

DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>NND 735017</u>
By <u>NKJ</u> NARA Date <u>7/18/09</u>

HEADQUARTERS 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
Forward Echelon

Office of the AC of S, G-2

15 August 1943

Attached is an overlay showing the findings of four (4) patrols in the BAIROKO area, and a report covering same by Major Clemens, whose men led the patrols.

Results of these patrols emphasize the following points:

1. The area South and West of BAIROKO HARBOR, aside from a ridge running parallel with the bend of the BAIROKO River and Hills H-1, H-2, and H-3, is swampy and not suitable for crossing by large groups or for road construction. In some places the water is waist deep.
2. For some reason or other the Japs have seen the necessity for a line of communication between SUNDAY INLET and BAIROKO HARBOR. This may be either for a protected supply line, it being much easier and safer for their barges to enter SUNDAY INLET unobserved than at BAIROKO, or it may be an emergency route for evacuation. The first possibility is most probable. Evidently the Japanese feel that this road is safe from attack from the South due to the nature of the terrain. Aerial reconnaissance is being conducted to see if this trail can be observed from the air.

John A. Burden
JOHN A. BURDEN,
Major, A. U. S.
Acting G-2

Copies to:

G-2 XIV Corps
S-2 27th Inf.
S-2 Div. *DATA*
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NOTES FOR OVERLAY

CORAL ROAD:

Observed by two (2) patrols --. A $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 ft. wide coral road. Is hard and has a few tracks on it. Opinion of natives who saw it is that it could not be more than 3 or 4 days old. Along towards the BAIROKO end, chopping, sawing, and hammering were heard and patrols nearly ran into enemy guards. Base of road has much corduroying.

PATROL TO BAIROKO HARBOR:

Patrol (1) came out to coast on West side of BAIROKO HARBOR, and observed a Jap barge close in to the West shore where one Jap was working clad in shorts and oblivious of any danger. One Jap was heard chiselling off the top of an oil drum in the same vicinity. At night, the barking of several dogs was heard and bombs heard to fall on the east side of BAIROKO HARBOR.

SUNDAY INLET:

Patrol in this vicinity was close in during the daylight air raid by our planes. They heard air raid warning to Japs given by whistle and later heard their guns being fired.

H-2:

This Hill which coinsides with MAC map, has several bomb crators on it which could be observed on air photographs.

CJG
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