

From BMLK 50424  
Re 20 year review.

Appendix 1

Chronological Listing of Events in the Marshall Islands

Appendix 1

added in p 926  
(old)

- 1946 Bikini people moved from home island to Rongerik Atoll (later evacuated to Kwajalein and finally settled on Kili Island in the southern Marshalls).
- Kwajalein established as U.S. Navy Base.
- Operation Crossroads at Bikini.
- Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands established, administered by U.S. Navy.
- 1947 Administration of Trust Territory transferred to U.S. Department of the Interior.
- 1948 Eniwetok people moved to Ujelang.
- 1954 March 1: Fallout accident following detonation of Bravo, a thermonuclear device. Exposed people from Rongelap, Rongerik, and Utirik evacuated to Kwajalein Atoll for examination and treatment. Exposed people on a Japanese fishing vessel Fukuryo Maru (Lucky Dragon) return to Tokyo.
- June: Utirik people returned to home atoll; Rongerik servicemen transferred to Tripler Army Hospital. Rongelap people resettled in temporary village at Ejit Island, Majuro Atoll.
- September: Second medical examination of exposed Rongelap people. Decision made to examine Rongelap people annually, Utirik people every 3 years.
- 1957 New village constructed at Rongelap. People returned after 3 years away. Medical examinations and periodic survey of environment continued.
- 1963 Epidemic of poliomyelitis at Rongelap and in rest of Marshall Islands.
- At Kwajalein, Pacific Missile Range under U.S. Army Command established.
- 1964 Ex gratia compensation (~ \$11,000 per person) granted Rongelap people by U.S. Congress.
- Thyroid abnormalities begin to appear in Rongelap exposed people. Thyroid surgery performed on 3 children at the Guam Naval Hospital.

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1965 - 1968 Thyroid surgery on 12 Rongelap people carried out in Boston.

1969 Cleanup of Bikini for return of inhabitants.

Five Marshallese had thyroid surgery in U. S.

1970 One Marshallese had thyroid surgery in Cleveland.

1971 Marshallese Congressman (Congress of Micronesia) visits Japan and invites a Japanese team to visit Rongelap. Team arrives but because of conflict over credentials they are denied visas and returned to Japan.

Return of two Bikini families to Bikini to live. BNL medical team assumes responsibility for radiological monitoring of returning Bikini and Eniwetok people.

Documentary movie Thyroid Neoplasia as a Late Sequella of Radioactive Fallout filmed in Marshall Islands. Shows the medical team in action.

1972 January: Marshallese Congressman accuses the U.S. of knowingly and consciously allowing the Marshallese people to be exposed to radioactive fallout in order to study the effect of radiation on human beings; accuses medical team of using Rongelap people as guinea pigs and not giving them proper medical examinations and adequate treatment. In March he told the Rongelap and Utirik people not to cooperate with the medical team. Annual medical survey not completed. Also 4 patients who had been operated for thyroid cancer and were to be reexamined at Tripler Army Hospital were stopped and told to return home.

April: Congress of Micronesia establishes a Special Joint Committee concerning the medical examinations at Rongelap and Utirik atolls. Chairman: Senator Olympio T. Borja.

August: Resident physician stationed in Marshall Islands.

September: Annual medical survey resumed, with cooperation from Committee from Congress of Micronesia and participation of four appointed medical observers from several countries. Comprehensive report generally favorable to the medical examinations published.

October/November: A young exposed male, found to have acute myelogenous leukemia, dies at National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland, and is returned for burial at Rongelap.

Decision made to conduct hematological surveys at 6-month intervals. Two Rongelap people had thyroid surgery in Cleveland.

1973 Eniwetok radiological survey completed. Report NYO 140 published.

Six Marshallese (3 Rongelap and 3 Utirik) had thyroid surgery in Cleveland.

1974 BNL survey group organized for radiological surveys in Marshall Islands. To be coordinated with medical surveys and personnel monitoring of returning Bikini and Eniwetok people.

Special bills passed by Congress of Micronesia regarding further compensation to Rongelap and Utirik people, and providing special benefits and hospitalization privileges in case of illness from any cause.

Documentary movie The Bikinians filmed at Bikini by the University of Georgia.

Three Rongelap people had thyroid surgery in Cleveland; one case exposed in utero.

LCU obtained for medical and radiological surveys. Christened Liktanur.