

U. S. S. PLUMAS COUNTY (LST 1083)
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Dr. Allyn H. Symmer
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400208

11 December 1957

Dr. Robert A. Conard, M. D.
Head, AEC and Naval Medical Team
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Associated Universities Inc.
Upton, Long Island, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Conard,

This is in reply to your letter of December 5, 1957. Thank you for all of the much needed information. Most of my questions have been answered and I anticipate no difficulty on this end. I hope I can clarify any points you may have been in doubt on.

I am sure I can anchor very close to the beach and I will make a beach survey with a small boat directly upon arrival at Rongelap and will help them if possible. I have a gangway type accommodation ladder with steps and a platform at the bottom and top which I am sure will meet your requirements.

We can certainly provide the shower facility you will require and I believe without any hardships to the crew can designate it for the exclusive use of the Marshallese for the period we will be there. I think that we should be alright on water if we practice frugality on the trip there, and my evaporators continue to function properly. I expect to arrive at Rongelap with about eighty thousand gallons. I expect the water supply on Rongelap to be very limited so I plan on giving them all the water I can spare prior to our departure.

We shall certainly do everything we can to foster good relations with the people there. I will insure an adequate supply of good rations.

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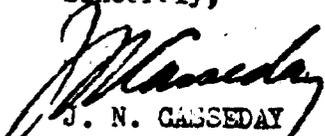
We can provide a hundred pounds of air pressure on board but our capacity is limited so I estimate that we could provide about forty pounds sustained pressure and if only required for short periods up to a hundred pounds. I assume your air driven motor would only require air in short bursts so I do not anticipate any problem there. If necessary I could also throw on the line one of our main engine clutch air compressors for a limited time, although this wouldn't increase the pressure it could help out in the volume somewhat.

I believe we can accommodate Dr. Donaldson and his group nicely, probably not berthed in officers country, but certainly in the wardroom for meals; so I am agreeable providing CNO gives them the proper clearance for the trip on board. We probably will be able to provide them with a boat. I carry two landing craft boats (LCVP) with a capacity of about thirty six persons including crew so I believe one should be sufficient for use in transporting the natives to the ship. If the Marshallese have canoes they can be a big help. If you feel, however, that your requirements will necessitate the use of both my boats then please ask Dr. Donaldson to try and arrange to pick up another one for his use.

I am attempting to have my arrival date in Pearl remain 1 February as originally scheduled. This will allow me some time for upkeep there before sailing as well as liberty for the crew as a break in what otherwise would be a long voyage.

I will be pleased to hear from you regarding any other assistance we can render to insure your mission is a complete success.

Sincerely,


J. N. GALSEDAY
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer
U.S.S. PLUMAS COUNTY (LST-1093)

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