

DoD, PG-23
DA Pam 360-403
NAVPERS 15205
AFP 190-4-7
NAVMC 2602

A POCKET GUIDE TO

THAILAND



MILITARY UNIFORMS OF THAILAND

OFFICERS—ARMY



CAPTAIN



GENERAL OFFICER'S CAP BAND



CAP BAND
WARRANT OFFICER TO COLONEL



CAP INSIGNIA



FIELD MARSHAL



GENERAL



LIEUTENANT GENERAL



MAJOR GENERAL



BRIGADIER GENERAL



COLONEL



LIEUTENANT COLONEL



MAJOR



CAPTAIN



FIRST LIEUTENANT



SECOND LIEUTENANT

OTHER ARMY RANKS AND GRADES



SERGEANT



CAP INSIGNIA



ENLISTED CAP BAND



WARRANT OFFICER



MASTER SERGEANT



SERGEANT FIRST CLASS



STAFF SERGEANT



SERGEANT



CORPORAL



LANCE CORPORAL

A POCKET GUIDE TO



THAILAND

**Published by
ARMED FORCES
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION
Department of Defense**



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government
Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 Price 25 cents

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Land of the Free.....	1
Meet the Thai People.....	3
A Land of Contrasts.....	13
Government: Constitutional Monarchy.....	22
From 1350 to the Present.....	24
Thailand's Armed Forces.....	27
Farms, Forests and Mines.....	28
Local Color.....	33
Time and Money.....	38
The Thai Language.....	39
Suggested Reading.....	48

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAILAND?

	Page
If you greeted a Thai friend with a familiar slap on the back what would be his reaction?_____	8
Is English or French the official second language of Thailand?_____	13
How long is an elephant's work day in Thailand?_____	30
How many kinds of fighting kites are there in Thailand?_____	33
If someone handed you a <i>takraw</i> ball, would you eat it, play with it, or put it in your pocket?_____	33
Would you drive on the left or right side of the street in Thailand?_____	36



LAND OF THE FREE

Whether you first learned of this country as *Siam* or *Thailand* probably depends on when you first studied geography in grammar school. *Siam* was its name from the 1850's to 1939, when it became *Thailand*. Six years later it became *Siam* again. Then in 1949 it went back to its present *Thailand*. It is pronounced "tie-land," by the way. Not "thigh-land."

But whatever the name, the people of this truly colorful country have from their very earliest days called themselves "Thai" (free). And the land in which they live, they themselves call "Muang Thai" (land of the free) or "Prathet Thai"



Thai women are noted for their delicate beauty.

(country of the free). Consequently, the people prefer to be called Thai, not Siamese, and prefer their country called Thailand, not Siam.

The facts of history point out the appropriateness of the word *free* among the Thai, for theirs is the only country in Southeast Asia that was never under European colonial control.

What this has meant is that the Thai always have been, and still are, free to accept or reject ideas and knowledge from the West. Also, the changes that have taken place have been presided over by Thai leaders, and not imposed by aliens. One result of all this is that the Thai are largely free of certain aspects of nationalism in former colonial areas—namely, resentment and bitterness against the West.

MEET THE THAI PEOPLE

The word "Thai" has two meanings. The first refers to those who call Thailand their country. The second refers to a group of people who form an ethnic type . . . that is, a people with common traits, customs, manners, and so on. The Thai, as an ethnic type, are not confined to Thailand, but are also found in great numbers in Laos and Upper Burma. Within Thailand, they comprised (by the 1960 census) 22.8 million of the country's total 26.3 million population.

The Thai are a people who (in their typical form) are of medium height and of an olive complexion. Essentially Mongolian, they are darker than the Chinese, fairer than the

Malays, and with eyes that incline slightly toward the oblique. Small and delicately built, the Thais have well-made torsos and attractive faces.

Within Thailand, the Thai are of two main groups: the southern Thai, and the northern Thai or Lao.

Of the non-Thai in Thailand, 3½ million Chinese form the largest racial group. They are concentrated in and around Bangkok and, in general, have been well assimilated into the community. Except for Malaya, Thailand has the largest Chinese community outside of China.

Various urban areas contain a total of about 60,000 Indians and Pakistani, principally Hindus. Many of them are merchants and tailors. In southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, lives another minority consisting of about 1 million Muslim Malays. Some 50,000 Vietnamese, more than half of them war refugees, live in the northeastern border provinces.

Scattered through the mountain regions are numerous but small communities of non-Thai hill tribes who account for over 200,000 inhabitants. There is also a scattering of jungle people.

Between 85 and 90 percent of the people of Thailand live in small, self-sustaining hamlets or villages. Of the remainder, about half live in Bangkok and the other half in towns scattered throughout the country. In the rural areas most of the Thai ways of life have changed little with the passing of time. In the cities, however, you will see many signs of modern Western influence.



Fronting a "klong," this rural home is built on stilts.



Thai craftsmen are noted for their fine work.

Traits and Culture

The Thai are polite, cheerful and alert. Friendliness is virtually a national characteristic. They traditionally measure their "wealth" by the number of friends they have. Most practice Buddhism, a religion dedicated to moderation, gentleness, and the attainment of enlightenment through doing, thinking, and speaking right. They are particularly appreciative of grace in social contacts. Formality and protocol are carefully observed. Particular respect is shown to people who are older or more prominent professionally or socially.

There is a growing Westernized middle class, many members of which have been educated in Europe, the United States, or Australia. However, most of the people live much as their forefathers did, although they are slowly being affected by Western ways. Apart from those employed in industry or commerce in Bangkok, they are chiefly engaged in agriculture.

Good Manners Among the Thai

Thailand's traditional way of greeting is called the "*wai*." It has the same significance as our handshake, but it also represents respect, thanks, or apology. A person greets another by placing his hands together in a prayerful manner and lifting them to his face with the thumbs below the chin and the index fingers against the forehead, and the head slightly bowed. The handshake, however, is becoming

accepted among Thai who come in contact with foreigners.

The Thai have a reputation for great modesty but their form of it is based on a pattern of taboos about body exposure or physical contact between two individuals rather than a feeling of shame about sex. For an adult or older child to remove all garments when bathing either publicly or in private would be considered shameful. But there is a matter-of-fact attitude about biological functions of the body. Sanitary facilities are sometimes primitive and not very private.

It is considered improper for men and women to touch each other in public. You would be considered very rude if you slapped a Thai on the back, even as a gesture of friendliness.

The Thai consider certain parts of the body more sacred than others. Most sacred is the head, where the *khwan*, or soul, dwells. Do not touch the head of a Thai. To do so would be extremely rude.

Feet are the least sacred part of the body. Therefore, the Thai consider it very bad form to touch a person with the feet, to sit cross-legged with the toe or sole of the foot pointing at another person, or to sprawl or sit with the legs elevated and pointed toward another person. Pointing or shaking a finger at a Thai would be regarded as a discourteous act.

It is best to get advice from a Thai friend as to the correct conduct if you are invited to a wedding, birthday party, or funeral.

A Thai will not take exception if you commit a discourteous

act. But that does not mean that he approves of what you have done. He would feel that to outwardly disapprove would be discourteous on his part to a guest of his country. But in Thailand, as elsewhere, there is no excuse for discourteous conduct.

Western dress is worn by many people in the cities and towns. Farmers usually wear shirts, loose cotton trousers, and wide straw hats. Thai women wear the *pasin*, a wrap-around garment similar to the sarong. The status of women in Thailand is unusually high for the Orient. The Thai have never had a caste system, their women have never been



Women of Chanburi Province weave a mat.

secluded, and increasing numbers are entering into business and the professions. They are noted for their charm and beauty. Where traditional customs are followed—particularly in the rural areas—the practice still is “men first, ladies last.”

The Eyes of the Thai Are on You

During your stay in Thailand you will be considered a guest of the nation, since the Thai are our friends and partners in a common effort to defend freedom in Southeast Asia.

Match their friendliness with your own, their gracious hospitality with honest appreciation, their pride in their country and their traditions with genuine interest. And match their courtesy and good manners with similar behavior on your part. The people of your host nation will be observing you more carefully than you probably realize. By your conduct they will judge you, your fellow Americans, and your country.

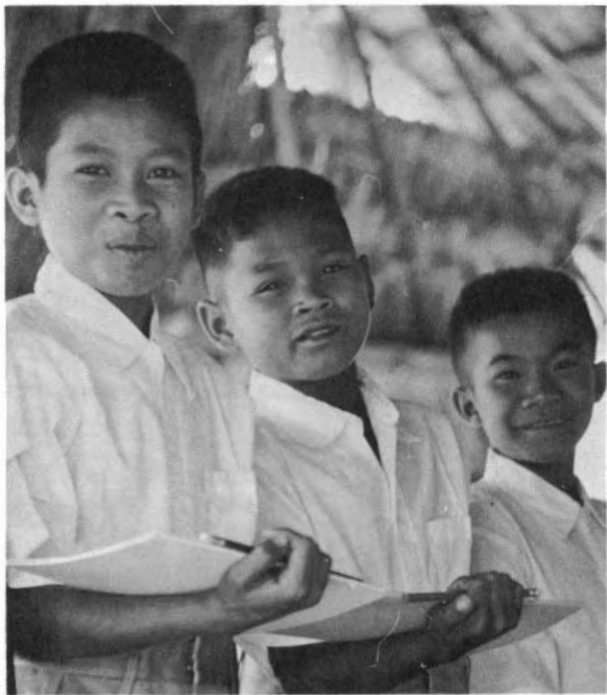
You may be asked questions about the United States and the American people. Answer courteously and as accurately as you can. If you do not know the answers admit it and you will be respected for your honesty.

Do not make uncomplimentary comparisons between things about you in Thailand and what you may have back home. Remember that Thailand is an ancient land of rich culture and its people are among the most advanced in Southeast Asia.

English is spoken and understood by many people in



At Bangkok, Navymen tour the King's Palace.



These Thai youngsters enjoy school.

Thailand. It is the only European language widely used there, and has been officially adopted as the nation's second language. The schools place a special emphasis on teaching English.

While this can benefit you in your daily contact with the people, it can work against you if you have a tendency to sound off in public about things that displease you. For what you say will be understood by far more people than you may realize.

Remember, too, that the average Thai frowns upon loud and boisterous behavior in public, including yelling and screaming.

A LAND OF CONTRASTS

In this key Southeast Asian country, about four-fifths the size of Texas, you will find high mountains, dense forests, hilly areas, long and winding rivers, plains, and an extended but irregular coastline. The country's northernmost portions are less than 80 miles from Red China while its southernmost border flanks Malaysia.

Covering more than 200,000 square miles of the Southeast Asia peninsula, Thailand is bordered on the west and north-west by Burma, on the north and east by Laos, on the south-east by Cambodia, and on the south (in part) by the Gulf of Siam. Its lower peninsula is bordered on the west by the Andaman Sea, on the east by the Gulf of Siam, and the remainder by Malaysia.



Vendors display their products at a "floating market."

The Chao Phraya River is the country's major transportation artery. Down this river to Bangkok are brought rice, teakwood, and other products for export. The river also provides rich agricultural soil by depositing silt on the central plain. Stretching almost 200 miles along the river and varying from 30 to 90 miles in width, this plain produces most of the rice crop.

Bangkok is by far the largest city in Thailand, with a population of nearly 2 million. The next city in size is Chiangmai (or Chiang Mai), with less than 100,000 population.



Locally-made pottery is loaded aboard a river craft.

Climate and Health

In general, the country's climate is a tropical one. It is governed by the monsoons—which means remarkable seasonal variations. The rainy season is from June to October. There is a second rainy season in the southern region, from November to February. Most of the country gets about 50 inches a year. Bangkok averages 57 inches.

In Thailand, as in most other foreign countries, a few simple health precautions are in order. You, as a newcomer, will be more susceptible to local disease-causing germs than the Thai, for through the years they have built up an immunity to germs that would probably put you flat on your back.

You should boil water for drinking or making ice for at least 10 minutes. Be extremely cautious about drinking water that you have any doubts about. Do not depend upon chemical tablets alone to purify water. Raw milk is a source of many infectious diseases. Only canned, powdered, or reconstructed milk is safe for use.

Most of the diseases caused by contaminated water and milk also may be acquired from food. Some of these diseases include simple diarrhea, food poisoning, dysentery, undulant fever, tuberculosis, trichinosis, and other parasitic diseases. Except for fruits and vegetables which can be peeled, locally grown foods should be well cooked. Cook *all* meats well done. Raw vegetables, such as salad greens, may be eaten safely if they are either soaked in a disinfectant solution or dipped in





This huge "chedi" holds some of Gautama Buddha's remains.

boiling water. Do not eat fish, shrimp, lobster, or other shell fish in their raw forms.

Mosquitoes, flies, lice, ticks, and other insects are disease carriers. Be sure you take all necessary precautions against them. Guard against snake bites. Thailand has several poisonous varieties, including moccasins, coral snakes, cobras, and kraits. The krait is reputed to cause more deaths than any other snake. These snakes breed and thrive in underbrush and clusters of bamboo, usually coming out at night. So carry a flashlight. Precautions should also be taken against scorpions and centipedes.

Religion

About 95 percent of the population practice the state religion, which is Theravada (Doctrine of the Elders) Buddhism. It is, next to the family and home, the most important element in Thai life. Buddhism is a gentle, tolerant, and philosophical faith.

An essential in the nation's religious life is the *wat*. The term refers to the whole religious compound—the Buddhist temple, the dormitory for monks, novices and temple boys, and any related buildings. Around this religious hub revolves much of the life of the Thai people, especially those in the country. Not only is the *wat* the religious center, but it may serve as the community recreation center, hospital, school, community house, home for the aged, employment agency, welfare agency, hotel, and information center.

In a city one *wat* might serve one neighborhood, while at the other extreme one *wat* might serve a couple of villages or a group of hamlets.

Before entering a temple, you'll be required to remove your shoes. Be watchful of how you use your camera, for many objects of worship may not be photographed. Others may be photographed only after obtaining a special permit.

There is nothing in the tenets of Buddhism that could lead to intolerance of other religious faiths, and there is complete religious freedom in Thailand.

Although the members of the *wat* depend upon the com-



Buddhist monks pray during ordination ceremony.

munity for their food, clothing and other needs, they do not do so by begging. Rather, it is an accepting of gifts—and by his gift the donor gains spiritual merit.

Other religions practiced in Thailand include various tribal religions, Hinduism, Islam, Confucianism, Taoism, and Christianity.

Although most Thai people are Buddhists, they still believe in spirits. Thus, most Thai homes have a small shrine housing the *Phra Phum*, the guardian spirits of the home. The spirit shrine usually stands on a post outside the home. In the form of a miniature temple, the shrine contains a small statue,



Buddhist priest accepts gift of food.

figures of dancing girls and elephants, incense, food, flowers, and other symbols of gratitude. Needless to say, you must not touch or remove these. One household spirit is believed to dwell in the threshold, so when passing through any door, step over the threshold, not on it. Also, it is the custom when entering the home of a Thai (except in Bangkok) to remove your shoes.

GOVERNMENT: CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

Thailand's form of government is a Constitutional Monarchy. The King is the head of the state, but he has little power. His role and function is mainly symbolic and ceremonial.

The Thai national Government is highly centralized. Although there is separation of power among its three branches (legislative, executive, judicial), the executive branch is dominant.

Executive authority is vested in the Prime Minister and his cabinet. He wields the real power in the country, and governs by decree.

Thailand, for purposes of local administration, is divided into 71 provinces, called *changwats*. Each province is administered by a governor. The *changwats* are divided into districts (*amphurs*), communes (*tambons*), and villages (*moobans*). There is limited local autonomy.

At the bottom of the governing hierarchy is the village headman. He may head up a single village (or neighborhood)



King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit.



BURMA

Mekong River

Chiang Rai

Chiang Mai

Lampang

Phrae

Uttaradit

Sawankhalok

Vientiane

Mekong River

Udon Thani

Khon Kaen

LAOS

Gulf of Tonkin

Nakhon Sawan

Chao Phraya River

Nakhon Ratchasima

Ubon

Ayutthaya

BANGKOK
(Krung Thep)

Phet Buri

CAMBODIA

Mekong River

Gulf of Siam

Phnom Penh

★ Saigon

Andaman Sea

Surat Thani

Songkhla

THAILAND

MALAYSIA

South China Sea

REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM

or from three to five small hamlet-groupings. His authority and leadership are often shared with the older priests and, at times, the local schoolteacher.

The King Is Honored

The King is the nation's most honored and respected person. He is the spiritual leader of his people, defender of the faith, and symbol of Thailand's culture. His picture and that of the royal family are widely displayed. At the end of movies, plays, receptions, and other public gatherings, the King's Anthem is played and all present stand at respectful attention.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej (pronounced Poom-ee-pon Adun-ya-det) is the present ruling monarch. He is the only monarch ever born in the United States, having been born at Brookline, Mass., in 1927, while his father was a medical student at Harvard University.

FROM 1350 TO THE PRESENT

The first Thai king of a unified state was Ramathibodi. In 1350 he established his capital at Ayutthia, about 50 miles north of present-day Bangkok. Parts of the government, administration, and legal system set up during his reign are still in use.

The 16th century marked the beginning of Thai contacts with the West, when Portuguese traders and missionaries reached the kingdom.

The early 17th century brought Dutch and British traders to break the Portuguese monopoly of Thai trade; also, soon afterwards, Thailand developed a brisk trade with Japan. Later the French appeared on the scene. Thailand continued to receive Westerners until 1668, when fear of a possible French plot to gain control of the kingdom resulted in Thailand's closing its gates to virtually all foreign trade.

In the 19th century, European colonialism began to press hard on Thailand. In 1826 Rama III relaxed his nation's isolation policy to conclude a treaty of amity and commerce with Great Britain. Seven years later a similar treaty was negotiated with the United States. By this action, Thailand became the first Asian nation with whom the United States signed a treaty of any nature.

On 24 June 1932, a bloodless revolution resulted in the establishment of a constitutional form of government. The new Constitution provided for universal suffrage of citizens who had reached the age of 20, a one-chamber Parliament with half its members elected and half appointed by the King, and a cabinet responsible to Parliament.

On 8 December 1941, the Japanese army occupied Thailand. Before long the Free Thai underground resistance movement developed. It cooperated with the United States, and by the end of the war the underground was training a force of guerrilla fighters.

After Japan's surrender, a new Thai Government requested membership in the United Nations.

Two days after the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, 25

June 1950, Thailand announced its support of United Nations intervention. It sent a battalion of infantry, three ships, three airplanes, and quantities of rice to the U.N. Command.

Thailand has continued to pursue the anti-Communist, pro-Western policy established in 1950. It is a member of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) created in September 1954. Bangkok is the headquarters of SEATO.



THAILAND'S ARMED FORCES

The nation's armed forces, with a personnel strength of about 125,000, is formed of an Army, Navy, and Air Force. There's also a Marine Corps, which is subordinate to the Navy. In the main, the forces consist of conscripts. All Thai males must register at age 18. At age 21 they are subject to a 2-year period of military service followed by a reserve obligation that extends for 22 years.

The Royal Thai Army numbers about 80,000 officers and men. It is organized on a regional basis. Regarded as the nation's front line of defense, the Army's major combat units are three infantry divisions, a mechanized cavalry division, an antiaircraft division, regimental combat teams and an airborne ranger battalion. Heavy weapons include medium tanks and artillery of various types.

The Royal Thai Navy is charged with the defense of the seaward approaches to Thailand. In addition to gunboat and patrol types that range up to escort vessels (DE's) in size, it has minecraft and anti-submarine vessels. The Navy, which numbers 20,000, also has some amphibious capability. The 7,500-man Marine Corps primarily provides security guards and landing parties.

The Royal Thai Air Force has a strength of about 18,000. It is equipped with modern jet fighter-bombers and can provide some air-ground support, armed reconnaissance, and photoreconnaissance for the Army and Navy. There are also transport aircraft, and helicopters for rescue work. All

major items of equipment are of U.S. origin.

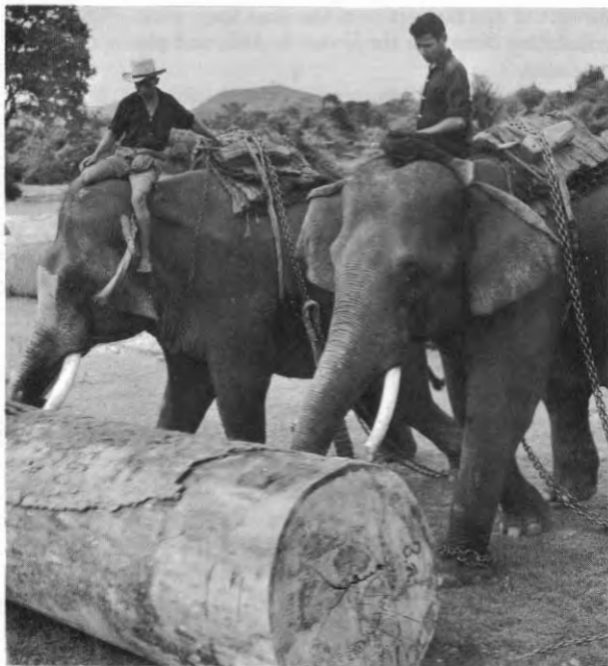
In addition to the regular military establishment, the Royal Thai National Police, equipped mainly with small arms, is charged with supporting the armed forces in any national emergency. The Border Patrol Police is a special force guarding Thailand's borders with Laos and Burma.

FARMS, FORESTS AND MINES

The Thai economy is basically agricultural. More than four out of five persons derive their income from this source. Farms are mostly small, family-size affairs and more than 85



Shoulder deep in the crop at rice harvest time.



Elephants use their mighty trunks to position logs.

percent of the farmers own the land they work. Thailand's population density is the lowest in Asia, and plenty of land is available.

Rice is the main farm product of the country. Most of it comes from the Central Section. The crop averages about 8 million tons a year, of which upwards of 1.5 million tons are exported. Rubber and corn are also important items of foreign exchange. Tin is the most important mineral exported.

The main forest product is teakwood, grown chiefly in northern Thailand. Several thousand elephants earn their feed working 5 hours a day in the teakwood industry. Another important forest product is *lac*, a resinous substance secreted by insects and used in making shellac.

Transportation

Railroads radiate from Bangkok to other main Thai cities and to Cambodia and Laos. The highway network is being improved but still needs more connecting roads and more all-weather, heavy duty roads. Bangkok's modern air terminal, *Don Muang*, is an important crossroads for travel in Southeast Asia and to points beyond.

In the plain north of Bangkok is an extensive system of inland waterways. It is made up of an interconnected network of rivers, streams, and canals (*klongs*). Not only is this system used for travel and transportation (especially of farm products) but it is also used for irrigation and drainage of land.



Going to market, farmers pass Bangkok's "Temple of Dawn."



Thai boxers go at it with fists and feet.

LOCAL COLOR

Thailand is a colorful country, and the Thai enjoy a vivid, zestful way of life.

Sports

In Thailand you'll see sports you're not likely to find elsewhere. Among these are Thai boxing, *takraw*, and kite fighting.

There's nothing quite like Thai boxing. Against background music provided by a ringside orchestra, the two participants go at it with fists, knees, elbows, and feet.

Takraw is played by young and old. The object of the game is to keep the *takraw* ball, made of wicker woven in a criss-cross pattern, in play by sending it across to one another by hitting it with the heel, knee, head, instep, shoulder, or forearm.

Kite fighting pits the larger *chula* kite, equipped with split bamboo grappling hooks, against the smaller *pakpao* kite. The latter kite uses its long starched cloth tail as a snare. The object is to down the other kite.

Other popular but less unusual sports are horseracing, golf and American-style basketball.

Thai Cooking

It has been said that Thai cooking is a combination of Chinese and Indian cooking that has retained the spicier

features of both. With rice as the mainstay, the Thai make use of such seasonings and flavorings as curry powders, soy sauce, coconut milk, limes, fish sauce, and shrimp paste. Spices, too, are used heavily.

One dish you'll probably discover is *kao pat*. It's fried rice, with bits of crab meat, pork, chicken, onion, egg, and saffron (a spice).

Holidays and Festivals

The Thai celebrate a great many national and religious holidays and festivals. The more important ones are listed below. Dates are given for those based on the Gregorian calendar, but the exact dates for the others, based on the lunar calendar, must be checked with the Thai.

New Year Ceremonies—31 December–1 January.

Chatra Mongkhorn—5 May. Anniversary of the coronation of His Majesty the King.

The Queen's Birthday—12 August.

King Chulalongkorn Memorial Day—23 October. This day is kept in remembrance of the beloved sovereign, who died in 1910.

United Nations Day—24 October.

The King's Birthday and National Day—5 December. This is both the national holiday and the date of the outstanding social event of the year.

Constitution Day—10 December. Commemorates the signing of the first Constitution in 1932.



Grace and beauty are reflected in this Thai dance.

Makha Buja (lunar). Buddhist pilgrimages are made. It is comparable to the "Feast of All Saints."

Songkran (lunar). Marks beginning of new year according to old Maha Sakaraj calendar. Water is poured over parents, elders, monks, and statues of Buddha.

Trut Thai (lunar). Beginning of lunar new year.

Raek Na (lunar). Beginning of plowing ceremony.

Visaka Buja (lunar). Three-day festival commemorating the triple episode of the birth, enlightenment, and passing into Nirvana of the Lord Buddha.

Khao Pansa and Ork Pansa (lunar). The beginning and end of the 3 months' Buddhist Lent.

Loy Krathong (lunar). On full moon nights during the 11th and 12th lunar months, the Thai carry leaf cups containing a candle, incense, a coin, and betel nuts to rivers and streams, where they light the candles and let the cups float downstream.

The Driving Is Different

One surprise that Thailand holds for many new to the country is that the driving pattern is of the left-hand type . . . just the opposite from what you learned in the United States. On Thai streets and highways you'll see the automobiles and other motor vehicles—most of them with the driver's seat on the right—keeping to the left side of the road. Other aspects of driving will conform to this pattern: turning, traffic circles, and so on.



This fierce-visaged marble image guards a Buddhist temple.

TIME AND MONEY

The same 24-hour clock system used by the U.S. Armed Forces serves as the Thai official system. Outside Bangkok, however, you're likely to run into a system in which the hour breaks down not into 60 minutes, but into 10 *bat*. Each *bat*, in turn, is formed of 4 *nathi* (1.5 minutes).

The time zone for Thailand is "Minus Seven"—or 7 hours east of Greenwich, which makes it 12 hours ahead of New York. In other words, when it's breakfast time in New York, it is supper time (of the same day) in Thailand.

Two calendars are used in Thailand: the religious (based on



Chulalongkorn University's Arts Building in Bangkok.

the lunar system) and the official civil calendar. The religious calendar dates from the death of the Lord Buddha in 542 B.C. It is widely used by the country people and often by those in the cities. The official civil calendar is the Gregorian calendar, the same as used in the United States.

Currency

The *baht* (sometimes called *tical*) is the basic unit of money. It is worth about 5 cents in U.S. currency. Thai paper currency is issued in 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 *baht* notes.

There are 100 *satangs* to one *baht*. Coins are mostly of the *satang* issue. There are 1, 5, 10, 25, and 50 *satang* coins, and a one *baht* coin.

THE THAI LANGUAGE

More than 30 languages are spoken in Thailand, the main one being Thai. It has several dialects. Of the dialects, one predominates, and that is Central Thai (or Siamese). It is the language of government, education, the press, motion pictures, radio and TV, and is the dialect of Bangkok and the Central Plain.

Some knowledge of Thai, even though slight, will be an asset to you. Not only will you find it easier to get around, but the very fact that you're trying to learn their language will bring you an added respect from the people of your host country.

Thai is mostly formed of words of one syllable. It is also tonal, so the same word could have five different meanings depending on whether it is spoken in a high, medium or low tone, or in a rising or falling tone.



Speaking the Language

As a start to learning something of the language this part of the guide lists a few simple words, phrases, and basic sentences. It is necessary that a scale of some sort be used, for this is a tonal language. The five tones are indicated on the scale.

Another point is that it is important either to hold the sound of the vowel or to cut it short. The symbol "●" means a long vowel and "●" means a short vowel.

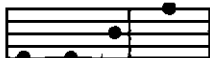
For each word or phrase there are, from top to bottom, the written Thai, the English meaning, the tone and phonetic pronunciation. If you have difficulty, point to the Thai writing and ask a Thai to say the words slowly. Listen carefully and imitate him closely, even if it sounds different from the way it looks.

In some groupings you will notice words in parentheses: (dee-chan) and (khah). The first is the feminine way of saying "I" or "me" while the second is the feminine way of saying either "sir" or "madam." These two words would therefore be used by a woman speaker.



EXPRESSIONS

สวัสดีครับ

Hello (good morning,
good afternoon, etc.)sah-wahd-dee khrawh
(khah)

เปล่าครับ

No, sir.

plow khrawb
(khah)

ครับ

Yes, sir.

khrawh
(khah)

สบายดีหรือครับ

How are you?

sah-bai dee ruh khrawb
(khah)

ขอบคุณครับ

Thank you.

khoh-khun khrawb
(khah)

ไม่เป็นไรครับ

You're welcome.

mai pen rai khrawb
(khah)

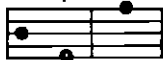
ขอโทษครับ

Pardon me.

khoh-toad khrawb
(khah)

ลาก่อนครับ

Goodbye.

lah-kawn khrawb
(khah)

พบกันใหม่ นะครับ

See you later.

pohh kahn mai na khrawb
(khah)

ASKING FOR THINGS

ผมต้องการไม้ขีดไฟครับ
I want matches.



pohm lohng-kahn mai-khid fai khrawb
(dee-chahn) (khah)

ผมอยากจะทำอาหาร
I want to eat.



pohm yahg cha kin ah-hahn.
(dee-chahn)

คุณต้องการบุหรี่หรือครับ
Do you want a cigarette(s)?



khoon tohng-kahn boo-ree ruh khrawb
(dee-chahn) (khah)

คุณต้องการเท่าไรครับ
How many do you want?



khoon tohng-kahn tahw-rai khrawb
(dee-chahn) (khah)

KEY WORDS

Key words, numbers, and underlined words may be interchanged with other underlined words, if the word used makes sense in the phrase or sentence.

ข้าว
Rice.



khaw

ไข่
Egg(s).



khai

น้ำชา
Tea.



nahm-cha

น้ำ
Water.



nahm

เนื้อ
Meat.



ngah

กาแฟ
Coffee.



kah-feh

ขนมปัง
bread.



kha-nohm-pawng

MONEY MATTERS

คุณต้องการราคาเท่าไร

How much do you want?



koon tohng-kahn rah-kha tahw-rai

นี่ราคาเท่าไรครับ

How much is this (or are these)?

nee rah-kha tahw-rai hhrawb
(khah)

TELLING TIME

เวลาเท่าไรครับ

What time is it?

way-lah tahw-rai khrawb
(khah)

เวลาสิบเอ็ดโมงสามสิบนาทีครับ

It's eleven-thirty o'clock.

way-lah sip-ed mong sahm-sip nah-lee khrawb (khah)

เวลาสองโมงครับ

It's two o'clock.way-lah nong mong khrawb (khah)

ASKING AND GIVING DIRECTIONS

โปรดหยุดทันทีครับ

Please stop at once.



prod yoot tehn-tee khrawb
(khah)

โปรดไปทางขวาครับ

Please turn right.



prod bai tahng khwah khrawb
(khah)

อยู่ข้างหน้า

It's ahead.



you khawang-nah

โปรดไปทางซ้ายครับ

Please turn left.



prod bai tahng nigh khrawb
(khah)

โปรดไปช้า ๆ

Please go slowly.



prohd bai cha-cha

ถึงเวลาออกแล้วครับ

It's time to go.



tuhng way-lah awg laow khrawb
(khah)

ผมอยากจะไปโรงแรมครับ

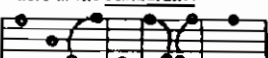
I want to go to a hotel.



pohm yahg cha bai rawng-ram khrawb
(dee-chahn) (kahn)

ร้านอาหารอยู่ที่ไหนครับ

Where is the restaurant?



rahn-ah-hahn you tee-nai khrawb
(khah)

NUMBERS

หนึ่ง
One.



nuhng

สอง
Two.



song

สาม
Three.



sahm

สี่
Four.



see

ห้า
Five.



hah

หก
Six.



hohg

เจ็ด
Seven.



chehd

แปด
Eight.



pad

เก้า
Nine.



kahw

สิบ
Ten.



sip

สิบเอ็ด
Eleven.



sip-ehd

สิบสอง
Twelve.



sip-song

สิบสาม
Thirteen.



sip-sahm

สิบสี่
Fourteen.



sip-see

สิบห้า
Fifteen.



sip-hah

สิบหก
Sixteen.



sip-hohg

สิบเจ็ด
Seventeen.



sip-chehd

สิบแปด
Eighteen.



sip-pad

สิบเก้า
Nineteen.



sip-kaw

ยี่สิบ
Twenty.



yee-sip

ยี่สิบเอ็ด
Twenty-one.



yee-sip-ehd

สามสิบ
Thirty.



sahm-sip

สามสิบเอ็ด
Thirty-one.



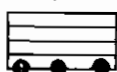
sahm-sib-ehd

สี่สิบ
Forty.



see-sip

สี่สิบเอ็ด
Forty-one.



see-sip-ehd

ห้าสิบ
Fifty.



hah-sip

หกสิบ
Sixty.



hohg-sip

เจ็ดสิบ
Seventy.



chhd-sip

แปดสิบ
Eighty.



pad-sip

เก้าสิบ
Ninety.



kahw-sip

You can see how easy it is to construct numbers from 20 to 99. Just add simple numbers.

For example:

hohg (six) sip (ten) hah (five) is sixty-five;
pad (eight) sip (ten) song (two) is eighty-two;
and see (four) sip (ten) see (four) is forty-four.

SUGGESTED READING

- Burt, E. A., *The Teachings of the Compassionate Buddha* (New American Library, New York, 1955).
- Busch, N. F., *Thailand: An Introduction to Modern Siam* (Van Nostrand, New York, 1959).
- Chula, Prince, *Lords of Life* (Taplinger, New York, 1960).
- Fifield, R. H., *Southeast Asia in United States Policy* (Praeger, New York, 1963).
- Gard, R. A., *Buddhism* (Washington Square Press, New York 1961).
- Johnson, J. J., *The Role of the Military in Underdeveloped Countries* (Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1962).
- Jordan, A. A., *Foreign Aid and the Defense of Southeast Asia* (Praeger, New York, 1962).
- Kahin, G. M., *Governments and Politics in Southeast Asia* (Cornell University Press, 1963).
- Pendleton, R. L., *Thailand: Aspects of Landscape and Life* (Duell, New York, 1962).
- Wening, Rudolf, *Thailand* (Editions Silva, Zurich, 1961).
- Wilson, D. A., *Politics in Thailand* (Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York, 1962).

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

18 February 1965

A Pocket Guide to Thailand (DoD PG-23)—This official Department of Defense publication is for the use of personnel in the military Services.

Distribution:

Army:

Active Army:

CINFO (50)

USARPAC, ATTN: IO (50)

25th Inf Div, ATTN: IO (50)

JUSMAG, Thailand (500)

NG: None.

USAR: None.

For explanation of abbreviations used, see AR 320-50.

Air Force: S.

Marine Corps:

Marine Corps List "A".

By Order of the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy, and
the Air Force:

HAROLD K. JOHNSON,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

J. C. LAMBERT,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

B. J. SEMMES, JR.,
Vice Admiral, United States Navy,
Chief of Naval Personnel.

Official: J. P. McCONNELL,
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force.

R. J. PUGH,
Colonel, United States Air Force,
Director of Administrative Services.

H. W. BUSE, JR.,
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps,
Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans & Programs).

MILITARY UNIFORMS OF THAILAND

OFFICERS—NAVY



SENIOR LIEUTENANT



CAP INSIGNIA



ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET



ADMIRAL



VICE ADMIRAL



REAR ADMIRAL



COMMODORE



CAPTAIN



COMMANDER



LIEUTENANT COMMANDER



SENIOR LIEUTENANT



JUNIOR LIEUTENANT



SUB-LIEUTENANT

OTHER NAVY RANKS AND GRADES



PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS



CHIEF PETTY OFFICER



PETTY OFFICER 1st CLASS



PETTY OFFICER 2nd CLASS



PETTY OFFICER 3rd CLASS



SEAMAN



SEAMAN APPRENTICE

MILITARY UNIFORMS OF THAILAND

OFFICERS—AIR FORCE



FLIGHT LIEUTENANT



CAP INSIGNIA



MARSHAL
OF THE AIR FORCE



AIR CHIEF MARSHAL



AIR MARSHAL



AIR VICE MARSHAL



AIR COMMODORE



GROUP CAPTAIN



WING COMMANDER



PILOT'S WINGS



SQUADRON LEADER



FLIGHT LIEUTENANT



FLIGHT OFFICER



PILOT OFFICER

OTHER AIR FORCE RANKS AND GRADES



SERGEANT



CAP INSIGNIA



FLIGHT CADET



FLIGHT SERGEANT
FIRST CLASS



FLIGHT SERGEANT
SECOND CLASS



FLIGHT SERGEANT
THIRD CLASS



SERGEANT



CORPORAL



LEADING AIRCRAFTSMAN