

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
APPLIED FISHERIES LABORATORY
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

410251

DAILY LOG

Kwajalein

January 20 and 21, 1955

Lowman and Seymour

clear, warm, wind about 20 knots
at 700
moderately rough

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January 20

Sitting and talking and not much else. Down to the ship, talked with Rinehart. Frank trying to get compressor for aqua lung. Gear went aboard today. Sun bath for one hour.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

January 21

Sailing set for 1730 today. Have an interpreter by the name of _____ whose home is Wotje. Others boarding the "Rio Grande" at Kwaj are Commander _____, Lt. _____ and _____.

The "Rio Grande" is an OG rather than an AO as mentioned in a letter the other day and also larger than I first guessed. It is 310 feet long and approximately 4000 tons; OG stands for oiler, gasoline. An AO is an auxiliary oiler, a transport much larger than this ship.

Normal operations at Kwaj today are at a virtual standstill because of two emergencies. One is a PEY-5A that went down yesterday about half way between Johnston Island and Kwaj. An SOS was picked up late yesterday but there has been no contact today. The other is that an OG similar to this ship is aground in Kwajalein lagoon.

1300 - The OG is afloat but with considerable damage. The "Rio Grande" is moving out into the lagoon to make room at dockside.

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

STATUS VERIFIED UNCL

BY Jim Gray DATE 6/16/81

NON-CCRP

Office of Energy
State Office
ARCHIVES

Oct 21 1955 (U.S. Navy) [Signature]

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Likiep

January 22, 1955

Ship's Officers
& Other Ship
Personnel

Fair, usual wind

NRDL

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

AEC

(Kotje)

AFL

Operations: Departed Kwajalein about 1730 yesterday and arrived off Likiep in early morning. OG did not enter lagoon. Two motor whalers put overboard and took the "passengers" and some of crew members ashore via the pass to the south and west of Likiep Island. Engine in one whaler went dead and was towed. Everyone thoroughly soaked from the surf breaking over the whaler. Took 1½ to 2 hours to reach Likiep Island. While drifting without motor outside of the pass made a plankton tow and collected a water sample. Saw Anton and obtained his permission to make collection. He had samples of breadfruit, papaya, bananas, pandanus, taro, arrowroot, squash, coconuts, and a leafy vegetable brought to us. He also sent out his fisherman, i.e. net fishermen, but they were unsuccessful. We walked to the SW end of Island to make rotenone set. Could not find suitable spot so came back about half way to village on lagoon side where a small hill was made. Also collected water, sand, soil, a few algae, coral and one sea cucumber. All samples, including all the biological samples, also taken by NRDL.

Since all landings, except at Fonglap, will be made from the sea it is intended that Fonglap is the only atoll where more than one day will be spent. Putting the boats over while at sea is a hazardous task.

No indication that survey meter readings were above background.

Two of the chiefs fished all day long while the OG was slowly cruising back and forth outside the atoll, but caught no fish and had no strikes.

Utirik

January 23, 1955 (Sunday)

Lowman and Seymour

Fair, fresh E:SE wind

Put off from "Rio Grande" about three miles off Utirik Pass. Same conditions as yesterday, not the best.

After entering lagoon ran about six miles into the sea to Utirik Island. Everyone dripping wet. Mejan obtained permission to take samples. Running time from 00, 1 3/4 hours.

Went to north end of Island, but no place possible for poisoning. Several channels running from ocean side reef to lagoon and water moving so fast it was difficult to stand. Moved back on lagoon side about halfway to village. Much coral, including fungia, and great many sea cucumbers, but no algae. Fish kill not very good. Many damsel fish, wrasse, but little else.

Obtained three coconuts and a sample ^{of} pandanus, breadfruit, arrowroot and papaya. Did not attempt to get birds because of natives. Utirik was nicer than expected. Some of the fellows thought it was a better place to live than Likiep.

Took two plankton tows, i.e., two nets in lagoon just off village. Have water sample from both inside and outside of lagoon; also soil and beach sample.

Survey meter readings two or three times that of Likiep.

Fishermen fished all day from 00, but without luck.

Bikar

Lowman and Seymour

January 24, 1955

Clear, hot, 15 - 20 knot wind

About 0800 off Bikar. Sea is high. Running to the looking for shelter in lee of the Island. Three islands visible. Off Bikar Island. Found no shelter and since the entrance is narrow and treacherous the Captain asked that no ships be put over. Will ask for a flight to Bikar at a later date.

About 0830 running for Rongerik. Expected arrival about 2230. Speed $12\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Plan on staying over night on Eniwetak Island for purpose of increasing collecting time and also an opportunity to collect rats, langusta, birds, and to tow plankton nets and fish in the southern pass i.e.; will go ashore tomorrow and stay overnight tomorrow. CG will remain at sea off Bock Island from which point the launchings will be made.

Collected one liter water sample off Bikar. Also collecting samples every two hours while enroute to Rongerik. We are filtering a one liter sample through #50 Whatman paper. Will dry paper and then count with survey meter. Filtering takes three to four hours (six hours for one liter)

Arrived off Rongerik at approximately 2230.

Energy

Office

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Rongerik - Rongelap
Lowman and Seymour

January 25, 1955

Clear, hot - wind 25 knots ENE

Rongerik landing did not take place. Captain decided that because of high seas and wind it was too hazardous to risk launching whale boats. About 0900 headed for Rongelap. Supposedly we will anchor in lagoon here. Plan now is to go ashore in late afternoon and stay overnight in Rongerik village. Taking water samples enroute from Rongerik to Rongelap. Took one liter sample off Rongerik.

About 1330 anchored in Rongelap lagoon off north end of Rongelap Island. Wind velocity 25 - 30 knots at 070. About 3 p.m. disembarked with all gear for overnight stay at Rongelap village. Again everyone was drenched on the way in, but it was only a half hour run. After establishing camp in the schoolhouse we started out for a poison station by going south along lagoon side. Walked nearly to end of Island, then back on ocean side without seeing one suitable place. The tide was high and the wind strong. Returned to camp at 1615. In meantime and had gone in opposite direction and had good luck about three-eighths mile north of village on lagoon side. After returning to camp returned to where they had poisoned and picked up more fish. Have goatfish, large daniel-fish, surgeon, blennies, groupers and miscellaneous other fish.

After dinner went to outer reef with flashlights. Tide not low enough to get to outer reef. Caught convict, surgeon, daniel fish with greatest of ease. Also caught on the beach Carcinus, Ocypode, Canobita, and a large shore crab. Many sea cucumbers present. Did not see Langusta.

Fongelap

Lowman and Sigsbee

January 26, 1955

Hbt, wind 20-25 knots

Collected following fruits and vegetables: papaya, pandanus, coconuts (5), squash (2#), and arrowroot (10#). No breadfruit although there were trees, and no taro. Terns (unknown species), one golden plover and one turnstone were also collected. Plankton tows were taken in lagoon and a good catch was made. Soil from in front of hospital and beach sand from lagoon were taken. Water from cistern near hospital and sea water from lagoon were also sampled. No algae samples, very scarce or else poor looking. One rooster was shot for NRDI. About a dozen hens and roosters seen. Saw a medium sized brindle colored dog that appeared in healthy condition. Hog tracks also seen.

1115 disembarked for SW tip of Island to pick up rest of gang and then to head for Island across the Entrance. Spent over two hours getting party off beach in a high surf and in contacting the CG using flares and radio. When final permission came one boat had cooked out, water in diesel fuel. Had to cancel rest of day's trip. Was towed back to CG. Again got soaked. Arrived 1615.

Yesterday five fish were caught from CG while in lagoon; muscle and liver taken from each of following (1) *Epinephelus* sp., (2) *Lutjanus* (sp.?) a silver blue; and (3) *Epinephelus* (*fuscus*?). The two others were (1) and (3) and were given to NRDI as whole fish.

Sunray meter readings on Fongelap Island about 0.5 $\mu\text{r}/\text{hr}$.

Rongelap Atoll - Busch & Eniwetak
Islands
Lowman and Seymour

January 27, 1955

Fair, strong ESE wind

Anchored in lagoon off Rongelap Island, about 5 miles. Went overboard about 0830. Usual drenching on way in, seemed to go through the waves as often as over them. Plan is to survey Busch, Enialo, Eniaetok and Auidjet. We, APL, will only collect incidental samples. Evans is ill, so will help out in his area.

_____ Landed at 0945, near south end. Sand and excellent landing area. after birds and coral; collected water samples and drove stakes for ARDL. Left at 1055 for Enialo, but missed it and went on to Eniaetok; where we landed at 1140 just below spit near mid island; sand and excellent landing. Several huts, graves, a well kept island i.e. cleared of undergrowth. Same routine as at Busch. 1330 left for Auidjet, but didn't make it. After beating into the seas for an hour and a half with water breaking over the boat constantly, were forced to turn back. Crossing the Pass south of Northeast Pass was especially bad. Soon after turning back, boat #2 conked out and was taken in tow. It later got started and tow line was taken off. Later both boats #1 and #2 went dead at the same time. Boat #1 got started after 10 or 15 minutes and took #2 in tow. Later #1 got started again, but broke down twice more before getting back to the CG. Called it quits for the day.

Busch about 1 1/2 hr/hr
Eniaetok about 2 hr/hr

Rongelap Atoll - Labaredj Island

January 23, 1955

Lowman and Seymour

Fair, no rain Wind moderated slightly; 18-20 knots from 070.

0930 "Rio Grande" anchored about 3 miles off Labaredj. 1050 disembarked for Labaredj which lies upwind and took our regular beating and drenching, but it was a shorter run than usual. Found a good beach for landing. See Chart. and Heufer left on "Rio Grande" - sore throat - cold and sprained ankle. Reached about 1120. Low tide about 1300.

Collected fish in small tide pools on outer reef and on lagoon side at boat landing at saddle a little south of mid island. Collected coral on lagoon side and one species of algae, a white stringy type, on outer reef ocean side. Coconuts, a coconut crab, and arrow root collected near north end of island. A water sample from rain barrel also from same area. Collected a tern egg, bird droppings, two fairy terns and one noddy tern from the north central part of island. Shot second noddy tern near south end of island. Plankton tows taken along Labaredj Island, about one-half mile off. Labaredj was uninhabited and had relatively few coconut palms, none on south part of island. A few birds nesting here, but not many, probably less than 50. Yellow painted metal stake placed on south side of saddle at high tide level. Water sample also taken from lagoon. Glass ball collectors had a holiday.

Left beach at 1630. Whalebout #2 conked out and was towed in. Return was downwind, became smoother and also the wind had died down to 18-20 knots. However, gale warnings are again this evening.

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+2

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Kongelep Atoll - Naeelle Island

January 29, 1955

Lowman and Seymour

Mostly fair. Wind 16 - 18 knots E.

0835 Left anchorage. Sea still rough, but coming down some.

0950 Naeelle. Mid high tide, took boats within 50-75 yards of shore, then pushed off for deep water, sand and algae samples. and went down to 60 feet directly off Naeelle and got a good bottom and algae sample. Also a wonderful collection of algae and coral attached to anchor when it was brought in. Took usual 15-minute plankton tow about 3/4 of a mile off Naeelle. Good catch. Went ashore near middle of island. Collected coral, sea cucumbers, lagoon water sample, five coconuts, arrowroot, *Mossarschmidia*, *Scaevola*, *panlams*, *Quettarda*, *Triunfetta*, *Portulaca*, *Lepturis*, 1 noddy, 1 fairy tern, 3 tern eggs and fish. After circling island, chose the channel on north end for poisoning. Have a good assortment. Also 2 coconut crabs. Poisoning done at low tide which was approximately 1330.

Water running about 5 in at ground level and 3 in at waist level. Meter readings listed for other days was for waist level.

Left beach at about 1530. Loaded a couple of hundred yards out to boats. Course to 08 is directly downwind. Arrived at 08 at 1430. This was by far our best day so far.

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Rongelap Atoll - Lomuilal, Cojen
 and Lukuen Islands

January 30, 1955

Lowman and Seymour

Fair. Wind 16 - 18 knots

0840 Left anchorage. Fair sailing.

1020 Lomuilal Island. Mid tide, took rubber life raft for last 150 yards and made 55 foot dive for sand profile off Lomuilal. This is hottest island in atoll so decided to make a few collections at this and nearby Island. Because of stratification of radioactivity in deep water sand profile that Frank got yesterday it was decided to take another profile here today. Collected lagoon water, beach sand, island soil, arrowroot, noddy tern egg shell and droppings. Only a few coconut palms on Island, about 10. Water reading 8 μ /hr at waist level. Left about 1115.

1130 Pien Island. About two hours before low tide. Went all the way in with whaleboat. Good sandy landing. Another small island with only a half dozen coconut trees. Took fish station here. Several likely fish poisoning areas. Fish collecting fairly good. Spent time here. Also collected 3 sp. algae, 1 small langusta, 1 small octopus, 1 bird, 1 noddy and 1 fairy tern, 3 coconuts, arrowroot, soil and beach sand. Water readings 7 μ /hr at waist level. Left about 1430.

1525 Lukuen Island. Did not go ashore here but took plankton tow about one-half mile offshore. Usual 15 minute tow. Good catch. Netan caught a coconut crab. Boat landing was by rubber life raft to sand spit then walk to island. Came within 25 yards of sand spit. About 1610 departed. Tide here was a continual drenching and for awhile was taking water over faster than it could be pumped and bailed out. OG at 1730. Water reading 4 μ /hr at waist level on Lukuen Island.

One grouper and four snappers were caught by crew today. Are in freezer; will take samples in the morning. A core sampler was built by the crew today and tried out this evening, but without success.

At sea off Rongelap, then Rongerik

Lowman and Seymour

January 31, 1955

Fair, Wind 16-20 knots

0220 weighed anchor, Rongelap lagoon. Obtained sand sample from anchor. Set sail for Arbar Island via North East Passage.

1050 off Arbar Island looking the situation over. On ocean side. Captain decided seas were too high to put whaleboats over.

1115 Running for islands on western side of Rongelap.

About 1500 Situation here same as off Arbar, running for Rongerik Atoll.

At sea off Rongerik, Ailinginas
Lowman and Seymour

February 1, 1955
Fair, wind 13-20 knots ESE

0800 off Boek Island, Rongerik Atoll. Flying fish taken off deck and put in freezer. Captain decided it was too rough to put whaleboats over. Will not enter lagoon. Running to position off Eniaetok Island to look the situation over.

1050 off Eniaetok. Rougher here than off Boek. Will run for Ailinginas Atoll. Took water samples at 1130 and 1410.

1510 off Ailinginas. Conditions same here as at Rongerik. Flight to Rongerik has been requested.

1550 heading for Kwajalein, taking water samples enroute.