

(a) With the exception of Kwajalein, the natives have been exposed to relatively little contact with Americans and consequently acculturation has been effected basically by the Japanese and Germans. A surface aspect rapidly spreading throughout the area of American influence is the use of salvaged G.I. clothing on the men working or who have worked on Kwajalein. People on most islands can sing popular American songs but have no idea of the meaning of the words. Contact with the outside world over a long period, particularly the missionaries, has had a marked influence on dress and religious customs, although food habits and living conditions remain relatively unchanged.

(b) Every effort is being made to preserve such of the local culture compatible with conditions as they exist in the Pacific Area today. The use of native materials for construction, not only because it is better suited to climatic conditions but also because of scarcity of lumber is stressed at all council meetings. Native food consisting of breadfruit, pandanus, arrowroot, coconut, and fish remain the staple diet and Asam to be little affected by outsiders, although anything starchy such as rice and flour is accepted when available in the trade stores.

(c) Relations with Americans are extremely cordial and new regulations, orders, etc., are accepted and complied with willingly and with a genuine effort to please. American methods and treatment are evidently less harsh than the Japanese and the leaders in the communities are aware of this and appreciate it. There are possibly other American customs and ideas that may puzzle the natives that have not come to light.

E (Education & Social Services) 4 Jan 1947

Kwajalein Dist.

4 (Native Culture)

No change.

E (Education and Social Service)
4 (Native Culture)

4 February 1947

Kwajalein Dist.

No change since last report.

E (Educ. & Soc. Serv.)
4 (Native Culture)

8 March 1947

Kwajalein Dist.

No change since last report.

E (Education and Social Service)
4 (Native Culture)

8 April 1947

Kwajalein Dist.

No change since last report.

(a) Absorption of American customs, particularly dress and personal habits, is becoming more and more evident as the length of exposure increases. While this is only true of the laborers on Kwajalein it cannot help but be transmitted to the home islands when the laborer returns.

(b) Particular concentration on features of local culture to preserve native traditions, construction and habits in all atolls is made by emphasizing at council meetings and conversation that these things actually are best for the climatic and economic conditions peculiar to the Marshalls.

(c) Relations with the Americans continue to be most satisfactory and we are welcomed and our regulations, orders, rulings and suggestions are accepted without question. It is believed that they fully realize what we are trying to do in the way of supplying their needs, and while variations in changing individual personalities with which they have had to deal may have confused them, they accept this situation and make every attempt to comply with our desires as best they can and as they understand them.

(d) No change since last report.

4 (Native Culture)

(a) The people of the labor camp apparently realize the necessity for payment of food while working here. A council meeting was held and a complete explanation of the functions of the mess was explained. There has been no reluctance on a ny native's part to pay his bill.

The menu of the labor camp mess occasionally includes vienna sausage. The day prior to such a meal, a number of natives invariably go fishing and in most cases rarely fail to catch enough fish to make the serving of the vienna sausage unnecessary.

The post trader day "Mother-Hubbard" type dress is gradually disappearing from the Marshalls and more and more models of American garb may be seen. Sewing machines and the supply of cotton material is making a very obvious change in the mode of womens dresses and other attire.

Wrist watches are becoming more and more common throughout the Marshalls. "Hill-billy" music and cowboy type movies are the most popular type of entertainment. This may be illustrated by the actions of KLENRE, the native boy who won the trip to Hollywood. When asked what he wanted to see in Hollywood, he immediately replied, "Cowboys".

(b) Field officers order people to use noen but native type materials in building despite their requests for lumber and nails. When such items are offered for sale by USCC, The natives usually use the home grown materials.

(c) A program featuring ancient Marshallese dancing and chanting was given by the natives of the labor camp as their part of the 4 July celebration.

(d) It is believed that the Marshallese people are observing our administration very closely in order to fully determine what are our intentions. Occasionally an issue arises which obviously has a simple solution but the people confront the field officers with the question in such a manner that for him to solve the problem, he would be encroaching on their rights and especially their responsibilities.

(a) Degree and Character of Acculturation.

More and more Marshallese are obtaining American clothing through the mail order houses. They are forsaking the mother Hubbard type clothing for the styles being worn by the American women who have just recently arrived on the island. Other than in dress the degree of acculturation is very hard to measure.

(b) Efforts to preserve local culture.

No change since last report.

(c) Relations with Americans, reactions to new regulations, new ideas, etc.

No change since last report.

(a) Degree and character of acculturation achieved.

Measuring acculturation with requests for motor vehicles from an island a mile long. Requests for power boats instead of sail, from people who are hard pressed to procure fuel for lanterns would lead the observer to believe that any acculturation in the Marshalls except in those centers of the Military would be false acculturation.

(b) This Civil Administration Unit exerts every effort on all field trips to preserve the native customs and culture. When ever practicable a decision is never made nor a request granted, but that native customs and culture is first considered and if at all possible preserved.

(c) and (d) Relations with Americans; reactions to new regulations, new ideas, etc.

No more cooperative people exist than the Marshallese. Their enthusiastic efforts to please in compliance with any request of Civil Administration Unit, whether in regard to new regulations or any phase of administration is gratifying. They are always ready to postpone, alter or if necessary cancel any plans or arrangements they have made, whether it concerns an individual or a village at mere suggestion of a Civil Administration Unit Officer. Association with Marshallese results only in increasing respect for their intelligence, character, and high principles.

4 (Native Culture)

(a) No appreciable change since last report.

(b) Efforts to preserve local culture.

No change since last report.

(c) No change.

4 (Native Culture.)

(a) Degree and character.

Barring economic setbacks 90% of the Marshallese youth will be dressing in the same manner as any American town within a very few years. Many sewing machines have been sold in the district and every item of American clothing available to them is picked up immediately. White dress shirts and slacks are common.

(b) Efforts to preserve local culture.

No special effort is placed on restoration of native local culture nor are they encouraged to depart from tradition.

(c) Relations with Americans.

Relations with Americans are very good.

New regulations are accepted to the best of their ability. The need for written regulations are not understood since local customs have been the law and were effective.

(d) Additional comments.

None.