



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Branch of Theoretical Geophysics
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

September 5, 1968

Mr. E. H. Bryan, Jr., Manager
Pacific Scientific Information Center
Bishop Museum
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Bryan:

On behalf of Dr. R. R. Doell and me, I would like to thank you once again for your help in obtaining maps and information concerning the Leeward Islands. The maps especially proved to be invaluable and of reasonably good quality.

Our trip to Nihoa and Necker Islands with Mr. Kridler and Mr. Sincock, U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, was very successful and we were able to obtain the rock samples needed for our study. Landing proved to be much easier than expected as the seas were unusually calm. We were able to spend four days on Nihoa and two days on Necker.

You expressed some interest in rumors of military debris on the two islands and we can verify that these rumors are indeed true. The enclosed photographs show most of what is left on Nihoa. Mr. Kridler and Mr. Sincock spent some time disposing of an additional half-dozen or so rusty 55 gallon drums by throwing them into the sea. Several of these drums had rusted out on top, collected water, and become death traps for unwary birds. Other than the debris shown in the two photographs, Nihoa appears to be in fine shape.

The situation on Necker Island, however, is quite different. We found extensive remains of a military camp on Bowl Hill and on the flat ridge extending to the east. These remains include a half-full drum (55 gallon) of gasoline, an old triangular platform and standard (?), a tent platform measuring about 12-15 feet square, several cases of unopened rations (now rusted), and a rather extensive tin-can dump. Obviously the military had made no effort to clean up their disgraceful mess. Apparently, this debris is from an Air Force operation of several years ago--Mr. Kridler knows the details if you are interested.

In addition to the camp debris, there is bomb damage on Necker. Dr. Doell and I counted four distinct bomb craters in the vicinity of Annexation Peak and there are other pits that are probably due to bombs as

well. Some of these craters still contain what appears to be bomb fragments and all are near stone platforms. In fact, one heiau had suffered a direct hit. In addition, we found 50 caliber bullets (apparently fired from an airplane) and there is an unexploded bomb on the NE end of Northwest Cape. Unfortunately, we neglected to take our polaroid camera and so did not get any photos on Necker for you.

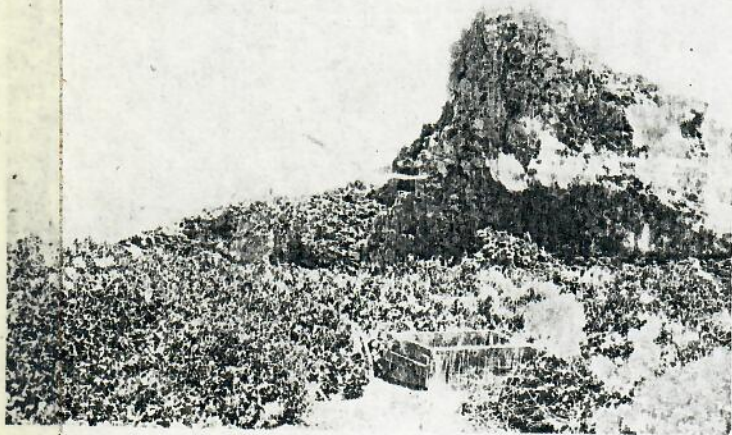
We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Nihoa and Necker. Both Dr. Doell and I especially liked Necker because of the magnificent scenery available from any view and the well developed and numerous heiaus.

Thank you again for your help. We look forward to seeing you again on one of our trips to the islands.

Sincerely,

G. Brent Dalrymple

G. Brent Dalrymple
Geologist



*Nihoa
debris*

(1968)

