

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Kwajalein Island Battlefield

and or common Kwajalein Missile Range, U.S. Army

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication _____

city, town _____ vicinity of Kwajalein Atoll

state Republic of the Marshall Islands code 75 county Kwajalein Atoll code 020

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands

street & number _____

city, town Majuro _____ vicinity of _____ state Marshall Islands 96960

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the High Commissioner

street & number Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

city, town Saipan _____ state Mariana Islands 96950

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kwajalein Historic Site Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

city, town Honolulu _____ state Hawaii

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Kwajalein Island is at the southern end of Kwajalein Atoll, which is in the Ralik (Sunset) Chain of the Marshall Islands. Kwajalein is the largest coral atoll in the world, its lagoon having an area of 1,100 square miles. Kwajalein Island itself has an area of only 1.2 square miles. Its average elevation above sea level is 5.5 feet and its highest point is a man-made hill, Mount Olympus, that contains missile silos. Since the 1944 battle fought there, the banana-shaped island's size has been considerably enlarged by dredging and filling at its west and north ends and along its lagoon side.

Kwajalein Island is the headquarters of the U.S. Army Kwajalein Missile Range. The appearance of the island has entirely changed since the war. It now houses a scientific-military community of about 3,000. Residences, stores, clubs, and schools crowd the north end of the island. The remaining land is covered with an airfield, missile facilities, and a small golf course. Since the war, much of the island has been landscaped; green lawns, coconut palms, and tropical plants grace the land. Altogether, this far-away island, 2,400 miles from Hawaii, provides a pleasant and attractive environment for its populace.

Only a little evidence remains of the Japanese period, 1914-1944, and of the fierce fighting in 1944. The Seventh Infantry Division, U.S.A., landed at the original west end of the island where a small plaque marks the site. Inland from the plaque is a Japanese reinforced-concrete ammunition magazine, partly underground. A low picket fence surrounds the site.

A short distance to the north, also surrounded by a white picket fence, is a Japanese cemetery and memorial. A wooden torii stands over the entranceway. From time to time, human remains are uncovered on the island and are interred at this site. Japanese citizens erected the memorial, as they have done all over the Pacific.

Today's modern, jet runway lies on the site of the unfinished Japanese runway and the post-battle American bomber field. No trace of either former runway, the hardstands, or taxiways are visible. Today's runway, which was resurfaced in 1975, measures 6,715 by 100 feet. The field has been named Bucholz Army Airfield in honor of Pfc. Fred H. Bucholz, killed in battle on Kwajalein and posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. At the air terminal there is a plaque in memory of Bucholz, which is surmounted by the "Hourglass" insignia of the Seventh Infantry Division.

South of the runway, the Missile Range maintains a small golf course. Near the center of the fairways stands another Japanese reinforced-concrete ammunition magazine that served an anti-aircraft gun battery. The interior is marked by an explosion that exposed the steel reinforcing bars. On top of the T-shaped magazine is a circular concrete pad on which an antenna was mounted in recent

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1944 Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Kwajalein Island, captured by U.S. Army troops, along with Roi-Namur Islands, captured by U.S. Marines, was the first Japanese territory in the Pacific to be taken in battle in World War II. Benefitting from costly lessons learned earlier at Tarawa and Makin atolls in the British Gilbert Islands, the U.S. Navy surface fleet and carrier aircraft, the Army Air Forces' bombers, and Army and Marine field artillery unleashed the most intensive bombardment of World War II in the Pacific against Kwajalein Atoll, stunning the enemy and resulting in relatively few American battle deaths. The amphibious landing on Kwajalein carried out by the Seventh Infantry Division was perfectly executed, reflecting great credit on training and planning, as well as the Division's earlier experiences in the Aleutians. Although the Army took twice as long to capture Kwajalein as the Marines did to take Roi-Namur, the Seventh Division could claim that its line of advance was five times as long as that of its brothers'-in-arms. Once again, the Seventh Infantry Division proved itself an effective offensive force. Once again, the Japanese soldier proved his loyalty by fighting almost to the last man to make his enemy's advance as costly as possible. The Marshallese people who survived the war have forged a new nation, now on the eve of its independence.

Japanese in the Marshalls

The Marshall Islands consist of 32 coral atolls and a number of coral islands in the western North Pacific Ocean, a few degrees above the equator. They are strung on a double chain, the eastern group called Ratak (Sunrise), the westerly, Ralik (Sunset). The Marshalls were discovered by Spanish navigators, explored by English captains Marshall and Gilbert, purchased by Germany from Spain in 1899, and seized by Japan in World War I. In 1920, the League of Nations gave Japan a mandate over the islands with the condition they not be fortified. Japan withdrew from the League in 1935 and closed the islands to foreign visitors. Thus, the Marshalls became the easternmost outpost of the Japanese empire. The administrative headquarters operated out of the one town, Jabor, at Jaluit Atoll. As war neared, Japan began to fortify the Marshalls, placing emphasis on Mille, Maloelap, and Wotje atolls in the Ratak chain, and Jaliut and Kwajalein in the Ralik. Airfields, seaplane bases, fleet anchorages, and submarine bases were developed at different atolls. Each base was protected by land defenses.

When war came, it was from the Marshalls that the Japanese force came to capture Wake in December 1941. Again, in March 1942, two Japanese flying boats staged through the Marshalls to make a nuisance raid on Oahu, Hawaii. In August 1942, U.S. Marines raided Makin Atoll in the Gilberts and unknowingly left nine men behind when they withdrew. The Japanese took the

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 768 acres

Quadrangle name none

Quadrangle scale none

UTM References not available

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

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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
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Erwin N. Thompson, Historian

organization National Park Service, Denver Service Center date May 2, 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 _____

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

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

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times and then removed. The magazine has two rarely-found features: a vaulted ceiling and a casemated window.

North of the air terminal-headquarters building, within the fenced-off fuel farm, stands a large, reinforced-concrete, Japanese air raid shelter. Of different design than most surviving Japanese shelters, this structure has led some students to theorize that it is post-battle American-built. But an Army Air Force photograph of the shelter, taken on June 12, 1944, bears a caption stating it is a Japanese bomb shelter that American troops repaired and used for the same purpose. The shelter stood in the Japanese building complex known as the Admiralty Center, where Rear Adm. Monzo Akiyama had his headquarters on Kwajalein. This location gives new meaning to a comment in the 32d Infantry Regiment's operations reports for February 4, 1944, where the regimental intelligence officer wrote that a prisoner of war said he was assigned to Admiral Akiyama's headquarters and that the admiral had been killed on February 2 in front of an air raid shelter.²

On the rubble-protected shoreline in front of the missile range headquarters-air terminal are ruins of reinforced-concrete Japanese structures, either in their original locations or thrown there for erosion control. The most substantial of these is a pillbox, wave-worn but still largely intact. It is said to have been an artillery fire control station, the only one extant on Kwajalein.

Nearby, facing the ocean, are two American 75mm (3-inch) field artillery guns on rubber tires. These M-9 weapons were manufactured at Rock Island Arsenal in 1943, but it is not known if they were on Kwajalein during the battle. Today, they guard the two missile range flagstaffs, one for the Stars and Stripes and one for the Marshallese flag. A third weapon, a small Japanese naval gun, is mounted on a concrete pedestal in front of the island's central police station.

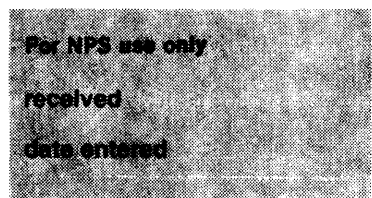
The main Japanese pier, built of reinforced concrete, was shaped much like an ice-hockey stick. Situated on the lagoon side of the island, the pier and its

1. Duane Denfeld, "An Historic Site Survey of Kwajalein Missile Range, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands," (Guam 1980), p. 24, concludes "these unique construction features suggest that this is of late Japanese construction."

2. Thirty-second Infantry Regiment, Operation Report, 1400 hours, February 4, 1944, in Operations Reports, 1-6 February, 1944, Operations Flintlock, Adjutant General's Office, Operations Reports, 1940-48, 7th Infantry Division, Record Group 407, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, MD, hereinafter cited as WNRC; G-2 Situation Map, Kwajalein Island, January 31, 1944, Record Group 332, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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lone blockhouse, which had a 13mm dual-purpose gun on its roof, were considerably damaged during the fighting. The blockhouse is entirely removed and the pier has been rebuilt in its original configuration, named Echo Pier, and continues to serve Kwajalein's port. In 1972, Army engineers renovated the pier at a cost of \$3.2 million. Since then, portions of the Japanese concrete work were discovered in the course of construction work in the area. Present-day maps show that the pier is not nearly as long as it was in 1944; this is caused by the fact that dredged fill has extended the land out into the lagoon in this vicinity.

At the original north end of Kwajalein the Japanese installed a battery of two twin-barrelled, dual-purpose 127mm (5-inch) guns. Because of the island's low elevation, they built small mounds on which to emplace the weapons.³ One of these mounds, "Bunker Hill," exists and the concrete base of the gun position is exposed. Metal conduits for electrical cables in the concrete have been filled in. This site is now within the residential area and near the junior-senior high school.

A similar battery stood at the original west end of Kwajalein at what came to be Red Beach One. Here, Kwajalein has been increased in length by the addition of 55 acres of fill for radar installations. Close to its original site but now on the shore of the new land lies a steel and concrete mass that is thought to be the base for one of the 127mm guns. Heavily rusted, this curious object helps to control beach erosion.

These features are all that are visible of the momentous events that occurred on Kwajalein in early 1944. At that time, the island was utterly destroyed by the most intense land, sea, and air bombardment of World War II in the Pacific:

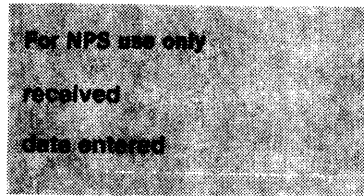
The results of all this expenditure of explosives were devastating. The damage was so intensive that it is impossible to determine the relative effectiveness of the three types of bombardment--naval, artillery, and air. The area inland of Red Beaches was reduced almost completely to rubble. Concrete emplacements were shattered, coconut trees smashed and flattened, the ground pock-marked with large craters, coral ripped to splinters. As one observer reported, "The entire island looked as if it had been picked up to 20,000 feet and then dropped."⁴

3. Americans faced this same situation at French Frigate Shoals, Hawaii. Failure to elevate the emplacements resulted in the inability to fire over the waves when the surf was up.

4. Philip A. Crowl and Edmund G. Love, Seizure of the Gilberts and Marshalls. The War in the Pacific. United States Army in World War II (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1955), p. 232.

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The destruction was horrible. Nearly all the Japanese forces had been killed and the smell of death hung over the island like a fog. Almost immediately, however, army engineers began bulldozing the rubble and the near-miracle of an island being reborn began. Kwajalein today bears no resemblance to its appearance in February 1944. One is stunned when an old-timer points out an extra-tall palm tree as the sole survivor from before the battle. Yet, beneath the bustling community, beneath the lawns and asphalt, is the sacred soil of battle where Japanese, Korean, Marshallese, and American men died.

Kwajalein Island is today owned by the government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Defense Command leases Kwajalein and other islands in the atoll for Kwajalein Missile Range operations.

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Marines prisoner and moved them to Kwajalein Island to await transportation to Japan. Six weeks went by but no transportation became available. Vice Adm. Koso Abe, then commanding all Marshall bases, reached the end of his patience and, on October 16, had the nine Marines beheaded.

On February 1, 1942, the United States Navy's aircraft carriers Enterprise and Yorktown attacked Kwajalein. This was the first offensive operation by a United States task force in World War II, an operation that did much for American morale.

Throughout 1942 and much of 1943, however, the Japanese were able to strengthen their Marshall bases with little or no interference from the Americans. But when the United States captured the Gilbert Islands south of the Marshalls in November 1943, Japan realized that the Marshalls would be next. Judging that the Americans would succeed in an attack, Japan ordered its forces to impede the enemy's advance as much as possible by fighting to the death. When the attack on Kwajalein Atoll came, it surprised the Japanese who had thought the enemy would first strike one of the more heavily defended atolls.

Kwajalein Atoll had three principal bases in January 1944: an airfield on Roi Island at the northern apex of the atoll, with air headquarters under Vice Adm. Michiyuki Yamada and support facilities on adjacent Namur; the military headquarters for all the Marshalls under Rear Adm. Monzo Akiyama on Kwajalein Island at the south end of the lagoon; and a seaplane base on Ebeye Island, about two miles northeast of Kwajalein. In addition, several islets in the atoll had detachments for operating communications centers, radars, supply warehouses, and the like. Kwajalein Island was defended by elements of the 6th Base Force (naval troops) and the newly-arrived 1st Amphibious Brigade (army), a battalion of Special Naval Landing Forces, and a Naval Guard Force. The combined strength of these combat troops amounted to about 2,700 men. The island also had about 1,800 labor troops composed mostly of Koreans, but also some Japanese and Okinawans.

At both the north and west ends of the banana-shaped island, were two twin-mount, dual-purpose 127mm (5-inch) guns. Pillboxes, machine guns, 3-inch dual-purpose guns, tank ditches, and fire trenches protected the perimeter of the island, most strong points having been placed on the ocean

1. Samuel Eliot Morison, Aleutians, Gilberts, and Marshalls, June 1942-April 1944. (Boston: Little, Brown, 1975), pp. 239-40. After the war, Abe was tried for atrocity and was hanged on Guam.

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side. (When Americans landed on the lagoon side of the islands in the Gilberts, Japanese quickly augmented lagoon defenses at Kwajalein.) Antiaircraft weapons were scattered over the island. In the western half an airfield was still under construction, but had been advanced sufficiently to enable planes to land. After the battle, American intelligence officers concluded that the island's defenses were surprisingly weak, there being no heavily-constructed blockhouses, a paucity of artillery, and many artillery pieces without cover or concealment. On Kwajalein, however, the Japanese had made² more of an attempt to arrange defenses in depth than elsewhere in the atoll.

The American Scheme

Under the direction of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, the Fifth Fleet, led by Vice Adm. Raymond A. Spruance, departed Hawaii en route to the Marshall Islands for Operation Flintlock. Rear Adm. Richmond K. Turner commanded the Joint Expeditionary Force, while Maj. Gen. H.M. Smith, USMC, was the commander of the Expeditionary Troops. Admiral Turner also directed the Southern Attack Force (Task Force 52) which assaulted Kwajalein Island. Under him and Smith, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Corlett, USA, led the Seventh Infantry Division, whose three infantry regiments had participated in amphibious landings in the Aleutians in 1943.

The Northern Attack Force (Task Force 53), which invaded Roi-Namur islands, was led by Rear Adm. Richard L. Conolly. Under him, Maj. Gen. Harry Schmidt, USMC, commanded the Fourth Marine Division in its first battle experience, having come from Camp Pendleton, California. A third unit, the Majuro Attack Group, under Rear Adm. Harry W. Hill, sailed separately toward that atoll,³ where a battalion of the Army's 106th Infantry Regiment landed unopposed.

2. G-3 Report, Operation Flintlock, Fifth Amphibious Corps, February 18, 1944; and Engineer, V Amphibious Corps, to Commanding General, V Amphibious Corps, February 15, 1944, both in U.S. Marine Corps Records, World War II, WNRC. Army accounts record at least one "tremendous" blockhouse on the lagoon side of Kwajalein. See Philip A. Crowl and Edmund G. Love, Seizure of the Gilberts and Marshalls (Washington 1955), p. 266.

3. The 106th Infantry landed on Majuro on January 30, thus giving it the honor of being the first American unit to seize Japanese territory. Because Majuro was undefended, the significance of this "first" was somewhat diminished. Further, many accounts identified these soldiers as Marines.

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Prior to the landings, the Fast Carrier Force, under Rear Adm. Marc A. Mitscher, blasted Japanese airfields throughout the Marshalls. These nine new fast carriers were accompanied by eight fast battleships.⁴ In addition, the Northern and Southern Landing Forces were supported by seven battleships and six aircraft carriers.⁵ In one day, February 1, the supporting naval vessels fired almost 7,000 14-inch, 8-inch, and 5-inch shells on Kwajalein Island alone. Bombers of the Seventh Air Force, commanded by Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, and carrier-based planes unleashed their fury against the enemy.

Assault

On January 31, 1944, D-Day, Seventh Division infantry and artillery troops landed against slight opposition on five islets northwest of Kwajalein. This initial operation gave the Americans control of Ninni Pass, the entrance to southern Kwajalein Lagoon, and enabled the artillery to set up 12 batteries of 105mm guns and one battalion of 155mm guns on Enubuj, the islet nearest to Kwajalein. These guns were registered on Kwajalein by nightfall. The following day, in support of the main landings, these weapons expended 29,000 rounds against enemy positions.

Plans for February 1 called for the 184th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) to land on the northern (left) half of the west end of Kwajalein, code-named Red Beach One, and the 32d RCT to assault the southern half, Red Beach Two.⁶ At 9:30 a.m., precisely on schedule, the lead elements waded to shore in what has been called by some as the "most nearly perfect of all amphibious operations."⁷ Utter destruction met their eyes. They advanced rapidly, the

4. Carriers: Enterprise, Yorktown, Belleau Wood, Essex, Intrepid, Cabot, Bunker Hill, Monterey, and Cowpens. Battleships: Washington, Massachusetts, Indiana, South Dakota, Alabama, North Carolina, Iowa, and New Jersey.

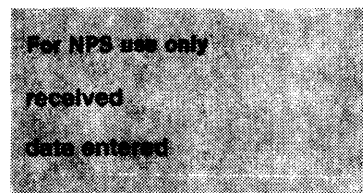
5. Three of these older battleships had been severely damaged at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941: Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Maryland.

6. The 184th Infantry Regiment was organized in the California National Guard in 1924 and inducted into active federal service in 1941. It was inactivated in 1946. The 32d was a Regular Army regiment, organized at Schofield Barracks in 1916.

7. Edmund G. Love, The Hourglass, A History of the 7th Infantry Division in World War II (Washington, 1950), p. 105.

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32d against light opposition, the 184th slowed somewhat by a network of pillboxes. By mid-afternoon, both regiments had reached the western end of the Japanese airfield. As Japanese resistance stiffened, the Seventh Division's advance slowed, then stopped just before sunset. The 32d Regiment had reached a point about half-way along the runway, while troops of the 184th were about 250 yards behind on the lagoon shore. The cleared area of the runway created a wide gap between the two. Machine guns were set up to sweep this open space. With one-quarter of Kwajalein captured, the soldiers established perimeters of defense for the night. Casualties for this day were light, 17 dead and 36 wounded in both regiments. Japanese casualties were estimated at 500 dead (most by the bombardment) and 11 captured.

February 2 brought continuing advances against the enemy, although Marine General H.M. Smith fumed aboard his command ship about the division's lack of dash. This seemed more apparent when the Marines announced their capture of Roi-Namur on this date. General Corlett, too, urged his troops to attack vigorously and finish the job on the morrow. On this second day, capture of the Japanese airfield was completed. By nightfall, the 184th was short of its objective, the cross-island "Nora" road, causing the 32d RCT to withdraw somewhat from its hard-won Japanese strongpoint, code-named "Corn." Americans were unaware that the Japanese commander, Rear Admiral Akiyama, was killed this day at Admiralty Center within his lines. Although Corlett warned his troops to expect a banzai attack at dawn, the night of February 2-3 passed quietly.

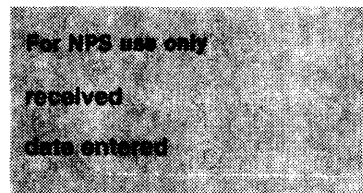
The third day of battle brought disappointing results for the Americans. On the left, the 184th RCT ran into stiff resistance from a maze of pillboxes, trenches, and shelters. These, combined with burning buildings, smoke, wreckage, and craters, caused considerable confusion during the fighting. Units got separated, broken up, and even lost. Infantry-tank coordination was ineffective. By nightfall, the regiment was 250 yards short of its objective, the main Japanese pier. This situation called for a change of plans and it was decided that the 184th's final objective would be reduced to taking the pier, and the 32d RCT would pinch out the 184th at that point and be responsible for

8. The 32d RCT reported that it had captured ten of an estimated 110 Marshallese on the island. At least one of those collected that day was a woman. 32d RCT Unit Journal, Operation Flintlock, February 1-6, 1944, Adjutant General's Office, World War II Operations Reports, 1940-1948, Record Group 407, WNRC.

9. Holland M. Smith and Percy Finch, Coral and Brass (Washington 1948, reprint 1979), p. 146.

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taking all the north end of Kwajalein. During the day, the 32d had had easier going than the 184th, but it too had not reached its objective, "Nathan" road. (Division headquarters mistakenly thought that both regiments had reached the day's objectives.) One accomplishment on February 3 was the capture and destruction of Admiralty Center, in which both regiments participated.

As February 4 dawned, the Seventh Division anticipated the end of enemy resistance. Yet to be taken was the northern stretch of Kwajalein, measuring 1,000 yards long and 400 yards wide. On this day, the 184th RCT reached the Japanese pier by 1:00 p.m. and began mopping up its assigned area. The 32d's final assault got off to a confused start, partly caused by Japanese emerging from shelters behind the American lines, firing every which way but west. By noon, the drive north began in earnest and an American platoon reached the north end of Kwajalein at 3:15 p.m. Shortly after four o'clock, General Corlett announced the island secured, "All organized resistance . . .¹⁰ has ceased. The troops have been reorganized for mopping up operations." The division's 17th RCT, meanwhile, completed the capture of the Japanese seaplane base on nearby Ebeye Island. At the end of the day, an American soldier picked up a canteen on the battlefield. Inscribed on it, he read, "Contractors Pacific Naval Bases, Wake [Island], Canteen No. 13269."¹¹

The Southern Landing Force's casualties in capturing the southern end of the atoll amounted to 142 killed, 845 wounded, and two missing in action. Estimates of enemy losses amounted to 4,938 dead and 206 prisoners, 79 of whom were Japanese and 127 Korean. In the Southern Sector, 140 Marshallese were collected during the course of the fighting and in the whole atoll 55 Marshallese were killed.¹²

An aspect of the battle for Kwajalein that has been generally overlooked is the employment of Japanese-Americans (Nisei) as interpreters. An American intelligence observer praised the work of these men most highly, stating they stayed on duty twenty-four hours a day dealing with prisoners of war and translating enemy documents. He recommended that in future operations their number be increased and they each have two armed bodyguards because of the danger of being mistakenly shot.¹³

10. Crawl and Love, Marshalls, p. 289.

11. 32d RCT Unit Journal, February 1-6, 1944, Record Group 407, WNRC.

12. Different sources give different figures in their estimates. The figures given here are the official Army counts.

13. Anonymous, "Intelligence Observer with Task Force," with a letter of transmittal dated February 19, 1944, in U.S. Marine Corps Records, World War II, WNRC.

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After the Battle

Even as mopping-up operations were underway, army engineers began the repair and reconstruction of the airfield, constructing a 6,300-foot, coral-surfaced runway and 102 hardstands for heavy bombers. On March 11, 1944, the Seventh Air Force's B-24 bombers took off from Kwajalein on a mission to Japanese-held Wake Island. Later, Kwajalein's planes struck other atolls in the Marshalls, Ponape, Truk Atoll, and, staging through Enewetak, as far away as Guam. On March 25, the Seventh Air Force established its operational headquarters on Kwajalein, under the VII Bomber Command. This headquarters remained operational until June 1944, when it moved to Saipan. Also in 1944, the U.S. Navy established a naval operating base at Kwajalein as well as a headquarters for the military government of the Marshalls. The naval base continued operations until 1959, when the U.S. Army took over the island as a part of the Kwajalein Missile Range.

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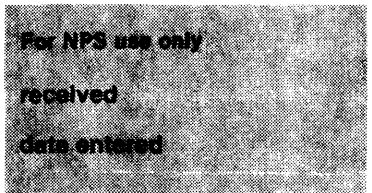
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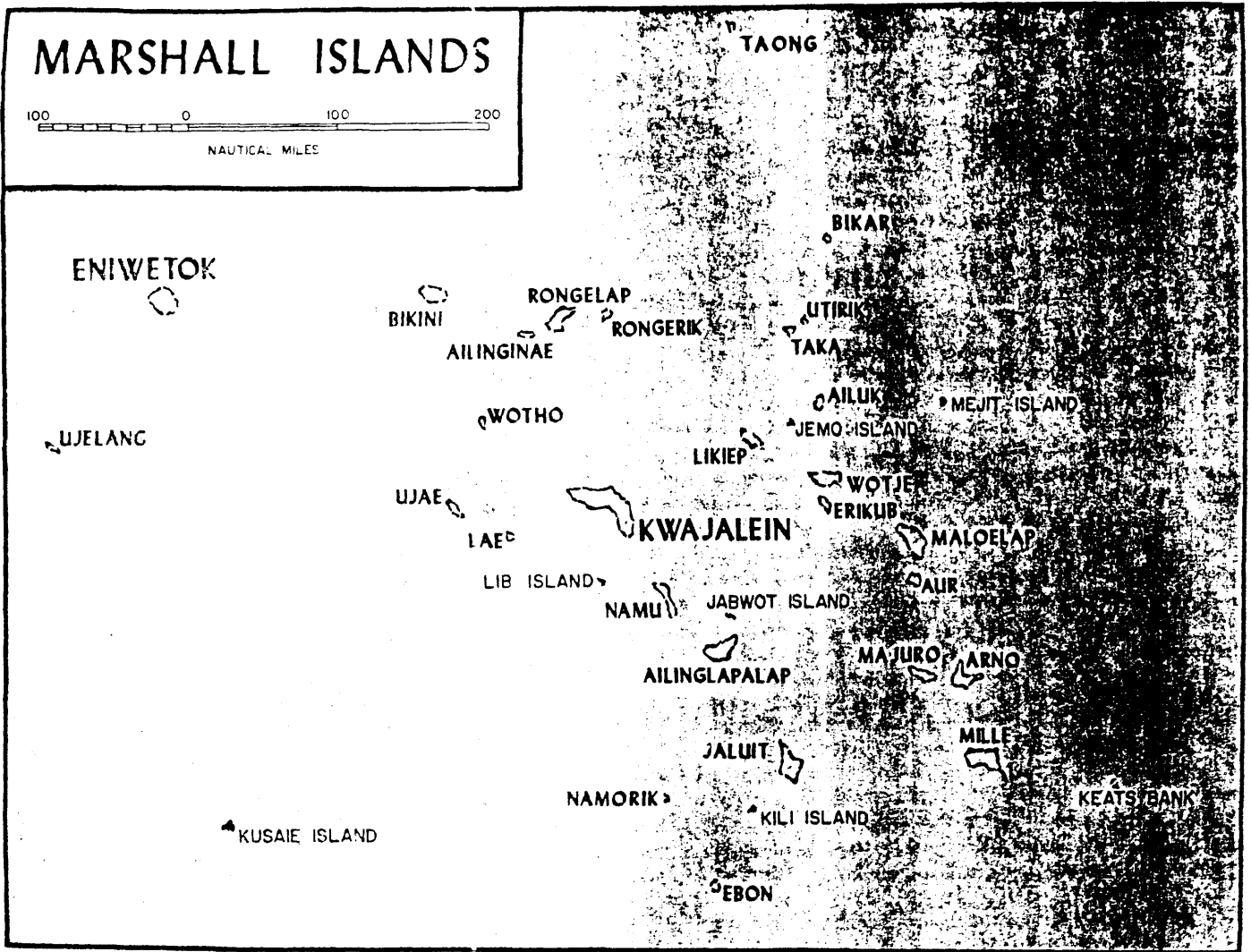
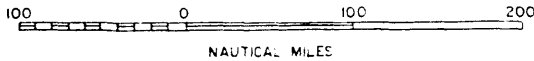
Item number 10. Geographical Data Page

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

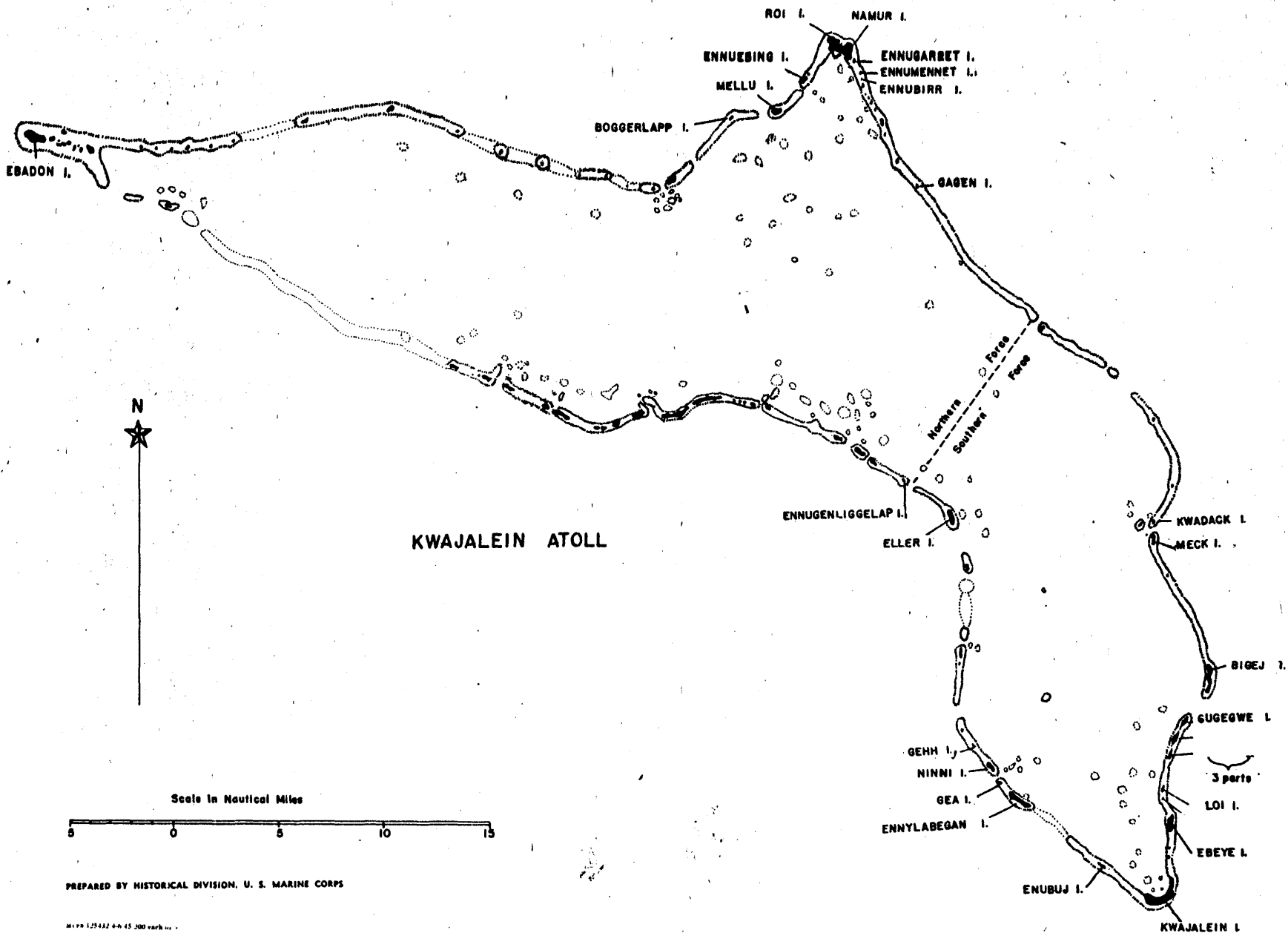
The boundary is the original outline of Kwajalein Island as shown on an enclosed map. On its south and east sides it is bounded by the Pacific Ocean. New dredged land borders its west and north ends. On its lagoon side, new dredged land borders the island from its north end, then south and west ending as shown on the map. Although the original island is covered with modern structures and facilities, all of which are excluded from this nomination, the entire land area underneath these features is considered historically significant. Every square inch of the island was fought over in a fierce battle. The above-ground historically significant structures are indicated on the enclosed map.

MARSHALL ISLANDS



MAP 7

R. F. STIBIL

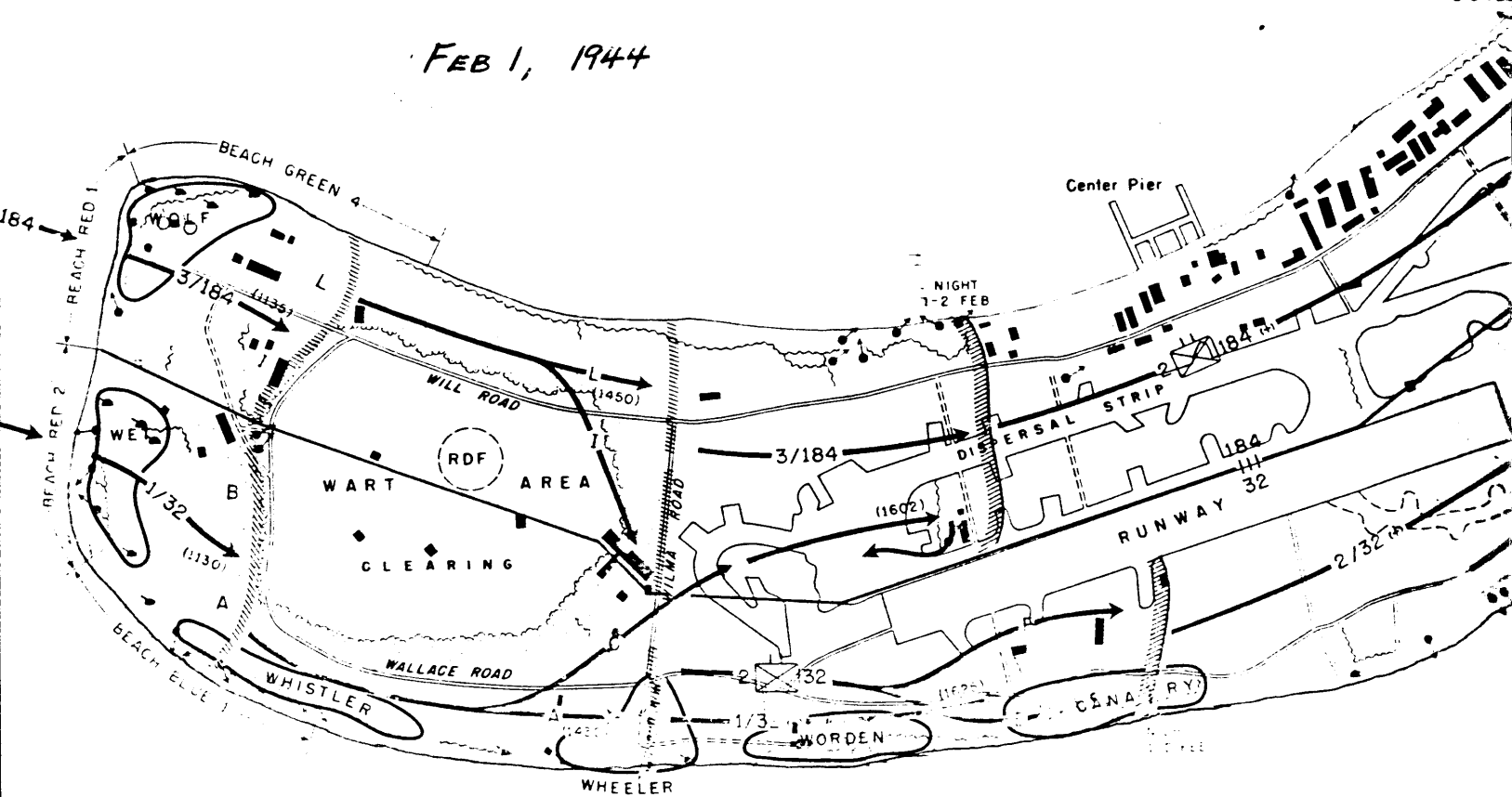


PREPARED BY HISTORICAL DIVISION, U. S. MARINE CORPS

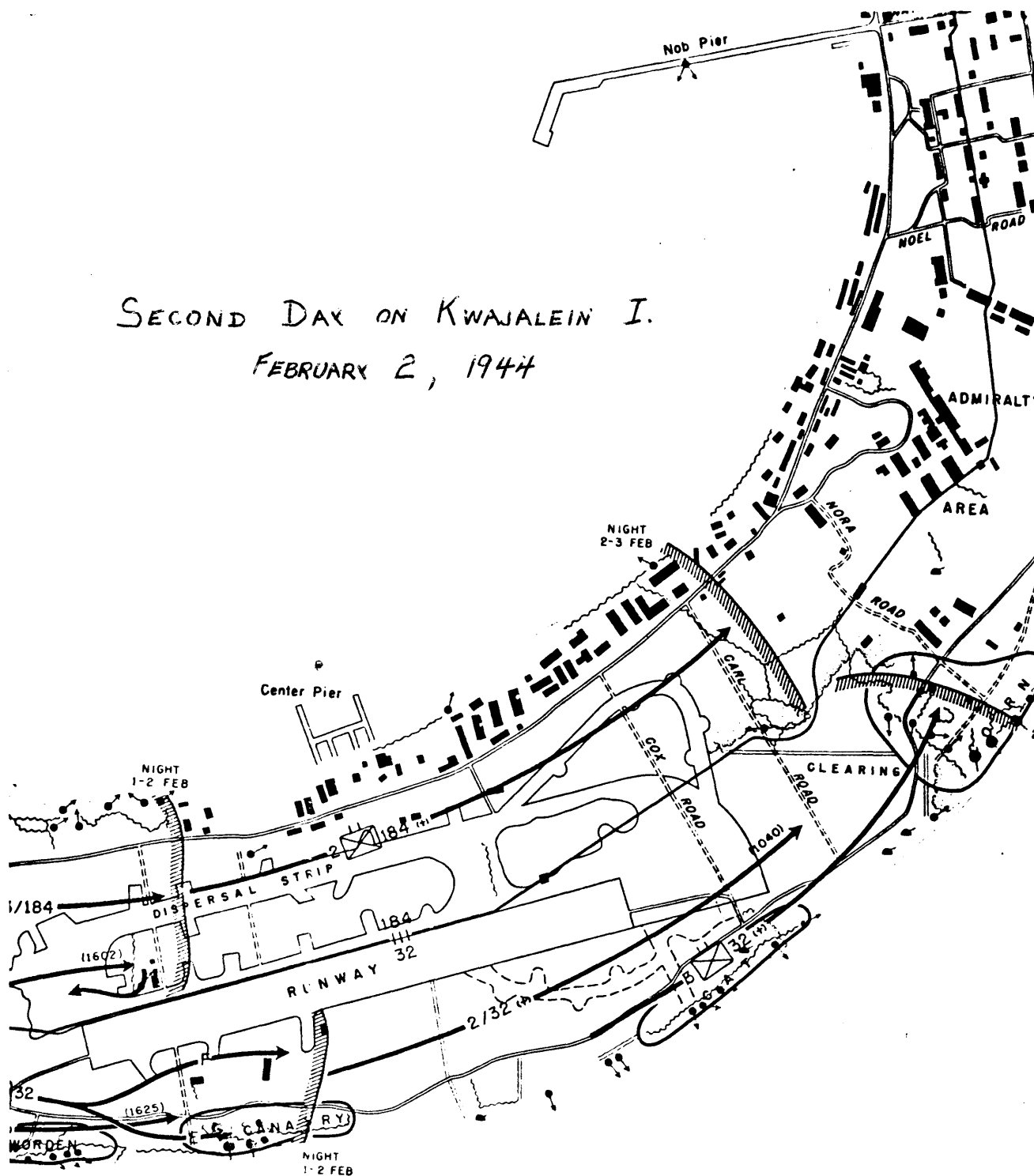
LANDINGS ON KWAJALEIN ISLAND

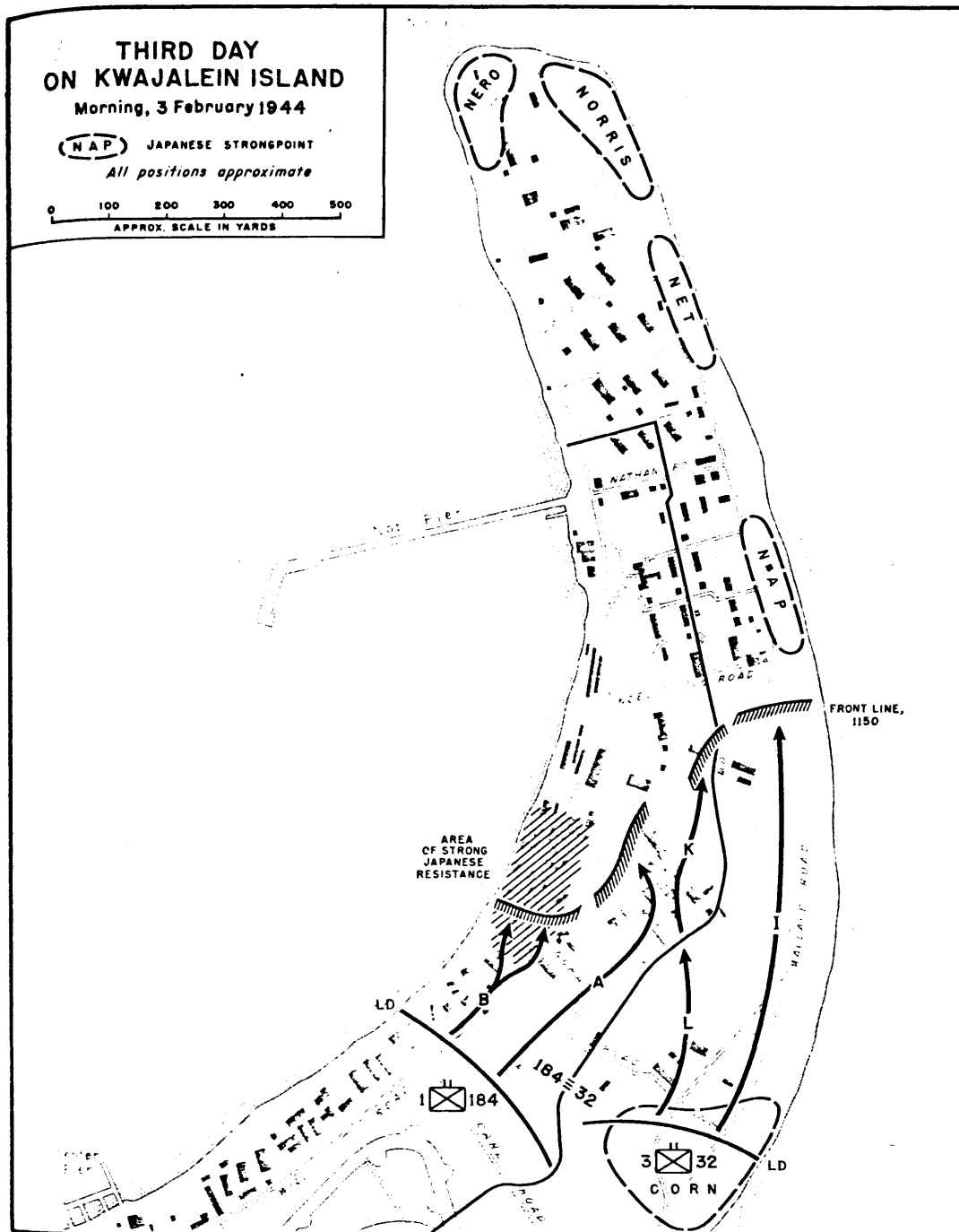
FEB 1, 1944

NIGHT
2-3 FEB



SECOND DAY ON KWAJALEIN I.
FEBRUARY 2, 1944



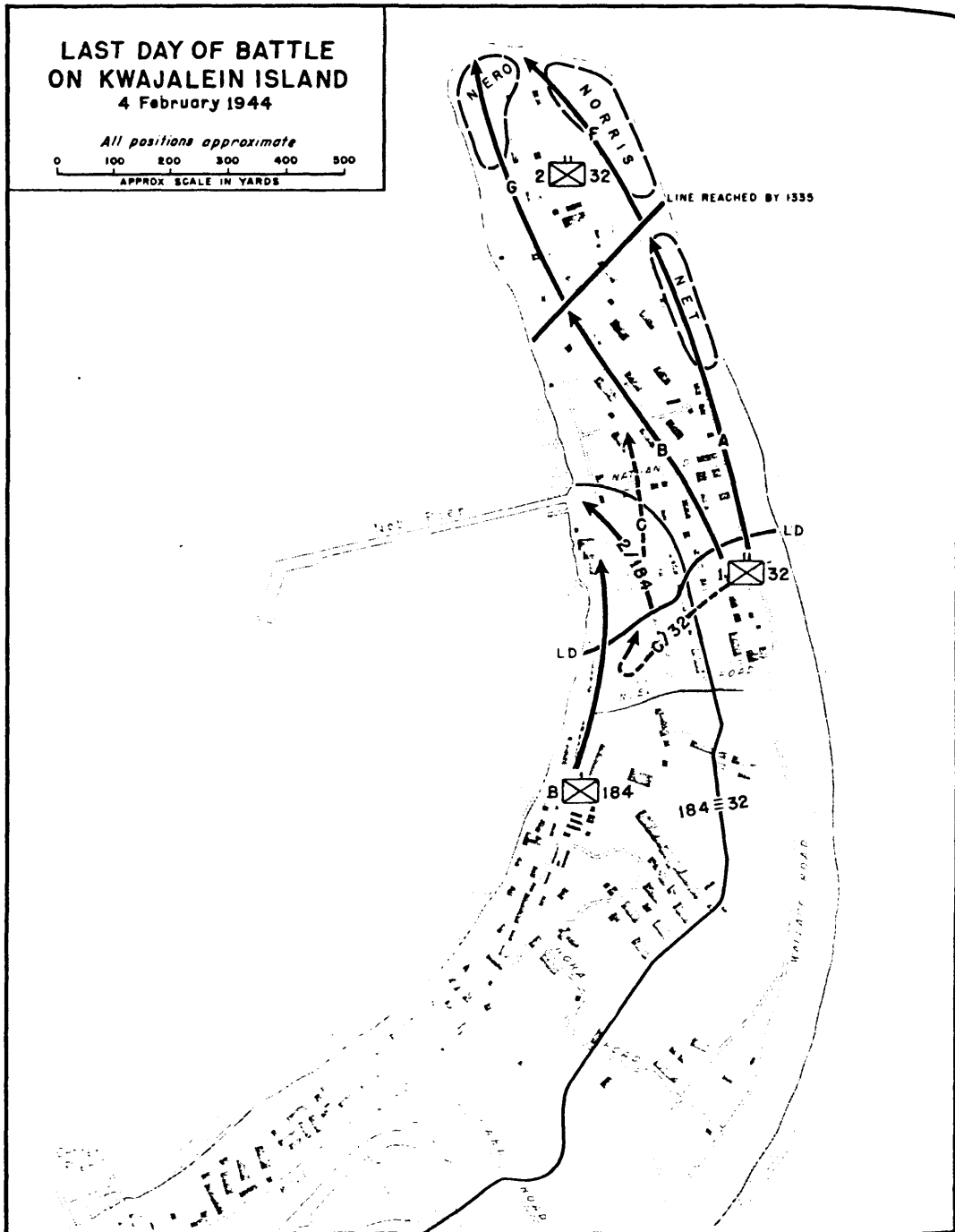


MAP 11

R Johnstone

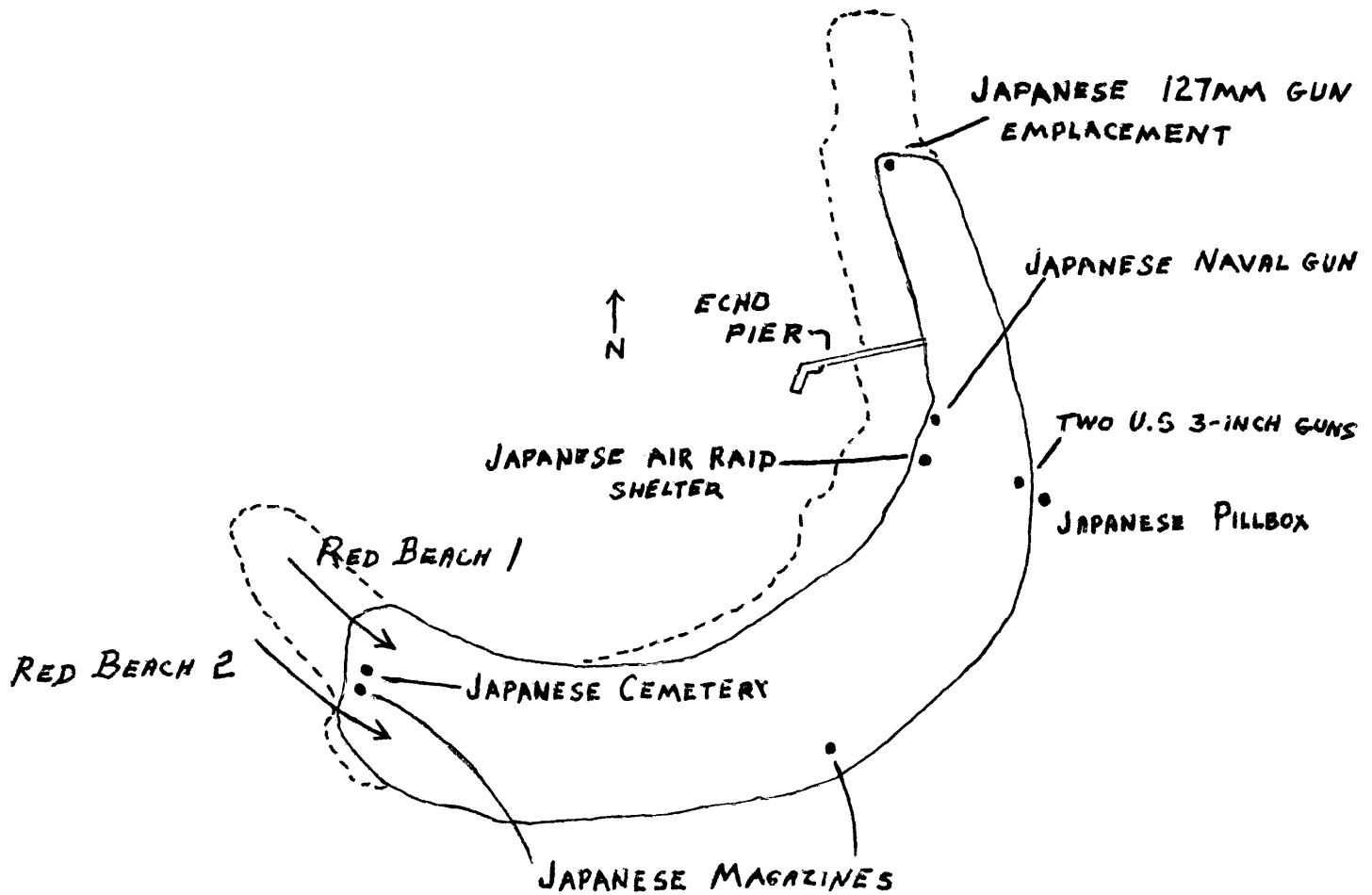
**LAST DAY OF BATTLE
ON KWAJALEIN ISLAND
4 February 1944**

All positions approximate



R. Johnson

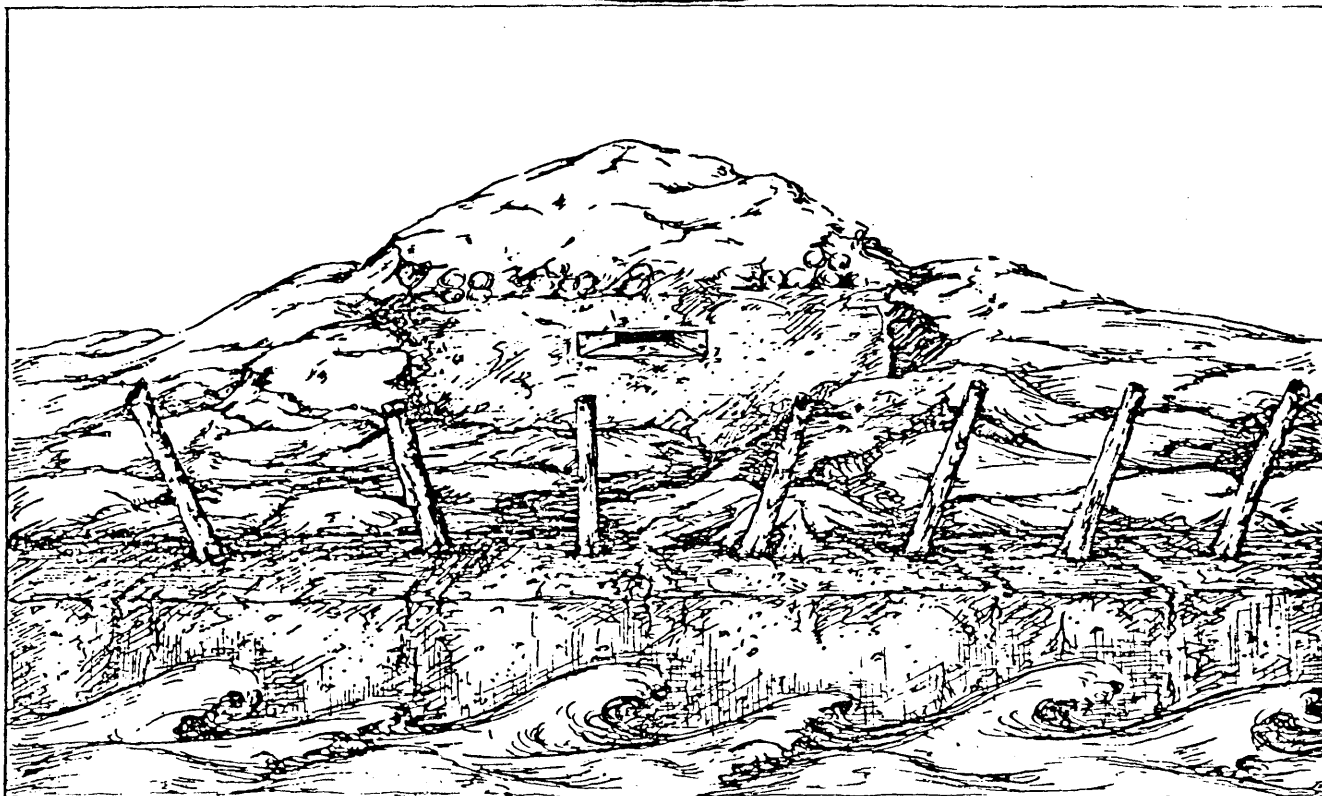
MAP 13



Kwajalein Island

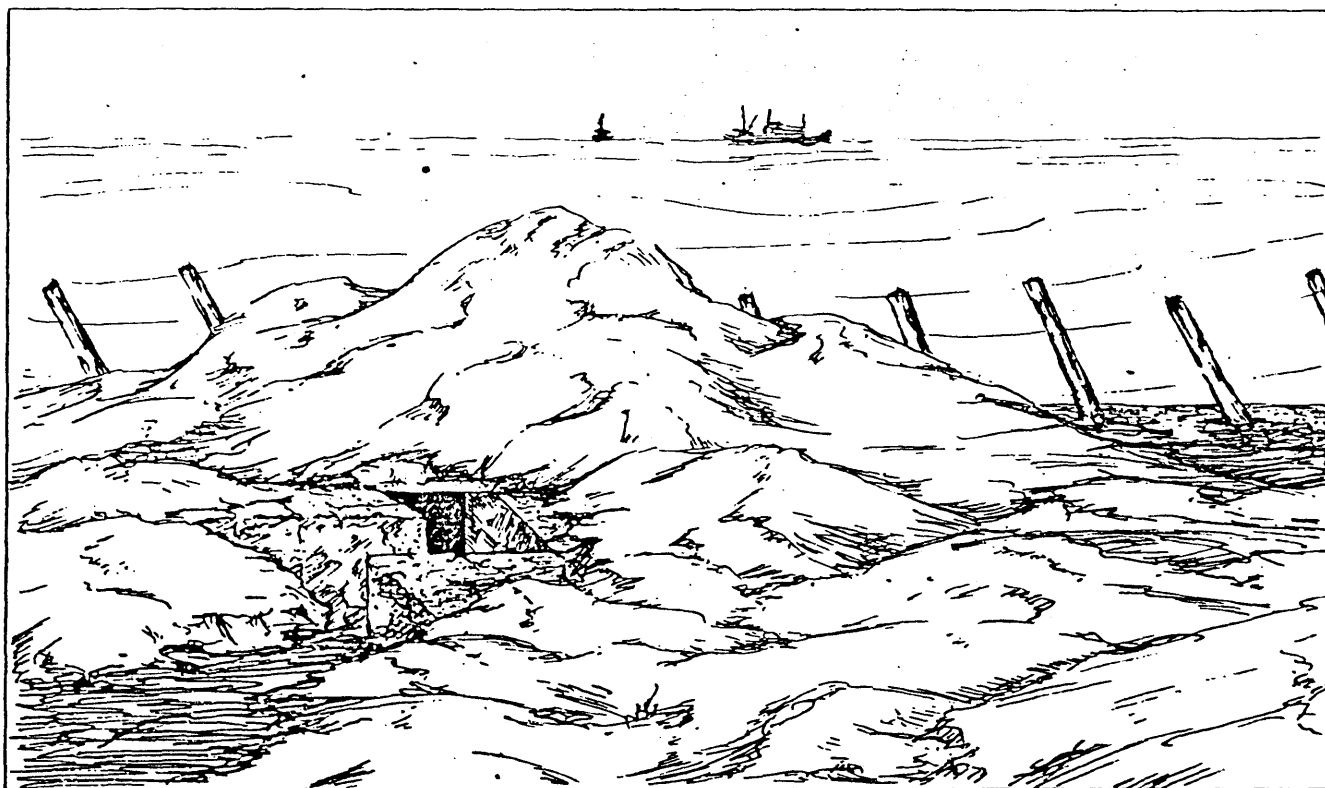
Solid line marks the original outline of the island.
Broken lines indicate new land added by dredging
and filling.

~~SECRET~~



FRONT
VIEW

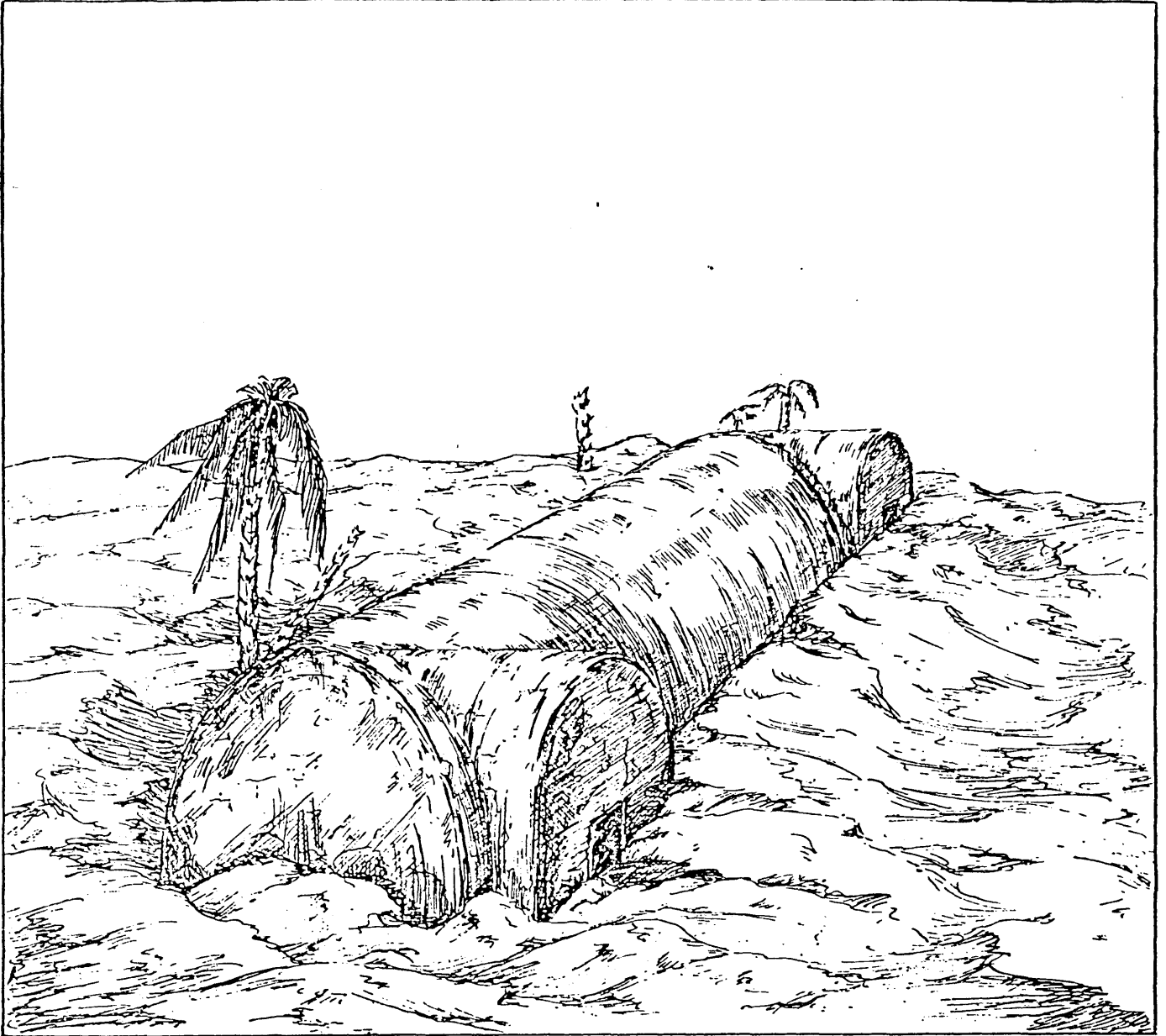
JAP PILL BOX — NOTE SEA WALL & LOGS.



REAR
VIEW

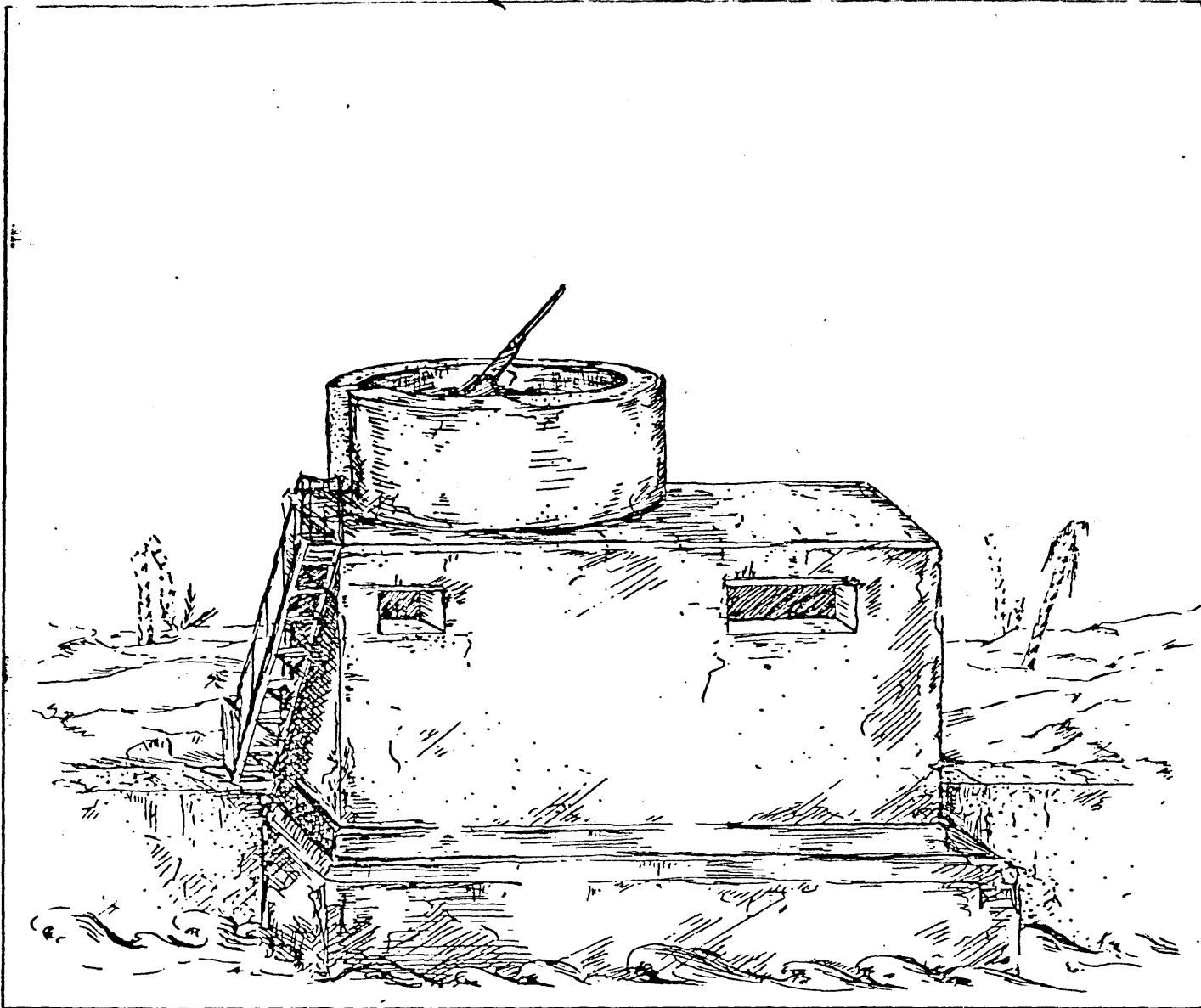
JAP PILL BOX WITH COMPARTMENTS

~~SECRET~~



BOMB SHELTER

~~SECRET~~



LAGOON SIDE
BLOCK HOUSE
ON NOB PIER