

HEADQUARTERS RCT 17  
APO #7, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California.

15 February 1944

SUBJECT: Summary of the KWAJALEIN Operation

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

**RESTRICTED**

TO : Commanding General, 7th Infantry Division

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

1. GENERAL.

*Memo to War 440*  
**DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 27 Sept 46**

During the period 31 January 44 to 6 February 44, RCT 17 and attachments carried out Phases I, III, IV, V, and an additional unnumbered phase of the FLINTLOCK PLAN. Phase I, involving the capture of CECIL, CARTER, CARLOS AND CARLSON Islands, was the initial mission assigned to RCT 17. The RCT was subsequently assigned to execute Phase III, which was the capture of BYRON, BUSTER, BURTON, BURNETT and BLAKENSHIP Islands; Phase IV, the capture of BEVERLY, BERLIN and BENSON Islands; Phase V, the capture of BENNETT Island; and the additional phase involving the capture of all the remaining islands to the north as far as COHEN Island on the western side of the Atoll and as far as ARNOLD PASS on the eastern side. RCT 32 and RCT 184 executed Phase II, the capture of PORCELAIN Island.

In executing its assigned missions, RCT 17, with attachments, completed the capture or occupation of twenty-five (25) islands of the southern sector of the KWAJALEIN Atoll. In so doing, the Regiment that was first to capture American soil from the Japanese on ATFU was also the first to capture Japanese soil from the Japanese themselves. The following is a list of these islands, together with the date of capture or occupation and the organization executing the respective mission:

<u>Code Name</u>	<u>ISLAND</u> <u>Actual Name</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
CHAUNCEY	GEHH	1/31/44	7th Ren Troop
CECIL	NINNI	1/31/44	7th Ren Troop
CARTER	GEA	1/31/44	7th Ren Troop
CARLOS	ENNYLABEGAN	1/31/44	BLT 17-1
CARLSON	ENUBUJ	1/31/44	BLT 17-2
BYRON		2/3/44	Plat Co "A", 708th Amph Tk Bn, occupied by BLT 17-3
BUSTER		2/3/44	Plat Co "A", 708th Amph Tk Bn
BURTON	EBEYE	2/4/44	BLT 17-1; BLT 17-3
BURNETT		2/4/44	BLT 17-2
BLAKENSHIP	LOI	2/4/44	BLT 17-2
BEVERLY		2/5/44	BLT 17-3
BERLIN	GUGEGWE	2/5/44	BLT 17-1
BENSON		2/5/44	BLT 17-1
BENNETT	BIGEJ	2/5/44	7th Ren Trp; BLT 184-3(-)

<u>Code Name</u>	<u>ISLAND</u> <u>Actual Name</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
6 BASCOMB	MECK	2/5/44	BLT 17-2
7 BARNEY	ENIWETAKKU	2/5/44	BLT 17-2
8 AUGUSTINE	KWADACK	2/5/44	BLT 17-2
9 AUGUST	OMBLEK	2/5/44	BLT 17-2
1 ASHBERRY	GELLINAM	2/5/44	BLT 17-2
CHESTER *		2/5/44	BLT 17-2
CLARENCE		2/5/44	BLT 17-2
CLEMENT		2/5/44	BLT 17-2
CLIFFORD		2/5/44	BLT 17-2
CLIFTON		2/5/44	BLT 17-2
COHEN		2/6/44	BLT 17-2
ARNOLD		**	
BENARD		**	

\* CHESTER Island was not shown on any maps but was found to exist. It is situated on the north side of CHESTER PASS.

\*\* ARNOLD and BENARD Islands are shown on all the maps but were found to be non-existent.

## 2. PLANNING PHASE.

Early in December, 1943, the Regimental Commander, 17th Infantry, was given some information regarding the impending operation. At this time he was informed of the objective and the general tactical plan of the Division Commander. Later in the month, the Regimental Commander was informed that the execution of Phase I, namely the securing of CARLSON and CARLOS Islands and the securing of CECIL PASS would be the mission of RCT 17. He was further informed that the 7th Reconnaissance Troop would be attached to RCT 17 for the capture of CECIL and CARTER Islands, thereby securing CECIL PASS. He was then requested to formulate his own plan for the operation on CARLSON and CARLOS Islands.

The Regimental Commander held a meeting of his staff and battalion commanders and informed them of the plans. At this point a room was set aside in the Regimental CP as a "Plans Room". In this room, all of the plans, maps and intelligence relative to the KWAJALEIN operation were available to the Regimental Staff and battalion commanders and others as they were read into the situation. Early in January, the Division Commander held a conference with all of the company commanders of the Regiment and read them into the situation.

The plans called for a rehearsal operation on the Island of MAUI. This practice was held during the period 11-16 January 44. This practice operation was a complete rehearsal in all its details, even to the size and shape of the simulated islands on which the RCT landed. Prior to departure on this practice operation, all equipment and supplies had been loaded on the ships. Upon return to PEARL HARBOR, only the troops and their barracks bags were unloaded. During the period 16-21 January 44, the Regimental Field Order was published and distributed and the final plans completed.

3. ENROUTE.

The RCT loaded on transports on 21 January 44 and the convoy got underway on 22 January 44. Immediately after departure from PEARL HARBOR, the maps and orders were opened and distributed to the troop officers at a meeting in which all the officers were briefed on the plan. From this point on, all time was spent in perfecting company plans and getting all the information to all of the troops. This was aided through the use of photographs and models and the many discussions held by platoon leaders with their platoons.

On the afternoon of D-1 Day the RCT received some additional low level aerial photographs of the objective. These pictures were taken that morning and the afternoon of the day before. They were immediately distributed to the BLT's concerned.

4. PHASE I.

The plan called for a landing prior to dawn (at approximately 0330), D-Day by the 7th Reconnaissance Troop reinforced with Company "B", 111th Infantry. These landings were to be made on CECIL and CARTER Islands to secure CECIL PASS. At H-Hour, 0830 (later changed to 0910), D-Day, BLT 17-1 and BLT 17-2 were to land on CARLOS and CARLSON Islands, respectively. Following are the details of each operation:

a. CHAUNCEY, CECIL, CARTER Islands.

The 7th Reconnaissance Troop, reinforced, was split into two groups, each group containing a provisional platoon of the 7th Reconnaissance Troop and a provisional platoon of Company "B", 111th Infantry. These two groups landed simultaneously on CHAUNCEY and CARTER Islands at about 0330. They met heavy enemy resistance on CHAUNCEY Island, killing 13 Japanese, capturing two, and reported a beached enemy vessel. The resistance on CARTER Island was very light. By 1000 both islands were reported as secure and having discovered their mistake the group on CHAUNCEY Island reembarked and moved to CECIL Island where it met and overcame light resistance. On D plus 2, this group returned to CHAUNCEY Island to make sure it was secure, at which time 65 enemy were killed.

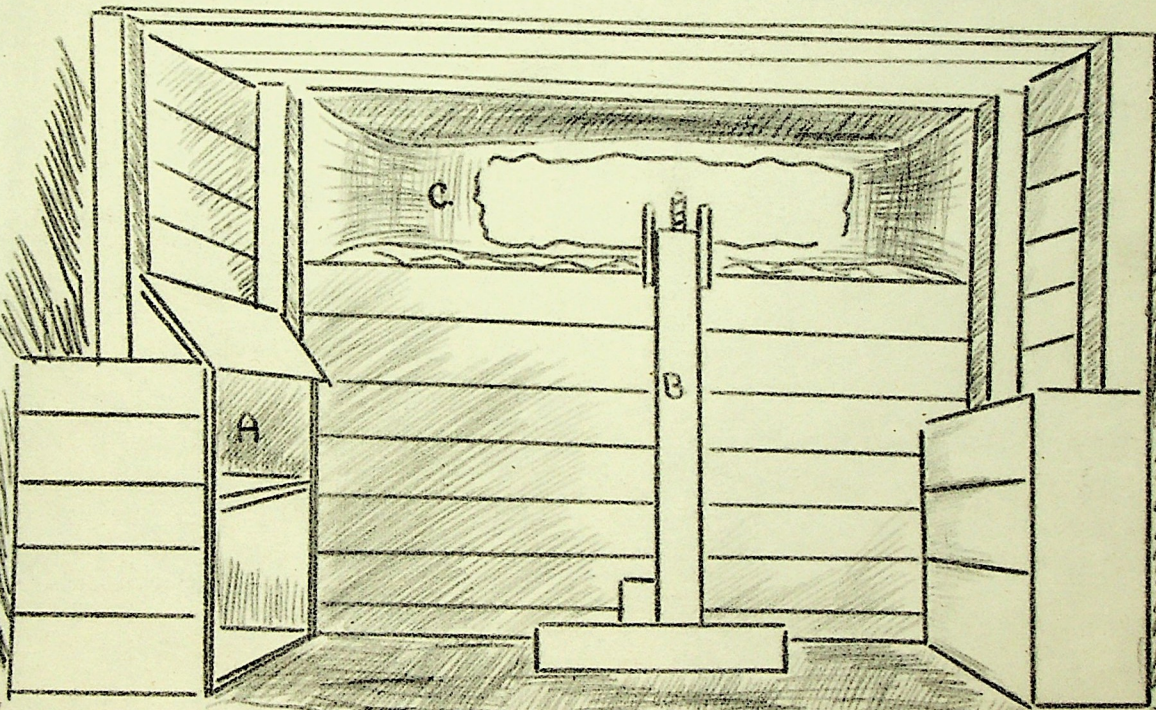
b. CARLOS ISLAND.

Immediately upon arrival in the transport areas at 0545 aboard the APA 49 (ORLEBY), the assault troops of BLT 17-1 began to transfer over to IST #242 and IST #272, by means of small boats. These IST's carried the LVT's which were to carry the first four waves ashore. After receiving the troops, the IST's moved to a point near the Line of Departure, where the LVT's were placed into the water.

BLT 17-1 landed on Beach White #2 on the northern end of CARLOS Island, two companies abreast, starting at 0910. "A" Company landed on the right, "C" Company on the left and "B" Company in reserve. After crossing the island, a turning movement to the right was executed and the attack was pushed to the southeast down the long axis of the island. By 1020 "A" and "C" Companies had

003

MG EMPLACEMENT  
(COVERING BEACH - OCEAN SIDE)



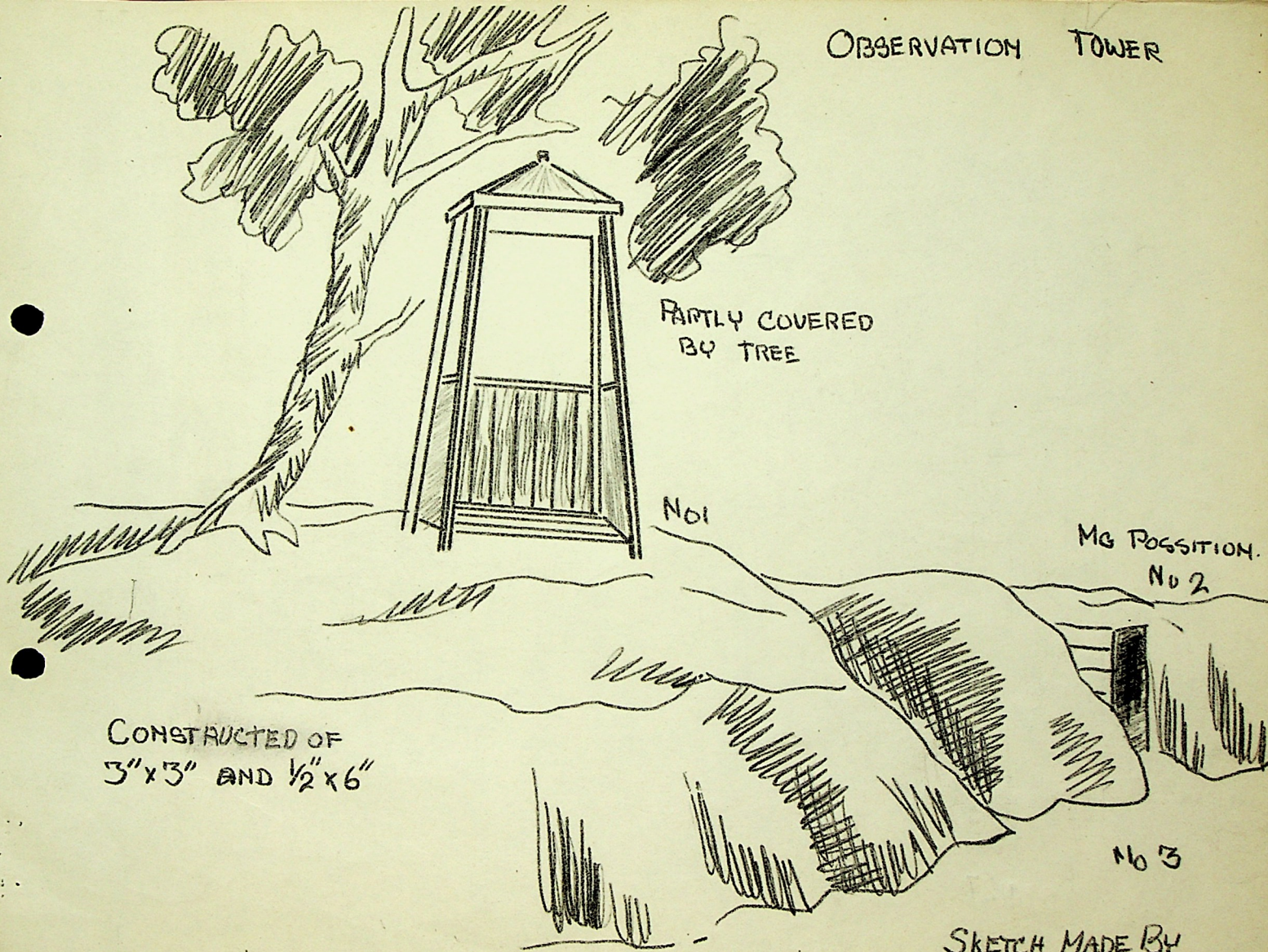
A. AMMUNITION BOX

B. MG MOUNT - 6" x 6" WITH INSET BOLT AS PIVOT BAR SKETCH MADE BY

C. 50 GAL DRUMS FLATTED PARTIALLY AND CUT OUT PORT *Cpt. Vayko*

D. TRENCH

OBSERVATION TOWER



PARTLY COVERED  
BY TREE

No 1

MG POSITION.  
No 2

CONSTRUCTED OF  
3" x 3" AND 1/2" x 6"

No 3

SKETCH MADE BY  
Cpl. Voeykoff

Roll Box

OVERALL LENGTH  
APRX 120 FT.

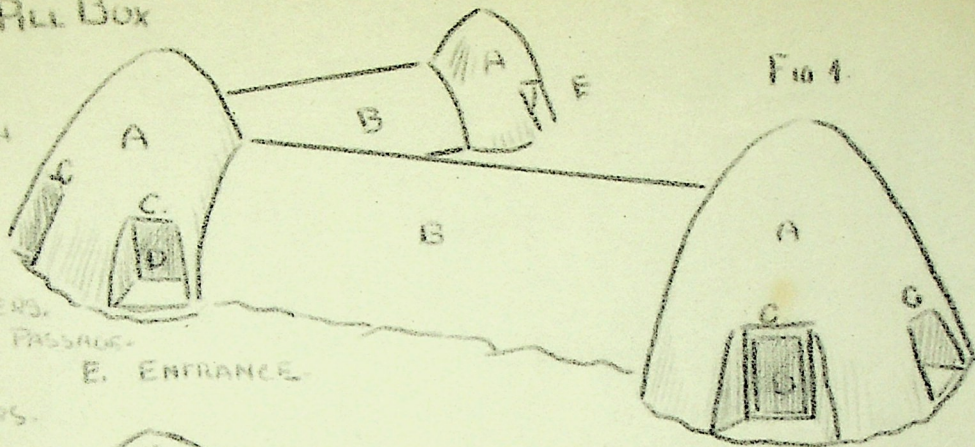


FIG 1

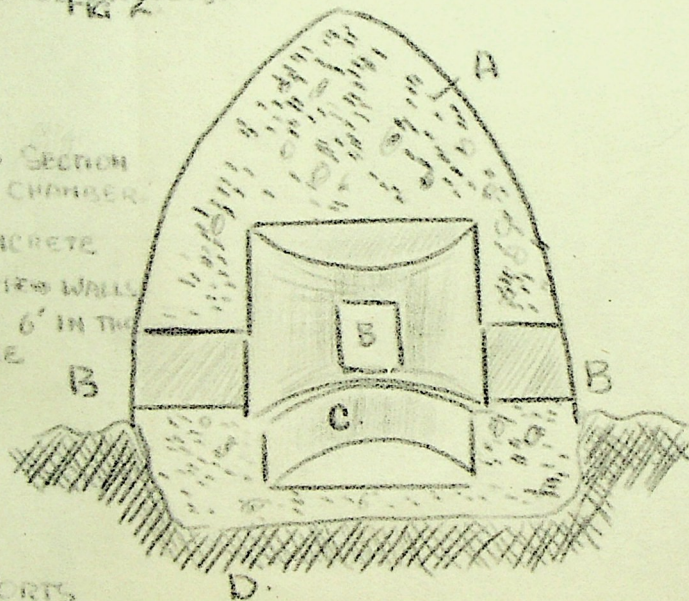
- A. FIRING CHAMBERS.
- B. CONNECTING PASSAGE  
WAYS.
- C. PORTS
- D. STEEL SHUTTLES.

E. ENTRANCE

FIG 2

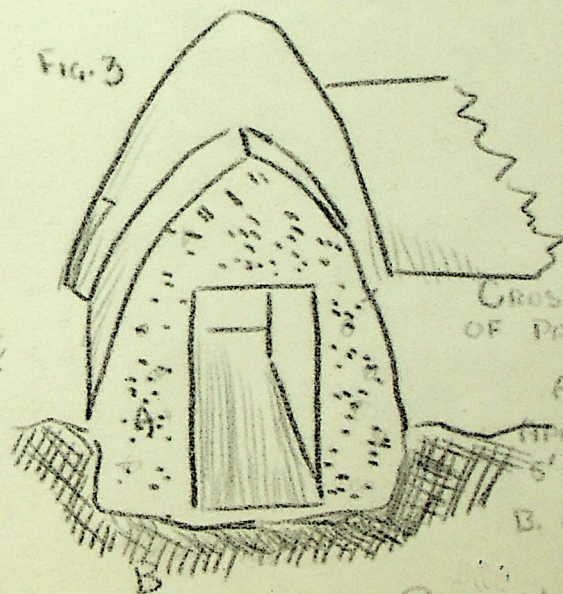
CROSS SECTION  
OF CHAMBER

- A. CONCRETE  
4' IN THICK WALL  
5 1/2' TO 6' IN THICK  
DOME



- B. PORTS
- C. SHELF
- D. EARTH

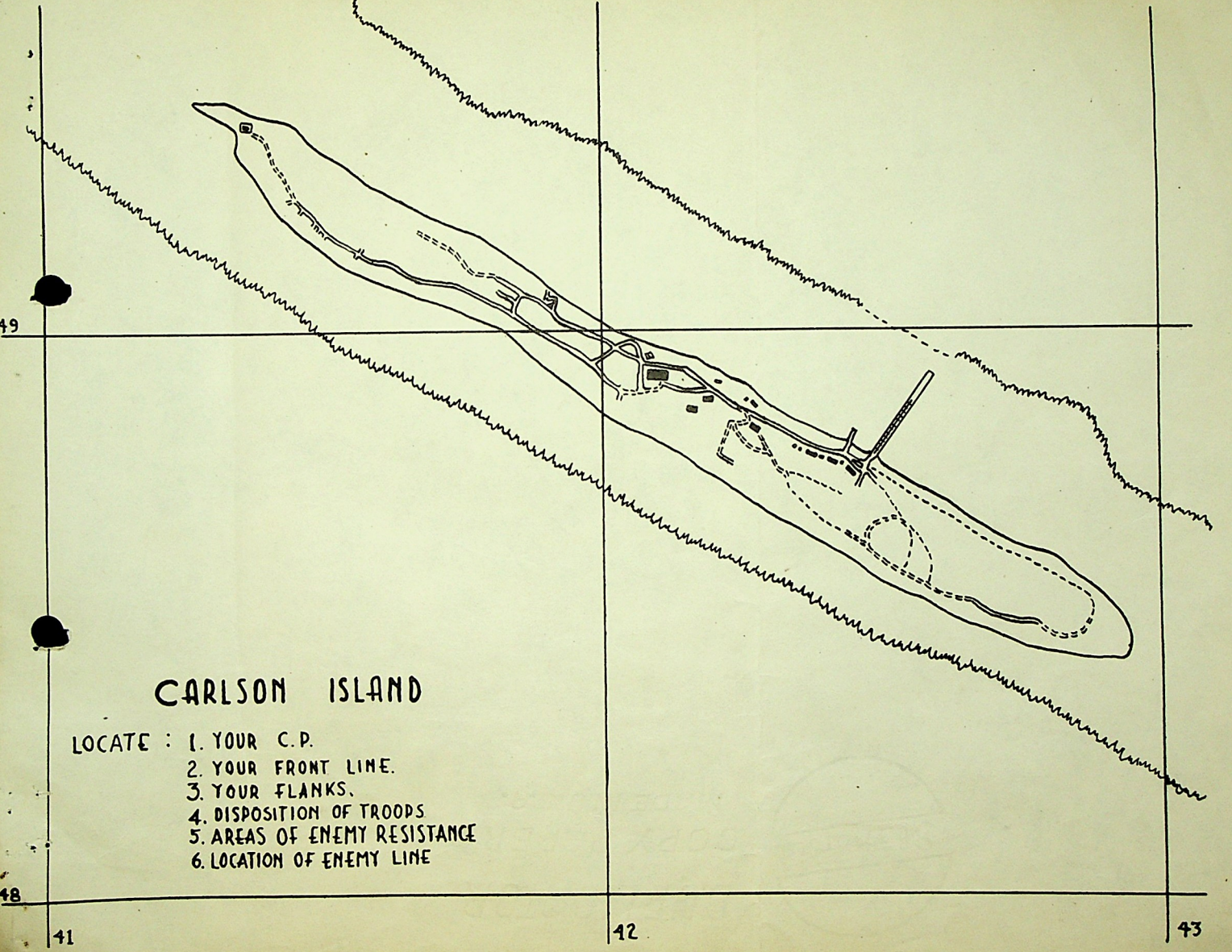
FIG. 3



CROSS SECTION  
OF PASSAGE WAY

- A. CONCRETE  
APRX 4' IN WALL  
5' IN DOME
- B. EARTH

SKETCH MADE BY  
Cpt. Vayns //



## CARLSON ISLAND

- LOCATE :
1. YOUR C.P.
  2. YOUR FRONT LINE.
  3. YOUR FLANKS.
  4. DISPOSITION OF TROOPS
  5. AREAS OF ENEMY RESISTANCE
  6. LOCATION OF ENEMY LINE