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These malnourished Okinawan children lost their parents in the battle and were being cared for in one of many orphanages throughout Okinawa. Orphanages, along with homes for seniors who had lost their families and Hansen's disease settlements, were given top priority in the distribution of the clothing.

committee was organized, 151 tons of clothing (1,769 boxes) was shipped to Okinawa.

"Dr. Bowles and I went around asking for donations," wrote Sadao Asato in the Ginowan Shijin Kai 80th anniversary booklet. "On O'ahu, not only the Okinawans, but people of other prefectures and even people of other ethnic groups donated a lot of clothing, and people of the other islands donated likewise."



This December 1945 photo shows the young men's group on Maui with crates of clothing packed up and ready to send to Club 100, then on Nuuanu Street in Honolulu. Thomas Taro Higa, a 100th Battalion veteran, is pictured wearing a suit.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

The U.S. military provided the Okinawan Civil Administration with two warehouses near White Beach where all of the relief supplies were received and inventoried.

In April of 1946, OCA conducted a comprehensive survey before beginning to distrib-

ute the clothing. Those surveyed also included evacuees who had fled to Kyūshū prior to the start of the battle on April 1, 1945. The survey detailed children who had just one set of clothes, those with two sets and others with no clothes. Orphanages, senior homes and three Hansen's Disease settlements were given priority. OCA then distributed the clothing supplies to those on the relief roll. Clothing for Okinawa's neighbor islands was distributed by the U.S. military.

Yoshinae Majikina-Sensei was a young girl when she evacuated to Oita Prefecture with her father, Yuko Majikina-Sensei, a cultural treasure in Okinawan folk dance. Yoshinae recalled that people in the performing arts community implored her father's doctor to falsify a medical report that would allow him to evacuate to mainland Japan. At age 50, they feared he would be conscripted to serve in a battle he probably would not survive, leaving a void in the cultural community. In 1972, the Government of Japan designated Yuko Majikina a national living treasure of Japan.

After returning to Okinawa after the Battle of Okinawa, Yoshinae received a set of clothing from Hawai'i. "We helped to unpack boxes of clothes and there was an overwhelming feeling of gratefulness," she said.

Some Hawai'i families sent clothing and other supplies directly to family members in Okinawa, among them Ginowan Shijin Kai member John Tasato. In 2012, Tasato and his sister, Betty Uyehara, visited family members in Okinawa. "My sister, for the first time meeting cousins, was a touching scene with tears. They were in their late 70s. One of the cousins said to my sister that after receiving dresses from her, she didn't wash the dresses for weeks, wanting to keep the scent and touch from cousins in Hawai'i not be washed away."

REPUTA KAI

In July 1946, Misa Yamashiro, Hawai'i insurancewoman

Chiyeko Takushi and others formed the group Reputa Kai, whose members were largely housewives who had pledged to donate their small change after grocery shopping. By the time they disbanded in 1949, they had sent three shipments of items such as clothing, shoes, books, school supplies, sewing machines, oil lanterns,



Students at Shuri Elementary School students receiving books sent from Hawai'i.

bicycles and other goods. One of those shipments contained seven tons of "miscellaneous supplies" that were received in Okinawa on Jan. 7, 1948.

After the supplies had been collected, Reputa Kai turned them over to the United Association of Christian Churches in Okinawa to be distributed by local churches. The sewing machines were mounted on a trailer that had been loaned by the U.S. military and taken around to the villages, where people were allowed to use them to repair and alter the relief clothing. Fabric was also provided for free. Each person utilizing the machine and fabric for their own family was also required to make a piece of clothing for an orphan or a handicapped person.

During the Battle of Okinawa, Kiyo Kaneda, then 12 years old, was living on Akajima in the Kerama Islands, located southwest of Okinawa island. "We wrote with stones in the dirt for our schoolwork. Later, we had scraps of paper cut from empty bags that flour came in as provisions from the U.S. military." Kaneda, now in her 80s and still living in Akajima, said that when the school supplies arrived from Hawai'i, she and her fellow students and their teacher were "elated to receive paper tablets and pencils."

UNIVERSITY OF RYUKYUS

In 1947, Hawai'i Okinawans started a fund drive to build a university to provide higher education opportunities for young Okinawans, which did not exist prior to the war. The U.S. military supported the initiative and carried the project through to completion.

OKINAWA MEDICAL RELIEF LEAGUE

In January 1948, the Okinawa Medical League was established by Dr. Matsuju Yamashiro, Dr. Seiyei Inamine and others in Hawai'i. By March, they had shipped \$10,000 worth of medical supplies to Okinawa. The supplies were given top priority for distribution.

"PIGS FROM THE SEA"

Pork was — and still is — a staple in the Okinawan diet. Prewar records show that there were roughly 100,000 pigs across the islands of Okinawa. By the end of the war, that number

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