

AMERICAN LEGATION
OFFICE OF UNITED STATES NAVAL ATTACHE
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

041

G.P.O. BOX 24

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO. EN3-11nz/S67

Serial 041

RECEIVED
14 JUN 1944 10:34

S-E-C-R-E-T

29 June 1944.

SECRET

From: The Acting U.S. Naval Attache, Wellington, N.Z.
To : The Commander South Pacific Representative,
New Zealand.

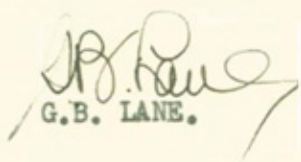
Subject: Loran Installation, Atafu Island.

References: (a) CinCPOA Secret letter 001278 dated 2 May 1944,
with ComSoPacRep 2nd endorsement, secret serial 00214.

Enclosures: (A) Three copies of New Zealand War Cabinet
Secretariat letter dated 23 June 1944.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded for transmittal to
the Commander-in-Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas
via the Commander South Pacific.

2. The second paragraph of Enclosure (A) refers
to Enclosure (B) of reference (a).


G.B. LANE.

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

C O P Y

WAR CABINET SECRETARIAT,
PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT
WELLINGTON C.1.

SECRET

23 June 1944.

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Dear Mr. Lane,

With further reference to your letter of 12th June Serial 034, regarding the construction of a Loran Station at Atafu Island in the Union Group, I have to inform you that information has been received that advance United States construction personnel who are visiting the island from time to time - no doubt to make arrangements for the reception of the main party when they arrive - are bringing in quantities of trade goods and engaging in trade with the Natives.

You will recall that in paragraph 12 of enclosure (b) with your note under reference it was stated that every effort would be made to prevent any interference with the Native mode of living.

You will realize that there is a small tariff on goods which are imported through normal trade channels and, while the total revenue is not of major consequence, it is desired that trade should be restricted to the normal channels.

In all the circumstances it is suggested that your authorities might be willing to take such action as they may consider appropriate in regard to trading by United States Service personnel.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Foss Shanahan.

Lieutenant G.B. Lane, USNR,
Acting United States Naval Attache,
Defence Services Building,
Stout Street,
WELLINGTON, C.1.

ENCLOSURE (A).

Pac-33-bwc

~~267121~~

AB-2 (3)

Serial 001278

SECRET

SECRET

MAY -2 1944

From: Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas.

To: Commander South Pacific Force, and South Pacific Area

Subject: Details of Proposed Loran Installation on Atafu Island, Union Group - forwarding of to New Zealand Government.

References: (a) CinCPOA Secret desp. 210055 of Dec. 1943.
 (b) CinCPac Secret desp. 150147 of Jan. 1944.
 (c) ComSoPac Secret desp. 170548 of Jan. 1944.
 (d) ComSoPac Rep. N.Z. Secret desp. 200934 of Jan. 1944.

Enclosures: (A) U.S. Navy Photograph (Relief) of Atafu Island, Union Group showing proposed site.
 (B) Details of Proposed Installation.

1. References (a) to (d) comprise a list of the previous exchange of information on the proposed Loran Site on Atafu Island, Union Group. Enclosures (A) and (B) are the details of the proposed installation.

2. The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, requests that the enclosures be presented to the New Zealand Government with a statement that if any further information is desired, it will be forwarded. The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, also wishes you to convey his sincere thanks to the New Zealand Government for their helpful cooperation.

C. H. McMorris
 Chief of Staff

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DETAILS OF PROPOSED INSTALLATION - ATAFU ISLAND

1. Location - LAT 8° 32' 09" S
LONG 172° 31' 18" W

This is a point on the north shore of the island in a large group of coconut trees, approximately one half mile northeast of the village.

2. Installation - will consist of 7 Quonset huts, each 20' x 48' in size which, together with necessary antenna masts and ground systems, will require a plot of ground 900' x 900' in size.
3. Clearing necessary - it will be necessary to remove approximately three hundred coconut palms at the site. (See paragraph 13.)
4. Interference - there will be no disturbance to existing installation other than the necessary removal of trees. No interference with the native radio station is anticipated.
5. Communications - will furnish own.
6. Water and Supplies - will furnish own.
7. Equipment - will furnish own construction equipment.
8. Assistance - in clearing site will be requested of native population. Suitable recompense for services will be made.
9. Sewage - will dispose into sea.
10. Landing - on west side of island about opposite village. No road necessary from landing to site.
11. Security - site will be fenced.
12. Personnel - have been carefully selected, and every effort will be made to prevent any interference with the native mode of living. Personnel stationed permanently at the site will consist of twenty-six men under the command of a U. S. Coast Guard Officer. During the construction period (estimated at two months) there will be an additional fourteen men and one officer on the island.

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DETAILS OF PROPOSED INSTALLATION - ATAFU ISLAND

13. Mr. Grotten, Secretary of Native Affairs, District Officer, Union Island Group will be notified so that he or his representative may be present during the construction period to make necessary readjustments to ownership of lands so that no hardships will ensue to natives giving up land or coconut palms for the Loran site.

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U.S. NAVAL OPERATING BASE
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

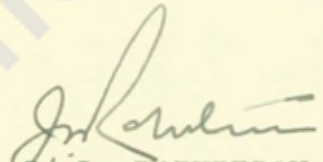
S67
Serial 00243

1 July 1944.

SECRET

From: The Commander South Pacific Representative,
New Zealand.
To : The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet
and Pacific Ocean Areas.
Via : The Commander South Pacific Area and South
Pacific Force.
Subject: Loran Installation, Atafu Island.
Reference: (a) U.S. Naval Attache, Wellington, New Zealand
secret letter serial 041 of 29 June 1944.
Enclosure: (A) Reference (a).

1. Enclosure (A) is transmitted herewith in accordance with paragraph 1 of reference (a).


J. L. ROBERTSON,
By direction.

Copy to: U.S. Naval Attache,
Wellington.

COMSOPAC FILE
S67/(33)

SOUTH PACIFIC AREA AND FORCE
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER

gdc

Serial 001583

Ab-2(3)

12 JUL 1944

SECRET

FIRST ENDORSEMENT TO:
ComSoPac Rep., N.Z.
Secret ltr. Ser. 00243
dated 1 July 1944.



From: The Commander South Pacific Area and Force.
To: The Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet
and Pacific Ocean Areas.
Subject: Loran Installation, Atafu Island.
1. Forwarded.

I. H. Mayfield
I. H. MAYFIELD,
Chief of Staff.

www.loran-history.com

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

....., 194.....

MEMORANDUM

From: Assistant Chief of Staff (Plans)

To : 001

Via j: 63

I am not informed as to background but see no reason to forbid trading with the natives if as recently agreed British firms are to be afforded facilities and shipping for the same purpose.

at any rate, should we not announce a clearcut policy rather than use the language of the last sentences of IP 3. If we do not know the desires of the governments - including our own - how does the Loan Committee learn them?

A6-2(3)

Serial

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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

2nd endorsement on
ComSoPac Rep., N.Z.
secret ltr., serial
00243 dated 1 July
1944.

From: Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and
Pacific Ocean Areas.
To: Commanding Officer, Command Unit Pacific Area
Construction Detachments (Coast Guard).
Subject: Loran Installation, Atafu Island.

1. Forwarded.
2. The Commanding Officer, Command Unit Pacific Area Construction Detachments (Coast Guard) is requested to investigate and report to the Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas the circumstances of the occurrences referred to in the basic letter of Enclosure (A).
3. It must be emphasized that it is highly important in dealings of this nature not to interfere with the native mode of living and this applies equally to Gardner, Makin and any other future locations which come under the control of governments other than our own. In all cases, there must be a clear understanding as to the desires of the government concerned as expressed by their regional representatives. All transactions with the natives must be accomplished through these representatives or as requested by them.
4. It is assumed that the necessary action will be taken to insure that no further occurrences of this nature arise.
5. Return of all papers is requested.

Copy to:
ComSoPac

Cincpac File

A6-2(3)
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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Serial 002153

SECRET

JUL 24 1944

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2nd Endorsement on
ComSoPac Rep., N.Z.
secret ltr., serial
00243 dated 1 July
1944.

From: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet and
Pacific Ocean Areas.
To: Commanding Officer, Command Unit Pacific Area
Construction Detachments (Coast Guard).

Subject: Loran Installation, Atafu Island.

1. Forwarded.
2. It is approved policy not to disturb the native economy beyond the degree required by the necessity of war.
3. It is approved policy not to permit direct commerce between the natives and occupying forces.
4. Imports into British territory of goods for commercial use are subject to local tariffs.
5. To the extent practicable and for the reasons set forth in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3, commercial transactions between the natives and our forces should be on the basis of satisfactory arrangements between the proper British authorities and commanding officers, United States Forces.
6. Return of all papers is requested.



J. H. TOWERS
Deputy Cincpac & Cincpos

Copy to:
ComSoPac.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif..

ADDRESS REPLY TO
Commanding Officer
C.G. Unit No. 203
AND REFER TO



28 July, 1944

SECRET

3rd Indorsement on
ComSoPac Rep., N.Z.
secret ltr., serial
00243 dated 1 July,
1944.

To: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas
Subj: Loran Installation, Atafu Island

1. Returned in accordance with the request contained in paragraph six (6) of the second indorsement. However, the only papers being returned are the second indorsement as this unit does not hold the basic communication or the first indorsement thereto.
2. The policy enunciated in the second indorsement is being carried out by Coast Guard Construction Detachments. Further information in this regard might be of assistance to this unit in administering this policy.

Garrett Horder
GARRETT HORDER
By direction

www.loran-history.info

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