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## ULITHI ...

Moderators: [Scott Rose](#), [Ztex](#), [dj51d](#), [TimAPNY](#)

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### Author

WIX\_Archive

offline



Joined: Wed Jul 11, 2018  
12:32 pm  
Posts: 186

### Message

Post subject: ULITHI ...

[Posted: Wed 1](#)

*Originally posted by Mark Allen. Images restored. Scott WRG Editor*

Its existence kept secret throughout the war, the US naval base at Ulithi was for a time the world's largest naval facility.

BY GEORGE SPANGLER

In March 1945, 15 battleships, 29 carriers, 23 cruisers, 106 destroyers, and a train of oilers and supply ships sailed from "a Pacific base." What was the mightiest force of naval Power ever assembled must have required a tremendous supporting establishment. Ulithi, the biggest and most active of the world was indeed tremendous but it was unknown. Few civilians had heard of it at all. By the time security released the name, the remarkable was a ghost. The war had moved on to the Japanese homeland, and the press was not printing ancient history about Ulithi.

Ulithi is 360 miles southwest of Guam, 850 miles east of the Philippines, 1300 miles South of Tokyo. It is a typical volcanic atoll with coral, white trees. The reef runs roughly twenty miles north and south by ten miles across enclosing a vast anchorage with an average depth of 80 to 100 feet suitable anchorage within 800 miles. Three dozen little islands rise slightly above the sea, the largest only half a square mile in area.

The U.S. Navy arrived in September 1944 and found resident about 400 natives, and three Japanese soldiers. The natives on the four largest islands to smaller Fassarai, and every inch of these four was quickly put to use. Asor had room for a headquarters: port director, radio station, evaporator only freshwater supply), tents, small boat pier, cemetery. Sorlen was set up as a shop for maintaining and repairing the 105 LCVPs and 45 LCMs to beasts of all work in the absence of small boats. Mogmog was assigned to recreation. The big island, Falalop, was just wide enough for a 3500-foot handling the R4Ds (Douglas DC-3s) and R5C Commandos, which would presently fly in from Guam 1269 passengers, 4565 sacks of mail and 267 air freight a week. This took care of a few services - but where were they going to put the naval base?

Enter "the secret weapon," as Admiral Nimitz called Service Squadron Ten. Commodore Worrall R. Carter survived Pearl Harbor to devise the miracle service force that made it possible for the Navy to move toward Japan in great jumps instead of taking the slow and costly alternative of capturing islands on which to build a string of land bases.

Within a month of the occupation of Ulithi, a whole floating base was in operation. Six thousand ship fitters, artificers, welders, carpenters, and electricians arrived aboard repair ships, destroyer tenders, floating dry docks. USS AJAX had an air-conditioned optical shop, a supply of base metals from which to make any alloy to form any part needed. Many refrigerator and supply ships belonged to three-ship teams: the ship at Ulithi had cleaned out and ship No. 2 which was on the way back to a rear base for more supplies while No. 3 was on the way out to relieve No. 1. Over half the ships were propelled but were towed in. They then served as warehouses for a whole system of transports which unloaded stores on them for distribution. They went all the way back to the United States. The paper and magazines showed England sinking under the stockpile of troops and material collected in invasion of Normandy.

The Okinawa landings were not so well documented but they involved more men, ships, and supplies-including 600,000 gallons of fuel oil, 1500 ammunition, and enough food to provide every person in Vermont and Wyoming with three meals a day for fifteen days. The smaller ships needed services, the ice cream barge made 500 gallons a shift, and the USS ABATAN, which looked like a big tanker, really distilled fresh water and baked pies. Fleet oilers sortied from Ulithi to refuel the combat ships a short distance from the strike areas. They added men, mail, and medical supplies take orders for spare parts.

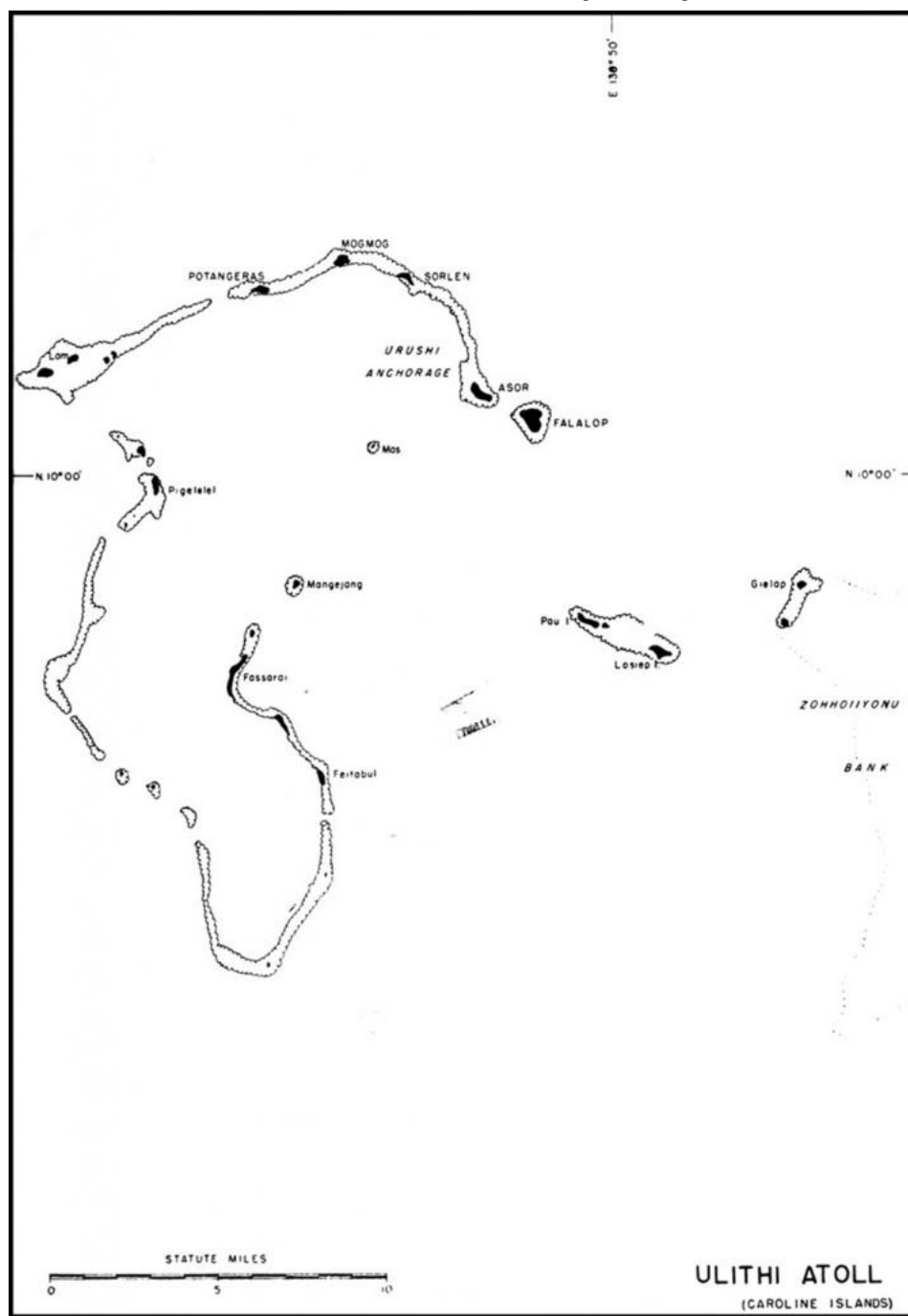
When Leyte Gulf was secured, the floating base moved on, and Ulithi which had had a temporary population the size of Dallas and had been the center of the world for seven months, shrank to little more than a tanker depot. Once again, it became a quiet, lonely atoll.

Some nice film footage here:

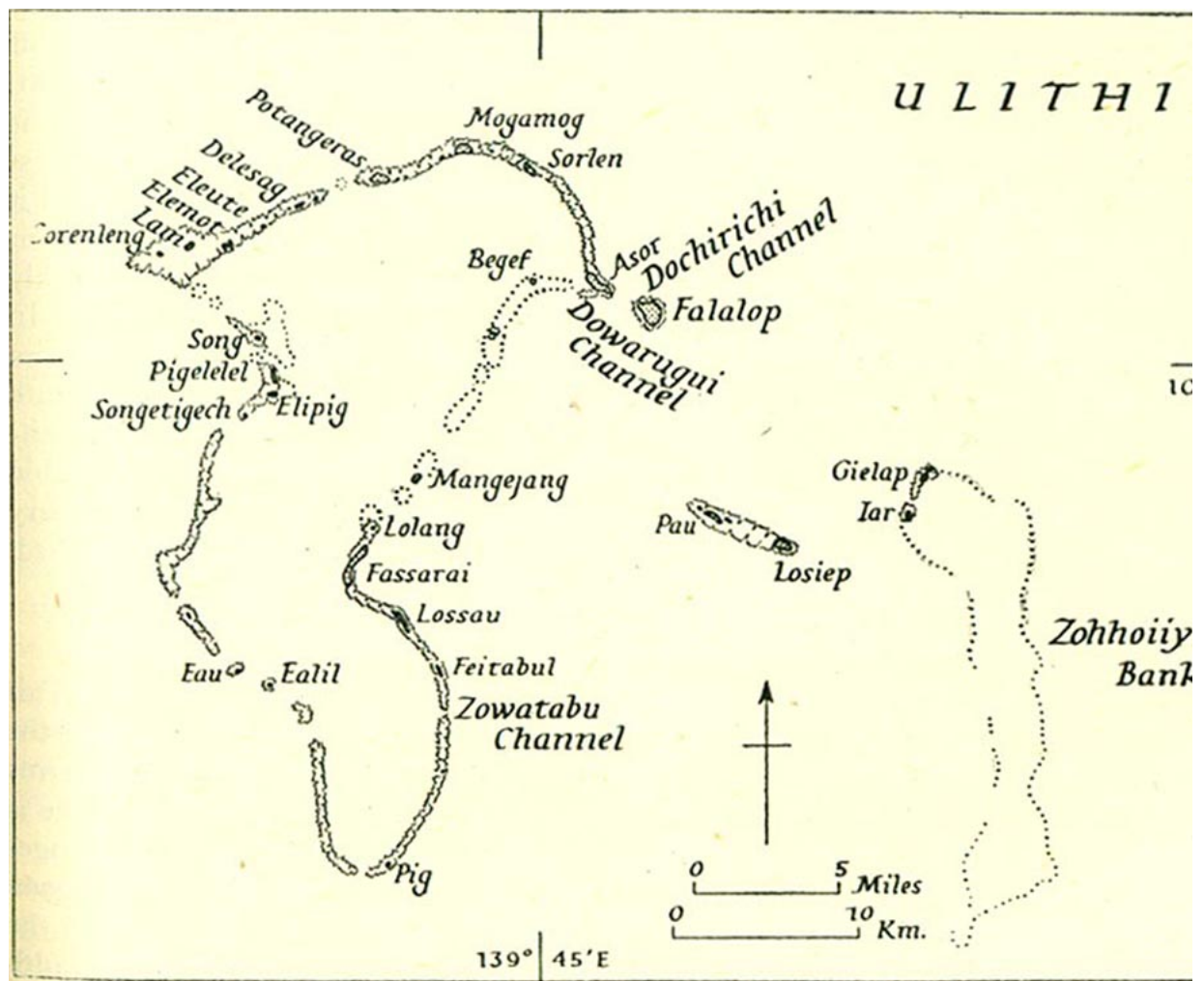
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEgsA07E9Ok>

<http://www.criticalpast.com/products/lo.../1940/1944>

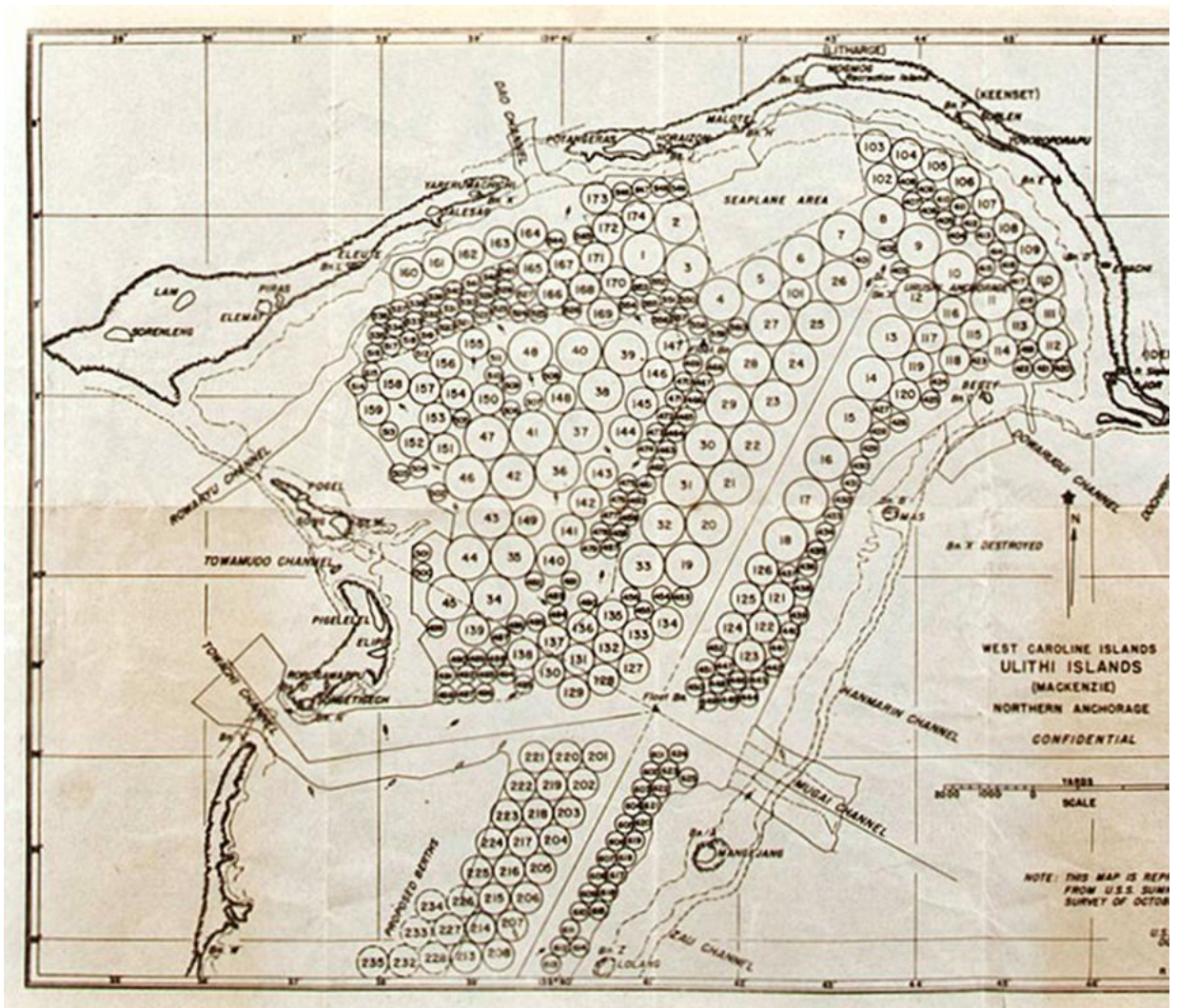
Part 1



Ulithi Atoll



Ulithi Atoll



US Navy 1944 berthing chart for the Northern Anchorage of the Ulithi Lagoon, Caroline Islands





Ships of the 3rd fleet Ulithi December 1944



Ships of the 3rd fleet Ulithi December 1944



Ships of the 5th fleet Ulithi



Ulithi January 1945





Murderer's Row the carriers Wasp (CV 18), Yorktown (CV 10), Hornet (CV 12), and Hancock (CV 19) anchored in Ulithi Atoll Dec 1944



Ulithi Anchorage



Ulithi Anchorage



Murderer's  
Row the carriers Wasp (CV 18), Yorktown (CV 10), Hornet (CV 12), and  
Hancock (CV 19) anchored in Ulithi Atoll Dec 1944





Murderer's Row



USS North Carolina at Ulithi



Ulithi Anchorage



Ulithi Anchorage

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Post subject: Re: ULITHI ...

Posted: Wed 1

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Part 2



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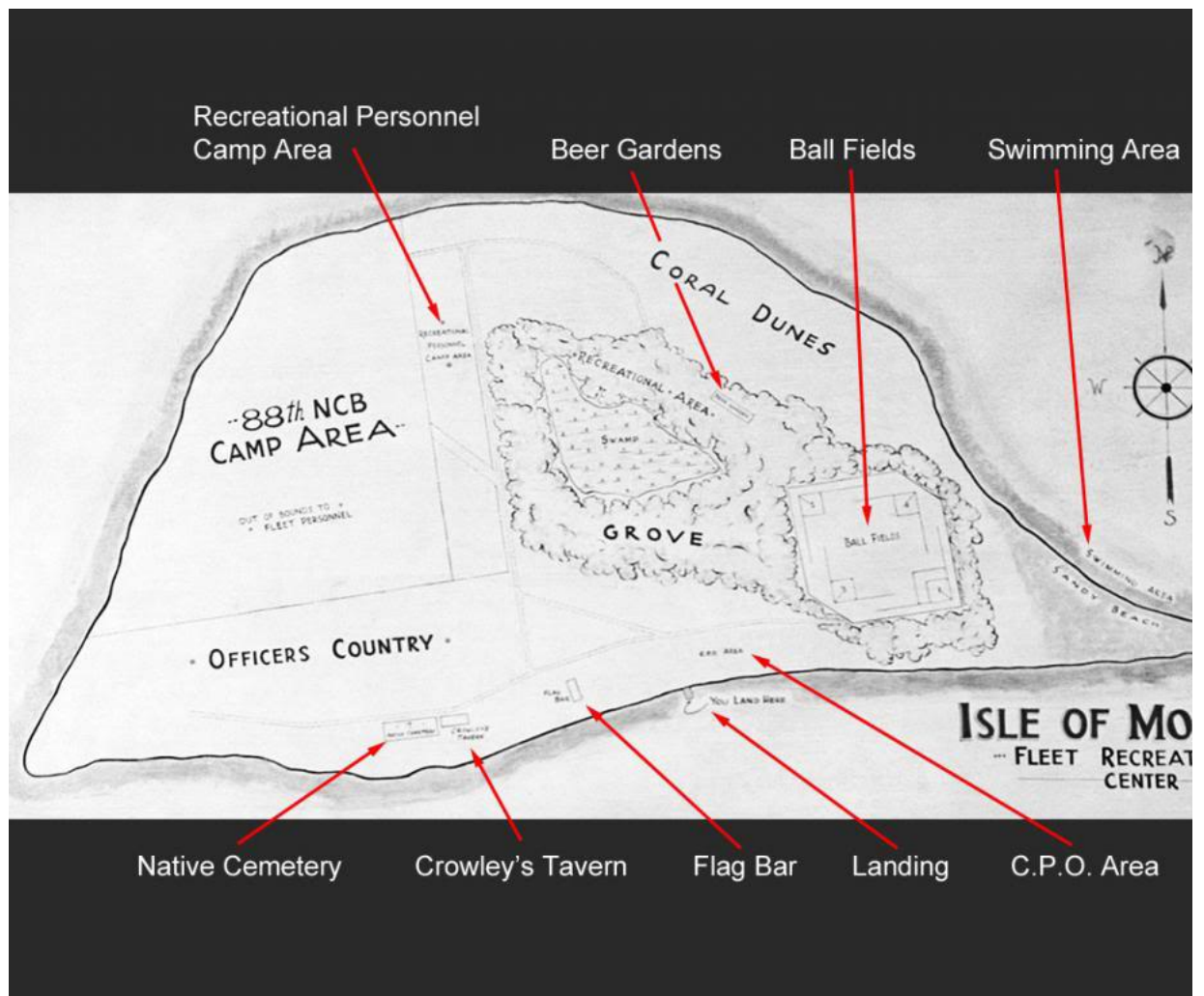
USS South Dakota Ulithi





USS South Dakota Ulithi





R&amp;R on Mog-Mog Island in Ulithi Atoll



Mog-Mog liberty c 1944



Mog-Mog liberty c 1944



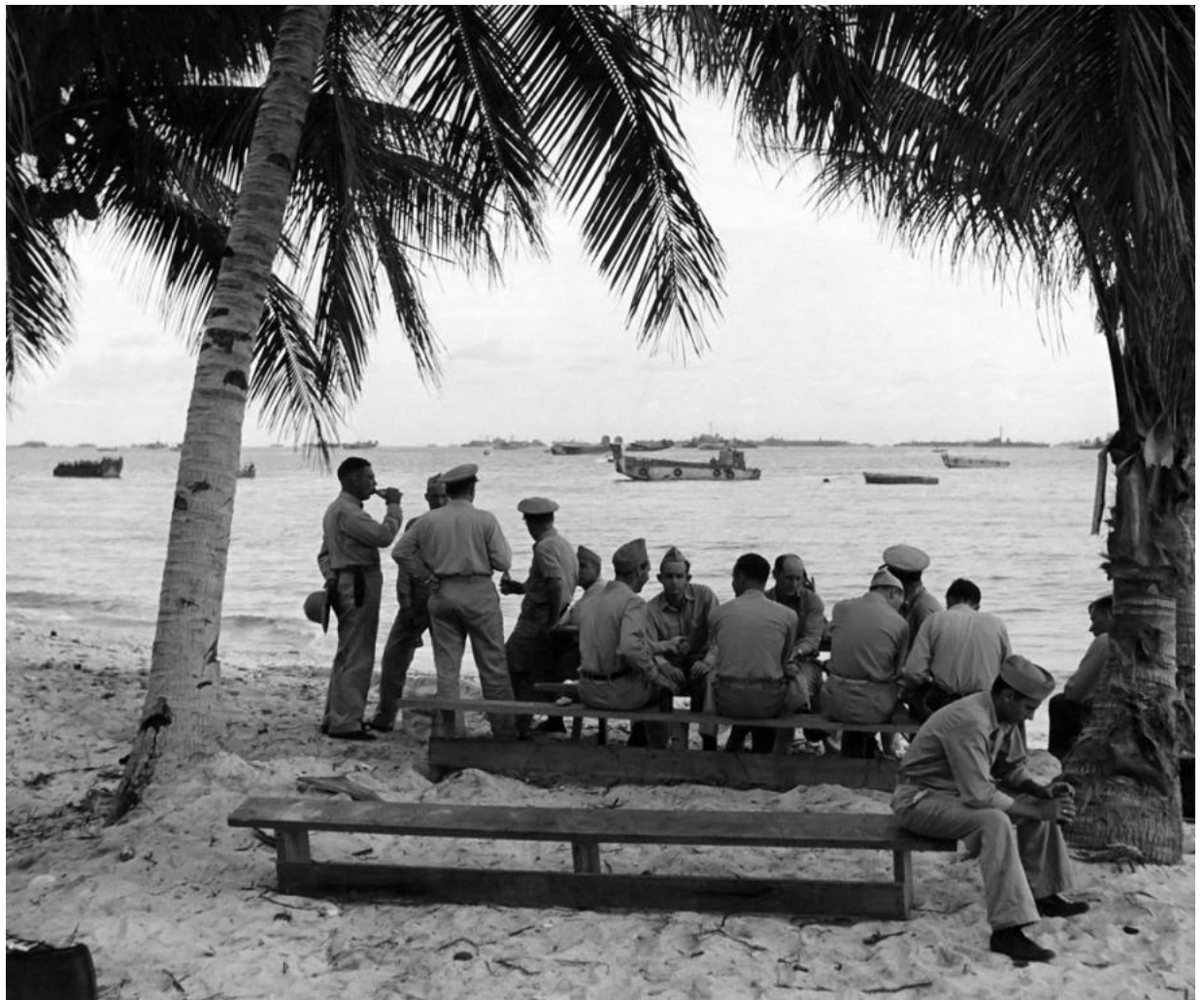


Mog-Mog liberty c 1944

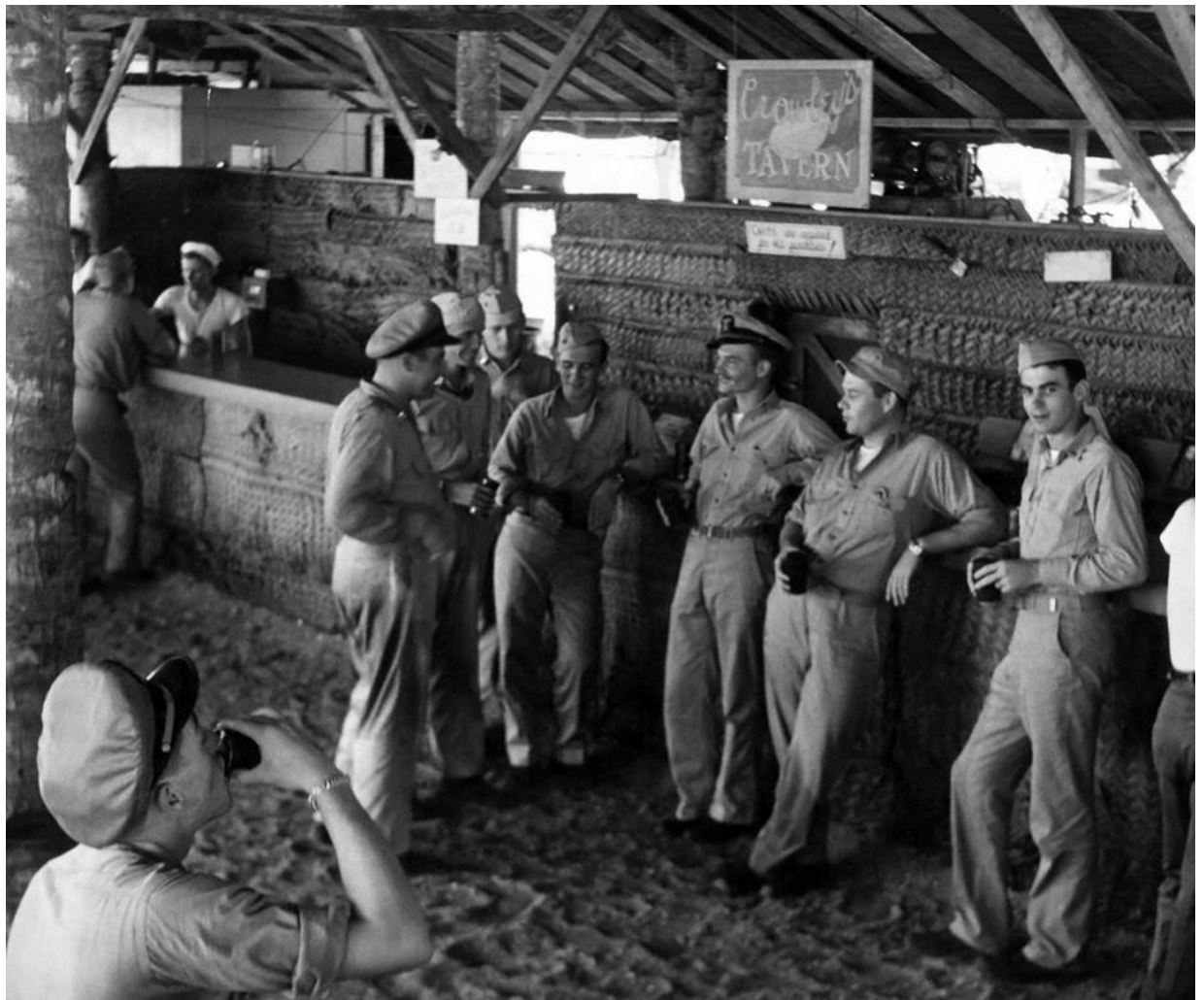




Mog-Mog liberty c 1944



Mog-Mog O-club



Mog-Mog liberty





Mog-Mog baseball





Mog-Mog beach



Mog-Mog beach liberty



Ulithi R&R





Ulithi R&R





Mail call Ulithi c 1944

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Part 3



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Mog-Mog liberty



Mog-Mog liberty





Ulithi





Officers  
of Bombing Squadron (VB) 4 pictured with an SB2C Helldiver on the  
flight deck of the carrier Essex (CV 9) at Ulithi Atoll.



F6F-5N Hellcat aircraft of VMF(N)-541, MAG-45, are on the ground at Falalop Island, Ulithi Atoll 1945



R4D Aircraft Used as a Projection Room for Movies, Ulithi, 1944





Corsair at Ulithi Atoll strip

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Post subject: Re: ULITHI ...

 Posted: Wed 1

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Part 4

More photos of R&R conditions on the islands of the Ulithi Atoll.



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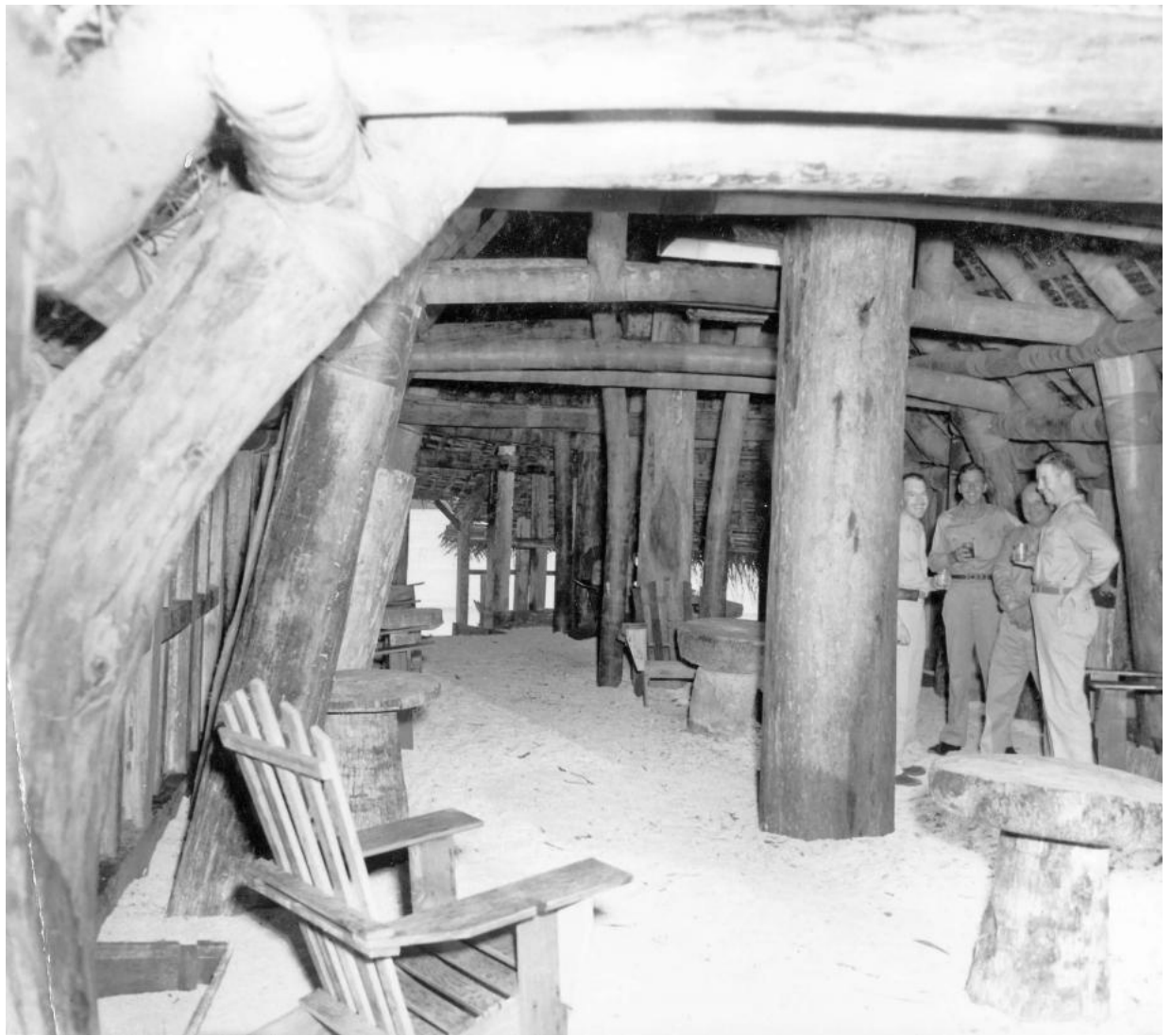














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Part 5

and even more photos of color LIFE on and around the Ulithi Atoll.



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Post subject: Re: ULITHI ...

Posted: Wed 11 Jul 2018 12:32 pm

offline

Part 6

Not all was fun and games at Ulithi ...



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Burning oil tanker, believed to be the USS Mississinewa after it was hit by a Japanese suicide submarine (kaiten) in Ulithi lagoon, 20 November 1944

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**CraigQ**

**offline**

**Joined:** Wed Oct 19, 2005  
7:27 pm  
**Posts:** 254  
**Location:** Preparing for transit

[profile](#)

Post subject: [Re: ULITHI ...](#)

**Posted:** Wed May 07, 2014 6:53 pm

Great pics. Makes me want to dig out my box of pics and slides I shot out there in 1996 & 97 on Falalop.

CraigQ

[Top](#)

**Mark Allen M**

**offline**

Long Time Member



**Joined:** Fri Feb 03, 2012 1:48  
pm  
**Posts:** 7026

[profile](#)

Post subject: [Re: ULITHI ...](#)

**Posted:** Wed May 07, 2014 6:53 pm

A few recent photos.







There's a difference between an opinion and questioning reality.

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DH82EH

 [profile](#)

Post subject: Re: ULITHI ...

 Posted: Wed May 07, 2014 7:01 pm

 offline

1000+ Posts!



Thanks Mark,  
Really interesting post.  
I bet when those guys were able to have a beer, it tasted gooooood!!

Andy

Joined: Tue Oct 02, 2012 7:26 pm  
Posts: 1896  
Location: Creemore Ontario Canada

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CraigQ

Post subject: Re: ULITHI ...

 Posted: Wed F

Looking at Falalop here, the runway cuts across the left end of the island. The runways lower end is the lagoon side, the upper end is the open oc

offline

Joined: Wed Oct 19, 2005  
7:27 pm  
Posts: 254  
Location: Preparing for transit

the Navy pushed everything it left when they vacated the island. The main village is to the right of the runway. The Outer Island High School is to left.



CraigQ

Top

Elwyn

offline

User avatar

Joined: Thu Apr 29, 2004  
7:38 pm  
Posts: 490  
Location: Oklahoma

Top

AvroAvian

offline



Joined: Fri May 12, 2006 7:28  
pm  
Posts: 288  
Location: Out of my mind...

Top

sandiego89

offline

1000+ Posts!



Joined: Mon May 21, 2012  
12:28 pm  
Posts: 1036

profile

Post subject: Re: ULITHI ...

Posted: Wed May 07, 2014 8:44 pm

Great stuff, but now I can't get seem to get the song "There Ain't Nothin' Like a Dame" outta my head. 😊

profile

Post subject: Re: ULITHI ...

Posted: Wed May 07, 2014 10:06 pm

Amazing story and photos. Thanks again for posting Mark. 😊

profile

Post subject: Re: ULITHI ...

Posted: Thu May 08, 2014 8:03 am

Thank you Mark, really like the R&R shots from Mog Mog. Good stuff.

-Dave



Top

Pat Carry

offline

Long Time Member

User avatar

Joined: Mon May 03, 2004 5:42 pm

Posts: 5659

Location: Waukegan, Illinois

profile

Post subject: Re: ULITHI ...

Posted: Thu May 08, 2014 1:10 pm

The photos of the many, many ships at anchorage is what Yamamoto was talking about when he said after Pearl Harbor "I'm afraid we have awakened a sleeping giant" Although I'm sure he could not envision all of this naval might.

Ain't no sunshine when she's gone!

dleewalk

offline

Joined: Tue Jul 08, 2014 7:07 am

Posts: 1

profile

Post subject: Re: ULITHI ...

Posted: Tue Jul 08, 2014 7:17 am

Ulithi was only kept secret from the US and home folks, George -- certainty not to the Japanese! My Dad was on the USS Randolph (CV-15) riding anchor at Ulithi on March 11th, 1945 and was hit by a Kamikaze attack.

Excerpt from USS Randolph history:  
Riding at anchor at Ulithi 11 March, a kamikaze "Frances," a twin-engine bomber, hit Randolph on the starboard side aft just below the flight deck, killing 25 men and wounding 106. Repaired at Ulithi, Randolph joined the Okinawa Task Force 7 April. Combat air patrols were flown daily until 14 April, when strikes were sent against Okinawa, Ie Shima, and Kakeroma Island. The following day, an air support mission of fighters, bombers, and torpedo planes hit Okinawa and a fighter sweep struck an airfield in southern Kyushu. Under daily air attack from 17 April on, Randolph continued to send her aircraft on CAP and support missions throughout the month.

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