

Op222/1vo
Serial 00222
File P2-1

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



SECRET

24 JAN 1949



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Plans and Operations Division,
Department of the Army.
Director, Plans and Operations Division,
Department of the Air Force.

Subject: Leprosarium, Tinian, M. I., Trust Territory of
the Pacific Islands - Information pertaining to.

Enclosures: (A) Copy of Navy Dept. DCNO (Admin.) secret memo
000410P22 of 24 Apr 1948.
(B) Copy of DCS, USA secret memo of 2 June 1948.

1. On 24 April 1948, enclosure (A) was directed to the Chief of the Plans and Policy Group, Department of the Army, wherein the matter as to the establishment of a Leprosarium on Saipan, M. I., was discussed. Certain background information was contained therein relative to the factors involved, and the Army was requested to indicate whether or not they would agree to the completion of the Leprosarium at the site proposed on Saipan, M. I.

2. The reply to enclosure (A) is set forth by enclosure (B) which states that, in view of certain considerations, the Army cannot agree to the completion of the Leprosarium at the site proposed on Saipan. The Army indicated no objection to construction of the Leprosarium at the alternate site on Tinian.

3. The Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands has established the Leprosarium on Tinian, and it is now in operation. The site is located northwest of the Harbor Area which is on the southwestern coast of the island, and it is not within an area allocated for permanent military development as contained in TAB: Q-3 of the Joint Marianas Board Report of 1 June 1947.

4. The High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands has recently indicated that he considers the temporary facilities for the treatment of lepers on Tinian will not be adequate, and therefore, he has recommended that suitable buildings and complete modern medical facilities should be provided. The Chief of Naval Operations is in general agreement with this recommendation and, accordingly, has reserved approximately \$500,000

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Op229/1yo
Serial 002722
File 72-1

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



SECRET

14 JAN 1949

Subject: Leprosarium, Tinian, M. I., Trust Territory of the
Pacific Islands - Information pertaining to.

for the augmentation of existing facilities. A project in this amount is now being processed through official channels, and it is contemplated that the funds will be under contract within several months.

5. In view of the fact that the permanent military development of the Island of Tinian is a primary concern of the Departments of the Army and Air Force as evidenced by the Joint Marianas Board Report, and because the scope of the Leprosarium will be enlarged as compared with the original plans and also attain more of a degree of permanency, it is desired to advise both the Army and the Air Force as to the projected plan for the Leprosarium on Tinian, M. I.

6. Transmission by United States registered mail or registered guard mail is authorized in accordance with Article 7-5, United States Navy Security Manual for Classified Matter.

CHARLES WELLBORN, JR.
DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (ADMINISTRATION)

Copy to: (with Encl. (A) and (B))

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SECRET

24 April 1948

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MEMORANDUM FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL C. V. R. SCHUYLER, U. S. ARMY
CHIEF PLANS AND POLICY GROUP.

Subject: Establishment of Leprosarium, Saipan.

1. The Trusteeship Agreement, approved by the United States Government on 18 July 1947, created the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which is comprised of the former Japanese mandated islands of the Mariana, Marshall and Caroline Groups. This is now a strategic trust territory administered by the United States. By Executive Order of 18 July 1947 the President vested the responsibility for civil administration of the Trust Territory in the Secretary of the Navy until such time as organic legislation provided for a permanent administration by a civilian agency.

2. Among other provisions, the treaty committed the United States to assume certain obligations toward the local inhabitants including the assurance of their material welfare and guaranteeing them against the loss of their lands.

3. The Civil Administration of the Trust Territory was confronted with the problem of segregating and providing medical care for local inhabitants affected with leprosy and with establishing a colony for them and their immediate families. An examination of the various possible sites disclosed that, from every point of view, and particularly from a logistics angle, a site on the east coast of Saipan containing an abandoned military installation would be most suitable. The site in question comprises some 250 acres located within the areas recommended for military use by the Joint Marianas Board. At the time this decision was made, consultation with the local commanders of all forces indicated that no military use was to be made of the land within the foreseeable future. The land is suitable for subsistence agriculture and fronts on good fishing grounds so that the colony can be made self-subsisting. The presence of abandoned buildings capable of rehabilitation within the scope of the funds available was a further advantage. Moreover, the location of a naval establishment on Saipan permits the Navy to provide suitable medical services to the lepers. At no other site within the Trust Territory can these advantages be found nor can a leprosarium be established with the funds available to the civil government for the purpose.

4. Recent dispatches from the area indicate that the Army contemplates the future deployment of a division on Saipan and desires to utilize the entire east coast of the island for bivouac, maneuver and target purposes. Accordingly, all work on the leprosarium has been sus-

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Encl. (A)

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Subject: Establishment of Leprosarium, Saipan.

pended until a decision can be made as to whether, in its proposed location, it can be completed without detriment to the Army's proposed operation.

5. Lieutenant Colonels Sterner, Grandell and Belardi of your Group have information as to the exact location of the proposed colony. CINCPAC has indicated his opinion that no such colony should be located on any island on which wartime deployment can be foreseen. An adherence to this latter recommendation would preclude the establishment of a leprosarium on any of the larger islands of the Trust Territory. This prohibition would be difficult to sustain particularly when the administration of the islands is transferred to a civilian agency as contemplated in legislation now pending before the Congress.

6. It is mandatory that early action be taken toward the segregation of the Trust Territory lepers and for the provision of proper medical treatment. A favorable decision on the Saipan site will permit the civil administration to accomplish this with funds which while now available will revert on 30 June 1948.

7. Accordingly, it is requested that the Army indicate as soon as practicable whether or not it will agree to the completion of the leprosarium at the site proposed on Saipan.

/s/ CHARLES WELLBORN, JR.
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Admin.)

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C O P Y

Department of the Army
Office of the Chief of Staff
Washington

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2 June 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (ADMINISTRATION):

SUBJECT: Establishment of Leprosarium, Saipan.

1. Reference is made to your informal memorandum of 24 April 1948 to Brigadier General G. V. R. Schuyler of Plans and Operations Division on the subject stated above.
2. Present Army plans for the deployment of troops in the Marianas call for their location on Guam. However, these plans are not stable, and future modifications may call for the utilization of Saipan. In such event, it is probable that the proposed site for the leprosarium would be required for troop housing or other military needs.
3. The complexity of the problems confronting the Department of the Navy in the establishment of a leprosarium in the Trust Territory is fully appreciated. However, in view of the above considerations, the Department of the Army cannot agree to the completion of the leprosarium at the site proposed on Saipan.
4. In informal telephone conversations between Commander Gill of your office and Lt. Colonel Grandell of P&O Division, it was understood that the Navy had located an alternate site for the leprosarium on Tinian and had authorized the expenditure of \$20,000 for construction at this site. It was further understood that this alternate site was not within an area earmarked for military use by the Joint Marianas Board. The Department of the Army has no objection to construction of the leprosarium at the alternate site on Tinian.

/s/ J. Lawton Collins

J. LAWTON COLLINS
General, GSC
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Army

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Encl. (B)