

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying  
Microcopy No. 181

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE GOVERNORS OF  
GUAM, 1901-41



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Reports of the following Governors of Guam for the indicated years are distributed on the rolls of this microfilm publication as follows:

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Governor</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>
1	Comdr. Seaton Schroeder	1901, 1902
	Comdr. W. E. Sewell	1903
	Actg. Lt. Raymond Stone	Jan. 28-May 16 , 1904
	Comdr. G. L. Dyer	1904, 1905
	Comdr. Templin M. Potts	1906, 1907
	Capt. E. J. Dorn	1908, 1909, 1910
	Capt. G. L. Salisbury	1911
	Capt. R. E. Coontz	1912, 1913
	Capt. W. J. Maxwell	1914, 1915
	Capt. Roy C. Smith	1916, 1917, 1918
	Capt. William W. Gilmer	1919
	Capt. Ivan C. Wettengel	1920, 1921
	Capt. Adelbert Althouse	1922, 1923
2	Capt. H. B. Price	1924, 1925
	Capt. L. S. Shapley	1926, 1927, 1928
	Comdr. Willis W. Bradley, Jr.	1929, 1930
	Capt. E. S. Root	1931, 1932
3	Capt. George A. Alexander	1933, 1934, 1935
	Capt. Benjamin V. McCandlish	1936, 1937
	Capt. James T. Alexander	1938, 1939
	Capt. G. J. McMillin	1940, 1941

This pamphlet is intended to serve as a guide for users of this microfilm publication as well as for those desiring information on its contents prior to acquisition.

**ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE GOVERNORS OF GUAM  
1901-41**

Reproduced on the three rolls of this microcopy are the annual reports of the Governors of Guam for the fiscal years 1901 through 1941. The reports are addressed to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for the years 1901 to 1905, and thereafter to the Secretary of the Navy.

Guam was ceded to the United States by Spain under a provision of the treaty of peace signed at Paris on December 10, 1898, ending the Spanish-American War. The Naval Government of Guam was established by President William McKinley's Executive order of December 23, 1898, which stated that "the Island of Guam in the Ladrones is hereby placed under the control of the Department of the Navy. The Secretary of the Navy shall take such steps as may be necessary to establish the authority of the United States, and to give it necessary protection and Government." On January 12, 1899, the President and the Secretary of the Navy signed jointly a letter of instruction addressed to "the Military Commander of the Island of Guam, Ladrones, Pacific Ocean," in accordance with which the Governor of Guam was to exercise the authority vested in the Navy Department.

The Governors of Guam, for the period covered by these reports, were all appointed by the Secretary of the Navy and commissioned by the President. In order to effectuate the Executive order of December 23, 1898, the Navy Department designated Guam a naval station and regularly assigned the naval officers commissioned as Governors of Guam to the additional duty of "Commandant, United States Naval Station, Guam." Theoretically, the Governors, as such, reported directly to the Secretary of the Navy, and the Naval Government of Guam (frequently known as the "Island Government") was not under the control of the bureaus and offices of the Navy Department. Contrariwise, the Governor, as Commandant of the Naval Station, was under the administrative control of the bureaus. In practice, naval appropriations expended by the bureaus were extended to the Island Government indirectly, and naval officers and enlisted men were carried on the rolls of the Naval Station while actually employed at work for the Island Government. The necessity of maintaining two distinct establishments lay in the circumstance that Congress had not enacted an organic law for Guam nor directly appropriated any funds to the Island Government, the revenues of which were too small to support the services required by the naval forces assigned to Guam.

Price List of Rolls in Microcopy 181

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Price</u>
1	\$ 5
2	4
3	<u>5</u>
Total	\$14

These are, therefore, reports of the Commandants as well as of the Governors. In the earlier reports the affairs of the two offices are usually considered together; in the later reports, three parts are usually found, as follows: (1) activities of the Naval Government of Guam; (2) activities of the U. S. Naval Station, Guam; and (3) recommendations with respect to the Naval Government of Guam and the U. S. Naval Station, Guam. The reports relate to the administration of the Island Government and the Naval Station, and because of this refer to a variety of subjects ranging from anthropology to zoology. The Governor was principally concerned with matters of economics, agriculture, commerce, construction of buildings and roads, education, finance, public health, population, law, and politics. The Commandant was interested chiefly in the maintenance and development of the Naval Station. The first report, for the fiscal year 1901, was made by the second Governor, Comdr. Seaton Schroeder. The first Governor, Capt. Richard P. Leary, reported at irregular intervals and made no general report covering the period of his administration. Letters received from him by the Navy Department, relating to his governorship, are in the general correspondence files of the Office of the Secretary of the Navy for the 1897-1915 period.

The first five of the reports reproduced in this microcopy--those for the fiscal years 1901 to 1905--are addressed to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, who had supervisory charge of shore establishments. It is probable that Guam was regarded chiefly as a naval station at that time rather than as a microcosmic naval government. Governor Leary's irregular reports were addressed to the Secretary of the Navy in the same way as were the reports after 1905.

The reports reproduced in this microcopy are part of the general correspondence files of the Office of the Secretary of the Navy in Record Group 90, General Records of the Department of the Navy, in the National Archives. These files include the "folded files," 1897-1915, the "flat files," 1916-25 (both of these under the same numerical system), and the "Navy Filing Manual files," 1926-42. The enclosures referred to in the reports are filed, or are presumed to have been filed, in these same series, as is departmental correspondence relating to Guam. Because of the number, bulk, and physical characteristics of these enclosures they have not been included in this microcopy. Among the enclosures are maps, plats, construction plans, schedules, tables, issuances, and compilations and subordinate reports of various kinds.

Other records relating to Guam in the National Archives are among the records of the several bureaus and offices of the Navy Department, notably in Record Group 80, General Records of the Department of the Navy; Record Group 71, Records of the Bureau of Yards and Docks; and Record Group 52, Records of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.