hours.

During the war, "an excellent system of poor roads" existed, to quote an Army engineer. Since then American bulldozers have vastly improved the roads, though some stretches are better than others. A four-lane highway connects the major military installations on southern Okinawa. A small railway line destroyed by the war was never rebuilt, since other means of travel are more efficient.

Okinawans, for the most part, travel by foot, bicycle, oxcart, or bus. Bus service is efficient, and buses are usually overflowing. There is also a U.S.-operated military bus system. Privately owned automobiles total well under 10,000, but taxicabs are available at a reasonable rate. You will find your own car a convenience if you bring it.

When You Drive

There are a few things to keep in mind when driving, if you value your safety and that of others. First of all, remember that the Ryukyuan people have had little experience with automobiles and the traffic problems they cause. Most of them do not drive and hence cannot possibly understand the driver's viewpoint. Pedestrians have little or no comprehension of safety practices. Instead of interpreting the sound of a horn as a warning to move out of the way, they may consider this a signal that you are going to drive around them.

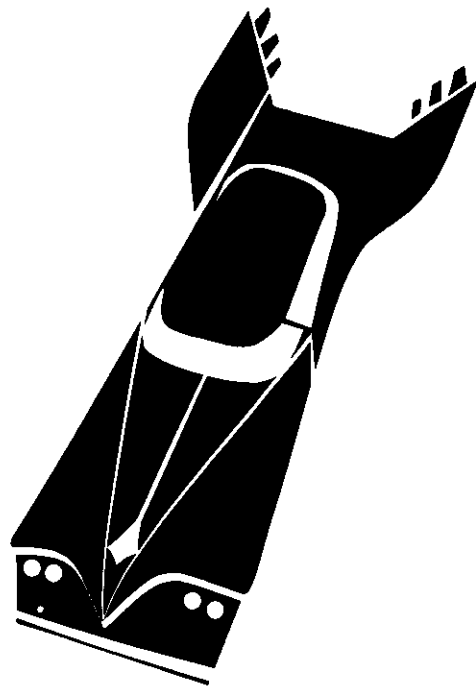
Some Ryukyuan drivers, especially those who drive small taxicabs, drive erratically. Taxi drivers often work staggeringly long hours and so are not always alert. They may violate almost any traffic rule in order to pick up a fare. Only the bigger cabs—American cars of recent model—are licensed to enter military installations.

Drivers keep to the right as in the United States. (In Japan they keep to the left.) The speed limit is 30 miles per hour on a four-lane highway and 20 on two-lane roads. These speeds are liberally posted, as are other traffic signs. Even at the moderate speeds allowed, the traffic toll is an ugly record. Don't add to it. Roads are patrolled by the Ryukyus Armed Services Police (RASP) and GRI police who strictly enforce traffic regulations. There are traffic lights in urban areas, and pedestrian crossings are marked with an amber light or some other identifiable means.

As you can see, it is imperative that you be extra careful when driving. Be patient with pedestrians and alert for reckless drivers, bicyclers, and children at play.

Seeing the Sights

Camera fans will find a wealth of subjects to snap wherever they go on Okinawa. The natural beauty of the island, unspoiled by tourists, has been summed up aptly in just three words—"Japan toned down." Striking waterfalls, sparkling springs, the neat pattern of tea



plantations and rice paddies, and a profusion of blossoms are a few of the things you will remember. Caves and grottoes are often sites of worship, so caution is recommended when viewing these.

Rest centers—at Okuma for officers and Yaka Beach for enlisted personnel—provide excellent beaches and bathing facilities. For longer leaves, you may be able to visit other interesting points in the area, such as Tokyo, Taiwan, Bangkok, Hong Kong, or the Philippines.

Southern Okinawa

Naha, the capital, is a bustling city with a population of more than 200,000. When you see a modern building of concrete and steel next door to a thatch-topped shack, you can be sure that both are equally new, for the war destroyed everything. *Naha's* rapid postwar growth and rising standard of living recall the prosperous days of the sailing ships when the busy port was a center of international trade. Although many features of large cities, such as Tokyo, are lacking in *Naha*, you will find several first-rate theaters, numerous nightclubs, a few large department stores, hundreds of small shops, and a few good restaurants. A stroll through the narrow, winding, crowded streets will give you an interesting glimpse of urban life. In the evening you may see a roadside fortune-teller reading palms by the light of a paper lantern.

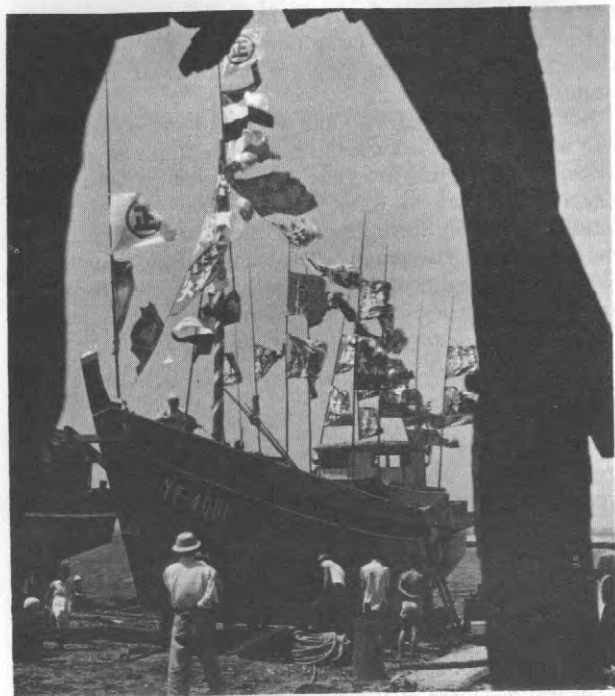
At *Nami-No-Ue* (meaning "Over the Waves"), a bluff overlooking *Naha Harbor*, Okinawans traditionally cele-

brate the arrival or departure of ships. Near a geisha shrine in the area is a large new restaurant overlooking the ocean. Also in this area are the ruins of an ancient Shinto shrine.

Not far from central *Naha* is a site every American will want to visit—*Shuri*, the ancient capital and cultural center of the Ryukyus. The walled town of *Shuri* and *Shuri Castle*, where Ryukyuan kings once ruled, were totally destroyed during some of the bitterest fighting of the Okinawan Campaign. The castle, strategically located on the heights of *Shuri*, commanded a view for miles around. Centuries old, it had witnessed a lot of history in the making before the war demolished it.

Comodore Perry paid a state visit to *Shuri Castle* in 1853. The central figure in a glittering procession, which included a detachment of U.S. Marines, Perry was borne along in a sedan chair to the lively music of the band from his ship, the *Susquehanna*. Although foreigners were shunned at the time as a matter of course, Perry succeeded in entering the castle with a flourish, to the strains of "Hail Columbia!" The Perry wing of the museum at *Shuri*, erected with funds donated by American servicemen, was dedicated on 23 May 1953, a century after this dashing exploit. It contains, among other objects of interest, a scale model of *Shuri Castle*.

Several members of Perry's party who died in 1853 and 1854 were buried in the small International Cemetery at



A new addition to Okinawa's growing fishing fleet.

Tomari Bay in Naha.

On the coast south of Naha is a fishing center of considerable local interest—*Itoman*. Here gods of the sea and of fertility are worshiped. Itoman women are considered shrewd traders and have long been fully as independent as men. They could once boast several husbands at the same time. The wife of a fisherman missing for a year is legally a widow, and a marker is placed in the Shrine of Missing Fisherman to the memory of her husband. Should her husband return later and find her married to another man, she may choose either mate and divorce the other. Here, as mentioned earlier, the colorful dragon boat races are held annually.

World War II came to an end on the southern tip of Okinawa. In this area there are several markers commemorating the conflict—a memorial to American Gen. Simon B. Buckner who died on 18 June 1945 (hostilities ended 4 days later), shrines to the memory of a number of Okinawan school girls who lost their lives, a memorial to Okinawa's Unknown Soldier, and Suicide Cliff, where two Japanese generals and many of their men committed suicide—the generals ceremonially by *seppuku* (disembowelment)—to avoid surrender at the end of the battle.

Kudaka Shima, a small island off the southeast coast of Okinawa, is the Okinawan Garden of Eden, according to the *Omoro*, the Okinawan bible. Here wind and sea deities are said to have toiled mightily to create dry land

and procure fire from the sea dragon before producing mortals. Some very ancient customs are still followed by the islanders. Coffins here are exposed to the air rather than interred in tombs.

Northward From Naha

At *Futenma*, in central Okinawa, you can see an underground Shinto shrine to a god of seafarers, built centuries ago. Well worth a visit are the ruins of an ancient castle, *Nakagusuku*, not far from Futenma. The excellent masonry of the foundation and arches can still be seen. The castle was erected for an Okinawan king in the 15th century and largely demolished soon afterwards in a war with another Okinawan ruler. The large sandstone blocks of the foundation had to be carried and fitted by hand, a back-breaking task that took several years. In a pleasant national park here are specimens of native trees and plants.

Continuing north, you will find *Koza*, like Naha, a thriving postwar boom town. From a cluster of farming hamlets, it has grown into the second largest city in the Ryukyus. The initial American landings on Okinawa on 1 April 1945 occurred on the west coast in the *Hagushi* area. Near the east coast to the north is *Kin*, with several attractions—huge underground caverns, an ancient temple, wells surrounded by beautiful flowers and shrubs, and rice paddies surrounded by picturesque low pines.

For a variety of attractive scenery, take the west coast highway from the *Hagushi* area up to Motobu Peninsula with its pineapple farms and impressive mountains. You may want to stop for a while at *Nakadomari* beach where unusual shells and coral are offered for sale.

Nago, a delightful town at the neck of the peninsula, is a pleasant place to spend a weekend. There are two or three Okinawan inns here. If you visit Nago in February, you may see an unusual spectacle—a roundup of porpoises. This occurs annually when schools of porpoises swim into the bay. No one knows why the porpoises visit the bay or exactly when they will come. As soon as the fish are sighted by an alert fisherman, every man, woman, and child in Nago drops everything to join in the sport. Not until a circle of fishermen traps the porpoises and the mayor gives the signal are harpoons thrown. The meat of the slaughtered porpoises, flavored with garlic and ginger, is used in local dishes and enjoyed by the entire community.

Two sites that figure prominently in Okinawan history can be seen on Motobu Peninsula—the ruins of North Castle (*Hokuzan*) and a bay and channel between Okinawa and Yagachi Shima named *Unten-ko*. Centuries-old North Castle dates back to the time when Okinawa was divided into three independent kingdoms. A beautiful spy sent to North Castle by the king of Shuri is said to have fallen in love with the northern king. Still loyal

to the Shuri king, however, she sent her report to him and then died with the northern king in the battle that followed.

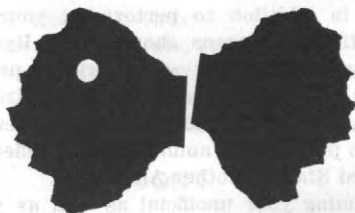
Unten-ko is famous as the site where Tametomo, the Japanese father of the first of a line of Ryukyuan rulers, landed on Okinawa in the 12th century. Here, too, in 1609, a Japanese expedition landed to subdue Okinawa. During World War II, the site became a Japanese submarine base.

The friendly Okinawans will gladly direct you to other points of interest. So will the suggested reading list in



From crusty oysters come lustrous pearls.

the Appendix. If you are history minded and enjoy trips to such places as Gettysburg and Valley Forge at home, you may want to read up on the strategy of the Okinawan Campaign and retrace the ground. Nature lovers will enjoy the natural rustic beauty of the north. Explore the countryside on your own and get acquainted with the Okinawans. This will be a pleasant change from your military duties.



IN CONCLUSION

Your stay in the Ryukyus will give you a great opportunity to broaden your mind and enrich your experience. What you make of the opportunity is up to you. At the end of your tour you may return to the United States knowing nothing of the islands or their people. Or you can do your duty in the fullest sense, which means building understanding and friendship between Americans and Ryukyans in addition to performing your prescribed military duties. It means showing the Ryukyans by your words and deeds that we Americans practice what we preach about democracy. It means refraining from any act or deed that would provide the enemies of our country with propaganda ammunition or reflect adversely on the United States or other Americans.

By performing your unofficial as well as your official duties, your tour in the Ryukyus will be a source of pride and pleasure for the rest of your life. You will know that you have acquitted yourself well as an American—that you have contributed personally to the accomplishment of our national goals.

Here are some final reminders.

DO

- Get out of the military community and mingle with the Ryukyans.
- Try to understand their viewpoint by learning all you can about them.
- Study their language and speak what you can of it at every opportunity.
- Obey the laws and respect local traditions.
- Be extra careful when driving.
- Remove your shoes before entering a Ryukyuan home or any other building where this custom is followed.
- Respect places of worship.
- Be courteous, considerate, and helpful.
- Remember that off-limits restrictions are for your welfare.
- Observe simple health and safety precautions.

DON'T

- Boast about the United States and the American way of life.
- Discuss controversial subjects, such as local politics and religion, with Ryukyans.
- Discuss security information, ship schedules, etc., in front of unauthorized personnel.
- Lose control of your patience or temper.

- Investigate objects you suspect are ammunition.
- Underestimate the deadly power of the *habu* and other poisonous snakes.
- Overindulge in alcoholic beverages.
- Be careless in your dress, or dress in a manner that would be inappropriate for the occasion.
- Be careless with your valuables and thus needlessly tempt the dishonest.
- Indulge in black marketing. It is punishable by law.

With these tips in mind, an adequate supply of common sense, and the desire to make the most of a wonderful opportunity, your experiences in the Ryukyus will be a source of continuing pleasure and provide you with true stories you will be proud to tell your grandchildren.

APPENDIX

Money

Only U.S. currency is valid on Okinawa. Unlimited quantities of U.S. currency may be carried by personnel whose termination point is Okinawa. However, it is never wise to carry large sums in cash, or to be careless with your cash and thus invite theft.

Here is a further reminder about money—remember not to spend it extravagantly or display large amounts of it. The hard-working Ryukyans, whose pay is low by

American standards, may well resent it if you appear to be flaunting your wealth.

Weights and Measures

The official weights and measures of the Ryukyu Islands are those of the standard metric system. Official institutions, such as governmental offices, use the metric system. However, many Ryukyans still use their own system, adopted earlier from Japan. Furthermore, some Ryukyans are familiar with American weights and measures.

The Ryukyans use the English names of units of the metric and American systems, but pronounce them somewhat differently. Since there is no *L* sound in Japanese, this letter is pronounced as *R*. Vowels are added at the end of words. Thus, kilogram is pronounced *keerogrammu*, kilometer as *keeromaytah*, pound as *pondo*, and yard as *yahdo*. The word foot is pronounced *hoofo*. Here are some facts you should know about the metric system:

centimeter-----	about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch
meter-----	39.37 inches, or a little more than a yard
kilometer-----	about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
30 grams-----	1 ounce
kilogram-----	about $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds
1,000 kilograms-----	1 ton
liter-----	a little over a quart

hectoliter..... about 22 gallons
hectare..... about 2½ acres

Here are the most commonly used Ryukyuan weights and measures:

Length

re (ree)..... almost 2½ miles
cho..... 1/15 mile or 119.3 yards
ken..... almost 2 yards
shaku (sha-koo)..... almost 1 foot
sun (soon)..... 1.2 inches

Units of cloth are about one quarter longer than the above measurements of length. Hence, 1 *shaku* of cloth equals approximately 1.24 feet.

Area

cho..... almost 2½ acres
tsubo (tsoo-bo) or
bu (boo)..... 36 square feet

Town lots are measured in *tsubo* and other land in *bu*.

Capacity

koku..... almost 5 bushels, 47.7
gallons

to (toe)..... about 4.8 gallons
sbo..... 1.9 quarts, 3.8 pints
go..... .38 pint

Weights

kan (kah)..... about 8.3 pounds
momme (moam-may)..... about 5.8 grains, .01 ounce
kin (keen)..... about 1.3 pounds
fun (foon)..... about 5.8 grains, .01 ounce

Language Guide

Japanese, as mentioned earlier, is the official language of the Ryukyu Islands. However, the native Luchuan tongue is still spoken in rural areas and among the older Ryukyuanans.

This section will teach you some standard Japanese words and phrases, which are commonly used and widely understood. When you've mastered them, keep going—take advantage of the Japanese courses offered by your educational center. The more you know, the better the impression you will make and the better you will be able to get around and enjoy yourself. Don't be embarrassed if you make mistakes at first—everyone does. The Ryukyuanans will gladly help you improve your pronunciation. They will also consider it a friendly gesture if you take enough interest in them and their country to try to learn their language.

All the words and phrases are written in a spelling which you read like English. When you see the Japanese word for "six" spelled RO-koo, give the *oo* the sound it has in the English words, *too*, *boot*, etc. Each letter or combination of letters is used for the sound it usually stands for in English, and it always stands for that sound. Thus, *oo* is always pronounced as it is in *too*, *boot*, *tooth*, *root*, never as anything else. Say these words and then pronounce the vowel sound by itself. That is the sound you must use every time you

see *oo* in the Japanese column. If you should use some other sound—for example, the sound of *oo* in blood—you may be misunderstood.

Syllables that are accented, that is, pronounced louder than others, are written in capital letters. Hyphens (-) are used to divide words into syllables in order to make them easier to read. A curved line () connecting two letters means that they are pronounced together without any break; for example, *koo-da-SA_ee* meaning "please."

Greeting and General Phrases

Good morning	o-ha ee-YO_o
Good day	KOHN nee-chee-WA
Good evening	kohn-BAHN-wa
Good night	ya-SOO-mee-na-SA_ee
Goodbye	sa-yo-NA-ra
Please	koo-da-SA_ee
Thank you	a-REE-ga-to_o
Yes	HA_ee
No	EE_yay
Pardon me	SHEE tsooray_ee
If you want to ask a person something, you call his attention by saying—	
Pardon me a moment	CHOHT-to, SHEE tsoo-ray_ee

Do you understand?
I don't understand
Please speak slowly

wa-ka-ree-MA-SKA
wa-ka-ree-ma-SEN
yook-KOO-rec, ha-
NAHSH-tay, koo-da-
SA_{ee}

To find out someone's name you say, "Your name, what is it?"

Your name
What is your name?

a-NA-ta-no na-MA_{ay}
a-NA-ta-no na-MA_{ay}-
wa, NAHN dess-ka?

My name is John

wa-TAHK-shee-no NA-
wa-JOHN dess

I am an American

wa-TAHK-shee-wa a-
MAY-ree-ka-jeen dess

Directions

When you need directions to get somewhere, you first name the place, add *wa*, and then add the expression for "where is?"

Where is
restaurant
Where is the restaurant?

DO-ko dess-ka
RESS-to-rahn
RESS-to-rahn-wa, DO-ko
dess-ka?

hotel

HO-tay-roo

or

ya-do-ya

Where is the hotel?

HO-tay-roo-wa, DO-ko
dess-ka?

or

ya-do-ya-wa, DO-ko
dess-ka?

railroad station

TAY_{ee}-sha-ba

Where is the railroad
station?

TAY_{ee}-sha-ba-wa,
DO-ko dess-ka?

airport

hee-KO-JO

Where is the
airport?

hee-KO-JO-wa,
DO-ko dess-ka?

toilet

BEN-jo

Where is the toilet?

BEN-jo-wa, DO-ko
dess-ka?

bathroom

foo-ro-BA

police station

kay_{ee}-SAHT-soo

SHO_o

The answer to your question "Where is such and such?" may be "To the right" or "To the left" or "Straight ahead," so you need to know these phrases.

It's to the right

MEE-gee DESS

It's to the left

hee-DA-ree DESS

It's straight ahead

mas-SOO-goo SA-kee
DESS

It is sometimes useful to say "Please guide me there."
Please guide me there

ahn-NAEE-shtay
koo-da-SA_{ee}

The points of the compass are—

North	kee-TA
East	hee-GAH-shee
South	mee-NA-mee
West	NEE-shee
here	KO-ko
there	AH-sko
near	chee-KA _{ee}
far	TO-O-ee
Is it far?	TO-O-ee _{ee} dess-ka?
Is it near?	chee-KA _{ee} -ka?
How far is it?	DO-no koo-RA _{ee} -ka?
How far is the nearest village?	ee-chee BAHN chee-KA _{ee} MA-chee MA-day, DO-no koo-RA _{ee} -ka?
Which way is north?	kee-TA-wa, DO-chee-ra-ka?
Which is the road to?	...ay, YOO-koo MEE-chee-wa, DO-ko dess-ka?
Draw me a map	CHEE-zoo-wo KA-tay
Take me there	so-KO-ay tsoo-RAY-tay yoo-KAY

Numbers

One	EE-chee
Two	NEE
Three	SAHN
Four	SHEE
Five	GO
Six	RO-koo
Seven	SHEE-chee
Eight	HA-chee
Nine	KOO
Ten	JOO
For "eleven," "twelve," and so on, you say "ten one," "ten two," and so on.	
Eleven	JOO-EE-chee
Twelve	JOO-NEE
For "twenty," "thirty," and so on, you say "two ten," "three ten," "four ten," and so on.	
Twenty	NEE-joo _{oo}
Thirty	SAHN-joo _{oo}
Forty	SHEE-joo _{oo}
"Twenty-one," "thirty-two," and so on are formed exactly like the English.	
Twenty-one	NEE-joo _{oo} EE-chee
One hundred	HYA-koo

What's This?

If you want to know the name of something, you can say "What's this?" and point to the thing you mean. What's this? KO-ray-wa, NAHN-dess-ka?

Asking for Things

Give me	koo-da-SA _{ee}
cigarettes	ta-BA-ko
Give me cigarettes	ta-BA-ko-wo koo-da-SA _{ee}
Bring me.....wo MOHT _{tay} KEE-tay koo-da-SA _{ee}

Here are the words for some of the things you may want.

bread	PAHN
cooked rice	GO-hahn
raw rice	KO-may
butter	BA-ta
eggs	ta-MAH-go
meat	NEE-koo
beef	G _{oo} YOO _{oo} nee-koo
pork	BOO-ta nee-koo
chicken	NEE-wa-TO-ree
potatoes	EE-mo
peas or beans	ma-KAY
carrots	neen-jeen

apples
oranges
strawberries
fish
Japanese dish of meat
and vegetables
soup
water
water, drinking
water, hot
milk
beer
coffee
sugar
salt
knife
fork
spoon
cup
plate
matches

reeng-o
o-REN-jee
ee-chee-o
SA-ka-na

skee-ya-kee
SO-ee-MO-no
MEE-zoo
no-mee-MEE-zoo
o-YOO
MEE-roo-koo
BEE_{ee}-roo
KO-o-hee
sa-TO_o
SHEE_o
NA_{ee}-foo
FO_o-koo
sa-JEE
KOH_P-poo
SA-ra
MAHT-chee

When You Shop

To find out how much things cost, you say—

How much	EE-koo-ra
is it	DESS-ka
How much is it?	EE-koo-ra DESS-ka?
I want to buy	wo ka_ee-TA_ee

For the names of some items you may want to buy, see Alphabetical List on p. 135.

Time

When you want to know the time, you say—

What time is it?	NAHN-jee DESS-ka?
It's two o'clock	NEE ² -jee dess
It's three o'clock	SAHN-jee dess

"Half-past six" is "six o'clock, half."

Half past six	RO-koo-jee HAHN
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"Ten past six" is "six o'clock, ten minutes past."

Ten past six	RO-koo-jee JIP-poon soo-ee
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"Quarter of two" is "two o'clock, fifteen minutes before."

Quarter of two	NEE-jee JOO_oo-go- FOON MA_ay
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If you want to know when a movie starts or when a train leaves, you say—

When does the train leave?	KEE-sha-wa, EET-soo day-MA-ska?
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When does the movie
start?

kaht-soo-DO_o-wa
EET-soo ha-jee-ma-
ree-MA-ska?

Year

TO-shee

or

NEN
TSOO-kee
SHOO_oo
HEE

or

NEE-chee
kee-NO_o
K_YO_o
AHSH-ta

Yesterday

Today

Tomorrow

The days of the week are—

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

nee-chee-YO_o-bee
get-soo-YO_o-bee
ka-YO_o-bee
soo_ee-YO_o-bee
mo-koo-YO_o-bee
keen-YO_o-bee
do-YO_o-bee

Other Useful Phrases

I am hungry	HA-ra-ga HET_tay ee- MAHSS
I am lost	MEE-chee-nee ma_ee YOHT_ta
I am sick	wa-TAHK-shhee-wa B_YO_o-kee dess
I am thirsty	NO-da-ga ka-WA_ee- tay ee-MAHSS
I am wounded	kay-GA-wo-shtay-ee- MAHSS
Stop!	to-MA-ray!
Come here!	ko-KO-nee KO_ee!
Quickly	HA_ee-ya-koo
Come quickly!	HA_ee-ya-koo KO_ee!
Go quickly!	HA_ee-ya-koo ee-KAY!
Help!	ta-SKAY_tay koo-RAY!
Bring help!	ka-SAY_ee-wo ta-NO- moo!
I will pay you	KA-nay-wo ha-RAHT- tay YA-roo
Take me to a doctor	EE-sha-ay tsoo-RAY_tay yoo-KAY
Take me to a hospital	B_YO_o-een ay tsoo- RAY_tay yoo-KAY
Danger!	a-boo-NA_ee!
Be careful!	CHOO-ee SAY_ee-o!
Wait a minute!	MAHT_tay koo-RAY!

Alphabetical Word List

airport	hee-KO-JO
American	a-may-ree-KA-no
aspirin	a-soo-PEE-reen
bandage	ho_o-TA_ee
barber	TO-ko-ya
bathroom	FU-ro-ba
bed	SHEEN-da_ee
blanket	MO_o-foo
bridge	HA-shhee
bring me.....wo MOHT_tay KEE-tay koo-da- SA_ee
bus	BA-soo
buy, I want to	wo ka_ee-TA_ee
city	shhee
comb	koo-SHEE
cup	KOHP_poo
dentist	HA_ee-sha
Do you understand?	wa-ka-ree-MA-sta-ka?
doctor	EE-sha
drinking water	no-mee-MEE-zoo
drugstore	koo-SOO-ree-ya
expensive	ta-KA_ee
food	ta-bay-MO-no
fork	FO_o-koo
garage	ga-RAY_ee-jee

gas
good
handkerchief
here
hot
hotel

ga-so-REEN
yo-ro-SHEE
HAHN-ka-chee
KO-ko
aht-SOO_{ee}
HO-tay-roo

or

hungry, I am

ya-do-ya
ha-RA-ga HET_{tay ee-}
MAHSS

I
ink
is it?

wa-TAHK-shee
EEN-kee
DESS-ka?

What is it?

NAHN dess-ka?

Where is it?

DO-ko dess-ka?

Japanese (language)

nee-HOHN-go

knife

NA_{ee-foo}

laundry

sen-TA-koo-ya

a laxative

TSOO_{oo-jee}
GOO-soo-ree

the main street

hohn-DO_{o-ree}

a map

CHEE-zoo

the market place

EE-chee-ba

a meal

go-HAHN

a mechanic

may-KA-neek

a mosquito net

KA-ya

the movie

kaht-soo-DO_o

near
needle
pardon me
pen
pencil
plate
please
policeman
the police station
post office and telegraph
office
raincoat
razor
rest, I want to

a restaurant
river
road
a room
she
shirt
shoes
sick
sleep, I want to

sleep, place to

chee-KA_{ee}
HA-ree
SHEE-tsoo-ray_{ee}
PEN
en-PEET-soo
SA-ra
koo-da-SA_{ee}
JOON-sa
kay_{ee}-SAHT-soo SHO
yoo_{oo}-BEENK-yo-koo

RAY_{een}-KO_{oto}
ka-mee-SO-ree
wa-TAHK-shee-wa
ya-soo-mee-TA_{ee}
RESS-to-rah
ka-WA
MEE-chee
hay-YA
KA-no-jo
SHAFT-soo
KOOT-soo
B_{YO}_{o-kee}
wa-TAHK-shee-wa
nay-TA_{ee}
nay-do-KO

speak slowly, please

yook-KOO-ree, ha-
NAHSH-tay koo-da-
SA_{ee}

store
tailor
thank you
take me there

MEE-say
YO_o-foo-koo-YA
a-REENG-a-to_o
so-KO-ay tsoo-RAY-tay
yoo-KAY

thread
toilet
toothbrush

EE-to
BEN-jo
HA-mee-ga-kee
YO_o-jee

tooth powder
towel
town
train

HA-mee-GA-kee KO
TAY-no-goo_{ee}
MA-chee
kee-SHA

understand, do you
understand, I don't
village
wait a minute!
I want to.....

wa-ka-ree-MA-SKA?
wa-ka-ree-ma-SEN
MOO-ra
MAHT_{tay}-koo-RAY!
wa-TAHK-shee-wa.....

water, drinking
water, hot
what

TA_{ee}
no-mee-MEE-zoo
o-YOO
NA-nee

or

NAHN

what's this?

KO-ray-wa, NAHN-
dess-ka?

what's your name?

a-NA-ta-no na-MA_{ay}-
wa, NAHN dess-ka?

where

DO-ko

where is it?

DO-ko dess-ka?

which is the road to....

....ay, YOO-koo MEE-
chee-wa, DO-ko dess-
ka?

do you understand?

wa-ka-ree, MA-SKA?

your name

a-NA-ta-no na-MA_{ay}

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