

A (Rehabilitation)
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1 October 1947

Saipan Dist.

Repair or replacement of antive Structures:

(a) Replacement of homes lost during the invasion stages of the Saipan operations is a continuing process. Every effort is being made to reestablish the natives on their own lands. Whereas they are all housed, in many cases, several families of the same kinship group are occupying the equivalent of a three room house. Civil Administration endeavours to keep advised of abandoned Military Areas offering possibilities of salvage materials. Working parties are organized to clean up the site in return for the salvaged items. As most of the temporary structures would be destroyed by burning and require subsequent clearing of unburnable items, an actual saving to the government results in this process.

Rota Island is showing a nice recovery from last year's disastrous typhoon. Now that all of the crops are planted the rebuilding of the new village of Song Song is about completed. This village is at the site of the previous NKK company town. All reconstruction work has been done by the natives under Civil Administration supervision at no cost to the government. It is interesting to note that the principal structural members, corner posts, sills, roof joists, etc., are hewn from the very sturdy native ifil trees. It is a beautifully grained and colored wood, which is capable of being worked up into such fine pieces of furniture that it seems a shame to use it as rough lumber in house construction.

0103

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(b) Schools: Saipan's one school, in Chalan Kanoa, was enlarged by the addition of three classrooms on the rear wing of the building. The front building of the school was rebuilt since our occupation and is in good shape; however, the rear building which was left standing has been in rather sad condition. The new rooms are a marked contrast in their bright interiors and sound roof.

Rota - The school is ready for occupancy and is as good as any in this area. Conversion of a Japanese concrete structure in good condition was resorted to in this project.

(c) Churches: The work of casting concrete frames and inserts for the new Catholic Church is going ahead. This is being accomplished under the direction of Father Ferdinand and Brother Orquietz. A model of the new church has been completed and is on display in front of the present church. It is cathedral like in proportion and represents an extremely ambitious program of church reconstruction. It is estimated that initial costs will aggregate eighty-thousand dollars, (\$80,000).

Reverend Stevens of the Baptist General Board of Foreign Missions is well along toward completion of the first unit of his establishment as he is now occupying a prefab house on the site allocated to them. It is his intention to put a chapel, recreational and teaching facilities as well.

Rota - A request has been received from the reverend Marcian Bellett, OFM Cap., Catholic Missionary of Rota Island for two separate tracts of land on Rota. The first, a small portion of what was formerly Japanese Government land adjoining the site of the former Island Cemetery of Rota. It is Father Marcian's intention to reestablish that cemetery by bringing back all the remains from the far away overcrowded plot given to the natives by the Japanese Government. The second, the allocation of the old NKK refinery office buildings, for use, in the near future, for a convent or a school for same. Unless there are unforeseen legal bars to approval it is anticipated that these requests will be granted.

Work on the reconstruction of the Catholic Church has started but due to the fact that most of the people are working on the farms and the village, the work is progressing slowly.

(d) Community Buildings important in Local Culture: None.

(e) Slight progress can be reported on the reconstruction of Tanapag. When it was determined that the area allocated by the previous Island Commander consisted principally of tracts of private land, further construction was held up, pending proof of the land claims by the private owners concerned. Some dissatisfaction was evident on the part of the have nots, who would have obtained home sites under the plan that had been approved, but by and large it is believed that the majority recognize the wisdom of not further complicating the land situation.

Construction on Saipan during the quarter consisted of:

Individual houses completed	21
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Individual houses under construction	4
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Other construction completed:

Miso and Soya Factory	2
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Butcher Shop	1
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General Merchandise Store	2
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Vehicle Repair Shop	2
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Lumber Yard	1
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Total completion	<u>33</u>
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