

Location LANL  
Collection Brave Fallout  
Folder Brave Fallout

407620

MEMORANDUM FOR: CJTF SEVEN

10 March 1954

R

SUBJECT: Report on Soil and Water Sampling Mission

1. In compliance with your oral instructions, the undersigned visited Wotje, Erikub, Maloelap, Wotho, Majuro Atolls in the Marshall Islands 5 through 7 March 1954 for the purpose of obtaining earth and drinking water samples, and of measuring gamma ray dose rates, and also checked the radiological condition of the S.S. ROQUE on its arrival at Majuro 7 March 1954.

2. The first four atolls were visited by Marshallese interpreter Takushi and the writer by means of an UF-1 amphibious aircraft. Majuro was reached by C-47. Erikub might have been omitted since it was not inhabited, being property of the Wotje tribe which goes there only occasionally to gather copra. (This was unknown until after the visit.)

3. At each atoll, only the principal inhabited island was visited. At each visited island an effort was made to compose a representative soil average by collecting into a single container several samples, each approximately one square foot of area and one inch depth. Water samples were collected from the principal sources currently in use. The gamma dose rates are averages for the inhabited areas.

4. With regard to certain minor discrepancies between the survey methods used by Major R. D. Crea and the writer; it was originally planned to perform the survey jointly, and when it became advisable to separate and survey different atolls, no time remained for discussion of details of techniques.

5. Gamma-ray dose rates on Wotje and on Erikub are each the average of MX-5 and MN/PDR-39 average readings which agreed reasonably well. The MX-5 was rendered inoperative when the rubber life raft was swamped by surf on the first attempt to launch from the beach at Erikub. Following the Wotho survey, the PDR-39 developed a temperature-dependent reading of 0.4 - 0.5 mr/hr, so that later readings in this range are of very dubious reliability.

6. The following tabulation summarizes the atoll survey. S is Soil, W is Water Sample:

<u>ATOLL</u>	<u>ISLAND</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SAMPLE NO.</u>	<u>MR/HR &amp; SAMPLING</u>
WOTJE	ORMED	5 Mar	1600	S1	3.5 mr/hr, 1-beach, 3-mid-village, 1-back village.
				W1	½ well plus ½ catch basin.
ERIKUB	ERIKUB	5 Mar	1715	S2	1.5 mr/hr. 1-mid-village, 1 on path to beach. No inhabitants, no water supply found.

COPIED/DQE  
LANL RG

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF DCE/OC  
*Carl H. ... 8/16/83*  
REVIEWED BY DATE

REMOVED DATE  
APR 1954 - 1954

THIS DOCUMENT IS OF SECRET STATUS  
NO. SRD-213

~~SECRET~~ *May 10/16/85*

*ll*

<u>ATOLL</u>	<u>ISLAND</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SAMPLE NO</u>	<u>MR/HR &amp; SAMPLING</u>
MALOELAP	KAVEN	6 Mar	1130	S7	1.8 mr/hr, 2-village, 2-path to beach.
				W12	Well water.
				W13	From catch basin.
WOTHO	WOTHO	6 Mar	1615	S8	0.8 mr/hr, 1 by well; 2-mid-village.
				W9	Well water (no rain in catch basin for 2 mo.)
MAJURO	ULIGA	7 Mar	1200	S9	0.5 mr/hr, 4 from near Admin Bldg.
				W11	Tap water.

7. Pacific Micronesian Line S.S. "ROQUE", Master: Lawrence Blanc, home port Guam, left Ebeye 0840 M on 1 March, entered channel to Utirik Lagoon about 1200 M on 2 March, and anchored in lagoon at 1524 M on 2 March; docked at Majuro (Uluga Is.) 1630M on 7 March. Readings (mr/hr) after docking: 2-3 inside main deck structure, 10 on open deck, 5-8 in sleeping quarters on upper deck, 10-30 on rope and canvas. Prior radiation levels cannot be estimated because of rain squalls and uncertainty about when decks last washed. Master was advised to have decks washed down as soon as convenient. He was told that the activity would not hurt anyone, but that it was undesirable to have it around longer than necessary.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS: Future visits to Eniwetok and Maloelap should not be attempted by UF-1 except under conditions of greater urgency. The writer's prior experience in such operations is very limited, but from his own observations plus the remarks made by those better qualified to judge, it appears that a fair amount of risk is involved.

9. Especially notable was the very cooperative attitude of the Navy personnel at Kwajalein and the Marshall District Administrative Officials at Majuro in supporting this mission.

1 Incl:  
Marshall Islands Atoll  
Samples collected by I. B.  
White, 5-7 March 1954

/s/ I. B. White  
DR. I. B. WHITE  
Health Division  
MSI

~~SECRET~~

MARSHALL ISLANDS ATOLL SAMPLES COLLECTED BY T. N. WHITE, 5-7 MARCH 1954

Earth samples were collected as follows:

At each island visited several samples were dug and put into the same one-gallon "ice-cream carton". Each sample (i.e. each digging) approximated one square foot to a depth of one inch. The number and locations of the samples were selected to represent, as well as could be judged, an average of the areas used by the inhabitants, after the samples were mixed in the carton. Areas that were unusually shaded or unshaded by trees were avoided. The large "pebbles" in the composite represent coral gravel from "main street" through the village.

Water samples were selected according to the principal source in current use

Inclosure 1

~~SECRET~~

~~RESTRICTED~~  
ATOMIC ENERGY ACT — 1946

COPIED/DQE  
LANL RG