

Defence.

19th November '41. xx

re Evacuation Plans 1940. Western Samoa.

Conditions and circumstances have now changed - Pago Pago is now a fortified Garrison and an objective for attack and occupation - it is also overcrowded with European Naval Personnel, and possibly itself will be arranging its own evacuation of European women and children.

An enemy that involves Western Samoa will undoubtedly involve American Samoa.

At the time original evacuation plans -1940- Western Samoa were made, Pago Pago was not a fortified garrison port.

Fiji is in the same position - now fortified and garrisoned - and subject to possible attack and invasion.

The position is now - to where would W/Samoa European women and children be evacuated?

The primary object of evacuation plans is safeguarding the Civil population in the event of attack or invasion.

This involves two possible contingencies:-

- (a) Attack without warning of any kind, where immediate safety from shelling or an invader is required;
 - (b) Is the removal of European women and children to a place of safety, when prior warning has been received of danger and there is time to put into effect pre-arranged plans - and known sea transport is available.
- (a) This could only be by immediate flight inland from the shore to say MALUA to the West of Apia - LETOGO to the East of Apia - and take the refugees at least 5 miles inland.

The inland area to be occupied could be:-

- (1) Southern part of Vaialele Plantation - Utumapu and the Gorge country.
- (2) Upper reaches of the Vaisevano River - extending South of Avale & Tiavea.

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(3) From Tapatapao West to Aleisa - upper Alafalava.

(4) From Aleisa West to Tafua Mountain via Maliota Country.

(These areas are the inland courses used by the ancient Samoans when pursued by invading Tongans etc)

This course would mean only temporary safety - but it would be a safety until the situation developed or changed.

Even this wholesale flight would benefit by prior organization - such as different areas of Apia coastline moving into separate areas - (1) (2) (3) (4)

Course "B"

The second course "B" is the removal of European women and children to a place of safety - when prior warning has been received of danger, and there is time to put into effect pre-arranged plans.

Plans must be based upon the knowledge of where they are to be taken - and by what means of transport. If by a sea-going ship that can probably take the total, say 400, or if by a fleet of small coastal launches to join a vessel at sea - or elsewhere.

If embarkation is direct from the wharf at Apia, to ship, it means arranging points of concentration - baggage and food etc. to be taken - road transport to point of concentration - protection of property left behind etc.

If on the same terms, embarkation is by coastal launches, with the prospect of a number of hours or even overnight at sea, arrangements are more complicated.

Then again, there may be unusual, or expected danger at Apia Harbour, so that launch embarkation may be necessary at points on the coast such as Saluafata, Valua, or Mulifanua.

For course "A" it is clear that there can be very little warning by day or night, and it is necessary that everyone concerned should know just what to do in a contingency of this kind, and some common signal must be arranged.

Instructions must be publically promulgated and understood by everyone - a common enemy - a common danger. at a given signal.

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The best local general alarm is via Church Bells - 4 rings continued -
to be picked up and repeated by all other churches.

The key bells to give this warning are the loudest bells -
R.C. Cathedral, Apia.