

~~A~~ Rehabilitation)
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1 Jan 48

Palau District

Repair or replacement of damaged or destroyed native structures and facilities:

(a) Character and extent of CAU assistance.

Quonset material is still available to individuals and as a result more buildings have been erected this quarter. The transportation of this material is a difficult problem in that the boats are not good cargo carriers. Lumber to be used for building is still at a premium, since the Palau sawmills produce but a limited amount. When the typhoon occurred in November, approximately one hundred native houses were destroyed or damaged in its wake. The district of Nguial was heavily damaged, while Ngarhelong and Ngaraard suffered less. Most of the damage has been repaired, and it is expected that the rest of the damage will be taken care of this next quarter. The Palauans actively cooperated in remedying the typhoon damage. Paint and aluminum roofing is available for purchase at USCC, but the well-to-do are the only ones who buy at the present price rates.

(b) Schools.

The Koror School Annex has been repaired and painted by the children and the teachers. Living quarters for teacher trainees has been completed. One 20 x 56' quonset is under construction. Volunteer labor is being used in this job. The CAU has installed lights and water in the school. Under the guidance and direction of Mrs. Taggart and Mrs. Harper these repairs and improvements have been accomplished since 1 Dec. 1947.

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(c) Churches.

A small quonset has been erected at the Catholic Mission by Father Furay to be used as a school. In addition Father Furay has directed the repair of the church. The painting of the roof and tower has been completed and work continues on the interior of the church.

(d) Community buildings important in local culture.

During this quarter five "Abais" constructed mainly from quonset material were completed. The completion of these "Abais" generally acts as an incentive for communal life and work. At present many districts use the "abai" during the day as a workshop for the making of handicraft. Here the women sit, talk, and work braiding mats, etc. The "abais" in the districts of Nghesar and Nguial will probably also be completed this quarter.

(e) Others.

The construction of other buildings such as places of business and residence is progressing satisfactorily. The material used is mostly that of quonset or Paluan lumber and zinc tin roofing. In the district of Koror inspections have been made of the buildings in respect to their location and construction. Other districts have not had inspections, and as a result, some of the buildings are poorly constructed.