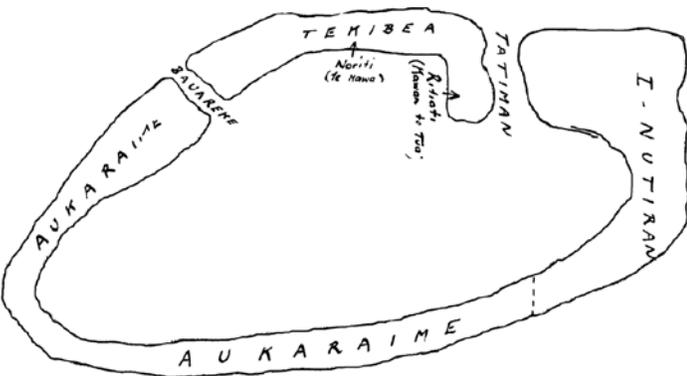


Clues From Maps

SEVERAL HANDDRAWN MAPS OF NIKUMARORO WITH land allocations marked by British administrators were found during TIGHAR's research trip to Tarawa in March 2001. These maps provide a graphic history of the colony's development and present some clues about how the Seven Site was regarded.

March 1941

The earliest administrative map we have found is a rough sketch drawn by Gallagher on or about March 23, 1941. The island is divided into four districts. No demarcation is shown at the Seven Site. There is also a detailed survey map drawn by Gallagher on March 19, 1941 of the area just east of Bauareke Passage showing land demarcations and the families to which they are allotted. The same June 20, 1941 aerial photo that shows clearing operations at the Seven Site show extensive clearing in this area. However, no survey map of the Seven Site was in the file.

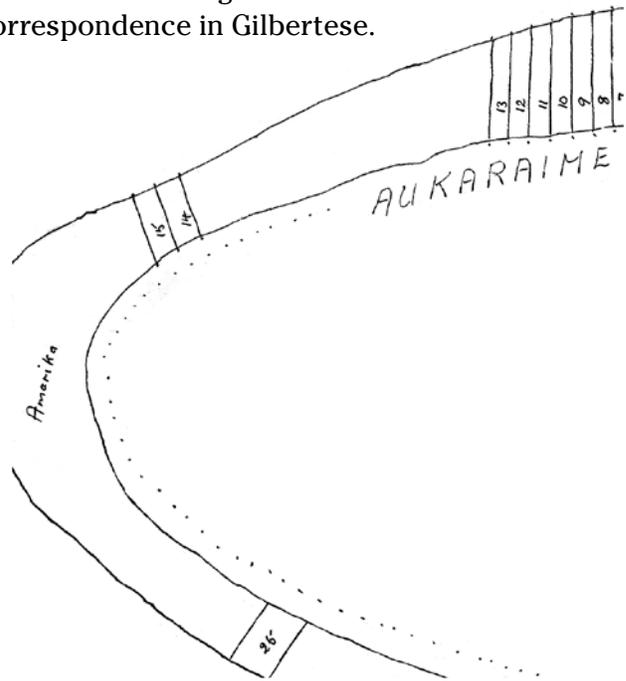


Gallagher's rough sketch map showing the basic district demarcations on Nikumaroro.

Sometime Between 1943 and 1954

A frustratingly unsigned and undated sketch of the island shows expanded land demarcations near Bauareke Passage, although the family allocations do not match Gallagher's earlier survey map. The notation "Amerika" at the southeast tip indicates that the map was drawn sometime after the 1943 selection of that location by the U.S. Coast Guard. This sketch, which was made at least two years after Gallagher's death, is the first map to show a delineated parcel of land at the Seven Site. It is the only demarcated strip of land on the entire northern shore and it is designated "Komitina"

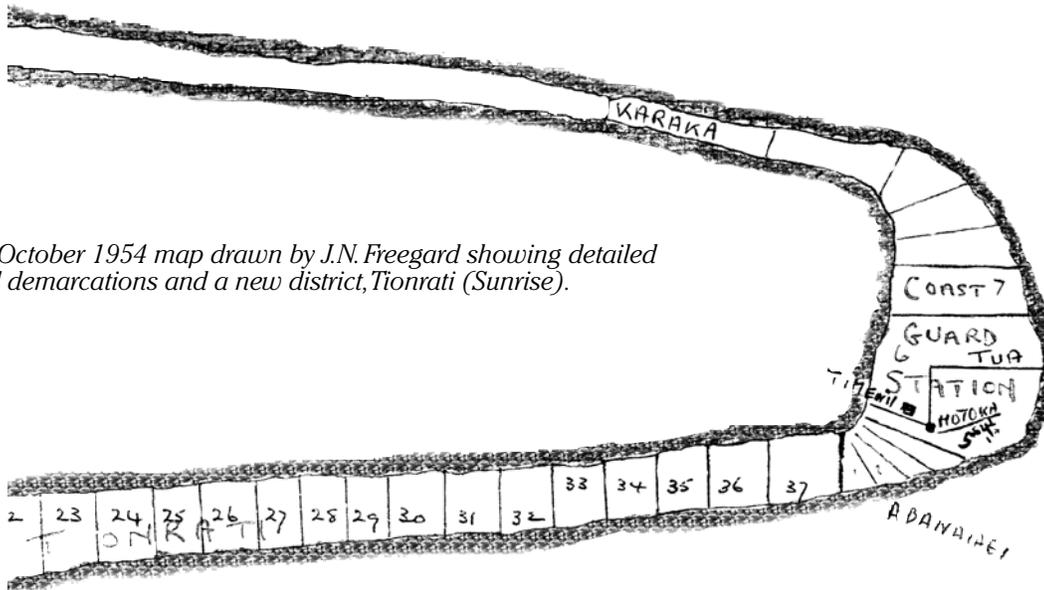
(Commissioner), which is how Gallagher and other administrators signed their correspondence in Gilbertese.



Undated sketch map showing the early land divisions on Nikumaroro. Land parcel 25 is the Seven Site.

October 1954

Next we have two basically identical and fairly accurate maps of the island drawn by District Officer J.N. Freegard on October 15, 1954. They differ only in that one map shows many more land demarcations and allotments than does the other. The apparently earlier map shows land demarcations ending on the southern shore of Aukeraime at the boundary of the "Coast Guard Station" (which had been deactivated in 1946). The second map shows the establishment of a new island district named "Tionrati" (Sunrise) that incorporated the eastern end of Aukeraime and extended through the former Coast Guard Station. Land demarcations were made right around the southern tip and up the north shore as far as the Seven Site which, on this map, is labeled "Karaka" (Gallagher). It is important to note that there is no indication that these "lots" were cleared or developed. Official correspondence shows that at this time there was great concern that many of the island's children were approaching marriageable age and would soon need their own land.

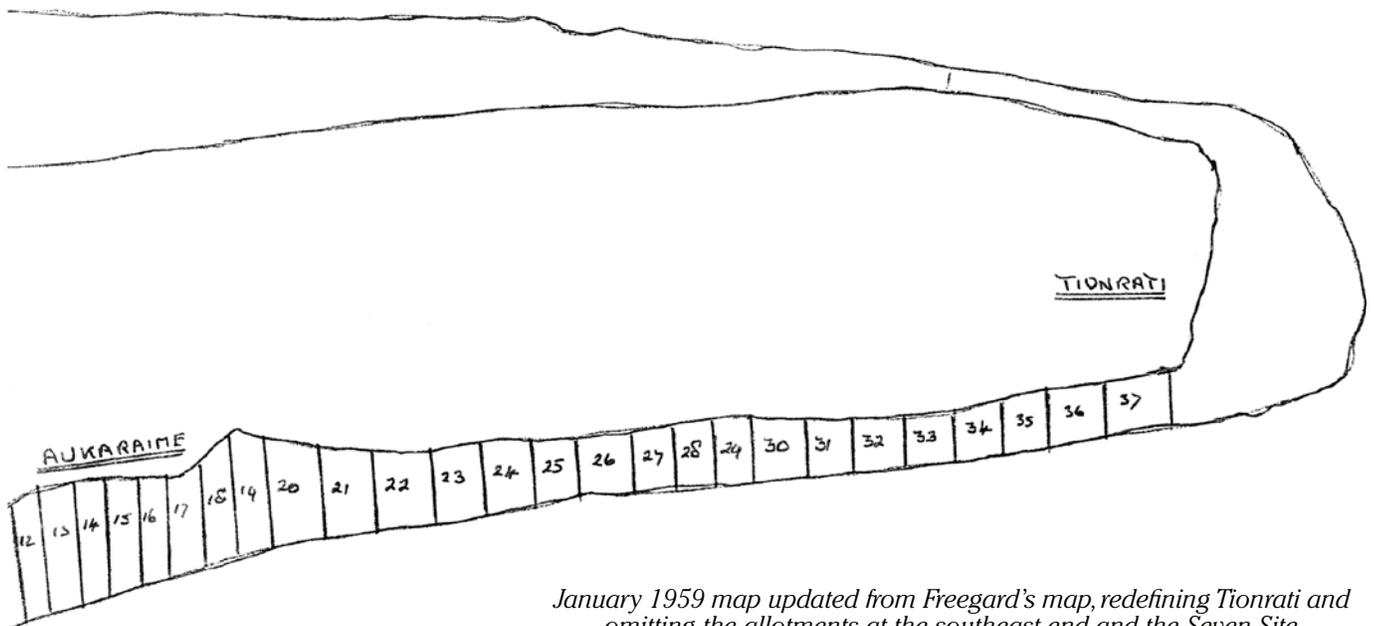


The second October 1954 map drawn by J.N. Freegard showing detailed land demarcations and a new district, Tionrati (Sunrise).

January 1959

The last administrative map was drawn by District Officer P.B Laxton (the same Paul Laxton who noted the “house built for Gallagher” in 1949) on January 10, 1959. Specifically updated from Freegard’s 1954 map, this sketch redefines Tionrati as encompassing only the southeast tip and omits any land allotments there. The demarcation of the Seven Site also disappears. This reduction of

allotted land at the southeast end was made in the face of greatly increased pressure to find room for more people due to proposed immigration from the other two settled islands in the Phoenix Group (Sydney and Hull). Many new lots were demarcated on other parts of the island and we can only assume that the land at the southeast end had been found to be unsuitable for development.



January 1959 map updated from Freegard’s map, redefining Tionrati and omitting the allotments at the southeast end and the Seven Site.