

17th December 1959
ANTARCTIC
187 Collins Street
Melbourne, Victoria
Australia

Dear Hapt:

As you can guess, there have been numerous delays. However, it now seems that I will really be leaving this afternoon on the good ship Thala Dan.

The ship is about two years old and of rather plush design. Apparently, it was built especially for this kind of service. The accommodations are similar to what would be tourist class on a transpacific passenger ship. The Thala Dan is about 2000 tons and of icebreaker construction. The Engines are diesel type. The cabins and power plant are at stern of ship, leaving the center open for loading vehicles and aircraft. This is very much better than the ancient Navy tug which I once was on. It sailed in the Bearing sea out to the very end of the Aleutian chain. Once was enough of that.

The situation at Green Gorge and Sawyer Creek is pretty uncertain. I have had an opportunity to question several people independently. It is remarkable what poor observers and what poor memory people have. By putting the various stories together I come up with the fact that there is a valley and that there are some rocks. Beyond this there is no worthwhile information. Also, it seems that there are protracted periods of fog which may or maynot be bad in this valley which is on the lee side of the island.

If the fog is bad during my stay of a week or so, I will not be able to accomplish much. It is my intention to layout markers for anchors and down leads of all the wires as well as a place for equipment shelter and line of access. Already a lot of time and money and effort have been expended and it would be pretty futile to come back empty handed because of bad luck on the fog.

Provided, what I can see looks auspicious, I will then find out about staying for the rest of the summer. It seems that there is another ship called the Maga Dan which will come up from Mawson and stops at Macquarie along in March. This should give me plenty of time to carry out the survey properly.

If you can find a good reason to come to Hawaii, I'll be happy to see you and your family there along in April.

Merry Christmas,

Grote