

1 July 1970

Dear Friends,

The month of June has come and gone, much to the relief of most of the personnel here on the station. This was the month for our annually scheduled tower maintenance, and it kept many of the crew working long after quitting time on several evenings. As is my custom, I will try to bring you, the families and friends of the crew, up to date on what we are doing here at Gesashi. And, this month you won't have quite such a hard time reading the newsletter, because the dittoed copies will be run off on a newer machine (I hope).

As I have already stated, our major project for the past month was the tower maintenance program, and to assist us, we hosted 8 contract workers from Japan, 2 people from our district office in Honolulu, and 1 man from our section office in Fuchu, Japan. The purposes of the program were a combination of an annual inspection of our towers, and corrective maintenance found necessary by the inspection, plus preventive maintenance to preserve the towers for another year. Although we only have 3 Loran transmitting towers, they seemed to be enough to occupy our crew and our visiting workers for almost a full week. The Loran C tower, the tallest on the station, is 625 feet tall, with a system of guys which holds the tower straight up and down and extends out to a distance of another 625 feet from the base of the tower. The other 2 towers are each 129 feet tall, and serve as Loran A transmitting towers. The work included climbing the towers, straightening the guys, and generally insuring the safety of construction. This year, we were lucky in that the work went smoothly, and very few problems were encountered.

During the working hours of the tower maintenance period, the ET's (electronic technicians) were able to get inside the electronic equipment for its routine preventive maintenance also, as we're authorized certain "off-air" periods. "Off-air" time is time when, for some reason or another, we are not putting out the radio signal that is required of us, and the goal of all Loran stations is to have as little of this unusable time as possible ("unusable" because the ship or aircraft in our coverage area will not be able to receive our signal, and therefore will not receive the navigational aid that he wants). This station has had the highest percentage of usable time in the chain for 5 out of the last 9 months, and even when we were not Number One, our lowest percentage of usable time during the 9 month period was 99.29%. The reason that we have to wait for authorized off-air time to work inside the equipment is that when it is operating, the ET's just do not seem to feel that they can squeeze in between all those 15,500 volts (Loran A) or 21,500 volts (Loran C) and still get something accomplished. A very shocking situation!

Summer is now definitely upon us here on Okinawa and is readily apparent by the weather reports. The sun shines brightly almost daily but a combination of temperature and humidity makes it somewhat difficult to work outdoors for extended periods. Although the temperature is not too bad, ranging between a low of 85 and a high of 95, the addition of humidity between 60% and 100% makes things a little sticky outside of our air conditioned buildings. On the bright side, those who leave here during the summer will probably do so with a nice tan.

Personnel turnover for the month of June was above average, with 5 people departing and 6 people arriving. FA Jesse MIRELES reporting in from basic training, and ENC Roy WISDOM from USCGC DILIGENCE, arrived to beef up our engineering department, and FN Buddy EATON was granted permission to extend his tour of duty here for another year. RM3 David McNIVEN arrived from Group Monterey to replace RM1 Frank PATSTONE who departed for assignment to Radio BOSTON. SA Ted MONTGOMERY and SA Maurice BOWIE arrived after a short stay aboard USCGC WINNEBAGO to bring our compliment up to 4 men from New Orleans (probably the most men from one city stationed on any isolated station in the world). BM3 Terry DOWDY left us to be stationed at Chetco River Station, Harbor, Oregon, and EN2 Jeff MILLER departed for Group Detroit. Our clown, SN Mike IRICK will hopefully find his way to the Loran Station at San Mateo Point, just around the corner from the President's California White House, without too much trouble with the Secret Service. At the end of the month, we swapped with one of our masters, the Loran Station on Miyako Jima, ET2 Jim SANTEE for ET2 John DONLEY.

Well, that about wraps up the happenings here on Okinawa for the month of June 1970. Until next month, I am

Sincerely,

David H. LYON, LTJG, USCG
Commanding Officer

P.S. As you have probably noticed, the typewriter has a tendency to make errors once in awhile. One such error in May's letter should be corrected: We are 6,800 miles from the USA, rather than 8,00. We try hard!