



# Guampedia.com

## August 2021

Know our island. Know our history. Click to know! — *Volume IV. Issue VIII.*

Guampedia is a non-profit affiliate of the University of Guam with operations funded by the Government of Guam's Tourism Attraction Fund.

# Culture of Connecting

## Teaching Micronesia's Students

In response to the education community's shift to online instruction as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we engaged in a complete audit of the [Educators Portal](#) lesson plans. Every lesson plan was reviewed and updated. In doing so, we realized that an audit of the other sections in Guampedia required the same review and update.

Guampedia was granted funding support from [Humanities Guahan](#), the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (NEH), and the federal CARES Act and got busy! A total of 502 entries are done to date. We will continue to audit the remaining 700 entries as resources and time permits this coming year, all the while, adding new entries too!

In partnership with the [University of Guam](#) and the [Guam Preservation Trust](#), we will be presenting our 2021 virtual outreach series, Culture of Connecting, to highlight the enhancements as a result of this project, just in time for the new school year. The first two sessions will feature identical presentations where the Guampedia staff will highlight various sections and features that can serve as tools to connect any subject to our islands' unique environment, culture, and history. In these two sessions, the Guam Preservation Trust will also be presenting their newest project: [Ekungok I Estoriã-ta](#). This project brought together various communities to create historical narratives, videos, and original songs about Guam's historical sites. In our third session, Dr. David Sanchez and Lazaro Quinata will discuss how island wisdom plays an important role today and in teaching within the Micronesian context. [Click here for registration!](#)

**These categories of Guampedia have been updated as of August 1, 2021:**

[CHamoru Culture: I Man CHamoru](#) (147)  
[CHamoru Food](#) (68)  
[European Exploration and Scientific Expeditions](#) (39)  
[Natural Resources and Our Environment](#) (57)  
[Naval Era 1898-1941](#) (144)  
[Non CHamoru](#)

### Improvements to Guampedia

Updating entries to be current.  
Ensuring every "for further reading" section contains available items to help users in their research.  
Adding and editing the photos for each entry to include captions.  
Creating a more consistent format style.  
Checking and fixing broken links throughout the site.



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

# I Historiã-Ta

## Our History Through the Month of August

A Japanese transport vessel, Tokai Maru, sank on August 27, 1943 by the USS Snapper in Apra Harbor, right next to the German ship [SMS Cormoran](#), which sunk during World War I. It is probably the only place in the world where divers can see wreckage of two ships from two different world wars in one dive.



*Signing of the Organic Act. Courtesy of MARC*

[The Organic Act](#) was signed 71 years ago! The Organic Act of Guam is federal legislation passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by US President Harry S. Truman on August 1, 1950. The act established a non-military, civil government on Guam; granted congressional US citizenship to residents of the island at the time and their descendants; and solidified the island's political status as an unincorporated territory of the United States. Read all about Guam's [quest for self-determination](#) in Guampedia.

[Security Clearance](#) was lifted for Guam. On that day President John F. Kennedy's Executive Order 11045 rescinded the Navy's wartime authority to refuse entry to civilian visitors for security reasons. The action unleashed the island's tourism potential and ushered in an era of unprecedented economic and social advancement.

**1943**  
**August 27**

**1944**  
**August 8**

**1950**  
**August 1**

**1962**  
**August 21**

**1993**  
**August 8**



*Farmers from Yigo. Courtesy of MARC & Isla Center for the Arts*

[Chagui'an Massacre](#) - Among the thousands of CHamorus held at the Manenggon concentration camp during [World War II](#), 45 men were taken and forced to carry supplies to an Imperial Japanese Army command post at Milalak near CHagui'an, Yigo. They were killed by the Japanese to prevent them from providing information to the Americans. As the American forces drove the Japanese northward, they came across scenes of atrocities inflicted against CHamorus. On August 8, a gruesome discovery was made near CHagui'an by a Marine Regiment — a Japanese truck loaded with the 24 decapitated bodies of the CHamoru men. As the search continued the following morning, 21 more bodies were found at CHagui'an.



*Malesso' in 1993. Courtesy of Dr. Verena Keck*

We experienced Guam's biggest earthquake at 8.1 for a full minute with only one death. Read about Guam's [building methods](#) that have kept the people of Guam safe from these shakers, all the way back to latte houses.