

HEADQUARTERS' PARTY INSPECTION - AUGUST 1950

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Excerpts

Ulithi LTS

On 8 August the party visited Ulithi Loran Station. The air strip on Falalop Island is in good condition after five years with no maintenance other than that than/provided by the natives. The air strip appears to be on bed coral and after carefully inspecting the area no evidence of waging or weathering of the coral could be found. It is believed that this air strip can be kept in good condition with very little if any maintenance. In view of the fact that a four hour DUKW ride is now required from Falalop to Pontangeras, it is believed that the loran station should be moved to Falalop. A cursory examination indicated that Falaop would be perfectly satisfactory for a loran station site and that it would not be more expensive to install the new station here. It is my opinion that the use of the DUKW is dangerous and will eventually lead to disaster. In addition considerable maintenance is required to keep the DUKW in an operating condition. I would strongly recommend that the new loran station be built alongside the air strip and that the Ulithi station continue to be supplied by aircraft operating out of Guam.

All previous military buildings on Falalop Island have been abandoned and are in advanced state of decay. Should the Coast Guard move to this Island, no responsibility for the up-keep of these buildings would accrue.