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## BOOK REVIEW

Michael D Wright. and Lynn Knight (2001) *Now For Then: The Marianas Marine Scouts*. Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Office of the Resident Representative to the United States.

reviewed by

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Spearheaded and published by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Office of the Resident Representative to the United States, *Now For Then: The Marianas Marine Scouts* serves as a tribute to approximately 64 indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian men who bravely served during World War II as "Marine Scouts" in the Northern Mariana Islands, and whose services went unrecognized by the United States government until 2000. Although by July of 1944 the island of Saipan was declared secure by the United States military, several hundred Japanese soldiers remained hidden in the dense jungles of Saipan. Protected by terrain that was unfamiliar to the Americans, the Japanese holdouts continued to harass the American military personnel with nighttime forays and sniper attacks. The Americans, who had little time and personnel to spend on the matter, decided to delegate the responsibility for combat patrols to Chamorro and Carolinian men who were selected and ordered to the Marine Corps 6<sup>th</sup> Provisional Military Police Battalion, where they underwent extensive instruction on military tactics.

The most revealing and interesting parts of the book are the personal stories that give the

reader insight into the hardships and sacrifices made by these men who served as Marine Scouts. One Marine Scout, Cristino Dela Cruz, who provided the Marines with the locations of critical supplies hidden by the Japanese, was awarded in 2000 the Purple Heart and Gold Star medals in recognition for his military service. Another Marine Scout, Gregorio Camacho Cabrera, assisted in convincing people to leave their hiding places in caves in the Mt. Topotchau area, parts of Kagman, and the Marpi area. Santiago M. Babauta, who considered it an honor to be selected as a Marine Scout, traveled to the Northern Islands on an American battleship to assist in the removal of the remaining Japanese soldiers. He returned to Saipan to assist in locating and capturing Japanese snipers, who continued to trouble the United States Marines.

The personal stories of Cristino Dela Cruz, Gregorio Camacho Cabrera, and Santiago M. Babauta are just a few of those told in this literary tribute to the Marianas Marine Scouts. The book does share with the reader a few other stories of bravery and sacrifice, although many other stories of heroism by these men remain untold, or heard by only a few fortunate

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enough to hear them as described by the Marianas Marine Scouts themselves. This book, however, serves as a proper honor and tribute to the Chamorro and Carolinian men who courageously served in the United States military during World War II. Although this

honor and tribute came more than 50 years too late for several Marianas Marine Scouts, their sacrifices will be remembered with respect, admiration, and gratitude for many more generations to come.