

U. S. NAVAL ADMINISTRATION UNIT
NAVY NO. 935
c/o FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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Ser: 605
2 Sept 1953

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commander, Naval Forces Marianas

Subj: Properly Damage resulting from Typhoon Nina on 11-12 August 1953.

Ref: (a) NavAd Disp 120/172 Aug.

Encl: (1) Map of area damaged
(2) Photographs of damage

1. In amplification of reference (a), the following information is submitted. During the day of 10 August 1953, the eye of Typhoon Nina passed between Guam and Rota. The Islands of Saipan and Tinian were buffeted by winds of an average velocity of eighteen knots with maximum velocity of forty-five knots. Prevailing wind direction was East South East. Rains were intermittent. The morning of 11 August brought higher tides and wind averaging twenty-six knots, with maximum velocity of forty-four knots, Wind direction was South East. Showers were light and intermittent. Seas were extreme with wave crests of approximately thirty feet. During 12 August, wind velocity and direction were similar to conditions on 11 August. Rains became heavier and of longer duration. Seas remained extreme and flood tides increased. It is of interest to note that waves cresting at the reef line rolled into the Lagoon and reformed, cresting again on the beach.

2. On 11 August, it became apparent that flood tides would endanger the Naval Administration facilities on Susupe Point. The construction of a temporary seawall was implemented early in the morning, with southern terminus approximately twenty feet south of Quarters #30; northern terminus slightly beyond the enlistedmen's barracks, a distance of approximately 1000 ft. The seawall was constructed from 4" X 4" posts, driven four to six feet, faced with corrugated quonset siding, backed by approximately 5000 sacks of hardened cement and backfilled with sand.

3. Buildings fronting the area were shuttered, as were the emergency generators and the walkin refrigerator plant. As the situation deteriorated, evacuation of the eight dependent quarters and the general mess storehouse was effected. By 2100, flood tide had removed most of the seawall and began to undermine the Mess Hall, General Mess Storehouse, MEMQ #28, MEMQ #29, and the CPO Quarters, Building #30. By 2200, all of the aforementioned buildings, were a complete loss, with the exception of the mess hall.

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4. Ebb Tide brought momentary relief. However, with flood tide on 12 August, the sea renewed its destruction and by 0800 had demolished the Mess Hall concrete deck and done heavy damage to the mess hall bulkheads, seaward bulkheads of Huts #76, 79 and 81 of the Enlisted Barracks, and MEMQS 23 thru 27. MCQ 16, Some 100 yards north of the barracks had been subjected to intermittent pounding by the sea, but had suffered negligible damage. Extensive flooding occurred north and east of the barracks area; water reaching a depth of four feet in many locations. The Barracks, and Galley were completely evacuated and moved to the hospital area.

5. The following structures are a total loss:

General Mess Storehouse Building #19
CPO Quarters, Building #30
MEMQ #28
MEMQ #29

Building heavily damaged, but economically repairable, for emergency occupancy

Mess Hall, Building #82

Building partially damaged, but economically repairable, for interim occupancy, include:

Barracks Building #76, 79, and 81
Storehouse, Building #21
MEMQ #23 thru 27.

6. All structures suffered extensive water and sand damage necessitating complete rewiring and replacement of considerable partitioning. A map of the area and photographs of the damage are attached as enclosures (1) and (2) respectively. It is estimated that rehabilitation for emergency occupancy will exceed \$6000. It is further estimated that an expenditure of \$100,000.00 would be necessary to effect interim rehabilitation, including rehabilitation of the badly eroded beach areas in order to afford minimum protection from future possible high wave action.

7. It is evident that the heavy seas resulting from Typhoon Nina have severely damaged the reef that has afforded considerable protection to beachfront structures during previous storms. This fact, coupled with the possibility of flooding of the entire naval administration housing and barracks areas, would appear to warrant considering an immediate relocation of these facilities to higher ground. It is the considered opinion of this command that the former Naval Operating Base Area on Navy Hill represents the most favorable location. The land title to this area is vested in the government.

8. Accordingly, it is requested that the Commander Naval Forces Marianas assist the Naval Administration Unit in undertaking a study to determine the practicability of effecting a relocation and the development of cost data.

R. D. Law, Jr

cc: CINCPACFLT
CNO