

TIGHAR TRACKS

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL GROUP FOR HISTORIC AIRCRAFT RECOVERY

IT'S ALL AHEAD FULL FOR THE EARHART PROJECT



Funding

On-schedule departure of The Earhart Project expedition is now virtually assured. Through specially arranged bridge loans TIGHAR's member sponsors have made it possible for the project's funding needs to be met while major corporate sponsorship is finalized. Individual TIGHAR member support is now more important than ever, both to repay this vital assistance and to make sure that when the TIGHAR team departs California on Labor Day, September 4, 1989, it goes with the best preparation possible.

Photos

An important part of that preparation is accurate, up-to-date reconnaissance of the islands to be searched. Through the courtesy of the Royal New Zealand Air Force we now have excellent aerial photography of McKean and Gardner. TIGHAR salutes Wing Commander Des Ashton and Five Squadron RNZAF.

Fiji

For a host of logistical reasons the expedition's forward base will now be at Suva in Fiji rather than Pago Pago in American Samoa. It will mean a longer sea voyage to the Phoenix group (1,000 miles), but a more convenient staging port for assembling the expedition's many components.

Team Selection

The last batch of expedition team applicants will undergo certification and team-forging training in Wilmington, Delaware July 15 and 16. All primary and alternate team candidates are presently completing the extensive medical/dental examinations necessary for final qualification. Assembling this team has meant making many tough choices, and we want to especially thank the dedicated TIGHAR members who applied for a spot on the team but whom we are not able to take. We could fill a dozen boats with skilled, enthusiastic people. You are TIGHAR's greatest asset.

But is AE Out There?

We'll just have to go and find out — but the many scholars and historians who have read the Earhart Project Book all seem to agree that this is the best researched and most soundly reasoned hypothesis ever presented. Use the special order form insert in this issue of *TIGHAR Tracks* to get your copy and help your foundation make aviation archeological history.



Taziman Passage, Nikumaroro; RNZAF photo taken 2/23/88 by Orion Aircraft of 5 Sqdn.