

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

CO, CGLORSTA
USCG Depot, Box 3
Navy 926, % FPO
San Francisco, Calif.



27 June 1956
A7
Serial 768

From: Commanding Officer, CGLORSTA Ulithi
To: Commandant (PO-2)
Via: (1) Commander, Marianas Section
(2) Commander, Fourteenth CG District (p)

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey

Ref: (a) Commandant (PO-2) ltr A7 of 22 May 1956

1. Enclosed is the requested information on The Loran Transmitting Station Ulithi, as well as negatives and contact prints of the station and island and a description of these.

C. H. Anthony

C. H. ANTHONY

Encl: (1) Information on LORSTA Ulithi and island.
(2) Negatives and Contact prints and explanation of same.

6 July 1956

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, CGLORSTA ULITHI ltr dtd 6/27/56 file A7, Ser: 768

From: Commander, Marianas Section
To: Commandant (PO-2)
Via: Commander, 14th Coast Guard District (p)

1. Forwarded.

A. J. Carpenter
A. J. CARPENTER

POA

P
18 July 1956
A7

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to CO, CGLOPSTA, with ltr of 6-27-56, A7, Ser.
No. 768

1956 JUL 20 PM 2 33

From: Commander, 14th CG District
To: Commandant (PO2)

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey

1. Forwarded.


N. W. SPROW,
By direction

USCG LORAN TRANSMITTING STATION, ULITHI, CAROLINE ISLANDS

The USCG Loran Station, Ulithi is located on Falalop Island, Ulithi Atoll, Western Caroline Islands. The Atoll is approximately 350 miles southwest of Guam, 600 miles north of the equator, and is composed of over twenty islands, but the total land area is only 1.8 sq miles. The majority of these islands surround a lagoon which is one of the largest in the world and covers an area of 183 sq miles. It was here that the largest fleet of ships ever assembled (over 300) came in 1945 to prepare for the invasion of Okinawa. The island of Falalop is the largest in the Atoll, being approximately 3600' in width and 4000' long.

The Loran Station is located on the northern end of the island and is composed of the following buildings, all of which are of the quonset type, with the exception of the Signal-Power Bldg. which is reinforced concrete:

1. BOQ and Office - Three bed rooms, one office, one large living room with easy chairs and couches, one darkroom with refrigerator and sink, and one head.
2. Galley and messing area - One large room for messing which includes pool table; galley with oil burning range, one 25 cu ft refrigerator, two large walk in reefers; one storage room.
3. Laundry Building - Set tubs and two washing machines, lockers for stowage of recreation gear.
4. Barracks - One head, storage room, Sick Bay, and the rest of area partitioned off into living spaces. Each man has locker, table, bed with interspring mattress, and reading light.
5. Signal-Power Bldg. - One end houses four generators and the other end has Loran Transmitting equipment, and communication equipment. This building also has a head and emergency galley for use in case of typhoon.
6. Recreation Bldg. - This building was erected by station personnel from salvaged materials and is not listed on the plant property record. It has a ping pong table, refrigerator for beer and soda, and easy chairs and couches. All movies are shown here.
7. Jumbo Quonset - Used for storage, garage and work shop.

This Station was built in 1951 and 1952 and commissioned 15 April 1952. All the buildings are in good repair and normal preventative maintenance is up to date. The buildings and grounds of this station are considered to be considerably better in general looks and upkeep than the majority of Loran Stations.

The air strip is located about 300 yds from the station and is oriented in an east west direction at the widest point of the island, making it approximately 3400 ft in length.

General life on the station is relaxed and fairly routine. Life here can be boring, or very interesting, depending upon how much the individual desires to do. There are practically unlimited recreational facilities, but it is easy to neglect these and fall into a rather lethargic rut. The working hours are on the basis of Tropical routine, from 7:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., six days a week. Afternoons and evenings are free, unless there is a special all hands project, which occur at infrequent intervals. Loran watch standers average about four hours on watch, with ten off and are usually ETs or SNs. Their off watch time is their own, and no daywork is expected from them. All other men must stand security watches, which amounts to four hours every fourth or fifth night. The uniform to be worn is chosen for coolness and health, with shorts and sandals permissible and the rule rather than the exception. Dress blues are not needed here at all, and whites or khakis are worn at Personnel Inspections.

The Station is completely isolated, and there is no opportunity for liberty or leave.

The only other inhabitants of the Atoll, are the native Micronesians, of which there are about 500 in all, and approximately 150 here on Falalop. The nearest place where there are white people is Yap, approx 90 miles to the west. There is no opportunity to get there however. Of course there is no use for cars here, and dependents are not allowed.

All supplies and mail come from Guam, the majority of it coming via CG aircraft (a UFIG). Flights average one every week or ten days. Every three months heavy supplies and fuel are delivered via CG Buoy Tender, and once a year USCGC Kukui makes a stop here.

Air mail takes approximately one week from the East Coast, while parcel post takes from four to six weeks.

The cost of living for personnel here is very cheap, with little opportunity to spend money. Necessary items such as soap, cigarettes, toothpaste are stocked, and beer and soda are on sale during non-working hours. Native handicraft is limited to canoe models, small statues, and grass skirts, which seldom run more than five or six dollars. Once a month a shopping list is sent to Guam, and at this time men can order anything that can be purchased in Guam, and of course there is always Sears and Roebuck or Montgomery Ward. Officers are charged for three meals a day, regardless whether they eat them or not and this amounts to about \$50.00 per month.

The climate here is that of a typical tropical island, and is usually fairly comfortable, with the day time temperature ranging from 80-90 and the temperature at night dropping to about 75. A good strong sea breeze blows most of the time, and being on the windward side, the station gets the full advantage of this. Sleeping at night is always comfortable. There are no real seasons here, although during the Summer months the breeze tends to die out slightly, making it a little warmer. There also is no real dry or wet season. Rains are fairly frequent throughout the year, but usually are in the forms of heavy showers lasting from five to thirty minutes. The average monthly rainfall is about nine inches. Typhoons and Tropical storms do pass this way quite frequently, but as this is the area where they tend to form they are seldom of damaging force when they pass by. The last Typhoon which incurred any damage was in 1953. Humidity is always high here, and this makes it necessary to store many items in "Hot Lockers" to prevent mildew and corrosion, both of which can happen very quickly. All water used for drinking and washing is obtained by runoff from the roofs of the station buildings, but the rainfall is plentiful enough so that there is little or no problem in this respect.

The main form of vegetation on the island are coconut palms, but there is also much papaya, banana, taro, and breadfruit. There are no poisonous plants (such as poison ivy), no poisonous insects or spiders, and no snakes of any kind. About the only type of animal life seen, besides birds, are lizards, of which there are many, some growing to be five feet long. They are completely harmless though.

There seem to be no particular diseases that need to be worried about out here, and the worst danger is from infection of cuts, particular from live coral. Skin irritations and fungus attacks occur, but very seldom, and seem to be easily cleared up. We have a first class hospital corpsman attached to the unit, and he is able to cope with practically all situations in his well equipped sick bay. In time of emergency, it is a two hour flight from Guam for a doctor, or the patient can be taken to the Naval hospital in Guam.

There are six native boys working here at the station. They do numerous jobs such as laundry; galley work; general cleaning up of BOQ, galley and barracks; station maintainance; etc.

The Ulithian native are of Micronesian descent, and although rather primitive in their mode of living and dress, they are very intelligent, and remarkably honest. As a matter of fact, they are probably one of the most honest people in the world. Their village is about one half mile from the station, and it is possible to closely observe their habits and mode of life. Their dressing habits could at best be called informal, with the men and boys wearing only a loincloth called a "palpal", the women wearing only a woven skirt called a "lavalava", and the younger girls wearing only grass skirts. Their life and habits are controlled to an extent by a king who resides here on Falalop, and the individual chiefs of each island. Their only gainful occupation is the making of copra. The rest of the time is spent by the men in fishing, repairing boats, and making canoe models and statues. The women do the gardening and cooking. These islands and the natives on them, are under the jurisdiction of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the CO does have the additional duty of being named as Trust Territory Representative for the island.

As mentioned before the recreational facilities here are numerous and varied, and are as follows:

1. Swimming - There is a good sandy beach about 1/3 mile from the station, which was cleared by the Navy during the war, so there is no coral. There formerly was a raft here, but this was recently blown away in a storm. The station has an abundant supply of swim fins and masks and it is a wonderful experience to swim in and around the coral reef, and see the many varieties and colors of fish, coral, etc.
2. Spear fishing - The station has spears and spear guns and many of the men spend many hours hunting fish. The natives are expert spear fishers, and the best luck is had if one goes with them.
3. Fishing - There is an adequate supply of fishing gear here, but not too many men take advantage of it.
4. Shelling - The variety of shells in this vicinity are numberless and the collection of these shells along the beaches, and in the coral reefs is probably one of the better liked hobbies.
5. Photography - Probably the most popular hobby here. Everyone owns cameras, and we have a completely equipped dark room, with all the equipment needed for really serious darkroom work. All supplies with the exception of film are furnished by the district.
6. Leather craft - A complete set of leather working tools are here on the station and all necessary materials are furnished by the district.
7. Ham Radio - We have an excellent amateur radio set up, and our operator makes daily contacts with the U.S. Phone patches between personnel here and their families in the States are numerous, and a very valuable morale builder.
8. Volleyball - Volleyball games are held about every other day, and are by far the most popular of team sports.
9. Tennis - There is a court laid out on the concrete slab foundation of an old quonset hut. It makes a very good court, and the station has four excellent racquets.
10. Pool - The pool table is in practically new condition, having been recently resurfaced. There are approximately one dozen cues in excellent condition.
11. Horse Shoes - There is a nice court laid out in the shade of some palm trees, adjacent to the recreation building.
12. Movies - Movies are held nightly in the recreation building, and on the whole are of excellent quality.
13. Baseball & Softball - There is plenty of equipment here, and there is a diamond laid out on the airstrip, but it is usually difficult to obtain enough

men to play.

14. Boat Trips - There is a 20' boat with a 25 HP outboard motor, and weekend trips to some of the adjoining islands are a pleasant break in the monotony.

15. Shooting - A good supply of .22 and shot gun ammunition is supplied for morale purposes, but target shooting is all that can be done. There is nothing here to hunt.

In conclusion, I can truthfully say that this station has many advantages and few disadvantages, as compared with other Loran Stations. The weather and climate are close to ideal, the station and station equipment are in excellent repair, recreational facilities are many and varied, supplies and mail are better than average, and the natives are interesting, sincere, honest people. The only disadvantage, which is true of most Loran Stations, is the isolation. Frankly, I think our type of isolation, which is complete, is far better than being closer to civilization, where the temptations are greater, but still impossible to go on liberty. All in all, this is a pretty wonderful place, and if it wasn't for the hardship of being away from loved ones, would be an ideal place to spend a year.

Enclosure (2)

Pictures of Loran Station Ulithi

Enclosed are negatives and contact prints of this Station. Some of the contact prints were processed rather hurriedly, so some of them are spotted and streaked. However, the negatives are in good condition. A brief description of each is as follows:

1. This sign is located at the airstrip, on the road leading to the Station.
2. Approaching the Station from the airstrip.
3. The same, BOQ on the left, barracks in the center back, and mess hall and galley in the right fore ground.
4. Looking NE, BOQ on right, barracks in center, galley on right, and Signal-Power bldg. on extreme right.
5. BOQ
6. Mess Hall-Galley with the corner of the barracks in the fore ground.
7. Laundry with barracks in the back ground.
8. Signal-Power bldg.
9. Recreation Hut.
10. Signal-Power bldg. on left, Laundry in center fore ground, galley in center back ground, barracks on right.
11. Jumbo quonset.
12. Taken from the roof of the Signal-Power bldg. Laundry on left fore ground, galley immediately behind it, BOQ in back, center, barracks on right, Small building in center fore ground is water catchment basement and pump house.
13. One of the men's huts in the village.
14. Other men's hut in the village.
15. Taken from our bathing beach looking toward Asor, the closest island.
16. The village school house.
17. Part of the village grave yard.
18. Part of the native village.
19. Native women practicing for the semi-annual dance held on the 4th of July and New Years day.
20. The Catholic church being built in the village by the Catholic missionary.