

August 4, 1991

Professor H.E. Maude
11 Namatzira Drive
Weston, ACT 2611
Australia

*From Gardner
to Maude*

Dear Professor Maude:

It occurred to me after I mailed my August 2nd letter to you that it might be productive and time-saving for me to send a list of specific questions regarding the matter of Gardner (Nikumororo) Island and the allegations that Miss Earhart and Captain Noonan perished there in 1937. They are listed below.

- (1) Did you make the cruise to Gardner in October, 1937, and if so, was anything found on Gardner that could be connected to the Earhart flight?
- (2) Did you at any time during your service in the Gilbert, Ellice and Phoenix Islands find or hear of anything which would indicate the fate of Earhart and Noonan?
- (3) What do you know about the skeleton or skeletons which were ostensibly found on the shore of Gardner Island circa 1937-38?
- (4) Are you aware of any information with respect to the finding of a women's high-heeled shoe or shoes at Gardner during the above mentioned period of time?
- (5) Did anyone from the New Zealand/British defense survey party in 1938 report finding anything at Gardner or McKean Islands which might link the area to the Earhart flight?
- (6) In that the New Zealand/British defense survey party established a claim to Gardner in the interests of "British Pacific Airways", were there, to your knowledge, any actual flights of seaplanes made to Gardner? Were any made during World War II?
- (7) What was your experience during World War II? Knowing the Japanese quickly occupied the Gilbert Islands after Pearl Harbor, I am anxious to know about your personal experience at the time and throughout World War II.
- (8) To your knowledge, did the American service personnel who established the Loran station at Gardner during World War II ever speak of finding ANYTHING that would link the island to the Earhart flight?
- (9) How many colonists occupied Gardner in the years 1937 and 1938?

- (10) Specifically when and for what reason were the colonists finally removed from Gardner?
- (11) Who directed the colony on Gardner during the years from 1937 through 1943?
- (12) What was the name of the plantation director who died on Gardner of peritonitis?
- (13) I am informed that the gentleman is buried on Gardner. To your knowledge is this true?
- (14) When the Gardner colony was established in 1937, was there radio communication with the island, and how often did supply ships visit?
- (15) Did the USN coordinate with your office at the time it sent the survey ship BUSHNELL to Gardner in 1939?
- (16) What did you understand at the time was the reasoning behind the U.S. Navy concern with Gardner?

(17) Do you know the whereabouts of anyone who might have additional knowledge of the Gardner colony and the efforts of the New Zealand/British defense team circa 1938-39? I understand that Mr. Roberts retired quite some time ago, but I have not been able to find any current address.

Again, I thank you so much for your gracious cooperation. As a scholar yourself, you know of the difficulties and vicissitudes of seeking information about events which happened fifty years ago.

Most Sincerely,

Frederick A. Goerner

(18) P.S. With your indulgence, here is one additional question. In your opinion, would it have been possible for individuals stranded upon Gardner Island to survive for any considerable period? In information I have from a U.S. Navy classified publication titled PACIFIC AIR PILOT which was distributed in 1936, brackish water, cocoanuts and abundant fish could be found at Gardner. Given the intelligence and skills of Miss Earhart and Captain Noonan, it seems unlikely to me that they would have starved to death had they found themselves on Gardner or McKean.