

Okinawans Agree With Friends: They Never Had It So Good

(Editor's note: This is the second of two dispatches on Okinawa.)
By EARNEST HOBERECHT
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Naha, Okinawa — (U.P.) — As the American GI says, "the Okinawans never had it so good."
The Okinawans thoroughly agree with their friends, the American troops, now stationed here at Uncle Sam's mighty Pacific military bases.

There are approximately 800,000 residents of the Ryukyu Islands which came under American rule as a result of World War II and the Japanese peace treaty. Of the total, most live on Okinawa. Since the population of Okinawa is about 675,000, the term "Okinawans" generally is applied to all including those living on the smaller, less-populated islands.

American control here is in the form of a trusteeship, but American officials have made it clear that the United States has no intention of ever returning the islands to Japan.

Historically, Okinawa was an independent kingdom. Its liberation by the American forces in 1945 ended 70 years of Japanese rule which Japan had established in the empire-building days of the late 19th century.

Several influential Okinawans told this correspondent that the Americans have done more in 10 years to raise their standard of living than the Japanese did during their entire tenure.

Two Years of Progress

Most of the progress in assisting the Okinawans has been made in the past two years under the direction of America's island commander, Maj. Gen. A. D. Ogden. He recently was transferred back to Washington after completing his tour of duty here. His successor, Maj. Gen. James E. Moore, has pledged to continue the work of helping the Okinawans.

Here are some of the things which Okinawans listed as having been done for them by the United States:

1. The people have more to eat than ever before.
2. The people have better clothing.
3. Housing is improving and being modernized. And even though most buildings were destroyed during the battle for Okinawa, housing conditions today are vastly better than before. Modern buildings are taking the place of native huts

4. The people have their own elected officials.
5. Education facilities are better.
6. Public utilities already built or now being built will put Okinawa "years ahead" of its pre-war position.
7. Health and sanitary conditions have been improved.

Helping the people was a big job. Most everything on the island was destroyed in the fighting. The economy had to be rebuilt from the very bottom.

To help the Okinawans, the American taxpayers have poured in more than \$20,000,000 for relief and rehabilitation.

This big sum is in addition to the \$500,000,000 to \$600,000,000 the United States is spending in

Okinawa to build its military defenses. All this spending helps the Okinawans, too. Not only does it bring money to the island but it provides direct employment for 12 per cent of the total population.

American military and civilian personnel stationed on Okinawa spend millions of additional dollars with the local people and in the local stores.

The big economic boom on Okinawa is helping the Americans accomplish one of their purposes. It is helping to insure the Okinawans are on their side. "Cooperation here has been wonderful," a high-ranking American official said. "We have our troubles and differences, but probably fewer problems than we would have with any other

civilian population — including our fellow Americans at home."

Bingham, Me. — (U.P.) — Mrs. Idella Fogg was stopped twice by one state trooper and once by a second within three hours on charges of driving without a license. Trial Justice Maurice Atkins fined her \$5 and costs the first time, suspended a similar sentence the second time and filed the third charge.

Doctor Draft Law Extension Approved

Washington—(U.P.)—The House Armed Services Committee voted 27 to 5 today to approve a two-year extension of the doctor draft law until July 1, 1957. The bill also provides for federal scholarships for a limited number of medical and dental students.

The scholarship plan, a new provision, would pay the medical or dental school costs of about 300 physicians and 126

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