

A (Rehabilitation)
1 (Rehabilitation)

6 April 48

Kwajalein District ✓

(a) The ex-Eniwetok people now residing on Ujelang Atoll are about to realize the final stage of their rehabilitation on Ujelang. By late December 1947 all essential and temporary facilities had been constructed and the Civil Administration personnel returned to Kwajalein so that the people could have a settling down period. Visits by Civil Administration Officers in January and February revealed remarkable progress by the people in clearing away the dense undergrowth which covered the entire area of the islands in Ujelang Atoll. At present, it is estimated after close inspection of Ujelang Island that thirty to forty per cent of the islands 2.8 miles length and 600 foot width has been cleared of undergrowth, fallen copra, and debris of any nature. Individual families have policed the areas adjacent to their present temporary quarters and with the most thorough care have cleaned, leveled and prepared the area which they have selected as a site for their new and permanent house.

On March 21, 1948, the Civil Administration Executive Officer departed for Ujelang on the LST-1134, aboard which was loaded the material for construction of thirty five private family houses, two copra warehouses, a council house, trade store, school and completion of the church which is sixty percent completed. Fifteen Marshallese natives were aboard the LST and eight Civil Administration Enlisted Personnel.

The LST arrived Ujelang Atoll on 23 March. Offloading commenced immediately and was completed at 1430, 25 March 1948. The offloading was accomplished mainly with an eighteen foot punt of Civil Administration

0067

Kwajalein manufacture. The ship's two LCVPs were used to great advantage, however, the channel through the reef will not allow passage of any type power boat except for two hours before and after high tide. Comparatively smooth water made possible the offloading of cement in quantities as great as 2800 lbs per punt load. Although many of the items offloaded were in units of one to two thousand pounds no difficulties were experienced.

The prompt offloading of the LST was made possible only by the highly efficient handling of that ship by its Commanding Officer, LT. H.M. CORSSAN, USN. During the daylight hours of the offloading the ship was so moored bow and stern, the bow was as near the reef as was practicable, the stern directly in the wind.

One hundred fifty eight thousand board feet of lumber was offloaded in two, three hour periods. Lumber had been loaded sixty percent deck loads, the remainder, aft on the tank deck.

An effort was made to salvage the YW which had been used to deliver the initial water supply to Ujelang. After offloading of the fifty thousand gallons of water into the cisterns constructed by Civil Administration the barge washed on the reef, despite the sea water with which her tanks had been flooded. The attempt to remove the barge from the reef was unsuccessful due to coral heads, reef and location of barge to prevailing winds. It was therefore considered too hazardous for the LST-1134.

A (Rehabilitation)
1 (Rehabilitation) - 5

6 April 48

Kwajalein Dist.

Off-loading completed, the entire working party was employed on the island stowing material, stacking lumber and generally organizing the project.

The LCI-615 which had been ordered to Ujelang to act as a station ship for Civil Administration arrived at 1800, 25 March 1948. The LCI had aboard the increment of personnel assigned to the Ujelang project. Personnel employed there at present are as follows:

1 CBM	1 Lt (Officer in Charge)
1 CCM	1 ENS (Assistant Officer in Charge)
25 SeaBee personnel	15 Marshallese Natives from Kwajalein Labor Camp.
8 Civ. Admin. Enlisted Men.	

Total: 2 Civil Administration Officers.
35 Enlisted Personnel
15 Marshallese Natives

By 31 March 1948 work had been commenced on the trade store which will be utilized for the duration of the project as a store room, tool room and stowage for materials which may deteriorate.

The concrete slab for the council house will be utilized with construction of the windward bulk head as site for the electric power units and mill machinery for processing and fabricating the building materials.

The present plan is to build the copra warehouse, school and trade store immediately. The opinion of the Officer in Charge is that he will

have by that time had ample time to observe and evaluate the men and their respective abilities to greater advantage while employing them on central projects. Further, the plan is to fabricate all materials in the shop in order to insure uniformity of construction.

Houses will be 16' x 20', with a porch across the front. Roof will be gable. The interior, one common room. It may be possible to place a small 6' x 6' porch on the rear of each house.

The porches will have a roof. All houses will be set on and bolt anchored to concrete blocks which are a minimum of 18" high. The eaves on all buildings will be so constructed that horizontal rain common to Ujelang, cannot enter.

The people of Ujelang view the operations of those engaged in the project with much interest. Their satisfaction with Ujelang and high state of morale is obvious in that their industry and cheerful cooperation is exceptional and has been consistently so since first negotiations were made regarding their move from Eniwetok.

Very little time had been spent in cutting copra prior to mid February as all available manpower had been utilized in cleaning the island.

RONGERIK, Ex-Bikini People - In January 1948 the Civil Administration Executive Officer was ordered by CinCPac Flt to Pearl Harbor for purpose of a briefing and a series of conferences with CinCPacFlt and the officers of his staff. The kind cooperation of Dr. Peter Buck, of Bishop Museum and Dr. Leonard Mason, of the University of Hawaii, was

A (Rehabilitation)
1 (Rehabilitation) - 5

6 April 48

Kwajalein Dist.

requested and cheerfully given. LT Watson was briefed by both Dr. Buck and Dr. Mason in Native affairs etc.

Dr. Mason preceded LT Watson to Kwajalein and was sent on to Rongerik where he immediately began an investigation of conditions there. LT Watson joined Dr. Mason at Rongerik and the joint investigation was completed in one week.

Conditions at Rongerik were determined to be intolerable. A report of same was made to the Governor of the Marshalls who immediately gave orders that the people of Rongerik be placed on a full subsistence basis. Further the Governor ordered the Civil Administration Unit to construct temporary housing for the people of Rongerik at Kwajalein Labor Camp.

Food had been non-existent on Rongerik. The Governor Marshalls despatched food to this village via PBY and same was received in Rongerik on the same date the report was submitted to the Governor.

30
15
Thirty houses were immediately constructed by Civil Administration Kwajalein at the Labor Camp. Construction was completed prior to arrival of the people.

On Saturday, 13 March 1948, the Executive Officer, Civil Administration Unit, Kwajalein, proceeded via PBY to Rongerik where he enjoined the people to commence preparations for moving the following day. This was received with great enthusiasm. On the following morning church service began at 0700. Moving of all Native property to the beach was

possible for the LST-1134 had been sighted entering the lagoon. The ship anchored at 1200 and loading of property and one hundred seventy two Native peoples began at once by ships boats. Outriggers were dismantled and towed to the ship and stowed on the tank deck. By 1700 all loading had been accomplished. The ship departed Rongerik at 1800 that date. The ship arrived Kwajalein at 1200 the following day, 15 March, 1948.

The Governor Marshalls and Civil Administrator, Kwajalein District met the ship greeting and welcoming the people to Kwajalein. Off-loading of people and their property began immediately. By 1800 that date off-loading had been accomplished and the people settled in their new quarters.

The state of morale of the Rongerik people is high as is evidenced by their cheerful activities in landscaping (as is possible), the area adjacent to their quarters. Clean beach sands and coral has been used to make that area very attractive. Those able bodied individuals, both men and women, who have so requested are employed and the morale of the elders seems very high.

A school room for use of the thirty nine school age Rongerik children was created by cleaning, painting and remodeling a section of a Civil Administration warehouse adjacent to the living area of the labor camp. This same room is used for a church by those who are unable for

any reason to attend the native services at the Kwajalein Chapel.

The people of Rongerik are able to conduct their lives in a normal manner. They are segregated in all respects from those Natives of the labor camp except that a common mess hall is used for the entire camp. Only those aged and feeble are allowed to mess in their living quarters.

(b) Schools.

After departure of the Civil Administration first construction group from Ujelang the people had been instructed to use the church building as a temporary school and class room. Apparently this was not in accordance with best Marshallese practice.

In the weeks following, the school teacher and other men of the village set up two 16' x 16' tents combining them into one class room. The walls were made of corrugated steel sheet, and the floor of plywood. This serves quite adequately as a temporary school. The same structure serves temporarily as a council house.

The supply of school materials which it has been possible to distribute throughout the Kwajalein District has greatly improved the morale of these teachers. The work carried on by the teachers of this area in the conducting of their classes continues to show a marked improvement.

(c) Churches.

The Catholic Father, Feeney and Donahue, have finally succeeded in moving the materials from the church on Roi Namu island to Likiep for use in rehabilitating their church there.

The church constructed by Civil Administration for the people of

Ujelang is located in a central portion of the island. Its deck is 30' x 6', the peak of the gable roof is 27' high surmounted by the cross from the Native church in Eniwetok.

The cross is installed in a mortised slot in the church peak. No nails were used in securing same. The roof is of corrugated steel sheet. The eaves extend to a point so that an aisle exists on either side of the church so that doors are necessary in the ends. Access to the church is made through the open sides under the low eaves.

The pews from the native church in Eniwetok were moved with the people along with other church equipment.

General Hull visited the church in late March and expressed an intention of sending some excess church furniture from Eniwetok to Ujelang for improving that church.

Needless to mention; construction of a church of impressive size on Ujelang will do more to establish the people there than any other building or facility that could be furnished them.

(d) Community buildings important in local culture.

No change since last report.

(e) Others.

The construction on Ujelang other than private houses, church and school extends to a copra warehouse for each of the two factions and a trade store building which will be divided in the center so that both factions may continue to operate a store of their own.

A (Rehabilitation)
1 (Rehabilitation) - 9

6 April 48

Kwajalein Dist.

The large roof area of the council house, church, and warehouses warrant the building of cisterns to store the rain which it may be possible to impound. Each of three cisterns will have a capacity of approximately eight thousand gallons. The cisterns will bring the capacity of cisterns on Ujelang to approximately sixty thousand gallons.