

Hawaiian Sea Frontier—14th Naval District—Naval Base, P.

Authority UNDH5081
By PTNARA Date 3-11-06

SUBJECT:
DISPOSAL OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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ENCLOSURES RECEIVED
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DATE OF ORIGIN **1-23-50**
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14TH NAVAL DISTRICT					HAWAIIAN SEA FRONTIER				
NO.	FOR	DATE	INITIAL		NO.	FOR	DATE	INITIAL	
00				5	02	ASST. CHIEF OF STAFF (Op)		<i>2/2/1</i>	
01					13	SEARCH & RESCUE			
15					20	COMMUNICATION OFFICER			
34					25	INTELLIGENCE OFFICER			
67				4	10	OPERATIONS	<i>I</i>	<i>DM</i>	
03					11	ComPatGroup; READINESS			
68					16	SURFACE CONTR. & MRC			
35					95	AVIATION OFFICER			
32					36	FIRE MARSHAL			
22					86	MARINE OFFICER			
04				3	05	FLAG SECTY	<i>I-1</i>	<i>o</i>	
40						NAVAL BASE			
30					00B	COMMANDER			
42					01B	CHIEF OF STAFF			
31					05B	ADMIN. AIDE			
80					15B	AIDE			
76					14B	PORT DIRECTOR			
76					60B	PERSONNEL			
90		<i>I 1/30 E</i>			75B	MEDICAL			
60		<i>I 1/31 2</i>				NAVAL AIR BASES			
65						INDUSTRIAL MGR. 14ND			
66						NAVAL SUPPLY CENTER			
64						CHIEF CLERK			
62					06				
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A-ACTION D-RET. ENCL. ONLY G-RETAIN COPY REF. ORIGINATED BY COMPLETE ACTION NOT LATER THAN FILE CLERK ROUTING CLERK

B-COLLABORATE E-SEE REMARKS I-INFO. 2 Feb 16 FEB 50 M ay.

C-COMMENT F-ADV. COPY FURNISHED S-SIGN.

ACTION TAKEN

*See Navsta Kur...
dep. # 1800 19 (revised)
8 Feb. 1952 - of 2/18/52*

REMARKS

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Authority UND75081
By PTNARA Date 3-11-06

THE PACIFIC COMMAND
AND UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER NAVAL FORCES MARIANAS
NAVAL FORCES MARSHALLS-CAROLINES AND MARSHALLS-CAROLINES AREA

IN COPY REFER TO
COMNAVFORC MARIANAS FILE
370/41/1000/jk
Ser
480
23 JAN 1950

From: Commander Naval Forces Marianas
To: Commander in Chief, Pacific and U. S. Pacific Fleet

Subj: Disposal of unexploded ordnance Marshall Islands

Encl: (1) Copy of ltr. Lt. Milton W. SCHAMBER (015974)(2330) USMC
 D r of 3 Jan 1950 to COMNAVFORC MARIANAS
 (2) One set (20) photoprints

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are furnished herewith for information.

2. In view of the disestablishment of the Marshall-Carolines Area and the inclusion of the Marshall Islands in the Hawaiian Sea Frontier, no further action will be initiated by this command toward clearing the remaining unexploded ordnance from those islands. The limited number of qualified explosive ordnance demolition personnel available to Commander Naval Forces Marianas precludes undertaking a task of the magnitude indicated by paragraphs 3 and 5 of enclosure (1). However, in the event individual items of unexploded ordnance are discovered which constitute a definite and immediate hazard to personnel or installations in the Marshall Islands, explosive ordnance demolition personnel will be dispatched upon request.

E. G. EWEN

Copy to:

- BuOrd (w/encl 1 and 2)
- COM (w/encl 1)
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Handwritten notes: 1000 80 2 01 BW 1000

**UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
COMMANDER MARSHALLS SUB-AREA
KWAJALEIN, MARSHALL ISLANDS**

3 January 1950.

From: First Lieutenant Milton W. Schreiber (015974)(2330) USMC.
To: Commander Naval Forces, Marianas, Guam, M. I.
Subject: Ordnance Disposal Project, Marshall Islands.

1. In accordance with orders, the undersigned disposed of all known items of unexploded ordnance in the Marshall Islands, with the following exceptions as noted:

25 December 1949

Dumped at Sea - Kwajalein, Kwajalein, Ebeye Island.
2 - Type 97, No. 6 Land Bombs Japanese

26 December 1949

By Detonation - Kwajalein, Kwajalein.
1 - 500 Pound G. P. Bomb U. S.
8 - 5" H. C. Projectiles U. S.
1 - 3" H. C. Projectiles U. S.

27 December 1949

By Detonation - Wolje, Wolje.
2 - Type 3, 250 Kg. Skip Bombs Japanese
1 - 8" H. C. Projectile U. S.
1 - Aerial Torpedo, w/ Type 2 Exploder Japanese

28 December 1949

By Detonation - Emubin, Wolje.
2 - 250" G. P. Bombs U. S.
By Detonation - Wolje, Wolje.
2 - 8" H. C. Projectiles U. S.
14 - Type 97, No. 6 Land Bombs (Planted as Mines) Japanese
2 - Knee Mortar Shells Japanese

29 December 1949

By Detonation - Wolje, Wolje.
1 - 8" H. C. Projectile U. S.
3 - 4" H. C. Projectiles U. S.
6 - 5" H. C. Projectiles U. S.
18 - Type 97, No. 6 Land Bombs (Planted as Mines) Japanese

30 December 1949

Disassembled & Dumped at Sea - Erikub, Erikub.
2 - Mk 49 Aircraft Depth Bombs U. S.
By Detonation - Tjan, Maloelap
1 - Type 97, No. 6 Land Bomb Japanese
By Detonation - Eben, Eben.
1 - Mk 49 Aircraft Depth Bomb (In the Lagoon) Japanese

31 December 1949

- By Detonation - Adejin, Jaluit.
 - 3 - Mk 49 Aircraft Depth Bombs U. S.
 - 4 - 100 Pound G. P. Bombs U.S.
- By Detonation - Arouen, Jaluit.
 - 2 - Type 97 No. 6 Land Bombs (Planted as anti-tank mines).... Japanese
 - 1 - Type 3, 250 Kg. Skip Bomb Japanese

1 January 1950

- By Detonation - Emidj, Jaluit.
 - 8 - Type 50 Ordinary Bombs, Model 2 Japanese
 - 20 - Type 20 Ordinary Bombs, Model 2 Japanese
 - 267 - Number 80 Land Bombs Japanese

2 January 1950

- By Detonation - Jabor, Jaluit
 - 2 - Mk 49 Aircraft Depth Bombs U. S.
 - 1 - 250 Pound G. P. Bomb U. S.

2. Due to the uncertain weather conditions, it was not deemed safe for the aircraft to land at either Mili or Arno, therefore, the above mentioned Atolls were not handled at this time.

3. Wolje, Wolje, before becoming habitable, the vegetation will have to be burned. This particular island is heavily covered with land mines (Type 97, No. 6 Land Bombs). Ordinary clearing methods such as machete work or search will not reveal them due to heavy growth of vines. The type vine on Wolje keeps an individuals feet at least twelve inches above the ground. Machete work would be extremely dangerous due to the fact the nose fuzes are exposed and if struck with a blade could prove to be fatal. Intensified work of approximately five demolition teams could clear this island in a period of six (6) months.

4. All of the Islands that make up the Jaluit Atoll can now, in the opinion of the undersigned be considered habitable. All known items of unexploded ordnance were disposed of by detonation. It must be remembered, that from time to time, unexploded ordnance will be discovered, but on the whole, this Atoll can be considered reasonably safe.

5. To really clean the Marshall Islands, a twenty man demolition team would require a minimum of two years.

6. The writer is grateful for the aid and co-operation extended by the Commanding Officer, the Executive Officer, the Operations Department and the men and officers of VR-21 (Formerly VR-23) also the Commanding Officer of the Marine Barracks, Kwajalein, M. I.

----- M. W. SCHREIBER -----