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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

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27 October 1944.

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MEMORANDUM

From: Chief of Naval Operations.
To: Distribution List.
Subject: Military Government Field Report - forwarding of.
Enclosure: (A) Military Government Field Report No. 35,
"Excerpts from Medical Report, Tinian,
September 1944." (Secret)

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/s/ WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT,
By direction.

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Military Government Field Report No. 35.
"Excerpts from Medical Report, Tinian,
September 1944."

27 October 1944.

Note: The following excerpts are taken from the monthly sanitary report for September 1944, of the Medical Officer on the staff of the Island Commander, Tinian.7

E. Sanitation:

On 6 September 1944, the Commanding General established an Island Sanitation Section of the 6th Naval Construction Brigade consisting of 45 Seabees and 100 Japanese laborers. Details regarding the employment of the unit are contained in the sanitary section of this report.

The status of sanitation on the island is considered very good. Fly breeding is practically non-existent due to excellent sanitary discipline within unit areas. For this, considerable credit must be given the Island Sanitation Officer, who has performed his duties not only effectively, but with such tact and spirit of helpfulness as to elicit the good will and enthusiastic cooperation of practically all units.

Every effort is being made to bring mosquito breeding under control as rapidly as possible, without the aid of airplane spraying with DDT.

II. Health of Civilian Population.

A. Vital Statistics:

As of 30 September, there were 10,861 civilians in the internment camp on Tinian, of whom 8,563 were Japanese; 2,294 were Koreans; and 4 were Chinese.

Despite a rather high mortality rate, the general health of the civilian population has been relatively good inasmuch as there have been no outbreaks of epidemic proportions. However, a large portion of the population shows evidence of malnutrition.

Table III shows the camp census, the dispensary treatments, hospitalizations and deaths in the civilian population during the month of September.

There were 104 deaths among the civilians, yielding a mortality rate of 10.4 per thousand. 31 deaths occurred in the internment camp and 73 at the G-6 hospital. The most frequent causes of death among adults were malnutrition, lobar pneumonia, pulmonary tuberculosis and amebic dysentery.

Of the 104 deaths, 79 occurred in children below the age of five years. The most frequent causes of death among children were broncho-pneumonia, beri-beri, marasmus and bacillary dysentery. In the uprooted existence of the civilian population, children are bound to suffer most. However, the high mortality rate among them is due primarily to the fact that parents seek medical attention for them too late or not at all. There are two reasons for this: ignorance and fear of separation. An effort is being made to educate the parents and allay their fears.

Table IV shows cause of death in the 104 cases. All 73 cases who died at the hospital and 3 of the 31 cases who died in the internment camp were autopsied. Most of the cases diagnosed beri-beri and dysentery were not seen by a civil affairs medical officer prior to death, the diagnosis being made in most cases by one of the Japanese doctors.

There were 40 births during the month.

B. Preventive Innoculations:

According to Japanese doctors, in 1942 practically everybody on Tinian was inoculated against typhoid fever. It was standard practice to vaccinate all children of school age against smallpox.

The criteria adopted by us for vaccination and inoculations are as follows:

Under 8 years of age: full course of triple typhoid vaccine.

Over 8 years of age: booster inoculations with one-half (1/2) cubic centimeter triple typhoid vaccine.

All children showing no vaccination scar are vaccinated with cowpox vaccine

The following vaccinations and inoculations were performed during the month of September:

Typhoid inoculation (full course)	: 4,021
Typhoid inoculation (booster)	: 6,394
Vaccination against smallpox	: 2,838

There were two cases of diphtheria among the civilian population, both ending fatally. In view of the alarmingly high incidence of diphtheria on Saipan, sufficient diphtheria toxoid has been requested shipped by Fairtrans to inoculate all children under ten (10) years of age.

C. Survey of civilian population for tuberculosis, beri-beri and eye conditions:

8.6% of the 73 cases autopsied at the hospital showed tuberculosis as the primary cause of death. In the first 52 cases autopsied, there was some evidence of tuberculosis infection in 25% of the cases. In view of these findings, the segregation of tuberculous natives was, and is, considered an urgent public health problem. Since the personnel of the G-2 hospital component is awaiting the establishment of that facility, it was decided to employ ten of the medical officers in a survey of the native population for tuberculosis by physical examination and by X-ray (14" x 17" plate) of all suspected chests. This is being

done, between 400 and 500 civilians being examined daily. At the same time, they are also being examined for evidence of beri-beri and eye disease. While the limitations of the use of the stethoscope in the diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis are recognized, it is felt that a good percentage of the more advanced lesions can probably be picked up for further study and segregation. A photofluorographic machine and necessary technicians have been requested for the purpose of screening the entire civilian population.

In anticipation of the results of the survey, a forty-two (42) bed tuberculosis ward has been established at the hospital. How effective a tuberculosis regimen can be established and followed, remains to be seen.

D. Rehabilitation of native medical service:

Three of the eight Japanese doctors who practiced medicine on Tinian prior to 24 July 1944, have survived the American occupation. They are not suited by training for employment in the hospital and are being used in the internment camp dispensaries.

There is one Japanese dentist. A field portable dental unit (Supply Catalogue item 14-185, Field Medical Unit Number 35, Set, Dental) has been requested in order to enable this dentist to care for the civilian population.

Of the twenty-five trained nurses who were on Tinian prior to American occupation, only six have been identified. Two of these are midwives who, together with a third nurse, are employed in the internment camp. Three nurses are employed at the hospital.

There are thirty nurses' aids employed in the internment camp.

A nursing school was established at the hospital during the latter part of September. At present there are twenty-two student nurses under instruction. They are in charge of one of the Japanese nurses who is a graduate of the Imperial University of Tokio. The course includes lectures by the staff medical officers, with the aid of an interpreter. While a tentative curriculum was formulated, it is in the process of change due to the poor receptivity of the students. Once it becomes fixed, it will be included in a future report. The duration of the course has not been fixed as yet.

There is a tremendous need of women with some basic training in nursing and it is hoped that the nursing school will be able to satisfy this need in a reasonable period of time. It is planned to employ a large percentage of such trainees as district nurses.