United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Peleliu Battlefield, Palau Islands

and or common State of Peleliu, Republic of Palau (Belau)

2. Location

street & number ___ not for publication

city, town ___ vicinity of

state Peleliu code 75 county Palau code 030

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_X_ occupied	_X_ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	_X_ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
_X_ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	_X_ other: jungle

4. Owner of Property

name Government of the State of Peleliu

street & number Republic of Palau

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. None

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes _X_ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	X ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Peleliu battlefield includes all of Peleliu Island which is in the southern Palau Islands. Peleliu is 30 miles south of Koror, the capital of the Republic of Palau, and 500 miles east of the Philippine Islands. It is six miles in length and two miles in width. Shaped much like a lobster's claw, the coral-limestone island is relatively flat at its southern end, where a runway from World War II still is in use. North of the former airfield, the terrain changes to a jumble of broken coral ridges generally running north and south and separated by narrow valleys or ravines. The steep cliffs and rugged peaks, with elevations up to 300 feet, contain hundreds of natural caves, which Japanese troops improved for defensive purposes. This area was known militarily as Umurbrogol Mountain or Pocket.

A string of ridges continue along the northern arm of the island terminating in a complex of peaks named Amiangal Mountain. Before the war, Japanese operated a phosphate crushing plant in this area, of which no trace remains. The shorter, eastern arm of Peleliu is low, flat ground containing swamps and dense growths of mangrove in tidal waters. By the end of the 1944 battle most of Peleliu's vegetation had been destroyed. It is said that a person could see from one end of the island to the other. Today, the island is covered with a lush, thick growth of jungle. Here and there small plots of taro and other crops are cultivated. Being only a few degrees above the equator, Peleliu's climate is humid and hot and, for persons not accustomed to it, debilitating.

Today's population of 250 people live primarily at two villages which were reconstructed after the war, Klouklubed (the capital) and Imelchol, both near the north end of the northern arm. On the fringes of Klouklubed are a Japanese reinforced-concrete radio station which bears the scars of war, the ruins of a chapel built by the 321st Infantry Regiment in 1944, and a stone monument believed to have been erected by that unit. Also at the north end of the island is Elochel Dock, built around a Japanese concrete-block pier and used by the interisland ferry and fishing boats. Near the south end of Peleliu, on the west side, is a small-boat basin that was constructed by Seabees soon after the battle. It occupies the area known as Beach Orange 3 during the American invasion.

Much evidence of Japanese defenses and of the battle for Peleliu remains.[1] The World War II invasion beaches, other than Beach Orange 3, are unchanged from their 1944 appearance except that the jungle now crowds down to the edge of the sand and coral outcroppings. Inland, there are remains, such as concrete slabs, from the post-battle American installation that covered the more level terrain. Coral outcroppings at both ends of Beaches White 1 and 2 and a low

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1. Because the writer could spend only two full days on Peleliu, the description that follows owes a considerable debt to a one-month survey carried out by Dr. D. Colt Denfeld for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

coral ridge inland that parallels the shore all contain pillboxes and gun casemates. Beach Orange 2 is the site of the former American military cemetery and a present Palauan cemetery. In the American area are two large stone monuments that originally were dedicated to the First Marine Division and the Eighty-first Infantry Division but from which the bronze plaques have been removed.[2] A few wooden posts and small metal crosses, most with rusted American steel helmets placed on top, and a flagstaff are near the monuments. The concrete steps at a former military chapel now lead nowhere. The cemetery is known locally as "U-S-A."[3]

At the site of the airfield, three major Japanese reinforced-concrete structures remain, all bearing the signs of American bombardments. The most impressive of these is the two-story administrative building, which is similar to the Japanese headquarters at Ushi Point Field, Tinian Island. Steel shutters cover some of the windows. Nearby is a large underground air raid or storage shelter. The third structure is a heavily damaged aviation gasoline storage building of the same design as storage buildings on Saipan Island. In addition, several standard concrete air raid shelters remain in the area. Immediately after the capture of the airfield, American Seabees repaired and lengthened the two X-shaped runways. The crushed-coral, northeast-southwest runway, 6,000 feet in length, remains operable for light aircraft; the other runway is not maintained.

Several concrete and coral pillboxes remain at the southern end of Peleliu as does the one circular blockhouse the Japanese had in their defenses. This blockhouse, said to be in good condition, was constructed on the same general plan as blockhouses on Saipan and Roi-Namur.[4] Japanese citizens have erected two memorials or shrines on southern Peleliu. One of these is a handsomely designed shrine sited at the foot of an unnamed ridge in the vicinity of a pre-war village named Omoak. It is enclosed with a low fence and a torii stands at the entrance. The other memorial was placed at the former United States military cemetery.

The Japanese constructed strong defense works on the northwest coast of Peleliu in the vicinity of the former village of Garekoru and named Beach Amber

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2. Bronze plaques have a short life in the Central Pacific. Bronze is simply too precious to be used in such a manner.

3. American dead were eventually reburied in the Philippine Islands.

4. Official Marine histories mention other blockhouses on Peleliu. An exhaustive, post-battle study of the island's terrain and defenses by the Intelligence Section, First Marine Division, shows only this one.

by Marines. American forces did not land at this beach; rather army troops easily overran the area on their drive north on West Road. Today, many rifle pits, gun emplacements, personnel shelters, and ammunition caves remain in the midst of the coral and jungle.

The limestone ridges and ravines in the last center of Japanese resistance, "the Umurbrogol Pocket," undoubtedly contain much evidence of the battle for Peleliu. U.S. Marines counted over 100 caves that were occupied by Japanese troops in this area. The rugged terrain and the thick jungle now covering the area make a thorough investigation difficult. The cave in which the Japanese army commanders committed suicide in a ridge named China Wall has been identified. It is described as being a vertical fault containing three separate caves.[5] One feature in the Pocket that played a critical role during the battle is accessible, Bloody Nose Ridge. The almost-sheer face of this ridge is only a few hundred yards north of the airfield, on the southern edge of the Umurbrogol complex. This particular coral peak and four others nearby were identified as the Five Sisters during the battle. The 1st Marines attacked Bloody Nose soon after landing on Peleliu and suffered devastating casualties in the failed attempt. Despite repeated attacks by Marine and Army units, the Japanese held this position for two months, almost to the end of their organized resistance.

Today, a trail and steps have been cut to the top of Bloody Nose Ridge. On top there is a large stone monument built soon after the fighting. Although there is no identification on it, it is believed to have been built for or by the 323d Infantry Regiment which finally captured the Five Sisters. In 1983, the United States Navy commander on Guam had a flagstaff and a United States flag placed on top of the ridge. From the peak one may view much of the Umurbrogol Pocket, including the other Sisters, Walt Ridge, and Horseshoe Valley. Jungle now completely smothers the harsh landscape of 1944.

Not far from Bloody Nose Ridge, sitting in a natural cave on the slope of yet another mass of coral limestone, is a Japanese 200mm (8-inch), short-barreled naval gun, one of the largest weapons in Peleliu's defenses. It was one of four such weapons that were emplaced in the northern ridges for anti-shipping and coastal defense fire and mounted on spider-like steel frameworks 23 feet in diameter. U.S. Marine intelligence officers concluded that these guns had been hurriedly emplaced for none had been fired before being captured. The weapon appears to be in excellent condition. On level ground at the base of this ridge are remnants of a barbed-wire enclosure which is believed to have been built by United States forces as a holding area for prisoners of war. Across the trail from the enclosure stands a lone U.S. light tank, M-3, mounting a 37mm gun. The white stars painted on the turret and body are clearly visible.

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5. D. Colt Denfeld, "Survey of Peleliu," a draft, 1983.

A Japanese light tank, type 95, missing its turret and 37mm gun, may be found at the northwest end of the abandoned runway, about 1,300 yards southwest of the American tank. Other vehicles remaining on Peleliu include several U.S. landing vehicles, tracked (LVT). One of these is a LVT(A)4 armed with a 75mm howitzer, M-8.[6]

Amiangal Mountain at the north end of Peleliu consists of an L-shaped complex of hills and ridges. Four hills that make up the bottom of the L were collectively named during the fighting Hill Row and, individually, Hills 1, 2, 3, and Radar Hill (after a Japanese installation). The caves in this area are larger and better made than those in the Umurbrogol Pocket. The reason for this is said to be that the Amiangal caves were constructed by Japanese naval troops who had comfort in mind as well as defense and the services of a tunnel construction unit, while army troops constructed those in the Pocket primarily for a prolonged defense. One of the larger caves in the north was a three-chambered hospital with a fourth room hollowed out one story below. Dug into Hill 3, the 140-foot-long cave was fitted out with electric lights and a radio. When U.S. soldiers entered this cave they found fifty dead Japanese, most of whom had bandages over their eyes and had been shot in the head. U.S. Marines dubbed the hospital Mercy Cave.[7] Probably the largest cave on Peleliu is found near the top of the Amiangal L. This "Thousand-Man Cave," consisting of numerous interconnected tunnels, runs entirely through the ridge and has several entrances.[8]

Peleliu Island is today a state in the Republic of Palau. All land on the island is owned by the extended families, the clans, the traditional chiefs, and the paramount chief--all at the same time. The concepts of private ownership, titles, or real estate taxes are foreign to Peleliu. Peleliu has an elected governor who heads the state on political matters.

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6. Denfeld states these are the only LVTs surviving on land battlefields in the Pacific.

7. 321d Infantry Regiment, Unit Report, October 14, 1944, World War II Operations Reports, Record Group 407, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, MD.

8. Dorothy E. Richard, United States Naval Administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 3 vols. (Washington: Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, 1957), 1:157, states this indeed was the largest cave on Peleliu and when it was captured on September 30, 1944, it contained more than 1,000 men! Denfeld records in his survey that Japanese (re-?)occupied the cave as late as February 1945.

All of Peleliu Island is recommended for nomination as a National Historic Landmark so as to include: the southern end of the island with its two promontories, small-boat harbor, Japanese (and American) airfield and administrative area, landing beaches and adjacent reef on the west coast, and fortifications, weapons, and military vehicles; the complex of coral ridges known as the Umurbrogal Pocket; the west coast with its Japanese fortifications and the West Road; the north arm of Peleliu with its ridges, caves, and East Road; and the east arm of Peleliu with its fortifications. These areas contain the features and objects associated with the Japanese defenses and the battle for Peleliu.

Excluded from the recommendation are the two villages in northern Peleliu, Klouklubed and Imelchol, which were rebuilt after the war. (The manner of land tenure precludes drawing exact boundaries around the villages.) Remnants of post-battle American installations, such as concrete slabs, on Peleliu are not considered to be historically significant.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	___ education	X military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1944 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The battle for Peleliu Island, the Gateway to the Philippines, was the longest and one of the most hard-fought battles in the entire Central Pacific amphibious operations of World War II. In contrast to earlier combats where the Japanese had vainly attempted to annihilate the enemy on the beaches, Peleliu's defenses were organized with the main line of resistance established inland, artillery and mortar fire registered on the beaches, and defenses skillfully arranged in depth in order to sustain resistance to an attack while destroying the enemy. Although the crack Japanese troops lost the battle, their new tactics enabled them to inflict heavy losses on American Marine and Army forces and to hold out for 74 days. While some strategists have argued that the capture of Peleliu was not a necessary preliminary for the coming struggle in the Philippines, brave men bled and died in the Palaus for their beliefs and their loyalties. Peleliu marked the conclusion of the Central Pacific drive toward the Philippines.[1] A new phase of the Pacific War was already underway.

Background

Japan seized the Palau Islands, along with the rest of Micronesia, from Germany in World War I. Receiving a mandate from the League of Nations after the war, Japan established its administrative headquarters for Micronesia at Koror, the capital of the Republic of Palau today. On Peleliu Island, thirty miles south of Koror, a phosphate crushing plant was established and, by World War II, an excellent airfield had been constructed. When war came, the Palaus served as a staging area and replacement depot for Japan's forces in the Netherlands East Indies and New Guinea.

Even before the U.S. Navy carried out a devastating fast carrier strike on naval installations at Truk Atoll in February 1944, the Japanese had pulled all forward-based elements of the Combined Fleet back to Palau. At this same time, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Southwest Pacific forces prepared to move into the Hollandia area in New Guinea in their drive toward the Philippines. Concerned that Japanese naval and air power in the Palaus could strike at Hollandia, a large task force of fast carriers under Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher raided Palau on March 30 and 31, 1944. Peleliu's fighter planes rose to the

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1. Adm. William F. Halsey, commander of the Western Pacific Task Forces, was the one officer who argued against attacking Palau before the operation took place. He recommended that Leyte in the Philippines be attacked directly because of the weakening Japanese position there. See E.B. Potter, Nimitz (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1976), p. 392.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7,680 acres

Quadrangle name None **Quadrangle scale** None

UTM References Not available

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Erwin N. Thompson, Historian

organization National Park Service, Denver Service Center **date** June 1, 1984

street & number 755 Parfet Street **telephone** (303) 234-4509

city or town Denver **state** Colorado 80225

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89–665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title **date**

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1983 O - 419-311

defense and many were shot down. American planes succeeded in mining the harbor at Koror and destroyed or damaged 36 Japanese ships.

Spurred on by this raid to strengthen Palau's defenses, Japan transferred the veteran Fourteenth Division under Lt. Gen. Sadae Inoue from Manchuria to Palau in April 1944. Inoue established his headquarters at Koror and placed the bulk of his army force on adjacent Babeldaup Island where he planned to fight to the death. He dispatched the reinforced 2d Infantry Regiment under Col. Kunio Nakagawa to Peleliu and one battalion of the 59th Infantry Regiment to Angaur, an island seven miles south of Peleliu. Peleliu's garrison amounted to approximately 10,500 men of whom 6,500 were combat troops and some 4,000 were naval personnel.[2]

Nakagawa carefully planned the island's defenses in depth. Potential landing beaches were mined, offshore obstacles erected, anti-tank ditches skillfully located so as to channel enemy tanks toward anti-tank weapons, barbed wire strung, and artillery and mortars placed so as to shell the beaches with direct and enfilade fire. Extensive cave fortifications honeycombed the limestone ridges in the northern half of the island.

Stalemate II

The American plan for the invasion of Palau, Stalemate II, as it finally evolved, called for Adm. William F. Halsey to command the Western Pacific Task Forces. Halsey's Third Fleet covered the approach of the Joint Expeditionary Force. Maj. Gen. Julian C. Smith, USMC, commanded the Expeditionary Troops, and Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, USMC, was in charge of the III Amphibious Corps. Under Geiger, Maj. Gen. William H. Rupertus, USMC, commanded the First Marine Division which was to seize Peleliu, and Maj. Gen. Paul J. Mueller, USA, commanded the Eighty-first Infantry Division which was to caputre Angaur and Ulithi Atoll. Stalemate II was the largest amphibious force yet seen in the Pacific. Its strength totaled 800 vessels, 1,600 aircraft, and 250,000 men.[3]

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2. Because the senior naval officer on Peleliu, Vice Admiral Itou, was a flag officer and because of the intense rivalry between the Japanese army and naval commands, Inoue sent Maj. Gen. Kenjiro Murai to Peleliu to coordinate with the admiral. Colonel Nakagawa remained in command of Peleliu's defenses.

3. Simultaneous with the invasion of the southern Palaus, General MacArthur's forces seized Morotari Island, 450 miles to the southwest, as a second anchor for the forthcoming Philippines campaign.

The First Marine Division, thoroughly experienced in the Guadalcanal and New Britain campaigns, was composed of the 1st, 5th, and 7th Marine Regiments and the 11th Marine Artillery Regiment. The Eight-first Infantry Division had no previous combat experience but had completed jungle and amphibious training in Hawaii. Its 321st and 322d Infantry Regiments were assigned the capture of Angaur, while its 323d Regiment was to occupy Ulithi Atoll about halfway between Palau and the Mariana Islands. The two divisions were brought together on Guadalcanal for a week of tactical rehearsals before sailing west.

Begining in August 1944, the U.S. Thirteenth Air Force began bombing the Palaus. On September 6, Halsey's fast carrier groups started full-scale attacks on the islands. Six days later, a naval gunfire bombardment of Peleliu and Angaur began. D-Day for landing on Peleliu was set for September 15. Mine-sweepers and underwater demolition teams began sweeping the waters and removing obstacles from Peleliu's southwestern beaches. Early morning, September 15, found the Third Amphibious Corps off Peleliu. The First Marine Division prepared to land.

The Battle

Peleliu's southwestern beaches had been code-named White 1 and 2 and Orange 1, 2, and 3. The three reinforced regiments (regimental combat teams, RCTs), landing abreast on a 2,200-yard beachhead, touched shore at 8:33 a.m. On the left (north), two battalions of the 1st Marines landed on Beaches White 1 and 2. In the center, two battalions of the 5th Marines hit Beaches Orange 1 and 2. The 7th Marines came ashore in a column of battalions on Beach Orange 3 on the right (south). Immediately, murderous Japanese mortar fire and enfilading cannon fire on both flanks swept the beaches hitting as many as sixty landing vehicles and fifteen tanks. Observing the smoking vehicles, Colonel Nakagawa reported, too optimisticly, to Koror, "Our forces successfully put the enemy to rout."[4]

On the 1st Marines' extreme left flank, Japanese gunners placed enfilading fire from positions in a coral outcropping at the water's edge. Seventy yards inland, an unsuspected coral ridge was alive with Japanese who swept the beach with machine gun and rifle fire. A company of Marines successfully reduced the coral outcropping but with heavy casualties. Moreover, the company became cut off from the adjacent unit and would remain isolated for the next thirty hours. The Marine Corps' official history concludes that had the Japanese mounted a major counterattack at this point, "the Marines might have

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4. Japanese Monograph No. 49, "Central Pacific Operations Record," vol. 2, April-November 1944, p. 85.

been driven into the sea."[5] The 1st Marines' right flank battalion on Beach White 2 had better success. It reached its first objective 350 yards inland by mid-morning, encountering moderate resistance. There it halted because of the stalemate on the left. By 9 a.m., the 5th Marines had reached its objective, an open space on the west side of the airfield. The left battalion halted at that point because of the inability of the 1st Marines to advance. The right battalion had more success. Although the battalion's units became scattered, one company succeeded in driving across the island and reaching the eastern shore.

The 7th Marines on the southern flank experienced much the same withering enfilade fire as did the 1st Marines. From a small islet and a promontory at the south end of Peleliu, the Japanese delivered heavy fire against the 7th's exposed flank. The regiment continued to make progress, however, until it came up against a heavily fortified area containing the Japanese circular blockhouse. There it dug in for the night to await the assistance of tanks. In the day-long drive, the 7th Marines, too, suffered heavy casualties.

In the late afternoon, the Japanese made their first counterattack when from twelve to seventeen light tanks emerged in front of the 5th Marines.[6] Although a few tanks got through to the beachhead all but one were destroyed. Despite the troubles on the flanks, the Marines had succeeded in establishing a beachhead 3,000 yards long, 500 yards average depth, and a maximum depth of 1,500 yards.

On September 16, the 5th Marines completed the capture of the airfield. In the south, the 7th Marines overcame the blockhouse and reached the eastern shore. It gained all of southern Peleliu by nightfall except two promontories at the southern tip. In the north, the 1st Marines began a turning movement northward against the Umurbrogal ridges beyond the airfield. Quickly running into fierce resistance, the Marines made little progress.

The next day, D+2, the 1st Marines gained a few hundred yards in the level area of the west coast, up West Road, but were thwarted gain in the attempt to gain the limestone ridges, especially at Bloody Nose Ridge. The 1st Marines

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5. George W. Garand and Truman R. Strobridge, Western Pacific Operations. History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II, vol. 4 (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1971), p. 114.

6. It is probable that the light tank on Peleliu today was one of those in this abortive attack.

counted 1,500 casualties in their ranks by the end of this third day of fighting. Meanwhile, the 7th Marines completed the capture of southern Peleliu, including the promontories; and the 5th Marines began an easy drive up the eastern arm of the island.

American light planes were able to land on the airfield on September 19. That same day, the 1st Marines renewed the attack on the ridges, making small gains, but were again stopped at Bloody Nose Ridge. To the east, a company of the 7th Marines gained the crest of Walt Ridge but, suffering extremely heavy casualties, was forced to withdraw. During the next three days both the 1st and 7th RCTs assaulted the ridges time and again, without success. By September 22, the First Marine Division had suffered nearly 4,000 casualties, the 1st Marine Regiment alone losing 56 percent of its strength. General Rupertus decided to cease frontal attacks on the southern ridges; instead, he planned a drive up the west coast and an attack on the Umurbrogal complex from the north.

Before the invasion, General Rupertus thought he could capture Peleliu in four days. A week had now passed and despite the heavy casualties, Rupertus was unwilling to call for assistance from army troops of the Eighty-first Infantry Division. He remained so stubborn about this, that the corps commander, General Geiger, had to step in and direct the 321st Infantry Regiment to move from Angaur to Peleliu, where it landed September 23. The depleted 1st Marine Regiment was taken off Peleliu on September 30, its casualty figure having reached 1,672.

Another reason Rupertus wished to take northern Peleliu at this time was the 25,000-man Japanese force on Babeldaup that could be expected to reinforce Peleliu. Indeed, on September 23, Japanese barges approached the island from the north. The Americans spotted this reinforcement and sank the barges. Most of the Japanese made it to shore nevertheless. The same scene occurred the following night. It was estimated that from 600 to 700 Japanese reinforcements reached Peleliu.

On September 24, Rupertus sent his unwanted soldiers on a push up the West Road. The 321st RCT reached its objective, discovering along the way a trail running across the ridges toward East Road.[7] A company, directed to explore the trail, moved eastward and succeeded in capturing Hill 100, the northern bastion of the Japanese defenses in the Umurbrogal ridges. The following day,

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7. On this drive up West Road, the army troops gained the enmity of the 7th Marines who were assigned the task of following the 321st to screen the West Road from flanking fire. The soldiers were supposed to have moved along the west ridge and the road; in fact, they stayed only on the road, forcing the 7th Marines to fight the Japanese on the ridge.

the 321st reached East Road thus dividing the Japanese defenses on the island. At the same time, it pushed north along West Road until it reached the village of Garekoru. The 5th Marines took over at this point to begin the process of cleaning up the northern tip of Peleliu and its elaborate caves in the Amiangal ridges. On September 28, the 5th Marines also occupied Naegebus Island and its unfinished runway. Marine Fighter Squadron 114 provided air support on this occasion.

As September drew to a close, Japanese losses were estimated to be over 9,250, while the First Marine Division's casualties had mounted to over 5,000 men.

On September 30, the 7th Marines began an asault on the Umurbrogal ridges in an effort to reduce the pocket, which measured about 1,500 yards north to south and 500 yards in width. Elements of the 5th Marines joined the attack the following day. By October 3, the Marines had captured the crests of two important ridges, Walt and Boyd, on the eastern side of the pocket, thus opening East Road. The 7th Marines, particularly, experienced heavy casualties in this four-day fight. By the evening of October 4, the 7th "was no longer able to function as an effective combat unit on the regimental level."[8] Rupertus ordered the 5th Marines to relieve the 7th.[9]

Between October 6 and 14, the 5th Marines made repeated attacks on the pocket, steadily making small gains, particularly in the north and northwest. It captured such landmarks as Baldy Ridge, Ridge 120, Ridge 3, Hill 140, and knobs of coral not named. Then, on October 14, General Rupertus withdrew all the First Marine Division from the battle lines, replacing it with the 321st RCT and a battalion of the 323d Infantry Regiment freshly arrived from Ulithi Atoll.[10] Rupertus remained in command at Peleliu until October 20 when Maj. Gen. Paul J. Mueller, commanding the 81st Infantry Division, replaced him. During the month the First Marine Division fought on Peleliu it suffered no fewer than 6,265 casualties, of which 1,124 were dead and 117 were missing.

Colonel Nakagawa[11] reported on October 14 that his force had been reduced to 1,150 armed men.

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8. Garand and Strobridge, Western Pacific Operations, p. 236.

9. The 321st replaced the 5th Marines in northern Peleliu and offshore islets. It was its turn to become angry at the Marines for not having done a better job of cleaning out Japanese-held caves.

10. All of the 323d RCT was on Peleliu by October 24.

11. Japanese Monograph No. 49, p. 143.

The Eighty-first began a methodical tightening of its lines around the pocket on October 21. Not without difficulty it captured the northern hills called the Five Brothers, one by one. In Horseshoe Valley, west of Walt Ridge, it succeeded in cutting the Japanese off from their water supply at Grinlinton Pond. (This accomplishment was offset by heavy rains that replenished the Japanese water supply.) On November 2, the 323d RCT captured the Five Sisters, including Bloody Nose Ridge against which the 1st Marines had hurled itself so long ago. Japanese fighting strength was now reduced to 350 men. Little action occurred on either side between November 4 and 9 as a typhoon swept over Peleliu. On November 13, the assault and occupation of Peleliu was again announced, this time by General Geiger.

That same day, the two infantry regiments began the final drive. On November 24, the Japanese burned the 2d Infantry's regimental flag and all secret documents. In the evening a last radio message was sent to Koror advising that the 56 remaining combatants had organized into seventeen raiding groups and would hide in the jungle and caves to harass the enemy. During the night, General Murai and Colonel Nakagawa committed suicide. It had taken U.S. forces almost 2½ months to complete what began as a four-day operation.

The Eight-first Division did not declare an end to organized resistance until November 27:

> At 1030, 27 November all organized resistance on Peleliu ceased when the Commanders of the battalions of the 323rd Infantry met at the cave which had been the headquarters of Colonel Kunio Nakagawa, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Regiment, 14th Japanese Imperial Division and the last high ranking Japanese Commander on Peleliu.[12]

The division's casualties in the Palaus amounted to 542 killed and 3,275 wounded or injured. For months to come, Japanese continued to be captured or killed on the island. In January 1945, a Japanese raiding party landed on Peleliu. It was swiftly wiped out. Twenty-seven Japanese surrendered in April 1947. As late as 1955 a Korean civilian was seized on Peleliu--two years after the Korean War.

As they had in earlier battles, Japanese-Americans (Nisei) performed important duties on Peleliu as interpreters and translators. The Third Amphibious Corps reported also that it had made extensive use of the famous Navajo Talkers in

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12. 321st Infantry, "Operation Report, Stalemate II, Palau Islands," December 29, 1944, Adjutant General's Office, World War II Operations Reports, 1940-1948, Record Group 407, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, MD.

their radio communications. Not so successful was the use of the Marines' war dogs. While the dogs served well in the beginning on sentry duty and patrols, they became increasingly nervous and tired under the strain of heavy mortar fire. As the battle progressed, many of their handlers were killed or wounded and strangers could not work the dogs. An exceptional dog was Duke, Z876, a German shepherd, who carried twenty pounds of maps and papers 1½ miles across the airfield under heavy enemy mortar fire.

The remaining Japanese in Palau, some 25,000, spent the rest of World War II waiting for the enemy to land so that they could give their lives for their Emperor. The opportunity never came. On Peleliu, U.S. Navy Seabees reconstructed the Japanese airfield and built a naval base. Army engineers hacked a bomber field out of the jungle on nearby Angaur. Ulithi Atoll became an important fleet anchorage, especially for the 1945 invasion of Okinawa.

Bloody Nose Ridge, Five Sisters, Five Brothers, China Wall, Death Valley, Snipers' Mile, Hell's Pocket, Baldy Ridge. . . . The Palau operation turned out to be one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific War--and one of the most forgotten.

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U.S. Marine Corps. "III Phib Corps, Report on Palaus Operation," October 24, 1944; Division Intelligence Section, First Marine Division, "Peleliu, Its Terrain and Defenses," reprint, n.d.; Headquarters, Expeditionary Troops, Third Fleet, "Report on Japanese Troops in the Palaus," August 28, 1944, all in U.S. Marine Corps Records, World War II, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, MD.

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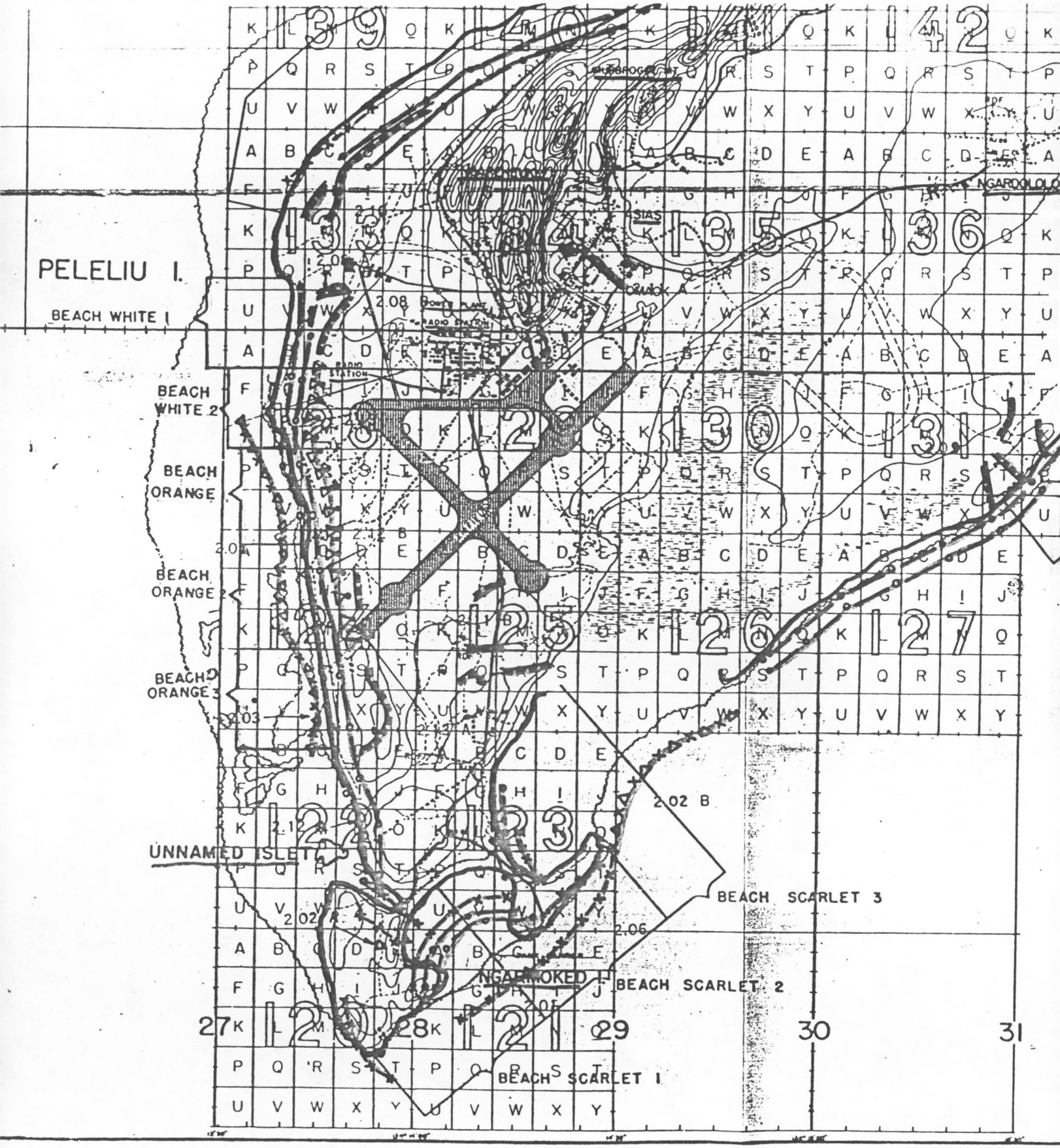
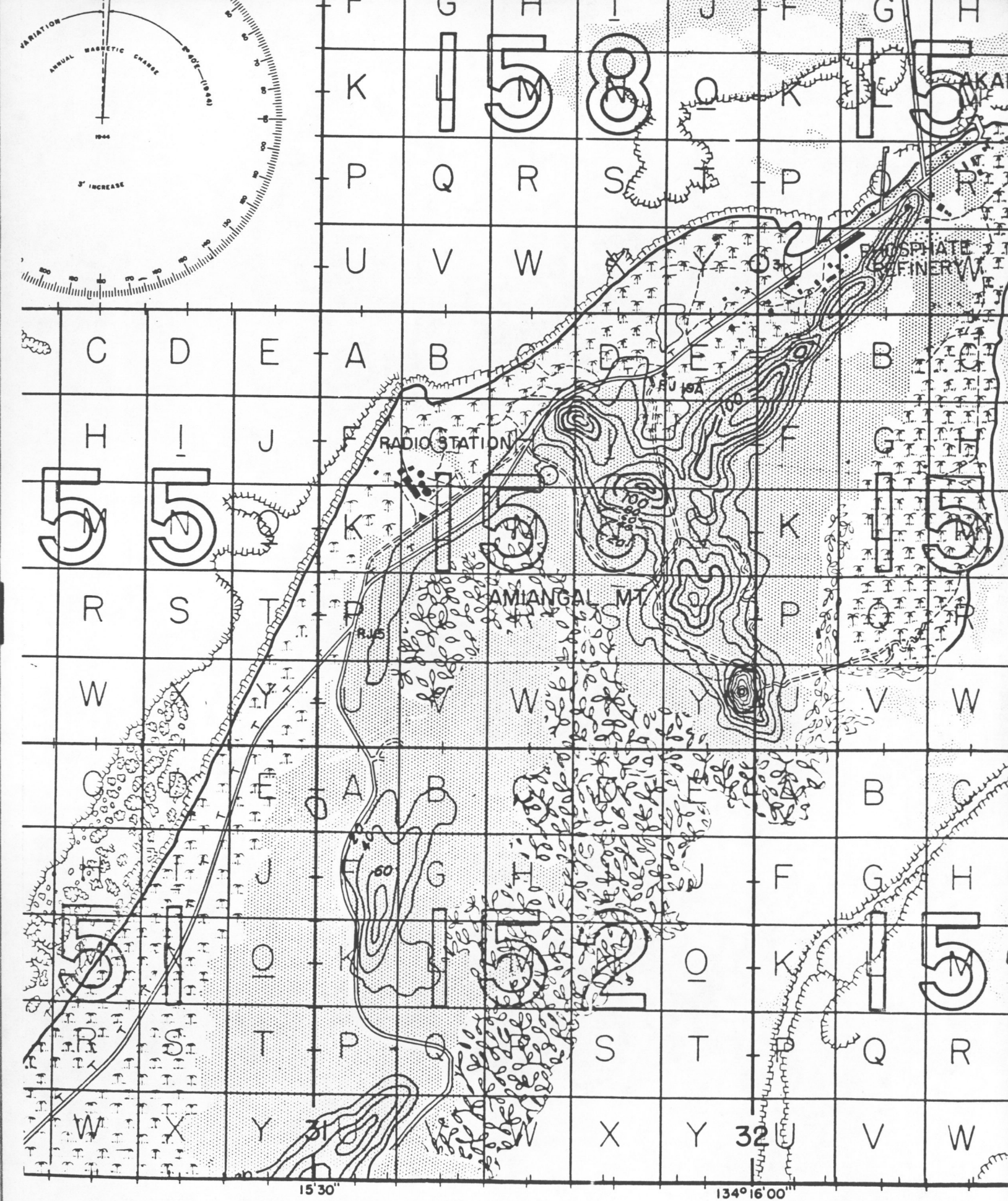
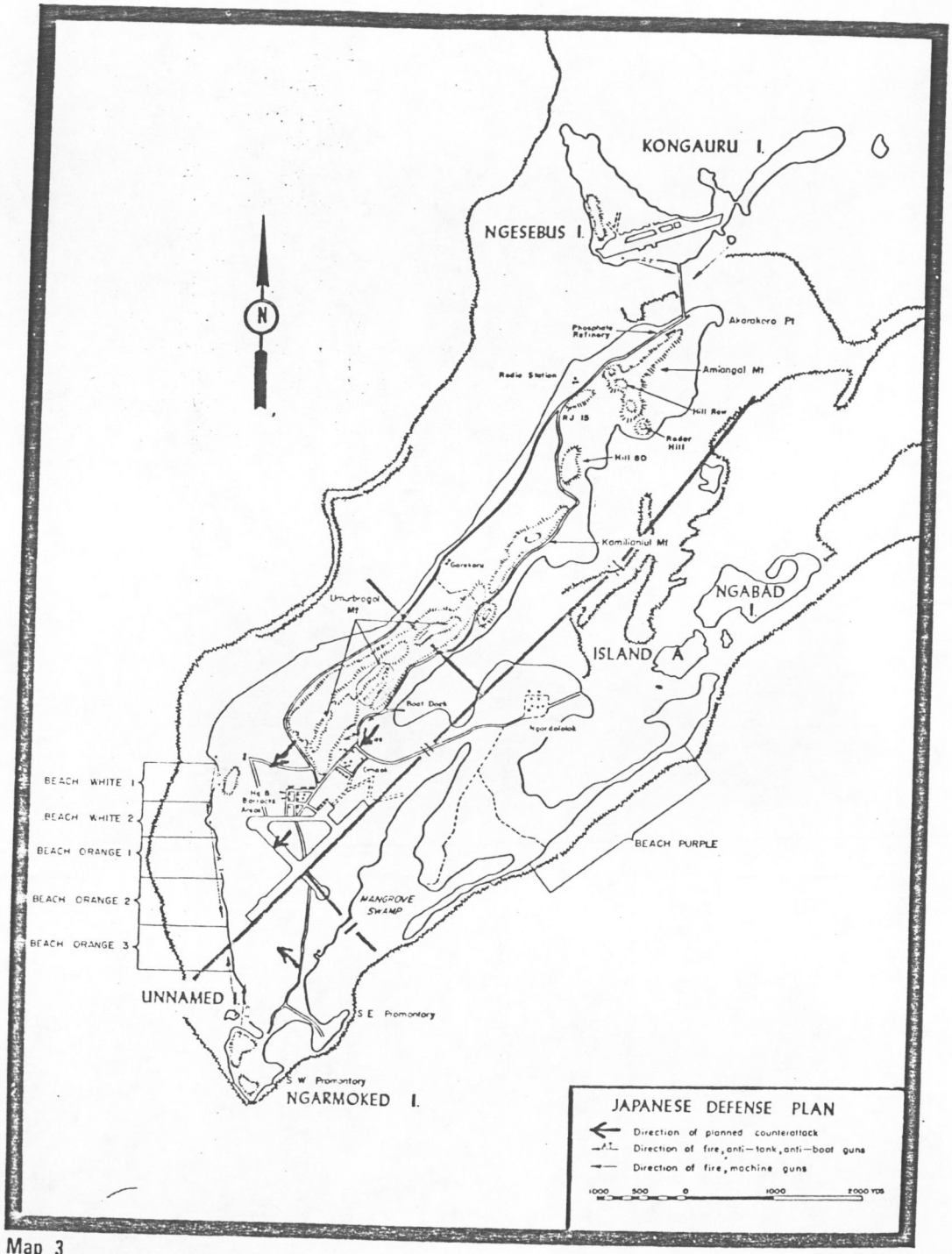
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The boundary of Peleliu Battlefield is the natural boundary of Peleliu Island where it meets the sea. The United States landings on Peleliu and the subsequent fighting involved all of the island with no exception. Structures in the two villages of Klouklubed and Imelchol are within this boundary but are excluded from the historically significant terrain, both being of post-war construction. Land surveys have not been made on Peleliu and, because of local customs concerning land tenure, specific boundaries cannot be drawn around these villages.


PELELIU I.
BEACH WHITE I
BEACH WHITE 2
BEACH ORANGE
BEACH ORANGE 2
BEACH ORANGE 3
UNNAMED ISLET
NGARDOLOLO
NGARMOKED I.
BEACH SCARLET 3
BEACH SCARLET 2
BEACH SCARLET I
2.02 B
2.06
2.08
2.03
27
28
29
30
31


VARIATION
ANNUAL MAGNETIC CHANGE
1944
3' INCREASE
158
15
55
15
51
152
15
PHOSPHATE REFINERY
RADIO STATION
AMIANGAL MT.
RJ 19A
RJ 15
100
60
31
32
15'30"
134°16'00"



Map 3

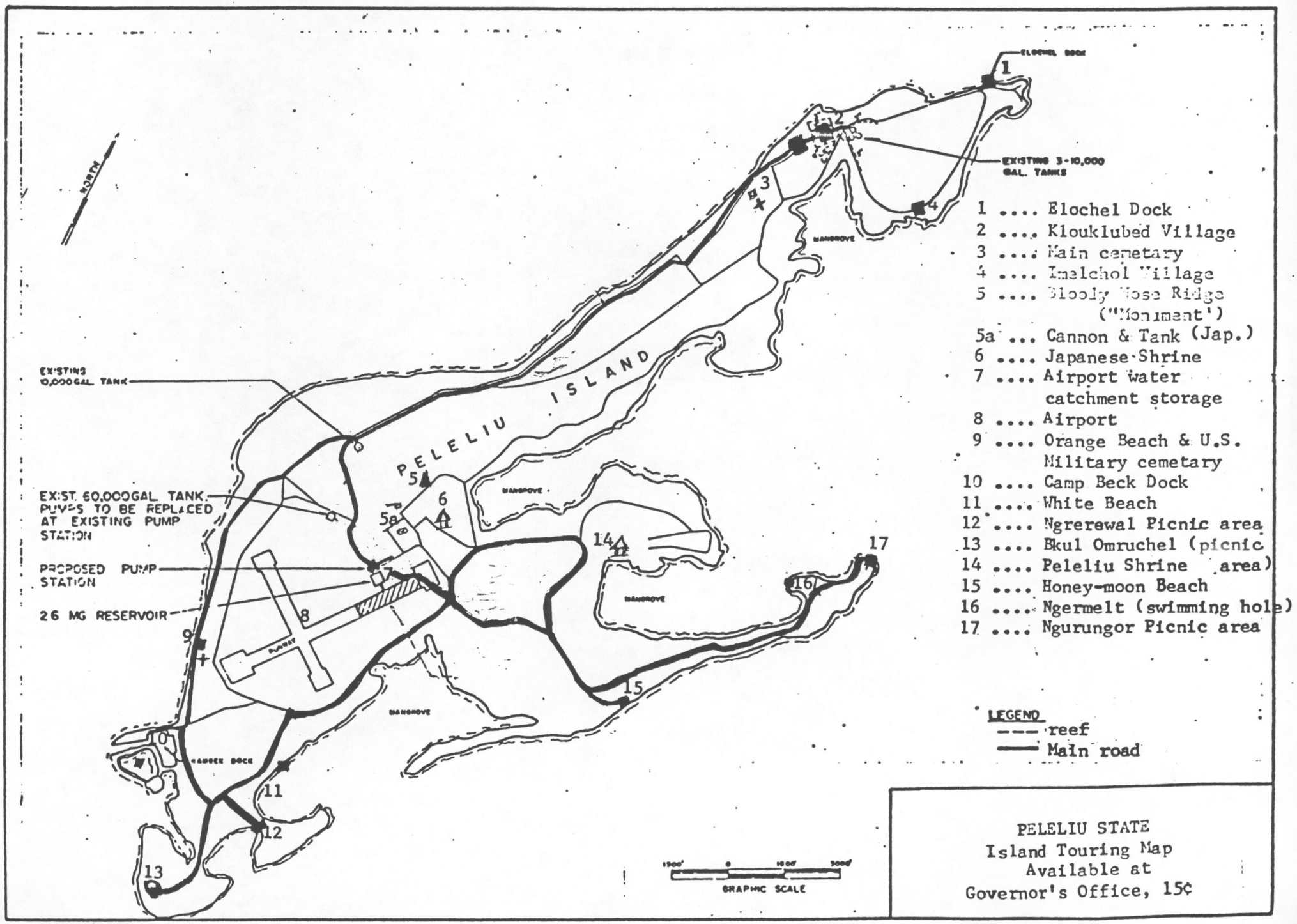
E. L. Wilson

R. Johnstone

Printed by the U. S. Army Topographic Command

MAP X

FROM ROBERT ROSS SMITH, THE APPROACH TO THE PHILIPPINES


NORTH
EXISTING 3-10,000 GAL. TANKS
EXISTING 10,000 GAL. TANK
EXIST. 60,000 GAL. TANK. PUMPS TO BE REPLACED AT EXISTING PUMP STATION
PROPOSED PUMP STATION
26 MG RESERVOIR
PELELIU ISLAND
MANGROVE
GRAPHIC SCALE
1 .... Elochel Dock
2 .... Klouklubed Village
3 .... Main cemetary
4 .... Imelchol Village
5 .... Bloody Nose Ridge ("Monument")
5a ... Cannon & Tank (Jap.)
6 .... Japanese Shrine
7 .... Airport water catchment storage
8 .... Airport
9 .... Orange Beach & U.S. Military cemetary
10 .... Camp Beck Dock
11 .... White Beach
12 .... Ngrerewal Picnic area
13 .... Bkul Omruchel (picnic area)
14 .... Peleliu Shrine
15 .... Honey-moon Beach
16 .... Ngermelt (swimming hole)
17 .... Ngurungor Picnic area
LEGEND
reef
Main road
PELELIU STATE
Island Touring Map
Available at
Governor's Office, 15¢

7. Japanese 200mm, short-barreled naval gun overlooking the airfield and the landing beaches. Peleliu.

Photo by E. Thompson

April 1983

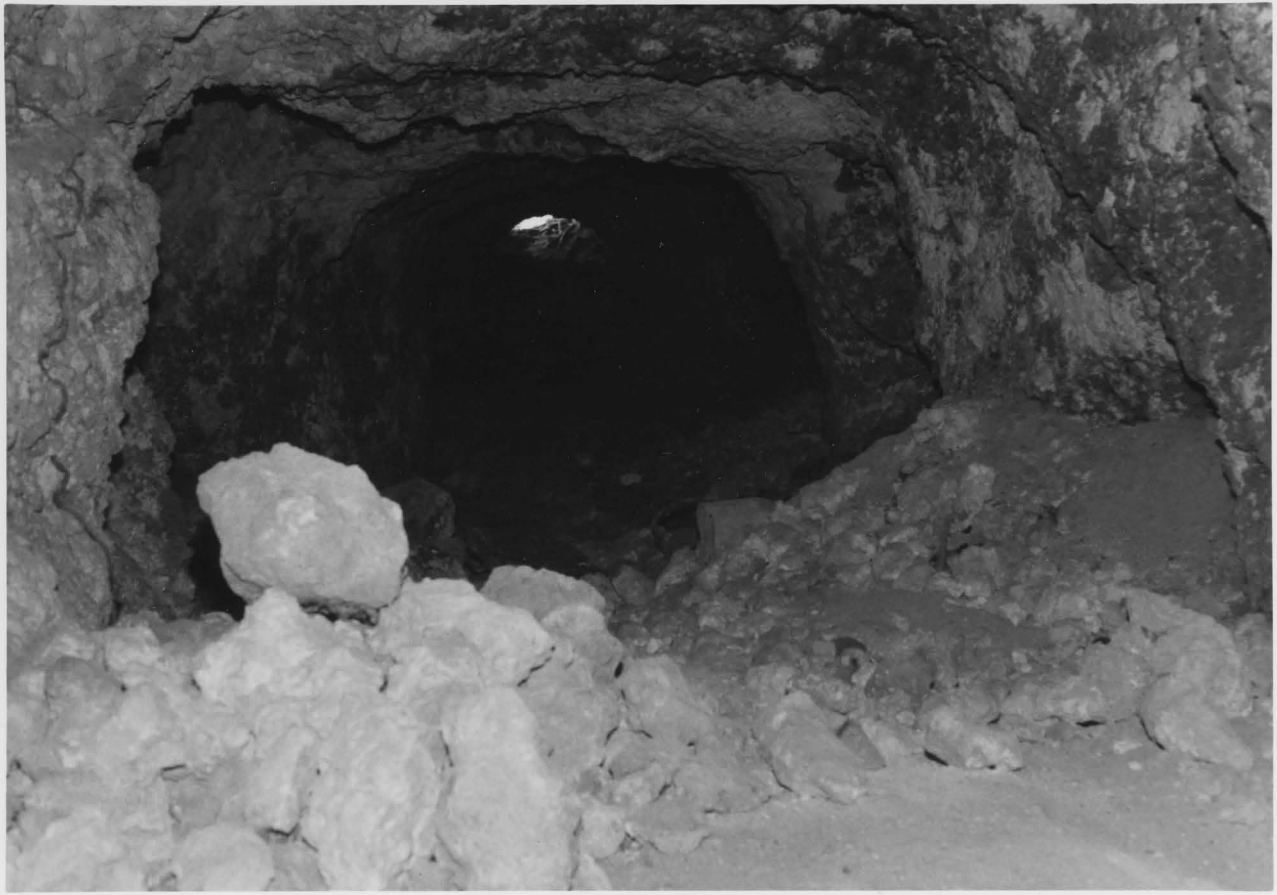
8. Umurbrogol Pocket from the crest of Bloody Nose Ridge, looking northeast. Another of the Five Sisters is at upper left. The low ground is Horseshoe Valley and beyond it, to right, is Walt Ridge.

Photo by E. Thompson April 1983

9. Japanese air administration building at the airfield on Peleliu.

Photo by E. Thompson

April 1983



10. The Thousand-man Cave in northern Peleiu. This huge cave had many interconnecting tunnels and several entrances.

Photo by E. Thompson April 1983

11. Present-day Japanese shrine near the site of the former village, Omaok, north of the airfield.

Photo by E. Thompson

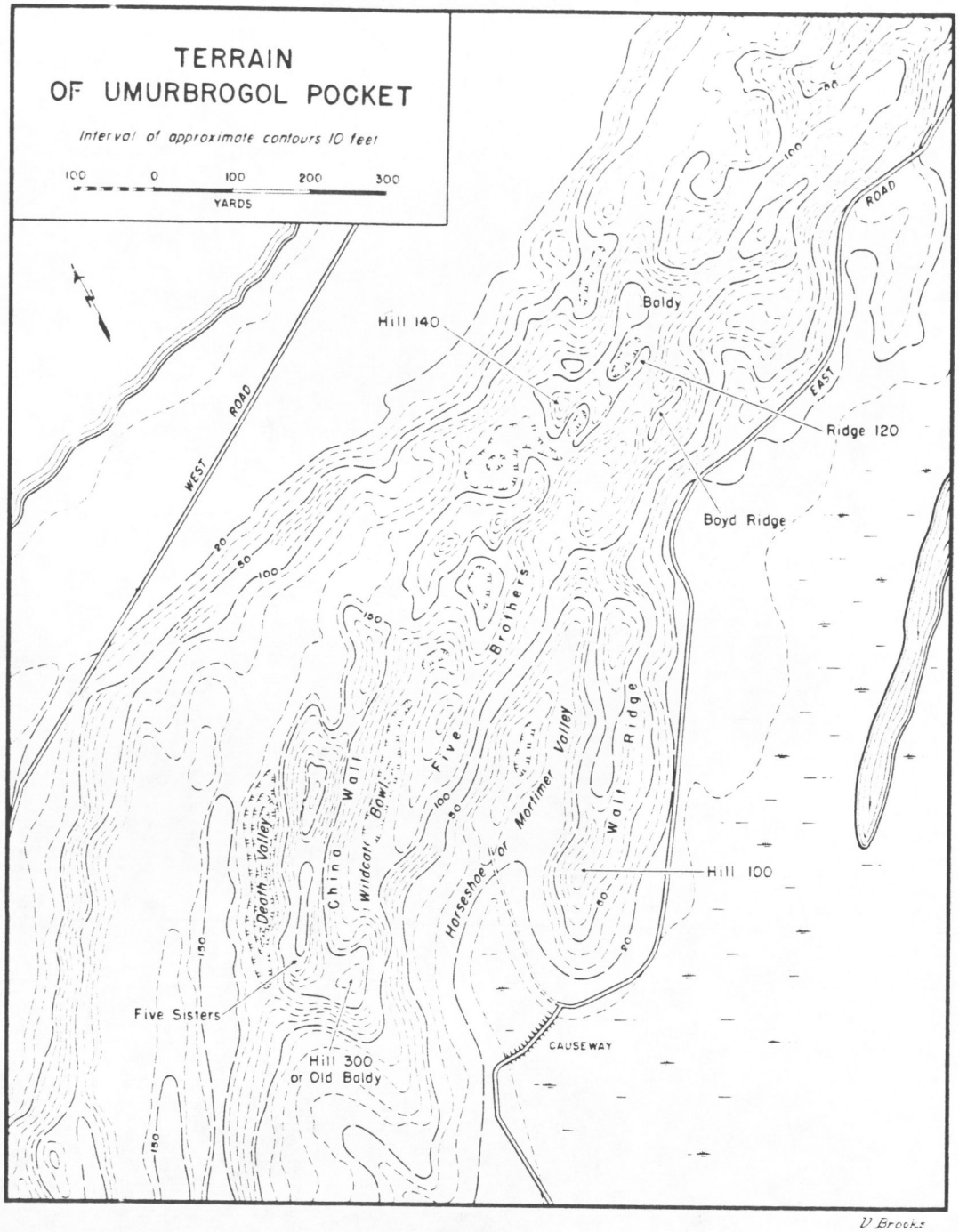
April 1983

12. The American cemetery at Beach Orange 2, Peleliu. The monument is one of two that were dedicated to the Eighty-first Infantry Division and the First Marine Division.

Photo by E. Thompson April 1983

MAP 19

FROM ROBERT ROSS SMITH THE APPROACH TO THE PHILIPPINES



MAP 21

FROM ROBERT ROSS SMITH THE APPROACH TO THE PHILIPPINES

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release_____ Duncan Morrow 202/343-7394

SECRETARY CLARK DESIGNATES
12 LANDMARKS OF WORLD WAR II

Secretary of the Interior William C. Clark today announced designation of 12 sites relating to World War II in the Pacific as National Historic Landmarks.

"These sites," Clark said, "reflect important events in the history of the Second World War. Each is recognized as retaining the essential character of the sites at the time of the prominence in world history. Their recognition honors the contributions of all those who served in the Pacific Theater of the war. Each recalls elements of the complexity of the war itself. This designation is particularly appropriate in 1985, the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II."

The sites, including locations in California, Alaska, and various Pacific Islands. Administered by the National Park Service, the National Historic Landmarks program confirms findings that certain sites and structures have been recognized to be significant in the nation's history. Such designation does not affect the ownership or management of the properties, Clark noted.

The 12 sites are:

-- Attu Battlefield and U.S. Army and Navy Airfields on Attu, Attu Island, Alaska. Site of the only World War II battle fought on the North American continent.

-- Japanese Occupation Site, Kiska Island, Alaska. This site, from which the Japanese withdrew after the U.S. reclaimed Attu, is also in the Aleutian Islands.

World War II Landmarks--two

-- San Francisco Port of Embarkation, California. Fort Mason, now part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, was the principal point of departure for Central, South, and Southwest Pacific areas of the conflict. It was from here the attack on the Japanese in the Aleutians was also mounted.

-- Manzanar War Relocation Camp, near Lone Pine, Owens Valley, California. The first of 10 war relocation camps established for protection against espionage and sabotage, Manzanar once held as many as U.S. citizens and aliens of Japanese descent. Although most of the camps structures were razed, a few remnants can be seen today.

Need Number here

-- Kodiak Naval Operating Base and Forts Greely and Abercrombie, Alaska. The two forts were constructed to strengthen the defense of Kodiak, the principal advance naval base in the North Pacific when World War II started.

-- Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base and Fort Mears, Amaknak Island, Alaska. These were the only U.S. defense facilities in the Aleutians at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

-- Ladd Field, vicinity of Fairbanks, Alaska. The first army airfield in Alaska, begun in 1938, Ladd Field was an important support facility and the site of research into the effects of cold weather on navigation and equipment maintenance.

World War II Landmarks--three

-- Kwajalein Island Battlefield, Republic of the Marshall Islands. One of the first Japanese territories in the Pacific to be taken in battle.

-- Roi-Namur Battlefields, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Also on Kwajalein Atoll, these islands were taken in the same invasion that brought Kwajalein Island under U.S. control.

-- Truk Lagoon Underwater Fleet, Micronesia. Some 35 Japanese vessels were sunk by U.S. forces in an attack on Truk, having a significant impact on the Japanese fleet.

-- Landing Beaches, Aslito/Isley Field and Marpi Point, Saipan, Mariana Islands. The capture of Saipan allowed the U.S. to penetrate Japan's inner defense line and forced the resignation of Japan's premier and cabinet.

-- Peleliu Battlefield, Palau Islands, Republic of Palau. The battle for Peleliu marked the conclusion of the U.S. Central Pacific drive toward the Philippines. It was a particularly bitter engagement in which the Japanese held out for 74 days.

Designation of these sites follows recommendations made by a citizens advisory group, the National Park System Advisory Board, during its fall meeting.

National Historic Landmark Studies for Review by the National Park System Advisory Board -- October 22-26, 1984

I. Man-in-Space

24 site nominations in blue binder

II. Architecture

1. Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Camden, South Carolina
2. St. Marks Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
3. Church of St. James-the-Less, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
4. Philadelphia's Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
5. Grey Towers, Glenside, Pennsylvania
6. Asa Packer Mansion, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania
7. Shadow Lawn, West Long Branch, New Jersey
8. Fonthill, Mercer Museum, and Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, Doylestown, Pennsylvania
9. Furness Library, School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
10. Georgian Court, Lakewood, New Jersey
11. John Ballantine House, Newark, New Jersey

III. Recreation

1. G.W.G. Ferris House, Carson City, Nevada
2. Mapes Hotel, Reno, Nevada

IV. World War II in the Pacific

1. Hickam Field, Hawaii
2. Wake Island
3. Attu Battlefield and U.S. Army and Navy Airfields on Attu

4. Japanese Occupation Site, Kiska Island

5. San Francisco Port of Embarkation, California

6. Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base Landing Beaches, California

7. Navy Yard, Puget Sound, Washington

8. Manzanar War Relocation Camp, California

9. Sitka Naval Operating Base and U.S. Army Coastal Defenses, Alaska

10. Kodiak Naval Operating Base and Forts Greely and Abercrombie, Alaska

11. Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base and Fort Mears, Alaska

12. Ladd Field, Alaska

13. Adak Army Base and Adak Naval Operating Base, Alaska

14. Kwajalein Island Battlefield, Marshall Islands

15. Roi-Namur Battlefield, Marshall Islands

16. Truk Lagoon Underwater Fleet, Truk Atoll, Micronesia

17. Landing Beaches, Aslito/Isley Field, and Marpi Point, Saipan

18. Tinian Landing Beaches, Ushi Point Field, North Field, Tinian Island

19. Peleliu Battlefield, Palau Islands

20. B-29 Enola Gay, Smithsonian Institution, Garber Facility, Maryland

21. B-29 Bock's Car, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

V. Miscellaneous Site Studies

A. Presidential Sites

1. U.S. Grant Boyhood Home, Georgetown, Ohio

2. Pension Building, Washington, DC

3. Prospect, Princeton, New Jersey

4. Hoover House, Palo Alto, California

5. U.S. Car No. 1, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

6. Harry S Truman Farm Home, Grandview, Missouri

B. Ship and Boats

7. Sailing Ship Balclutha, San Francisco, California

8. ~~Ferryboat~~ Eureka, San Francisco, California

C. Military Affairs

9. Governors Island, New York, New York

10. Sayler's Creek Battlefield, Farmville and Burkeville, Virginia

D. Literature

11. The Wayside, Concord, Massachusetts

12. Arrowhead, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

E. Social and Humanitarian Movements

13. Father Flanagan's Boys Home, Boys Town, Nebraska

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JAN 18 1985

ACTION MEMORANDUM

To: Secretary

Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

From: Director, National Park Service

Subject: Designation of National Historic Landmarks

Issue: Should the following properties, nominated for their significance in the history of World War II in the Pacific, be designated National Historic Landmarks:

1. Attu Battlefield and U.S. Army and Navy Airfields on Attu
2. Japanese Occupation Site, Kiska Island
3. San Francisco Port of Embarkation, California
4. Manzanar War Relocation Camp, California
5. Kodiak Naval Operating Base and Forts Greely and Abercrombie, Alaska
6. Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base and Fort Mears, Alaska
7. Ladd Field, Alaska
8. Kwajalein Island Battlefield, Marshall Islands
9. Roi-Namur Battlefield, Marshall Islands
10. Truk Lagoon Underwater Fleet, Truk Atoll, Micronesia
11. Landing Beaches, Aslito/Isley Field, and Marpi Point, Saipan
12. Peleliu Battlefield, Palau Islands

Discussion: The National Park System Advisory Board, in the enclosed letter to you from the Chairman of the Board, has recommended that the above listed properties be designated National Historic Landmarks, and found that the subject properties meet the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

Options:

1. To designate all of the above listed properties.
2. To designate only some or one of the above listed properties.
3. To designate none of the above properties.

Prepared by: Laura Feller
Extension: 343-8167

Recommendation: We recommend option 1, namely that you approve the Board's recommendations with respect to the above properties and designate all twelve as National Historic Landmarks.

Enclosure

Approve 1 Disapprove _____

1st AWR
Secretary

FEB 4 1985
(Date)

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR
news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release April 26, 1985 Duncan Morrow 202/343-7394

SECRETARY HODEL DESIGNATES
12 LANDMARKS OF WORLD WAR II

Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel today announced designation of 12 sites relating to World War II in the Pacific as National Historic Landmarks.

"This designation," Hodel said, "is particularly appropriate in 1985, the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II. These sites reflect important events in the history of the Second World War. Each retains its essential character from the time of prominence in world history. Their recognition honors the contributions of all those who served in the Pacific Theater of the war. Each recalls elements of the complexity of the war itself."

The sites include locations in California, Alaska, and various Pacific Islands. Administered by the National Park Service, the National Historic Landmarks program confirms findings that certain sites and structures have been recognized to be significant in the Nation's history. Such designation does not affect the ownership or management of the properties, Hodel noted.

The 12 sites are:

-- Attu Battlefield and U.S. Army and Navy Airfields on Attu, Attu Island, Alaska. Site of the only World War II battle fought on the North American continent.

-- Japanese Occupation Site, Kiska Island, Alaska. This site, from which the Japanese withdrew after the U.S. reclaimed Attu, is also in the Aleutian Islands.

-- San Francisco Port of Embarkation, California. Fort Mason, now part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, was the principal point of departure for Central, South, and Southwest Pacific areas of the conflict. It was from here the attack on the Japanese in the Aleutians was also mounted.

-- Manzanar War Relocation Camp, near Lone Pine, Owens Valley, California. The first of 10 war relocation camps established for protection against espionage and sabotage, Manzanar once held as many as 10,000 U.S. citizens and aliens of Japanese descent. Although most of the camp structures were razed, a few remnants can be seen today.

Revised press release on Manzanar was done

(over)

World War II Landmarks--two

-- Kodiak Naval Operating Base and Forts Greely and Abercrombie, Alaska. The two forts were constructed to strengthen the defense of Kodiak, the principal advance naval base in the North Pacific when World War II started.

-- Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base and Fort Mears, Amaknak Island, Alaska. These were the only U.S. defense facilities in the Aleutians at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

-- Ladd Field, vicinity of Fairbanks, Alaska. The first army airfield in Alaska, begun in 1938, Ladd Field was an important support facility and the site of research into the effects of cold weather on navigation and equipment maintenance.

-- Kwajalein Island Battlefield, Republic of the Marshall Islands. One of the first Japanese territories in the Pacific to be taken in battle.

-- Roi-Namur Battlefields, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Also on Kwajalein Atoll, these islands were taken in the same invasion that brought Kwajalein Island under U.S. control.

-- Truk Lagoon Underwater Fleet, Micronesia. Some 35 Japanese vessels were sunk by U.S. forces in an attack on Truk, having a significant impact on the Japanese fleet.

-- Landing Beaches, Aslito/Isley Field and Marpi Point, Saipan, Mariana Islands. The capture of Saipan allowed the U.S. to penetrate Japan's inner defense line and forced the resignation of Japan's premier and cabinet.

-- Peleliu Battlefield, Palau Islands, Republic of Palau. The battle for Peleliu marked the conclusion of the U.S. Central Pacific drive toward the Philippines. It was a particularly bitter engagement in which the Japanese held out for 74 days.

Designation of these sites follows recommendations made by a citizens advisory group, the National Park System Advisory Board, during its fall meeting.

-DOI-

INT 1962-85

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. BOX 37127
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H34(4187)

NOV 27 1985

Mr. Scott J. Russell
Historic Preservation Officer
Director, Office of Historic Preservation
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Russell:

I am pleased to inform you that the properties identified on the enclosed sheet have been found to possess national significance in the history of the United States. As a result, the Secretary of the Interior has designated them National Historic Landmarks.

The purpose of landmark designation is to identify and recognize nationally significant sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Landmarks are chosen after careful study by the National Park Service. They are evaluated by the National Park System Advisory Board and designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Designation as a National Historic Landmark automatically places a property in the National Register of Historic Places, if it is not already so listed, and extends to it the safeguards and benefits provided by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and other Federal laws protecting historic properties.

We are pleased to include these properties on the roll of National Historic Landmarks as significant representatives of our nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

Enclosure

Green

cc: Honorable JOhn F. Lehman, Jr.
Secretary of the Navy
Department of the Navy
Washington, DC 20350

Honorable Pedro A. Sanjuan
Assistant Secretary of the Interior
Office of Territorial & International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Regional Director (WRO)(8000)
Pepin-Donat (WRO)(8000)
400 Reading File
418 ROI-NAMUR BATTLEFIELD (NHL)
418 TRUK LAGOON (NHL)

Mulhern (WRO)(8000)
001 Reading File
418 LANDING BEACHES (NHL)
418 PELELIU BATTLEFIELD (NHL)
418 KWAJALEIN ISLAND BATTLEFIELD (NHL)

LFeller:sd:11-21-85
DISC NO. 12

The Secretary of the Interior designated the following properties National Historic Landmarks on February 4, 1985:

(1) Landing Beaches, Aslito/Isley Field, and Marpi Point, Saipan Island, Mariana Islands
(2) Roi-Namur Battlefield, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands
(3) Peleliu Battlefield, Palau Islands
(4) Truk Lagoon Underwater Fleet, Truk Atoll
(5) Kwajalein Island Battlefield, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands

/ / Certificates attesting to the national significance of the properties and the Secretary's designation of them as National Historic Landmarks will be sent to you, as the owner of the properties. You are also eligible to receive bronze plaques to commemorate their designation. Copies of the plaque application form are enclosed. If you wish to request the plaques, please complete the forms in triplicate for each property and return two copies to the National Park Service, History Division (418), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127. You may retain the third copies for your records. Each certificate and plaque will bear the name of each property as it appears above. If you have questions about the certificates or plaques, please contact James Charleton at the above address, or by telephone (202)343-8165 or FTS: 343-8165.

/✓/ Owners of Landmarks receive certificates of designation, and, upon application, will also be awarded bronze plaques. We are notifying the owners of the designations and providing the appropriate forms.

H34(418)

NOV 27 1985

Honorable Haruo J. Remeliik
President
Government of Palau
Koror, Palau 96940

Dear Mr. Remeliik:

I am pleased to inform you that the property identified on the enclosed sheet has been found to possess national significance in the history of the United States. As a result, the Secretary of the Interior has designated it a National Historic Landmark.

The purpose of landmark designation is to identify and recognize nationally significant sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Landmarks are chosen after careful study by the National Park Service. They are evaluated by the National Park System Advisory Board and designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Designation as a National Historic Landmark automatically places a property in the National Register of Historic Places, if it is not already so listed, and extends to it the safeguards and benefits provided by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and other Federal laws protecting historic properties.

We are pleased to include this property on the roll of National Historic Landmarks as a significant representative of our nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

Enclosure

cc: Mr. David J. Nolan, Jr.
Federal Programs Coordinator
Office of the President
Republic of Palau
P.O. Box 100
Koror, Palau 96940

Mr. Moses Sam
Historic Preservation Officer
Chief of Cultural Affairs
Dept. of Community Services
Ministry of Social Services
P.O. Box 100
Koror, Palau 96940

Regional Director (WRO)(8000)
Pepin-Donat (WRO)(8000)
400 Reading File
LFeller:sd:11-21-85
DISC NO. 12

Mulhern (WRO)(8000)
001 Reading File
418 PELELIU BATTLEFIELD (NHL)

The Secretary of the Interior designated the following property a National Historic Landmark on February 4, 1985:

Peleliu Battlefield, Palau Islands

/✓/ A certificate attesting to the national significance of the property and the Secretary's designation of it as a National Historic Landmark will be sent to you, as the owner of the property. You are also eligible to receive a bronze plaque to commemorate its designation. Copies of the plaque application form are enclosed. If you wish to request the plaque, please complete a form in triplicate and return two copies to the National Park Service, History Division (418), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127. You may retain the third copy for your records. Both the certificate and the plaque will bear the name of the property as it appears above. If you have questions about the certificate or plaque, please contact Jim Charleton at the above address, or by telephone (202)343-8165 or FTS: 343-8165.

/ / The owner of each Landmark receives a certificate of designation, and, upon application, will also be awarded a bronze plaque. We are notifying the owner of the property's designation and providing the appropriate application forms.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. BOX 37127
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H34(418)

NOV 29 1985

Honorable Janet J. McCoy
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Ms. McCoy:

I am pleased to inform you that the properties identified on the enclosed sheet have been found to possess national significance in the history of the United States. As a result, the Secretary of the Interior has designated them National Historic Landmarks.

The purpose of landmark designation is to identify and recognize nationally significant sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Landmarks are chosen after careful study by the National Park Service. They are evaluated by the National Park System Advisory Board and designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Designation as a National Historic Landmark automatically places a property in the National Register of Historic Places, if it is not already so listed, and extends to it the safeguards and benefits provided by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and other Federal laws protecting historic properties.

We are pleased to include these properties on the roll of National Historic Landmarks as significant representatives of our nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

/Sgd/Jerry L. Rogers

Associate Director

Enclosure

Green

cc: Regional Director (WRO)(8000)
Pepin-Donat (WRO)(8000)
400 Reading File
418 ROI-NAMUR BATTLEFIELD (NHL)
418 TRUK LAGOON (NHL)
Mulhern (WRO)(8000)
001 Reading File
418 LANDING BEACHES (NHL)
418 PELELIU BATTLEFIELD (NHL)
418 KWAJALEIN ISLAND BATTLEFIELD (NHL)

LFeller:sd:11-21-85
DISC NO. 12

The Secretary of the Interior designated the following properties National Historic Landmarks on February 4, 1985:

(1) Landing Beaches, Aslito/Isley Field, and Marpi Point, Saipan Island, Mariana Islands
(2) Roi-Namur Battlefield, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands
(3) Peleliu Battlefield, Palau Islands
(4) Truk Lagoon Underwater Fleet, Truk Atoll
(5) Kwajalein Island Battlefield, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands

/ / Certificates attesting to the national significance of the properties and the Secretary's designation of them as National Historic Landmarks will be sent to you, as the owner of the properties. You are also eligible to receive bronze plaques to commemorate their designation. Copies of the plaque application form are enclosed. If you wish to request the plaques, please complete the forms in triplicate for each property and return two copies to the National Park Service, History Division (418), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127. You may retain the third copies for your records. Each certificate and plaque will bear the name of each property as it appears above. If you have questions about the certificates or plaques, please contact James Charleton at the above address, or by telephone (202)343-8165 or FTS: 343-8165.

/✓/ Owners of Landmarks receive certificates of designation, and, upon application, will also be awarded bronze plaques. We are notifying the owners of the designations and providing the appropriate forms.

March 14, 1986
(Date)

Chief
Division of History
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Sir:

As the owner(s) of PELELIU BATTLEFIELD

located in Peleliu State, Republic of Palau, W. C. Islands
(city) (county) (State)

(I, We) hereby make application for a bronze plaque identifying the property as a National Historic Landmark.

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having national significance and worthy of National Historic Landmark status, (I, we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my, our) ability, the historical values of the site that satisfy the criteria for national significance.

2. (I, We) agree to permit periodic inspection of the property by a representative of the National Park Service for the purpose of monitoring its integrity and the nature and degree of any threats thereto.

3. (I, We) agree that, should the Landmark designation ever be revoked in accordance with the procedures outlined in the National Historic Landmarks regulations, the bronze plaque and the certificate of designation will be surrendered upon request to the National Park Service.

4. (I, We) further agree to affix the plaque for public view and in an appropriate manner.

Sincerely,

Governor, State of Peleliu

Chief, State of Peleliu

Speaker, Peleliu State Legislature

H34(418)

APR 18 1986

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region
Attention: National Historic Landmark Coordinator

Acting Deputy
From: Director

Subject: National Historic Landmark Plaque Applications

Single copies are attached of the applications by the owners of Peleliu Battlefield, Republic of Palau, and U.S.S. Bowfin (SS-287), Honolulu, Hawaii for the plaques identifying these National Historic Landmarks.

We ask you to contact the owner and arrange to order and provide the plaques. We will provide the requisite National Historic Landmark certificates.

S/ Stanley T. Albright

Attachment

cc: 001 Mott
001 Reading File
400 Reading File
418-PELELIU BATTLEFIELD (NHL)
418-U.S.S. Bowfin (NHL)
JHCharleton:pt:4/7/86
THOMAS DISK 17: ITEM #32

H30(418) MAY 9 1986

Mr. Moses N. Sam
Chief of Cultural Affairs
Government of the Republic of Palau
P.O. Box 100
Koror, Republic of Palau 96940

Dear Moses:

I thoroughly enjoyed and was informed by the opportunity to meet with you recently when you visited the Washington Office of the National Park Service. During your visit, we promised to provide you with several pieces of information.

These included the names and addresses of the current historic preservation officials for the agencies of the U.S. Government significantly represented in the Republic. The names of those officials appears on the enclosed list.

You inquired about possible alternative sources of funding for a survey of the cultural resources of Peleliu and for other projects in the Republic. I believe that the veterans of the First Marine Division might be a useful contact. You can reach them through the President, First Marine Division Association, Inc., 1704 Florida Avenue, Woodbridge, Virginia 22191.

In addition, you asked about the possibility of the study of Ngeaur (Angaur) for National Historic Landmark designation. I have asked Erwin Thompson, who is preparing additional National Historic Landmark nominations of sites associated with World War II, to reconsider his decision not to nominate it. I will advise you of the outcome of my discussions with him.

Relative to the selection of other National Historic Landmarks in Palau, I would encourage your suggestions and views. Our upcoming study of ethnic history may offer an opportunity in that regard, as well as other subjects that have not been fully surveyed, such as early European exploration and colonial occupation.

Finally, a copy of the National Historic Landmark theme study of warships associated with World War II in the Pacific, in which you expressed an interest, and other correspondence that may be of use are enclosed.

Sincerely,

S/Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

Enclosures

cc: 001 Reading File
418-PELELIU (NHL)
418-ETHNIC HISTORY THEME
400 Reading File
418-ANGNUR (NGEAUR) (OSC)
418-WORLD WAR II
JHCharleton:pt:4/30/86
THOMAS DISK 18: ITEM #19

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. BOX 37127
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H34(418)

AUG 8 1986

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region
Attention: National Historic Landmark Coordinator

From: Associate Director

Subject: National Historic Landmark Plaques and Certificates

We are transmitting for delivery to the owners the following National Historic Landmark certificates for properties in the Western Region:

Alcatraz Island, California
Aslito/Isely Field, Northern Mariana Islands
Guajome Ranch House, California
Kwajalein Island Battlefield, Marshall Islands
Magpi Point, Northern Mariana Islands
Nan Madol, Federated States of Micronesia
North Field Historic District, Northern Mariana Islands
Peleliu Battlefield, Republic of Palau
Roi-Namur Battlefield, Marshall Islands
Saipan World War II Landing Beaches, Northern Mariana Islands
San Bernardino Ranch, Arizona
Tugboat Hercules, California
U.S.S. Bowfin (SS-287), Hawaii

The Department would appreciate being advised of arrangements made to present the National Historic Landmark plaques and certificates. Every effort should be made to coordinate ceremonies with the availability of high-level Departmental staff and to secure the participation of Members of Congress who represent the localities.

Please advise Jim Charleton, History Division, FTS 343-8165, of any concerns regarding these certificates.

/Sgd/Jerry L. Rogers

Enclosures

cc: 001 Reading File
400 Reading File
418-Plaques and Certificates
418-Alcatraz Island, California (NHL)
418-Aslito/Isely Field, Northern Mariana Islands (NHL)
418-Guajome Ranch House, California (NHL)
418-Kwajalein Island Battlefield, Marshall Islands (NHL)
418-Magpi Point, Northern Mariana Islands (NHL)
418-Nan Madol, Federated States of Micronesia (NHL)
418-North Field Historic District, Northern Mariana Islands (NHL)
418-Peleliu Battlefield, Republic of Palau (NHL)
418-Roi-Namur Battlefield, Marshall Islands (NHL)
418-Saipan World War II Landing Beaches, Northern Mariana Islands (NHL)
418-San Bernardino Ranch, Arizona (NHL)
418-Tugboat Hercules, California (NHL)
418-U.S.S. Bowfin (SS-287), Hawaii (NHL)
Deputy Assistant Secretary Smith (FWP)
JHCharleton:pt:8/06/86
Thomas Disk 21: Item #37

August 15, 1986
Serial: CA-86-168

President, First Marine Association Inc.
1704 Florida Avenue
woodbridge, Virginia 22191

Dear Mr. President:

On May 17, 1986, a designtion ceremony was held in Peliliu, in Palau Islands. It was a real special ceremony, designating Peliliu a U.S. National Historic Landmark of World War II.

It must have meant a lot of things to the NPS representatives who presented the plaque to the Islanders in behalf of NPS and the United States.

To the natives of the Islands however, it meant something unique and ultimately special. Natives of 50 years and above were overjoyed. To them it was like placing a band-aid on a 40-year-old wound. The plaque was symbol of three different races on earth counteracting on the Island, marking a notch in the history of the world.

Now the Government of the State of Peliliu, its Governor and Chiefs would like to have all legacies of WWII identified throughout the entire Island. These Islanders however lack the technical knowledge and means for such an endeavor.

In a brief conference with Mr. Brian Harry, NPS officer in Hawaii, the concept of Management Plan was raised. Mr. Harry was helpful and expressed support of his office.

The purpose of this letter therefore is to inquire about: (a) Tecnical Assistance (b) Financial assistance in the development of a Management Plan for Peliliu, a National Historic Landmark.

Should you or your organization have any suggestions or recommendations we would certainly be receptive to them.

Sincerely yours,

Moses M. Sam
Historic Preservation Officer,
Republic of Palau

MMS/ri

cc: Minister of Social Services
Minister of State
File

Note: A copy of this letter had been set to Mr. Erwin Thompson of U.S. NPS, Washington DC.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 317TH MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT
2323 DAUPHINE STREET
EAST POINT, GEORGIA 30344

4 October, 1986

Mr. Wilbert T. Brown
2742 Del Monte Avenue
El Cerrito, California 94530

Dear Bill;

Thank you for the use of your slides. I had duplicates made of about 15 of them which I already had the background information on from your presentation at the reunion..

Many of the artififacts which were donated by you and other members of the 81st Division are already on display at the 81st ARCOM headquarters. We appreciate your contribuations to our mini-museum as do all members of the 81st Army Reserve Command..

It was a pleasure meeting you at the reunion and I look forward to seeing you at future reunions of the 81st Division.

Sincerely;

Marc Crandlemire, SGT
317th Military History Detachment

Incl #13

2742 Del Monte Ave.
El Cerrito, Calif. 94530
30 March 1987

Admiral Wm. J. Crowe, Jr., USN
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Washington, D.C. 20301-5000

Dear Admiral Crowe:

Enclosed are several photos which I took on both Peleliu and Anguar on February of this year, 1987. Enclosed are copies of all the correspondence between the National Park Headquarters in San Francisco and the government of Palau reference the Planning, Coordination and Ceremony held on 17 May, 1986.

You will also find the study made by a Dr. D. Colt Denfeld as indicated on the bottom of the first page of the study. It is quite thorough as I can remember to the best of my recollection. I found it very interesting reading and I hope you will enjoy it also.

I may have misled you into believing that it contained the speeches at the dedication ceremonies. I am sorry about that, as there are no speeches attached or available.

I am expecting a few more articles from Palau and if I get them I will send copies on to you.

Admiral Crowe, as the Historian for the WW-II 81st Division Veteran's Organization I wish to thank you for all your input on our behalf, for without your help I am sure that we would not have the 323rd Regiment monument renovated today.

Finally, I want to say that I have been trying for thirteen (13) years with letters and phone calls to the National Historical Battle Monument Division in Washington, D.C. to get this very much-needed designation completed on Peleliu. Now it is finished and we, myself and comrades, of the 81st Division are happy with this conclusion.

I hope you will enjoy the contents of this envelope.

Sincerely yours,

Wilbert A. Brown
1st/Sgt. (Ret.) U.S. Army

2742 Del Monte Ave.
El Cerrito, Ca. 94530
13 April 1987

Mr. William Penn Mott
Director, National Park Service
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Sir:

This writer is designated by the Staff and Board of Governors of the 81st Infantry Division Association as the Unit Historical officer. In that capacity, I am writing this letter of inquiry to get answers to questions in regard to the designation of the Island of Peleliu as a National Historical Battle Monument on May 17, 1986.

Two important questions are as follows:

1) Why was not the Staff of this organization or myself informed of this great honor, so that we may have sent a representative for the occasion?

2) Why were not the living descendants of Commanding General Paul Mueller, 81st Division, of the Palau operation notified? There is a daughter and a son (also a retired General) in the Washington, D.C. area.

It seems to me that a little effort this information could have been disseminated to the above personnel, and I believe that protocol should have taken first priority. I was told that the person who made the walk-through inspection of the Island in 1983 and also the parties of the 1985 occasion were given a card with my name, address, and phone number. I could easily have been notified, as I reside in the San Francisco Bay Area, and worked in the same building at 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco.

Furthermore, when Mr. Erwin N. Thompson, Historian for the National Park Service, was inspecting Peleliu and found the 323rd monument on "Old Baldy" mountain, he could have then inquired through Department of the Army and found out that the unit was an active Reserve Unit, stationed in the Atlanta, Georgia area. That Commander's staff would have informed him many of the points in question which now exist.

As regards Gen. Mueller's family, a call to the Dept. of the Army asking for the probable existence of any living relatives would have produced good results, as they would have been exceedingly proud to know that their father, as

former Commander of the 81st Division, had been remembered. They are BG Paul J. Mueller, Jr. (Ret.) and Mrs. Betsy (Mueller) Parker.

Ironically, the monument states emphatically in its lettering: "Lest we forget those who died here." Sir, you forgot not only those who did die there, but also those who still live and remember!

Last week I took my photo album to Mrs. Ann Huston at National Park Headquarters in San Francisco. She was very surprised to be shown photos which I took in 1974 on my first trip to Peleliu since the war. I showed her pictures of "our" cemetery, looking lost and forlorn, in the jungle. Since 1945 absolutely nothing had been done to redeem it from the green tentacles of jungle overgrowth. I also showed her the condition of the monument on "Old Baldy" as it looked after thirty (30) years without care.

I returned to Peleliu in 1976 and with Chief Obak discussed the possibility of cleaning the jungle around the cemetery area and also around the trail to "Old Baldy." He quoted me a price and I immediately agreed that the work be done. When the work was completed Chief Obak sent photos showing the progress, and we were well pleased.

Returning in 1979 and 1981 I always found the areas well maintained and that steps had also been made from the valley floor to the top of "Old Baldy" so that visitors could climb up there without too much difficulty.

In 1984 Navy Headquarters on Guam located me at my place of work and asked me to participate in the dedication of the 1st Marine Division Memorial on Peleliu. (They found me by asking questions!) I went to this dedication, and although I was the only Army personnel there (along with three Marines and one Navy corpsman from that battle) I felt extremely honored that I had been asked to participate.

At that time, Admiral Wm. Crowe, Navy Commander, Pacific, (now the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) requested that I show him the monument on "Old Baldy." His comments were, then, that "something must be done" to renovate it. That statement began a series of telephone calls and letters flowing between myself and the Navy Headquarters on Guam for quotations of cost and other factors to producing the new lettering required and replacing them on this monument.

One year later, at a cost of $1,755.00 donated by the veterans of the 81st Division Association, these details were completed, and on July 20th I again proceeded to Guam

and Peleliu, and with the excellent Civic Action Team (CAT) No. 528, US Navy personnel from Koror, and three persons from the state of Peleliu we proverbially worked our posteriors off for five (5) days and completed a task rendered almost impossible by the monument's location and most uncooperative weather.

However, I did come home with a tremendous sense of accomplishment and relief of a job well done. I sincerely believe that without Admiral Crowe's assistance we may never have had this work completed.

Colonel Wm. Parker (Ret.) and his wife, Betsy (Mueller) Parker have asked me to give them all the correspondence which I possess in this regard, and that I have done. I am also attaching to this letter copies of that correspondence, marked Enclosures 1 through 16 which are self-explanatory and further indicate proof of all the work which I have accomplished on Peleliu with the moral and financial assistance from 81st Div. veterans.

I also have in my possession a VCR tape made up of the Color slides of photos I took from all seven of my trips there. That tape is approximately 1¼ hours long and if it is needed or desired I will gladly send a copy, providing that the party requesting it will pay for its reproduction.

I also wish to add that after returning from each of my trips ('74, '76, '79, '81, '84, '85, and '87) I always called Colonel Wm. Kelly, then with the Battle Monument Commission in Washington, D.C., informing him of what had been done and sending him a few photos. I have always asked why that island was not being considered as a Historical site. The answer was always the same--funds were not available. This has always seemed an incredible excuse!

In closing, I wish to express my desire and the desires of the veterans of the Battle of Palau Islands that every effort, regardless of difficulty, be made to make the necessary appropriations to renovate other sites on Peleliu and Anguar, and that this area be justifiably upgraded to include roads and clearing site areas, with markers indicating what those areas designate, so that tourists will know what they are looking at.

There are many tourists going to that area now. As an interesting sideline may I say that the day I returned to Koror on my last trip (March 1987) there was a Russian tour ship with 450 German tourists who stayed two days at Koror! Also without much difficulty a small detachment

of the CAT-Team on Koror could be assigned to Peleliu periodically with grader and tractor equipment to grade roads and clear the site areas.

I respectfully request that this be given deep and sincere consideration and approval. If any further information, as far as this writer is concerned, I am always available to attempt to answer any questions.

I remain, Sincerely

Wilbert A. Brown

Wilbert A. Brown 1/Sgt. (Ret.)
Phone: 415-237-1657

cc: Col. Frederick Badger
Director Operations/Finance
American Battle Monuments Comm.
Washington, D.C. 20314

Howard Chapman
Regional Director, National Parks Service
San Francisco, Calif.

G. Bryan Harry, Regional Parks Service
Hawaii

Moses Sam, Chief, Office of
Cultural Affairs, Koror,
Republic of Palau

Chief I. Obak, Peleliu, Palau

Mrs. Betsy (Mueller) Parker
Potomac, Maryland

Robert Schweihs
Secretary/Treasurer
81st Inf. Div. Assn.
Chicago, Illinois

Enclosures: 1 through 16.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND
CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861

24 March 1984

Dear First Sergeant Brown,

Thank you for your letter of 15 March 1984. I, too, thought the dedication ceremony on PELELIU a fitting tribute to those Americans, both living and dead, who fought so gallantly during World War II to restore peace to our world.

Your comments concerning the personnel who worked so hard to make the ceremony such a success were greatly appreciated. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to Commander, U. S. Naval Forces, Marianas and Commanding Officer, USS PELELIU.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

W. J. CROWE, JR.
Admiral, U. S. Navy

First Sergeant Wilbert Brown, USA (Ret)
2742 Del Monte Avenue
El Cerrito, California 94530

INCL #1

U.S. NAVAL FORCES MARIANAS
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96630

30 April 1984

Milbert A. Brown
2742 Del Monte Avenue
El Cerrito, CA. 94530

Dear Milbert:

In talking with CDR Andy Baggs, I understand that you feel the 81st Division Association would like to try and raise funds to help in the restoration of the monument on Bloody Nose Ridge on the island of Peleliu. The single item of work most required is the replacing of the inscriptions on this monument. In an effort to ensure that this restoration be permanent we were trying to cast the inscriptions in bronze. The only item required for this casting not yet obtained are the patterns to cast these inscriptions. The inscriptions are quite large, letters of 4 to 10 inches, and on Guam these patterns are not available. To have the patterns made at the Navy Ship Repair Facility is estimated to cost ($1755) for individual letters or $4,400 for words. The patterns of individual letters would require the repeated use of some patterns to cast each word or phrase for mounting on the monument. If the complete words were patterned, the casting could be accomplished easier and of higher quality. If either of the patterns could be fabricated, the USS Proteus has agreed to cast the letters, and CAT Palau will insure they are installed. The bronze has all ready been acquired from salvage. If the 81st Division Association could provide the funds to have either of the patterns made, then the Bloody Nose Ridge memorial could finally be restored.

A related item is the recasting of the plaque on Orange Beach on Peleliu. During your recent visit, I believe you indicated that the original plaques where now located is in the National Cemetery at San Bruno. If a picture could be sent then duplicate plaques could be cast and the original beach monument also be restored.

Thanking you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

H. J. RINNERT

Incl #2

U.S. Naval Forces Marianas
FPO San Francisco 96630

Dear Sir:

I received your letter of 30 April 1984 and was very pleased with the information about the restoration of the monument on the island of Peleliu. I have since forwarded a copy to the Board of Governors of the 81st Div. Assn, and a copy to the family of the Commanding General during that operation on the Palau Islands, since they had told me that they would like to contribute to the restoration.

I was informed tonight by some people in the Div. Assn. that so far they have received an excellent response from the few persons who have been contacted so far. Therefore, we propose to send a copy of your letter to all members of the Division for a more unanimous decision. In this light, we feel that at the present time we cannot ask you to begin the project yet. We will hold our annual reunion in Louisville, Ky. on Aug. 9-12 and a decision will be made at that time.

We do feel sure that everyone will want you to go ahead with the project, as this is very important to us. I hope, personally, that our request to delay any action will not dampen the project, and those of us who have read your letter agree to have the work done in individual letters at the stated cost of $1,755.00.

As for the original plaques you inquired about in your last paragraph, I believe there was a misunderstanding for I was told that they went to the cemeteries in Hawaii and the Phillipines when our dead were removed. On this I have no definite information; only hearsay. At any rate, I feel that the plaques which Commander Baggs had replaced are of the highest quality, and the wording perfectly suits the intent and memory. I suggest we leave that as it is.

In closing, I am hoping you will bear with me in waiting for a reply until we hear from a majority of

1Vc/83

our members. I will keep you and/or Commander Baggs updated. The interest of Commander Baggs and all Navy personnel to perform this work for us is most sincerely appreciated. I thank you very much for all your information and your willingness to accomplish this mission for us as a fitting memorial for our fallen comrades of so long ago.

Sincerely

Wilbert O'Brien

6 September 1984

Mr. Wilbert Brown
2742 Del Monte Avenue
El Cerrito, CA. 94530

Dear Wilbert:

In regard to the restorations of the memorial at Peleliu, we have requested the funds from Mr. Schweichs. After receipt of these funds the Ship Repair Facility on Guam will make the patterns for the inscription. The USS Proteus will cast the inscription. These castings will be taken via the Civic Action Team's resupply flight to Palau, and the Civic Action Team will install them. Regretfully, the installation will not be completed until after the first of the calendar year.

When the exact schedule of installation is known, I will inform you.

Sincerely,

R. R. BERSANI
CAPT, CEC, USN

INCL 4

October 3, 1984

F. R. Bersani, Capt.
CEC, USN
Force Civil Engineer
US Naval Forces Marinas
FPO San Francisco, Calif. 96630

Dear Capt. Bersani:

Received your letter of September 7th, 1984, would appreciate you complying with the original agreement of $1755., since it would mean much effort on our part to contact all our members again. Enclosed find check for said amount.

Please use this letter as authorization for LCDR Burgoyne to proceed and finish the restoration of the Monument on Peleliu.

Thank you for your interest and concern.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Schweihs

Robert M. Schweihs
Secretary/Treasurer

RMS:ms
XC - Gerald B. Anderson, Adjutant
XC - Coral Gordon, Ass't Adjutant
XC - John Sholz, Ass't Secretary/Treasurer
XC - Wilbert A. Brown

Incl 4 s

Mr. W. A. Brown
2742 Del Monte Avenue
El Cerrito, Ca. 94530

Dear Mr. Brown:

In response to your letter of December 27, 1984, the patterns for the letters have been completed, however, the castings are not expected to be completed until the end of February.

The subsequent resupply flights are tentatively scheduled for 6 March and 3 April 1985. It is anticipated the castings will be on one of these flights.

I will forward you more specific information as soon as the castings are available.

Sincerely,

R. R. BERSANI
CAPT, CEC, USN
Assistant Chief of Staff
for Base Support

011-671-349.5-204
5-241

Incl #6

1785

PERSONAL RESUME OF PALAU PROJECT

On Feb. 20th I called L/CMDR Burgoyne, who replaced L/CMDR Baggs as OPNS Officer US Naval Base, Guam to request any additional information as to when I was to arrive in Guam and then proceed with the re-supply flight to Palau. At this time, CMDR Burgoyne told me that the project would not be completed on time for the March 6th flight, and that it would not be until the April 3rd flight.

On March 13th I again called CMDR Burgoyne for a status report and at this time he told me that the USS Proteau was in dry-dock and work on the project was at a halt until the ship was released, as civilian contractors would not allow the Naval personnel to perform work while in dry-dock. I was to call him in a week.

On March 20th I called again and was told that the ship was still in dry-dock, and that the project would be delayed until May 3rd's re-supply flight to Palau.

On April 25th I called CMDR Burgoyne only to find that he had been reassigned to stateside duty. I then spoke to Capt. Bersani who is the Civil force Engineer Commander. He did know what was happening, but said he would call me in a few days, as he would have to check with the USS Proteau and get the up-graded report.

On May 17th at 11 PM I received a call from Capt Bersani telling me that the brass was not available on Guam, and that he was checking with Hawaii and the West Coast to have some shipped as the brass they had was found to have a "live round" and they were afraid to use any other brass in that area. He said he could call me in a week.

On 27th May I called again, as I had not heard from Capt. Bersani. He told me that they had not yet located the brass, but expected to get some in a few days.

Capt. Bersani called me June 4th and said that they had located the brass in Yokosuka, Japan where it had been sent by mistake

Incl #7

and that the project would/should be completed in time to make the July 1st flight, and that he would call me in a week or ten days.

As of this date (24 June) I have not heard anything further, and if no call is received by 26 June, I will again have to call as I have made plane reservations on Continental Airlines for 28 June to arrive on Guam on time to make the July re-supply plane.

On June 24th I called Capt. Bersani. He stated that he had a couple of details to work out with the USS Proteau and that he would call back that same evening (June 24). He called and said that the ship USS Proteus was on sea trials and would be in today (June 24) and would start on the project immediately. All will be completed and be ready for the re-supply plane due to depart July 24 for Palau.

27 June 1985

R. R. Bersaani
Capt., CEC, USN
U. S. Naval Base Guam
FPO San Francisco 96630

Dear Sir:

First of all, I sincerely want to thank you for all the planning and work that is being done for us on the Palau project. We, the veterans of the 81st Infantry Division, are really looking forward to the completion of this undertaking. Personally, I feel a deep attachment towards the restoration and maintenance of these memorials, and I am the only member of my former division to have returned to the islands. This will be my sixth trip since 1974, including last year's Memorial Dedication to the Marines on Peleliu.

I have been very active in working with the Palauan people in restoring the monument, as well as renovating the cemetery areas, and am very proud of all the work that has been done by the Palauans for us in memory of those who did not return.

Finally, I want to let you know that I am scheduled to depart San Francisco on July 19th on Continental Airlines Flight #3 and will arrive in Guam on July 21. I hope, at that time, to visit you at your office to coordinate any last minute details (if any exist).

If, by any chance, any major changes are made which would invalidate my trip, please contact me at my residence not later than the evening of July 18.

Thanking you once again very much, I remain

Sincerely

Wilbert A. Brown
M/Sgt. US Army, Retired

Incl #8

TO: U. S. Customs Service

July 1985

1. This is to advise you that Mr. Wilbert Brown has in his possession deteriorated steel letters from a monument in Peliliu. These letters were replaced by new bronze letters cast with the assistance of the U. S. Navy.

R. R. BERSANI
Captain, U.S. Navy
COMNAVMARIANAS N4

Incl #9

2742 Del Monte Ave.
El Cerrito, Ca. 94530

5 August 1985

Capt. R. R. Bersani
CEC, USN Force Civil Engineer
U.S. Naval Force Marianas
FPO San Francisco 96630

Dear Capt. Bersani:

On behalf of all the veterans of the 81st Infantry Division I wish to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for all the work and time you and your staff devoted to complete the project on Peleliu in restoring the monument to its original condition.

Without your continuous effort and interest in the project, I don't believe that the CAT Team and I would have finished it this past week. I believe the restoration work will last much longer than the original.

The many telephone calls and letters between you and I accomplished a great deal, and I thank you for your patience. Now I can report "Mission accomplished" to the members of the Division during our reunion, Aug. 8-11, and say that a fine job has been completed.

Capt. Bersani, in closing I would like to express once more on behalf of all the former soldiers of the Palau battles our deep appreciation to you and everyone who participated in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Wilbert A. Brown

Enclosed please find letters of appreciation for the members of the CAT Team 0528 (Palau).

Incl #10 w/2 attach:

2742 Del Monte Ave.
El Cerrito, Ca. 94530

5 August 1985

Lt.(jg) Martin A. Markiewitz
CAT Team 0523 (Palau)
U.S. N.M.C.B. 5
FPO San Francisco 96601

Dear Lt. Markiewitz:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your CAT Team for the fine job you did on the 81st Infantry Division monument on Peleliu, and for all the preparation previous to the restoration. Your willingness to see the job through to its completion under very short notice is to be complemented.

On a personal note, I enjoyed the "sight-seeing tour" you provided while waiting for my plane's departure to Guam. I hope your new assignment will be to your liking, and perhaps our paths will cross again some other day.

I know that I speak for all the members of the Division when I say simply--thank you very much! I have also requested that a copy of this correspondence be put in your Personnel Records file.

Sincerely,

Wilbert A. Brown

5 August 1985

SW 1 Donald I. Mozingo and
BU 2 Loyal A. Clark
CAT Team 0528 (palau)
U.S. N.M.C.B. 5
FPO San Francisco 96601

Dear Don and Loyal:

I especially want to thank both of you for performing the almost impossible ta$k in almost impossible conditions, including also the weather, when you took on the job of the physical restoration of the 81st Infantry Division monument on the island of Peleliu.

The preparatory work in getting supplies to the area and the preparation of the letters themselves before installation on the monument took a tremendous amount of work and ability.

Your positive attitude in performing a good job correctly is indeed a credit to you. This was especially appreciated in that you were also trying to prepare for your own rotation the following week to the U.S.

I wish to say that it was a pleasure working with both of you, and I am indeed proud of the completed job we did, and I always will remember that you made my stay a pleasant one.

I have requested that a copy of this correspondence be put in your Personnel Records file.

Sincerely,

Wilbert A. Brown

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND
CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-5025

10 September 1985

Dear Wilbert,

Please accept my sincerest thanks for your very kind letter. I deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness and very much enjoyed the photos you sent of the restoration of the 323rd Regiment monument. Your group certainly did an outstanding job. We owe you all a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Mrs. Crowe and I are extremely grateful for your continuing support as we begin this new challenge.

You have our best wishes for every success in the future. It would be a pleasure to see you in Washington.

Warmest regards,

W. J. CROWE, JR.
Admiral, U. S. Navy

Mr. Wilbert A. Brown
2742 Del Monte Avenue
El Cerrito, California 94530

Incl #11

Wesleyan University *Middletown, Connecticut 06457*
WILLIAM MANCHESTER
329 Wesleyan Station

September 10, 1985

Mr. Wilbert A. Brown
2742 Del Monte Ave.
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your extremely interesting letter and the accompanying photographs. Although I did not see combat on Peleliu, my visit there in 1978 revealed to me the extraordinary obstacles the fighting men there faced and the bravery they must have exhibited to win. They deserve to be remembered, and you deserve to be commended for your efforts to see that they are.

Faithfully,

William Manchester
Adjunct Professor of History

WM/amr

Ltr #12

Feb 15, 1978

Dear Brown,

I was able to obtain this letter from the office of the National Park Services. It is for your copy. Please share the thoughts to every one in the USA.

I have been very busy now adays But, trying to keep up with everyone. I will let you know about the Flag pole when it finishes.

Say Hellow to your family.

Sincerely yours.
Chief Oback L. Ringo

Incl #14

Feb 11, 1987

Dear Mr. Brown,

At last the package of assorted planes arrived and my youngest boy grab them all and said, "They are all mine".
Thank you very much for nice gifts although the Box didn't come on X-mass as you expected.
The flag pole is not yet errected because the Sea Bee Team told our Governor that they are the one to put it up. So I didn't like to errect it for I might hurt their intention. But the new team just came and I asked them if they have any idea about the flag pole to be errected at that place. And they have an understanding about it but they're still arranging things in their camp. So, if they don't take any action by the end of this month, then I might just go ahead and do it.
I hope you know by now, that Peleliu is already designated as 2nd world ~~world~~ war memorial park for USA. The National Park Services came to Peleliu last year and selected many of war remains to be maintained for this purpose. I believe many friends will be happy when they hear about this idea.
We are all fine: my oldest doughter came back last year. But I still have two doughters in colledge. They're doing well so far.
Thanks again. I hope you will come back soon! Goodbye - Chief Obak

Incl # 15

PNC/#15

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

20 March 1987

First Sergeant W. A. Brown
2742 Del Monte Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Dear First Sergeant Brown,

Admiral Crowe has asked me to write you and request a copy of the dedication speeches dedicating Peleliu as a National Historical Battle Monument. He also asked that I pass along to you his sincere appreciation for thinking of him and offering the speeches.

Please send the copy to the following address:

Admiral William J. Crowe, Jr., USN
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Washington, D.C. 20301-5000

ATTN: YNC Dillensnyder, Flag Writer

Thank you very much for your assistance. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Very respectfully,

David L. Dillensnyder

DAVID L. DILLENSNYDER
YNC, U. S. Navy

Incl #16 W/1 ATTACH.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PACIFIC AREA OFFICE
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Box 50165
Room 6305
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58(PAAR)

May 4, 1987

Mr. Wilbert A. Brown
2742 Del Monte Avenue
El Cerrito, California 94530

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thanks for your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of the letter you wrote to the National Park Service Director regarding Peleliu.

Likely, you'll hear directly from him, but as a relatively new Director, he's not yet had a chance to be involved in some of the studies in the very far Pacific. So, I'd like to provide you and your organization with some background of our involvement.

Our Peleliu study originated with Public Law 95-348 in August 1978 when Congress established War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam. In that legislation, Congress directed the National Park Service to "...study...additional areas and sites associated with the Pacific campaign of World War II." The study was to describe each site, estimate the costs of acquisition, development, and maintenance, as well as suggest such additional authority as might be appropriate to implement the recommendations."

Initially, the National Park Service completed studies (those done by NPS Historian Thompson) which proposed a dozen or more of the most distinguished of the sites still with remaining battle features be designated National Historic Landmarks. Bloody Nose Ridge was one of these.

After designation of these areas as landmarks, two of us from Honolulu are following up on some 20 years' experience this office has had with Pacific War sites in the Marianas and Micronesia to gather information the Congress specifically requested: We've recorded battle features which still remain today. Now we are looking into possibilities of land acquisition if such parks were established, the costs to maintain these places if they were parks, and what authority might be needed if such an action took place. Only a few of the many sites which were designated landmarks appear to have any feasibility to be established as National Historical Parks.

Our function is merely to gather data on sites that remain there today and, working with the local governments, draft recommendations which would eventually be transmitted to Congress. The work is mostly complete on Peleliu, and frankly in my view, the Bloody Nose Ridge battle site appears to be one of the physically most feasible of all the sites we've reviewed. Still -- the difficulties in dealing with traditional village lands in another country (now the Republic of Palau) are without precedent.

We've enclosed a raw data base of the sites and features we know still exist on Peleliu. Some of the notations serve only to sort the data for different configurations of a park if the U. S. Congress and the Republic of Palau ever should choose to establish the area as a National Historical Park, and so are rather meaningless in this array. I believe this evidence of the sites remaining, with the wealth of military histories establish the Peleliu battle as one of the most worthy additions to our system of national historical parks. Yet, the actual feasibility of accomplishing this on traditional chief's lands in another country are really formidable -- even with the genuine enthusiasm we find in the legislatures of both the U. S. and Palau.

Many thanks for your interest and the great support you have already given to maintain the sites on Peleliu.

Very sincerely,

/S/ BRYAN HARRY

Bryan Harry
Director, Pacific Area

Enclosure

bcc: (w/encl)
Edwin C. Bears (WASO-418)
Ann Huston (WR-RRP)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (RM.3317)
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JUN 4 2 52 PM '87

7713 Hackamore Drive
Potomac, Maryland, 20854

Mr. William Penn Mott
Director, National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C., 20013-7127

Dear Sir:

At the request of 1st/Sgt Wilbert A Brown, I an forwarding the enclosed letter to you, with some additional comments of my own.

First, I am sure that everyone connected in any way with the units that fought in the Palau campaign were thrilled to learn that the battleground has been designated as a National Historical Battlefield Monument. For the careful research done by the Park Service, as well as for the tasteful physical marking of the site, I, personally, am very grateful. I have attached the words spoken by my father, Maj. Gen. Paul J. Mueller, Commander of the 81st Infantry Division (Army) in the action, at the dedication of the cemetery and chapel on the island of Angaur in September, 1944. Similar remarks were made at the dedication of the cemetery on Pelelieu two months later. It is good to know that those who fought and died on those islands have not, indeed, been forgotten.

However, I an appalled that the Park Service failed to include in the dedication ceremony the one man whose single-handed efforts, at great personal sacrifice, led to the discovery and ultimate preservation of the monuments erected by the Army division on Pelelieu. Were it not for 1st/Sgt Brown, there would have been little to be designated as a battlefield site except jungle. When 1st/Sgt Brown first discovered the monuments and cemetery site on Pelelieu, they were as overgrown as the sites on Angaur (as shown in the enclosed photos) are today. Quite a contrast to their original appearance! (See enclosed from 81st Division History)

I heartily endorse the suggestions made by 1st/Sgt Brown in his letter. I would only ask that in the future, should further dedicatory or ceremonial activities take place in the Palau Islands, prior notification be given to the veterans associations of the 81st Infantry Division and the First Marine Division, as well as the historical successors the the WW II units: i.e., the 81st ARCOM (Army), East Point, Georgia, and the First Marine Division (USMC). I also hope that Sgt Brown, to whom everyone owes so much, would always be included.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Mueller Parker

Elizabeth Mueller Parker
(Mrs William C Parker)

H30(418)

JUL 2 1987

Mrs. William C. Parker
7713 Hackamore Drive
Potomac, Maryland 20854

Dear Mrs. Parker:

Director William Penn Mott has read your recent letter, along with the enclosed correspondence from 1st Sgt. Wilbert A. Brown (Ret), with interest and understanding and has asked that I respond.

Like you we regret that 1st Sergeant Brown and representatives of the 81st Infantry (Wildcat) Division and the 1st Marine Division (of which I am a veteran) were not included in the dedication of the Peleliu National Historic Landmark in the Spring of 1986. This is of particular concern in the case of 1st Sergeant Brown because of his herculian efforts, at "great personal sacrifice," that resulted in the rediscovery and preservation of the monuments erected by 81st Infantry Division personnel on this battle-scarred island, where ~~1000s~~ thousands fought, suffered, and died in September-November 1944.

The failure to apprise participants in the battle of Peleliu and Angaur of the presentation of the National Historic Landmark plaque resulted from a combination of circumstance: an unfortunate failure by the National Park Service to contact the interested veterans and their associations, and a compressed time line that resulted from a decision to incorporate the plaque dedication ceremony into a field trip that Regional Director Chapman and key personnel were making to the Western Pacific.

Please be assured that the National Park Service will not again slight the veterans of Peleliu and Angaur in any activities in which it is involved associated with the subject National Historic Landmark. As tangible evidence of our concern is this matter, I an enclosing a copy of a letter from the Service's energetic and capable Pacific Area Director, Bryan Harry, to 1st Sergeant Brown, describing the status of the Service's efforts to comply with Public Law 95-348 by which Congress directed the National Park Service to "...study...additional areas and sites associated with the Pacific campaign of World War II." The study, when completed, is to describe each site, estimate the costs of acquisition, development, and maintenance, as well as suggest such additional authority as might be appropriate to implement the recommendations.

I trust that this letter, along with Area Director Harry's to 1st Sergeant Brown and 1st Sergeant Brown's April visit with Historian Huston of our San Francisco office, demonstrates how much we appreciate the efforts of 1st

Sergeant Brown and his comrades-in-arms in the commemoration and preservation of the sites associated with the Peleliu battle. We only wish that we had been apprised of his efforts and interest earlier.

Sincerely,

Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

cc: 1st. Sgt. Wilbert Brown (Ret)
2742 Del Monte Avenue
El Cerrito, California 94530

bcc: Regional Director (WRO)
Bryan Harry, Pacific Area Director
Moses Sam, Chief, Office, Cultural Affairs, Koror, Republic of Palau
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Thomas Disk 27: Item #3

September 8, 1988

Mr. Bryan Harry, Director
Pacific Area Office
National Park Service
300 Ala Moana Blvd. Room 6305
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Bryan,

In response to prior arrangement I accompanied you to the Palau Island Group during the period of August 6 - 19, 1988. Our purpose was to further explore the potential of Peleliu for National Park Status. This exploration has been in response to Congressional instruction as contained in Public Law 95-348. About the time that P.L. 95-348 was passed (August 1978) the Palau Islands became an independent nation. My understanding is that this has caused you to consider other administrative possibilities than the National Park Service. In other words, it may become a Palau National Park or even a State Park. In any event, our goal is to have a park that would meet the high standards we are accustomed to.

First, some general observations. The Congress, through P.L 95-348, has recognized the significance of World War II as an historical event. The Congress, in this law, has also placed considerable faith in the National Park Service by making it responsible for studying these areas. I am delighted with your determination to respond in a meaningful way to the Congress. I hope that others in the Service will soon join and support your efforts. To me the World War II story is a loose ball that the Service should pick up and run with.

I like the idea of some natural area (specifically a portion of the Rock Islands) also being considered for park status. My feeling, though, is that the National Park Service emphasis should be placed on World War II.

The political goals of Palau (Belau) are admirable and certainly deserve our sympathetic understanding recognizing, of course, that the Park Service must support the U.S. Military position. I do believe the Park Service should support Palau's position in opposition to the so-called super-port as proposed by Japanese firms.

I enthusiastically support and approve of your approach to carrying out the intent of P.L. 95-348. The combination of "soft sell", helpfulness, and absence of any arrogance seems to be resulting in the confidence of those you are dealing with and who,

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8 1988 JUN

presumably, would be key players in the establishment of a park. At the same time, the accumulation of information that you are gathering will not only meet the needs of Congress but will be useful if a park eventually comes to be.

Now a few thoughts for the future. In dealing with the Palauan people I think we can emphasize the benefits of a park to them. Properly done, a park will have a positive economic impact. Along with this it is important to implant the concept that National Parks are truly special places. Just the fact that there is a dot in the Western Pacific that denotes a National Park will result in visitors who otherwise would not have come. At the same time we need to imbue the Palauans with the idea that they assume a significant responsibility for proper care and management of the park. While there will be economic benefits, exploitation and profiteering should not be allowed to take place. As time goes on and Palauan leadership emerges and becomes established it would be very useful to arrange trips for these leaders to National Parks in Mainland U.S.A. This could help assure that we (National Park Service people and Palauans) are talking about the same thing when we talk about parks.

The place, Peleliu, is rich in evidence of the battle that occurred there in September and October of 1944. The question arises as to preservation. Rust and erosion are taking enough of a toll so that, eventually, what remains will virtually disappear. A preservation plan or concept needs to be completed recognizing that there won't be enough money to stabilize and hold everything. Priorities will be an important feature of such a plan. In the meantime, I think you are doing the best thing possible as you photograph artifacts and remains. Possibly, this activity needs to be enhanced by using a professional photographer.

What happened at Peleiu is of vital importance and is still available in the minds of people like me who were there. This is one area in which little or nothing has been done. These folks are all in their sixties or seventies so time is of the essence. I doubt if anyone who was a general officer is still living. I dont know of any field grade officers still living. Even junior officers and enlisted men will only be around for a few more years. The task of locating and interviewing a representative group of participants should be undertaken immediately. Palauan people who experienced the battle should be sought out and interview. Orrenges Thomas, the Angaur gentlemen who was on the flight with us between Koror and Peleiu is a prime example of someone the Service should be talking to. As you recall, he is the one who survived the bombardment and shelling of Angaur by taking refuge with his family in a cave. His first child was born in that cave. There must be a wealth of human interest stories having to do with the battle available now but not for much longer.

What about land? As I understand from you, the National Park Service won't be able to buy land in fee. As I understand from Fuanny Blunt, the Japanese have a lease agreement with the owning clan for their incredible memorial at Ngaramoked Point at the beautiful southern tip of Peleliu. If the Japanese can do this we certainly should be able to! Once we have the blessing of the Palau government it would probably be fairly easy to negotiate for land leases with individual clans. As far as what land is needed, I would propose a portion of the northern invasion beach with adjoining land extending inland to include the southern tip of Umurbrogol Mountain (Bloody Nose Ridge) plus some of the associated caves. Probably the Japanese headquarters complex and the large cave at the north end of the island should also be included. As I mentioned to you during our trip, it would be important to get rid of vegetation in some portion of the park. When we landed in 1944 there was scarcely a blade of grass left, so intense was the preinvasion bombing and shelling. A representative sample of the terrain as it existed during the battle would enhance the interpretation.

How would people visit the park? Initially, and probably permanently, visitors would come from Koror and be on Peleliu just for the day. Providing acceptable accomodations would lead to heavy pressure for luxurious resort hotels with the accompanying traffic, noise, and unsightliness. Such development would seriously detract from the somber mood we should attempt to establish on this island. We should acquaint the Palau government with this position from the very outset.

What about local involvement as plans for the park are developed? You are off to a good start in this regard. Eventually, a local advisory committee, similar to the one on Saipan, should be formed. Prospective members should understand that their advice needs to be within the framework of laws, policies, and operational standards of the National Park Service. This seems to suggest a rubber stamp committee and I don't mean that. But I don't believe we should run the risk of ending up with something that isn't a park.

What development is necessary? A Visitor Center for orientation and study will be necessary and I envision it in association with the airfield terminal. Restrooms and a satisfactory water supply at the buildings are called for. Other restrooms, possibly vault type, need to be located along visitor travel routes. Trails will be needed to major features along with display signs that interpret these features. The present road net seems to be adequate assuming there are no political problems to using it.

How should interpretation be provided? The Visitor Center should be generously furnished with photographs of the actions, weapons, vehicles, ships, and fighting men. Artifacts should be

displayed. A diorama depicting the devastation of the island at the time of the invasion should be provided. Another diorama portraying the Navy shelling the island and the landing force would be helpful in understanding what took place. An audio presentation of the role of Peleiu in the Pacific War along with a brief description of the planning that went into the invasion would be good. This might be delivered by an interpreter or perhaps by means of a headset. Visitors should be guided about by uniformed park rangers most of whom will be Palauans. Interpretive signs will briefly outline the incidents that took place at various points. A guidebook, providing greater detail, could be used in conjunction with the interpretive signs. Vans will be necessary for travel and should probably be operated by the National Park Service. In-depth knowledge and information will be necessary keeping in mind that people who make the effott to visit an out of the way place such as Peleliu won't be satisfied with a once over lightly.

Bryan, there probably isn't much here that you haven't already thought of. But, at least, my reinforcement of your thinking should be helpful to you.

I am working on my contact through whom I hope to contact the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Paul X. Kelly. Hopefully, we can gain Marine Corps interest and support. I'll keep you advised on this and if I'm successful I'll furnish your name to Kelly.

My slides turned out satisfactoriy and I'm putting together a presentation mainly for friends and our family. If it should come about that there is someone in the Service Center that you'd like to acquaint with the Peleliu situation I'd be happy to go down there for that purpose.

Thanks again Bryan for including me in this effort. If something good results at Peleliu I will be happy to have had a small piece of the action.

Warm regards,

Ash

Kenneth R. Ashley
5227 South County Road 7
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

(303) 223-3255

cc:
Director Dott
Regional Director Albright
Historian Bearss

June 4, 1989

Dear Ed -

Gerry Sayes was here in Ford Collins and I asked him to check with the Director's Office and your office to see what the reaction was to my memo to Bryan Harry. I received word back from him that neither office had received a copy. Things haven't changed much since I retired!

We have met. It was about 1974 or 5 in the summer at a dedication at Wilson's Creek N.B.S. You were the featured speaker and I was the Emcee. You'll recall that our outdoor ceremony was rained out and we moved to the Republic H.S. Auditorium. That really worked out well with all the High School kids in the audience. You were well received.

The reason that I accompanied Bryan to Pekelin last summer was that I was in on the invasion with the 8th 155 mm Gun Battalion. (Marine Corps, of course!)

The copy of the memo speaks for itself. My main concern is

JUN 8 1989

that some one start collecting interviews with people who were at Pelelin before they're all gone.

I've refined my slide presentation so that I can present it on short notice in case some one is in Denver that needs an orientation.

I would enjoy hearing from you just to know that this reaches you and also to know what is happening regard Pelelin from your viewpoint

Sincerely yours,

Ken Ashley

5227 So. County Rd 7
Fort Collins, CO 80525

H30(418)

JUN 27 1989

Mr. Kenneth R. Ashley
5227 South County Road 7
Ft. Collins, Colorado 80525

Dear Ken:

It was good to hear from you again after all these years. I will always remember the Wilson's Creek program in the late summer of 1972 and the large audience that resulted in the relocation, because of rain, to the auditorium of the Republic High School. Time certainly rushes by.

I was glad to learn of your return to the Western Pacific in the summer of 1988 with Bryan Harry and interested to learn of your presence on Peleliu in September and October 1944. Like you, I am a former Marine, having served in the invasions of Guadalcanal with the Raiders and Cape Gloucester with the 7th Marines. A New Britain wound prevented my participation in the Peleliu fight.

Your kindness in sending me a copy of your September 8, 1988, report to Bryan is appreciated. The original went astray. I have read your report and endorse your views. Of particular relevance, in view of my February 1989 visits to Guam and Saipan, is the need to inaugurate an oral history program. The principal purpose of my trip was to undertake such a program with Guamanians and Saipanese with vivid memories of the 1920s and 1930s and the World War II years. This was an emotional and unforgettable experience, one certain to enrich the interpretive program.

As for American veterans of the Pacific war, the Marine Corps, Air Force, Army, and Navy have on-going oral history programs. But their focus is on senior officers, not junior officers or the rank and-file unless their subsequent careers saw them rise to high command. If such programs with these people are to be undertaken, they must be sponsored by those with particular interests, such as unit or ship associations, the NPS, etc.

For your information, and to enable you to update your file, the U.S. Marine Corps, since 1987, has been commanded by Gen. A.M. Gray.

In closing, I note and applaud your statement about the need to develop and sustain a somber and reflective mood among visitors to sites associated with the Pacific War and its savage and bitter combat. This week, a planning meeting to discuss proposals for commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the December 7, 1941 attack is being held at the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii, and I have apprised Jim Charleton, an enlisted Navy veteran of Viet Nam, who is representing

my office, of your thoughts on this subject. If you have any additional ideas on the Peleliu proposal for the interpretation and commemoration of World War II in the Pacific, please write.

Sincerely,

Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

cc: Pacific Area Director
Supt., War in the Pacific NHP
8000 (WRO) Regional Director
001 RF
400 RF
418 Jim Charleton (w/c inc.)
418 Peleliu Battlefield (NHL)

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Toni's disk #3 15

COMMANDER IN CHIEF U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND REPRESENTATIVE
GUAM/COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS/
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA/REPUBLIC OF PALAU
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96630-0085

10 JAN 1990

Dear Dr. Allard,

I am writing to provide a letter of introduction for Mr. Bradley L. Strum, an archaeologist, historian, and personal acquaintance. As you can see from the enclosed resume, he has significant professional experience in the area of preservation.

The work described in Mr. Strum's proposal is desperately needed in the Republic of Palau. From my personal observations, it is evident that there are many significant Japanese colonial period and World War II sites. Their current condition varies from poor to good. Some World War II sites, specifically gun emplacements, are permanently damaged through natural corrosive processes. If preservation measures are taken soon, many significantly historical sites could be saved.

Additionally, the oral histories of elder Palauans must be recorded. Only a few elders remain who have witnessed the events of Palau's colonial period and World War II and have experienced the phenomena which have shaped Micronesian history.

Mr. Strum would be the ideal choice to undertake the preservation of these sites and the acquisition of oral histories. He has outlined principal goals of baseline assessment and site preservation. Also included are recommendations for the establishment of an Historic District and Park System.

If I can be of further assistance, please call me at (671) 349-5200.

Sincerely,

T. J. JOHNSON
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy

Dr. Dean Allard
Director, Naval Historical Center
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D. C. 20390

Encl:
(1) Resume for Mr. Bradley L. Strum, Archaeologist
(2) Outline for the development of an Historic District and Palau Historic Park System

Copy to:

OUTLINE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HISTORIC DISTRICT AND PALAU HISTORIC PARK SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

The following discussion briefly identifies suggested methodologies for the documentation, restoration, display and maintenance of significant historic properties in Palau. These properties would be permanently set aside in perpetuity so that future generations of Palauans and visitors may witness examples of Palau's national heritage.

Contained here-in are recommendations for the establishment of permanently maintained set-aside areas, perhaps following a historic national or state park concept and/or a historic district following a thematic site grouping format. Also listed here are historic sites which, based on a preliminary assessment, currently appear to warrant serious consideration by the Palau Division of Cultural Affairs for permanent preservation based on their demonstrable significance.

It is recommended that the historic district be comprised of all significant sites within the Koror town boundaries and perhaps include sites outside but near Koror town proper.

The sites outside Koror town, which would include all significant land and submerged sites, should be considered for inclusion in a park system. Ideally, this would be a national park, as this would provide a centralized management and preservation administration. In the absence of such a system a historic state park should be considered as the next preferred alternative.

In addition to possessing significant prehistoric resources such as terraces, Blai platforms, stone monoliths,and pictograph caves, the islands of Palau possess some uniquely significant historic resources related to the Japanese colonial period and World War II in the Pacific.

Many colonial period sites, which were once abundant in the Koror area, have been destroyed since the War, although a representative sample of buildings remain. These sites could be listed as a thematic group within a historic district. The intent of such a district would be to serve critical historic preservation needs, and would include the following activities: 1) cataloging and numbering each site; 2) identifying and explaining the site's original function; 3) documenting the current condition of each site; 4) providing archival photographs and original engineering plans for each site; 5) developing a program for preservation and public display; and 6) documenting oral histories associated with the sites before first hand knowledge is lost forever.

It is critical to preserve and maintain these historic sites and features as they are part of a rich and diverse cultural heritage. They should be treated as national treasures and accorded the attention and respect worthy of such valuable non-renewable resources.

The World War II sites are of particular importance due to their representation of the most cataclysmic events in human history. The most substantial and diverse remnants of World War II on earth are located within Micronesia. In contrast, many significant sites once located in Europe have been destroyed or badly impacted due to development and neglect, while a select few Pacific islands, such a Palau, contain a wealth of historic remains. The Republic of Palau has a unique opportunity to act as custodian of these historic sites - for precious few examples of the events which have so significantly shaped the world remain today.

PHASE I: Recommended Course of Action for Completion of Baseline Study

1. Conduct appropriate background research focusing on previous archaeological research and historic period uses of the study area, incorporating the information into a final report.

2. Conduct a field survey to locate, assess and document the current condition of all recorded historic and archaeological properties. The survey will also record sites and features which are known but have not been previously documented.

3. Develop and submit a report which will include the following:

   a) a review of the existing environmental conditions;

   b) an overview of previous land use activities within their study area boundaries;

   c) an overview of previous architectural, historic and archaeological research conducted within the study area and immediate vicinity;

   d) a description of sites and features encountered during the records and literature search;

   e) the results of a field survey to locate and assess historic properties.

   f) provide recommendations regarding which sites should be included in the historic district and park.

4. Complete site record forms for each site on the installation and include them as an appendix to the report.

5. Prepare an overall site map, using a predetermined scale, showing locations of all features and sites within the study area boundaries.

6. Produce archival quality photographs of all historically significant, and potentially significant features within the study area using 4 x 5 or 5 x 7 black and white format equipment. The photographic documentation will be completed in accordance with the ridged criteria of Historical American Building Standards and the Historical American Engineering Record.

7. Each site or feature within a preservation context would be evaluated as to its current condition. Then, detailed and specific case by case recommendations will describe the actions necessary for stabilization, restoration and preservation of each site. For example, these recommendations would describe methods for the restoration of World War II artifacts and features, such as cannons, aircraft, military hardware and concrete structures for the express purpose of stabilizing them and increasing their resistance to destructive natural processes and human impacts.

8. Each site within the historic district would receive a bronze plaque containing a brief explanation as to its historic function and a number which corresponds to the District's cataloguing system. This number would also serve as a reference point for a visitor's guide to the historic sites of Palau. In most cases, the colonial period properties are owned and maintained by the National Koror State governments. A minimal effort would be necessary in order to display the colonial period sites, although recommendations as to the restoration techniques and historic building criteria objectives would be established to provide guidance in the event that architectural alterations are necessary. Such guidelines would emphasize replacement of architectural components so that the historic character of each structure is maintained for Palauan posterity.

9. Recommendations for public access displays will be developed including such components as overall historic site location map, a site display numbering system using small concrete and/or wooden monuments, etched metal historic site displays and bronzed plaques. Other recommendations will include the steps necessary to prepare a property for display, such as removal of native vegetation, debris clean up and visitor access roads and paths.

10. Specific site by site recommendations will be developed describing the required maintenance schedules and procedures for all historic district and Park properties. It would be incumbent upon government agencies to determine specific interagency management and fiscal responsibilities. For example, in similar circumstances elsewhere, the Offices of Historic Preservation work in consort with local visitor's bureaus to ensure that high standards of management and maintenance of historic sites are observed.

11. The historic district and historic Park systems would be structured such that future sites, discovered after the establishment of such systems, could be routinely included in the inventory of historic properties.
The results of this study would be evaluated by the Palauan Division of Cultural Affairs, in consultation with all other interested parties, to establish which sites should be considered for preservation. Negotiations among the National and State governments, as well as traditional leaders and private landholders, for the right to permanently preserve significant historic properties should be coordinated through the Division of Cultural Affairs.

PHASE II: Implementation of Recommendations from Phase I Survey

1. Phase II would involve the actual implementation of the Phase I recommendations developed by the Palau Division of Cultural Affairs in consultation with other involved agencies, traditional leaders and interested citizens of Palau. During Phase II the following would also occur:

a) development and printing of a high quality visitors guide which would provide maps, photographs and detailed descriptions of all sites within the historic district and park.

b) instruction for management personal on the methods for the administration of historic districts and parks. This could be facilitated through arrangements with the U.S. National Park System and the U. S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

c) instruction for maintenance personal on the methods and schedules for preserving and displaying historic properties.

RECOMMENDED SITES FOR INCLUSION WITHIN HISTORIC DISTRICT AND PARK

1. Historic District - Based on a preliminary assessment of the existing historic properties within Koror and Airai States, the following sites should be considered for inclusion in a historic district:

a) Judicial Building
b) Shinto Shrine
c) Japanese road lanterns
d) Belau National Museum Building
e) Entomology Building
f) Other government building in Koror
g) M Dock and T Dock
h) 37 mm gun emplacement
i) Seaplane Base
    1. power facility
    2. radio bunker
    3. seaplane ramps
j) Japanese headquarters facilities in Airai State
k) Other sites recorded by archival research and field surveys.

2. Historic Park - Based on a preliminary assessment of the existing historic properties within Koror State the following sites would be considered for inclusion in a Historic Park:

a) All shipwrecks
b) Old German lighthouse and vicinity including:
    1. Japanese gun emplacements
    2. Japanese military camp
    3. Japanese caves
    4. Japanese aerial search light
    5. Japanese cannons on road to lighthouse
    6. Road from docking area to lighthouse
    7. Rock dock at the base of the road
    8. Other sites within the vicinity which are recorded during the field survey that are deemed historically significant

c) Three Japanese Aichi E1 3A (Jake) reconnaissance seaplanes submerged or partially submerged, located in the Rock Islands
    1. hanger cave associated with two of the seaplanes;

d) Japanese military cave and dock
    1. all artifacts and features within the massive limestone network located in the same area as the above

e) All water level gun emplacements

f) Japanese Mitsubishi A6M Reisen (Zeke) aircraft located on the reef south of Urukthapel Island.

This list represents merely a sample of the number of significant historic properties which should be considered for inclusion in a historic district or park.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20374-0571

IN REPLY REFER TO

5751
Ser EH/12024
January 26, 1990

Dr. Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013

Dear Ed,

Pursuant to your telephone conversation with Bill Dudley on the 19th of January, please find enclosed Rear Admiral T. J. Johnson's letter of introduction for Bradley Sturm and a proposal for a historic district and park in the Republic of Palau.

Sincerely,

DEAN C. ALLARD
Director
Naval Historical Center

Enclosures

FEB

H34(418)

APR 17 1990

Dr. Dean C. Allard, Director
Naval Historical Center
Department of the Navy
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Dear Dean:

Thank you for your letter enclosing Mr. Bradley Sturm's proposal for a park system in Palau. Through copies of this letter and Mr. Sturm's proposal, I am bringing his proposal, with very sparing comment, to the attention of other parties whom I believe to be also properly involved in considering his ideas.

These parties include the Historic Preservation Officer (HPO) for Palau, who is Ms. Victoria N. Kanai, Division of Cultural Affairs, Bureau of Community Services, P.O. Box 100, Koror, Republic of Palau 96940; the Interior Department's Assistant Secretary for Territorial and International Affairs; the National Park Service's Park Planning and Protection Division; and the Service's Western Region and Pacific Area Offices.

Mr. Sturm's proposal suggests a National Park in Palau, or, alternatively, a park system operated by the Government of Palau. Establishment of a National Park would require a Act of Congress. Such an Act is extremely unlikely unless, among other factors, it is fully supported by the Government of Palau and other owners and includes historic or natural resources of demonstrated national significance. Currently, the only property that meets the latter criterion is Peleliu Battlefield, embracing the island of that name. A bill proposing a new unit of the National Park System is also unlikely of passage in the current fiscal climate.

I cannot stress too strongly the importance of discussing this proposal directly with the Government of Palau. Palau has a special status in relation to the United States, and I do not wish, in any way, to suggest that support for this proposal can be presumed in any quarter.

It is also possible that the HPO of Palau has taken steps that would considerably modify or lessen the requirements for the ambitious program of research, site inventory, and other measures that Mr. Sturm suggests. The funding for and procuring of the needed services for this proposal are also not addressed in it. It is a fair assumption that such services, if needed on contract, would have to meet the requirements of the competitive bid process.

Finally, a cursory review of Mr. Sturm's proposal reveals an emphasis on colonial history and the events of World War II. Our past direct discussions with Palau's HPO indicate that the Government of Palau views these as worthy subjects for study, but that the identification and preservation of sites associated with Palau's native people and traditional culture are an equally, if not more pressing, concern. Our own views are entirely in accord with this past expression of concern by Palau's HPO.

Sincerely,

Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss
Chief Historian

cc: Ms. Victoria N. Kanai
Historic Preservation Officer
Division of Cultural Affairs
Bureau of Community Services
P.O. Box 100
Koror, Republic of Palau 96940

bcc: 8000 (WRO) Regional Director (w/c of inc.)
8270 (PAO) Area Director "
A/S, Territorial and International Affairs "
001 RF "
400 RF "
760 A/D, P&D "
418 Levy "
418 Charleton "
418 Delgado "
418 Peleliu Battlefield (NHL) "

JHCharleton:gmg:3/27/90
mdz 14C/20

REPUBLIC OF PALAU

Office of the President

KUNIWO NAKAMURA

President

P.O. Box 100, Koror • Republic of Palau 96940
Phone: (680) 488-2403 / 2541 • Fax: (680) 488-1662

RECEIVED 2280
[redacted] 19 [redacted]
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 7, 1996
Serial No. 91-96

Mr. Brian Harry
Director
Pacific Island System Support Office
National Park Service
300 Ala Moana Boulevard
Suite 25287
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Re: Peleliu Battlefield Site - National Historical Park

Dear Mr. Harry:

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize your efforts to protect the battlefield of Peleliu as a National Historic Landmark. This very special place is historically significant for both the United States and Palau, and because of its international importance, the Republic of Palau and the United States share the responsibility to preserve this site for the benefit of present and future generations.

Palau would be pleased and proud to join with the United States in preserving this site for the benefit of the people of both countries. We strongly believe that if operating costs and technical assistance are given to operate the Peleliu battlefield as a national park, it will open significant opportunities for increased understanding between our countries, and for the preservation of the natural, historical and cultural resources of Palau. We stand ready to assist the National Park Service in meeting its goals in the young island nations in Micronesia, and especially Palau.

On behalf of Palau, I join the Governor of Peleliu in pledging support for the dedication of the Peleliu battlefield as a national historical park. We seek your assistance in finalizing the proposal and forwarding it to the United States Congress for funding assistance. The Governor of Peleliu State and the Palau Historic Preservation Officer are hereby designated to work closely with you to finalize the proposal so that it can be forwarded to the U. S. Congress as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your generous and continuing assistance to Palau in protecting and preserving its history and unique cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

KUNIWO NAKAMURA
PRESIDENT

cc: Honorable Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., Vice President, R.O.P.
Honorable Jackson R. Ngiraingas, Governor of Peleliu State
Stanley T. Albright, Field Director/PWFA, National Park Service
Kate Stevenson, Director/National Park Service, WASO
Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs
Palau Historic Preservation Officer/DCA

Peleliu State Government
Office of the Governor

P.O. Box 6035 Peleliu, Republic of Palau 96940
Tel. No.: (680) 345-2967 • Fax/Tel.: (680) 488-1817

KANGICHI UCHAU
GOVERNOR

February 4, 2010

Frank Hays
Pacific Area Director
Pacific West Region, Honolulu
300 Ala Moana Blvd
Room 6-226, Box 50165
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Mr. Hays:

Greetings from Peleliu! The purpose of this letter is to formally request the technical assistance of the National Park Service for the State of Peleliu, Republic of Palau.

As you may know the island of Peleliu was designated as a U.S. National Historic Landmark in 1985, and later considered for designation as a U.S. Historic Park.

Throughout the years since the Landmark designation, the people of Peleliu have been proud to be the stewards of this recognition and in recent years have taken steps to preserve the history of the people of Peleliu and further protect the Landmark. Most importantly among these steps was the recent establishment by state statute of the Peleliu State Historical and Cultural Preservation Commission (attached).

The Commission's responsibilities encompass the protection of historical sites as well as management of the Peleliu WWII Historical Museum. As this Commission is only now being established, there are a number of challenges to be addressed. The state recognizes the serious responsibilities before us and we recognize the expertise of the National Park Service in historical preservation and museum management.

For these reasons we are now seeking and humbly requesting the technical assistance and guidance of the National Park Service so we may cooperatively work together for the preservation of the Landmark and history of our island.

Thank you so much for your time and effort. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kangichi Uchau, Governor
Peleliu State Government

C.D. Matsutaro, Speaker
10th Peleliu State Legislature

Enclosure: Peleliu State Public Law No. 290-09

cc: His Excellency, President Johnson Toribiong, Republic of Palau; the Honorable Robert S. Hyams, Charge d 'Affaires; the Honorable Faustina K. Rechuher-Marugg, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs; Dwight Alexander, Director of the Bureau of Arts and Culture

Peleliu State Liaison Office
Koror, Republic of Palau 96940 • Tel. No.: (680) 488-1817

RECEIVED
MAR 23 2010
PWR HONOLULU

United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pacific West Region
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, California 94607-4807

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H36 (PWR-CR)

The Honorable Kangichi Uchau
Office of the Governor
Peleliu State Government
PO Box 6035 Peleliu
Republic of Palau 96940

RE: Request for Technical Assistance

Dear Governor Uchau,

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 2010, requesting National Park Service (NPS) technical assistance and guidance to preserve the Peleliu National Historic Landmark (NHL) and the compelling history of your island. The NPS is grateful for the many efforts that you and the people of Peleliu have taken to preserve the NHL. The NPS welcomes the opportunity to provide assistance. Since receiving your letter, several NPS staff have talked with Peleliu officials about potential needs and researched areas that the NPS can provide assistance.

Assistance with some of these issues can begin in July, in Yap, FSM, when Hank Florence (Preservation Partnerships Program Chief) and Paula Falk Creech (Micronesia and American Samoa Historic Preservation Program Manager) will participate in the National Park Service's Annual Consultation meeting on our oversight of the Micronesia and American Samoa Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program. As in the past, we expect participation from the Palau Historic Preservation Office and other agencies of your government, as appropriate, to participate in these very important meetings. We would be happy to have Hank and Paula set aside time to discuss the topics below, and other issues that may be of interest to your office.

Four main areas of assistance were identified and are presented below.

1) Peleliu State Historical and Cultural Preservation Commission.

The NPS understands that this Commission is chartered and board members are being appointed. The NPS would be pleased to offer technical assistance to fully develop the Commission. The NPS can offer support to develop a charter to confirm the role and function of and develop operating procedures for the Commission. Please let us know if there is other assistance you would like.

TAKE PRIDE® IN AMERICA

2) Ranger Training

The NPS understands the staff of the Peleliu Marine Enforcement Division is interested in receiving training. To that end, the NPS will work with your staff to schedule Visitor Education and Resource Protection training for your rangers.

3) Peleliu Museum

The NPS understands that a Museum Condition Assessment was completed in February '09. Hank Florence has reviewed this assessment and has met with the author (Harrison Goodall) and has an understanding of what the next steps might be in the implementation of priority work identified. Project funding for some of the needed work at the museum can appropriately be sought through the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program. Hank and Paula will work with your Historic Preservation Office staff at the July meeting to help develop these grant requests.

We understand too that a museum collections assessment has recently been completed at Peleliu and that assistance would be helpful in its implementation. The NPS can offer collections management training to your museum staff through programs that we have in place or could help design a site specific program. Hank and Paula will review this plan with regional staff prior to their July meeting and start the discussion with your staff then as to what might be the best approach of support. Possible funding through the Historic Preservation Fund will also be considered.

4) Peleliu National Historic Landmark Preservation

The NPS understands there may be interest in possible designation of the Peleliu NHL as a National Heritage Area. The NPS would be pleased to discuss the Heritage Area Program with you and the stabilization of existing monuments in the NHL. Our cultural resources division for which Hank and Paula work administers this program. We can arrange for them to present a power point presentation on the Heritage Area Program at the July meeting.

As for next steps, please contact Pacific Area Director, Frank Hays by letter or at 808-541-2693 extension 723 to confirm the technical assistance you request. He will coordinate with applicable subject matter experts to provide as much assistance as possible. Frank, and other NPS staff, including War in the Pacific National Historical Park Superintendent Barbara Alberti, would be pleased to meet with you or other Peleliu officials if the opportunity arises for your travel to Hawaii or travel to Peleliu.

Regarding assistance that can occur as part our annual Historic Preservation Program consultation meeting to be held in July, in Yap, FSM, please contact Hank Florence by email (hank_florence@nps.gov) or phone at 206-220-4133. As we have done in the past, we will be having private sessions with all of the offices who participate to address issues specific to their needs. It provides us the opportunity to assist with not only ongoing project work but also helps us design new work that the NPS can provide assistance, both technically and financially. We would be pleased to block out ample time in our agenda to discuss issues and needs important to Peleliu.

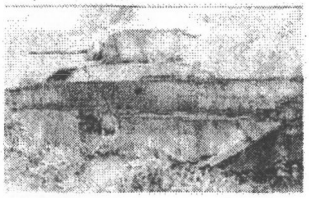
In close coordination with you, the NPS proposes to develop a Peleliu National Historic Landmark Technical Assistance Plan that will establish a flexible strategy for providing instruction, guidance, and training. The NPS will collaborate with you to formulate the Peleliu Technical Assistance Plan to meet your specific needs, align activities in a timeline, and establish a unified vision.

In closing, let me reiterate the NPS's appreciation for your efforts to preserve the important history of Peleliu. Please do not hesitate to call if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

George J. Turnbull
Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region

cc:
His Excellency, President Johnson Toribong, Republic of Palau
The Honorable Robert S. Hyams, Charge d 'Affaires
The Honorable Faustina K. Rechuher-Marugg, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs
Director Dwight Alexander, Bureau of Arts and Culture, Historic Preservation Officer



Peleliu War Historical Society Inc

June 5, 2010

National Park Service
JUN 10 2010
Office of the Director

Jon Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Peleliu National Historic Landmark

Dear Mr. Jarvis:

This letter is to ask for your consideration for preservation of the Peleliu National Historic Landmark.

Recently the Peleliu Governor and State Legislature's Speaker sent a letter to the National Park Service requesting assistance in preserving the Peleliu Landmark. Given the Service's broad obligations and budgetary constraints, this request may seem burdensome, but the request is modest and demonstrates a commitment on the part of the State of Peleliu to preserve one of the more important Landmarks in the Pacific.

The nature of the request is for guidance and technical help. It is genuine, and with Peleliu's modest resources the State of Peleliu takes this request quite seriously and with the utmost respect.

You're no doubt familiar with the sequence of events surrounding Peleliu over the past decades and the determination that a Historical Park was not feasible due to the lack of sufficient land. During this time Peleliu has not strayed from its belief in honoring this Landmark, but lacked the adequate knowledge and training to sufficiently ensure the Landmark's protection.

In recent years the State of Peleliu has taken measures to lead in the initiative for preservation of the Landmark. Among these initiatives is the establishment by statute of a Peleliu Historical Commission and a State Resolution requesting establishment of a National Heritage Area. By the same token, the State is now vigorously enforcing its laws prohibiting looting and compliance with historical preservation laws, both towards its own citizens as well as all too often American visitors.

The State of Peleliu has made financial commitments on several important preservation projects over the past several years. These commitments are all the more significant in light of the funding available in its state budget.

Peleliu War Historical Society, Inc.
9201 N. Sun Valley Drive
Palmer, AK 99645
Tel/Fax 907-745-5541

Still with these events in mind, the State of Peleliu is at an important crossroads in proceeding further without the help of the National Park Service. The State's request for assistance focuses on three core areas: Peleliu State Ranger training, operations of the Peleliu State Museum and guidance in operation of their newly formed Historical Commission.

It is my understanding the NPS is now evaluating Peleliu's request for assistance, and further clarification between the State and NPS has occurred. I understand NPS is now formulating its response.

For over five years our organization has worked closely with American veterans of the Peleliu battle as well as Peleliu State and Palau officials, including the Palau Bureau of Arts and Culture. It is our firm belief that a supportive role by the NPS can sustain an important U.S. National Historic Landmark by empowering Peleliu state government in its pledge to protect this battlefield.

The Peleliu people are proud people and this is a rare opportunity for us all. Our organization is hopeful NPS will respond favorably to Peleliu's request to establish a meaningful partnership and look forward to hearing any thoughts on this subject.

Very best regards,

Steve Cypra
President
Peleliu Historical Society

JUL - 1 2010

H34(2280)

Mr. Steve Cypra
President
Peleliu War Historical Society, Incorporated
9201 N. Sun Valley Drive
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Mr. Cypra:

Thank you for your letter of June 5, 2010, to Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service (NPS), concerning your support for the National Historic Landmark (NHL) located in the Republic of Palau. Director Jarvis has requested that I respond to your correspondence. I am pleased to inform you that the NPS Pacific West Regional Office has plans underway to provide technical preservation assistance to the Government of Palau.

Two members of the Cultural Resources staff in the Pacific West Regional Office, Hank Florence, Program Chief, Preservation Partnerships Program, and Paul Falk Creech, Program Manager, Micronesia and American Samoa Historic Preservation, will be participating in the NPS Annual Consultation meeting on our oversight of the Micronesia and American Samoa Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program in July. It is my understanding that Mr. Florence, and Ms. Creech, have already begun discussions with officials in Palau about several preservation issues. These include:

- technical assistance to develop the legislatively established Peleliu State Historical and Cultural Preservation Commission;
- providing Visitor Education and Resource Protection training for the rangers of the Peleliu Marine Enforcement Division;
- assistance in developing grant requests to fund implementation of priority work for the Peleliu Museum which was identified through a Museum Condition Assessment report completed in 2009;
- determining and arranging for the appropriate collections management training for the museum staff in order to implement a recently completed museum collections assessment report;
- providing information on the NPS National Heritage Area Program.

I believe that Mr. Florence and Ms. Creech have arranged a private session with representatiaves of Palau, including the Palau Historic Preservation Office, at the meeting in July. This meeting will include further discussion of the issues and needs important to Peleliu.

The NPS, in coordination with Palau officials, will develop a Peleliu NHL Technical Assistance Plan that will establish a flexible strategy for providing instruction, guidance, and training. We will collaborate with the government of Palau to formulate the Peleliu Technical Assistance Plan to meet their specific needs, align all activities in a timeline, and establish a unified vision. If you have any questions about these preservation assistance plans, please contact Hank Florence at 206-220-4133; or by e-mail at hank_florence@nps.gov.

Thank you again for your interest in the preservation of the Peleliu Battlefield National Historic Landmark. The National Park Service appreciates all of the efforts of your organization, and the people of Palau, to care for the important historical heritage of Palau.

Sincerely,

Signed

Daniel Odess,
Acting Associate Director, Cultural Resources

cc: Mr. Dwight G. Alexander
Historic Preservation Officer
Bureau of Arts and Culture
Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs

bcc: Pacific West Regional Office—Seattle (Hank Florence)
Pacific West Regional Office—Oakland (E. Jackson-Retondo)
7256 Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
2285
2201
2280 (Loether, Lord, Lusignan)
2280 PELELIU BATTLEFIELD (NHL)
Basic File Retained in 2280
FNP:Phenry:OP:06/30/2010:vc:07/02/2010:S\NR-NHL\Nominations Final\Peleliu NHL Assistance

(Excerpt)

DEDICATION REMARKS

ANGAUR CEMETERY

SEPTEMBER, 1944

Maj. Gen. Paul J. Mueller

Commanding

81st Infantry Division

U. S. Army

"Today we are met in this tropical setting for the solemn ceremony of dedicating these carefully prepared grounds and this beautiful 81st Infantry Division Memorial Chapel to the lasting memory of those men who gave their all for our country...

In this simple ceremony of dedication we recognize the cost of the liberties we enjoy as a people, and herewith set aside this chapel and strip of tropical island as a place to which our hearts can turn in memory of fallen comrades and more, perhaps, as a token to their sorrowing homes that we hold these heroic dead in highest admiration and esteem...

...They were good soldiers, faithful to their mission and an honor to the Division and the cause we alike serve. For them there is nothing further we can do...There remains now only the Ritual of Dedication, our feeble efforts to express in this form a gratitude which words cannot fathom, salute them according to military custom, and then with our faces set forward, close ranks and march out proudly to our next mission.

We leave them now; WE SHALL NOT FORGET THEM..."

BLILIOU (PELELIU) HISTORICAL PARK STUDY

January 1991

Preliminary Draft

Prepared by

the

Government of Palau

and the

National Park Service

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INTRODUCTION

Background and Purpose

In August 1978 the United States enacted Public Law 95-348 establishing the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam. The park's purpose was "to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those participating in the campaigns of the Pacific theater of World War II" and to preserve and interpret select battle sites related to the recapture of Guam during World War II.

Public Law 95-348 also required the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of other areas and sites associated with the Pacific campaign of World War II. Section 6(h) of that law directed:

> The Secretary, through the Director of the National Park Service, shall conduct and transmit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives a study of additional areas and sites associated with the Pacific campaign of World War II. The study shall contain a description and evaluation of each area or site, and an estimated cost of acquisition, development, and maintenance of the area or site, if appropriate, together with such additional authority as may be needed to enable him to implement his recommendations. The Secretary shall concentrate his study within Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, but shall also investigate additional areas and sites within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to the extent possible and may include other areas and sites in the Pacific area if practicable.

The General Management Plan for War in the Pacific National Historical Park (April 1983) identifies additional sites on Guam. A historic resources study, *Historic Resources, War in the Pacific National Historical Park, Guam* (1984) by National Park Service historian Erwin N. Thompson identifies and summarizes NPS knowledge of other World War II sites on Guam. The general management plan and the historic resources study form the resource base for responding to Section 6(h) of Public Law 95-348 with regard to additional sites on Guam.

For those additional areas and sites outside Guam, the National Park Service in 1985 carried out a national historic landmark theme study of World War II in the Pacific. This study, also by historian Thompson, describes and evaluates theme related resources in more than 50 separate locations. The study was divided into four general subthemes: (1) Japanese Expansion in the Pacific, (2) The United States Home Front, (3) Alaska and the Aleutians, and (4) The United States' Central Pacific Drive. The geographic area surveyed consisted of United States territory in the states of Alaska, Hawaii, California, Oregon, and Washington, as well as Midway and Wake islands; and it also included the area encompassing the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, from which four political entities have emerged: the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. The study determined that within this expanse there were certain theme-related areas and sites that were of national significance and possessing sufficient integrity to warrant being nominated for designation as national historic landmarks. Most of these areas and sites have since been designated National Historic Landmarks by the Secretary of the Interior.

The purpose of this study is to examine those national historic landmarks within the two subthemes, United States' Central Pacific Drive and Japanese Expansion in the Pacific, and to determine whether any of these nationally significant areas or sites are feasible for inclusion within the national park system. Those considered were Kwajalein, Republic of the Marshall Islands; Roi-Namur, Republic of the Marshall Islands; Enewetok, Republic of the Marshall Islands; Truk Lagoon, Federated States Micronesia; Ulithi, Federated States of Micronesia; portions of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana

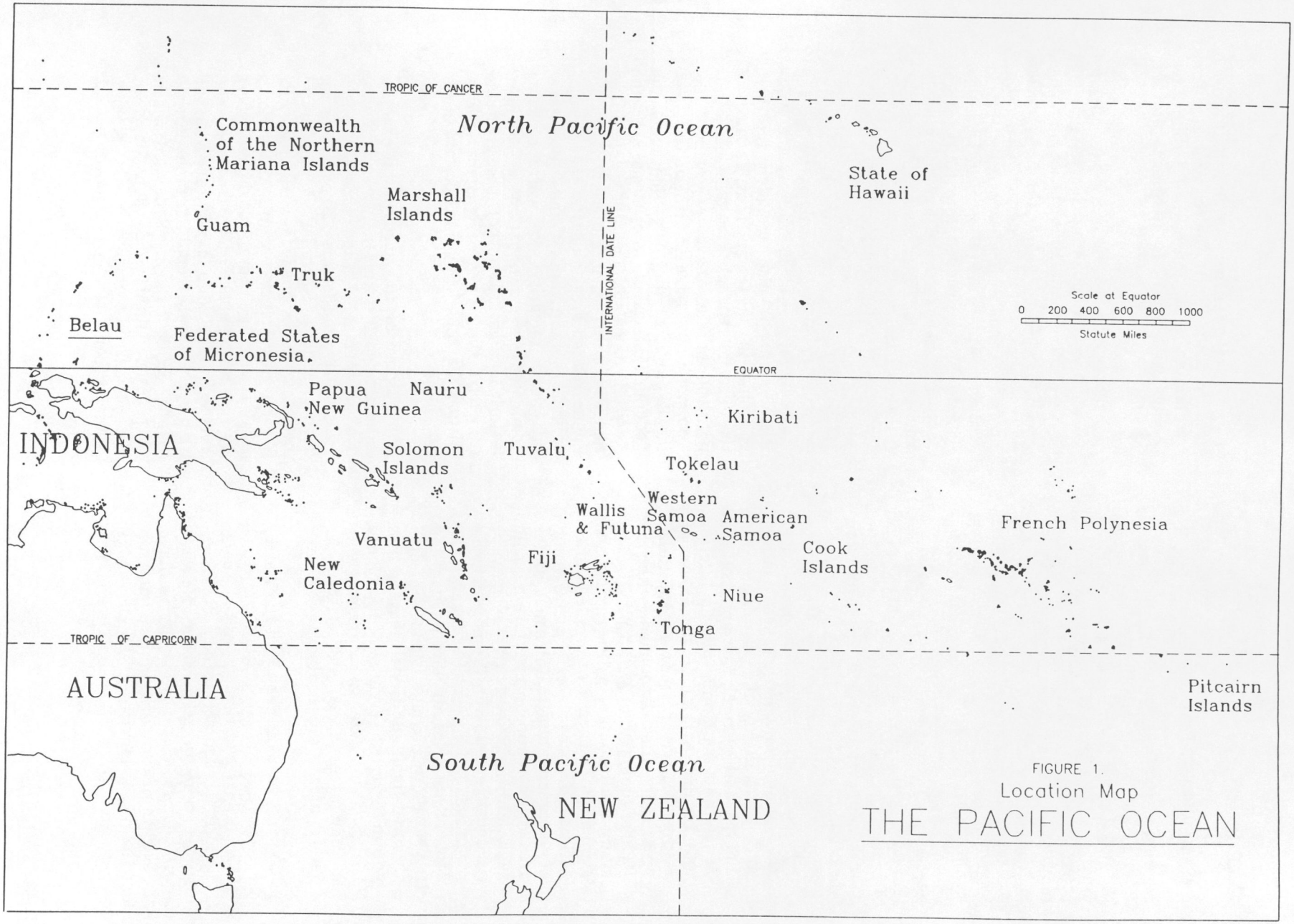


FIGURE 1.
Location Map
THE PACIFIC OCEAN

Islands; portions of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Peleliu, Republic of Palau; Hickam Air Force Base, Wheeler Field, Kaneohe Naval Air Station, Fort Shafter (Palm Circle), and CINCPAC Headquarters, all in the State of Hawaii; and Midway and Wake islands, both U. S. Possessions. Of these, the areas examined, four appear to meet the criteria as potential additions to the national park system: Peleliu, Truk Lagoon, and portions of Saipan and a related site on Tinian. The others presently are active military bases or without public access and consequently judged to be infeasible at this time.

This report deals with the island of Peleliu, the name it was known by to American G.I.'s.

BLILIOU (PELELIU)

Study Setting

The Republic of Palau, occupying the westernmost archipelago of the Caroline Islands, became self-governing on January 1, 1981 under a constitution originally ratified in the referendum of July 1979. The constitution provides for a bicameral legislature, an executive branch, a judiciary and state governments. The president is the chief executive and is aided in an advisory capacity by a council of chiefs (these are the traditional chiefs, one from each of the states) on matters dealing with traditional laws and customs.

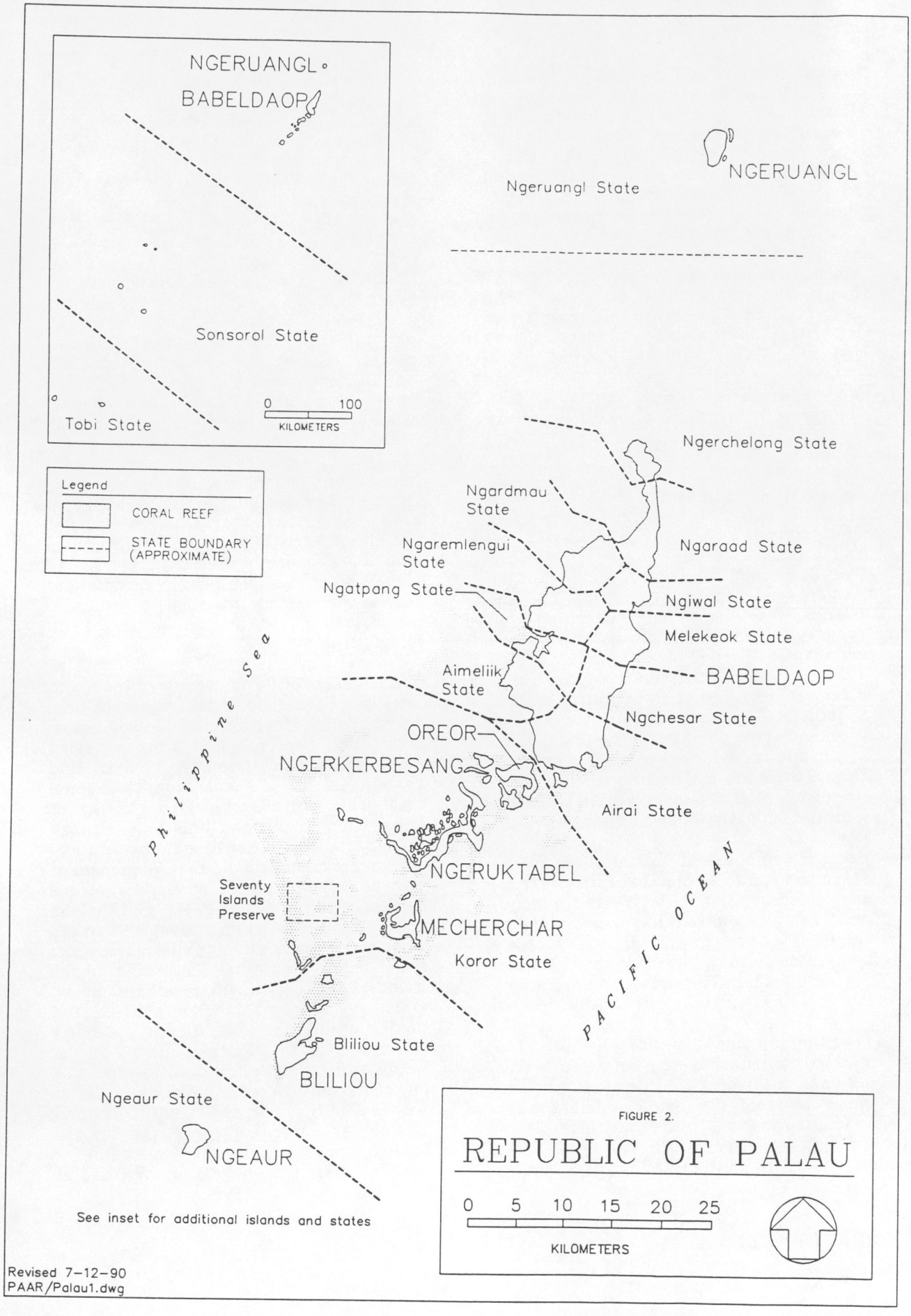
Palau is composed of 16 states (see Figure 2), each with an elected executive officer, an elected legislative body, and a major chief heading the ranking state council of chiefs. These states were originally loosely tied village clusters, becoming municipalities during the Trust Territory period. Each of the states has an approved constitution.

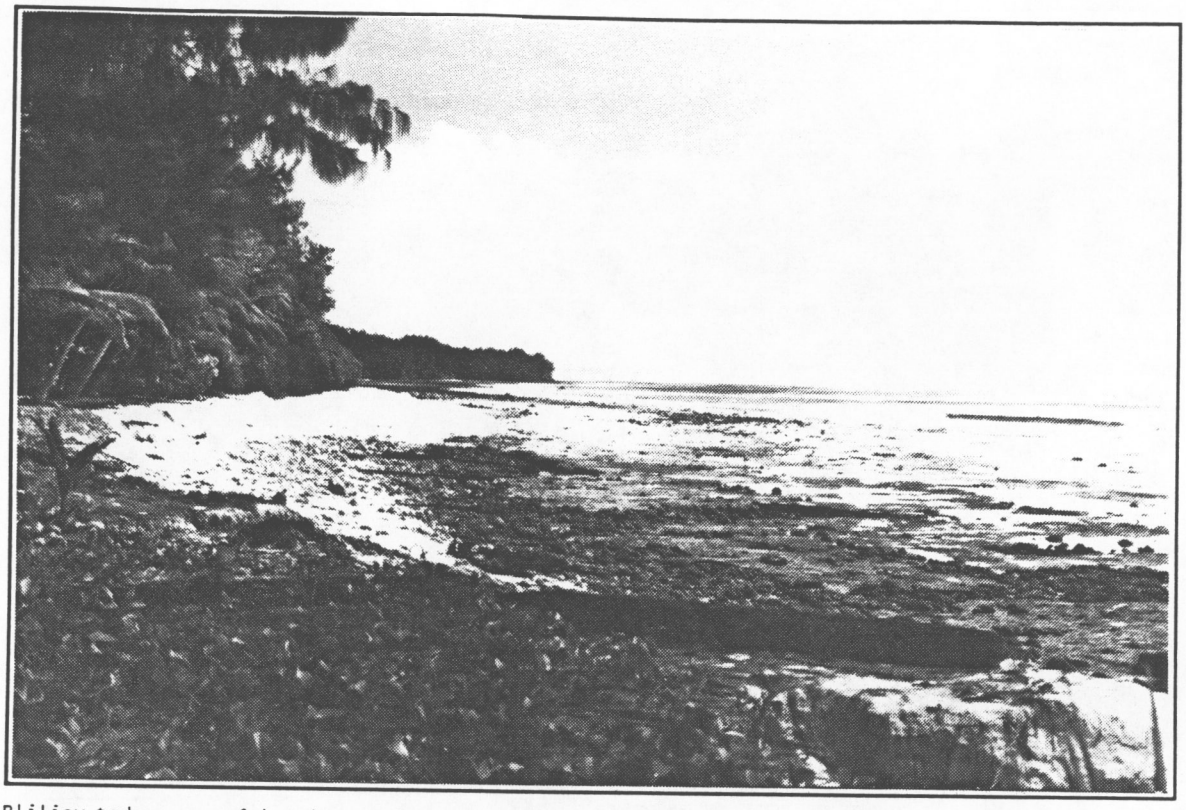
Tradition remains very strong in Palau. The national constitution incorporates an article designed to protect traditional rights; i.e., the government is enjoined from taking any action to prohibit or revoke the role or function of a traditional leader as recognized by custom and tradition that is not consistent with the constitution. In case of a conflict, a statute prevails "only to the extent it is not in conflict with the underlying principles of the traditional law."

Historically, Palauan society was (and still is) organized into villages that were traditionally ruled by a council of 10 male chiefs and a parallel advisory staff of 10 female elders, each representing one of the ranking clans of the village clusters. As noted, these village clusters, municipalities during Trust Territory times, are today's states. Usually the male council addressed matters relating to the local economy, welfare, and law and order. The female council concerned itself mainly with matters of inheritance and interlineage or interclan peace.

Land and money were regarded as communal property of an individual's clan group and guarded by the female elders of the clan. Each Palauan was obligated to contribute money to the clan as an expression of loyalty, especially on occasions such as birth, death, marriage, divorce, the purchase of a house or a canoe. This is still largely true today.

The land base of Palau consists of ten major islands -- Babeldaob, Oreor, Ngerkebesang, Ngerukdabel, Mecherchar, Bliliou, Ngeaur, Ngeruangl, Sonsorol, and Tobi[1] -- lying along a northeast/southeast axis and covering about 178 square miles in total area. The entire archipelago consists of about 350 volcanic and limestone islands. Babeldaob, the largest island, covers about 128 square miles or more than 70 percent of the entire land base; however, it is on the smaller island of Oreor to the south where most of the population resides and where most of the economic activity takes place; Oreor is also the capital. Only eight of the islands have permanent residents. Below Oreor lie about 200 small pristine and unique coral limestone islands popularly referred to as the "Rock Islands." To the south is the island of Bliliou, the scene of one of the most fierce and bloody battles of World War II. The 1982 study, "Natural Landmarks Survey of the Islands of the Pacific," prepared for the National Park Service, described the islands of Palau as


NGERUANGL
BABELDAOP
Sonsorol State
Tobi State
0 100
KILOMETERS
Legend
CORAL REEF
STATE BOUNDARY (APPROXIMATE)
Ngeruangl State
NGERUANGL
Ngerchelong State
Ngardmau State
Ngaremlengui State
Ngaraad State
Ngatpang State
Ngiwal State
Melekeok State
BABELDAOP
Aimeliik State
Ngchesar State
OREOR
NGERKERBESANG
Airai State
Philippine Sea
NGERUKTABEL
Seventy Islands Preserve
MECHERCHAR
Koror State
PACIFIC OCEAN
Bliliou State
BLILIOU
Ngeaur State
NGEAUR
See inset for additional islands and states
FIGURE 2.
REPUBLIC OF PALAU
0 5 10 15 20 25
KILOMETERS
Revised 7-12-90
PAAR/Palau1.dwg



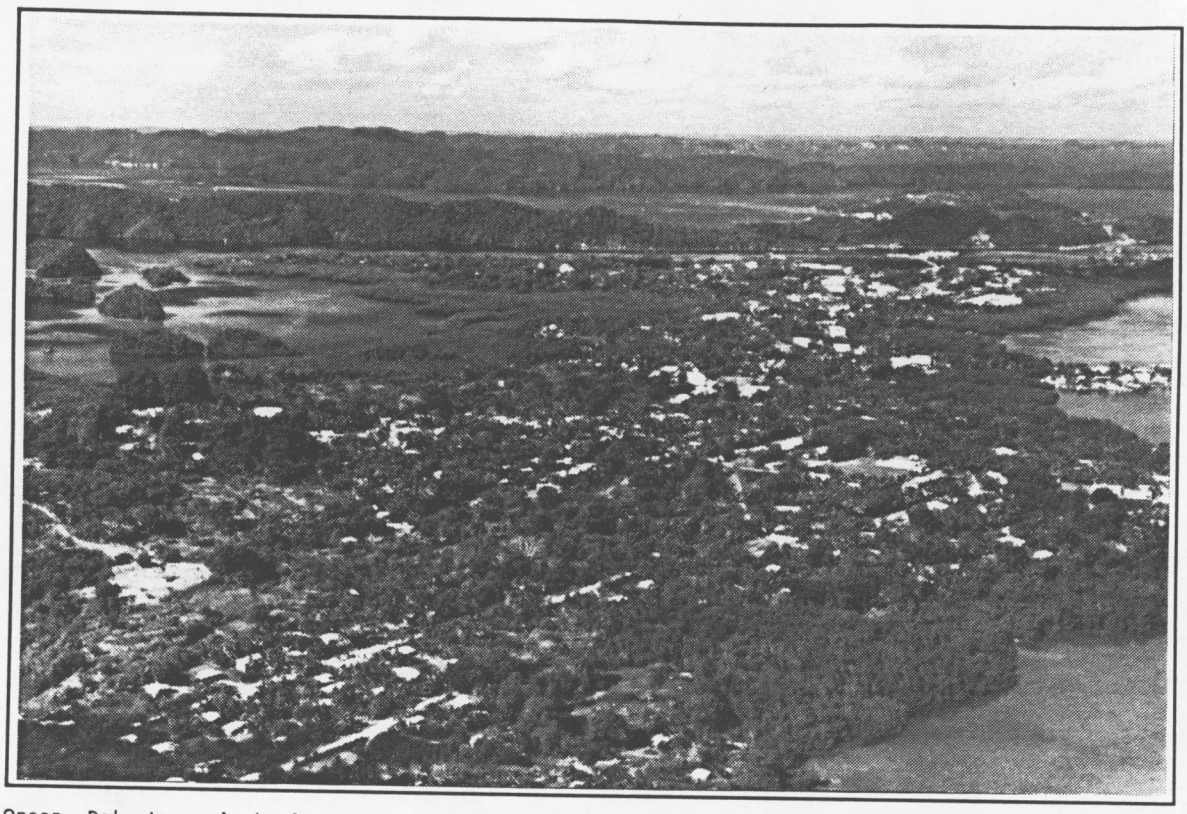
Bliliou today, peaceful and tranquil, along what local residents call Honeymoon Beach. In 1944 this was the site of one of the invasion beaches...then called Purple.

"among the most remarkable geological and biological features in the world."

All of the major islands except Ngeaur, a small atoll at the southern end of Palau, are enclosed within a single barrier reef nearly 100 miles long. Many of the individual islands, including Bliliou, have their own fringing reefs. There are two atolls to the north outside of the barrier reef, Ngeruangl and Ngcheangl. Some 300 miles to the south are Helen Reef, an atoll with a small islet, and Tobi and Merir, two small islets. Palau's constitution defined the country's territory and jurisdiction to include "all of the islands of the Palauan archipelago, the internal waters..." and "the territorial waters extending out to 200 nautical miles."

Most of the islands of Palau are covered by dense, heterogeneous tropical forests, except Babeldaob where there are extensive areas of savannah and grasslands. These latter areas have been maintained and extended by fire. Mangrove forests grow along most of Babeldaob's coastline, portions of Oreor's and along the northern end of Bliliou's. Subsistence crop are grown on all the major islands. The principal crops consist of taro, cassava, sweet potato, coconut, and banana.

All of Babeldaob, portions of Oreor and its immediate vicinity are volcanic in origin. The rest of Palau -- Mecherchar, Ngerukdabel, Bliliou, Ngeaur, as well as the rest of Oreor, are of limestone formation. These limestone islands often have no soil material, only a layer of leaves and humus. Mecherchar and Ngerukdabel are precipitous and high, Bliliou and Ngeaur are low platforms. Most of Palau's shoreline is fringed with mangrove forest or cliffs; the islands of Bliliou and Ngeaur contain the longest stretches of sand beaches. Babeldaob contains the only perennial streams on Palau.



Oreor, Palau's capital, is one of the most scenic towns in Micronesia with superb views of the Rock Islands to the south.

The Rock Islands, formed by the weathering of ancient uplifted reefs, have evolved into umbrella-like shapes as their limestone bases erode away. Some of the larger islands are more than 650 feet in height and the larger islands contain biologically unique, marine lakes. All are crowned with dense, tropical forest cover.

Located about 7-1/2 degrees above the equator, Palau's climate is tropical. Consequently, the annual temperature variation is minimal. The mean annual temperature is 81 degrees F. Relative humidity averages about 90 percent at night and 75 to 80 percent during the day. Typhoons are possible but rare. Palau is subject to two wind patterns during the year: the northeast trades from December through March and the southwest monsoons, which are associated with the passage of the doldrums belt through this Pacific area, from June through October. This latter period coincides with the high rainfall period in Palau. The total annual rainfall is nearly 150 inches.

The present population of Palau is estimated to be about 15,000 residents. Except for the island of Oreor where approximately 10,000 people reside, population density is low compared to the rest of Micronesia. Palau has a lower birth and death rate and the median age is higher. According to 1980 U. S. Census figures, there were 12,116 residents of the then Palau District. The 1980 population figure arrived at by the Palau Office of Public Affairs for all Palauans was 14,989. If both these figures are correct, this would mean that there are 2,873 Palauans, or nearly 20 percent of the population, who live abroad. The 1973 census of the Trust Territory showed the Palau District with a resident population of 12,674.

Besides government work, which accounts for more than 60 percent of the total annual

wages earned, Palau's principal economic sectors are fishing, agriculture, trade and tourism. Fishing and agriculture make up about 17 percent of the economy and trade another 16 percent. While contributing to only a small portion of the economy, tourism appears to have the greatest potential for growth since the bulk of Palau's wealth undoubtedly lies in its rich and spectacular waters. Most of Palau's budgetary resources for operations, capital improvement, and economic development comes from the United States. Jobs in the wage sector are located mostly in the Oreor area. Palau's tuna packing plant and copra mill which closed down operations several years ago are both scheduled to start up again under new management. Both were major sources of employment. The Micronesian Mariculture Demonstration Center on the island of Malakal is where giant clams, *Tridacna derasa*, are planted and grown for commercial use. This has been a successful operation, both in terms of restoring the once abundant giant clams to Palau's waters for use as a food source and exporting them to other Pacific islands.

There are three major hotels in Palau; two on Oreor, the 56-room Nikko Hotel and the 47-room Palau Hotel, and one on nearby Ngerkebesang, the newly built Palau Pacific Resort. The latter is a 64-acre resort complex containing 100 rooms.

In 1985 Palau completed its major airport. Located at the southern end of Babeldaob, the facility is serviced several times per week by major airlines from the United States, Japan, Australia, and the Philippines, as well as connecting flights from Europe.

A super port/oil refinery complex was proposed in the 1970's but became controversial and was never built. Similarly, the proposed use of substantial portions of Babeldoaf by the U. S. military was rejected by Palauans.

According to the *Pacific Islands Year Book* (1984), visitors to Palau in 1982 contributed nearly $2 million to the economy. The bulk of these visitors are tourists who come to enjoy the extraordinary natural beauty of places like Palau's Rock Islands. Tourism has also given rise to related businesses such as scuba diving shops, tour buses, boat and airplane sightseeing, hotels and restaurants.

Tourism

While still modest in terms of numbers, tourism in Palau has increased dramatically since 1980. During this period, a more than 400% increase in overall visitation has occurred, while visitation increased at about the same rate. Visitors from Japan make up the largest single group of tourists -- nearly all of the Japanese visitors who come to

Table A. Visitors to Palau, 1980-1989

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
All Visitors [1]	5,640	5,057	5,330	6,388	9,014	13,371	13,653	16,695	22,675	26,005
USA	2,222	1,676	1,782	1,989	2,532	3,214	3,747	3,747	4,205	4,821
Japan	2,894	2,650	2,721	3,026	3,969	6,968	6,567	6,924	10,818	11,633
Other [2]	1,124	1,155	1,335	1,939	2,885	2,631	3,305	4,861	6,222	6,611
Tourists	4,516	3,902	3,995	4,449	6,129	10,740	10,348	11,834	16,453	19,394

[1] Includes visitor entries for business, employment, and religious purposes as well as tourists.

[2] Primarily from Europe and the Philippines.

Source: Monthly Report of Entries (Planning and Statistics Office), Division of Cultural Affairs, Republic of Palau

Palau are tourists. American tourists, while not as numerous as those from Japan, have also increased their numbers substantially.

Gross revenues from tourism are estimated at $8 million annually. The Rock Islands, with their white sand beaches, world-class diving and lush vegetation, are recognized by many in Palau as having great development potential for tourists and as a source of economic gain.

Land Ownership and Tenure in Palau

The land tenure system in Palau is derived from the traditional clan system. The clan as a group held title to its lands and individuals could not transfer ownership without clan approval. Land and its resources were held by a single clan, clans, or a village. Public lands and waters generally belonged to a single village or occasionally a group of villages. Although village residents could enter these lands and waters to take its resources, non-residents had to seek permission of village chiefs.

Individual tenure did not exist until German times (1899-1914). Until then, fee simple ownership of land was unknown. Lands within the village were assigned to clan members by the chief. These included lands to be used for home sites, taro farming, wood lots, and palm forests. Ownership of these lands was documented by oral tradition and the uses to which the land was put. Boundaries might change over time.

Three general forms of land tenure occur in Palau: public community tenure, kin group tenure, and individual tenure. The first, the so-called public lands, traditionally were community lands belonging to a village or cluster of villages and controlled by the village or district council. These consisted of the uninhabited, undeveloped lands used primarily for hunting and gathering (wild pigeons and wild yams), timber, or transit. They were accessible, however, only to the residents of the nearby villages; non-residents first had to obtain permission to enter and use these lands. When the Germans arrived on Palau, they declared all of these uninhabited lands to be the property of the government. The offshore reefs and fishing grounds traditionally have been considered to be public too. Commercial fishing in an area in which the fisherman is not a resident requires approval.

When the Japanese arrived, they recognized and retained those lands which the Germans had declared to be in public ownership. In 1932 a land survey was undertaken by the Japanese to distinguish the private from the public lands. Legal recognition of individual land ownership resulted from the Japanese land register. The survey, however, was never completed and never fully recognized by Palauans. Following World War II, Palauans attempted to regain title to some of the public lands designated by the Japanese and made requests to the U. S. Trust Territory government for the return of their lands.

The process of land registration continued during the Trust Territory period. In 1966, the Land Commission Act established land commissions at the territorial and district levels, including Palau, and also land registration teams. The law required that all land parcels in the Trust Territory be registered and recorded, and that boundaries and title be established. It also set up a procedure to determine legal ownership on disputed parcels.

Under the Trust Territory government, public lands could be homesteaded. By establishing productive use of a tract of land for a period of three years, the homesteader could be granted title. Homesteading of public lands, however, was halted in 1974 and title to the public lands was transferred to district authority to be administered by the Palau Land Authority.

The Trust Territory government provided the means by which Palauans whose lands were lost or destroyed during the Japanese period or during World War II could file claims for compensation. The War Claims Act of 1971 also provided the legal means for Palauans to make claim against the U. S. and Japan for damages done to their lands during World War II. Bliliou was the area most affected by these claims since its residents were evacuated by the Japanese

and its lands severely damaged during the World War II battle there.

Under Palau's Constitution, homesteading of public lands can once again be resumed. Presently, there are about 77,000 acres of public lands in Palau; about 9,000 of these have been committed to municipal uses and administrative services, the rest remains in open space. Some of these public lands are leased. These public lands are being reviewed by the Republic of Palau to see if any should be in private ownership.

Compact of Free Association

After long negotiations, Palau and the United States have approved a Compact of Free Association as the basis for their future relationship with each other. Under the provisions of the Compact, Palau has achieved its desired autonomy and is at the same time retaining its ties with the United States.

The Compact, which was signed by the two parties in August 1982, calls for Palau to be fully self-governing. The United States is to provide grants for economic assistance. The actual funding for economic assistance is to last for 15 years; after that, the funding will come from investment in interest-bearing instruments of the United States made during the first year. In return for the economic assistance, the United States is to obtain contingency land-use rights for military purposes. The period of the free association relationship is to be for 50 years but could be terminated at any time, either by mutual agreement or unilaterally.

In September 1986, the Compact of Free Association with Palau was approved by Congress and signed by the President; it constitutes both a public law and an international agreement for the United States.

Palau's final approval of the Compact, however, has been delayed because of that document's inconsistency with the nuclear-free provision contained in Palau's Constitution. Several plebiscites have been held to attempt to override the constitutional ban on nuclear substances being introduced on Palau's soil and in its territorial waters -- under Palauan law, a three-quarters majority of the voters is required. However, asking three-quarters of the electorate of any democracy to agree on an issue is a formidable task -- maybe even an impossible one (one of the plebiscites to override the constitutional ban on nuclear substances resulted in a 72 percent voter approval, a remarkable consensus) -- and these plebiscites have been unsuccessful. In August 1987, Palau held a national referendum to amend their constitution and remove the nuclear-free provision. Following the successful passage of that referendum, the voters of Palau approved the Compact of Free Association with the United States by 73 percent majority (only a simple majority was needed for Compact approval).

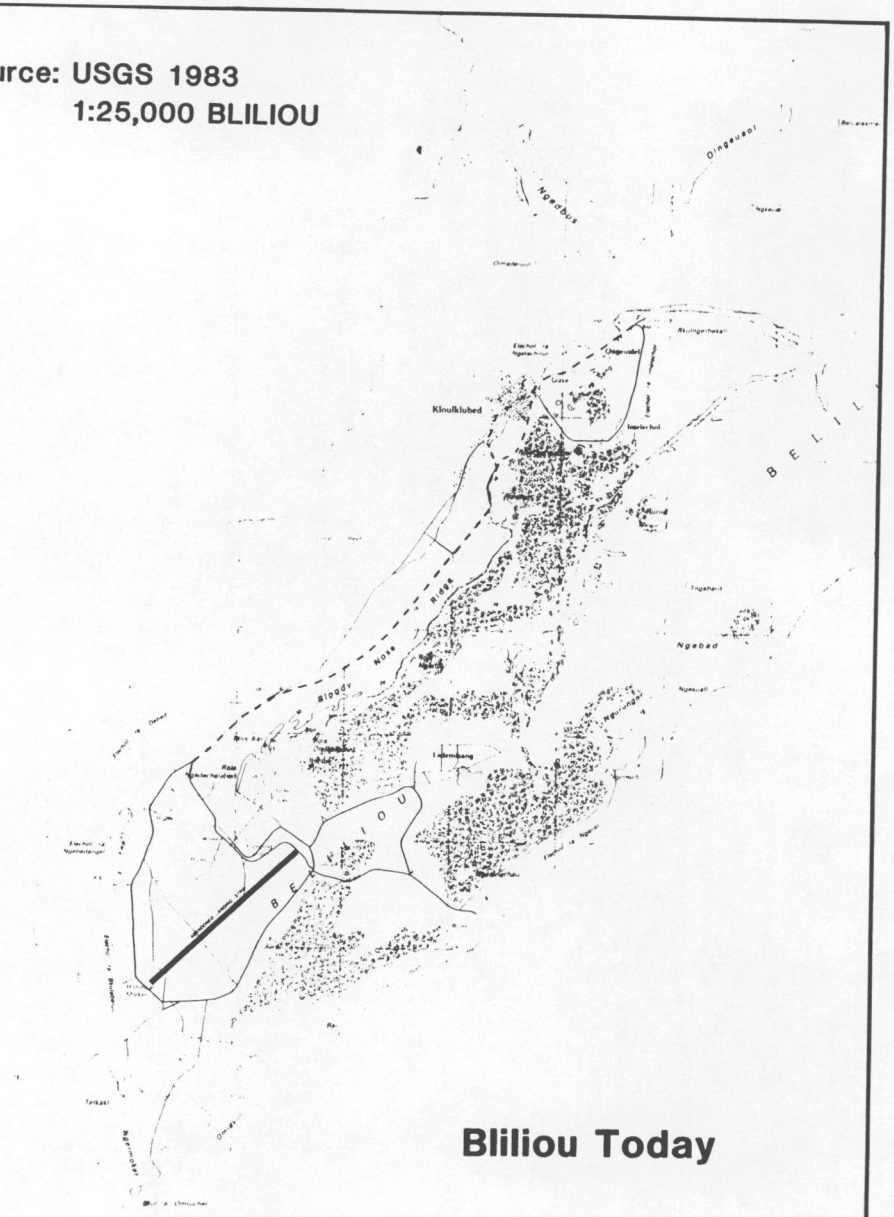
Final approval of the Compact has not occurred. Based on a lawsuit filed in April 1988, the Palau Supreme Court ruled that the referendum to change the constitution was illegal. In December 1989, final approval of the Compact by the U. S. was signed into law. However, the Compact cannot be implemented until it is approved under provisions of Palau's constitution and free from legal challenge. The latest plebiscite, the seventh, was held in February 1990 and, once again, the results were short of the 75 percent needed to override the constitutional ban on nuclear substances.

Bliliou

To today's visitor (and even to military intelligence specialists in 1944), at a distance, Bliliou looks like a small, low, densely forested island with white sand beaches along its east and west sides. On the east, the beaches lay along a narrow ridge that separates the sea from extensive mangrove swamps and a salt water estuary that together comprise nearly a third of the island. Salt water crocodiles still haunt this swamp. The mangrove was, and remains, a wild place.

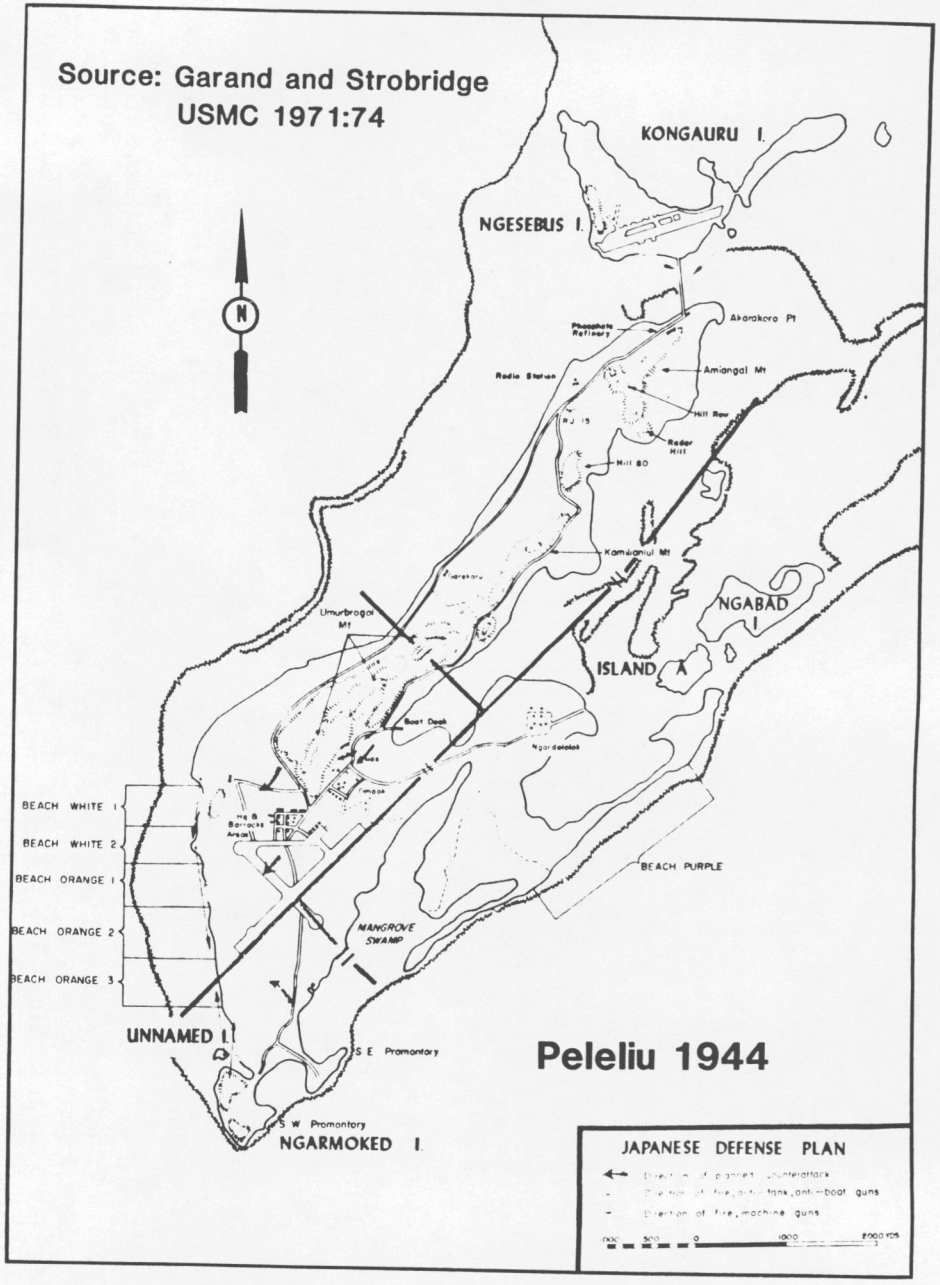
As it was in 1944, most of the island is now covered by native tropical rainforest growing on a level limestone plain (probably this plain represents a sea terrace level from

Source: USGS 1983
1:25,000 BLILIOU

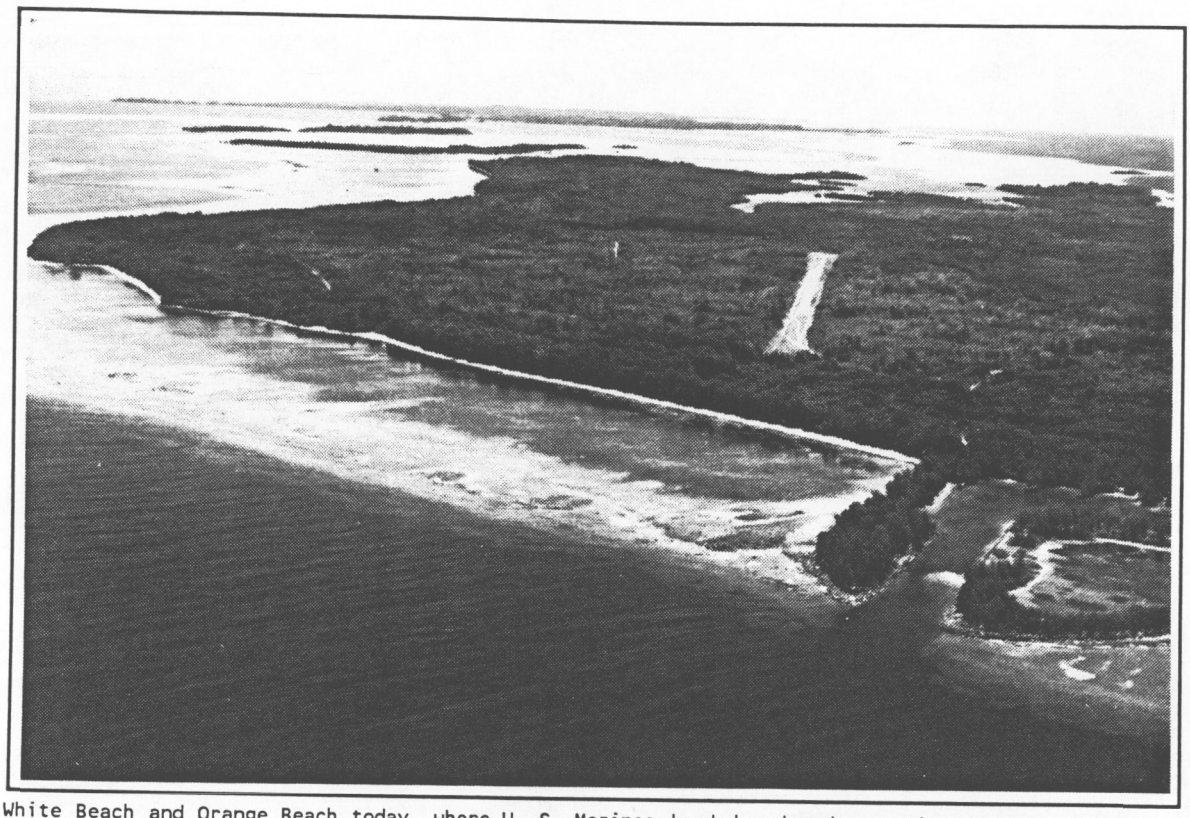


Bliliou Today

Source: Garand and Strobridge
USMC 1971:74



Peleliu 1944



White Beach and Orange Beach today, where U. S. Marines landed under devastating fire in 1944. The airstrip is clearly visible inland from the beaches.

older times). On this plain the Japanese had an excellent airfield; many traces remain of it and its main runway is still used -- although not maintained and being encroached by forest vegetation. Most of Bliliou lies within the wide barrier reef which forms the great lagoon of Palau. Bliliou anchors the south edge of the barrier reef and there, immediately near shore, the sea falls away quickly to great depths.

North of the airport lies a low ridge. A bit more than two miles long, scarcely a half mile across at its widest, and at its highest only 250 feet above sea level, it is unimposing. Tropical forest subdues its surface relief. It too is limestone, a karst topography, deposited as coral reefs and later exposed a few hundred feet by receding sea levels or uplifted land areas. This type of limestone topography is typically laced with caves, grottos, crevices, and cracks. In 1944, hidden below jungle foliage and underground, Japanese defenders had interconnected these with man-made tunnels and fortifications. Before September 1944, maps that bothered named the ridge Umurbrogol or Umurbrogol Mountain. Maps today identify it as Bloody Nose Ridge.

Today, the island, only slightly different from its appearance in 1944, has retained a remarkable degree of historic integrity -- perhaps more than any of the other battle sites of the Pacific campaign of World War II. Small portions of the former battleground are being used to grow taro, as well as family patches of cassava, sweet potatoes, bananas, papayas, and squash. But most of it remains unused and untouched since the G.I.'s pulled out more than four decades ago.

Bliliou, described as resembling a lobster claw, covers about 4.5 square miles (about 2,900 acres), excluding mangrove swamp (about 1,200 acres). As noted, most of the island is covered by a dense tropical forest which is almost entirely second growth, since the World War II battle destroyed

The village of Kloulkubed, at the northern end of Bliliou, is where nearly all of the people now live on the island.

much of the vegetation. A typhoon which hit the island in the 1960's also did some damage to the vegetation.

The population of Bliliou has decreased over the past two to three decades. In 1958 there were about 680 residents, in 1973 there were about 655, and in 1980 about 600. The present resident population is about 400. However, there are about 1,600 other individuals living elsewhere who claim Bliliou as their residence. Most residents engage in subsistence farming and fishing.

Although Bliliou is still divided into five traditional villages each headed up by a chief, the lands which these villages encompass are today uninhabited. The existing settlements are confined to the northern tip of the island in the communities of Kloulklubed and Imelechol. The school, government offices, a meeting hall, and small grocery stores are all located in Kloulkubed. North of Kloulkubed is Elochel dock, used by the interisland ferry, the *Peleliu Queen*, and fishing boats.

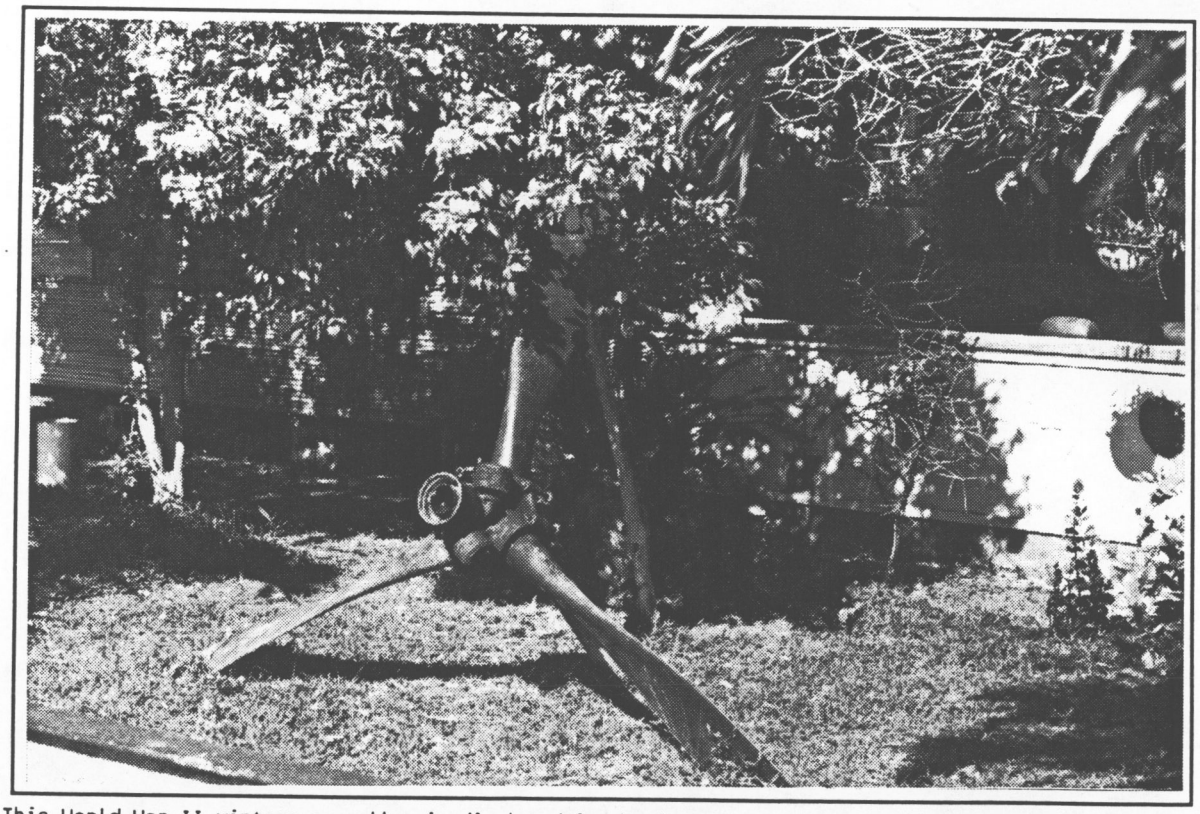
During World War II, when the entire island was being fortified by the Japanese, all residents were evacuated and moved to Babeldoab or Oreor for resettlement. Following the war the Bliliouans returned, resettling in the north rather than back on the old village sites. These sites had either been destroyed or pre-empted for other uses by the U. S. military. Even though the U. S. military left long ago, these parts of the island remain in open space; existing land uses consist of agriculture, mostly taro, an airport runway, a water catchment, cemeteries (mainly war dead), World War II memorials and *bai*, stylized structures traditionally used by Palauan chiefs as meeting places. For the most part, Bliliouans allow common use of these open lands. Land records for Bliliou, however, show that the southern and central parts of the island (see Figure 4) have been divided into homesteads by various clans. These

homesteads, filed more than two decades ago, were settlements for World War II land claims.

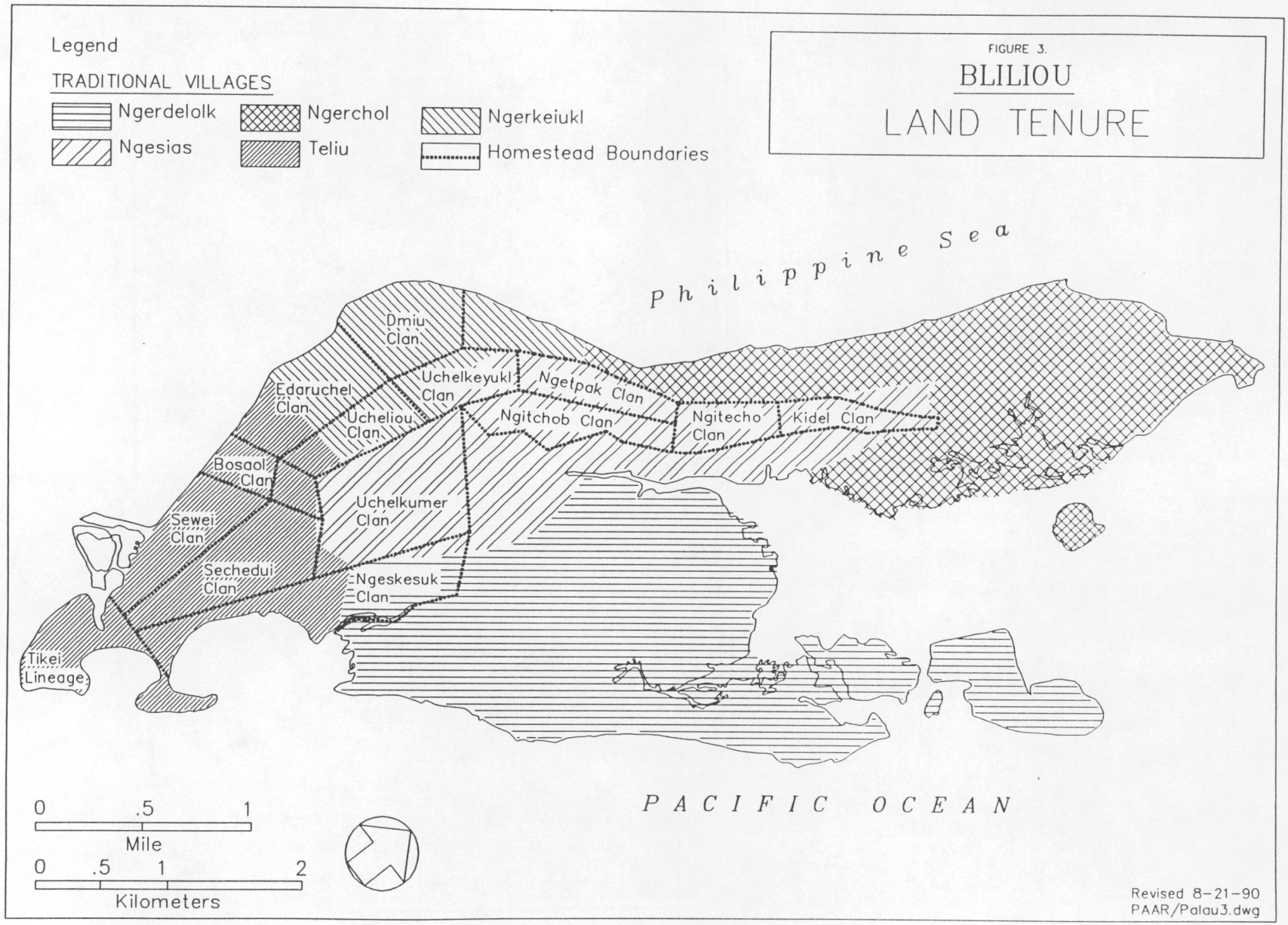
World War II and the 1944 battle are more than just memories for most residents of Bliliou. There are many tangible reminders of that time. Remnants of that period are not confined to just the battlefield. Today, in the kitchens of many Bliliouan homes there are U. S. military cooking pots, stainless steel mess trays, and flatware -- all still in use. The Marston mat, originally put down by the U. S. Navy Seabees as runway surface, is now used to make benches, fences, and pigpens. Airplane propellers, bomb casings, and steel helmets are placed in front yards for decorative purposes. Propeller blades are also used as grave markers. The U. S. cemetery, even though no longer containing the graves of marines and soldiers, has been well maintained by the island residents.

In 1984, the USS PELELIU, a large, amphibious assault ship, visited the island, bringing several American veterans of the World War II battle. The three-day visit was marked with ceremonies commemorating the battle, including the dedication of a monument to the First Marine Division and tours of the battle sites. Nearly all of the residents of Bliliou attended and the governor indicated that he hoped the visit would bring other tourists to the island to visit its World War II historic sites.

Members of Japanese World War II veteran groups have visited Bliliou several times since the war's end, usually for the purpose of holding memorial services for dead comrades or to visit old battle sites. Also, Japanese who lost family members during the battle come to pay their respect and sometimes to try to recover the remains of the lost relative.



This World War II vintage propeller is displayed in the front yard of a home in Kloulkubed.


Legend
TRADITIONAL VILLAGES
Ngerdelolk
Ngerchol
Ngerkeiukl
Ngesias
Teliu
Homestead Boundaries
FIGURE 3.
BLILIOU
LAND TENURE
Philippine Sea
Dmiu Clan
Uchelkeyukl Clan
Ngetpak Clan
Edaruchel Clan
Ucheliou Clan
Ngitchob Clan
Ngitecho Clan
Kidel Clan
Bosaol Clan
Uchelkumer Clan
Sewei Clan
Sechedui Clan
Ngeskesuk Clan
Tikei Lineage
PACIFIC OCEAN
0 .5 1
Mile
0 .5 1 2
Kilometers
Revised 8-21-90
PAAR/Palau3.dwg

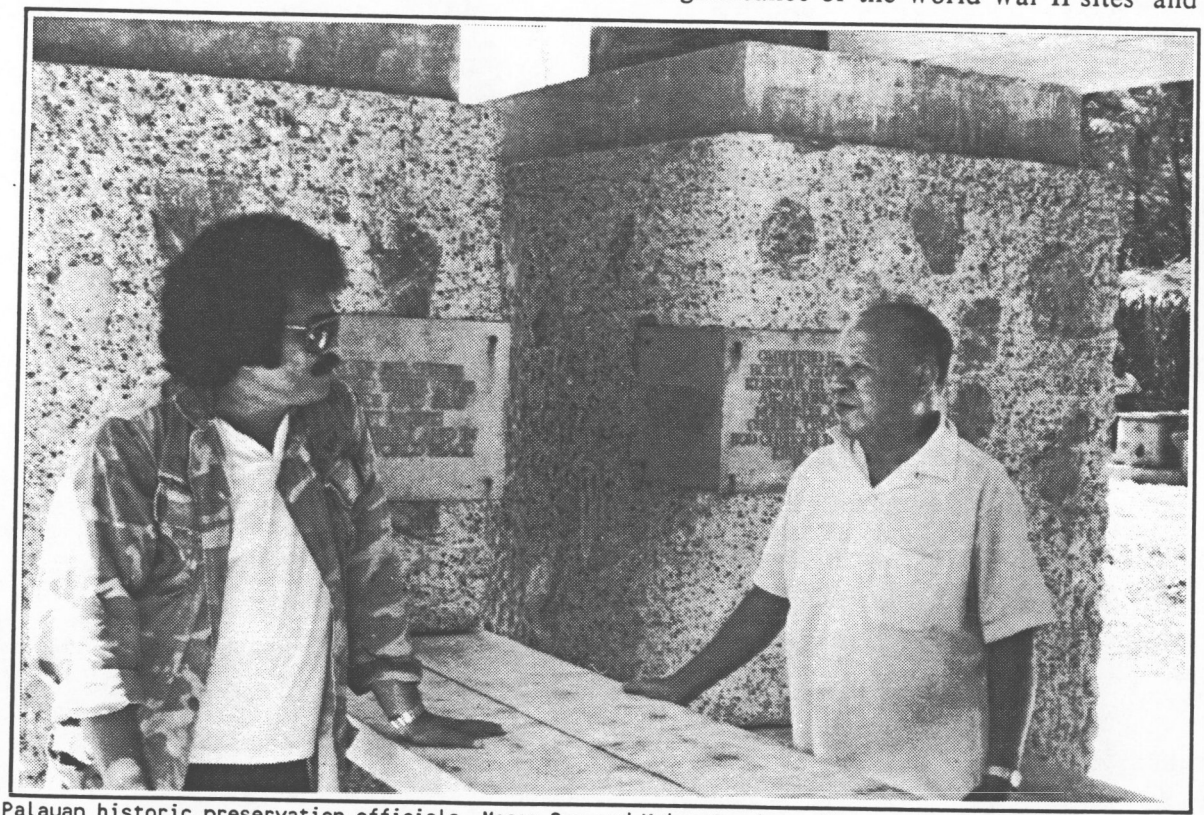
Consultation and Coordination

During the week of September 29 - October 3, 1986, when the NPS study team visited Bliliou to field check the World War II sites and features, several meetings were held with island residents. These meetings had several purposes: one was to acquaint Bliliouans with the concept of a historical park, another was to explore a range of options for administering such a park, and also to hear directly from the residents which of the World War II sites on Bliliou they felt to be the most important and thereby considered worthy of being included within a historical park.

Each of the meetings was attended by a distinct and important segment of the residents of Bliliou. At each meeting Mr. Moses Sam, historic preservation officer for the Republic of Palau, acted as both moderator and facilitator. Also attending each of the meetings was Mr. Kulas Sngebau, chairman of the historic preservation committee for Bliliou.

The first meeting consisted of the chiefs, elders, and young men of Bliliou. Eighteen to 20 individuals attended. The next meeting was held for the women's club of Bliliou, the Tatiron. At this meeting 38 individuals were in attendance. Both of these meetings were held to introduce the National Park Service team members to the community, to familiarize the attendees with the purpose of the World War II additional sites study requested by Congress, to briefly discuss a possible range of options for the scope and extent of a historical park on Bliliou and who conceivably could be the administering agency, and lastly, to invite the attendees and residents of Bliliou to participate with questions, concerns, comments, and general reactions to the historical park study.

The next meeting was a working session with the chairman and members of Bliliou historic preservation committee. The purpose of this meeting was to ascertain the committee's priorities regarding the significance of the World War II sites and



Palauan historic preservation officials, Moses Sam and Kulas Sngeban, discuss the idea of a historical park on Bliliou at the site of the Japanese memorial near Scarlet Beach.

features found on the island. The committee agreed with the National Park Service suggestion to consider only those sites and features which were directly related to the actual battle for Bliliou. From the NPS list of more than 150, 15 sites or features, both American and Japanese, were identified and prioritized by the committee as worthy of protection and inclusion within a historical park.

The final meeting was held with the six members of the Bliliou council of chiefs, including the high chief, or Obak, of Bliliou. The purpose of this meeting was to obtain the endorsement of the traditional chiefs for the concept of a historical park on Bliliou whose area would encompass the fifteen sites or features previously selected by the historic preservation committee. The council of chiefs, after discussion, provided the study team with that endorsement.

World War II Relics on Bliliou

In the Pacific Campaign of World War II, Bliliou was one of many islands battles stretching from the Solomons to Okinawa. Yet, Bliliou was more than just another battle. If, on Bliliou, the battle for Bloody Nose Ridge had any distinct significance, perhaps it was the abrupt awareness both to the United States and Japan of how tenacious and tough was their foe. Likely only a very few of Japan's military leaders yet fully sensed the national resolve of the U. S. to push the war all the way to Tokyo. Certainly the U. S. was just beginning to fully comprehend the Japanese Code of Bushido that demanded each soldier, sailor, and marine defend every inch of every island to the death.

U. S. tacticians anticipated Bliliou as a quick, fierce battle to be completed in a few days. The Japanese figured to exact such a heavy toll from their hidden, impregnable defenses that the U. S. would have to withdraw those who survived. With the fall of Bliliou, after four months and 12,500 deaths, both views were wrong. Bliliou, like Tarawa, and other island battles foretold a fierce, bloody campaign to Japan via the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Conceivably, the high casualty rates of these bitter island battles predicted eventual use of an atomic bomb by the U. S. to hasten the war's end. At Bloody Nose Ridge and nearby, there remains in place the greatest array of remnants and sites of one of these Pacific battles. The sites are easily accessible from Kloulkblubed village -- a few hours by boat or minutes by aircraft from Oreor.

The 1944 U. S. invasion and battle for Bliliou is described in an Appendix to this report. Basically, on Bliliou, the Japanese defenders had changed their tactics of defending the beaches to a more sophisticated defense. The new concept departed from the tactics employed earlier in the Pacific war which called for attempting to annihilate the invaders on the beach. At Bliliou, tactics called for the preparation of a main line of resistance far enough from the beach to minimize the effects of the pre-invasion bombardment, the organizing of a defense in-depth designed to wear down the attacking forces, and the maintaining of sufficient reserves to mount counterattacks at the appropriate times. Bliliou's rugged terrain, principally the high ground of the Umurbrogol, pocketed with fortified caves and crevices, was well-suited to the employment of these new tactics.

Bliliou was different in other respects too; it was as tough and tragic as any of the other Pacific island battles, maybe more so. Of the 19 Medals of Honor won by members of the First Marine Division for all actions in the Pacific (Guadalcanal, New Britain, Bliliou, and Okinawa), eight were awarded on Bliliou. The 1st Marines (regiment) in eight days of fighting sustained 1,672 casualties, amounting to more than a 60 percent casualty rate. These were the most severe losses suffered by any Marine unit in the Pacific war. And, of course, these losses were much less than those suffered by the Japanese defenders.

Bliliou was perhaps important in another respect: it was one of the very first areas where segregation in the U. S. military broke down. On Bliliou, Blacks were fully

The Umurbrogol in 1944. Marines, supported by Sherman tanks, move up Horseshoe Basin along Grinlinton Pond. Five Brothers is on the left, Walt Ridge to the right, and Hill 140 in the center background. (National Archives)

The first few days of continuous assault on fortified Japanese positions resulted in enormously high casualties among Marines of the 1st Regiment. (National Archives)

Unexploded World War II ordnance can still be seen on Bliliou -- this artillery shell was discovered near the northern end of White Beach by National Park Service and Palauan historic preservation officials.

Found of Bliliou -- a First Marine Division veteran had inscribed on his rifle butt, "South Pacific, 1944, Guadalcanal."

This painting, by the famous World War II artist and correspondent Tom Lea, shows the last rites being administered by a chaplain to one of the more than 1,000 U. S. Marines who died on Bliliou. In his book, Peleliu Landing, Lea wrote the following moving account of the scene: "The padre towered over the crouching figures like a plaster saint with canteens and a Bible. Amid the frenzy, the wreakage and snipers' bullets, he looked very lonely, very close to God as he intoned his prayers over the shattered men."

Department of Defense

accepted and played an important role in combat situations.

Table B and Figures 5 to 10 show all the sites and features remaining from the fighting and subsequent U. S. occupation of Bliliou that were inventoried and described for this study. Compiled by the NPS study team, they are based primarily on two sources, *Peleliu: The Battle and Peleliu Today*, by D. Colt Denfeld and *Peleliu, Its Terrain and Defense*, prepared by the Photographic Intelligence Unit of First Marine Division. The sites described in these reports were field checked in September and October 1986.

The Denfeld study was prepared in 1982 for the Historic Preservation Office, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It is in two parts: the first, a detailed historical narrative of the capture of Bliliou; and the second, the results of a field survey of World War II sites and features on Bliliou. Only a preliminary draft of this study was located, despite considerable efforts to secure a final version. The preliminary draft did not contain maps or illustrations.

The Denfeld field survey of Bliliou, began in August 1981 and extending over a 35-day period, describes and generally locates existing World War II sites (features, structures, and objects), Japanese and American, on the island. The survey is comprehensive and forms nearly all of the resource base for this study. It was also utilized by the National Park Service during the preparation of the earlier landmark theme study.

The Marine Corps report, prepared immediately after the battle, was developed from captured Japanese maps, POW interrogation reports, the First Marine Division's Special Action Report, and from on-the-ground reconnaissance. The report contains sketch maps which show the number and location of the various Japanese weapons and installations located during the ground reconnaissance.

This document also contains the general location of the hundreds of caves occupied by the Japanese defenders.

Based on the sites identified in the two above described reports, the NPS study team prepared a preliminary comprehensive listing. Containing a brief description, the general location, and a relative significance of each site, the list was utilized to ground check sites during the September-October 1986 visit to Bliliou. During that visit, an additional historical object of significance was located and identified: a U. S. TBM or TBF "Avenger" torpedo-bomber.

These sites have been prioritized by the National Park Service. This prioritization was based primarily on the sites' particular importance to the actual battle which took place on Bliliou from September 15 to November 27, 1944. The first six sites -- Five Sisters, China Wall, Horseshoe Basin, Wildcat Bowl, Five Brothers, and Walt Ridge -- are all topographic features, limestone ridges or ravines, named by the U. S. marines and soldiers who fought here and got to know each one intimately (see Figure 11). Collectively, they were known then as the Umurbrogol Pocket, now, more commonly, as Bloody Nose Ridge. This area was the focal point of the fighting on Bliliou; where the Japanese resistance was fiercest and where there is still considerable physical evidence of the battle, including about 100 identified individual cave sites, most of which are still sealed, that were occupied by the defending Japanese troops. The sealed caves were not explored during the NPS field survey and remain largely unknown entities.

The next ten or so sites listed include White Beach and Orange Beach. It was here, on portions of these two invasion beaches, that the U. S. Marines, when landing, encountered the strongest resistance and took the heaviest casualties; it is also where, mostly along White Beach, there are still many Japanese pill boxes and casemates[2] in existence; moreover, the scene along both these beaches is relatively unchanged from its appearance in 1944. The remaining high priority sites consist mostly of pieces of large military equipment, both American and Japanese, which played a direct role in the 1944 battle for Bliliou.

World War II historic sites on Bliliou have also been prioritized by the Bliliou historic preservation committee. The committee too felt that Bloody Nose Ridge and White Beach were important historic resources and afforded these two areas their highest priority. In addition, the committee felt that the large Japanese cave southwest of Bloody Nose Ridge (Site 164) which is open and accessible was an important historic site. Other sites judged to be important by the committee include Scarlet Beach, Orange Beach, the American Cemetery, the U. S. Navy "Avenger" torpedo-bomber and the two U. S. amphibious tractors located northwest of the airport runway.

The list also contains sites on Bliliou which were not directly related to the World War II battle. Many of these were constructed by the U. S. military long after the fighting had ceased. They include the remains of quonset huts, concrete building pads, and water tanks. Others, consisting of air raid shelters, fuel storage bunkers, and barracks, were built by the Japanese, but are located where no actual fighting took place or within the confines of present day Kloulklubed village. These sites (objects, structures, ruins, or features) were not given a priority in terms of their historic significance and their need for additional protection.

Natural Resources on Bliliou

Bliliou's soils were basically formed from the residue of coral limestone. Consequently, they are shallow, porous, and well-drained and poorly suited to most types of crop production. In the uplands of Bliliou the coral limestone is exposed in rock outcrops and characterized by vertical cliffs rising up to 100 feet above the lagoon. In the intertidal zone next to the shoreline, soils have formed in decomposing mangrove roots and litter over a coral sand and gravel base. The habitat here is diverse and includes a rich variety of plants and animals.

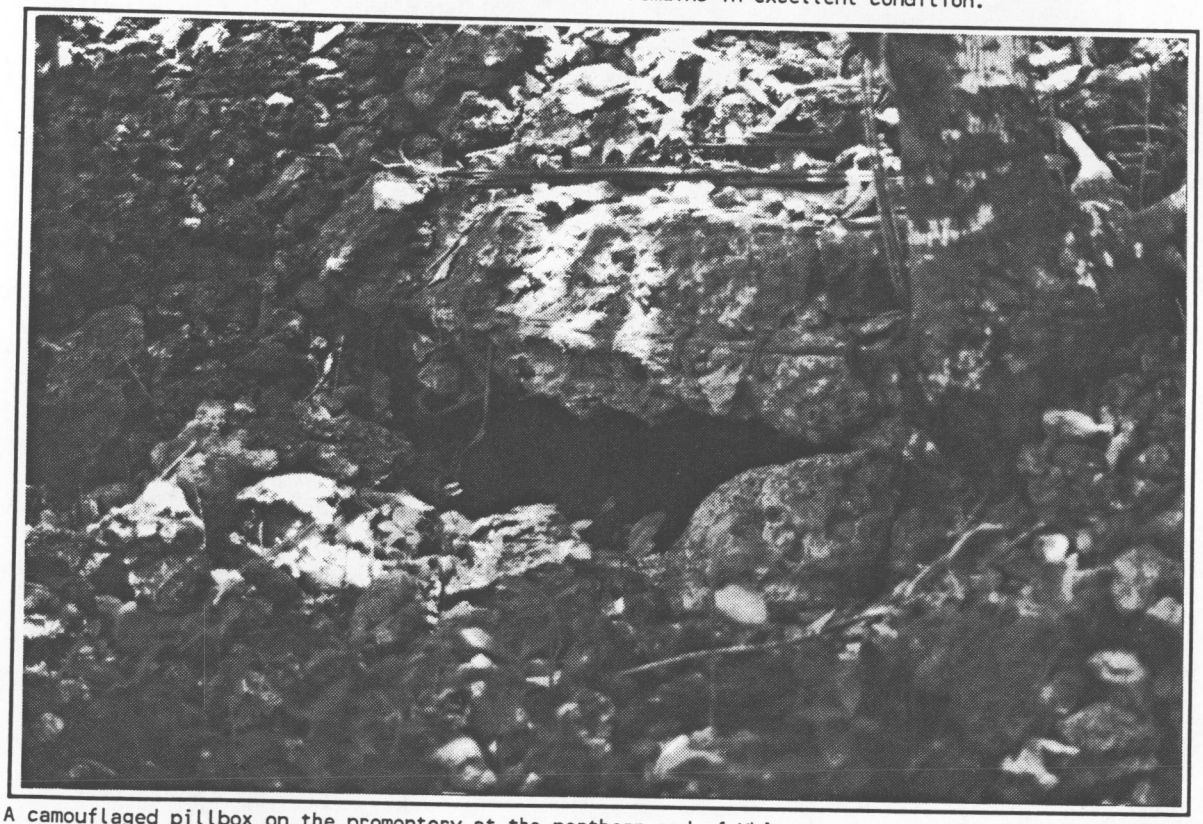
Table B. Remaining Sites and Features - 1944 Invasion and Capture of Bliliou

Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
1d	70	4	Japanese pillbox with gun positions for 7.7 mm machine gun	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	Y
2d	72	-	Mortar pit (Japanese)	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	Y
3d	89	14	Japanese (Boes ra Talkakl) cave, containing two rice bowls and a projectile	Teliu		Y
4d	90	-	Japanese (Boes ra Talkakl) cave, containing Japanese hand grenade (Model 97) and a number of mess kits	Teliu		Y
5d	91	-	Japanese (Boes ra Talkakl) cave	Teliu		Y
6d	100	-	Four U. S. pontoon barge tugs, Type 4C with intact screws and propellers[1]	Teliu	Sewei Clan	N
7d	150	-	Japanese tank farm with four of nine original fuel tanks shielded by low revetments	Teliu	Sewei Clan	Y
8d	NA	-	Carrier Aircraft Service Unit N4Q shop area (pads of Quonset huts and traces of camp)	Teliu	Sechedui Clan	N
9d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut pads -- probably remains of mess halls and office buildings	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan	N
10d	123	-	Three unfinished concrete bases for 127mm dual mount AA gun emplacements. Good condition.	Teliu	Sechedui Clan	Y
11d	73	-	Japanese shell damaged stone pillbox	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	Y
12d	124	-	Two Japanese water tanks	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	Y
13d	77	-	U. S. small pontoon barge (standard 7' x 3' cell)	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	?
14d[2]	74	-	Japanese steel pole anti-landing obstacles (feature not located by NPS)			Y
15d	76	-	Japanese concrete beach shelter	Teliu	Sewei Clan	Y
16d	101	-	Remains of 150 mm Japanese searchlight and platform	Teliu	Bosaoli Clan	Y

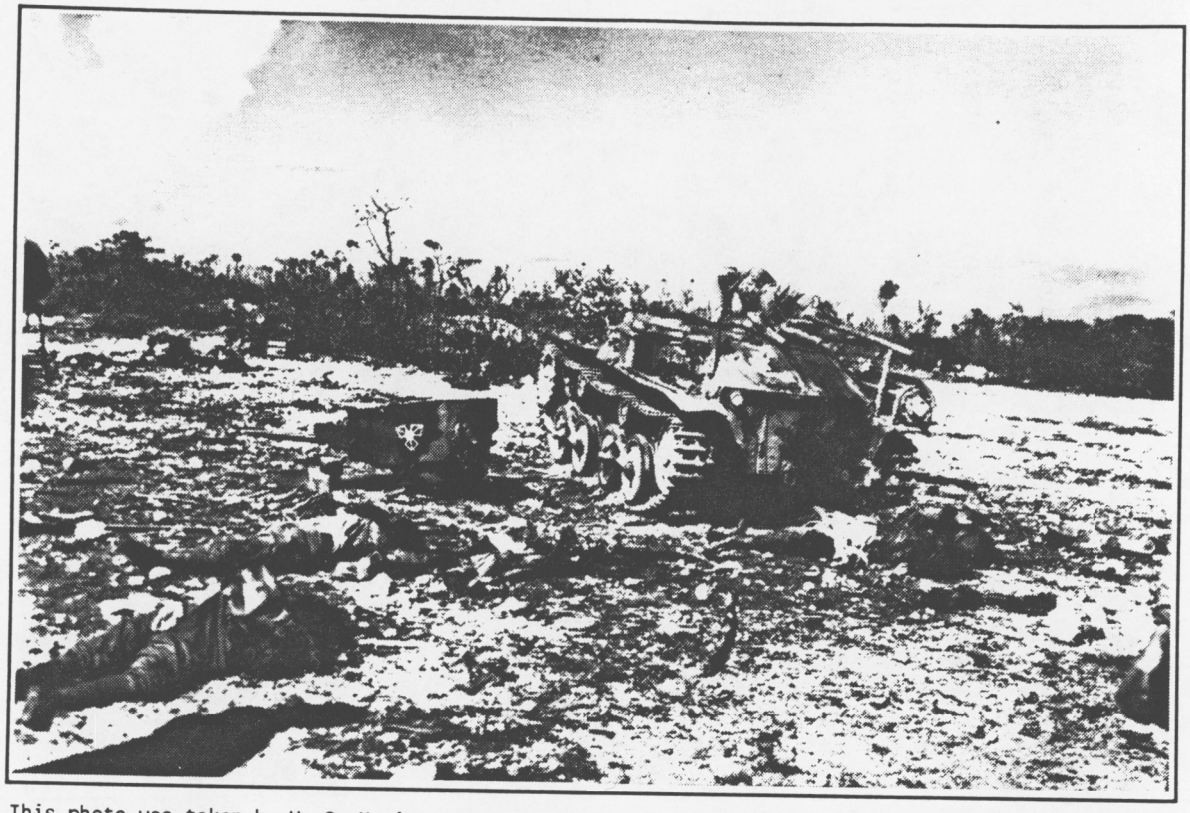
Table B. Remaining Sites and Features - 1944 Invasion and Capture of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
17d	67	6	American military cemetery, U.S.A. 81st Division and 1st Marine Division[1]	Teliu	Sewei Clan	N
18d	66	6	U. S. chapel building	Teliu	Bosaoli Clan	Y
19d	8	13	Meltelat 'L Btuul. Round four-gun Japanese blockhouse with metal embrasure shields, steel observation tower, ammo magazine intact	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan	Y
20d	NA	-	U. S. 73rd Naval Construction Battalion camp -- numerous Quonset hut foundations	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan	N
21d[2]	NA	-	U. S. Naval base #3252 remains -- a few Quonset hut pads (features not located by NPS)	Ngerdelolk		N
22d	NA	-	Repair facility remains for Naval base #3252	Teliu	Sewei Clan	N
23d	86	12	Japanese tank, type 95 HA GO, turret missing and tracks blown off.	Teliu	Edaruchel Clan	Y
24d	14	3	Japanese pillbox with 37 mm anti-tank gun	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
25d	20	3	Japanese anti-tank gun pillbox for 75 mm field piece (the 75 mm gun sits in water below pillbox)	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
26d	19	3	Japanese coral ridge gun positions and pillboxes	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
27d	17	3	Camouflaged Japanese pillbox built into coral ridge	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
28d	18	3	Japanese defensive rifle and machine gun positions	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
29d	15	3	Japanese pillbox containing partially buried 75 mm gun	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
30d	21	3	Japanese pillbox, contains exploded machine gun barrel	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
31d	16	3	Japanese pillbox, 20 mm gun with pedestal	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
32d	24	3	Japanese shelter cave, composed of rebar and coral	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y

Site 19d. Despite being overgrown with tropical vegetation, this unusual round four-gun Japanese blockhouse located in the vicinity of Scarlet Beach remains in excellent condition.



A camouflaged pillbox on the promontory at the northern end of White Beach was one of several defensive positions sited here by the Japanese to provide enfilade fire across the invasion beach. It has been identified as site 27d.



This photo was taken by U. S. Marines near the airfield following the counterattack by the Japanese in the late afternoon of D-day. Most of the tanks involved in the counterattack were stopped by the heavier firepower of the Sherman, as well as by bazookas and grenade launchers. (National Archives)

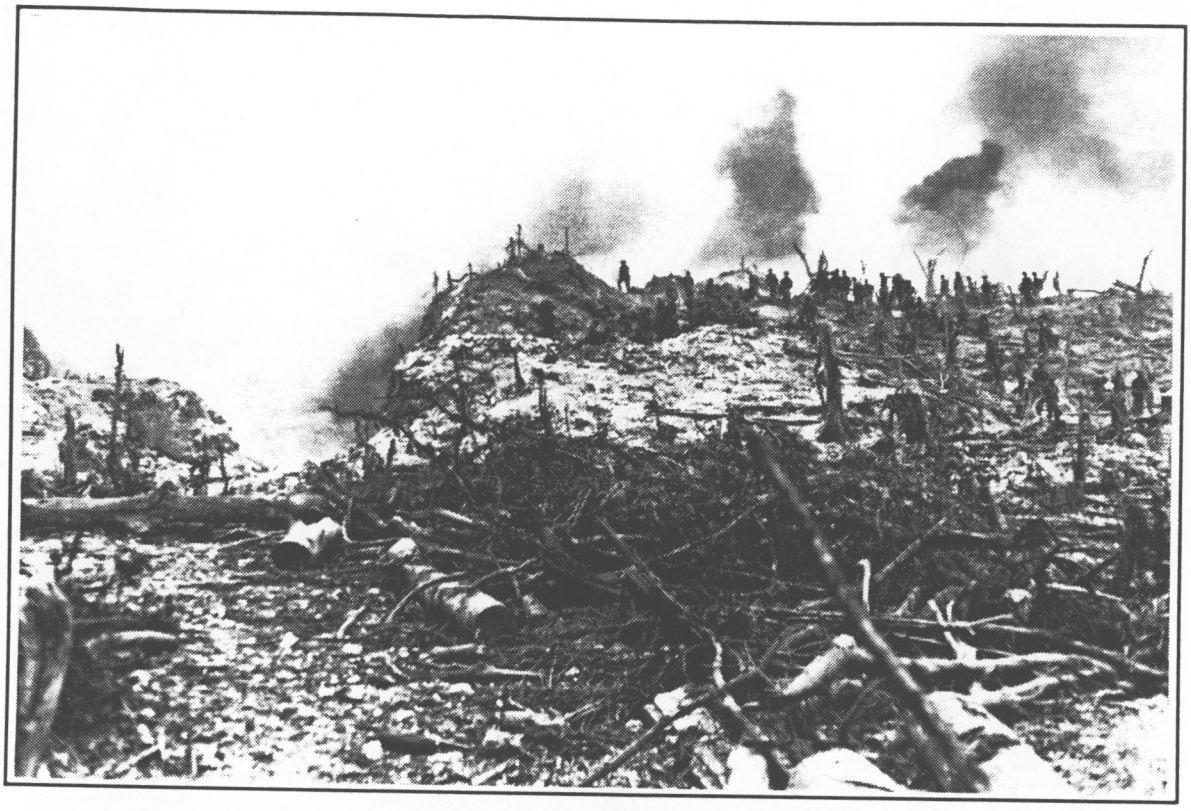
Site number 23d. This Japanese light tank has probably not been moved from the spot where it was originally disabled by anti-tank fire that repulsed the Japanese counterattack of D-day.

Table B. Remaining Sites and Features - 1944 Invasion and Capture of Bliliou (cont'd.)

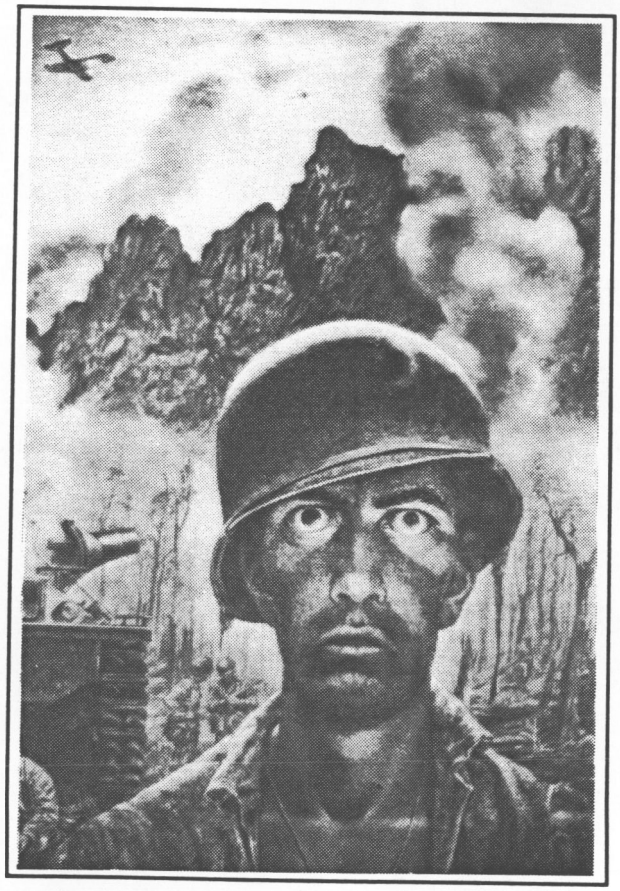
Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
33d	25	3	Japanese machine gun nest remains	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
34d	NA	3	U. S. Island Commander living area remains	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
35d	46	3	U. S. LVT personnel carrier buried in sand	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
36d	47	3	Japanese fuel drum emplacement	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
37d	22	3	Japanese cave, improved with rebar and narrow gauge rail	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
38d	26	3	Japanese cave at 30 m elevation on reverse slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
39d	28	3	Japanese cave on reserve slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
40d	29	3	Japanese cave on reserve slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
41d	30	3	Japanese gun emplacement carved into coral	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
42d	32	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
43d	33	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
44d	34	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
45d	35	3	Japanese defense position in coral ridge	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
46d	36	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
47d	37	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
48d	38	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
49d	39	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
50d	40	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
51d	41	3	Japanese 7.7 mm machine gun pillbox.	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y

Table B. Remaining Sites and Features - 1944 Invasion and Capture of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
52d	42	3	Japanese 37 mm gun pillbox	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
53d	43	3	Japanese caves and rifle pits (not located by NPS)	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
54d	102	-	Japanese air raid shelter #1, half blown away (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
55d	103	-	Japanese air raid shelter #2, shielded with extra thickness (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
56d	104	-	Japanese air raid shelter #3, lacks extra shielding debris (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
57d	45	-	Japanese air raid shelter #4 with steel doors	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
58d	125	-	Japanese air raid shelter #5	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
59d	126	-	Japanese air raid shelter #6, partially reinforced with stone and concrete (exact location unknown)	Ngesias		Y
60d[2]	127	-	Japanese air raid shelter #7, steel doors and windows are intact (not located by NPS)			Y
61d	44	-	Japanese Headquarters Building (official U. S. flag raising here September 27, 1944)	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
62d	106	-	Japanese radio tower base supports	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
63d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
64d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
65d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
66d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
67d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
68d	128	-	Two Japanese water cisterns	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y



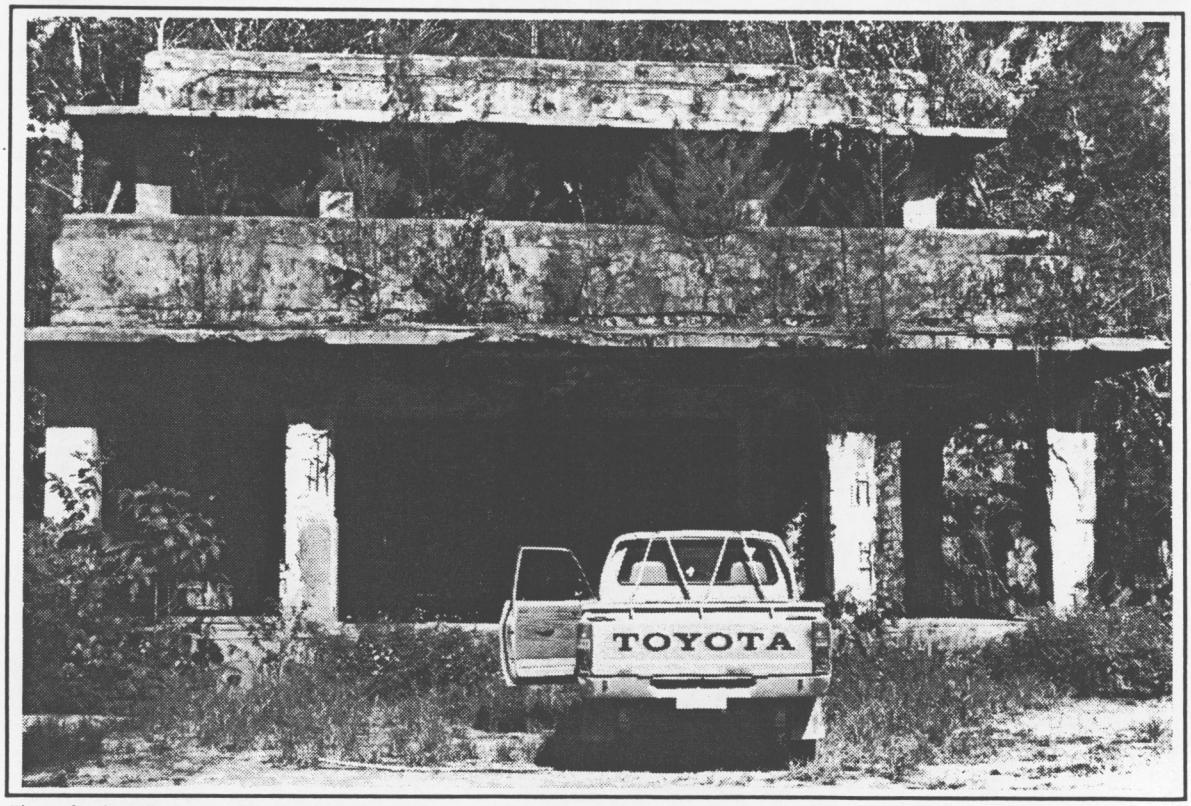
Aerial bombing, artillery fire, and shelling by ships offshore virtually destroyed the vegetation on Bloody Nose Ridge, uncovering its steep, fissured, razor-sharp topography. (National Archives)



This well-known Tom Lea painting depicts what came to be known on Bliliou as the "thousand yard stare." After weeks of prolonged and intense fighting against a tenacious and well dug-in enemy on Bloody Nose Ridge, the bone weary Marines took on the look.

Department of Defense

Marines advancing on the Japanese airfield. The air headquarters building is in the background, its roof showing the damage done by aerial and naval bombardment. (National Archives)



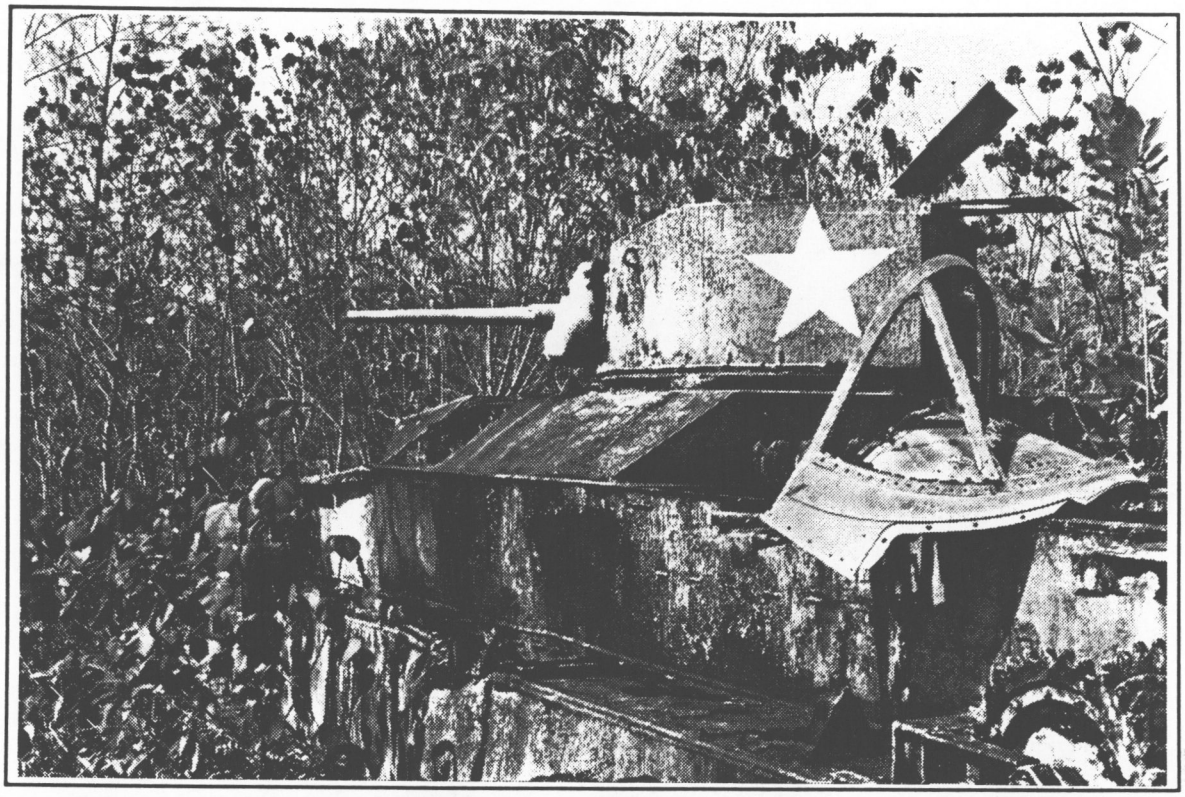
The air headquarters building today. On the first floor of the substantial two-story concrete structure the walls are nearly two feet thick. Vegetation has grown up in and around the building. It has been identified as site 61d.

Table B. Remaining Sites and Features - 1944 Invasion and Capture of Bliliou (cont'd.)

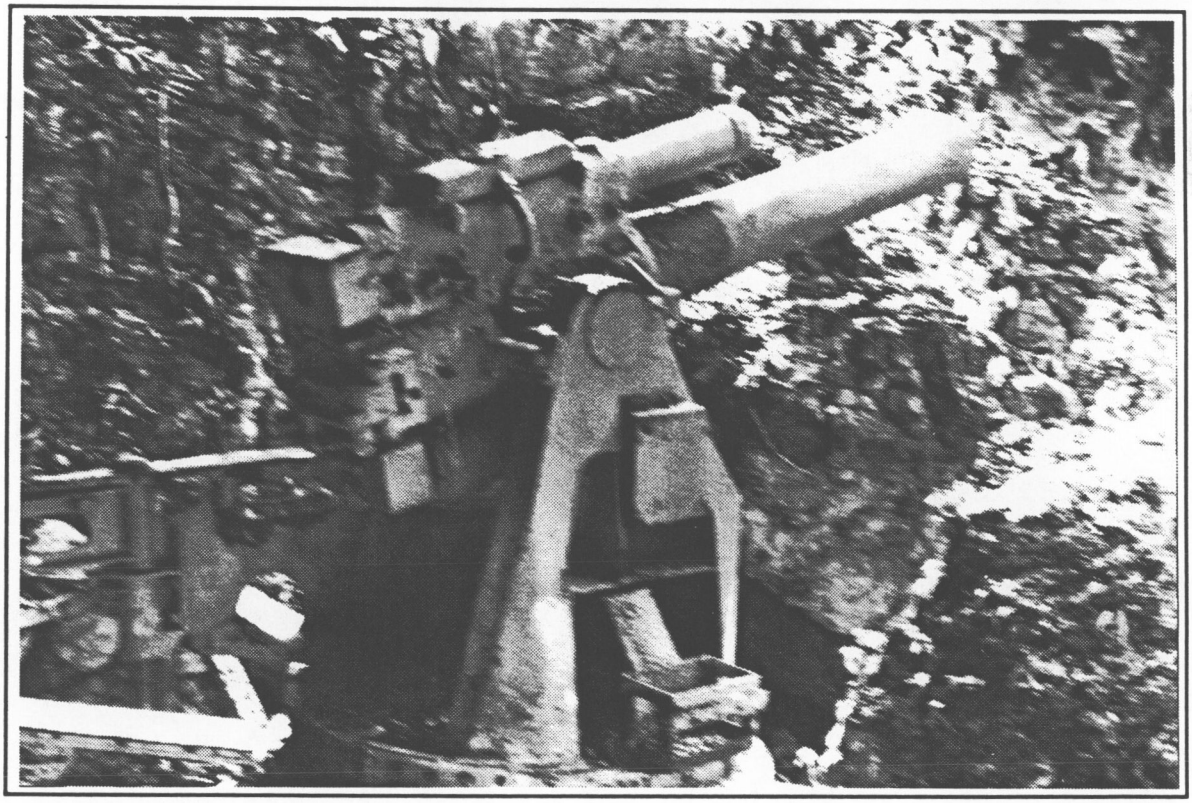
Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
69d	107	-	Japanese water tank	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
70d	80	-	Two Japanese concrete radio tower foundations	Ngerdelolk		Y
71d	NA	-	American Quonset hut pads (Seabee camp)	Ngerdelolk		N
72d	82	-	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk		Y
73d	81	-	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk		Y
74d	83	-	Japanese concrete tetrahedrons	Ngerdelolk		Y
75d	78	-	Japanese 120 mm gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk		Y
76d	84	-	Japanese coconut log/concrete machine gun pillbox, triangle shaped	Ngerdelolk		Y
77d	85	-	Japanese pillbox cut in coral	Ngerdelolk		Y
78d	88	-	Japanese 25 mm anti-tank pillbox	Ngerdelolk		Y
79d	108	-	Japanese fuel storage bunker (area littered with U. S. helmets and canteens)	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
80d	129	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
81d	130	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
82d	131	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
83d	NA	-	American housing area, clothesline poles	Ngerchol	Dmiu Clan	N
84d	23	-	Bloody Nose Ridge monument[1]	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	N
85d	12	-	U. S. LVT(A)1 with 37mm gun	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
86d	13	8	U. S. LVT(A)4 with 75 mm howitzer	Ngesias		Y
87d	75	8	U. S. LVT personnel carrier with offside loading	Ngesias		Y

National Park Service and Palauan officials consult maps to field check locations of World War II sites and features on Bliliou.

The U. S. LVT(A)4, site 86d, was an armored version of the standard troop and/or cargo carrying amphibious vehicle. Its mounted short-barreled gun was taken from the M8 self-propelled howitzer.



This LVT(A)1, site 85d, was equipped with additional armor and a turret and 37 mm gun from a light tank.



Site 90d, a Japanese 200 mm anti-boat gun, remains at its original location in a man-made cave in good condition.

Table B. Remaining Sites and Features - 1944 Invasion and Capture of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
88d	92	-	U. S. LVT personnel carrier with rear ramp	Ngesias		Y
89d	NA	-	U. S. LVT personnel carrier with rear ramp (not located by NPS)	(Ngedebus Is.)		Y
90d	9	1	Japanese 200 mm anti-boat gun in cave.	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
91d	109	-	Japanese concrete lined storage cave with eight ammo caissons	Ngesias		Y
92d	NA	-	American command headquarters, two Quonset huts (exact location unknown)	Ngesias		N
93d	132	-	Japanese power plant (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
94d	133	-	Japanese shop and barracks area (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
95d	134	-	Japanese bomb-proof power plant	Ngesias		Y
96d	111	-	Japanese prisoner of war compound	Ngesias		Y
97d	112	-	Japanese stockade for U. S. prisoners (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
98d	93	-	U. S. LCVT sitting in pond partially submerged	Ngesias		Y
100d	113	-	Japanese radio direction finder/administrative building	Ngerdelolk		Y
101d	135	-	Japanese powerhouse	Ngerdelolk		Y
102d	137	-	Japanese water cistern	Ngerdelolk		Y
103d	138	-	Japanese supply room	Ngerdelolk		Y
104d	139	-	Two Japanese water cisterns and open water tank	Ngerdelolk		Y
105d	11	-	Last Japanese command post caves	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan	Y
106d	114	-	Amber Beach Japanese defensive works (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y

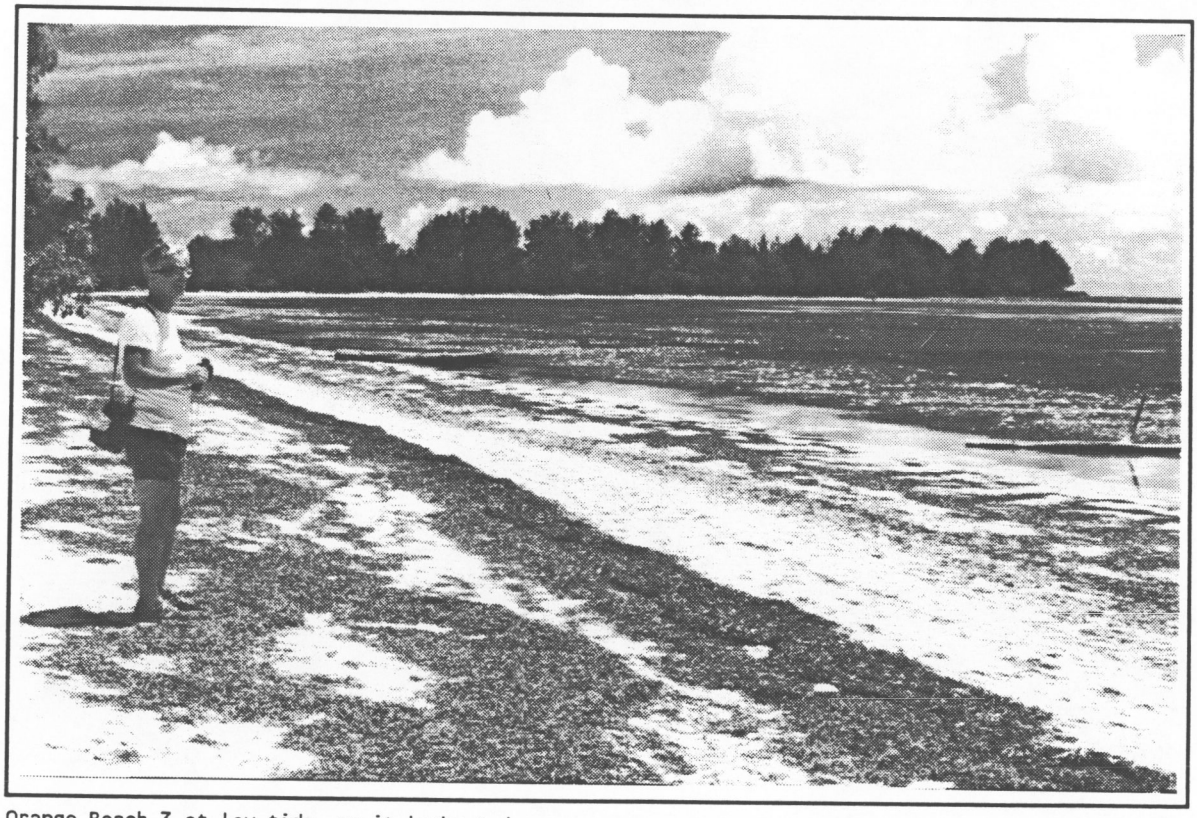
Table B. Remaining Sites and Features - 1944 Invasion and Capture of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
107d	115	-	Japanese oil drum emplacement	Ngerchol	Ngitchob Clan	Y
108d	142	-	U. S. bulldozer (from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit)	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
109d	116	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol		Y
110d	117	-	Japanese pillbox with ammo magazine	Ngerchol		Y
111d	118	-	Japanese oil drum emplacement for 75 mm gun	Ngerchol		Y
112d	119	-	Japanese pillbox, 20 mm caisson (not located by NPS)	Ngerchol		Y
113d	120	-	Japanese oil drum emplacement for 7.7 mm gun	Ngerchol		Y
114d	121	-	Japanese interisland radio station	Ngerchol		Y
115d	144	-	Japanese radio station oil storage building	Ngerchol		Y
116d	145	-	321st U. S. Regimental Combat Team monument (also called Wildcat Division memorial)[1]	Ngerchol		N
117d	146	-	Peleliu cemetery and Japanese monument[1]	Ngerchol		N
118d	95	-	Radar Hill Japanese defensive caves	Ngerchol		Y
119d	147	-	Remains of Japanese causeway to Ngedebus Isle	Ngerchol		Y
120d	148	-	Peleliu dock	Ngerchol		N
121d	149	-	U. S. pontoon barge (not located by NPS)	Ngerchol		?
122d	150	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol		Y
123d	151	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol		Y
124d	94	-	Japanese 1,000-man cave	Ngerchol		Y
125d	97	-	Japanese pillbox with gun mount pedestal and offset cover mount	Ngerchol		Y
126d	96	-	Japanese pillbox, overgrown and partially destroyed	Ngerchol		Y

Table B. Remaining Sites and Features - 1944 Invasion and Capture of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
127d	98	-	Japanese pillbox built into coral ridge and coral stone	Ngerchol		Y
128	10	-	Japanese man-made tunnel	Ngesias		Y
129d	99	-	Japanese phosphate plant foundation defensive strong point	Ngerchol		Y
130	65	5	Orange Beach	Teliu, Ngerkeyukl	Sewei Clan Bosaol Clan Edarnchel Clan	Y
131	7	3	White Beach	Teliu, Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
132	68	4	Scarlet Beach	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	Y
133	79	9	Purple Beach	Ngerdelolk		Y
134	122	-	Amber Beach	Ngerkeyukl, Ngerchol		Y
135	6	1	"Walt Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
136	3	1	"Horseshoe Basin" and pond	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
137	63	1	"Causeway"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
138	4	1	"Wildcat Bowl"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
139	1	1	"Five Sisters"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
140	48	1	"Hill 300"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
141	2	1	"China Wall"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
142	51	1	"Death Valley"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
143	50	1	"Hill 140"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan	Y
144	59	1	"draw"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
145	60	1	"draw"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
146	49	1	"Boyd Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
147	5	1	"Five Brothers"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
148	55	1	"Baldy"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
149	56	1	"Baldy Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan	Y
150	57	1	"Knobs"	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y

The 7th Marines, in the early morning hours of September 15, 1944, landed on Orange Beach 3. (National Archives)

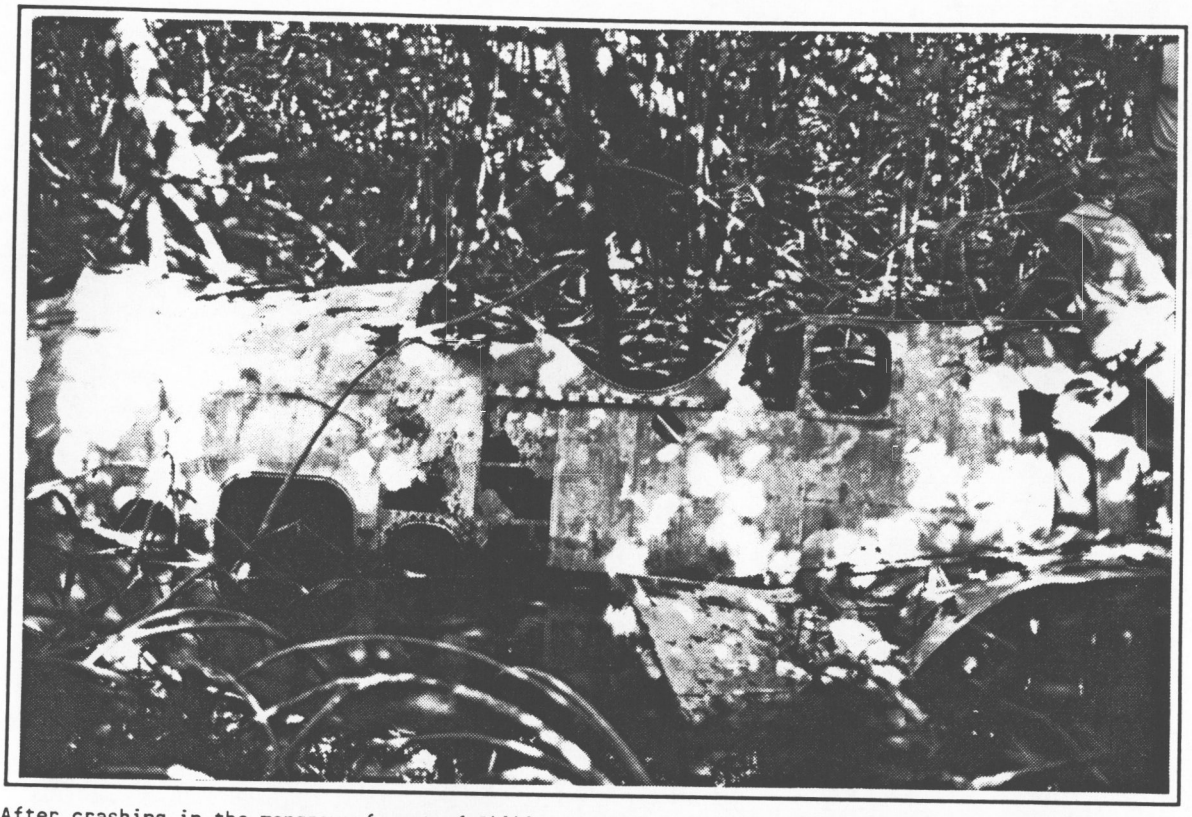


Orange Beach 3 at low tide, as it looks today.

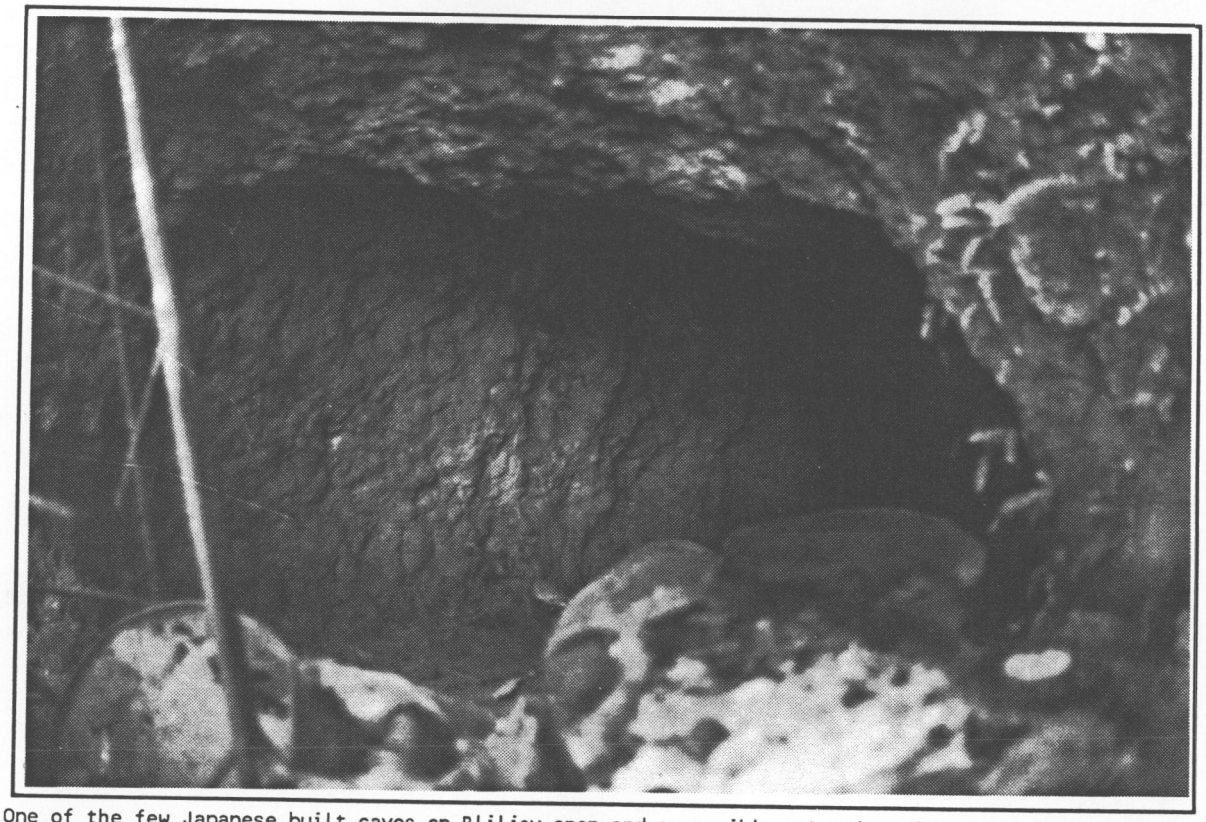
Table B. Remaining Sites and Features - 1944 Invasion and Capture of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
151	53	1	"Wattie Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan	Y
152	54	1	"Ridge 3"	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
153	52	1	"Ridge 120"	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
154	58	1	"unnamed ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
155	62	1	"Hill B"	Ngesias	Ngitecho Clan	Y
156	61	1	"Hill 100"	Ngesias	Ngitecho Clan	Y
157d	27	-	Japanese gun positions on top of promontory	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
158d	71	3	U. S. Marine transfer case with screw attached	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
159	31	7	U. S. Navy "Avenger" carrier-based torpedo bomber	Ngesias		Y
160	87	-	Japanese wheeled gun	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan	Y
161	105	-	Scarlet Beach Japanese Memorial[1]	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	N
162	143	-	Japanese tower	Ngesias		Y
163	69	4	"Bloody Beach"	Teliu	Ngeskesek Clan	Y
164	64	2	The local "last command post"	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
165d	110	-	Japanese diesel fuel storage bunker	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
166d	140	-	Japanese bathhouse	Ngerdelolk		Y
167d	141	-	Japanese latrine	Ngerdelolk		Y
168d	NA	-	Japanese shrine	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
169d	136	-	U. S. M4A6 Sherman tank	(Ngedebus Is.)		Y
170	NA	15	Gun emplacements	(Ngedebus Is.)		Y

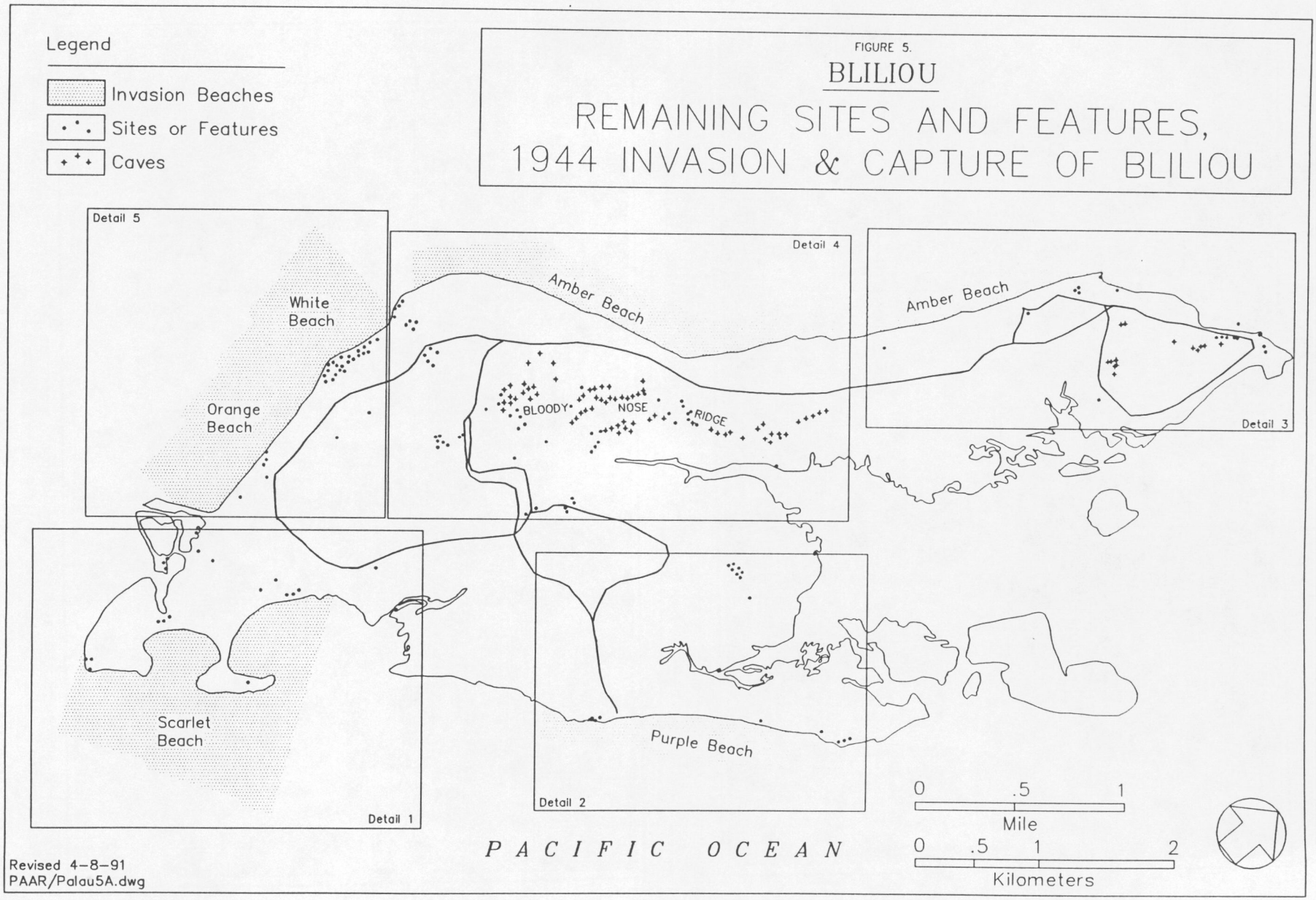
[1] Not of the historic period, but prioritized by NPS.
[2] Not on map.



After crashing in the mangrove forest of Bliliou, this TBF or TBM "Avenger" torpedo-bomber was forgotten until located by Palauan historic preservation officials in 1986. It is listed as site 159.



One of the few Japanese built caves on Bliliou open and accessible. Local residents refer to it as the "last command post" and it has been identified as site 164.


Legend
Invasion Beaches
Sites or Features
Caves
FIGURE 5.
BLILIOU
REMAINING SITES AND FEATURES,
1944 INVASION & CAPTURE OF BLILIOU
Detail 5
White Beach
Orange Beach
Detail 4
Amber Beach
BLOODY
NOSE
RIDGE
Amber Beach
Detail 3
Scarlet Beach
Detail 1
Purple Beach
Detail 2
PACIFIC OCEAN
0 .5 1
Mile
0 .5 1 2
Kilometers
Revised 4-8-91
PAAR/Palau5A.dwg

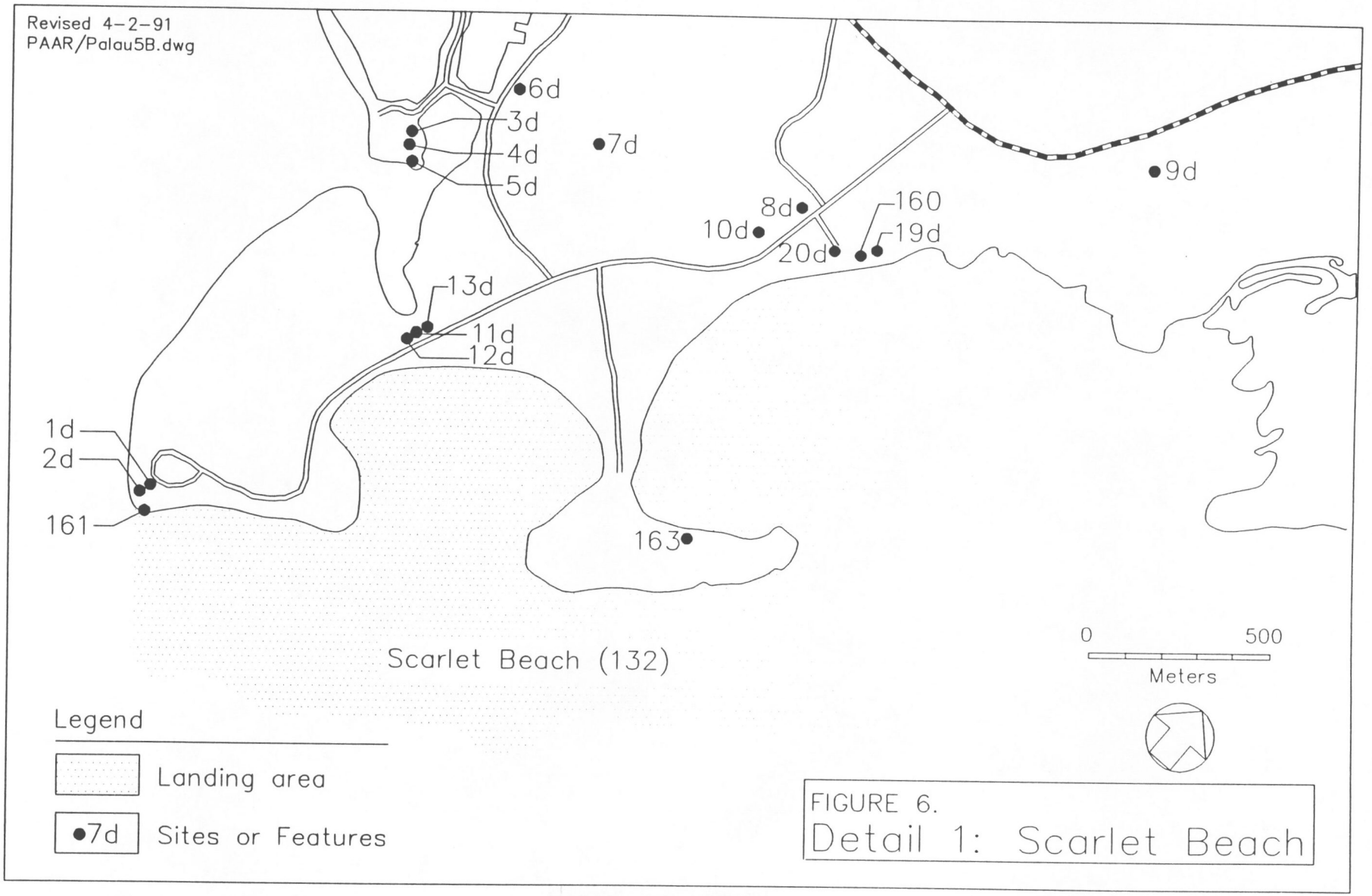


FIGURE 6.
Detail 1: Scarlet Beach

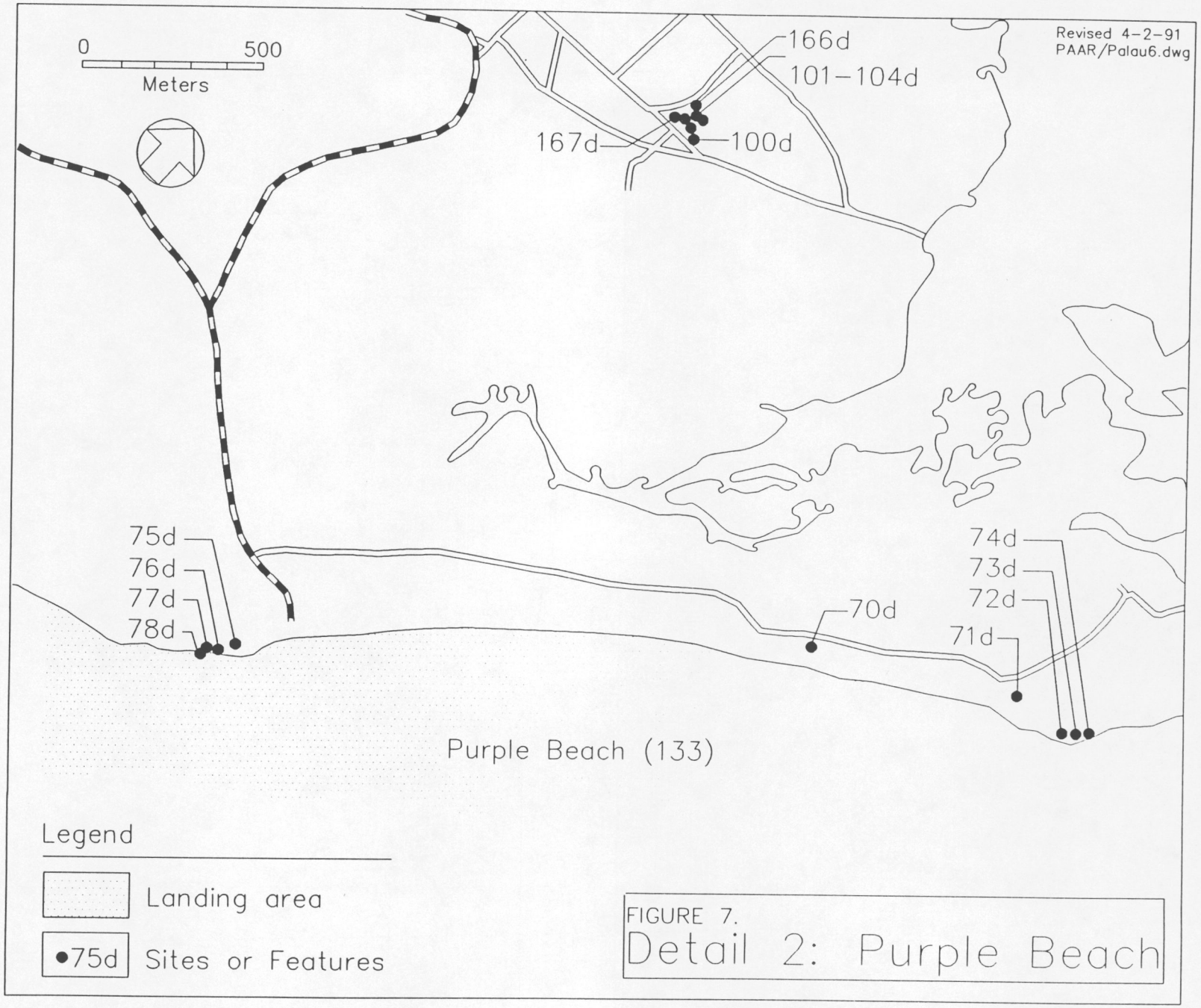


FIGURE 7.
Detail 2: Purple Beach

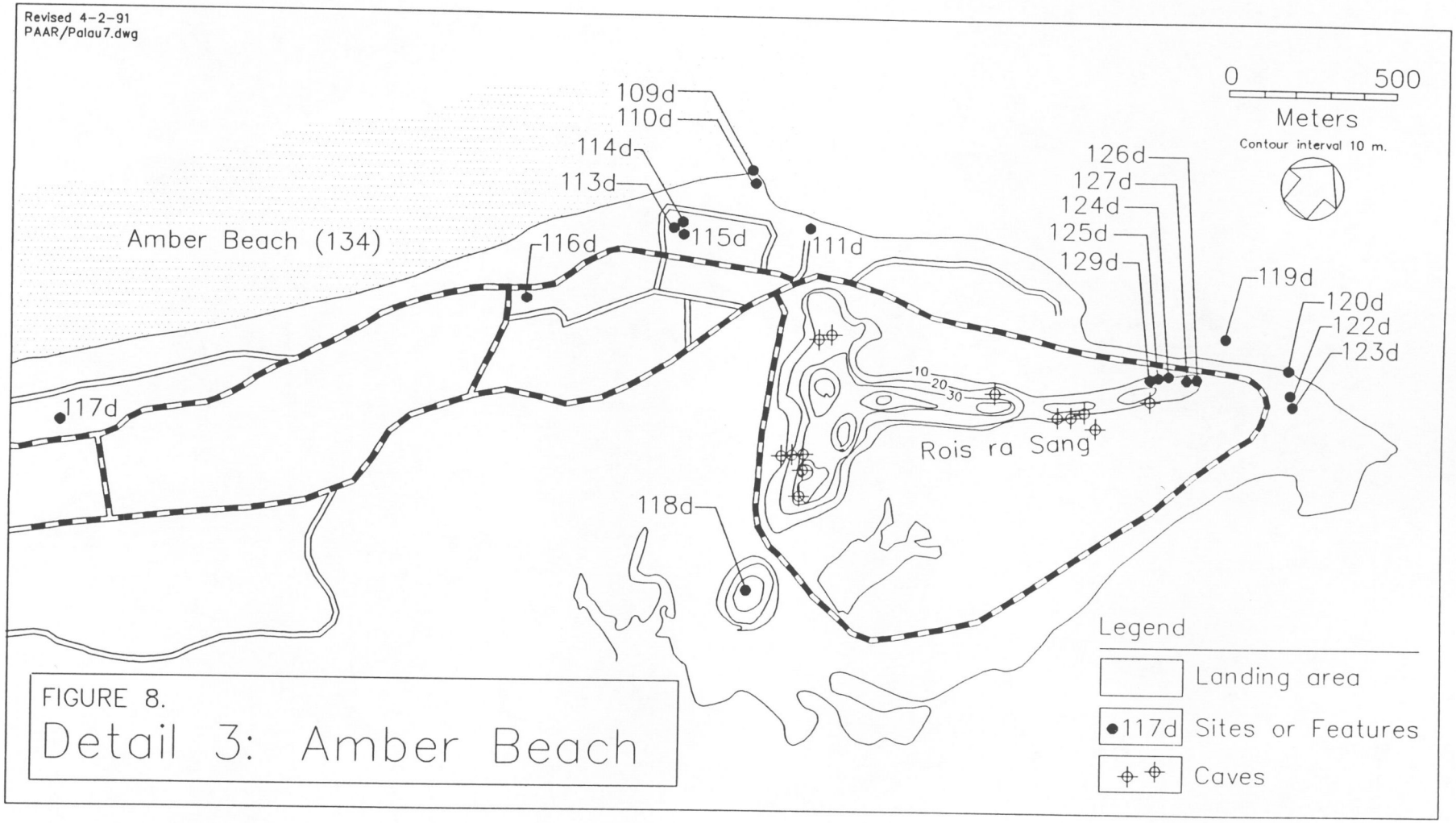


FIGURE 8.
Detail 3: Amber Beach

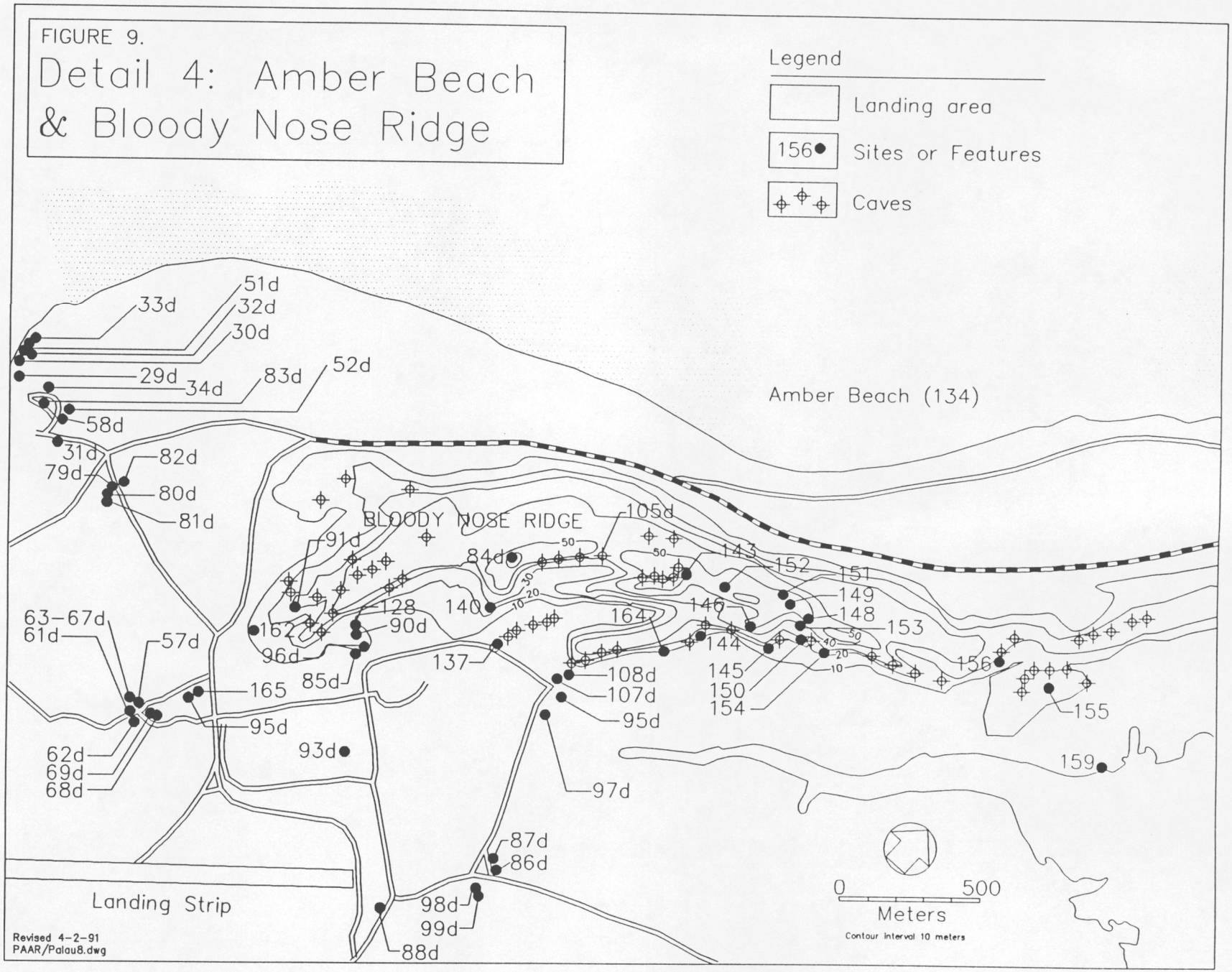


FIGURE 9.
Detail 4: Amber Beach & Bloody Nose Ridge

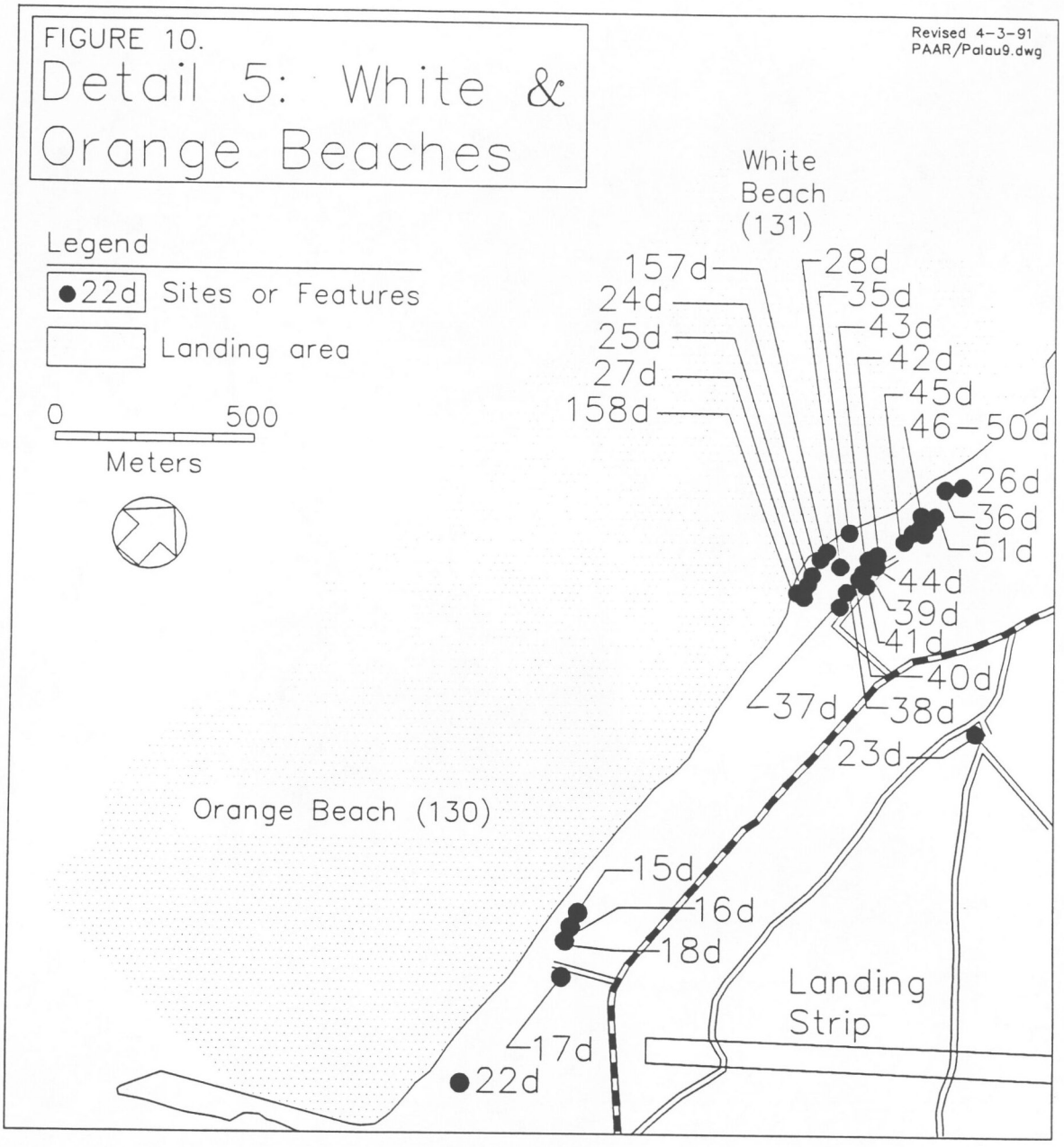


FIGURE 10.
Detail 5: White & Orange Beaches
Revised 4-3-91
PAAR/Palau9.dwg
Legend
●22d Sites or Features
Landing area
0 500
Meters
White Beach (131)
157d
24d
25d
27d
158d
28d
35d
43d
42d
45d
46–50d
26d
36d
51d
44d
39d
41d
40d
37d
38d
23d
Orange Beach (130)
15d
16d
18d
17d
●22d
Landing Strip

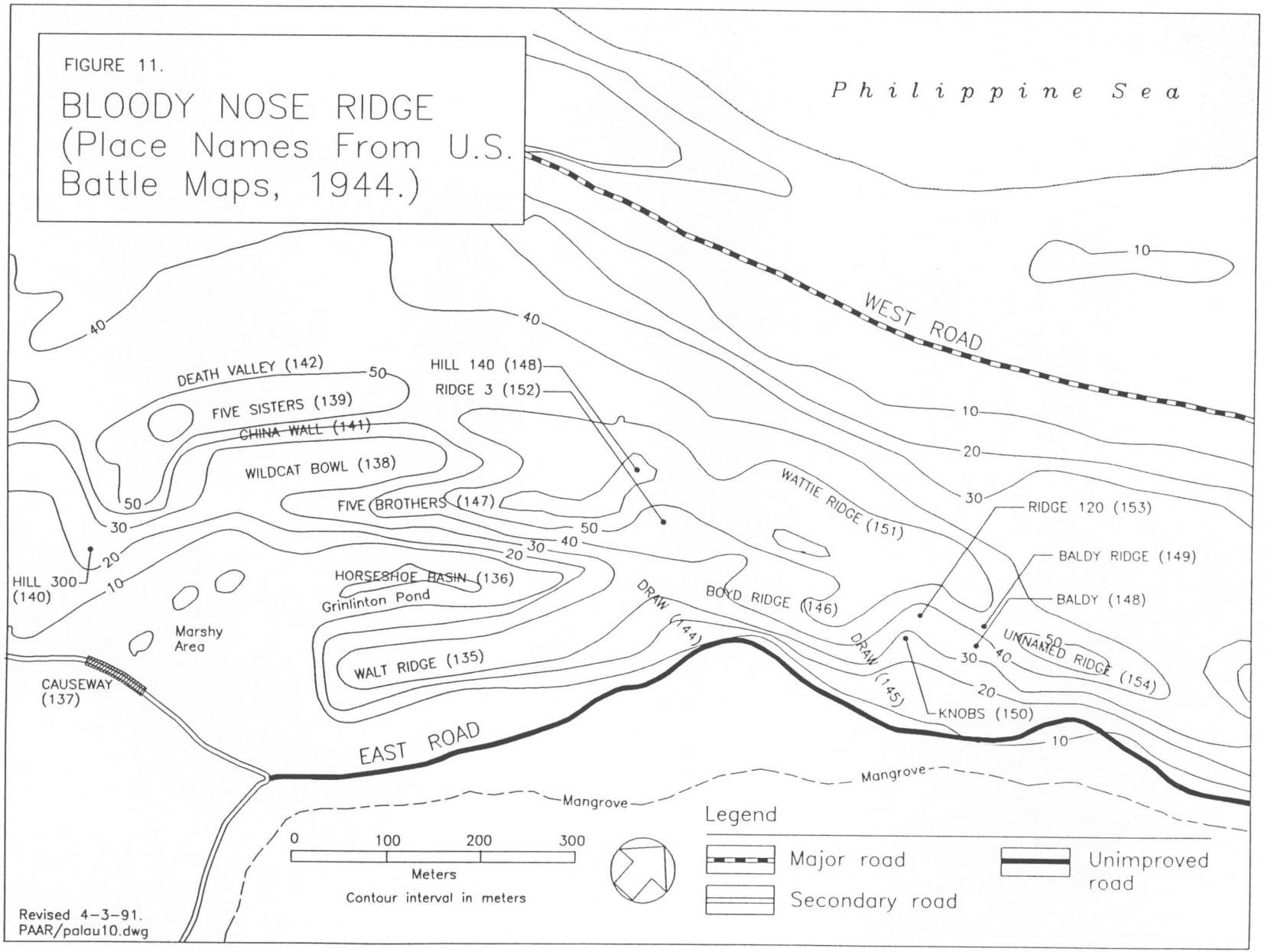


FIGURE 11.
BLOODY NOSE RIDGE
(Place Names From U.S. Battle Maps, 1944.)
Philippine Sea
WEST ROAD
EAST ROAD
DEATH VALLEY (142)
FIVE SISTERS (139)
CHINA WALL (141)
WILDCAT BOWL (138)
HILL 140 (148)
RIDGE 3 (152)
FIVE BROTHERS (147)
WATTIE RIDGE (151)
RIDGE 120 (153)
BALDY RIDGE (149)
BALDY (148)
BOLD RIDGE (146)
DRAW (144)
DRAW (145)
UNNAMED RIDGE (154)
KNOBS (150)
HILL 300 (140)
HORSESHOE BASIN (136)
Grinlinton Pond
Marshy Area
WALT RIDGE (135)
CAUSEWAY (137)
Mangrove
Mangrove
10
20
30
40
50
0 100 200 300
Meters
Contour interval in meters
Legend
Major road
Secondary road
Unimproved road
Revised 4-3-91.
PAAR/palau10.dwg

Although the 1944 battle left substantial portions of Bliliou's tropical forest portions nearly bare, the U. S. subsequently made no soil stabilization effort by spreading seeds of erosion resistant alien plants. And so, regrowth has been almost entirely native plants now forming a 45-year-old secondary native forest. The mangrove areas of Bliliou were mostly untouched by the battle; consequently, this swamp is unimpaired.

In June 1987, the U. S. Forest Service published, "*Vegetation Survey of the Republic of Palau.*" The survey was based on photography taken in 1976 and field checked for accuracy in 1985. For mapping purposes, the islands of Palau were divided into four major land classes: forest, secondary vegetation, agroforest, and nonforest. Nearly all of Bliliou is covered in forest and consists of four of the eight types identified by the U. S. Forest Service for Palau: limestone forest, mangrove forest, *Casuarina* forest, and swamp forest.

The limestone forest is the dominant vegetation type found on Bliliou. Native limestone forest once covered nearly all of the island. The less disturbed limestone forest now occurs in the uplands of northern Bliliou. On other parts of the island, the growth is mostly secondary. The limestone forest habitat supports both scrubby and tall trees, sometimes growing out of bare rock. Much of the forest has a secondary vegetation understory. The humus from decaying leaves and other debris provide the necessary nutrients. Species commonly found in the limestone forest include *Intsia bijuga*, *Psychotria* spp., and *Clerondendrum inerme*.

The mangrove forests on Bliliou are mostly composed of medium-sized trees, smaller and less dense than those found on the large island of Babeldaob. Generally, *Souneratia alba* and *Rhizophora mucronata* dominate on the seaward side of the forest. On the landward side, the species mix may include *Lumnitzera literea* and *Xylocarpus granatum*. As in other areas, the mangrove forests here serve as a natural filtering and nutrient buffering system between the island and the waters of the lagoon, settling silt and providing a steady release of nutrients into the lagoon. Mangrove forest also provides important habitat for birds and fruit bats and serve as fish spawning grounds.

Along the western and eastern coast of Bliliou, dense stands of *Casuarina litorea* trees are found. These areas are not well-developed forest communities, however, and are usually a component of other secondary vegetation types or atoll forest. In the interior of the island in the vicinity of the landing strip, the secondary vegetation type is mostly *Hibiscus*.

A remnant swamp forest occurs on Bliliou on the east side just inland of the mangrove forest. Species common to this wet area include *Barringtonia racemosa* and *Terminalia catappa*.

Altogether the four types of areas vegetated with live trees -- limestone forest, mangrove forest, *Casuarina* forest, and swamp forest -- account for about 85 percent of the island of Bliliou. The remaining 15 percent consists of secondary vegetation, marshlands, developed areas, croplands, and water bodies.

The secondary vegetation on Bliliou consists of areas of fast-growing small trees, shrubs, and vines growing in recently disturbed areas. These areas are usually former planted areas now lying fallow. The most common secondary vegetation species found on Bliliou are *Macaranga carolinensis* and the native limestone species, *Timonius timon*.

The marshes on Bliliou are both freshwater and saline. The saltwater marshes are dominated by herbaceous vegetation and the freshwater areas by grasses, sedges, and herbs. Some of the freshwater marshes are being cultivated for taro.

The developed areas consists primarily of buildings and roads which make up the village of Kloulklubed, the landing strip and the adjacent reservoir. Crop lands are mostly found in the north next to the village and sometimes contain small structures. The water areas consist of both freshwater and saline pools scattered throughout the island.

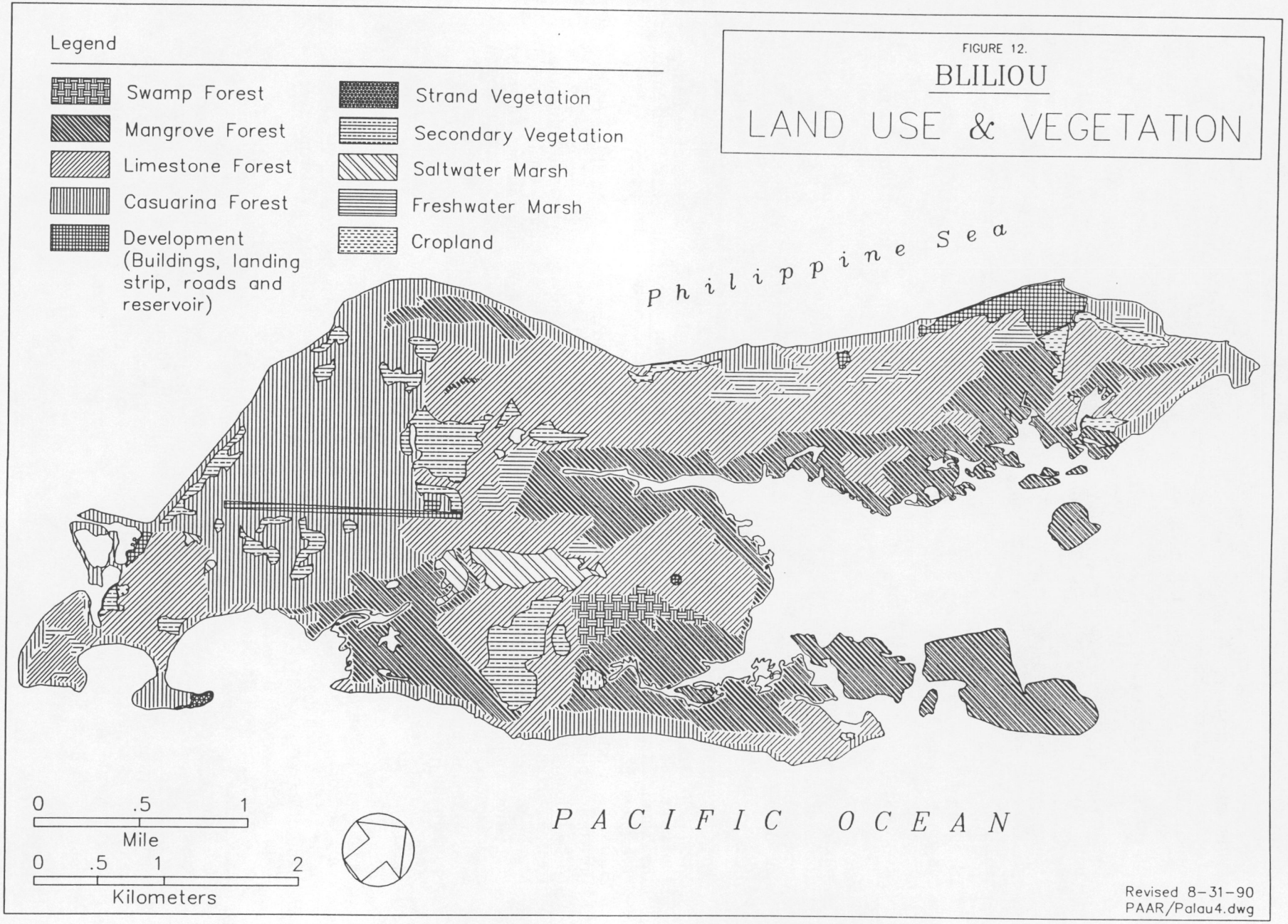

Legend
Swamp Forest
Mangrove Forest
Limestone Forest
Casuarina Forest
Development (Buildings, landing strip, roads and reservoir)
Strand Vegetation
Secondary Vegetation
Saltwater Marsh
Freshwater Marsh
Cropland
FIGURE 12.
BLILIOU
LAND USE & VEGETATION
Philippine Sea
PACIFIC OCEAN
0 .5 1
Mile
0 .5 1 2
Kilometers
Revised 8-31-90
PAAR/Palau4.dwg

Table C. Plant Communities of Bliliou

Species	U. S. Name	Palauan Name
The Littoral Strand		
Rock Strand		
major species:		
Boerhavia repens L.	--	--
Cyperus polystachyos Rottb.	a sedge	--
Fimbristylis cymosa R. Br.	a sedge	kerngimesked
Ipomoea pes-caprae (L.)	beach morning glory	kebeasechol
Ischaemum timorense Kunth	--	tametamml
Lepturus repens (Forst. f) R.Br.	a grass	--
Paspalum distichum L.	knotgrass or saltgrass	--
Portulaca oleracea L.	--	bungaruau ra sers
plants of lesser importance:		
Cyperus javanicus Houtt.	marsh cyperus	euais kederang babel aus kesekum esechesiding
Portulaca australis Endl.	--	--
Capparis cordifolia Lam.	--	--
Cassytha filiformis L.	giant dodder	techellela chull
Clerodendrum inerme (L.) Gaertn.	--	embrert
**Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.	Bermuda grass	--
Cyrtandra palawensis Schltr.	--	melkii
Cyrtandra todaiensis Kaneh.	--	melkii ra chelebacheb
Hedyotis biflora (L.) Lam.	--	sechal kelelamalk
**Leucas lavandulaefolia* m.	--	--
Vigna marina (Burm.) Merr.	beach pea	keldellel
Sand Strand		
major species:		
Boerhavia repens L.	--	--
Canavalia rosea (Sw.) DC.	--	keldellel
Fimbristylis cymosa R. Br.	a sedge	kerngimesked
Ipomoea pes-caprae (L.)	beach morning glory	kebeasechol
Lepturus repens (Forst. f) R.Br.	a grass	--
Portulaca oleracea L.	--	bungaruau ra sers
Vigna marina (Burm.) Merr.	beach pea	keldellel

* not native to Palau

Table C. Plant Communities of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Species	U. S. Name	Palauan Name
plants of lesser importance:		
Ipomoea macrantha R. & S.	moonflower	--
Sida fallax Walp.	broomweed	--
Stenotaphrum micranthum (Desv.) Hubb	a grass	--
Euphorbia chamissonis (Kl. & Gke.) Boiss.	--	karkar kerkar
Euphorbia gaudichaudii Boiss.	--	--
**Euphorbia glomerifera* (Millsp.) Wheeler	--	karkar kerkar
**Euphorbia neriifolia* L.	--	--
Euphorbia reineckei Pax?	--	--
Euphorbia reinwardtiana Steud.	--	--
The Littoral Scrub.		
major species:		
Canavalia rosea (Sw.) DC.	--	keldellel
Wollastonia biflora (L.) DC.	wedelia	ngesil
Scaevola taccada (Gaertn.) Roxb.	--	korrai kirrai railechol
Caesalpinia bonduc (L.) Roxb.	wait-a-bit, nickernuts	tochedulik
Hibiscus tiliaceus L.	hau	ermall
Hernandia sonora L.	jack-in-the-box tree	doko
Ipomoea pes-caprae (L.)	beach morning glory	kebeasechol
Vigna marina (Burm.) Merr.	beach pea	keldellel
Barringtonia asiatica (L.) Kurz	barringtonia	bduul
Pisonia grandis R. Br.	--	mesbesibech
Ficus copiosa Steud.	--	uosech
Ficus sagitta Vahl	--	--
Ficus senfftiana Warb.	--	--
Ficus tinctoria Forst. f.	--	oseked
Ficus sp.	--	uosech ra rechelid
Alyxia palauensis Mgf.	--	--
Sophora tomentosa L.	silver bush	dudurs
plants of lesser importance:		
Clerodendrum inerme (L.) Gaertn.	--	emrert
Pemphis acidula Forst.	--	ngis
Desmodium umbellatum (L.) DC.	beggar's lice	balbeluu
Premna obtusifolia R. Br.	--	osem

* not native to Palau

Table C. Plant Communities of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Species	U. S. Name	Palauan Name
Colubrina asiatica (L.) Brongn.	--	drikel ongaitong
Allophylus timoriensis (DC.) Bl.	--	ebeludes
Acalypha amentacea Roxb.	--	klekel
The Mangrove Forest.		
major species:		
Rhizophora apiculata Bl.	mangrove	bngaol
Rhizophora mucronata Lam.	mangrove	tebechel
plants of lesser importance:		
Scirpodendron ghaeri (Gaertn.) Merr.	--	loloi
Nypa fruticans Wurmb	nipa palm	toechel
Pandanus kanehirae Mart.	--	buuk
Pandanus macrojeanneretia Mart.	hala	ongor ertoc~het
Pandanus palawensis Mart.	hala	ongor
Pandanus peliliuensis Kaneh.	hala	ongor
Pandanus tectorius Park.	hala	ongor
Cynometra ramiflora L.	--	kalengui kelengui ketenguit
Dalbergia candenatensis (Dennst.) Prain	--	iult
Dalbergia palauensis Hosok.	--	yut
Derris trifoliata Lour.	--	kemokem
Xylocarpus granatum Koen.	cannonball tree	meduulokebong
Excoecaria agallocha L.	poison mangrove	ias
Thespesia populnea (L.) Sol. ex Correa	milo	--
Heritiera littoralis Dry.	looking-glass tree	ebibech
Pemphis acidula Forst.	--	ngis
Bruguiera gymnorhiza (L.) Lam.	oriental mangrove	denges kodenges
Ceriops tagal (Perr.) C. B. Rob.	--	biut
Sonneratia alba J. E. Sm.	--	urur
Lumnitzera littorea (Jack) Voigt	--	ngemoel mekekad
Barringtonia asiatica (L.) Kurz	barringtonia	bduul
Barringtonia racemosa (L.) Spreng.	--	koranges
Avicennia marina (Forsk.) Vierh.	--	--
Clerodendrum inerme (L.) Gaertn.	--	emrert
Dolichandrone spathacea (L. f.) K. Schum.	--	rriu
Acanthus ebracteatus Vahl	--	kollil
Scyphiphora hydrophyllaceae Gaertn.	--	kuat

Table C. Plant Communities of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Species	U. S. Name	Palauan Name
The Coastal Forest		
major tree species:		
Casaurina litorea L.	ironwood	ngas
Diospyros ferrea (Willd.) Bakh.	--	--
Erythrina variegata L.	indian coral tree	roro
Barringtonia asiatica (L.) Kurz	barringtonia	bduul
Intsia bijuga (Colebr.) O. Ktze.	ifil	dort
Terminalia catappa L.	false kamani, tropical almond	miich
Calophyllum inophyllum L.	true kamani	btaches
less important tree species:		
Ficus sp.	--	uosech ra rechelid
Guettarda speciosa L.	--	belau
Hernandia sonora L.	jack-in-the-box tree	doko
Calophyllum pelewense P. F. Stevens (ined.)	--	--
Calophyllum soulattri Burm. f.	--	olbtaches
Hibiscus tiliaceus L.	hau	ermall
**Inocarpus fagifer* (Park.) Fosb.	tahitian chestnut	keam boui
Phalera nisidai Kaneh.	--	ongael delalaka
Psychotria hombroniana (Baill.) Fosb.	limestone forest tree	bkau
Sterculia palauensis Kaneh.	--	--
vines		
Alyxia palauensis Mgf.	--	--
The Coral Limestone Ridge Forest.		
**Ficus carica* L.	fig	uosech
Ficus copiosa Steud.	--	uosech
Ficus microcarpa L. f.	chinese banyan	lulk
Ficus prolixa Fost. f.	banyan	lulk
Ficus saffordii Merr.	banyan	lulk
Ficus sagitta Vahl	--	--
Ficus senfftiana Warb.	--	--
Ficus tinctoria Forst. f.	--	oseked
Ficus sp.	--	uosech ra rechelid

* not native to Palau

Table C. Plant Communities of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Species	U. S. Name	Palauan Name
Pisonia grandis R. Br.	--	mesbesibech emoi
Pisonia umbellifera (Forst.) Seem.	--	udeuidar bekai
Canarium hirsutum Willd.	--	mesecheues
**Canarium indicum* L.	--	--
**Canarium luzonicum* (Bl.) A. Gray	--	--
**Canarium vulgare* Leenh.	--	mesecheues
Canarium sp.	--	--
Aglaia palauensis Kaneh.	--	--
Macaranga carolinensis Volk.	--	bedel
Semecarpus venenosus Volk.	Poison Tree	tonget
Rhus taitensis Guill.	sumac	eues
Alphitonia carolinensis Hosok.	--	elebiob elebiong
Elaeocarpus joga Merr.	blue fig	dekemerir
Elaeocarpus rubidus Kaneh.	--	dekemerir?
**Eugenia aquea* Burm. f.	water apple	edebsachel
Eugenia javanica Lam.	--	--
Eugenia nitida Korth.	--	--
Eugenia palauensis Kaneh.	--	--
Eugenia reinwardtiana (Bl.) DC.	--	kesiil
Diospyros ferrea (Willd.) Bakh.	--	--
Fagraea berteriana A.Grayex Bentham	--	elelai
Fagraea ksid Gilg & Bened.	--	ksid

* not native to Palau

Table D. Birds of Bliliou

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance*
RESIDENT LAND BIRDS			
Ixobrychus sinensis	Yellow bittern	Chloteachel	Uncommon
Egretta sacra	Pacific reef-heron	Sechou	Common
Nycticorax caledonicus	Rufous night-heron	Mellabaob	Common
Anas superciliosa	Australian Gray duck	Debar	Rare
Megapodius laperouse	Mirconesian megapode	Bekai	Uncommon
Gallus gallus	Red junglefowl	Malkureomel	Common
Rallina eurizonoides	Slaty-legged crake	Ulerratel	Uncommon
Rallus philippensis	Banded rail	Terriid	Abundant
Poliolimnas cinereus	White-browed rail	Sngorech	Uncommon
Gallinula chloropus	Common moorhen	Debar	Rare
Porphyrio porphyrio	Purple swamphen	Uek	Uncommon
Caloenas nicobarica	Nicobar pigeon	Laib	Uncommon
Gallicolumba canifrons[1]	Palau ground-dove	Omekrengukl	Rare
Ptilinopus pelewensis[1]	Palau fruit-dove	Biib	Abundant
Ducula oceanica	Micronesian pigeon	Belochel	Common
Pyrroglaux podargina[1]	Palau owl	Chesuch	Common
Caprimulgus indicus	Jungle nightjar	Chebacheb	Uncommon
Aerodramus vanikorensis	Vanikoro swiftlet	Chesisekiaid	Abundant
Halcyon cinnamomina	Micronesian kingfisher	Cherosech	Common

Table D. Birds of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance*
Halcyon chloris	Collared kingfisher	Tengadidik	Common
Coracina tenuirostris	Cicadabird	Kiuidukall	Uncommon
Colluricincla tenebrosa[1]	Palau morningbird	Tutau	Common
Myiagra erythrops[1]	Palau flycatcher	Charmelachull	Common
Rhipidura lepida[1,2]	Palau fantail	Melimdelebteb, Chesisirech on Peleliu	Common
Cettia annae[1]	Palau bush-warbler	Wuul	Common
Aplonis opaca	Micronesian starling	Kiuid	Abundant
Myzomela rubratra	Cardinal honeyeater	Chesisebangiau	Common
Zosterops cinereus	Dusky white-eye	Chetitalial	Abundant
Zosterops conspicillatus	Bridled white-eye	Charmbedel	Common
Megazosterops palauensis[1]	Palau greater white-eye	Charmbedel	Common
BREEDING SEABIRDS			
Phaethon lepturus	White-tailed tropicbird	Dudek	Common
Phalacrocorax melanoleucos	Little pied cormorant	Deroech	Common
Fregata minor	Great frigatebird	Kedam	Abundant
Fregata ariel	Lesser frigatebird	Kedam	Common
Sterna bergii	Great crested tern	Roall	Common
Sterna sumatrana	Black-naped tern	Kerkirs	Common
Anous stolidus	Brown noddy	Mechadelbedaoch	Abundant

Table D. Birds of Bliliou (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance*
Anous minutus	Black noddy	Bedaoch	Abundant
Gygis alba	Common fairy-tern	Sechosech	Common
MIGRATORY BIRDS (Migrate through or to Palau, generally in winter months only)			
Egretta intermedia	Intermediate egret	Sechou	Uncommon
Bubulcus ibus	Cattle egret	Keremlal, Sechou	Common
Egretta garzetta	Little egret	Sechou	Uncommon
Pluvialis dominica	Lesser golden plover	Derariik	Common
Tringa glareola	Wood sandpiper	--	Common
Heteroscelus brevipes	Gray-tailed tattler	--	
Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel	Okak	Common
Arenaria interpres	Ruddy turnstone	--	Common
Actitis hypoleucos	Common sandpiper	Bengobaingukl	Common
Calidris ruficollis	Rufous-necked stint	--	Common
Cuculus saturatus	Oriental cuckoo	Charmudrenges	Uncommon
Hirundo rustica	Barn swallow	Tsubame (Japanese)	Common
Motacilla flava	Yellow wagtail	--	Uncommon

*Relative Abundance

Abundant — Almost certain to be found in numbers within representative habitat.
Common — A few individuals almost certain to be found within representative habitat. Common migrants arrive annually in numbers.
Uncommon — Not certain to be found within representive habitat. Uncommon migrants arrive annually, but are generally seen only a few times during the year.
Rare — Only a very limited population present. Rare migrants genrally do not arrive annually.

[1] Endemic to Palau
[2] Listed as endangered species

Figure 12 shows the patterns of vegetation and land use on Bliliou based on the Forest Service survey. During the National Park Service survey of World War II sites in 1986, nearly all of the island was covered. Observations made at that time relative to vegetation and land use made it appear that, with minor exceptions, the Forest Service survey is still valid and essentially correct. The only changes noted by the Park Service are those showing additional areas which appeared at that time to be under cultivation.

Thirty-nine species of native birds have been recorded on Bliliou (Engbring, 1988). Of these, 30 are land or wetland species and 9 are seabirds. There are also several migrant species there for part of the year. Seven of the land species are endemic to Palau. A single species, the Micronesian Megapode, has been listed as endangered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Two of the endangered species are endemics. The Gray Duck and the Common Moorehen, both found on Bliliou, are thought to be the rarest birds in Palau. As shown on Table D, the great majority of the resident bird species are either "common" or "abundant" and nearly all of the migrants are "common." If native bird life is an indication of the integrity of native ecosystems, Bliliou's are superb. Overall, Palauan ecosystems are well represented on Bliliou.

Bliliou National Historic Landmark

The national significance of the World War II battle for the island of Bliliou is documented in the "significance" section of the nomination form for the Peleliu Battlefield National Historic Landmark and is included as an Appendix to this report. The National Park System Advisory Board, after consideration, approved and recommended landmark status. On February 4, 1985, the Secretary of the Interior officially designated the Bliliou site as a national historic landmark. The designation attests not only to the site's significance, but also to its integrity. The landmark plaque has been mounted and is now displayed in a prominent place in the village of Kloulklubed.

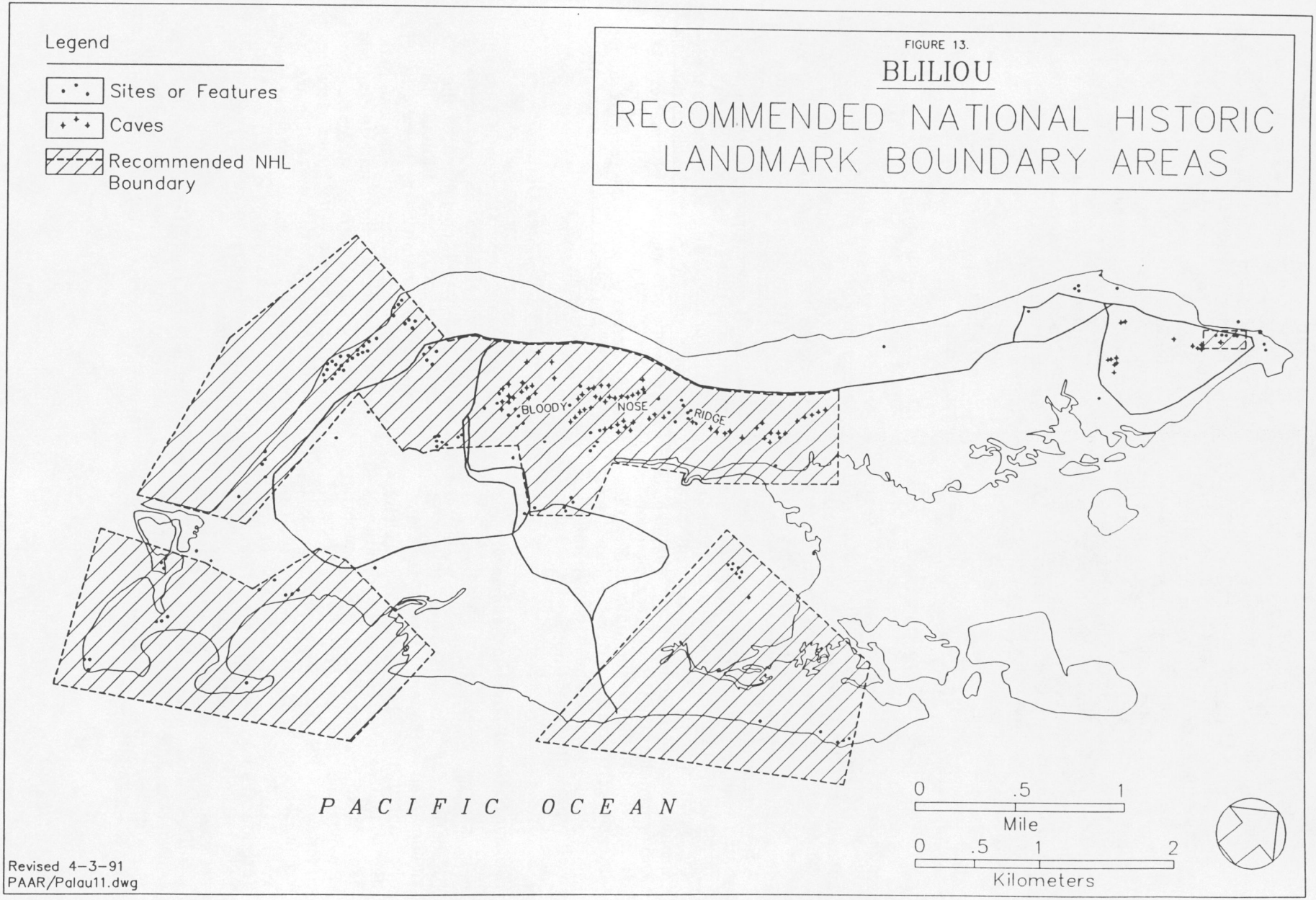
The entire island of Bliliou was included in the recommendation for nomination as a national historic landmark, except for the area encompassed by the two villages, Kloulklubed and Imelechol, at the northern end of the island. The nomination also stated that the remnants of post-battle American installations, such as concrete slabs, quonset huts, etc., were not considered to be historically significant. No specific landmark boundary was established at the time of nomination because of the lack of National Park Service knowledge then of land tenure and ownership patterns on Bliliou.

Due to landmark designation, it is now important that specific landmark boundaries be defined in order to provide a clear delineation of the amount of land involved. It is recommended that exact national historic landmark boundaries now be drawn to include those lands shown on Figure 13. These boundaries were drawn so as to include only those portions of Bliliou which contain sites that are directly related to the actual World War II battle. The total area recommended to be included within the national historic landmark boundaries takes in about 2,800 acres. A little more than 1,300 acres is land, the rest is about two-thirds offshore waters and one-third mangrove swamp.

Historical Park - Area Options

The following areas all contain sites and features important to the 1944 battle for Bliliou and have been judged by the NPS study team and the Bliliou historic preservation committee to be worthy of being included within a historical park. Both the team and the committee agreed that the overall objective of such a park was to preserve these sites and features. Establishment of a historical park to manage, protect, interpret, and make these sites accessible to visitors is regarded as the logical and most appropriate way to achieve this objective.

Boundaries for the historical park could be configured in three ways, depending on the extent of the area to be included within.

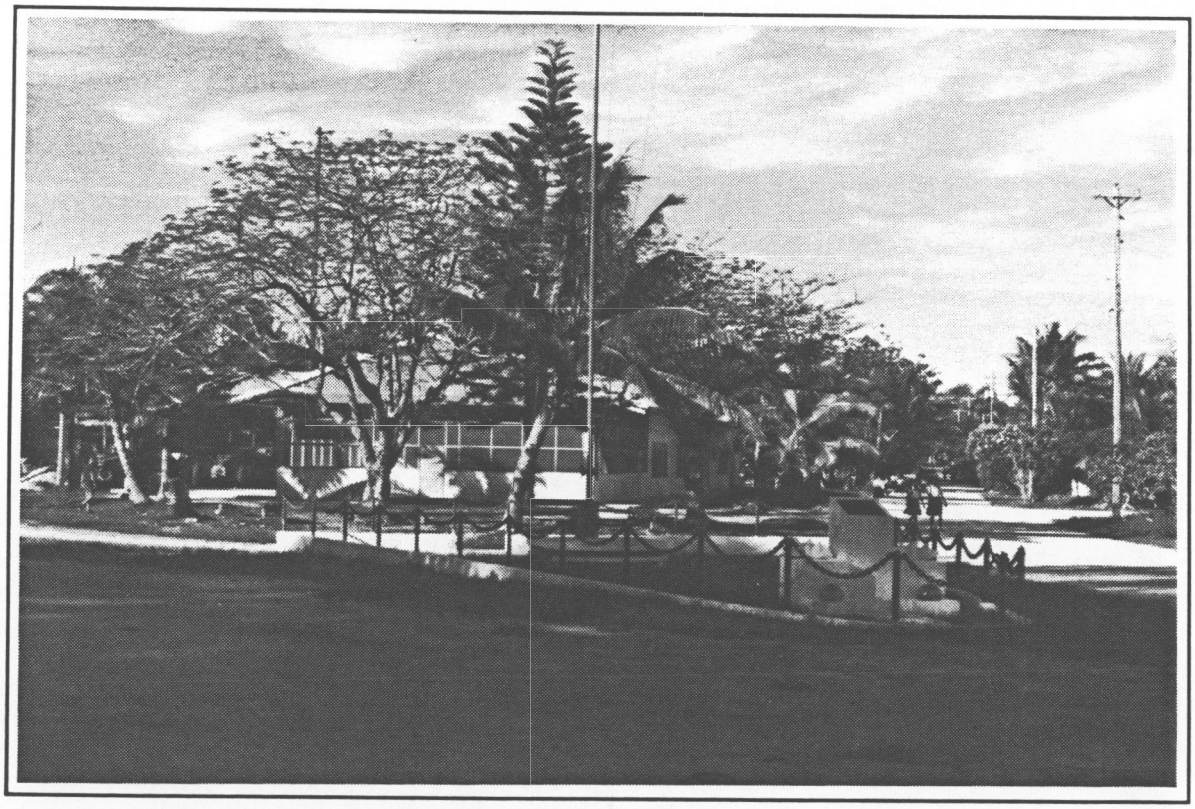

Legend
Sites or Features
Caves
Recommended NHL Boundary
FIGURE 13.
BLILIOU
RECOMMENDED NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK BOUNDARY AREAS
BLOODY
NOSE
RIDGE
PACIFIC OCEAN
0 .5 1
Mile
0 .5 1 2
Kilometers
Revised 4-3-91
PAAR/Palau11.dwg

These three areas collectively contain the remaining topographic -- ridges, ravines, and beaches -- and man-made -- caves, directly associated with the 1944 battle for Bliliou. Except for the small area at the northern end of the island containing the Japanese 1000-man cave, the suggested historical park boundaries coincide with those boundaries recommended for the national historic landmark. The cave, although important, is but a single site separated from the other sites and features by a sizeable distance, thereby making park management difficult. Landmark designation was judged to be adequate protection to that sites' historic value.

Although changed since the battle -- the jagged limestone ridges then exposed by heavy guns, bombs, and napalm are now covered by second-growth tropical vegetation -- these areas even today still evoke a strong feeling of the terrible events concrete structures, and military equipment -- features of historic significance, all which took place there during the months of September, October, and November 1944. As noted, a remarkable degree of site integrity remains. Because of this site integrity, Bliliou offers perhaps the best opportunity to interpret for visitors a World War II Pacific island battle.

Suggested boundaries have been delineated to include nearly all of the remaining sites and features important to the battle. Some of the large pieces of military equipment have been moved for display or other purposes and their present location should not be considered permanent. All other sites, features, structures, and objects should be protected and preserved on-site.

Some of the second growth tropical vegetation will require cutting back at select sites to allow visitors to view and gain



Displayed prominently in the village of Kloulkubed is the plaque for the Peleliu Battlefield National Historic Landmark. It reads: "This site possesses national significance in commemorating the history of the United States of America."

access to important historic sites and features. However, there should be no attempt to recreate the historic scene as it appeared during the 1944 battle. To attempt this would mean stripping away extensive amounts of the existing vegetation to expose the craggy limestone ridges of the Umurbrogol Pocket. This would be irresponsible park management -- literally recreating conditions that would lead to erosion and other man-made landscape scarring.

Three areas are discussed in terms of their significance to the park's historic theme, the presence (or lack) of existing non-park land uses, and visitor accessibility. Each is described in the order of their importance.

Area 1: Encompasses a total of about 1,370 acres, 850 acres of land, 120 acres of mangrove swamp and 400 acres of offshore waters. Contains all of Bloody Nose Ridge. The caves found along Bloody Nose Ridge, some natural and some phosphate mined, were improved and fortified by the Japanese defenders. More than 100 caves or cave entrances were located here by U. S. Marine intelligence; about half of these were sealed or destroyed. It was here at Bloody Nose Ridge where the U. S. marines and infantry encountered the strongest resistance from the Japanese defenders and where some of the most prolonged fighting of the entire Central Pacific drive took place. This long, precipitous ridge, Bliliou's most prominent topographic feature, is considered to be the single most important part of any historical park proposal. The area contains numerous topographic features, each of which played a distinct role in the 41-day battle.

Six of the ridge's topographic features -- Five Sisters, China Wall, Horseshoe Basin, Wildcat Bowl, Five Brothers, and Walt Ridge -- were afforded the highest priority for preservation by the NPS study team. The historic preservation committee also gave the entire Bloody Nose Ridge area their highest priority.

This area also contains the two most important invasion beaches, White and Orange. White Beach was where the 1st Marines (Regiment) engaged in the toughest fighting as they tried to get ashore -- first underwater obstacles, then mutually defended, heavily fortified concrete pillboxes set in along the coral ridge manned by determined Japanese defenders. Also contains the greatest extent, variety and number of sites, features, and objects related to the park's historical theme. Moreover, competing land uses are non-existent, other than small agricultural plots, mostly taro. The area also contains a road running along the western side of Bloody Nose Ridge providing easy access for park visitors from the village of Kloulklubed. This area is considered to be integral to any historical park on Bliliou -- the minimum area required in order to have a viable park. Without this area in its entirety, the criterion of suitability could not be met. Table E lists those sites and features remaining from the World War II battle for Bliliou which are located within Area 1.

Area 2: Encompasses a total of about 745 acres, 240 acres of land, 30 acres of mangrove swamp, and 475 acres of offshore waters. Adding this area to the park would mean including Scarlet Beach, portions of which are referred to as Bloody Beach by the residents, which the historic preservation committee judged to be important. This area contains several features, mostly Japanese defensive positions, the most important being a well-preserved round blockhouse, the only one of its kind on Bliliou. Table F lists those sites and features remaining from the World War II battle for Bliliou which are located within Area 2.

Area 3: Encompasses a total of 660 acres, 220 acres of land, 300 acres of mangrove forest, and 140 acres of offshore waters. Contains Purple Beach, which was identified as a beachhead, but no actual landings by the U. S. Marines took place here. Historic sites within this area are also mostly Japanese defensive positions. There are also several structures, all associated with the Japanese radio direction-finding facilities, located at Lademisang. Two of these structures are presently being utilized, one of them as a place of residence.

Table E. Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located Within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Area 1)

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
14d	76	-	Japanese steel pole anti-landing obstacles	Ngesias	-	Y
15d	77	-	Japanese concrete beach shelter	Teliu	Bosaoli Clan - 165	Y
16d	102	-	Remains of 150 mm Japanese searchlight and platform	Teliu	Bosaoli Clan - 165	Y
17d	68	6	American military cemetery, U.S.A. 81st Division and 1st Marine Division	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 166	N
18d	67	6	U. S. chapel building	Teliu	Bosaoli Clan - 165	Y
21d	-	-	U. S. Naval base #3252 remains -- a few Quonset hut pads	Ngerdelolk	-	N
22d	-	-	Repair facility remains for Naval base #3252	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 166	N
23d	88	12	Japanese tank, type 95 HA GO. Turret missing and tracks blown off.	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
24d	14	3	Japanese pillbox with 37 mm anti-tank gun	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
25d	20	3	Japanese anti-tank gun pillbox for 75 mm field piece (the 75 mm gun sits in water below pillbox)	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
26d	19	3	Japanese coral ridge gun positions and pillboxes	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
27d	17	3	Camouflaged Japanese pillbox built into coral ridge	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
28d	18	3	Japanese defensive rifle and machine gun positions	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
29d	15	3	Japanese pillbox containing partially buried 75 mm gun	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
30d	22	3	Japanese pillbox, contains exploded machine gun barrel	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
31d	16	3	Japanese pillbox, 20 mm gun with pedestal	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y

Table E. Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Area 1) (cont'd.)

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
32d	25	3	Japanese shelter cave, composed of rebar and coral	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
33d	26	3	Japanese machine gun nest remains	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
34d	NA	3	U. S. Island Commander living area remains	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
35d	47	3	U. S. LVT personnel carrier buried in sand	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
36d	48	3	Japanese fuel drum emplacement	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
37d	23	3	Japanese cave, improved with rebar and narrow gauge rail	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
38d	27	3	Japanese cave at 30 m elevation on reverse slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
39d	29	3	Japanese cave on reserve slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
40d	30	3	Japanese cave on reserve slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
41d	31	3	Japanese gun emplacement carved into coral	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
42d	33	3	Japanese cave 32, Japense cave 33	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
43d	34	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
44d	35	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
45d	36	3	Japanese defense position in coral ridge	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
46d	37	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
47d	38	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
48d	39	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
49d	40	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y

Table E. Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Area 1) (cont'd.)

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
50d	41	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
51d	42	3	Japanese 7.7 mm machine gun pillbox.	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
52d	43	3	Japanese 37 mm gun pillbox	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
53d	44	3	Japanese caves and rifle pits (exact location unknown)	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
54d	103	-	Japanese air raid shelter #1, half blown away (exact location unknown)	Ngesias	-	Y
55d	104	-	Japanese air raid shelter #2, shielded with extra thickness (exact location unknown)	Ngesias	-	Y
56d	105	-	Japanese air raid shelter #3, lacks extra shielding debris (exact location unknown)	Ngesias	-	Y
57d	46	-	Japanese air raid shelter #4 with steel doors	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
58d	126	-	Japanese air raid shelter #5	Ngesias	Dmui Clan - 160	Y
59d	127	-	Japanese air raid shelter #6, partially reinforced with stone and concrete	Ngesias	-	Y
60d	128	-	Japanese air raid shelter #7, steel doors and windows are intact	Ngesias	-	Y
61d	45	-	Japanese Headquarters Building (official U. S. flag raising here September 27, 1944)	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
62d	107	-	Japanese radio tower base supports	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
63d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	N
64d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	N

Table E. Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Area 1) (cont'd.)

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
65d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	N
66d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	N
67d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	N
68d	129	-	Two Japanese water cisterns	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
69d	108	-	Japanese water tank	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
79d	109	-	Japanese fuel storage bunker (area littered with U. S. helmets and canteens)	Ngesias	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
80d	130	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	(3)?	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
81d	131	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	(3)?	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
82d	132	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	(3)?	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
83d	NA	-	American housing area, clothesline poles	Ngerchol	Dmiu Clan - 160	N
84d	24	-	Bloody Nose Ridge monument	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	N
85d	12	-	U. S. LVT(A)1 with 37mm gun	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
86d	75	8	U. S. LVT(A)4 tank with 75 mm howitzer	Ngesias	-	Y
87d	78	8	U. S. LVT personnel carrier with offside loading	Ngesias	-	Y
88d	93	-	U. S. LVT personnel carrier with rear ramp	Ngesias	-	Y
90d	9	1	Japanese 200 mm anti-boat gun in cave. Best preserved example on island.	Ngesias	-	Y
91d	110	-	Japanese concrete lined storage cave with eight ammo caissons	Ngesias	-	Y

Table E. Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Area 1) (cont'd.)

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
92d	NA	-	American command headquarters, two Quonset huts (exact location unknown)	Ngesias	-	N
93d	133	-	Japanese power plant (exact location unknown)	Ngesias	-	Y
94d	134	-	Japanese shop and barracks area (now taro patches)	Ngesias	-	Y
95d	135	-	Japanese bomb-proof power plant	Ngesias	-	Y
96d	112	-	Japanese prisoner of war compound	Ngesias	-	Y
97d	113	-	Japanese stockade for U. S. prisoners (location unknown)	Ngesias	-	Y
98d	94	-	U. S. LCVT sitting in pond partially submerged	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
104d	11	-	Last Japanese command post caves	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan - 159	Y
105d	115	-	Amber Beach Japanese defensive works	Ngerchol	-	Y
106d	116	-	Japanese oil drum emplacement	Ngerchol	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
107d	141	-	U. S. bulldozer (from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit)	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
111d	120	-	Japanese pillbox, 20 mm caisson (exact location unknown)	Ngerchol	-	Y
115d	144	-	321st U. S. Regimental Combat Team monument (also called Wildcat Division memorial)	Ngerchol	-	N
127	10	-	Japanese man-made tunnel	Ngesias	-	Y
129	66	5	Orange Beach	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 166 Bosaol Clan - 165	Y
130	7	3	White Beach	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
132	80	9	Purple Beach	Ngerdelolk	-	Y

Table E. Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Area 1) (cont'd.)

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
134	6	1	"Walt Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
135	3	1	"Horseshoe Basin" and pond	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
136	64	1	"Causeway"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
137	4	1	"Wildcat Bowl"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
138	1	1	"Five Sisters"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
139	49	1	"Hill 300"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
140	2	1	"China Wall"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
141	52	1	"Death Valley"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
142	51	1	"Hill 140"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan - 159	Y
143	60	1	"draw"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
144	61	1	"draw"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
145	50	1	"Boyd Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
146	5	1	"Five Brothers"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
147	56	1	"Baldy"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
148	57	1	"Baldy Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan - 159	Y
149	58	1	"Knobs"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
150	54	1	"Wattie Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan - 159	Y
151	55	1	"Ridge 3"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y

Table E. Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Area 1) (cont'd.)

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
152	53	1	"Ridge 120"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
153	59	1	"unnamed ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
154	63	1	"Hill B"	Ngesias	Ngitecho Clan	Y
155	62	1	"Hill 100"	Ngesias	Ngitecho Clan	Y
156d	28	-	Japanese gun positions on top of promontory high point	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
157d	72	3	U. S. Marine transfer case with screw attached	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
158	32	7	U. S. Navy "Avenger" carrier-based torpedo bomber	Ngesias	-	Y
161	142	-	Japanese tower	Ngesias	-	Y
163	65	2	The local "last command post"	Ngesias	-	Y
164d	111	-	Japanese diesel fuel storage bunker	Ngesias	-	Y

Bloody Nose Ridge monument, site 84d, was erected by the 323rd Regiment of the U. S. Army's 81st Infantry Division and dedicated to Americans who died during the battle for the island.

Table G lists those sites and features remaining from the World War II battle for Bliliou which are located within Area 3.

The establishment of a historical park on Bliliou encompassing all of the above described areas would have minimum impact on existing land uses. None of the resident population would be affected, except for the elderly chief who resides alone in Lademisang (Site 100d). As noted, all other island residents currently live on the northern end of the island in the villages of Kloulkubed and Imelechol. Also, most of the lands being proposed for a historical park consist of limestone ridges and ravines or coral and sand beaches -- none of these areas being suitable for agricultural, commercial, or residential purposes. However, those areas now in use for agricultural purposes, mostly the growing of taro, may not necessarily be incompatible with an historical park.

Table H lists those sites and features which are located outside of suggested boundaries for a historical park.

Management Plan - Bliliou Historical Park

Park Purpose: To protect, preserve, and interpret the significant historic objects, sites, and features, as well as historic values, associated with the park.

Park Manager: Shall act to perpetuate unimpaired the cultural resources of the park; to prevent adverse effects on these resources from non-park development, from visitor use, or resource management activities; and to prevent vandalism or unauthorized excavation, collection, or appropriation of cultural resources. Shall provide for visitor enjoyment, appreciation, and understanding of park resources and values -- but not at the expense or impairment of those resources and values -- and for visitor protection and safety.

Table F. Remaining Sites and Ruins Located Within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Area 2)

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
1d	71	4	Japanese pillbox with gun positions for 7.7 mm machine gun	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 1969	Y
2d	73	-	Mortar pit (Japanese)	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 1969	Y
3d	90	14	Japanese (Boes ra Talkakl) cave, with two rice bowls and a projectile	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 1966	Y
4d	91	-	Japanese (Boes ra Talkakl) cave, with Japanese hand grenade (Model 97) and a number of mess kits	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 1966	Y
5d	92	-	Japanese (Boes ra Talkakl) cave	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 1966	Y
11d	74	-	Japanese shell damaged stone pillbox	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 1969	Y
12d	125	-	Two Japanese water tanks	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 1969	Y
13d	13	-	U. S. small pontoon barge (standard 7x3 cell)	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 1969	?
19d	87	13	Meltelat 'L Btuul. Round four-gun Japanese blockhouse, excellent condition, only Japanese blockhouse constructed on Peleliu	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan - 168	Y
20d	NA	-	U. S. 73rd Naval Construction Battalion camp -- numerous Quonset hut foundations	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan - 168	N
131	69	4	Scarlet Beach	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 169	Y
159	89	-	Japanese wheeled gun	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan - 168	Y
160	106	-	Scarlet Beach Japanese Memorial	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 169	N
162	70	4	"Bloody Beach"	Teliu	-	Y

Table G. Remaining Sites and Ruins Located Within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Area 3)

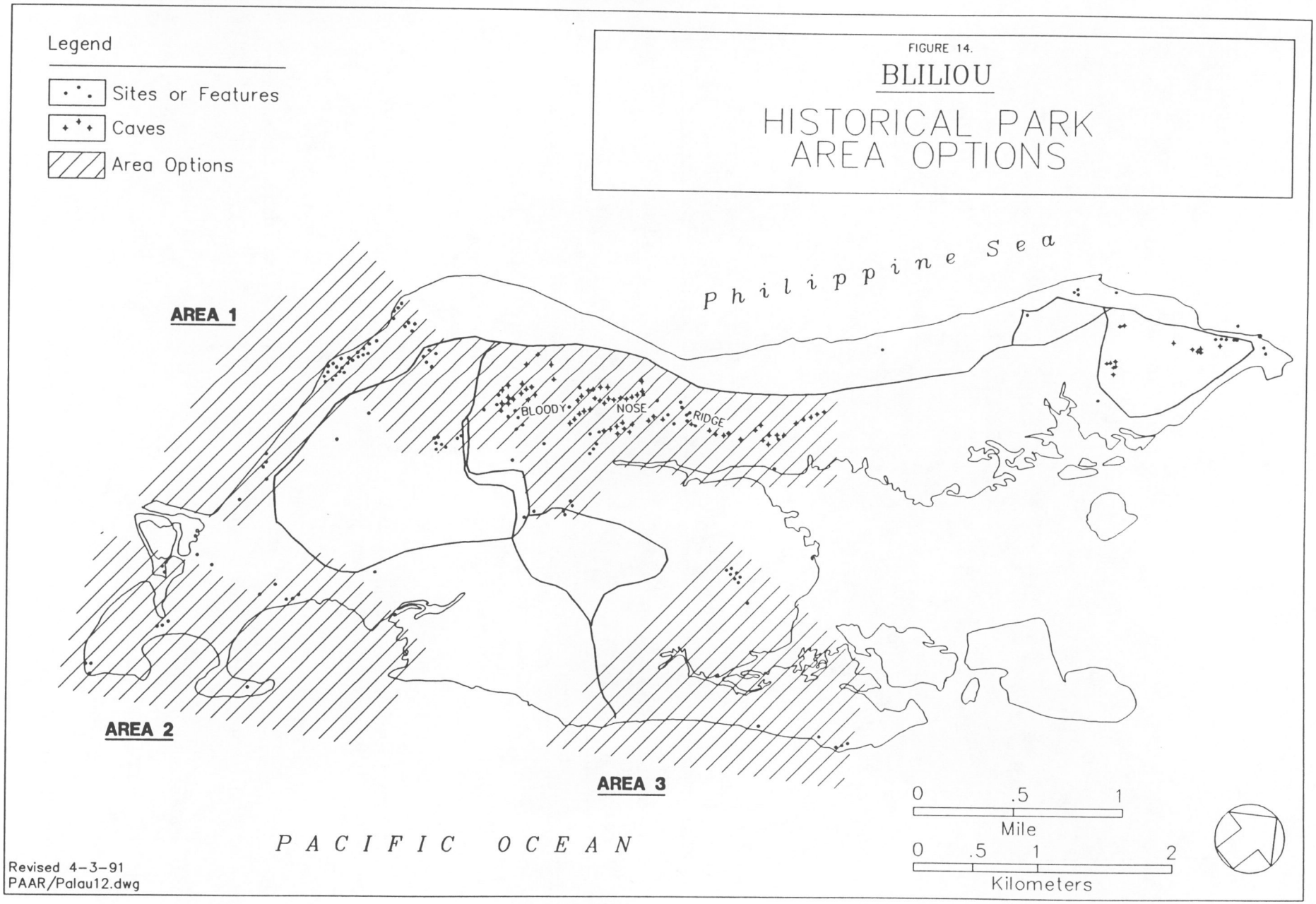
Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
70d	81	-	Two Japanese concrete radio tower foundations	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
71d	NA	-	American Quonset hut pads (Seabee camp)	Ngerdelolk	-	N
72d	83	-	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
73d	82	-	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
74d	84	-	Japanese concrete tetrahedrons	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
75d	79	-	Japanese 120 mm gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
76d	85	-	Japanese coconut log/concrete machine gun pillbox, triangle shaped	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
77d	86	-	Japanese pillbox cut in coral	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
78d	8	-	Japanese 25 mm anti-tank pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
99d	114	-	Japanese radio direction finder/administrative building	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
100d	136	-	Japanese powerhouse	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
101d	138	-	Japanese water cistern	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
102d	139	-	Japanese supply room	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
103d	140	-	Two Japanese water cisterns and open water tank	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
165d	137	-	U. S. M4A6 Sherman tank	(Ngedebus Is.)	-	Y
166	NA	15	Gun emplacements	(Ngedebus Is.)	-	Y
167d	NA	-	Japanese shrine	Ngesias	-	N
168d	142	-	Japanese bathhouse	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
169d	143	-	Japanese latrine	Ngerdelolk	-	Y

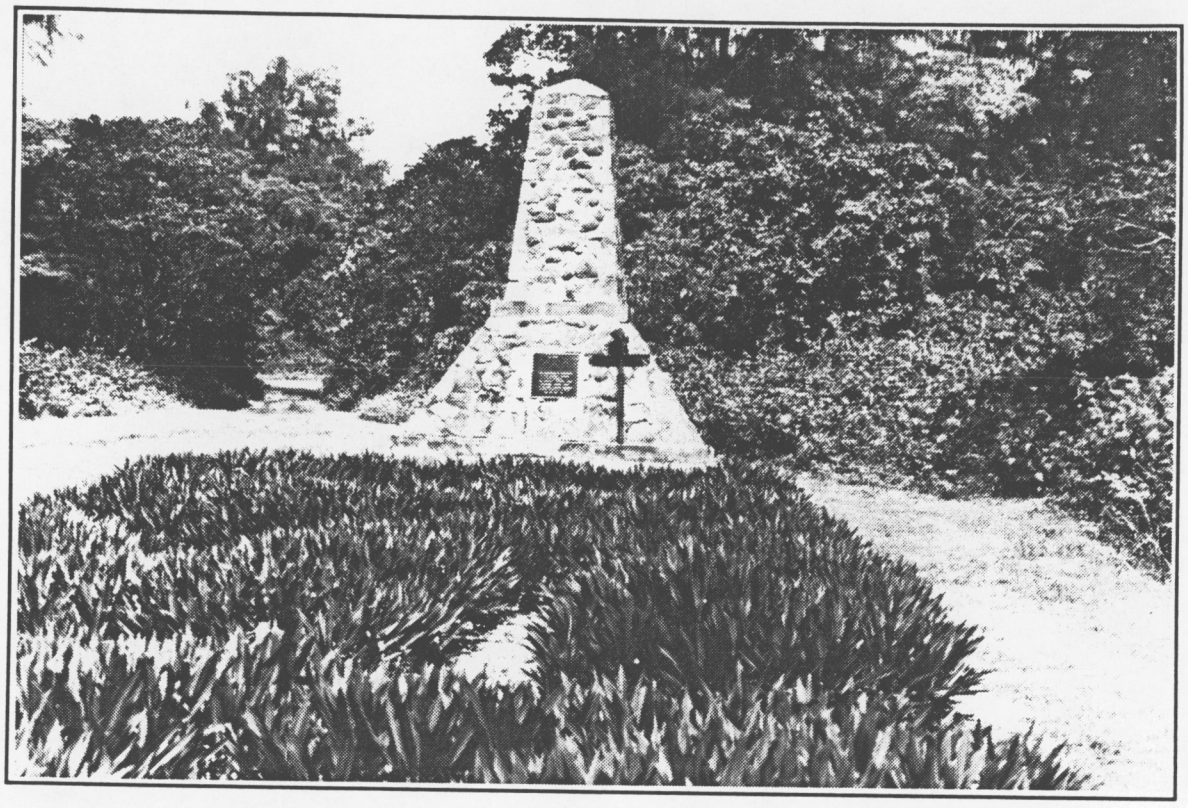
Table H. Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located Outside of Suggested Historical Park Boundary

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
6d	101	-	Four U. S. pontoon barge tugs, Type 4C with intact screws and propellers	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 1966	N
7d	151	-	Japanese tank farm with four of nine original fuel tanks shielded by low revetments	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 1966	Y
8d	NA	-	Carrier Aircraft Service Unit N 4Q shop area (pads of Quonset huts and traces of camp)	Ngerkeyukl	Sechedui Clain - 1967	N
9d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut pads -- probably remains of mess halls and office buildings	Ngerkeyukl	Ngeskesuk Clan - 1968	N
10d	124	-	Three unfinished concrete bases for 127mm dual mount AA gun emplacements. Good condition.	?	Sechedui Clan - 1967	Y
89d	NA	-	U. S. LVT personnel carrier with rear ramp and fitted	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
108d	118	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol	-	Y
109d	119	-	Japanese pillbox with ammo magazine	Ngerchol	-	Y
110d	120	-	Japanese oil drum empalcement for 75 mm gun	Ngerchol	-	Y
112d	122	-	Japanese oil drum emplacement for 7.7 mm gun	Ngerchol	-	Y
113d	123	-	Japanese interisland radio station	Ngerchol	-	Y
114d	144	-	Japanese radio station oil storage building	Ngerchol	-	Y
116d	146	-	Peleliu cemetery and Japanese monument	Ngerchol	-	N
117d	97	-	Radar Hill Japanese defensive caves	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
118d	147	-	Japanese causeway to Ngesebus Isle	Ngerchol	-	Y
119d	148	-	Peleliu dock	Ngerchol	-	N

Table H. Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located Outside of Suggested Historical Park Boundary (cont'd.)

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
121d	150	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol	-	Y
122d	151	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol	-	Y
123d	96	-	Japanese 1,000-man cave	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
124d	99	-	Japanese pillbox with gun mount pedestal and offset cover mount	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
125d	98	-	Japanese pillbox, overgrown and partially destroyed	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
126d	100	-	Japanese pillbox built into coral ridge and coral stone	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
128d	101	-	Japanese phosphate plant foundation, defensive strong point	Ngerchol	-	Y
133	124	-	Amber Beach	Ngerchol	-	Y
166	-	15	Gun emplacements	Ngerdelolk	-	Y


Legend
Sites or Features
Caves
Area Options
FIGURE 14.
BLILIOU
HISTORICAL PARK
AREA OPTIONS
Philippine Sea
AREA 1
BLOODY
NOSE
RIDGE
AREA 2
AREA 3
PACIFIC OCEAN
0 .5 1
Mile
0 .5 1 2
Kilometers
Revised 4-3-91
PAAR/Palau12.dwg



The American military cemetery, site 17d, contains a stone obelisk at each end, inset with bronze plaques dedicated to American war dead.

Park Management Objectives:

1. Preserve, protect, and manage the important historic resources of the park to ensure the continuation of the setting with sufficient historic integrity to interpret for visitors the World War II battle for Bliliou.

2. Provide park visitors with adequate facilities: (a) to interpret the historic resources; (b) for safety and comfort; and (c) for access to important sites, features, and viewpoints.

3. Develop a park interpretive program to foster an understanding of the reasons for the World War II battle for Bliliou, both from the American and Japanese standpoints. Develop a companion interpretive program to promote an understanding of the effect which the World War II battle for Bliliou had on Palauans, in particular on the residents of Bliliou.

4. Develop and present a park interpretive program in a historically accurate, objective, and unbiased manner.

5. Cooperate and coordinate with the U. S. National Park Service in providing training and professional and technical assistance for park planning and operation.

6. Develop and maintain contacts with appropriate Japanese interests and/or organizations who may be interested in some type of memorialization of their war dead on the island of Bliliou.

7. Maintain a close relationship and spirit of cooperation with the Obak of Bliliou and the council of chiefs.

8. Coordinate and consult with the chairman of the historic preservation committee for Bliliou.

9. Establish and maintain contact with the Office of Visitors Authority on Oreor.

Development

Access to the island of Bliliou and the historical park area from Oreor is either via the interisland ferry boat or by light airplane. Both these services are available on a regular basis. However, very few people come to Bliliou by air. Nearly all of the residents and most visitors utilize the boat. The trip to and from Oreor takes less than one hour and is an extremely enjoyable boat ride through the spectacularly scenic Rock Islands. The boat dock is located at the northern end of Kloulklubed village; aircraft set down on the old World War II landing strip at the southern end of the island.

Bliliou's main road runs along the west side of the island from the villages in the north down to the landing strip and beyond. Numerous secondary roads lace the southern portion of the island. There are no hotels on Bliliou; however, arrangements for overnight lodging and meals can be made at a few of the homes in the village of Kloulklubed.

It is suggested that visitor use facilities for an historical park be developed primarily at the village and secondarily near the landing strip. The Kloulklubed village site is where visitor orientation, interpretation, and information should be provided. It should also be the site for park administration and maintenance. Facilities needed here consist of a visitor information/park headquarters building, restrooms, and a small museum containing exhibits. The World War II Japanese radio station (114d) located in the village should be considered for adaptive use as a museum or headquarters building. Development at the landing strip site, located at the southern end, should consist of a small shelter containing exhibits and restrooms. Facilities are needed to house the park maintenance operation -- either an existing structure (if available and suitable) would have to be found or a new one constructed.

No road or trail construction is needed. The main road from the village to the suggested historical park is suitable as a park road in its present condition. The existing secondary roads within the proposed park near the southern end of Bloody Nose Ridge and in the vicinity of the landing strip should be maintained in their present condition and not improved. Those roads that presently serve no useful park purpose should be abandoned.

Wayside exhibits should be constructed at the southern base of Bloody Nose Ridge (Five Sisters) where the existing stairway leads up to the monument at the top. Waysides are needed nearby at the entrance to Horseshoe Basin and at the northern end of White Beach. These waysides would interpret particular aspects of the battle. Wayside exhibits should also be set up next to some of the more important pieces of military equipment and structures, such as the Japanese 200 mm anti-boat gun (90d), the American "Avenger" torpedo- bomber (159), the Japanese round blockhouse (19d), and the Japanese headquarters building (61d). Access to the torpedo-bomber should be by guide only. An elevated walkway to the wreck could be constructed over the mangrove swamp with a small wayside at the terminus. Other large pieces of military equipment (e.g., 86d, 87d, and 88d) have likely been moved since the battle, some probably for display purposes, and are not considered to be on-site. These can be interpreted, either singly or as a group, with waysides, once an appropriate location is determined.

No overnight camping facilities should be developed within the historical park. Development within the park would be for day-use only. It is assumed that any overnight lodging and meals needed to accommodate park visitors would be provided by the nearby villages and private enterprise.

1. Place Names: throughout the remainder of this text, Palauan place names and spellings are those used by the local people of Palau and are shown that way on report maps. So the old "Peleliu" becomes "Bliliou" and the capital, "Koror", becomes "Oreor," among others.

2. An armored, protected compartment for artillery.

THE ROCK ISLANDS OF PALAU

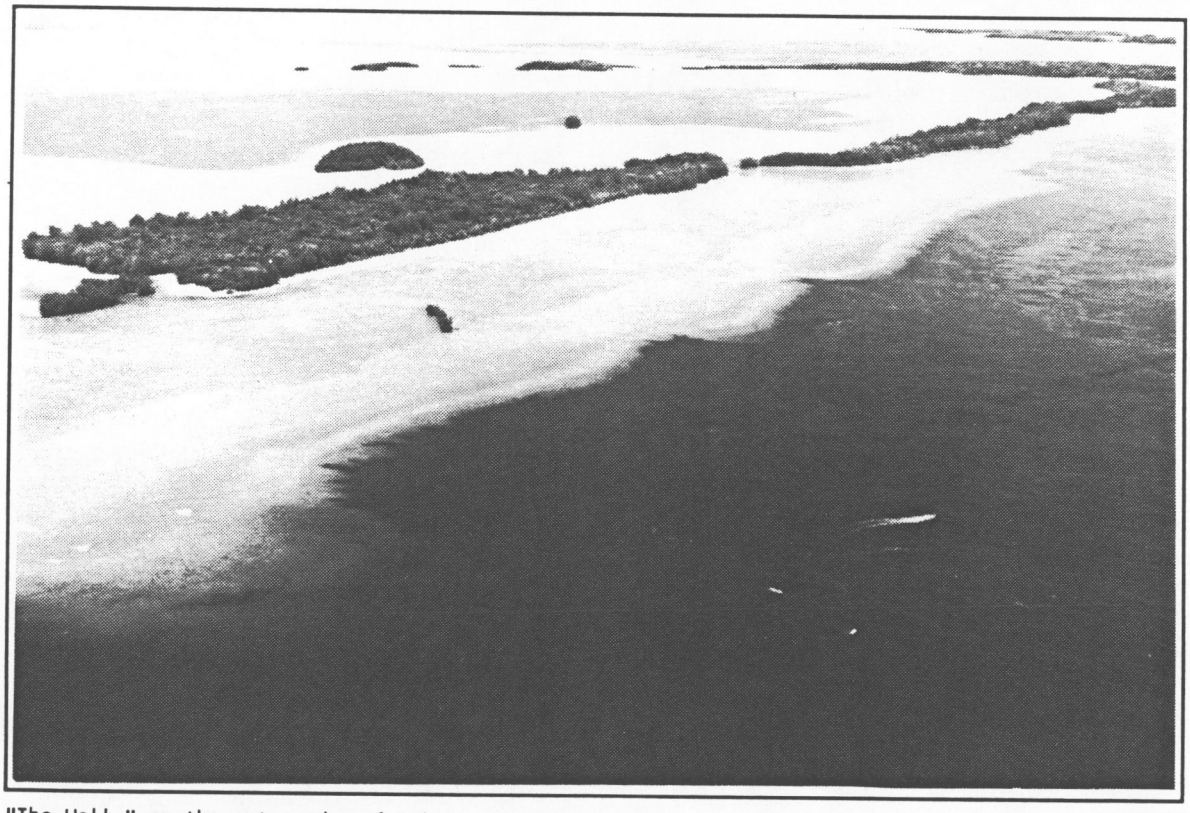
To the north and directly adjacent to Bliliou lie a spectacular interplay of reefs, lagoon, and tiny islands stretching the entire way to Oreor. Among a small cult of divers and marine biologists, this place is widely celebrated as the "Rock Islands" -- one of the scenic and biologic gems of this planet.

Description

The Reefs. At the southern end of the lagoon, in sight of Bliliou and lying northwest is an extraordinary barrier reef, a part of that which surrounds much of the archipelago. At most "walls" along the outside edge of the barrier reef, the coral formations' vertical base may begin only a few feet below the surface and drop, sometimes vertically, to depths of more than a thousand feet. Names like the "Blue Corner," "Ngemelis," the "Blue Hole," and "Peleliu Wall" describe world class dive sites. Here, giant sea fans and soft coral grow out from the walls in hues of yellow, orange, red, and pink, and tunnels, both horizontal and vertical, intersect their faces. A phenomenal variety of fish swim along the walls, including jacks, tuna, snappers, parrotfish, groupers, barracuda, sharks, rays, and sea turtles.

At Ngemelis "The Wall" begins just at the surface and plunges vertically a straight 1,000 feet and ultimately to depths of 18,000 feet. Currents brush laterally along this outer barrier, eroding the wall face with scallops and caves but mostly constantly nourishing a vertical paradise of soft corals and schools of reef fishes. The great barrier reef surrounds a good deal of the islands north of Bliliou -- but "The Wall" in sight of Bloody Nose Ridge is one of the most spectacular and popular.

On the lagoon or inner side of Ngemelis, the reef extends broadly at tidewater as a level back reef extensively covered with sand. At low tide miles of pristine beaches lie exposed.



"The Wall," on the outer edge of Palau's great barrier reef north of Bliliou is regarded to be one of the premier dive spots of the world.

The Islands. From Ngemelis directly north across lagoon waters is a compact maze of tiny islands. These are the Ngerukuid islands. Ngerukuid translates to seventy. Aerial views of the Seventy Islands, widely displayed on book covers, posters, and magazine illustrations than any other feature of this country, are symbolic of Palau.

Several things contribute to the beauty of this island group: brilliant, transparent colors of the sky and water; the clarity of the lagoon waters; dazzling white sand beaches; and the quantity and form of the small islands.

The Rock Islands are limestone of coral origin. Obviously, they are remnants of a earlier array of barrier and patch reefs similar to the reefs of today at Palau -- except the sea level then was some 250 to 300 feet higher. The sea level has been fairly constant for some time, so the easily dissolved limestone at all the Rock Islands are severely undercut at their waterline. From water level, many appear as great mushrooms. At many places, it is very difficult or impossible to get ashore to the islands. Most are uninhabited, and they are fine biologic remnants with native limestone forests and a complete array of native bird life. Hawksbill and green sea turtles haul in on the scattered sand beaches to nest. Ulong Island, where Captain Henry Wilson's ship, the *Antelope*, went aground in 1700, is the site of many ancient rock paintings used to record important events. Yet scenic beauty is the dominating character of these Rock Islands. They are unique and outstanding.

The porous, fractured, eroded nature of these islands clearly illustrates the kind of landscape the Japanese defenders used to fortify and barricade at Bloody Nose Ridge, for that place too is geologically like the Rock Islands.

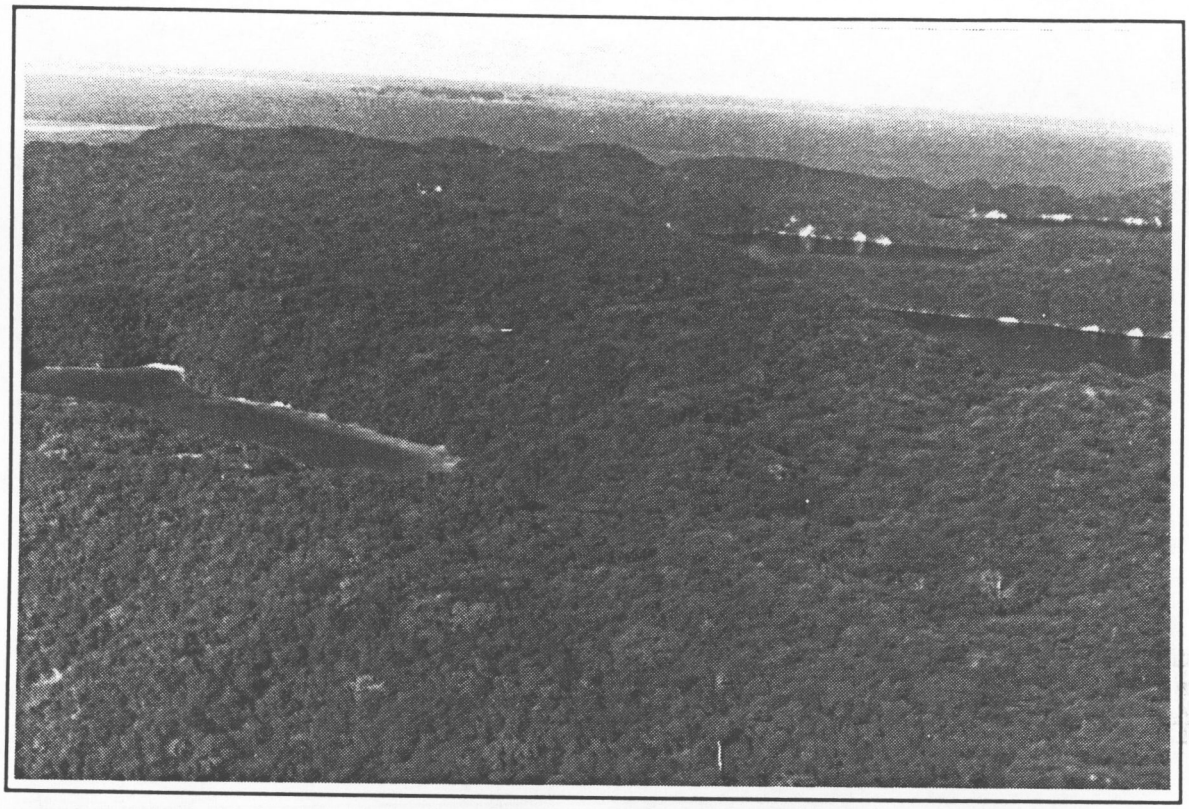
North and east of Seventy Islands and between them and the capital, Oreor, are two prominent island groups, Mecherchar (Eil Malk) and Ngerukdabel (Urukthapel). Each of these has a much larger main island, though still entirely of karst topography limestone.

Soils. The richness of the Rock Islands' vegetation disguises the infertility of the soil. The substrate here consist of highly fissured, eroded, and loose limestone rock. No real soil layer has developed. The vegetation grows out of the coral limestone which is covered by a thin layer of leaves and humus. The plants live largely off one another, each recycling the other with little or no residue.

Vegetation. The Rock Islands are not exemplary as the finest of Palau's forests; these they lie on the largest island, Babeldaob, north of Oreor. The vegetation of the Rock Islands, because of its uniqueness, has been characterized as distinct subtype of the limestone forest type. The forest found growing on the steep, coralline limestone islands is diverse in species composition, but fairly homogeneous throughout the Rock Islands and has produced what appears to be a stable ecosystem. Some variety does exist from island to island, particularly the forests on the two largest islands of Eil Malk and Urukthapel. On these two islands are a few strands of enormous old trees found mainly in low areas where they have been sheltered from typhoons. There are small scattered areas of mangrove, coconut palm and swamp forest here too. Most of the mangrove and swamp forest are found adjacent or near the marine lakes. The coconut palm, planted previously for commercial purposes, is found on a few islands as remnants.

Some of the more common forest species of the Rock Islands include the endemic palms *Gulubia palauensis* and *Ptychosperma palauensis*, and the forest trees *Semecarpus venenosus*, *Intsia bijuga*, *Psychotria* spp., *Premna obtusifolia*, *Cordia* spp., *Clerodendrum inerme*, and *Bikkia palauensis*. *Pandanus* spp. and *Dracaena multiflora* are also common in the understory. *Semecarpus*, called tonget by Palauans, is to be avoided: it produces an acutely irritating oil which causes an itchy skin rash and blisters if the tree is touched.

All the plant species listed for Bliliou on Table C are also found throughout the Rock Islands, plus the two endemic palms, *Gulubia palauensis* and *Ptychosperma palauensis*.



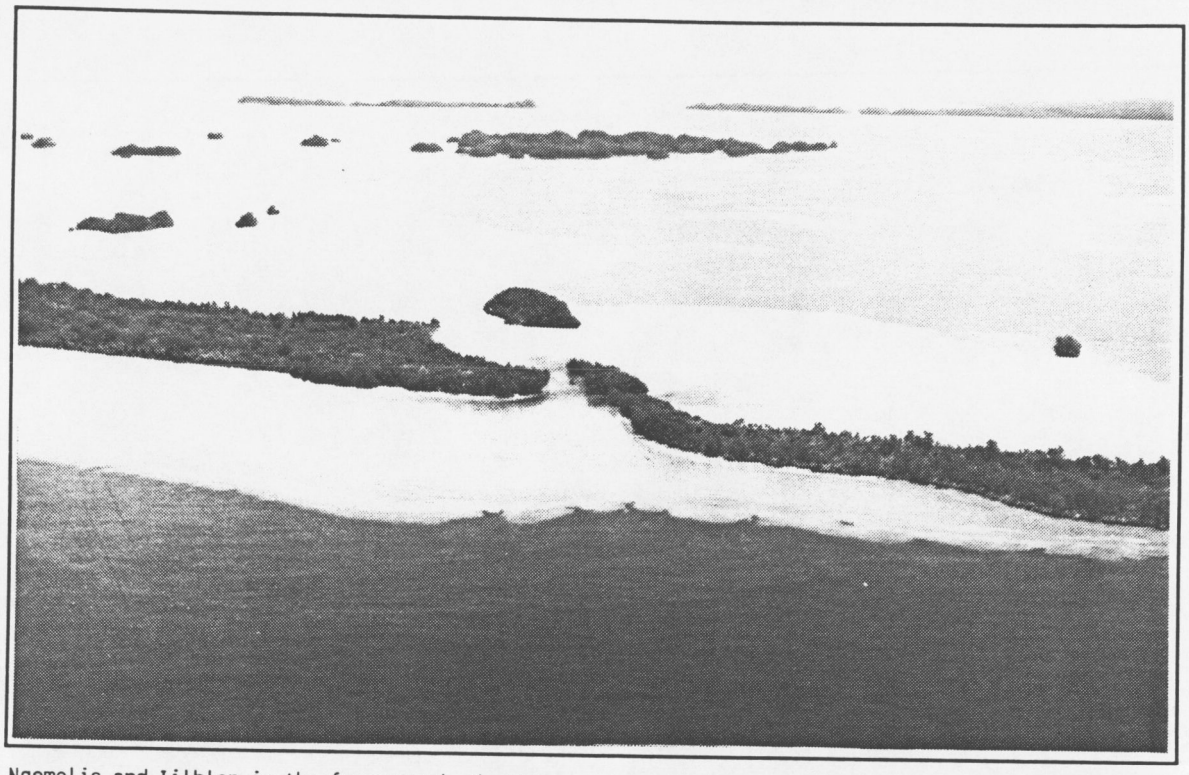
The unique limestone forests of the Rock Islands are densely vegetated despite the lack of a humus layer. This native forest, on steep, craggy, limestone islands, remains in a largely pristine condition.

Palau's two endemic palms are threatened by the Greater sulfur-crested cockatoo, first introduced to the Rock Islands in the 1940's. The cockatoo feeds on the heart of the two palms causing the trees to die. Large strands of these palms have already been destroyed.

The Lagoon. Palau's lagoon ranges in depth from just a few feet to about 130 feet. The waters here are clear and often calm to a glass-like stillness. Outside the reef, depths drop quickly to more than a thousand feet along sheer vertical walls and finally to great depths (the Palau Trench on the east reaches 27,000 feet; the ocean floor on the Philippine Sea side is 18,000 to 20,000 feet).

The lagoon waters are characterized by an exceptional diversity of marine life. Marine biologists have collected more than a dozen new species of fish and one new genus along Palau's reefs. The total number of fish species in these waters is believed to be more than 1,000 and there are about 700 different types of coral and anemones. Rare species such as dugongs (sea cows), sea turtles, and giant clams inhabit these waters. Sea snakes, barracudas, manta rays, and sharks are common.

Marine Lakes. One of the most significant natural resources of the Rock Islands is a series of biologically unique and fascinating marine sulfide lakes. Each of these lakes appears to have its own ecosystem, with its own biota of stingless jellyfish, mollusks, ascidians, and fish, as well as its own physical and chemical characteristics. They are found on the larger islands and number about 35 in all. The large island of Eil Malk contains 15 such lakes. The larger lakes provide habitat for enormous populations of jellyfish. Most of these lakes are ringed by mangrove forest. Their waters are generally very productive. The waters of the most well-known of these lakes, "Jellyfish" lake, apparently undergo no



Ngemelis and Iilblan in the foreground, the Ngerukuid group (Seventy Islands) in the middle background, and, from left to right in the far background, Ulong, Ngeruangl, and the western end of the large island of Ngerukdabel.

Set within the calm waters of the lagoon are the small islands of Bablomekang and Ngesomel with Ioulomekang just behind. Beyond are Ngercheu and Ngemelis and in the far distance at the southern end of the lagoon is Bliliou.

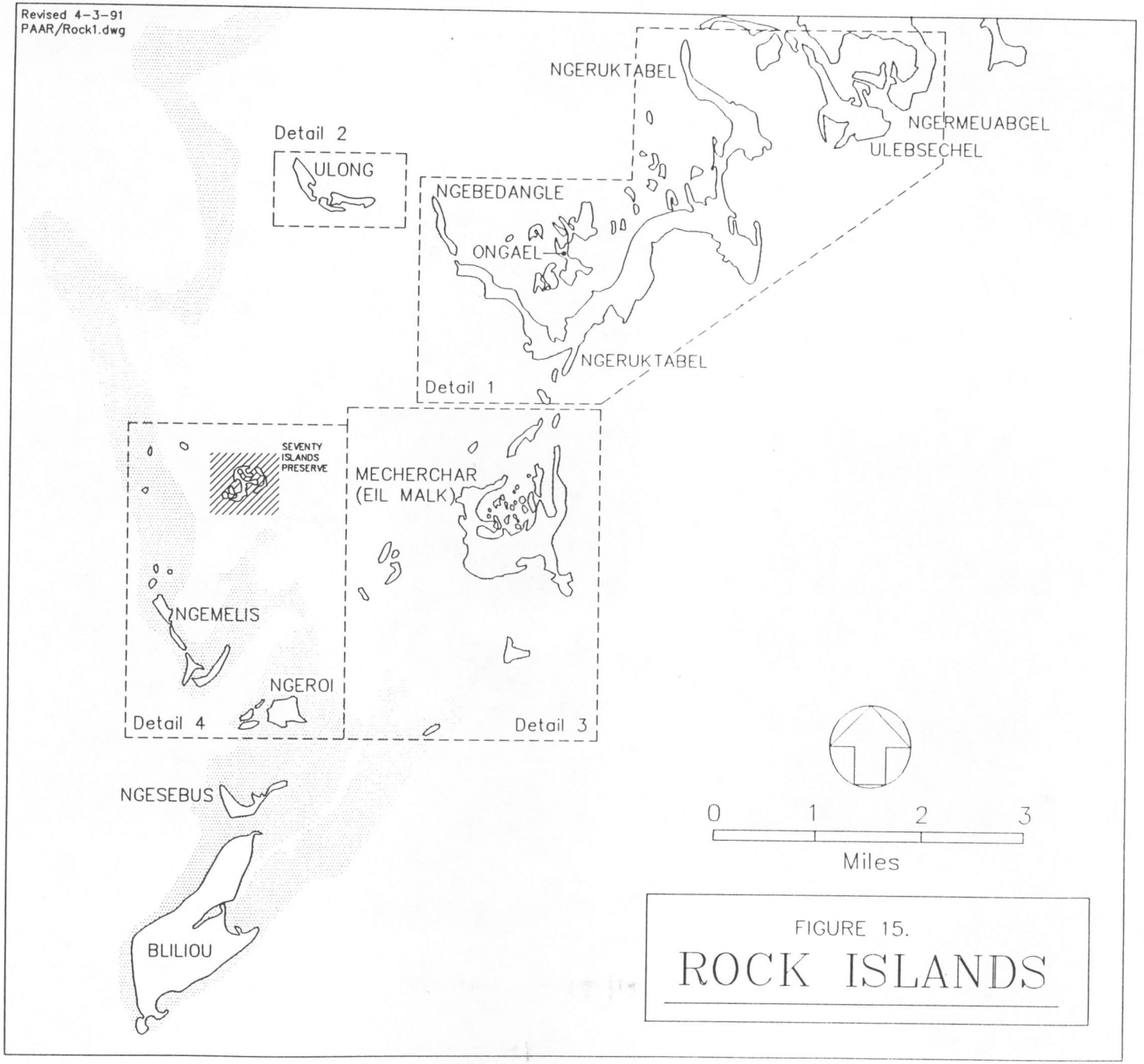
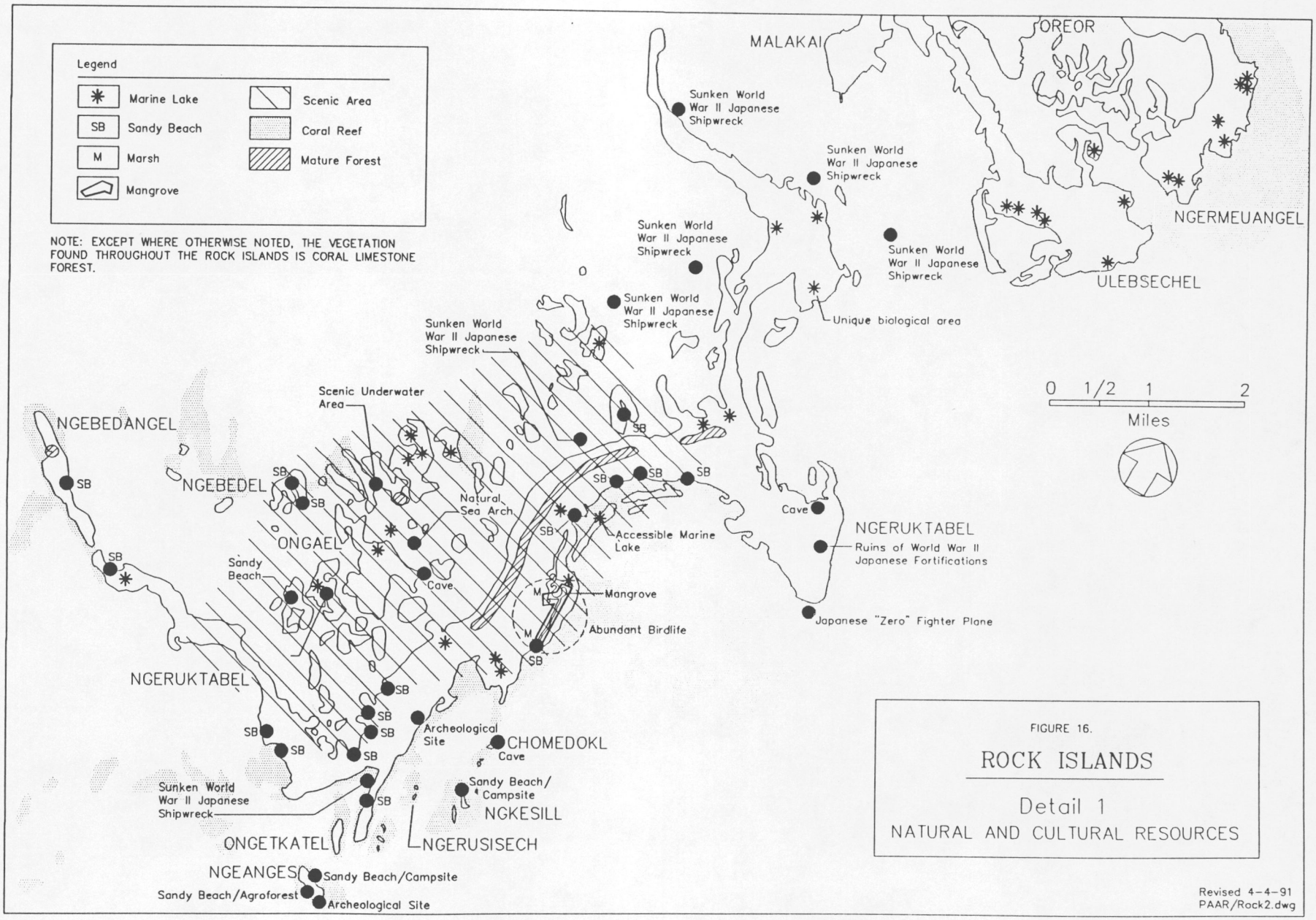


FIGURE 15.

ROCK ISLANDS


Legend
Marine Lake
Sandy Beach
Marsh
Mangrove
Scenic Area
Coral Reef
Mature Forest
NOTE: EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED, THE VEGETATION FOUND THROUGHOUT THE ROCK ISLANDS IS CORAL LIMESTONE FOREST.
MALAKAI
OREOR
NGERMEUANGEL
ULEBSECHEL
Sunken World War II Japanese Shipwreck
Unique biological area
Scenic Underwater Area
NGEBEDANGEL
NGEBEDEL
ONGAEL
Natural Sea Arch
Accessible Marine Lake
Cave
NGERUKTABEL
Ruins of World War II Japanese Fortifications
Japanese "Zero" Fighter Plane
Sandy Beach
Mangrove
Abundant Birdlife
Archeological Site
CHOMEDOKL
Sandy Beach/ Campsite
NGKESILL
NGERUSISECH
ONGETKATEL
NGEANGES
Sandy Beach/Agroforest
0 1/2 1 2
Miles
FIGURE 16.
ROCK ISLANDS
Detail 1
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
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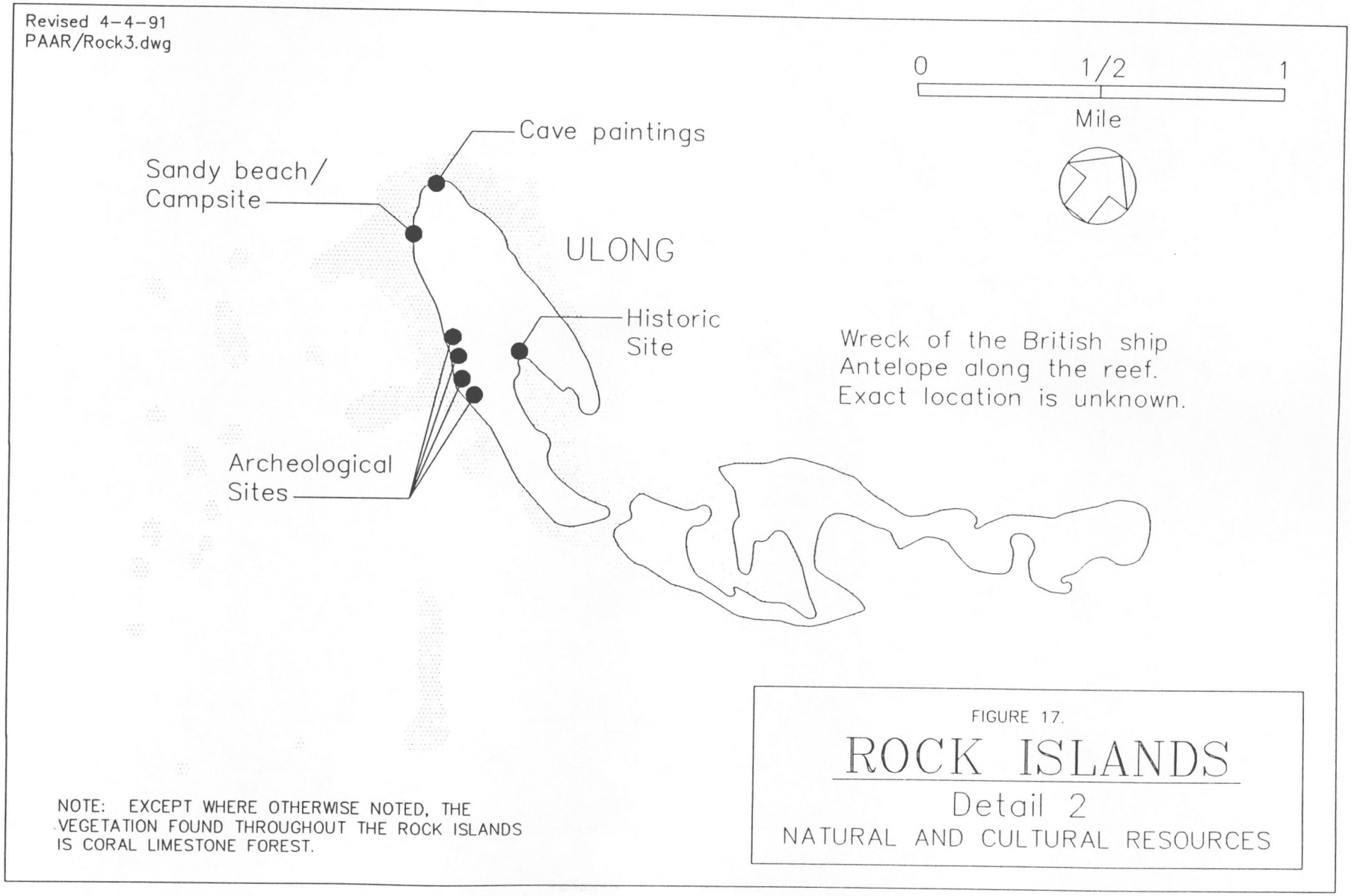
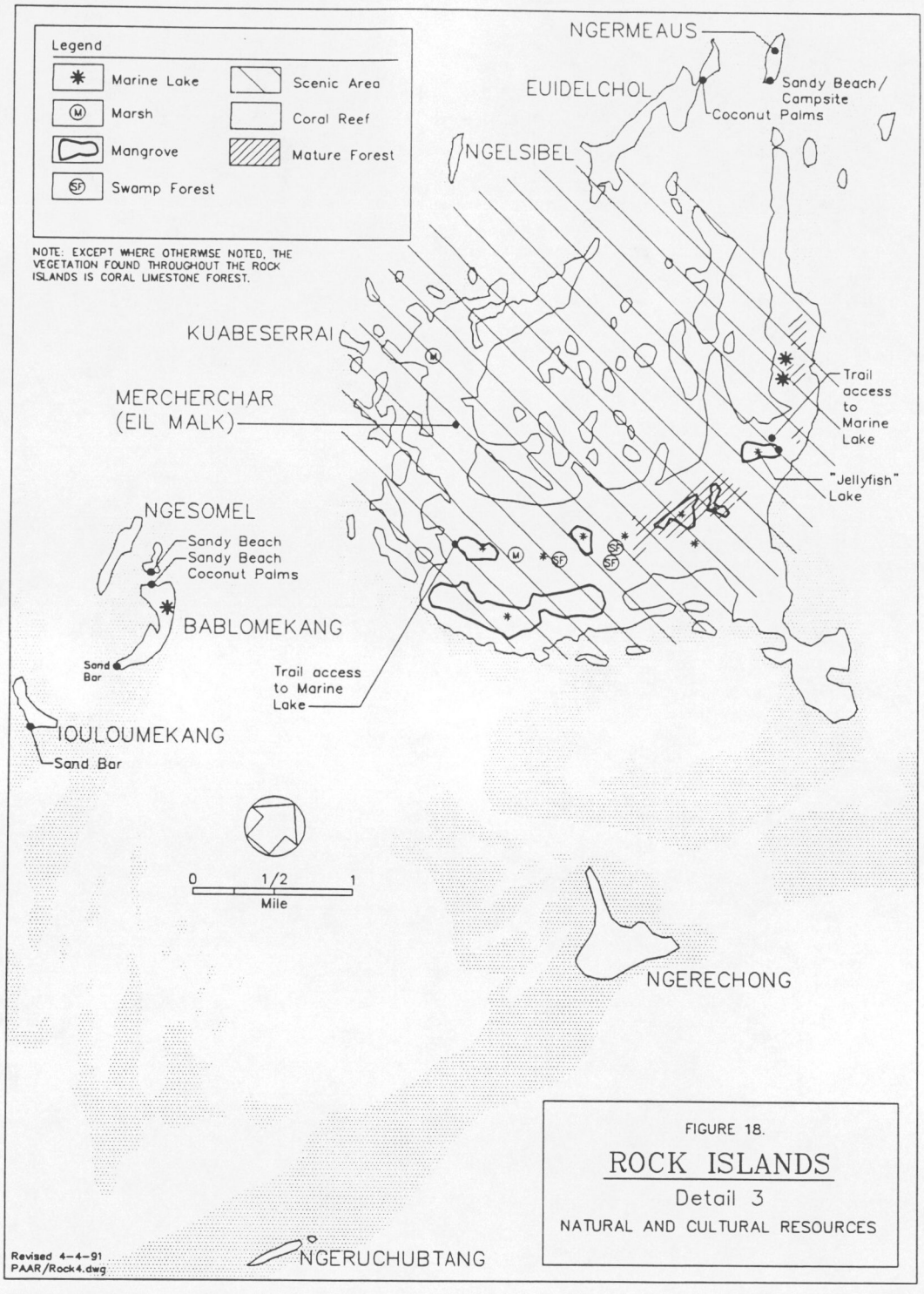
PAAR/Rock2.dwg


Revised 4-4-91
PAAR/Rock3.dwg
0
1/2
1
Mile
Cave paintings
Sandy beach/
Campsite
ULONG
Historic
Site
Wreck of the British ship
Antelope along the reef.
Exact location is unknown.
Archeological
Sites
NOTE: EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED, THE
VEGETATION FOUND THROUGHOUT THE ROCK ISLANDS
IS CORAL LIMESTONE FOREST.
FIGURE 17.
ROCK ISLANDS
Detail 2
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES


Legend
Marine Lake
Marsh
Mangrove
Swamp Forest
Scenic Area
Coral Reef
Mature Forest
NOTE: EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED, THE VEGETATION FOUND THROUGHOUT THE ROCK ISLANDS IS CORAL LIMESTONE FOREST.
NGERMEAUS
EUIDELCHOL
Sandy Beach/ Campsite
Coconut Palms
NGELSIBEL
KUABESERRAI
MERCHERCHAR (EIL MALK)
Trail access to Marine Lake
"Jellyfish" Lake
NGESOMEL
Sandy Beach
Sandy Beach
Coconut Palms
BABLOMEKANG
Sand Bar
Trail access to Marine Lake
IOULOUMEKANG
Sand Bar
0
1/2
1
Mile
NGERECHONG
NGERUCHUBTANG
Revised 4-4-91
PAAR/Rock4.dwg
FIGURE 18.
ROCK ISLANDS
Detail 3
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

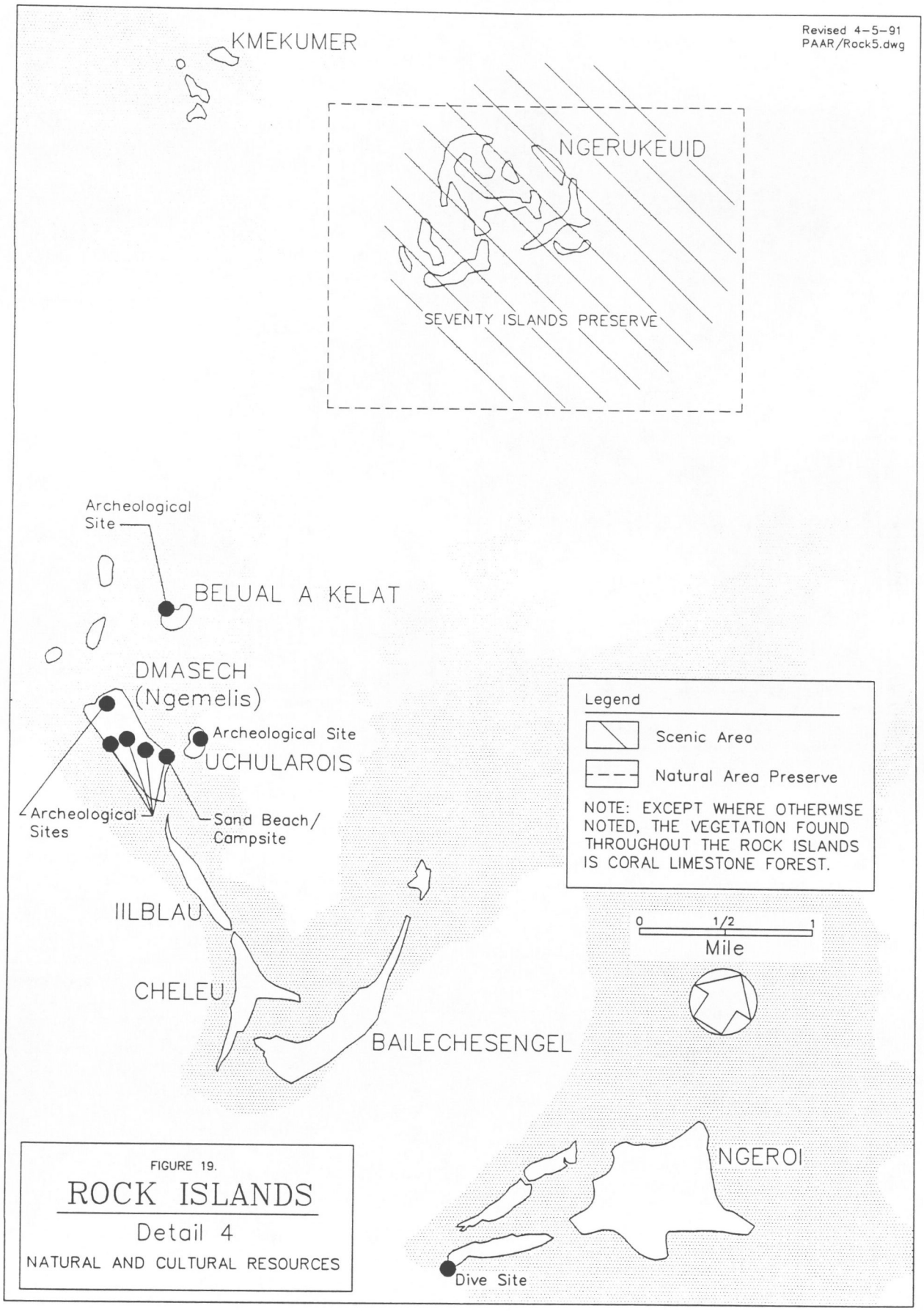
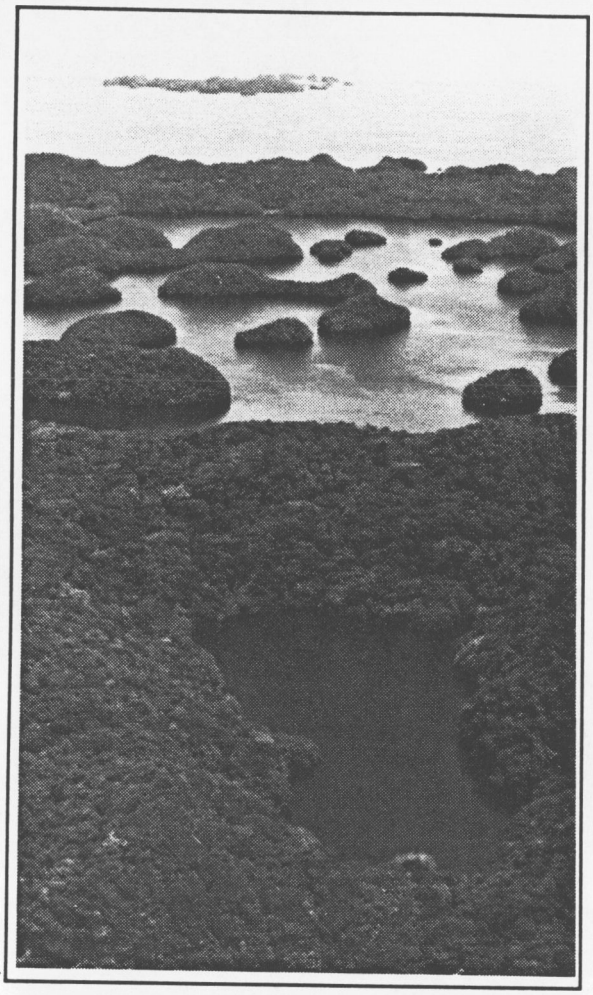


FIGURE 19.

ROCK ISLANDS

Detail 4

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

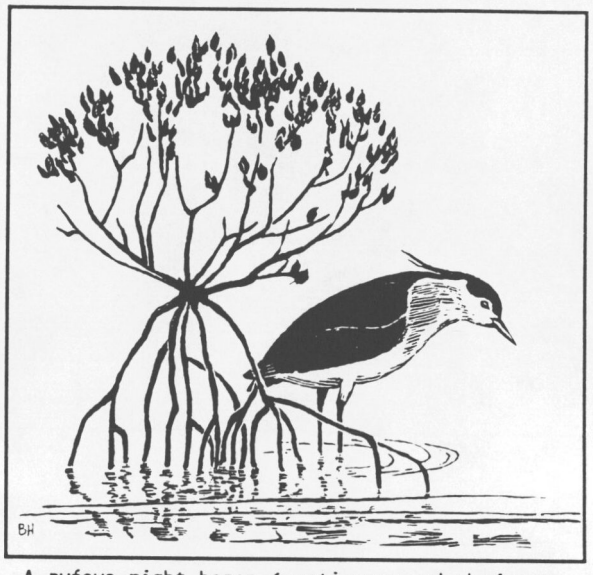


"Jellyfish" lake on the island of Eil Malk contains its own unique biota. The lake is accessible by trail. In the background is the Seventy Islands Preserve.

vertical mixing and the 12-acre lake has three distinct food chains. One species of jellyfish found in the lake exhibits an unusual horizontal and vertical swimming behavior. Another, "Spooky" lake, contains a large population of crocodiles and is surrounded by a striking and unusual tropical forest. Nearby "Hotwater" lake has been described as a solar lake because of the heat which accumulates about 50 feet below the surface, causing the temperature there to reach an unbelievable 100°F!

Birdlife. Birds are the most conspicuous animal in the Rock Islands. Again, due primarily to Palau's proximity to Southeast Asia, the birdlife here is diverse, the richest in all of Micronesia. Nearly all of Palau's resident land birds inhabit the limestone forests of the Rock Islands. The Rock Islands are the preferred habitat of the Palau Ground Dove, the Micronesian Megapode, and the Blue-faced Parrotfinch. The Palau Greater White-eye, an endemic, is found exclusively on the limestone substrates of the Rock Islands.

The Micronesian megapode, which is on the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species List, is a resident of the Rock Islands (see Table I).



A rufous night heron (nycticorax caledonicus), called the Melabaob, standing next to a small clump of red mangrove.

Scenery. Scenic beauty is the dominating character of these Rock Islands. They are unique and an outstanding and beautiful feature of the tropical Pacific that gives the Republic of Palau world renown.

Archeology. Of equal important to their scenic beauty and unique biological populations, many of the Rock Islands also contain the impressive and well-preserved remains of villages dating between approximately A.D. 1200 and 1450. These villages contain a variety of features that include stone platforms, wells, trails, defensive walls that span the lengths of beach coves, welled-in passes, burials, cooking platforms, caves, exquisitely-painted pictograph panels, and extensive midden scatters containing the rich remains of food shell, fish, and other animal bones,

Table I. Birds of the Rock Islands

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance*
RESIDENT LAND BIRDS			
Ixobrychus sinensis	Yellow bittern	Cheloteachel	Uncommon
Nycticorax caledonicus	Rufous night heron	Melabaob	Common
Egretta sacra	Pacific reef-heron	Sechou	Common
Megapodius laperouse[1]	Mironesian megapode	Belkai	Uncommon
Rallina eurizonoides	Slaty-legged crake	Ulerratel	Uncommon
Cloenas nicobarica	Nicobar pigeon	Laib	Uncommon
Gallicolumba canifrons[2]	Palau ground dove	Omekrengukl	Rare
Ptilinopus pelewensis[2]	Palau fruit dove	Biib	Abundant
Ducula oceanica	Micronesian pigeon	Belochel	Common
Pyrroglaux podargina[2]	Palau owl	Chesuch	Common
Caprimulgus indicus	Jungle nightjar	Chebacheb	Uncommon
Cacatua galerita	Greater sulphur-crested cockatoo	Iakkotsiang	Uncommon
Eclectus roratus	Eclectus Parrot	Iakkotsiang (Japanese)	Uncommon
Aerodramus vanikorensis	Vanikoro swiftlet	Chesisekiaid	Abundant
Halcyon cinnamomina	Micronesian kingfisher	Cherosech	Common
Halcyon chlorus	Collared kingfisher	Tengadidik	Common
Coracina tenuirostris	Cicadabird	Kinidukall	Uncommon

Table I. Birds of the Rock Islands (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance*
Colluricincla tenebrosa[2]	Palau morningbird	Tutau	Common
Myiagra erythrops[2]	Palau flycatcher	Charmelachull	Common
Rhipidura lepida[2]	Palau fantail	Melimdelebteb, Chesisirech on Peleliu	Common
Cettia annae[2]	Palau bush-warbler	Wuul	Common
Aplonis opaca	Micronesian starling	Kiuid	Abundant
Zosterops cenereus	Dusky white-eye	Chetitalial	Abundant
Zosterops conspicillatus	Bridled white-eye (Carolina Islands white-eye)	Charmbedl	Common
Megazosterops palauensis[2]	Palau greater white-eye	Charmbedel	Common
Myzomela rubratra	Cardinal honeyeater	Chesisebangiau	Common
Erythrura trichroa	Blue-faced Parrotfinch	--	Rare
BREEDING SEABIRDS			
Puffinus Iherminiera	Audubon Shearwater	Ochaieu	Abundant
Phaetou lepturus	White-tailed tropicbird	Dudek	Common
Phalacrocorax melanoleucos	Little pied cormorant	Deroech	Common
Sterna sumatrana	Black-naped tern	Kerkirs	Common
Sterna anaethetus	Bridled tern	Bedebedechakl	Common
Fregata minor	Great frigatebird	Kedam	Abundant
Fregata aeriel	Lesser frigatebird	Kedam	Common

Table I. Birds of the Rock Islands (cont'd.)

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance*
Sterna bergii	Great crested tern	Roall	Common
Anous stolidus	Brown noddy	Mechadelbedaob	Abundant
Anous minutus	Black noddy	Bedaoch	Abundant
Gygis alba	Common fairy-tern	Sechosech	Common
MIGRATORY BIRDS (Migrate through or to Palau, generally in winter months only)			
Egretta intermedia	Intermediate egret	Sechou	Uncommon
Egretta garzetta	Little egret	Sechou	Uncommon
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	Oterilakelat	Uncommon
Pluvialis dominica	Lesser golden plover	Derariik	Common
Tringa glareola	Wood sandpiper	--	Common
Heteroscelus brevipes	Gray-tailed tattler	--	Common
Actitis hypoleucos	Common sandpiper	Bengobaingukl	Common
Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel	Okak	Common
Arenaria interpres	Ruddy turnstone	--	Common
Calidris ruficollis	Rufous-necked stint	--	Common
Cuculus saturatus	Oriental cuckoo	Charmudrenges	Uncommon
Hirundo rustica	Barn swallow	Tsubamer (Japanese)	Common
Motacilla flava	Yellow wagtail	--	Uncommon

Table I. Birds of the Rock Islands (cont'd.)

Relative Abundance

Abundant	Almost certain to be found in numbers within representative habitat.
Common	A few individuals almost certain to be found within representative habitat. Common migrants arrive annually in numbers.
Uncommon	Not certain to be found within representative habitat. Uncommon migrants arrive annually, but are generally seen only a few times during the year.
Rare	Only a very limited population present. Rare migrants generally do not arrive annually.

[1] Endemic to Palau

[2] Listed as endangered species

At low tide great expanses of unspoiled white sand lie exposed along the inner side of Palau's barrier reef.

The Chemoi group lie on the east side of the barrier reef. A deep water channel separates the northern tip of Eil Malk from the island of Enidelchol. The Seventy Islands can be seen in the far distance.

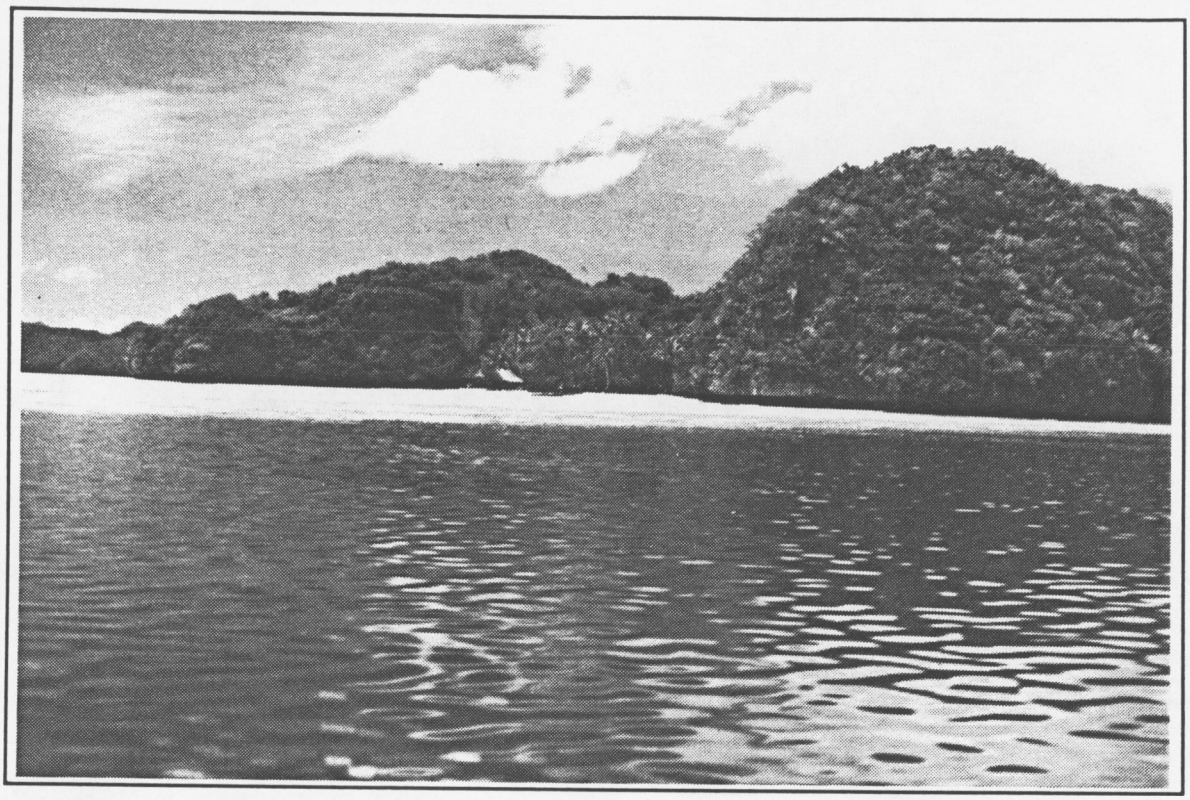
pottery fragments, shell and stone tools, At least 11 such villages are known, including five villages on Ngeruktabel, at least one extensive village in the Ngemelis group, and single villages on Ulong, Ngerchang, Omekang, and possibly Ulsbachel. In addition, at least one, and perhaps three, villages are present on Mecherchar (Eil Malk), and it is possible that villages were present on Ngesebus and other islands immediately north of Bliliou.

These villages have been described by Douglas Osborne (1966, 1979) and Jun Takayama (1979), and in considerable detail by a team of archeologists from the Center for Archaeological Investigations at Southern Illinois University (Masse, Snyder and Gumerman 1984; Masse 1989; Snyder and Butler 1990). These villages are extremely important resources in terms of their research and interpretive values, and in terms of the prominent place that they occupy in Palauan oral history. However, they are fragile resources and have thus far been incompletely studied.

In addition to these prehistoric remains, at least one Rock Island, Ngeruktabel, contains impressive World War II Japanese features. Of particular significance are those clustered around the Japanese lighthouse at Ngeremdiu.

Existing Uses

Recreation. Divers come from all over the world to experience the underwater world of Palau's lagoon and reefs (the lobby of the Hotel Nikko displays the logos of literally hundreds of diving clubs -- American, European, Australian, New Zealand). Most agree that no other place on earth offers such a variety of diving experiences. These range from diving along massive coral walls teeming with an incredible variety of marine life, exploring underground caves and grottos, to viewing sunken World War II Japanese airplanes and ships. It is also possible to dive in some of the larger marine lakes. Underwater visibility ranges from 50 to 80 within the lagoon to up to 200 feet along the outer edge of the reef.

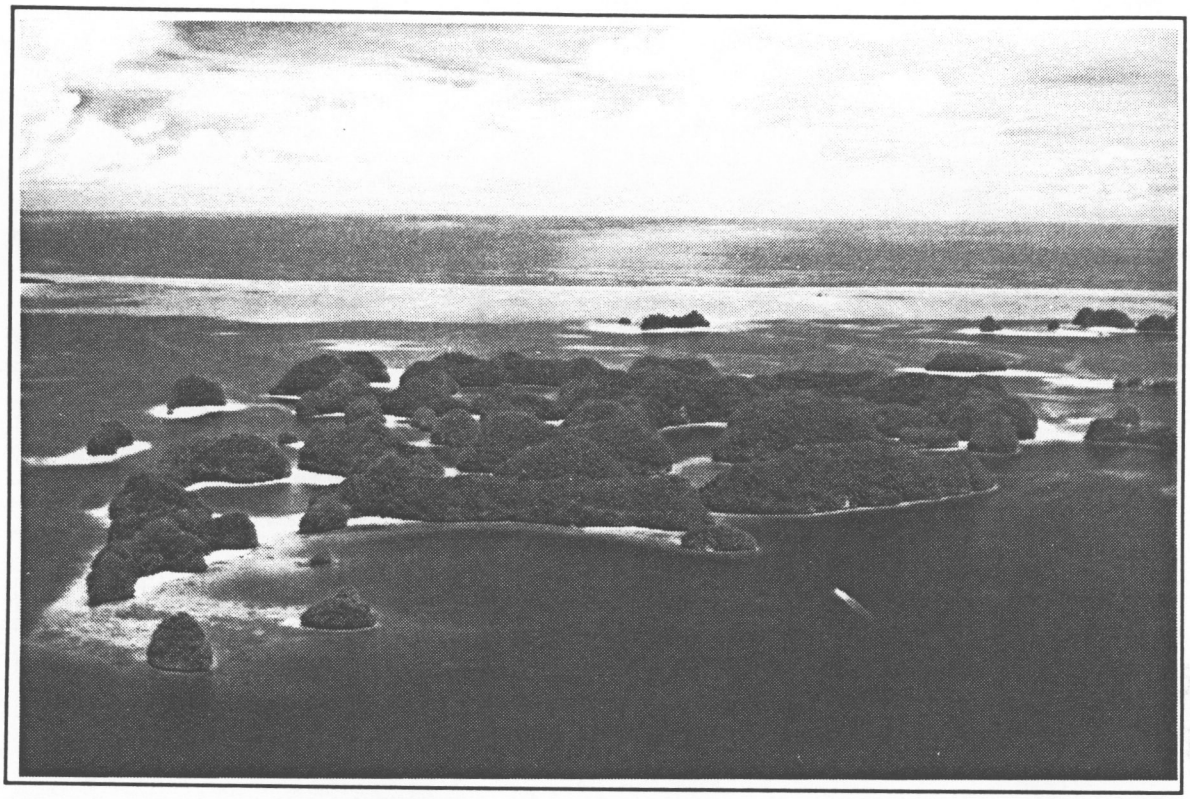


Placid lagoon waters, a white sand beach and rustic accommodations make spots like this ideal for visitors to the Rock Islands.

Presently, there are four commercial diving operators offering daily service to the waters of the Rock Islands. They are all located in the Oreor area at the harbor facilities at Malakal. Most trips consist of a full day, two-dive excursion which includes a picnic lunch on a white sand beach on one of the smaller of the Rock Islands. There are also two rustic resort operations in the Rock Islands. Facilities here consist of cottages with accommodations for food and overnight use. Picnic areas with pavilion and tables are numerous throughout the Rock Islands. These are used heavily by local people (who make extensive recreation use of the islands and lagoon) as well as tourists.

Fishing. Subsistence fishing takes place over much of the Rock Islands area. Although not now rigidly controlled or adhered to, traditional reef and lagoon tenure still exists here. Historically, this meant that the right to fish in the lagoon waters of a particular area was limited to those who resided there or to outsiders who had permission. This right was controlled by the chiefs of the village clusters. Today visitors (non-residents) are generally allowed to fish for subsistence but not commercially.

Land Use. Due to their steepness, lack of a soil cover and inaccessibility, nearly all of the Rock Islands remain in undisturbed limestone forest. The only exceptions are the small islands of Ngeanges south of Ngeruktabel and Ngesebus north of Bliliou, both have portions of which are in agroforest. There are also several structures on these two islands. Except for the few rustic facilities for tourists on the islands of Ulong, Ngeanges, Ngkesill, and Dmasech, no other developments exist on the Rock Islands. They remain pristine, largely unknown places.



Palau's spectacular Seventy Islands Preserve, perhaps its most well-known landmark.

Conserving and Protecting Rock Islands Resources

It has been said that the wealth of Palau lies in its unique and beautiful waters. The Government of Palau has recognized this fact in several important ways. Article VI of Palau's Constitution states that it is the policy of the national government to conserve the natural environment. Specific to the Rock Island is Section 201 of the Palau Code which legally established the Ngerukewid (Seventy Island) Wildlife Preserve to ensure the continuing existence of the preserve which had been set up earlier in Trust Territory times. Consisting of an isolated cluster of small islands and the surrounding marine waters (boundaries are indefinite) in the southwest portion of the archipelago, the area was selected because of the special fauna found here, primarily birds and reptiles. In addition, the Government of Palau's various economic development plans discuss the need for protected area status for the entire Rock Islands area with specific conservation and use zones to be established within.

For more than a decade the Government of Palau has expressed a need for technical assistance to improve its ability to manage marine resources of the Rock Islands and the Seventy Island Preserve areas. Major problems which have been encountered within the preserve include the poaching of pigeons and sea turtle eggs on the beaches and on land, and uncontrolled fishing and shell fishing in the adjacent water area.

Of particular concern is protecting the two species of endemic palm found here from the cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*). Introduced to Palau after World War II, this bird has since spread to most of the Rock Islands, including the Seventy Island Preserve. The cockatoo is especially fond of palm hearts and where they are numerous, has caused major damage to Palau's native palms.

The Bureau of Public Safety and the Division of Marine Resources, the government agencies responsible for protecting this vast area have been handicapped by a lack of manpower and equipment. As a result, the Rock Islands are left unpatrolled and the laws unenforced.

Other resource problems include trash and garbage left at picnic and camp sites, use of dynamite to fish, and foreign commercial fishermen poaching giant clams. None of these are trivial.

The trash and garbage has accumulated to the extent that rat populations are extreme on islands with picnic shelters. The rat abundance spreads human disease; threatens reproduction of some trees, palms, and native birds; and as word spreads through travel organizations, will depress the country's tourism trade.
Fish dynamiting simply destroys a segment of the reef for more than a half century per shot. For a nation so dependent upon subsistence fishery, this may be tragically self-destructive.

Foreign commercial and local subsistence fisheries over exploiting the giant clam population is unfortunate. Giant clams can remain an extraordinary fine local subsistence food source and a dive/snorkel tourist attraction if the population is not decimated.

In the Rock Islands between Oreor and Bliliou, the government might also consider consolidating resource protection wardens of all types (fishery, terrestrial animals, forests, historic sites, submerged wrecks, historical sites, and enforcing garbage and sanitation at picnic sites) to a single group of Rock Islands patrol people. These people should first be expert people who know and care broadly about the Rock Islands resources and have empathy for those who come to fish, sightsee, and enjoy them.

At present, it may be that infrequent enforcement patrols are actually even more infrequent because the enforcement officer may have "more important cases" to him back in town, or a warden in one discipline either unknowingly or without responsibility doesn't "see" or respond to other discipline offenses. One foresees increased damage to submerged wreck sites and historic places, increased dynamiting, destruction of biota and pollution of the finest recreational sites without a more pragmatic protection system.

The Government of Palau has recognized the need for baseline environmental data on which to base the long-term management of the Rock Islands and the adjacent lagoon waters. Other areas which contain superlative natural, cultural, and scenic values have been identified for potential protected area status.

Any expanded protected area should be managed with the following conditions in mind: areas of biological significance, such as vulnerable breeding areas, should receive special protection as should endangered species habitat; special protection should also be given to areas of cultural significance, such as the remains of prehistoric villages; there should be provisions to allow for the continuation of subsistence fishing and, in certain areas, for commercial fishing; protection of scenic and recreation (tourist) areas and cultural features and provision for the setting aside of certain areas for aquaculture. Protected area status should also include a recognition of the traditional tenure (lagoon, reef and land) system of control by the village chiefs, as well as respect for the jurisdiction of the State of Oreor and the various private holdings.

Management Concepts

Management concepts for any large park or preserve area encompassing all or a portion of the Rock Islands should focus on maintaining the existing marine and terrestrial resources. Only those uses should be permitted which are judged to be consistent with the perpetuation and, where possible, restoration of the natural environment.

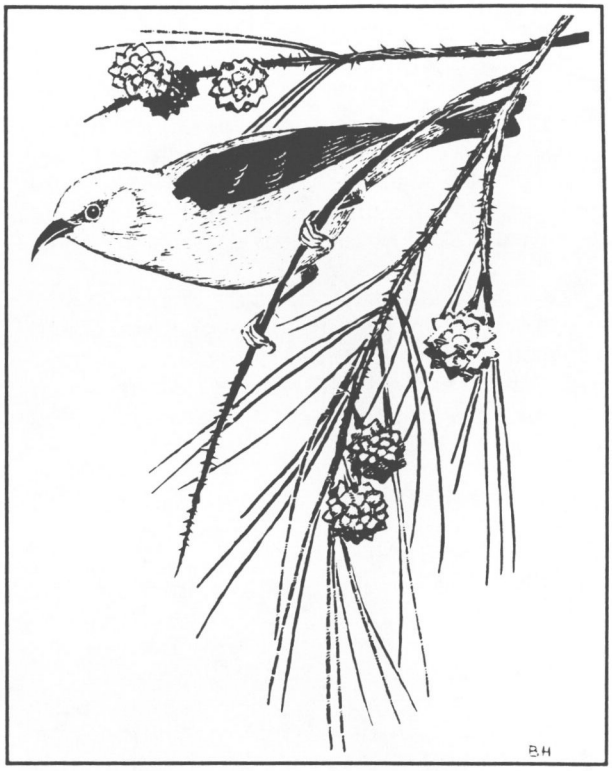
Natural resource management should be guided by the concept of perpetuation of the total natural environment or ecosystem. The native plant and animal life should be protected against harvesting, removal, destruction, harassment, or harm through

human action, except fishing for subsistence use. Alien (non-native) species should not be allowed to displace native species.

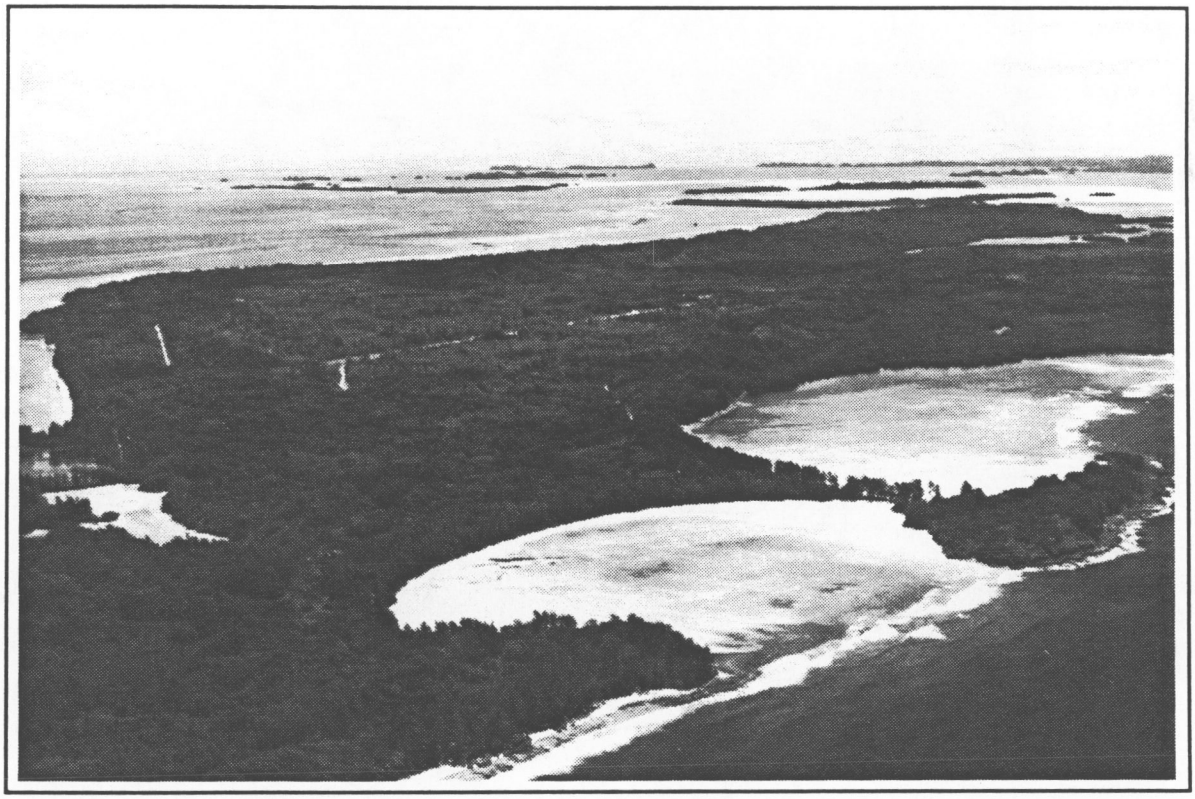
Wildlife management should be directed toward maintaining the population and diversity of fish species; protecting native, endemic, and endangered bird species and other animals such as sea turtles, dugongs, and fruit bats.

Visitor use activities should consist of sightseeing by boat (with restrictions as to size and type), nature observation, photography, picnicking (only at selected sites), snorkeling, scuba diving (only when it can be accommodated without material alteration or disturbance of the reserve environment). Camping should be in designated locations only.

All development should be limited to those facilities needed for management and appropriate visitor use and enjoyment and only at designated sites. Developments should always harmonize with the site -- both in design and in materials used.



The Chesisebangiau, or cardinal honeyeater (Myzomela rubrata), perched on a twig of ironwood.



Bliliou looking north toward the Rock Islands. The airstrip is visible running up the middle of the island; beyond it lies Bloody Nose Ridge, now subdued by vegetation.

Boundary Options

Figure 20 shows the general extent of alternative areas for Palauans to consider setting aside as parks or preserves in order to protect the unique natural and cultural values found in the Rock Islands. Each of these areas contains a fine sampling of the Rock Islands environment. Together they form a scenic expanse of lagoon waters and island ecosystems operating in a largely balanced and self-sustaining fashion which is perhaps unsurpassed in the world.

PARK PROTECTION POSSIBILITIES

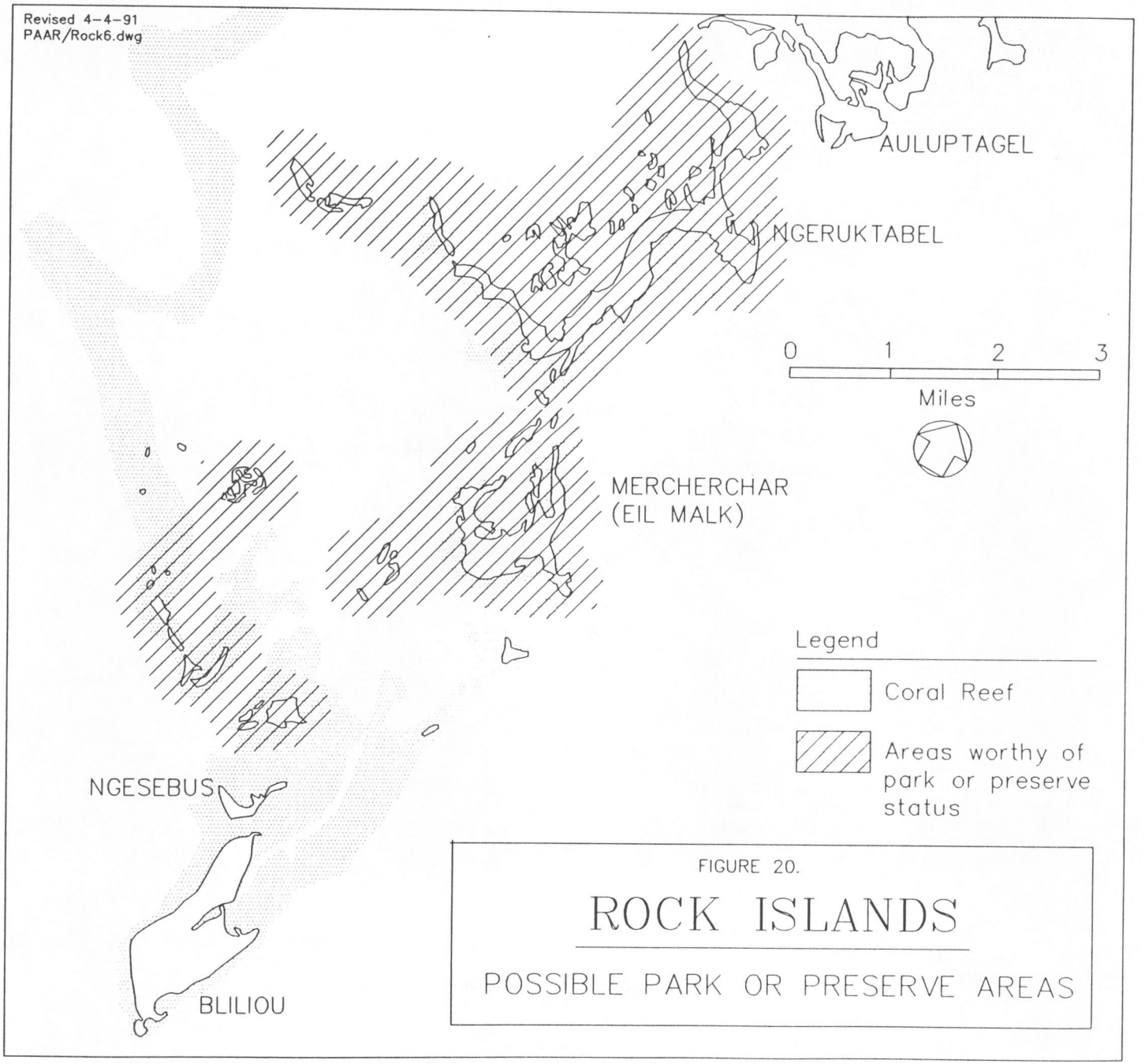
Palau's traditional land system has been replaced to some degree by tenure systems introduced by outsiders -- the Germans, Japanese, and Americans. However, on the lands and waters affected by the areas identified in this report as having park potential, traditional tenure continues to play an important role. Land here is still regarded as belonging to present and future generations of the clan and therefore cannot be sold. There is in Palau though an important distinction between the right to use land and the right to its title. The former is generally enforced through informal social control and the latter enforced through legal means. Consequently, it would appear that park lands could not realistically be protected through acquisition, either in fee or less-than-fee. On the other hand, if chiefs or the clans were willing to dedicate use of their lands for park purposes, this method would be consistent with the traditional tenure system and would not alienate Palauans from their land.

Essentially, the options calling for a U. S./ Palauan affiliation in managing historical and natural areas envision the creation of a partnership arrangement. This partnership would be based on the following: the dedication in perpetuity of certain lands and waters by Palauans (traditional chiefs, state governments, the Council of Chiefs, and the Government of Palau) for park purposes and providing some funding for park operations in return for the provision of technical assistance, training, and funding for park operations by the U. S. National Park Service.

The contribution by the U. S. is logical and appropriate because the events which took place on the island of Bliliou in the autumn of 1944 were important to the history of the United States.

For Palauans, allowing their lands to be dedicated for park purposes would be compensated by the economic development generated by the creation of new jobs and the likely, though gradual, expansion of tourism, both brought on by the establishment of national parks.

If the Government of Palau were to opt for the establishment of historical parks or natural area preserves, consideration should be given to the creation of an agency within the Executive Branch which would have direct responsibility for the preservation and administration of these areas for the benefit of the people of Palau.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(EIL MALK)
Legend
Coral Reef
Areas worthy of park or preserve status
NGESEBUS
BLILIOU
FIGURE 20.
ROCK ISLANDS
POSSIBLE PARK OR PRESERVE AREAS

TABLE J
MANAGEMENT OPTIONS TO PROTECT BLILIOU WWII HISTORIC SITES, AND A PORTION OF THE ROCK ISLANDS

EFFECTS ON	NO PARK ESTABLISHED Modify existing National Historic Landmark to reduce the boundary to include only the most significant sites or features deleting other areas so as not to preempt other vital land uses, either existing or potential.	OPTION C Utilize the modified National Historical Landmark boundary to establish a Bliliou State Historical Park and/or establish a sample of internationally significant Rock Islands as a state park each administered by the individual States of the Republic of Palau.	OPTION D Utilize the modified National Historical Landmark boundary to establish as a Bliliou National Historical Park administered by the Republic of Palau.	OPTION E Utilize the modified National Historical Landmark boundary to establish as a Bliliou National Historical Park in association with the U. S. National Park Service.	OPTION F Utilize the modified National Historical Landmark boundary and add a sample of Palau's internationally significant Rock Islands to the proposal to establish a Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park administered by the Republic of Palau.	OPTION G Utilize the modified National Historical Landmark boundary and add a sample of Palau's internationally significant Rock Islands to the proposal to establish a Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park in association with the U. S. National Park Service.
NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC SITES	All developments only within the newly defined landmark boundary funded by U. S. or Palau must be reviewed to mitigate damage to the landmark.	State park designation would likely specify that historic sites must be protected.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve significant historic places in perpetuity.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve significant historic places in perpetuity.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve significant historic places in perpetuity.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve significant historic places in perpetuity.
NATIVE TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS	no effect	State Park designation sometimes offers protection to native ecosystems.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve native ecosystems.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve native ecosystems.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve native ecosystems.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve native ecosystems.

Management Options to Protect Bliliou WWII Historic Sites, and a Portion of the Rock Islands (cont'd.)

EFFECTS ON	NO PARK ESTABLISHED	OPTION C Bliliou and Rock Islands State Parks.	OPTION D Bliliou National Historical Park.	OPTION E Bliliou National Historical Park with the United States.	OPTION F Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park.	OPTION G Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park with the United States.
MARINE ECOSYSTEMS	no effect	State park designation would likely specify that marine ecosystems must be protected.	no effect	no effect	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve marine ecosystems.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve marine ecosystems.
EDUCATION, INTERPRETATION, OR EXPLANATION TO RESIDENTS AND VISITORS	none	Park guides would offer some visitor orientation.	Park history guides on Bliliou, a visitor center, and the National Museum on Oreor would offer visitor interpretation.	Park history guides on Bliliou, a visitor center, and the National Museum on Oreor would offer visitor interpretation.	Park history guides on Bliliou, a visitor center, and the National Museum on Oreor would offer visitor interpretation.	Park history guides on Bliliou, a visitor center, and the National Museum on Oreor would offer visitor interpretation.
TOURIST INDUSTRY	Identifies historic sites for preservation. These sites draw some visitors to Palau and entice all to stay longer.	Designates a visitor attraction and provides information to tourists. Results in some people staying longer to visit this state park.	Designates a visitor attraction and provides information to tourists. Results in some people visiting Palau and others staying longer to visit the national park.	Designates a visitor attraction and provides information to tourists. Results in some people visiting Palau and others staying longer to visit the national park.	Designates a "world class" national park which attracts visitors in its own right and encourages nearly all visitors to stay longer in Palau.	Designates a "world class" national park which attracts visitors in its own right and encourages nearly all visitors to stay longer in Palau.

Management Options to Protect Bliliou WWII Historic Sites, and a Portion of the Rock Islands (cont'd.)

EFFECTS ON	NO PARK ESTABLISHED	OPTION C Bliliou and Rock Islands State Parks.	OPTION D Bliliou National Historical Park.	OPTION E Bliliou National Historical Park with the United States.	OPTION F Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park.	OPTION G Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park with the United States.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM U. S. FOR PARK OPERATIONS	no potential	no potential	no potential	If Palau would establish a national park with their lands to preserve a place of great importance in U. S. history, then a compelling case can be made for the U. S. to assist with operations costs.	no potential	If Palau would establish a national park with their lands to preserve a place of great importance in U. S. history and a natural resource of international significance, then a compelling case can be made for the U. S. to assist with operations costs.
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM U. S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	no potential	no potential	no potential	If Palau would establish a national park with their lands to preserve a place of great U. S. importance, then U. S. National Park Service would provide technical assistance.	no potential	If Palau would establish a national park with their lands and waters to preserve a place of great U. S. and international importance, then U. S. National Park Service would provide technical assistance.

Management Options to Protect Bliliou WWII Historic Sites, and a Portion of the Rock Islands (cont'd.)

EFFECTS ON	NO PARK ESTABLISHED	OPTION C Bliliou and Rock Islands State Parks.	OPTION D Bliliou National Historical Park.	OPTION E Bliliou National Historical Park with the United States.	OPTION F Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park.	OPTION G Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park with the United States.
HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANT ASSISTANCE FROM U. S.	This National Register site is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.	This National Register site is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.	This National Register site is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.	This National Register site is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.	This National Register site (Peleliu Battlefield NHL) is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.	This National Register site (Peleliu Battlefield NHL) is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM PALAU NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR PARK OPERATIONS	none	unlikely	high potential	probable	high potential	probable
RECREATION USE OF OCEAN, BEACHES, SCENIC SPACE FOR PALAUAN RESIDENTS	no effect	no effect	Preserves White, Orange, Scarlet, and Purple Beaches for public use.	Preserves White, Orange, Scarlet, and Purple Beaches for public use.	Preserves White, Orange, Scarlet, and Purple Beaches and part of Rock Islands for public use.	Preserves White, Orange, Scarlet, and Purple Beaches and part of Rock Islands for public use.
RESTITUTION TO LOCAL CLAN OR VILLAGE FOR USE OF LAND OR WATERS	none	probably none	It is possible to have a park fee or toll charge to outsiders--part of which would be paid to landowners.	A park fee (collected from outsiders) is normal in national parks. Portions of this fee could be used to reimburse owners for dedicating their land as a park.	It is possible to have a park fee or toll charge to outsiders--part of which would be paid to landowners.	A park fee (collected from outsiders) is normal in national parks. Portions of this fee could be used to reimburse owners for dedicating their land as a park.

Management Options to Protect Bliliou WWII Historic Sites, and a Portion of the Rock Islands (cont'd.)

EFFECTS ON	NO PARK ESTABLISHED	OPTION C Bliliou and Rock Islands State Parks.	OPTION D Bliliou National Historical Park.	OPTION E Bliliou National Historical Park with the United States.	OPTION F Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park.	OPTION G Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park with the United States.
JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS See Appendix B	no effect	This might create a few jobs for local people and provide some intermittent pay for local guides to historic or scenic places.	This might create several jobs for local people and provide some intermittent pay for local guides to historic places.	This might create several jobs for local people and provide some intermittent pay for local guides to historic places.	This might create about a dozen jobs for local people and provide some intermittent pay for local guides to historic places.	This might create about a dozen jobs for local people and provide some intermittent pay for local guides to historic places.
SUBSISTANCE USE OF NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS BY LOCAL PEOPLE	no effect	no effect	Most Pacific parks allow traditional subsistence uses by local people if this does not impair the resource.	Most Pacific parks allow traditional subsistence uses by local people if this does not impair the resource.	Most Pacific parks allow traditional subsistence uses by local people if this does not impair the resource.	Most Pacific parks allow traditional subsistence uses by local people if this does not impair the resource.
SPORT HUNTING OF BIRDS, CROCODILES, SEA TURTLES, ETC.	no effect	no effect	Sport hunting within park boundaries is usually illegal.	Sport hunting within park boundaries is usually illegal.	Sport hunting within park boundaries is usually illegal.	Sport hunting within park boundaries is usually illegal.
LOCAL FARM PLOTS OF TARO, CASSAVA, ETC.	no effect	no effect	These plots farmed in present manner would not be affected.	These plots farmed in present manner would not be affected.	These plots farmed in present manner would not be affected.	These plots farmed in present manner would not be affected.
LOCAL FARM PLOTS OF MARIJUANA	no effect	no effect	Plots within park would probably be removed for public safety.	Experience in U. S. parks is that visitors' safety is jeopardized by marijuana growers, and so park rangers have removed all marijuana plots.	Plots within park would probably be removed for public safety.	Experience in U. S. parks is that visitors' safety is jeopardized by marijuana growers, and so park rangers have removed all marijuana plots.

Management Options to Protect Bliliou WWII Historic Sites, and a Portion of the Rock Islands (cont'd.)

EFFECTS ON	NO PARK ESTABLISHED	OPTION C Bliliou and Rock Islands State Parks.	OPTION D Bliliou National Historical Park.	OPTION E Bliliou National Historical Park with the United States.	OPTION F Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park.	OPTION G Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park with the United States.
SUBSISTENCE FISHING AND GATHERING BY LOCAL PEOPLE	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	No effect unless resource may be impaired.	No effect unless resource may be impaired.
COMMERCIAL FISHING	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	Would restrict foreign operations that exploit resources.	Would restrict foreign operations that exploit resources.
COMMERCIAL TIMBER CUTTING	little effect	little effect	Might foreclose commercial timber operations.	Forecloses commercial timber operations.	Might foreclose commercial timber operations.	Forecloses commercial timber operations.
EXTENSIVE COMMERCIAL ENDEAVORS THAT MAKE NOISE, FUMES, POISON, POLLUTION, ETC.	little effect	Not permitted in parks.	Not permitted in parks.	Not permitted in parks.	Not permitted in parks.	Not permitted in parks.
ROAD CONSTRUCTION	All developments within the newly defined Landmark boundary funded by U. S. or Palau must be reviewed to mitigate damage to the Landmark. Otherwise, no effect.	All developments within the newly defined Landmark boundary funded by U. S. or Palau must be reviewed to mitigate damage to the Landmark. Otherwise, no effect.	Road construction would have to be in accord with park master plan.	Road construction would have to be in accord with park master plan.	Road construction would have to be in accord with park master plan.	Road construction would have to be in accord with park master plan.

Management Options to Protect Bliliou WWII Historic Sites, and a Portion of the Rock Islands (cont'd.)

EFFECTS ON	NO PARK ESTABLISHED	OPTION C Bliliou and Rock Islands State Parks.	OPTION D Bliliou National Historical Park.	OPTION E Bliliou National Historical Park with the United States.	OPTION F Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park.	OPTION G Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park with the United States.
CONSTRUCTION OF "MEMORIALS" TO COMMEMORATE WWII CASUALTIES	little effect	little effect	Probably this option would put more rigorous requirements which would prohibit constructing future memorials in the park.	"Memorials" in U. S. National Parks are very rarely allowed. Likely new memorials would not be permitted in the park.	Probably this option would put more rigorous requirements which would prohibit constructing future memorials in the park.	"Memorials" in U. S. National Parks are very rarely allowed. Likely new memorials would not be permitted in the park.
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION -- RESIDENTIAL HOUSES, COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES	no effect	little effect	Buildings and structures within a park and unrelated to the park master plan are not normally allowed.	Buildings and structures within a park and unrelated to the park master plan are not normally allowed.	Buildings and structures within a park and unrelated to the park master plan are not normally allowed.	Buildings and structures within a park and unrelated to the park master plan are not normally allowed.
NATIONAL PRIDE	Landmark designation of Peleliu has called attention to the significance of this place.	A park of this stature merits substantial local pride for Peleliu residents.	A park of this stature merits substantial local pride for Palau residents.	A park of this stature merits substantial local pride for Palau residents.	A great national park with both well-preserved war ruins and highly scenic Rock Islands would be a source of great pride for all Palau citizens.	A great national park with both well-preserved war ruins and highly scenic Rock Islands would be a source of great pride for all Palau citizens.

Management Options to Protect Bliliou WWII Historic Sites, and a Portion of the Rock Islands (cont'd.)

EFFECTS ON	NO PARK ESTABLISHED	OPTION C Bliliou and Rock Islands State Parks.	OPTION D Bliliou National Historical Park.	OPTION E Bliliou National Historical Park with the United States.	OPTION F Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park.	OPTION G Bliliou-Chelbacheb National Park with the United States.
PERMANENCE OR LONG-TERM STABILITY OF THIS OPTION	May be redesignated by Historic Preservation Office of Palau.	May be redesignated by Historic Preservation Office of Palau.	Can only be redesignated by the Palau government and dependent upon future funding by the Palau government.	Worldwide -- national park status is known to provide the greatest assurance of permanence.	Can only be redesignated by the Palau government and dependent upon future funding by the Palau government.	Worldwide -- national park status is known to provide the greatest assurance of permanence.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A - National Significance, Peleliu Battlefield (excerpted from the National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form for the Peleliu Battlefield, Palau Islands by Erwin N. Thompson, NPS Historian, June 1984)

The battle for Peleliu Island, the Gateway to the Philippines, was the longest and one of the most hard-fought battles in the entire Central Pacific amphibious operations of World War II. In contrast to earlier combats where the Japanese had vainly attempted to annihilate the enemy on the beaches, Peleliu's defenses were organized with the main line of resistance established inland, artillery and mortar fire registered on the beaches, and defenses skillfully arranged in depth in order to sustain resistance to an attack while destroying the enemy. Although the crack Japanese troops lost the battle, their new tactics enabled them to inflict heavy losses on American Marine and Army forces and to hold out for 74 days. While some strategists have argued that the capture of Peleliu was not a necessary preliminary for the coming struggle in the Philippines, brave men bled and died in the Palaus for their beliefs and their loyalties. Peleliu marked the conclusion of the Central Pacific drive toward the Philippines. A new phase of the Pacific War was already underway.[3]

Background

Japan seized the Palau Islands, along with the rest of Micronesia, from Germany in World War I. Receiving a mandate from the League of Nations after the war, Japan established its administrative headquarters for Micronesia at Koror, the capital of the Republic of Palau today. On Peleliu Island, thirty miles south of Koror, a phosphate crushing plant was established and, by World War II, an excellent airfield had been constructed. When war came, the Palaus served as a staging area and replacement depot for Japan's forces in the Netherlands, East Indies, and New Guinea.

Even before the U. S. Navy carried out a devastating fast carrier strike on naval installations at Truk Atoll in February 1944, the Japanese had pulled all forward-based elements of the Combined Fleet back to Palau. At this same time, General Douglas MacArthur's Southwest Pacific forces prepared to move into the Hollandia area in New Guinea in their drive toward the Philippines. Concerned that Japanese naval and air power in the Palaus could strike at Hollandia, a large task force of fast carriers under Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher raided Palau on March 30 and 31, 1944. Peleliu's fighter planes rose to the defense and many were shot down. American planes succeeded in mining the harbor at Koror and destroyed or damaged 36 Japanese ships.

Spurred on by this raid to strengthen Palau's defenses, Japan transferred the veteran Fourteenth Division under Lieutenant General Sadal Inoue from Manchuria to Palau in April 1944. Inoue established his headquarters at Koror and placed the bulk of his army force on adjacent Babeldaup Island where he planned to fight to the death. He dispatched the reinforced 2nd Infantry Regiment under Colonel Kunio Nakagawa to Peleliu and one battalion of the 59th Infantry Regiment to Angaur, an island seven miles south of Peleliu. Peleliu's garrison amounted to approximately 10,500 men of whom 6,500 were combat troops and some 4,000 were naval personnel.[4]

Nakagawa carefully planned the island's defenses in depth. Potential landing beaches were mined, offshore obstacles erected, anti-tank ditches skillfully located so as to channel enemy tanks toward anti-tank weapons, barbed wire strung, and artillery and mortars placed so as to shell the beaches with direct and enfilade fire. Extensive cave fortifications honeycombed the limestone ridges in the northern half of the island.

Stalemate II

The American plan for the invasion of Palau, Stalemate II, as it finally evolved, called for Admiral William F. Halsey to command the Western Pacific Task Forces. Halsey's Third Fleet covered the approach of the Joint Expeditionary Force. Major General Julian C. Smith, USMC, commanded the Expeditionary Troops, and Major General Roy S. Geiger III, USMC, was in charge of the III Amphibious Corps.

Under Geiger, Major General William H. Rupertus, USMC, commanded the First Marine Division which was to seize Peleliu, and Major General Paul J. Mueller, USA, commanded the 81st Infantry Division which was to capture Angaur and Ulithi Atoll. Stalemate II was the largest amphibious force yet seen in the Pacific. Its strength totaled 800 vessels, 1,600 aircraft, and 250,000 men.[5]

The First Marine Division, thoroughly experienced in the New Britain campaign, was composed of the 1st, 5th, and 7th Marine Regiments and the 11th Artillery Regiment. The 81st Infantry Division had no previous combat experience but had completed jungle and amphibious training in Hawaii. Its 321st and 322nd Infantry Regiments were assigned the capture of Angaur, while its 323rd Regiment was to occupy Ulithi Atoll about halfway between Palau and the Mariana Islands. The two divisions were brought together on Guadalcanal for a week of tactical rehearsals before sailing west.

Beginning in August 1944, the U. S. Thirteenth Air Force began bombing the Palaus. On September 6, Halsey's fast carrier groups started full-scale attacks on the islands. Six days later, a naval gunfire bombardment of Peleliu and Angaur began. D-Day for landing on Peleliu was set for September 15. Mine sweepers and underwater demolition teams began sweeping the waters and removing obstacles from Peleliu's southwestern beaches. Early morning, September 15, found the Third Amphibious Corps off Peleliu. The First Marine Division prepared to land.

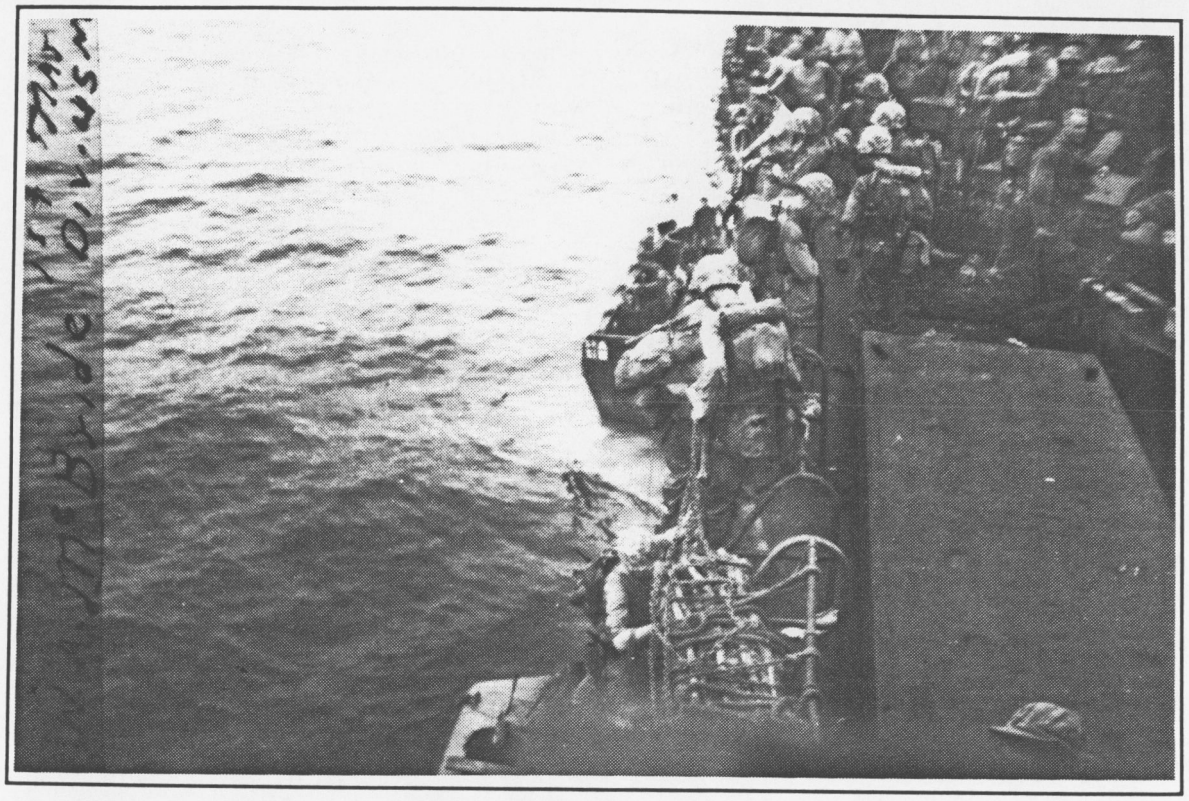
The Battle

Peleliu's southwestern beaches had been code-named White 1 and 2 and Orange 1, 2, and 3. The three reinforced regiments (regimental combat teams (RCTs)), landing abreast on a 2,200-yard beachhead, touched shore at 8:33 a.m. On the left (north), two battalions of the 1st Marines landed on Beaches White 1 and 2. In the center, two battalions of the 5th Marines hit Beaches Orange 1 and 2. The 7th Marines came ashore in a column of battalions on Beach Orange 3 on the right (south). Immediately, murderous Japanese mortar fire and enfilading cannon fire on both flanks swept the beaches hitting as many as sixty landing vehicles and fifteen tanks. Observing the smoking vehicles, Colonel Nakagawa reported, too optimistically, to Koror, "Our forces successfully put the enemy to rout."[6]

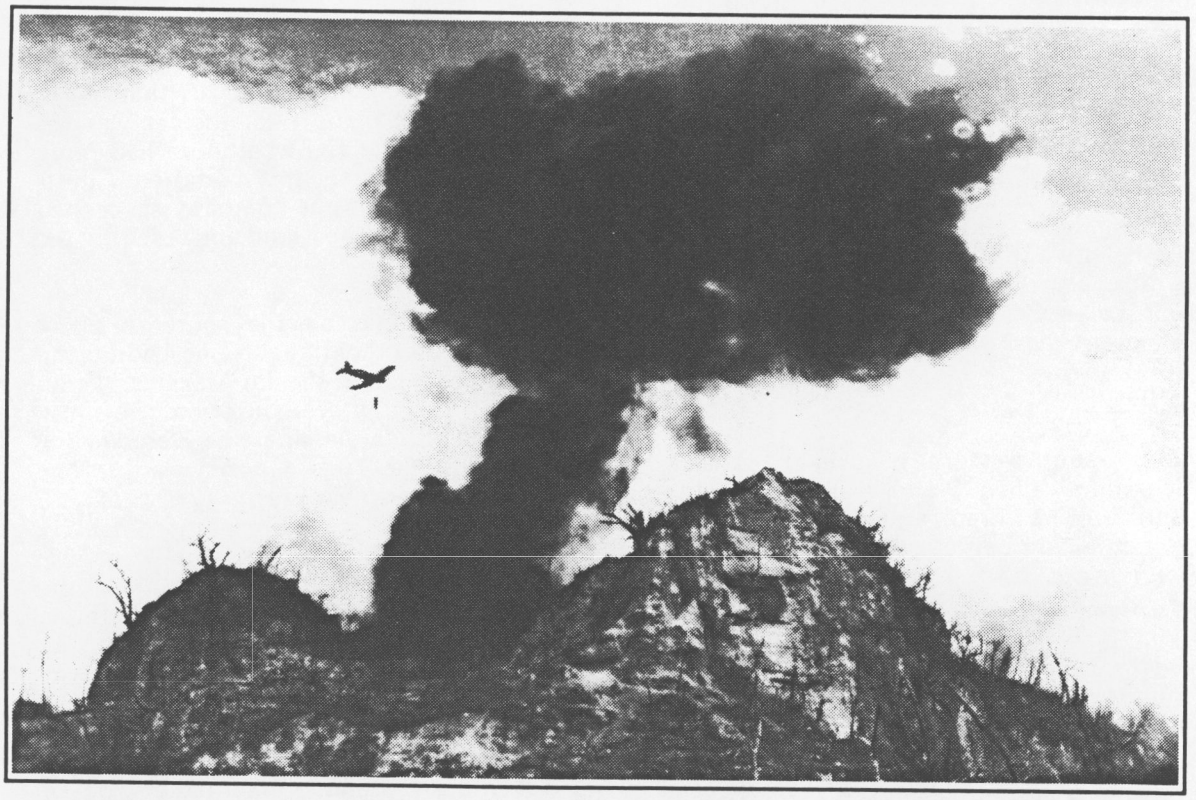
On the 1st Marines' extreme left flank, Japanese gunners placed enfilading fire from positions in a coral outcropping at the water's edge. Seventy yards inland, an unsuspected coral ridge was alive with Japanese who swept the beach with marine gun and rifle fire. A company of Marines successfully reduced the coral outcropping but with heavy casualties. Moreover, the company became cut off from the adjacent unit and would remain isolated for the next thirty hours. The Marine Corps' official history concludes that had the Japanese mounted a major counterattack at this point, "the Marines might have been driven into the sea."[7] The 1st Marines' right flank battalion on Beach White 2 had better success. It reached its first objective 350 yards inland by mid-morning, encountering moderate resistance. There it halted because of the stalemate on the left. By 9 a.m., the 5th Marines had reached its objective, an open space on the west side of the airfield. The left battalion halted at that point because of the inability of the 1st Marines to advance. The right battalion had more success. Although the battalion's units became scattered, one company succeeded in driving across the island and reaching the eastern shore.

The 7th Marines on the southern flank experienced much the same withering enfilade fire as did the 1st Marines. From a small islet and a promontory at the south end of Peleliu, the Japanese delivered heavy fire against the 7th's exposed flank. The regiment continued to make progress, however, until it came up against a heavily fortified area containing the Japanese circular blockhouse. There it dug in for the night to await the assistance of tanks. In the day-long drive, the 7th Marines, too, suffered heavy casualties.

In the late afternoon, the Japanese made their first counterattack when from twelve to seventeen light tanks emerged in front of



Green-clad marines boarding their LVT's off Bliliou at dawn on D-day, September 15, 1944. (National Archives)



An F4U "Corsair" releases its bomb over Bloody Nose Ridge. It was a 15-second run from the airfield to the target and pilots often never even bothered to raise their wheels. (National Archives)

the 5th Marines. Although a few tanks got through to the beachhead, all but one were destroyed.[8] Despite the troubles on the flanks, the Marines had succeeded in establishing a beachhead 3,000 yards long, 500 yards average depth, and a maximum depth of 1,500 yards.

On September 16, the 5th Marines completed the capture of the airfield. In the south, the 7th Marines overcame the blockhouse and reached the eastern shore. It gained all of southern Peleliu by nightfall except two promontories at the southern tip. In the north, the 1st Marines began a turning movement northward against the Umurbrogal ridges beyond the airfield. Quickly running into fierce resistance, the Marines made little progress.

The next day, D+2, the 1st Marines gained a few hundred yards in the level area of the west coast, up West Road, but were thwarted gain in the attempt to gain the limestone ridges, especially at Bloody Nose Ridge. The 1st Marines counted 1,500 casualties in their ranks by the end of this third day of fighting. Meanwhile, the 7th Marines completed the capture of southern Peleliu, including the promontories; and the 5th Marines began an easy drive up the eastern arm of the island.

American light planes were able to land on the airfield on September 19. That same day, the 1st Marines renewed the attack on the ridges, making small gains, but again stopped at Bloody Nose Ridge. To the east, a company of the 7th Marines gained the crest of Walt Ridge but, suffering extremely heavy casualties, was forced to withdraw. During the next three days both the 1st and 7th RCTs assaulted the ridges time and again, without success. By September 22, the First Marine Division had suffered nearly 4,000 casualties, the 1st Marine Regiment alone losing 56 percent of its strength. General Rupertus decided to cease frontal attacks on the southern ridges; instead, he planned a drive up the west coast and an attack on the Umurbrogal complex from the north.

Before the invasion, General Rupertus thought he could capture Peleliu in four days. A week had now passed and despite the heavy casualties, Rupertus was unwilling to call for assistance from army troops of the 81st Infantry Division. He remained so stubborn about this that the corps commander, General Geiger, had to step in and direct the 321st Infantry Regiment to move from Angaur to Peleliu, where it landed September 23. The depleted 1st Marine Regiment was taken off Peleliu on September 30, its casualty figure having reached 1,672.

Another reason Rupertus wished to take northern Peleliu at this time was the 25,000-man Japanese force on Babeldaup that could be expected to reinforce Peleliu. Indeed, on September 23, Japanese barges approached the island from the north. The Americans spotted this reinforcement and sank the barges. Most of the Japanese made it to shore nevertheless. The same scene occurred the following night. It was estimated that from 600 to 700 Japanese reinforcements reached Peleliu.

On September 24, Rupertus sent his unwanted soldiers on a push up the West Road. The 321st RCT reached its objective, discovering along the way a trail running across the ridges toward East Road.[9] A company, directed to explore the trail, moved eastward and succeeded in capturing Hill 100, the northern bastion of the Japanese defenses in the Umurbrogal ridges. The following day, the 321st reached East Road thus dividing the Japanese defenses on the island. At the same time, it pushed north along West Road until it reached the village of Garekoru. The 5th Marines took over at this point to begin the process of cleaning up the northern tip of Peleliu and its elaborate caves in the Amiangal ridges. On September 28, the 5th Marines also occupied Naegebus Island and its unfinished runway. Marine Fighter Squadron 114 provided air support on this occasion.

As September drew to a close, Japanese losses were estimated to be over 9,250, while the First Marine Division's casualties had mounted to over 5,000 men.

On September 30, the 7th Marines began an assault on the Umurbrogal ridges in an effort to reduce the pocket, which measured about 1,500 yards north to south and 500

yards in width. Elements of the 5th Marines joined the attack the following day. By October 3, the Marines had captured the crests of two important ridges, Walt and Boyd, on the eastern side of the pocket, thus opening East Road. The 7th Marines, particularly, experienced heavy casualties in this four-day fight. By the evening of October 4, the 7th "was no longer able to function as an effective combat unit on the regimental level."[10] Rupertus ordered the 5th Marines to relieve the 7th.[11]

Between October 6 and 14, the 5th Marines made repeated attacks on the pocket, steadily making small gains, particularly in the north and northwest. It captured such landmarks as Baldy Ridge, Ridge 120, Ridge 3, Hill 140, and knobs of coral not named. Then, on October 14, General Rupertus withdrew all the First Marine Division from the battle lines, replacing it with the 321st RCT and a battalion of the 323rd Infantry Regiment freshly arrived from Ulithi Atoll.[12] Rupertus remained in command at Peleliu until October 20 when Major General Paul J. Mueller, commanding the 81st Infantry Division, replaced him. During the month the First Marine Division fought on Peleliu, it suffered no fewer than 6,265 casualties, of which 1,124 were dead and 117 were missing.

Colonel Nakagawa reported on October 14 that his force had been reduced to 1,150 armed men.[13]

The 81st began a methodical tightening of its lines around the pocket on October 21. Not without difficulty it captured the northern hills called the Five Brothers, one by one. In Horseshoe Valley, west of Walt Ridge, it succeeded in cutting the Japanese off from their water supply at Grinlinton Pond. (This accomplishment was offset by heavy rains that replenished the Japanese water supply.) On November 2, the 323rd RCT captured the Five Sisters, including Bloody Nose Ridge against which the 1st Marines had hurled itself so long ago. Japanese fighting strength was now reduced to 350 men. Little action occurred on either side between November 4 and 9 as a typhoon swept over Peleliu. On November 13, the assault and occupation of Peleliu was again announced, this time by General Geiger.

That same day, the two infantry regiments began the final drive. On November 24, the Japanese burned the 2nd Infantry's regimental flag and all secret documents. In the evening a last radio message was sent to Koror advising that the 56 remaining combatants had organized into 17 raiding groups and would hide in the jungle and caves to harass the enemy. During the night, General Murai and Colonel Nakagawa committed suicide. It had taken U. S. forces almost 2-1/2 months to complete what began as a four-day operation.

The 81st Division did not declare an end to organized resistance until November 27:

> At 1030, 27 November all organized resistance on Peleliu ceased when the Commanders of the battalions of the 323rd Infantry met at the cave which had been the headquarters of Colonel Kunio Nakagawa, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Regiment, 14th Japanese Imperial Division and the last high ranking Japanese Commander on Peleliu.[14]

The division's casualties in the Palaus amounted to 542 killed and 3,275 wounded or injured. For months to come, Japanese continued to be captured or killed on the island. In January 1945, a Japanese raiding party landed on Peleliu. It was swiftly wiped out. Twenty-seven Japanese surrendered in April 1947. As late as 1955, a Korean civilian was seized on Peleliu -- two years after the Korean War.

As they had in earlier battles, Japanese-Americans (Nisei) performed important duties on Peleliu as interpreters and translators. The Third Amphibious Corps reported also that it had made extensive use of the famous Navajo Talkers in their radio communications. Not so successful was the use of the Marines' war dogs. While the dogs served well in the beginning on sentry duty and patrols, they became increasingly nervous and tired under the strain of heavy mortar fire. As the battle progressed, many of their handlers were killed or wounded

and strangers could not work the dogs. An exceptional dog was Duke, Z876, a German shepherd, who carried twenty pounds of maps and papers 1-1/2 miles across the airfield under heavy enemy mortar fire.

The remaining Japanese in Palau, some 25,000, spent the rest of World War II waiting for the enemy to land so that they could give their lives for their Emperor. The opportunity never came. On Peleliu, U. S. Navy Seabees reconstructed the Japanese airfield and built a naval base. Army engineers hacked a bomber field out of the jungle on nearby Angaur. Ulithi Atoll became an important fleet anchorage, especially for the 1945 invasion of Okinawa.

Bloody Nose Ridge, Five Sisters, Five Brothers, China Wall, Death Valley, Snipers' Mile, Hell's Pocket, Baldy Ridge... The Palau operation turned out to be one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific War -- and one of the most forgotten.

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3. Admiral William F. Halsey, commander of the Western Pacific Task Forces, was the one officer who argued against attacking Palau before the operation took place. He recommended that Leyte in the Philippines be attacked directly because of the weakening Japanese position there. See E. B. Potter, Nimitz (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1976), p. 392.

4. Because the senior naval officer on Peleliu, Vice Admiral Itou, was a flag officer and because of the intense rivalry between the Japanese army and naval commands, Inoue sent Major General Kenjiro Murai to Peleliu to coordinate with the admiral. Colonel Nakagawa remained in command of Peleliu's defenses.

5. Simultaneous with the invasion of the southern Palaus, General MacArthur's forces seized Morotari Island, 450 miles to the southwest, as a second anchor for the forthcoming Philippines campaign.

6. Japanese Monograph No. 49, "Central Pacific Operations Record," Vol. 2, April-November 1944, p. 85.

7. George W. Garand and Truman R. Strobridge, Western Pacific Operations. History of U. S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II, Vol. 4 (Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1971), p. 114.

8. It is probable that the light tank on Peleliu today was one of those in this abortive attack.

9. On this drive up West Road, the army troops gained the enmity of the 7th Marines who were assigned the task of following the 321st to screen the West Road from flanking fire. The soldiers were supposed to have moved along the west ridge and the road; in fact, they stayed only on the road, forcing the 7th Marines to fight the Japanese on the ridge.

10. Grand and Stobridge, Western Pacific Operations, p. 236.

11. The 321st replaced the 5th Marines in northern Peleliu and offshore islets. It was its turn to become angry at the Marines for not having done a better job of cleaning out Japanese-held caves.

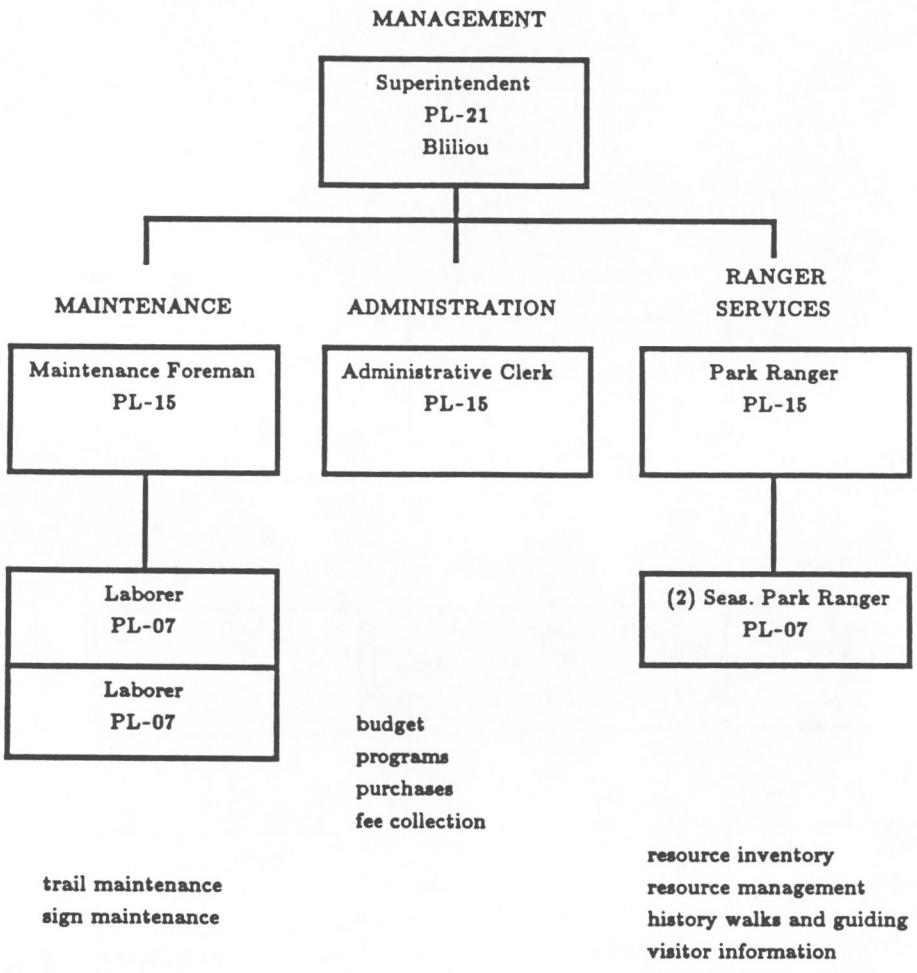
12. All of the 323rd RCT was on Peleliu by October 24.

13. Japanese Monograph No. 49, p. 143.

14. 321st Infantry, "Operation Report, Stalemate II, Palau Islands," December 29, 1944, Adjutant General's Office, World War II Operations Reports, 1940-1948, Record Group 407, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, MD.

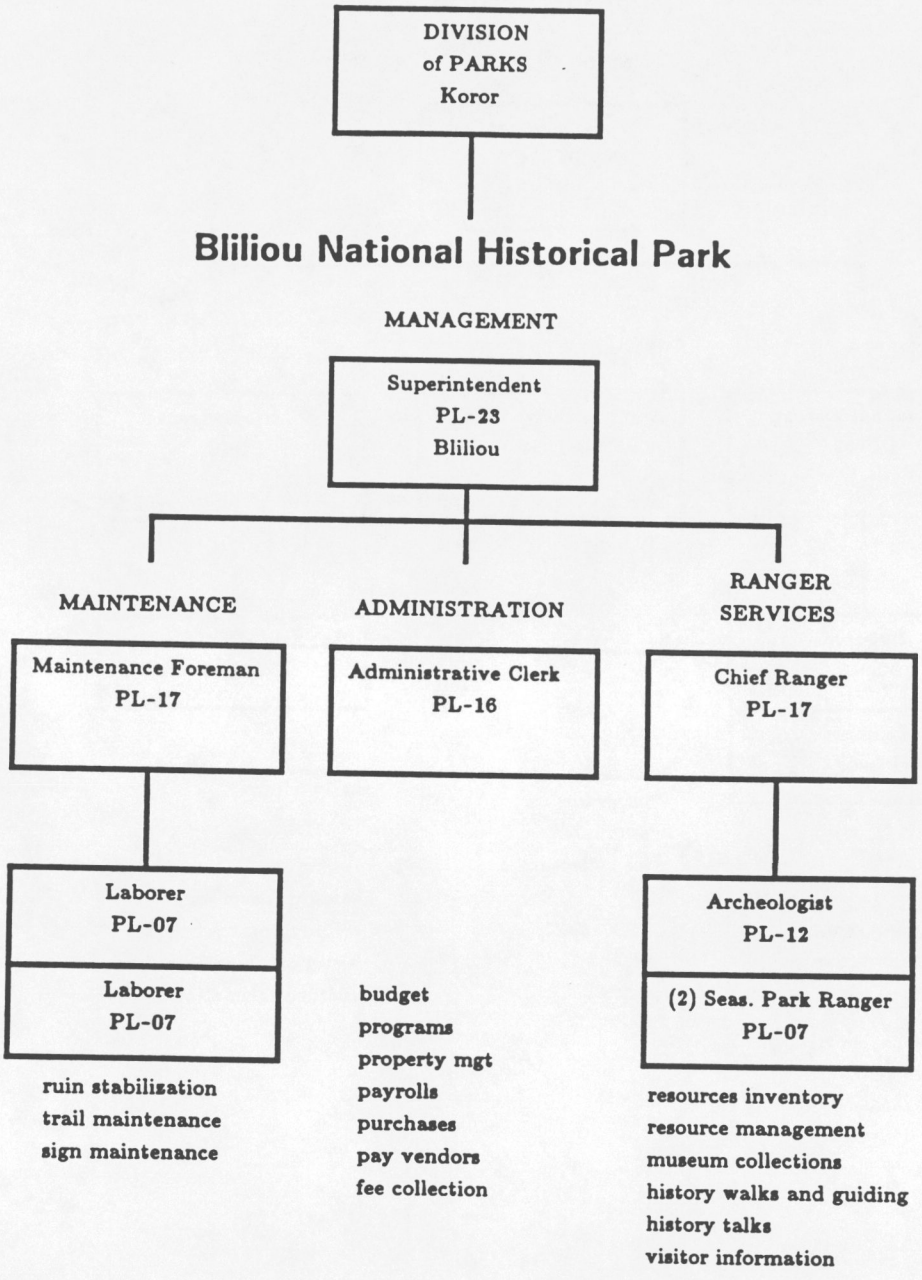
Option C.

Bliliou State Historical Park

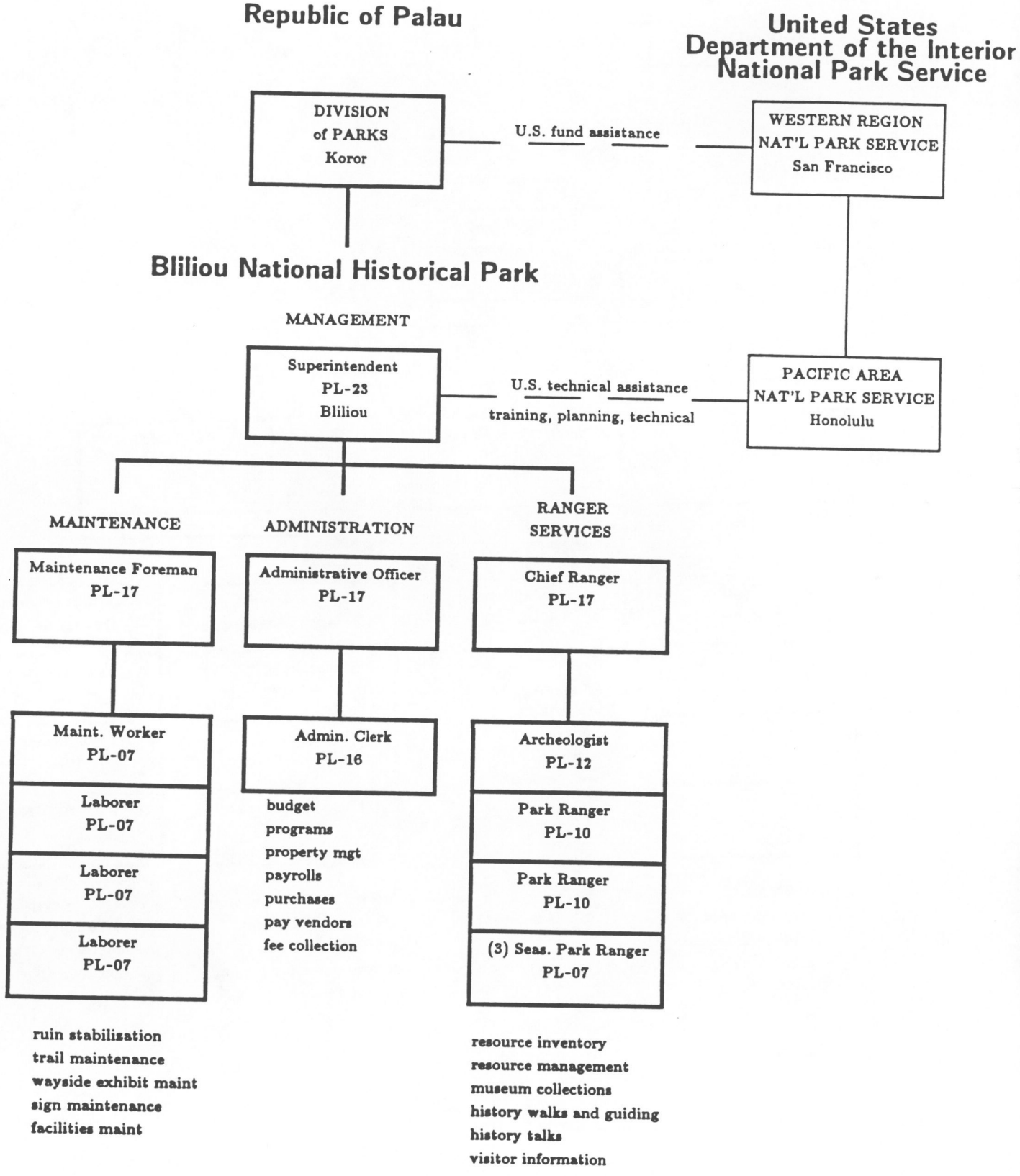


Option D.

Republic of Palau

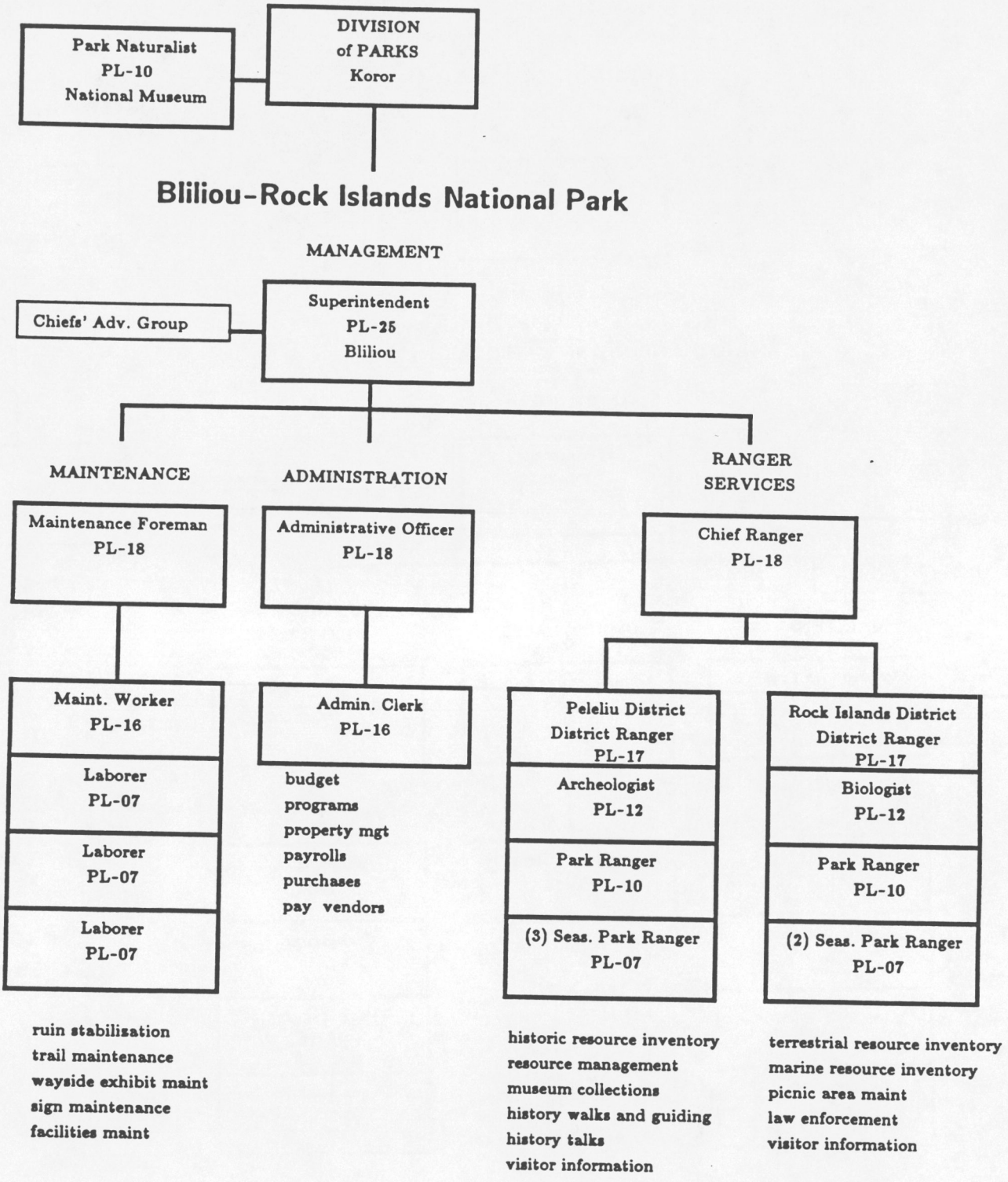


Option E.

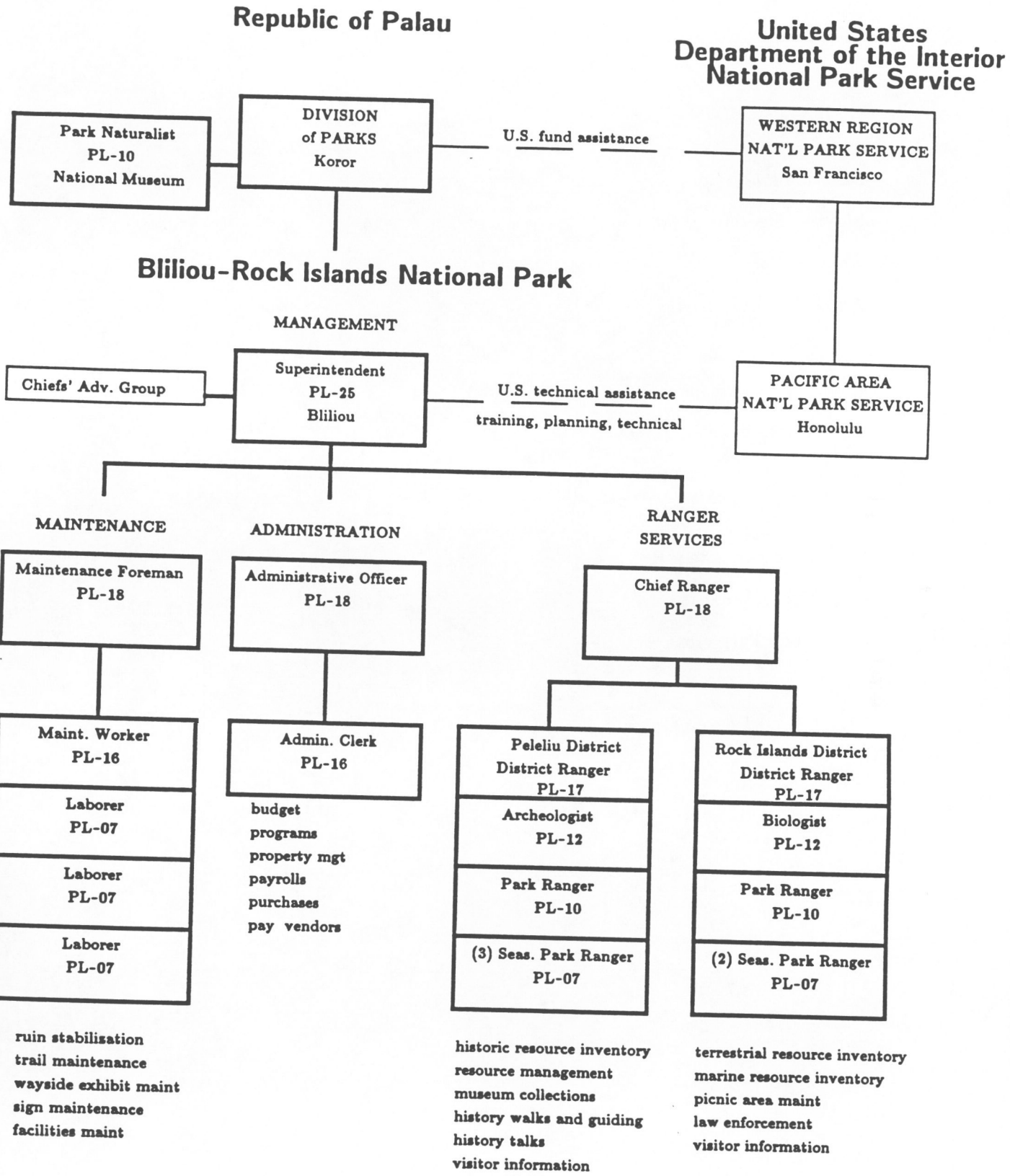

Republic of Palau
United States
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
DIVISION
of PARKS
Koror
U.S. fund assistance
WESTERN REGION
NAT'L PARK SERVICE
San Francisco
Bliliou National Historical Park
MANAGEMENT
Superintendent
PL-23
Bliliou
U.S. technical assistance
training, planning, technical
PACIFIC AREA
NAT'L PARK SERVICE
Honolulu
MAINTENANCE
ADMINISTRATION
RANGER
SERVICES
Maintenance Foreman
PL-17
Administrative Officer
PL-17
Chief Ranger
PL-17
Maint. Worker
PL-07
Laborer
PL-07
Laborer
PL-07
Laborer
PL-07
Admin. Clerk
PL-16
budget
programs
property mgt
payrolls
purchases
pay vendors
fee collection
Archeologist
PL-12
Park Ranger
PL-10
Park Ranger
PL-10
(3) Seas. Park Ranger
PL-07
ruin stabilization
trail maintenance
wayside exhibit maint
sign maintenance
facilities maint
resource inventory
resource management
museum collections
history walks and guiding
history talks
visitor information

Option F.

Republic of Palau



Option G.


Republic of Palau
United States
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Park Naturalist
PL-10
National Museum
DIVISION
of PARKS
Koror
U.S. fund assistance
WESTERN REGION
NAT'L PARK SERVICE
San Francisco
Bliliou-Rock Islands National Park
MANAGEMENT
Chiefs' Adv. Group
Superintendent
PL-25
Bliliou
U.S. technical assistance
training, planning, technical
PACIFIC AREA
NAT'L PARK SERVICE
Honolulu
MAINTENANCE
ADMINISTRATION
RANGER
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Maintenance Foreman
PL-18
Administrative Officer
PL-18
Chief Ranger
PL-18
Maint. Worker
PL-16
Laborer
PL-07
Laborer
PL-07
Laborer
PL-07
Admin. Clerk
PL-16
budget
programs
property mgt
payrolls
purchases
pay vendors
Peleliu District
District Ranger
PL-17
Archeologist
PL-12
Park Ranger
PL-10
(3) Seas. Park Ranger
PL-07
Rock Islands District
District Ranger
PL-17
Biologist
PL-12
Park Ranger
PL-10
(2) Seas. Park Ranger
PL-07
ruin stabilisation
trail maintenance
wayside exhibit maint
sign maintenance
facilities maint
historic resource inventory
resource management
museum collections
history walks and guiding
history talks
visitor information
terrestrial resource inventory
marine resource inventory
picnic area maint
law enforcement
visitor information

Option C. State of Bliliou.

Personnel Costs -- Bliliou State Historical Park

Title	Position Classification Grade	Full Time Equivalency	Budget Amount
Superintendent	PL-21	1.0	$10,123
Maintenance Foreman	PL-15	1.0	7,623
Chief Ranger	PL-15	1.0	7,623
Administrative Clerk	PL-15	1.0	7,623
Laborer (2)	PL-07	2.0	10,853
Total Permanent Full Time			$43,846
Other Benefits (20%)			8,769
Total Permanent Full Time with Benefits			$52,615
Seasonal Park Ranger (2)	PL-07	1.0	$ 5,427
Other Benefits (10%)			543
Total Part Time with Benefits			$ 5,969
Grand Total Personnel Costs			$58,584

Option D. Republic of Palau.
Bliliou National Historical Park

Personnel Costs --

Title	Position Classification Grade	Full Time Equivalency	Budget Amount
Superintendent	PL-23	1.0	$10,618
Maintenance Foreman	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Chief Ranger	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Administrative Clerk	PL-16	1.0	7,860
Archeologist	PL-12	1.0	6,658
Laborer (2)	PL-07	2.0	10,853
Total Permanent Full Time			$52,497
Other Benefits (20%)			10,499
Total Permanent Full Time with Benefits			$62,997
Seasonal Park Ranger (2)	PL-07	1.0	$ 5,427
Other Benefits (10%)			543
Total Part Time with Benefits			$ 5,969
Grand Total Personnel Costs			$68,966

Option E. Republic of Palau in Association with United States
Bliliou State Historical Park

Personnel Costs --

Title	Position Classification Grade	Full Time Equivalency	Budget Amount
Superintendent	PL-23	1.0	$ 10,618
Maintenance Foreman	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Administrative Officer	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Chief Ranger	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Administrative Clerk	PL-16	1.0	7,860
Maintenance Worker	PL-07	1.0	5,427
Archeologist	PL-12	1.0	6,658
Park Ranger (2)	PL-10	2.0	12,230
Laborer (3)	PL-07	3.0	16,280
Total Permanent Full Time			$ 83,835
Other Benefits (20%)			16,767
Total Permanent Full Time with Benefits			$100,602
Seasonal Park Ranger (3)	PL-07	1.0	$ 5,427
Other Benefits (10%)			543
Total Part Time with Benefits			$ 5,969
Grand Total Personnel Costs			$106,571

Options F and/or G. Republic of Palau or by Republic of Palau in Association with U. S. Bliliou -- Rock Islands National Park

Personnel Costs --

Title	Position Classification Grade	Full Time Equivalency	Budget Amount
Superintendent	PL-25	1.0	$ 11,927
Maintenance Foreman	PL-18	1.0	8,677
Administrative Officer	PL-18	1.0	8,676
Chief Ranger	PL-18	1.0	8,676
Rock Islands District Ranger	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Peleliu District Ranger	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Administrative Clerk	PL-16	1.0	7,860
Maintenance Foreman	PL-16	1.0	7,860
Archeologist	PL-12	1.0	6,658
Biologist	PL-12	1.0	6,658
Park Naturalist (Nat Museum)	PL-10	1.0	6,115
Park Ranger (2)	PL-10	2.0	12,230
Laborer (3)	PL-07	3.0	16,280
Total Permanent Full Time			$118,124
Other Benefits (20%)			23,625
Total Permanent Full Time with Benefits			$141,749
Seasonal Park Ranger (5)	PL-07	2.5	$ 13,567
Other Benefits (20%)			1,357
Total Part Time with Benefits			$ 14,923
Grand Total Personnel Costs			$156,673

List of Remaining Sites and Ruins of 1944 Invasion and Capture of Peleliu.

PRI	SITE NO	SITE DESCRIPTION	HIST. PERIOD	SITE LOCATION	MIL GRID	IN PK	PHOTO REF.	MEASUREMENTS	VILLAGE
904.0	BBE-1- 21d	U. S. Naval Base #3252 remains -- a few quonset pads	N	don't know location	128L	?			Ngerdelolk
69.9	BBE-1- 70d	2 concrete radio tower foundations	Y	Purple Beach	137Y	Y			Ngerdelolk
907.0	BBE-1- 71d	American quonset hut pads (Seabee camp)	N	Upper (NE) end Purple Beach		Y			Ngerdelolk
71.0	BBE-1- 72d	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Y	Purple Beach	137x	Y			Ngerdelolk
70.0	BBE-1- 73d	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Y	Purple Beach	137X	Y			Ngerdelolk
72.0	BBE-1- 74d	Concrete tetrahedrons	Y	Upper Purple Beach	137X ?	Y			Ngerdelolk
68.0	BBE-1- 75d	Japanese 120 mm gun pillbox	Y	Road junction 132G (or 1320?), near the Honeymoon Beach area of Purple Beach.	1320	Y	GB86-6-7		Ngerdelolk
73.0	BBE-1- 76d	Japanese coconut log/concrete machine gun pillbox, triangle shaped--2x3x2 m.	Y	Purple Beach, 126 m at end of road, 220 deg from 76d	1320 ?	Y		Pillbox 2 x 3 x 2 meters.	Ngerdelolk
74.0	BBE-1- 77d	Japanese pillbox cut in coral	Y	Purple Beach, 126 m at end of road and 220 deg from 76d.	1320 ?	Y	BH86-7-7	1.75 m high incl coral cover. Width of face 3.9 m, firing port 1.1mm x 400mm.	Ngerdelolk
75.0	BBE-1- 78d	Japanese 25mm anti-tank pillbox	Y	Purple Beach,75 m from end of road 126M	1320 ?	Y		Inside 3.7 m wide at gun port, 4.6 m from port to rear entrance. Port 900x800mm	Ngerdelolk
908.0	BBE-1- 89d	LVT3A personnel carrier w/rear ramp and fitted	Y	Ngedebus Island. (not shown on map)	161U	N			Ngerdelolk
77.0	BBE-1- 98d	LCVT (landing craft, vehicle, personnel) sitting in pond partially submerged.	Y	50 m S of road junction to Purple Beach	135ø	Y			Ngerdelolk
78.0	BBE-1- 99d	LCVT (landing craft, vehicle, personnel) sitting in pond partially submerged.	Y	50 m S of road junction to Purple Beach	135ø	Y			Ngerdelolk

List of Remaining Sites and Ruins of 1944 Invasion and Capture of Peleliu.

PRI	SITE NO	SITE DESCRIPTION	HIST. PERIOD	SITE LOCATION	MIL GRID	IN PK	PHOTO REF.	MEASUREMENTS	VILLAGE
96.0	BBE-1-100d	Japanese Radio Direction Finder, Admin Building, bathhouse 166d, latrine 167d.	Y	Lademisang	136i	Y	BH86-6-35	Adm bldg is 37.5 m long and 10.45 m wide. Bathhouse latrine is 5 x 6 m.	Ngerdelolk
119.0	BBE-1-101d	Japanese powerhouse	Y	Lademisang, near site 100d	136i	Y		Powerhouse is 8.2 x 5.2 meters.	Ngerdelolk
120.0	BBE-1-102d	Japanese water cistern	Y	Lademisang, near site 100d	136I	Y	BH86-6-30		Ngerdelolk
121.0	BBE-1-103d	Japanese supply room (National Archives photo 208AA-74D-3)	Y	Lademisang, near site 100d	136I	Y			Ngerdelolk
122.0	BBE-1-104d	2 water cisterns and open water tank	Y	Lademisang, near site 100d	136I	Y			Ngerdelolk
80.0	BBE-1-118d	Radar Hill defensive caves	Y		157U	N			Ngerdelolk
79.0	BBE-1-124d	1,000-man cave	Y		159Q	N	TT83-3-13		Ngerdelolk
82.0	BBE-1-125d	Pillbox w/gun mount pedestal offset cover mount	Y	At north edge of 1,000-man cave	159Q	N			Ngerdelolk
81.0	BBE-1-126d	Pillbox, overgrown and partially destroyed	Y	At north edge of 1,000-man cave	159Q	N			Ngerdelolk
83.0	BBE-1-127d	Pillbox built into coral ridge and coral stone	Y	At north edge of 1,000-man cave	159Q	N			Ngerdelolk
69.0	BBE-1-133	Purple Beach	Y	Upper and Lower Purple Beach divided at road jct 132G.	131Y -138 M	Y	GB86-6-8		Ngerdelolk
119.5	BBE-1-166d	M4A6 Sherman tank	Y	Ngedebus Island		N			Ngerdelolk
0.0	BBE-1-168	Gun emplacements	Y	Boes Ngedebus Island, north of Peleliu		N			Ngerdelolk
65.1	BBE-2- 14d	Steel pole anti-landing obstacles	Y	Orange Beach (not shown on map)	124	Y			Ngesias
87.0	BBE-2- 54d	Japanese Air Raid Shelter #1 (half blown away)	Y	(not shown on map)	129A -G	?		Roof thickness 600 mm at center. Base of shelter at entrance door 700 mm thick. This shelter is not covered with stone.	Ngesias

List of Remaining Sites and Ruins
of 1944 Invasion and Capture of Peleliu.

PRI	SITE NO	SITE DESCRIPTION	HIST. PERIOD	SITE LOCATION	MIL GRID	IN PK	PHOTO REF.	MEASUREMENTS	VILLAGE
88.0	BBE-2- 55d	Japanese Air Raid Shelter #2 (shielded w/extra thickness)	Y	(not shown on map)	129A ? -G			Added concrete support posts above main entrance. Oil drums w/stonefor blast protection, steel door and window sutters.	Ngesias
89.0	BBE-2- 56d	Japanese Air Raid Shelter #3 (not with extra shielding debris).	Y	(not shown on map)	129A ? -G				Ngesias
41.0	BBE-2- 57d	Japanese Air Raid Shelter #2 w/steel doors	Y	129A-E, F, & G, N side of headquarters building 61d. Water cistern nearby.	129A -G	Y	TT83-1-35		Ngesias
109.0	BBE-2- 58d	Japanese Air Raid Shelter #5	Y	(not shown on map)		?			Ngesias
110.0	BBE-2- 59d	Japanese Air Raid Shelter #6 (partially reinforced with stone and concrete.	Y	(not shown on map)	129A ? -G			Steel doors and windows intact.	Ngesias
111.0	BBE-2- 60d	Japanese Air Raid Shelter #7, steel doors & windows are intact. Quonset pads are nearby.	Y	(not shown on map)	129A ? -G			covered w/stone & concrete.	Ngesias
40.0	BBE-2- 61d	Japanese Headquarters Building (official flag raising here 27 September 1944)	Y	North of airport	129B	Y	TT83-1-32	Aerial ph 1-26. Building T-shaped and 2 stories high.	Ngesias
90.0	BBE-2- 62d	Japanese radio tower base supports	Y	E of S @ 178 deg, 14 meters from Headquarters Building 61d	129B	Y			Ngesias
908.0	BBE-2- 63d	5 June 1945 quonset huts, 64d, 65d, 66d, and 67d.	N	At Headquarters Building 61d	129B	Y			Ngesias
112.0	BBE-2- 68d	2 water cisterns	Y	Near Headquarters Building 61d	129B	Y		Aerial photo 1-26	Ngesias
91.0	BBE-2- 69d	Water tank (pillbox) (photo U. S. archives 18-AG-5847)	Y	Near Headquarters Building 61d (or is this on photo 1-26 as 68d?)	129B	Y			Ngesias

List of Remaining Sites and Ruins
of 1944 Invasion and Capture of Peleliu.

PRI	SITE NO	SITE DESCRIPTION	HIST. PERIOD	SITE LOCATION	MIL GRID	IN PK	PHOTO REF.	MEASUREMENTS	VILLAGE
92.0	BBE-2- 79d	Japanese fuel storage bunker (area littered w/U. S. helmets and canteens)	Y	Between White Beach and airport.	133S ?	Y	TT83-2-28		Ngesias
114.0	BBE-2- 80d	3 foundations of Japanese fuel storage bunkers--includes 81d and 82d.	Y		133S	Y		Near 79d ruins.	Ngesias
21.6	BBE-2- 84d	Bloody Nose Ridge monument	N	Five Sisters summit.	134M	Y	GB86-6-36		Ngesias
8.0	BBE-2- 85d	Amphibious tank version of armored LVT w/37 mm guns	Y	S. end of Bloody Nose Ridge	134N	Y	TT83-2-7		Ngesias
67.0	BBE-2- 86d	LVTA1 amphibious tank w/75 mm gun	Y	North of airport with 87d. (Both of these may have been moved to this location.)	135P	Y	TT83-2-26		Ngesias
67.5	BBE-2- 87d	LVT4A personnel carrier w/offside loading	Y	North of airport near 86d.	135P	Y	TT83-2-25		Ngesias
76.0	BBE-2- 88d	LVT4A personnel carrier w/rear ramp.	Y		134T	Y	TT83-2-27		Ngesias
9.0	BBE-2- 90d	200 mm anti-boat gun in natural cave. Best preserved example.	Y	Near LVT 85d on E side of trail to	134N	Y	TT83-2-0		Ngesias
93.0	BBE-2- 91d	Concrete lined storage cave w/8 Japanese ammo caissons	Y	100 yds north of Tower 162.	134R	Y	TT83-1-36		Ngesias
909.0	BBE-2- 92d	American command headquarters (2 quonsets)	N	(not shown on map)	134T	?			Ngesias
116.0	BBE-2- 93d	Japanese power plant (10 m x 20 m long)	Y	(not shown on map)	134T	?			Ngesias
117.0	BBE-2- 94d	Japanese shop and barracks area (now taro patches)	Y		134T	N			Ngesias
118.0	BBE-2- 95d	Japanese bomb-proof power plant	Y		134W	Y	BH86-6-24		Ngesias
94.0	BBE-2- 96d	Prisoner of War compound	Y	200 deg, 150 m from power plant	134W	Y			Ngesias

List of Remaining Sites and Ruins
of 1944 Invasion and Capture of Peleliu.

PRI	SITE NO	SITE DESCRIPTION	HIST. PERIOD	SITE LOCATION	MIL GRID	IN PK	PHOTO REF.	MEASUREMENTS	VILLAGE
95.0	BBE-2- 97d	Stockade	Y	(not shown on map)	134W	?			Ngesias
11.0	BBE-2-105d	Last Japanese command post caves	Y	N end of the China Wall described in Smith, R. R., Approach to the Philippeans, 1953. Bloody Nose R	140S	Y			Ngesias
123.0	BBE-2-108d	U. S. bulldozer (from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit)	Y	Quarry 30 m N of road	135A	Y			Ngesias
10.0	BBE-2-128	Japanese man-made tunnel.	Y	Behind 200mm gun, 90d	134N	Y	TT83-2-3		Ngesias
6.0	BBE-2-135	"Walt Ridge"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141V	Y	TT83-2-21a		Ngesias
3.0	BBE-2-136	"Horseshoe Basin" and pond	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141U	Y	B		Ngesias
56.3	BBE-2-137	"Causeway"	Y		135A	Y	C		Ngesias
4.0	BBE-2-138	"Wildcat Bowl"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	140Y	Y	D		Ngesias
1.0	BBE-2-139	"Five Sisters"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	140Y	Y	E		Ngesias
42.0	BBE-2-140	"Hill 300"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	134E	Y	F		Ngesias
2.0	BBE-2-141	"China Wall"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge. As shown on Map 14 in Smith, R. R., Approach to the Philippines. 1953.	140Y	Y	G		Ngesias
45.0	BBE-2-142	"Death Valley"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	134D	Y	H		Ngesias
44.0	BBE-2-143	"Hill 140"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141Q	Y	I		Ngesias
55.0	BBE-2-144	"draw"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141R	Y	J		Ngesias
56.0	BBE-2-145	"draw"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141N	Y	K		Ngesias
43.0	BBE-2-146	"Boyd Ridge"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141R	Y	L		Ngesias
5.0	BBE-2-147	"Five Brothers"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141U	Y	M		Ngesias
49.0	BBE-2-148	"Baldy"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141M	Y	N		Ngesias

List of Remaining Sites and Ruins
of 1944 Invasion and Capture of Peleliu.

PRI	SITE NO	SITE DESCRIPTION	HIST. PERIOD	SITE LOCATION	MIL GRID	IN PK	PHOTO REF.	MEASUREMENTS	VILLAGE
50.0	BBE-2-149	"Baldy Ridge"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141M	Y	O		Ngesias
51.0	BBE-2-150	"Knobs"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141N	Y	P		Ngesias
47.0	BBE-2-151	"Wattie Ridge"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141H	Y			Ngesias
48.0	BBE-2-152	"Ridge 3"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141Q	Y			Ngesias
46.0	BBE-2-153	"Ridge 120"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141N	Y			Ngesias
54.0	BBE-2-154	"unnamed ridge"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	141N	Y			Ngesias
56.2	BBE-2-155	"Hill B"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	143B	Y	T		Ngesias
56.1	BBE-2-156	"Hill 100"	Y	Bloody Nose Ridge	144U	Y	U		Ngesias
29.5	BBE-2-159	Grumman Avenger torpedo bomber	Y	In mangrove East of Rois Ngerub.		Y	BH86-8-18		Ngesias
123.5	BBE-2-162	Old tower	Y	South end of Bloody Nose Ridge		Y			Ngesias
56.5	BBE-2-164	The local "last command post"	Y	at Irur on NE edge of Rois Omleblochel, or Walt Ridge.		Y	BH86-7-27		Ngesias
93.5	BBE-2-165d	Diesel fuel storage bunker.	Y	North of 95d.	134W Y	Y	BH86-6-23		Ngesias
21.7	BBE-2-167d	Japanese Shrine	N	Walt Ridge near borrow pit.		Y	TT83-2-22		Ngesias
901.0	BBE-3- 8d	Carrier Aircraft Service Unit 4Q shop area (pads of quonset huts and traces of camp roads)	N		123B	Y			Ngerkeyukl
902.0	BBE-3- 9d	North sector of Site 8d are quonset pads -- probably remains of meal halls and office buildings	N	125V	125V	Y			Ngerkeyukl
75.0	BBE-3- 23d	Japanese Tank type 95 HA GO. Turret missing and tracks blown off.	Y	N end of Runway B	128M	Y	TT83-1-30		Ngerkeyukl
14.0	BBE-3- 24d	Pillbox with 37 mm anti-tank gun	Y	S promontory, White Beach 2 at beach elevation.	128K	Y	TT83-3-2	3.0 m wide at the embrasure wall and 6.25 m from the firing port to rear wall.	Ngerkeyukl

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20.0	BBE-3- 25d	Anti-tank gun pillbox for 75 mm field piece (the 75mm gun sits in water below pillbox)	Y	White Beach 2, 50 m S of site 24d pillbox	128K	Y		Pillbox is 2.8 m wide at the embrasure wall and 5.8 m wide at the rear. Entrance is 2.35 m widee. Exterior height is 2 m, & it is 1.8 m high inside. Front wall 1 meter thick.	Ngerkeyukl
19.0	BBE-3- 26d	Coral ridge gun positions and pillboxes	Y	White Beach on coral ridge to rear of beach	128D -133 Q	Y			Ngerkeyukl
17.0	BBE-3- 27d	Camouflaged pillbox built into coral ridge	Y	45 m S of pillbox 25d, 2.2 m from White Beach	128L	Y	TT83-2-34	Concrete firing port is 400 x 900 mm.	Ngerkeyukl
18.0	BBE-3- 28d	Rifle and machine gun positions	Y	8-14 m behind White Beach line	128L	Y			Ngerkeyukl
15.0	BBE-3- 29d	Pillbox w/buried 75 mm gun	Y	N promontory of White Beach, 60 m N of parking area (1st pillbox from parking area).	133Q ?	Y	TT83-2-35	Pillbox measures 3.5 meters wide x 5.5 m from firing port face to rear entrance. The height is 1.7 meters with a coral cover on top of the concrete.	Ngerkeyukl
21.0	BBE-3- 30d	Pillbox w/exploded machine gun barrel	Y	N Promontory of White Beach, 90 m N of 29d	133Q ?	Y			Ngerkeyukl
16.0	BBE-3- 31d	20 mm gun pillbox, with pedestal.	Y	N Promontory White Beach, 40 m N and W of 30d	133Q ?	Y			Ngerkeyukl
23.0	BBE-3- 32d	Rebar & coral shelter cave	Y	N Promontory White Beach, to rear of 31d	133Q ?	Y			Ngerkeyukl
24.0	BBE-3- 33d	Machine gun nest remains	Y	N side of promontory, White Beach 14.2 m from pillbox 31d	133Q ?	Y			Ngerkeyukl

List of Remaining Sites and Ruins
of 1944 Invasion and Capture of Peleliu.

PRI	SITE NO	SITE DESCRIPTION	HIST. PERIOD	SITE LOCATION	MIL GRID	IN PK	PHOTO REF.	MEASUREMENTS	VILLAGE
906.0	BBE-3- 34d	U. S. Island Commander living area remains	N	N side of promontory behind White Beach	133Q	Y		Commander's house foundation is 6.33 meters wide x 18.31 meters long with a 2.5 x 6.33 meter pad for a screened porch. Porch pad at entrance is 1.45 meters wide x 1.05 m long. T pad prob Officers Cb	Ngerkeyukl
41.5	BBE-3- 35d	LVT4A personnel carrier buried in sand	Y	S end White Beach	128G	Y			Ngerkeyukl
41.6	BBE-3- 36d	Japanese fuel drum emplacment	Y	Edge of forest, 1/2 way down White Beach	133B ?	Y			Ngerkeyukl
22.0	BBE-3- 37d	Cave 3.5 m long, improved w/rebar and narrow guage rail	Y	White Beach Coral Ridge, 60-190 m inland from White Beach--broken by road at 128H, 10 m N of end.	128L ?	Y		(Road mentioned in location was grown over in October 1986)	Ngerkeyukl
27.0	BBE-3- 38d	Cave at 30 m, on reverse slope	Y	White Beach Coral Ridge 19 m N of road cut through ridge @ 128H	128L	Y			Ngerkeyukl
28.0	BBE-3- 39d	First of 2 caves on reverse slope.	Y	White Beach Coral Ridge 43 m N of road cut through ridge @ 128H	128L ?	Y			Ngerkeyukl
28.5	BBE-3- 40d	2nd cave on reverse slope.	Y	White Beach coral ridge next to 39d.		Y			Ngerkeyukl
29.0	BBE-3- 41d	Gun emplacement carved into coral	Y	White Beach Coral Ridge next to cave 40d	128L ?	Y			Ngerkeyukl
30.0	BBE-3- 42d	3 caves. Other two are 43d and 44d.	Y	White Beach Coral Ridge, within 10 m N of 41d	128L	Y			Ngerkeyukl
31.0	BBE-3- 45d	Japanese defensive position in coral ridge	Y	White Beach Coral Ridge 120 m N of end described in site 37d	128G	Y			Ngerkeyukl

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PRI	SITE NO	SITE DESCRIPTION	HIST. PERIOD	SITE LOCATION	MIL GRID	IN PK	PHOTO REF.	MEASUREMENTS	VILLAGE
32.0	BBE-3- 46d	5 caves. Others are 47d, 48d, 49d, and 50d.	Y	White Beach Coral Ridge,200 m N of end described site 37d (road is 70 m W of ridge here)	128B	Y			Ngerkeyukl
37.0	BBE-3- 51d	7.7mm machine gun pillbox	Y	White Beach Coral Ridge at N end of site 37d ridge -- 40 m from road near N. Promentory.	133M	Y	BH86-7-33		Ngerkeyukl
38.0	BBE-3- 52d	37 mm tank pillbox	Y	White Beach Coral Ridge descr 37d at N end promontory	133M	Y			Ngerkeyukl
39.0	BBE-3- 53d	Caves and rifle pits	Y	White Beach Coral Ridge near site 52d	133M	Y			Ngerkeyukl
7.0	BBE-3-131	White Beach	Y		133	Y	TT83-1-22		Ngerkeyukl
27.5	BBE-3-157d	Gun positions on top of promontory high point.	Y	White Beach 2, S. Promentory.		Y			Ngerkeyukl
60.1	BBE-3-158d	Marine transfer case w/ screw attached.	Y	Near pillbox 27d, White Beach 2		Y			Ngerkeyukl
911.0	BBE-4- 83d	American housing area, clothesline poles	N		133T ?	Y			Ngerchol
97.0	BBE-4-106d	Amber Beach Defensive Works	Y	Ridge 60 m behind beach to less than a meter from tide. (not shown on map)	139G -159 Q	N			Ngerchol
98.0	BBE-4-107d	Japanese oil drum emplacement	Y	Amber Beach 20 m up beach from U. S. access road. (not shown on map)		N			Ngerchol
99.0	BBE-4-109d	Pillbox	Y	the Promontory at Kloulklubed Village	156B	N			Ngerchol
100.0	BBE-4-110d	Pillbox w/ammo magazine	Y	Kloulklubed Village, 45 m from 109d at 98 deg	156C	N			Ngerchol
101.0	BBE-4-111d	Oil drum emplacement for 75 mm gun	Y	Kloulklubed Village 55 m at 56 deg from school	156C	N			Ngerchol

List of Remaining Sites and Ruins
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102.0	BBE-4-112d	Pillbox, 20 mm caisson	Y	Kloulklubed Village. (not shown on map)	156D	N			Ngerchol
103.0	BBE-4-113d	Oil drum emplacement for 7.7 mm gun	Y	Kloulklubed Village, 125m @ 250 deg from radio station	156K	N			Ngerchol
104.0	BBE-4-114d	Japanese inter-island radio station	Y	Kloulklubed Village.	156G	N			Ngerchol
124.0	BBE-4-115d	Radio station oil storage building	Y	Kloulklubed Village	156G	N			Ngerchol
125.0	BBE-4-116d	321st RCT monument (also called Wildcat Div memorial).	N	South edge of Kloulklubed Village.	156K	N			Ngerchol
126.0	BBE-4-117d	Peleliu cemetery and Japanese monument.	N	1/2 mi S of Kloulklubed Village.		N	TT85-1-28,7		Ngerchol
127.0	BBE-4-119d	Japanese causeway to Ngesebus Isle	Y	Kloulklubed Village	159R	N			Ngerchol
128.0	BBE-4-120d	Peleliu dock	N	Kloulklubed Village	159R	N			Ngerchol
129.0	BBE-4-121d	Pontoon barge	?	in water offshore	159N	N			Ngerchol
130.0	BBE-4-122d	Pillbox	Y	Edge of forest NE of 159S scrap pile 110 deg 80 m from 120d dock	159S	N			Ngerchol
131.0	BBE-4-123d	Pillbox	Y	E of 122d	134M	N			Ngerchol
84.0	BBE-4-129d	Phosphate plant foundation defensive strong point.	Y		159v	N			Ngerchol
105.0	BBE-4-134	Amber Beach	Y		146	N	GB86-5-31		Ngerchol
60.0	BBE-5- 1d	Pillbox gun positions for 7.7mm machine gun.	Y	Scarlet Beach 1, 250 deg SW and 22 meters from turnaround. Pillbox 4.2 meters S of road.	121F	Y		Pillbox is 4.0 x 5.0 meters, constructed of coral and concrete built into a coral crag.	Teliu
61.0	BBE-5- 2d	Mortar pit	Y	In coral pit 5 meters to rear of pillbox 1d.	121F	Y		The mortar pit is 2.1 m deep and 4.0 meters in diameter.	Teliu

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PRI	SITE NO	SITE DESCRIPTION	HIST. PERIOD	SITE LOCATION	MIL GRID	IN PK	PHOTO REF.	MEASUREMENTS	VILLAGE
75.7	BBE-5- 3d	(1st) Boes ra Talkakl cave, with 2 rice bowls and a projectile	Y	Telkakl Isle (nearest to road junction)	122F	Y		17.5 meter long, J-shaped.	Teliu
75.8	BBE-5- 4d	(2nd) Boes ra Talkakl cave with Japanese hand grenade (Model 97) and a number of mess kits.	Y	Telkakl Isle.	122F	Y			Teliu
75.9	BBE-5- 5d	(3rd) Boes ra Talkakl cave	Y	Telkakl Isle (farthest from road junction).	122F	Y			Teliu
85.0	BBE-5- 6d	(4) U.S. pontoon barge tugs, Type 4C w/intact screws and propellers	N	In scrap area near Orange Beach Harbor	122I	N		4.25 m long on its deck, 2.75 m bottom to deck, bottom 2.15 m long. Pilot house is at rear of deck.	Teliu
132.0	BBE-5- 7d	Tank farm with 4 of 9 original fuel tanks shielded by low revetments	Y	This is in an agricultural area today.	122J	N			Teliu
106.0	BBE-5- 10d	(3) unfinished concrete base for 127mm Dual Mt AA gun emplacements. Good condition.	Y	near airport	123B	Y		7.05 in Peleliu Terrain & Defenses	Teliu
65.0	BBE-5- 11d	Shell damaged stone pillbox	Y	Bloody Beach, 4.2m W of present road at end of narrowest part of neck to Omidkill peninsula.	123P	Y		Pillbox is 6.0 m wide and 6.0 m long, height is 1.75 m, walls are 800mm thick.	Teliu
107.0	BBE-5- 12d	2 water tanks	Y	At other end of narrowest section of tip of East Beach by site 11d	123R	Y		Tanks are 3.0 m diameter and 1.75 m deep.	Teliu
66.0	BBE-5- 13d	Small pontoon barge (standard 7x3 cell)	?	West side of road before narrow section of site 11d	123R	Y			Teliu
65.2	BBE-5- 15d	Concrete beach shelter	Y	Orange Beach, 22 m inland of beach and 130 m N of American military cemetery	124	Y		3.25 m wide and 4.0 m long.	Teliu

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86.0	BBE-5- 16d	Remains of 150 mm Japanese searchlight and platform	Y	South of site 15d and 100 m N of American military cemetery 17d.	124	Y		Platform is 2.25 m high, 4.5 m wide and 9.55 m long.	Teliu
58.0	BBE-5- 17d	American military cemetery, 81st and 1st Div.	N	Orange Beach 2.	124N	Y	TT83-3-5,4		Teliu
56.9	BBE-5- 18d	Chapel building	Y	32 m N of flagpole at American military cemetary, site 17d	124N	Y		Corner walls near flag pole are 2.29 m wide and 2.5 m long (to the North). Entrance is 5.22 meters wide.	Teliu
75.5	BBE-5- 19d	Round 4-gun blockhouse, excellent condition (taken by 3d Battalion of 7th Marines, 17 September)	Y	Scarlet Beach 3. Excellent condition--metal embrasure shields, steel obs turret, ammo magazn intact	125W	Y	BH86-7-8	Described & illustrated pg 4.29 of Peleliu, its Terrain and Defenses	Teliu
903.0	BBE-5- 20d	U. S. 73rd Naval Construction Battalion camp -- numerous quonset foundations	N	Mocheingel Bay in area of 19d blockhouse.	125W	Y	GB86-6-15	Unidentified steel structure 27.5 meters high, numerous quonset foundations, and underground generator shelter.	Teliu
905.0	BBE-5- 22d	Repair facility remains for Naval Base #3252 (21d)	N	Lower Orange Beach halfway between edge of cemetary and Orange Beach harbor road.	124W	Y		Quonset pads and scrap.	Teliu
56.6	BBE-5-130	Orange Beach	Y		124	Y	TT83-1-20		Teliu
59.5	BBE-5-132	Scarlet Beach.	Y	Portion of this is also locally known as "Bloody Beach."	123P	Y	GB86-6-20		Teliu
75.6	BBE-5-160	Wheeled gun.	Y	Next to 19d round blockhouse.		Y	BH86-7-10		Teliu
89.9	BBE-5-161	Scarlet Beach Japanese Memorial.	N	Southern tip of island		Y	BH86-7-16		Teliu

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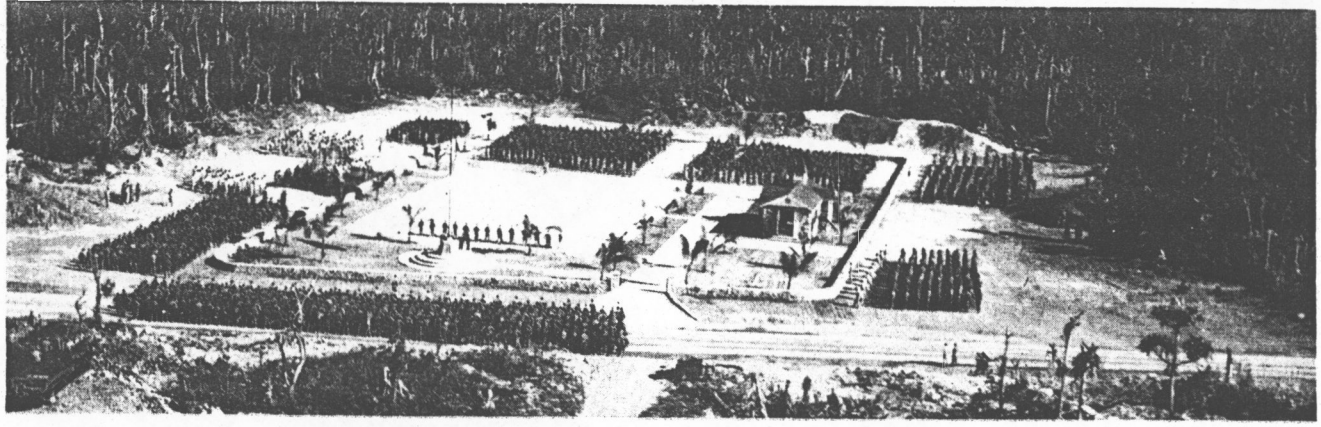
59.6	BBE-5-163	"Bloody Beach"	Y	A local part of Scarlet Beach.		Y	BH86-7-12		Teliu



An aerial view of the dedication of the Angaur Cemetery

ber the Division was directed to move, as shipping became available, to a Marine division camp on Guadalcanal. Although the climate on Guadalcanal would not be a noticeable improvement, the change would be good as the base had been long established and well developed. Once again an advance party was formed, and, led by the Division Artillery commander, left by air from Peleliu on the 28th of November. A day later the orders were changed. Messages to Guadalcanal sent the advance party farther south to New Caledonia and a more temperate climate.

The first unit to leave was the 322d Infantry. The usual weary job of policing, packing, crating and marking began immediately. By the 6th of December the regiment had just about finished its work and the 1st and 2d Battalions sailed from Angaur. Movement dragged from then on. The remainder of the 322d Infantry did not leave until the 27th of December. Departures from Peleliu started in early January when the 1st Battalion of the 323d Infantry and some other troops sailed on the 7th and the remainder of the regiment on the 20th. The 321st Combat Team, which now included the 321st Infantry, the 316th Field Artillery Battalion, Company A of the 306th Engineer Battalion and Company D of the 710th Tank Battalion, was the last to go, for until the arrival of the 111th Infantry Regiment, the 321st Combat Team was to defend Peleliu under the operational control of the island commander. On the 6th of February the 111th Infantry relieved the 321st Combat Team, which finally started its trip south on the 8th.

General Mueller places a wreath on the Peleliu monument

As the Division command post closed on Peleliu on the 14th of January 1945, when the Division Commander and part of his staff left to travel by air to New Caledonia, and as the 321st Combat Team sailed on the 8th of February, another great period in the history of the Wildcat Division ended. As the departing combat veterans saw once again from the sea the land which they had assaulted in September, they knew that the Division would be ready for whatever the next period might bring. They thought again, too, of the friends left buried on these islands.

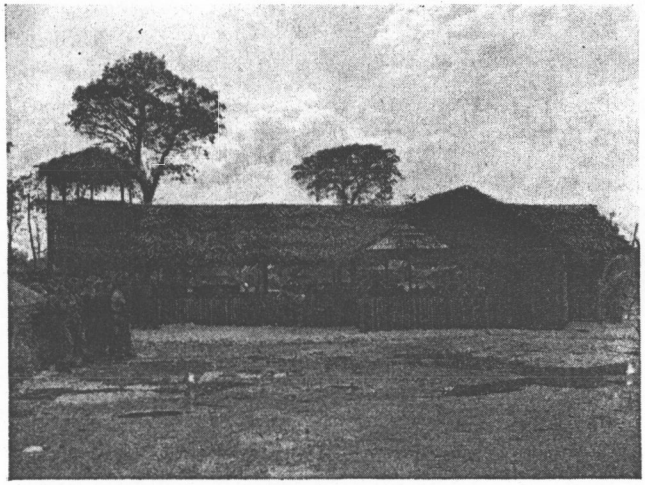
It was during the earliest phase of the battle on Angaur, as heavy guns and small arms were firing close by, that graves registration and engineer details set to work surveying and preparing the Angaur cemetery. On the 19th of September the site selected was a devastated jungle of broken palms, torn vegetation, and shell-marked coral rock. One day later the first burial was made in the new cemetery. No more reverent or solemn rites were ever observed than these accorded here to the dead of the Wildcat Division. Sometimes twice daily, as the combat continued, services appropriate to the faiths of the deceased were

conducted. The Division Chaplains, Lieutenant Colonel Percy M. Hickcox and Major Harry W. Hargrove, alternated in their attendance at the cemetery, and Fathers Harold W. Hesse (Captain) of the 1138th Engineer Group and Joseph T. Kane (Captain) of Division Artillery read the final rites for those of the Catholic faith. Chaplains from the infantry regiments and battalions, notably Chaplain (Captain) Edwin W. Leverenz, 322d Infantry, assisted at the cemeteries whenever duties elsewhere permitted.

As soon as possible, plans were drawn and approved and work on beautification of the cemetery was begun by the 306th Engineer Battalion. The area was graded, grass, shrubs and trees planted, a stone wall erected, and a chapel built of native stone. On the 24th of November, dedicatory services were held at the Division Cemetery on Angaur Island, where by this time were buried 253 members of the Division and attached or associated units of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. All troops on Angaur and the Division Commander and part of his staff attended the ceremony. After the principal address, made by the Division Commander, and as the sound of the firing squad's three volleys waned, the U.S. colors were raised to full mast during the playing of the National Anthem. Bronze plaques with appropriate inscriptions were later placed in the chapel and on the gateposts at the entrance to the cemetery.

The care of the cemetery on Peleliu, near Orange Beach, became a responsibility of the 81st Division after the departure of the Marines. In the early days of the assault Major General Rupertus, commanding the 1st Marine Division, dedicated the area as the resting place for the large number of troops of his command who had fallen in the initial phase of the battle for Peleliu. Early in December work of beautification of the cemetery and erection of a monument was initiated by the 306th Engineer Battalion, and on the 27th of December, at a solemn ceremony the Division monument was dedicated and tribute rendered in memory of the dead. On this occasion eight thousand troops from the 321st Infantry, 323d Infantry, Division Artillery, the 306th Engineer Battalion, the 306th Medical Battalion, Division Headquarters, Special Troops, and attached units, assembled for the impressive program. The Division Commander voiced for the troops the feelings they held for the men who were buried in the Peleliu cemetery. He caused the 81st Division monument to be unveiled, and after the firing of the volleys and during the playing of taps, placed on it a wreath, similar to those adorning the grave markers throughout the cemetery. The raising of the flag and the playing of the National Anthem, the benediction, and the *Wildcat March* by the Band, concluded the ceremony. As on Angaur, bronze plaques were later placed on the monument.

Memorial monument erected by the 321st Infantry near their chapel on Peleliu



Dedication of the 1138th Engineer Group chapel on Peleliu

Other memorials to the deceased erected on Peleliu were the 321st Infantry's chapel, "Mother of Sorrows," designed and built under the supervision of Chaplain (Captain) Anthony J. O'Driscoll, the flagpole to the memory of First Lieutenant Joseph E. Cann erected by the 316th Field Artillery, the rustic

chapel constructed by the 1138th Engineer Group, and the monument on the tallest peak of Bloody Nose Ridge, dedicated by the 323d Infantry.

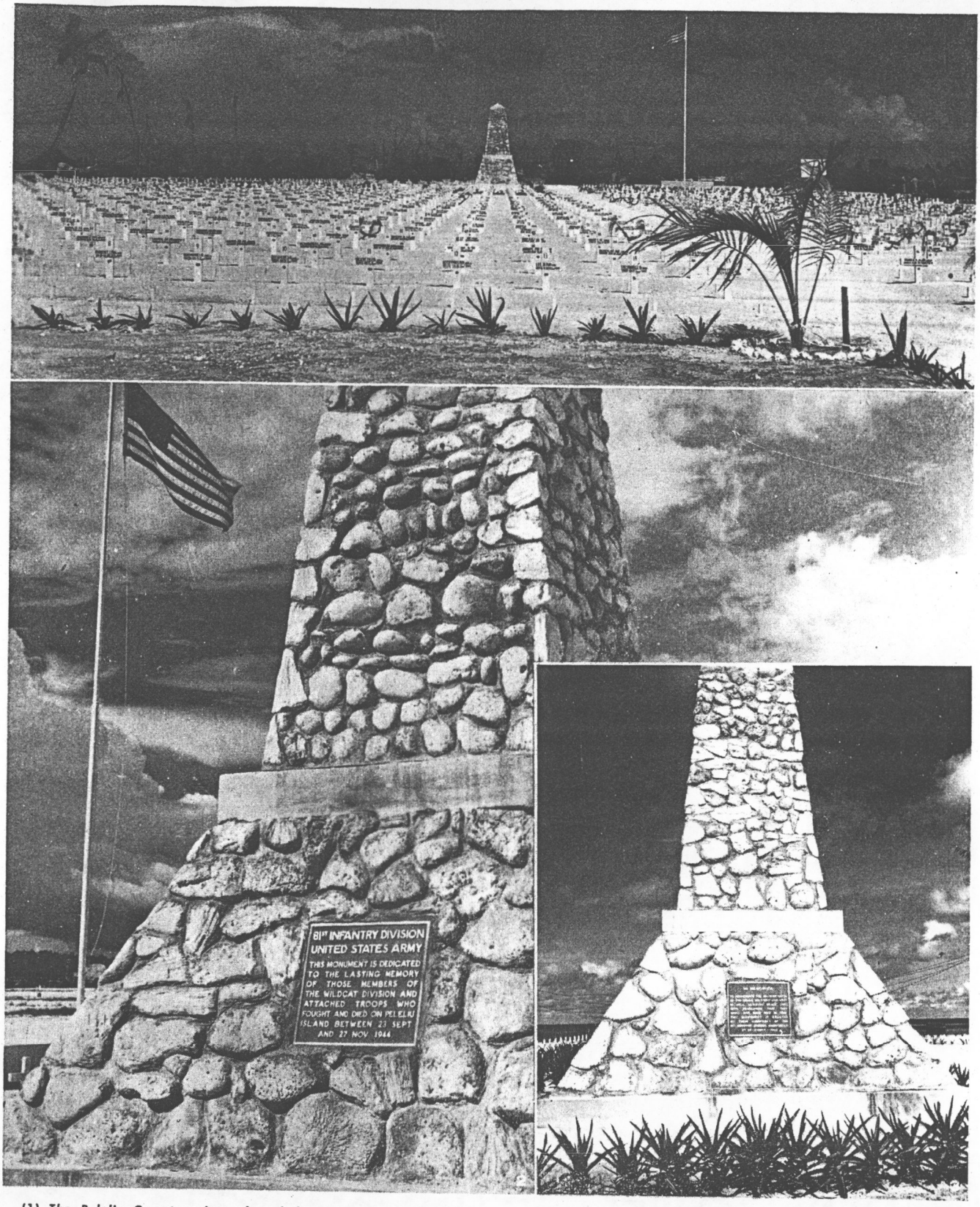
Arrangements were finally completed by which photographs of the Wildcat Division cemeteries could be sent to the next of kin, showing the grave location of particular concern to the home addressed in each case. The next of kin also were sent a brief narrative describing the circumstances of death, and information on the dedication of the cemeteries. The mailing of the pictures followed letters of condolence sent by the Division Commander, the chaplains and the unit commanders. As the Division sailed from the Palaus its members knew that every care had been taken for the friends left behind. The Division's sentiments had been expressed by the Division Commander in his dedication address at the Angaur cemetery two months before, when he said:

Today we are met in this tropical setting for the solemn ceremony of dedicating these carefully prepared grounds and this beautiful 81st Infantry Division Memorial Chapel to the lasting memory of those men who gave their all for our country . . .

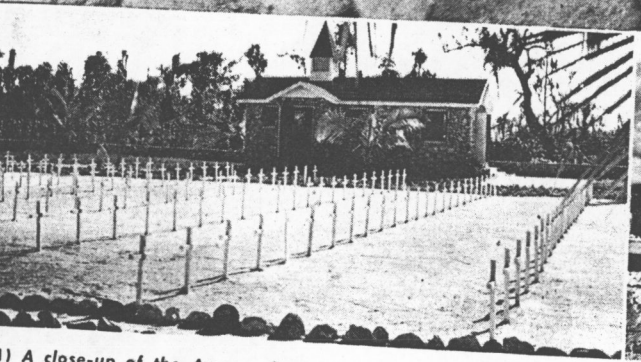
In this simple ceremony of dedication we recognize the cost of the liberties we enjoy as a people, and herewith set aside this chapel and strip of tropical island as a place to which our hearts can turn in memory of fallen comrades and more, perhaps, as a token to their sorrowing homes that we hold these heroic dead in highest admiration and esteem . . .

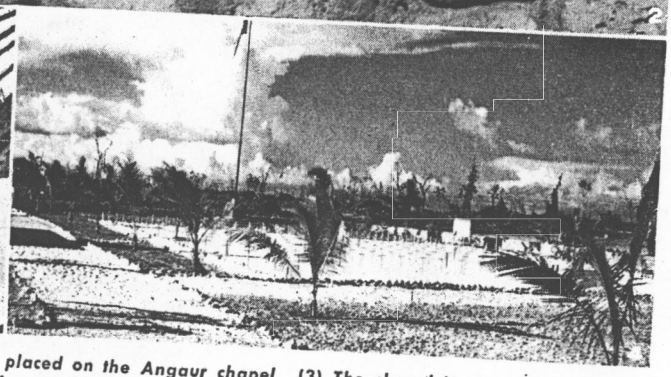
. . . They were good soldiers, faithful to their mission and an honor to the Division and the cause we alike serve. For them there is nothing further we can do . . . There remains now only the Ritual of Dedication, our feeble efforts to express in this form a gratitude which words cannot fathom, salute them according to military custom, and then with our faces set forward, close ranks and march out proudly to our next mission.

We leave them now; we shall not forget them. . . .



(1) The Peleliu Cemetery just after dedication ceremonies. (2) A close-up of the Peleliu Cemetery flagpole and monument. (3) The dedication plaque placed on the Peleliu monument.





(1) A close-up of the Angaur Cemetery. (2) The dedication plaque placed on the Angaur chapel. (3) The chapel in Angaur Cemetery. (4) Another view of Angaur Cemetery.