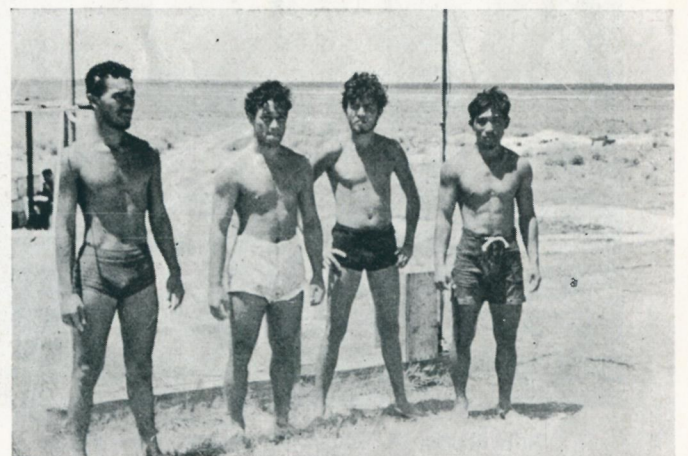


Baker Island, U.S.A.



Announcement last month that U.S. forces have re-occupied Baker Island without opposition from the enemy recalls an interesting chapter of modern Hawaiiana. In 1935 and 1936 Hawaiian boys from Kamehameha school reversed the route of their adventurous ancestors and colonized the islands of Baker, Howland and Jarvis. The school boys were sent to maintain America's claim to the islands which were important in establishing the Pan-American Airways route across the Pacific. The expeditions were transported by the U. S. Coast Guard cutter Itasca under the direction of the Department of Commerce. The hardy Hawaiian boys collected valuable surface and upper air weather information and seemed to enjoy their experience in pioneering. According to traditions of Hawaii the first colonist here was Paa, who arrived from Samoa or Tahiti about the year 1125 A.D. Other traditions suggest that earlier colonists came to Hawaii about the year 500 A. D. The Hawaiian colonists who reversed the route of their ancestors a decade ago made an important contribution to their country.



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'It's All Over But the Fighting'

A trend has been developing in Hawaii lately, as elsewhere in the United States, based on wishful thinking that the war is practically over. Men and women are doing their best to get releases from war jobs in order to be one jump ahead of service men in getting back into private industry. This "end of the war fever" is indicated by a slackening of interest in world affairs, in support of volunteer war activities and in application to work.

Yet the acuteness of Hawaii's labor situation, to point out only one aspect of the war as it affects Hawaii, is obvious by the recent ruling that all changes in jobs must be made through the United States Employment Service. There is still much to be done before anyone here can relax and a tendency to think otherwise is most dangerous.

Another way in which the "end of the war fever" is alarming is the tendency to think that bother about price control is no longer necessary. When the fighting stopped in the last war inflation got so out of hand that eventually the country almost met economic ruin. One way to prevent a postwar collapse of values is to prevent values from getting too high. And the only way to do that is to have the people realize that price control is necessary for their welfare.

The toughest price control battle is just beginning. Rationing has become a more or less static program, so the boards can, and must, devote their energies to making price control work in their communities. The war price and rationing boards have been considered more as "rationing" boards than anything else, as that was their first important function. The emphasis has been changed, however, and redirected to meet the new battle against tendency to relax, the battle against postwar inflation and economic collapse.

It may be difficult for some to maintain their patriotic fever when victory seems assured, but this should not be true when we realize how many men there are in uniform today who will be dead or permanently disabled when the last shot is fired.

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