

(a) The movement of the native peoples of Eniwetok from the islands of Amon and Biijiri in that atoll to the atoll of Ujelang was accomplished during the period of this report. For the purpose of discussion the movement is divided into three phases as follows:

FIRST PHASE:

The preparation of the main island of Ujelang for the reception of the Eniwetok natives.

SECOND PHASE:

The actual movement of the natives and their settling in Ujelang.

THIRD PHASE:

The completion of permanent structures and fulfillment of our commitments to the people.

The first two phases have been completed and the third will be completed within a period of three to four months.

A. FIRST PHASE

On 22 November a working party of twenty construction battalion personnel and ten marshallese laborers, with Lieutenant Clarence B.

WATSON, U. S. Navy in charge arrived at Ujelang. Materials necessary for the construction of temporary village were transported in the AG 135 and AG 138, from Kwajalein and Guam respectively. The LCI 615 was present to provide living accomodations.

The tasks to be accomplished by the Ujelang detachment consisted of cleaning sufficient land area for the village sites, construction of rain water catchment system, construction of latrines, erection of forty 16'x16' floored tents as temporary copra sheds and store, and the erection of a building which could be used as a combination school, council house, and church until permanent buildings could be erected. These tasks were completed by 21 December with the exception of the combination school, church and council house which was completed on 31 December. The most difficult task was the cleaning of the land area which presented an almost impenetrable undergrowth. Simultaneously with this, the construction of the water catchment system was carried on as it was necessary that sufficient supply of water be stored by the time the Eniwetok people arrived. Even concrete cisterns with corrugated iron catchment systems were constructed having a total capacity of approximately 40,000 gallons. By 15 December it became obvious that there would be insufficient water (Unless rainfall increased considerably) and the decision was made to send a water barge to Ujelang. This barge, with 50,000 gallons of water, arrived on 21 December simultaneously with the arrival of the Eniwetok natives. This water was pumped ashore and was

sufficient to fill all cisterns. The clearing of the land revealed an old Japanese well which was cleaned out and serves to augment the cistern system. Tests proved the well water not potable but it is used for washing clothes and bathing.

By 21 December, in addition to the cistern system the following had been completed and the village was considered ready to receive its inhabitants. Forty-one 16'x16' floored tents had been set up. Twenty-three of the tents were located in the area to the eastward of the central plaza and were to be occupied by the people from Amon. The other eighteen were to the westward of the plaza and were assigned to the natives from Biihiri. In each of the two living areas there were two large latrines. In the central or plaza area a store has been constructed. This area is also the location for the church, school, and council house which are to be shared by both groups. A temporary copra shed had also been built near the pier and was ready for use.

During the period 21 to 31 December the cement floors for the church and council house were laid and the church was made ready for use. The church is considered a permanent structure but a small amount of work remains to be done on it when the necessary materials are available.

B. SECOND PHASE

1 Jan 1948

Kwajalein Dist.

On Wednesday the 3rd of December the Governor of the Marshalls and the Civil Administrator flew to Eniwetok and informed the natives of the necessity for their leaving that atoll. Ujelang was offered to them and both the Governor and the Civil Administrator were surprised to learn that not only the two Chiefs Abraham and Johannes, but also the majority of the alaps had been to and were familiar with that atoll. They seemed not at all upset over the prospects of moving.

On the 4th of December the Civil Administrator flew with the two chiefs to Ujelang and made a thorough inspection of the main island. Both Johannes and Abraham repeatedly expressed their pleasure with the preparations being made there and with the natural resources of the island. They were particularly pleased with the abundance of fish (Reported to them by the Marshallese working there), the depth of the top soil, the relatively large land area, and the abundance of coconut trees, breadfruit, papaya, and pandanus. The return to Eniwetok was made on 5 December. By mutual agreement between the Civil Administrator and the two chiefs it was agreed that the move would commence on 19 December.

On 19 December the LST 857, under the operational control of the Civil Administrator, anchored off Amon and loading commenced. The people had been informed they could take anything along that could be moved and this was certainly taken literally. In addition to the household and personal effects, doors and windows from the houses to be abandoned, small boats and outrigger canoes (One 55' in length), there were 40 pigs

A (Rehabilitation)
1 (Rehabilitation) - 5

1 Jan 1948

Kwajalein Dist.

and 200 chickens. Loading was completed at 1500 on 20 December and at 1600 the ship was underway for Ujelang. A total of 136 Eniwetok people made the trip (73 from Amon and 63 from Biihiri).

The LST anchored in the lagoon close aboard the main island of Ujelang at noon on Sunday the 21st of December. All the people were ashore by 1400 and the two chiefs had assigned tents to each family. (A short religious service was held by the natives as soon as they were all ashore. They had also held services just before boarding the ship in Eniwetok and during the passage on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.) Unloading was completed by sunset on 22 December and the LST released to sail for Kwajalein.

On 22 December Vice Admiral Sallada, U.S. Navy accompanied by the Governor of the Marshall Islands arrived by PBV. They made an inspection of the island and then assembled the council and the Governor presented Johannes and Abraham with a deed to Ujelang Atoll (EXHIBIT I)*.

The move is considered as having been completed on 22 December. The Civil Administrator remained on Ujelang until noon 25 December during which time he had ample opportunity to observe the reactions of the people in their new homes. That they are happy and contented there can be no doubt as practically every adult on the island took pains to approach the Civil Administrator and tell him "Good island". The move is, and will continue to be a success as the Ujelang people are vigorous and industrious; they are under the very firm leadership of Johannes and Abraham; and the atoll will prove to be one of the wealthiest and most

* - see A 3 (Sand Titles)

1 Jan 1948

Kwajalein Dist.

productive in the Marshall Islands. The Civil Administrator is convinced that the key to the success of such a move is tied up with land ownership and that the deeding of the atoll to the two chiefs gave the people a sense of security which must exist for any group of people to attain contentment.

(b) Schools.

No change since last report.

(c) Churches.

No change since last report.

(d) Community buildings important in local culture.

No change since last report.

(e) Others.

No change since last report.