

FREDERICK ALLAN GOERNER

Twenty-four Presidio Terrace

San Francisco, California 94118

October 12, 1991

Mr. Gary Quigg  
404 Tinsley Avenue  
Apartment #2  
Crawfordsville,  
Indiana 47933

Dear Mr. Quigg:

In further response to your recent telephone call, I am herewith enclosing copies of relevant pages concerning Gardner (Nukimaroro) Island from Professor Henry Maude's book OF ISLANDS AND MEN.

As Dr. Gillespie has been in contact with Professor Maude and as Dr. Gillespie is spending several hundreds of thousands of dollars in another visit to Gardner (Nukimaroro) Island, it can be safely assumed that Dr. Gillespie has studied the enclosed material.

One cannot, however, assume that Ms. Linda Puig has availed herself of this material. If she had, one would judge that she would not have made the statements she did in the recent THIS WORLD article, NEW PIECES IN THE EARHART PUZZLE.

You will note that Professor Maude and his inspection party arrived at Gardner on October 13, 1937, three months and ten days after the Earhart disappearance. They did a full survey of the island including an inspection of the lagoon. Nothing was found that would indicate Earhart and Noonan had been there, and there was NO aircraft wreckage found.

You will also read that water was available on Gardner as well as food. Gardner has an estimated 100 inches of rain each year. So much for the TIGHAR theory that Earhart and Noonan died of thirst or starved to death.

You will also ascertain that birds, crabs and fish are abundant and easily caught, and you will find that the Maude and his group set up temporary camps in October, 1937, and that they roasted birds and fish over open fires. This refutes totally the "survival camp" theory of TIGHAR and Puig.

Still further you will learn that a village was later constructed on Gardner and that it had its own post office.

Mr. Quigg, you should bear these facts in mind and ask for full explanations from Dr. Gillespie and the others who have raised funds for TIGHAR:

Gardner was occupied on several occasions in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Ruins from the buildings that were occupied during those periods were visible to Lt. Lambrecht and his fellow flyers when they searched Gardner from the air eight days after the Earhart disappearance. Lambrecht, who was later a U.S. Navy Captain, told me in personal conversations about "the signs of recent habitation". No sign of Earhart and Noonan or their plane was seen in July, 1937.

Maude and his group surveyed Gardner in October, 1937, and no sign of AE was found and NO human remains.

The New Zealand Pacific Air Survey group visited Gardner in 1938 and conducted a full study of the island and its potential for both commercial aviation and for defense purposes. No sign of AE or her plane or human remains were found.

In 1938, Maude and Gallagher brought Gilbertese colonists to Gardner, and they, in varying numbers, occupied the island from then to 1964. No sign of her plane or remains were found.

In 1939, the U.S. Navy vessel, THE BUSHNELL, surveyed Gardner for U.S. defense purposes. This included aerial photography of the tiny island. No sign of Earhart or plane wreckage or remains.

In 1943, the U.S. Coast Guard constructed a Loran station on Gardner. This included putting graders and generators and vehicles ashore. This continued to 1947. No sign of Earhart, the plane or remains.

Gardner was surveyed again in the 1960's at the time the Pacific Missile Range was in full operation. It was surveyed again in the 1970's in connection with NASA. At least two Smithsonian expeditions have landed on Gardner in the last twenty years. Nothing was found that would connect Gardner to Earhart and Noonan.

And finally comes TIGHAR in 1989 and 1991. There is rubbish in many parts of the island, and there are several graves. As Professor Maude put it, "It shouldn't be hard for Gillespie and TIGHAR to find SOMETHING on Nukimaroro." The meaning of what is found will be the matter of controversy.

Mr. Quigg, it must be obvious to you that the battery, cigarette lighter and the bits of metal Dr. Gillespie brought back from the 1989 trip will NOT convince anybody that Earhart and Noonan died on Gardner. Those are among the most expensive bits of refuse in history, but then its impossible to come back and simply announce, "We didn't find anything that can be properly identified." I shall be modestly interested to see what is dredged up this time.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Goerner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the "Sincerely Yours," text.

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P.S. No skeleton of a woman wearing women's shoes was EVER found on Gardner, say nothing of a woman's skeleton wearing women's shoes which were Earhart's size. What creative journalism that is! Who in TIGHAR dreamed up that gambit? Earhart didn't wear women's shoes when she was flying. She wore men's low-heeled brogans. Look at the photograph taken at Lae, New Guinea.