

# Seventeenth Cruise to Line Islands

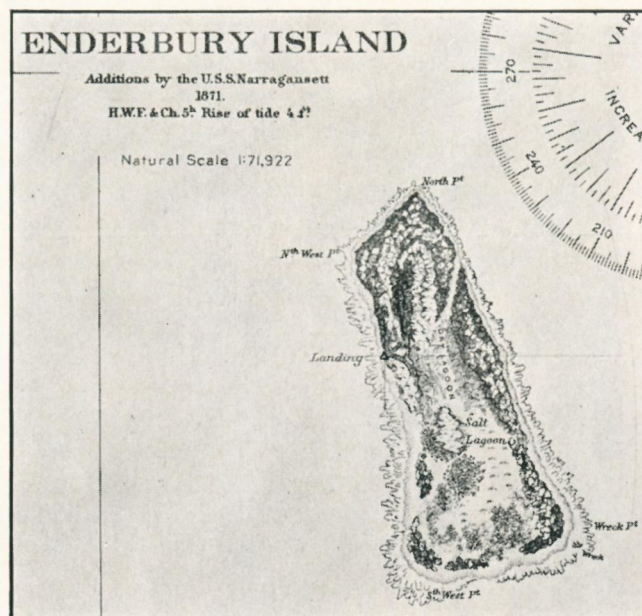
By Ned North

The Seventeenth Cruise of the Department of the Interior to the American Equatorial Islands took place in October, 1939. The *Taney* departed Honolulu at 5:00 p.m. on the second day of that month. The *Taney* was commanded by Commander Eugene A. Coffin, U.S. Coast Guard. The expedition was in charge of Lieutenant Commander Frank T. Kenner, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Field Representative, Department of the Interior. The following personnel were taken to the islands for replacements: Francis Stillman, Henry Kong Lee, Lawrence Ching, Oliver Roberts and David Kalama. Official members of the Interior party were Mr. Lawrence Browne of the Honolulu office of the U. S. Weather Bureau and Mr. Ashley Browne, Extension Horticulturist, University of Hawaii.

The *Taney* arrived at Canton Island 6:40 a.m. the 9th of October. All supplies, equipment and personnel were landed during that day. Mr. Lawrence Browne of the Weather Bureau completely checked and serviced the Weather Bureau equipment on that island. Mr. Ashley Browne made a complete survey of the agricultural and landscaping possibilities. The Pan American base was nearing completion. Calls were made on the British Deputy Administrator, Mr. Fleming, and the Airport Manager of Pan American Airways, Mr. Frank MacKenzie. Discussions were conducted with both parties concerning conditions, operations and future problems on Canton Island.

The *Taney* visited Enderbury Island on the 10th of October. After making the necessary replacements and personnel and landing stores, the *Taney* returned to Canton arriving that same evening. Upon completion of all business the *Taney* departed that night for Baker Island, arriving there on the 12th. Ideal weather conditions facilitated the landing of the stores and personnel. From Baker the *Taney* went direct to Howland, arriving in the early afternoon. The servicing of that island was completed by sunset and the *Taney* departed for Jarvis Island. Arrived at Jarvis 15th of October. Usual operations were carried out. The cutter remained overnight at that island, departing the following day for Palmyra. The *Taney* remained at Palmyra the 17th and 18th of October, and returned to Honolulu on the 21st of October, terminating the Seventeenth Cruise.

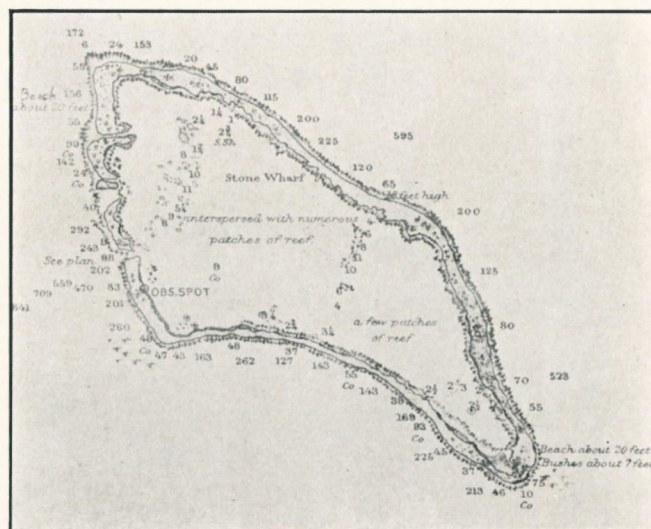
All the colonies were in excellent shape. There was every indication of well planned projects with full accomplishments of the same. Morale among the colonists was exceedingly high. Only four replacements were made in the personnel of the entire island group. Mr. Lawrence Browne of the Weather Bureau conducted extensive servicing operations and recommended changes for the future. This is the first time that a representative of the U. S. Weather Bureau has visited



Enderbury Island—U.S.N. Hydrog. Office Honolulu

any of the five islands while under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. Mr. Ashley Browne, Extension Horticulturist of the University of Hawaii, made extensive studies of the landscaping and agricultural projects on all of the islands, collecting specimens of the plant life from all of the islands for study and placement in laboratories and museums. Future projects in this particular field will be governed by his recommendations and advice.

Strolling down Post or Geary Streets in San Francisco, Chestnut Street of Philadelphia, Canal Street of New Orleans, or the famous Broadway, does not carry the thrill of our own Fort Street.



Canton Island—U.S.N. Hydrog. Office, Honolulu