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Welcome to guam

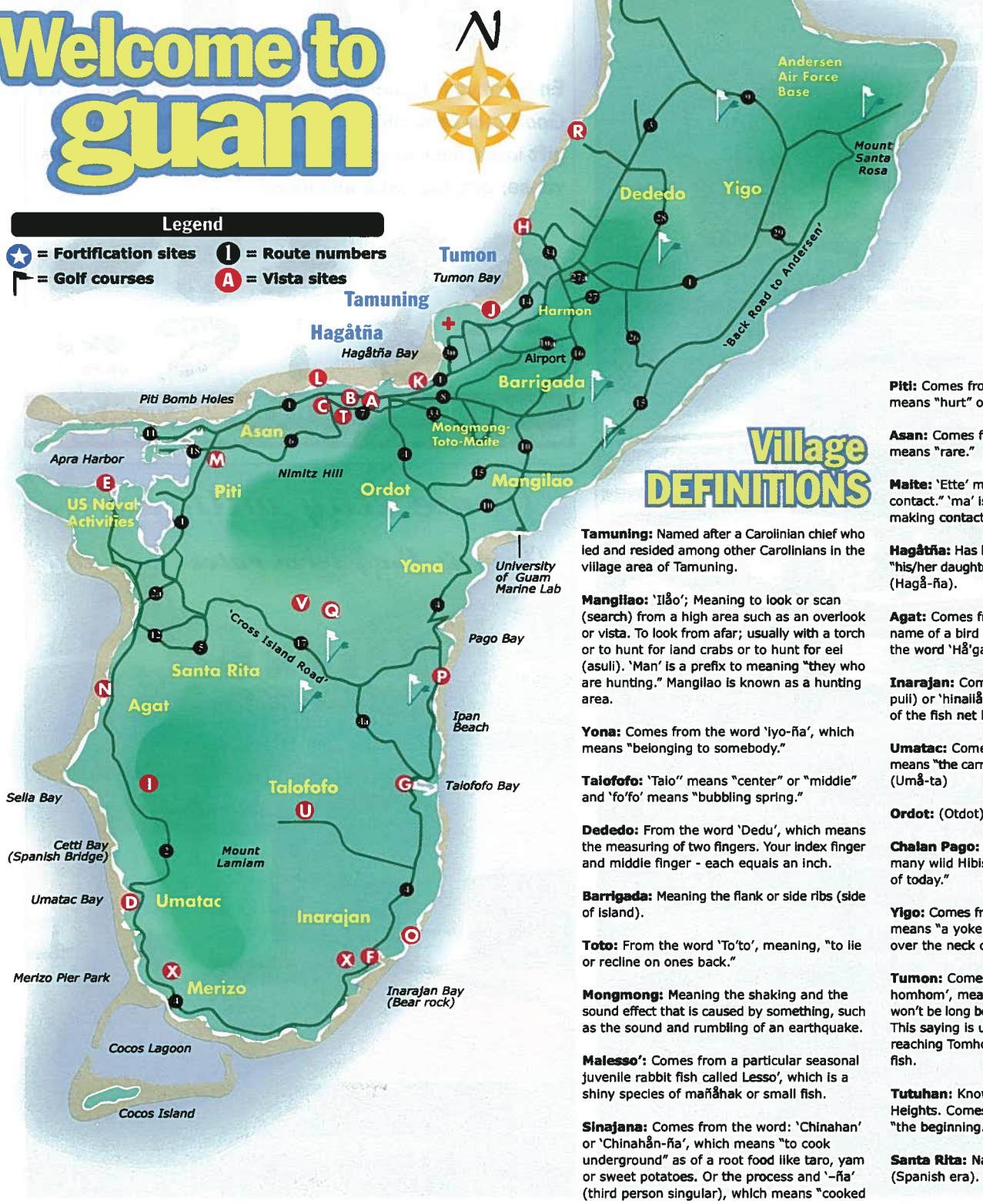

Illustration: Cid Caser/Malla Halom Staff/ccaser@guampdn.com

Guam villages had names in Japanese during the Japanese occupation of World War II:

Guam was called "Omiya Jima" or "The Great Shrine Island"

Asan - Asama Mura
Barrigada - Haruta Mura
Dededo - Huratsuka Mura
Agat - Showa Mura
Hagåtña - Akashi or "The Red City"
Umatac - Umada Mura
Inarajan - Inada Mura
Maite - Harada Mura
Merizo - Matsuyama Mura
Mangilao - Sawahara Mura
Ordot - Orita Mura
Piti - Hanabi Machi
Santa Rita - Apara Mura
Sinajana - Sinagawa Mura
Talofofo - Taro Mura
Yigo - Kita Mura
Yona - Hakoya Mura
Cocos Island - Nagashima

Source: Guam Public School System Chamorro Studies and Special Projects Division

Village DEFINITIONS

Tamuning: Named after a Carolinian chief who led and resided among other Carolinians in the village area of Tamuning.

Mangilao: 'Ilåo'; Meaning to look or scan (search) from a high area such as an overlook or vista. To look from afar; usually with a torch or to hunt for land crabs or to hunt for eel (asuli). 'Man' is a prefix to meaning "they who are hunting." Mangilao is known as a hunting area.

Yona: Comes from the word 'Iyo-ña', which means "belonging to somebody."

Talofofo: 'Talo" means "center" or "middle" and 'fo'fo' means "bubbling spring."

Dededo: From the word 'Dedu', which means the measuring of two fingers. Your index finger and middle finger - each equals an inch.

Barrigada: Meaning the flank or side ribs (side of island).

Toto: From the word 'To'to', meaning, "to lie or recline on ones back."

Mongmong: Meaning the shaking and the sound effect that is caused by something, such as the sound and rumbling of an earthquake.

Malesso': Comes from a particular seasonal juvenile rabbit fish called Lesso', which is a shiny species of mañåhak or small fish.

Sinajana: Comes from the word: 'Chinahan' or 'Chinahån-ña', which means "to cook underground" as of a root food like taro, yam or sweet potatoes. Or the process and '-ña' (third person singular), which means "cooked underground by someone."

Piti: Comes from the root word 'Puti', which means "hurt" or "pain."

Asan: Comes from the word 'Håssan', which means "rare."

Maite: 'Ette' means "to lightly have body contact." 'ma' is the prefix to mean "someone making contact with." (Ma'ette)

Hagåtña: Has been interpreted to mean either "his/her daughter" (Hagå-ña) or "his/her blood" (Hagå-ña).

Agat: Comes from the word 'ga', which is a name of a bird (the Marianas crow). Also from the word 'Hå'ga" or "blood."

Inarajan: Comes from the word 'Hinalia' (to pull) or 'hinalilå-ña', which means "the pulling of the fish net by someone."

Umatac: Comes from the word 'Uma', which means "the carrying of a load on the shoulders." (Umå-ta)

Ordot: (Otdot) - An ant

Chalan Pago: 'Chålan'; meaning "a road with many wild Hibiscus trees." Also means " road of today."

Yigo: Comes from the root word 'Yugu', which means "a yoke or a frame-like harness used over the neck of a carabao."

Tumon: Comes from the word 'Ti'åpmam homhom', meaning "twilight" or "dusk," or "it won't be long before dark" or "soon to be dark." This saying is used by southerners upon reaching Tomhom from their village to hunt or fish.

Tutuhan: Known as the village of Agaña Heights. Comes from the word 'Tutuhon', or "the beginning."

Santa Rita: Named after a patron saint (Spanish era).

Guahan - From the word: Guaha, which means "to have."