

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner, Saipan

TO : Deputy High Commissioner

DATE: 8 June 1972
Serial P-72-0092

FROM : Chief of Planning

SUBJECT: Field Trip to Eniwetok

The Headquarters team arrived at Kwajalein on Wednesday, May 17, 1972. The team included the following persons: Deputy High Commissioner - Peter T. Coleman; Special Consultant to the High Commissioner - Dwight Heine; Chief of the Land Cadaster Branch - Maynard Neas; Information Specialist - Jon Anderson; Supt. Controlled Maintenance - Joe Nakanishi; Community Development Engineer - Josef Rotholz; Chief of Planning - Philip Chamberlain. The District team arrived the same day and included the following people: District Administrator - Oscar DeBrum; District Attorney - Russell Walker; District Agriculturist - George Nakanishi; Legislative Secretary - Bryant S. Zebedy; Congress of Micronesia Rep. - Ataji Balos; District Director of Public Affairs - Tony DeBrum and Ujelang Councilman - Ishmael John.

Three representatives were present from Micronesia Legal Services Corporation. This contingent was headed by T. R. Mitchell of Saipan and included Chips Barry and Dennis Olsen both of Majuro.

The combined teams left Kwajalein on May 18 and arrived on Eniwetok via Saturn Airways on the same day. Representatives of the Ujelang Municipal Council had arrived at Eniwetok on the M/V Militobi on the same morning and included: Iroij Joannes; Iroij Lor Anzi; Magistrates Smith Gordon, John Abram and Ertas John.

Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman called a meeting of the group on the afternoon of May 18. Those in attendance included those listed above plus people from several U. S. government agencies and contracting firms including: Lt. Col. Earl W. Udick - SAMTEC; Lt. Col. Louis J. Circeo - DOD (DNA); Thomas C. Turnbull - Gen. Elect.; Joe J. Farkas - MATSCO; L. C. Grove - SAMTEC; M. E. Stevens - DNA (Logistic Directorate); John Stewart - AEC and Roger Ray - AEC.

The meeting was opened by District Administrator Oscar DeBrum who stated that this is the long awaited opportunity for the people of Eniwetok to visit their home islands. The District Administrator appointed an interpreter and instructed him to translate the statements made during the meeting. The District Administrator then introduced the Deputy High Commissioner.

Mr. Coleman said that the purpose of the trip is for the benefit of the Ujelang representatives. "We are here to see what now exists, to take a look at what is here now." The Deputy High Commissioner requested that each person present be introduced. After the completion of the introduction, Mr. Coleman suggested that Mr. Roger Ray of AEC explain the work that he and his people have recently completed.

Mr. Ray: "As you know, Eniwetok has not been prepared for resettlement as Bikini has. There is still much work to be done and we are just now completing a preliminary survey of the islands."

"We do know that there are some locations where radioactivity remains from the atomic testing and we shall have to remove that before some of the islands will be suitable for long-term occupancy."

There will be no danger to you from a short inspection visit to the islands, but we do plan to provide an escort who is familiar with those locations where we have found some radiation problems. We ask that you take his advice and stay clear of any areas which he will point out to you."

"We are also going to ask you to wear at all times, while you are at Eniwetok, a green badge which will be given to you after this meeting. This badge is known as a film badge and is customarily worn by all of our workers wherever there is any possibility of even a slight exposure to radiation. We do not expect any of you to be exposed to any significant amount of radiation. In fact, we do not expect to find any evidence of radiation on these badges. But we require this procedure so that if there should be some unexpected exposure we will know about it and be able to inform you of it."

"We will collect your badges when you leave Eniwetok and take them back to our laboratory in the United States for evaluation. Each badge is numbered and we have recorded that number along with your name on an identification card."

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"Let me repeat. We are confident that there will be no danger to you from radiation on this brief visit to Eniwetok. If there were, we would urge you not to visit the islands at this time. But we do ask you to help us make your visit absolutely safe by following a few simple precautions which will be suggested by your escort."

The Deputy High Commissioner thanked Mr. Ray and requested that all people making the trip adhere to the simple rules outlined by Mr. Ray.

The Deputy High Commissioner noted that the M/V Militobi is standing by and we must establish the schedule today to be followed throughout the forthcoming trip.

The following schedule was set:

May 19	0730	All personnel, with luggage required for trip, be in front of the dormitory.
	0800	Embark from dock for ship.
	0900	Ship leaves for the islands.
		1. Parry Islands
		2. Japtan Islands
		3. Runit Islands
		4. Mike Crater
		5. Bogon Islands
		6. Enijebe Islands
		7. Roja Islands
		8. Igurin Islands

The ship will return to Eniwetok on Saturday.

A representative from the Department of Public Works will check the facilities on Eniwetok. The Chief of Planning will accompany the team during the trip to observe facilities on other islands.

The Deputy High Commissioner was asked if maybe the Eniwetok people might have specific places that they would like to visit.

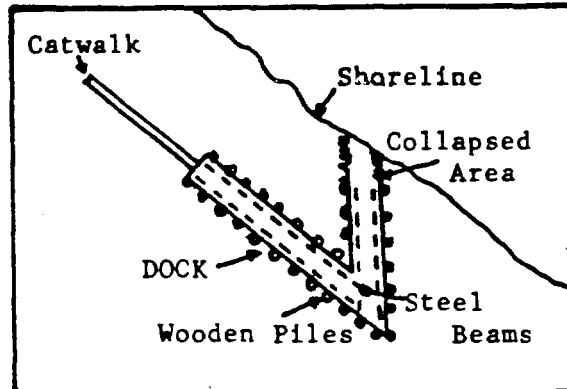
The Deputy High Commissioner said, "If they do, we shall visit them at their convenience."

The meeting was adjourned.

The M/V Militobi left Eniwetok at about 0900 and docked at Parry at 0930. Parry has a land area of .335 sq. miles and is code named Elmer. It was immediately apparent that the island had been intensively developed and it was equally apparent that it had been abandoned for sometime. (Eniwetok nuclear tests ended in 1958.) The survey team disembarked and began a tour of the island.

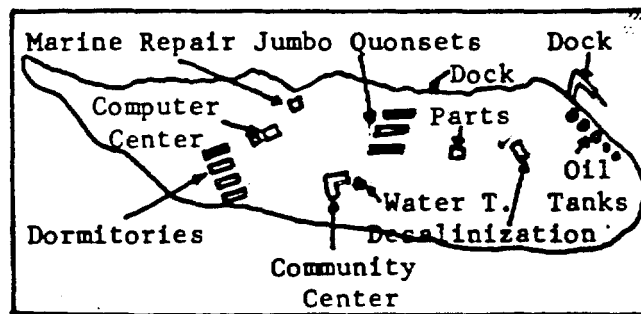
The following remarks are based upon my observations made when touring the island. Due to the limited time that was available to stay on the island, I was unable to prepare an inventory of each building and as a result, will comment on only the major structures.

The dock is "L" shaped with the main face about 300' in length. There is a catwalk extension at the end of the main portion of the dock. The dock is supported by 2 parallel rows of steel beams which are located approximately 10' from the outer edge of the dock. The beams appear to be sound. There are wooden piles along with pier edge which are rotted completely through at the water surface level. It appears that the function of the wooden piles was less structural than for the purpose of keeping boats from going under the dock. There is a steel waterline which is supported by the steel beams.



The pier has partially collapsed for a distance of about twenty feet from the point of contact with the shore. A substantial amount of surface planking would have to be replaced before the dock could be considered a safe, operation facility. I was informed that the water depth at the dock face had been dredge to 30' and that the facility regularly had handled 10,000 ton vessels.

There are five fuel storage tanks located in the dock area. The estimated capacity of the tanks are three of two hundred thousand (200,000) gallons capacity and two of one hundred thousand (100,000) gallons capacity.



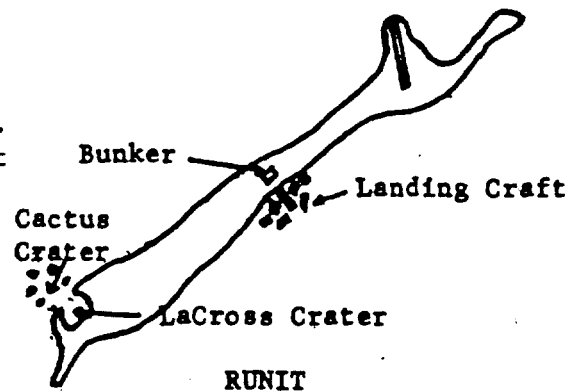
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tiles on the walls and ceiling. The building was centrally air conditioned but the equipment has been removed. As with the computer center building on Parry the building could be utilized for public use if windows are cut into the walls. The building is surrounded by a high chain-link fence.

There are six metal and several 90' wooden antenna on the island.

There is a dock at Japtan which will require repairs prior to being suitable for regular use. A concrete boat launching ramp is located next to the dock.

We departed Japtan at approximately 1400 hundred and anchored off Runit at about 1500. Runit has a land area of .120 sq. miles and is code named Yvonne. We did not tour the entire area of Runit. We were concerned primarily with the condition of the area in the immediate vicinity of Cactus and LaCross craters. There was a concrete bunker whose interior was constructed in the form of a maze near ground "0". The bunker housed measuring and recording equipment during the blasts. There was evidence of only limited scrub vegetation in the area. The craters can be utilized for small boat harbors if a limited amount of channel blasting is undertaken. The central portion of the west side of the island looks like a ship graveyard when viewed from the ship. There are possibly 20 or more derelict landing craft sunk and beached in the area.

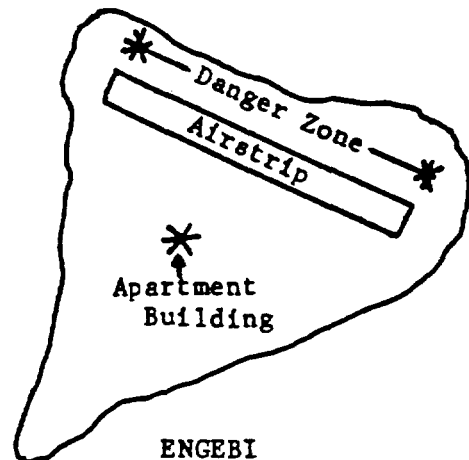


The survey party left Runit island at about 1640 hrs and proceeded to Mike Crater area where we anchored for the night. Mike Crater is approximately 6000' in diameter and 168' deep.

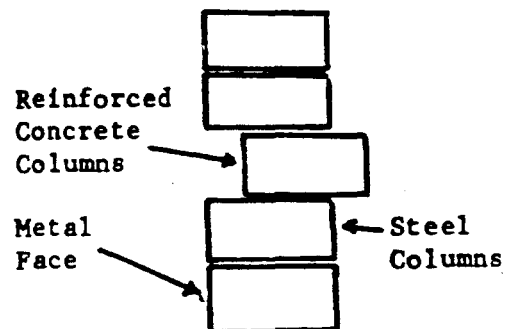
On the following morning we took two small boats and proceeded around the rims of the craters. It was difficult to explain to the representatives of Ujelang what had happened to 2 1/2 of their islands. The islands of Elugelab, Teiteiripucchi and Bogererik were each ground zero for surface bursts. As a result Elugelab, Teiteiripucchi and a portion of Bogererik are no more. The areas of the islands had been as follows: Elugelab (code named Flora) - .01 sq. miles; Teiteiripucchi, also sometimes known as Lidibut (code named Gene) - .031 sq. miles and Bogeerik (Code named Helen) - .050 sq. miles. The configuration of what

is now referred to as Bogerik has changed to such a degree that some of the representatives from Ujelang questioned whether or not it was the same island or was a new island resulting from the blasts. The secondary growth on the island had returned as had the bird life. The Iroij noted that the islands had previously been set aside as bird sanctuaries and that he was pleased that so many birds had returned. One of the representatives caught a bird which was duly killed and plucked on the return trip to the ship.

The next island that we visited was Engebi. Engebi (Code named Arthur) has an area of .343 sq. miles and had been the location of an important Japanese fighter strip during W.W. II. The island had received extremely heavy naval and aerial bombardment during the Pacific offensive in 1944. We were requested not to cross into the area to the north of the airstrip since NASA had launched a Beryllium (Glucinum) rocket from the launch site located there. We were told that Beryllium is a highly toxic metal and that the area had not yet been "cleaned" but would be before the island could again become inhabited. There is no radioactivity in the area resulting from the rocket launch.



There is a large three story structure located on the island which is referred to as the "apartment". The building consists of several units which are contiguous to but not structurally connected to one another. Each section utilizes different structural designs and materials. For example, one section is built of reinforced concrete and faced with metal siding attached to furring strips while the adjacent unit is constructed on large steel columns. The purpose of the structure apparently was to test the effects of a nuclear air burst upon different types of structures. The unit which sustained the most obvious damage was the unit having a concrete second and third stories supported upon reinforced concrete columns. The columns failed and the unit is now a two story structure which has a 12' setback from the original building line.



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There is evidence of much ordinance remaining from World War II bombardment of the island.

The next stop was at the PACE (Pacific Cratering Experiments Site). There is printed material available that describes the program in detail so I will discuss only those elements which appear to be of immediate importance.

1. There will be 23 "shots" to be undertaken during the months of August, September, November and December.

2. The material detonated will be TNT and not nuclear in nature.

3. The size of the shots will vary from 1000 lbs to 100 tons of TNT.

4. The resulting craters will vary in size from 20' to 300' in diameter.

5. The locations of the blasts will be confined to the three locations as shown on the accompanying drawing.

6. Area "A" which encompasses an area of 19.2 acres, is being cleared of overburden down to coral or about equal to high tide. The average amount of overburden being removed is 6' - 6" of topsoil and the remainder sand.

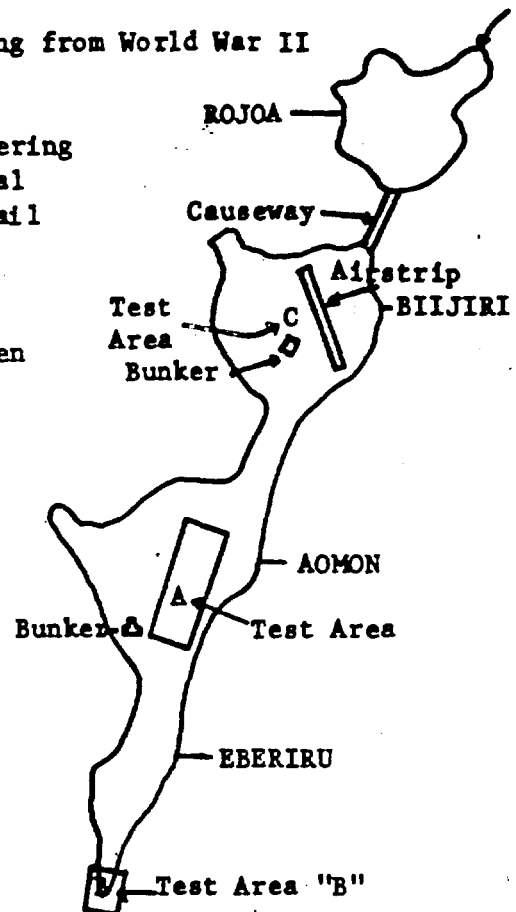
7. It is up to the people of Ujelang as to how the land is to be rehabilitated. One of the three following procedures was suggested.

- a) Return to normal state.
- b) Develop harbor in largest crater.
- c) The University of Hawaii and Guam would like to develop fish farms in some craters.

There is a thirteen hundred foot airstrip that is used by light aircraft.

There are two large bunkers that can be utilized for typhoon shelters.

One of the representatives from Ujelang stated that he would like to see the craters after the explosions before any decisions are made.



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It was agreed that this should be done.

We again embarked upon the Militobi and headed for Igurin Island. Igurin (code named Glen) appeared to have been unaffected by the experiments. The vegetation, including coconut trees, was mature. The island was alive with large coconut crabs of which about 25 were liberated and enjoyed at a feast on the following day.

We returned to Eniwetok on the evening of Friday, May 19th.

Deputy High Commissioner Coleman called a meeting for the afternoon of May 20. The minutes and a list of those in attendance is attached.



Philip N. Chamberlain

Attachments:

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