

Mesko, Nick

Local Soldier-Baker Went Jap-Hunting On His "Day Off"

Their job is baking bread, all that is eaten by the Army forces on Guam, but Technician Fourth Grade Nick Mesko, a patrol leader from this city, and seven of his buddies found time for "exercise" on their Sundays off. They patrolled for Japs in the surrounding jungles.

Mesko and his mates adopted this strange recreation some months ago, when foraging Nip stragglers were sneaking across the nearby highway to steal freshly-baked loaves from

the company's cooling racks. The patrolling turned out to be so intriguing—and lucrative—that they made it a regular day-off feature.

The men have killed 11 Japs in this manner. The patrol sets out at 8 a. m. accompanied by a native guide who leads them to spots where Japs were last sighted—usually the chicken coops of Guamanian farmers. From there, the patrol tracks the Japs to their bivouac area, sneaks in as close as 10 feet, then opens fire with carbines.

Japanese rifles, swords and battle flags are among the booty brought back by Mesko. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Mesko, 1711 East Second Street.

August 16, 1945