

Trip Report for Liktanur Voyage FY 76T #3 and FY 77 #1

Sept 17 through October 2, 1976

Purpose:

- a): Wotje Atoll: Evaluation of 11 thyroid cases discovered in March 1976.
- Sick call.
- Environmental sampling (soil and plants).
- Urine collection for Pu analysis.
- b): Ailuk Atoll: Sick call.
- Environmental Sampling (soil and plants)
- c): Utirik Atoll: Evaluation of Thyroid cases and other patients on active treatment started by us.
- X-ray of chest of exposed population.
- Urine collection for Pu analysis.
- Sick call.
- Environmental sampling.
- Discussion with village chiefs and people the contents of their letter to Roger Ray of July,9,1976, and the answer from James Liverman.
- d): Rongelap Atoll: Hematology examination of exposed population and some control persons that were missed on March survey.
- Sick Call.
- Urine collection for Pu analysis.
- Environmental sampling.
- Harbor
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e): Bikini Atoll: Sick call.

Environmental Sampling.

Collection of Urine for Pu analysis.

Packing of equipment; transfer to airplane; transfer responsibility
for trip from Knudsen to Weimer.

Participants:

a): from BNL; Medical Dept.

K. Knudsen, W. Scott, P Heotis, L. Knudsen

b): From BNL; Health Physisc and Safety Dept:

N. Greenhouse; J. Naidu

c): From University of Washington:

V. Nelson

d): From TT, Marshall Islands District Health Dept.:

I. Kisino, S. Shoniber, K. Hebert.

Itinerary:

Loading started Mon. 9/15. The medical trailer is in poor condition;
a separate memo to PASO and BNL on this subject will be submitted.

Participants from Majuro arrived on 9/16 and were accomodated in
Kwaj Lodge.

Participants from Mainland USA arrived on 9/17.

9/17, 1430 hrs: Ship departed for Ebeye to load the last items

9/17, 1630 hrs: Departed Ebeye. Sunny weather, light wind from SW.

9/18, 2000 hrs: Docked at Wotje after an unusually fast passage, aided
by the prevailing winds.

9/19, 1700 hrs: Departed Wotje for Ailuk.

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The missions on Wotje were completed. Details will be reported directly to BNL, Medical Dept.

9/20, at dawn: Arrived Ailuk Atoll. Anchored inside pass and used Boston whaler for transport to the islands of interest.

The missions were completed about 1630.

9/20, 1700: Departed Ailuk for Utirik.

9/21, at dawn, Arrived Utirik Atoll. Anchored off main island about 1030.

The missions on Utirik could not be completed due to a decision of the people not to cooperate. However, I did see the patients on active treatment and those under observation for thypoid nodules (unexposed people). These cases were all discussed with dr. Kisino and the Health aide, Lawor, who is replacing Joata for about 6 months. Sufficient medication for 9 months or more was given to the health aide, and I promised to supply him with more through TT Health Services should we not visit the islnd in March 1977.

The environmental sampling program was completed as planned.

A long village meeting on the grievances expressed in their letter of July, 9., 1976 will be covered in a special memo.

9/23, about 0900: Departed Utirik for Rongelap.

The wind shifted to NE shortly after our departure and the passage was swift anf pleasant.

9/24, 1400: Arrived Rongelap and beached the ship.

The missions on Rngelap were completed except for some chest x-ray examinations; due to equipment failure.

The people of Rongelap were shaken by a newspaper article published in The Micronesin Independent in Majuro August, 27, 1976:

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(Title: Blood Disease Feared For Bomb Victims). This is a situation that may have serious consequences and will be dealt with in a separate memo.

Several patients were brought from Rongelap to Ebeye for further treatment. The crew and the staff took the inconvenience with no objections, and the cook in particular took the added workload in stride and went out of his way to make sure that all were fed. I am grateful to the ship's master, and to our Global coordinator that we managed to provide this service for the people. The patients were accepted as passengers on the plane that carried us back to Kwajalein, and transferred to Ebeye on the 1430 ferry.

9/29, 1700: Departed Rongelap for Bikini.

9/30, about 0800: Arrived at Bikini and beached ship.

The missions at Bikini were completed

10/2 0700: ship moved from Bikini is. ^{to} Eniu. Equipment was transferred to airstrip and loaded on plane assisted by the TT frontloader.

10/2 1130: Departed Eniu on C-54 airplane.

10/2 1300: Arrived Kwajalein.

General:

The trip was blessed by fair weather and favorable winds.

The only equipment failure of consequence was that the auxiliary generator failed to operate during a few hours when the ship's generator had to be shut down. The failure did not affect the work in any way; it happened during the night, and the cold storage areas maintained acceptable temperatures.

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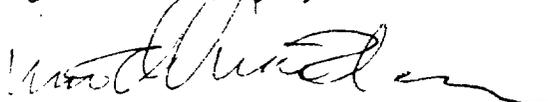
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The failure of the X-ray equipment will be dealt with in a special memo. The rule against littering in the lagoons was honored in the breach more than in the observance.

There was considerable friction between the master of the ship and myself during the first half of the trip. The several issues of confrontation are best dealt with in a meeting where all parts can be heard.

Finally, the invaluable assistance of dr. Isao Kisino from TT health services cannot be overemphasized. I hope to be able to cooperate with him on several future trips on subjects of mutual interest, particularly the management of diabetic patients.

Kwajalein October, 3, 1976



Knud Knudsen

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