

Hawaii First

EDITOR'S NOTE: This special supplement concerning our WestPac cruise is intended to give a brief synopsis of the tentative ports of call during the coming six months. The ports listed are subject to change and are not necessarily in sequence which we will visit. A liberty brief booklet will be available prior to the ship's arrival at foreign ports. The booklet will contain all the details and information concerning money exchange, on and off-base activities, and buying tips.

Brief History

Hawaii, a narrow archipelago stretching nearly 1500 miles, is over 2000 miles southwest of the mainland of the United States. The principal portion of the chain consists of seven major islands located at the southeastern end of a volcanic mountain range which lies across the floor of the Pacific Ocean, curving in an arc from northwest to southeast.

More than 24 islands belong to the Hawaiian chain, but only seven of them are recognized. Oahu is the capital island and located on it are the cities of Honolulu, Honolulu Harbor, historic Pearl Harbor and famous Waikiki Beach.

Polynesians, who are believed to have come from Tahiti, crossed uncharted ocean waters in large canoes in the 13th and 14th centuries and arrived in Hawaii with their families, plants, animals and personal belongings. Later, in 1778, Captain James Cook came upon the islands during a voyage from the Society Islands to the northwest coast of North America. At that time the island was ruled by a chief and operated as an independent kingdom.

In 1810 all of the islands were unified with a king as

head of government and in 1898 the islands became annexed by the United States.

Missionaries began to inhabit the islands in 1820 coming from New England. They and their descendants had great influence on the island, and many prominent families today bear missionary names.



Everyone talks about the weather except the Hawaiians. Their language does not even have a word for this favorite conversational subject. It is simple because the year round temperature varies little. There are very few days during the year when the sun does not shine.

Major industries on the Islands are pineapple canneries, sugar cane refineries, commercial flower gardens, and the tourist industry.

The 50th state is fast-changing, struggling to meet the demand for new buildings, highways and housing. Handsome contemporary buildings are springing up in business districts, and large family estates are giving way to new subdivisions.

Despite this modernization much still remains of bygone days. New England - style churches, government buildings from the 18th century

Europe, the crowded Oriental shopping district with its tiny open-front stores, small frame shacks - each with a little garden - huddled together along side streets, typifies early Hawaii.

What to See

For the person who visits a far - away place for the first time, there are certain attractions and sights which he must see and Hawaii is loaded with them.

Upon arriving Pearl Harbor the half sunken battleship ARIZONA can still be viewed with its new memorial. In Honolulu itself, the first-timer will want to visit the Aloha Tower where he can see a panoramic view of the harbor, hills and the city.

There is the Punch - bowl crater, an extinct volcano and the setting of the National Memorial Cemetery for the dead of World War II and Korea.

In Waikiki area a stop at the Hawaiian Village in Ala Moana Park will reveal exact replicas of sailing and fishing craft, the Kewalo Basin fishing center and Iolani Palace, former royal palace of the Hawaiian Monarchy and now seat of the state government.

A second extinct volcano located at one end of Waikiki Beach is Diamond Head.

Other places of suggestion to visit are Dole's Pineapple Cannery, Brown's Perfume Factory and Hardwoods of Hawaii. Off - base Waikiki is the focal point for beach sports.

Souvenirs are in abundance and reasonable, however any large amount of buying should be done in the WestPac area.

Base exchanges, cafes and clubs are available practically on every military facility in the area. Flowers, such as orchids, are available at a nominal cost for sending home and can be purchased at Base Exchange.