

PROJECT CORONA HARVEST

DO NOT DESTROY

SECRET

PROJECT CORONA HARVEST

CATALOGED

DO NOT DESTROY

No

0204208

ISTORY
of the
313TH AIR DIVISION



**JANUARY-JUNE 1960
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
VOLUME III**

K-DIV-313-HI
JAN-JUN 1960

V. 3

2-8082-6

K-DIV-313-HI
JAN-JUN 1960

V. 3

RENEWED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS: NOT AUTOMATICALLY
RECLASSIFIED FOR PIR 9209:10

2-8088-6

126

17 July 1956

SUBJECT: Petition for Suspension of Firing Practice and with Regard to the Damages

It is already one year and four months since we began suffering the merciless destruction by the U.S. military forces and forced relocation and have struggled for our human existence against hunger, fear, violence, imprisonment, etc. For the first part of this year the fear of our living was seemingly lightened on account of the suspension of firing practice. In May, however, the military practice resumed and has been continued up to now despite of our repeated petitions against it. Thus, we are always with the fear of danger and working at farm at the risk of our lives.

Damages of crops by bombing is very sorry for us. What is worse, about 300,000 tsubo of farm, field and forest land around the firing range were sprinkled over with gasoline by a military fire-engine and burnt up on 12, 14 and 15 July of this year (as eye witnessed by ISHIKAWA Seikan, age 25, of 3-han, Maja-ku), resulting in a considerable damages over the agricultural crops and forest products. About 1300 hours on 15 July, Suemaro CHINEN and his wife of 1-han, Maja-ku had a narrow escape from being involved in a flame while engaging in collecting of miscanthus to be used for firewood. To undergo such a constant danger and loss of properties is quite unbearable for us who are living a scanty living. Such being the real case, we do sincerely and respectfully solicit for your appropriate action so that the firing practice may be suspended at once and adequate compensations be paid for all the losses we suffered.

s/ Tamotsu AGARIE, Ku-cho, Maja-ku
s/ Shoko AHAGON, representative landowner
s/ Kozo OSHIRO, " "

and other landowners concerned

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

31310-H-0067

1 1 1 7

S T A T E M E N T

On 22 August 1956, I. Lt. Harry O. Hinz proceeded to the Island of Ie Shima in the capacity of Claims Officer for the 18th Fighter Wing for the purpose of investigating alleged damage done to indigenous crops and/or hereditaments. After a conversation with 1st Lt. Blane, the Site Commander, we proceeded to the bomb range, which is located in the extreme Northeast corner of the island. Approximately one hour was spent in touring the entire locality and searching for possible damage. As indicated in Inclosure #1 to this Memorandum, the actual fire damage was negligible and appears to be far in exaggeration of information previously received by this office. It is my considered opinion that Inclosure #1 depicts an accurate picture of damage actually done to this area. It should be noted that according to Mr. York of the 313th AD Materiel Section, the damage which was done in regard to the two fires on the 10th and 11th of July were confined specifically to property leased by the United States Government as a bombing range.

For the record it should be stated that claims forms were sent by Claim Carrier to the Site Commander to be delivered to the Mayor's Office on Ie Shima. The undersigned called at the Mayor's Office and determined that the Mayor was presently in Japan. The claims forms which had been forwarded the previous week had not been distributed and had apparently been removed from the original envelope only recently. A discussion was had with the representative of the Mayor to explain the purpose once again of these claims forms which had been written in the Japanese language complete with instructions. The instructions had previously been given to the Mayor's Office by the Site Commander pertaining to these claims forms.

The reaction of the Mayor's representative was that these claims were going to be processed through General Hipps and indorsed to General Moore and through GRI and through USCAR and at that point we explained politely, but firmly, that these claims pertained to damage supposedly caused by Air Force activities and that if the claims were submitted to this office that every legal consideration would be given. We wish further to state that sufficient forms for 10 claims had been forwarded, however, the Mayor's representative stated that there were 23 claims in regard to this damage. The balance of the required forms were dispatched from the Claims Office on the day after our visit to Ie Shima.

The status of this investigation is not considered to be complete as of this date. It was felt that due to the fact that we were unable to discover any further damage other than some trees whose needles had turned red and a small corner of a potato patch having been scorched, that it would be desirable to assemble each of the Okinawan claimants after they had submitted their written claims and ask them kindly to point out precisely what other property that might have been damaged. It would also appear desirable in view of the apparent injurious and

adverse commentaries appearing in local Okinawan newspapers that perhaps representatives of the Okinawan Press be allowed to visit the island and witness the proceedings when this matter is brought to completion.

30 August 1956

/s/ Harry O. Hinz
/t/ HARRY O. HINZ
1/Lt USAF

f

128

GOVERNMENT OF THE RYUKYU ISLANDS
Office of the Chief Executive
Naha, Okinawa

GRI-LA-356

Aug 27, 1956

SUBJECT: Petition for Suspension of Firing Practice and with Regard to
the Damages by Burning of Improvements - Ieshima

TO: Civil Administrator
U. S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands

Transmitted herewith for your favorable consideration are a petition,
subject as above, and pertinents from the Ku-cho (headman) and people of
Maja-ku, Ie Son. The condition of damages as investigated by our repre-
sentatives is as stated hereunder.

1. Summary of the on-the-spot investigation (Since the field investi-
gation was conducted by one official for one day, the figures of
area, etc. as given below were all based on the eye-measurement.
So, this report is not detailed and circumstantial.):

- a. Area of land affected (see the attached map)

Area "A" -----roughly estimated as 150,000 tsubo
Area "B" -----roughly estimated as 15,000 tsubo

However, the Majo-ku people allegedly stated that the affected
area was 300,000 tsubo or so, whose while the area of farmland at
Maja-ku in 1954 was 325 tan according to the pertinent record prepared
and maintained by the Son Office. On the other hand, the data obtained
from the Ku-cho showed as follows:

farmland-----	146,725 tsubo
forest-land-----	33,000 tsubo
range-----	137,000 tsubo
Total	307,725 tsubo

Judging from the above referred-to figures, the allegations
by the Ku-cho as to be 300,000 tsubo will be right if or when the
whole land area are burnt up. Our representative investigator did
estimate that the area cleared away by burning was about one-third
of the said whole land and that it would be about a half, that is,
160,000 tsubo or so even if including the areas burnt up by spread-
ing fire. And the Ku-cho himself understood and was satisfied with
such estimation.

SUBJECT: Petition for Suspension of Firing Practice and With Regard to the Damages by Burning of Improvements - Ieshima

b. Loss of improvements

- (1) sugar-cane farm ----- burnt up by a spreading fire were about 300 tsubo and damaged were about 700 tsubo.
- (2) peanuts farm ----- burnt up by a spreading fire were about 400 tsubo and damaged were about 300 tsubo.
- (3) sweetpotatoes farm -- damaged were about 400 tsubo.
- (4) pine-wood ----- damaged were about 20,000 tsubo including approximately 90,000 pine trees; the largest about 2 shaku 5 sun in the circumference of root and the smallest about 5 or 6 sun round.
- (5) "mokumo" tree ----- damages were about 2,000 tsubo including approximately 10,000 trees.
- (6) "soshiju" tree ----- damages were about 2,000 tsubo.
- (7) other miscellaneous trees

For the people of Ieshima Island who suffered very much as a result of the last war, all the trees there are so valuable as building materials, firewood and the like. Some of the damaged trees were cut down and carried, but most of them are still left untouched waiting for due compensation.

c. Outline of the destruction by fire.

Actually burnt up were chiefly the wind-break trees around the housing lot and farmland, and the agricultural crops were affected by a spreading fire. When asked, a soldier explained the reason of such intentional burning that: "The clearance of standing trees were to sweep all obstacles from the field of vision and facilitate the finding of range."

3. Opinions of the Gov't of the Ryukyus

- a. When the clearance of military-requisitioned land or the removal of agricultural crops and other improvements on the military reservation area becomes necessary, a prior notice thereof should be given to the people concerned for their benefits and interests.

SUBJECT: Petition for Suspension of Firing Practice and With Regard to
the Damages by Burning of Improvements - Ieshima

- b. Compensation for damages by burning of standing trees is not yet made and therefore requested to be processed at the earliest practicable date.
- c. Though the agricultural crops are within the military-acquired land area which is tacitly permitted of being utilized by farmers, your special consideration is requested so that the damages by spreading fire may be reasonably compensated.
- d. By the way, apart from the subject matter, this office further requests your appropriate action to prevent any trouble incidental to the bombing practice, since it is said that no counter-measure is now taken against any possible danger during the bombing practice, though not so before.

Incls;
a/s

s/t/ SHUHEI HIGA
Chief Executive
Govt of the Ryukyus

14 September 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE:

Regarding fire damage on Ie Shima on 14 September 1956, Lt. Col. Rollman, Capt. Griffith, Lt Hinz and Mr. Fukui of Kadena Air Base visited Ie Shima Island and through the Office of the Mayor, Ie Shima, contacted Yomashiro Moto, the leader of Maji Village, in order to determine the location of fire and/or bomb damage allegedly caused by the operation of Air Force practice bombing missions.

Inhabitants of Maji Village were taken out to the bomb range and alleged damage of Haenjan Ryokei and Heanza~~re~~ Yoshikozu was inspected. The land that was inspected was well within the 3000 feet bomb area to the east and south of the center of the target. The claimants insist that this damage was caused by "eight Americans setting fires" on three different occasions between the 12th and 15th of July. It should be noted that previously claim blanks written in the Japanese language for 23 claims had been forwarded to the Mayor's office, this number of alleged claims having been determined by that office, and today a request for more blanks was made by Mr. Moto. When asked to surrender the claim forms which he then had, Mr. Moto indicated that they wanted to obtain estimates and further information before submitting the forms which he now has. Two fields were inspected on which sweet potatoes and peanuts had been planted. It appeared fairly obvious that these fields had not been tended for sometime and that there was some fire damage.

An undetermined number of trees appeared to have been scorched and the fields showed that some trees had been cut down.

Through the interpreter Mr. Moto was informed the necessary forms would be forwarded to him so that the alleged claims could be considered upon presentation.

HARRY O. HINZ
1st Lt., USAF
Claims Officer

130

Headquarters
313th AIR DIVISION
United States Air Force
APO 239 San Francisco, California
Foreign Claims Commission No. AF-12

31 January 1957

MEMORANDUM OPINION

SUBJECT: Multiple Claims Arising from Alleged Fire and/or Bombing
Damage on the Island of Ie Shima, Ryukyus Islands, under
the provisions of AFR 112-6.
File Reference: AMFPA/313AD/57-131-131A-1

1. Amount and Date of Filing: Claims were filed on 11 January 1957
in the amounts listed below.
2. Type of Claim: AFR 112-6, Bomb and/or Fire Damage.
3. Date and Place of Incident: Approximately 12-15 July 1956 near
Kami Majabaru, Ie Son, Ryukyus Islands.
4. Claimants Addresses:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
Ahagon, Shoko	3-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie Son, Okinawa, R. I.	\$15.00
Chinen, Koichi	4-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	2.12
Chinen, Maha	3-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	4.88
Chinen, Sataro	2-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	2.97
Chinen, Sumaro	1-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	13.37
Furugen, Taro	2-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	.00
Heianzan, Ryoichi	1-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	3.29
Heianzan, Ryokei	1-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	4.17

MEMO Opinion, File Reference AMPFA 313AD/57-131-131A-1, 31 Jan 57 (Cont'd)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
Heianzan, Ryoyo	3-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	\$7.49
Higa, Ryotoku	2-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	7.26
Ishikawa, Mito	3-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	2.10
Ishikawa, Seifu	3-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	3.29
Ishikawa, Seikan	4-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	.00
Ishikawa, Seigen	2-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	6.00
Ishikawa, Seiroku	4-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	5.21
Ishikawa, Seiryu	2-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	.00
Ishikawa, Seiyu	1-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	2.33
Motoyama, Seigi	1-Han Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	9.54
Nakandakari, Kunio	3-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	3.87
Ogido, Seifu	3-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	.79
Shimabukuro, Kichisuke	2-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	3.00
Tamashiro, Kiichi	7-Kumi, 4-Ku, Naha-Shi Okinawa, R. I.	3.77
Tokeshi, Michitomo	2-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	2.68

MEMO Opinion, File Reference AMFPA/313AD/57-131-131-1A, 31 Jan 57 (Cont'd)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
Tomoyose, Takatsune	2-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-son Okinawa, R. I.	\$26.47
Yamashiro, Gyuzo	2-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	2.10
Yamashiro, Moto	2-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	.00
Yonashiro, Tsuru	3-Han, Maja-Ku, Ie-Son Okinawa, R. I.	1.59

5. Facts:

In their present form, the various claimants alleged that the damage for which compensation is being asked was caused by fires purportedly set by Air Force personnel between 12-15 July 1956. All of the claims were prepared by Ahagon, Shoko, the leader of Magi Village. Each claim avers that: "7 or 8 airmen from Kadena Air Force spreaded the kerosene and gasoline to the farm land, ranges, and forest at the vicinity of the Kami Naka Sumeka, Nishie-Azu, Ie-son set a fire and burnt". No specific information was forthcoming as to time of day or similar facts. The "witness", Ishikawa Seikan, who is listed on each individual claim, was both conveniently and mysteriously absent on each of four different occasions when the undersigned travelled to Ie-Shima investigating these claims. Exhibit 60 relates the allegations which appeared in one of the local Okinawan newspapers.

On the spot investigation and interrogation indicates that the following is a fair recitation of the facts surrounding the claimed damage.

By formal lease agreement with the residents of Ie-Shima, the United States Air Force has leased certain acreage which is utilized as an aerial bombing range.

Due to the lengthy dry spell (Exhibit 59), it was determined by the Site personnel stationed on Ie-Shima, that the long dry grass constituted a fire hazard to indigenous villages near the bombing range. On 10 July 1956, four airmen acting under the direct supervision of S/Sgt Van E. Shaw, Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge of the Fire Department, ignited a controlled fire for the purpose of burning off the target area.

No gasoline or other types of incendiary substances were used to spread the fire. Exhibit 59 indicates that one half gallon of DDT (a

MEMO Opinion, File Reference AMFPA/313AD 57-131-131A-1, 31 Jan 57 (Cont'd)

mixture apparently contains some kerosene which holds the DDT in suspension) was sprayed along the desired fire line before the fire was ignited.

On the following day another fire was set under similar circumstances. Again a portion of the range was burned off immediately contingent to the area which was cleared the day before.

Since the claims are premised on fires supposedly set during the period 12-15 July 1956, we also made an investigation to determine whether or not missions were flown by any aircraft during which bombs at times do ignite fires, were dropped on the range. Exhibit 66 reflects that no missions were flown on 11 or 12 July, but that some missions were flown on 10, 13 and 14 July 1956.

Physical inspection indicates that there was fire damage, i.e., scorching of crops and trees. Inspection also confirms the fact that all of the damage was done within the target area which is actually leased by the United States government. Numerous bomb craters were visible throughout the target area. The bombs themselves cause relatively small holes on impact which are in turn greatly enlarged when the Okinawans dig down into the earth to remove the bomb casings which they sell as scrap.

The claimants have submitted estimates of damage caused to their various types of crops, grasses and trees. Damage of the nature under consideration here comes under the purview of paragraph 9, AFR 112-6. The exclusion cited in paragraph 9, *supra*, is not applicable here.

6. Citation of Authorities:

The activities from which these individual claims arise occurred outside the continental limits of the United States. Each of the claimants is an inhabitant of Ie Shima, Ryukyus Islands, and therefore the claim may be considered under the provisions of AFR 112-6 and AFR 112-6a. The aggregate amount claimed is in excess of the jurisdiction of Foreign Claims Commission No. AF-12, and therefore, the composite file and opinion is forwarded to Foreign Claims Commission No. AF-8 for further action.

Under the lease agreement between the United States government and the Okinawans, the United States Air Force has allowed farming activities to be carried on "whenever the range is not in use" (Exhibit 58c). Although the United States Air Force apparently sought to save itself harmless for any "damages inflicted to (sic) personnel or property (emphasis ours) within the Air Force leased land area" as recited in Twentieth Air Force Letter, Subject: Re-Opening Ie Shi a Bombing Range, 21 February 1955, Headquarters, Ryukyus Command (Exhibit 58c), the weight of authority is against the theory that an employer, or principal can by contract alleviate himself of all tort liability (38 Am. Jur. § 8).

MEMO Opinion, File Reference AMFPA/313AD 57-131-131A-1, 31 Jan 57 (Cont'd)

It is our opinion that the doctrine of Res Ipsa Loquitur applies, and despite the fact that there is a variance as to the dates alleged by the claimants and the dates indicated by the government witness (Exhibit 59), the government has not presented sufficient evidence to indicate that the damage was not caused by the activities of the United States Air Force (38 Am. Jur. § 295). By virtue of this doctrine, it would also follow that the United States Air Force is unable to establish that all or part of the damage complained of was not caused either by the controlled fire set under the supervision of Sgt. Shaw or by bombing activities. Physical inspection indicated that some of the damage complained of could reasonably have been caused by one of the two fires set by Sgt. Shaw. Our inspection of the area revealed that some of the damaged land, all of which was within the limits included in the lease, was scorched, but that an area of apparently undamaged land (approximately 1,000 feet wide) lies in between these two areas. It is, of course, possible that a fire may have been started by persons or instrumentalities other than those under the control of the United States government, however there is no affirmative proof thereof. Under these circumstances, it is my opinion that government liability exists.

The final consideration is the amount of allowable damages. It is apparent that the Okinawans are on this range as licensees by virtue of the government agreement. "Mere licensees are about the least favored in law of men who are not actual wrongdoers" (38 Am. Jr. § 104). Although, in keeping with the political views followed by these claimants, each one denied that they had knowledge of or that they accepted the lease agreement referred to in this opinion, a search of the Ryukuan bank records show that each claimant withdrew 75% of the lease money tendered and placed on deposit by the United States government.

Based on the lease agreement (which is reportedly on file in the Mayor's office on Ie-Shima) and on previous processing of similar claims, it is my opinion that no payment should be made for alleged destruction to crops and only the assessed amounts for damage done to the trees should be and are hereby approved. It is obvious that the allegations of damage to the trees were, to say the least, greatly exaggerated. Due to this fact, each claimant was individually accompanied to his property and the number of trees reported damaged was checked with the trees (and stumps) actually on the land. The results of the physical check are reflected in each instance by the very thorough reports completed by the Okinawan Engineering District, who assisted in the investigation and appraisals. The method of appraisal is in keeping with the discussion pertaining to damages for trees contained in 15 Am. Jur. Damages § 118.

7. Opinion and Recommendation

It is my opinion that no payment should be made for the crops and grasses but that payment should be made for damage to the trees which were

MEMO Opinion, File Reference, AMFPA/313AD/57-131-131A-1, 31 Jan 57 (Cont'd)

on the land. Compensation for trees growing on this leased land has never been made, and therefore this portion of each claim is justified. The government has specifically given notice that bombing operations will continue on the Ie-Shima range and that the Okinawans farm the land at their peril. There is ample reason then that only damages done to fixtures and hereditaments, including the trees are compensable. Each individual claim is then disapproved in part and approved in part (see para 4, above), with the exception of those claims filed by Furugen, Taro; Ishikawa, Seikan; Ishikawa, Seiryu and Yamashiro, Moto which claims are entirely disapproved.

HARRY O. HINZ
1st Lt., USAF
Foreign Claims Commission No. AF-12

131

Headquarters
313TH AIR DIVISION
United States Air Force
APO 239 San Francisco, California
Foreign Claims Commission No. AF-12

12 December 1957

Major Maurice J. Street
Foreign Claims Commission No. AF-8
Southern Air Materiel Area, Pacific (AMC)
APO 74, San Francisco, California

Dear Major Street:

Inclosed herewith are the signed Settlement Agreements (the original and one carbon copy of each) for the 26 claimants. As our previous letter indicated, 17 claimants accepted the money and the remainder did not.

We realize that your individual letter indicated that you desire to have three copies returned and that the claimant might retain the fourth copy for his personal use. This was not possible due to the fact that our finance officer insisted on having one signed copy for each claim that was paid.

Since we have made payment on these claims some of the agitators on the Island of Ie Shima have caused the local police to inquire as to whether or not the claims were actually paid. I mention this to you only to give you an insight on the type of people with whom we are dealing.

Our finance people were not quite sure of the procedure to be used in allocating the money for these claims and it was necessary for us to locally reproduce various items of correspondence and file material. It would be greatly appreciated if you would kindly forward to us your policy in regard to the number of copies of various items which are required to be forwarded to finance in claims of this nature.

Best personal regards to you and the other members of your staff.

Sincerely yours,

23 Incls
Settlement Agreements

HARRY O. HINZ
1st Lt., USAF
Foreign Claims Commission No. AF-12

SCRAP BOOM RESULTS IN DEATH OR INJURY
OF 163 PERSONS THIS YEAR

(Ryukyu Shimpō)

While still fresh in our memory that an explosion case which took place in early September took the lives of 6 persons who were attempting to extract gun-powder inside the former air-raid shelter of the Japanese Army located in Maebaru Son, a miserable accident again took place on December 7 on an islet off Kaneku, in which a shell exploded, killing and injuring 11 persons. Scrap which constitutes 56% of total exports is also depriving persons of their lives, and according to statistics of Police Headquarters, 1,452 persons were either killed or injured due to explosion during the past ten years, including 163 persons this year.

Moreover, according to statistics prepared by Police Headquarters, persons who were either killed or injured in 1946 and thereafter totaled 293 persons in 1946; 312 in 1947; 180 in 1948, 106 in 1949; 60 in 1950; 63 in 1951; 46 in 1952; 97 in 1953; 69 in 1954; 63 in 1955; and 163 in 1956 (as of December 8). During the period from 1946 to 1948, many duds were scattered on the fields and hills throughout Okinawa, and almost all explosive cases which took place during the period were accidental. However, it is considered that accidents which took place after the disposal of such shells were due mostly to collection of scrap.

Scrap price changed according to the trend of the world, such as the outbreak of the Korean War, its cease fire, advancement of Red China and disturbances in Middle and Near East, and ranked second in the list of exports in 1955, amounting to \$5,363,000 next to black sugar which amounted to \$5,458,000. This year (as of October), however, scrap holds first place in

Scrap Boom Results in Death or Injury of 163 Persons This Year (Cont'd).

the amount of \$9,867,000, against black sugar which totaled \$4,690,000.

USCAR official is of the view that the ship-building boom in Japan is responsible for this, but at any rate, scrap collection by poor farmers and fisherman living near the seashore is responsible for the tragic explosion cases.

Excerpt from DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY (10 December 1956).

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U. S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Naha Okinawa

PRESS RELEASE:

15 May 1957

SCRAP THIEVES AND THOUGHTLESS FARMERS CREATE WATER SHORTAGE FOR
MARINE CAMP HANSEN AND KIN HOSPITALS

Scrap thieves who stole steel flood gates from a reservoir serving Marine Camp Hansen in Easley Range have caused a serious water shortage for the camp and for the Kin TB and mental hospitals which are supplied water by the camp.

In stealing the flood gates the thieves let 200 million gallons of water flow into the sea, representing a serious loss, especially in view of the water shortage which began to plague the camp and Kin hospitals in January and has persisted.

Estimate of the volume of water lost was given by Col. George M. Cookson, Engineer, U. S. Army Engineer Group, USARYIS. The Marines recently took over the camp from the Army.

The Kin hospitals are served by a three-quarters of a mile long pipeline connecting with a container at the Marine camp. When the Marines' supply is reduced through drought or vandalism, such as the theft of the steel gates, the hospitals also suffer.

Farmers heedless of the consequences have also reduced the water supply by tapping holes in the water lines so as to irrigate their fields.

The water supply problem has been so acute for the Marines that have had to haul water, which has hindered their training activities, and they have requested USCAR to make other arrangements for supplying emergency water to the hospitals.

If the reservoir at Camp Hansen re-fills and maintains an acceptable water level, the Marines say they intend to supply the hospitals through the existing pipeline up to 15,000 gallons of water per day, as available.

RYUKYU SHIMPO (NEWS ARTICLE) 10 July 1957 (M)

SACRED PLACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FORMED

With the intention to erect a fine monument on the ground where Gen. Buckner was killed during the war in Takamine Son, which was devastated by thoughtless scrap collectors, thereby contributing to the Ryukyuan-American friendship, some 20 persons of financial circles in Okinawa held the second meeting at the Daiichi Mutual Bank at 3 p.m., July 9. This plan was made partly with the advice of Mr. Juji Kasai who visited Okinawa in March for an inspection at the invitation of Gen. Lemnitzer, former Governor of the Ryukyus.

In addition to Mr. Kasai, the yesterday's meeting was also attended by preparatory committee members of Jinshiro Miyagi, Kotaro Kokuba, Shuho Tomihara, Kamakichi Oshiro, Hajime Irei, Seiei Nakamura, Genshu Asato, Noboru Kakazu, Seiei Oshiro, Shoyu Funakoshi, Koyu Gima, Soichi Nakaima, Atsuo Yamashiro, Ryoko Higa, Hikosho Nagamine, Tsuneo Shiroma, Mutsuo Nakada, Seihaku Oyadomari, Seiko Hokama, Seizen Nakasone and Toshiro Onaga.

At the meeting, the preparatory committee was changed to promoters committee, which was named, "Okinawa Sacred Place Preservation Committee," and as the first project, it was decided to erect monuments to the late Gen. Buckner and Gen. Ushijima. Moreover, in order to strongly carry out the plan by calling out to the men of financial circles in Japan, 15 members were appointed for this purpose.

Okinawa Times (Commentary) Tuesday, 21 May 1957 (S)

From Kiseitsu-fu Column

A report was sent to the Naha Police Station from Tomigusuku Son that the authorities of the village are troubled with the "scrap detector" acquired in expectation of the scrap boom.

It is said that the scrap detector can find ferrous metals however small they may be. As a result, various places including residences and roads within the village were dug up.

In particular, since scrap is being collected within sub-villages, villagers there are in great fear lest shells should explode when they were dug out, and the weapon of civilization seems to be a source of trouble for the villagers.

PRICE OF SCRAP RISES TO \$90 PER TON: ATTENTION OF
DEALERS FOCUSED ON DISPOSAL OF SUNKEN VESSELS

(Okinawa Times)

Scrap export which was started in August 1953 totaled 191,000 tons as of the end of December 1956, and fees paid to the Government (by the scrap dealers) amounted to ¥114,372,000. At one time, there were more than 70 scrap dealers, but this number was reduced to 30 because of slack business, and the remaining dealers barely found their way out of the difficulty. However, iron and steel prices rose internationally since last year, and the price of scrap exported from Okinawa is showing an unprecedented high price of \$90 per ton, proving to be very profitable to the dealers.

The recent issue of the "Kinzoku Tokuhō" reported that this favorable condition will continue this year and that the prosperous condition since last year was caused by economic activities as a result of increased investments in various countries, progress of iron and steel consumption industry, as well as improvement in the living standard of the people. Okinawan dealers concerned are expecting the continuation of this favorable condition, while the general public are taking an increasing interest in scrap iron.

The Trade Section of GRI's Economics Department is of the view that scrap export this year will show an all time high, favored with world-wide prosperous condition of iron and steel. It is considered that this year, attention of scrap dealers will be focused on the disposal of sunken vessels. Some dealers are planning the collection (of sea scrap) by borrowing one or two-ton cranes from Japan, and the early settlement of the problem of disposal of Japanese sunken vessels is being strongly desired.

According to statistics on scrap export compiled by the Trade Section, the amount of scrap exported and the government fee was 39,590 tons and

¥39,526,000 in 1954; 30,680 tons and ¥13,910,000 in 1955; 76,387 tons and ¥38,116,000 in 1956; and 44,391 tons and ¥22,818,000 in 1957. In the meantime, the price of steel bar for construction purpose which was more than ¥70,000 (Japanese yen) in Japan last year is gradually declining. According to information received by Okinawan dealers concerned, the price will come down to ¥61,000 around March.

Excerpt from DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY (13 January 1957)

OKINAWA SHIMBUN
News Article (T)
11 March 1957

ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PERSONS KILLED
OR INJURED BY EXPLOSIVE ACCIDENTS DURING
THE PAST 10 YEARS

According to the statistics compiled by the Public Safety Section of the Police Headquarters concerning the explosive accidents which took place during the past 10 years, 822 explosive accidents took place throughout Okinawa during the 10 year period from the year 1946 to the year 1956, causing deaths or injuries to 1,459 persons (503 killed and 956 injured).

The comparison between the year 1955 and 1956 shows as follows:

	<u>In 1955</u>	<u>In 1956</u>
Death	22 persons	62 Persons
Injured	41 persons	108 persons

The breakdown of the explosive accidents which took place during the 1946 - 1956 period and persons affected according to district shows:

<u>District</u>	<u>Number of persons affected</u>	<u>Number of accidents</u>
Koza	206 persons	121 cases
Itoman	204 "	108 "
Shuri	185 "	99 "
Yonabaru	175 "	92 "
Ishikawa	130 "	78 "
Motobu	117 "	75 "
Naha	116 "	55 "
Maehara	98 "	57 "
Nago	54 "	31 "
Miyako	51 "	36 "
Hentona	38 "	30 "
Yaeyama	17 "	12 "

The Okinawa Times, July 9, 1957. (Editorial) Y.

LET US EFFECT THOROUGH PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS AND DISASTERS

It appears that the number of dead and injured due to accidents in the field of labor is rapidly increasing year by year. The regulation requires that accidents that occur in places of work employing 10 or more workers be reported to the Labor Standard Office, but due maybe to faulty understanding of the regulation, accidents are not reported. Small that the number of accidents and disasters should be on the increase.

Although statistics are lacking, the Labor Standard Office reports that 90 percent of the accidents are caused by lack of knowledge about safety, indicating urgent need for educating laborers on the safety measures, and in this connection we recollect the great disaster which took place in the waters off Zakimi, an explosion which took a toll of 30 lives.

They must have been aware that ships sunk during the war are liable to be loaded with explosives, so, on preparing to explode such a ship, one ought to have taken refuge before touching it off, anticipating a great explosion. Details of the work and the cause of the disaster are not clear since all of the men who were engaged in the maneuver are dead, but if they had had a knowledge of safety, the accident need not have occurred.

In the battle of Okinawa 13 years ago, 200,000 people lost their lives and countless number of people got injured. And even now Okinawa has some characteristics of a battle ground, explosives scattered all over the fields and mountain ranges and on the sea bottom, killing and

maining men from time to time. The record of the Police Headquarters show that in the last 10 years - from 1946 to 1956, 1461 (dead 505 and injured 956) men and women were victims of accidents.

Several years after the war accidents occurred due to the attempt to extract powder from shells with the intention of catching fish with dynamite; but, since 1950, the number of accidents has declined steadily, the living condition of the people having improved considerably. But then the dealers in scrap metal prospered, and since 1955 accidents have occurred more frequently than ever before, so as of the end of June this year as many as 30 accidents have taken place involving 56 dead and 36 injured. Since the accident is caused by unauthorized collectors of scrap metals the best way to stamp out this sort of accidents would be to tighten the control of unauthorized scrap collectors.

The law enforcement authorities ought to instruct the prospective scrap metal collectors on the safe handling of explosives and license men with knowledge of safety measures alone for the scrap metal collection and authorize them to control unlicensed scrap metal collectors.

The government observes a safety week every year in an attempt to prevent accidents from taking place, but the main objective of the movement is the prevention of accidents in legitimate places of work, neglecting the prevention of accidents in the field of scrap metal collection where most accidents take place.

The law protects victims of accidents and the employers are required to improve the working condition of laborers and preventive measure may be taken by employers on their own initiative, but victims of accidents

in the field of work beyond the reach of the law have no financial guarantee of any kind, and this is the more reason for the authorities to adopt adequate measures to prevent this kind of accidents.

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY

Wednesday, 11 April 1956

NEWS ARTICLE

INVESTIGATION REVEALS THAT GUARD SHOT
WOMAN WITHOUT CHALLENGING HER

(Ryukyu Shimpō) M.

(Central Branch) As reported earlier, while digging for iron scrap a little after 6 a.m., April 8, at the uncultivated field of the ammunition dump located in Chibana of Misato Son, a 32-year old woman named Etsuko Yonamine, a resident of Yamazato-ku of Goeku Son, was discovered by two Okinawan guards, and an MP sergeant who shot her to death. This case has been under the investigation of the Maehara Police Station, but as a result of an on-the-spot investigation made by the officials of the Police Station on the afternoon of April 10, the following facts were confirmed.

Although the spot is an off-limits area, there is no off-limits sign standing in the area nor is there any barbed wire fence around the area, leaving the area open for anyone to enter. No (stationary) guards are posted in the area. The hour of 6 a.m. is bright enough for anyone to distinguish women from men. The distance between the patrolling MP and the woman was 38 meters, and the MP shot her to death without ordering her to stop or firing a warning shot.

Nobuko Higa (19 years old) and Chiyo Tamashiro (43 years old) who were also digging for scrap together with Mrs. Etsuko Yonamine, and who were being detained at the Koza Police Station, were transferred to Maehara Police Station and are presently being subjected to examination. It is not yet known whether Etsuko was shot because she fled, but according to an investigation of the Police Station, it was confirmed that she was shot from the front. Incidentally, it is said that there were about 20 to 30 other Okinawans digging for scrap near the spot.

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY

Tuesday, 10 April 1956

EDITORIALS

WE ARE BURNING WITH RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION

(Okinawa Times) Y.

Of late accidents arising from scrap collection are taking place one after another, some losing their lives by tampering with gun shells in being unable to suppress their greed, while others become maimed or an invalid for life by handling the shells unwittingly. These tragedies which occur almost every day may be peculiar to Okinawa, the former battleground. However, it is also true that the profitable sale of gunpowder and shells is contributing a powerful urge to perpetrate this tragedy.

Gunpowder besides being harmful to human life, constitutes a powerful influence in depleting our marine resources through illegal inshore fishing by the use of dynamite, and this matter calls for serious consideration. In view of the many tragedies taking place recently, it would be consistent to take a precautionary measure, such as banning the direct dealing with empty shells by the scrap dealers.

Although this is only one of the many tragedies connected with the collection of scrap iron, a gruesome tragedy took place on the 8th at the Chibana Ammunition Area of Misato-son, in which a 32-year old housewife who went hunting scrap for the first time was shot to death by a guard. Everyone who has seen the picture of the unfortunate woman with her three young children taken a week before her death must have been moved deeply, and perhaps no one possibly escaped the sense of deep regret and indignation that such a killing could be justified regardless of the motive of the intrusion by the unfortunate woman.

We do not know what effect the warning "Anyone who enters this restricted area without due permit is liable to be shot to death," will have legally, but it is a sad reality that killing can be legalized in our human society. It is understandable that warnings must be posted for the purpose of preventing danger or for security reasons, but is it in keeping with human principles to deprive a person of his life because he or she ignored that warning? It was around last year that an Okinawan who broke into an American home was shot to death with a hunting gun. In that case however, it was said that the man shot the culprit in self-defense as the intruder was armed, but in this case the intruder is a defenseless female. Nothing can be more tragic.

Since it is reported that the tragedy took place at dawn, it is possible that the guard was unable to discern the intruder, and again it is possible that the shot which was intended to frighten the intruder off

140

unfortunately hit the woman, but in either case, the killing should not be justified. It is our hope that the Government will investigate this case and make the responsibility clear, and at the same time, we would like to point out that the responsible person should make due compensation to the young children and the husband.

WE HAVE DOUBTS TOWARD THE SHOOTING CASE

(Okinawa Shimbun) T.

The incident in which an impoverished female scrap collector who entered an off-limits ammo area and was shot to death by guard on duty has shocked us as the most miserable tragedy involved with scrap collection. Of course, it is illegal to enter an off limits area, but if it should be permissible to shoot to death such illegal entrants, we can not but say that there is a limitation in making light of human lives.

We do not deny the justification of the guard in taking such action. The guard may say that he shot the woman because she fled, or there may be a regulation providing that a guard may shoot those who do not stop when challenged, but even so, we can not help wondering whether it was necessary for the guard to take aim and fire at the intruder. It is considered that a warning shot might have been sufficient, for it was evident by the fact that the intruder fled upon being challenged that the person was not one which would threaten the life of the guard. Hence, it can never be said that the act was in self-defense, or that it was taken to protect the safety of the ammo area.

We do not know as to whether the guard involved is an Okinawan or a foreigner, but regardless of the nationality, we wish to strongly appeal this to the conscience of the world as an undemocratic incident that took place in Okinawa. Today, eleven years after the end of war, the tendency to make light of human life is still seen in Okinawa, despite the fact that the fundamental principle of democracy must be to respect human life. We made great sacrifices in the last world war, but we obtained democracy in return. There is no nationality or boundary in democracy and it must be observed by all people who love peace.

The misfortune of Okinawa lies in the fact that false democracy reigns as real democracy. In other words, undemocratic practises are frequently conducted in the name of democracy. This tendency can be seen in the fields of politics, economy as well as education and other social aspects. For example, why is there no concrete counter-measure toward traffic and explosive accidents while respect toward human life is emphasized; why are no residences for the working people built while restaurants and offices are being constructed in succession; why is no measure taken toward working pupils while advocating the protection of children?

All these problems are directly connected with the fundamentals of Ryukyuan politics. It is undeniable that the act of thinking nothing of

human life, when it must be respected as the principle of democracy, is resulting in creating a gloomy society. When thinking of the motive that led the woman to enter the off-limits area, we are provided with food for thought. If it were true that poverty produces ignorance and crime, resulting in miserable death, this is a political problem. We request the self-reflection of those concerned with the incident, and at the same time, earnestly hope that everyone will make self-introspection so as to eliminate every tendency to make light of human life, including this sort of incident.

COMMENTARIES

(Ryukyu Shimpo) M.
Kinko Mokuzetsu Column

"People frequently think that such evil crimes as robbery, murder, and arson can be prevented because of the existence of death penalty, but this is nothing but self-deception. The motive for a crime is more serious and it is more proper to interpret that a crime is a natural phenomenon as a result of being driven to distress in terms of clothing, food, shelter, love affair, grudge, liquor and poverty put together. It signifies negligence of Government officials and constitutes an excuse for politicians' ignorance and responsibility.

"The education of criminals by isolating them from the outside world is most fitting in meeting the spirit of penalty. On the other hand, efforts should be made to probe the social cause for the crime, and it is considered that this is the best means for eliminating crimes permanently. In 1954, the Supreme Court in its judgement declared, 'Life is priceless. Life of a man is more precious than the earth.' It is wrong to kill a man, even at the hands of a nation. Such death penalty will eventually bring about the tendency of making light of human life as well as a motive for evil crimes. Thus, death penalty should be absolutely abolished."

The above is an opinion concerning abolition of death penalty as expressed by Mr. Akira Masaki, a member of the Society for Reformation of Penalty and Society. (This article appeared in the Weekly Asahi published in Japan.) We do not intend to comment on the abolition of death penalty here, but especially quoted the above article in order to emphasize the fact that human life must be respected. Sometime ago, the British Parliament adopted a resolution for abolishing the death penalty in consideration that the deprivation of a man of his life even if he should be a vicious criminal, is contrary to humanity and respect of human life.

Now then, how about the situation in present Okinawa? Isn't human life here extremely made light of? One of such examples is the case in which one of three Okinawan women who entered an off-limits area ammunition

area at Noborikawa to collect scrap iron, was shot to death the day before yesterday. Of course, there is no doubt that it is wrong to enter a restricted area and no one can complain even if one should be shot.

There is doubt, however, whether it is permissible for one to shoot another to death or whether one is allowed to shoot another because it was an illegal act. Judging from the fact that the two other persons were arrested, there should have been no need to shoot her to death. The case can be summed up by saying that it was an action which went too far.

(Okinawa Shimbun) T.
Karo Tosen Column

There is a woman who was challenged by a guard while engaged in scrap collection upon entering an ammo area and was shot for attempting to flee. She is to blame for entering such off limits area, but opinions are being voiced that some other measure should have been taken instead of killing her. This is a natural view, and we can not help sympathizing with the killed woman, her husband and children.

This is not the first time a person was shot to death for trespassing into a military reservation, but each time we hear of such cases, we are led to regret the trend to think lightly of human life. Repeated warnings have been issued against such illegal entry, but even so we pity the victim. In view of the fact that there was a case in which a guard was shot to death sometime ago, it may be natural for guards to be extremely sensitive toward such illegal entrants, but even then, deep consideration must be made toward the act of firing a gun since human life is involved.

Though we do not know whether the guard was an Okinawan or a foreigner, it was not proper for him to have aimed at the intruder. He could have fired a warning shot to scare her away. This is the time when harshness of imposing a death sentence on criminals who committed homicide is being criticized, and abolition of death sentence is being advocated. In the British House of Commons, a bill for abolishing the death sentence was passed in February despite government opposition.

We are not advocating the abolition of death penalty, but are urging self-reflection concerning the cruelty of simply depriving one of his life. There is an old saying "Don't hate the person but hate his crime," and there is no reason why even the life of a vicious criminal should be taken away simply. This is the preciousness of human life.

The act of aiming to kill a person just like a worthless insect, is too cruel a measure, even for an ignorant person who did not respond to the warning. It is not possible to maintain peace with the principle of "kill one if he does not understand even after he is told." True democracy must stem from the spirit of respecting the individual human life.

141

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY

Wednesday, 18 April 1956

NEWS ARTICLE

DECISION FOR PROSECUTION TO BE
MADE BY THE COMMANDING GENERAL

(Ryukyu Shimpō) M.

In connection with the shooting case in which Mrs. Etsuko Yonamine (28-year-old), a resident of Yamazato-ku of Goeku Son was shot to death early on the morning of April 8, the Rycom Public Information Office announced on the 16th that an investigation was completed by the Rycom Military Police and charges filed against the American guard who fired the fatal shot at Mrs. Yonamine. However, it seems that the decision as to whether or not the guard will be prosecuted will be made by Commanding General Moore at the recommendation of the Staff Judge Advocate.

With regard to legal procedures in this connection, Col. Gaynor, Rycom Staff Judge Advocate, stated, "In order to give a decision as to whether or not it was proper for the guard to have shot the woman to death, Commanding General Moore will designate one investigator among those other than judges, and the investigator will prepare a written investigation report separately from that of the Military Police, by summoning witnesses. After a study is made of the report by the Staff Judge Advocate, Commanding General Moore will decide whether or not the guard should be prosecuted at the recommendation of the Staff Judge Advocate."

Incidentally, it seems that Commanding General Moore appointed an investigator concerning the shooting case on April 17th.

142

PRESS & PUBLICATIONS
C I & E U S C A R
Naha Okinawa

PRESS RELEASE:

16 April 1956

CHARGES FILED AGAINST GUARD WHO SHOT WOMAN IN OFF-LIMITS AREA

A full investigation has been completed by Rycom military authorities into the fatal shooting of an Okinawan woman in the early morning hours of 8 April, it was announced by the Rycom Public Information Office.

Charges have been filed against the American guard who fired the fatal shot.

According to information uncovered in the investigation, Etsuko Yonamine, aged 28, of Yamazato-ku, Goeku-son, and two women companions were in an off-limits area near the Chibana fire station when the American and Okinawan guards appeared on the scene.

The guards called "halt" several times in Japanese, and two of the women stopped, but Mrs. Yonamine fled and the fatal shot was fired at her by a guard as she ran.

A warning shot was said to have been fired over her head before the fatal shot was fired.

The two women companions of the deceased, in statements to investigators, admitted that they had entered the off-limits area for the purpose of stealing scrap metals.

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY

Thursday, 12 April 1956

NEWS ARTICLES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE MAKES INQUIRY TO USCAR
CONCERNING THE SHOOTING INCIDENT

(Ryukyu Shimpō) T.

On the 11th, Chief Executive Higa made an inquiry to Civil Administrator Burger concerning the actual situation involving the case in which Mrs. Etsuko Yonamine was shot to death by a guard for entering an off-limits area at the Ammunition Area located at Noborikawa of Misato Son. Toward this inquiry, the Civil Administrator replied that he had already requested Deputy Governor Moore to conduct an investigation; hence, it was decided that the Chief Executive would make a request for proper measure as soon as the result of the investigation was received.

Statement of Chief Executive Higa:

"Right after the occurrence of the incident, I made an inquiry to the Police Department of GRI and the Public Safety Department of USCAR, but since I could not obtain sufficient information from them, I met with the Civil Administrator to inquire about the case. Toward this, the Civil Administrator told me that he had already requested Deputy Governor Moore to investigate the case and that he would notify me about it as soon as the results were known. Since this is an incident that took place in a military reservation, there is no alternative but to rely on the investigation report of the military, and as soon as the results are known, I intend to ask for the proper counter-measure. I want all people to refrain from going near the off-limits area hereafter."

BEREAVED FAMILY SAID HEART-
BROKEN AT DEATH OF 'ETSUKO-SAN'

(Ryukyu Shimpō) T.

(Central Branch) According to the investigation made by the Koza Police Station concerning the situation of the bereaved family of late Mrs. Etsuko Yonamine (32 years old of 3 han, Yamazato Ku, Goeku Son, who was shot to death by a guard for entering the Ammunition Area at Noborikawa, it seems that her husband, Mr. Seiko Yonamine, (35 years old), is still suffering from nightmare, and seems to be in a daze with three small children to care for.

Mr. Yonamine was an employee of a military motor pool but since losing his job, was engaged in collection of scrap, earning about ¥3,000 every month. With increased expenses due to the eldest daughter's sickness (pleurisy), his income became insufficient, thus aggravating the family's livelihood. As a result, Etsuko started helping her husband in collecting scrap though having an infant to take care of. The family lives in a shabby 4-tsubo (1 tsubo eq. 36 sq. ft.), tin-roofed house, and it seems that the relationship between the husband and wife was extremely harmonious and Etsuko never complained of their hardship. She was devoted to her children and well-liked and admired by the neighbors.

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY

Friday, 13 April 1956

EDITORIAL.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICS

(Ryukyu Shimpō) M.

Human rights are ignored under autocracy or a feudalistic system. Under such politics (in the past), there was nothing man could do as there was no concept on human rights. There was no constraint on the part of the governing class of people, such as royalty and nobility, in depriving the common people of their lives just as if killing a dog or a cat. Thus, it was a misfortune to the people who were killed, and this was the cross they had to bear.

The period when people were freed from being killed at random differs from one country to another, but the date can only be traced back 200 or 300 years. Setting aside blood-shedding stories, it was only just recently after the termination of the last war that the people in Japan were guaranteed by law to enjoy the right to live. Yet, such rights are not yet fully enjoyed by the people. The longer democratic politics are in force, the more protection human rights are given, but once a war breaks out, the nature of such democratic politics change, bringing about an abnormal situation.

Even after the termination of the war, such abnormal situation, or to be more exact, a state of war continues to exist on Okinawa, with the consequent result that cases often arose in which human lives were wiped out simply. One of such examples is the case of an Okinawan woman who was shot to death at Noborikawa in Misato Son early on the morning of April 8. In spite of the fact that 11 years have already elapsed since the end of war, a state of war still exists.

In speaking of scrap collection, it is a fact that people sometimes steal shells, and trespassing into an American military ammunition dump is naturally wrong. However, the act of depriving a person of his life without due court procedures is not justifiable, even if such person were to be charged with a crime and arrested. Such act is called an unlawful act. Regardless of the country, military discipline is strictly enforced, and particularly in the case of an ammunition area, strict sentry regulation is most likely enforced.

In connection with the shooting case of this time, it is said that several persons had trespassed into the off-limits area at the same time, but it is also said that they did not enter the area like gangsters or robbers, but to collect scrap in order to support their families. We do not say that the illegal entry was proper, but that they should have been arrested and punished, and it was contrary to humanity to have shot the woman to death.

In relation to this case, it is reported that Chief Executive Higa requested the American military to conduct an investigation of true facts, but the Government should take thorough measures to prevent such deplorable incidents, and at the same time, take a thorough measure for relieving those unable to make a living other than through collection of scrap, even by committing an illegal entry (into an off-limits area). This is the natural obligation of the Government in the name of democratic politics.

COMMENTARY

(Okinawa Shimbun) T.
Karotosen Column

In spite of the fact that eleven years have elapsed since the end of war, there are still many persons who are victimized by explosion of shells and other explosives in attempting to remove the powder, while not a few persons were fired upon for entering an off limits area in search of scrap. Most of those who trespass into the military reservations do so at the risk of their lives, for they are well aware that they are committing a crime. However, in the case of the shooting of Mrs. Etsuko Yonamine, it was too cruel an action, even though her entry into the military reservation was illegal.

According to the morning edition of the Okinawa Times dated the 12th, Prosecutor Inoue of the Nakagami Branch of the Public Procurators' Office made an on-the-spot investigation on the 11th and heard about the situation at the time from the two SP's who happened to be riding in a jeep with the MP who shot the woman. It seems that the two told Prosecutor Inoue that at the time the incident took place, it was bright enough to tell whether it was a man or a woman. Moreover, that Etsuko did not try to flee, but that she was standing apart from the two other women at a spot directly in front of the MP, and was shot from distance of about 60 meters. The merciless and cold-blooded act of aiming and shooting at a helpless woman who did not try to resist, is indicative of excessive disregard of human rights.

According to the report from the Central Branch of this newspaper, it seems that the woman's bereaved family is at the depth of poverty, with her husband, Seiko, having lost his job and the 5-year-old daughter suffering from plourisy. Etsuko lost her precious life in attempting to help her husband by collecting scrap. At the time abolition of death penalty is advocated in England, in base Okinawa, human life is snatched away like that of a dog or a cat.

We can not but heave a sigh at having been born on this ill-fated islands, but before doing so, it is more urgent for all Okinawans to start a movement in an effort to extend helping hands to the bereaved family. This family will be able to make a fresh start if each person donates one-yen. If help were to be denied and the family left to its fate, it will be proof that humanism no longer exists in Okinawa.

The Okinawa Times, May 18, 1957. (commentary) Y. Evening edition.

THE MISATO CASE VS THE SOMAGAHARA CASE. FROM THE RONSO COLUMN.

According to the report of the Okinawa Times (April 19.), the claim for compensation by the bereaved family of Mrs Etsuko Yonamine who was shot to death on April 8 last year while collecting scrap metal, by an American guard, was rejected on the ground that she was shot to death while attempting to take possession of what does not belong to her, so there is no reason that her death should be compensated for. This is too tragic. But when the claim was filed again, calling for reduced amount of compensation, intended to cover the expenses required in completing the compulsory education of the bereaved children, this was also rejected on the ground that, "although it is a matter to be regretted, there is no law in the United States authorizing to pay the compensation, in this case.

According to report at that time, Etsuko-san, the mother of 3 young children, of whom one is sick, unable to live on what her husband earned alone, decided to go out collecting metal scraps, and early on the morning of April 8 went looking for metal scraps with a couple of her friends. And she was shot to death while collecting pieces of scrap metals inside the restricted area of which she was not aware, when she was found by the American soldier and, trying to run away, was shot in the back.

Although this shocked and infuriated the people throughout the island, there was no apology or consolation of any kind from the military, while the soldier who shot her was freed after a perfunctory military judgement;

moreover the victim was branded a thief, no compensation of any kind having been made to the bereaved family. A human life was treated as lightly as that of a dog or a cat.

There is a great difference between this case and the similar case which known as the Somagahara case as far as the American government attitude toward these cases is concerned.

What is the Somagahara case? On January 30, Mrs. Naka Sakai, wife of Mr. Shukichi Sakai was engaged in the collection of fragments of shells inside the restricted area of the maneuvering area of the American forces located at Somagahara in the Gunma County of Gunma Prefecture when she was shot to death by an American soldier, bringing the public indignation to a boiling point, as Somagahara case. The culprit was arrested right then and there. Although the American military authorities hinted at its being an accident which took place in the course of the maneuver, it became clear that it took place during the rest hour by the testimony of the eye witnesses. This case shocked the United States also. Shortly after the incident, on February 8, the acting American ambassador officially expressed regret in writing, representing the American government, to Minister of Foreign Affairs Kishi, and stated that the American military authorities would take appropriate measures and bend every effort in preventing the recurrence of that kind of tragedy in the future as far as humanly possible. (The loss of a human life is a heartfelt sorrow to every one concerned no matter what the result of the inquiry into the whole case.) Furthermore, the commander-in-chief of the division expressed his regret to the

1-1-55

prefectural governor of the Gunma Prefecture, while the battalion commander expressed his regret to the bereaved family, and the men and officers of the battalion raised a fund and sent it to the bereaved family to comfort them.

The Department of Defense also expressed regret on February 6, and said that they too had been shocked. This incident is indeed deplorable, we will do every thing possible in clarifying this case and deal with the case accordingly.....; the case must have taken place accidentally, for we are unable to believe that such act could have been committed on purpose. Nor can we believe that it has been committed as a sort of a joke, for it is impossible for any American to commit such an act under any circumstances unless he has gone berserk.

The humane attitude of the American military authorities in Japan as well as that of the American government seems to have touched the heart of the bereaved families, and the Asahi Shimbun reports the mental state of the bereaved family as follows: (April 30) The Sakai family which has been deprived of their mother, is now being taken care of by Yoshiko-san (18), second eldest daughter who takes care of her 3 younger brothers and sisters, while the younger Sakai, (22) works in the farm helping his father who is away most of the time due to his duties as alderman of the village. She said, "At my mother's death I thought I could never hate American servicemen enough, but with the passing of time I now feel that the fellow who killed my mother must be repentant, so my hate is now melting way. Love calls forth love; the warm spring air thaws the thick ice.

These two cases are similar in every respect. The only difference being that while the shooting in Somagahara took place during a maneuver, in the case of Etsuko-san it was an incident in the early morning with plenty of room for consideration, yet the American attitude in these two cases is so greatly different.

How do you account for that? And this only one of many such cases.

It is my ardent wish that the Okinawan leaders who advocate that the time is not yet ripe for reversion to Japan will consider this situation carefully and at length. (May 11)

By Seiryō Kamiyama

Okinawa Times, 19 April 1957, (News Article) K.

CLAIM OF ETSUKO YONAMINE'S BEREAVED FAMILY
FOR SOLATIUM REJECTED AGAIN

(Koza Branch) Mr. Seiko Yonamine (35), resident of 3-han, Yamazato-ku, Koza City, husband of the late Etsuko Yonamine (32) who was shot to death on April 8, 1956 by an American guard while collecting scrap within the military installation located at Chibana, Misato Son, filed a claim with USARIS, Staff Judge Advocate Section on December 26, 1956 through Mayor Higa of Koza City for paying a solatium in the amount of ¥420,000 for schooling his three bereaved children until they finish the compulsory education. However, the claim was rejected again on April 10 on the ground that there is no provision in the law of the U.S. to pay such solatium. This answer was given to Mr. Seiko Yonamine and the Gushiken Villagers Association in Koza City (represented by Mr. Seiei Uema). (Gushiken is a sub-village of Kamimotobu Son from which Mr. Seiko Yonamine hails.)

At first, Mr. Seiko Yonamine claimed a compensation of ¥1,703,043, but this was turned down for the reason that the late Etsuko Yonamine was shot to death because she took what did not belong to her. However, since the bereaved family was too miserable to bear it, Mr. Seiko Yonamine again claimed a solatium of ¥420,000 for giving the compulsory education to the three bereaved children.

At present, Mr. Seiko Yonamine has left his 4-year-old first daughter and 1-year-old first son to his parents living at his native village, and is making a bare living with one child in his hands by working by

the day. But he is said to be in a position to have to take the other two children over because his parents are too old to take care of them.

Moreover, the Koza City authorities decided to investigate the condition of the bereaved family in a few days together with a welfare worker, and to make a request to the welfare office for application of the Daily Life Security Act to the family.

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY

Friday - 30 November 1956

SUSPENSION OF BOMBING PRACTICE
PETITIONED BY IEJIMA ISLANDERS

Ryukyu Shimpō M

On the afternoon of November 29, five persons, including Mr. Shoko Anagon representing landowners of the maneuver ground for bombing practice in Maja-Ku of Iejima, visited the Government and submitted a petition to the Chief Executive together with a written opinion of Mayor Oshiro of Ie Son. The petition was signed by Mr. Tamotsu Agarie, Ku head of Maja, and requested Government assistance in suspending the bombing practice.

On October 11, the sub-villagers were asked by the American military through the police to refrain from engaging in farming within the designated area while bombing practice was being conducted, for their farming would interfere with the bombing practice. However, the landowners are continuing to engage in cultivation of farms and collecting scrap amidst the bombing practice by saying that they do not remember approving the use of their arable land.

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY

3 December 1956

MAJA VILLAGERS BEAM WITH JOY AT UNEXPECTED
REVENUE DERIVED FROM COLLECTION OF BOMB FRAGMENTS

Ryukyu Shimpō M

(Northern Branch) Maja sub-village of Iejima, which once created various repercussions internally and externally in relation to the military land problem, is now prospering with the scrap boom. This boom is attributed to the collection of fragments of bombs used by the American Air Force for bombing practice, and since a maximum of 2 or 3 tons of bombs (bomb fragments priced at ¥5,000 or so per ton) are dropped on a training day, it seems that the villagers used to go near the bomb explosion area to collect the fragments of the bombs before they were even dropped.

Therefore, the American military issued a warning on November 11 to refrain from cultivating farmland and collecting scrap during the bombing practice. On the other hand, the Motobu Police Station also warned the villagers that they should collect scrap after the bombing practice, for collection of scrap on the day of bombing practice was very dangerous.

However, since scrap collection is the only source of revenue on the part of landowners of Maja whose land has been requisitioned as the maneuver ground, and as they can not harvest farm crops, the landowners concerned concluded an agreement at the previous meeting to vest the right of collecting scrap to owners of the respective land where the bombs were to be dropped, in order to avoid a dispute.

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY

4 December 1956

'FAR FROM SCRAP BOOM' MAJA KU HEAD
RELATES DISTRESS OF MAJA VILLAGERS

Ryukyu Shimpō M

With regard to the article carried in this newspaper on December 3, reporting the scrap boom in Maja sub-village of Iejima, Mr. Shoko Anagon, Ku head of Maja, visited this newspaper yesterday afternoon and stated that the article was not correct and that the villagers were in a dire situation. Mr. Anagon also stated as follows:

"When bombing practice is conducted by the military, fragments of the bombs fall on the farmland, but these fragments are buried as deep as 10 or 20 feet in the ground, and it is almost impossible for an ordinary man to dig them out. Moreover, even if they were dug out, it would not be worth it as it will take a considerable number of days. Such work is also dangerous, and though bullets fired from machine guns fall on the land, fragments of bombs scarcely do.

"Moreover, while it is easy to collect bullets fired from machine guns, they are so small that their collection does not bring much money. Presently in Maja sub-village, farmland which is the only source of livelihood is devastated due to the military maneuver and the villagers are eking out their livelihood with the small military land rental. Our wish is that we will be able to farm our land without being threatened by the firing practice."

SHELL EXPLOSION ON ISLET OFF KADENA
CAUSES 11 DEATHS AND INJURIES

(Okinawa Times)

Explosion of a shell on an islet 50 meters off Kaneku of Kadena Son, resulted in deaths of 4 persons, serious injuries to 5 and slight injuries to 2. Around 3 p.m. on the 7th, while Hiroyuki Maezato and his companions were dismantling a 105-millimeter shell on the islet, the shell suddenly exploded killing Hiroyuki Maezato and Seiichi Uchi of Kadena Son and two others, seriously injuring Takeo Nakasone (27), Mitsuo Hamakawa, Takeyoshi Ikema and Ikuo Shimozato of 4-han, 4-ku of Kadena Son and one other, and slightly injuring 2 others who were working nearby. The 7 injured persons were immediately taken to the Machinato Army Hospital by a military ambulance, but all those seriously injured are in a critical condition.

According to investigation of the Kadena Police Station, dismantled shells were piled at the scene of the accident, and judging from this, it is considered that these men had stolen the shells from a sunken vessel off Toya of Yomitan Son and were dismantling them. It is said that the police will investigate the injured persons and pursue those that had fled, regarding them to be habitual criminals who were stealing gunpowder and dismantling sunken vessels.

Excerpt from DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY (8 December 1956).

WHY DO EXPLOSIVE ACCIDENTS STILL TAKE PLACE?

(Ryukyu Shimpō)

A terrible accident due to an explosive again took place around 2 p.m., December 7. As usual, this accident took place while powder was being extracted from a shell at Kanekuhama of Yomitan Son, instantly killing 6 men and giving serious injuries to 3 and slight injuries to 2. Why is it that such accidents still continue to take place despite the constant warning issued through newspapers and other media, and efforts of the controlling authorities?

It is said that ignorance of those who indifferently extract powder from shells is responsible for the accidents, but judging from the number of accidents that have taken place so far despite the warning mentioned above as well as movements for preventing the accidents, it is considered that they run the risk while fully knowing that mishandling of explosives will result in death. If so, they are extracting powder from shells at the risk of their lives. We do not know how much money they earn from this dangerous work, but even if the amount should be great, it is beyond common sense.

This means that they can not find any means of making a living other than through extraction of powder from shells while aware of the danger to their lives; in other words, there is no worthy work excepting for extraction of powder from shells. It is considered that the situation is such that they will run a risk as a matter of course, creating the worst situation.

The newspapers reported that 22 lunch boxes were left behind at the spot where the explosive accident took place. Those who escaped death or

Why Do Explosive Accidents Still Take Place? (Cont.)

injury fled immediately after the explosion. This is because they were fully aware of the fact that extraction of powder from shells was illegal and dangerous. If so, it is evident that the accident of this time is not attributed to ignorance of the danger, and they must have engaged in the dangerous work in order to make a living.

What attracts our attention is the fact that almost all who were killed or injured in the accident were young men in their twenties. Speaking of youths in their twenties, they are at the starting point of life and are full of hope. They would not be foolish enough to expose themselves to danger unless circumstances compelled them to do so. If these youths should be provided with worthy jobs, such an accident would disappear spontaneously. Statesmen should realize that prevention of such a miserable accident can not be attained with mere passive counter-measures like issuing warnings or exercising control.

Excerpt from DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY (9 December 1956).

CAN'T EXPLOSIVE ACCIDENTS BE PREVENTED?

(Okinawa Shimbun)

Another explosive accident has taken place, killing 6 persons and seriously injuring 5. We feel that we can no longer overlook this sort of an accident which took place at the seashore while attempting to extract powder from a shell, for accidents of this nature is being repeated in increasing number of late, as if ignoring the repeated warnings issued by the controlling authorities.

Judging from the accidents which took place in Haeburu and Ishikawa, a particularly strict warning must have been made. The fact that such cases do not decrease proves that these dangerous materials are scattered throughout the island in considerable quantity. In other words, it will be no exaggeration to say that supervision and control are not sufficient.

Those who cause such accidents are of the view that regardless of how strictly the control is enforced, there are loopholes to outwit the supervisory authorities, and they somehow work out a method to evade control. This is the reason this sort of an accident does not decrease. What is important in preventing such cases and thus save precious lives is to make these people aware of the danger involved. However, to those who risk their lives to collect scrap, such warning will have no effect. This means that they are driven to such acts from a more fundamental problem, and it is important to give thought on this aspect in stamping out these accidents.

We will be at a loss for words if they say that they are resorting to such act because they have no jobs or means to make a living. Anyone would be compelled to do so if they were driven into extreme privation. Even then, there is no reason why they should be allowed to risk their lives for

Can't Explosive Accidents Be Prevented? (Cont'd)

dangerous works. Since it is difficult to hope for self-awakening of these people, it seems most important to exercise strict supervision over these people. For this purpose it is necessary to maintain a strict watch toward powder extraction and scrap collection and prevent stockpiling of dangerous materials. It would also be necessary to restudy the method of supervision throughout the island.

With the present insufficient number of police, it may not be possible to strengthen the supervision in every detail for other crimes are also on the increase, requiring the activities of the police, as all these must be handled by the police. Even so, the situation should not be left in the present state. The best possible method that can be adopted to cope with the situation will be to conduct thorough supervision and enforce strict penal measures.

Excerpt from DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY (9 December 1956).

153

Office of the Inspector General
313th Air Division
United States Air Force
APO 239 San Francisco, California

313IG-P

SUBJECT: Staff Visit to Ie Shima

TO: Commander
313th Air Division
APO 239 San Francisco, California

1. On 25 January 1957, a staff visit was made to Ie Shima by the following officials of USAF, USCAR and GRI. They were:

a. USAF:

- (1) Lt. Col. RICHARD J. WADE - 313 AD IG-PM
- (2) Lt. Col. JAMES F. GIDDENS - 313 AD OC-I
- (3) Capt. WILLIAM T. SHELTON - 313 AD OC-T
- (4) 1st Lt. ROBERT H. WOODALL - 18 FBW Training Aids
- (5) Mr. KATSUMI KUSUMI - Dist. Off. #3 OSI - DAFC
- (6) T/Sgt FELIX E. MASSAIA - 313 AD IG-P

b. USCAR (Land Office):

- (1) Mr. BOBBY D. BILLINGSLEY
- (2) Mr. JOHN T. SHEEHAN

c. GRI (HQ. Police)

- (1) Police Commander EZIO OMINE
- (2) Chief Criminal Inspector, (Detective Div.) KAWATAMI
- (3) Ass't Chief Criminal Inspector, (Detective Div.) TOMAYOSHI

2. A conference with the Mayors, Ku, Son and Shi Chiefs of Ie Shima was held at 1330 hours. Mr. Katsumi Kusumi addressed the group for Lt. Col. Wade, informing them of the following:

a. The accelerated use of the bombing range.

b. Larger bombs, weighing 250 pounds each, to be used. These bombs to be filled with sand and contain a small explosive, marking charge.

c. The heavier bombs being of more danger to anyone within the confines of the larger area circle of the bombing range. A 250 pound bomb was placed before the group to stress this point.

513IG-P, Hq, 313 AD, Subj: Staff Visit to Ie Shima

d. During weather conditions which preclude use of the bombing range that indigenous personnel may enter after they have ascertained that the siren has not blown and the red flags are not up on the tower.

e. On any day, when bombing practice is over, the siren will be sounded and the red flags lowered.

f. That people are not to go within the range for any circumstances, when the range is in use.

g. That when they are within the range that they fill in the holes that they dig.

h. A request for cooperation between the people of Ie Shima and the United States Air Force, that if this cooperation is not received, that the Air Force has no recourse but to fence the area and have it patrolled by guards and K-9 sentries.

i. The United States Air Force will not accept any responsibility for persons injured within the range when it is in use.

j. All possible safety precautions will be used to prevent danger to the people, but we cannot protect those who will not cooperate.

k. A siren is installed on the tower and is being used in conjunction with red flags to notify the people when the range is in use, and when it is safe to enter.

l. When the range is to be used, the siren will sound three (3) distinct blasts of ten seconds duration, and the red flags raised. When the range is clear for entry, the siren will sound one (1) long blast, and the red flags lowered.

3. A/2C Hisamoto, 18th Air Police Squadron then addressed them and informed them that on 17 January 1957 six (6) people were arrested for being on the range during bombing practice. They were tried at Naha, found guilty and each given three months confinement at hard labor and fined 3000 yen.

4. GRI Police Commander Omine then addressed the group stating "Nov. of 1956, Chief Criminal Inspector Kawakami had been to Ie Shima and had received the promises of the Mayor Ku, Son and Shi chiefs that the people would not enter the range when it was in use; however, we have received numerous complaints about these promises being ignored. It is very regrettable that the Air Force Officials and myself have to come out here and give you people the same kind of warning. The Air Force has been good enough in permitting your people to enter the range and salvage the scrap iron. This scrap iron belongs to the Air Force and it is normally collected and disposed of by the Air Force.

313IG-P, Hq, 313 AD, Subj: Staff Visit to Ie Shima

5. GRI, Chief Criminal Inspector (Detective Section) Kawatami then addressed the group and reminded them again of the November 1956 agreement and promises they had made.

6. GRI Ass't Chief Criminal Inspector (Detective Section) Tomayoshi then addressed the group and explained the kindness of the United States Air Force for letting the people salvage and have the scrap which really belonged to the Air Force. That if the people continue to violate and ignore the warning, he will be forced to instruct the scrap iron dealers not to buy any scrap from Ie Shima. The GRI police after all is charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and order, therefore, the police will prosecute to the utmost extent of the law any further violators.

7. The group were then asked if they had any questions or matters that they would like to have clarified. The following questions and replies were made:

a. How can we go about making expeditious legitimate property damage claims against the Air Force for any damage caused by Air Force activity? Could the USCAR procedures for submitting claims be expedited?

(1) They were informed to notify the Air Police on Ie Shima who will advise the Division Provost Marshal at Kadena to notify Legal Office and Operations Sections.

(2) The paper work can then be submitted later.

b. Will the Air Force give compensation for anyone injured or killed off the range by falling bombs or projectiles?

(1) You may be certain that the United States Air Force will give full sympathetic consideration to an adequate adjustment in an incident of this type.

8. The Mayor of Ie Shima then addressed the USAF, USCAR and GRI representatives and stated his sincere desire to cooperate on the previously discussed matters, his deep regret of this trouble that has arisen in the past. That as Mayor, he will again give numerous warnings through the village chiefs. Regardless of his same actions in the past, a few chose to ignore him and the warning he gave them, causing this trouble. He believes the majority of the people are regarding and obeying his warnings. He will again order them to refrain from disobeying safety regulations. Those who do not should be prosecuted by the government. He also stated the people who did cause this condition are previous offenders. He again stated his desire for a spirit of cooperation between his people and the United States Air Force.

9. The meeting was then closed.

313IG-P, Hq, 313 AD, Subj: Staff Visit to Ie Shima

10. M/Sgt. Snodgrass and A/2C Hisamoto were then requested to do all they could to foster better relations, through various recreational activities between the Air Force and the people of Ie Shima.

~~RICHARD J. WADE~~

Lt. Col., USAF

Provost Marshal

Office of the Inspector General

Okinawa Times, 6 February 1957. (News) K.

YOMITAN SON URGES EACH SUB-VILLAGE TO EXERCISE THOROUGH CONTROL
OVER COLLECTION OF EXPLOSIVES

(Koza Branch) The Yomitan Son Office held a regular meeting of sub-village headmen at 10 a.m. on the 4th at the Civic Hall of Takashio-ku and consulted with officials of the police station about popularization of crime preventive thought and controls over illegal entry into the military installations and illegal collection of explosives. The meeting was held in view of the present situation in which some villagers, stimulated by the recent scrap boom, are taking shells out of the vessels sunken in the near waters and even children are making illegal entry into the maneuvering ground at Zampa Point to collect shells. In particular, it is extremely dangerous to enter the ammunition yard at Zakimi-ku and collect cartridges.

In view of such situation, USCAR's Public Safety Department is said to have warned strictly that it would not only not guarantee the safety of those who enter such dangerous areas but would also take an overall measure of off-limits and prohibit the tacitly approved farming if necessary. At the meeting, Chief Asato and Mr. Higa, in charge of laws of the Kadena Police Station, explained the dangerousness of collecting explosives and the actual condition of the illegal entry into the military installations in order to urge the villagers to exercise self-control, and requested the villagers to control such conducts on their own responsibility in cooperation with the police station. Thus, it was decided that the villagers of various sub-villages would exercise thorough control by holding rallies at their respective sub-villages.

Incidentally, in order to heighten the crime preventive thought, the Kadena Branch (Kadena Police Station) of the Crime Preventive Association is scheduled to show a picture on crime prevention at the five civic halls within Yomitan Son during the period from the 4th to the 9th of February.

OKINAWA SHIMBUN
News Article (T)
16 February 1957

KADENA POLICE CONFISCATES 12,000
POUNDS OF BULLETS CONCEALED UNDER

A FLOOR

(Central Branch) Upon being informed that a group of persons hailing from Miyako were extracting powder from the cannon shells at the coast of Mizugama Sub-village of Kadena Son, after pulling up these explosives from the bottom of the sea off Mizugama coast, the Kadena Police Station launched on a thorough investigation within the jurisdiction of the Station in the morning of the 15th. However, when the authorities rushed to the scene, these people had already gone, having noticed the move of the Kadena Police.

On being informed that two fishermen, named Sinei (about 36 years old) and Yumei (about 33 years old) who had been renting a country house of Hidenobu Okuma, of 5 han, 5 ku, Kadena Son fled recently leaving 12,000 pounds of explosives which were pulled out from the sea bottom off Kadena, under the floor of their rented house, the Kadena police immediately rushed to the place and found the explosives under the floor of the house in question. The Kadena Police immediately informed this to the military ammunition disposal unit and had the unit dispose of the explosives. The Kadena police says that it wants to further strengthen the supervision over this problem and mete out heavy penalties as soon as those illegally possessing the explosive materials are found out.

RYUKYU SHIMPO (NEWS ARTICLE) 16 March 1957 (M)

Evening Edition

'WE MADE SATISFACTORY INSPECTION OF OKINAWA'
SAYS MESSRS. TAKAOKA AND SATAKE

Under the sponsorship of this newspaper and NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) a round-table conference was held on the evening of the 14th at the studio, under the chairmanship of Mr. Shien Yoshida, Chief Secretary of the Nampo Dobo Engo Kai, attended by Messrs. Daisuke Takaoka (Liberal-Democratic Party) and Haruki Satake (Socialist Party). Following are the details of the round-table conference:

Yoshida: "Thank you for your fulfilment of important mission of this time. I think that the real situation of Okinawa is such that it appears to be far away (from Japan) in spite of its nearness and vice versa, but I hope you will tell me frankly about what you have minutely heard and seen in Okinawa, beginning with the outline of the inspection...."

Takaoka: "Since I was appointed as head of the party as a result of a discussion conducted on the 4th, I started making a schedule on the 5th. I prepared a schedule by taking into consideration the requests of Okinawan people concerning places we would see and persons we would meet, and consulted the Assistant Chief of Staff, Far East Command, who gave a hearty consent to it. Thus, we were shown to every place excepting for one place due to lack of time. On the first day, Gen. Lemnitzer himself made explanations, and on the second day Deputy Governor Moore made explanations, and on the third day, the Chief Executive made explanations. In this way, they made every possible effort, enabling us to make a satisfactory inspection and hear opinions thoroughly."

Yoshida: "First, rumor had it that the Diet members would return after observing nice places alone (?), but..."

Takaoka: "There was no such thing, and I think that we could truly make a fair inspection and had conferences."

Yoshida: "Wasn't there any cover-up attitude?"

Satake: "To me, I did not see any place which was concealed, nor did I noticed such an attitude. At any rate, all that we could do was to inspect according to the schedule of the other party within the limited time, but in the meantime, we had our own time for two or three hours, for which we felt very grateful. On the first day, we were shown to the former severe battle field in southern part of Okinawa, and we were deeply moved to see the places. The head of our party presented wreathes before the Himeyuri-no-to (Monument to the war-dead girl students), Kompaku-no-to (Monument to the unknown war-dead) and Kenji-no-to (Monument to the war-dead boy students of former Normal School) and we offered a silent prayer, but at that moment, I was filled with the feeling that is the enemy of mankind and sin of the world, and must be prevented at any sacrifice."

Yoshida: "I think that your inspection of Okinawa this time exerted a considerable spiritual influence on the people of Okinawa. It seemed that the local newspapers reported your activities as top articles, while fellow countrymen in Okinawa talked about nothing but the visiting Japanese party, but what was the feeling of the Okinawan people toward Japan and the U.S. in connection with various problems like land problem, reversion problem and human rights problem?"

Takaoka: "I could understand the fact that all 800,000 Okinawan people wished for return of administrative authority and reversion to Japan, and wished that something would be done in this connection.

Petitions and appeals have been made to the U.S. in Okinawa, but since this is a big fundamental problem, this is a problem which should naturally be solved between the Japanese and the U.S. Governments. I think that the Japanese Government should have the enthusiasm to seriously deal with the Okinawan problem as her immediate problem. There is nuance (in opinions for realization) according to individual stand, but it can be said that everyone has the same wish."

Satake: "Through the inspection of this time, I felt closer blood-relationship with the people of Okinawa. Primary school children and people of towns greeted us at our destination, and a certain person said that they came to see Gen. Lemnitzer, but they wholeheartedly greeted us rather than Gen. Lemnitzer. The feeling that they were waving hands for us with deep emotion of 'Our fellow countrymen's Diet members came!' came home to my heart. And at the same time, I was filled with the feeling that we should not let them separate and must look after them."

Takaoka: "As to Japan's diplomacy, I think it would be better to appeal to Asian countries or A-A Conference. Since Asian and African countries were colonies until yesterday, they more keenly feel the colonial stand of Okinawan than Tokyo (Government). Appeals must be made not only to Japan's diplomacy but also various countries in Asia and the United Nations. Both the Japanese Government and the

Japanese people must deepen their understanding and work for the settlement of the problem."

Yoshida: "I have heard very pleasing views and I feel encouraged to learn that you have not forgotten Okinawa....."

Satake: "The military base was very fine, and I felt as if Okinawa was located within the military base instead of the military base located in Okinawa. Judging from the present situation, it would be impossible to expect return of the land now used for military base, but I strongly felt the desire for return of the administrative authority alone."

Yoshida: "The land problem has also had its repercussion in Japan since the announcement of Price report made last June 6, but how about the recent situation in this connection?"

Takaoka: "The situation at that time still remains and no progress has been made beyond general discussions, and I think that they have not yet started discussing each subject. For instance, even in the case of the land in the same area, rental of certain land is ¥6, and that of adjacent land is ¥60, while the rental of land beyond the road is ¥120, indicating great difference in rentals. In this connection, it is necessary to make a map with figures indicated, and submit it to both the Japanese and the U.S. Government in order to correct the unreasonable situation. If accurate figures should be indicated and necessary requests should be made, I think it is possible to expect some measures of the U.S., for expenses for it are not great to the huge budget of the U.S. I think it possible to solve the matter at a single effort if a diplomatic negotiation should be possible on the basis of actuality, but today nothing is done in this connection."

Yoshida: "Does it mean that the negotiation has not been conducted sufficiently?"

Takaoka: "After all, the people of Okinawa keep the U.S. at a respectful distance. They should conduct sufficient negotiations..... Such an attitude is especially necessary."

Satake: "As to the problem of the land compensation prior to the effectuation of the Peace Treaty, for example, the Japanese Government lacks enthusiasm (of negotiation) with the U.S. We must loudly encourage the Government at the Diet. In the second supplementary budget, ¥1,100,000,000 was appropriated as 'solatium', but this is far less the amount of ¥17,000,000,000 needed for solving the problem. As for the land problem, I do not think it impossible to settle it if the authorities and individuals should prepare complete data and earnestly deal with it. We can see the sign of settlement from the fact that the American military issued a proclamation indicating hard working for the settlement of the problem and from the attitude of the American authorities who are anxious to do something for it."

Yoshida: "Gen. Lemnitzer, in his capacity as the Governor of the Ryukyus, invited five Diet members, indicating a sign of efforts to settle the problem somehow or other, and we are placing expectation on it, though not much..... Now, I would like to hear about the problem of Mayor Senaga of Naha City."

Satake: "In connection with the problem of travel to Japan on the part of Mayor Senaga of Naha City, we visited the Headquarters twice

to make a request, but we were only informed that a review was being made and could not obtain a satisfactory answer. Many people in Okinawa applied for travel to Japan and their applications were approved. Since Mayor Senaga is also a Japanese, there is no reason why his travel to Japan for consulting the Japanese Diet should be disapproved. Even if he should be 'an undesirable person' to the U.S., he is the mayor who was elected with the support of many people and is in the position in which he must take care of the majority lives and properties, and is not an individual Senaga. Hence, the U.S. should become more broad-minded and allow him to freely travel to Japan."

Takaoka: "Today we visited Gen. Lemnitzer at the Headquarters and expressed our gratitude for his trouble, at which time we requested that an inspection party be sent to Okinawa frequently in the future, for if such an opportunity is provided for deeping mutual understanding of the two countries, it would be possible to find a clue to the settlement of any difficult problems. As a result, Gen. Lemnitzer willingly gave his consent to it."

Yoshida: "It is hoped that the Japanese people will also take this opportunity as the first step toward the settlement of the Okinawan problem."

Satake: "My view is that the assistance of the Japanese Government toward Okinawa is not sufficient. In relation to the Okinawan problem, positive assistance is presently needed, and in this regard, the All-Japan Labor Union Conference is carrying out a movement for raising ¥1,000,000 funds. I think that the point for the whole Japanese

people is to take interest in the Okinawan problem by taking part in the fund-raising campaign and extend positive assistance which will endorse blood-relationship."

~~Takaoka: "As a future problem, I think agriculture especially~~
requires review. An authority on intensive farming must be sent (to Okinawa) and radical reformation should be made in agriculture. Next, I think that a harbor must have the facilities which are sufficient for 30,000-ton ships to make a port. I also told it to Gen. Lemnitzer, and he agreed with me. In parallel with the problem of administrative authority, we must tackle future problems."

Yoshida: "Thank you for your attendance today in spite of your busy schedule and fatigue."

RYUKYU SHIMPO (News Article) 24 March 1957 (M)

REMOVAL OF SUNKEN VESSELS AT THE ENTRANCE OF
NAHA PORT ENTRUSTED TO ASAHI SALVAGE COMPANY

In accordance with the provisions of CA Ordinance No. 98 (Wrecks and wrecked property), the Ryukyuan Government on March 20 entrusted the Asahi Salvage Company (representative is Mr. Seikichi Sugama) with the work of removing sunken vessels and cleaning the entrance of Naha Port between the third and fifth buoys as well as between the second and fourth buoys. This is because there were many who illegally entered the area and collected scrap by using explosives, endangering navigation of incoming and outgoing vessels. Thus, the military authorities and the Ryukyuan Government that control Naha Port were taxing their brains in the above connection, and decided to have the passage cleaned in order to remove the danger.

Since the passage is frequently used by incoming and outgoing vessels, a company for that operation is limited to one that has sufficient salvage technique and facilities, and as a result of careful study, the Government decided to entrust the work to the Asahi Salvage Company which previously succeeded in the drainage work of Naha Port, as the most suitable company which can meet the requirements.

It is expected that the work will be completed by the end of July, but President Sugama of the Salvage Company hopes to start the work early in April, for newly-built 60-ton-capacity crane vessel (Kurogane-Go) will reach Okinawa around the end of March. Moreover, since entrance in to the area for the operation requires approval of the Governor of the Ryukyus, all unauthorized workers are prohibited to enter the area.

Ryukyu Shimpo (News Article) Thursday, 5 January 1956 (evening edition) (T)

THIEVES STEAL SCRAP FROM SUNKEN
VESSEL IN SEA OFF KUDAKA

(Central Branch) Scrap iron is continuing to enjoy a favorable price with the scrap boom. However, the Yonabaru Police Station discovered recently that scrap was being stolen from the American vessel (Panamanian vessel purchased by Matsukura Co. of Tokyo), Travel Star (6,000 tons), which is sunk in the sea off Tsuken and Kudaka Islands of Katsuren-Son, by a group of thieves with use of dynamite. A report to this effect was made to the Maehara Police Station on the 4th.

According to the report, subject vessel is being salvaged by the Asahi Salvage Company, but a group of thieves steal into the area toward evening at about the time the workers leave for home after completing the day's work, and use explosives in an effort to steal scrap.

It is said that scrap stolen from subject vessel so far totals approximately 60 tons (¥3,000,000). It is also said that almost all of these scraps are purchased by a broker named Nakamura (25 years old).

Mr. Giko Ikema of the company is said to be frequently visiting (Nakamura) to negotiate with him for conducting a fair transaction after learning of the above. However, it is said that every time he attempts to visit the island, his efforts are hampered by a gang of hoodlums who sometimes destroy the engine of the vessel or commit violence on him. The Police Station is now conducting a secret investigation.

159

Okinawa Times (News Article) Tuesday, 2 April 1957 (S)

SCRAP DEALERS TURN THEIR EYES TO SUNKEN VESSELS:

PRICE OF IRON SCRAP NEARS \$100 PER TON

The price of iron scrap which has been maintaining a high price since last year, has recently risen to \$95 per ton (in the case of iron scrap of special quality), and the price of first class iron scrap has also risen to over \$90. Incidentally, the dealers concerned are observing that the price will be raised to more than \$100 before long without fail.

The highest price of iron scrap last year was \$87 or so per ton. However, it is said that supply-demand relations in Japan are still stiff and that dealings for Okinawan iron scrap are being active in order to always secure stock for three months. Japanese iron scrap dealers dispatched a mission to the U.S. to purchase iron scrap in large quantities, but the American side shows an attitude not to accede to the request of the Japanese dealers. Hence, lack of imported iron scrap resulted in raising the price.

It is said that the collection of iron scrap in the island has reached its limit, although the export price of iron scrap is gradually increased. Moreover, the quantity of collected iron scrap has recently been reduced due to the farming season and bad weather. More than 10,000 tons of iron scrap were shipped per month in the latter half of last year but it was reduced to 5,000 or 6,000 tons this year. It is also observed that the land scrap will reach its limit by this summer.

The iron scrap scattered on coast lines has almost all been collected, so dealers turned their eyes to (iron scrap in) the outlying islands. The shipment of iron scrap from the Daito Islands has become remarkable. On the other hand, the investigation of sunken vessels which are an obstacle to the navigation is underway in Miyako and Yaeyama.

The price of nonferrous scrap has lowered sharply in comparison with that last year, but that of iron scrap is being kept high; for the demand for material of iron and steel is not reduced, owing to the boom in the shipbuilding and maritime transportation circles and supply for world-wide demand is unbalanced. Since dealers in Japan are making effort for import of iron scrap from foreign countries and as they are taking interest in purchasing Okinawan scrap, exporters here are striving for shipment.

160

OKINAWA TIMES
News Article (T)
8 April 1957
Evening Edition

EAT-HOUSES INCREASING AT KADENA
FOR DIVERS AS RESULT OF SCRAP BOOM

(Koza Branch) The scrap collection shifted to the sea from land and as the result, divers in nearly 30 canoes are now engaged in scrap collection of late at the sea off Kadena and Chatan. And at the ports, eat-houses dealing with divers as customers are springing up, thus creating a sort of scrap boom. Almost all divers hail from Kunigami, Miyako or Yaeyama and they are renting the houses centering around Mizugama, Kadena Son. They number from 250 to 300 and some have called their family members.

When the weather is fine, divers in nearly 30 canoes launch far off the sea and divers in each canoe collect 300 kilos of scraps from the bottom of the sea daily. Thus several tons of scraps are collected daily by the 30 canoes. The scraps thus collected are sold to brokers at ¥7.50 per kilo, and this means that they are selling from ¥37,000 to ¥40,000 in average every day and each diver is collecting the scraps worth ¥1,200 or ¥1,300 daily. Along this boom, scrap collectors are on the future increase and as the result, the house rent is increasing at Mizugama area at Kadena Son and the son is considerably animated.

The Okinawa Times, April 10, 1957. (news) Y. Evening news.

THE BRIGHT AND DARK SIDES OF IEJIMA

NAGO OFFICE. Iejima has certainly changed, said a man who recently returned from a visit to Iejima. The sale of beer has increased by leaps and bounds due to the scrap boom in Iejima, frame houses being built here and there while a theater has been opened and recreation facilities are being installed, so that the island is bustling with business activities, unknown until a year ago.

THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THE IEJIMA SCENERY. The scrap boom is the special bounty of fishermen of Kabira village. The Fishing Cooperative of Iejima is comprised of 12 small groups having some 50 small canoes all of which are being used for the collection of scrap iron that lie at the bottom of the sea around the island.

It is reported that no fewer than 400 men are engaged in the collection of scrap iron, including those who had come from other parts. It is said that good scrap iron is selling at ¥9000 while the second rate scrap brings ¥8200 and that a tank is worth all of ¥100,000. In the case of a small group, the take of scrap iron is sold at the intervals of 10 days or two weeks and the proceeds are divided. The average dividend is said to be about ¥10,000, but the divers get 2 to 3 percent extra, it is reported.

Since this type of work requires no capital, there are many men in the small fishing village who have paid in full their mortgages and built their new homes with what they made in just one year. The celebration after the pay day is strictly a beer drinking festival so that the record of the village office shows that as many as 16,618 bottles of beer have been

imported throughout last year, and during January this year alone 1,116 bottles of beer have been imported and except for some consumed by American servicemen stationed on the island are all consumed by the scrap collectors. ~~The scrap collectors expect that there is enough scrap to~~ keep them in business for at least two more years, and it is possible that the scrap boom will last for a considerable time to come.

Dark aspect On the other hand, behind the outward scrap boom, the people in the agricultural villages are troubled due to the decrease in the production of sugar cane. There was an impression that the housing aspect in Iejima was remarkably recovered in the past one year. All of these houses have been built with loans borrowed from the RRRFF (Ryukyu Rehabilitation Finance Fund) except for the houses for fishermen. Four hundred houses have been switched to the permanent ones. However, due to the poor harvest of sugar cane this year, the repayment of the RRRFF loans will have to be delayed by a year. According to the estimate of the Agricultural Cooperatives (Director, Mr. Otomatsu Tamagusuku), it was expected that 11,000 cho (1cho eq. 1 picul) of sugar would be manufactured, but due to the 65% decrease in the production of sugar cane, they could not produce more than 3,000 cho of sugar. And the 50-ton factory operated by the Cooperative is already preparing to finish the sugar production process. The Credit Association is lending ¥950,000 and if the RRRFF loan is added, the farmers have the debt amounting to nearly ¥4,000,000. Thus the economic situation seemed to be considerably serious there. Tranquility is restored in the Maja sub-village where the great fuss had been made before in connection with military land problem.

Since March, maneuvering by the U.S. air force is temporarily suspended and no zooming sound of plane is heard now. Sub-villagers are making efforts to increase cultivated land by even a little, but it is said that ~~there are so many stones they can not make headway in this effort.~~ In this connection, Masaji Motoyama, ku-head said in uneasy look, "Since targets are being prepared anew within the target range, they might be intending to conduct night maneuvering. In such a case, we will not be able to sleep at night."

PRESS & PUBLICATIONS
C I & E U S C A R
Naha Okinawa

PRESS RELEASE:

9 January 1956

KORYU SALVAGE COMPANY, RECENTLY-ORGANIZED RYUKYUAN FIRM, GETS INTO PRODUCTION QUICKLY AFTER PURCHASING OXYGEN MANUFACTURING PLANT FROM MOLLERS

A new Ryukyuan enterprise--the Koryu Salvage Company--has purchased the oxygen manufacturing plant of Mollers Suidah Shipbreakers, Ltd., and is now in production of a 24-hour three-shift basis, it was announced today.

Purchase of the plant for \$19,000 (¥2,280,000) took place last week. The plant went into operation at 1 p.m., Saturday. Present production is 74 bottles per day with a retail value of ¥300 per bottle.

The firm was able to get its plant into quick operation through the excellent cooperation of GRI's Public Services Department which established a power line leading into the plant in two days.

Purchase of the plant and permission to use the U.S. Government-owned buildings in which the equipment is located was arranged through USCAR with Rycom G-4 and higher headquarters.

The firm began negotiating with Mollers three months ago. The sale was consummated after it was arranged that the firm eventually could purchase the buildings in which the equipment was set up and could use the buildings until such time as sale of the buildings to the firm was negotiated. Meantime, the firm is held responsible for the condition of the buildings.

The Koryu Salvage Company also leased the property which Mollers used at Baten (near Bucknerville), including yard and pier at which ships loading scrap can be berthed.

The firm consists of many of the larger Ryukyuan scrap collectors, scrap exporters, and salvage firms in the Ryukyus. It is headed by Mr. Ichiro Inamine, also head of the Ryukyu Oil Company.

The Koryu Salvage Company is the second Ryukyuan firm to begin oxygen manufacture. The other is the Okinawa Oxygen Manufacturing Company at Aza, headed by Mr. Keikyu Heshiki, which purchased its plant from Takamori Sangyo, a sub-contractor of E. J. Griffith Company, which like Mollers, was formerly also a U.S. Government scrap contractor.

163

OKINAWA SHIMBUN
News Article (T)
16 April 1957

SALVAGING OF SUNKEN VESSELS CREATING

VARIOUS TROUBLES: MOTOBU AUTHORITIES PETITION

AGAINST USE OF POWDER

Along the line of the scrap boom, scrap collection has recently shifted from the land to the bottom of sea and particularly sunken vessels are constituting the biggest charm to the scrap collectors. Involving the salvaging of sunken vessels, various troubles are arising.

As to the salvaging of sunken vessels in the sea off Sakimotobu Ku, Motobu Cho, the Koryu Salvaging Co. Ltd. had concluded a contract with Motobu Cho Office and arrangement had been made to soon start the salvaging operation and application forwarded for permission to use dynamite in fishing. To this, however, all fishermen at Motobu Cho expressed strong opposition and thus, the development of the things had been watched with interest.

In this connection, Chairman Nakamura of the Motobu Fishery Cooperatives and 8 directors of the same, called at GRI authorities on the 15th and strongly asked not to allow the use of powder and asked, at the same time, to take proper measures toward this problem. In the past, too, the Motobu Fishery Cooperatives authorities had frequently petitioned that the use of powder in salvaging be completely prohibited. They are making such petitions because the postwar use of powder is resulting in a remarkable decrease of schools of fish and shortage of baits.

Statement of Mr. Nakamura, Chairman of the Motobu Fishery Cooperatives:

"I have been petitioning on this problem since the days of the Gunto Government, but the problem remains unsettled. Due to the effect of scrap collection, fishing operation was started since May, but this year, fishing operation has been started since February due to favorable fishing conditions. However, if the use of powder is permitted, fishermen must be obliged to wait for the proper time to start fishing at Motobu port. So, it is hoped that the use of powder will be switched to the salvaging through use of a cutting torch, and scrap collectors who can not make much profits be subsidized by GRI, so as to settle the problem."

RYUKYU SHIMPO (NEWS ARTICLE) 4 May 1957 (M)

OPINIONS DIFFER BETWEEN MOTOBU CHO AND
FISHERY COOPERATIVE ON SUNKEN VESSEL DISPOSAL

The Nankai Maru (3,000 tons) sunk off Sakimotobu of Motobu Cho is to be salvaged by Motobu Cho Office because it is proving to be a navigational obstacle, but the Fishery Cooperative of Motobu Cho is firmly opposed to the use of explosives for the disposal of the sunken vessels. Since the vessel is sunk within the jurisdiction of the fishery cooperative, use of explosives will devastate the fishing ground with consequent result of exerting a great influence on the livelihood of fishermen, so that the fishery cooperative assumes an attitude of taking legal proceedings (against Motobu Cho Office) on the charge of infringement on right of fishing, in worst case.

On the other hand, the Motobu Cho authorities have already estimated in the budget the revenue to be derived from the disposal of the sunken vessel, and are of the view that the vessel must be salvaged at an early date, but no agreement has been reached between the two parties, and future progress is attracting public attention. In this connection, the Government is scheduled to hold a conference on the 14th with the attendance of Mr. Taggart of USCAR's Natural Resources Division, Maritime Section Chief of Public Services Department, Fishery Section Chief of the Economics Department, Mayor of Motobu Cho and Chairman of Motobu Cho Fishery Cooperative, but the two parties hold the following attitudes:

Attitude of Motobu Cho Office:

For the sake of salvaging the said sunken vessel, Motobu Cho concluded a contract with a salvage company in February and asked for approval of

the Motobu Fishery Cooperative for use of explosives to immediately start salvaging the vessel, but the Fishery Cooperative raised severe objection to it on the ground that the use of explosive would result in further inactive bonito fishing, while the Fishery Cooperative is presently troubled with lack of baits.

According to the contract concluded between the Motobu Cho authorities and the salvage company, the Cho Office is to receive ¥500 per ton and ¥400,000 has already been appropriated in the budget as expenses for the construction of an office for salvage work. Moreover, the salvage company is to pay ¥300 per ton to the Fishery Cooperative as compensation. Since the Maritime Section of the Government intends to have the sunken vessel salvaged without fail as it is a navigational obstacle, it is obvious that the vessel must be salvaged sooner or later.

The Cho authorities told the officials of the Fishery Cooperative that it would be wise to receive ¥300 per ton from the salvage company as compensation instead of receiving a small amount of compensation from the Government, but it seems that the cooperative officials did not agree to the proposal. It appears that the cooperative asked the Cho Office not to use explosives, but the Cho authorities assume an attitude that there is no alternative but to leave the matter as it progresses in consideration that the further negotiation will only aggravate the problem.

Attitude of the Fishery Cooperative:

Since there is a method of cutting vessels to pieces in the waters instead of using explosives, the cooperative of the view that it will

not dare to raise objection to the disposal if the above method should be adopted in salvaging the vessel and it will not ask for compensation, although it is a matter of regret to lose breeding place. The Cho authorities recently requested for approval of the fishery cooperative, but since it is now the fishing season, the fishery cooperative on April 16 notified the Mayor that the cooperative was absolutely opposed to the use of explosives under any circumstances, as a result of the conference of the cooperative officials.

The cooperative is of the opinion that if the salvage company should not be able to make a profit in the event it salvages the vessel without use of explosives, the Government should have the company salvage the vessel by paying subsidy equivalent to the difference between actual amount gained and estimated amount of revenue, in the event explosives are used. Moreover, the cooperative is of the view that if the Government should forcibly allow the use of explosives on the ground that the vessel is a navigational obstacle, this can not be helped, but in this case, there is no alternative for the cooperative but to take legal proceedings against the Government for the infringement of fishing rights and submit a claim for an appropriate compensation.

The Okinawa Times, 28 May 1957, (News Article) K.

MOTOBU FISHERMEN CLAMOR AGAINST REFLOATATION OF SUNKEN VESSEL

(Nago Branch) The Fishery Cooperative Association (Chairman, Mr. Heikun Nakamura) of Motobu Cho, the home of bonito, is suffering a shortage of baits more seriously than last year. Under such a situation, the Koryu Salvage Company (President, Mr. Ichiro Inamine) which concluded a contract for refloating a vessel (with a dismembered tonnage of 800, its name and nationality unknown) sunken off Sakimotobu in February, started the refloatation operations from the 27th by ignoring the strong opposition of fishermen of the village, exciting the fishermen. The place where the sunken vessel is located is near to the fishing ground of bonito baits, so the fishermen are strongly opposed to using gunpowder in the refloatation operations.

President Inamine visited the Cooperative Association on the afternoon of the 26th to notify the association officials of the start of the refloatation operations. Immediately after his leaving the association, the fishermen pressed the association leaders for holding a fishermen's rally but they were calmed down by the leaders. However, the association will hold an officers' meeting at 8 p.m. on the 27th to devise remedial measures.

Statement of Mayor Tamaki of Motobu Cho:

"The sunken vessel must be removed as an obstacle to navigation in accordance with the ordinance concerned and it must be refloated also

from the viewpoint of finance of this town. If the town should leave the vessel as it is, it would be refloated by other dealers. Moreover, it seems that gunpowder must be used in the operations under the present condition of salvage facilities of Okinawa. But the salvage company decided to pay a compensation of ¥300 per ton."

Statement of Chairman Taira of the Okinawa Fisheries Federation:

"The refloatation operations should have been approved with some conditions. As the conditions, we recommended to the government that the period of refloatation operations should not coincide with the bonito fishing season, and that proper compensation should be paid to the fishermen. But it is regrettable that our recommendations have not been heard."

The Okinawa Times, 29 May 1957. (News Article) K.

MOTOBU FISHERMEN APPEAL DIFFICULTY IN BAITS

Since the Koryu Salvage Company began to refloat a sunken vessel of some 800 tons by using gunpowder (as reported before), the Motobu Fisheries Cooperative Association is in anxiety that the refloatation operations will cause difficulty in baits for bonito fishing because the location of the sunken vessel is near to the place to catch the baits. Thirty representatives including Chairman Heisho Nakamura of the Cooperative Association interviewed with Chief Executive Thoma at a little past noon on the 28th at the Executive Branch. They explained the actual condition and petitioned that sufficient consideration be given to protecting fishermen.

According to explanations of Mr. Nakamura, in Motobu Cho they could catch considerable amount of bonito fishing baits locally and 26 boats engaged in the bonito fishing until 1948. But the baits began to run short around the year before last due to refloatation of a vessel sunken between Sakimotobu and Hamasaki. Nevertheless, the small fish (baits) appeared again this year, making it possible for all fishermen to go on fishing from March 17. At such time, refloatation operation was again undertaken from the 27th, giving anxiety to fishermen of the village. Therefore, the cooperative association leaders requested that remedial measures be taken. In addition to this problem, 13 chi-cho-son in the northern districts are requesting that catching of "mizu-sururu" (a kind of small fish used as bonito fishing baits) be prohibited to preserve fish

by revising the fishing adjustment regulations. But the cooperative association leaders also petitioned that proper measures be taken with the anxiety that if this request should be heard, their off-shore fishing would be impeded.

Statement of Chairman Nakamura of the Cooperative Association:

"As it is natural that shortage of baits will result in difficulty in fishing, we requested the Chief Executive to take remedial measures. We are not requesting that the refloatation operations be disapproved, but we hope that when such a salvage work is approved in the future, measures to protect and foster fishermen will be considered at the same time. Moreover, it is hoped that the government will make a study of the problem of baits after probing into our actual condition."

Statement of Chief Executive Thoma:

"I well understand the actual condition of the fishermen. Approval of refloatation of the sunken vessel was requested also by the Motobu Cho authorities, and I think it will exert influence upon the finance of the village. But since its connection with fishing industry is also important, I wish to make a full study of the request made today and take proper measures."

RYUKYU SHIMPO (NEWS ARTICLE) 15 April 1957 (M)

Evening Edition

EXPLOSIVE COLLECTION MOVEMENT TO START
TODAY THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND

The explosive collection movement will start today simultaneously throughout the island. It is said that almost all the explosive accidents which took place last year were attributable to shells collected from the sea and explosives which were excavated from old shelters of the former Japanese Army. In view of this fact, the prime efforts for the movement of this year will be made for 1) discovery and disposal of shells collected from the sea and concealed caves and shallows, as well as shells abandoned; 2) investigation of shelters of former Japanese Army where shells are buried, and estimated number of shells; and 3) control of vessels which will collect shells from sea without permission.

According to a survey of Public Safety Section of Police Headquarters, 88 explosive accidents took place during last year, resulting in the death of 62 persons and injury of 108 persons, totaling 170 victims. During the three months from January through March of this year alone, 20 cases took place causing 6 death and 20 wounded, totaling 26 victims. Explosives are still found in the seas and old shelters, and it is said that unless all of them are collected, it will be impossible to prevent explosive accidents causing victims.

Police Stations in various districts and shi-cho-son will take a leadership of this movement, and district youth associations, fisheries cooperatives, primary, junior high and senior high schools will give cooperation for the movement.

The Ryukyu Shimpo (Evening Edition), 6 May 1957. (News Article) K.

SHELLS STILL LEFT IN LARGE QUANTITY:

16,000 SHELLS COLLECTED FOR 15 DAYS

The Public Safety Section of Police Headquarters on the 2nd completed reports from various police stations on collection and disposal of explosives during the explosives collection movement conducted throughout the island for 15 days from April 15 to 30.

According to it, 17,025 shells were collected by various police stations throughout the island, 3,159 of which were already disposed of by the respective police stations. The police station which collected the most shells is Maehara with 7,237 followed by Ishikawa with 2,824; Kadena with 2,192; Yonabaru with 1,588; Motobu with 1,575; Itoman with 455; Koza with 338; Shuri with 324; Naha with 230; Nago with 164; and Hentona with 58. It is considered that there are still many shells around coastal lines and within air-raid shelters used by Japanese soldiers. However, the number of shells collected this time shows a considerable decrease from that collected during last year's collection movement which reached 33,016.

Incidentally, 4 explosive accidents took place during this collection movement, resulting in 3 deaths and 6 injuries. All of these accidents are said to have occurred in the course of dismantling shells to get scrap. Hence, the Public Safety Section ordered each police station to continue discovering and collecting explosives and strive to prevent accidents due to explosives.

169

OKINAWA TIMES (NEWS ARTICLE) 18 April 1957 (M)

'OWNERSHIP BELONGS TO JAPAN' SAYS JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT IN REPLY TO U.S. MEMORANDUM

(Kansai) At the very juncture when potential sovereignty of Japan over Okinawa is being discussed, the United States Government recently sent a memorandum to the Japanese Government through the Foreign Office in connection with the disposal of 10 sunken vessels (3 national vessels, 5 non-governmental vessels, 1 foreign vessel and 1 vessel of unknown nationality) lying within the territorial waters of the Ryukyus. The memorandum said, "The ownership of these sunken vessels rests with the United States Government. If the Japanese Government should give up the claim for the ownership of these vessels, the U.S. is prepared to transfer the national vessels among the said sunken vessels to the Japanese Government."

As a result, officials of the Foreign Office as well as the Finance and Transportation Ministries carefully studied counter-measures, and came to a conclusion that the memorandum evidently means infringement upon the potential sovereignty of Japan over Okinawa from the viewpoint of international law. Hence, the Japanese Government is of the intention to send a reply to the United States Government through the Foreign Office saying, "The ownership of these sunken vessels rests with Japan. The United States Government should immediately approve the salvaging of national and non-governmental vessels sunk in the waters."

Since disposal of other 130 vessels sunk in the waters around Okinawa will be seriously influenced and it is expected that Japan

will have to renounce the ownership of properties on land in Okinawa, depending upon the outcome of the problem, the attitude of the United States is attracting public attention.

RYUKYU SHIMPO (NEWS ARTICLE) 11 April 1957 (M)

SUNKEN VESSEL SALVAGE PROBLEM SHOWS SIGN OF
RESUSCITATION AFTER TWO YEARS INTERVAL

The problem concerning disposal of Japanese vessels sunk around Okinawa, which was actively discussed the year before last, has been hushed since last year awaiting the decision of American authorities. Recently however, the Japanese Government is showing an intention of reaffirming her ownership and reopening negotiations with the U.S. for salvaging the sunken vessels. Hence, here in Okinawa, persons concerned are taking great interest in it and also show a move to discuss measures by holding a conference for promoting the disposal of sunken vessels, depending upon circumstances. Thus, with the move of the Japanese Government, there is a sign of resuscitation of the problem which has been at the standstill.

(Tokyo Bureau) As a result of conference with authorities of Finance Ministry, Transportation Ministry and the Nampo Liaison Bureau, the Foreign Office decided to reaffirm Japan's ownership of 8 vessels sunk outside Naha port and Miyako port (estimated at 25,000 to 26,000 tons), and reopen a negotiation with the American Embassy in Tokyo in relation to the salvage of the subject sunken vessels. These are the vessels for which the Ryukyuan Government issued a notice on filing of claim in accordance with CA Ordinance No. 142, "Wrecks and Wrecked Property," (promulgated on January 11, 1955), and claims on the vessels

were filed by Japanese salvage enterprisers. It is said that the Finance Ministry called for bids on the sunken vessels on the condition of the decision of American authorities.

Toward this move, the Council for the Promotion of Sunken Vessel Disposal (headed by Mr. Ichiro Inamine), consisting of representatives of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Women's Federation, Shi-cho-son Mayors Association, Youth Federation, Legislature and the Government, was established in June of 1955, and made a study on the problem in terms of international law. As a result, in consideration that these sunken vessels were requisitioned vessels during the war and were evidently regarded as a war trophy of the U.S., they concluded that right of their disposal rested with the United States, maintained that these vessels should be utilized for the development of Ryukyuan economy, and made earnest appeals to various quarters.

Later, this problem was left to the decision of the United States, and the problem has been hushed since last year, but it is said that USCAR is querying Washington about the decision. However, since the Japanese Government shows a new move toward this problem which has been at the standstill, the persons concerned here in Okinawa are paying much attention to the move. In connection with the move of the Japanese Government, persons concerned stated as follows:

Deputy Chief Executive Kamimura: "Japanese enterprisers filed claims on the sunken vessels in question, while it could be expected that the Japanese Government might reaffirm her ownership of these

vessels. The Ryukyuan Government also repeatedly requested USCAR, Congressional members who visited Okinawa and high-ranking Government officials that 'Vessels sunk within the territorial waters of the Ryukyus be transferred to the Ryukyuan Government for the economic rehabilitation of the Ryukyus.' It is said that a study has been made in Washington since last year and the matter remains undecided. It is considered that the request of enterprisers concerned is responsible for the reopening of the negotiation of the Japanese Government with the U.S., but as it is considered that there is a way left for the settlement of the problem through political negotiation so that these sunken vessels will be utilized for the development of the Ryukyuan economy, the move of Japanese Government this time would rather lead to early settlement of the sunken vessel problem, which showed little progress since last year."

Chairman Inamine of the Council; "As a result of our study in terms of international law and from other aspects, we concluded that the right of disposing the sunken vessels rests with the United States, and petitioned to various quarters that these sunken vessels be utilized for the development of the Ryukyuan economy, and this policy still remains unchanged. If there should be any new move in this connection in Japan, we would like to see its progress and discuss counter-measures by holding a meeting of the Council."

RYUKYU SHIMPO (EDITORIAL) 22 April 1957 (M)

LET OKINAWA MAKE USE OF SUNKEN VESSELS

There is a dispute between Japanese and United States Government in connection with the ownership of vessels sunk during the war within the territorial waters around Okinawa. This dispute stems from the fact that the Japanese Government concluded that the ownership of warships and other vessels sunk within the said territorial waters belonged to Japan and decided to have enterprisers concerned salvage vessels sunk in the waters around Miyako, while the U.S. Government sent the Japanese Government a memorandum which said, "Since the ownership of warships and other vessels sunk during the war within the territorial waters around Okinawa rests with the U.S., Japan should renounce it."

With expression of such an intention of the United States, various ministries concerned made a study, and as a result, the Japanese Government concluded that Okinawa is a territory of Japan as the potential sovereignty over Okinawa rests with Japan, so that it is clear in terms of international law that the ownership of vessels sunk within the said territorial waters belonged to Japan. In accordance with this conclusion, the Japanese Government proceeded with a diplomatic negotiation but failed to reach any agreement with the U.S. due to firm attitude taken by the U.S., and it seems that the problem is now at the stage in which direct political negotiation will be conducted by Premier Kishi when he visits the United States as one of the problems to be discussed.

On the other hand, here in Okinawa an appeal has long been made to the U.S. to have Okinawa make use of the sunken vessels for the

rehabilitation of Okinawan economy. It can be considered that the reason why the United States Government is taking a firm attitude toward Japan is that she hopes to answer the request of the Okinawan people. Scrap on land greatly contributed to the Okinawan economy. The only things that were left in Okinawa which was completely destroyed during the World War II are scrap on land and sunken vessels. And Okinawan people place great expectation upon sunken vessels so much.

The Japanese Government is claiming ownership of the sunken vessels on the strength that they are lying within her territorial waters. What we Okinawans hope for is that the Japanese Government will not forget the fact that the Okinawan people are also Japanese, while it may be well for her to maintain that Okinawa is a territory of Japan. Isn't it most ideal to have Okinawans who are Japanese make use of vessels sunk around Okinawa for the economic rehabilitation of Okinawa which is a part of Japan? We think that the direct negotiation of Premier Kishi with the U.S. authorities concerning the sunken vessels would go smoothly if he should conduct a negotiation without being slave to the "face" of Japan. What belongs to Okinawa will eventually belong to Japan.

Okinawa Times, 12 April 1957. (News Article) K.

'PAYMENT OF CONSOLATION MONEY FOR DAMAGES PRIOR TO PEACE TREATY WILL
START BEFORE OBOH', SAYS MR. TAKASHIMA UPON RETURNING FROM JAPAN

Chief Takashima of Nampo Liaison Office here who visited Tokyo for the purpose of consulting with the Nampo Liaison Bureau on various matters including the problem of paying the consolation money for damages prior to the effectuation of Peace Treaty, returned to Okinawa on the morning of the 11th by air. In his statement concerning various pending problems, Mr. Takashima said in connection with the disposal of the consolation money, "I think that the actual payment of the consolation money will start before 'Obon', for the Liberal-Democratic Party requested that the money be paid to Okinawa on the earliest possible date by omitting procedures as much as possible." His statement was as follows:

"In connection with the expenses involving special measures for damages prior to the coming into effect of Peace Treaty, the Japanese Government intended in the beginning to dispose of the consolation money for damages of land separately from the consolation money to government employees (in prewar days), but the two items were united in the second supplementary budget for fiscal year '57 in the amount of ¥1,100 million (Japanese yen). Since the Liberal-Democratic Party strongly requested that this money be paid at the earliest possible date by omitting procedures as much as possible, and the Government is also

making haste with preparations for this purpose, it is anticipated that the actual payment of this money will start before 'Obon'. In the beginning, the Japanese Government was of the plan to entrust this money to the Ryukyuan Government to have it distributed to persons concerned, but the government authorities think at present it better to have persons concerned send their proxy to Japan and have him receive the money directly, which is so called a non-governmental method of payment. Moreover, the Japanese Government is of the opinion that since the amount of ¥1,100 million is against the amount of ¥16,900 million requested by the Okinawan side, the money should be distributed at the ratio of 11 against 169 for the sake of equality. But in actuality, some adjustment may be made in Okinawa.

"As for the consolation money to government employees, since the basis has already been made, payment will be made on it.

"As a consolation money to repatriates, an appropriation of ¥80 million (Japanese yen) has been made. But as for the method of payment, studies are still underway among ministries concerned because there are some doubtful points; for instance, some persons are of the opinion that the money should be operated as a loan from the Ministry of Finance, while others think that the money should be paid as a direct share.

"In connection with the compensation for overseas assets, this will apply not only in Okinawa but also in Japan, and an appropriation has already been made for this purpose. But legal matters are still under deliberation of the Diet. In paying the compensation, some persons seem to be of the opinion that public loan bonds should be issued.

"Although I do not have any detailed knowledge about the problem of sunken vessels, I am told that the U. S. Government authorities have recently made a proposal to the Japanese Government to seek some settlement of the problem of disposing of sunken vessels in the Ryukyuan waters. The Japanese Government still maintains its contention based on the international law that the ownership of sunken vessels lies on the Japanese side, from the viewpoint that the U.S. declared prior to the Peace Treaty that privately owned properties (sunken vessels) would be taken as war trophy, and that the U.S. has not taken any legal proceeding in this connection. The Japanese Government of the opinion that since the request of the Ryukyuan side that sunken vessels will profit the Ryukyuan economy and the logical problem on the ownership are quite different from each other, it should not pervert the just assertion by considering the actual problem of disposing of them. Hence, I think that the negotiation with the U.S. Government on this point will need more time."

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY
13 January 1955

Okinawa Times (News Article) A.

COLLECTION OF SEA SCRAP TO BE REALIZED
WITH PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCE

On the 11th, Civil Administrator Johnson promulgated CA Ordinance No. 142 concerning "Wrecks and Wrecked Property" and this was put into effect the same day. With the promulgation of the Ordinance, collection of sea scrap iron in the territorial waters of the Ryukyu Islands will be realized. In connection with the collection of sea scrap, GRI and the scrap dealers have conducted negotiations with the military authorities time and again during the last 2 or 3 years, and this is being realized for the first time (although Mollers Company has been engaged in collecting sea scrap in the designated area of Baten.

At present, the definite figure of the amount and kinds of sea scrap is not available as USCAR and GRI are still making a study, but it is expected that the amount will be at least 30,000 to 50,000 tons. It is observed that GRI will study the method of disposing the properties as prescribed in the Ordinance and will soon work out a concrete measure. In place of land scrap which have sharply decreased, there will be a boom of sea scrap iron.

According to this Ordinance, upon the discovery of scrap iron in the territorial waters of the Ryukyus, GRI will publish a notice and unless a claim is filed by the owner within 120 days, they will be considered as abandoned properties and GRI will take possession of them.

Gist of the Ordinance is as follows:

"1. This Ordinance concerns wrecks and wrecked property in the territorial waters of the Ryukyu Islands. Territorial waters is defined as that part of the sea within the circles having a radius of three (marine) miles from all points of the barrier reef, fringing reef, or other reef system and the distance is measured from the deepest sea-level of any island and atoll within the jurisdiction of the Ryukyu Islands.

"2. After the expiration of the notification period of 120 days provided for in Section 3 of this Ordinance, any wreck or wrecked property (including a hulk, derelict, and parts of any ship) sunk, beached or allowed to remain in an unseaworthy or dilapidated condition within the territorial waters of the Ryukyu Islands without a watchman, is considered as abandoned property.

"3. Upon the discovery of any such wreck or wrecked property, the Government of the Ryukyu Islands is authorized to publish a notice in the Japanese language newspapers published in the Ryukyus, as well as in a marine trade journal published in Japan. Such notice must be published once weekly for a period of six weeks. Such notice shall contain a complete description as to place where such property was found, present whereabouts, actual condition, and name of ship. Unless a claim is filed prior to the expiration of the 120 days as provided for in Section 5 of this Ordinance, such wreck or wrecked property shall be considered as abandoned property.

"4. After expiration of 120 days, the Government of the Ryukyu Islands and any salvage company licensed by the Government of the Ryukyu Island are authorized to take possession of said property and may sell, destroy or dispose of same in any manner considered appropriate. The one who purchases the above mentioned property through such sale can acquire all rights and interests derived from it.

"5. When the owner files a written claim of ownership of wrecked property with the Deputy Governor within 120 days as provided in this Ordinance, as a rule, if 60 days approval have been given by the Deputy Governor, and additional period is required for the removal of such property, action can not be taken according to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Ordinance."

RYUKYU SHIMPO (NEWS ARTICLE) 18 April 1957 (M)

U.S. CLAIMS OWNERSHIP OF JAPANESE VESSELS
SUNK IN WATERS AROUND OKINAWA

(Tokyo Bureau) In relation to the disposal of Japanese vessels sunk during the within the territorial waters of Okinawa, which is a two-year pending problem, the United States Government recently claimed ownership of these vessels, making the Japanese Government confused. That is, the Japanese Government recently received a memorandum from the United States Government saying, "Since the ownership of Japanese warships and other vessels numbering 127, sunk within the territorial waters of Okinawa, rests with the U. S. Japan should renounce the ownership."

This memorandum of the United States is a formal expression of her intention toward the fact that the Japanese Government, with the conclusion that the ownership of warships and other vessels sunk in the territorial waters of Okinawa rests with Japan, decided to transfer three vessels the Hirota Maru (2,271 tons), the Taiken Maru (2,223 tons) and the Toyosaka Maru (1,966 tons)--sunk in the nearby waters of Miyako to enterprisers in August of 1955 to have them salvage these vessels.

Therefore, officials of the Finance Ministry, Foreign Office and Transportation Ministry immediately started studying counter-measures, but since it is obvious in terms of international law that the ownership of vessels sunk within these territorial waters rests with Japan in view of the fact that Japan holds potential sovereignty over

Okinawa, the Japanese Government is fearful of whether it would result in a political problem within the country depending upon the way the matter is handled. Hence, the Japanese Government is exercising caution and is of the intention to notify the United States Government that she can not accept the claim.

However, since the United States Government also assumes a firm attitude, it is considered that there is no alternative but to conduct a direct negotiation with the American authorities when Prime Minister Kishi visits the United States in order to seek an amicable settlement of the problem. The ownership of vessels sunk within the territorial waters of Okinawa became an issue when USCAR in January of 1955 proclaimed that unless owners of the warships and other vessels sunk in the waters around the island should clarify the facts concerning the sunken vessels within the appointed date, it would be considered that they had renounced ownership.

Therefore, the Japanese Government notified USCAR that the ownership of three national vessels, including the Hirota Maru, sunk around Miyako and 7 other non-governmental vessels rested with Japan. And at the same time, in accordance with the proclamation of the U.S. that "these vessels must be removed within 30 days," the Japanese Government in June of the same year sold all three national vessels to the Sanyu Salvage Kogyo Company at the price of ¥10,500,000 (Japanese yen) and decided to promote salvage of these vessels.

Hence, in order to start salvage work of these sunken vessels, the Sanyu Salvage Kogyo Company submitted an application for approval to

USCAR, but the company has not received any answer from USCAR for the past one and a half years, and parts of the sunken vessels were stolen in the meantime. Therefore, the Japanese Government asked USCAR to give a prompt reply through the Nampo Liaison Office, and at the same time, directly requested the United States Government to take a proper measure. However, if the Japanese Government should accept the memorandum of the U.S. Government, the ownership of 127 vessels sunk in the waters around Okinawa, consisting of 36 warships (40,800 displacement tonnage) and 91 national vessels (92,600 tons), will be transferred to the United States, excepting for said three vessels of which ownership will substantially belong to Japan.

Therefore, the Japanese Government intends to negotiate with the U.S. Government with a firm attitude, on the other hand, it seems that the U.S. Government is strongly maintaining the ownership in view of the fact that the Okinawan islanders take a great interest in the problem and maintain that these sunken vessels should be salvaged and utilized for their sake, so that it is considered that the negotiation on the problem will come to a deadlock. In view of the above, it is considered that Premier Kishi will decide the final attitude of Japan while taking into consideration the reaction of the U.S. toward Japan's refusal and national feeling in Japan, and conduct a political negotiation with the American authorities when he visits the U.S.

Moreover, there is an opinion within the Japanese Government that in order to settle the matter amicably it would be well for Japan to refrain

from taking up the problem of ownership of all sunken warships and other vessels for the time being, and renounce the ownership of 7 vessels claimed by Japan in favor of USCAR, for the said three sunken vessels will be substantially returned to Japan.

Okinawa Times (Evening Edition), 22 April 1957, (News Article) K.

PROBLEM OF SUNKEN VESSELS AND NEGOTIATION BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN

The problem of disposal of sunken vessels in Ryukyuan waters is again coming to the fore. That is, the U. S. Government has recently made a proposal to the Japanese Government to the effect that "the U.S. Government thinks that the right to dispose of sunken vessels in dispute lies with the U.S., but aside from legal problem, the U.S. hopes to reach an agreement on this issue in the way of turning over a certain number of such vessels to the Japanese Government." The American side was of the view that sunken vessels in Ryukyuan waters were regarded as war trophies. Toward this, the Japanese side logically claimed its ownership on the ground that "if sunken vessels were war trophies the U.S. should have declared to this effect in accordance with the international law or taken some legal procedures prior to the effectuation of the Peace Treaty, but there is no such fact." The proposal of the U.S. Government of this time has been made in response to this assertion of the Japanese Government. The proposal made this time gives the impression that the U.S. Government is of the intention to try to settle this problem practically by reserving such a delicate legal interpretation.

Immediately before this problem became complicated as a kind of political issue or in January, 1955, USCAR promulgated an ordinance concerning disposal of "wrecks and wrecked properties," claiming ownership of sunken vessels. In this connection, the Japanese Government filed a claim to the Deputy Governor (in July, 1955) on eight

vessels, including three government-owned ones, sunken in the waters of Miyako. As a result, a fiery discussion was made around the ownership of these vessels, and moreover this problem developed into a negotiation between the U.S. and Japan. Since then, USCAR has been making inquiries of the intention of the Government in Washington, while watching the progress of the negotiation between the U.S. and Japan. Thus, the Deputy Governor's decision in the form of an ordinance has been deferred for about two years.

Toward the new proposal of the American side made this time, the Japanese Government is said to be assuming a strong attitude of insisting on ownership in accordance with the international law without making any changes in the fundamental line it has been persisting in so far. Moreover, the Japanese Government seems to be of the policy to treat the problem of disposal of sunken vessels by separating from the practical problem involving the Ryukyuan economy. In connection with these circumstances, the Japanese Government sources stated, "We well understand the hope of the Ryukyuan side to handle the problem of sunken vessels by connecting it with its economy, but it would not be proper for the Ryukyuan side to bring "fatherland" forward or draw it away for convenience sake. We should first clarify the legal point of view, and then should think of practical matters."

On the other hand, Deputy Chief Executive Kamimura expressed a practical view by saying, "It is said that there are many doubtful points in the Peace Treaty, and I think it difficult to find a united interpretation in the international law. It would be a short cut for

settling the problem for the Japanese Government to give up its ownership from a broader viewpoint and seek a way which will be profitable to the Ryukyuan economy." The Executive Branch is of the intention to again make a request to USCAR for promotion of settlement of this problem before long. But the present situation is such that both the U.S. and Japanese Governments hold on logical (in the case of the latter) and practical (in the case of the former) assertions which are in parallel with each other, and future moves of the two governments are now attracting attention. After all, it is considered that the Deputy Governor's decision will not be made before some agreement is reached between the U.S. and Japan. This problem is somewhat similar to that of compensation prior to Peace Treaty.

RYUKYU SHIMPO (NEWS ARTICLE) 9 May 1957 (M)

NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO START SALVAGING
VESSELS SUNK IN THE WATERS OF MIYAKO

(Miyako Branch) Sometime ago, a news was reported that the Sanyu Salvage Company (in Tokyo) would carry out salvage operation of the Taiken Maru, the Hirota Maru and the Toyosaka Maru sunk in the anchorage of Miyako Port. As a result, the local fishermen made a petition in opposition to the salvage operation by use of explosives for the sake of protecting fish. Thus, the progress of the matter was attracting public attention.

On May 3, however, Mr. Vincent, temporarily charged with civil affairs in Miyako, notified the Miyako District Office saying, "The sunken vessel problem is now under negotiation between the Japanese and the United States Government, and no conclusion has been reached. Therefore, no one is allowed to touch on the sunken vessels." Mr. Vincent also requested the Miyako District Office to strictly watch these vessels.

OKINAWA SHIMBUN
News Article (T)
20 July 1957

SANYU SALVAGE CO. TO DISPOSE
3 VESSELS SUNK IN TAIRA PORT

(Miyako Branch) It is reported that a study is now being made by the Washington Government concerning the problem of the ownership of three vessels, that is, the Taiken Maru, Toyozaka Maru and Hirota Maru which were sunk at Taira Port, Miyako during the war. Mr. Ochi, Managing Director of the Sanyu Salvage Company which has acquired all rights to the three sunken vessels from the Finance Ministry of the Japanese Government visited Okinawa on the 18th by the Naha Maru, and stated as follows:

"The Japanese Government has already received a reply from the U.S. Government concerning the ownership of the three sunken vessels and inquiry is made now to the (U.S. authorities) concerning some ambiguous points in the reply. So, concrete matters will be revealed soon through USCAR and so I want to refrain from making any announcement in this connection. However, it is pretty certain that the salvaging of the three vessels in question will be made by the Sanyu Salvage Company."

The Okinawa Times, July 21, 1957 (Commentary) Y.

FROM THE DAIGEN-SHOGEN COLUMN

It is reported that there are 8 Japanese ships lying on the sea bottom sunk during the war off Naha port. Of this number 5 are owned by the government and the rest are privately owned. The ownership of these ships has been contested between Japan and the United States during the past several years, but the argument has not yet been settled, whereupon the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has held conferences with the Ministry of Treasury, Transportation and other ministries concerned and after a careful study of the matter concluded that the ownership of these sunken ships rests with Japan. Yet the United States insists that the United States is the owner of these ships and is adamant to the application for approval for salvaging these ships.

Since there is no limit to the waiting for settling of the matter, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs is said to be preparing to ask the United States government, through the Japanese embassy in Washington to give a legal explanation of its argument supporting the ownership of these ships.

Under such circumstances, they will openly dispute the ownership of these sunken vessels on legal grounds so it is possible that both sides will quote precedents from international laws and will like to find some clue to the settlement of future dispute on the international level.

It is loathsome indeed that the aftermath of the war should draggle to the point of causing so much trouble in human society and make legal

affairs so complicated. The war is over and a peace treaty has been signed and peace has been restored, and it is unpleasant indeed that a dispute should arise in connection with acquisition of the property. These sunken vessels are also attractive for salvage enterprisers of Okinawa. Salvaging them is profitable and it is a good way of earning dollars at home, and had it not been for the dispute between Japan and the United States, we would like to undertake the salvaging in compensation for the sacrifice which the war forced on Okinawa. But there is nothing we can do about it since this has become an issue for dispute between the two countries except to wait and observe the outcome.

Our only hope is that the issue will not be distorted due to political pressures. Our petition will come after that. But whatever the outcome it may not be proper for us to play the role of uninterested spectators.

Okinawa Times (News Article) Saturday, 20 July 1957 (S) (Evening Edition)

FOREIGN OFFICE TO INQUIRE INTO VIEWS OF U.S. AGAIN
TOWARD PROBLEM OF SUNKEN VESSELS IN WATERS OF OKINAWA

(Kansai) The Japan-U.S. negotiation involving salvage of sunken vessels in the waters of Okinawa shows no progress, for the two countries have been asserting their own ownership and their opinions are sharply divided. Because of this, the Foreign Office decided to request soon the U.S. through the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo to show in detail and in writing the legal opinion by which she asserts that the ownership rests with her.

There are eight sunken vessels which were destroyed during the war time in the waters of Okinawa, chiefly in the sea off Naha. The Japanese Government has been making negotiation with USCAR in Okinawa about salvage of the sunken vessels. However, the American side rejected the assertion of the Japanese Government by saying that ownership of the sunken vessels rests with the U.S.

In this connection, the Japanese Government held a liaison conference of officials concerned of the Finance, Justice and Transportation Ministries with the Foreign Office as the central figure, and as a result of discussion, they reaffirmed that ownership of the sunken vessels rests legally with Japan and requested, with a official document, the U.S. for approval of salvage. However, since the U.S. merely repeated that the ownership rested with her but did not express the reason, the Foreign Office intended to inquire formally into the views of the U.S. Government and promote the negotiation. On the other hand, the breakdown of the eight sunken vessels are three former national vessel and five private vessels.

RYUKYU SHIMPO (NEWS ARTICLE) 28 April 1957 (M)

ATTENTION PAID TO VESSELS SUNK IN THE ANCHORAGE
OF MIYAKO: FISHERMEN TO OPPOSE USE OF EXPLOSIVES

(Miyako Branch) The agency of Santomo Salvage Company in Miyako was recently informed by its main office that Managing Director Etchi and technicians of the company would visit Miyako for the purpose of salvaging three Japanese vessels -- the Taiken Maru (2,223 tons), the Hirota Maru (2,271 tons) and Toyosaka Maru (1,966 tons) -- sunk off Hirara Port of Miyako. This information is attracting public attention as this is the time when it is reported that the problem of ownership between Japanese and U.S. Governments remains unsettled, but the local fishermen who were surprised to hear the news, oppose downright the use of explosives for the salvage operation and are indicating a move to carry out a campaign for preventing the operation with explosives, and the progress is attracting attention.

The move originates from the fact that the Miyako Agency of the Santomo Salvage Company on the 23rd received information from its main office in Tokyo that Managing Director Etchi and technicians of the company would leave Tokyo on the 27th, for formal approval was given to the company for salvaging the said sunken vessels. According to the company sources, the disposal of Japanese vessels sunk in the waters around Okinawa is now in dispute between the Japanese and U.S. Government, but the American side approves transfer of three national vessels sunk off Miyako to Japan, while the Japanese Government sold these sunken vessels to the Santomo Salvage Company the year before

last as a result of bidding. In the meantime, the company was anxious about the vessels as parts of the vessels were stolen, but as the approval was given, the company decided to salvage the vessels.

However, the fishermen who were informed of the above, feared that use of explosives for the salvage operation would destroy fish, and they hold a conference at which they decided to carry out a movement opposing use of explosives. That is, on April 24, chairmen of fishery cooperatives and representatives of fisher circles numbering 30 held a conference and discussed counter-measures at the Branch of the Ryukyu Fisheries Federation. As a result, an agreement was reached to appeal to various quarters concerned for preventing use of explosives in salvaging the vessels, and at the same time, they are preparing to hold a fishermen's rally for the above purpose.

With the approaching season for bonito fishing, control over illegal fishing which devastates bait-ground has been started in Miyako, but it is feared that use of explosive for salvage operation of the sunken vessels will destroy fish of nearby waters and, also important, devastate bait-ground, creating uneasiness and restlessness among the fishermen in consideration that use of explosives will seriously affect the fishing industry of Miyako.

RYUKYU SHIMPO (NEWS ARTICLE) 19 April 1957 (M)

'RIGHT FOR DISPOSAL OF SUNKEN VESSELS SHOULD BE
GRANTED TO THE RYUKYUS': GRI TO MAINTAIN PAST
POLICY

It was reported that the United States Government recently sent a memorandum to the Japanese Government, claiming ownership of vessels sunk in the territorial waters around Okinawa, and toward this, the Japanese Government shows an intention to tell the United States Government that the ownership rests with Japan and conduct a strong negotiation with the American authorities. In this connection, the Ryukyuan Government which has been requesting for transfer of the right of disposal to the Ryukyuan Government since four or five years ago, also shows an attitude that it will maintain the established policy that "these sunken vessels should be disposed of for the economic development of the Ryukyus."

During the past four years, the Ryukyuan Government made requests to USCAR and American Congressional members as well as Government officials who visited Okinawa, that the vessels sunk within the territorial waters of the Ryukyus be transferred to the Ryukyuan Government. Also, the Ryukyuan Government petitioned the Ryukyu Islands Financial Management Mission which visited Okinawa last month and investigated present conditions of the Ryukyuan economy for the early transfer of the right of disposal of sunken vessels. Moreover, since the Deputy Governor is to give a decision in accordance with an ordinance in connection with three national vessels sunk in the anchorage of Miyako and five non-governmental

vessels sunk in the anchorage of Naha, to which claims were filed in 1955, the Ryukyuan Government requested for an early action turning down the claims.

The Ryukyuan Government has been maintaining that disposal of sunken vessels after transferring the warships and other vessels sunk within the territorial waters of the Ryukyus during the war, would contribute to the rehabilitation of the Ryukyus as indicated below, and hopes that not only the U.S. but also the Japanese Government will renounce the claim for ownership for the sake of Okinawa.

1. The Ryukyuan Government should secure much revenue and increase financial sources for basic projects.
2. Capital of the Ryukyus will be given an opportunity for additional investment.
3. The laborers of the Ryukyus will be given an opportunity for more employment for a long period.
4. Acquisition of much dollars through exportation will greatly enrich the Ryukyuan economy.

In this connection, Deputy Chief Executive Kamimura stated, "Since the Ryukyuan Government has been requesting USCAR to transfer the right of disposal in order to utilize vessels sunk during the war for the economic development of the Ryukyus, we will maintain the established policy. In consideration that the right of disposal of vessels sunk during the war rested with the United States, we requested the U.S. to transfer the right to GRI, but if the Japanese Government claims that the right belongs to Japan, it is hoped that Japan will be magnanimous enough to renounce the ownership for the sake of Okinawa."

Okinawa Times (News Article) Monday, 22 April 1957 (S)

SALVAGE DEALERS ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED

Deliberations on the establishment of a salvage dealers association have been made among seven salvage companies, namely Asahi Salvage Company, Nakazato Salvage Company, Koryu Salvage Company, Kyowa Firm, Seiwa Sangyo, Sinko Sangyo and Takunan Trading Company. On the 17th, they established the "Okinawa Salvage Dealers Association" and selected Messrs. Seikichi Sugama (President of the Asahi Salvage Company) and Shusei Ikemiya (President of the Kyowa Firm) to the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Association respectively.

The association was established to make the mutual aid of members and cooperation in technique and equipment, as well as to carry out salvaging, breaking up, refloating sunken vessels around waters of Okinawa, removing obstacles for navigation, and sweeping the sea. In particular, the association made bylaws, and the security money in the amount of ¥120,000 per (salvage) company is being deposited in the Bank of the Ryukyus as the security money for participation in the association, in order to prevent beforehand unfairness among dealers.

RYUKYU SHIMPO (NEWS ARTICLE) 18 April 1957 (M)

Evening EditionTHIS IS THE BEST TIME OF SCRAP BOOM, BUT
REACTIONARY FALL IN PRICE EXPECTED

Yearly increase in the export of scrap iron has been seen since 1953 when its export was approved, and export of scrap iron in 1956 exceeded that of black sugar which had so far been the major export of the Ryukyus, ranking first. Moreover, the export price of scrap iron during the period from the latter half of last year to the beginning of this year showed the maximum price ranging from \$90 to \$100 per ton, which has never seen before. Thus, this is the best time of scrap boom. However, weakening of market price of scrap iron in the U.S. of late and reopening of her export of it, are resulting in weakening of its market price in Japan which is the market for the Ryukyus' scrap iron. While the above tendency in the U.S. is not directly affecting the Ryukyus' exportation of scrap at present, it is said that the Ryukyuan export will be affected sooner or later, and it is expected that a reactionary fall will be seen in the price which is said to be an abnormal market price.

The yearly exports of scrap iron and black sugar since 1953 were as follows (the figure in the parenthesis represents the amount of black sugar export): They were; \$1,234,000 (\$3,685,000) in 1953; \$1,864,000 (\$4,540,000) in 1954; \$4,243,000 (\$5,458,000) in 1955; and \$7,616,000 (\$5,506,000) in 1956. As can be seen from the above figures, black sugar export has been increasing yearly, but the increasing ratio of scrap export is greater than that of black sugar, and scrap export in 1956 exceeded that of black sugar.

As for the export price of scrap iron, the average price per ton up to October of 1955 was \$50, which increased to \$59 in December of the same year, and further increased at the rate of \$60 in January of 1956, \$65 around March of the year, \$75 in July and August, \$80 in September, \$85 at the end of last year, until it exceeded \$90 at the beginning of this year. It is said that the sudden increase in the market price of scrap iron is because of raise in the freightage with the sudden outbreak of Suez Canal issue, in addition to world-wide increased demand of steel materials.

The maximum monthly export was 15,000 tons in December of 1955 (at the export price of \$923,000), while the maximum export price ever recorded was \$933,000 (with the export of 11,000 tons) in October of 1956. In October of 1955, Japan prohibited exportation of steel materials on the ground that she had a few stocks on hand, and this resulted in sudden decrease of scrap export of the Ryukyus, and in December of 1955 export was concentrated on scrap iron. This is why the maximum amount of scrap export was recorded in December of 1955.

The scrap on land was almost exhausted by 1954 or so, and attention was paid to the collection of sea scrap since then, and it was said that sea scrap had almost been exhausted. However, the monthly export of scrap in 1956 ranged from 6,000 tons to 10,000 tons, indicating no decrease in the amount of export. The enterprisers themselves consider it strange. It is considered that this is due to scrap disposed of by the military, scrap coming from the people's economy, and scrap excavated on land, in addition to collection of sea scrap. Since

it is foreseen that present situation will continue for the time being, it is considered that export amount of this year will be equal to that of last year.

There is a difference of some \$25 in the average export price between scrap exported last March and that exported in March of this year, but it is said that although the aforementioned world market price is partly responsible for the high price of scrap this year, this is also due to the increase in the quantity of high quality scrap disposed of by the military or collected from the sea.

According to a recent survey of the Japan Iron and Steel Enterprisers Association, supply and demand of iron and steel in the U.S. and European countries have become inactive, while competition in the sale of products has become keen among the makers concerned, and market of supply was suddenly changed to that of demand. Also, various countries began to make positive efforts for exportation. As a result, companies which suspended partial operation appeared one after another in the U.S., while the price of scrap iron is decreasing, so that a measure was taken to lift the ban on the exportation of scrap iron. This is true in the case of Europe, and market price is weakening, and it is said that the price of section steel has decreased by two or three dollars per ton.

In view of such tendency of the world, it is said that Japanese enterprisers concerned are also prepared for competition of sale, but the local enterprisers are also said to be prepared for the natural influence of weakening of market price to the Ryukyus. Some enterprisers are saying, "Present average price of \$90 per ton is an abnormal market

price, and it would be better to see a stabilized price of \$80 per ton."

At any rate, attention is being paid as to what influence the change in world market price will exert on iron scrap which is now the major export of the Ryukyus, and at the same time, it is a matter of great concern as to how long the scrap boom will continue.

The Okinawa Times (Evening Edition), 12 May 1957. (News Article) K.

EXPORTATION OF SCRAP AMOUNTS TO ¥1,200 MILLION FOR FOUR YEARS

The scrap boom seems to be on the gradual decline. It was in August, 1953 that the right to dispose of scrap on land was transferred to the Government of Ryukyu Islands, and the exportation of scrap is said to have amounted to come ¥1,250,000,000 up till now, proving the largest item to obtain dollars. But almost all scrap on land has been collected, and the present situation is such that 38 dealers approved by the government are conducting a keen competition in collecting the scrap under the sea.

The business involving disposal of scrap was carried out by the Public Services Department in the past, but it has been transferred to the Economics Department this year. Following are the actual results of exportation of scrap for four years:

The dealers make a monthly report on the amount of exportation and pay an amount established in accordance with regulations to the government. There was an exportation of some 40,000 tons and a payment of more than ¥39,000,000 (to the government) in the fiscal year '54; more than 30,000 tons and ¥14,000,000 in '55; more than 76,000 tons and more than ¥38,000,000 in '56; more than 44,000 tons and some ¥23,000,000 in '57, totalling some 190,000 tons and some ¥115,000,000 as of the end of last year. The exportation reached its peak in the fiscal year '56 but went on the gradual decrease since then, and it showed a remarkable decrease this year.

The exportation amounted to more than 7,500 tons and payment to the government some ¥4,900,000 last January; 4,800 tons and more than

¥2,230,000 in February; and more than 4,600 tons and some ¥3,000,000 in March. The total amount of exportation is considered to be some ten times the payment to the government, therefore it can be calculated that the total amount of exportation of scrap up to the end of last March exceeds ¥1,254,000,000.

The future collection of scrap relies upon sunken vessels. According to the estimate of the Maritime Section of the Public Service Department, vessels of American and Japanese sunken in the near waters which should be disposed of as obstacles to navigation are 12 in number or some 20,000 tons in weight. It is estimated that the disposal of these vessels will be completed in two years, if smoothly carried out. This seems to be approximately ¥200,000,000 in value.

OKINAWA TIMES (NEWS ARTICLE) 1 July 1957 (M)

Evening Edition

SLUMP IN THE PRICE OF SCRAP IRON CONTINUES

The price of scrap iron began increasing at the beginning of last year and the price FOB reached \$90 (for first-class scrap) per ton during the period from April to May of this year, but due to sudden change in the situation of supply and demand in Japan, a slump in the price of scrap iron from July is certain. The scrap now under contract is priced at \$80 per ton, but shipment of the scrap will be almost finished by the 5th, and local dealers are in receipt of an advance notice that the Japanese enterprisers would not buy scrap even at the price of \$65 per ton thereafter. This is the slump of some \$25 per ton in comparison with the highest price seen in April and May, and the business circles concerned hold a pessimistic view saying that the scrap boom since last year would come to an end.

The makers so far have bought anything that is iron, but they are expected not to buy such scrap as nails, iron fragments, nuts, drum cans and paint cans, etc. As for the scrap coming from Okinawa, the makers are of the intention to reduce the amount to be imported, as the Okinawan scrap is inferior in quality. Thus, the outlook of price and quantity is gloomy, and it is expected that the local dealers designated by the Government will be affected seriously. The dealers have already decided to reduce the price of first-class scrap to ¥6,500 (\$54.17) per ton, second-class scrap to ¥5,900 (\$49.17) per ton, and that they would not buy offgrade scrap. Thus, they seem to be reluctant in buying scrap until they can see definite outlook of the market.

Following are the reasons for the sudden slump in the price of scrap iron:

1. A contract was concluded to import 1,450,000 tons of scrap from the U.S. and the shipment of scrap from the U.S. has started. It is expected that the shipment of scrap from the U.S. will be completed by October, thus providing a stock of scrap lasting until next January or February. Moreover, iron ore is being imported from India. As a result, various makers show an indication of suspending purchase.

2. Due to lack of funds as a result of financial control and arrival of large quantity of copper goods, price of such articles as round-shaped bars decreased, affecting the price of scrap iron.

3. The cartel price of special-grade scrap iron is ¥29,000 (Japanese yen) (\$80.56), but the Yahata Iron Works reduced the purchasing price of various grades of scrap iron in Kansai by ¥2,000 (\$5.56), while various makers will carry out independent management in consideration of arrival of goods and stock in July and thereafter.

In this connection, President Shingaki of the Toyo Shoji Company stated, "If the price is sharply decreased and small articles of scrap iron can not be sold, this would give a great blow to us. It is questionable as to how much scrap iron can really be collected at the price of less than \$65. It is considered that small-scale collectors will give up the work if it should not pay. Scrap ranked first in the list of exports last year and was partly responsible for the boom, but slump of its price will affect various quarters. The laborers who were

employed by the scrap dealers will lose their job, while the people who lived on the collection and sale of scrap will be threatened. We may have to ask the Government to decrease the amount we pay to the Government, and if the amount is reduced, this will also result in the decrease in the Government revenue, while we also think that change of this time will give a considerable blow to the Ryukyuan economy."

The Okinawa Times, July 8, 1957 (news) Y.

SOME EVEN REFUSE TO CLAIM THE SCRAP METAL. EXPORT SITUATION OF SCRAP METAL WORSENS.

The scrap metal which topped all other export items of Okinawa has declined in price due to sudden change in the Japanese market situation, so much so that some dealers refuse to claim imported scrap metals caused by the government's tight money policy with the result that the cartel itself is reportedly in a tight place.

Some people hold a pessimistic view of this situation and predict that around the middle of this month the exportation of the scrap metals will become slack, for the dealers in scrap metals have become wary. The reason for their refusal to claim the imported scrap metal is the difficulty of raising fund arising from the government tight money policy. The American businessmen, alarmed by the decline in price of scrap metal in Japan, hurried shipment, and of the 180 tons to be imported into Japan 100 tons have already been imported. The acceleration of scrap metals resulted in a huge stock pile for each dealer which would last for more than 3 months, and they are now at a loss what to do, unable to find a place to store any more scrap metal.

Translated by USCAR's Office of Public Information

OKINAWA SHIMBUN Editorial 26 July 1957 (T)

SAVE THE SCRAP ENTERPRISERS

In order to improve the international balance which is rapidly aggravating of late, the Japanese Government is now taking a tight money policy. At such a time came the lifting of the ban on the export of scrap iron from America to Japan, resulting in flooding Japanese markets with scrap metals. And as a natural consequence of the above situation, Okinawan scrap dealers are now driven into a hard corner due to a remarkable drop in buyers. However, since it would not have been always impossible to foresee such a situation, we deeply regret that proper counter-measures toward such a situation were not taken beforehand.

The reported wane in the scrap boom which once served to alleviate the hard living of the unemployed as well as students working their way through school, will pose a great threat to the Okinawan economy, especially since scrap metals hitherto topped the list of major export items of Okinawa. This will also affect the Government finance and general public, since the fees the scrap enterprisers were used to pay to the Government, in the amount of 6% of total export amount, will have to be cut.

At any rate, if the present condition continues for four more months, it is said that the scrap enterprisers will be forced into bankruptcy. So, to foster this industry along the right track, due

consideration must be paid in issuing licenses so as to avoid the flooding of enterprisers. Moreover, the Government must hasten to take proper counter measures, by utilizing this experience in which lifting of ban on export by one country deals a great blow upon the Okinawan economy, to improve the present situation and at the same time, save the scrap enterprisers from the misery of bankruptcy. Saving the scrap enterprisers means saving the unemployed and poor students and contributing to the Ryukyuan economy.

OKINAWA SHIMBUN
News Article (T)
25 July 1957

'SCRAP BOOM' DWINDLING

Of late, scrap collectors are disappearing due to the recent decline in the scrap boom, which once created work for the unemployed and students wishing to earn school expenses. These scrap collectors are now again thrown out of their jobs. Particularly driven into the hardest corner economically due to this dwindling of scrap boom are scrap exporters. Then why was the scrap collection business, which was once active so much, visited by the present depression? Following is the real state of the scrap collecting business circle.

The monthly export of scrap metals during the past one year averaged more than 8,200 tons, worth about \$700,000. Thus, scrap metals were among the major export items of the Ryukyus. However, the export amount of scrap metals dropped to 4,637 tons or \$332,000 in June and moreover, as of 20th July, only a little over 2,000 tons were shipped and it is expected that the export amount during July will not even reach 3,000 tons in the present state.

What is responsible for the above is that Japan adopted the tight money policy and that the U.S. lifted its ban on the export of scrap metals to Japan, resulting in the flood of scrap metals in Japan. The above situation also affected Okinawan scrap dealers, for the price of scrap metals which was \$97 per ton in December of last year, dropped to \$64. Even at such low prices, there are few buyers, and scrap dealers

are now driven to a hard corner as a result. Of 38 licensed scrap dealing firms, 10 firms are in the state of having been closed. Moreover, all the information coming from Japan in the above connection, is pessimistic in nature, and there is no indication of the boom again coming. If the present state should continue for 4 more months, enterprisers will be forced to go bankrupt.

Since scrap metals hitherto topped the list of major export items of the Ryukyus, the effect of this depression in scrap circles on the Ryukyuan economy is apprehended. Moreover, since the Government had already budgeted the amount of money supposed to be paid by scrap dealers to the Government as fees, a depression in the scrap world will make scrap dealers unable to pay the fees. For the Okinawan scrap dealers who are dependent on Japan for everything, no decisive measure can be taken to improve the situation, except to wait the Japanese circle turning favorable in a fret.

In the above connection, the GRI's Economics Department is studying the condition of the scrap market in Japan through the Ryukyuan Trade Delegation Office in Japan, and so the answer in this connection will come soon. Moreover, Chairman Miyara of the Scrap Dealers Association is expected to visit Japan shortly to make an inspection and necessary negotiations on this problem. Scrap dealers are now in an uneasy state at the dark prospect toward the future of their business.

OKINAWA SHIMBUN
News Article (T)
28 May 1957

OWNERSHIP OF SCRAP METALS IN MILITARY
LAND BELONGS TO GRI

In connection with the disposal of buried scrap metals, GRI's Economics Department had been inquiring to GRI's Department of Legal Affairs concerning the following two points: 1). The right to dig up the scrap metals buried in the military requisitioned land is given to GRI by the military command through USCAR, but do the landowners of the subject area have the right to claim the ownership to the scrap metals dug up, or right to prevent the excavation of scrap metals from subject areas? 2). When scrap metals are dug up from area other than military land, what is the relationship between the one who discovered the scraps and owners of the land where subject metals were unearthed and what is the legal interpretation of the ownership of the scrap dug up in such place?

Toward the above questions, GRI's Department of Legal Affairs recently sent following contents of reply:

- 1) Right to acquire the scraps buried in the military land belongs to GRI and landowners concerned have no right to prevent excavation of scraps;
- 2) Ownership over scraps buried in area other than military land should be shared equally by the one who discovered the scrap metals and owner of the land from which the metals were dug up. (However, this applies to the case when owner of the scraps is not known). However, when the owner of scraps is known, the scraps naturally belong to him.

Okinawa Times (News Article) Friday, 8 March 1957 (S)

SHEET PILES IN BATEN PORT WORTHY OF ¥3 MILLION

DISPOSED OF TO SASHIKI SON

The scrap boom in Baten Port is going down, but it is said that scrap of nearly 3,000 tons is buried in the bottom of the sea. The authorities of Sashiki Son earlier petitioned USCAR to dispose of sheet piles of about 300 tons which are being left as they are, and of late, they received a reply of approval.

The authorities of the village (Sashiki Son) estimate (the sheet piles) at the current price of more than ¥3,000,000 and are being pleased with the unexpected income. The village authorities are planning to dig out them immediately and appropriate the amount from the sale of them for expenses of construction of the village office building.

Large amount of scrap such as sunken or wrecked American warships and other vessels as well as barges, was found in the Baten Port and they have been collected by the Mollers Company in Baten since termination of the war, and it is said that they amounted to the several hundred million yen. The sheet piles were decided to be disposed of to the village, although Christian organizations and scrap dealers have been setting their eyes on them.

Statement of Mayor Tsuchiko of Sashiki Son: "At the beginning, we could not directly share in the benefit of the scrap boom, and we later submitted a petition, for we could not look on a mountain of

treasures. We obtained last month the formal approval from USCAR, so we are grateful for its special arrangement. It will cost much to dig out the sheet piles, as they are found in the mud of the shore at six feet deep. However, since two sheet piles were driven in at intervals of one meter, they will become a big revenue source of the village. I would like to reconstruct the village office building with the amount from the sale of sheet piles, as it is being harmed by white ants."

191

OKINAWA SHIMBUN
News Article (T)
1 July 1957

EXPLOSIVE ACCIDENTS OCCUR AT
YONTAN AND THE SEA OFF AJA, KILLING
OR INJURING A NUMBER OF PERSONS

(Central Branch) At about 11 a.m., on the 30th, an explosive accident took place at Toguchi coast of Yontan Son, killing an estimated two persons. At the report, Director Asato of the Kadena Police Station, his staff, and the staff of the Yontan Fire Brigade rushed to the scene.

The explosion occurred within a cave which, facing the sea, was used as a trench by the Japanese Navy during the Okinawan War. The work of digging out was accompanied by difficulties and judging from the torn off hats, shoes, lunch boxes, that were dug out as of 7 p.m., as well as bits of flesh or bone scattered here and there, it is estimated that two persons were blown to pieces by the explosion. In view of the shell with a calibre of 105 millimeters, which was found at the scene, it is imagined that the disaster might be the result of an attempt to extract powder from the shell. Names of the victims are not known as yet, and the Kadena Police Station, while continuing digging of bodies, started identifying them.

Another explosive case occurred, at about 3:20 p.m. on the 30th, at the shoal situated at the spot about 1,000 meters off the Aja Port, Mawashi. The explosion occurred as three men were tampering with a fuse of a shell, thus killing one person and inflicting heavy injuries on two others.

In view of the fact, that two canoes which were seen at the scene when the explosive accident took place disappeared by the time the rescue squad arrived, it is surmised that there are more conspirators involved. So, the Naha Police have started the search in the above connection.

OKINAWA SHIMBUN (EDITORIAL) 2 July 1957 (M)

REMOVE ALL EXPLOSIVES

Two similar explosive accidents took place yesterday within the former air-raid shelters in Aja of Mawashi City and Toguchi of Yomitan Son. In the former case, some survived the accident, and it was possible to learn the cause of accident, but in the latter case, no one survived and nothing is known about how the accident took place. It was not the only explosive accident, and similar accidents - minor or serious ones - are taking place almost every day. In all probability, there are many accidents which are not reported to the authorities concerned and are not carried by the newspapers.

Therefore, the problem is why is it impossible to prevent such accidents which are taking place almost every day. We have frequently dealt with this problem in this column, but unless a radical measure is taken, there will be no end of such explosive accidents. While everyone recognizes the fact that the authorities concerned are working hard for the prevention of the accidents, it is impossible to thoroughly watch those who handle explosives. Hence, what we desire first is the early disposal of explosives. In other words, shells lying in the sea or on the hills should be disposed of as early as possible.

It is said that in Japan enterprisers are designated for the disposal by providing a subsidy. In the case of Okinawa, we think that explosives were abandoned here and there as the severe battle was fought on the sea and on land. There are many explosives whose handling is very dangerous, so that there should be a measure for disposing of them at an early date.

As a means of the disposal, it would be a good idea to designate enterprisers for this purpose. If the Government designates enterprisers, they may be able to dispose of the explosives without seeking technical advice of the military. It is said that there are two or three leading firms, but we propose that the authorities confer with these firms and jointly make a concrete study concerning the method of disposal.

While writing this article, this writer was informed of the outbreak of another explosive accident in the waters off Zamami. Details of the accident are not known, but it is said that more than 30 persons were either killed or wounded by the accident. It is surmised that this is probably the greatest explosive accident after the war, but the longer it takes to dispose of explosives, the more of such tragedies we will see. No time is allowed any longer. At this juncture, we hope that the authorities will seriously consider the early disposal of explosives and establish a counter-measure in this connection.

OKINAWA MORNING STAR
July 1, 1957

AT LEAST ONE DEAD IN 2 BLASTS

At least one Okinawan was killed yesterday in a scrap explosion and police are attempting to determine the number of casualties which may have occurred at a second explosion scene.

Toshio Osa, 24, died at the Hamamatsu Hospital late yesterday after a shell which he was dismantling exploded. Two companions who were also dismantling shells at the scene of the explosion at Aja, near the Machinato-Naha housing area, were injured. Police are investigating the explosion.

An undetermined number of persons were killed or injured in a second explosion which occurred in a Japanese army ammunition cave at Toguchi-ku, Yomitan-son, yesterday also.

Police, attracted to the scene by the explosion, said that bits of human flesh were found in the area, but since the victims were apparently buried in the cave by the force of the explosion, it was impossible to tell how many persons were involved.

194

Ryukyu Shimpō (News Article) Tuesday, 2 July 1957 (S)

EXPLOSION ACCIDENT IN SUNKEN VESSEL TAKES A TOLL OF 32 LIVES

At 5:15 p.m. on July 1, the Naha Police Station received an emergency telegram from the Zamami Police Sub-Station to the effect that "A sunken vessel exploded. The killed are estimated at 32. Inform of them as soon as they are identified." Simultaneously with receipt of the telegram, Officials Hokama and Higa in charge public safety, Police Sergeants Kina and Nakaema in charge of criminal affairs, two officials in charge of criminal identification fingerprints of the Naha Police Station, a police sergeant and a policeman of the Water Police Station, and Surgeon Nagai and four nurses of the Red Cross Hospital rushed to the scene in Zamami Son on board the patrol boat "Hayatori".

The report made by the "Hayatori" of the Naha Water Police Station at midnight of July 2 revealed the explosion of a sunken vessel in Zamami Son. That is, the explosion accident occurred around 6 p.m. on June 30 in the sea about 2,000 meters southwest of Aka Island in Zamami Son, while raising scrap. When the explosion occurred, four sampans were blown up together with a big noise. The crew members are said to number 32. Simultaneously with the explosion, ten canoes rushed to the scene but things left were not discovered. Since a sunken vessel of about 7,000 tons is lying down in the sea the terrible accident occurred, while scrap collectors are dismantling the sunken vessel as usual.

(According to reporter Ichimura) it is considered that the exploded powder might have been about 200 to 300 tons. Darkish oil is floating on the water near the scene and big fishes also are floating on the sea, indicating a frightful spectacle.

195

OKINAWA SHIMBUN
News Article (T)
2 July 1957
Evening Edition

PERSONS CONCERNED COMMENT ON THE
EXPLOSION AT ZAMAMI

The explosion case in the sea off Zamami Island is giving a great shock to not only the scrap collectors but the whole residents. Since this kind of disaster does not make disappearance, in spite of the fact that it has been a strong wish of the whole residents to stamp out such disaster, the recent occurrence of an explosion at Zamami is giving rise to strong voices requesting the complete measure to prevent such explosive cases. Particularly those handling the ammunition are strongly asking that in order to prevent explosive disasters, rights to dispose of such explosives at sea be given the enterprisers approved by the Government.

Following are the views of persons concerned:

Mr. Seita Takamine, President of the Okisho Company: "Vessels laden with explosives still remain sunk in the sea off Kerama as well as Yontan, and those who are not authorized, are illegally collecting shells from such vessels. The recent disaster in the sea off Zamami was caused, I think, by such illegal scrap collectors. Among the shells loaded in such vessels are ones to which oysters or various other things are sticking, and so it is pretty dangerous work even for specialists to dismantle them. Therefore, it is a suicidal act for laymen to try it. Those engaged in such illegal attempts must be well aware of this point.

"I think that it is not possible to prevent such disasters by mere advocacies. So, I suggest that the best way to prevent such disasters is to let three salvaging companies, that is, the Koryu Salvaging Company, Okisho Co., Ltd., and Kinsei Kogyo Company, which have licenses to handle explosives in the sea, handle the salvaging of these explosives in the sea and completely sweep away the explosives from the sea.

"The trouble lies in that the rights to dispose the shells and other kinds of explosive materials are not still given the local enterprisers, due to the complication of the problem involving the ownership of sunken vessels. USCAR and GRI must immediately solve the problem connected with the ownership of these sunken vessels and give the rights to dispose of the explosives to local enterprisers. Without doing the above, it would be meaningless to advocate the prevention of explosive disasters.

"Police authorities are strengthening supervision, by mobilizing the patrol boats, but those engaged in the illegal acts do not discontinue their practise by cheating the police supervision. And it is even said that there are those engaged in lifting shells from sunken vessel in the sea off Yontan under cover of night. So, there is strong possibility of the case like the disaster at Zamami recurring hereafter, too. I, as one of the enterprisers, urge the government authorities' strong consideration of this point."

Director Kochi of the Naha Police Station: "Since we have strengthened the watch along the coast, there are less powder extracting practises there now. The supervision became more difficult of late, however, because these

scrap collectors are engaged in the powder extraction work by diving from small outlying islands. We will ask the military that the severest punishment be meted out to such people at military courts. I hope that those who witness such practises will immediately report them to the nearest police boxes. Moreover, we are planning to have high speed patrol boats built to strengthen the supervision over the sea."

Director Asato of Public Services Department, GRI: "GRI is asking the Japanese Government and other quarters concerned, taking advantage of every chance, that the ownership of these sunken vessels be given to the Ryukyuan side. However, since this problem contains some international aspects, it can not be solved simply. However, the authorities are of the intention to push forward the settlement of this problem from every aspect."

Mr. Ichiro Inamine, President of the Koryu Salvaging Company: "At present, there are shells merely left in the sea and the shells remain laden on the sunken vessels. Companies with properly equipped shops are allowed to take care of the former, while no enterprisers are given the right to handle the latter. So, some illegal scrap collectors are secretly handling them. This resulted in the recent explosion cases at the sea off Kadena and Sunabe. And this time, the most miserable disaster took place at the sea off Zamami. I think that the best way to prevent this kind of disasters is to give those qualified the right to dispose of these explosives at sea as soon as possible, so as to sweep away dangerous things from the sea.

"While this kind of works is subsidized by the government in Japan, no measure is taken at all, in this regard. I advised the authorities

concerned that disasters would be sure to happen, if thorough measure were not taken in this connection. Since the Ryukyuan enterprisers have the experience of salvaging many sunken vessels, authorities should place greater crust in the Ryukyuan enterprisers. It is pretty certain that this kind of disaster will continue to take place, unless some drastic measure is be taken. I think that the Government should also take a protective measure toward the enterprisers, since this kind of project is pretty dangerous. As a drastic measure, some measure must be immediately worked out by analyzing the causes of such disasters sufficiently."

RYUKYU SHIMPO (EDITORIAL) 4 July 1957 (M)

ESTABLISHMENT OF RADICAL MEASURE AS

EARLY AS POSSIBLE DESIRED

An accident took place on June 30, in which a sunken vessel lying some 1,500 meters off Akajima (an islet) of Zamami Son exploded, destroying more than 30 persons. It seems that this is a terrible accident which took place while scrap collectors were dismembering the American vessel, weighing nearly 8,000 tons, which sank during the last war, without approval. The sunken vessel was loaded with 3,000 tons of powder, and since that much of power was exploded, the result can easily be imagined. Four sampans were smashed, while the water rose in a spout with consequent result that fish fell on the nearby sub-villages. Moreover, tidal wave and earthquake visited the nearby villages so that it is said that the islanders feared whether an atomic bomb was exploded.

According to a survey of the Police Headquarters, it is said that 1,461 fell victim of explosive accidents during the 10 postwar years, and of the number, 505 persons were killed. From the beginning of this year, 41 cases have already taken place, resulting in the death of 61 persons, serious injury of 14 persons, and slight injury of 25 persons. Among them were infants and younger children who fell victim of the accidents together with their reckless parents. This is the postwar gloomy phase of miserable Okinawans who hastened the journey to death, driven by avarice, but how long will such terrible accidents continue?

Upon being informed of the terrible accident this time, USCAR placed off-limits on the waters off Zamami, and at the same time, took the same

measure for the waters off Yomitan in order to prevent the recurrence of the same terrible accident, for a sunken vessel loaded with more explosives than that was loaded in the aforementioned sunken vessel, is lying off Yomitan. In the case of the accident which took place off Zamami, too, unlicensed persons were engaged in the work and this was beyond the control of the authorities concerned due to lack of patrolling staff, and as a result, the emergency measure of this time were taken by the military.

The scrap dealers are digging up roads for school children and other places and are carrying out their business. We do not know whether or not any law will control such conduct, but we are of the view that such dealers must be punished from the viewpoint of public morality. It can be imagined as to what reckless operation such scrap dealers carry out on the sea. While being aware of the fact that nothing should be done about sunken vessels without approval, they eventually start dismembering sunken vessels as such conduct is beyond the police surveillance. They who are not licensees do not think of the outcome. Being driven by their avarice, they lose their sober judgement to earn the day's living, with consequent result that there is no alternative for them but to have their destiny of self-destruction en masse.

President Inamine of the Koryu Salvage Company stated that in Japan the Government has special non-governmental dealers dismantle (dangerous sunken vessels) even by granting subsidy in an effort to prevent accidents, but in this respect, nothing is done in Okinawa. Despite the fact that nearly 1,500 persons fell victim of explosive accidents during the 10 postwar years, no preventive policies have been taken. No marker in

dangerous waters is found, and as for the dismantling (of sunken vessels), it seems that the subsidy for the operation is the last thing we can expect.

Shells are still found on hills and under the waters, and judging from the number of the shells, we may still find victims of explosion cases of these shells. The establishment of a radical preventive policy as early as possible will mean to save as many victims as possible. It may be no exaggeration to say that the ignorant scrap dealers are constantly exposed to the danger of explosive accidents. The establishment of early counter-measures is the only means of saving ignorant and avaricious scrap collectors.

MORNING STAR
July 2, 1957

CHINA SEA BLAST KILLS 32 DIVERS

Thirty-two Okinawan scrap collectors were killed in a single blast at 5 p.m., near the island of Zamami last night according to a message received by Naha police at 5 p.m.

Although the blast was reported to have occurred within 30 miles of Okinawa, Naha police were informed of the event by police radio telegraph. Details were scarce and a police patrol boat left Naha port at 7 p.m., for the four hour voyage to the scene of the reported blast.

According to early reports, four Okinawan boats of the 5-ton class were collaborating on the raising of scrap from a sunken hulk when the blast occurred. Thirty-nine Okinawans were reportedly involved in the operation, of which there were 32 fatalities.

It is a standard practice for Okinawan scrap collectors to dismantle high explosives and use the recovered TNT to blast new scrap metal from hulks lying off-shore. Some of these off-shore hulks themselves contain high explosives.

The only eye-witnesses were seven miles from the blast. They reported that the explosion gave off three separate clouds beginning with a white "mushroom shaped" cloud, followed by a black cloud and a third white cloud. The same witnesses said that his ship was hauling gasoline to another ship which was working with the salvage group.

The "fishermen" who were working in the area, according to the gas carrier, were diving in 150 feet of water using oxygen tanks. The object of their "fishing" operation, the witnesses said, was an LST which was thought to be carrying ammunition.

The witnesses said that the "fishermen" were entering the sunken vessel by an entrance in the ship's open nose.

Okinawan fishermen said that the blast was the most serious of any which has occurred since the end of hostilities.

In the blast area, witnesses said nothing remained of four 10 man "fishing" boats other than a number of floating oxygen tanks. There was no estimation of the number of men under water at the time of the blast or the cause of the blast itself.

It is believed that all of the casualties came from the Keramas, a group of islands lying off the southern tip of Naha.

In the past US authorities have attempted to prevent Okinawa "fishermen" from becoming post graduate casualties of the battle of Okinawa, by making it illegal to deal in brass scrap.

It is estimated that there are several million pounds of brass lying off-shore in the water around Okinawa as the result of high explosive ordnance which was dumped there following the surrender of Japan.

Other dangerous explosives are present in sunken hulks which Okinawan scrap collectors consider to be a source of raw material.

Fatal explosions occur at regular intervals involving individual Okinawan lone wolf collectors and syndicate explosions which involve several Okinawans as was typified by the explosive blast which snuffed

out the lives of seven scrap collectors early this year when they set off a blast involving an undetermined number of 155 MM explosives on the beach near Kadena air base.

MORNING STAR
July 3, 1957

NO TRACE FOUND OF 32
WHO DIED IN SCRAP BLAST

By Masao Nakachi

Villagers of Zamami island, 30 miles from Okinawa, were so frightened at Sunday night's China Sea blast which killed at least 32 local scrap collectors, that they were afraid a war had broken out.

Scrap collectors, including some divers aboard four 5-ton fishing boats had been engaged with illegal scrap collecting from a sunken 8,000-ton Liberty cargo ship, containing an estimated 3,000 tons of blasting power, when either an acetylene torch or mishandling of dynamite, exploded the cargo. The four boats and all occupants, including those diving, were believed to have perished.

An eyewitness, Tatsuo Nagata, principal of the Zamami primary school, was fishing from an engine-equipped canoe when he said his eyes were blinded by a brilliant flash "similar to the atomic bomb dropped at Hiroshima."

He said he saw the flash and seconds later saw a gigantic column of water which he estimated to be at least "a half-mile high."

Residents of nearby islands also were reported to have evidenced fear that a new war had broken out.

The noise of the explosion was followed by a trembling of the islands which shook houses and sent occupants scurrying to shelter in the nearby hills.

A police patrol boat arrived at the scene of the blast around 10:30 Monday night but found nothing but oil-blackened waters and dead fish.

OKINAWA SHIMBUN
News Article (T)
3 July 1957

OFF LIMIT DECIDED TO BE DECLARED
OVER THE SEA NEAR BOLO POINT TO COPE
WITH INCREASE OF EXPLOSIVE DISASTERS

Chief Executive Thoma had a regular interview with Civil Administrator Burger from 2 p.m. on the 2nd and discussed the counter-measure to prevent the explosion cases which are increasing of late. In this interview, the Civil Administrator told the Chief Executive that it was decided to immediately set up an off-limits area over the sea near Bolo Point (off Yontan), where ammunition vessels are sunk, as a counter-measure toward the recent increased occurrence of sea scrap explosion.

In this connection, the Chief Executive asked the Civil Administrator that GRI be allowed to refloat the ammunition vessels sunk in the sea off Yontan, and that if this can not be allowed, the military would let them explode in the sea. Toward the above request, the Civil Administrator answered that the refloating of these ammunition vessels would be accompanied with extreme danger and that it was also impossible to let them explode in the sea, as it was very likely that the explosion would rain the splinters of shells over land near the sea. So, he said that the best course that could be taken was to set up the off-limits in the sea there immediately, to shut out illegal scrap collectors. Moreover, as to the disposal of these ammunition vessels, a study is said to be

being made at Washington, and it is not known, at present, whether these vessels belong to GRI or not.

The Chief Executive also asked, in the day's interview, that whaling project on which there was a request from the Taiyo Suisan sometime ago, be immediately approved.

In connection with the recent increased occurrence of explosion cases, Director Skuse of Public Safety Department, USCAR stated as follows:

"I am worried at the recent occurrence of explosive cases. The occurrence of these explosions is attributed mainly to the fact that the people who are not adequately educated are attempting to dismantle the shells, by depending on practical experience acquired while collecting scraps. In the sea, unexploded shells, ammunition, as well as bombs, of which the safety devices have been rotted away, are left abandoned. The recent explosions in the sea off Karama and Yontan are ones caused while attempting to collect them.

"The Police authorities are having a hard time in supervising them, for by the time the guarding boats approach the scene upon receiving a report, these illegal collectors disappear. These explosions affect not only the persons involved, but others, too.

"These ammunition vessels belong to the U.S. Military now, but study is being made to release them for the private enterprisers as much as possible, so as to let them salvage these vessels. However, we are assuming a very careful attitude, since the salvaging of such vessels laden with ammunition is extremely dangerous. For example, as a result of a study made by the U.S. Navy experts by diving, it was found that it was dangerous

even for experts to refloat the ammunition vessels sunk in the sea off Bolo Point. It is only too evident that it is very dangerous for the inexperienced persons to try to touch them. As measures to prevent explosions, two points can be considered. One is to let specialists engage in the dismantling work with special equipment at designated shops and the other, to make the general public take more interest in the explosive accidents. It is possible to prevent the explosion disasters when everybody cooperates for prevention of them. I am thinking of strengthening the water police furthermore. I asked the Police Department to further strengthen the supervision over such accidents, from the standpoint of protecting human lives and properties."

Okinawa Times (News Article) Saturday, 6 July 1957 (S)

SCRAP DEALERS SWARM TO DANGEROUS SUNKEN
VESSEL IN THE SEA OF KADENA

(Koza) The explosive accident in Zamami which took a toll of 30 lives gave a big shock to the general public. There is a sunken vessel loaded with shells within the jurisdiction of the Kadena Police Station, so persons there are in fear lest another explosive accident like that in Zamami should happen. An American Liberty Ship [The Canada Victory] which sank during the last war and was loaded with many kinds of shells of about 3,000 tons, is lying in the sea about two miles south of Toya in Yomitan Son, so many divers swarm to the ship every day and are stealing shells by eluding the vigilance of the police.

The Kadena Police Station exercises surprise control twice or thrice a month. On the other hand, the Police Station exercised strict control from both the sea and land with the patrol boat "Asakaze" of the Motobu Police Station. However, since divers are still gathering to the sunken vessel, the (Kadena) Police Station has decided to strengthen the control of the coast, investigate actual condition of scrap dealers there and arrest violators in order to seek the prevention of the (explosive accident).

The Kadena Police Station summoned scrap dealers in Yomitan Son and held a conference with them on the 3rd. As a result, it seems that a Council for Prevention of Explosive Accidents will be established by scrap dealers, officials of village offices, and interested persons within the jurisdiction of the Kadena Police Station. Last year, 8 explosive accidents took place within the jurisdiction of the Kadena

Police Station and 12 persons were killed and 11 were injured by these accidents. This year, no explosive accident happened until May, so officials of the Police Station were relieved at it, thinking that the control had produced satisfactory results. However, two accidents happened in succession in June and two persons were killed and two were injured by the accidents.

In the meantime, representatives of scrap dealers including Mr. Seikai Shimabukuro visited the Labor Department on the 5th and requested to hold a round-table conference for enlightenment with Chief Miura of the First Section of the Labor Standards Supervision Office who inspected facilities of explosive dismantling shops in Japan, as the central figure.

Ownership of sunken vessels has not been clarified as yet, so licensed dealers could not deal with the sunken vessel in the sea of Zamami which caused the explosive accident at this time, although they found the vessel before. The American sunken vessel in the sea of Yomitan is loaded with bombs about twice the quantity of those in the sunken vessel which exploded in the sea off Zamami. However, the licensed dealers cannot make inspection of the vessel beforehand, for they cannot obtain approval of the military, but it is said that unlicensed dealers are collecting shells by evading the law, and have given rise to accidents. Since the present condition is as above, a certain dealer stated, "In order to prevent accidents, the dismantling techniques employed in Japan must be employed here and sunken vessels must be disposed of by the licensed dealers."

RYUKYU SHIMPO (EDITORIAL) 11 July 1957 (M)

WE PLACE EXPECTATION ON THOROUGH CONTROL

The explosive case involving the sunken vessel off Zamami was the most terrible accident after the war and called for the reconsideration of scrap collectors and gave a warning to them, but there are still persons who play with powder with consequent result of causing explosive accidents. An explosive accident also took place off Kamiyama islet the day before yesterday, killing one person and injuring another. The newspaper reports that this accident took place while the victims were conducting illegal fishing, but there is no doubt about the fact that this accident was caused by use of explosive.

In view of the fact that almost all victims do not suffer poverty and their selfish motives are responsible for such accidents, the police are of the intention to intensify the control and arrest violators without mercy for the prevention of the accidents. We are under the impression that the police control so far has been somewhat lukewarm; so we hope for a decisive measure.

Since the profits derived from the dangerous operation increase in proportion to the increasing danger, one may find it impossible to discontinue the work once one has become experienced. Whether it be explosion due to collection of scrap or illegal fishing with the use of powder, this will also destroy fishing ground, so this will not only mean loss of a victim alone but also bring about a great blow to fishermen. Since this will eventually affect the fishing industry of Okinawa, we place our expectation on the thorough control of police. Our expectation also implies the fact that the stronger the control becomes, the more human lives we can save from danger.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U. S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Naha Okinawa

PRESS RELEASE:

23 July 1957

YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT AND ¥30,000 FINES METED OUT TO
YOMITAN PAIR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING EXPLOSIVES

A year's imprisonment at hard labor and fines of ¥30,000, or an additional day of imprisonment for every ¥120 unpaid, is the penalty two Yomitan residents are paying for illegal possession of explosives. Both entered pleas of guilty in Summary CA Court.

The heavy sentences meted out by the Court were base on the latest series of cases in which Ryukyuan have been killed or seriously injured because of illegal handling of explosives.

The convicted pair are:

Shoichi Hatoma, 34, of 3-han, Senaha-ku, Yomitan-Son, a fisherman.

Shinkichi Arashiro, 25, of 2-han, Senaha-ku, Yomitan-Son, a farmer.

Ryukyuan police of the Kadena District Station caught the pair red-handed with 10 105-mm shells, primers intact, in their possession as well as a chisel and hammer used in breaking open the casings to extract powder.

The police were on a patrol boat when they detected the pair hiding behind a cliff, and made the arrest when the men jumped in the ocean in an attempt to escape.

The shells were turned over to the Explosive Ordnance Detachment for disposal.

Headquarters
313TH AIR DIVISION
United States Air Force
APO 239, San Francisco, California

313IG-P

SUBJECT: Conference between Air Force Representatives and Officials
of Ie Shima

TO: Commander
313th Air Division
APO 239, San Francisco, California

1. On 1 July 1957, another conference in a series of meetings was held with the officials of Ie Shima by representatives of this Headquarters concerning control of indigenous residents entering the bombing range for scrap while it is in use. A list of the representatives of the Air Force, Government of the Ryukyu Islands, USCAR and Ie Shima officials in attendance is listed below:

Colonel Leo C. Moon	Inspector General, Headquarters, 313th Air Division
Lt Col Richard J. Wade	Provost Marshal, Headquarters, 313th Air Division
Lt Col John A. McLaughlin	JAG, 313th Air Division
Lt Col Peter English	O & T, Headquarters, 313th Air Division
Captain T. R. Spencer	Ops Section, 18th Air Base Group
1st Lt Harry O. Hinz	JAG, Headquarters, 313th Air Division
Mr. Bob Billingsley	USCAR, Land Division
Mr. Hideo Inouye	USCAR, Chief, Land Division, GRI
Mr. Nobaru, Tushimichi	GRI Police Headquarters
Mr. Tamayose, Seisho	GRI Police Headquarters
Mr. Toyozaki, Mozen	Interpreter, USCAR
Mr. Shimabuku, Sheisuke	Chief, Land Division, GRI
Mr. Yabu	Chief of Police, Motabu
Tamashiro Otomatan	Mayor of Ie Shima
Assistant Mayor and representatives from each Ku, Son, and Shi of Ie Shima were also in attendance.	

2. The items of discussion in the conference are summarized in the following paragraphs:

a. Colonel Moon stated that the conference was called in the interest of public safety. He advised that there had been continued entry to the range by certain individuals of Ie Shima in violation of the prescribed safety regulations. He stated that if the Mayor and Son officials could not lead their people in effecting control of the residents of Ie Shima and cause them to refrain from entering the range while it is in use, for the purpose of digging scrap, that the range would have to be closed to the people at all times. Colonel Moon further stated that, if necessary, the scrap clearance from the range

313IG-P, Hq 313AD, Subj: Conference between Air Force Representatives and Officials of Ie Shima

would be given to a firm by a contract, which contract would also specify that the contractor would be required to enforce the restriction on personnel of Ie Shima entering the range at any time. He emphasized that this procedure was not desirable to the Air Force but that the United States government cannot risk having people killed because they disregard the safety regulations pertaining to the range. Colonel Moon then stated that the very simple agreement signifying their recognition that the United States government would not be responsible for any person coming on the range while it is in use, and agreeing to remain off the range with the privilege of entry during non-operational hours, had not been signed. Colonel Moon stated further that this agreement was in no way intended nor worded to apply in any way to land rights of the people (this having been already settled years back); however, that the land leased by the United States government through USCAR must and will be utilized for the purpose intended. He reemphasized that this conference was not for a discussion of the right of the United States to use the land, but was to assure the physical protection and safety of the people of Ie Shima.

b. The Mayor of Ie Shima stated that there were certain disobedient people who would not heed his instructions to comply with range safety regulations. He said he could not punish these people when they were disobedient nor could he make them cooperate.

c. Colonel Moon replied then that he must assume that these disobedient people understood that if they are injured or killed by their disobedience to a safety rule, that the United States will not accept responsibility for them. The Mayor of Ie Shima replied then that he would not accept any persons statement that they did not understand the safety rules of the range, because he had definitely passed the word to all people of Ie Shima that they must refrain from entering the range when it is in use.

d. Lt Colonel Wade stated that the Mayor and Son officials who had been duly elected by their people appeared to be intelligent and capable enough to effect agreement among their people and control over them. He asked if the majority of the people would not think harshly of their leaders if the range was closed to all persons because of the disobedience of a few that apparently the Mayor and Son officials and the people in general could not control. Colonel Wade explained that the Mayor of Yontan had proven that the people could control illegal entry of the range at Yontan and that there had been no difficulty encountered there.

e. Colonel Moon stated at this point that we appreciated the cooperation of the Mayor and Son officials in the past but that we must expect more effort to assure control of the people in the

313IG-P, Hq 313AD, Subj: Conference between Air Force Representatives and Officials of Ie Shima

entry to the range or that we would have to take other measures. He emphasized that the farmers had obeyed the regulation in an exemplary manner and that it was primarily the scrap collectors who were creating the hazard to human life. He advised that the restriction would not be placed on farmers but on the scrap collectors if the illegal entry continued.

f. A discussion then arose concerning the time given to the people to clear the range after the flag had been raised and the siren sounded. Airman Hisamoto stated that there was a least an hour interval between the time that the signal for clearing the range was given and bombing commenced. He also emphasized that the Air Police made certain that everyone who had entered the range early in the morning were notified to leave the range when it was to be placed in use. He stated, however, that he has recently encountered opposition from the scrap collectors, that they would ignore the warning and it was necessary to chase individuals off the range.

g. The leader of Maja Village, Seiji, Motoyama, attempted to raise the issue of the leasing of the land. He stated that the people of his Son did not know anything about the lease of the land belonging to them. Colonel Moon then again reemphasized this conference was not for discussion of the rights of the United States Air Force to the leased property, that it had been leased a long time prior to his assignment to Okinawa, and by much higher authority. He stated that the USCAR representatives had leased the land in accordance with the prescribed procedures. Mr. Shimabuku, Chief of the USCAR Land Division was then requested to answer the queries of the village representative. Mr. Shimabuku quoted the ordinance under which the land was leased and after the conference was over, he displayed to Motoyama GRI records of facts and entries pertaining to the lease of Maja Village resident's property.

h. Colonel Moon then asked if there was any further discussion desired by the Mayor or Son officials. The Mayor stated that the Air Force could be assured that the people of Ie Shima had been adequately notified of the restriction placed on their entry when the range was in operation. He said that he would definitely cooperate, and would redouble his efforts to lead the people in cooperating on this issue.

3. It is the opinion of the undersigned that the following results were obtained:

a. The Mayor made a statement publicly which was not contested by any Son officials, that the people had been adequately warned of the refusal of the United States Air Force to accept responsibility for anyone injured while on the range when it is in use and

313IG-P, Hq 313AD, Subj: Conference between Air Force Representatives and Officials of Ie Shima

that to prevent such injury all persons are to remain positively clear.

b. That the leader of Maja Village completely lost his argument through action of the GRI Land Division representative, who had complete explanations and documentation.

c. That the people of Ie Shima have been made completely aware of the possibility of their loss of scrap collection privileges by their refusal to obey the regulations.

d. That there will possibly be continued occasional acts of trespass by a very small element of disobedient residents.

e. That there has been sufficient public announcement of the position of the United States Air Force in regard to the regulation governing the range, and that any claim arising from disobedience to the regulation will not be honored. Also that the recognized leaders of Ie Shima are in accord with us and desire to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in order to retain the right to collect the scrap from the range. This was in evidence when the Mayor actually called violators "a small criminal element."

f. It was apparent that careful handling by us may strengthen the Mayor's position with his people and his friendship with the Air Force who must use his land and possibly forestall movement to greater power by the Communist leader on Ie Shima. At the present time, this latter leader is mostly just an annoyance, but could become powerful enough to gain control of the island in which case the Air Force would suffer difficulties.

g. It is recommended that this be followed up by a letter of appreciation to the Mayor of Ie Shima for his cooperative attitude and work.

/s/ Leo C. Moon
/t/ LEO C. MOON
Colonel, USAF
Inspector General

203

Headquarters
313TH AIR DIVISION
United States Air Force
APO 239, San Francisco, California

11 July 1957

Honorable Otomatan Tamashiro
Mayor of Ie-Son
Ie Shima
Kunigami District
Ryukyus

Dear Mayor Tamashiro:

It was with great pleasure and satisfaction that our representatives enjoyed the opportunity of accepting your hospitality at your offices on 1 July 1957. I feel that the meeting attended by you and the various representatives who were present on behalf of the people of Ie Shima has resulted in a further step toward solidifying friendly and amicable relations between the United States and your people.

We are gratified and deeply impressed by your earnest efforts to disseminate to all of your constituents the rules which we have mutually agreed upon in order to safeguard those persons who collect scrap or who farm on the bombing range.

Once again, I wish to thank you for the fine cooperation which you extended to our representatives and I would like to extend an invitation to you to visit us at Kadena Air Base at such time as you might find convenient.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM G. HIPPS
Brigadier General, USAF
Commander

Translated by USCAR's Office of Public Information. (No. 1453)

The Okinawa Times, April 18, 1958. (News) Y.

A SUNKEN VESSEL EXPLODES: MORE THAN 30 MISSING.

Around 4:50 p.m. on the 17th a sunken vessel off the coast of Toya, Yontan Son exploded and 4 Sampans and their crew members numbering 37 are missing. This is the second time that such explosion takes place, the first being one that took place at the sea off Akajima of Tonaki-Son Zamami-Son in May June last year in which 30 men lost their lives. At the last meeting of Police Station Chiefs it was agreed that this sunken vessel was likely to cause a tragedy and the Naha and Kadena Police Stations had just begun tightening control of this area.

According to the account of an eye-witness, Soki Furugen, 51, about that time he heard a big ear-splitting sound with subsequent shaking of the house. Glancing in the neighborhood of the sunken ship, he saw a big water pillar reaching up to the clouds enveloped with white smoke which rose from the bottom of the sea.

According to the investigation of the Kadena Police Station, that went to the scene of the disaster as soon as the accident was reported by Hiroshi Higa, a taxi driver of I-Han 11-Ku, Kadena-Son, the sea was oily and nothing remained of the sampans and the missing men, and the neighborhood was filled with a scorching stench. It is supposed that the explosion was caused, just as was the case in the explosion that took place in the sea off Akajima of Kerama, while they were trying to break up the vessel by the use of a home-made explosive-a bottle filled with gun powder and TNT and blasting caps attached--but the detonation seems to have caused the ammunition in the holds to explode. As of 8 p.m. 31 missing men were ascertained, and it is expected that the number of missing men will increase for many other small boats had been seen in the neighborhood.

The Kadena Police Station stated that more than 10 small craft hunted for scrap in the sunken vessel and it appeared that some of them were coming all the way from Itoman and Izena. As soon as they caught sight of a patrol vessel they took refuge along the shallow waters and would appear again as the patrol vessel retreated so that the police had a hard time coping with them. This area was designated as a restricted area by special ordinance lest another tragedy like that of Akajima should take place. It is too tragic, although they asked for it by flaunting the regulations.

205

MORNING STAR
April 18, 1958

THIRTY-TWO SCRAP COLLECTORS DIE
IN SUNKEN MUNITIONS SHIP BLAST

An estimated 32 Okinawan scrap collectors were killed yesterday afternoon when an explosion, believed to be the sunken US vessel Canada Victory, which met its fate during the Okinawa operation sent a geyser of water some 150 feet into the air. The incident occurred in the sea about one mile off the coast of Toya-ku village near Yomitan air strip.

Soki Furugen, 51, one of the eye-witnesses told police that he was building a house near the village sea-shore when he heard a big explosion and felt a shock from the sea.

He said that he saw a large column of water rise into the air and white smoke surging upward in approximately the area where the Canada Victory went down.

Immediately after the accident Kadena policemen, hiring five local canoes, rushed to the scene but they found nothing but oil slicks and some parts of broken boats.

According to local witnesses about five small boats were in the area around the Canada Victory shortly before the explosion occurred. This area has been placed "Off Limits" for any purposes by the military for some time. Authorities queried on the incident said that no salvage rights had been authorized.

Only a short time ago Kadena police reported that 13 Okinawan scrap collectors were apprehended while attempting to salvage parts of the

sunken Liberty munitions ship. These will be tried by a USCAR summary court in Koza next Wednesday.

Last July a similar blast occurred in which 32 Okinawan scrap collectors lost their lives when diving in 150 feet of water to retrieve munitions and metal from the sunken hulk of an American LST. This incident occurred off the southern tip of Okinawa near the small island of Zamami.

Entering the sunken vessel by its open nose the "fishermen" were retrieving ammunition, dismantling it and using the TNT located within the shells to blast large sections from the ship's hulk.

In the past USCAR-GRI authorities have tried to stop Okinawans from becoming post graduate casualties of the battle of Okinawa by making it illegal to deal in brass scrap.

It is estimated that there are several million pounds of brass lying offshore in the water around Okinawa as the result of high explosive ordnance which was dumped there following the surrender of Japan.

Other dangerous explosives are present in sunken hulks which Okinawan scrap collectors consider to be a source of raw material.

USCAR-GRI authorities, as a result of yesterday's incident, are once again issuing warning to all Okinawans to remain away from the locations where these sunken vessels lie.

Translated by USCAR's Office of Public Information. (No. 1463)

The Okinawa Times. April 19, 1958. (Editorial) Y.

THE KEY TO THE PREVENTION OF TRAGEDY IS DISPOSAL OF SUNKEN VESSELS.

Explosion of a sunken ship again took place. It is too pathetic to have lost more than 40 lives in a jiffy although the miserable scrap hunters asked for it themselves. We had the same kind of tragedy in May ~~[June]~~ last year in which 32 lives were lost in the sea off Akashima of the Kerama Island group. This is still fresh in our memory, and besides this there are many cases in which one or two have lost their lives while collecting scrap iron.

How come the tragedy is being repeated so frequently in spite of the fact that the law enforcement authorities have constantly given warning against illegal scrap collection and have tightened their control, and besides the people in general are familiar with the wretched sight of the victims of illegal scrap collection?

It is reported that the sunken vessel in question was fully loaded with ammunition during the war, and as such the victims themselves must have been fully aware that even a slight mistake in the operation of dismantling the vessel was apt to cause the ammunition to explode. And if they dared to attempt the adventure fully aware of the danger, what a grim determination indeed!

It appears that most of the victims had been fishermen who hardly managed to make ends meet and eventually turned to scrap collection in order that they might eat and had been crowding on the death ship, but even then clandestine collection of scrap is a theft just the same and

it is foolhardy to embark on such a venture. The police were aware of the danger well in advance and had taken preventive measures. And especially of late the clandestine divers increased in number rapidly so that the problem has been taken up on various occasions at the meeting of chiefs of police stations and every measure has been taken in order to prevent the suicidal action of the scrap hunters. This neighborhood has been designated a restricted area and the vigilance has been tightened by marking off the area with floating buoys.

According to the report of the police, they would be dispersed by a patrol boat, but they would crowd around the sunken vessel again as soon as the patrol boat retreated, as if they were flies swarming on food, so that the police were at the end of their wits, it seems. It is regrettable indeed that this kind of tragedy could not have been prevented despite the constant effort of the police ever since the tragedy in the sea off Akajima last year. We may take a lesson from this that it is nearly impossible to prevent the occurrence of tragedy by the simple tightening of control. The key to the prevention of accidents would be the disposal of the sunken ships themselves, we believe.

One must have an unavoidable reason to attempt to steal scrap metals from the sea bottom at the risk of one's own life. But if he were successful in his attempt, he would get a considerable sum of money for his loot. There may be many people who believe that scrap collecting is a better way of making one's living, at least better than the life they are leading at present. And since there is the sunken vessel within one's reach, they give in to the temptation and decide to go hunting scrap, staking their very lives.

It appears that the disposal of sunken vessels still stands unsettled due to various political snags, but it may be said that tragedies are caused due to the belated disposal of the sunken vessels. If official procedures were taken for the disposal of the sunken vessels, authorized enterprisers or authorities concerned will be able to oversee the operation and insure the safety of the workmen.

It is because unlicensed divers are left to tackle the job that they cause accident. We will never see the end of tragedy so long as the sunken vessels loaded with valuable scrap are left within the reach of the people. People will stop at nothing if they are driven to extremities, and besides, not a few men are making a good business of the scrap collection, we believe.

It is hoped that the sunken vessels will be removed safely at an early date; we must not allow this tragedy to be repeated again. The best thing to do is to remove the food rather than drive the flies away.

MORNING STAR
April 19, 1958

DEATH TOLL CLIMBS TO FORTY
IN SUNKEN SHIP EXPLOSION

The death toll from Thursday's blast aboard the sunken SS Canada Victory reached 40 yesterday as Okinawan police polled the villages in Yomitan-son for missing men.

No bodies were recovered and there was no discovered debris from the blast which occurred in an estimated 150 feet of water. There is little likelihood of ever determining for certain what caused the blast aboard the ship which was a casualty of the Battle of Okinawa.

According to police, the standard operating procedure of the scrappers is to use soft drink bottles filled with TNT for blasting sunken objects free. It is presumed this technique touched off the ammunition in the hold of the sunken 8,000-ton freighter.

Following the explosion, Brig. Gen Vonna F. Burger, civil administrator, issued a statement in which he extended sympathy to the families of the victims. He also pointed out the illicit operation was being conducted in violation of specific USCAR regulations which prohibit all operations within a mile of the explosive laden hulk.

Ammunition experts also renewed their warnings against what they called the "disregard of common sense" in attempting to salvage explosive scrap without proper safety precautions.

The experts pointed out that buried and sunken explosives left over from the Battle of Okinawa have deteriorated so that now they are more dangerous to handle than they were originally.

The statement from the ammunition experts pointed out that penalties would be invoked against persons who engage in illegal scrap collecting.

In offering sympathy to the families of the missing men, General Burger said:

"I offer my profound sympathy to the innocent victims of the explosion, the families of the missing men who were in the area without authorization. The Civil Administration deeply regrets the needless suffering brought to the victims and their families and it is sincerely requested that all residents in the area and elsewhere provide their fullest cooperation in abiding by established rules and regulations to avoid any further suicidal loss of life resulting from illegal salvage operations."

Translated by USCAR's Office of Public Information

(No. 1465)

RYUKYU SHIMPO (EDITORIAL) 19 April 1958 (M)

DISASTER INVOLVING SCRAP COLLECTION

It is a terrible fact that casualties involving war materials are still seen even today, 12 years after the end of the war. A sunken vessel full of shells and explosive compounds blew up, with consequent result of depriving 40 persons of their lives instantly. Since there were many who were collecting shells and scrap from the sunken vessel without permission, the off-limits has been placed on the area of the sunken vessel located off Yomitan since the explosion of a sunken vessel which took place last year. The victims caused the disaster by violating the off-limits, but this is beyond comprehension to outsiders.

However, although there must have been reckless persons among the victims, it is considered that many of them were engaged in such a business while knowing the danger of it, for they had no other means of earning income. There is nothing to say about persons who were engaged in such a dangerous business because of their avaricious intention, but other persons are sorry victims. Hence, we can not simply conclude that their ignorance was responsible for the disaster.

Moreover, in this connection, there is something which calls for the reconsideration of the Government. According to the police authorities, it is said that the scrap collectors were beyond control, for they swarmed to the sunken vessel just as ants swarm on the sugar. Apart from their recklessness, the sunken vessel was as it were a poisonous bean-jam bun placed within the reach of a child. It is much too unsympathetic to laugh at the child because he took the poisonous bun and ate it.

Under such circumstances, it was obvious that the sunken vessel would explode some day with the consequent result of producing victims. The Government should have disposed of the sunken vessel properly. It is too late to mend the disaster, but since there may remain similar cases, it is hoped that the Government will give consideration to the matter.

Translated by USCAR's Office of Public Information

OKINAWA TIMES (NEWS ARTICLE) Sunday, 20 April 1958 (I)

REMOVAL OF SUNKEN VESSEL MAKING LITTLE PROGRESS

The occurrence on the afternoon of the 17th of the most terrible sunken vessel explosion accident off Yomitan Son, second only to the largest sunken ship explosion off Zamami last year is causing the problem of removing vessels sunk in near waters to bulk in the eyes of the public as a grave social problem.

Despite the 3-year long petitions, removal of the said vessel had not been effected due to the blind point of CA Ordinance No. 98 -- on the ground that the vessel does not constitute a navigational hazard. The explosion accident took place when, with the prospects becoming brighter for the removal of the vessel, concrete discussions were being conducted in order to have either the military or the Ryukyuan Government take direct charge of it. The Public Service Department Marine Transportation Section is of the intention to rid the home waters of sunken vessels.

Ships sunk in the home waters seem to total 45,000 tons. Among them, 33 vessels totaling 31,000 tons, including 27 U.S. Navy ships, are under the authority of the Ryukyuan Government. Ownership of the other sunken vessels amounting to some 10,000 tons has become the subject of discussion, and a diplomatic negotiation in this respect is being conducted. The whereabouts of 27 U.S. Navy vessels is unknown, but five of them seem to be located less than 60 meters deep, and it is considered possible to salvage them. Four of the remaining six are located within 60 meters deep, although two of them are missing. It is also regarded as possible to salvage them. According to the investigation of the marine transportation

section, it seems possible to salvage 9 (8,700 tons) of 33 sunken ships (31,000 tons) which are under the jurisdiction of the Ryukyuan Government, but it seems impossible for the present salvaging technique to haul up the remaining 24 because they are missing but are considered to be sunk deeper than 60 meters. Introduction of superior technique will make it possible to salvage them, but the trouble is that their whereabouts is not yet ascertained. The Government has been doing its best for the salvage problem, but settlement of the problem seems to be delayed due to the difficulties of the investigation and the question of their ownership. ¥240,000 are appropriated as investigation expenses in the supplementary budget, and ¥240,000 in the new budget. If the budget bill passes, the Government will start investigations and make a contract with specific enterprisers for immediate removal of the sunken vessels. If salvage operations go as well as planned, nine vessels will be hauled up around July next year, the marine transportation section said.

Section Chief TERUYA said, "Measures for removal of the sunken ships will be worked out following immediate investigation. Disposition of the vessels will be entrusted to the government-specified enterprisers. Experts will be assigned to the operations. ¥240,000 each are appropriated as investigation funds in the supplementary budget and the new fiscal year budget. If the supplementary budget bill is approved, investigations will be started prior to the typhoon season. All efforts will be made to complete operations by July next year. Operations will be started whenever investigations are completed.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Wednesday 8 July 1959

The Okinawa Times (Evening Edition) - News Article (F & T) No. 2664

JAPANESE SALVAGE COMPANY BRINGS LAWSUIT AGAINST RYUKYU GOVERNMENT NEXT MONTH

(Tokyo) The Fukada Salvage Company in Japan is going to bring a lawsuit against the Ryukyuan Government with regard to the problem of five sunken ships which disappeared outside Mana Port, it was previously reported by the Japanese leading newspaper the Asahi Shinbun. The newspaper's morning edition of the 7th carried the statement of Mr. KISO Shotaro who allegedly engaged in salvage work in the employment of Asahi Salvage Company. Manager YOSHIMOTO of Tokyo Office of Fukada Salvage Company stated on the 7th the company will take legal proceedings next month with an Okinawan court against the Ryukyuan Government through lawyer KISHIMOTO and is also of the intention to proceed against Asahi Salvage Company. Developments of the problem are being watched with interest.

A contract for the salvage of five sunken vessels was exchanged on 8 August 1958 between the Ryukyuan Government (Deputy Chief Executive OTA acting for the Chief Executive) and the Fukada Salvage Company (President FUKADA Ka,usaburo). The contract provided for giving three of the five vessels to the company and two to the Ryukyuan Government. The company later on conducted investigations and found the vessels gone. The company sent a letter on 5 October 1958 to the Chief Executive requesting compensation and punishment of the one who stole them.

The letter says in gist: in January 1955 the company claimed ownership of the five sunken vessels in accordance with CA Ordinance No. 142

(Wrecked Ships and Properties), but USCAR remained silent for three years since then. However, an agreement was reached as a result of on-the-spot negotiations between the Fukada Salvage and the Ryukyuan Government. Though the company strongly requested the Ryukyuan Government to take charge of the sunken vessels, the government neglected its duty to prevent theft. Particularly incomprehensible is the fact that from March to August 1957 the Ryukyuan Government allowed the Asahi Salvage, Kyowa Company, and Koryu Salvage to remove wreckages from the bottom of the sea. This action was enforced although the Japanese Government requested USCAR to suspend the action until the claim problem was settled. It can be considered that Okinawan enterprisers openly stole them in defiance of the request. Interpreting wrongly, it is considered that in defiance to the claim problem the Ryukyuan Government intentionally took a policy to take away the vessels so as to increase the interests of specific enterprisers. From this point of view, the company requests the Ryukyuan Government to give three substitution vessels or to pay adequate compensation in case substitution ships are unavailable.

The Ryukyuan Government expressed regret in this regard, and in order to settle the problem, the government made the following plan, sought USCAR approval and conveyed it to the company. According to the plan, on 20 October 1958 the company would be given the right to investigate 27 U.S. Navy's sunken vessels, and upon discovery of those vessels, the company would be given some vessels equivalent to those stolen, and a specific amount of scrap iron disposed of by the U.S. military on Okinawa would be sold at a low price preferentially to the company. However, because of failure to obtain USCAR approval, the plan ended in failure. The above circumstances leading up to this situation were explained by the company.

Statement by Mr. YOSHIMOTO, Manager of Fukada Salvage Tokyo Office:

"In the litigation the Government of the Ryukyus may be held responsible for neglecting supervision of the sunken vessels. Even though some government officials in the Ryukyu Government reportedly contend that it is questionable whether or not the government of the Ryukyus is responsible for the supervision of the sunken vessels, we believe that the government of the Ryukyus is naturally responsible from the standpoint of protecting foreign property. We will make concrete arrangements by consulting our counsel, but we don't believe that this problem will develop into an international controversy. As for bringing a lawsuit against Asahi Salvage Company, we are sure of our ground for there are witnesses. We will not sue other salvage enterprisers because there are not sufficient reasons. We have tried to compromise from the viewpoint of contributing to Ryukyuan economy but we cannot stand such an irresponsible act. There is an outrageous rumor that some enterprisers disposed of them to raise political funds in collusion with the military, but we do not want to listen to such a groundless rumor."

Statement by Mr. ISHIK, Director of Special Area Liaison Bureau:

"The Japanese Government has not changed its view that the sunken vessels belong to Japan, but this problem has been left to a Japanese enterpriser. It may be possible that the Japanese Government will give advices to settle this problem."

The July 7th Asahi Shimbun report concerning the "disappearance of the sunken vessels" is embarrassing the Executive Branch side. GRI's Public Services Department held the urgent meeting by summoning Director SHIMIZATO, Deputy Directors MIYAGI and TERUYA (former Chief of Maritime Section) and Chief OSHIRO of Maritime Section at 11:40 a.m. The five sunken vessels in question are ones on which diplomatic negotiation had been made between the Japanese and American Governments, involving the transfer of their ownership. The two Governments' uncompromising insistence on their own rights to these vessels deadlocked the problem at one time, but both sides came to show a compromising attitude since early last year and as a result, it was agreed that the U.S. side would transfer the vessels in question free of charge to GRI so that the problem should be solved by talks between GRI and the Japanese side. Thus, in August, last year, a contract was concluded

between the Fukada Salvaging KK and GRI. Thus, it was decided that the two vessels should be salvaged by GRI and three vessels by the Fukada Salvaging Co. showed that these sunken vessels were already taken away by someone.

Thus, the company side demanded GRI to compensate for the loss, but it was ineffective and so the company side decided to bring the case before court as the last resort and thus hereafter development came to be watched with interest.

The Asahi Shimbun dated 7th also carried about testimony of KISO that the 5 vessels had been salvaged openly, but according to the Public Services Department, the sea-clearing project at Naha port was carried out under direct contract between the Asahi Salvaging Company and the military Transportation Group and GRI had nothing to do with the work.

The problem is the whereabouts of the responsibility for custody of these 5 vessels. In this connection, Public Services Department is said to be studying the legal ground with the Legal Affairs Department, on the ground that no reply can be made toward the Fukada Salvaging Company's appeal for payment of compensation without clarifying the whereabouts of responsibility. The authorities are of the strong opinion that it is questionable whether the Government has an obligation to keep watch over the vessel whose ownership is not clarified.

Statement of Director SHINZATO of GRI Public Services Dept.:

"The contract between GRI and the Fukada Salvaging Company was concluded on the premise that these sunken vessels were still left. Concerning the circumstances prior to that, which took place before my assumption of office, I can not say anything definite until I minutely study the documents and those concerned."

Deputy Chief Executive OTA is quoted as saying: "I have read the newspaper article about this matter; however, I can not say anything for sure unless I receive a report from the Department concerned."

The matter of salvage work of sunken vessels has been arousing a lively talk among the employees of the Asahi Salvage Company, Ltd. (president: SUGAMA, Seikichi), 3-5, Nishimoto-Cho, Naha City. The general employees of this company are saying that they did not engage in the work other than that contracted. President SUGAMA seems to have started talks with various authorities concerned such as GRI's Economics Department since the morning of the 8th, but now he is avoiding issuance of a detailed statement.

211

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Sunday, 5 July 1959

The Okinawa Times -- News Article (S)

No. 2631

JAPANESE SALVAGE COMPANY GOES TO COURT AGAINST GRI

(Kansai)- Five Japanese sunken ships which were sunk off Naha Port during war-time had disappeared when a Japanese salvage company started a salvage work of these five ships under a contract with the Government of the Ryukyu Islands, and the Japanese salvage company is reportedly going to bring a suit against the GRI for compensation for the loss, drawing public attention. The five Japanese ships at issue are Gyoko Maru (5,342-ton), Horai Maru (3,201-ton), Taikai Maru (2,476-ton), Horei Maru (5,588-ton) and Fukuura Maru (3,177-ton). All of these five ships were enroute to Taiwan loaded with weapons, ammunitions, foods and army clothes and underwent an air-raid by the U.S. air force in October 1944 and were all sunk off Naha Port.

In 1955, a Japanese salvage company called "Fukada Salvage" (Mr. FUKADA, Wasaburo), Nakajima Building, 10, Munekore-Cho, Kita-ku, Osaka, bought up these five sunken ships from an insurance company and was scheduled to salvage them at once; however, due to the delayed paper work, it could not conclude a contract of salvage work until the middle part of August last year (1958). A salvage contract was concluded with the GRI on condition that of five sunken ships three ships, Gyoko, Horai and Takai, be salvaged by the Fukada Salvage and the remaining two ships left to the disposition of the GRI. Thereupon, the salvage company sent its divers to Okinawa in September same year and sent them down to check as the preliminary work. To their surprise, however, the five ships which they had definitely seen at the bottom of the sea five years ago had completely

disappeared out of the bed of the ocean, leaving only some damaged cargo and a few scraps. According to the report of the salvage company, the GRI sent its divers down to investigate and confirmed the report that the ships had disappeared. The cost of the vanished iron scraps of five ships reportedly amounts to J¥570,000,000 (about 20,000 tons) reckoned at \$80 per ton which was the cost then.

The people concerned have called this case the "Evaporated sunken ship case", and they have negotiated with the GRI in strict secrecy to settle this case. It has been discussed to present other sunken ships for the three vanished ships or to transfer the U.S. Army's iron scraps to the company; however, each talk failed to arrive at any conclusion. The Fukada Salvage Company is insisting that it has disbursed altogether J¥50,000,000, including the cost of the ships paid to the insurance company and investigating expenditures.

According to the Fukada Salvage Company, it is impossible that the five sunken ships were picked up by fishermen judging from the fact that the ships had disappeared without leaving any trace, but the professional enterprisers had stolen them under a detailed plan. They say that the Fukada Salvage Company will question the GRI in a lawsuit on the point that it failed to take proper control of the sunken ships.

(Similar article in the Ryukyu Shimpo)

212

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Wednesday, 8 July 1959

The Okinawa Times - News Article (T)

No. 2657

AN OKINAWAN SALVAGING CO. CHARGED
WITH STEALING SUNKEN VESSELS

(Kansai Branch) Some time ago, the Asahi Shimbun extensively reported the news that a Japanese salvaging company, which concluded a contract with GRI for salvaging 5 vessels sunken in the sea off the Naha port, accused GRI when the company found these vessels gone; and so future developments are watched with interest. The Fukada Salvaging Company (at Kita Ku, Osaka City) in question, however, is making no comment on the problem, keeping silence. But the Asahi Shimbun dated 7th again took up this problem as a top news item in its society column and quoted an ex-salvage co. employee as testifying that these vanished sunken vessels had been stolen by an Okinawan salvaging co. openly.

According to the above Asahi Shimbun report, the person who witnessed the robbery of these sunken vessels is 41-year-old KISO Shotaro, resident of Shiranama Cho, Ava Gun, Chiba Prefecture, who worked for about a year and a half since the spring of 1956 under the employ of the A Salvaging Co. (Okinawan firm) as supervisor in the sea-clearing work in the Naha port. KISO said, according to the article, that he remembered having engaged in the salvaging of 5 Japanese vessels sunken in the sea at that time under order of the A Salvaging Co. and that he did not even dream that these were the sunken vessels now creating issue. This testimony by KISO served to clarify the cause of the disappearance of the vessels in question, but the riddle involved in the case is becoming more complicated,

say the officials concerned. For there are such mysterious points as where the A Salvaging Co. acquired the approval to salvage these Japanese sunken vessels and whether GRI knew what the A Salvaging Co. was doing.

On these points, KISO is quoted as saying, "The salvaging of these Japanese sunken vessels was conducted starting from June 1956 to the end of September next year and the iron materials refloated, though I do not remember clearly, amounted to about 3,000 to 4,000 tons and they were valued at more than ¥100 million. In the Autumn of 1957 I returned to Japan and I was surprised to learn that these sunken vessels had belonged to the Fukada Salvaging Co. Since the salvaging work had been carried out openly, I thought it was legitimate work."

In connection with such testimony of KISO, OSHIRO Fumio of Industrial Bureau of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (then Nampo Liaison Office official in charge of industry & trade) stated as follows: "Why is it that the GRI does not inquire into this case in which Japanese sunken vessels were stolen as a criminal cause? The robbery involving so great tonnages of sunken vessels is unprecedented in Okinawa."

(Similar article in Ryukyu Shinpo)

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Friday, 10 July 1969

The Okinawa Times - Editorial Y.

(No. 2684)

THE MYSTERIOUS EVAPORATION OF SUNKEN VESSELS

The evaporation case came to the fore when it was found that the 5 Japanese sunken vessels just outside Naha port had mysteriously disappeared. The sunken Japanese vessels in question were on their way to Taiwan loaded with armament, ammunition and food stuffs in October 1944 when they met with air raid of US forces and were sunk almost in a bunch.

Ten years after the end of the war the Fukada Salvage company of Osaka bought these vessels from the insurance company, but when the salvage company tried to refloat the vessels, an international controversy between Japan and the United States government arose over the ownership of these vessels. That is, the United States contended that since they are spoils of war they are naturally American property, but Japan also contended that they are Japanese property so that the problem still remains unsettled.

Then someone thought of settling the matter politically, since there was little hope of settlement by legal argument. So the government of the Ryukyus got the right to dispose of the sunken vessels from USCAR with the agreement that the Fukada Salvage would take 3 vessels and the government of the Ryukyus would dispose of the remaining 2. It is reported that they exchanged a contract bearing the signature of a man acting for the Chief Executive. Yet they contend that in reality the sunken vessels in question had disappeared prior to exchanging the contract. But if that is the case, it means that they concluded the contract about imaginary objects. It is a very strange case. In the first place, no one knows better than

the authorities concerned that in those years illegal scrap collectors were very active in and around the Naha port. Even though the existence of the sunken vessels might have been ascertained during the previous year, it is easy to imagine that anything could happen in one year after that when we consider the state of things that prevailed in those days.

And yet, it is altogether too baffling that a property lying at the sea bottom of such bulk, worth more than \$400,000 should disappear and no one know who took it. The Asahi Shimbun that took up this problem ahead of others, reported about it in a sympathetic way, recollecting the war damage that Okinawa had suffered. Even the ownership of these vessels is not yet established, and it was not known who was in their custody at first. And we believe that those vessels had disappeared in those days. Yet whoever owned these ships, they disappeared despite the fact that claim had been lodged, and what we do not understand is the fact that no one took up the case.

It is doubtful whether the criminal who stole the sunken vessels can be caught at this late hour, but what strikes us as strange is that although the Okinawa people concerned knew of this mysterious theft, they failed to take this case up.

214

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Saturday 11 July 1959

The Ryukyu Shimpō (Evening Edition) - News Article (F) No. 2717

INVESTIGATION INTO THEFT OF SUNKEN VESSELS IS CONSIDERED IMPOSSIBLE

In connection with the newspaper report that the Fukada Salvage in Japan will take a legal proceeding against the Ryukyuan Government with regard to the five sunken vessels which were recently found gone, GRI Public Services Department says it will ask the GRI Police Department to conduct investigation. By the way, the Naha Police Station exercised control over theft of scrap iron from 1956 to 1958, arrested about 80 persons from Naha Port and sent them to the prosecution. Those who were found guilty were imprisoned but they have already served out their term. And in addition to this, judging from the fact that the vessels in question are gone, investigation is now considered almost impossible rather than difficult.

Naha Port and its vicinity swarmed with scrap collectors around 1956, and at the request of GRI Public Services Department the Naha police maintained control over theft of scrap iron and arrested violators. However, since owners of the sunken vessels were unknown, they were prosecuted not for theft but for illegal possession of explosives, wrecking of sunken vessels, or illegal entry to Naha Port (within 1 mile), and about 80 persons were punished. The police, however, were unable to continue control in March 1957 when the Asahi and Koryu Salvage Companies were formally commissioned by the Public Services Department to break up sunken vessels. And the sunken vessels were gone. At that time the Public Services Department should have checked what vessels the enterprisers broke up, but the

Department did not do it.

In investigating the theft of sunken vessels that took place three years ago, the police are unable to punish or investigate the 80 persons who have already served out their term, because such act would be against the law which provides for double jeopardy, nor can the police investigate the salvage companies because they obtained formal approval in doing their work. Therefore, the only way to check circumstances of that time would be to have the Public Services Department explain the spot. However, since the sunken vessels in question are already gone and the spot is in the sea, investigation will be almost impossible rather than difficult, the police say.

At any rate, from this incident it can be said that the Government lacked close liaison with its administrative agencies, and it may be concluded that the lawsuit by Mr. FUKADA disclosed the shameful conduct of the Government.

Statement by Naha Police Chief KOCHI: "GRI Public Services Department is said to ask the police for investigation, but at that time, the police arrested suspects and sent them to the prosecution. The case dates back to three years ago, and since the sunken vessels are gone, investigation will be difficult. I do not know what kind of investigation the Public Services Department will ask the police to do, but we would like to work on it after receipt of the request."

215

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Sunday, 12 July 1959

The Okinawa Times - News Article (T)

No. 2728

TRUTH OF SUNKEN VESSEL CASE TO BE
FOUGHT AT COURT

(Tokyo) The Asahi Shimbun dated 11th July devoted considerable space to report of its correspondent in Naha, concerning the case of the vanished sunken vessels in the sea off Naha port. Written under the heading, "Mystery involving Sunken Vessels in Okinawa Deepens," the report took up the reaction of Okinawa to the case, the Asahi Salvaging Company President SUGAMA's denial of "KISO testimony" will be clarified at the court. In this connection, Chief YOSHIMOTO of the Tokyo Office of the Fukada Salvaging Company is quoted as saying on the 11th: "The Asahi Salvaging Company President SUGAMA's denial of the 'KISO testimony' was what we naturally expected. If he had admitted it, it would have immediately developed into a criminal case. Our side has already prepared 2nd and 3rd witnesses and testimonies. Since we intend to bring the case before the Okinawan court next month, the truth will be fought at the court. It is not our purpose to incriminate the other side but to bring about an amicable solution of the problem. However, we must make the truth clear. The various rumors and guesses involving the Okinawan politics are a different problem."

The Asahi Shimbun and the Japanese Government authorities, in handling this case, however, are showing a cautious attitude, out of past racial feeling toward Okinawa - sympathy and obligation toward Okinawa and Japan-Ryukyus relation. And some apprehend that this problem might

cause animosity among the Okinawa people toward Japan. However, the voices are strong that if there are mysteries involving the sunken vessels, they should be unravelled, as a different problem from that of the racial feeling or Japan-Ryukyus relationship.

216

HEADQUARTERS
313TH AIR DIVISION (PACAF)
United States Air Force
APO 239, San Francisco, California

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: 313JA

28 October 1959

SUBJECT: Press Coverage of Ie Shima Land Controversy

TO: 313VC

1. THE PROBLEM

a. On 6 September 1959 two residents of Maza Village, Ie Shima, were killed and a passerby injured when a bomb exploded in the village. Allegedly, the bomb had been taken from the nearby Air Force bombing and gunnery range on Ie Shima by the two residents who were engaged in dismantling it for salvage.

b. The situation has received considerable local press coverage and has renewed the reports that inhabitants of Ie Shima are reduced to the necessity of salvaging scrap on the range in order to exist because they have been deprived of their farm lands and livelihood by the Air Force.

2. BACKGROUND

a. Much of the island of Ie Shima is U.S. Government leased land, controlled by the Air Force (63% according to newspaper reports). The U.S. interest in this land has existed since before the opening of the range in 1955 and was acquired, as the U.S. has heretofore acquired most of its interest in Ryukyuan land, by a condemnation-like procedure whereby the U.S. declared its interest in the land and deposited rental payments in trust to the GRI for the benefit of the individual landowners. However, it is U.S. policy to permit farming by Ryukyuans on the land it controls to the greatest extent possible. This is expressed in Joint Services Regulation, "Real Estate Policy in the Ryukyu Islands," 313ADR 87-1. Paragraph 9b provides, "It is the policy of the U.S. Government to license without monetary consideration, land not fully utilized by the government, to Ryukyuans for agricultural purposes and for the gathering of firewood. Such licenses are revocable at will by the government, upon concurrence of the High Commissioner."

b. Thus, the situation prior to the opening of the range in 1955 was that, although the Air Force controlled a large amount of land in Ie Shima, farming by the owners continued largely uninterrupted.

c. When it was decided to open the range in 1955, negotiations were conducted to resettle the landowners whose property lay within the range to other military property. Our source of this and the following information concerning resettlement is Mr. Clyde R. Cox, now of the Legal Branch, United States Army Engineer District, Okinawa (USAEDO). He was, at that

time, with the Office of Installations, 315th Air Division. He states that he kept a comprehensive office file on the matter, but we have been unable to locate the same.

d. Mr. Cox says that the persons whose land lay within the range were originally not particularly resistant to the situation, but political interference by persons who did not even have land interests within the range created a difficult situation. Organized resistance was established and negotiations broke down. As a result, during a five day program, military authorities with engineering equipment and a police force went to Ie Shima and forcibly ejected the landowners within the range and resettled them on other military controlled land, namely, Maza Village. The range was then bulldozed. However, in return for this, the dispossessed landowners were compensated 100% for the value of their homes and structures within the range, comparable structures were built for them in Maza Village of new material by U.S. Government authorities, other military controlled land similar in quantity and quality to that which was taken was cleared and placed in cultivation for the use of the dispossessed landowners and they have ever since received rent on their land within the range.

e. There is an understandable reluctance on the part of landowners to give up their established homesites, whether they be Ryukyuan or Iowan farmers, and resettle. However, both groups are subject to condemnation of their lands by virtue of governmental requirements. In the case of the Maza Villagers, it appears that the U.S. was extremely considerate and did everything possible to make the resettlement as agreeable as possible.

f. Nevertheless, the cries continued that the dispossessed farmers could not survive in their new surroundings and apparently, as a pacification measure, the Air Force has not objected to the people of Ie Shima salvaging the scrap from the range as an additional source of income so long as such activities did not interfere with the operation of the range.

g. Unfortunately, such salvage activities have interfered with the operation of the range and resulted in two deaths and several injuries. USCAR, GRI, and the Air Force have had a number of conferences with representatives of Ie Shima to secure their cooperation in keeping people off the range during operational hours. A fence was built around the range which was immediately torn down and probably sold for scrap. Persons have been apprehended on the range, tried, convicted, and sentenced to imprisonment and fines. It has been threatened to contract out the right to collect scrap to commercial firms unless the people stayed off during operational hours.

h. Nevertheless, we understand that it is a most difficult task to clear the range before missions and that salvagers hide on the range and rush from their hiding places to claim expended ammunition and bombs as they fall from the sky. As a consequence, missions have been cancelled and the operation of the range is seriously hindered.

i. Throughout all this, it appears that the concern of the Air Force has been primarily to keep the islanders off the range during operational hours, and there has been no objection to salvaging while the range was not in operation.

j. In the most recent meeting between USCAR, GRI, the Air Force, and representatives of Ie Shima held at Ie Shima on 30 September 1959, Lt Colonel Arland Stanton, Director of Operations, 6313th Air Base Wing, is reported to have stated that the Air Force had no objection to scrap salvaging rights to a commercial firm. Also, an alternative proposal was made that the people interested in scrap salvaging form a collective, self-policing cooperative, representatives of which would be permitted to enter the range when not in use and salvage the scrap for the benefit of all. However, it does not appear that this cooperative organization will meet with the approval of those enterprisers who are willing to take the risk of practically catching falling bombs to secure the apparently valuable metal for themselves alone.

k. One other matter causes renewed interest in the status of U.S. Government lands in Ie Shima. In 1958, joint Ryukyuan-American conferences were held resulting in an agreed upon land program that was approved by Washington in November 1958 and is currently being implemented in accordance with HICOM Ordinance #20, 12 Feb. 59. In accordance with this agreement, popularly hailed as the settlement of the land problem, most all U.S. Government land interests in the Ryukyus are undergoing renegotiation. As set forth in the cited Ordinance, the U.S. Government is authorized to acquire an "Indefinite Leasehold" interest in land in the Ryukyus. This interest consists of an "estate extending to full, exclusive use, possession and enjoyment above, below, and upon the surface of the land and/or properties thereon as required for an indefinite or unspecified period of time, that is, for so long as the use may be desired by the United States without any time limitation whatsoever, for which rental payments are made at specified intervals."

l. To acquire this interest, the agency of the U.S. having a land requirement submits a request to the District Engineer, United States Army Engineer District, Okinawa (USAEDO). By a contract between GRI and USAEDO, GRI then negotiates with the individual landowners for basic leases of the land within the required area and, in turn, leases the whole required area to the U.S. Government by a master lease. Rental is paid by the U.S. according to agreed upon rates. Any land within a required area which the individual landowners refuse to voluntarily lease is subject to being acquired by condemnation. We are informed by 313CE that the Air Force has submitted to USAEDO the request to secure the new land interest for all properties that it holds on Ie Shima.

m. As the basic leases are negotiated with the individual landowners, it can be, and apparently is being, argued to them that they should not lease their land because this would only be a preliminary to the U.S. ousting them from the land as was the case with the Maza Villagers. While it is true that, under the new interest, the U.S. is entitled to full use and enjoyment of the land and the landowners are permitted to farm only at the will of the U.S.

so long as such activities do not interfere with the use of the land by the lessor, this is, of course, the situation that also exists under the old land interest. When the use of the land which the U.S. controls, and for which it must be remembered it pays rent, cannot permit farming activities, the people must be removed as in the case of the bombing range. Fortunately, it has been possible to permit agriculture on most of the Air Force controlled land in Ie Shima without interfering with the mission. The owners of this land actually are in a very good position because, not only do they carry on their normal activities, but they receive rent for the property. It is not anticipated that there will be any difficulty in acquiring the new land interest from the majority of these landowners because of this situation.

3. CONCLUSIONS

a. With respect to most of the Air Force leased land in Ie Shima, the landowners are being benefited by the U.S. interest because they carry on normal activities in addition to securing rent for the land.

b. With respect to the land within the bombing range, agriculture cannot be permitted and the landowners of the same had to be resettled from the area. Generous resettlement compensation was made to these persons and similar lands to those which they gave up were made available to them for farming. It would appear that their allegations that they must risk scrap salvaging to survive are unfounded. It is more likely that it was simply easier to salvage scrap rather than make the substitute lands productive. It does not appear that the continued survival of anyone on Ie Shima is dependent upon scrap salvaging as a livelihood, except by choice of the individual. While it may perhaps be incapable of determination, it is entirely possible that much of the scrap is salvaged by enterprising collectors other than owners of land within the range purely as an economic venture.

c. Air Force sanction of private individuals entering the range for the collection of scrap, even during hours of non-operation, is in violation of AFR 50-13 unless proper safeguards are taken. Paragraph 6b of that regulation provides, "Until a range has been properly policed, precautions will be taken after firing or bombing to prevent all persons from entering the range except those whose duties require that they enter."

d. If the scrap is economically recoverable, as it seems to be, it is probably a violation of regulations to give the scrap away to private individuals rather than sell it to commercial firms.

e. The policy of not objecting to salvagers entering the range during hours of non-operation has failed to secure their cooperation in staying off the range during hours of operation, has created no good will on Ie Shima, has conceivably resulted in a claims exposure arising out of the recent explosion, and can generate future claims exposures.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Announced Air Force policy should be that no unauthorized person is permitted on the range at any time.

b. Consideration should be given to contracting the scrap salvage rights to a commercial firm.

c. If it is determined by the appropriate action agency that scrap can properly be given to the private individuals on Ie Shima, and, despite what we have said, that it should be given to them, then only such persons should be authorized entry upon the range as sign releases absolving the U.S. from liability for any claims arising from such entry. This could be on an individual basis or through representatives of a cooperative, although we doubt that the people themselves will ever form such a cooperative on their own initiative. Entry of such authorized persons should be restricted to specific periods, and salvage they carry off should be inspected to preclude the possibility of an explosive item being removed to the village where it could detonate and injure an innocent third party. While it is realized this in itself would not keep unauthorized persons off the range, it would enable the Air Force to take the public relations position that it is willing to give the benefit of the scrap to the people of Ie Shima subject only to reasonable controls for the safety of the population. The failure of such a program to work would be attributable solely to the violators of these reasonable controls and would place the Air Force in as good a position as possible if anything did happen to people on or off the range.

d. It should be determined on what Air Force controlled land in Ie Shima farming is being conducted, on what lands it can be permitted, what landowners have been denied farming privileges on their land because of Air Force requirements, and what substitute land has and can be made available to them. Newspaper accounts indicate that 73 families were involved in the resettlement necessitated by the clearing of the range.

e. Formal licensing agreements to farm Air Force land where it is permissible should be executed in accordance with 313 ADR 87-1, supra. Although, in 1957, FEAF authorized the same to be accomplished through the services of the USAEDO without referral to them as would otherwise be required under AFR 87-3, and 313 AD issued supplemental instructions whereby such licenses are to be accomplished by requests from the base commanders to USAEDO through 313 AD, no licenses have been requested for land in Ie Shima to date. It would seem possible in such a licensing to insure that everyone in Ie Shima share in the ability to farm Air Force land.

ELMER P. FIZER, Lt Colonel, USAF
Staff Judge Advocate

217

HEADQUARTERS
6313TH AIR BASE WING (PACAF)
United States Air Force
APO 239, San Francisco, California

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: OC

30 MAR 1960

SUBJECT: Report of Incident at Ie Shima

TO: 313th ADiv (ISO)

1. It was noted during coordination of the report of the recent incident at Ie Shima that Mr. Shukujyu, Arakaki, Police Superintendent, Chief of Detective Bureau GRI, stated that the incident apparently occurred 786 feet north of target number 6.

2. The incident report compiled by the 6313th Air Police Squadron indicated that the incident apparently occurred 786 feet southwest from the target. Pictures supplied by the Air Police Squadron, as attachments to their report, substantiate that the incident apparently occurred southwest of the target area.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

ARLAND STANTON
Lt Col, USAF
Director of Operations

REPORT OF CLAIMS OFFICER

(See para 4b, 6 8a(1), 9, AFR 112-2; par 2 b, AFR 112-10)

INSTRUCTIONS

Submit in triplicate and fasten each set with a two-prong type fastener.
Use additional sheets, if necessary, and number to correspond with item numbers.

HEADQUARTERS (Base, Installation, Unit, etc.)

Hq 313th Air Division, APO 239, San Francisco, California

LOCATION Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands	DATE INVESTIGATION INITIATED 10 February 1960	DATE OF REPORT 13 April 1960
--	--	---------------------------------

1. ACCIDENT OR INCIDENT

Date 6 September 1959	Hour 1000	Place Ie-Shima, Ryukyu Islands
--------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------------

TYPE: ☐ Traffic ☐ Aircraft ☒ Other(Specify) Bomb explosion

2. CLAIMANTS (Real or potential)

Name	Address	Date Claim Filed	Amount
Tsune ISHIKAWA	Aza-Nishi Agari-Ue, Ie-Son, Ie-Shima, Ryukyu Islands	20 Jan 60	\$13,940.00

All Claimants Who Filed Claims Were Personally Interviewed ☐ Yes ☒ No (Specify

3. PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL INVOLVED

<p>A. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY (Describe all property-make, type, model, U.S. number, previous condition, present location, and show whether moving or stationary)</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PERSONNEL (Name, grade, service number, address and organization, etc.; and if motor vehicle or other equipment was involved, identify operator and show his previous condition, location of occupants, etc.)</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>B. PRIVATE PROPERTY (Describe all property-make, type, model, previous condition, present location, and show whether moving or stationary)</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PERSONS (Name, address and relation to incident, e.g., owner, driver, passenger, pedestrian, bailee, tenant, lessee, licensee, trespasser, etc.; and if a motor vehicle or other equipment was involved, show previous condition of operator, location of occupants, etc.)</p> <p>N/A</p>

4. SCOPE OF EMPLOYMENT	
Was government personnel acting within the scope of employment? (Check applicable box)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No See exhibit (s) N/A	
5. DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	
(Nature and extent of damage, estimated cost of repairs or loss, loss of use and, if pertinent, value before and after damage, value of salvage, etc.)	
A. Government Property	
N/A	
Was Property Personally Inspected? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
B. Private Property	
N/A	
Was Property Personally Inspected? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
6. PERSONS INJURED OR KILLED	
(Name, address, age, nature and extent of injuries, disability, medical aid rendered—where and by whom, hospital, attending physician, duty status, wages lost, etc.)	
A. Government Personnel	
N/A	
B. Private Persons	
Seikan ISHIKAWA, Aza-Nishi Agari-Ue, Ie-Son, Ie-Shima, Ryukyu Islands. Age 27. Killed.	
Ryotoku HIGA, 2538-Banchi, Aza-Nishi Agari-Ue, Ie-Son, Ie-Shima, Ryukyu Islands. Age 38. Killed.	
Hidegiro CHINEN, 1-Han, 1396 Maza-Ku, Ie-Son, Ie-Shima, Ryukyu Islands. Age 26.	
Offered cut on right leg, burns to body and face. Not hospitalized, estimate of 10 days' required treatment. Dr. Seijen NOHA attending.	
7. WITNESSES (Attach signed statements)	
Name	Station or Address
Shaun YAMASHIRO	1031-Banchi, Aza-Nishi Agari-Ue, Ie-Son
Seiken ISHIKAWA	955 Banchi, Aza-Nishi Agari-Ue, Ie-Son
Hidegiro CHINEN	1-Han, 1396 Maza-Ku, Ie-Son
Tomi ISHIKAWA	1-Han, 1983 Maza-Ku, Ie-Son
8. POLICE INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL	
Was police investigation made? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	State facts as to arrests or charges, and results of trials by civil or military courts, if any.
(If made, attach copy of report, or state why not obtainable)	
N/A	

9. FINDINGS (Cont'd): during operational hours and attempted to secure their co-operation in staying off during such periods, the policy of the Air Force has been to permit access to the range during non-operational hours. (Exhibit G, Atchs 2, 3, 4, 5). As late as 14 January 1960, Air Police SOP's specified that scrap salvagers were to have access to the range for salvaging (Exhibit G). Apparently, there has never been an attempt to enforce the original time limitation placed upon farming within the range which was established when the range was opened. (Exhibit G, Atch 1). On 5 March 1960 a survey of farming was conducted by Ie-Shima officials and is referred to in Exhibit I. This survey revealed that 40 farmers were farming 32,753 tsubos of land within the recently bulldozed range boundary.

The policy of the Air Force has been unsatisfactory. It is not in accordance with AFR 50-13, paragraph 6b, which provides, "Until a range has been properly policed, precautions will be taken after firing or bombing to prevent all persons from entering the range, except those whose duties require that they enter." One dud has been taken from the range resulting in two deaths and an injury. It is not unlikely that other duds are on the range constituting hazards to any untrained personnel who are exposed to them. Captain Glendon E. Marks, Commander, Detachment 3, 2703rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron, stated to this investigating officer that no policing of the range at Ie-Shima has been performed since he took command in April of 1957.

The increased interest in the situation at Ie-Shima resulting from the recent deaths and injuries has caused a reappraisal of Air Force policy and concrete measures are being undertaken to preclude the recurrence of similar incidents. (Exhibit J).

9.

FINDINGS

At approximately 1000 hours on Sunday, 6 September 1959, Seikan ISHIKAWA and Ryotoku HIGA were dismantling a bomb for scrap salvage in Maza Village, Ie-Shima, Ryukyu Islands, when it exploded, killing them both. A passerby, Hidegiro CHINEN, suffered a cut to his upper right leg and burns on his face and body requiring an estimated 10 days' medical treatment but no hospitalization. (Exhibit C) The claim of Tsune ISHIKAWA (AFFC 12/60-179/FS) is designated the fully substantiated Master File for all claims arising out of this incident.

Tomi ISHIKAWA, sister of the deceased, Seikan ISHIKAWA, told local civil police that the bomb had been brought to the village by her deceased brother on the afternoon of Saturday, 5 September 1959. (Exhibit D)

Investigation on 7 September 1959 by Captain Glendon E. Marks, Commander, Detachment 3, 2703rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron, APO 239, established that the bomb which exploded was an MD-6 practice bomb with an MA-1 spotting charge which was capable of causing the destruction involved. In Captain Mark's opinion, the potential danger of this weapon would not be apparent to untrained persons. (Exhibit E). 25 MD-6 practice bombs were expended on the Air Force bombing and gunnery range at Ie-Shima on 3 September 1959 during missions flown by the 18th Tactical Fighter wing, APO 239. (Exhibit F).

The presence of an Air Force bombing and gunnery range on the island of Ie-Shima has been a problem for many years. The eviction of farmers from within the range boundary has been a matter of considerable political agitation and the presence of scrap salvagers on the range has seriously impeded the accomplishment of the mission of the range and menaced the safety of the salvagers. The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 313th Air Division, has recently prepared a comprehensive staff study of the situation (Exhibit G). In summary, it can be said that, with the manpower and facilities that have been available, apparently, it has been physically impossible to keep the scrap salvagers off the range. Accordingly, although the Air Force has repeatedly pointed out to salvagers the danger inherent in their unauthorized presence on the range

10.

EXHIBITS

A SF 95	H Air Police SOP's
B Photograph of Ie-Shima	I Request to clear range
C Incident Report	J Current Air Force Policy re Ie-Shima
D Statement of SSgt Phillips	K Tech Order MD-6 Bomb
E Statement of Capt. Marks	L
F Statement of 18th TacFtrWg	M
G Staff Study on Ie-Shima	N

11. RECOMMENDATIONS			
A. It is recommended that: (Check applicable space and strike out any inapplicable words)			
<input type="checkbox"/> The claim, if filed, be approved in the amount of \$			
<input type="checkbox"/> The claim, if filed, be disapproved			
<input type="checkbox"/> The claim, if filed , be approved in an amount that can be reasonably substantiated			
<input type="checkbox"/> The military personnel named below be held responsible under article 139 UCMJ for the amount set opposite their names (AFR 112-5)			
Name	Grade	Organization	Amount
N/A			

11. RECOMMENDATIONS (Cont'd): Consistent with the foregoing recommendations, this investigating officer has been trying for some weeks to journey to Ie-Shima to secure family register and other documentation relative to the income of the deceased and his family status in order to determine an appropriate award. Weather conditions and/or other commitments have made this impossible to date. Accordingly, this claim file is forwarded at this time for initial review. The further substantiating material, as indicated, will be forwarded at the earliest possible date.

September 1959. The range is closed on Saturdays, and there was no Air Force prohibition against salvagers entering the range at the time indicated. Even if it were assumed that the bomb was taken from the range during operational hours, it appears that the proximate cause of the accident would not be the fact of such trespass, but would still be the failure of the Air Force to warn of the danger from dud explosives.

It is, therefore, recommended that the claims of the surviving spouses be approved. The subject of death claim awards in the Ryukyu Islands has been of such interest since the Ishikawa jet crash of 30 June 1959 that it is not deemed necessary to reiterate the standards of compensation applicable to this area. The standards are well known to the approving authority. It is this investigating officer's opinion, however, that henceforth death awards in the Ryukyu Islands should be in conformance with what could be paid in Japan under the Administrative Agreement.

12. CLAIMS OFFICER (Par 7f, AFR 112-1; par 6, AFR 112-2)	
Typed name and grade JULIUS C. ULLERICH, JR., 1st Lt	Signature
13. ACTION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER (Para 4c and 7, AFR 112-2)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report approved. <input type="checkbox"/> Report disapproved (Check applicable box) Date 13 Apr 60	
Reasons for disapproval (Or comment on action)	
Typed name, grade and title (Commander, staff judge advocate, etc., who approved or disapproved report) ELMER P. FIZER, Lt Colonel, USAF Hq 313th Air Division Staff Judge Advocate	Signature

218

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U. S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Tuesday, 29 September 1959

The Okinawa Times (evening edition) - News Article (S)

No. 3769

KU-CHIEF OF MAJA-KU PETITION USCAR AND GRI FOR COMPENSATION
OF TWO MAJA-KU PEOPLE WHO KILLED BY BOMB

In the afternoon on 28 September Mr. ISHIKAWA, Seitatsu, Ku-Chief of Maja Ku of Ie-Son, AMACON, Shoko, UMASAKI, Naoyoshi and ISHIKAWA, Seiken, representatives of the military-used landowners of Ie-Son called on USCAR and GRI to petition for an appropriate compensation of two villagers, HIGA, Iyotoku, age 38, 2,582 banchi, 2-kumi, Maja-Ku and ISHIKAWA, Seiken, age 28, 1,983 banchi, 2-ku, Maja-Ku, who were killed by the bomb which they picked up from the U.S. Air Force maneuver ground. They tried to dispose of this bomb by themselves. The representatives handed a written petition of the bereaved families signed by HIGA, Tsuru and ISHIKAWA, Tsuneko to Civil Administrator ONDRICK and Chief Executive THOMA. The petition reads in gist as follows.

"Two young and middle-aged men of Maja-Ku died of explosion of a bomb which they had picked up from the air force maneuver ground and trying to scrap it. The lands of Maja-Ku were taken over by the military one-sidedly and because most of the landowners have not been paid an appropriate compensation, they are leading their lives on iron scraps they pick up from the maneuver ground. Those two men who were killed by the bomb had to lead their lives by picking up scraps. This tragic accident would not have happened, if the U.S. military had not requisitioned the lands one-sidedly and used them for the maneuver ground. Judging from such a viewpoint, we are convinced that the United States is responsible for this death and should pay an appropriate compensation for it. We ask both USCAR and GRI to make efforts so as to pay a compensation satisfying the bereaved families."

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Wednesday, 30 September 1959

The Okinawa Times (Evening Edition) - News Article (T)

No. 3788

POLITICAL PARTIES AND VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS
TAKE UP IE JIMA EXPLOSION INCIDENT

The Liaison Council for Taking Measures Against the Penal Code, which is organized by 18 organizations such as political parties, the Teachers Association, Government Employees Unions Liaison Council, private labor unions, Women's Federation, Youth Council and Child Protection Association, held its special liaison conference from 2:40 p.m. on the 29th at the Legislative Committee Room and after hearing the explanation concerning the problem of compensation to those killed in an explosion at Maja Ku, Iejima, from the petition group, they discussed the solution to the problem.

As a result, it was decided that the Council's representatives would call on Chief Executive THOMA at 10 a.m. on the 30th and request the immediate payment of compensation to the victims of explosion and that the Council would dispatch representatives of OTA, Government Employees Unions Liaison Council, Youth Council, Peoples Party, Socialist Party, Nakagami Gun Youth Council and Okinawa Transportation Workers' Union to Iejima for a two-day on-the-spot minute investigation of the case on October 4th and that concrete problems for realization of the compensation would be made after receiving the report of the investigation party.

The 2 day's Council meeting first heard the explanation by Mr. AHAGON Shoko, landowner representative in Maja Ku, Iejima and Son Assemblyman URASAKI Naoyoshi concerning the incident in which 38 year old HIGA Ryotoku of 2,582 banchi, 2 Kumi, Maja Ku and 28 year old ISHIKAWA Seikan, 1,983 banchi, 2 kumi of same Ku (Maja Ku) were killed by an explosion on the 6th,

and then a petition for compensation submitted by representatives of the bereaved families was read to the effect, "This incident would never have occurred if the U.S. military had not coercively requisitioned the land in Maja Ku and used it as a drilling ground. So, the U.S. should naturally take responsibility for their death and so we appeal for payment of proper amount of compensation," and sought cooperation in the realization of payment of compensation.

Concerning the above problem, Mr. SENAGA Kamejiro, representative of the Peoples Party said that this incident was brought about as a result of the requisitioning of the land and drilling by use of real bullets, and so the U.S. naturally should make compensation from the viewpoint of its responsibility as administrator.

Mr. FUKUJI Kosho, representative of the OTA, opined that such incidents for which the U.S. military is responsible were not confined to Iejima alone, but were repeated in Ishikawa and other areas, and so a league should be formed by the sufferers throughout the Ryukyus and at the same time a strong organization for the protection of life and property should be formed to seek a satisfactory settlement to the problem of various compensation problems.

220

UNITED STATES CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE OF THE RYUKYU ISLANDS
Office of the High Commissioner
APO 331

HCRI-PS

Dec 11 1959

SUBJECT: Control of Ryukyuan Nationals at Range 178

TO: Commander
313th Air Division
APO 239

1. Reference your letter, 3130C, dated 4 September 1959, subject as above.

2. While attention to the Ie-Shima Range problem as set forth in reference communication is currently active and the problem concerning scrap collectors remains unresolved, the following record is submitted to acquaint you with developments to date:

a. On 30 September, the following persons attended a meeting at Ie-Shima regarding range problems:

Lt Col Arland Stanton, 6313 Air Base Wing
Major R. Bluhm, 6313th Air Base Wing
Major A. G. Smith, 6313th Operations Sqdn
Capt W. C. McCluskey, Hqs 313th Air Division
S/Sgt R. Tneatt, 6313th Operations Sqdn
S/Sgt Charles E. Philips, 6313th Air Police Sqdn
Mr. G. Q. Keithahn, Public Safety Dept, USCAR
Mr. John Ohira, Public Safety Dept, USCAR
Mr. Yukio Yogi, Deputy Chief of Police, GRI
Mr. Ryoko Nakayoshi, Supt, Toguchi District Police Station
Mr. Rikken Yamanoha, Asst Inspector, Toguchi Police Station
Mr. Otomatsu Tamashiro, Mayor, Ie-Son
et al, including Deputy Mayor and Ie Policeman

Lt Col Stanton opened the meeting with a recapitulation of past meetings held to discuss Ie-Shima range problems; described the Air Force position as being concerned with safety of Ie-Shimans; that Ie-Shimans were welcome to the range scrap but means must be found to limit their access to the range to those hours and days when the range was not in use.

HCRI-PS

SUBJECT: Control of Ryukyuan Nationals at range 178

Mayor Tamashiro stated that beyond discussing the problem with local citizens and warning them of danger involved with encroaching upon the range, he had little control over their actions. It was also pointed out that these people were "touchy" about restrictions and reverted to the comment that if the military didn't like the situation they could give the land back to the people.

General discussion touched on following points:

- (1) GRI Police have no authority on U. S. controlled property.
- (2) The USAF employed 13 Ryukyuan guards at the range but these men were guarding against theft of U. S. property and were assigned to fixed posts. The USAF can neither fence the area nor employ additional guards to keep trespassers from the range.
- (3) Perimeter of danger zone was not visibly defined, however, signs were placed at all points of normal access.
- (4) The danger zone extended five miles out to sea.
- (5) The offenders have not been identified individually or with any particular village on the island, however, most are believed to come from Maja-ku and possibly some from the mainland (Okinawa).
- (6) All of the range area is not restricted. Farming is allowed on the side of the old air strip near the impact area.
- (7) One hour prior to activating the range, red flags are displayed on range towers and a siren is blown.
- (8) The present situation is that Ryukyuan hide near the target area, observe where a practice bomb falls and immediately race out and place their marker on the hole. Any bomb, rocket or strafing, slightly off target, could easily fall among the trespassers. So far there have been no direct casualties but this results more from luck than circumstance.

It was proposed by USAF representatives that an effort be made to organize the collectors with rules and agreements among themselves designed to protect the group's interest against non-participating individuals and at the same time, regulate time of entry to the range. The Mayor agreed to discuss this idea with village headman but appeared skeptical of any good results.

The USAF pointed out that as a purely defensive measure they may be forced to contract for the removal of scrap with some individual company, possibly not an Ie-Shiman.

HCRI-PS

SUBJECT: Control of Ryukyuan Nationals at Range 178

The meeting adjourned with the understanding that the problems would be left for local action and all parties would re-assemble on 14 October in the same place. (Note: On two subsequent dates, the Mayor was not available and no further meeting of the group was held on Ie-Shima).

b. Following this meeting, Deputy Police Chief Yogi personally inspected the range area and when interviewed on the following day, commented informally as follows:

Upon arrival at the target area, a group of Okinawans observed the car approaching and ran from the area towards the sea. He then observed an aircraft perform a strafing run at the target. Immediately upon passage of the aircraft, an estimated 50 to 60 Ryukyuans emerged from concealment between two and three hundred meters away and raced to the target to pick up bullets. He commented that he could never have appreciated the seriousness of the situation had he not seen it with his own eyes and was appalled at the flagrant disregard for personal safety he witnessed.

He saw little chance of organizing the collectors into any sort of union bound by an agreement to respect range rules. He pointed out that range scrap represented immediate cash ranging from 5¢ for a bullet to several dollars for a bomb and that the opportunity for picking up this kind of money seemed to override any consideration for law or life. Any agreement by collectors to observe range rules would be defeated by a few outlaws who would take advantage of the others.

c. Following failure to hold another meeting on Ie-Shima as planned for 14 October, representatives of the USAF, including Lt Col Stanton, a claims officer and a legal officer met with Colonel Barkin and Mr. Eisenstein, Legal Dept, Mr. Sneehan, Land Dept and Mr. Simmons and Mr. Keithahn, Public Safety Dept, USCAR, in the USCAR conference room on 20 October.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss certain legal aspects of the Ie-Shima range problem and questions of policy. While USCAR felt the introduction of an off-island contractor, exclusively authorized to remove range scrap, could lead to dangerous conflicts, it was agreed, none-the-less, to explore such action if for nothing more than use as a threat to force Ie-Shimans to recognize their present disregard for range problems could result in loss of all scrap revenue. It was also agreed that the Air Force would first determine if anyone would accept such a contract before the action was pressed as a threat.

d. On 1 December, the following persons attended a third meeting at Headquarters, Kadena Air Base:

HCRI-PS

SUBJECT: Control of Ryukyuan Nationals at Range 178

Lt Col Stanton, 6313th Air Base Wing
Capt W. C. McCluskey, Hqs 313th Air Division
Capt E. W. Skaggs, 6313th Operations Sqdn
Major A. G. Smith, OIC, Ie-Shima Range
Mr. Willie Jyles, DAFC, 313th Air Division
Major Walter Karlson, 313th Air Division (contracting officer)
Major John Cleary, 6313th Air Base Wg (SJA)
Mr. G. Q. Keithahn, Public Safety Dept, USCAR

This meeting was chiefly concerned with problems related to scrap collection by contract. Major Karlson pointed out that prior to advertising for bids, he would require information on range schedules type and volume of ordnance expended and many other details, some of which might be of a classified nature. He also pointed out that a matter of this nature would have to be cleared through Pacific Commands.

Lt Col Stanton asserted that range operations were open to public observation and were not classified. He also stated that the range problem had languished too long and he desired immediate action. Further, since removing scrap by contract presented the best approach, he intended to proceed with that plan.

Mr. Keithahn, USCAR, pointed out there were attendant social and political implications and requested that prior to any overt move, the Air Force's intentions and plans be detailed for staffing through interested commands including USCAR - this was agreed.

3. Set forth herewith are some items of interest related in various degrees to the Ie-Shima Range problem.

a. There is much evidence that the real problem involved here is not one of scrap collecting which might be resolved by some sort of agreement or concession but rather that anti-U. S. elements are exploiting and promoting the situation with the intent to harass and ultimately render untenable U. S. occupation and use of this range.

b. Maja-ku, the community adjoining Ie-Shima Range is the main seat of trouble. Of the 75 landowners residing here, on 24 November, 60 of them petitioned the Mayor of Ie-Son that they were in favor of leasing their lands to the military and asserted that previous petitions to the contrary had been signed by them as a result of misrepresentations. It is believed that an additional 12 landowners are not opposed and that actually only three are in outspoken opposition. These three, Ahagon, Ishikawa and Urasaki (Ie-son OSP Assembly member) are known leftists and apparently the main instigators behind this problem.

HCRI-PS

SUBJECT: Control of Ryukyuan Nationals at Range 178

c. Ahagon, a militant leftist and provocator, is reputed to be wealthy, and through loans he has made to some Maja villagers, exercises control over their political expressions. It is probably this sort of influence that caused 10 property owners to refrain from joining the 60 who consented to U. S. use of their lands.

4. In dealing with this problem, it appears that a small minority of Ie-Shimans are going to be effected one way or another. It should be recognized however, that anti-American elements are less concerned with local attitudes and feelings than they are with the propoganda value of this issue when distortions and exaggerations are spread abroad. It can be expected that any Ie-Shimans arrested and imprisoned for trespassing on the Air Force range will be regarded as martyrs and exploited for their propoganda value by the OPP, Youth Council, A&H Bomb organization and other Communist front groups. The Ie-Shima Range problem indicates a much higher degree of organized and premeditated defiance than the situation at the Easley Range and appears to demand separate handling.

5. USCAR will maintain an active interest in this matter and continue efforts to achieve a satisfactory and workable solution.

FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER:

Copy furnished:
Sub-Committee Nr. 3

/s/ Eugene A. Salet
/t/ EUGENE A. SALET
Colonel, Inf
Executive Officer

HEADQUARTERS, 6313TH AIR BASE WING
APO 239

CC

13 OCT 1959

Meeting on Scrap Collection Problem at Ie Shima

CR

1. On 30 September 1959 a meeting was held at Ie Shima concerning the problem of controlling the collection of scrap on Ie Shima. A list of the representatives of the Air Force, USCAR Ryukyus Police and Ie Shima is listed below.

Stanton, A.	L/Col	6313 ABWG D/O
Bluhm, R.	Major	6313 OPRON
Smith, A. G.	Major	6313 OPRON
McCluskey, W. C.	Captain	Hq, 313 ADIV
Phillips, Charles	S/Sgt	6313 APRON
Thweatt, R. H.	S/Sgt	5313 OPRON
Keithahn, G. Q.	DAC	USCAR PSD
Ohira, J. M.	DAC	USCAR PSD
Sheehan, J. T.	DAC	USCAR Land Dept
Tamashiro, Otomatsu	Mayor	Ie-Son
Yogi, Yukio	Deputy Chief	Police GRI
Nakayoshi, Ryoko	Supt	Toguchi Dist Police Stn
Tamanaha, Rikken	Asst Inspt	Toguchi Dist Police Stn
Juchin, Maekawa		
Cho Syo, Sakamoto		
Arashiro, Risei		
Nakama, Kamei		

2. A summary of the meeting is as follows:

a. Colonel Stanton stated that the meeting was called for two purposes: one, to establish a means of controlling the collection of scrap which would insure that the collectors are not on a hot range; two, to receive some assurance that the theft of government property on the range will be curtailed. Apprehension and prosecution of the offenders was requested.

b. The minutes of the 25 January 1957 and 1 July 1957 meetings were reviewed. It was pointed out that these same problems were discussed at that time. Further, that the Air Force had taken the position that it would contract for scrap collection if an adequate solution was not achieved.

c. The people of Ie Shima continue to disregard all warnings to keep off of the range when it is in use. Paragraph 1 of the attached letter from Colonel DeRussy was read to the conferees emphasizing the interference which these scrap collectors are creating with training missions.

d. It was brought out that range personnel warn collectors one hour prior to firing or bombing by the use of a vehicle with siren and running up the red flags on the towers. Also that the Air Force has several times in the past two years furnished the Mayor with hand-bills for distribution to the people describing these warning signals. The Mayor stated the collectors disregard these warnings. It was further stated by the Mayor that he has informed all his people over the island's loudspeaker system that if they enter the range at the improper time and are apprehended they will be prosecuted by the law. The collectors are on the range during bombing to mark where the bombs fall. If they place their mark on the bomb first, it is then reserved for their later salvage. They are also on the range when firing is being conducted to pick up shell cases. Competition is keen because of salvage value. It was brought out by the Mayor that the Okinawan people have a different outlook than the Americans on reimbursements and indemnities for use of their land. He stated that although they are being paid rent and in some cases allowed to farm a portion of the range, they still feel the land is theirs and they should not be restricted from marking the bombs as they fall and/or picking up brass shell cases. He further stated that every time he brought this problem to them, they stated that if the Air Force doesn't like their being on the range to close the range and give them their land back. He further mentioned two specific instances where bombs have fallen off the range and stated his people use this as arguments for closing of the range.

e. Captain McCluskey stated that the Air Force did not object to the collection of scrap but that we do require that the scrap collectors remain clear of the range while it is "hot". He further stated that this was necessary for the safety of the collectors. He suggested that some sort of Co-op or association be formed, thereby making it unnecessary for the collectors to compete with one another. It was pointed out that a distinct advantage to this system would be that any person not a member of the Co-op who has scrap in his possession could be prosecuted. All members of the Co-op would tend to police their own villages to prevent their neighbors from stealing off the range. Distinctive membership cards could be issued to Co-op members, and they would be authorized unrestricted salvage on the range when it was closed. Further, that scrap procuring agencies would only be authorized to procure from Co-op thru closing outlets to any non-member.

f. The Mayor of Ie Shima stated that he had approached the village officials on the island with the same type proposal. The village officials had agreed; however, they were unable to sell this to the people

g. The subject of apprehension and prosecution of range violators was discussed. The police officials stated that it is difficult to prosecute violators because the accused states that he didn't know that he was in an off-limits area. The police requested that a fence be erected. Colonel Stanton stated that the USAF would not put up a fence. This was tried once before and the villagers stole the fence. He stated that the USAF could clear a boundary around the range with a bulldozer. Inasmuch as all access routes to the range are presently marked with signs, it is doubtful that such a marking (bulldozer trail) would add much to the identification of the range boundary. It is further noted that at the present time some Okinawans have erected buildings within the range limits and unrestricted access is allowed to some farm lands within the range boundary. This further complicates the problem of where is the boundary line behind which the Okinawans must stay when the range is open.

h. The police stated that the USAF should place guards on the range. Since this is a military installation, they felt the internal security was an Air Force responsibility. It was pointed out to them that the Air Force was not attempting to achieve security on the range but rather to avoid injury to any Okinawan who may be on the range either through his own misconduct or ignorance.

i. After much discussion, Colonel Stanton made a final proposal; that the Mayor and other officials on Ie Shima work out some workable system of controlling the scrap collectors, i.e., association or Co-op, which will insure that the collectors will not be on the range while it is "hot". He stated that if this is done, the USAF would allow the collectors unrestricted use of the range Sundays, unless operational commitments interfered. The Mayor and police officials agreed to take the proposal back and attempt to come up with a workable solution. Fifteen days were allowed the local residents to make their decision. The alternate proposal being that if a workable solution was not achieved, the Air Force would contract for scrap collection. This would deprive the residents of Ie Shima of considerable income.

2. The second problem, that of thievery on the range was presented as a complete responsibility for the Okinawan police to control. Although the Air Force maintains point guards on the range, it cannot provide sufficient guards to protect all items of equipment. Since markers and targets, such as tires and trucks, have been stolen from the range, it is believed that the local police could apprehend personnel with this equipment in their possession. It was requested that they institute more stringent control in their villages and assist us in reducing the thievery presently occurring.

3. It was agreed that a meeting would be held at Ie Shima at 0900 hours on 14 October 1959 to receive the proposal of the people relative to establishing a cooperative association.

4. The police accompanying the party remained on Ie Shima to familiarize themselves with the boundaries and signs marking the range.

ARLAND STANTON
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Director of Operations

3 Atchs

1. Ltr, 313 ADIV, Conference between Air Force Representatives and Officials of Ie Shima
2. Ltr, 313 ADIV, Staff Visit to Ie Shima
3. Ltr, 313 ADIV, Control of Ryukyuan Nationals at Range 178, 4 Sep 59

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U. S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Thursday, 1 October 1959

The Okinawa Times (evening edition) - News Article (S) No. 3801

U.S. AIR FORCE HAS BITTER EXPERIENCE WITH IRON SCRAP PICKERS
ON IJIMA ISLAND

Mr. George Q. KEITHAHN, Deputy Director of Public Safety Department of USCAR, and Mr. YOGI, Eizo, Deputy Chief of Police Headquarters of GRI conducted an on-the-spot investigation of iron scrap collection on the U.S. Air Force bombing maneuver ground of Iejima on 30 September. Although this matter had been at issue for some time, the situation involving illegal entry into the maneuver ground and collection of scrap iron within the ground by inhabitants is becoming worse every day. The number of scrap collectors increased so much that these days they are waiting for the plane which comes for bombing maneuver and tumbling over one another for a bomb dropped by the plane. Such being the case, the U.S. Air Force, which had to stop its maneuver several times because of that, demanded control, and an on-the-spot investigation was carried out this time. According to the report by this investigation party, the situation of the island is unbelievably worse than the report by the Air Force. Because they know that the bomb's powder is replaced with sand and does not explode, more than 10 scrap collectors run after the plane which is swooping down upon the target and rush to the place where the bomb is dropped by the plane, tumbling over one another for the bomb, they said. People are collecting the bombs at the risk of their lives.

A round-table conference was held with the village office authorities and the police after an on-the-spot investigation, and the demand of the U.S. Air Force was conveyed to the people present that 1) they stop bombing maneuver once a week and will let the people enter into the maneuver ground

to collect the bombs; 2) however, it is strictly forbidden to enter into the maneuver ground on weekdays." But they failed to come to a conclusion of this matter on that day.

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

US MILITARY AND RYUKYUAN OFFICIALS MEET
TO DEAL WITH METAL SCRAP COLLECTORS ON IE-SHIMA

(The Ryukyu Shimpō, 2 October 1959)

According to the USCAR, the officials of the USCAR, Air Force, and the GRI and the mayor of Ie-shima discussed September 30 how to cope with metal scrap collectors who sneak into the firing range on the island during target practices. They warned the people on the island not to enter the firing range during the target practices.

Lt. Col. Arland Stanton, of the 6313th Air Base Wing explained the policies of the Air Force on this matter at the meeting that "the Air Force will permit the metal scrap collectors only when no target practice is going on."

However, it is said that the scrap collectors often enter the firing ranges, despite constant warnings of dangers by the military authorities. According to a report by Lt. Col. Stanton, they put up a banner as a warning signal when the target practice is going on and also give them warning by a siren when actual firing will take place. He stated that despite these warnings, some of them enter the ranges, and the Air Force intends to have some kind of deal with the people. If possible set up a certain time for them so that they can collect metal scrap in the range without being exposed to danger.

Next meeting is scheduled to be held on the 14th for further discussion of the matter.

The following officials attended the meeting:

Major R. Bluhm, Maj. A. G. Smith, Capt. W. C. McCluskey, all of the 6313th Air Base Wing; Mr. George Q. Keithahn, John Sheehan of the Safety Department of USCAR; Mr. Tamashiro, the Mayor of Ie-Shima; Mr. Yogi, Assistant Chief of Police Department of GRI; and Mr. Nakayoshi, Chief of Police of Toguchi District Police Station.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U. S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Friday, 2 October 1954

The Ryukyu Shimpo - News Article (S)

No. 3815

RYUKYUAN AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS STUDY
SCRAP COLLECTION IN IE SHIMA

The officials, representing USCAR, the U.S. Air Force, GRI and Mayor of Ie Shima, met on the island on September 30 to study problems created by scrap collectors who infiltrate the firing range during hot practices and warned the people of Ie Shima against entering the island's air-to-ground firing range during live ammunition practices, according to USCAR.

Explaining the policy of the Air Force, Lt. Col. Arland STANTON of the 6313th Air Base Wing told the meeting that the Air Force position was to "welcome scrap collectors but only when firing exercises are not being held."

The firing range on the island is said to have often been menaced by scrap scavengers during firing practices despite Air Force efforts to protect them. Col. STANTON reported that collectors still sneak into the range even though warning red flags are raised and a siren is sounded to warn of impending live exercises. He said the Air Force wants some kinds of an agreement with the islanders so that a specified time could be set aside for the scrap hunters to enter the range area in safety. Ryukyuan and American representatives are scheduled to meet again on October 14 to seek a mutually satisfactory settlement to this problem.

Attending the meeting on September 30 were Ma. R. BLUHN, Maj. A.G. SMITH and Capt. W.C. McCluskey of the 6313th Air Base Wing; George Q. KEITHAHN and John SHEEHAN of USCAR; Ie Shima Mayor Otomatsu TAMASHIRO, GRI Deputy Chief of Police Department Yukio YOGI and Toguchi Police Chief Ryoko NAKAYOSHI.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U. S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Friday, 9 October 1959

The Ryukyu Shimpo - News Article (S)

SCRAP SCAVENGERS IN KIN-SON SHOULD BE CONTROLLED BY
THE U.S. MILITARY, SAYS RYUKYUAN POLICE

(Chubu Branch) - An on-the-spot investigation of empty shell collectors and peddlers in the firing range in Kin-Son was made by the Ryukyuan police team consisted of Deputy Chief YOGI of the Police Headquarters, First Public Safety Section Chief TOKUGAWA, Police Chief KUDOKEN of Ishikawa Police Station, Assistant Chief MAKAYAMA, sub-section chief TAMI in charge of public peace and assistant police inspector SHIMOJI of the Kin Police Inspector's Office, in the morning of 8 October. A countermeasure council was held after the investigation was over. According to the report by assistant police inspector SHIMOJI a villager called KINJO is collecting scrap as a full-time scrap collector and besides him villagers are entering into the Off-Limit area in semi-privacy, taking advantage of the fact that there are no notice-board and fence around it. The U.S. Marine Corps made a representation to the Ryukyuan Police to control the area, but the U.S. military authorities have not tried to enforce a control over this military-used land and are allowing villagers to enter into the off-limit area, he said.

In reference to such a state of affairs, the Ryukyuan Police are taking the position that the firing range should be controlled by the U.S. military, and it is unreasonable for the Ryukyuan police to enforce a control over this area.

After all, it was agreed to decide on the measures based on the attitude of the village office authorities.

Incidentally, it is reported that the peddlers number some 30 at the time of practice.

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY

Friday, 6 January 1956

NEWS ARTICLE

MILITARY MANEUVER CAUSES DAMAGES:
EIGHT FAMILIES IN KIN VILLAGE WANT TO MOVE

2. (Okinawa Times) Y.

An incident took place in Igei-ku of Kin Son in which a child was slightly injured by a bullet during a military maneuver. As a result, eight families decided to move to another area with the reason that they could not lead a peaceful life. On the 5th, Mayor Okuma, Mr. Shinzo Ikehara, and Sub-Village Head of Igei-ku visited the Legal Affairs Department of GRI and petitioned for assistance in moving the families. According to Mr. Ikehara, bullets have lodged in trees around his house and the villagers are in constant fear whenever a maneuver is conducted. Moreover, the villagers concerned came to an unanimous agreement that they would move before any mishap took place.

Director Makiya of the Internal Affairs Department and Mayor Okuma visited USCAR to report the circumstances but were told that consideration would be made upon receipt of a written petition indicating the assistance required in moving the families.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Friday, 9 October 1959

The Okinawa Times (Evening Edition) - News Article (T) No. 3895

AFUSO-KU INHABITANTS SCARED BY STRAY BULLET

According to the report received by the Police Headquarters on the 9th from the Ishikawa Police Station, there again arose the commotion over stray bullets at Afuso Ku, Onna Son which is locally known as Takenabaru.

At about 9 a.m. on the 3rd, UEGUSUKU Ansei (45 years old), head of Takebaru Ku, Aza Kise, Onna Son witnessed the stray bullet, while walking at Takenabaru area. He said that no sooner had he heard the sound of bullet come flying than he saw it explode and create hole about 1 meter in diameter at the spot 20 meters ahead with terrific sound.

Like the one that fell within Afuso Ku, on 17th (September), the above stray bullet seems to have come from the shooting range at around Igei Ku, Kin Son. The Ku inhabitants are said to be strongly appealing the measure against such stray bullets, saying that if they happen to fall in the densely populated residential area, irrevocable results will be created.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Wednesday, 7 October 1959

The Okinawa Times - News Article (T)

No. 3866

IEJIMA ISLANDERS APPEAL TO INVESTIGATION
PARTY 'TO RETURN THEIR LAND'

(By Reporter HIGA on Iejima) The non-Governmental Investigation Party on the Iejima Explosion Incident, composed of the representatives of five organizations such as the OTA, Okinawa Youth Council, Nakagami-Gun Youth Council, Government Employees' Unions Council and People's Party at 9 a.m. on the 5th conducted an on-the-spot investigation of the shooting range, the scene where the explosion took place, state of collection of scrap iron, and visited the homes of bereaved families to console them and then attended the round-table conference with 50 Maja sub villagers at the civic hall.

The shooting range, located at the western side of Iejima has the acreage of 1.3 million tsubo (1 tsubo eq. 36 sq. ft.) centering around former Maja sub-village area and notice-boards, saying, "Shooting Range; Off Limits" are put up everywhere. By obtaining the permission of the signal corps [the OIC of the Air Force Receiver Site], the party inspected within the shooting range. Except for the roads crisscrossing, the range area is overgrown with weeds, with Australian pine-trees felled and big holes created here and there due to practice bombing. Some of these holes are about 10 meters deep. The cartridges of bullets of machine-guns are also seen here and there. The sub-villagers appealed their fear to the investigation party members, saying that these bullets that ought to be fired in the range are sometimes dropped on the sub-village. They said that they (bullets) are dropped not only in the military-requisitioned-

land area such as Maja and Nishizaki sub-villages (farming there is tacitly allowed) where the sub-villagers built [concrete] block buildings, but also in the distant sub-villages on non-military requisitioned land. It was in July that a large bomb fell into the pond located near the Nishimae sub-village.

The sub-villagers complained (to the investigating party) that they could not make a living on what the small, hardened soil yields with fear (for drop of bomb) scaring them every day and they can earn only 50 or 60¢ by collecting scrap iron at best. They pointed out that such privation as above was the result of their fertile land having been requisitioned by the U.S. military and that the U.S. military should naturally pay the compensation to HIGA Ryotoku and ISHIKAWA Seikan who were killed by the recent explosion and strongly appealed the return of their land so that such troubles would never recur hereafter.

Statement of the Investigation Party: "The results of investigation will be reported at the meeting of the Penal Code Counter-measure Council organized by 19 organizations and the conclusion will be drawn and petitioning policy decided in that meeting. In our opinion, this is a big problem. Though it is said that the land problem was solved, it is still lingering here in such a way. This is a problem connected not only with Henoko but with all of Okinawa. It is necessary to save these people who were victimized by the military, if not directly. Probably the results of our reports will lead to the start of operation of the 'Association for Protection of Human Rights and Properties' which is now under preparation.

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

"TOO DANGEROUS" APPEALS THE PEOPLE ON IE-SHIMA
TO INVESTIGATION TEAM

(The Ryukyu Shimpo, 6 October 1959)

IE-SHIMA (Reported by Moriguchi)---Five members of the investigation team for the Compensations for the Military Leased Land on Ie-shima, formed by the members of six civil organizations, Okinawa Teachers' Association, Okinawa Youth Association, Association for Prohibition of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, Nakagami District Youth Association, Liason Committee for the Protection of Democracy, and Government Workers' Union, arrived on the island on October 4. Accompanied by former municipal assemblymen Shokei [Shoko?] Ahagon and present assemblymen Chokuryo Urasaki, the team called at the Ie-shima municipal office, and villages of Maza and Nishizaki in a trimobile on October 5 and investigated the various problems confronted by the islander where the firing range is located.

First, the team called at the Ie-shima municipal office and heard from the assistant mayor Nakama of the various problems confronted by the people. The assistant mayor revealed that (1) the target practice over the villages is too furious to see. It interferes with classes at school, and occasionally aircraft drop live bombs not more than 30 feet away from houses and people are exposed to great dangers; (2) all villagers are opposed to the contract to lease their lands, which is being pressed by the U.S. military authorities. If they sign the contract, the islanders will lose their farm lands and will not be able to make their livings.

After the hearing, the team investigated former Maza village now being used as the firing range. They paid a visit to Tsune Ishikawa's home. Mrs. Ishikawa's husband was killed when a bomb exploded while he was dismantling it in the afternoon of September 6. Mrs. Ishikawa had been married a year and has an eight-month old child. She has been at a loss since she lost her husband. The team also visited Ryotoku Higa's home in the evening and expressed their sympathy with his family.

ISLANDERS ARE NOW IN THE DILEMMA

IE-SHIMA--The investigation team currently touring on Ie-shima held a discussion with the local people from 2 p.m. Oct. 5, at the Maza village community house. Approximately 50 people, young and old, who had been forced out of their lands attended the discussion and frankly expressed their resentments they have been harboring for the past five years since the acquisition of lands. They have been demanding in unison the "restoration of a peaceful and productive village" of their own and opposing strongly the acquisition of their lands. Particularly, they appealed that they cannot make their livings unless they collect empty shells and live munitions and how they are exposed to dangers in doing so. Especially, since two men were killed in an explosion, the people have become very critical about the target practices on the island, though they are in such a dilemma that they have to collect scraps of munitions fired from aircraft to the ground for their livings.

Owing to such circumstances, the people in Maza village are hoping that their lands will be released so that they can produce for their own and that they can enjoy a stabilized and pleasant living. Furthermore, they can pay back their debts in two or three years if their hopes are realized.

Press Translation
OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

IE-SHIMA AND MILITARY LEASED LAND
(FIRST OF THE SERIES APPEARED IN THE OKINAWA TIMES OCT 8, 1959)

THE SCRAP THAT HAS EXPLODED
CLAIMS COMPENSATION BRING THE MATTER TO THE FORE AGAIN
RYUKYUAN INVESTIGATION TEAM INVESTIGATES

About 10 a.m. September 5, Rotoku Higa, 38, and Seikan Ishikawa, 28, both of Maza village, Ie-shima were killed in an explosion while they were breaking up a bomb they found in the nearby firing range.

They found the bomb 4 or five days before the explosion occurred. The bomb, which the villagers call 250 pounders, are as big as a jet fuel tank. Half of this type of bomb is filled with cement and the rest with sand. It was told that they pounded the bomb with a jack hammer to get rid of the cement when it exploded with a roar.

Ishikawa is survived by his 20 year old wife and a nine months old girl, Keiko, while Higa was survived by his 38 year old wife, five children and father who is blind. Both Misses Higa and Ishikawa explain that the deaths of their husbands are attributable to the requisition of their lands for military use, and they claimed compensation for their death.

With their petitions, the head of Maza village, Seitatsu Ishikawa, and the representatives of the owners of military leased land, Shoken Ahagon, Chokuryo Urasaki and Seiken Ishikawa, called at the GRI and the USCAR on September 29. And once again the name of the village Maza has come to the fore.

It was the villagers of Maza that sent a group of people to Naha and planted themselves down in protest against compulsory expropriation of lands that took place in Isa village, Ginowan-son, in March, 1955. On the island, they made such a strenuous resistance that they were arrested and were tried in the military court for blocking the U. S. military personnel.

It seemed that the military land problems had settled down, and at same time the name of Maza village was almost forgotten. However, with the explosion that occurred recently life in the village has come to attract public attention once again. It may be incomprehensible for the military authorities to demand compensation for two men killed in an explosion of a scrap which was brought home from the firing ranges where the local people are not authorized to enter.

The officials of USCAR together with the officials of GRI Police Department immediately set out to investigate the case. They revealed the rampant activities of scrap scavengers and they officially announced that the scrap scavengers are hindrance to the target practices and hinted that deaths caused by an explosion were brought about by suicidal acts.

On the other hand, 19 civic organizations, including political parties, teachers association, government workers union, local labor unions, which has organized Liaison committee for the Penal Code Counter-Measure, have also taken up the case and formed an investigation team for the investigation of the case.

The team will report their findings at the committee meeting, and it seems that they have already decided to conduct a movement to ask for compensation.

The placard which they took back with them when they pulled out of the station which they established in front the GRI in protest against the military land requisition program in March, 1955 said as follows:

"It seems to us that the matter is taking a turn for the better. We will pull out of our station established in front of the GRI for the time being to go back to the island. We will find our own ways for living. We will farm on even a little space available on road sides. However, bombs are being dropped on our lands and it is just like a war is going on. And we may have to farm on such danger areas. Leaving the settlement of the claims in the future, we will pull out of our station over here. But it does not mean we gave up or our movement has ended. Real movement will be conducted in the future."

The placard is smoke blackened now. It still hangs in the Maza village community house. It seems that the placard explains how the villagers feel about their own situation. The claims compensations might have something to do with such feelings of the villagers.

Press Translation
OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

The Okinawa Times, 7 October 1959

PROBLEM OF MILITARY LEASED LAND STILL REMAINS UNSOLVED AT MAJA VILLAGE,
IE-SHIMA

With the compensation claims for two men killed in an explosion of a bomb which they had collected as scrap, the island of Ie-Shima has once again invited public attention.

From October 4th through the 6th, a Ryukyuan investigation team, formed by six organizations--the Okinawa Teachers' Association, Okinawa Youth Association, Nakagami Youth Association, Government Workers' Union, Okinawa People's Party--made an on-the-spot investigation on the island. Farmers are still calling for the release of their lands as they were four or five years ago. It is said that the land problems have been settled, but it still remains unsolved in Ie-Shima.

Ie-Shima has an area of 5,184.36 acres with a population of 6,859. 3,390.34 acres, which is equivalent to 63 per cent of the total area, are military leased land. Of these, 219.95 acres are placed off limits, and the islanders are permitted to farm on the remaining 3,096.27 acres, on which they grow sweet potatoes and sugar cane. A total of 520 families, including Maja and Nishizaki villages, are living in these areas.

A total of seventy-three families of Maja Village are living in the military-leased lands. These families thronged to the GRI three years ago, when acquisition of lands was taking place, and sat down in front of

the GRI building in protest. They are still carrying the same spirit these days, as is being manifested in their resistance to the acquisition of "black and fertile lands of their own," to which they are still holding an ardent attachment.

Approximately 1,060.09 acres of land used as the firing range were enclosed by a fence, outside of which they built their homes. The entire fence has disappeared; for, it is said, the people of Maja Village removed it for scrap.

The military authorities put up a sign which read, "Firing Range--- Keep Out." The villagers pulled down the sign and put up their own sign which reads, "Keep Out, except for land owners," in its place. It is said that villagers have had disputes with 30 soldiers assigned to a communication unit on the island time and again ever since. They have houses of thatched roofs, but for the walls they used concrete blocks. The villagers said that they built their homes with loaned money in order to show their intention that they will never leave their village.

The villagers of Maja are also receiving payments for the land leased to the U.S. Forces. They don't call the money they receive rental payments but call it compensation for their lands. The family of "A" receives \$200 annually for 32.12 acres of land. Ryotoku Higa, who was killed in an explosion, received \$75 annually for 4.24 acres of his land. The amount was not enough to support his family of six, his wife, children, and blind father. The family cleared a bit of land on the government-owned land by removing rocks and grew sweet potatoes. Somehow, the villagers managed to feed their own families, but they could not afford to send their kids to school. They needed cash income. That is

why they have started collecting scrap.

Usually from 60 to 80 villagers are hiding in the bushes in the firing ranges to wait for aircraft. When an aircraft approaches and drops a bomb, they all rush out at once. The bomb digs into the ground approximately 10 feet, since the ground is soft. It takes four villagers three days to dig it out.

About 1-1/3 lbs. of scrap are worth 1 cent. Bigger bombs weigh around 266 lbs. It is said that some villagers are resentful of the explosion which occurred recently, saying it was done purposely by the U.S. military.

U.S. military authorities have discussed with civilian police authorities in regard to this matter. As a result, the military authorities notified the villagers that they will permit the people to collect scrap and engage in farming on the leased lands, except during the target practice. The villagers retort that even if the military authorities do permit them to farm within the range, they will have nothing to yield. Presently there is not a single family who has a farm in the range. Up to this date, every villager sets out to work on his farm within the range, raising a banner, but two years ago their sugar cane fields were set afire by spraying gasoline, and their crops were ruined one after another. Last month, a peanut field was ruined, and that was the last farm the villagers had in the range. There were also, it is said, disputes among the people in Ie-Shima themselves. There are not a few people who pay no attention to the villagers of Maja who are calling for the release of their lands. These people are the owners of military lands outside of the range. Their lands are leased to the military, but they receive rental payments every year and, in addition to it, they are

permitted to farm there.

The villagers of Maja are trying every way possible to get help from these people. They are saying, "Once you have contracted the lease, you will not be permitted to farm there."

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

SERIES 2

THEY NEED MONEY AND JUST RUN TOWARD SHELLS

(The Ryukyu Shimpō, 8 October 1959)

"During the war we ran away from shells; now we run toward the target when aircraft drop them," said the villagers in Maza. They run toward bomb when practice bombs that look like a match stick from far away fall to the ground.

Some villager even rush to the target before it hits the ground and are injured critically by the blasts. It is a risky job. However, the villagers say that they don't want to risk their lives in doing so, but they want metal scrap that can be sold for 1 cent in cash per 1-1/3 lbs.

In 1955, the islanders were deprived of 63 percent of their land in a compulsory requisition of lands that took place on Okinawa. The villagers of Maza were forced to give up their "black soil" and moved out of their village. The "black soil" is being used as a firing range and rains of shells ranges from machine gun bullets to 250-lb bombs. There are shell holes--small and big--in the range. The biggest holes are 6 feet in diameter and 15 feet deep. It takes three days for three big men to dig up shells, which can be sold for \$2 each. This is the same type of shells which killed Higa and Ishikawa last September.

"Usually the shell contains cement and sand. Since September some of them contain TNT instead of sands and cement. I think it was done to make a threat against the villagers. At any rate, it is too cruel", the

men in the village said regrettably. A housewife in her forties said: "Up until now when my family gathered at home at night, they talked about how much sugar cane and potatoes they had harvested during the day. Now they talk about how many shells they have collected and where they can find the most of them. And they feel greatly relieved to see each other being safe," she cried as soon as she told so.

The size of the island is about 5400 acres and has a population of 6,859. Seventy-nine families of Maza village have determined not to leave where they are now living, so they built their homes in permanent style with cement blocks. The firing range was enclosed by a fence. But the villagers have torn it down for scraps. What came the next was "sign altercation". When military authorities put up "Off Limits" sign, the villagers removed then and instead they put up their own, "Off Limits, except land owners". It was like a competition. "Black Soil" is their sources of livelihood and they showed their maximum resistance to the requisition.

"Of the 1-1/2 acres of land I own, 3/4 acres have been requisitioned compulsorily. On the remaining 3/4 we are permitted to farm, on which we can yeild \$300 of crops annually and earn an additional \$200 more by raising family stocks to support my family. I have two sons. When they grow up, I shall have to give them land. But I don't know whether I can do it or not. Owing to the blast of jet planes and low flying bombers, sixty percent of hogs we raise miscarried. Horses in the pasture are so scared that they run away. It takes one full day for villagers to catch them. Of course, we have not received rental payments," said municipal assembly man Henzan angrily.

The local people do not call payment for the land requisitioned compulsorily in 1955 "rental payment". Instead, they call it "compensation". The compensations, in other words, rental payments, are too small. For an example, about 1 acre of land owned by Seiko Furugan, 40, was requisitioned. The annual rental payment amounts to \$12.18. If he grows sugar cane on the same farm, the annual yield will be \$117. And in the case of Sataro Chinen, 2,880 square feet of his farm has been requisitioned. Annual payment for 36 square feet is 2 cents and total annual payment is \$1.60. If he grows potatoes or peanuts on the same farm he could earn \$18 annually. The rental payment is less than one-tenth of the amount which would be earned otherwise. According to a report prepared by the municipal office, the rental payment is 1/18 on the average, and in the case of uncultivated lands or woodlands the amount is 1/200. Being paid such cheap rental payments and, moreover, compelled to live on the island in danger, the people are now "in the heat of rage." Whenever villagers hear bell rings, even old ladies in their eighties rush to the community house with the aid of walking sticks and talk about the land problems very earnestly. On the 24th of last September, about 3/4 acre of the farm owned by Kosen Furugen was ruined by a bulldozer before he knew about it. Also a peanut farm of 1/10 acre owned by Hamada Chinen was entirely ruined. The peanuts were about to harvest. Eight months after he planted the peanuts, he went to harvest them and found his crops had entirely disappeared. "Why do they have to press on us so much?" an old lady pounded on the floor twice with tears in her eyes.

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

SERIES 5

"ARDENT ATTACHMENT TO THEIR LANDS"
RENTAL PAYMENTS ARE TOO SMALL
APPEAL MAZA VILLAGERS

(The Okinawa Times, 12 October 1959)

"What makes the villagers of Maza show such a firm front? On what ground do they resist so strenuously as they are now?" These questions were a riddle for the fact finding team until they got to the island.

Chokuryo Urasaki, a villager of Maza who accompanied the team to the village, victims' home and the firing range, picked up a handful of black soil that had been loosened by the blasts of bombs and said, "My farm was around here." And then he took a smell at it longingly.

On the slightly rolling land covered with weeds were big holes here and there. The smells of loosened soil and weeds filled the air around. From there were heard the roar of the sea. An old light house on the west side of the island was also seen.

According to Urasaki, he owned about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of farm there. He was well off. He said the farm was purchased after selling two of his older brothers to a coal mine and is now used as the firing range. He receives \$115 a year from the U.S. military as rental payment. He said the amount is not small as rental payment for farms, but it is not enough to support his family.

All villagers in Maza said the same thing just like Urasaki said. The investigation team held a discussion meeting at the village community

house after the completion of on the spot investigation. Literally, more than fifty villagers--young and old--attended the meeting. They said angrily, "what will remain there if farmers are deprived of their lands? It means to us either beg or die, does not it?" The villagers said at the meeting as the follows:

RYOICHI HENZAN, 30: "I have only 1.6 acre of land. I bought this land from my relative not long ago. You can hardly buy farms in a farming district, because a farmer can not live if he sells his farm. Therefore, we cannot buy it unless owner needs cash due to some misfortune. One half of my land has been requisitioned for military use. I receive \$68 as rental payment. I take care of the remaining 0.9 acre to support my family of five. I earn about \$300 a year. In addition to farming, I earn a total of \$500 a year by raising cows and hogs. I can raise two times as many hogs as I am raising right now if the land is returned. I am worrying about what would become of us if the remaining land is requisitioned. They might say the rental payments are not small, because most of our lands are registered as uncultivated lands or wood lands. If we got land we will be able to support ourselves. That is why we do not want to contract lease of our lands."

SEIKO FURUGEN, 40: "About 1 acre of my land has been requisitioned as the firing range. I am getting \$12.12 annual rental payment for it. I used to grow sugar canes there. Of course, I also grew potatoes between seasons. It used to yield about 13 barrels of sugar, through. The price of one barrel of sugar is \$9.00 and the annual total will be \$117. \$12.12 of annual rental payment amounts to 1/10 of what I would earn yearly otherwise. Do you call this just rental payment?"

HAMADA CHINEN, 60: "There is no worse liar than the U.S. military authorities. All islanders are about to be cheated. Once our village head read us a letter from the military authorities. I knew it was a lie, then. They said that the scrap scavengers are a hindrance to the target practices and told us not to enter the ranges. Instead they said they would permit us to collect scrap and farm in other specific hours. They told us the same story before. I grew about 0.1 acre of peanuts once in the farm I own in the firing ranges. All of my peanuts were ruined last month. It was about time to harvest, besides."

SATARD CHINEN, 43: "The cases of miscarriage among mother hogs are on the increase. According to an investigation, sixty percent of the hogs have failed. Hogs live in dirty places but their nerves are very delicate. It was due to the blasts of low flying aircrafts. We cannot live under such circumstances. There is no place for us to go other than here. The municipal assembly has voted to resettle us on public land. Ie-shima will be no more if the military should requisition the whole island. The requisition of 63 percent of the entire lands leaves us only 1/3 of acre of land per person, including grave yards and coastal areas. It means "no more Ie-shima."

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

SERIES 4

RISKY SCRAP COLLECTION
IT INFLUENCES CHILDREN'S ATTAINMENT AT SCHOOL

(The Okinawa Times, 11 October 1959)

The military authorities estimate that there are from 70 to 80 people in the firing range to collect scrap. The villagers of Maza also said that there are at one time a good 60 people in the range. The number will increase before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. when the target practices are not taking place frequently. However, it is said that they can collect more scrap during the day time when the target practices are conducted more frequently than any other time. Therefore, the scrap scavengers hide themselves waiting in bushes and rush to the target when bombs are dropped. They are used to such a risky job.

"We feel as if we caught a whale when we get a 250 pounder," said villagers laughing. The first man who gets to the target where the bombs are dropped will have them. He leaves a sign on which he has signed his name and leaves it with the bombs to declare his ownership. Soon, two or three men get together. They dig them up and haul them away on a horse cart.

Such a way of living by grown-up villagers has exerted a bad influence upon their children before they were aware of it.

Aware of the fact that many children are sneaking into the ranges after school or on Sundays, the military authorities issued a warning

to school authorities and heads of the villages through the municipal office.

The villagers of Maza were also aware of it and said:

"We know it is not a proper thing for the children to do. Every parent does not wish his children to go to these dangerous places. We often tell them not to go to the range, but we cannot stop them.

"We cannot afford to buy them school accessories and things they really need. They go to the range without telling their parents and sell scrap they collected to buy things they need," said Ishikawa, a villager.

The results are shown in their school works. There are two primary schools on the island, one in the East and the other in the West. The Nishi primary school authority revealed that the results of the school tests have shown that the pupils in Nishi primary school are from 3 to 5 points lower than that of the Higashi for the past two or three years. The Nishi primary school is located near the firing ranges, to which the children of Maza and Nishizaki will go to collect scraps.

People are being worried about the scrap collecting by the school children. At last there occurred an accident. On the 26th of September, Kanzo Uema, 6th grader of Nishi primary school, was shot through his right leg. Nobody knows how he learned about what the grown-ups are doing. The boy rushed to the target as low flying aircraft approached firing machine guns. Fortunately, it was not a bullet but was an empty shell that hit his leg. His wound was not serious. But he still suffers from difficulty in walking.

The boy is adopted by an older step brother, Shinyu Uema. Mr. Uema said sorrowfully as to the accident: "It was my fault, because I could not afford to buy him school text books. I have told him not to go to the range. Previously, he broke my bicycle. He was afraid of being scolded about it, so he went to the range to collect scrap then got the bicycle repaired with the money he earned. I suppose he knew what he could do by collecting scrap since that time. I am physically not good. I have 6 children. Oldest one is ten-year old. I just could not take good care of the boy," he lamented.

Mr. Uema is said to be the most unfortunate man on Ie-shima, where there are many others who are suffering from the land problems and the LCT incident. He has lost his one of toes and moreover he also lost his hearing by an explosion during the last war and is as good as deaf. At the change of climates, he said, he still feels a pain in his foot. Dragging his foot, he farms on 1 acre of land he owns in the "connivance farm areas" to support his 37 year old wife and six children and the boy. His present wife Mitsue is his fourth wife. His first wife died during war together with their seven year old child. His second wife, whom he married after the war, died in 1947 when a ferry boat on which she was aboard collided with an American boat near Sesoko Island on the way back to the island after the war. And his third wife died, together with their seven months' old child, when an LCT exploded at the island pier.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Thursday, 15 October 1959

The Okinawa Times - News Article Y.

No. 3962

PERSISTENT OCCURRENCE OF TRAGEDY CAUSED BY EXPLOSIVES

The accidents caused by explosives which appeared to have come to an end for a while show signs of coming back of late. These accidents are caused by the explosion of shells picked up at the firing range of U.S. forces in Ie-shima and Kin-son so that the police headquarters now is investigating the reality of empty shell collection at the two firing ranges.

According to the investigation conducted by the first public safety section of the Police Headquarters, there were 1641 cases of accidents caused by explosion involving 623 deaths and 1014 injured in the last 13 years since 1946. This tragedy which had its origin in the extraction of gun powder from shells found in the field soon after the end of war, continued to take place again and again when people attempted to extract gun powder from cannon balls during the sudden boom caused by exportation of scrap iron, and accidents began to take place in the sea following the exhaustion of scrap iron in the field, and nowadays accidents are caused by shells picked up in the firing ranges of the U.S. forces. The greatest number of accidents was caused by the attempt to dismantle cannon balls and sell them during the scrap iron boom, numbering 273 cases involving 134 deaths and 141 injured. Around the end of June, 1957, 30 men died instantly in a explosion of a sunken vessel off the coast of Akashima, Zamami-Son, Kerama island group, and the following year 40 persons died

instantly in the explosion of the sunken ship "Victoria," [Canada Victory] which lies off the coast of Toya sub-village of Yontan-son. The next most numerous are accidents caused by explosions following the attempt to extract gun powder, numbering a total of 190 cases. These kinds of accidents followed one after the other since immediately after the end of war until around 1954, during which time, gun powder was sold almost openly, but it is almost unknown at present.

This kind of accident caused 99 deaths and 91 injured. The gun powder extracted from explosives was used for illegal fishing, so that 92 fishermen died in the attempt and caused 68 injuries. Not a few sustained damages by tampering with cannon balls found in the field. Most of the victims of this kind of accidents are juveniles, so that 15 died by shell explosions while the number of injured reached 159; and, while the number of cases has diminished, it still takes place now and then, it is reported. In other cases the explosion occurred while making a blazing fire in the open to warm oneself, and explosion of a shell that was buried in the soil or while fighting a forest fire causing a total of 820 casualties.

The police headquarters in a drive to prevent this kind of accident launched a movement for the collection of shells scattered in the field, and collected in the last 13 years - 97,687 cannon balls; 664,843 rifle bullets; 5,107 hand grenades; and 54,356 - a total of 821,995 shells which is said to be enough to blow up the city of Naha.

The cannon balls and shells which were poured on Okinawa during World War II appear to have been exhausted so that accident lately is being caused by explosives picked up at the firing range of the U.S. forces.

Yet the collection of empty shells at the firing range is the means of support of the people whose land has been requisitioned, so that there is nothing that the police can do about it, it was reported.

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

SERIES 3

"ISOLATE MAZA VILLAGERS"

OPPOSITION TO THE LAND REQUISITION DIFFERS FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE

(The Okinawa Times, 10 October 1959)

More than half of the 1,364 families living on Ie-shima are reported to own the military leased land, but they do not necessarily have the same idea of the land as the villagers of Maza, so that, judging from an overall picture of Ie-shima, it seems that Maza villagers are more or less isolated from others.

"It is obvious that the owners of the lands in the airstrip are opposing the release of their lands. The reason is that it might take more than ten years for them to restore the land to the previous conditions. And their points of interests are quite different from those of villagers in Maza. The municipal assembly voted on the problems of lands and the firing range for the first time in its history and even the municipal office authorities have split," the assistant mayor Nakama said.

The people who oppose the release of the land are not only the owners of the air strip. This can be clearly understood by studying a map prepared by the municipal office. Of sixty-three percent of the entire areas, that is 13,727,340 square meters of Agarie-Ue, Nishie-Ue, Nishizaki and Maza village have been requisitioned for military use, only 4,289,680 square meters are used as firing ranges--military leased land which is on the western part of the island.

Only these areas are used as the firing ranges on which target practices are conducted daily. The areas from Tacchu (hill in the center of the island) to the central part of the island never appear to be requisitioned land, for sugar cane is being grown and sweet potato and soybean fields stretch across it and it is dotted with homes. That is so called "connivance farming areas." It means literally a "connivance farming areas." The land requisitioned as the firing range is owned by some of the villagers in Maza and Nishizaki only. Contrary to those villagers who have lost land on which to farm and to live, the people living in the so called "connivance farming areas" are allowed to farm and live on the leased land and are receiving rental payments. For such reasons, the villagers in Nishie-Ue and Agarie-Ue are keeping themselves quiet about it, and that is why the villagers in Maza are appealing to these people for help.

"You will have hard times once you contract the lease. We can farm there as we are doing now, only because we are standing firm against the land requisition. The "connivance farming areas" is literally nothing but "connivance farming areas." The U.S. military are not going to say anything about us farming. And that is why we can farm there. The U.S. military authorities are waiting for a chance to requisition the entire island," the villagers of Maza are appealing to other islanders.

"Look, how we are living!" the villagers tell and continued: "The connivance farming areas" will not last much longer. Your crops will be set on fire someday like it was done to us. And then you will know how we really felt about it."

"One stem of potato in the Maza fields
yields three basketful of crops."

"This was the song of Maza farmers in the past. We used to talk about how much sugar they yield a year, of how many hogs they raised, etc, at tea time. We were middle class farmers in the island. But now what has happened to us.

"Now we talk about whose first son got 250 lb bomb, or he collected 1-1/3 lbs of shells today, and so forth. We can hardly support ourselves by collecting scraps. We are fortunate that we could band the entire villagers together. If entire villagers in Ie-shima ever consent to the requisition of land, it is as plain as the day that all of us will be reduced to poverty," they are appealing to the villagers in Nishizaki and others villages in Ie-shima.

The villagers of Maza are appealing so strongly to the entire people on the island that it gives an impression that they are "isolated villagers of Maza."

Such a conflict of interests among the people of Ie-shima is too much for the municipal office authorities to handle.

"We understand why the people in Maza oppose so much. Maza is an epitome of entire Okinawa. However, the officials of the municipal office can not do as the villagers in Maza. First of all, we will not be able to keep our business running, for it might affect the collection of taxes from the people. It is not our business. It should rather be taken care of by the Legislature. At any rate, the best policy to deal with the matter is to stop target practice," said the assistant mayor Nakama.

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
HQ, 313th Air Division
APO 239

CONTRACTS FOR LAND LEASE WILL SOON BEGIN
BEING CARRIED OUT SMOOTHLY IN OTHER DISTRICTS

(The Okinawa Times, 13 October 1959)

"It is not possible to have 'connivance farming areas' within the military leased lands. Once you contract the lease, the whole areas will be requisitioned," says one villager.

"We built our houses after 1952. Loans for reconstruction of houses were not available for us, so we borrowed money from somebody else. I think the compensations for these houses will not be made when the land requisition take place," said another.

"Most of our lands were registered as woodlands and uncultivated lands after the war. We have registered our land in such classifications for fear of taxation. It might be the natural consequence of our faults, but we cannot understand why they had to make such bad law as 'Land Lease Stabilization Law,' which prevents us from changing the classification of lands," the villagers of Maza complained to prevent other islanders from contracting the lease.

It seems that the main reasons for opposing the requisition are that (1) they cannot make livelihood without farms and (2) the rental payments are too small. The same complaints were also heard among the owners of the land being used as airstrips and of land in the "connivance farming areas." In these complaints we can see how complicated the land problems are in Ie-shima.

According to the officials of the Office of Military Leased Land,

there are some misunderstandings on the part of the villagers of Maza which may be stated as follows:

"Military leased lands are for military use only. No one will be permitted to farm on the lease lands all the time. No compensation will be made for these houses owned by the villagers, and it is reasonable. It arises out of misunderstanding that the villagers say they cannot change the classification of lands. They can change them according to the USCAR Ordinance #4, Clause 2, dtd July 14, 1959. The land owners may apply for the changes to the District Engineer, whereby the changes may be made based upon the facts."

The villagers of Maza are appealing to prevent other islanders from contracting the lease in such ways. However, it seems that the military authorities have, to a large extent, decided to lease the lands. Of 13,720,000 square meters of areas of the island, 3,313,292 square meters of public land or unnumbered land are administered by the municipal office. A municipal assembly was called in regard to the disposition of these lands located in the military leased lands. Not only the members of the assembly but also the officials of the municipal office have split into two. However, they finally voted to contract the lease.

New land projects are now under way. Kushi-son has contracted 100 percent. Yomitan, Onna, Kunigami, Ginowan, and Naha city have also completed the contracts. An average of 98.2 percent was contracted, it was announced by the Office of Military Leased Land. The officials of the Military Leased Land stated that Ie-shima will receive notices of contract in the near future. The GRI will deliver the notices, and

the Office of Military Leased Land will make direct contracts with the owners. Even though the municipal assembly has voted to contract the lease, it is obvious that they will experience difficulties in putting it into effect. The Office of Military Leased Land hopes to make as many contracts as possible. Otherwise, they will have to requisition the lands compulsorily by the application of the Ordinance #20. The owners may appeal after that.

As it was said by the members of the investigation team, Ie-shima must be a tragic island. The problem of military leased lands has created a ripple around the village of Maza. In addition to it, there are fifty-four poverty stricken bereaved families and 30 other victims of the LCT incident who have been asking for compensation. The members of the investigation team encouraged these people, telling them to fight out their own ways and to cooperate with the "Protection of Human Rights and Properties Association" by banding together.

However, will it be possible to bind the land problems of Maza and the victims and bereaved families of the LCT incident together as was advised by the investigation team?

"Even the municipal office authorities are at a loss in regard to the land problem in Maza village and the LCT incident. If the municipal office should help them in their problems, who would suffer but the municipal office?" asked the assistant mayor Nakama.

It seems that the municipal office authorities are also placed in a quandary as the villagers of Maza say that if 63 percent of the entire area is requisitioned for military use, the entire Ie-shima municipality will have to be abolished.

Only about 2,000 acres of land has remained after the requisition of lands for military use. If it were divided by 7,000 people on the island, only $1/3$ acres remain per person. In it are included grave yards and beaches. For example Naha city, has 100 times more space per person than Ie-shima. That is about 2.8 acres. The average of population per square mile of the entire Okinawa is 906. The population of Ie-shima is 2,330 per square mile, which is three times as many as that of the average.

END

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Friday, 9 October 1959

The Okinawa Times - Editorial Y.

No. 3884

THE GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO BRING ISSUES IN Iejima UNDER CONTROL

In connection with what is to be done with the findings of a party of investigators of death caused by explosion which took place in Iejima (composed of 5 groups including members of Okinawa Teachers Association, the Okinawa Youths Association and others) no decision has yet been reached, so that at present they are calling out to the people to launch a relief movement for the bereaved families of the victims of the explosion, or get together with the bereaved families of the plane crash victims of Ishikawa for the purpose of securing compensation from the American forces, and ask for the cooperation of 19 groups, but it is reported that the main purpose is to move the government and the Legislature so that their representatives will undertake on-the-spot investigation of Iejima and work out a fundamental plan for the settlement of Iejima problems.

In spite of the fact that the land problem has long since been settled it is still smouldering in this island. The land problem in Iejima has never been without trouble involving the Maja sub-village and the maneuvering ground until at last it produced the case of deaths caused by explosion.

Ever since October 1954 when the land requisition problem of Maja-ku came to the fore, the villagers started a resistance movement against the land requisition so that even at present with the settlement of the land problem the Maja villagers consider the land rental as compensation for damages caused, so that the military land rental has not brought satisfaction to landowners in Iejima. Besides, more than 100 persons fell victim

to the explosion of an LST (loaded with explosives) in August 1948 but no compensation has been made, and in addition to the subtle psychological effect such material and mental blow gives rise to, the villagers' attachment to land brought about unfortunate result both to the villagers themselves and the U.S. forces. This then is the picture of Iejima at present.

Aside from the land problem, the livelihood of villagers centering on Maja-ku, is constantly exposed to uneasiness due to military maneuvers. Even though it is one risk attendant to tacitly authorized farms, it is hoped that the government and the Legislature will take steps for the settlement of this problem since it affects human life.

Whether the villagers enter the maneuvering ground because they have no alternative for supporting themselves (collecting empty shells) or it is the disguised resistance of the villagers that prompts them to defy the "Keep Out" notice cannot be determined by superficial observation. The Iejima problem is nothing new, rather it is like old chronic disease of Okinawa. In other words, it may be no exaggeration to state that it is the accumulated form of inconsistencies existing in Okinawa. It is necessary for the government and the Legislature to tackle this problem in real earnest. Yet this problem has been taken up by private groups while the government attitude is so negative toward the Iejima problem that it tempts us to suspect that the government is reluctant to take up this problem again at this point as it is a long forgotten problem.

The land problem of Iejima is a peculiar one. It may be necessary for the Land Advisory Board to take up this problem and study it closely in order to make it clear. Because the Land Advisory Board is the

consultative organ of the High Commissioner, this problem must be solved by all means from the standpoint of the military objective (maneuvering ground) and the welfare of the islanders. It is also an important test case from the viewpoint of deepening mutual understanding. The Legislature and the government ought to work out plans after an on-the-spot inspection for the settlement of the problems, for it will never do to leave such an important problem to the private groups and take things easy.

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

MY OPINION

THE LAND PROBLEM ON IE-SHIMA
LET THE HUMAN NATURE WIN THE STRUGGLE

(The Ryukyu Shimpō, 20 October 1959)

(1)

The land problem on Ie-shima is an epitome of Okinawa and is also an epitome of the world's history.

As I feel that the settlement of the problems will determine the destiny of the Okinawan people and it contains an important factor which has a connection with the world's history, I ventured to write this article to appeal to both the people on the island and the Ie-shima municipal authorities.

We must not forget that the land problem on Ie-shima has arisen out of the world's history and it is not the problem of a small island itself. I believe that the amicable settlement of the problem has a significance in the course of the world's history.

The human race is now being driven off a cliff of history. Since the land problem on Ie-shima has been brought about as a natural consequence of settling such a critical moment being confronted by the world, we have to settle it from a historical stand point.

At first, if we ask ourselves why the world is being confronted with such a critical moment, I suppose, the answer will be "the human race is about to be destroyed by an inhuman law of nature," which is a lesson of

history. In other words, it is a fact that the human races, that are attempting to reason everything that pertains to life by "the intelligence and the law of nature," are being declared bankrupt.

To say it more clearly, it means, for instance, that girl students in a university who are demanding a clear distinction between day and night are students during the daytime and are prostitutes at night. What they have distinguished was not day from night, but, as a matter of a fact, they distinguished their flesh from personality for intellectual and economic gains. These girls, who believe blindly that the intellectual and economic gains bring a triumph in the life, are disrupting themselves of their personalities and bodies and losing human nature, are an epitome of the modern world history.

It is no doubt that the intellectual and economic powers are necessities for the maintenance of the personality and the body; therefore it should be subject to the human nature and not be gained by acting against it.

It has been proven that the history of the modern world is enslaving the human race by the enforcement of inhuman law of nature for intellectual and economic gains. The barbarous political ideologies and principles that are attempting to govern the human existence have resulted in the split of individual personality and also brought about split in the world into two blocs--East and West.

I suppose the essence of history must be comprised in the perfection of human nature, but the materialistic civilization is, by the force of the law of nature, trying to destroy human nature, which is the essence of history.

The human races, who are the central figure of the history, have been enslaved by the materialistic principles which are called Communism or Capitalism, and are on the verge of destruction by the inhuman laws of nature. That is the danger being confronted by the human race in modern history.

The real freedom the human race is seeking after is the freedom which can be liberated by the forces of the inhuman laws of nature.

If we should engage in a decisive war, disregarding human nature for the sake of the victory of the materialistic principles, the human race would be wiped out and nothing but materialistic things would remain on the earth. There is a possibility that, at the ultimate end of the materialistic principle, the human race will be destroyed and only material things will remain. It is my opinion that, from this point of view, redemption of human nature would mean, in the end, redemption of the world, and the emancipation of human nature would mean the free world.

If we balance between interests and humanity, we will come to know in the historical lesson the present political ideologies and principles that are seeking for their own benefit, disregarding humanity, have enslaved the human race and brought about a critical moment in the history of the world, where the clue for the settlement of the land problems on Ie-shima lies. I do not consider the land problems on Ie-shima to be a matter of interests but the matter of humanity. I feel a deep grief for the people of Maza village, who have fallen a prey to militarism. There are, I suppose, no people so inhuman as those land owners of "connivance farms," who, on the ground that they can receive rental payments in

addition to being permitted to farm there, stop their ears and look on with folded arms to their neighbors who are crying desperately for help and are wandering on the cross roads of death of life on such a small island. It should never be forgotten as the lesson of the history that there will be no peace and liberty in the world where materialistic egoism is prevalent to such a extent that people stop their ears for the sake of their own advantages to neighbors who are crying desperately for help.

"Who hath glass windows must take heed
How he throws stones."

The people in our society will not forget about such inhuman self-centered people that they are no longer qualified to ask for any help from others, even though they are gaining profits from the connivance farm at present, when the requisition of land takes place in the future as it was the case with the village of Maza. The people will long since turn their backs on those people who had shown such inhuman attitudes and stopped their ears to the cries of help.

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

RESPECT THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN NATURE

(The Ryukyu Shimpō, 21 October 1959)

(2)

The future of the Okinawan people, whether we will be free or be slaves, depends upon whether we can set ourselves free from the compulsion of inhuman cooperation.

I hope the newspaper reports are not true that the people, through a strong desire for gain, stopped their ears to the desperate cries of others for a help.

To be free, we Okinawans have to fight off many problems in the future, and to produce such energy which will bring freedom to our destiny there is no other way for us than to combine our love of fellowship. I hope the people of Ie-shima are on their feet to an action, by combining the love of fellowships, to help their neighbors, the villagers of Maza. Such an action will, in the future, come to save the entire Ie-shima. Newspapers reported that the municipal authorities have evaded dealing with the matters on the ground that it should be dealt with by the Legislature and will not be dealt with directly by the municipal office authorities. If the report is true, we have to call it a dirty municipality.

It is obviously a policy of imperialism to seek gain by the sacrifice of humanity, but it is not democratic. The ideology and principle of

government by the people and for the people is based upon humanity and not on gains by the government itself.

If Abraham Lincoln had used his authority to seek after gain by disregarding humanity, Negro slavery would still be in existence. Lincoln, who emancipated the slaves dividing the U.S. in two blocs and fighting the Civil War, was able to build the foundations for American democracy only because he respected the dignity of humanity and closed his eyes to gain. I do not know any democracy that has no basis in humanity. We cannot understand Abraham Lincoln's democratic principles, which brought out freedom and victories to human nature, without giving a thought to the fact that he attached more importance to humanity than anything else. I believe that the Ie-shima's municipality should not be inhuman and undemocratic by attaching importance to self interest at the sacrifice of humanity. It can very well be said that a politician, who has no spirit to fight for humanity, seeking after gain only and keeping himself quiet about all dishonest things, is not only disqualified as a politician in the world of democracy, but is rather harmful for its existence. He is only qualified as an operator of an immoral house.

Of course, what I call humanity includes the interests of the majority. However, in a case in which self interests and humanity conflict, we have to achieve a victory for humanity by the sacrifice of self interest, using the principles of democracy as a weapon. I understand the complicated position in which the Ie-shima municipal office is placed. However, if the municipal authorities say that they cannot deal with the matter directly for that reason, their politics is inhuman and belongs outside the democratic world.

Politics should not be commercialized on the basis of personal

gains. It can be very well said that if politics is commercialized the politicians are allowed to sell the lives of the entire people for a gain. Politics should not be influenced by self interest and should deal with matters on the basis of human nature and of humanity. And to achieve a victory for human nature is real politics. In all ages, politics influenced by the inhuman forces has enslaved the people. What is freedom? That is to emancipate human nature by the forces of inhuman laws of nature. I believe other objectives of democracy are to realize and to protect such freedom.

In order to protect the freedom of human nature, we have to fight against social evils and powers by setting aside personal gains. That is the essence of democracy. To respect the love of fellowship rather than political ambitions, and to respect humanity rather than personal gains, is true democracy.

I dare say that 800,000 Ryukyuans will, without fail, praise the municipal authorities if they rise to their feet for the emancipation of the villagers of Maza to bring victory for human nature. Despite the fact that various civic organizations have already risen to their feet for the settlement of the problem, the municipal authorities are looking on with folded arms. As I think such a political trend will cast a dark shadow on the future of the people, I ventured to write this article to appeal to both the people of Ie-shima and the municipal authorities.

In the bottom of the Morning Star editorial column is a saying by Benjamin Franklin: "If all printers were determined not to print anything until they were sure that the articles will offend nobody, there

would be a very little printed".

In an edition of the Morning Star in the editorial column was an article entitled: "A traitor of Democracy".

There was a picture of a man in "The Saturday Review",

Whom they called "A Quiet Trouble Maker",

Who sat deep and calm on a chair.

With his contented expression,

He holds his belly with his arms,

And likes to keep quiet.

He swears in his heart

Not to bear ill will against anyone.

He is utterly a quiet man,

He never makes a suggestion or writes to papers.

He is just a man of quietness,

He never hurts anybody,

But he hurts democracy,

His quietness destroys democracy,

He is the traitor of democracy.

If all people are self-contented like him,

And keep quiet about it.

Without expressing their views and criticisms,

And lose their zeal for expressing self,

Democracy will not exist but die.

He who keeps quiet,

Is the trouble maker of the democratic society.

Active men who feel common responsibilities

Are the real messengers of democracy.

In the government, in society and in the business world,

The man who feels a deep responsibility day by day,
Hates to be quiet and inactive.

What the "Quiet Trouble Maker" did not realize,
What that the rules and orders of quietness which he worships,

When he keep quiet even if he come face to face with bad laws,
The pressure of bad laws will break his quietness.

In the corrupted society,
Can he still maintain quietness?

Degenerated morality will break the orders of quietness.
The "Quiet Trouble Maker"

Is the messenger of idleness,
That will degenerate society.

Also he is the traitor,
That will destroy democracy.

I hope the people of Ie-shima will not become "A Quiet Trouble
Maker."

241

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

IE-SHIMA

THE PIER INCIDENT AND NOW
(FIRST OF THE SERIES APPEARED ON THE RYUKYU SHIMPO OCT. 7, 1959)

With an explosion of a bomb that brought deaths to two men, Seikan Ishikawa, 28; and Ryotoku Higa, 38, on September 6 at Maza village, Ie-shima, the problems of the firing ranges on the island have come to fore once again. During the war, the island was battered with shells, and after war, 63 percent of the entire areas has been requisitioned for military use. The island--which was known as one of the most prosperous islands to all Ryukyuans in pre-war days--is now reduced to such a state that the people have to collect shells that rain on the island to make their livelihood. In addition to it, there was not a penny of compensation for the victims of a LCT explosion, which is known as the "Pier Incident," on the ground that it occurred before the effectuation of the peace treaty. Some lost their husbands, and others lost their mothers in the incident. A mother survived by four children. On top of this, the people driven out of their lands have been raising their voices in anger: "Why and how long will we have to suffer? We want rebuild our village to productive one. People say that the land problems have been settled. What makes them say so, despite the island is still in a gloomy situation?"

The following is the first hand report from Ie-shima.

About 4 p.m. on August 6, 1948, a LCT anchored at a pier on east side harbor of the island exploded with her loaded ammunitions and

killed 64 persons and injured more than 30 others gathered at a nearby pier. The claims for the victims of the incident have not yet been filed on the ground that the it occurred before the effectuation of the peace treaty.

At that time, military authorities delivered a blanket and the municipal office presented only ¥100 (83¢) to each family as funeral expenses. Not many people know about this incident, because there were no daily newspapers published at that time. Only bereaved family deal with the matters of compensation. They petitioned government three times, but the government officials refused to negotiate the matters with them, stating that "the matter should be taken care of by the Japanese government," or "it's the matters of the U.S. military authorities and not ours." Meantime, their expenses to make petitions ran out, so were their spirits crushed.

In this incident, 64 persons were killed and 31 others were seriously injured. The victims including minor injuries will reach more than 100. Among them were those who lost entire family members; a mother survived by four children; a family lost five members; 2 families lost 3 members; and 7 families lost 2 members each. After death of her husband a mother with three children was reduced to such poverty that she left the children in the care of her parents and became a prostitute.

The victims did not know what to do for a while after the incident, for it happened in such a small island and no leader was available for them. The municipal office authorities were also tied up with their business, and in addition to it, they refrained themselves from petitioning strongly to the government for fear that it might cause

a reduction of ~~budget~~ allowances. They even refused to make officials letters. Therefore, the victims raised funds three times from these poor families to go to Naha to petition to the government. The funds amounted to \$500.

The primary purpose of the investigation team formed by six civic organizations was to inquire about the explosion case in which two adults were killed. But no sooner they arrived on the island, they were caught by victims of the pier incident. The team not only spent most of a day in hearing of their complaints, but also called on a young boy who was injured seriously by a fragment of a shell. There, they found out that the father of the boy has also lost his wife in the LCT incident. It gave an impression that there lived nobody but bereaved families on the island.

At any rate, the incident took place on such a small island and victims did not know what to do since then, for there a man to give them helping hands. The situation has not turned for the better for them. In last August after eleven years from the incident, fifty three bereaved families formed "Victims of U.S. LCT Explosion Circle" at last. They placed Seiyu Agarie to its chairman. They have planned ahead to appeal the matter to various local organizations on Okinawa for the settlement of compensations.

The following is the story told of the incident by the bereaved families:

A MAN LOST RIGHT ARM DURING THE BATTLE OF IE-SHIMA: "I barely lived during the battle, feeding myself with sweet potatoes and grass. The islanders were not so poor then as they are now. Since the day of the incident, however, they were reduced to poverty day by day. We hope the

major local organizations will take this matter up for us. We asked the many times we petitioned verbally in regard to the matter. Expenses ran as high as ten dollars per person. We cannot go ahead any more."

HOUSE WIFE IN THIRTIES: "I had, at first, other people write our official letters. I was delighted when I heard that the municipal office would take care of that, but it never came true even days and years passed. In the end we made own letters respectively. I have no schooling and I could not reply to the letters I received from the government. It was true to all of us. At last I managed to raise \$50 to go Naha to make a petition. They charged \$83 for the translation of the letters. It took me 10 days to raise that amount. Ten years have passed since, but the government did not show us sincerity in regard to the matter. What has happened?"

This incident occurred before the effectuation of the Peace-treaty and its development is being watched with keen interest.

As a matter of fact, the assistant mayor Nakama of Ie-shima tells it this way: "How much can we achieve if the matters are dealt with by Ie-shima alone? Why doesn't the government deal with these matters? Properly speaking, we^{are} in a position to back up public opinions, aren't we? If municipal office deal with the matter, it might bring about financial and administrative pressures from the top. Frankly speaking, I would like to quit the post. It is too much for me. I hope my terms of office will expire soon."

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U. S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Tuesday, 27 October 1959

The Ryukyu Shimpō (evening edition) - News Article (3) No. 4100

PETITION OF EXPLOSIVE CASE RETURNED TO IE SHIMA PETITIONERS

A petition of an explosive case which occurred on 6 September at Maja-Ku, Ie Shima and killed two villagers, HIGA, Ryotoku, age 38, and ISHIKAWA, Seikan, age 28, was returned to the petitioners by the Legal Affairs Department of GRI on 20 October one month after it was submitted to the authorities concerned. In order to claim compensation for their deaths, victims' wives, ISHIKAWA, Tsuneko and HIGA, Tsuru, had drafted three copies of written petitions with assistance from Mr. AHAGON, Shoko, a representative of landowners of Ie Son, and Ku Chief ISHIKAWA Seitoku of Maja Ku and submitted them to the Civil Administrator as well as to the Chief Executive on 28 September.

The Legal Department of GRI requested the bereaved families to send five copies of translation of the petition when it returned the above mentioned document to the petitioners, but the bereaved families as well as villagers of Maja Ku are denouncing the Government for its insincere attitude shown to them. GRI should deal with such a problem from the standpoint of the sufferers, they said.

According to Mr. AHAGON, Shoko, a representative of landowners of Maja Ku, who came to Naha on 24 October because of this problem, it was impossible for the bereaved family to bear the expense for translation of the petition. Villagers of Maja Ku including the bereaved families had been deprived of their land and for this reason some of them lost their lives and rest villagers are leading hard lives. It is all they

can do to come as far as Naha bearing traffic expense by themselves, and therefore they cannot bear the expense of translation of the petition nor should it be allowed for them to do so from the standpoint of humanity, Mr. AHAGON said. People of Ie Shima had to come up to Naha often to petition to the authorities concerned for the compensation of the LCT case by raising fund out of their straitened family circumstances and they had to pay B¥60,000 (\$500) for translation of their petition. Although the documents concerned with the land problem had been taken care of by the Government, GRI refused to accept their petition for the first time, he said.

The victims of this case are all head of families and they passed away leaving their wives and children behind. Mrs. ISHIIKAWA, Tsuneko has been married only for one year and has an one-year old baby, and Mrs. HIGA, Tsuru has to support many children by herself from now on. Because of such circumstances this case has had sympathies of many people.

Mr. AHAGON, Shoko is quoted as saying, "I was really disappointed when I received such an insincere notice one month after, for we expected that public opinion would rise at this time to find a proper settlement of this problem. Under the present circumstances the sufferers can do nothing about it and it is a question affecting humanity to let these sufferers bear the expense of translation of their petition. It will cost at least 30 or 40 dollars to translate it."

In this connection Director KUGAI of Legal Affairs Department said: "English translation is not required when we claim damages from the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps except for the Navy. But in case of the

petition from Ie Shima, they have to submit the translation along with their petition. If it were a claim for damages, they would not be requested to submit an English translation."

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

IS GOVERNMENT INSINCERE?
RETURNS PETITION FOR COMPENSATIONS FROM MAZA VILLAGE
A MONTH LATER

(The Ryukyu Shimpo, 27 October 1959)

Three copies of a petition forwarded to Civil Administrator Gen. Ondrick in regard to the compensations of Ryotoku Higa, 38; and Seikan Ishikawa, 23 who were killed in an explosion on September 6 in Maza village, Ie-shima, were returned to the village from the Legal Affairs Department nearly a month later on Oct 20. The petition was prepared jointly by the village head Seitatsu Ishikawa, representative of land owners Shoko Ahagon, and widows Tsune Ishikawa and Tsuru Higa and were forwarded to Chief Executive and other officials concerned on Sept. 20.

The petitions were returned on the ground that each needs five copies of translations. Bereaved families and the villagers of Maza to whom the petitions were returned criticized the insincere attitude of the government toward the matter and appealed that the government should place itself in our positions in dealing with it.

Shoko Ahagon who called at the government in regard to this matter on October 24 said: "The villagers and bereaved families of Maza village have lost their lands and are unable to make a living. On top of this, some villagers have even lost their lives. It is hardly possible for us to bear expenses for the translation of petitions, because we can hardly spare time and money to go to Naha to petition. Of course, we cannot take it for granted from a humanitarian stand point."

"In spite of their poor family financial situations, the people of Ie-shima have made many trips to Naha in regard to the LCT incident and petitioned to the government to ask to deal with the incident. They spent \$500 to get their petitions translated. In the case of land matter, however, the government officials have translated all documents. This is the first case in which the documents were returned for the translation."

Both victims of the explosion had their own families. They were survived by Higa Tsuru with her many children, and Tsune Ishikawa who had been married a year and has a 1 year old child and are sympathized with by many.

Shoko Ahagon said: "I had expected that the matter would be dealt with properly this time, since many people were sympathetic with us. It is regrettable that we should hear such an insincere reply from the government a month later. The bereaved families were already been in the depth of poverty, yet they are now being told to have the petitions translated. That is a question affecting humanity. It will cost them at least \$30 or \$40 dollars to have them translated."

DIRECTOR OF THE LEGAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT: "Claims may be filed in Japanese to the Army, Air Force and the Marine Corps except Navy. However, the documents we received from Ie-shima were petitions to which a translation must be attached. Claims may be filed in Japanese."

244

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Saturday 12 December 1959

The Okinawa Times - News Article Y.

No. 4657

THE MILITARY LAND IS BURNED IN EISHIMA

Mr. Ahagon Shoko, a landowner of Maja-ku, Ieshima, on 10 December called on Deputy Chief Executive Senaga and related that some 500,000 to 800,000 tsubo of land have been burned by the U.S. forces since 22 November and appealed to do something about it. The gist of the petition is as follows:

The maneuvering ground at Maja-Ku, Ieshima (1,500,000 tsubo) has been burning since 22 November. Because the military fire trucks here were busily running about in and out of the maneuvering ground, we thought that the fire would soon be extinguished, but it kept on burning until 5 December. The area burned is some 500,000 or 800,000 tsubo (tsubo eq. 36 sq feet) and will likely burn more.

The Ieshima islanders used to get their firewood, material for compost heap, grass for thatching roof, and feed for animals here so that on Sundays more than 10 carts would go to this place to get what they needed. This land used to be the most productive in Ieshima, but the land rental is the cheapest in Okinawa, and in the prewar and postwar era there were 70 households here, but in land classification there is not even one parcel of house lot. The military would not allow a change of land classification despite repeated petitions. Besides, many farm lands have been classified as wild land, so that even the landowner who owns 5,000 tsubo of land is paid from \$50 to \$100 land rental a year. The land rental per year per tsubo is from one to two cents, but if it were cultivated it would yield 50 cents or a dollar per year of income. The military requisitioned land

by force despite the discontent of the people, and earlier burned 300,000
tsubo of forest, wild land, and sugar-cane by spraying gasoline and caused
an estimated damage of \$1,150,000 [~~\$1,150,000~~] but would not compensate
for the damage. It is beyond our endurance that the land should be burned
again by spraying gasoline. Such action forfeits America's prestige, and
it is against the American policy of promotion the welfare of the Okinawan
people, and it is a man-made disaster.

If the land requisition enforced by the American forces by force
during the last 5 years and the many wrongs committed by them against the Maja
people had taken place in the United States against the American people,
would the American people trust the US government and US forces? Why does
the military make laws for land requisition without legislation for compen-
sation and create criminals instead?

It is hoped that the government will put itself in our shoes and carry
out an investigation of the burning and negotiate for an early payment of
compensation for the damage caused.

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

U.S. MILITARY STARTS FIRE
ON MILITARY LEASED LAND ON IE-SHIMA

(The Okinawa Times, 12 December 1959)

Sheko Ahagon, a land owner of Maza village on Ie-shima, called on Deputy Chief Executive Senaga at GRI on Dec. 10 and reported that approximately 3,500 to 5,700 acres of uncultivated land owned by the villagers are being destroyed by a fire started by the U.S. military on Nov. 22 and asked the Deputy Chief Executive to do something about it after an investigation. The following is the gist of the petition sent to the deputy chief executive:

"A fire broke out on 15,000 acres of firing range near Maza village on November 22 and still is burning. We thought the fire would be brought under control immediately as we had seen military fire trucks fighting the fire so often. But far from that, the fire is still spreading up to Dec. 5. We fear that the U.S. military might start another fire on the area.

"What is on the area is important for the farmers in Maza and Nishizaki villages, for the collect their fire wood, grass to thatch roofs of their houses and animal pens and making composts for their farms and for feeding their family stocks. On Sundays, the villagers used to go to the area with their horse-carts to get what they needed.

"Although on the area were the most fertile farm lands on Ie-Shima, the owners of these farms are receiving the cheapest rent in the entire Okinawa. There were approximately seventy families living in the area before and even after the war. But not a piece of land is classified and

registered as residential land. We have often asked the military authority to change the classification of these lands but it has never been approved. Many lands are registered as field or forest even though most of them were farm lands previously. Therefore, even the owners of 3 acres of land in that area receive only \$50 to \$100 annual rental payments.

"They receive only as much as 1 to 2 cents per 36 square feet of land annually, whereas they could earn \$1 annually from the same by farming. Despite the complaints and oppositions of the people, the military authority has requisitioned the land, appealing to force. Previously, approximately 4,000 acres of forest, grass land, and sugar cane field were destroyed by a fire which was started after sprinkling gasoline. It caused approximately \$9,583 damages to the crops and others. The compensations for the damages have never been paid even though we have claimed again and again. It is more than we can bear to have everything destroyed in the area in a fire again. Such a deed by the U.S. military will lower their national prestige and it is also contrary to the policy established to promote the welfare of the Okinawans and to maintain the peace in Okinawa. Will the people of the U.S. have faith in their government and military authorities even if they were acquisitioned of their lands by appealing to force and were treated with so many inhuman deeds which have been done to the people of Maza village?

"Why do they not make a law to compensate people for what they have lost, while they made a law to confiscate lands from Okinawans and made prisoners out of those who have opposed to it?

"We hereby request the government to investigate the fire immediately and to negotiate with the U.S. military authority to make

compensations at the earliest possible date for the damages caused by
the recent fire together with previous ones.

246

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Naha, Okinawa
December 18, 1959

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PRESS RELEASE: #787

AIR FORCE ANNOUNCEMENT ON US-LEASED LAND ON IE-SHIMA

Naha, Okinawa, Dec. 18 -- To eliminate the possibility of uncontrolled grass fires endangering the local populace and military personnel on Ie Shima, a portion of the land leased by the U.S. Government for a practice firing range has been cleared by controlled burning, the Air Force has announced.

Sporadic fires have resulted in the past, particularly at night from efforts of the local populace to clear the area in order to scavenge scrap metal from used ammunition casings. Members of the small military contingent on the island have been required to fight the fires at all hours of the night to quell them before they spread dangerously. Clearance of the scrub brush in the firing range area is expected to eliminate the possibility of fires resulting from this source or from military use of the range.

Rigid supervision of the clearance was conducted to insure controlled results and confine the clearance only to the government-leased firing range area.

(END)

247

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

AF

Orig

From: 313 AIR DIV KADENA AB OKINAWA

To: 5 AF FUCHU AIR STA JAPAN

UNCLAS FROM 313IO 5972. FOR 5FCIO. FOR YOUR INFORMATION
FOLLOWING INFORMATION HAS BEEN FURNISHED USCAR OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
FOR LOCAL RELEASE. QUOTE TO ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF UNCONTROLLED
GRASS FIRES ENDANGERING THE LOCAL POPULACE AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ON IE
SHIMA, THE PORTION OF THE LAND LEASED BY THE U S GOVERNMENT FOR A PRACTICE
FIRING RANGE HAS BEEN CLEARED BY CONTROLLED BURNING, THE AIR FORCE HAS
ANNOUNCED. PAR. SPORADIC FIRES HAVE RESULTED IN THE PAST, PARTICULARLY
AT NIGHT, FROM EFFORTS OF THE LOCAL POPULACE TO CLEAR THE AREA IN ORDER TO
SCAVENGE SCRAP METAL FROM USED AMMUNITION CASINGS. MEMBERS OF THE SMALL
MILITARY CONTINGENT ON THE ISLAND HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO FIGHT THE FIRES AT
ALL HOURS OF THE NIGHT TO QUELL THEM BEFORE THEY SPREAD DANGEROUSLY. PAR.
CLEARANCE OF THE SCRUB BRUSH IN THE FIRING RANGE AREA IS EXPECTED TO ELIMINATE
THE POSSIBILITY OF FIRES RESULTING FROM THIS SOURCE OR FROM MILITARY USE OF
THE RANGE. PAR. RIGID SUPERVISION OF THE CLEARANCE WAS CONDUCTED TO INSURE
CONTROLLED RESULTS AND CONFINE THE CLEARANCE ONLY TO THE GOVERNMENT LEASED
FIRING RANGE AREA. UNQUOTE

313IO

DEC 59

BERNARD PETERS, Lt Col, USAF
40123

BERNARD PETERS
Lt Colonel, USAF
INFORMATION OFFICE

UNCLASSIFIED

1 3 9 3

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Sunday, 20 December 1959

The Okinawa Times - News Article (T)

No. 4750

MR. AHAGON'S PETITION MISREPRESENTS THE REAL CONDI-
TION OF IE-SHIMA ANNOUNCES USCAR

Mr. AHAGON Shoke, a landowner in Maja Ku, Ie Son on the 10th called on Deputy Chief Executive SENAGA Hiroshi at the Executive mansion and accused the U.S. military of burning the wild field in Maja Ku and requested the Deputy Chief Executive to take pertinent measures upon investigating the situation.

In the above connection, the USCAR on the 19th announced as follows:
"It is claimed that losses amounting to \$1 million were brought about from burning of wild field, since January of this year, but it is not true. The Air Force authorities on December 4th and 5th did burn the grass field under military surveillance, but it was intended to make it easier for the sub-villagers to collect scrap metal from the area.

"It is charged also that the amount of military rental paid in Ie-Shima is lowest throughout the Ryukyus, but it is absolutely not true. The new rental amount had been appraised by the 18-man Land Appraisal Committee in accordance with the new land program agreed upon at the On-the-spot Ryukyuan-American Land Conference. The U.S. paid the highest amount of rental within the limits of the Land Value Stabilization Law. The total of \$268, 450.87 was paid as the military rental for the year 1959 for the military-used land covering 3,155 acres in Ieshima, which meant that \$85 was paid per acre, an amount higher than that paid for land in other areas.

"According to the Ieshima petitioner, it is said that the subject land has had high productivity, but the investigation proved otherwise. The land

used for military use in Ieshima consists of dry farm, forests and fields and gravel land. Moreover, the land burnt under guard is only a portion of the area used for maneuvering." (Similar article in Ryukyu Shimpo)

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyus
Draft Press Translation
Saturday 26 December 1959

The Ryukyu Shimpō (Evening Edition) - News Article (F)

No. 4833

IEJIMA LANDOWNERS REFUTE USCAR ANNOUNCEMENT ON BURNING INCIDENT

In connection with the U.S. military burning incident that took place on 4 and 5 December with military-used land in Ie-Jima, Messers. AHAGON Snoko and URASAKI Chokuryo, representatives of Maja-ku landowners, petitioned the Chief Executive and the Legislature on 26 December. They requested an immediate on-the-spot investigation on the ground that the USCAR announcement on 19 December was far from the facts. Gist of the petition is as follows:

"USCAR announcement says a loss worth \$1 million was not caused although it was reported that a loss worth \$1 million was caused by burning fields. However, the truth of the matter is that landowners said the amount of damages was unknown unless an investigation was conducted. The landowners did not say that the loss was estimated at \$1 million.

"The announcement says grasslands were burnt under military supervision so that scrap might be found easily. But, according to an eye-witness, Mr. ISHIKAWA Seikei, the military burnt up sugar cane fields of Maja- and Nishizaki-ku people by applying petroleum and gasoline. From the way the military has thus far done, it is unthinkable that the military showed sympathy toward scrap collectors.

"The announcement says the highest rentals have been paid to Ie-Jima in accordance with the Land Price Stabilization Law. However, a rental of 1¢ or 2¢ for the land which yields crops worth 50¢ to \$1 per tsubo (or 36 sq. ft.) cannot be considered the highest and appropriate rental. We think assessment of rental should be based on production of land.

"The announcement says the productivity of the land is low. But, 25 kin (a kin equals $1 \frac{1}{3}$ l.b.s.) (of sweet potato) was harvested from one tsubo of land in Maja. This was threefold the estimate of the government. Maja has 70 families with residential lands, but it has no land classified as residential land. Rentals are paid under the names of field, woodland and wild land."

250

Headquarters
6313TH AIR BASE WING
United States Air Force
APO 239, San Francisco, California

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: PM

27 Jan 1960

SUBJECT: Alleged Explosion and Injury on Ie Shima

TO: 6313th Air Base Wing (CR)

1. At approximately 0900 hrs, 25 Jan 60, SSgt Thweatt, Robert H., 6313th Operations Squadron, reported to the Air Police at Ie Shima, that a shell of some type had exploded and injured two (2) Okinawan people on Ie Shima. Upon investigation the Air Police learned from the Civilian Police that on 18 Jan 60, at approximately 1600 hrs, an explosion had occurred. Civilian Policeman Higashionna, badge #775, stated that Kinjo, Koki, age thirty (30), 5 Han, Agariue Village and Nahara, Shoichi, age fifty-four (54), 1 Han, Agariue Village, were injured by the explosion.
2. The explosion supposedly took place at the home of Nohara. The Civilian Police stated that the shell was found by Kinjo and that he was still unconscious at the time of this report, therefore it is impossible to know where the shell was found. The Civilian Police estimated the shell to be about a 105 MM. The fragments were taken to the Motobu C.P. Station for safe keeping.
3. The injuries to Kinjo according to the Civilian Police were over his entire body, with a small fragment still stuck in his left jaw at the time of their investigation. Nohara was, according to the Civilian Police, wounded on his left leg, below the knee, with a fragment of the shell still in his leg.
4. The incident was called into the Kadena Air Police Desk Sergeant at approximately 1300 hrs, 25 Jan 60, by SSgt Phillips.

JOSEPH J. DE RAAD
Lt Colonel, USAF
Provost Marshal

Ltr, PM, 27 Jan 60, Alleged Explosion and Injury on Ie Shima

1st Ind (AG)

6313th ABWg

TO: 313 AD (CR)

Forwarded for your information.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

WILLIAM E. MORGAN
Major, USAF
Asst Admin Officer

MEETING IE-SHIMA - 25 FEB 60

Colonel James F. Risher, Jr., Executive Officer of the 6313th Air Base Wing, recently met with Mayor Tamashiro of Ie-Shima to discuss the problem of scrap collecting on the United States Air Force gunnery range on the island. With Mayor Tamashiro were the Vice Mayor, Mr. Nakama, the Chief of General Affairs, Mr. Tamashiro, and the Chief of Police, Mr. Higaonna.

Colonel Risher stated that the Air Force had repeatedly cautioned scrap collectors to remain away from the range while it was in operation. However, the scrap collectors continue to appear on the range while aircraft are firing live ammunition. The Air Force, said Colonel Risher, refuses to accept responsibility for anyone injured while on the range when it is in use. Mayor Tamashiro said he understood this to be true.

Colonel Risher stated that effective immediately, unless otherwise notified by the Air Force that the range is open, there was to be no further trespassing at any time. Farmers presently growing crops within the area may continue until harvest time. No new planting of crops within the restricted area will be allowed. After harvesting their present crops, the farmers will no longer be allowed within the range area.

The Air Force encouraged farmers whose farms are within the restricted area to relocate their farms on other Air Force land. Those farmers who failed to cooperate with the Air Force would be cleared from the Air Force leased land by USCAR.

Colonel Risher and his staff repeatedly pointed out this danger area on a map for the Ie-Shiman officials. Previous to this meeting, the

Air Force had cut a wide path through the underbrush delineating the off limits area. This path too was shown to the Mayor and his official staff. The Air Force plans to post cement, bilingual signs every 100 feet warning the inhabitants not to trespass on the range.

Colonel Risher also explained that periodic burnings of the underbrush growing on the range would be accomplished. This action is necessary in order to derive maximal efficiency from the range. Colonel Risher mentioned that activity on the range would increase heavily in April.

Mayor Tamashiro said he would do all he could to prevent trespassing on the Air Force range. The mayor estimated that of the 7,500 inhabitants of Ie-Shima, approximately 100 persons actively engage in scrap collecting. Most of the scrap collectors were youngsters.

Ie-Shimans get \$4.00 for 1600 and 500 pound practice bombs and 25 cents for the 25 pounders. They receive 6 cents for the brass machine gun shells.

Headquarters 6313th Air Base Wing (PACAF)
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
APO 239, San Francisco, California

BE-ER

25 Mar 60

Request for Clearance of Farming and Scrap Collecting Boundary
of Range Air to Ground Ie Shima Auxiliary Airfield

313ADiv (313CE)

1. A recent Staff study was made by your headquarters concerning the farming, gathering of firewood and scrap collecting on U.S. Government Controlled Real Estate on Ie Shima Auxiliary Airfield and particularly the area within the limits of the range, R-178. As a result of this staff study, a conference was held with the Son Officials of the Ie Shima Village Office and representatives of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army Engineer District Okinawa, U.S. Civil Administrator Ryukyus on 25 February 1960.

2. During this conference, the Son Officials agreed to conduct a survey of the land presently under cultivation within the target area of the Range. Attached hereto are three thermo-fax copies of the English translation of the data compiled by the Mayor of Ie-Son. It is requested you take necessary and immediate action with USAEDO to remove the farmers from within the danger area bounded by the bulldozed trail as outlined on the attached drawing of Ie-Shima Auxiliary Airfield.

3. The following policy is proposed for the future:

a. Farmers expecting to harvest crops prior to 1 June 1960 will be allowed to cultivate these crops when the range is closed to aircraft. Upon completion of the harvest no further farming by these farmers will be permitted. A point of entry and exit will be established by range officials. All farmers must enter thru this point and proceed direct to their fields. Their presence on any other portion of the range is definitely prohibited.

b. All other farmers should be evicted at the earliest possible date.

c. Consideration will be given in January 1961 to allow the farmers whose crops mature at this time to return and harvest these crops.

d. The United States Air Force is conducting controlled burning when the range is closed to aircraft and on weekends, weather permitting. Extreme care is being taken to limit the burning to small areas and to avoid destruction of crops, trees and other improvements.

e. The collection of scrap within the boundaries of land leased to the U.S. Government, is prohibited. Individuals other than those few farmers authorized entry to this range who are apprehended within the limits established here will be considered trespassers and prosecuted.

4. A request for license for Farning and Gathering of Firewood for the remainder of the land under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Government on Ie Shima is being prepared and will be a matter of separate action.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

J.W. ETTER
Lt Colonel, USAF
Base Engineer

2 Atchs
1. Translation of Data (3 cys)
2. Ie Shima Auxiliary Airfield
Vicinity (3 cys)

253

Headquarters
313TH AIR DIVISION
United States Air Force
APO 239, San Francisco, California

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: 313IO

SUBJECT: Ie-shima Incident

TO: 5AF (FCOI), APO 925

In accordance with 5AF TWX 5FCOI 03692, dated 14 March 1960, the following information is submitted in triplicate.

FOR THE COMMANDER

BERNARD PETERS
Lt Col, USAF
Information Officer

3 Atch

1. Statements
2. Summary of police dept.
3. Indigenous press reaction.

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WERE OBTAINED BY THE GRI POLICE AT THE NAGO HOSPITAL, THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT

STATEMENT by Toshiichi Oshiro (One of the victims)

"I live in 2-kumi, Nishizaki-Aza, Ie-son, and my occupation is farming.

"At about 10 a.m., March 10, 1960, I and my neighbor Takemori Oshiro [Takemori's last name was Shimabuku--not Oshiro], age 20, both went on the firing range to collect bombs.

[At this time Oshiro groaned and fell into a comatose state. The police discontinued taking further information and obtained a finger print on the statement from Chosho Nagamine, a witness to Oshiro's statement, who testified that the above statement was true and correct.]

STATEMENT by Takemori Shimabuku (One of the victims)

"I live in 2-kumi, Nishizaki-Aza, Ie-son, and my occupation is farming.

"At about 10 a.m. today (March 10), I was shot by a US plane on the firing range on Ie-shima.

"The following is my account of the incident:

"At 9 a.m. today (March 10) I went to collect empty shells at the firing range with my neighbor Toshiichi Oshiro, age 17, and I was shot in my leg by machine-gun fire from a plane on the spot which we call Koji-yama. It is located approximately 150 yards from the targets, which is located in the so-called Kaya-mo. Because my companion, Toshiichi

Oshiro, was behind me, I did not know where he had been hurt until we got into a boat, which was made from an aircraft fuel tank. The boat was owned by Toshiichi's brother. Near the lighthouse I found out that he had been injured so seriously that one of his arms had been amputated, and he was carrying the amputated arm in his left hand.

"Both of us signaled to Toshiichi's older brother who had been looking for sea shells near the light house. He carried us in his boat as far as the beach near Nishizaki-village, where we received medical treatment from a nurse from the dispensary. From there we were ferried to Toguchi and then transported to the Nago hospital over here in a car.

"During the firing practice three red colored warning flags were displayed on the top of three observation towers. When we got on the range there were also flags displayed. We knew we were not supposed to go on the firing range when the red flags were displayed, but we went on the range anyhow and we were injured.

"I received a piercing bullet-wound on the right leg near my knee from a machine-gun bullet. I have been operated on and I don't feel any pains now. I have not asked yet how long it would take for the wound to heal.

"There was not anybody around us when we were injured."

[The above statement was read to the affiant and he testified that it was true and correct. He stated that he couldn't sign the statement so his finger print was obtained.]

STATEMENT by Toshiyuki Oshiro (Older brother of victim Oshiro)

"I am an old brother of Toshiichi Oshiro who has been injured on the US firing range on Ie-shima today. I ferried Toshiichi and Takemori Shimabuku from the beach near the light house as far as the beach near Nishizaki-village in my boat which is made from a fuel tank of an aircraft.

"I hereby state the following account of what I have seen and done:

"At about 10 a.m. today (March 10) I was looking for sea shells on the sea below the light house near the firing range, when I saw two young men signalling me with their hands. They said, "Help Us!" I proceeded with my boat to the beach where they were standing, and I saw that both my brother, Toshiichi Oshiro, 17, and a neighbor, Takemori Shimabuku, had been injured. My brother Toshiichi's right arm had been amputated and he was carrying it in his left hand. Takemori had received a wound on his right leg. They told me that they had been shot by machine-gun fire.

"My brother Toshiichi was bleeding badly from his arm. The sight of it shocked me. I ferried both of them in my boat to the beach near Nishizaki-village, and after that, I notified my family about the incident. By the time I returned to the beach, it was crowded with villagers. With the help of others, we boarded them in a boat and ferried them to Toguchi and transported them to the Nago hospital and had them operated on their wounds.

"When we were at the Ie-shima pier, a policeman was asking them [the victims] questions and both of them told the policeman that they had gone to collect empty shells and were shot by machine-gun fire from a plane.

"I was told that the spot where they were shot is called Koji-yama which is located in the so-called Kaya-mo. Kaya-mo is located approximately 150 yards from the targets used for machine-gun firing practices.

"During the firing practices, red flags are hoisted on the three observation towers in the firing range. When the flags are hoisted, nobody is authorized to enter the firing range, but I assume that both of them went on the range to collect empty shells during the firing practices, and there, they met with such misfortune.

[The above statement was read to Mr. Toshiyuki Oshiro, who testified that it was true and correct. He signed and had his finger print placed on the statement.]

STATEMENT by Chosho Nagamine (Brother-in-law of the victim Shimabuku)

"I live in 2-kumi, Nishizaki-village, Ie-son, and by occupation I am a carpenter.

"I am the brother-in-law [husband of the elder sister of the victim] of Takemori Shimabuku who was injured on the US firing range on Ie-shima today (March 10). I ferried both Takemori and the other victim Toshiichi Oshiro in a boat from the beach near Nishizaki-village to Toguchi, Motobu-son [on the mainland of Okinawa] and transported them from there to the Nago hospital in a car. They were treated there. I hereby give my account of the incident as in the follow:

"I got back home late last night from work and got up at about 9 a.m. this morning. I was listening to the news broadcasts over the radio when I saw 4 or 5 women making racket in front of Shirado's store, which

is located across the street from my house. I thought there was a second-hand clothes peddler over there, so I got \$11 from my wife to buy if he had anything I wanted. But there wasn't any second-hand clothes peddler, and they told me that there were men who had been wounded at the firing ranges and that they had been brought to the beach nearby. I rushed to the beach in front of Nishizaki-village.

"There at the beach lay Toshiichi Oshiro, 17, of the same address of 2-kumi, Nishizaki-village and my wife's brother, Takemori Shimabuku, 20; both had been wounded. I saw Toshiichi had had his right arm amputated and Takemori had been shot through his right leg.

"When I arrived at the beach, there was a crowd of many Nishizaki villagers. I notified the Police and the dispensary of the incident and ferried them in a boat to the pier in Ie village. They were given treatment by a nurse from the dispensary at Ie village. After that we ferried them to Toguchi, Motobu. From there we took them by a car to the Nago hospital in Nago, where they were treated.

"During the firing practices, red flags are hoisted on the three observation towers in the range. When the flags are up nobody is permitted to enter the range. I assume that both of the victims went on the range during the firing practices to collect empty shells and met with such misfortune.

[The above statement was read to Chosho Nagamine, who testified that it was true and correct. He both signed the statement and had his finger print placed on it.]

#

SUMMARY OF THE GRI POLICE DEPT. INVESTIGATION OF THE IE-SHIMA BOMBING
RANGE INCIDENT

This report was accomplished by Mr. Shukujyu Arakaki, Police Superintendent, Chief of the Detective Bureau, GRI.

The GRI police officials estimated that the accident occurred between 0900 and 1000 hours on the morning of 10 March 1960.

The accident is believed to have occurred on the Ie-shima bombing range, i.e. on land which is under the jurisdiction of Kadena Air Base.

The victims were: Takemori Shimabuku, age 21, occupation farmer, residence 2-kumi, Aza Nishizaki, Ie-son; and Toshiichi Oshiro, age 17, occupation farmer, residence 2-kumi, Aza Nishizaki, Ie-son.

Takemori Shimabuku received a "piercing bullet wound on the right lower part of his thigh," while Toshiichi Oshiro had "[his] right upper arm amputated and lacerations on [his] chest."

There were no eye witnesses. The first report of the incident was sent to GRI Police Headquarters by the Chief of Police, Toguchi Police Station at 1450 hours 10 March 1960. (Toguchi is a town on the tip of the Motobu Peninsula, situated on Okinawa approximately 3 and 1/2 miles from Ie-shima.) GRI Police Headquarters then notified the USCAR Public Safety Department and the Office of Special Investigation on Kadena AB. Kadena had heard nothing of the report. (U.S. Air Force range officials at Ie-shima had first heard of a possible incident on the range at 1400 hours at which time a brief investigation of the purported location was conducted.)

Permission was requested and received from the USAF for the GRI police to investigate the incident. On March 11, GRI police investigators were flown to Ie-shima along with interested military personnel.

Upon arriving at Ie-shima, the GRI police proceeded to question officials of Ie-shima, USAF range personnel, the Toguchi police, and other parties present in the USAF compound.

The GRI police described the scene of the accident in the following manner: "The scene is a wide open flat land. The grass and trees have been burned up and the view is unobstructed. There were scattered pieces of flesh, bones and clothes believed to belong to the victims laying approximately 786 feet north of target number 6.

"To the rear of the targets was flat land, although this view is obstructed by the targets. To the east is wide open flat land, and the view is extremely good." (In this description, the GRI police neglected to mention the small Cycad trees growing on the west side of the bulldozed path leading to number 6 target. The two victims apparently hid among these trees while the aircraft approached the target.)

The GRI police report states that during the firing practice, red colored warning flags are always raised on the observation towers. These red flags "can be seen extremely clear from the scene of the accident."

To the west of the location of the accident is the seashore, approximately 700 feet away and there is nothing to obstruct the view from this direction either.

The GRI police report that since there were no eye witnesses, the scene of the accident was not exactly known. However, the victims, when questioned in the hospital had given the approximate location to the police. In their search for the actual location, the police were assisted by the Mayor of Ie-shima, the assistant mayor, and Mr. Chosho Nagamine, age 25, a carpenter, who resides at 2-kumi, Aza Nishizaki.

Approximately 70 feet from the spot where the victims reported the accident occurred is a location believed to be frequented by scrap collectors. There the police found three pieces of clothing which the police thought the men might have spread on the ground while resting. The police also found several scattered burned stems of cycad.

USAF personnel, who operate the range, reported that the location just described was the "waiting place for the people who trespass" on the range seeking to collect the empty shells.

According to accounts given the police by USAF range personnel, the Mayor of Ie-shima and Mr. Chosho Nagamine, the following is the typical procedure followed by the scrap collectors. The "trespassers" wait at the above mentioned location. The planes approach the targets flying low and from a southerly direction, then continue in a northerly direction after completing their firing. During the actual firing, the collectors usually hide among the burned Cycad trees or in depressions in the ground. As the first aircraft fires on the target, the collectors rush out on the course and begin to gather up the shells. If they fail to take cover by the time the second aircraft begins its run on the target, they are in mortal danger. The police assume that the two victims failed

to take cover when the second aircraft began its strafing run.

The range extends from the center of the target area out some 5,000 ft in all directions. (Part of this area extends out into the sea; the actual land area encompassed within the range area is approximately 900 acres.)

Within this area, no one has been permitted to enter other than on those days when no firing practices are held (Saturdays and Sundays). However when firing practices are held on the weekends, the people are notified in advance and the danger widely publicized. The range has three bulldozed, circle paths; one at 5000 feet, another at 3000 feet, and the last at 2000 feet.

According to the Mayor and the assistant mayor, all the residents of the island are familiar with the geographic features of the range within the 5000 feet boundry.

"The village officials had thoroughly warned the people of the dangers. However, some people never listen to the warnings issued by the mura and village authorities."

The report goes on to state, "Township officials have held meetings to warn the people not to trespass the off-limits areas, but only the good people who dare not go on the range seem to attend the meetings. Those who frequently trespass the areas, never attend the meetings, therefore, the village officials can not stop them. When the village officials have warned this latter group, they have taken a defiant attitude toward the officials, demanding that the officials guarantee them support for a living. The Township officials stated that despite their repeated

warnings the collectors continue to go on to the range at the risk of their lives."

The report states that the collectors earn as much as \$300 a month and seldom less than \$100. No other occupation on the island pays as well. On some occasions there have been as many as 200 people on the range. When they were chased, the collectors fled, only to return when their pursuers have gone away. Sometimes the collectors have thrown stones at the range personnel when they attempted to catch them.

Most fantastic of all, the GRI police report states that on some occasions, cigarette and bread vendors have gone on the range to sell their wares to the collectors. The collectors pay for the bread and cigarettes with their shells.

The conclusions drawn by GRI on the basis of their investigation was this. Between 0805 and 1645 hours on Thursday, the 10th of March, the bombing range at Ie-shima was being used by aircraft. (The range was not in use between 1400-1445 hours, because at that time, range personnel were investigating a report that an incident had occurred on the range. Since no evidence was found by the investigating party, the range was reopened at 1530 hours.) As usual the danger signals including blowing of sirens and hoisting red flags were given all in advance to warn everyone that the range was being used. "Even though the two victims were aware of the danger and understood the range was open for use by aircraft, they trespassed on the range." Their purpose was to collect scrap, even though they were risking their lives. "We assume that this incident was caused through their [the two victims] own fault and not through the intention or the fault of the pilot of the jet aircraft."

The GRI police report ends with a statement that the police had brought back with them from Ie-shima pieces of flesh and clothes believed to belong to the victims for the purpose of further study and analysis. They also stated that they brought back two 37mm [sic] machine gun shells and two bullets.

At the time that this summarization of the GRI police report was accomplished, the analysis of the evidence found on the range was not complete.

#

PRESS REACTION TO THE IE-SHIMA INCIDENT:

The factual articles in the indigenous papers were favorable in that they made it clear that the two injured parties should not have been on the range while it was in operation, especially since adequate warning and safety measures had been taken by the Air Force.

The following press translations are cited as examples of the favorable indigenous press reaction: the Ryukyu Shimpo, 12 March 1960, "Chief Arakaki Shukuju of the Criminal Affairs Section of the Police Headquarters (GRI), who had flown 11 March to the spot for investigation in a military plane, stated in this connection as follows, pointing out that according to his investigation the two youths were at fault"; and, in the Okinawa Times, 12 March 1960, "As a result of the investigation, judging from the facts that the scene of the incident is located in the Off-Limits area and three warning flags were being flown at that time, it was found out that both victims, Shimabuku and Oshiro who had received injuries, were responsible for the incident."

However, certain leftist agitators used this incident to attempt to smear the U.S. military and its Far East policies. For example, Mr. Senaga of the Okinawa Peoples Party is quoted in the Okinawa Times, 11 March 1960, as stating, "This incident as well as the Ishikawa jet crash accident and the shooting case at Kin village reveals concretely the aggressive nature of the U.S., I believe." He then went on to attack the Army's stationing of the Hawk missile, "weapons of murder."

Two decisive actions taken by the USAF did much to create this favorable press reaction and minimize the claims of the leftist agitators. First, the

information office of the 313th Air Division initiated an immediate investigation to discover whether or not the usual safety procedures had been followed on the range the day the accident was reported to have happened. After it was determined that the usual safety procedures had been followed, the information office released this information to the local press.

The second factor was the invitation to the Government of the Ryukyu Islands (GRI) police to participate in the investigation. The GRI police proved to be very useful because of their thoroughness in investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. They obtained statements from the victims admitting their culpability, interviewed the Ie-shima officials, and carefully searched the area for possible clues. After completing their investigation, the GRI police provided the USAF OSI and Information Office with copies of the report of their findings.

The information given to the indigenous press by the GRI police was factual, allowing no room for supposition. Because the information originated from the GRI police, it precluded any claim that the facts were being withheld or distorted by the USAF.

On the whole this incident passed into history with relatively little damage to the USAF position on Okinawa. From the experience gained through this incident, this office recommends that the indigenous police should be invited to jointly investigate those incidents where Ryukyans and/or their property is involved.

The advantages for this action are numerous. To cite a few: a very fine relationship, based upon a professional respect for professional ability, is created between the indigenous police and their military counterparts;

the facts are more difficult to discredit by leftist groups due to the source of the information; and, cooperation with local officials and police serves to create a more favorable image of the USAF in the eyes of the local press.

#

REPORT OF SERIOUS INCIDENT

At approximately 1530 hours, 10 March 60, a telephone call was received at the PMO from Mr Simmons of USCAR Safety Section, stating that his office had received a report from the Okinawan Police that two (2) Ryukyuans had been injured by gunfire on the island of Ie Shima. Mr Simmons stated that the report had not been confirmed as of that time, but that the report had stated that two (2) male Ryukyuans on Ie Shima had been shot in the leg and arm by Civilian Ryukyuan Guard personnel employed by the USAF. Mr Simmons requested any information/confirmation on the incident.

At approximately 1545 hours, 10 March 60, a phone call was placed to the island of Ie Shima, where the NCOIC of the Air Police Security Guards (SSgt Corneal) was contacted. Sgt Corneal stated that approximately 1200 hours on this date, two (2) male Ryukyuans had been injured on the Ie Shima Straffing Range by strafing aircraft. Names of injured as follows:

- #1. Takemori SHIMABUKU, Age 20 years.. Injuries to Right Leg
- #2. Toshikazu OSHIRO, Age 17 Years.. Severe injuries to right arm, with possible amputation at elbow.

Sgt Corneal stated further that he had become aware of the incident at approximately 1340 hours, when he was notified of the incident by the civil police of Ie Shima. He stated further that the injured persons had been taken to the Nakama Hospital at Nago, by Ryukyuan persons in a boat. He stated further that since the notification by the police, attempts had been made to contact Kadena Air Base to report the incident, but were not successful because of static on the communications lines.

An immediate call was made to the 313th ISO reporting the known info, and a call was made to USCAR with the information available. The Provost Marshal and Inspector General, 313th AD were also notified.

At approximately 1605 hours, this date, a further call was received from Sgt Corneal, stating that the incident had apparently occurred at approximately 1000 hours, this date. He stated that the two injured persons were apparently on the range while it was open and in operation, and had been struck by ammunition or rounds from strafing aircraft. Stated further that from available information from the Ie Shima Police, the two Ryukyuan had been struck by the rounds of ammo being fired. By-standing Ryukyuan had picked the injured up, carried them to a dock at the water's edge nearby. OSHIRO had been injured seriously near the elbow of his right arm, and a Ryukyuan doctor from Ie Shima had been summoned to the scene for possible medical assistance. The Ryukyuan had then made a hasty amputation of the injured OSHIRO's arm at the dock area, the two injured were placed aboard a Ryukyuan boat, and then transported to the hospital at Nago for further treatment. Sgt Corneal stated the local police were unable to ascertain the exact location of the incident's occurrence, but that a search of the area for bloodstains or other evidence would be continued.

At approximately 1625 hours, this date, a patrol car and interpreter from RASP was dispatched to the Nago hospital to obtain additional information, especially on the apparent type of ammunition causing the wounds. This patrol reported that, upon their arrival at the hospital, both victims were under sedation and could not be interviewed. The doctors attending the injured stated, however, that the wounds were apparently caused by either .50 caliber or .20mm ammunition, or from other exploding ordnance, and were not caused by carbine ammo as carried by USAF guard personnel.

A report of their findings is being compiled by RASP patrol, and this report, along with a report from the attending doctors from Nago Hospital, will be forwarded this office on 11 March 60.

At approx 1730 hours, this date, a call was received again from USCAR, requesting that an airlift be scheduled ASAP to Ie Shima Island. Col Stanton of 6313th ABW was contacted and has set up airflight for 0730 hours, 11 March 60. Aboard aircraft will be representatives of USCAR Safety, Police, PIO, and from the USAF will be OIS, Ground Safety, Claims Office, Air Police, and other interested officials.

""FINISH""

NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS*****

LT CARROLL:

THIS IS ABOUT ALL THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INCIDENT. HOPE THIS WILL ASSIST YOU IN YOUR "HEADACHES".

MSGT STOVER
PMO

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Friday, 11 March 1960

The Okinawa Times - News Article (T)

No. 871

TWO SCRAP COLLECTORS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED
BY STRAFING OF JET PLANE

(Nago) At around 10 a.m. on March 10th, SHIMABUKU Takemori (20 years old) and OSHIRO Toshiichi (19 years old), both farmers residing at Aza Nishizaki, Ie Son were machine-gunned by a maneuvering jet-plane in the military maneuvering ground at Naga Ku, Iejima.

The two were immediately rushed in a canoe to the Nago hospital via Motobu Cho. In the hospital, OSHIRO's right arm was amputated, while SHIMABUKURO was found to have received a piercing bullet-wound in the right lower part of the body which will require 10 days for complete healing.

The two met this mishap for entering the maneuvering ground which is declared off-limits to collect scrap iron. They received the machine-gun bullets from a maneuvering jet-plane coming in front of them. The said maneuvering ground seems to be covered by thickly grown miscanthus (grass) but it seems that the presence of a man can be distinguished.

The Toguchi Police Station is expected to dispatch Mr. SHIMOJI, chief judicial official to the scene of incident on around the 11th to inquire into the incident.

Statement of OSHIRO whose right arm was amputated: "As I was standing, a plane coming over in front of me strafed. We two walked to the seashore and called out for help to a canoe nearby."

In connection with the above incident, the U.S. air force authorities unofficially announced that they could not say anything definite at present, until after sufficient study was given on the cause of their wounds, but they always took careful measures by such as issuing strict warning, sounding a siren and hoisting the flag indicating the danger signal, whenever they conducted the maneuvering.

(Similar article in Ryukyu Shimpo)

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

256

OPS IMMEDIATE
PRIORITY

From: 313TH AIR DIVISION, KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA

To: 5AF FUCHU AIR STATION JAPAN

Info: PACAF HICKAM AFB HAWAII

COMMANDING GENERAL, USARYIS, APO 331 (COURIER)

CONF/31310 0482 . FOR 5FCOI.

INFORMATION RECEIVED THIS HEADQUARTERS APPROXIMATELY 1500
HOURS 10 MARCH INDICATES POSSIBILITY 2 RYUKYUANS INJURED
BY STRAFING PRACTICE GOVERNMENT LEASED IE-SHIMA RANGE
MORNING OF 10 MARCH. COMPLETE WARNING ACTION WAS TAKEN AT
RANGE SITE PRIOR TO PRACTICE FIRINGS INCLUDING PERSONAL
RECONNAISSANCE BY RANGE OFFICIALS, SIREN WARNING ALARMS,
AND RAISING APPROPRIATE FLAGS. AIR FORCE OFFICIALS HAVE HELD
REPEATED MEETINGS WITH IE-SHIMA LOCAL OFFICIALS WARNING THEM
OF DANGER TO LOCAL PERSONNEL BEING IN RANGE AREA DURING
PRACTICE PERIODS. SOME LOCALS RUSH OUT TO COLLECT SCRAP
METAL DURING TARGET PRACTICE. INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED
TO DETERMINE FULL FACTS THIS MATTER. PENDING FURTHER DETAILS

11

MARCH 1960

31310

BERNARD PETERS, LT COL, USAF

40123

1 of 2

BERNARD PETERS
Lt Colonel, USAF
Information Officer

SECRET

1 4 2 4

SECRET

313TH AIR DIVISION, KADENA AB OKINAWA

ONLY PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASED BY AIR FORCE THROUGH USCAR
OPI IS DETAILS OF WARNING ACTION TAKEN AT RANGE SITE.
LOCAL VERNACULAR PRESS REACTION NOTES THAT VICTIMS WERE IN
"OFF LIMITS" AREA AND STRESSES THAT "AIR FORCE EMPLOYS EVERY
POSSIBLE MEANS OF CAUTION BEFORE FIRING PRACTICES ARE HELD."
POLITICAL ADVISOR TO HICOM HERE HAS ASKED THAT YOUR HEADQUARTERS
PASS THIS INFORMATION TO AMERICAN EMBASSY.

SECRET

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO START SURVEY OVER SHOOTING CASE IN IJIMA

(The Okinawa Times, 11 March 1960)

An incident occurred on 10 March at the maneuvering area in Iejima, in which two young men were shot and seriously wounded by a jet plane while they were collecting scrap in the area. Immediately a police group started for the spot and is presently conducting an investigation of the actual conditions concerning the case. The Air Force also dispatched a group for the investigation, it is said. However, no announcement is made yet about the actual circumstances. Attaching importance to the matter, political parties and other local organizations are going to institute their own investigation. The following are comments connected with the case.

Comment of Secretary-General SHINZATO of the Okinawa Teachers Association:

"It is very regrettable for us, the Okinawa Teachers Association, that many similar incidents have happened in the military bases. Since we are ignorant of the details of the incident, I will investigate it as soon as possible. Based on the result of the investigation, our association will decide its attitude toward the case."

Comment of Mr. SENAGA Kamejiro of the Peoples Party:

"This incident as well as the Ishikawa jet crash accident and the shooting case at Kin village reveals concretely the aggressive nature of the United States, I believe. The United States again announced its intention 10 March to requisition some 200 chobu (1 chobu equal 2.45 acres)

area for the purpose of constructing Hawk missile bases, weapons to murder. To make matters worse, they declare that the requisition will contribute to the welfare of the local inhabitants. Nothing can be more absurd! The prospective requisition will bring about such incidents as this case in every place in Okinawa, I believe. Wherever the military bases exist in Okinawa, such incidents cannot be avoided.

This incident in Iejima is caused by the slackness of military discipline in the U.S. Forces which has no battling object. Each democratic organization should struggle for settling the case under the leadership of a unified organization."

Comment of Education & Publicity Department Director KAMEKO of the Government Employees Unions Federation:

"We cannot understand, from the common-sense standpoint, such an act as to fire, though one recognizes the existence of persons in sight. Seeing the shooting case at Kin village (in which a Marine service man shot an Okinawan woman to death by mistaking her for a wild boar), and this very case, I become inclined to suspect that the U.S. military is conducting maneuver by making Okinawan people a target. The Government Employees Unions Federation takes a serious view of this incident. Considering the incident with the scheduled requisition of some 200 chobu of land for Hawk missile bases, what will become ^{of} Okinawa in ^{the} future? It is undeniable that we live peacefully in Okinawa? Our federation will meet together with all democratic organizations in order to discuss the matter."

PCAO08KPKA004PAB050AAB006

RR RJAOKC

DE RJAPAA 13D

RL40402Z

FM 5AF FUCHU AIR STN JAPAN

TO RJHPKM/PACAF HICKAM AFB HAWAII

RJEZH/USAF WASH DC

INFO RJAOKC 313AIRDIV KADENA OKINAWA

BT

UNCLAS E F T O FROM 5FCOI 03692. FOR PFCOI-P

AND SAFOI-3. REFERENCE YOUR MESSAGE PFCOI-P 120. THIS MESSAGE

IN TWO PARTS. PART I: SUBJECT STORY HAD POTENTIAL OF BECOMING

EXTREMELY SERIOUS TO THIS COMMAND FRIDAY EVENING WHEN AP BROKE

ACCOUNT OF STRAFING INCIDENT AND STATED "THE FURORE OVER THE

REPORT THREATENED TO DEVELOP INTO AN OKINAWAN VERSION OF THE

GIRARD INCIDENT". AP MADE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL STRONG REFERENCES

TO GIRARD CASE. WHEN THIS WAS LEARNED FIFTH AF OI DUTY OFFICER

ACTED IMMEDIATELY TO DETERMINE CAUSE FOR GIRARD REFERENCE.

CONVERSATIONS WITH AP TOKYO BUREAU REVEALED WIRE SERVICES HAD

ONLY SKETCHY INFORMATION FROM THEIR OKINAWA CORRESPONDENTS

AND THAT CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION EXISTED OVER WHETHER MEN WERE

SHOT BY AIRCRAFT STRAFING, GUARD FIRE OR INJURED BY AN

EXPLODING SHELL. REPEATED CALLS BETWEEN 5AF AND 313ADIV'S OI'S

THROUGHOUT NIGHT AND SATURDAY MORNING RESULTED IN RAPID RELEASE

OF ANSWERS TO TOKYO WIRE SERVICE BUREAUS. BECAUSE OF ACTION BY

5AF OI DUTY OFFICER AND FULLEST COOPERATION OF COL PETERS THE

TONE OF AP AND UPI STORIES CHANGED RAPIDLY. NO FURTHER REFERENCE

TO GIRARD CASE APPEARED IN SUBSEQUENT STORIES. RANGE SAFETY

FACTORS AND COL PETERS STATEMENT CONCERNING SAME WERE ACCEPTED

AND STRESSED IN ALL SUBSEQUENT WIRE SERVICE RELEASES. PRESS

COVERAGE WHICH HAD AT FIRST BEEN UNFAVORABLE RAPIDLY CHANGED AND

STORY IS NOW CONSIDERED VIRTUALLY CLOSED. ALL WIRE SERVICE

MATERIAL ON STORY WAS REWRITTEN BY TOKYO AP AND UPI PERSONNEL AND,

WITH EXCEPTION OF INITIAL AP STORY, THESE STORIES WERE BASED ON

INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE BY 5AF OI WITH COOPERATION OF COL.

PETERS. BOTH AP AND UPI EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION OF COOPERA-

TION AND INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER AND INDICATED THAT INFORMATION

HAD MADE PRESENTATION OF FULL AND FAIR STORY POSSIBLE DESPITE

THEIR OWN POOR REPRESENTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH OKINAWA.

PART II. FOR 313ADIV OI. REQUEST YOU INFORM ASAP SAFOI-3 AND

PFCOI-P DIRECTLY WITH INFO TO 5FCOI-PN DETAILS OF INCIDENT,

RESULT OF INVESTIGATION AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF THIS INCIDENT.

BT

14/0403Z MAR 1960 RJAPAA

259

NNNNPCBO08PKA015KMB014

OO RJAOKC

DE RJHPKM 156

O R 120142Z ZFX

FM PACAF HICKAM AFB HAWAII

TO RJEZHQ/USAF WASH DC

INFO RJAOKC 313AIRDIV KADENA AIR BASE OKINAWA

RJAPAA/5AF FUCHU AIR STA JAPAN

BT

UNCLAS/E F T O/FROM PFCOI-P 120. FOR DELIVERY

DURING DUTY HOURS. ACTION SAFOI-3, INFO, 313AD;

5AF. THIS MESSAGE IN TWO PARTS. PART I.

REFERENCE INJURY TO RYUKYUANS AT IE-SHIMA RANGE.

THE IE-SHIMA RANGE IS A PERMANENT GOVERNMENT LEASED

GUNNERY RANGE. AS SUCH IT IS OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE

WITH PERTINENT USAF, PACAF, AND COMMAND REGULATIONS

COVERING BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE TRAINING. IT IS

LISTED IN THE RADIO FACILITY CHART AS DANGER AREA

R-178. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF SUBJECT INCIDENT

REVEALS THAT SHIMABUKU, KAKEMORI, AGED 20, RYUKYUAN,

AND OSHIRO, TOSHIKAZU, AGED 17, RYUKYUAN, WERE ILLEGALLY

ON THE STRAFFING RANGE AT IE-SHIMA WHILE A STRAFFING

MISSION WAS IN PROGRESS ON 10 MARCH. BOTH INDIVIDUALS

WERE INJURED. OSHIRO SUFFERED THE LOSS OF HIS RIGHT

ARM. SHIMABUKU SUFFERED INJURIES OF HIS RIGHT LEG.

COMPLETE WARNING ACTION WAS TAKEN PRIOR TO PRACTICE

FIRING. THIS INCLUDED SIREN WARNING ALARMS, RAISING

APPROPRIATE FLAGS, PERSONAL RECONNAISSANCE BY RANGE

OFFICIALS AND CONTROL OF RANGE BY RANGE OFFICER. LOCAL

AIR FORCE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE HELD REPEATED MEETINGS

WITH IE-SHIMA OFFICIALS EXPLAINING AND WARNING OF THE

DANGER TO LOCAL CITIZENS IN THE RANGE AREA DURING

FIRING PERIODS. INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED TO

DETERMINE FULL FACTS ON THIS MATTER. PART II. FOR

5AF OI. REQUEST YOU INFORM THIS HQ AND SAFOI-3 OF

FACTUAL DETAILS ON THIS INCIDENT, RESULT OF INVESTIGATION

OR OTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS INCIDENT THAT MIGHT

MATERIALLY EFFECT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS INCIDENT,

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BT

12/0226Z MAR RJHPKM

NNNN

260

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

ON THE SHOOTING CASE IN IJIMA

(The Okinawa Times, 12 March 1960)

Two young men of Iejima who were engaged in collection of empty shells got shot and seriously wounded by an American jet plane during maneuver. How did such an unfortunate thing happen to occur in Iejima? The police and military sources are investigating the case at present so that it is not yet known whether these men were shot on purpose or accidentally.

Though we believe that an announcement in connection with this incident will be made in due course, and that it might have been due to causes beyond human control, it cannot be hushed up, for it took place in an island with considerable population. Iejima in the past has had the reputation of being an island of controversy. The trouble caused in connection with the construction of a maneuver ground on the island gave this island so much publicity that at one time the name Iejima became a synonym for military base problems. And there is the possibility of this island coming again into the limelight by this incident, for it is an island of fatality that has never been free of trouble in connection with the maneuver ground and the still unsettled compensation for explosion of an LST on the ground that it happened prior to the coming into force of the Peace Treaty.

One cause of all this trouble may be the fact that while Iejima is a maneuver ground for the American forces, people are still living there;

and then it may be said that the cause of trouble is that the livelihood of the islanders is apt to cause friction with the American forces constantly. And the incident this time, seems to symbolize this fact. But is this kind of friction unpreventable through the joint effort of the islanders and the American forces? This may be the question in the mind of the public. That is, entrance into the maneuver ground is prohibited in advance and whenever there is a maneuver, military authorities must have given notice to the people warning them to keep out of the maneuver ground. But why do the villagers enter this danger zone? It is necessary for the village authorities to be on the look out and prevent recurrence of this kind of incidents.

But even then, it is unthinkable that the village people should be victimized and wounded during maneuver. We believe that this incident cannot be compared with the jet plane crash in Ishikawa city, for the latter was brought about by a force beyond human control, and it is a fact that 2 villagers have been wounded, and we attach great importance to the result of the incident regardless of its cause.

No one can guarantee that this kind of incident will not happen again as long as the maneuver ground is in Iejima, and the apprehension caused by the possibility of an unexpected accident taking place at any time cannot be gotten rid of easily. Though the incident that has already taken place cannot be helped, we would like to urge the military authorities and the villagers to reflect on the case so as to prevent this kind of incident from taking place in the future.

Usually whenever this kind of unfortunate incident has been caused by the US forces, groups of private citizens engaged in its investigation,

and the government gave the impression of being somehow negative. While there is nothing wrong with the private groups engaging in the investigation of any accident, past experience shows that it is not productive of a good result. Conversely, it is like the government passing the buck to the private groups, and that is why it is not desirable. The government ought to investigate the cause of the incident thoroughly and announce the result.

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 313th Air Division
APO 239

POLICE SAYS U.S. AIR FORCE IS NOT AT FAULT IN IEJIMA SHOOTING CASE

(The Ryukyu Shimpō, 12 March 1960)

The Iejima incident of 10 March wherein two local youths were accidentally machine gunned by a jet plane is drawing public attention all the more because it was just after the shooting case at Kin village (in which Mrs. KUSHIKURANE was shot to death). Chief ARAKAKI Shukuju of the Criminal Affairs Section of the Police Headquarters who had flown 11 March to the spot for investigation by a military plane stated in this connection as follows, pointing out that according to his investigation the two youths were in fault.

"The spot where Mr. OSHIRO Toshiichi, 17, and Mr. SHIMABUKURO Takemori, 20, were machine gunned is some two hundred meters away from the target, but within the range. The victims were collecting scrap brass by moving forward at short intervals, hiding themselves when the plane flew at a low altitude. After all they were shot while madly collecting scrap brass by the jet plane which came flying immediately after the former plane. Accordingly they entered within the range despite knowing it was dangerous. It is apparent the two victims were at fault, and they, too, admitted their fault."

On the day, a spot investigation was conducted by Deputy Director George Q. Keithahn of USCAR Public Safety Department, an officer concerned of the Office of Special Investigations, Kadena Air Base, Criminal Affairs

Section Chief ARAKAKI of the Police Headquarters, and Police Inspector OTA of the same headquarters. According to their investigation, the maneuvering area concerned is a very wide one of 1,300,000 tsubo (1 tsubo equal 36 sq. ft.). When a maneuver is about to start, the Air Force not only issues warnings not to enter the target area but also displays red warning flags. But when a target practice is underway, local inhabitants can collect 32mm machine gun cartridges by entering into the dangerous area. As a result, a target practice was once forced to stop because too many collectors, over 200, entered into the area. One cartridge of this sort can be sold for 6 cents, and among them are collectors who have earned over \$300 in a month by selling these cartridges. Mr. OSHIRO had his arm cut off by the shot, and he escaped from the range after picking up the arm which fell to the ground, it is said. On the spot, however, there were still scattered pieces of their flesh, it is reported.

(Similar Article in the Okinawa Times and the Nichinichi)

The Morning Star - 14 March 1960

ADMIT TRESPASSING ON FIRING RANGE

Naha, Mar. 13 (UPI)--Ryukyu government police said today the two youths machine gunned accidentally by a U.S. Air Force jet Thursday on Ie Shima island admitted they were trespassing on a firing range.

The youths, Toshiichi Oshire, 17, and Takemori Shimabukuro, 20, admitted they dashed onto the target range between strafing runs by U.S. planes. They were interviewed at Nago hospital by police department criminal section chief Shukuju Arakaki.

Oshire lost an arm when, while picking up scrap shells, a plane dove at the target range and strafed it, Arakaki said.

The injured youth told Arakaki he picked up his severed limb, walked to the seashore and asked a fisherman for help. The other youth was shot in the leg. The hospital reported both youths in "good condition."

The Ryukyuan government said that 75 percent of Ie island was set aside for the air force target range and was off limits.

Press Translation

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES
Hq, 31st Air Division
APO 239

FROM THE "KONBAN NO WADAI" COLUMN

(The Okinawa Times, 12 March 1960)

Two young men of Iejima met with a machine gun barrage from the jet plane in maneuver while they were engaged in the collection of empty shells, with the result that one lost his right arm while the other received a wound in the leg that will take 10 days to recover.

These two wounded fellows are in a hospital at Nago at present. It is reported that the place where the incident took place is grassy land, but the presence of a man in the area could be detected, so that voices questioning why the incident took place have been raised by some people.

But, according to the findings of a joint Ryukyuan-American investigation organ, it is concluded that "they asked for it." That is, the military authorities gave sufficient warning in holding the maneuver, yet these young men entered the restricted area in defiance of the warning. And, since it is reported that the victims themselves admit that they were in the wrong, they will be the losers.

Why they had to enter the restricted area taxes our comprehension. A hard life does not justify such actions. In society there are plenty of men who are leading a hard life. Yet that is no excuse for the commission of prohibited actions.

Effort and industry are required to overcome hard living. For example, if they were reduced to poverty because their land has been requisitioned, then the proper thing to do is to have the land rental

raised sufficiently so as to compensate for the lost profit. We can hardly support the reasoning "We have been reduced to pauperism due to the land requisition, so we must enter the restricted area and collect empty shells."

We are told that in Iejima those who are caught for illegal entrance for the collection of empty shells and imprisoned in the military prison are treated as heroes. Whether or not it is the truth cannot be ascertained since we heard the story from others. But if that is true, that is the height of folly. At the beginning there might have been a feeling of resistance; but, as time goes on and the people regain equanimity, these heroes will have to become the objects of public censure. We made a harsh comment on the 2 wounded young men, but we offer our deep sympathy for their hard luck. All we wanted to say was the Iejima people should be more careful in the future, for there is no end of trouble in connection with the restricted area.

264

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Saturday, 12 March 1960

The Okinawa Times - News Article (T)

No. 888

OKINAWA YOUTH COUNCIL TO ISSUE A STATE-
MENT OF PROTEST ON 13TH

The Okinawa Youth Council's standing board of directors in charge of social affairs expressed the following view on the two problems of "carrying into Okinawa of Hawk missiles" and "the case in which 2 Okinawan young men were shot by machine guns" and decided to make a strong protest to the military authorities on these problems by taking up these two problems at the board meeting of March 13th, issuing statement of protest and deciding on the concrete movement policy.

The Youth Council standing board of directors' view is as follows:

"It is evident when thinking about it together with the earlier test-firing of Nike-Hercules, that the present plan of requisitioning more than 640,000 tsubos (1 tsubo eq. 36 sq. ft.) of land to install the Hawk missiles is aimed at strengthening the atomic and hydrogen bases on Okinawa.

"Further requisitioning of farmland on Okinawa, which has small farmland even now, will result in driving the farmers into the depths of poverty.

"On Iejima, two young farmers were shot by machine-gun of jet-plane which was engaged in maneuvering and received serious wounds. But they would not have done such act, if their land had not been deprived and their livelihood reduced to the depths of poverty. That is, it was the tragedy of farmers who were deprived of their land. So, we must develop

a movement through whole structure of our organization, to prevent the strengthening of nuclear bases and requisitioning of land, which constitute the causes of all the social evil and tragedy on Okinawa, such as the poverty and damage to human life."

Statement of Chairman TOGUCHI Yutoku of the Okinawa Youth Council:

"We intend to hold a board meeting on the 13th and discuss these two problems. Since these two problems are against our movement policy, we are of the intention to prevent them to the last. The concrete aspects will be decided at the board meeting on the 13th and issue a statement of protest on them."

2 YOUTHS HURT ON Ie TARGET SITE

Naha, Mar. 11 (UPI) -- A U.S. Air Force jet plane accidentally machine gunned two Okinawan youths collecting scrap brass today on tiny Ie island off Okinawa while strafing a target area.

Okinawa press reports said one youth lost an arm and the other sustained a wound in the leg.

The youths were identified as Binishi Oshiro, 17, and Takemori Shimabukure, 21. Both were reported in good condition at Nago hospital.

Okinawa newspapers reported that the target area was posted and that red warning flags were flying.

The U.S. Air Force said that an investigation was underway.

A fisherman who ferried the youths from the island to Nago told newsmen he saw a red flag in the area and that the U.S. Air Force apparently was not at fault.

The Morning Star - 12 March 1960

The Morning Star - 13 March 1960

AF AUTHORITIES ADMIT STRAFING

Naha, Mar. 12 (UPI) -- U.S. Air Force authorities today admitted that two Okinawan youths probably were hit by machine gun fire by an air force jet on a practice strafing run on tiny Ie Shima island, where a Japanese sniper's bullet killed famed American war correspondent Ernie Pyle during the last days of WW II.

The youths, identified as Binishi Osniro, 17, and Takemori Shimabukuro, 21, were reported to have been collecting scrap metal from the air force gunnery range on the island when they were injured.

An air force spokesman said in a statement today that, "Initial findings of air force investigators indicate that the two Ryukyans were injured Thursday at Ie Shima as the result of being in an 'off limits' area on the government-leased gunnery range during aircraft gunnery practice and after warning signals had been given."

Unofficial reports said one of the youths lost an arm and the other suffered a leg wound. Their condition was reported as satisfactory.

"Prior to the beginning of gunnery practice," the air force spokesman said, "officials patrolled that area, blew sirens and raised warning flags to ensure that everyone was aware of the impending practice as is normal procedure."

"Air force officials repeatedly have warned salvage collectors to remain off the range during the gunnery practice because of a danger of injuries."

"A further investigation will continue," he added.

2 RYUKYUAN FARMERS WOUNDED IN STRAFING

S&S Okinawa Bureau

Naha, Okinawa -- Two young Ryukyuan farmers were strafed and wounded Thursday by U.S. Air Force jet fighters on a gunnery range at Ie Shima while searching for brass during a scheduled gunnery practice.

A government of the Ryukyu Island police spokesman confirmed that Takemori Shimabukuro, 20, and Binishi Oshiro, 19, were trespassing on the gunnery range when jet fighters swept low over practice targets.

They were taken to Nago Hospital where Oshiro's right arm was amputated. Shimabukuro was treated for wounds in his side. Both were listed as in good condition.

An Air Force spokesman emphasized that all safety precautions were taken before actual firing on the gunnery range began. This includes an inspection tour of the range site, the blowing of a warning siren and the raising of danger flags surrounding the range.

Then pilots aloft are signaled that the range is clear.

The spokesman said all these precautions were taken Thursday before firing began. An investigation is under way into the strafing.

Wire service reports quoted a fisherman who ferried the wounded youths from Ie Shima to Nago as saying he saw red flags in the area and that the Air Force apparently was not at fault.

Air Force officials, including Col. James F. Risner Jr., commander of Kadena AB, visited the island to impress upon the villagers the dangers of trespassing on the range.

Early reports carried by Okinawa newspapers said the two brass scavengers were shot by a guard.

Other conflicting reports said the two were injured while handling a

2 Ryukyuan Framers Wounded in Strafing (cont'd)

piece of live ammunition on the range.

An Air Force spokesman said that a fence recently was built around the danger area, but that scavengers had taken it.

The Pacific Stars and Stripes - 13 March 1960

The Morning Star - 14 March 1960

A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY (Editorial)

Okinawa is the land of opportunity.

Under the leadership of the U.S., Okinawa has the opportunity to develop its economy and achieve a fuller, more satisfying way of life. It also has the opportunity to be misled by self-appointed political spellbinders and civic leader messians. These political ghouls take possession of each tragedy and exploit the victims to their own satisfaction.

A typhoon strikes Miyako. The responsible government rushes emergency aid and goods to the spot and within the relief framework a program of rice distribution is developed. Unmindful of the needs of the victims, the political opportunists take over. Hunger becomes a commodity which the politicians merchandise and peddle to their own enrichment.

A pair of scrap collectors manage to get themselves shot and the politicians take over. According to the political coloration of the agency involved the aggrieved parties are simple, honest victims of American assassins or the starving victims of Yankee imperialism.

By their own admission the two victims of Thursday's Ie shima accidental shooting earn from \$100 to \$300 each month by the furtive and illegal sale of scrap metal which they steal from the Ie shima target range. The two injured scrap scavengers admit that their present plight resulted from their larcenous intent which took them into the bullseye of an air force target range despite red flags, sirens and posted warning signals. A fence around the area in question, which had been built to prevent entry into the target area, also disappeared, the fence itself the victim of the insatiable metal collectors.

All of these facts are overlooked by opponents of the U.S.

Each tragedy is used to bolster the position of the anti-Americans.

The Ie shima shooting is conveniently attached to the establishment of Hawk missile bases on Okinawa to make one neat, anti-American bundle. The whole mess is taken over by trained anti-American elements and craftily simplified to serve leftist causes.

Okinawa is the land of opportunity. It has given the U.S. the opportunity to prove to the world that men and women can live in freedom even though they are faced with a brutal and ever-present enemy. This same freedom has given the enemies of freedom the opportunity to twist and distort the truth and to make lies serve their purposes.

269

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Wednesday, 23 March 1960

The Okinawa Times - Commentary Y.

No. 1026

FROM THE DAIGEN-SHOGEN COLUMN

(EMPTY SHELL COLLECTORS IN IJIMA)

Two young men of Iejima were hit and seriously wounded by a machine gun barrage, but empty shell collectors would not give up the collection after that incident, and the people are worried over the possibility of occurrence of 2nd and 3rd. incidents. It is reported that once a man gets a taste for empty shell collection it is hard to go back to any other employment. If they can make 2 or 3 dollars a day by collecting empty shells that is easy money indeed, but as we reason about it nothing is more unprofitable than empty shell collecting, for the very life is at stake. The shell collecting may be fine when there is no maneuver in progress but to rush out the instant a jet plane passes after a machine gun barrage is to risk one's life. Why do they have to collect shells at the risk of their own lives? No one must be doing such a dare devil stunt for fun. The incidents at a firing range took place in Kin Son also. In Japan a woman was shot to death at a firing range. Besides these, many other tragedies took place at firing ranges. And it is serious indeed, for the empty shell collectors will not quit.

That is because their poverty drives them to earn their bread at the risk of their own lives. If they could secure jobs that pay well, they would not be tempted to go shell collecting, but they cannot find such a job. In the case of Iejima, land was requisitioned and jobs are scarce, for it is an island; so young men engage themselves in the collection of empty shells and we are sorry for them and we sympathize with them.

Still it is hoped that they will refrain from risking their lives even for the sake of earning the means of their support. Though this might be one phase of the hard struggle for existence, it is too miserable if relatives and neighbors should fall victims one after the other. If trouble arises, the American forces will have to answer charges. This is a very complicated situation indeed, for if entrance were restricted strictly, some of the islanders would become unable to support themselves, but the people who frequent the maneuver ground may be able to reach an agreement among themselves in some way so as to make the shell collection less risky.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands
Draft Press Translation
Tuesday, 22 March 1960

The Okinawa Times - News Article (S)

No. 1017

SHELL SCAVENGERS IN IESHIMA FIRING RANGE STILL SEEN

(Nago) - As a result of joint investigation by military and Ryukyuan policies, it was decided that two young men who were machine-gunned by the U.S. jet aircraft in Ieshima maneuver range suffered injuries due to their own faults. However, shell scavengers in Ieshima range are still seen despite of such tragedy and the persons concerned are worrying lest it should lead to the emergence of the second victim.

The maneuver range in Ieshima which covers an area of 1,300,000 tsubo (1 tsubo is 36 sq. ft) of Maja and Nishizaki subvillages is under the control of the Kadena Air Division and maneuvers are held every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for Saturday afternoon and Sunday. During the maneuvers the jet aircraft drops bombs and machine-gun, but there are reckless persons who enter into the maneuver range to collect shells in the midst of maneuvers. There are some 40 or 50 such reckless shell collectors whose ages vary from 16 to 30 years old. These shell collectors hide themselves under the pandanus waiting for the jet aircrafts and as soon as they start machine-guns at the target, reckless young men all run out for the target to collect shells. In order to collect as many shells as possible, they spontaneously approach to the target and hide themselves at the nearest place from the target. Two young men, OSHIRO, Toshiichi (17) who lost his left arm and SHIMABUKURO, Busei (20) who was machine-gunned at his right leg were both machine-gunned while they were hiding at the place near to the target.

It is said that nearly 100 empty cartridge cases are left during one time machine-gunning and one man could collect 20 or 30 empty cartridge cases each time. They sell the empty cartridge cases at the cost of 6 cents per one. After seeing such reckless cartridge collectors, a high officer of the Kadena Air Base described the scene by stating that it was not training for jet pilots but training of cartridge collectors, it is said.

Empty cartridge cases collected by the scavengers are all sold to the brokers and they could earn 2 or 3 dollars a day from their collection and it is said that once a man starts collecting empty cartridge cases he cannot stop it. Possessed by the lure of real money, villagers of Ie Son are risking their lives to collect empty cartridge cases. It is said that several persons were injured before today besides the above two young men, but they did not report it to the police for fear that their wrong acts might come to light. When the two above-mentioned young men were shot on that day, it is said shell scavengers disappeared from the range for a moment, but all returned to the range only two^{or} three hours later on the same day to collect the empty cartridges.

The maneuver range is under the strict off-limit during the maneuvers, and it is reported that the Kadena Air Base was considering to take some measure to put the maneuver range under complete off-limits even after the practices are over so as to prevent an accident one week before that machine-gun accident took place.

In order to prevent such accident Kadena Air Base authorities are said to be of the intention to issue a special entry permit only to the

landowners who have approved farm lands within the range until they finish harvesting. However, Ie Son authority is now perplexed at the fact that 40 families will lose their some 30,000 tsubo of farm lands within the range when the range is put under a complete off-limits. In this regard, Mayor TAKAMI of Ie Son was quoted as saying: "I have told them about the off-limits of the maneuver range many times until they become sick of hearing it, but it is ineffective. If the range is placed under the complete off-limits, 40 families will lose their lands, resulting in the loss of their way of living. Therefore, we have to find lands as substitutes for their lands, but we don't know if there is such land in this village. In any case, Ie Son is in a delicate situation."

271

HEADQUARTERS
6313TH AIR BASE WING (PACAF)
United States Air Force
APO 239, San Francisco, California

司令本部
太平洋空軍部隊 (バックアップ)
米空軍 APO ニ三九
サンフランシスコ カリフォルニア

18 March 1960

1960年三月十八日

TO: Honorable Tamashiro Otomatsu

Mayor of Ie Son

伊江村長 玉城音松殿

Dear Mayor Tamashiro

拝啓

In order to confirm our recent discussion held on 25 February

1960年2月25日に行われた「爆撃演習場」に関する

1960 concerning the bombing range, I am furnishing you with

審議を確實にするため、貴殿に対し、伊江村住民

this letter in sufficient copies for distribution to the

各位に配布されるべき充分な部数を添えてこの書かん

families of Ie Shima. This letter summarizes the Air Force

をお送り致します。此の書かんは射撃場に関する

policy concerning the range, and it is requested that you give

米空軍当局の方針を要約するものであり、よって貴殿がこの

it the widest publicity.

書かんを出来るだけ多くの人々に配布され、事を懇請いたします。

1. It is essential that the Air Force continue to utilize

空軍が伊江島の演習場を継続して使用する事は

the range on Ie Shima in order that its training mission can

その訓練の使命を達成するために欠く事の出来ないことであり

be continued. In order to remain a strong defender of the Free

ます。自由世界の人々のための強力な防壁を保持するためには、

Peoples of the World, it is mandatory that we train our pilots

私共にとって操縦者達を空中より対地上訓練を行う事は

in air to ground maneuvers.

必須なものであります。

2. The Air Force is very concerned that some Ryukyuan people

空軍当局は飛行機が演習場を使用する際に多くの人々

may be injured under the present conditions on the range, since

か見受けられるので、演習場の現在の状態のまゝでは

Page 1 of 7 Pages

7頁の第一頁

1451

many people are observed on the range during times when aircraft
琉球人が負傷する可能性があるのではないかと非常に懸念
are using it.
しております。

3. The Air Force has had to close down the range many
空軍当局にとって現在まで訓練担当将校が演習場
times and send aircraft home when the Range Officer observed
内に住民を認めるときには訓練を停止し飛行機を帰すのは
people on the range. This is a safety measure to protect your
ならなかった事が多くあります。此の措置は貴村住民の安全
people, but it hinders the accomplishment of our training.
のためにとられておるものですか。併し空軍の訓練達成を妨げるのです。

4. The Air Force has suggested that the people of Ie Shima
空軍当局は伊江島住民が演習場内のスクラップ拾集の
form a cooperative association for scrap collection on the
ために、或る協力的な組合を結成する事を提案致しました。
range. If this were done, the Air Force would be willing to
もしこの措置がとられていたならば、空軍当局は訓練が行な
allow association members to come on the range during periods
わけていない期間中に組合員がスクラップの拾集のために
when training was not being conducted to collect scrap. In
演習場内に立入る事を喜んで許可した事でありませう。 この様に
this way, the Air Force would be able to control the times
空軍当局は住民の演習場内に入った時間を統制し、
people went on the range and thus assure their safety. At
住民の安全を図れ得たのです。少なくとも一週間に通常
least one day a week would normally be set aside for this
一日はこの目的のために用いられたでありませう。
purpose.

5. Since this reasonable proposal has not been adopted and
この合理的な提案が採用されずに不法侵入者達の
injury to trespassers has resulted, the Air Force must forbid
負傷が生じた結果空軍当局は常時制限区域内に

trespassing at any time within the restricted danger area. This
対する立入を禁止しなければなりません。

restricted danger zone is now marked by a bulldozer trail. Signs

この制限区域は現在ブルドーザーの軌跡によってマークされて
marked in the Japanese language will be placed on this trail in
あります。近い将来に、立入禁止 - 危険区域 と日本語で記
the near future which will state No Trespassing - Danger Area.
された標識がこの軌跡の上に立てられます。

These signs will be spaced close enough to each other so they

之等の標識はこの区域内に立入ろうとする人々か誰でも
may be seen by anyone crossing the trail. It is important to

見る事が出来る様にその間隔をせはめて立てられるはすて
remember that the trail marks the boundary of the "Off Limits"

あります。そこで銘記されるべき重要な事は、軌跡は
danger area and, starting immediately, no one will be permitted

「立入禁止」危険区域の境界を示し、爾今、次の項に明記
to enter the range for farming or scrap collection, except those

されいる。作物の収穫の目的のためにだけ立入りを許可
few farmers described in the next paragraph, who will be permitted

された少数の農民達を除いて如何なる者といえども農耕の
entry only to attend their crops. Violators found in the danger

ため又はスクラップ拾集のために演習場内に立入る事は許可
area will be prosecuted. Because of the recent injuries to two

されません。危険区域内で発見された違反者は訴追されます。

trespassers on the range, we must establish a position that scrap

最近の演習場内での二人の侵入者に生じた傷害事件に基き、

collection will not be authorized at any time. This Air Force position

当局はいかなる場合においても、スクラップ拾集は許可されないという方針
replaces all previous discussions which may have suggested that

を確立しなければなりません。この空軍の方針は演習場が使用される
scrap collection would be allowed when the range was closed. This

時にはスクラップ拾集は許可されるであろうという事を提案した以前の

position will be followed by the Air Force until and unless a
すべての話し合いが無効になります。空軍の諸規定によつて運営され
cooperative association, operating under Air Force rules, becomes
協力的な組合が無効になる迄は、又は、いなければ空軍当局はこの方針
effective.
を継続いたします。

6. The Air Force now has the names of the farmers who have
空軍当局は現在危険区域内に作物を有している農家
crops within the danger area. Your promptness in providing us
の氏名を持ってあります。この情報を迅速に当局に提供
this information is appreciated. The U. S. Air Force is request-
下さった事は感謝にたえません。米國空軍は琉球民政府に
ing USCAR to relocate these farms outside the danger area as soon
対にこれらの農地をできるだけ速かに危険区域外に移動して
as possible. We request the assistance of your office in
もらうべく要求しております。我々は農家の生活を奪はれない
relocating these farms on other leased land in order that the
ようにするためにこれらの農地を他の接收地内に移動する事
farmers will not be deprived of a livelihood. Those farmers
について貴村当局の援助を要請いたします。1960年6月以前
who have crops that will be harvested before June 1960 will be
に農家で作物を収穫しなければならぬ場合には飛行機が
allowed to attend them and harvest them on days when the range
演習場を使用しない日に限り立入り、収穫する事を許可
is not being used by aircraft. All other people must stay off the
されます。他のすべての人は常時演習場から離れて居る
range at all times. No new crops will be planted.
ければなりません。新しく作付けする事は許されません。

7. The Air Force training mission has also been hindered
空軍の訓練計画は過去において演習場における偶然
in the past by accidental or deliberate fires started on the
又は故意の発火によつて妨害を受けた事があります。

range. Because of this, we have instituted a program to burn

この理由を以て我々は不注意な発火を防ぐために定期的に
off the grassy areas periodically to prevent inadvertent fires.

に草地帯を焼きはらう計画を設定した。火氣の蔓延を
Every consideration will be given to prevent the spread of fires.

防ぐ為あらゆる考慮が拂われるでせう。統制された焼拂は
It is pointed out that this controlled burning is safer than the

以前の偶然発火よりも安全である事を指摘いたします。
previous accidental fires.

8. The Air Force is very sorry that two of your people

空軍当局といたしましては 1960年3月11日演習場が使用中
were injured while the range was in use on 11 March 1960. It
であつた間、二人の人が傷害を受けた事を気の毒に思います。

recognizes that scrap on the range has value, but money does
演習場におけるスクラップは価値あるものでありますが、人命は金銭、
not compare to human life. However, the fact that the injured

と比較する事は出来ません。しかし、傷害を受けた人達は侵入
persons were trespassing must also be recognized. It is

いつあつたという事実は認識されなければなりません。故に空軍

therefore determined the Air Force must enforce the "No Tres-
当局は公衆安全の観点から演習場における"進入禁止"
passing" on the range in the interest of public safety.

を強行せざるを得ない事に決定しました。

9. It has recently been noted that people in small boats

飛行機が機銃掃射態勢に入ると小舟に乗つて
are gathering on the strafing approach to collect 20 MM shell

人々が 20 口径機銃弾莖を拾うべく集まつて来る事が最近
casings. This area is also within the danger zone and probably

注目されています。この地域もまた危険区域の中にあり、或は
the most dangerous place on the range. A mechanical malfunction

演習地において最も危険な個所であります。機銃掃射を
on a strafing aircraft might cause serious injury to a large

行なつてゐる飛行機の機械的故障はボートに乗つてゐる

number of people in these boats. All persons should therefore

多くの人々に重大な傷害を引き起すおそれがあります。かかる故にすべての
stay clear of this area.

人々はこの地域から完全に立ちのけなければなりません。

10. Of the 3,156 acres of land leased by the U. S. Government,

米國政府の接收地 3,156エーカーのうち約 900エーカーは
only approximately 900 acres comprise the restricted area. This
空入禁止地域になっております。この事は約 2,000エーカーの接收
leaves approximately 2,000 acres of leased land which can be
地が許可を得て農事に従事する事を意味して居ります。
used by the farmers for farming on a permissive basis.

11. It should be clearly understood by all families of Ie Shima

伊江島のすべての人達にはつかりと理解していただく事は
that the U. S. Government has paid to the landowners, or deposited
米國政府は 1950年7月より 1959年7月にいたる期間の借地
with the Government of the Ryukyus for payment to the landowners,
料約 963,000ドルを地主の各位に支拂うか或は琉球政府
the approximate amount of \$963,000.00 for rental fees for the
に供託しております。農地の独占的な使用料として多額の
period, July 1950, to July 1959. Although paying this large
金額を支拂い、数多くの農家に対して接收地に於ける農事
amount of money for exclusive use of the land, permission was
の継続を許可にまゝあるという事であり、

given for many families to continue farming the leased land. This

この事實は帰るときに地主の各位にとっては無料の
amounts to gratis payments to the landowners, thereby increasing
報酬であります。之等の方々の福利を増進すると共に
the welfare of the landowners and improving the local economy.

地方経済の向上をもたらすものであります。

Recognition must be given to this beneficial assistance rendered

2の様に米國政府によつて提供された有利な援助を

by the U. S. Government, and affected farmers within the restricted
認めてもらうと共に立入禁止地域内において影響を受ける
area must realize that replacement of their farms outside of the
農家の方々に自身の安全と福利のために立入禁止地域外
restricted area is being accomplished for their own safety and
に代替農地を求める手段を講ぜられ、好事を承知
well-being.

に費はす。

12. We ask the cooperation of you and your people to

我々は貴殿並びに貴村住民各位に演習場に於て
prevent any further injury on the range, and to allow the Air
再びかかる傷害の発生を防止し併せて空軍当局の
Force to continue its training mission uninterrupted.

何等の妨もなく訓練の任務を継続出来る様に協力下さる事を
お願いする次第です。

Sincerely yours,

敬具

JAMES F. RISHEN, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Commander

ジェームス・F・リッシャー、II.
米國空軍大佐
司令官

272

UNITED STATES CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF THE RYUKYU ISLANDS
APO 331

Apr 26 1960

HCRI-LL 601.532

SUBJECT: Petition for Lifting of Ban on Entry into Bombing Practice
Range, Ie Son

TO: Commander
313th Air Division
APO 239

1. Forwarded herewith is a letter from the Chief Executive, GRI-LA(L)-191, subject as above, dated 19 April 1960, requesting the Air Force reconsider the decision to prohibit farming within the Ie Shima Bombing and Gunnery range.

2. It is requested that this office be furnished information upon which to base a reply to the Chief Executive, Government of the Ryukyu Islands.

FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER:

1 Incl
Ltr GRI-LA(L)-191
dtd 19 Apr 60

KENNETH S. HITCH
Lt Col, AGC
Administrative Officer

272

Ltr, USCAR (HCRI-LL 601.532, 26 Apr 60, Petition for Lifting of Ban
on Entry into Bombing Practices Range, Le Son

1st Ind (3130C-T)

27 Apr 1960

313th Air Div, APO 239

TO: 6313 AB Wg (OC)

Forwarded for your comments, per telephone conversation between
Colonel Stanton and Major Nash.

FOR THE COMMANDER

s/Robert E. Nash, Jr.
t/ROBERT E. NASH, JR.
Major, USAF
Ch, Ops Svc & Tng Div
Directorate of Operations

1 Atch
n/c

Ltr, USCAR (HCRI-LL 601.532, 26 Apr 60, Petition for Lifting of Ban on Entry into Bombing Practices Range, Ie Son

2nd Ind (OC)

5 May 1960

6313ABW

TO: 313ADiv (313OC-T)

1. Considering the past history of attempted negotiation with officials and people of Ie Son, such record having been compiled into a letter entitled "Ie Shima Study," file 313JA, dated 13 January 1960, the following comments are forwarded:

a. At all times in the past, USAF officials have permitted farming on certain leased areas within the range. Collection of scrap was allowed by lack of enforcement of no trespassing when the range was not in use. The Mayor of Ie Son has always taken the position that some of his people cannot be controlled, therefore, he could not control entry for scrap collection to any prescribed periods. Repeated failures in this respect required us to direct that no scrap collection would be permitted at any time, and that entry into the range proper would be permitted only for farmers having in-ground crops due for harvest by 1 June 1960. After this date, these farmers would then be denied future entry.

b. The prohibition and controlled entry, as now being enforced by sentries and sentry dogs has, for the first time apparently, caused the present consternation. This firm step has finally produced the desired effect since we have had but limited trespassing problems since instituted.

c. It is believed that if farming were allowed on the range the USAF would revert to the impossible position of a few months ago when Okinawan people in quantities of 70 or more were observed within the target complex while the range was in use. On the few occasions when we were able to apprehend some of these people, they stated that they didn't know they were on the range, or didn't hear the warning signals identifying the range as open. These were obvious falsehoods, but they would be used again. Once personnel were allowed to gain access to the range, it is impossible to remove them when the range is required for firing. To insure uninterrupted training and to safeguard their lives, we now must insist on the no trespassing past the trail marking the danger area.

d. At the present time, we are reviewing our land requirements on Ie Shima and expect to present revised requirements in the near future. It is anticipated that some portions of the leased area will be turned back to the landowners and the leases terminated.

e. Considerable funds have been expended in marking a new range boundary, preparing reinforced concrete marker signs and in placing these signs on the range perimeter. We hope we now have an immovable boundary marker to alert people to the limits of the danger area.

f. We are paying a large sum of money for land rental on Ie Shima which is only a subsidy in many cases since people still use their land.

g. In the past, numerous interruptions in use of the range have been experienced because of persons being seen on the range by pilots making firing passes. It has been impossible to remove these persons (except since use of sentry dogs), therefore, training had to be suspended until these persons departed of their own will. Recently, Ryukyuans have been seriously injured while trespassing on the range.

2. The following recommendations are forwarded:

a. No change in present policy be made. As pointed out above, no exercise of control over personnel on Ie Shima by local authority has been possible in the past. We don't believe it is possible now. Exercise of control and uninterrupted use of the range has been possible recently only through our security efforts.

b. Entry of farmers with crops will be permitted within the range boundary until 1 June 1960, and only when the range is closed.

c. No entry of any resident will be permitted within the range boundary after crops are harvested. No collection of scrap within the range boundary is permitted at any time.

3. Request paragraph 1 d, above, not be publicized until firm requirements are determined and approved.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

ARLAND STANTON
Lt Col, USAF
Director of Operations

1 Atch
n/c

273

HEADQUARTERS
6313th AIR BASE WING (PACAF)
United States Air Force
APO 239, San Francisco, California

Reply to
attn of: CC

15 Jun 1960

SUBJECT: Petition for Lifting of Ban on Entry into Bombing Practice Range,
Ie Son

TO: 313th Air Division

1. Reference is made to our 2nd indorsement to USCAR letter, HCRI 601.532, forwarding above petition, dated 26 April 1960.
2. At 1400 hours, 10 June 1960, USCAR convened a meeting at USCAR to discuss the subject petition and the USAF position in regards thereto as contained in our referenced 2nd indorsement. Parties present at this meeting were:
 - a. Mr. Billingsley - USCAR Land Division
 - b. Mr. Newman - USCAR Public Affairs
 - c. Mr. Lamanaka - USCAR Liaison Office
 - d. Mr. Ohira - USCAR Public Safety
 - e. Major Rutter - 6313th ABWG (OC)
 - f. Mrs. Soukup - 6313th ABWG (BE)
3. The purpose of the meeting was to request USAF approval to permit further farming within the range boundary and collection of scrap on the range. The request to liberalize our present position is desirable for two (2) important reasons:
 - a. Political implications in forthcoming elections, if we continue to ban people from the range.
 - b. Improved relations with the populace of Ie Shima. The people have finally realized that our firm stand due to their uncooperativeness in the past has hurt them economically. They have, therefore, fervently promised to cooperate with USAF authorities in range operation.

Ltr, 6313th ABWG (OC), 15 June 1960, Petition for Lifting of Ban on Entry into Bombing Practice Range, Is Son

4. The Air Force position on banning farming within the bull-dozed, posted, restricted area was reiterated. No change was agreed to on this point.

5. Since it has always been the Air Force position that we would welcome collection of scrap under controlled conditions, it was agreed that scrap collection would be permitted one (1) day a week, when the range was closed. This agreement contained the following stipulations:

a. Only one (1) day a week would be allowed for scrap collection. This would be on Sunday, unless firing was in progress on that day. If so, the range would be open on the subsequent Sunday.

b. Sentry dog patrols of the range would be continued on the remaining days of the week, or on each day the range is closed to scrap collectors.

c. This procedure will be operated on a test basis until 1 January 1961.

6. USCAR representatives were further advised that action is being taken to eliminate certain portions of the unusable airfield from Real Property Records. Upon approval of this action, additional leased land will become available for cultivation by farmers moved, or to be moved, out of the range danger area.

7. USCAR officials further request expeditious action on this subject, so that highest publicity can be given for political reasons. It is recommended that approval of this amended policy be forwarded to USCAR at an early date.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

WILLIAM E. MORGAN
Major, USAF
Administrative Officer

Info cy to:
6313th ABW (BE)
ATTN: Mrs. Soukup

273

Ltr, 6313ABW (OC), 15 Jun 60, Petition for Lifting of Ban on Entry into Bombing Practice Range, Ie Son

1st Ind (313OC-T)

17 Jun 1960

313 Air Div, APO 239

TO: USCAR

1. This headquarters concurs with the proposal to permit closely controlled scrap collecting on the Ie Shima Range as outlined in Paragraph 5a, b and c of basic letter.
2. Detailed procedures must be established for control of scrap collectors to include published hours and points of entry and exit to range area.
3. Publicity on this matter should include a clear statement that violations of established control procedures will result in automatic re-establishment of entry ban.

FOR THE COMMANDER

DEWITT R. SEARLES
Colonel, USAF
Director of Operations

Copies to: 6313 AB Wg
313IS

274

UNITED STATES CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF THE RYUKYU ISLANDS
APO 331

HCRI-LL 601.532

29 June 1960

SUBJECT: Petition for Lifting of Ban on Entry into Bombing Practice
Range, Ie Son

TO: Chief Executive
Government of the Ryukyu Islands

1. References:

a. Government of the Ryukyu Islands letter to USCAR GRI-LA(L)-191, subject as above, dated 19 April 1960.

b. Government of the Ryukyu Islands letter to USCAR GRI-LA(L)-248, subject: "Crop Clearance, Ie Shima Range", dated 22 June 1960.

2. Your letter, reference 1a, requesting the Air Force to reconsider the decision to prohibit farming within the Ie Shima Bombing and Gunnery range has been thoroughly coordinated and discussed between representatives of USCAR and the Air Force. Although it is the desire of the Air Force to assist the Ie Shima residents whenever possible, the request to permit farming within the range danger area cannot be favorably considered because of the hazard to personnel. If farming was allowed to continue on the range, the Air Force would revert to the previous impossible position whereby seventy or more people were observed within the target area while the range was in use. Once personnel are allowed to gain access to the range, it becomes impossible to remove them when the range is required for firing. The preventing of this situation is necessary to avoid inflicting injury or death.

3. The Air Force however is not unsympathetic with the welfare of the Ie Shima residents. Because of your letter of 19 April 1960, reference 1a, which was submitted in behalf of the Mayor of Ie Son and people concerned, the Air Force is willing to liberalize their present policy to again permit the collection of scrap. Since you have indicated that the populace of Ie Shima have promised to cooperate with the Air Force authorities in future range operations, a trial period for scrap collection will be instituted.

4. In view of the above, the following policy regarding the Ie Shima range will be followed:

HCRI-LL 601.532

29 June 1960

SUBJECT: Petition for Lifting of Ban on Entry into Bombing Practice
Range, Ie Son

a. Collection of scrap will be permitted, under controlled conditions, on Sunday of each week, unless firing is in progress on that day. If so, the range will be open on the subsequent Sunday. During the remaining days of the week the range will be closed to scrap collectors. Since detailed procedures must be established for control of scrap collectors, to include published hours and points of entry and exit to the range area, the Mayor of Ie Son should contact the Air Force range representatives on Ie Shima. This method of controlled access will be instituted on a trial basis until January 1961. Any violations of established control procedures will result in automatic re-establishment of the entry ban.

b. The ban on farming now scheduled for 30 June 1960 will be enforced. Where possible, substitute land on Air Force leased property, located outside of the danger zone, will be made available to those landowners required to clear their crops.

5. Based on an informal request from a representative of your Legal Affairs Department, permission was obtained from the Air Force to extend the crop clearance date to 30 June 1960. This is a formal confirmation of the extension pursuant to your request in reference 1b.

6. It would be appreciated if your government would formally advise the Mayor of Ie Son of the above.

FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER:

KENNETH S. HITCH
Lt Col, AGC
Administrative Officer

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY
23 January 1955

Okinawa Nippo S.

USCAR'S NEGOTIATION WITH VILLAGERS CONCERNING
MILITARY LAND PROBLEM IN IEJIMA FAILS: LANDOWNERS
INSIST UPON CHANGE OF MANEUVER GROUND

In order to settle the problem of designating Iejima as the military requisitioned land, eight persons concerned of USCAR and GRI, including Mr. Sheehan and Maj. Sharp of USCAR's Land Division, representatives of the 20th Air Force, and Director Miyazato of GRI's Internal Affairs Department, flew to the island on January 21 and conferred with the Mayor and landowners. At the conference, they strived to settle the issue, centering around the conditions submitted by the Government, but the landowners insisted upon changing the maneuver ground to the last, saying, "Loss of land means the loss of fundamental livelihood, which is worse than death."

In consequence, the conference came to a failure as the landowners rejected the conditions of the Government. Accordingly, the maneuver ground problem of Iejima has not reached a settlement as yet. The persons concerned, however, will further strive for its settlement, after the Mayor renegotiates with the landowners and reports the result to the Government by the 26th.

The conditions of the Government are as follows:

1. To give substitute land for area surrounding the airfield, and soil of substitute land to be broken by the military.
2. To give land for dwellings to 15 families who will be evacuated.
3. To assist with materials and transportation expenses in case of evacuation.
4. To furnish as much building materials as possible.
5. To furnish cement for water supply facilities.
6. To negotiate with the military so that farming may be permitted within 3,000 to 5,000 feet of the military land.
7. To give them priority in the purchase of Australian cattle.

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY
Wednesday, 2 February 1955

Okinawa Times (Editorial) Y.

LAND REQUISITION AND COMPLAINT OF HARD TIMES

"We will be unable to make a living if we were to evacuate so please do something about it." This is the telegram sent by the Mayor of Iejima to the Department of Internal Affairs in expressing the intention of the landowners whose farms in Maja-ku are to be requisitioned by the military as maneuver grounds. In other words, they are saying that they can not move under the conditions recommended by GRI because they will be unable to make a living. The negotiation for the removal has been going on for several months, and the military authorities' intention has been explained while the Government's policy has been made clear. These people must be in real extremity to insist that they can not move, fully aware that in the worst case, they might be forced to evacuate.

In spite of the report to the contrary, the evacuation problem of Isahama appears to be still unsettled, and more than 20 housewives of the village called on the Chief Executive and protested against the removal. The housewives stated, "We can not move to that swampy land (reclaimed) on which not even a bunch of vegetables can be grown, for we will be unable to rear our children. Our husbands were forcibly persuaded by the Mayor." Persuaded by the village authorities, the men had reluctantly agreed to move, but the housewives have stoutly refused to evacuate, probably because they know better than anyone else what it means to lose the basis of their support.

The removal will have an immediate effect on the people of Maja in Iejima and Isahama of Ginowan. They have had first-hand experience of how hard life can be, during and after the war. The uneasiness and terror caused by the loss of a place to live in is a problem shared universally. It is our belief that if the landowners in Maja and Isahama were assured that they would have no trouble in making a living after their removal, they will surely agree to move, since they are not totally ignorant. However, they must be fully aware of the grim and cold fact that under the military administration, the requisition of land required for military purposes is unavoidable.

Loss of life makes living difficult. These people have lived on the products of their land, and it is not right to force sacrifice on these people alone, just because their farmland happens to be most suited for military use. That is why compensation is paid for requisitioned land, but as long as they insist that the compensation is not sufficient to warrant their future livelihood, the solution of the problem can not be found so easily. Even if their land should be requisitioned later on, the problem can not be considered to have been settled. This is the reason the problem of military requisitioned land is a serious one.

277

PETITION

23 August 1955

TO: SHUHEI HIGA
Chief Executive

FROM: Inhabitants of Maja-ku, Ie-shima

From March 11, 1955 to the 15th of the same month, the inhabitants of Maja-ku, Ie-shima for five days had their homes compulsorily burned by force or destroyed by a bulldozer. Furthermore, the water tank which can be said to be the only water source on the island where there is a shortage of water has also been destroyed at the same time. Subsequently, (the inhabitants) are presently collecting in drums the filthy water which runs down from the roads and drinking this water after straining the water. Consequently, thirty-four (inhabitants) got sick and we are in fear of the eventual increase of more sick patients and suffering.

Our homes are yet to be built even after the lapse of six months and the food compensation is completely stopped. Thus as a means to keep on living when we risk our lives under bombing and carry on with our cultivation, (we) were severely assaulted by many armed soldiers (approx. sixty) on June 13, 1955 and on top of that, were arrested and found guilty at a military trial.

On July 18, 1955, after 1500 hours which is the time agreed upon with the military, (Mrs) Toyo FURUGEN and many other Maja-ku-inhabitants attempted to enter the vegetable field to obtain food supply, but were told that "an order is out to shoot to kill (anyone) who enters hereafter even after the (designated) hours." When Mrs. Furugen and others were requesting that "this place is our land and also that it is the time permitted by the military for ten months," (the sentry) immediately fired a shot which summoned a large number of armed soldiers who forcefully chased them away. With our farm lands completed taken away by force and without any compensation of livelihood, we had been promised by the military in a written statement on March 11 that we can freely enter the area between the hours of 5 pm and 8 am of the following day. Subsequently, we have been working during the night despite the fear of being bitten by poisonous snakes to obtain our food supplies in order to live because the land is ours. On the night of August 20, 1955, Takeo HAMURA of Maja-ku, 4-han (seventeen years old who is living with his mother of 79 years old) found no food in the house and so being unable to endure hunger, he was searching for any left over from the sweet potatoe which he had earlier planted in his own field, when suddenly he was cornered by a military dog, arrested, and was flown away in a helicopter at 2 pm in the afternoon.

On August 18, 1955 Seisuke KINJO (25 years old, Nishizaki-ku) and Ryomei Tsukayama (35 years old, Higashi-onna, Ishikawa-shi) were arrested and interrogated and when TSUKAYAMA was asked for his address he answered, Ishikawa, the

nearby dog was unleashed and he was bitten because (the military) jumped to the conclusion that he is Mr. Ishikawa of Maja-ku. Later, he was found to be a residence of Ishikawa-shi and was taken (to Ishikawa) in a jeep. Mr. TSUKAYAMA was severely bitten. On that day, two 18 and 19 years old girl students of a dressmaker's school who were not inhabitants were permitted to enter inside the fence because "they are not Maja-ku people" and also at another time on the same day, the American guard picked up three Okinawan girls and took them "for a walk" within the fence.

We have petitioned for the compensation of 30 yen per day for our living but it was rejected. We can hardly understand why (we can not cultivate) our own land when even the military has permitted us to do so at a certain time of the day.....not only that, military dogs are set on us when we work during that time.....

This is to request that the agreement made with us be considered and have this problem brought to a favorable conclusion on the standpoint that (we) are humans.

With impression:

OSHIRO, Kozo, Ward head
and others of Maja-ku,
Ie-shima.

26 August 1955

To: Mr. Lester Hardewicke
Chief of Press & Public Relations, USCAR

FROM: 1st Lt. Byron J. Liggett
Information Services Officer
Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

1. Reference the attached copy of a petition you requested my comments on -- I have investigated the incidents mentioned and have ascertained the following facts:

a. Allegation in line 2, para. 3, is not true. No "shoot to kill" order has ever been given to guards or air policemen since they have been stationed on Ie Shima, and none is anticipated. The incident reported did not occur.

b. Allegation in line 14, para. 3, is not true. Imamura was apprehended by guards and dogs on that date but he was not "bitten" as reported by OKINAWA TIMES on August 24. Guard dogs in use at that time on Ie Shima were leashed and have never been turned loose to attack Okinawans since they have been in use. Imamura was taken into custody and escorted to the Air Police hut where he was given food. When interrogated, it was discovered that he was one of the 32 farmers previously arrested and under suspended sentence for trespassing on the range. Imamura did not have a pass for the restricted area and refused to apply for one. His mother has begged him to apply for a pass but he has refused to do so. It was further discovered, upon complaint from the land-owner of the property upon which Imamura was arrested, that Imamura was stealing the potatoes at the time of his arrest.

c. Allegation in line 19, para. 3, is not true. Imamura was evacuated to Koza jail by civilian police boat at approx. 4 p.m. The guards and dogs accompanied him. An Army helicopter was in the area but did not land on Ie Shima.

d. Allegation in line 1, para. 4, is not true. These men were apprehended while on the range illegally but only one, Tsukayama, was taken into custody. He was later released.

e. Allegation in line 4, para. 4, is not true. No dog has ever been unleashed when apprehending Okinawans on Ie Shima. Tsukayama was not bitten.

f. Allegation in line 6, para. 4, is actually ridiculous.

Nobody could drive a jeep from Ie Shima, across several miles of water, to Ishikawa. Furthermore, the USAF doesn't even have a jeep on Ie Shima.

g. Allegation in line 7, para. 4, is not true. Nobody has ever been bitten by dogs on Ie Shima.

h. Allegation in line 7, para. 4, is not true. The incident stated did not occur. Absolutely no Ie Shiman is permitted on the range without a pass.

i. Allegation in line 10, para. 4, is not true. The incident did not occur.

2. My source of information regarding the above is 1st Lt. Lewis M. McHatt, Ass't Kadena Provost Marshal, S/Sgt W. L. Brindle, NCO in Charge of the Ie Shima Air Police Detachment, and A/2C Lincoln O. Olson of the 18th Air Police Squadron. They may be contacted for further information by USCAR or representatives of the Okinawa press.

3. It is recommended that some action be considered to bring a halt to publication in the local vernacular press such biased "news" stories which are obviously based upon irresponsible reporting.

BYRON J. LIGGETT
1st Lt., USAF
Information Services Officer

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY

Saturday, 27 August 1955

Articles contained herein do not reflect the official attitude of either USCAR or the United States Armed Forces. They have been selected for translation and summary by CIE Department, USCAR in order that Americans on Okinawa might be informed of Ryukyuan attitudes as expressed in their press.

NEWS ARTICLES

PRESS CHIEF HARDWICK TELLS PRESS CONTENTS
OF (IEJIMA) PETITION ARE NOT FACTUAL

(Okinawa Shimbun) T.

Mr. Hardwick, Chief of USCAR's Press & Publications Branch, on the 26th invited the chief editors of the three local (Japanese language) dailies to meet with him, at which time he made it clear to them that the contents of the petition reportedly forwarded by residents of Maja sub-village of Iejima differed from the actual facts.

He announced that an investigation made by Lt. Liggett, PIO of the 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing, who queried the Kadena Military Police and their Iejima detachment, had disclosed that no one was bitten by a sentry dog (as previously reported by the press, basing their news articles on an Iejima petition to the Chief Executive), and that the actual facts were as follows:

1. In respect to the report that (Mrs.) Toyo Furugen and other sub-villagers were told, "Order is out to shoot to kill (anyone) who enters the fenced area even after the designated hours," as they tried to enter the fenced area after 5 p.m., July 18th:

Investigation has revealed that there was no one who gave such order and no one intends to do so hereafter, and that there was no such incident on July 18th.

2. In respect to the report that Mr. Takeo Imamura was cornered by a sentry dog and taken away by a helicopter:

It is a fact that he was arrested by the soldiers, but sentry dogs have always been on a leash and were never unleashed. Mr. Imamura was taken to the Air Police Detachment, where he was subjected to inquiry which revealed that he was one of the 32 farmers who were arrested some-time ago (for entering the fenced area), then released on probation; that the farm which he entered in spite of his mother's advice to apply for it. That the farm which he entered did not belong to him; and that he entered the area to steal sweet potatoes.

That he was not taken away by a helicopter, but by a boat belonging to the local police force. That a helicopter flew over the island on that day, but did not alight on the island.

3. Concerning the report that Ryomei Tsukayama was bitten by a sentry dog:

This is not a fact and Tsukayama was not bitten by a sentry dog. It is alleged that he was taken away by a jeep, but this is too ridiculous an allegation to refute with seriousness, for there is not a single jeep belonging to the Air Force on Iejima.

4. Concerning the report that Okinawan girls were picked up in a jeep and taken for a walk within the fenced area:

This is not possible, for those who have no passes can not enter the fenced area.

DAILY OKINAWAN PRESS SUMMARY

Thursday, 19 April 1956

NEWS ARTICLE

BOMB DROPPED NEAR DWELLINGS: MAJA VILLAGERS
REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF BOMBING PRACTICE

(Ryukyu Shimpo) M.

Maja villagers of Iejima were forced to evacuate from their village last March, and since then, the village has been in use for bombing practice. On February 29, the villagers were allowed to enter the firing range to farm for an indefinite period whenever a maneuver was not being conducted. However, on April 18, Messrs. Kozo Oshiro and Kokichi Chinen, representing the landowners of the village, submitted a petition to the Chief Executive, requesting that arrangements be made for suspension of the maneuver as damages are becoming greater due to intensified practice.

The petition read as follows:

"We were notified by USCAR on February 29 that we would be allowed to engage in farming within the area for an indefinite period whenever a maneuver was not being conducted. However, far from moderating the bombing practice, the Air Force has intensified their bombing practice and conduct a practice at any time, day after day, irrespective of Saturdays and Sundays. As a result, recent damages alone reveal destruction by fire of some 30,000 tsubo (1 tsubo eq. 36 sq. ft.) uncultivated field on March 25, some 30,000 tsubo forest and uncultivated field on March 26, and 200 tsubo sugar cane farm on April 5.

"In addition, a bomb was recently dropped near the residential house of Mr. Takeo Miyazato, located at 3-han of Maja-ku. Thus, the situation is exactly like that of a battleground, and it is not 'permission for indefinite farming,' but 'continuation of battle for an indefinite period.' We can by no means bear such danger, damages and distressed living. Thereby, the entire villagers had a conference and reached an agreement to submit a petition again, firmly believing that our just appeal might be understood by the American military.

"It is requested that (the American military) immediately discontinue the bombing practice and change the maneuver ground to an uninhabited island in consideration of our wretched situation, without losing magnanimity and pride of the people of the great United States. We firmly believe that this is the only way for attaining true Ryukyuan-American friendship. Therefore, we petition the Chief Executive to strongly appeal our just request (to the American military) and make every effort to realize the suspension of the bombing practice in the area."

281

Headquarters
313TH AIR DIVISION
United States Air Force
APO 239, San Francisco, California
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

313JA

17 September 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDER, 313TH AIR DIVISION

SUBJECT: Target Area - Ie Shima

Suggest we fence off the target area (up to and including a 5000 foot area if we plan to enlarge the target area from the present 3000 feet within the foreseeable future). A fire brake should be constructed on the target side of the fence and thereafter absolutely prohibit indigenous personnel from entering this area at any time. Once this is done the entire area should be burned off - from the fence to the sea. Prior to setting this fire we should give the property owners a minimum period within which they could cut down and remove the timber that would otherwise be destroyed by the fire. This would greatly lessen any compensation we might have to pay them for destroying the timber which was in place prior to the Air Force leasing the property. There is the possibility that the property owners have already been compensated for all such timber but we are still seeking to verify this through the OKED people. If we do not take such action we will be forever plagued with claims (whether they will be paid or not is another thing). As things stand now indigenous personnel run over the target area at will and in many cases start digging up the practice bombs as soon as they hit. If some indigenous person is killed - concededly by their own negligence - we might have a rather serious situation to cope with.

ROBERT O. ROLLMAN
Lt. Col., USAF
Staff Judge Advocate

RYUKYU SHIMPO (NEWS ARTICLE) 3 April 1957 (M)

'HOPE TO LEAVE DISPOSAL OF SUNKEN VESSELS TO
OKINAWANS': NEW GUINEA WELCOMES OKINAWAN IMMIGRANTS

In his recent letter to Chief Executive Thoma, Secretary Herman Womsiwor to Sultan of Biak Island requested for early issuance of entry permit as he had finished preparations for visiting Okinawa to make an arrangement for receiving Okinawan immigrants in New Guinea. Mr. Herman on February 19, received a passport from Dutch Government and obtained return ticket, but his visit to Okinawa has been delayed due to fact that he has not yet receiving entry permit from Okinawa.

Moreover, Mr. Herman asked Messrs. Kenei Yasumura and Kosei Okimoto of Okinawa to make efforts for sending not only fishing immigrants but also others for sunken vessel disposal to New Guinea. The Nanyo Kohatsu Company is engaged in the collection of scrap in the area of New Guinea belonging to Australia, but as to scrap lying in another part of the island belonging to Holland, Dutchmen started collecting non-ferrous scrap on land, but there is still much scrap to be collected, and disposal of more than 100 sunken vessels lying in the nearby waters by the Okinawans is desired.

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS TO AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED LDD EIR 5700:10

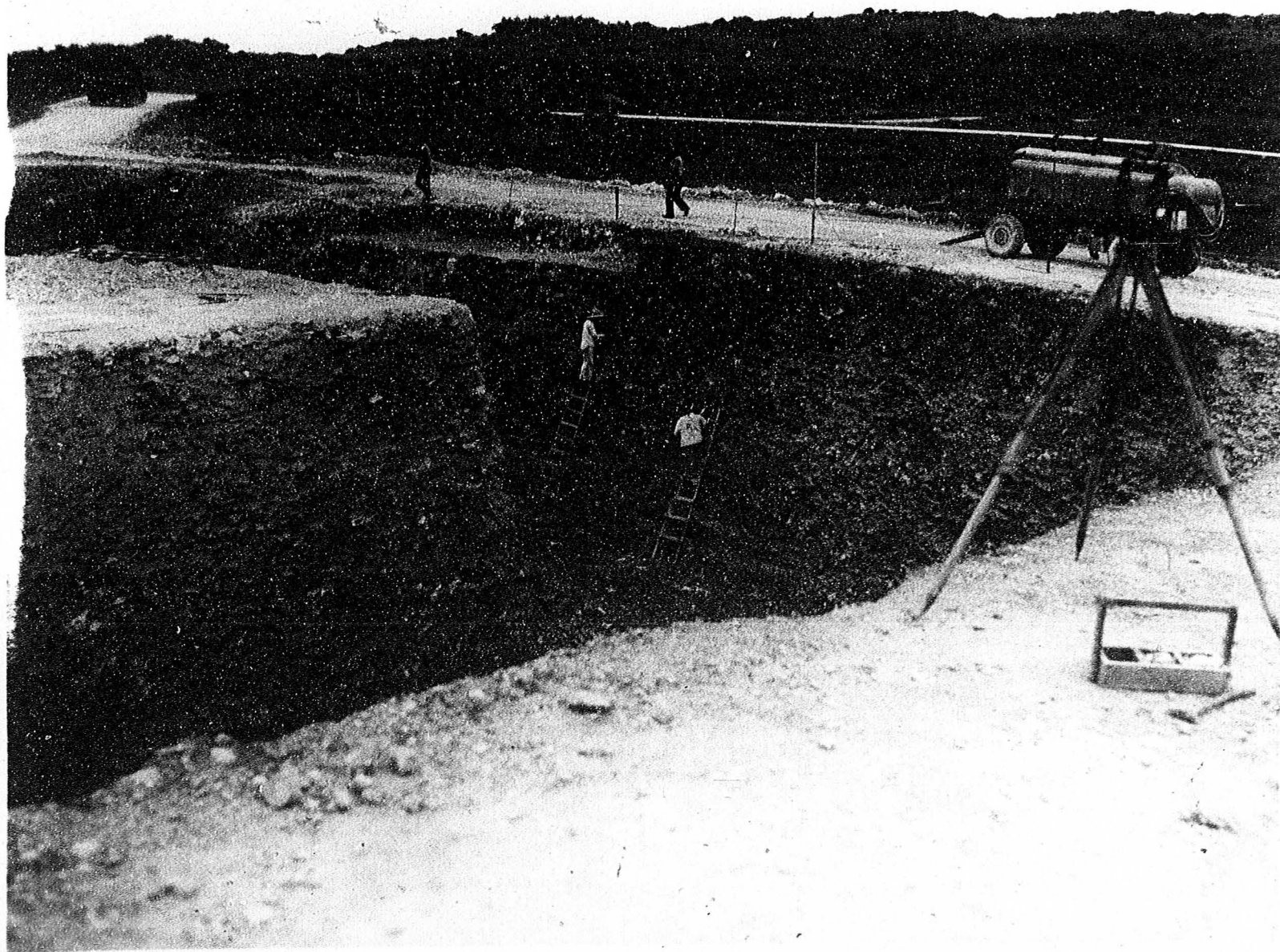
MACE SITE #1 AT BOLO POINT AT 90 PER CENT STAGE
OF COMPLETION FOR PHASE ONE--EXCAVATION--AT THE
TIME THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN ON 1 JUNE 1960. ITS
DEPTH IS 29 FEET. THE CONTRACTOR FOR PHASE ONE
WAS THE M-G CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, AN AMERICAN

FIRM.





MACE SITE #2 AT WHITE BEACH AT 90 PER CENT STAGE
OF COMPLETION FOR PHASE ONE--EXCAVATION--AT THE
TIME THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN ON 1 JUNE 1960. ITS
DEPTH IS 29 FEET. THE CONTRACTOR FOR PHASE ONE
WAS THE M-G CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, AN AMERICAN
FIRM.









THE ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE HANGAR AT KADENA

AIR BASE. STARTED ON 3 SEPTEMBER 1958, IT

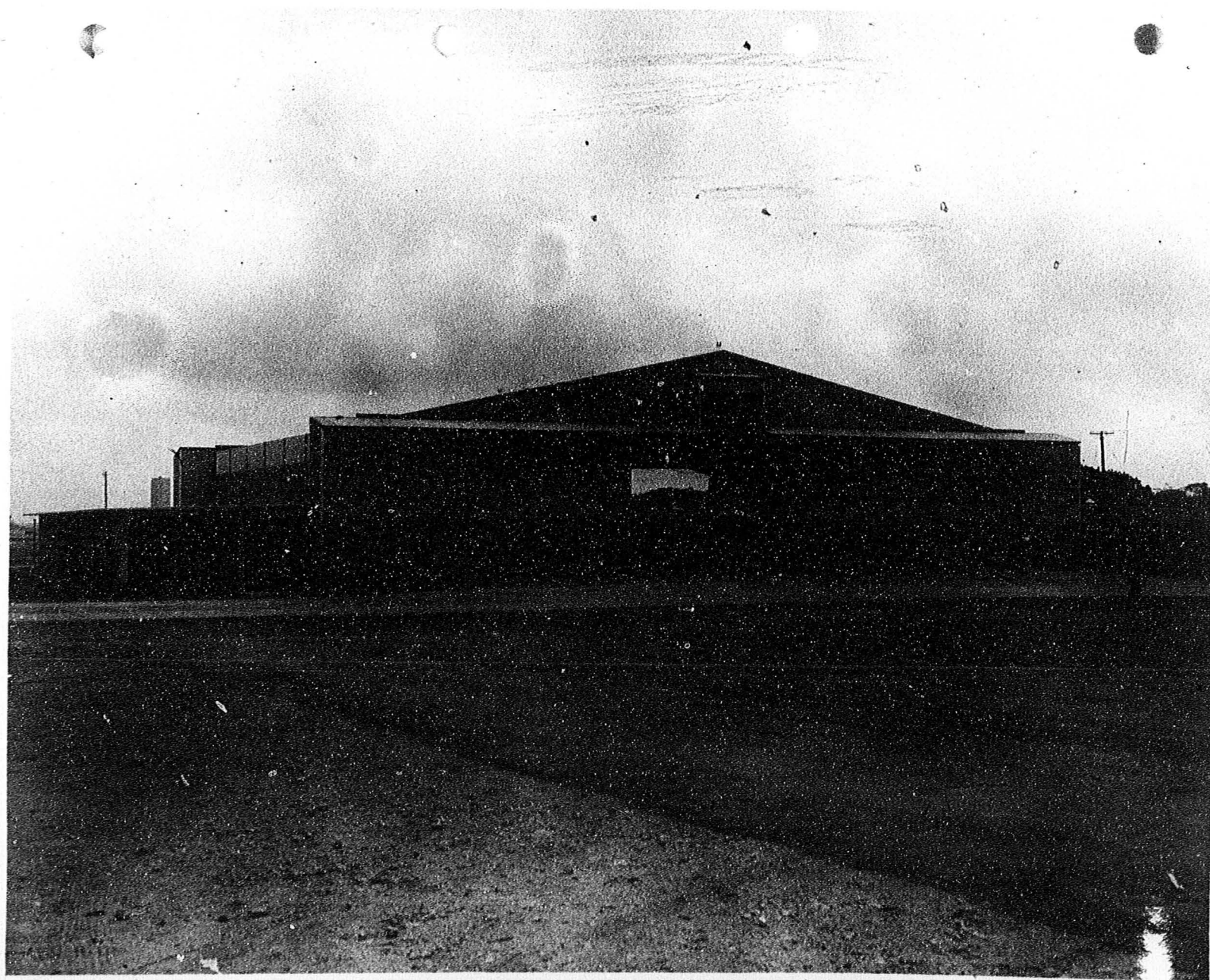
WAS COMPLETED IN APRIL 1960 AND ACCEPTED

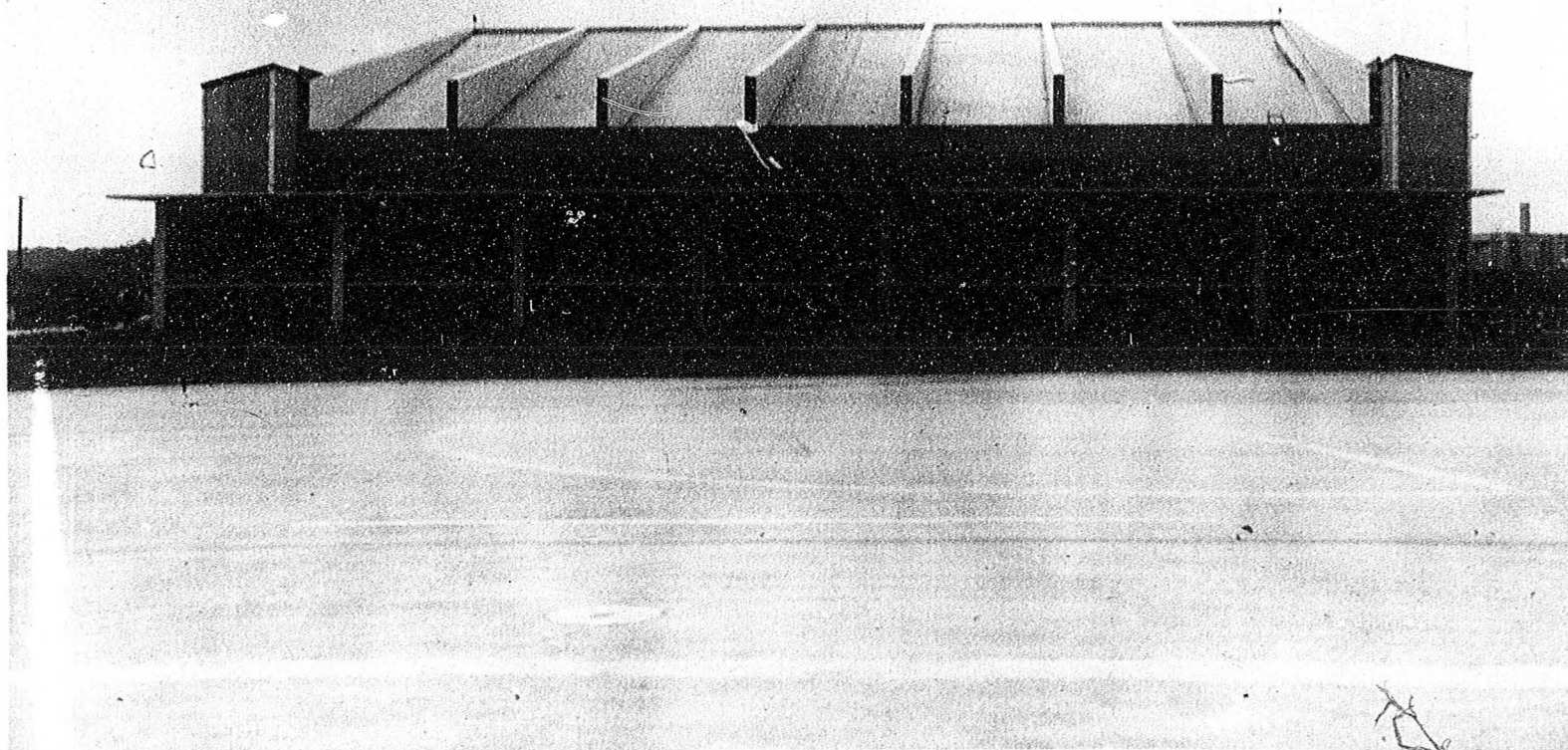
BY THE BASE COMMANDER ON 16 MAY 1960.

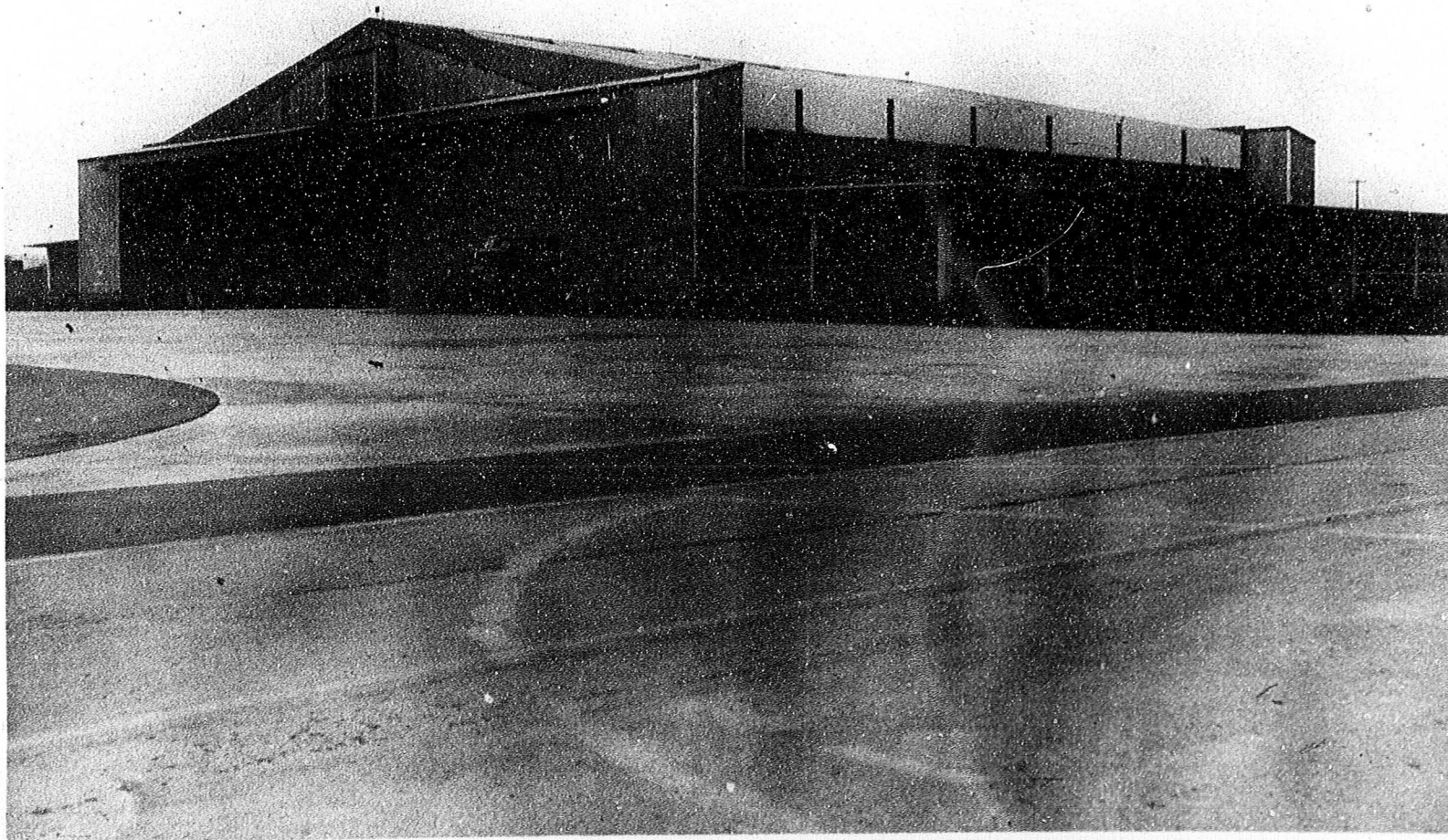
THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT

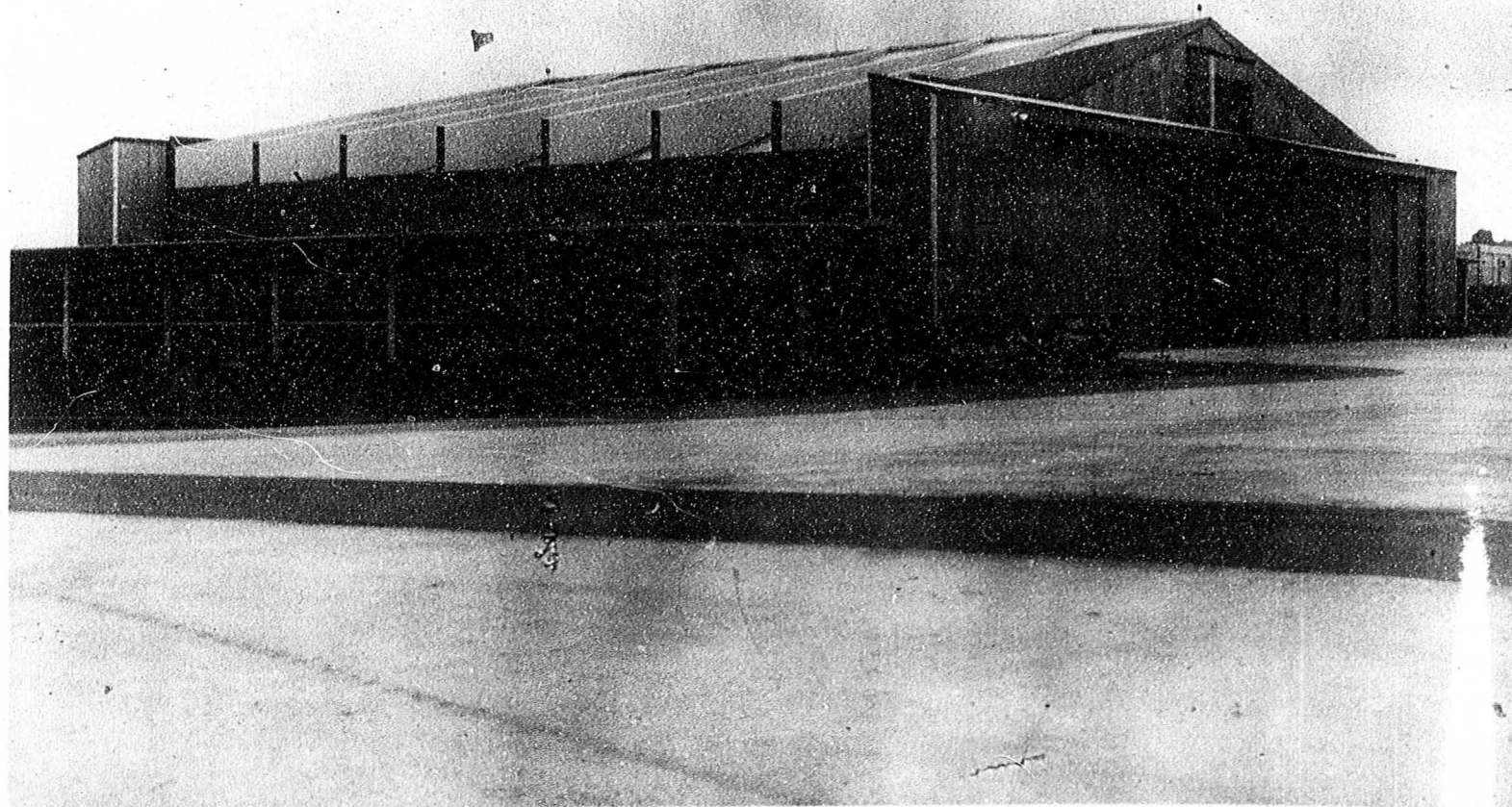
CARRIED OUT BY JHW, INC., WAS

\$756,427.00.









10-12-28

347
778
1115
1492