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The Liberation of the Philippines: LUZON, MINDANAO, THE VISAYAS, 1944-1945

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been appropriately titled "The History of Mine Warfare in the United States Navy." The setting is the "Most Dangerous Sea" — that portion of the world's seas inside the 100-fathom curve. The author searched through voluminous official records and interviewed many mine warfare participants in his successful effort to compile a concise and factual history of mine warfare in the United States Navy. As the story progresses from Sergeant Ezra Lee's attempt to attach a crude mine to the hull of HMS EAGLE, anchored in the Hudson River during the American Revolution, to the more sophisticated methods of minelaying and minesweeping during World War II, the reader cannot but admire the tenacity, audacity and daring of these men who go down to the sea in ships — small ships — and engage in this business which is dreary, always dull, sometimes dangerous, and at times deadly. The major portion of the book is devoted to mine warfare operations during World War II and the part mine warfare played in virtually starving Japan into submission. The minesweepers were often the unheralded spearheads of our assault operations. After victory was assured and the more newsworthy ships went home, the minesweepers remained and continued their grim task because where mines are concerned there is no surrender or differentiation between friend or foe. The last chapter brings the history up-to-date by relating the mine warfare problems encountered off the coast of Korea in 1950-53.

Morison, Samuel Eliot. *The Liberation of the Philippines: LUZON, MINDANAO, THE VISAYAS, 1944-1945*. Boston, Little, Brown, 1959. 338 p.

This thirteenth volume in the series, *History of the U. S. Naval Operations in World War II*, is of particular interest because of the variety and number of operations covered — the larger involving the support of battleships; the smaller, cruiser support. Landings are described where there were good beaches, narrow muddy beaches, and where no beaches at all existed. Beginning at the period of the re-entry into Luzon, the Japanese had ceased to defend the islands at the waterline in

favor of concentration along higher ground. Landings became easier and the heavy prelanding bombardment was often unnecessary. The descriptions of the approaches and landings are particularly vivid. This volume marks the Navy's opening struggle with the kamikazes when the cream of these pilots were living, and discusses how the story was concealed for six months so that the Japanese would not know for sure how badly the "divine wind" was hurting the U. S. Navy. One third of this book is devoted to miscellaneous operations, each with its own problems, such as the Lingayen landings and those on Palawan; Panay; Negros; Cebu; Bohol in the Southern Visayas; the invasion of Mindanao with its surprising river campaign; and finally, the landings in Borneo. Of particular interest is the tale of the U. S. Naval Group China where invaluable weather stations were established up and down the China Coast and various guerrilla movements were carried out against the Japanese-occupied Chinese cities.

PERIODICALS

Marcum, John. "The Challenge of Africa." *The New Leader*. February 8, 1960, Section Two.

Following an introduction by Tom Mboya, this article considers the African revolution, decolonization, the legacy of colonialism, opportunity in Africa, opportunities for Africa and the obstacles to conquer.

"The Nations of Southeast Asia." *Current History*. February 1960. Consists of articles on Chinese-Indian competition in Asia, Laos, Burma's military regime, the Communist threat to Malaya and Singapore, Indonesia in the cold war, SEATO and Communist pressures in Thailand.

"Peking's Latin Ambitions." *Foreign Report*. February 4, 1960, p. 4-5.

Surveys relationships in process between China and the Latin American countries.