

The next visitors were also Americans, but not bound on so holy an errand. They were New England whalers, coming ashore to raise hell with Ponape women. But they met their match in the warriors of Ponape, and soon chose easier conquests on other islands. Therefore the Ponapeans do not remember Americans with bitterness, but rather with a certain degree of affection since the missionaries did them no harm and some good.

The third visitation was also American. During the Civil War certain Union ships fled to the refuge of Ponape Harbour. The Confederate cruiser "Shenandoah" caught them there and burned them to the water's edge.

So the Spaniards were comparative latecomers. It was not until 1886 that the Spanish flag was raised at what was called Ascension Bay, now Ponape Harbour.

The Spanish Capuchin priests did not get on well with the Methodists from Boston. In 1887 Mr. Doane, head of the Methodist Mission, was deported to Manila.

Two weeks later the resentful islands rose in a massacre of Spanish soldiers and their Filipino mercenaries, captured the fort, and killed Senor Posadillo, the Governor.

In 1890 the Ponapeans again rebelled. The Spaniards took revenge by burning villages and slaughtering the inhabitants. Believing that the American missionaries had encouraged the people to resist Spanish oppression, they ordered the Methodists out. The American corvette "Alliance" exacted 17,000 gold dollars as compensation for the expulsion of the Americans, then took them to the Island of Kusaie.

That did not end the trouble. Eight years later, when the Spanish-American War broke out, a Ponape chief friendly to the Americans and head of the mission schools inherited from the missionaries, led a revolt. He was promptly imprisoned, but his followers carried out a terrible massacre of Spaniards.

Perhaps the Spaniards, having suffered so many bitter humiliations in Ponape at the hands of savages, were not too sorry to lose the island to the United States at the close of the Spanish-American War. But when the United States

refused to accept the fruits of victory, Spain sold Ponape, along with the rest of the islands, to Germany.

Rebellions continued under the Germans, the most savage being that of 1910, already mentioned. It occurred on Chokach Island, in the shadow of the great rock. A young German overseer in charge of a road-gang struck one of the men with a whip. In ten minutes he was dead. When the news got to headquarters, the Governor and a squad of soldiers boarded a sloop and came across the bay to Chokach. It was assumed that the Ponapeans had no firearms. But guns captured in Spanish days had been concealed, and the Governor had no sooner set foot on shore than he fell with a bullet through his head. A general massacre followed. Not one German was left on the island.

A few weeks later a German warship happened to call at Ponape. The only foreigner the crew could find was a London gypsy called "Joe of the Hills," who lived with the people. He was forced to tell the story of the massacre. German vengeance followed. The inhabitants of Chokach were rounded up, the ringleaders shot, and two hundred deported to the bleak Island of Angaur to work in the phosphate mine.

The same fates, death and deportation, have been meted out by the Japanese, but rebellions continue. The indigenous population is now probably about ten thousand as against six thousand Japanese. In the Town of Ponape the Japanese are in the majority and are safe enough. Strolling along the main street of Ponape one might think himself on Tokyo's Ginza. But let a Japanese step two miles out of town and he will be courting trouble, if not death.

The Ponapeans are not a soft people. They cut their arms and burn holes in their chests to prove their endurance. When reaching marriageable age they endure the mutilation called lekelek, the excision of the right testicle. They cut their flesh in elaborate patterns with knives and keep the wounds open until ridged cicatrices result. Some of these designs are quite artistic, and all of them are evidence of considerable physical courage.