



The Valkyrien, cruising off Honolulu before her departure for the South Pacific.  
—Photo by Warren Roll.

## **Spy agency may be using Isle vessel**

A Hawaii-based sailing vessel with a Central Intelligence Agency man on board reportedly is in the South Pacific today on a secret mission to monitor the French nuclear tests.

The 80-foot schooner Valkyrien is believed to be operating out of Pitcairn Island, only about 500 miles from the French atomic test base at Mururoa Atoll.

France is expected to set off the first of her nuclear explosions almost momentarily, depending on weather conditions. Mururoa is 3,200 miles southeast of Honolulu.

The Valkyrien, hastily loaded with scientific equipment, left the Ala Wai Yacht Harbor four weeks ago.

She was expected to reach British-owned Pitcairn, famous as the isle of refuge for the Bounty mutineers, yesterday or today.

Pitcairn is one of the clos-  
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Mururoa Atoll, site of the upcoming French nuclear tests, is four times farther from Honolulu than Johnston Island, site of the U.S. tests in 1962.

## French may begin nuclear tests in Pacific Thursday

Soon—possibly Thursday—the skies over the Pacific will be bathed in the glare of the first nuclear explosion to take place in this part of the world since 1962.

The first atomic tests at France's new Pacific proving ground, 3,200 miles southeast of Honolulu, are ready to begin.

For Hawaii residents, however, the blasts are not expected to provide the celestial fireworks that occurred when the United States set off its high-altitude thermonuclear explosions over Johnston Island in the summer and autumn of 1962.

There are two reasons why the French explosions are not expected to be visible here:

—The French test base is at Mururoa Atoll. It is four times farther from Honolulu than is Johnston Island.

—The devices to be exploded are believed to be puny compared with the far more sophisticated and powerful U.S. weapons exploded at Johnston between July and November, 1962.

The French devices involved in the beginning series of tests are expected to be conventional nuclear weapons, probably not unlike those tested by the United States shortly after World War II.

Not until next year are the French expected to be ready for testing a thermonuclear (hydrogen) bomb at Mururoa.

When the true thermonuclear device is exploded, there's a chance that its flash may be visible in Hawaii.

Indirect northern-lights effects from the big American blasts at Johnston in 1962

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# France explodes A-bomb in Pacific

PAPEETE, Tahiti (UPI) —France resumed its nuclear tests in the atmosphere today, exploding a small atomic device over Mururoa Atoll in the Pacific 800 miles southeast of Tahiti.

France thus joined Communist China as the only nations with atomic capability to conduct an atmospheric test since the signing of the nuclear test ban treaty in 1963. Neither signed the test ban pact.

The blast at Mururoa in the Tuamotu Archipelago, a French-owned sprawl of islands, was believed to be less than one megaton. A megaton is the equivalent of one million tons of TNT.

It was the fifth announced nuclear explosion in the atmosphere by France and the first since April 25, 1951. The previous blasts were near Reggane in the Sahara Desert.

(The U.S. State Department issued a statement regretting the test and urging

"universal adherence" to the test ban treaty.)

The test was expected to produce widespread protests in Latin America, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and various Asian capitals wary of atomic fallout.

Pierre Billotte, French Overseas Territories minis-

ter, was at Rikita, 200 miles away, "to be with the Island people at blast time to show there is no reason for fear."

Fifteen weather stations and balloon air surveys in Polynesia were monitoring fallout and sending results to the launch center.

The United States had two ships in the area of the test to observe the blast. Both were instructed to remain in international water. It was expected they would also conduct tests for fallout from the atomic device. They are the U.S.S. Belmont and U.S.S. Ridgefield.

France plans to continue testing at its Pacific Range

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## No radioactive fallout due here

A State health official said today he doubts if Hawaii will receive any radioactive fallout from the French atomic tests in the Society Islands.

He said high altitude winds blowing toward

Hawaii could cause a slight increase in the radioactivity readings in a few days.

But since the tests are in the southern hemisphere, he said, "I have my doubts."



'Wow! That's Got Quite A Kick!'  
July 3, '66





# Red Agitators Making Easter

By MARTIN P. HOUSEMAN

SANTIAGO, Chile (UPI) — Having tasted civilization, including Latin American bureaucracy, politics and a police force, the natives of Easter Island are getting restless.

The Chilean government, which administers the tiny land 2,350 miles west of South American shores,

blames Marxist agitation for trouble among the 3,000 natives.

Long ruled by the Chilean navy, the island was shaken in 1965 by a separatist revolt for union with the French Polynesian government at Papeete, 2,700 miles farther west.

Embarrassed, the government here incorporated the

island into municipal Chile, tacking it onto Valparaiso Province, and drew up an economic development program.

Deciding the islanders would have to learn to become good Chileans, the government last year packed off a 140-man delegation of civilizers, including bureaucrats and a

30-man police force, to the distant paradise.

The lesson was well taught. Already the islanders are squabbling over politics, mainland style, with Christian Democrats (the ruling party here) lined up — if the government accounts are to be believed — against Marxists.

The island's march into

## Island Natives Restless

the 20th century will get a big boost next April, when the first commercial airline flight — solidly booked by American tourists — is scheduled to put down at an airstrip now abuilding. The government is hoping to attract thousands of tourists to see the monolithic carved stone heads, 30 to 40 feet

tall, for which the island is famous.

No one is certain about the origin of the heads or of great stone blocks inscribed with an as yet undeciphered language.

Newly appointed island governor Enrique Rogers gave a cheerful account of tourism and development prospects when he came

here on leave in December. But upon returning to the island, he was greeted by a delegation of brawny native women carrying placards that read: "Rogers Go Home."

Before whites settled on the island in 1664, there had been frequent and bloody wars between the island factions. Lost in these wars

were the written language and the reason for the long-nosed stone figures which originally were topped with red-rock hats.

There are indications that the carving of the statues stopped suddenly sometime in the distant past. Time stopped, too, for the islanders. Now it is catching up with them.

# British island may get U.S. landing strip

Henderson Island, a tiny speck in the South Pacific, is being considered for an Air Force air strip to aid the U.S. military space program.

Recently the Sunnyvale, a ship used by the Air Force to help retrieve military satellites, pulled into Pearl Harbor after a 10-day survey trip.

The Air Force said the survey was conducted with

Test Range facility in support of U.S. space activity."

Henderson lies almost directly south of Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, where increasing numbers of satellites will be launched into polar orbit.

Polar orbits give the Air Force complete surveillance coverage of the earth's surface by spy satellites.

Polar shots from Vandenberg, headquarters of the Western Test Range, would be fired toward Henderson.

What the Air Force undoubtedly wants is an air strip so satellite-catching aircraft could operate in the area.

West of Henderson is French Oceania and the French are hardly interested in giving the U.S. landing rights around Tahiti or the French nuclear test site in the Gambier Islands.

There is no land east of Henderson except Easter Island, the land of the mysterious stone faces.

The Sunnyvale helps Air Force planes in capsule-catching tasks and has a helicopter pad on the fantail.

Two years ago the ship accidentally bumped and sank the yawl Ortona 140 miles from Oahu.

At Henderson, Sunnyvale crewmen, who are civilian members of the Seafarer's Union, found a number of human bones and reburied them.



the permission of the British Government, owners of Henderson, and that a United Kingdom representative made the voyage.

Henderson is 100 miles northeast of famed Pitcairn, the rocky isle where mutineers off the Bounty made their home.

The Air Force said Defense Department and "contractor personnel" looked over Henderson "as a possible location for a Western



# Islanders unlikely to

Sometime next year the French will explode the first of several nuclear bombs in the South Pacific.

It is highly unlikely Honolulu will see even a flash on the horizon unless a high-altitude shot is planned.

The American high-altitude series at Johnston Island in 1962 included a blast, called Starfish, that was seen from many areas in the Pacific.

Government officials in Paris have said little about Pacific nuclear plans or when the series will start.

Max Piliard, French consul agent in Honolulu, said recently he had no advance information on when the tests will be held.

Speculation has varied but originally the French said it would take three years to prepare for the tests and the three years will be up in April.

## No part for Isles

Hawaii is expected to play no big part in the tests.

French Navy ships will go in and out of Pearl Harbor periodically as they've done in the past.

A U.S. Naval spokesman at Pearl Harbor said he knew of no unusual influx of French ships in the near future.

A few French ships have stopped at Pearl Harbor this summer in connection with the tests.

State Department of Health officials, however, will be monitoring Island air for radioactivity just as they always do.

The test site is Mururoa and Fangataufa Islands of the Gambier group of the Tuamotu Archipelago between Tahiti and Mangareva in French Oceania and southeast of Honolulu.

series, Starfish, was seen by many Honoluluans when it turned night into day. Radioactivity from that blast is still present in Space.

## Test ban treaty

While the U.S. and Rus-

sia are prohibited from atmospheric testing by the nuclear test ban treaty the French and Red China were not signatories to that agreement.

Red China has set off two bombs in the last year

# see flash of French n-blasts

while the French, in 1960, conducted a series of seven above-ground tests in the Sahara desert.

Observers feel the French will open with a 250-kiloton bomb and follow later with a hydrogen bomb, the equivalent to a million tons of TNT.

Trade unions in New Zealand have protested the planned tests, pointing out that trade winds in the southern hemisphere could bring radioactive fallout to the Antipodes.

U.S. scientists were kept out of Tahiti recently while carrying out South Pacific

flights during a total eclipse of the sun.

And the French were upset earlier this year when word got out that a U.S. military plane was accused of flying over Pierrelatte, France, where the French have a nuclear complex, and taking pictures.

The matter was dropped after the protest.

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## French Polynesia

The secret of one of the South Pacific's most intriguing treasure stories may have perished with Count Felix von Luckner when the famous German sea raider of World War I died recently in Sweden at the age of 83, says the Pacific Islands Monthly.

For many years, stories have been going the rounds of the South Pacific Islands that von Luckner had buried a considerable treasure on lonely Mopelia Island in the far western end of the Society Islands.

The treasure was supposed to have been buried when von Luckner's ship, the Seeadler (Sea Eagle) was wrecked by a tidal wave on a reef off Mopelia in 1917.

The Seeadler had been at sea for seven months by this time, had logged some 30,000 miles. The Germans and their prisoners removed everything they could off the Seeadler and established a settlement on one of the islets of Mopelia's reef.

Von Luckner remained on the island for three weeks, during which time he would have had ample time to bury any treasure. Then he and five others left the island in a well-armed lifeboat in the hopes of capturing another ship.

A few weeks later, von Luckner and his party arrived at Wakaya Island in the Fiji group. There they were captured by a part-Fijian seaman, Captain Kini McPherson.

They were taken to a prison camp in Auckland Harbor, where, after several weeks of captivity, some of them including von Luckner escaped in the prison commandant's boat. A short time later they captured a scow called the Moa and in this they managed to sail 600 miles before again being captured in the Kermadec islands and returned to New Zealand.

In 1937, von Luckner and his wife revisited the South Pacific, spending some time in Papeete. It was then reported that he intended to visit Mopelia. It is then, the story goes, that he is said to have recovered the buried treasure. And it may have been considerable, since the Seeadler had managed to sink 14 ships before being wrecked.



### **Radioactivity low**

A State official said: "We monitor the air and rain for radioactivity 24 hours a day."

"It has been very low in recent months and so little even after the Chinese tests to be practically negligible," he said.

"We can't predict what will happen during the French tests because that will depend upon meteorological conditions at the time," he said.

The French test site is 750 miles southeast of Tahiti and 250 miles from Hoa where the French have 1,000 scientists.

Hoa serves as the advance base for the tests just as Honolulu was sort of a staging area for the Johnston and Christmas Island tests.

Harbors have been dredged and an air strip and block houses built at Hoa.

### **Tahiti buzzing**

And Wendelborg Hansen, who recently sailed his boat into Hilo, called Papeete, Tahiti, an armed camp full of French Legionnaires all there in connection with the tests.

There have been no nuclear tests in the Pacific since the American series in 1962.

The biggest shot in the

# Jet Age to End Isolation Of Lonely Easter Island

By WALTER SULLIVAN  
N.Y. Times Service

NEW YORK—There is, perhaps, no community in the world so isolated as that on Easter Island, in the mid-Pacific, but the day is drawing closer when that isolation is about to be shattered.

Within a few months construction of an airfield capable of handling transoceanic planes is to begin. Meanwhile, an international expedition, sponsored by the World Health Organization, is to assess the health, heredity and customs of the islanders before their exposure to the habits and diseases of the outside world.

The 38-member expedition sailed aboard a Canadian naval supply ship, H.M.C.S. Cape Scott, and is on the island now. Its laboratories and living quarters will be set up ashore in 23 collapsible

house trailers now on the ship.

The 1,200 inhabitants of Easter Island, grouped into 197 families, constitute one of the most inbred communities in existence. Hence they are of great interest to students of human genetics. Furthermore, because of their isolation and history, the islanders have been free from exposure to a number of diseases.

Their blood will be examined to determine their immunities and to seek clues to their racial history.

In 1888 a catastrophic epidemic cut the population from a one-time high of about 4,000 to only 172.

According to the account in Thor Heyerdahl's book, *Aku Aku*, a Peruvian expedition had captured 1,000 of the natives as slaves, when a mere 15 survivors were returned to the island, they brought smallpox with them

and it was this that slaughtered the islanders.

The islanders' only regular contact with the outside world, in recent years, has been the annual visit of a Chilean supply ship, Chile, 2,350 miles to the east, claims sovereignty over the island, whose gigantic stone figures are one of the chief archaeological mysteries of the world. Several hundred of them look out over the sea.

Preliminary studies of the islanders' blood by Chilean researchers indicate that the inhabitants are Polynesian with an admixture of European blood. However, Thor Heyerdahl believes

earlier residents, who carved the huge stone figures, came from South America.

The great epidemic of 1888 has made possible more precise genetic studies because it greatly narrowed the number of ancestors. Most islanders are young and their family trees can be traced with ease.

However, according to Dr. Deirdre Waldron-Edwards of McGill University in Montreal, a stay-at-home member of the expedition, the keeping of family records has been complicated by the social customs of the island. Wives and children move freely from one family to another.

The expedition leader is Prof. Stanley C. Skoryna of McGill and a number of its members come from Canadian medical schools. Others are from Britain, Chile, Scandinavian countries and the United States. Twenty-five of them have advanced degrees.

Dr. Waldron-Edwards said last week, by telephone, that the islanders suffer a disease called *co-congo* whenever a new ship arrives.

It is a flu-like infection, apparently similar to the kind that sweeps Antarctic camps when they first encounter outsiders after long isolation. Apparently the immunities of the body, if not repeatedly challenged, become weak.

The expedition is to remain two months and will then be picked up by the same ship. It is being financed by grants from the W.H.O., the Medical Research Council of Canada and various other organizations.