



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Rock Island District



Defense Environmental Restoration Program
for
Formerly Used Defense Sites
Ordnance and Explosives

Archives Search Report

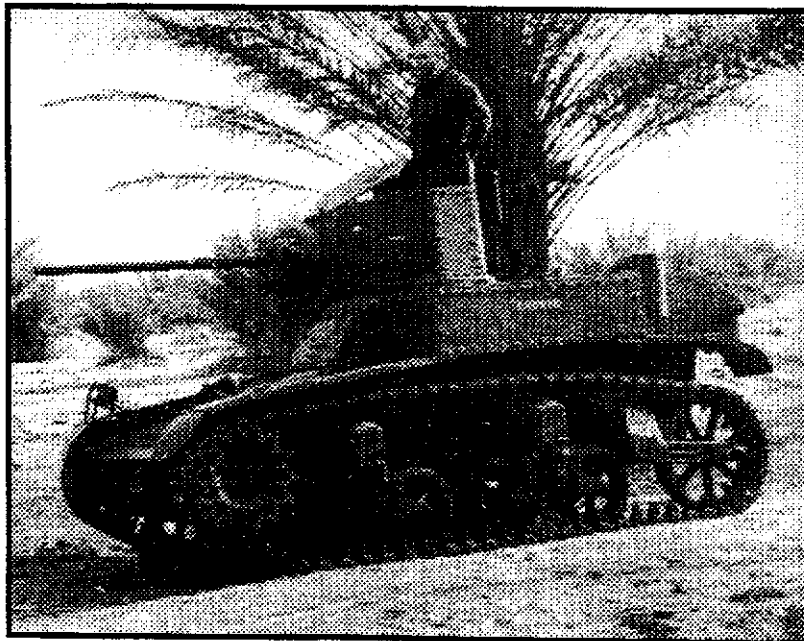
FINDINGS

for

Camp Ensign

San Diego County, California
Project Number JO9CA701102

MAY 1997



DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM
FOR
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES

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ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVE
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
FOR
CAMP ENSIGN
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
PROJECT NUMBER JO9CA701102

May 1997

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1. INTRODUCTION

a. **Subject and Purpose**

(1) This report presents the findings of a historical records search and site inspection for ordnance and explosives (OE) presence located at the former Camp Ensign, Borrego Springs, California (see plate 1 for general location map). The investigation was performed under the authority of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program at Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP FUDS).

(2) The investigation focused on approximately 1920 FUDS eligible acres that were used by the Army and Marines during World War II. The area used was serving a dual purpose at the time; functioning as a fully operational ranch and as a cantonment area for troops undergoing desert training in the Borrego Maneuver Area (see plate 1).

(3) The purpose of this investigation was to characterize the site for potential OE presence, to include conventional ammunition, missiles, and chemical warfare material (CWM). This was achieved by a thorough evaluation of historical records, interviews and on-site visual inspection results.

b. **Scope**

(1) This report presents the site history, site description, real estate ownership information, and confirmed ordnance presence (prior to and after site closure), based on available records, interviews, site inspections, and analyses. The analyses provide a complete evaluation of all information to assess current day potential ordnance presence, where actual ordnance presence has not been confirmed.

(2) For the purpose of this report, OE contamination consists of live ammunition, live ammunition components, CWM or explosives which have been lost, abandoned, discarded, buried, fired, or thrown from demolition pits or burning pads. These items were either manufactured, purchased, stored, used, and/or disposed of by

the Navy Department/Department of Defense. Such ammunition/components are no longer under accountable record control of any DOD organization or activity.

(3) **Expended** small arms ammunition (.50 cal or smaller) is **not** considered OE contamination. OE further includes "explosive soil" which refers to any mixture in soil, sands, clays, etc., such that the mixture itself is explosive. Generally, 10 percent or more by weight of secondary explosives in a soil mixture is considered explosive soil.

2. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

a. **1994 Preliminary Assessment**

(1) A preliminary assessment was performed on Camp Ensign which consisted of an estimated 1920 acres of land, located in Borrego Springs, California. The site (J09CA701100) was assessed on 6 July 1994 by the Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers. At that time, it was determined that the site was formerly used by the DOD for various military functions. Several OE projects, with a broad scope of OE delivery and usage, were classified in the Borrego Springs project. The projects are located within or in the vicinity of the Borrego Maneuver Area, with Camp Ensign being one of the areas identified and the subject of this report (see doc. E-1).

(2) The Findings and Determination of Eligibility was signed 17 January 1995 (see document E-1). The estimated 1920 acres that made up the former site was found to be eligible under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites. The site was used from 1942 to 1944. Table 2-1 shows projects proposed at the former site.

TABLE 2-1 1994 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT				
Project Number	DERP Category	Present Phase	Comments	Location
JO9CA701101	OE	SI	Ordnance & Explosives	Borrego Maneuver Area
JO9CA701102	OE	SI	Ordnance & Explosives	See plate 1
JO9CA701104	OE	SI	Ordnance & Explosives	Borrego Hotel
JO9CA701106	OE	SI	Ordnance & Explosives	Benson/Ocotillo Dry Lake
--	HTRW	N/A	None Proposed	N/A
--	BD/DR	N/A	None Proposed	N/A

NOTE: Project numbers JO9CA01103 and JO9CA01105 have not been assigned to any DERP FUDS project.

b. Other Investigations

There were no other pertinent investigations discovered during this site inspection.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

a. Existing Land Usage

(1) The former Camp Ensign is located east of the Volcano Mountains in the desert of the Borrego Valley in southwestern California. Borrego Springs, along with the former Camp Ensign is surrounded by the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

(2) The estimated 1920 acres that made up the former ranch/camp is now split between multiple property owners. A major property owner of the FUDS eligible area is the Borrego Springs Partnership. However, the majority of the former site is under multiple private-party ownership.

Current ownership is under frequent change due to the ongoing development occurring on this property. Detailed current ownership is available through the San Diego County Recorder and Clerk (see plates 3 and 4, Table 3-1, and document G-1).

TABLE 3-1 LAND USAGE					
AREA	FORMER USAGE	PRESENT OWNER	PRESENT USAGE	SIZE/ ACRES	COMMENTS
A	Cantonment Area	Cameron Brothers Const. Co.	Farming/ Undeveloped	12	See Plates 3 and 4
B	Dumpsite	Same as Above	Undeveloped	1	See Plates 3 and 4
C	All Other Land	Multiple Owners	Residential /Commercial Undeveloped	1907	See Plates 3 and 4
FDE Acreage				1920	

b. Climatic Data

(1) The climate in the desert consists of hot, arid summers and warm, moderate winters. The humidity is low in this area throughout the year. Winds vary in direction but are generally light, in fact, less than 8 miles per hour 64% of the time. Strong winds are associated with the east side of the mountains, which slopes down to the desert. The strongest winds are usually associated with occasional migrant storms that cross the area in winter. Three or four times a year, usually in the fall or winter, pressure conditions cause a fairly strong, gusty flow of air from the north or east. This air is usually dry and at times is unseasonably warm. In January the mean minimum temperature is 41.8 degrees F and in July the mean maximum is 106.4 degrees F.

(2) The total annual precipitation is rarely more than 5 inches. A big percentage of the total falls from November through April. The remainder of the precipitation is spread throughout the year and is infrequent in the summer (see ref. B-1).

c. Topography

(1) San Diego County is the most southwesterly county in the continental United States. Borrego Springs is in the northeastern part of the county. The site is in the Lower Borrego Valley amid a fairly level, broad, arid plain

just east of San Ysidro Mountain and south of the Santa Rosa Mountains. It is surrounded by the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (see ref. B-1).

(2) The site contains a sparse cover of desert shrubs, cactus, and bunchgrass. The site is primarily flat with a dry creek bed running across the northern section of the site. The elevation varies slightly from 520 and 560 feet above sea level with a very gradual change between elevation.

d. Geology and Soils

(1) The ice age, which covered much of North America, never reached southern California before it started receding. The desert area was originally ancient sea bottoms that were connected to the Gulf of California. Later, beginning in the lower Pliocene, a build-up of sediments from the ancestral Colorado River. Since then, the Colorado River has periodically flowed into the basin creating a series of inland seas. These periods of inundation were interspersed with periods when the basin dried up. Over 20,000 feet of lacustrine and land-laid sediments have been deposited. The site is on the geologic Borrego Formation which consists of lake deposits made up of light gray claystone interbedded with buff sandstone and lacustrine fossils. This occurred during the Cenozoic Era between the Pleistocene and pliocene period (see ref. B-7 and B-8).

(2) This area is a tectonically-active area subject to frequent earthquakes. A large fault zone, the San Jacinto, runs through the Borrego Valley. No other fault system has produced a greater number (8 in the last 100 years) of large (magnitude greater than 6 on the Richter scale) earthquakes. The largest earthquake to hit this area occurred on the Coyote Creek Fault, a branch of the San Jacinto, on April 9, 1968. It registered 6.5 with epicenter near Borrego Mountain. Fortunately, structural damage to Borrego Springs was minor (see ref. B-9).

(3) The soils on the site are of primarily two soil associations: the Mecca-Indio association, which dominates most of the northern and eastern site area, consists of well-drained sandy loams and silt loams on alluvial fans, subject to occasional flooding and deposition with slopes of 0 to 5 percent; and the Rositas-Carrizo association, which dominates the southern and western site area, consists of somewhat excessively drained and excessively drained loamy coarse sands to very gravelly sands on alluvial fans with 2 to 9 percent slopes (see ref. B-1).

e. Hydrology

(1) The aquifer that supports Borrego Springs is known as the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin. In general, the depth to the groundwater table for this basin has been slowly but steadily increasing. The water table for Borrego Springs varies greatly. Wells have been established at depths ranging from 65 to 285 feet below the surface.

(2) There are no primary surface water features associated with the site. Since the site is relatively flat, the general drainage for the site is by surface runoff, generally from southwest to northeast. There are a couple of dry creekbeds which could carry away excessive surface runoff.

f. Natural Resources

The Natural Heritage Division of the California Department of Fish and Game has listed 20 animal species and 27 plant species, by federal or state regulations, that are rare, threatened or endangered species for San Diego County. The California Department of Fish and Game has no listings of known occurrences of federal or state listed endangered, threatened, or otherwise significant species, natural plant communities, or natural features on the former Camp Ensign.

g. Historical/Cultural Resources

The SHPO, South Coastal Information Center at San Diego State University included Camp Ensign with the Borrego Maneuver Area when it was researched. There were no specific historical or cultural resources classified on this site. However, the SHPO needs to be notified if any remediation were to be done on the project site. Table 3-2 summarizes the natural and cultural resource information.

TABLE 3-2 NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES		
Resource Classification	Type	Comments
Birds		None specifically cited
Plants		Same as above
Historical		Coordinate with SHPO

4. HISTORICAL ORDNANCE PRESENCE

a. **Chronological Site Summary**

(1) The beginnings of Camp/Ranch Ensign started in 1926. Acquiring 160 acres under the Desert Land Act, O.H. Ensign and his sons Paul and Roy sank a well and planted a small orchard to prove their claim. They brought in the area's first deep producing well and raised crops and cattle on the acreage. Later they imported date palms and started San Diego County's first and only date grove. The first dates were harvested in 1939. The Ensigns increased their holdings over the years until their ranch took in 1160 acres. When World War II ended only about 200 acres were under cultivation (see docs. H-1 & H-2).

(2) Camp Ensign has a short and limited history that only lasts for a few years during World War II. There are no documents identifying the specific dates that the military used Camp Ensign. Both the Army and Marines used the former ranch in support of various training activities. Based on personnel interviews and newspaper articles, the best estimated dates of use appear to be from sometime in 1942 through May 1944 at the latest. However, a records search did not turn up any documentation of Government ownership during this period (see docs. E-2, E-4, F-1, F-3, H-1, H-10 through H-14, H-17 & I-5).

(3) The INPR states that the Marines acquired an undefined amount of acreage (calculated at 1920 acres) in the town of Borrego Springs (see doc. E-1). It doesn't seem likely that the Marines ever "acquired" this property because, during the entire time that the military was on the property, it was still being used and worked as a fully operational ranch. It appears that the military received verbal permission from Paul Ensign, the owner, to use his property for the limited activities that the military had requested. There is no evidence of a lease ever having been signed or of any payment by the military for the use of the property (see doc. E-3).

(4) There were no real estate records uncovered to indicate the actual size of the camp or of the ranch itself. The INPR estimates the site to be 1920 acres. Although there is no hard evidence to discount that figure, it appears to be larger than the actual size. Based on a historical map (see doc. L-1), which gives Camp Ensign formal recognition, the size and location of the camp is actually much closer to two sections (4 & 9) (consisting of 1280 acres) rather than the three sections (4, 9, & 16 of T11S, R6E) mentioned in the INPR.

(5) The Ensign Ranch was attractive to the military because it was the only property in Borrego Springs with a high capacity well. The military's use of the Ensign Ranch was rather limited in activity. Both the Army and Marines used the site primarily as a headquarters and bivouac area. The Army's occupation of the site seems to have been less formal. All the troops that bivouaced there with the Army initially, did so without tents. The troops slept in the vicinity of the date palm grove on the ranch. The soldiers initially dug foxholes by the date trees until Mr. Ensign put a stop to that. Later on, the Army did set up a headquarters with staff and pitched tents for their use. The number of personnel staying on the ranch was always relatively small. Most of the troops would be staying in the field in the Borrego Maneuver Area (see docs. E-2, E-3, F-3, H-11 & H-12).

(6) The Army's use of the Camp/Ranch Ensign, as best as can be determined, was from troops who were stationed at Camp Callan. The units that would come to the desert for training were the Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) battalions. The AAA units from Camp Callan were involved in training from September 1943 until May 1944 when Camp Callan was closed (see docs. E-4, F-3, & H-12).

(7) Searchlight companies and headquarters staff sections of the AAA battalions bivouaced on Camp Ensign. Based on an interview (I-5), these troops did not carry any small arms or ammunition with them during desert training. The AAA guns they brought were kept and fired in the Borrego Maneuver Area (see docs. E-3, H-11, & I-5).

(8) There is some conflicting information as to whether the Army or Marines used the former Camp Ensign first. All the articles and interviews indicate that they were there at separate times. There is no mention by anybody of both services using Camp Ensign at the same time. It appears that the Marines may have been the first users of the Ensign Ranch. The Marines had a formal ceremony establishing Camp Ensign as a Marine camp with a flag raising ceremony in January 1943. It is likely that they were already on the ranch sometime in 1942. The Marines established a desert/night driving course for vehicle drivers in the desert near the Ensign Ranch. Marines would report on a Thursday for a one-week driving course. If they gained sufficient skills and passed the driving tests, they would be allowed to return to their main base in San Diego on Friday of the following week. The Marines set up a tent city near the date palm grove. There were approximately 100 Marines there at any given time (see docs. E-2, E-4, F-1, F-3, H-1, H-11, H-13, H-14, & H-17).

(9) In 1957, the ranch was sold to Patrick Nolan. He immediately undertook the task of re-establishing the

date and farm production. Mr. Nolan sold the property (placed in escrow) to John Anderson, a San Diego builder and real estate developer in April 1961 but the deal fell through in December 1961. In March 1962, the property was sold to the Borrego Springs Park Corporation who planned to develop the property with an 18-hole golf course and homesites. Although some initial development took place, many of the early plans by developers for large-scale development of the former camp never materialized (see docs. H-2 through H-9 and H-15 through H-17).

(10) Currently the property is under multiple ownership. There are numerous homesites and lots that are occupied or are still being developed. Also, John Cameron, a real estate developer from San Diego, is in the process of developing a large section of the site for a golf course, club and resort area, along with some homesites. Even today though, a large portion of the former ranch still remains undeveloped (see photos J-1 , J-3 through J-9 and plate 5).

b. Ordnance Records Review

(1) A historical documents search was conducted by the site inspection (SI) team to obtain ordnance related records relevant to the Camp Ensign, Borrego Springs, California. Research sites included, but were not limited to, the National and State Archives, state, county, and local libraries, historical centers and societies, local newspapers, state, county, and local law enforcement agencies, and current owners of the former site (see appendix A for a complete listing of contacts). (NOTE: There is a significant lack of recorded information available on site-usage during World War II. There are also numerous inconsistencies from the limited articles and recorded interviews available about what, when, and where military activities took place.)

(2) Evidence available to help substantiate the size of the former Ensign Ranch was through various newspaper articles. Although the newspaper articles also list varying sizes associated with the Ensign Ranch, they are fairly consistent. The acreages mentioned in these articles vary between 1100 and 1215 (see docs. H-1 through H-9 & H-17). None of them come close to using figures near 1920 acres.

(3) Numerous pages in one document (ref. B-10) discuss various military activities taking place at or near Camp Ensign. The reference's primary focus on Camp Ensign is with the Marine truck driver trainees using the ranch as a cantonment area while undergoing desert driving training. Two documented interviews from the same reference discuss the Army using the ranch as a bivouac area but don't mention

any ordnance related activity taking place on the ranch (see documents E-2 through E-4).

(4) A manuscript discusses briefly the history of the Ensign Ranch. It mentions an Army Searchlight Division using the ranch as a training area. It also discusses the Marines sending groups of 100 men at a time to Camp Ensign for desert driving training. There was no mention of any ordnance related activities taking place in the area (see document F-1).

(5) Another manuscript discusses an individual's experiences during a World War II encounter at the Ensign Ranch. He talks about meeting with Army personnel at the ranch and eventually getting stuck in the desert during a bombing practice. He mentions a tank (possibly the one in photo K-1) coming to the rescue to pull out a wrecker and his car. There was no mention of any ordnance activity taking place on the Ensign Ranch (see document F-2).

(6) Several pages from an article, (ref. B-35), discusses the military use of Camp Ensign by the Marines and the Army. The discussion focuses on the Marines setting up a tent camp for use by the troops training to be truck drivers while getting experience in nighttime and desert driving skills (see document F-3).

(7) Newspaper articles describe the various military uses of the former Camp Ensign by the Army and Marines during World War II. There is no mention of any use of ordnance (see docs. H-1 and H-10 through H-14).

(8) Newspaper/journal articles describe the history of the Ensign Ranch, helping delineate the size of the ranch and discuss various development plans for the former camp's future after it was sold (see docs. H-1 through H-9 and H-15 through H-17).

(9) An old historical photograph shows an early version of the M3 Stuart parked next to a date palm tree. This photo would have to have been taken on the former Camp Ensign as this was the only place in the county with date palm trees. The tank was most likely the one being used to tow targets at the Military Wash in the nearby Borrego Maneuver Area for other units undergoing weapons training (see photo K-1).

(10) An updated Armed Forces use only roadmap was prepared by the Southern California Automobile Club during 1943. It depicts the Borrego Valley area and specifically delineates the boundary of the former Camp Ensign (see document L-1).

c. Interviews With Site-Related Personnel

(1) Efforts to locate individuals who had much knowledge of Camp Ensign at Borrego Springs, California were not very successful. The inspection team located several individuals who some had historical knowledge about the military activities that took place in the area during World War II.

(2) Interview I-1 was with Mr. Kent Smith, a retired park ranger, who used to work at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. He was familiar with OE being used on various areas within the park. He had a slide of a tank that was supposedly parked on the Ensign Ranch but had no knowledge of any reports of OE being found in or around the former Camp Ensign.

(3) Interview I-2 was with Mr. Fred Jee, a park ranger assigned to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. He has worked at the park since 1975. He is familiar with several sites on the park property that were used for OE related activities during World War II. However, Fred has no knowledge of any OE related activities taking place on Camp Ensign.

(4) Interview I-3 was with Mark Jorgenson, a resource ecologist, who works for the State of California at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. He was somewhat familiar with OE usage on the state park but did not have any relevant knowledge of OE activities associated with the former camp.

(5) Interview I-4 was with Mr. Charles Hahn, a deputy sheriff with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, who has been assigned to Borrego Springs for the past six years. He had no knowledge of any OE related incidents/accidents at the former Camp Ensign or in the area.

(6) Interview I-5 was with Mr. Andrew Yatsko, a former chaplain's assistant in the Army during World War II. His unit was a AAA battalion. He was stationed at Camp Callan but spent time in the field at the former Ensign Ranch. He stayed in a tent near the date palm grove as part of the HQ section. He didn't recall any other military units at Camp Ensign when he was there in 1943. Mr. Yatsko has no knowledge of any OE or CWM activities occurring on the Ensign Ranch.

(7) Interview I-6 was with Mr. John Cameron, a general contractor, who is in the process of developing a major portion of the former Ensign Ranch. Since the start of a major landscaping/clearing operation in 1996, neither

he nor his workers have ever encountered any evidence of OE or evidence of a former encampment.

(8) Interview I-7 was with Mr. Steve Sawyer, a fire marshal and bomb/arson investigator with the Borrego Springs Fire Department. Steve is very familiar with OE contamination in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park but has no knowledge of OE related activities taking place on the former Camp Ensign.

(9) Interview I-8 was with Sgt. Conrad Grayson of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. He works in the Arson/Explosives unit. He is familiar with OE items being found in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. He is not familiar with any specific OE related incidents taking place on the former Camp Ensign.

(10) Contact with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad and the 70th EOD Detachment were made prior to the on-site inspection of the former Camp Ensign. These organizations indicated that they have never been called to the former Camp Ensign to remove any ordnance or explosives remaining after former military usage.

5. SITE ELIGIBILITY

a. **Confirmed Formerly Used Defense Sites**

(1) During the period between 1942 and 1944, the Department of Defense used the property of land known as the Ensign Ranch, estimated in size at 1920 acres. The site was known as Camp Ensign. Site utilization terminated before the end of World War II. In January 1995, 1920 acres was found eligible under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (see document E-1).

(2) While some documents indicate that the site was more than likely around 1280 acres in size, the 1920 acres from the FDE will be used for size purposes because no exact real estate files were found to verify the actual size. All information obtained during the archives search, site visit, and personal interviews indicated that the 1920 acres that made up the former Camp Ensign, Borrego Springs, California, were eligible under the FUDS program (see plates 2 & 3).

b. **Potential Formerly Used Defense Sites**

There were no additional **potential formerly used defense sites** discovered during the course of this Archive Search Report.

6. VISUAL SITE INSPECTION

a. **General Procedures and Safety**

(1) During the period 27 - 30 January 1997, the members of the SI team assessed the former Camp Ensign located in Borrego Springs, California. A large portion of the land that made up the former camp is currently under major development. The primary task of the inspection team was to assess the former site for OE presence. The site inspection was limited to non-intrusive methods. Subsurface sampling was not authorized nor performed.

(2) Real Estate rights-of-entry were not obtained by the SI team due to the willingness and cooperation from the property owners of the former Camp Ensign to authorize access on the acreage that made up the former site. Control of the former site therefore remained with these personnel with safety oversight from the inspection team.

(3) A site safety plan (see reference B-3) was developed and utilized by the SI team to assure safety from injury during the site inspection of this facility. A briefing prior to the inspection was conducted which stressed that OE should only be handled by military EOD personnel.

(4) Prior to the site visit, a thorough review of all available reports, historical documents, texts, and technical ordnance reference materials gathered during the historical records search portion of the ASR was made to ensure awareness of potential ordnance types and hazards.

b. **Area A: Cantonment Area**

(1) The cantonment area was not readily identifiable but was known to be located in the vicinity of the date palm grove which was in the east-northeasterly section of the former Camp Ensign (see plates 2 and 3).

(2) There is no physical evidence of the former Camp Ensign remaining (see photos J-1, J-17 and plate 5). There is possibly some evidence of a former building foundation remaining in the area of the former camp (see photo J-14). This area is currently undeveloped other than the use of growing the date palms.

(3) The former camp is privately owned by Cameron Brothers Construction Company. The land is basically flat, covered with a lot of brush and vegetation, and the site of a date palm grove. There is a fenceline that runs parallel with the western boundary along Di Giorgio Road with signs of posted property.

(4) There was no evidence of OE, CWM, or structures remaining, which could be attributed to Department of Defense usage, discovered by the inspection team in this area during this investigation.

c. Area B: Dumpsite

(1) This dumpsite appears to have been long abandoned and sits on a small portion of the property on the northern end of the former ranch. The terrain is flat, dry and dusty, with a lot of brush growing around the trash.

(2) The dumpsite occupies approximately several thousand square feet. The junkpile is several feet deep in places and appears not to have been used recently. Most of the trash appears to be at least 30-40 years old. A lot of the metal items are heavily rusted. There is quite a variety of junk items piled there ranging from construction material, glass, cans, and signs to old automobile bodies, etc. (see photos J-10 through J-12 and plates 3 & 5).

(3) The site inspection team traversed the area in and around the dumpsite. The team did not observe any evidence of OE or CWM.

d. Area C: All Remaining Land

(1) This area consists of the remainder of the former ranch which is the majority of the property. A portion of this property is developed, a larger portion is currently undergoing development, but the largest portion remains undeveloped at this time. There is a high likelihood that as the population grows the remaining undeveloped land will be developed into residential homes (see plates 3 & 5 and photos J-1 through J-9, J-13, J-15 and J-16).

(2) The site inspection team walked the site looking for clues of possible OE contamination. The team did not observe any evidence of OE in this area during the investigation.

7. EVALUATION OF ORDNANCE PRESENCE

a. General

(1) This land was evaluated to determine confirmed, potential, or uncontaminated ordnance presence.

(2) **Confirmed ordnance and explosives (OE) presence** is based on **verifiable** historical record evidence or direct witness of OE items (with explosive components and/or inert

debris/fragments) since site closure. Additional field data is not needed to identify a confirmed site.

(a) **Verifiable historical record evidence** is based on **OE items actually seen on site** since site closure and authenticated by: historical records (Archive Records, Preliminary Assessment Reports, Site Investigation Reports), local fire departments and law enforcement agencies/bomb squads, military Explosive Ordnance Disposal Units, newspaper articles, photographs, or maps.

(b) **Direct witness** of OE items consists of the inspection team(s) and other credible witnesses as determined by the ASR Research Team Leader (landowners, workers on-site, soldiers who served there, etc.) verifying that they have seen OE presence on the surface or subsurface since site closure.

(3) **Potential ordnance and explosives (OE) presence** is based on a lack of confirmed OE presence. Potential OE presence is inferred from records, present day site features, non-verifiable direct witness, or indirect witness. Additional field data is needed to confirm potential OE sites.

(a) **Inference from historical records** is based on **no OE items actually seen on site** since site closure and would include documentation (records, aerial photographs, maps) indicating possible OE presence derived from common practice in production, storage, usage, or disposal, at that time and from records indicating known usage.

(b) **Inference from present day site features** would be the indication of possible OE presence from such obvious features as target circles, depressions, mounds/backstops, OB/OD areas/pits, etc.

(c) **Indirect witness** would be people who have stated that they have heard of OE presence on-site (hear-say evidence).

(4) **Uncontaminated** ordnance subsites are based on a lack of confirmed or potential ordnance evidence. All historical records evidence and present day site inspections do not indicate confirmed or potential ordnance contamination. There is no reasonable evidence, either direct or inferred, to suggest present day ordnance contamination. Additional field data is not needed to assess uncontaminated ordnance site.

b. Area A: Cantonment Area

(1) Evidence of the former camp, of which this investigation is being conducted, is nonexistent. There are no physical structures remaining in the area. The terrain is covered with brush and vegetation surrounding a date palm grove (see photos J-14 through J-17 and plate 5).

(2) During the inspection of this area, there was no evidence of any OE/CWM visually found by the inspection team. The possibility of armed troops in the camp was considered. There may have been reasons for some troops to have small arms on hand for security purposes such as to guard the AAA guns and ammunition used in the Borrego Manuever Area. However, there was no logical reason for troops to be armed for the activities taking place on Camp Ensign. Additionally, there was no information recovered by the inspection team that can substantiate any remaining OE/CWM presence in this area (see I-1, I-5, and I-7).

(3) During all the activity and development taking place on the former site over the years, there has never been any reports of anyone finding OE/CWM. Nor is there any evidence to suggest use of ordnance within this area. Also, from the various interviews with knowledgeable local historians and residents, there was never any mention, or even rumor, of OE ever being buried on this site. Based on the available information, this area should be considered **uncontaminated**.

c. Area B: Dumpsite

(1) During the inspection of this area, there was no OE/CWM visually found by the inspection team. There were no military affiliated items discovered in the junkpile. Additionally, there was no information recovered by the inspection team that can substantiate any remaining OE/CWM presence in this area.

(2) During all the dumping activities that took place in the past, there has never been any reported or documented incidents of OE or any form of military related refuse being discarded or found on this dumpsite. Based on the available information, this area should be considered **uncontaminated**.

d. Area C: All Remaining Land

(1) The majority of the remaining property is still undeveloped at this time. However, a large portion of the former ranch is currently developed as a residential area. There is also a major development project currently in progress. This new and ongoing development is in the process of receiving more residential sites, a resort area,

and an 18-hole golf course. During all the construction and landscaping taking place, there have been no reports of any OE or military related items encountered by any of the workcrews (see interview I-6).

(2) Camp Ensign has some local historical significance that is documented in various journal and newspaper articles. Any OE related military training taking place on Camp Ensign would most definitely have made local news and been documented. Also, local residents who lived in the area throughout World War II only recall OE related activity taking place in the Borrego Maneuver Area.

(3) There was no OE discovered by the inspection team during the inspection of this area. There are no documented incidents of OE ever being found on this site. Interviews with knowledgeable local historians and residents indicate that no OE is or ever was on this property. Based on the available information, this area should be considered **uncontaminated**.

8. SITE ORDNANCE TECHNICAL DATA

The on-site inspection team was unable to locate any data which could confirm or even suggest the presence/use of ordnance on this site. Therefore, based on the use of Camp Ensign, there are no valid reasons to suggest that OE of any type was ever used or even on hand at the former camp.

9. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

a. **Hazardous, Toxic, and Radiological Waste**

The SI team did observe an old dumpsite located on the former Camp Ensign. But, there is no evidence to indicate potential HTRW hazards resulting from past DOD activities.

b. **Building Demolition/Debris Removal**

The OE team did not observe any DOD related structures or residual materials which exhibit a potential requirement for initiating BD/DR projects.

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
FOR
CAMP ENSIGN
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
PROJECT NUMBER: JO9CA701102

APPENDIX A

REFERENCE SOURCES

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REFERENCE SOURCES

Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
FEDERAL AGENCIES			
<u>Department of Defense</u>			
HISTORICAL ACCIDENT DATABASE USATCES SIOAC-ESM SAVANNA, IL 61074-9639	COMPUTER SEARCH (DDESE)	(815) 273-8730	NO INFORMATION
DEFENSE LIBRARY ON DISK PENTAGON RM 1A518 WASHINGTON, DC 20310-6080	COMPUTER SEARCH (DLOD)	(703) 697-4658	NO INFORMATION
DEFENSE TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER 8725 JOHN J. KINGMAN ROAD SUITE 0944 FORT BELVOIR, VA 22060-6218	COMPUTER SEARCH (DTIC)	(703) 767-8274	NO INFORMATION
<u>Army</u>			
70TH ORD DET (EOD) NAVY SUB BASE, P.O. BOX 6376 SAN DIEGO, CA 92166	SGT THOMPSON CPT FISKE	(619) 553-8500	AREA O/E INCIDENT REPORTS
DEFENSE LOGISTICS STUDIES INFORMATION EXCHANGE US ARMY LOGISTICS MGMT COLL FT. LEE, VA 23801	COMPUTER SEARCH (DLSIE)	(804) 734-4007	NO INFORMATION
IOC HISTORICAL OFFICE ATTN: AMSIO-EAH, BLDG 390 ROCK ISLAND, IL 61299	TOM SLATTERY	(309) 782-1450	NO INFORMATION
CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY ATTN: DSMH-RAS 1099 14th ST. N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3402	STAFF	(202) 761-5416	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
Army (cont.)			
U.S. ARMY MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE LIBRARY CARLISLE BARRACKS, BLDG 22 CARLISLE, PA 17013-5008	JOHN J. SLONAKER DENNIS VETOCK	(717) 245-3611	NO INFORMATION
USACE, LOS ANGELES DISTRICT 911 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD LOS ANGELES, CA 90017-3401	DELORES HENDERSON	(213) 452-3164	REAL ESTATE FILES
U.S. MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE ARCHIVES BRANCH CARLISLE BARRACKS, CARLISLE, PA 17013-5008	RICHARD SOMMERS	(717) 245-3601	NO INFORMATION ON NAVY SITES
US ARMY CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE COMMAND ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD 21010-5423	KATHLEEN CIOLFI	(410) 679-4430	NO INFORMATION
USACE, OFFICE OF HISTORY 7701 TELEGRAPH ROAD ALEXANDRIA, VA 22310-3865	STAFF	(703) 355-3558	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
U.S. MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE PHOTO ARCHIVES CARLISLE BARRACKS CARLISLE, PA 17013-5008	MIKE WINEY	(717) 245-3434	NO INFORMATION
USACE, LOS ANGELES DISTRICT 911 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD LOS ANGELES, CA 90017-3401	DEBORAH CASTENS JEFF ARMENTROUT	(213) 452-3719	INPRS AND FUDS FILES

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REFERENCE SOURCES

Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
Army (cont.)			
DMACSC, PHILADELPHIA DEPOT 5801 TABOR AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 17013-5008	STAFF	(800) 826-0342 (301) 227-2495	AERONAUTICAL CHARTS
USACE, LOS ANGELES DISTRICT 911 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD LOS ANGELES, CA 90017-3401	TRUDY KNUTSON	(619) 452-3990	PROGRAM MANAGER FOR FUDS
ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL MUSEUM ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL ROCK ISLAND, IL 61299	CHRIS LEINICKE	(309) 794-3518	TECHNICAL MANUALS
US ARMY CHEMICAL SCHOOL FISHER LIBRARY BUILDING 1081 FT McCLELLAN, AL 36205-5000	DICK PASTORETT	(205) 848-4414	NO INFORMATION
U.S. ARMY TECHNICAL CENTER FOR EXPLOSIVES SAFETY LIBRARY ATTN: SIOAC-ESM SAVANNA, IL 61074	STAFF	(815) 273-8772	REFERENCE SOURCES
Air Force			
OL-A, USAF ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS CENTER 151 PATTON AVE, RM 210 ASHEVILLE, NC 28801	JANET WALL	(704) 271-4404	LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA (LCD) ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR AREA
AIR FORCE HISTORICAL RESEARCH AGENCY 600 CHENNAULT CIRCLE MAXWELL AFB, AL 36112-6424	THOMAS DEAN	(205) 953-6884	(IRIS) NO INFORMATION

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
<u>Navy</u>			
MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL CENTER BLDG 58 WASHINGTON NAVAL YARD WASHINGTON, DC 20374	STAFF	(202) 433-3483	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
NAVY HISTORICAL CENTER BUILDING 57 WASHINGTON NAVAL YARD WASHINGTON, DC 20374	STAFF	(202) 433-3171	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
NAVY HISTORICAL CENTER TECHNICAL LIBRARY WASHINGTON NAVY YARD WASHINGTON, D.C. 20374	MARK WERTHEINER CURATOR	(202) 433-3607	NAVY PUBLICATIONS
NAVEODTECHDIV TECHNICAL LIBRARY 2008 STUMP NECK ROAD INDIAN HEAD, MD 20640-5070	BETTY ARBOGHAST DAWN RISKO	(301) 743-6834	NAVY PUBLICATIONS
JEODU MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, AZ 85639	CAPT PETERLICK	(520) 341-2688	NOT AWARE OF ANY REPORTS OF OE FINDS ON THIS SITE
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BN CENTER CODE 10H, NAVFAC HISTORIAN 621 PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD PORT HUENEME, CA 93403	DR. VINCE TRANSANO CAROL WALSH	(805) 982-5913	REFERENCES
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BN CENTER CODE 1581B, CIVIL ENGINEER SUPPORT OFFICE 1000 1023rd AVENUE PORT HUENEME, CA 93403	ROBERT BRICKEY	(805) 982-5593	REFERENCES

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
<u>Navy (cont.)</u>			
COMMAND MUSEUM MARINE CORPS AIR STATION EL TORO SANTA ANA, CA	FABIAN JIROUX	(714) 726-4380	NO INFORMATION
MIRIMAR NAVAL AIR STATION ATTN: ROGER HILLHOUSE-RH187 45249 MIRIMAR WAY SAN DIEGO, CA 92145-5005	ROGER HILLHOUSE	(619) 537-1102	POC FOR MIRIMAR PROJECT
NAS NORTH ISLAND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE SAN DIEGO, CA 92135	ANDY YATSKO	(619) 545-1131	REFERENCES
NAS NORTH ISLAND STAFF CIVIL ENGINEER OFFICE SAN DIEGO, CA 92135	DAVE BROWN	(619) 545-1111	NO INFORMATION
NAS LIBRARY, NORTH ISLAND P.O. BOX 357081 SAN DIEGO, CA 92135-7081	SHARON NELSON	(619) 545-8230	BACK ISSUES OF THE NAS BASE NEWSPAPER
NAVAL FACILITY ENGINEERING COMMAND, SW DIVISION 1220 PACIFIC HWY, BLDG 127 SAN DIEGO, CA 92132	LOWELL MARTIN DANIEL HUEY	(619) 532-2991	NO INFORMATION
NAVAL FACILITY ENGINEERING COMMAND, SW DIVISION 1220 PACIFIC HWY, BLDG 131 SAN DIEGO, CA 92132	MIKE GONZALES	(619) 532-3178	NAVFAC POC FOR SITE

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
<u>Navy (cont.)</u>			
NAVAL FACILITY ENGINEERING COMMAND, SW DIVISION 1220 PACIFIC HWY, BLDG 127 SAN DIEGO, CA 92132	TOM PHELPS CHRISS MAVES	(619) 532-1169	NO SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION
NAVAL FACILITY ENGINEERING COMMAND, SW DIVISION 1220 PACIFIC HWY, BLDG 127 SAN DIEGO, CA 92132	MIKE STROUD	(619) 532-2319	REFERRALS AND SOME AERIAL PHOTOS
NAVAL FACILITY ENGINEERING COMMAND, SW DIVISION 1220 PACIFIC HWY, BLDG 127 SAN DIEGO, CA 92132	BILL FISHER	(619) 532-1488	NO INFORMATION
U.S. NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND CODE 14B, ROOM 10N59 200 STOVALL STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332-2300	CHARLIE COX JACK KANE	(703) 325-7342	REAL ESTATE INFORMATION
U.S. NAVY DIRECTIVE AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT CODE NO9B35 WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, BLDG 166 901 M STREET SE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20374	LT. GILBERT RECORDS OFFICER	(202) 433-4194	POC FOR ACCESS TO NAVY RECORDS AT FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BN CENTER CODE 72, NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING SERVICE CENTER 1100 1023RD AVENUE PORT HUENEME, CA 93403	JOSEPHINE WALSH	(805) 982-9110	REFERENCES

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
<u>National Archives and Records Administration</u>			
NARA, FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER- LOS ANGELES 2400 AVILA ROAD LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA 92656	GREG PEARMAN	(714) 643-4220	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION III, PARTS A AND B
NARA, PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION 24000 AVILA ROAD LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA 92656	SUZANNE DEWBERRY	(714) 643-4241	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION III, PARTS A AND B
NATIONAL ARCHIVES, SUITLAND BRANCH 4205 SUITLAND ROAD (CIVIL AND MILITARY) SUITLAND, MD 20409	STAFF	(301) 457-7190	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
NATIONAL ARCHIVES ARCHIVES I (MODERN MILITARY) PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE & 7TH WASHINGTON, DC 20408	STAFF	(202) 501-5385	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
NARA, FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER- SAN FRANCISCO 1000 COMMODORE DRIVE SAN BRUNO, CA 94066	BARBARA BEPLER	(415) 876-9001	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION III, PARTS A AND B
NATIONAL ARCHIVES ARCHIVES I (NAVY) PENNSYLVANIA AVE. & 7TH WASHINGTON, DC 20408	STAFF	(202) 501-5671	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
<u>National Archives and Records Administration (cont.)</u>			
NATIONAL ARCHIVES ARCHIVES I (OLD MILITARY) PENNSYLVANIA AVE. & 7TH WASHINGTON, DC 20408	STAFF	(202) 501-5390	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
NATIONAL ARCHIVES, ARCHIVES II (CARTOGRAPHIC/ARCHITECTURAL) 8601 ADELPHI RD COLLEGE PARK, MD 20	STAFF	(301) 713-7040	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
NATIONAL ARCHIVES, ARCHIVES II (CIVIL REFERENCE BRANCH) 8601 ADELPHI RD COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740	STAFF	(301) 713-7250	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
NATIONAL ARCHIVES, ARCHIVES II (MOTION PICTURE BRANCH) 8601 ADELPHI ROAD COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740	STAFF	(301) 713-7060	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
NATIONAL ARCHIVES, ARCHIVES II (STILL PICTURE BRANCH) 8601 ADELPHI ROAD COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740	STAFF	(301) 713-6660	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
NATIONAL ARCHIVES ARCHIVES II (TEXTUAL BRANCH) 8601 ADELPHI ROAD COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740	STAFF	(301) 713-7250	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER 9700 PAGE AVE ST. LOUIS, MO 63132	WILSON SULLIVAN BILL SIEBERT	(314) 538-4085	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION III, PARTS A AND B

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
<u>Library of Congress</u>			
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WASHINGTON, DC 20408	STAFF	(202) 707-5522	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
<u>Smithsonian Institution</u>			
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION HISTORICAL RESEARCH DIVISION WASHINGTON, DC 20540	STAFF	(202) 357-3133	SEE APPENDIX B, SECTION II, PARTS A AND B
<u>Department of Agriculture</u>			
USDA, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY FIELD OFFICE P.O. BOX 30010 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84130-0010	SHERRIE HOLYOAK	(801) 975-3503	SOURCE OF AERIAL PHOTOS AFTER 1956
USDA, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE 332 SOUTH JUNIPER, SUITE 110 ESCONDIDO, CA 92025	BECKY WATTS JASON JACKSON	(619) 745-2061	SOIL SURVEY INFORMATION. AERIAL PHOTOS
CONSOLIDATED FARM SRVC AGENCY 45-691 MONROE, SUITE 4 INDIO, CA 92201	REMU KHILNANI TEJA SALMAN	(619) 347-3675	AERIAL PHOTOS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY, GOING BACK 13 YEARS
<u>Department of Commerce</u>			
NOAA NAT. CLIMATIC DATA CTR FEDERAL BUILDING ASHVILLE, NC 28801	YOLANDA GOOSCH SAM McCOWAN	(704) 271-4272	LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA REPORTS
NGS, INFO SERVICES N/NGS 12, SSMC#, STATION 9244 1315 E-W HIGHWAY SILVER SPRINGS, MD 20920-3282	JOAN RIKON	(301) 443-8601	NOAA. SOURCE OF COASTAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
<u>Department of Interior</u>			
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY EROS DATA CENTER CUSTOMER SERVICES SIOUX FALLS, SD 57198	STAFF	(605) 594-6151	POSSIBLE SOURCE OF AERIAL PHOTOS IF NEEDED
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESTON, VA 22092	DAVE KEYS	(703) 648-5956	SOURCE OF AERIAL PHOTOS
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY EARTH SCIENCE INFORMATION CTR 1400 INDEPENDENCE ROAD ROLLA, MO 65401	STAFF	(573) 308-3500	SOURCE OF ORTHOPHOTOQUADS
USGS BRANCH OF DISTRIBUTION BOX 25286, BLDG 810 DENVER FEDERAL CENTER DENVER, CO 80225	STAFF	(303) 202-4700	SOURCE OF TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE 2730 LOKER AVE. WEST CARLSBAD, CA 92008	JOHN HANLON	(619) 431-9440	PROVIDED LIST OF ENDANGERED ANIMALS AND PLANT SPECIES
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT 6221 BOX SPRINGS BOULEVARD RIVERSIDE, CA 92507-0714	MANUELA JOHNSON	(909) 697-5220	PLAT MAPS
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (ESIC) P.O. BOX 25046, BLDG. 810 DENVER FEDERAL CENTER, DENVER, CO 80225	PAULA ERICKSON STEVE REITER	(303) 202-4200	EARTH SCIENCE INFORMATION CENTER, SOURCE OF AERIAL PHOTOS

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
<u>Department of Interior (cont.)</u>			
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT 6221 BOX SPRINGS BOULEVARD RIVERSIDE, CA 92507-0714	JOHN KEY	(909) 697-5383	MAINTAINS FILES WITH DEDUDDING REPORTS-NO RELEVANT INFORMATION
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PALM SPRINGS RESOURCE CENTER 63500 GARNET AVE. N. PALM SPRINGS, CA 92258-2000	MIKE MITCHELL	(619) 251-4800	NO RELEVANT INFORMATION
<u>State</u>			
ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK 200 PALM CANYON DRIVE BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	CHRIS SMITH	(619) 765-1173	NO SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION
ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK 200 PALM CANYON DRIVE BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	FRED JEE	(619) 767-5311	PROVIDED ARTICLES AND REFERRALS
CALIFORNIA STATE ARCHIVES 1020 O ST. SACRAMENTO, CA 95814	TONY HOFFMAN	(916) 653-2246	NO RELEVANT INFORMATION
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY 914 CAPITAL MALL, LIBRARY AND COURTS BLDG SACRAMENTO, CA 94237-0001	JOHN GONZALES	(916) 654-0176	NO RELEVANT INFORMATION
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS 5300 CAMPINILE DR. SAN DIEGO, CA 92182-0511	BILL PAYNE	(619) 594-6791	NO INFORMATION. PROVIDED REFERRALS

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
State (cont.)			
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY GOVT DOCUMENTS/MAPS SECTION 5300 CAMPANILE DR. SAN DIEGO, CA 92182-0511	BRUCE HARLEY	(619) 594-5832	NO INFORMATION-PROVIDED REFERRALS
SHPO, SOUTH COASTAL INFO CENTER SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH LAB SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY 5500 CAMPANILE DR. SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 -4537	JAN CULBERT	(619) 594-5682	NEEDS MORE INFORMATION ON SITE. TO DO RESEARCH. CAMP ENSIGN INCLUDED IN REQUEST W/ BORREGO MANEUVER AREA. NOTIFY SHPO IF REMEDICATION REQUIRED
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA P.O. BOX 19557 IRVINE, CA 92110	REFERENCE DESK	(714) 824-6836	NO INFORMATION
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS DEPT. P.O. BOX 19557 IRVINE, CA 92110	JEFF SCHNEIDEWIND KAY COLLINS	(714) 824-7234	NO INFORMATION
UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA ARCHIVES P.O. BOX 19557 IRVINE, CA 92110	MARY ELLEN GODDARD	(714) 824-7193	NO INFORMATION-PROVIDED REFERRALS
Local			
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ASSESSOR 1600 PACIFIC HWY, ROOM 203 SAN DIEGO, CA 92101	STEVE BERGRENN RON GRAHAM	(619) 531-6468	PLAT MAPS
SAN DIEGO COUNTY LIBRARY IMPERIAL BEACH BRANCH 810 IMPERIAL BEACH BOULEVARD IMPERIAL BEACH, CA 91932-2798	JOANN REICHERT	(619) 424-6981	NEWS CLIPPING FILES

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
GOVERNMENT			
<u>Local (cont.)</u>			
SAN DIEGO COUNTY LIBRARY BLDG 15 5555 OVERLAND AVENUE SAN DIEGO, CA 92123-1296	RECORDING	(619) 694-2414	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
SAN DIEGO COUNTY PLANNING AND LAND USE 5201 RUFFIN ROAD, SUITE D SAN DIEGO, CA 92123	GARY STOCKTON	(619) 694-3871	AERIAL PHOTOS AND HISTORICAL MAPS
S.D. COUNTY RECORDER AND CLERK 1600 PACIFIC HWY, ROOM 260 SAN DIEGO, CA 92101	RECORDS INFORMATION	(619) 237-0502	DEEDS
SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION UNIT- BOMB SQUAD 5255 MT ETNA DRIVE SAN DIEGO, CA 92117	SGT CONRAD GRAYSON	(619) 467-4579	O/E KNOWLEDGE OF ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK, NO SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION, PROVIDED REFERRALS
SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY CALIFORNIA ROOM 820 EAST STREET SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-6478	BLAIR ODINIS	(619) 236-5834	VERTICAL FILES AND NEWS CLIPPINGS
SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY 820 EAST STREET SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-6478	LIBRARIAN	(619) 236-5820	PROVIDED REFERRALS
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO HELEN K. & JAMES COPLEY LIBRARY ALCALA PARK SAN DIEGO, CA 94040			

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Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
NON-GOVERNMENT			
<u>National</u>			
COUNCIL ON AMERICA'S PAST 518 WHY WORRY LANE PHOENIX, AZ 85021	HELIOGRAM PUBLICATION	(800) 396-4693	SOURCE OF MILITARY HISTORY ARTICLES AND PERSONAL CONTACTS. NO SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION
KNIGHT-RIDDER INFORMATION INC. 2440 ELCAMINO REAL MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040	COMPUTER SEARCH	(800) 334-2564	NO INFORMATION
NORTHERN ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM 4034 EAST STATE ST. ROCKFORD, IL 61108	COMPUTER SEARCH (NILS)	(815) 229-0330	NO INFORMATION
ONLINE COMPUTER LIBRARY CENTER 6565 FRANTZ ROAD DUBLIN, OH 43017-3395	COMPUTER SEARCH (OCLC)	(800) 848-5878	NO INFORMATION
SIRSI CORPORATION SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION LIBRARY 689 DISCOVERY DRIVE HUNTSVILLE, AL 35806	COMPUTER SEARCH (STILAS)	(205) 922-9820	NO INFORMATION
<u>Local</u>			
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 622 PALM CANYON DR. BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	ALPHA JOHNSON	(619) 767-5555	PROVIDED REFERRALS
IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE DESERT MUSEUM P.O. BOX 430 OCOTILLO, CA 92259	JAY VON WERLHOF	(619) 358-7016	NO INFORMATION

APPENDIX A
REFERENCE SOURCES

Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
NON-GOVERNMENT			
Local (cont.)			
STEVE BOGDAN 1254 ZENOS ROAD HOLTVILLE, CA 92250	STEVE BOGDAN	(619) 356-4006	LOCAL HISTORIAN-NO SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION
BORREGO SPRINGS LIBRARY 652 PALM CANYON DRIVE BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	KATHY RASKE	(619) 767-5761	LOCAL ARTICLES
BORREGO SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY SADDLE DRIVE BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	TERESA FIESTER	(619) 767-5335	BACK ISSUES OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER
BORREGO SUN 707 CHRISTMAS CIRCLE BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	STAFF	(619) 767-5338	NEWSPAPER ARTICLES-SITE RELATED. PROVIDED REFERRALS
BORREGO VALLEY AIRPORT 1820 PALM CANYON DRIVE BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	MANAGER	(619) 767-7415	NO INFORMATION-PROVIDED REFERRALS
ANZA-BORREGO DESERT NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION 2345 F STIRRUP ROAD BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	BETSY KNAAK	(619) 767-3052	PROVIDED REFERRALS
SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. BOX 81825 SAN DIEGO, CA 92138	SALLY WEST	(619) 232-6203	HISTORICAL PHOTOS, DOCUMENTS, AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

APPENDIX A
REFERENCE SOURCES

Organization	Name	Telephone	Nature of Support
NON-GOVERNMENT			
Local (cont.)			
KEN SMITH P.O. BOX 252 BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	KEN SMITH	(619) 767-3303	SEE INTERVIEW (I-1)
FRED JEE 200 PALM CANYON RD BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	FRED JEE	(619) 767-5311	SEE INTERVIEW (I-2)
MARK JORGENSON 200 PALM CANYON ROAD BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	MARK JORGENSON	(619) 767-5311	SEE INTERVIEW (I-3)
CHARLES HAHN S.D. COUNTY SHERIFF BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	CHARLES HAHN	(619) 767-5656	SEE INTERVIEW (I-4)
ANDREW YATSKO ROUTE 1 COQUILLE, OR 97423	ANDREW YATSKO	(541) 347-9865	SEE INTERVIEW (I-5)
JOHN CAMERON 7766 BALBOA AVE. SAN DIEGO, CA 92111	JOHN CAMERON	(619) 278-3050	SEE INTERVIEW (I-6)
STEVE SAWYER BORREGO SPRINGS FIRE DEPT. BORREGO SPRINGS, CA 92004	STEVE SAWYER	(619) 767-5436	SEE INTERVIEW (I-7)
SGT CONRAD GRAYSON S.D. COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT. SAN DIEGO, CA 92117	CONRAD GRAYSON	(619) 467-4579	SEE INTERVIEW (I-8)

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
FOR
CAMP ENSIGN
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
PROJECT NUMBER: JO9CA701102

APPENDIX B

REFERENCES AND ABSTRACTS

APPENDIX B
REFERENCES AND ABSTRACTS

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PART B: NEGATIVE FINDINGS

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- B-9 Article, "Geology", Frederick Jee, 1988, Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association.
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SECTION II

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION ARCHIVES FINDINGS

PART A

POSITIVE FINDINGS

CAMP ENSIGN, CA

SECTION II
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION ARCHIVES FINDINGS
PART A
POSITIVE FINDINGS

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WASHINGTON, DC***

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Canyon

SECTION II

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION ARCHIVES FINDINGS

PART B

NEGATIVE FINDINGS

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***LIBRARY OF CONGRESS - STILL PHOTOS DIVISION
WASHINGTON, DC***

Pertinent Collections

***MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL CENTER
WASHINGTON, DC***

Pertinent Collections

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WASHINGTON, DC***

RG 80 (General Records of the Department of the Navy, 1798 - 1947)
Entry: General Correspondence, 1926 - 1942

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COLLEGE PARK, MD***

RG 16 (Records of the Department of Agriculture)
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Entry 27: Correspondence and Related Records, 1906 - 1948
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Entry 1002C: Construction and Procurement Subject Files, 1947
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Entry 13: Records Concerning Federal Real Estate Inventory, 1936 - 1940
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Entry 24: General National Housing Records, War Housing Program, 1942 - 1947

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Entry 5: Real property Disposal Case Files Transferred from the Farm Credit
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Entry 3: Office of Information, Subject Files, 1946 - 1959

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COLLEGE PARK, MD***

Pertinent Record Groups

***NARA - ARCHIVES II - MOTION PICTURE, SOUND AND VIDEO
BRANCH
COLLEGE PARK, MD***

Pertinent Record Groups

***NARA - ARCHIVES II - STILL PICTURES BRANCH
COLLEGE PARK, MD***

Pertinent Record Groups

***NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
WASHINGTON, DC***

Pertinent Collections

***NAVAL HISTORICAL YARDS - NAVAL AVIATION HISTORY
OFFICE
WASHINGTON, DC***

Pertinent Collections

***NAVAL HISTORICAL YARDS - NAVY DEPARTMENT LIBRARY
WASHINGTON, DC***

Pertinent Collections

***NAVAL HISTORICAL YARDS - OPERATIONAL ARCHIVES
WASHINGTON, DC***

Pertinent Record Groups

***SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, DC***

Pertinent Collections

SECTION III
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POSITIVE FINDINGS

CAMP ENSIGN

NOT APPLICABLE

SECTION III
REGIONAL NATIONAL ARCHIVES FINDINGS
PART B
NEGATIVE FINDINGS

CAMP ENSIGN

**NARA, FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER
LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA**

**NARA, PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION
LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA**

RG 30, Records of the Bureau of Public Roads
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 49, Records of the Bureau of Public Roads
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 71, Records of Bureau of Yards and Docks
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 92, Records of the Quartermaster General
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 121, Records of the Public Building Service
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 156, Records of the Chief of Ordnance
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 181, Records of Naval Districts and Shore Establishments
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 219, Records of the Office of Defense Transportation
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 269, Records of the General Services Administration
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Nothing Found

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ST LOUIS, MO**

All Accessions
Nothing Found

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RG 77, Records of the Office the Chief of Engineers
Accession #077-76L1483
Boxes #115-130,132-134,136-148
Nothing of Value to this ASR

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Nothing Of Value to this ASR

RG 269, General Records of the General Services Administration
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 291, Records of the Federal Property Resources Service
All Entries
Nothing Found

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SAN BRUNO, CA**

RG 30, Records of the Bureau of Public Roads
All Entries
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Accession #077-83-004

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Nothing of Value to this ASR

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All Entries

Nothing Found

RG 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service

Accession #9NSS-121-85-008

Box #1, Real Property Disposal Project Files, 1950-57

Nothing of Value to this ASR

Accession #9NSS-121-85-008

Box #3, Real Property Disposal Project Files, 1950-57

Nothing of Value to this ASR

Accession #9NSS-121-85-007

Box #18, Real Property Disposal Project Files, 1947-57

Nothing of Value to this ASR

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All Entries

Nothing Found

RG 156, Records of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance

All Entries

Nothing Found

RG 175, Records of the Chemical Warfare Service

Accession (None)

Box #1 (570729), Chemical Procurement Districts, California

Nothing of Value to this ASR

RG 181, Records of the Naval Districts and Shore Establishments

All Entries

Nothing Found

RG 211, Records of the War Manpower Commission

All Entries

Nothing Found

RG 219, Records of the Office of Defense Transportation
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 269, General Records of the General Services Administration
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 270, Records of the War Assets Administration
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 291, Records of the Federal Property Resources Service
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 313, Records of the Naval Operating Forces
All Entries
Nothing Found

RG 406, Records of the Federal Highway Administration
Accession #72A1388/129964
Boxes #7,10-12,14,17
Nothing of Value to this ASR

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
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CAMP ENSIGN
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APPENDIX C

GLOSSARY

APPENDIX C

GLOSSARY

AR	Army Regulation
AUS	Army of the United States
BD/DR	Building Demolition/Debris Removal
CEHNC	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville
CENCD	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Central Division
CENCR	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CON/HTW	Containerized Hazardous and Toxic Waste
CWM	Chemical Warfare Material
DA	Department of Army
DAC	Defense Ammunition Center
DERA	Defense Environmental Restoration Account
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program
DOD	Department of Defense
DOI	Department of Interior
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ESI	Expanded Site Investigation
FDE	Findings and Determination of Eligibility
FM	Field Manual
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Site(s)
GSA	General Services Administration
HTRW	Hazardous, Toxic and Radiological Waste
HTW	Hazardous and Toxic Waste
INPR	Inventory Project Report
IRP	Installation Restoration Program
NARA	National Archives Records Administration
OE	Ordnance and Explosives
PA	Preliminary Assessment
PN	Project Number
PRP	Privately Responsible Party
QASAS	Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance)
RA	Remedial Action
RAC	Risk Assessment Code
SAA	Small Arms Ammunition
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SI	Site Inspection
SIOAC-ES	Army Material Command Ammunition Center for Explosive Safety

USA U.S. Army
USACE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USATCES U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety
UXO Unexploded Ordnance

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
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APPENDIX D
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ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
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APPENDIX E

REPORTS/STUDIES

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E-3 Davis Oral History (B-10)

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SITE SURVEY SUMMARY SHEET
FOR
DERP-FUDS SITE NO. J09CA701100

BORREGO SPRINGS
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
6 JULY 1994

SITE NAME: Borrego Springs, California (includes: Army - Borrego Maneuver Area, Navy - Benson Dry Lake, Navy - Borrego Hotel, Navy - Borrego Military Wash, Navy - Clark's Dry Lake, and Marines - Camp Ensign).

LOCATION: The majority of the site is located in the northern portion of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The Park is located in eastern San Diego County, west and southwest of the Salton Sea, California. The overall general area consists of desert terrain and dry lakes.

SITE HISTORY: The Borrego Springs site was a composite of several sub-sites within or immediately adjacent to the boundaries of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Sub-sites that were formerly utilized by the Army, Navy or Marines include: Borrego Maneuver Area, Benson Dry Lake, Borrego Hotel, Borrego Military Wash, Clark's Dry Lake, and Camp Ensign. Each of these areas are discussed separately below.

Army - Borrego Maneuver Area The Borrego Maneuver area comprised of approximately 400 square miles of park land. The northern boundary extended to the Riverside County line, the eastern boundary was U.S. Highway 99, the southern boundary was State Highway 78, and the western boundary was a north-south line through Borrego P.O. The property was acquired by the Department of the Army through a Use Permit with the State of California dated 10 March 1942. This permit exempted three areas: portion of Township 9 South, Range 9 East, lying between U.S. Highway No. 99 and the Santa Rosa Mountains (this area is an Indian Reservation); Benson's Dry Lake lying north of Ocotillo (Naval landing field); and area adjacent to western boundary on which houses, fences and other improvements have been erected. It is not clear if private properties were also exempted. Records indicate the majority of the Maneuver area was returned to the State of California during the end of 1944.

The Department of the Army conducted extensive logistical preparations to build roads in the area but reportedly did not use the area as extensively as originally intended. Reported uses of the area by the Army included: force-on-force maneuvers (limited number of excursions) and anti-aircraft training for troops stationed at Camp Callan (San Diego, California). Historical references to the locations where Army training activities were conducted in the Borrego Maneuver area were vague. Areas used by the Army specifically identified in the documents include Coyote Canyon, the north face of Borrego Mountain, Borrego Military Wash, south of Borrego Sink, Yaqui Pass, Fish Creek Mountain, Carrizo Canyon, and Blair Valley.

According to Jim Walker, OEW expert with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Army Maneuver Area has relatively high potential for ordnance hazards. Based on the areas history and reports of recovered ordnance, possible ordnance in the area includes: medium/large caliber arms (armor piercing), 100-pound practice bombs, 2 to 6 inch rockets, and various small arms (0.22 to 0.50 caliber).

Navy - Borrego (Military) Wash (inside the boundary of the Army's Borrego Maneuver Area) - This area lies approximately three miles due north of the town of Ocotillo Wells and Benson Dry Lake. No records were found that indicated the size of the property or when the Department of the Navy acquired it. Nevertheless, this property was located within the Borrego Maneuver Area which was acquired from the State of California by the Department of the Army in 1942.

According to the Navy records this area was used for level bombing. This was confirmed by ordnance fragments from both 100- and 250-pound bombs. The Navy and/or Army also used this area for aircraft gunnery practice as evidenced by the heavy concentration of 20mm and 0.50-caliber projectiles and clips and 2.75-inch rockets. The collapsed remains of two rake stations are present at Military Wash, only the concrete-reinforced platforms remain.

North and east of the rake stations is feature on the desert floor which consist of an east-west lineament running for about one to two miles. This feature may possibly have been the site of railroad tracts along which a target was either pulled or was self-driven. A heavy concentration of ordnance was found along this lineament. A large metal structure (8 feet by 8 feet) was located in Fault Wash (about 0.5 miles south west of the first rake station) and appears to have been a target.

Mr James Walker, OEW expert with the Army Corps of Engineers, noted that while all of the ordnance observed on this site visit presented no immediate danger, there was a distinct possibility that there could be a definite hazard presented by live ordnance that was either unobserved or buried. A week after the site visit to the area, State Park Ranger, Mr. Homer Townsend reported that the Army's 70th Ordnance Detachment for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) was sent to the intersection of Palo Verde Wash Road and Short Wash Road (approximately 3.5 miles north of the Military Wash site) and disposed of a high explosive 40mm round (Appendix 3 of 3, Section 5). Additional inquiries concerning ordnance were made to the San Diego Sheriff's Department, Borrego Springs Fire Department, former Yuma EOD contacts at the Yuma Proving Ground, and to Marine Corps EOD at Camp Pendelton. The contacts indicated that numerous sightings of various ordnance have been found at the site. The predominant type of ordnance recalled to be found in the area includes: practice bombs, spent small arms (0.50 caliber and 20mm), and some unidentified high explosive rockets or bombs. This area, in particular, is considered to be a high risk area for remaining ordnance.

Navy - Clark's Dry Lake (inside the boundary of the Army's Borrego Maneuver Area) - Clark's Dry Lake consisted of 640 acres located in Section 5, T10S, R7E. This section comprises most of the southeastern corner of the dry lake. The property was acquired by the Department of the Navy through Declaration of Taking dated 25 October 1943. This property was declared surplus on 30 November 1955. Ownership of the property was transferred to Bart J. Comer, through a Deed of Trust, on 21 September 1956. The property was subsequently granted to the State of Maryland for use as a radar telescope site. During the late 1980s the property was transferred to the State of California to be incorporated into Anza-Borrego State Park.

The Navy referred to it's installation at Clark's Dry Lake as an outlying field or as an emergency landing field, although it's primary function was as a target for practice bombing. Navy records alternatively describe it as a level bombing target and as a dual-purpose level and dive bombing target. The field was the responsibility of the Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) at Salton Sea. The NAAS-Salton Sea reported through the Naval Air Station - San Diego to the 11th Naval District headquartered in San Diego, California.

The facility included a target, two dirt landing strips, a wind sock and two bomb-proof rake stations. The target was constructed of stones placed in concentric circles and a majority of it was still intact. The landing strips consisted of sections of the desert floor that were cleared of brush. No pavement was installed, and evidence of these landing strips was not found during the site visit. The rake stations consisted of a reinforced concrete slab, three-feet thick by twelve-feet square, resting on four reinforced concrete pillars. Remnants of the rake stations are still present, including the four pillar supports for each station.

According to Jim Walker, OEW expert with the Army Corps of Engineers, the most likely ordnance expected at this site would be practice bombs with spotting charges. Remnants of ordnance spotted during the site visit included corroded remains of 6-inch and 100-pound practice bombs and 20mm shells. One source quoted in Orrell's account reports (Appendix 3 of 3, Section 3) that the amount of ordnance around the target was quite abundant at one time but today the remaining ordnance is relatively small. Orrell reports that evidence of 2.75-inch training rockets were found but none were noted during the site visit.

Additional inquiries concerning ordnance were made to the Army's 70th EOD, Park Rangers, San Diego Sheriff's Department, San Diego Fire Department, the Borrego Springs Fire Department, Yuma Proving Ground, and the Marine Corps EOD at Camp Pendelton. No specific accounts of unexploded ordnance were identified, but access to this area was restricted to the general public until the last couple of years.

Navy - Benson Dry Lake (also known as Ocotillo Dry Lake) (just outside the southern boundary of the Army's Borrego Maneuver Area) - This area lies just outside the boundary of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park at the northeast corner of Highway 78 and Split Mountain Road. The property acquired consisted of four parcels totalling 353.11 acres. Two of the parcels, 160 acres (Marvin Ben Couch) and 85.21 acres (Elbert and Chesta Benson) were purchased by the Department of Defense (DOD) on 19 November 1940. The other two parcels, 80 acres (John Sheran et al) and 27.90 acres (Elaine L. Wright et al) were acquired through a Declaration of Taking (condemnation) on 20 March 1941.

The property was used by the Department of the Navy as a dive bombing target and an emergency landing field. Use of the property during World War II is documented. Post World War II use of the property is not clear from the documentation. The property was declared excess 20 December 1955. Disposal documents indicate that the property contained no improvements and was transferred to the County of San Diego on 17 August 1956. San Diego County currently owns the property and operates a small airport at the site.

While the real estate documents indicates that no improvements were constructed at the site, two remnants of stone-reinforced bunkers were observed on the small hills immediately east of the landing field. These structures provided excellent viewing areas of the landing field to the west and the Military Wash target area approximately 3 miles to the north. No other structures were noted during the site visit and no ordnance was found.

According to Jim Walker, OEW expert with the Army Corps of Engineers, the most likely ordnance expected at a former bombing target would be practice bombs with spotting charges. According to the Borrego Springs Fire Department a 20-pound practice bomb has been recovered from the area.

Navy - Borrego Hotel (also known as Halfhill Dry Lake) (Outside the boundary of the Army's Borrego Maneuver Area) - The area is located approximately 1.5 miles south on Split Mountain Road from the intersection of Highway 78 and Split Mountain Road. The subject property comprised of 160 acres that consist of the southeast 1/4 of Section 26 Township (T) 12 South (S) and Range (R) 8 East (E) was acquired from Elmo Rowland Livingston via Declaration of Taking, dated 10 July 1941. The property was declared excess and sold to Ray Formost on 6 September 1956. Currently, the property is owned by multiple private parties (only one owner shown).

This location was designated as a dive bombing target. In the general area was the former site of the "Little Miracle Hotel" (also referred to as the "Borrego Hotel"). The hotel was deserted in the 1930s. Today only the slab of the 14 room hotel exists. An abandoned water well lies west of the former hotel. No ordnance was found in the area and the only structure observed which could present a hazard was the exposed casing of the water

well extending about two to three feet above ground level. Date of the well is unknown. The slab of former hotel is now used extensively by campers as a level area for their trailers.

According to Jim Walker, OEW expert with the Army Corps of Engineers, the most likely ordnance expected at a dive bombing area would be practice bombs with spotting charges, medium caliber arms (20mm target practice and possibly high explosives), and small arms (0.50 caliber).

Marines - Camp Ensign (just outside the western boundary of the Army's Borrego Maneuver Area) - The Ensign Ranch, known as Camp Ensign, is situated in the western portion of Borrego Springs, California. The intersection of Palm Canyon Drive and Borrego Springs Road defines the northeast corner of the former Camp. In 1943 Marines established a formal base at the Ensign Ranch. No real estate documents were found that identified the amount of acreage the camp consisted of. The historical map indicates that the camp consisted of sections 4, 9, and 16 of T11S, R6E (estimated from maps to be 1920 acres).

Camp Ensign reportedly consisted of a tented area for trainees and an unoccupied dwelling for use as headquarters near the open area where the tents were set up. The facility was used to train large numbers of Marines as truck drivers who were to be readied for combat duty in short order. It is possible that the destination for these drivers after training made practice in desert driving essential.

The area once occupied by Camp Ensign is now a residential area containing residences and large open areas. No evidence of the former camp now exists. Real estate records indicate that the area of the former camp is owned by numerous (estimated over 200) private parties.

SITE VISIT: The site was visited 26 February 1994 and 26 March 1994 by Robert A. Davis, Jr. of Groundwater Technology, Inc., San Diego, California. Jim Walker, OEW expert with the Army Corps of Engineers was present during the site visit on 26 March 1994. Site conditions encountered are detailed in the Field Trip Summary Sheet dated 22 April 1994.

CATEGORY OF HAZARD: OEW

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

a) OEW: Recommend the Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for OEW at Huntsville Division make a determination regarding further investigation at this site.

AVAILABLE STUDIES AND REPORTS:

Pacific Sierra Region, National Archives San Bruno, California - Limited files and maps on Benson Dry Lake, Borrego Hotel and Clark's Dry Lake

SITE NO. J09CA701100

F.L. Orrell, recent Military Operations in the Anza-Borrego
Desert State Park, (a preliminary study of such activity from
1941 to 1959) 31 October, 1991 (Revised January 1992)

DISTRICT POC: Jatin Desai, Los Angeles District, (213) 894-6266

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES
FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

BORREGO SPRINGS
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
SITE NO. J09CA701100

FINDINGS OF FACT

1) During the early 1940s the Army, Navy, and Marines acquired authorization to use six locations in the vicinity of Borrego Springs as primarily bombing targets and/or landing fields. Not all the real estate information was available, but the research conducted indicates that the property was acquired as follows. The largest area of property acquired consisted of the Army's Borrego Maneuver Area. The Maneuver Area consisted of 400 square miles (calculated 256,000 acres) that were acquired from the State of California via a Use Permit dated 10 March 1942. This permit exempted three areas: portion of Township 9 South, Range 9 East, lying between U.S. Highway No. 99 and the Santa Rosa Mountains (this area is an Indian Reservation); Benson's Dry Lake lying north of Ocotillo (Naval landing field); and area adjacent to western boundary on which houses, fences and other improvements have been erected. It is not clear if private properties were also exempted. Two of the Navy's properties were located within the Army's property and included: Borrego Military Wash and Clark's Dry Lake. No records were found that indicated the size of Borrego Military Wash or when the Department of the Navy acquired it. Clark's Dry Lake consisting of 640 acres was acquired from private parties through a Declaration of Taking dated 25 October 1943. Two additional Navy areas included Benson Dry Lake (353.11 acres) and Borrego Hotel (160 acres) and were acquired from private parties. Benson Dry Lake consisted of four parcels. Two of the parcels, 160 acres (Marvin Ben Couch) and 85.21 acres (Elbert and Chesta Benson) were purchased by the Department of Defense (DOD) on 19 November 1940. The other two parcels, 80 acres (John Sheran et al) and 27.90 acres (Elaine L. Wright et al) were acquired through a Declaration of Taking (condemnation) on 20 March 1941. Borrego Hotel was acquired from Elmo Rowland Livingston via Declaration of Taking, dated 10 July 1941. Finally, the Marines acquired an undefined amount of acreage (calculated 1920 acres) in the town of Borrego Springs known as Camp Ensign.

2) The Department of the Army acquired 400 square miles for use in force-on-force maneuvers and anti-aircraft training for troops stationed in the San Diego area. However, records indicate that the Army's use of the area may have been less than originally planned for. Referenced improvements to the Maneuver Area primarily included roads. The Navy sites were predominantly used as various bombing targets and emergency landing strips. Emergency landing strips were installed by the Navy at Benson Dry Lake and Clark's Dry Lake. Expected and or observed military improvements at the bombing targets include: remains of rake stations, remains of mobil target tracks, and remains of targets. The Marine site was reportedly used as a tent camp for trainees

from the San Diego area. No references of permanent structures or improvements were found for Camp Ensign.

3) Documentation detailing the Department of Defense (DOD) disposal activities were not available for all the sites. The records found indicated that the majority of the properties were relinquished during the 1950s. The 400 square miles which constituted the Maneuver Area were predominantly relinquished back to the State of California. Currently, the State of California owns this property as part of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The 640 acres which comprises Clark's Dry Lake was transferred to Bart J. Comer, through a Deed of Trust, on 21 September 1956. The property was subsequently granted to the State of Maryland for use as a radar telescope site. During the late 1980s the property was transferred to the State of California to be incorporated into Anza-Borrego State Park. The 353.11 acres which constituted Benson Dry Lake was relinquished to the County of San Diego for use as a municipal airport. Disposal documents for Benson Dry Lake indicate that the property contained no improvements and was transferred to the County of San Diego on 17 August 1956. The 160 acres which comprised the former Borrego Hotel was declared excess and sold to Ray Formost on 6 September 1956. The former site of Borrego Hotel is currently owned by multiple private parties but only one owner is identified on the records. Site specific real estate records were not available for Camp Ensign. However the real estate records indicate that the undefined amount of acreage (calculated 1920 acres) which constituted Camp Ensign were sold to private parties and have subsequently been subdivided and are owned by multiple private parties.

DETERMINATION

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the site has been determined to have been formerly used by the Department of Defense. It is therefore eligible for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program - Formerly Used Defense Site established under 10 USC 2701 et seq.

17 Jan 95

Date

for DEPitt col
 BRUCE K. SCOTT
 Brigadier General, U.S. Army
 Commanding

PROJECT SURVEY SUMMARY SHEET
FOR
DERP-FUDS OEW PROJECT NO. J09CA701106

BORREGO SPRINGS
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
SITE NO. J09CA701100
6 JULY 1994

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: During World War II the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Marines used sections of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and/or private property in the Borrego Springs area for military purposes. The area was used for multiple purposes which include: force-on-force maneuvers, anti-aircraft training, various kinds of bombing targets, emergency landing fields, and training camps.

The majority of the acreage acquired by the Department of Defense (DOD) entailed 400 square miles that constituted the Army's Maneuver Area. The Maneuver Area included acreage that the Navy used at Borrego Military Wash (acreage unknown) and Clark's Dry Lake (640 acres). Property acquired by the Navy included Benson Dry Lake (353.11 acres) and Borrego Hotel (160 acres). Finally, the Marines acquired an undetermined amount of property (calculated 1920 acres) known as Camp Ensign.

None of the historical records revealed what kinds of clearance activities were conducted in the area, if any. However, reported accounts and visual inspection of the property revealed that various types of ordnance has been found, including live rounds. Agencies and personnel contacted concerning ordnance in the area included Jim Walker, OEW expert with the Army Corps of Engineers; Anza-Borrego State Park Rangers; Army 70th Ordnance Detachment, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD); San Diego Sheriff's Department; San Diego Fire Department; Borrego Springs Fire Department; Yuma Proving Ground; and the Marine Corps EOD at Camp Pendelton. Expected and/or reported ordnance sightings are listed below by area.

Navy - Benson Dry Lake (also known as Ocotillo Dry Lake) (just outside the southern boundary of the Army's Borrego Maneuver Area) - The property was used by the Department of the Navy during World War II as a dive bombing target and an emergency landing field. During the 1950s the property was transferred to San Diego County which operates a small airport at the site. Expected ordnance at a former bombing target would primarily include practice bombs with spotting charges. During the sites visit remnants of two stone-reinforced bunkers were observed on the small hills immediately east of the landing field. These structures provided excellent viewing areas of the landing field

to the west and the Military Wash target area approximately 3 miles to the north. No other structures were noted during the site visit and no ordnance was found. However, according to the Borrego Springs Fire Department a 20-pound practice bomb has been recovered from the area.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY: The property was formerly owned and used by the DOD (Army, Navy and Marines). Any ordnance found could be the result of past DOD activity.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS: No policy considerations are known to exist that would affect proposal of this project.

PROPOSED PROJECT: Recommend the Corps' Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for OEW at the Huntsville Division make a determination if further action is required.

RAC FORM: Attached.

DISTRICT POC: Request CEHND inform Mr. Jatin Desai at (213) 894-6266 when a determination is made regarding the project status.

Use--Marines: Camp Ensign.

Sometime in 1943, the Marine training centers near San Diego (either Camp Pendleton or Camp Elliott) were answering a call for large numbers of truck drivers who were to be readied for combat duty in short order.

For reasons that are not clear in view of the enormous size of Camp Pendleton, one aspect of the training that could not be accommodated at Pendleton, was practice in night driving. It is possible that the destination for these drivers after training made practice in desert driving essential. In a second rare display of inter-service cooperation (the first was the Army-Navy sharing of Clark's Dry Lake), the Marines opted (and the Army, apparently, concurred) to conduct this phase of the training in the Borrego Maneuver Area and/or the Borrego Valley.

Unlike the Army, however, the Marines established a more formal base in the desert, erecting a tented area for the trainees on the Ensign Ranch. When the tents were in place and a flag pole erected, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph M. Swinerton, commanding officer of the Base Service Battalion hoisted the flag for the formal opening of the camp. Major Ralph L. Schiesswohl commanded the Motor Transport School and was also present at the dedication of Camp Ensign (Davis 1990). There was an unoccupied dwelling near the open area where the tents were set up which the School used as its headquarters.

Trainees were brought from the coast to Camp Ensign on Fridays. They went through a series of night driving training exercises, presumably running some sort of course across the open desert. According to Davis, if the trainee had demonstrated the required proficiency by Thursday night, he was allowed to return to the coast the next day. If the School operated during the summer months, a strong incentive to return to the coast within the first week is understandable.

As with the Army troops, the Marines appreciated the hospitality of the Ensigns and the Davises and elected to show it by installing a swimming pool. They had a small bulldozer (probably, for retrieving trucks stuck in the sand) with which they dug the excavation for the pool. On the day they intended to cement the excavation, they received orders to break camp. That ended the swimming pool, the hole for which the Ensigns later converted to a fish pond.

DAVIS ORAL HISTORY

Source: Thomas R. Davis, Box 241, Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Event: Interview at his home on the former Ensign Ranch, 1/3/91

Results:

1. Tom Davis settled in Borrego Springs in 1936.
2. The earliest recollection Davis has of military in the Borrego Valley is in the Spring of 1942. Some Army group plus a searchlight unit were first on the Ranch. They are the ones digging fox-holes around the bases of the palms who were stopped by Mr. Ensign. There may still be a fox-hole dug by them on the southwest corner of the property. He has no recollection of any group at the Ranch participating in a larger maneuver or exercise in the Valley.
3. Mr. Davis firmly believes the military got permission to use the property from Paul Ensign. There was no lease and no payment.
4. An Engineers unit was located diagonally opposite the present location of the school on Borrego Valley Road. For a time, the school was used for dances for the troops, but the School Board put a stop to it. The road over Yaqui Pass had long been in use before '42. The Army, in cooperation with the County, improved it and oiled it. It ran down Borrego Valley Road to Palm Canyon Drive, out the Drive to Peg Leg Road and stopped at the tip of Coyote Mountain.
5. The Engineers (he firmly believes they belonged to the 29th) used to mount motorcycles and drive to the Ensign Ranch in the evening where they would buy a pound of dates and a quart of milk for their supper. The food served at their mess was usually so full of blown sand they couldn't eat it. Both the Engineers and the Searchlight crew brought their own mess with them.
6. Building in flag-raising photo no longer exists. Once stood where cottonwood now stands, north-east of Tom's dwelling for 50 years.
7. The oft-used Turkey photo is incorrectly dated. They were gone from the Ensign Ranch long before he arrived in '36. That year saw the last of the chicken raising that replaced the turkeys. 1000 chickens died when they panicked during a heavy rain and piled on one another in a fence corner. Ranch tried hogs and dairy as well. Dairy venture was killed when health inspector from San Diego insisted on a four-sided barn.
8. Swimming pool built by Marines with small bulldozer never used. Driving school lasted one week beginning on Friday. Drove at night all over surrounding desert.

PROSKOVEC ORAL HISTORY

Source: Arthur Proskovec, 5304 Highgrove St., Torrance, CA 90505, (213) 375-3020

Event: Telecon, 6/17/91, 1 pm

Results:

1. Was a staff sergeant in Battery D of the 57th Training Battalion, stationed at Camp Callan. He does not recall the dates of his stay at Callan.
2. His training with live ammunition was done at Camp Irwin, 60 miles from Mojave. Thinks firing was done there with .50-caliber and 20mm. Does not recall any night firing anywhere during training. There were searchlight and sound detection units in training at Callan as well, but these were different companies (or batteries) and did not train with Battery D either in Borrego or Irwin.
3. Does recall being in the Borrego desert but thinks it was for only about a week. Again, does not recall even an approximate date. Left Camp Callan in a convoy at about 2am, arriving in Palomar about daybreak, very cold and snow on the ground. Rode in 6x6's, with carriers and gun trucks in convoy. When they got down from Julian, weather was balmy. (Palomar seems north of the best route and maybe a slip in his memory.)
4. In Borrego, the Battery bivouacked at the Ensign Ranch. Now thinks they had 40mm Bofors with them, too. Did not do any firing of any kind in Borrego. The exercise was simply a dry run at setting up gun emplacement and taking shelter (digging trenches: maybe these were the guys that trenched around the roots of the date palms and Davis had to ask that they trench elsewhere). Did not use tents nor were there any there at Ensign. Did not encounter any other military personnel in the Borrego area.
7. Ensign could not get pickers for the dates which ripened and fell to the ground. Ensign (or Davis?) encouraged them to eat all they wanted of the drops. Captain wanted to show appreciation for the water and billeting so asked if the Battery could show its gratitude in some way. Answer: "sure, if the men want to work a little." So the Battery dug irrigation ditches for two days.
8. Did not explain how they knew of the existence of a Navy base at Salton Sea, but told of getting permission to take a jeep ride from Borrego to SS. Says they were surprised to find it so maybe they just followed the road and stumbled onto the base. Were only four men in the jeep and, when the sailors learned where they had been training, offered the men the chance to take a shower. A welcome treat after days in the desert. Does not recall the route taken to Salton Sea. If it ran along the old Truckhaven Trail or Beaty road, they did not see the calcite mining nor were they otherwise aware of it. Drove once to a store (the P. O. ??) near the Ensign Ranch.

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
FOR
CAMP ENSIGN
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
PROJECT NUMBER: JO9CA701102

APPENDIX F

LETTERS/MEMORANDUMS/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

APPENDIX F

LETTERS/MEMORANDUMS/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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THE ENSIGN RANCH

by

Lorraine Harris

This ranch in the middle of the Borrego valley was started in 1926 when Messrs. O. H., Paul, and Ray Ensign bought nine sections of desert. Ensign later bought up some small homesteads and added to the ranch perimeters. In 1926 he drilled a very successful well - 1,000 gallons a minute. Using a diesel engine the water was pumped onto the land through underground cement pipes for irrigation and domestic uses, and a ranch was born. This oasis in the Borrego desert was to be the setting for experimentation with a myriad of crops and a proving ground that with sufficient water almost anything can be grown in the apparently barren silt and sand of the desert floor.

Due to the varying temperatures in the areas of the valley many farms have been of short duration, but essentially the Ensign Ranch had few difficulties such as this.

Ensign Ranch

In 1926 and '27 the ranch grew hogs, alfalfa and some barley. The barley was sold at San Diego being transported there on trucks which travelled through Julian and on to San Diego.

In 1927 and '28 they grew a great crop of alfalfa and at this time Doc Beatty introduced O. H. Ensign to Dr. Swingle, government horticulturist from Indio. Ensign became very enthusiastic about establishing a date orchard at his ranch. The government regulations required the palms be roasted to hinder the carrying of disease and the burnt stumps were brought from Indio. With plenty of water and care the stumps produced 4 to 8 offshoots after 4 years from the disease free palm stumps, the only ones in the world. The offshoots, 6 to 8 inches in diameter, were planted and TLC (tender loving care) produced a small crop in 7 to 9 years. It takes 12 to 15 years to produce a peak crop. The first crop of dates was picked at the Ensign Ranch in 1939.

Temperatures are important to crops and the desert nights are always in great contrast to the hot days -- when the sun drops behind the mountains the temperature changes very quickly. Ranchers are always very cognizant of this and try to be prepared for unusually low temperatures. Although the low to freezing temperatures in the desert usually last only two hours and this, although there is frost, often does not penetrate too deep. In 1927 the Ensign Ranch recorded its lowest temperature when the mercury dropped to 9° F (23° of frost). In 1937 and '38 the summer temperatures were high but, unusually, dropped to light frosts at night-- 37° to 38°.

Ensign Ranch

In 1935 and '36 turkeys were introduced and although a one season venture the birds did well. Too far from market and no cold storage were the reasons the turkey venture was not continued.

In 1937 thirty acres of cotton were planted and again a good crop. When picked it was taken to the cotton gin at Calexico.

In 1939 the ranch tried raising chickens, bringing in the chicks to raise for broilers. September 11th saw $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain fall in 20 minutes and the whole chicken crop was lost.

The same year dairy cows were brought to the ranch and this required a means of cooling and keeping the milk. A diesel engine generator plant was brought in and the ranch had electricity for the milking machines and to keep the milk cool. An ice house was erected and a goodly supply of ice was kept on hand. They were able to sell ice to their neighbors and Borrego Springs inhabitants -- a real boon to these desert people.

1941 saw a low temperature of 11° F and by this time the Ensign Ranch comprised 1200 acres. It was this year that Tom Davis came to work for the ranch and look after the dairy. Their milk supply was sold at San Diego. Davis also helped with the haying and the date orchard and lived on the ranch in the house he lives in today. At this time the population of Borrego Springs valley was 75 people.

In 1941 the dairy didn't pass government inspection and it was sold and a new one was built.

Ensign Ranch

During World War II the date orchard was in production and the crops were good. Several varieties of dates came from Iran. Varieties grown on the ranch were:

Ozaheedi	Hayany (or Black)	Rhara
Onalawi	Krustawi	Amhat
Okhadrawi	Iteema	
O Deglet Noor	Saidi	
Trazizaoot	Thorn	

The male palm required for producing the fertilizer for the female palm is grown from date seeds. As the seed is not true there is no true male variety and the seedlings always come up 50% male and female. From these are chosen the male plants to fertilize the orchard.

at the end of the first year of the United States' entrance into the World War II theatre the Ensign ranch was chosen as a good area for training for the Searchlight Division of the U. S. Army. Also in 1942 the Army Engineers were stationed here for training and in doing road work--building roads-- they oiled the Yaqui Pass, Borrego Springs road and Palm Canyon road into Coyote Mt. Until this time the roads were just dusty dirt roads.

In 1943 the Marines' Truck Driving School was sent to the desert for training in blackout driving in preparation for desert warfare in Africa. Much thought was given to the best area for such training and the Ensign Ranch was chosen as offering the most similar terrain to where the unit would be going in combat and affording facilities for the group of 100 men to take their final training before embarking for African duty. The officers were there for one month and worked out Monday A.M. to Friday. They brought some life to the ranch as weekends offered relaxa-

Ensign Ranch

tion and at the Saturday dances the Borrego Community participated.

1943 saw the Borrego School closed for lack of pupils--only two children of school age and they went to Julian with the mailman to school.

In 1944 the school re-opened with four pupils--two imported.

The year 1946 saw more hogs bought for the ranch and they ate the barley, alfalfa, milo maize (Indian corn) and dates. To the amusement of the crew they spit out the date pits. The date crops were so good the excellent quality of the fruit led them to open a road side stand at the gates and to take orders, establishing a mail order business.

300 head of beef cattle were bought in 1952 and kept until sold to a feed lot in 1953.

In 1954 Buddy Weeks came to assist Tom Davis and having an agricultural background he was an asset to the ranch. Not afraid of hard work he fitted into Davis' way of work and the two got on well together.

Ensign ranched this acreage until 1957 when he sold out to Patrick Nolan and thereafter his only interest was the mortgage he held on the ranch he had carved out of a large piece of desert. Nolan ran 700 head of hogs which he sold in San Diego and Los Angeles.

In 1959 and '60 they produced a crop of dates and after a good harvest opened the date shop again. This was the last crop of

Ensign Ranch

dates and until the present time the palms have been watered just enough to keep the trees growing. Bearing date palms must be well watered and the female blossoms have to be hand pollinated to produce fruit.

The three years '59, '60, '61, saw new crops introduced for marketing. Lettuce was a large crop, but it was too far from a market to be a financially feasible crop. Ten acres of celery was an experimental crop--although it grew well it required much care and was ready to pick in February. It cost \$1,000 per acre to grow and was not financially successful. When at its peak a wind storm blew for three days and filled the celery with sand, precluding the sale of the excellent crop.

In 1962 Paul and Ray Ensign were to bow out of any interest in the ranch and Irving Kahn entered a deal to subdivide part of the land into lots, two golf courses, a full size 18-hole (of which 9 were completed) and a short 9 hole par-3. A clubhouse and lodge was started in 1963 and when opened in 1964 it was a great asset to the valley. The elegant lodge was equipped with the best of everything, even to beautiful quality monogrammed carpets and fine furniture, an enormous swimming pool and piscena--no expense was spared. It was a favorite haunt for clients from southern California and way points. Sad to say the lodge operated only two years and there was a foreclosure in 1966. The two golf courses were maintained by four men and the greenskeeper and operated until 1970.

Federated Development were the last owners and still own 1100 acres.

When the lodge closed Tommy Davis was retained as caretaker,

Design Bench

living on the property, and to see the date palm orchard was watered once a month. In 1973 "Federated" stopped watering the palms and this signed a death knell to Borrego's only date orchard. The cottages, once a part of the lodge, now Club Circle, were sold individually as were the residences and the community of Club Circle kept up the par-3 golf course, watering and mowing it for four months. It was then the Community Services District took over from Federated Mortgage on a two year lease.

The fate of the property seems to be in limbo at the time of writing and it will be interesting to see if this large acreage will once more become a focal point in the activities of the Borrego Springs community.

Finis

RESEARCH COURTESY TOM DAVIS

Ensign Ranch

(Extra Info.)

Borrego Springs had quite a few homesteads in the 1920's and '30 and amongst crops grown were tomatoes and egg plant. Later straw for a broom factory in Borrego was another industry and later asparagus and flowers such as gladioli were grown commercially.

In 1945 electricity came to Borrego.

Clark Dry Lake was chosen by the U. of Maryland as the most favorable site in the U. S. for sun ray star tracking station as there is less interference here than found else where.

The present OSO citrus farm was originally called the Mirasol Ranch started by the Berkley Bros. He sold to Smith and it was then called the Flying M. Ranch and later the OSO Ranch--Oso being the name of a Mexican bird.

About 1944 Mexicans came to the valley to work on the date orchards but the most the Ensign Ranch hired at any time was 3.

THIS · HAPPENED DURING WORLD WAR II

Time 14 years ago - Borrego Valley San Diego County

This story dare not be printed at the time it occurred.

We were in World War two head first. Troups were occupying the Ensign Ranch, and Clark Dry Lake. Military maneuver were in full swing , under Desert conditions. Whereever one looked a jeep could be seen. Desert training with tanks, full tract made their appearance in the Bad Lands where other forms of transporation would not dare go.

The County of San Diego were auctioning Tax Deeded Lands to the highest bidder in the Bad Lands section. New roads had to be considered that may cross these tax deliquent lands. Easements are costly at times, so I decided to make an inspection of the area around the seven~~ten~~teen Palms. I knew the county fairly well, having traveled it's dry washes on several trips. The county furnished the auto for these desert trips. the important equipement, I provided myself, and it's expense.

This trip was to go through Borrego Valley, then pick up a piece if the old Truckhaven road until it ended, then the dry wash to highway 99, a modern highway, then home. We were going to take a full week to explore every possibility, for future development, also to protect a few mining outfits located on the flats, and the few historical land marks that still were evident.

Our special station wagon was heavily loaded with provisions, 30 gallons of water, gasoline, planks and necessary tools. The party consisted of four desert rats that enjoy a hard days drive, and the long nights sleeping in a dry wash or on boulders at times. We travel only five miles because of no roads. On this trip we could not move for twenty four hours, We were stuck, and good. My party seated James Sheridan, Cy Sidenbacker, E. Arnold and myself. We started early from San Diego arriving about 8:30 A.M. in Borrego Valley.

Billon Malena

This Happened during World War II
(con't)

We found the valley floor quiet as we entered through the prison camp road, but when we arrived at the Ensign Ranch, a sentry was on guard. So wisdom guided our car into the military headquarters. We were met by the officer of the day, a Captain, then the Major appeared. I stated my mission, and my official position, I was then chairman of the County Board of Supervisors at the time. We entered the chart room, and he said " at ten oclock the entire area: would be under heavy fire from 100 planes from March field." I showed him that at that time we would be in the 17 Palms area, and that I knew the county well, and completely out of the area. These officers had arrived only two days before, and only knew the immediate area around the camp. The officers were willing to oblige, but shook their heads, and said in fifty minutes bombs will be dropping. These officers or their men were not acquainted with the hazards of this great desert expanse, so they gave permission for us to pass through. (orders to the contrary were not on file).

They did not expect anyone in his right mind would ever want to travel the Bad Land area, and when bombing practice raids were going on all day. "Our life time motto" we will chance anything once. Off we started, the first 20 miles were easy going , flat but rough, but the next mile we came to a deep washout that occurred during a cloud burst six weeks before. Either the army had not seen the damage, or they had not got around to repair it. The equipment on hand could complete the job in fifteen minutes at headquarters. There is the right way, and the Army way, as the saying goes. This washout was eight foot deep and fifty foot wide. We had gotten through worse in our time, so I made a try, after unloading every thing to lighten the load. So I started and over the side I went, down to the bottom. There the car stopped cold. The dry sand and loose rock supported only the car's body, even the axles were covered.

This Happened during World War II
(con't)

This bottom sand turned out to be the worse mixture of powdered dry sand and loose gravel we ever encountered. It would not support even our short timbers for traction. After working all that day, well into the night, we were still in the dry wash.

Before trying to ford the dry wash, I made a test on each side of the so called road and found the sand and gravel mixture so loose and soft that it would not support a car. Our only chance was to go straight ahead. When disaster set in, we were stuck.

At ten o'clock the planes started coming. They passed by, no bombs were dropped. We were in the center of the target area. Our all steel auto reflected as a mirror in the sky we were told later. Then again they passed over, we waved to show life was still in the area. No bombs. We breathed a sigh of relief.

That night while sprawled out in the open in our sleeping bags, Jimmie Sheridan awoke the camp. A rattle snake had just crawled over Sheridan's body, and he was ready to leave on foot. But Jimmie wasn't much of a walker, so he changed his mind when I told him it was twentyone miles to the Ensign Ranch. So Arnold and I decided to do the walking, and cover as much ground as we could because the days are hot. We carried no water or grub, hoping to meet a jeep along the way for a ride. By eight o'clock we had covered sixteen miles, and we were dog tired. Finally the mail truck appeared and I knew the driver, he happened to be a Spanish American War Veteran and belonged to my camp, so we rode the last five miles in desert style.

The Colonel arrived at the military headquarters from March Field a few minutes before we arrived. Arnold and I were dead tired and hungry. Breakfast was being served, so we were handed a mess kit and we fell in line. Plenty of hot coffee, sugar and cream, plenty of scrambled eggs,

This Happened During World War II
(con't)

toast, jelly, potatoes fried, prunes, oranges. Oh boy what a meal, and did we eat. Things were well cooked and handled with perfection from the kitchen. Every sanitary precaution was observed. The army life at it's best from every angle. Ripe dates could be had just for the picking as this camp was located in the heart of the worlds finest date ranch. After we finished breakfast, the Colonel, the commanding officer wanted to see me, to explain how in the devil we got through their lines and who gave permission. I said "Colonel I drove right thru, no one gave permission". Evidently the sentry thought I was an army car because of the County seal. The Major and Captain stood in the rear of the Colonel and breathed a sigh of relief when they were not implicated. The old Colonel repeated "our bombing practice has been held up for two days, where are you located"? I said twentyone miles and only about five miles this side of the 17 palms.

Without any further ado he ordered the big wreck complete with 16 wheel drive to pull me out. This tremendous machine was equipped with a powerful wench with over 100 yards of $\frac{1}{2}$ cable in front, and a complete derrick (crane) of several ton capacity in the rear. With 14 men as the crew, we started, followed by a jeep with four officers and a heavy station wagon loaded with plank and a truck loaded with soldiers. When reaching our station wagon down in the gulch, they threw out the cable, hooked it on the rear axel and in a minute our station wagon was up on solid earth. I then asked the commanded officer to give me a few men so my car could be turned around to face the opposite direction, because the road shoulders and the ground in all directions would not support our equipement. I repeated that I studied every section of the Borrego Bad lands for several years and this ground has no bottom support.

This Happened during World War II
(con't)

Well the army had it's way. They hooked my station wagon on th the rear of the huge lumbering piece of heavy machinery and started in a broad circle. I took the wheel of my car and waited for results. Going down hill was not bad, but when we had made the first turn to intersect the road, down went their massive monster to the trucks body, all 16 wheels spun with no traction, and was their faces red, there we sat like dead pigeons. I said to my self , of course someday they will learn. They pulled out their walkie talkie and started calling for help. It would take a regiment of soldiers to drag us out at this stage. Finally they managed to contact a tank that had been lumbering in the area. After waiting several minutes , out of nowhere came a full track tank the size of a house with a five inch rifle mounted in front. After a few minutes delay, the hook up was made to the large wreck 16 wheel drive and with all the enormous power from that tremendous tank with all wheels turning of the wreck, we finally started moving slowly , and with the aid of some man power we reached firm ground. What an experience. That was a lesson well deserved for the future if it ever accured.

We loaded our station wagon. waved goodbye to our ever welcome and obliging army. They prehaps said "thank god all the dam fools are not in the army, a few are still running loose.

We four men who were not afraid of night life in the desert, and always happily enjoy any hardship that may confort us, held up the U.S. army bombing maneuver - for 48 hours, and at the same time through an error in judgement the army ^{was} taught a lesson about the strange ways the desert has in defying modern transporation, especially when it trys to conquer without first considering the challenging factor.

Reports that the US Army's armored units under the direction of General George Patton had used the Borego Valley in Spring 1942 are as yet undocumented (*Borrego Sun* 11-23-1989). Land records obtained for the operations of the California-Arizona Manuever Area (CAMA) do not indicate training as far west as Borego Valley (Corps of Engineers Files). The Army's CAMA operations did have some land just west of Superstition Mountain that was transferred to the Navy in 1943 to relocate the Coyote Wells Bombing Target for MCAS El Centro use (Planning Officer KV Files 4-27-1943; 3-27-1944).

Research indicates that the Army utilized the Borego Manuever Area sporadically. Most of the Army's activities are still relatively undocumented. Longtime Borego homesteaders, the Laag Family noted evidence of their property being used for manuevers as early as 1942. It is apparent that the Army did little improvement to the operating area other than pave an access road into the Borego Valley. According to longtime Valley resident Tom Davis, the Army's 29th Engineers made the improvements to the roads (*Borrego Sun* 11-23-1989). An 1943 Automobile Club map made for the military notes the paved road passing by an area called Camp Ensign (located on the Ensign Family homestead). Here the Ensign well and pump were accessible to provide drinking water for a large number of troops. One former Army soldier, Arthur Proscovitz, recalled that no permanent structures were erected at the camp. Soldiers did not even use tents, but slept in "foxholes" dug into the ground to simulate combat conditions (Proscovitz 1991; Orrell 1991:27-37).

Proscovitz was with one of the units undergoing anti-aircraft training in the area. Most of the Army's anti-aircraft training took place at Camp Callan in La Jolla. When training ranges were overwhelmed, the Army would send the troops to Borego and Camp Haan in Riverside County. Borego was used most for "dry-run" training--the teardown and set up of field gun implacements. The Army used the firing ranges at Camp Haan mostly for "live firing." However, some smaller caliber (up to 40mm) weapons were used at two different ranges at Borego. One range was north of Clark's Dry Lake and the other at Borego Mountain. The Army and Navy coordinated their trainings so as not to have both branches at either site simultaneously. High-altitude targets were towed behind an airplane, while low-altitude targets for small-bore weapons were usually unmanned radio-operated planes called "drones." The "drones" were launched from a trailer mounted catapult. As part of the coordinated training, the Navy provided planes to monitor the drones from the air. In addition, the Army may have used a rail mounted track target at Borego Wash to simulate fast moving tanks (Orrell 1991:38-41, 55).

The other Army activity in the park was a somewhat familiar one. In November 1940, the 11th Cavalry regiment was reassigned from the Presidio of Monterey to again guard the Mexican border. The Army had purchased land at Campo with the design to erect a permanent cavalry post called Camp Lockett. From Campo, the horse cavalry could guard the border country as well as the San Diego & Arizona Railroad. The railroad was of great strategic importance due to it being the only direct east-west rail connection to the military complex in San Diego. The line crossed into Mexico at Tijuana and back

into the US near Tecate before travelling east through Campo and Jacumba, then dropping down into the desert through the Carrizo Gorge, where it passed through ABDSP lands. The military was concerned with the border area because they believed that an invasion force would be able to land unopposed along the Mexican coast and then move north into California (Hinds 1991; Camp Lockett Files).

During late 1940 and through most of 1941, the 11th Cavalry was stationed at temporary camps at Seeley, twelve miles west of El Centro, and at Lake Morena near Campo. In July 1941 the 11th made a training march from Camp Seeley up to Campo and back passing through ABDSP lands near Mountain Springs. In late November 1941, the Army completed Camp Lockett and in early December the remaining troops at Camp Seeley moved to the Campo post. The 11th did not use the route up Mountain Springs for its final move. The 11th moved west from Seeley along the base of the Jacumba Mountains then followed the railroad south up Carrizo Gorge and onto Campo. This allowed them to establish guards at the major tunnels and trestles of the railroad. During 1942, the 11th Cavalry continued to place guards along the gorge, and subsequently within the ABDSP lands. After the 11th Cavalry left Camp Lockett in January 1943, the 10th and 28th Cavalry units replaced them. These units were the famous all-Black units known as the "Buffalo Soldiers." They also did some guard work in the Carrizo Gorge but by mid-1943 the military's concerns about invasion had subsided and this detail was ended (Camp Lockett Files, Hinds 1991; Vezina 1993). After the 11th Cavalry left Camp Seeley, the facility did not close. The post continued as a Army combat and firing range training area. Several other parcels, included a firing and maneuver range just east of the Navy's Coyote Wells (later Carrizo Impact Area) bombing range were established (Camp Seeley Property Records). No record of any of these Camp Seeley training activities are known to have entered into ABDSP lands.

The Marines at ABDSP

As noted earlier, the Navy Department acknowledged the desert areas of Borego and Imperial Valley as possible training for Marine Corps personnel. On March 28, 1941 the Commandant of the 11th District wrote to the Commanding General of the Marine Corps in San Diego that these areas would be acquired for "anti-aircraft and artillery ranges for Marine Corps combat firing (Planning Officer Files 3-28-1941). However, with the large Marine Corps reserve east of the Salton Sea (Camp Dunlap), added to the acquisition of new property at Camp Elliott in San Diego and Camp Pendleton near Oceanside, the need for extensive training facilities in Borego Valley were reduced.

Still, in 1943 Marine Corps personnel from the Motor Transport Schools (truck driving) at Camp Pendleton and Camp Elliott were regularly brought out to Borego for training. Local residents recalled that the Marines erected a tent camp at the Ensign Ranch to house their troops. The troops were trained in driving skills to improve their nighttime and desert driving (*San Diego Union* 5-7-1961:F8). Although the Marine Corps had several large facilities in southern California, they did use specialized training grounds such as at Borego and in the Laguna Mountains near Pine Valley (at the old CCC Camp) (Hinds 1992). Sites such as Borego provided remote, non-lit desert areas for specific

types of training. The Marine troops at Camp Ensign shared the facility with the Army, however no specific information as to the agreement or stipulations of the inter-service use are yet known (Orrell 1991:45).

Cal Tech at ABDSP

In addition to the military's vast training program, World War II brought a new relationship to the military. This relationship would mobilize the scientific community for national defense. Prior to the war, the US military identified its lack of modern weaponry in its arsenal compared to other military powers. As such the National Academy of Sciences worked with President Franklin D. Roosevelt to form the National Defense Research Committee (NDRC) to mobilize the scientific and academic communities for the war effort. One of the key west coast universities recruited was the California Institute of Technology (CalTech) in Pasadena. CalTech's faculty of noted scientists had formed their own "Council of Defense Cooperation" in 1940 and had offered their facilities, faculty, and 221 person staff services to NDRC (Newland 1994a:7-8; Hovde 1946; NOSC 1991). These talented men included Dr. Max Mason, PhD. the inventor of radar and designer of the Palomar Observatory telescope lense; Dr. Charles Lauritson, Nobel prize winner for his work on rockets and rocket weaponry; and the Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory's jet propulsion system projects under direction of Theodore von Karman, Frank Malina, and Clark Milligan (Christman 1971:116; Bower 1943).

In 1941 the Federal Government contracted with Cal Tech for several research and deveolpment projects. These included general ballistics and weapons testing studies as well as development of new weapon systems using the technology of rocketry and jet propulsion (Mason 1946:3-4; Christman 1971:116). CalTech used several testing facilities including Morris Dam and Reservoir near Azusa, the newly established Naval Ordnance Testing Station at Inyokern, and the NAAS Salton Sea (Newland 1994a:9; Gerard-Gough and Christman 1978; Planning Officers Files 6-28-1944). During the testing of rockets at NAAS Salton Sea, CalTech obtained an Army antiaircraft battery and drone target launching crew from Camp Callan to test target rockets under design. The tests occured at Borego Mountain on park lands (Orrell 1991:41-43). Tests such as the ones at Borego Mountain were important research projects that helped provide the military with technologically advanced weapons. The success of the military/technology relationship during World War II would be the catalyst for the post-war military-industrial complex in southern California.

Post War Military Activities in ABDSP (1945-1959)

The end of the war signalled the end of some of the wartime military activities at ABDSP. The Army's loosely defined permit to use the State Park lands ended with the cessation of hostilities (Orrell 1991:85-87). CalTech moved most of their testing to the Navy's secure facilities at Inyokern, Morris Dam, Point Loma, and Pasadena (Newland 1994a). Although in 1946 the Navy had closed the NAAS Holtville and transfered NAAS Salton Sea to the War Department for use by the Atomic Energy Commission, the MCAS El

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
FOR
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APPENDIX G

REAL ESTATE DOCUMENTS

APPENDIX G

REAL ESTATE DOCUMENTS

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APPENDIX H
NEWSPAPERS/JOURNALS

APPENDIX H

NEWSPAPERS/JOURNALS

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rock 'near three hills' in the area. Neither Peg Leg nor those who followed him were ever to locate the lost vein again. Many died in the attempt. Today, a monument to the old prospector stands at the northern end of the valley. Those who seek the lost mine are directed to 'add ten rocks to the pile to quiet the ghost of Peg Leg Smith.'

It was well after the turn of the century when the first hardy pioneers took advantage of the Desert Land Act and began homesteading in the valley. But the desert clung tenaciously to its wonton covering, and would-be farmers toiled long hours to clear and ready the sandy soil for planting. The fact that very often fifteen generations of man may come and go between the time the desert land is cleared and full recovery is made to its original state may be explanation enough for this stubborn resistance. Few of the homesteaders stayed long enough to "prove" their claims, though the scars of their efforts remain today as visible evi-

dence of their having come and gone.

First to turn desert farming into a profitable operation was the Ensign family. Acquiring 160 acres in 1926 under the Desert Land Act, O. H. Ensign with sons Paul and Roy sank a well and planted a small orchard to prove their claim. Ensign had put his knowledge as a reclamation engineer to good use when he selected what he considered to be "the best property in the whole area." His well, pumped by diesel power, produced a thousand gallons of water per minute to interlace the mesquite covered desert sand with thick green fields of alfalfa. Another innovation was introduced in the desert scene the following year with the planting on the Ensign ranch of date palm offshoots from the Coachella Valley. Thus began San Diego County's only commercial date plantings, from which the first dates were harvested in 1939.

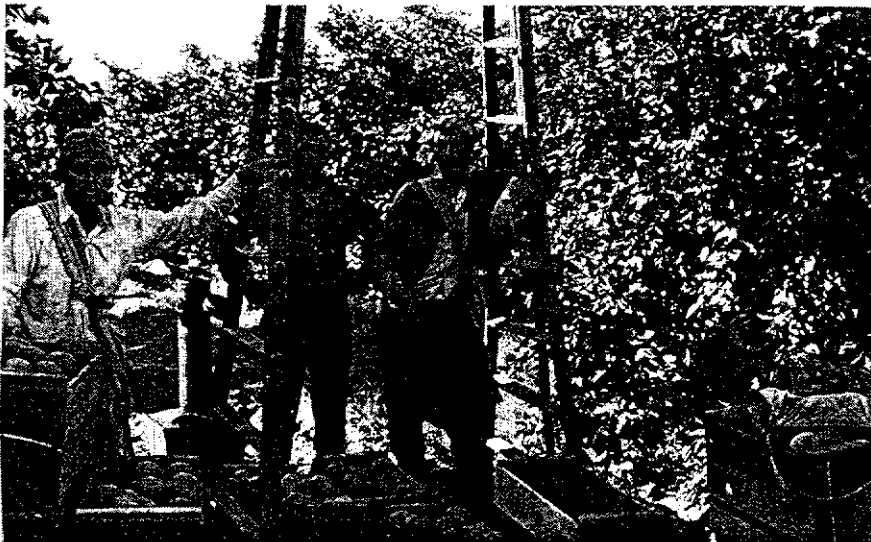
With exception of the sizable Doc Beatty ranch at the mouth of Coyote Canyon, the Ensigns' neighbors—few in num-



Date palms planted on the Ensign Ranch in the 1920's are still producing dates. Date palms have been known to bear fruit for 100 years.



Fields of grapes are protected from the wind by long rows of tamarisk trees.



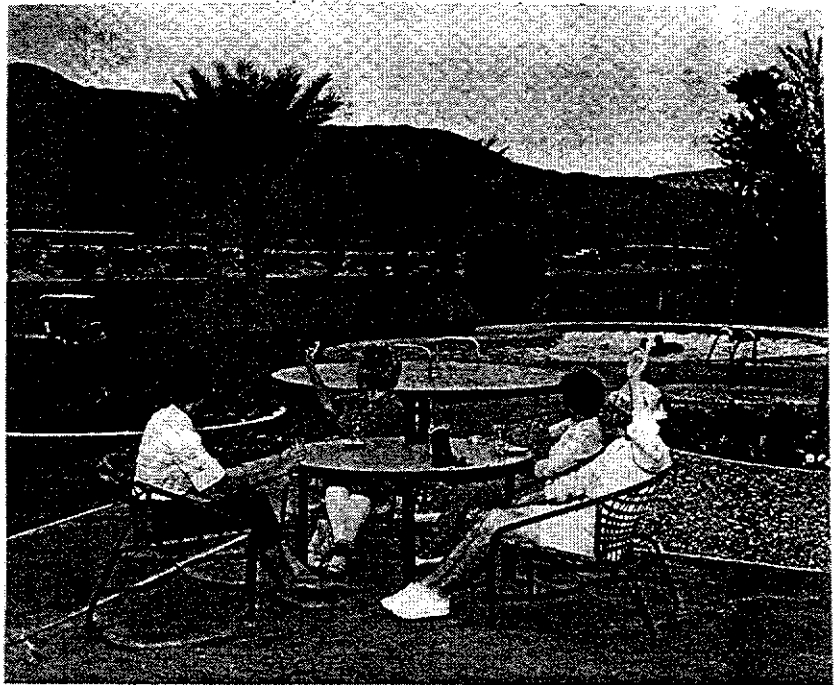
Acres of gladioli are grown under cover at the Fortliner ranch.

The desert climate is likewise favorable to citrus crops, including grapefruit.

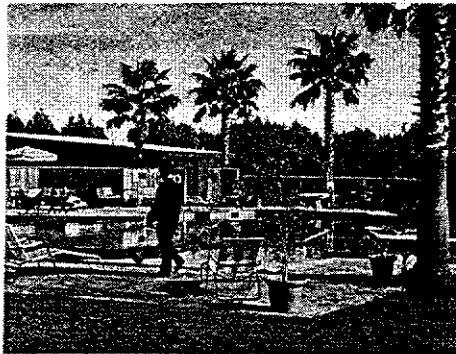
ber and scattered throughout the valley—farmed only small patches of the desert. Meanwhile, the Ensigns increased their holdings over the years until their ranch took in 1160 acres of the fertile valley land and became a self-sufficient community in its own right.

During the 40s the Ensigns purchased a herd of Jersey cows and added dairying to their other operations in the valley. Then came World War II, and the nation was plunged headlong into a new way of life. Even this secluded desert valley has soon to feel the effect of the war-time activities. The Marines landed, and a large part of the ranch officially became Camp Ensign. Serving first as an artillery range and later as a truck driving school where the Marines pitted wheels against rugged expanses of desert sand, the camp played an important part in the training of men for the North African campaign. The Ensign well with its diesel-powered pump without strain furnished water for both ranch and camp.

When the war ended only about 200 acres were under cultivation in Borrego. While some field crops were still being



In Borrego it's possible to own a home right on the golf course. Fairway homes are built in four-house complexes, each complex having its own swimming pool.



The beautiful La Casa del Zorro resort hotel has a uniquely shaped swimming pool.

Borrego Palms Resort also offers complete accommodations to the desert vacationer.



Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Andres have brought a new type of home ownership to the Valley in their Sun and Shadows cooperative homes development, complete with swimming pool and recreation area.



harvested on the Ensign ranch, the operation had diminished considerably. In 1957, the ranch was sold for the first time in history to Patrick Nolan, who immediately undertook the task of re-establishing the date and farm production.

By 1959 there were 3600 acres under cultivation throughout the valley, producing crops such as alfalfa, cotton, asparagus, lettuce, grapes, citrus, and commercial flowers, principally gladioli, belis of Ireland, and stocks.

Since the days before electricity usually bring to mind the days of the covered wagon, it's difficult to visualize an area such as Borrego, only 90 miles dis-

tant from San Diego, with no electricity as recently as 16 years ago. It's a fact. In 1945 the San Diego Gas & Electric Company completed a 14 mile line into the valley at a cost of \$600,000 in answer to a request for the service by the DiGiorgio Fruit Corp.

The DiGiorgio Fruit Corp. purchased 2,000 acres in the central part of the valley and planted grapes on a major portion of the land. They desired the electricity to replace the not always dependable gasoline engine method of pumping water for crops. The DiGiorgio ranch was the first to combine electric power and sub-surface water for a large scale

Ensign Ranch Sale Escrow Completed

Sale of the 1,120-acre Ensign Ranch to John W. Anderson, a San Diego builder and real estate developer, was completed last month.

Anderson announced that the transaction had completed escrow and that he hoped to start construction of a semi-public golf course on the site about Sept. 1.

The ranch, one of Borrego's oldest agricultural landmarks, was purchased from Patrick Nolan, Jack Russell and others for \$1,450,000.

The proposed golf course, which will serve as a focal point for a proposed senior citizens development to be known as Sunland City, has been designed by Lawrence Hughes, Anderson said.

Hughes designed the De Anza Desert Country Club layout and the Thunderbird and Eldorado courses in Palm Springs. He was the designer and Anderson the builder of the Desert Inn Country Club at Las Vegas, site of the recent Tournament of Champions.

Anderson said the design calls for a 6,400-yard, par 72 course with two large lakes and four water holes.

BORREGO SUN
JUNE 1961

County Planners Scheduled To Act On Ensign Ranch

A master plan for development of the 1200-acre Ensign Ranch will be placed before the County Planning Commission for final approval early this month, officials of Borrego Springs Park Corp. announced.

Vincent Mattingly, project engineer, said the final master plan contains only minor changes from the plan announced by the company last month. The parking area and community center to be located between the north and south golf courses has been redesigned, and the sewage treatment plant has been relocated, necessitating a change in the layout of the second nine holes of the north course.

Planning Commission members were taken on a tour of the site by company officials July 26, and Mattingly said he expected the master plan would come before the commission in San Diego Aug. 3.

Target date for the start of construction on the project, Mattingly said, is now set for late September.

BORREGO SUN
AUGUST 1962

November, 1962

BORREGO SUN

Construction Nears On Ensign Ranch; New Homes Started

Final plans for start of construction on the 1200-acre Ensign Ranch here are now being completed, officials of the Borrego Springs Park Corp. reported last month.

Robert Fontana, manager for the multi-million dollar housing and golf course project, said he expected initial field work on the project would start by late November or early December.

"We expect to be ready for an all-out sales program by next fall," he said.

Elsewhere in the Valley home construction continued at a faster than usual pace.

Well underway is a home being built on Lot 45, Morgan Manor, for Julian Cale by Esau Construction Co. George Esau, head of the La Mesa construction firm, said he plans to start immediately two more homes for sale in the Golden Palms subdivision.

Also in Golden Palms construction was started last month on Lot 113 on a home for Fred F. Furtsch of Pasadena.

Norman Gilbert has underway a home in Deep Well Trail No. 2 for Herbert Sadd.

BORREGO SUN
NOVEMBER 1962

Paul W. Ensign, Borrego Pioneer, Dies In Pasadena

Paul W. Ensign, 68, who with his brother and father pioneered development of the Ensign Ranch here, died June 1 in a hospital in Pasadena.

Development of the 1100-acre Ensign Ranch was started in the early 1930's by O. H. Ensign and his sons, Paul and Roy. They brought in the area's first deep producing well and raised crops and cattle on the acreage.

Later they imported date palms from Coachella Valley and started San Diego County's first and only producing date grove.

The ranch was sold in 1957 to Patrick Nolan, then of Detroit, and it is now the site of the Borrego Springs Park residential and recreational development.

For the past seven years Mr. Ensign has resided in Julian.

For many years he was president of the Ensign Carburetor Co. in Fullerton until the company was sold in 1959.

He is survived by his brother, Roy F. Ensign of Fullerton, and a sister, Ina, of Pasadena.

Funeral services were held June 3 at Turner & Stevens Mortuary in Pasadena.

BORREGO SUN
JUNE 1964

ENSIGN RANCH IS SOLD

4,000 Homesites, Golf Course Planned For Senior Citizens

Plans for development of an 1,120-acre senior citizens community on the Ensign Ranch here were announced last month by John Anderson, a San Diego land developer and building contractor.

In an transaction which was placed in escrow late last month Anderson purchased the ranch from a group of owners represented by Jack Russell and Patrick Nolan. The reported purchase price was \$1,450,000.

Anderson said present plans call for the entire acreage to be developed over a 10-year period. First phase of the development, which will be known as Sunland City, will cover 320 acres, he said, and will include an 18-hole public golf course.

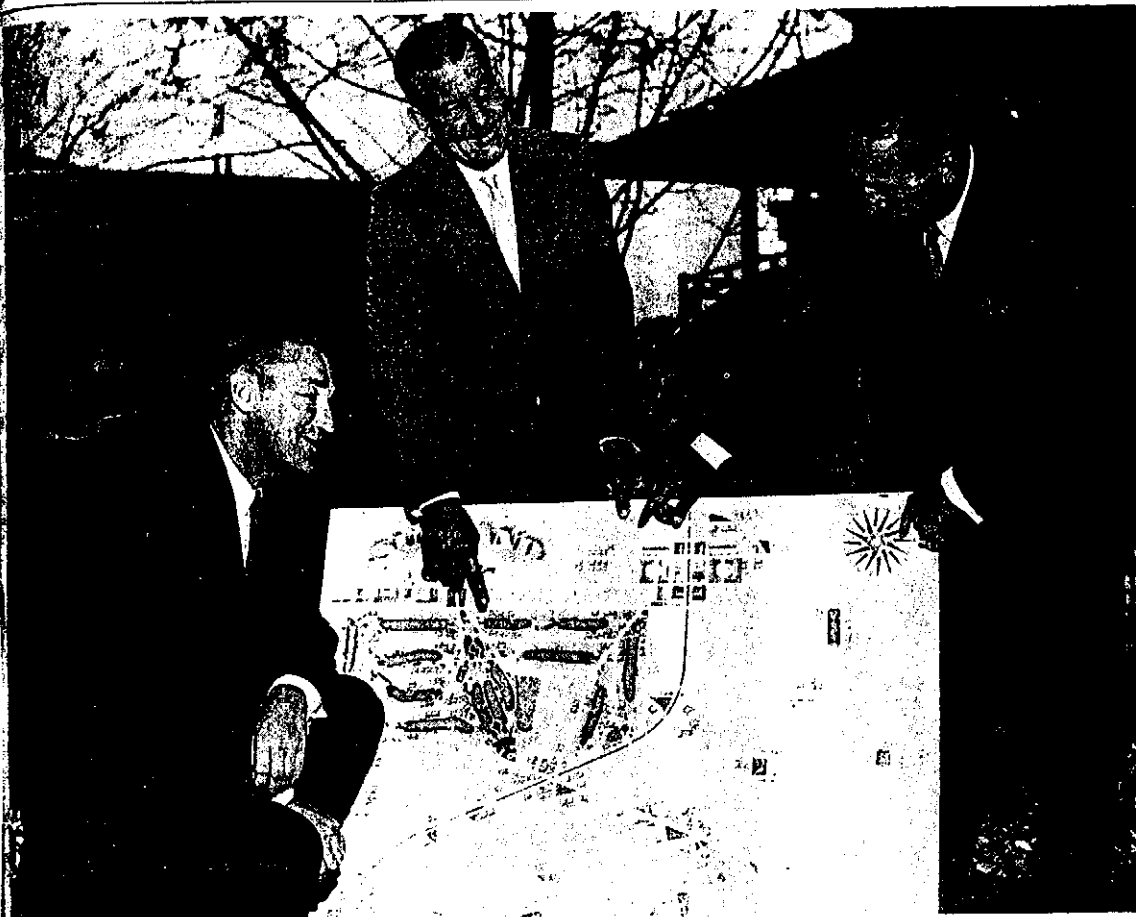
Anderson said he hoped to begin construction of the golf course within six months.

The overall plan for Sunland City calls for 4,000 homesites with 90 acres reserved as commercial property for shopping centers, apartment houses, motels and trailer courts.

Anderson said a water company will be formed to serve the community, using the three commercial wells on the property, and a sewer system — Borrego's first — will be constructed.

Recreational centers consisting of a swimming pool, tennis court, bowling greens and horseshoe and shuffleboard courts will be constructed for approximately each 175 homes and will be turned

(Continued on Page 9)



PLANS — Details of Sunland City development on the former Ensign Ranch are shown by John Anderson, the developer, right, to Patrick Nolan, left, and Jack Russell, who sold the 1,120-acre ranch. Sunland City is planned as a senior citizens development.

Ensign Ranch Sold; Senior Citizens Community Seen

BORREGO SUN
MAY 1961

(Continued from Page 1)

er to the residents to operate, Anderson said.

Anderson said the community has been planned around the needs of retired citizens. Lots will be approximately 70' x 100' and will sell for between \$2,150 and \$3,400. Home prices will range from \$13,000 to \$16,000 (including the lot), he said, and FHA financing will be available.

Both parties in the sale were represented by James F. Murphy, manager of the Clair W. Burgen Co. office here. The escrow is being handled by Union Title Insurance Co.

The Ensign Ranch is one of Borrego's oldest and best known landmarks. It is the site of San Diego County's only commercial date farm, and it was on this ranch that the first major water well was drilled in Borrego Valley.

Its acreage has also produced a wide variety of other crops, including alfalfa, lettuce, cotton, dairy cattle, pigs and turkeys.

The Ensign Ranch was started in 1926 when O. H. Ensign and his sons, Paul and Roy, purchased 160 acres under the Desert Land Act and drilled their first well. This well with a capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute is still producing today.

Date palms from Coachella Valley were introduced on the ranch in 1927, and the first crop was harvested in 1939. Date production reached its peak in 1945 when 90,000 pounds were marketed from the 33-acre grove.

During the 1940's dairy cattle were imported to the ranch, and the dairy industry thrived until the end of World War II.

As Camp Ensign the ranch served as a training ground for U. S. marines during the war.

The ranch, now grown to 1,160 acres, was purchased by Patrick Nolan of Detroit, Mich., in 1957. Nolan began rehabilitating the date grove which had not been worked or harvested in several years.

All but 40 acres of Nolan's original purchase are included in the sale to Anderson.

Russell, another Borrego rancher, and a group of Canadians acquired an interest in the ranch about two years ago.

Borrego Today—A Dream Coming True

At the end of World War I, Borrego Valley has changed from basically agricultural land to growing residential and commercial areas.

The change can be traced by the real estate development which has increased the population of the valley from a handful of farmers and ranchers in 1946 to permanent residents in 1961.

Leading this development is A. Burnand Jr., the original subdivider.

Recognizing the potential of the valley, Burnand purchased most of the privately owned land. From Southern Pacific Co. he secured his checkerboarded rights.

In 1946, the state also owned a checkerboarded pattern of land which was part of the state park. Burnand negotiated a land exchange with the state which solidified the park area and the private boundaries.

To obtain the finances necessary to pursue his dream, Burnand interested two Los Angeles businessmen, Lawrence and Paul Grafe, to invest in the development of the valley.

Burnand formed the Borrego Land Development Co. in 1947. Of the 100 acres of land owned by the company, 1,800 acres were added into the original Borrego Springs tract.

The Borrego Land & Development Co. was dissolved in 1953, and Burnand and Grafe were bought out by James S. Copley, H. Black and the Desert Fruit Corp.

The group has continued to purchase and develop the area. Burnand formed the Borrego Val-

ley Golf & Improvement Co., subdivided the De Anza Golf Estates and laid out the golf course in 1954. This subdivision was opened in 1956 with 298 lots in and surrounding the course.

Meanwhile, other subdivisions were started.

Movie star Frank Morgan laid out 25 lots north of the original subdivision in 1953. He called it Morgan Manor. After Morgan's death in 1956, the land was purchased by the Borrego Springs Water Co. Lots in the tract were put on the market in 1960.

Small tracts were planned in Tub Canyon in 1946 by Noel Crickmer, Borrego Village in 1947 by Ray Jacobs and Fletcher Air Ranch in 1950 by the Fletcher family.

The Way subdivision, near the elementary school, was planned in 1950 and added to in 1959.

George J. Kuhrts III, Burnand's step-son, planned the Rancho Borrego subdivision in 1952 near what is now La Casa del Zorro. This was added to an earlier record of survey for an adjoining plot. It has more than 80 parcels.

Just west of Rancho Borrego are two subdivisions known as Deep Well Trail 1 and 2. The first with 72 lots and 54 parcels was opened in 1956; the second with 202 lots in 1959. These were developments of Golden Sands Corp., a partnership of Kuhrts and N. Jack Benson, former vice president of Borrego Valley Associates.

From 1954, Borrego Valley Associates was the exclusive sales agency for the subdivided lands. B.V.A. was sold in October, 1960, to Clair W. Burgener Co. of San Diego. At that time most of

the exclusive sales arrangements were terminated.

In 1959, Sunny Borrego Corp., another partnership of Kuhrts and Benson, opened two tracts just south of the original subdivision. These were called Ocotillo Heights 1 and 2 with 235 lots.

Three new subdivisions were opened within the last year.

Just south of the golf course is the 20-lot Golf Club Estates of Fred Corey Jr. and John Wilhelm, both of La Jolla.

Between this and Morgan Manor is Desert Borrego tract developed by Floyd Andres and Robert Burns.

East of Desert Borrego is the Sungold division. Corey and Carlson Realty Co. of La Jolla are the developers. Sungold's 53 lots opened in April, 1961.

In addition, a cooperative homes development known as Sun and Shadows was started by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Andres on Palm Canyon drive 3/4 mile west of Christmas Circle. Eventual plans call for about 12 duplex and triplex units in the development with a community swimming pool and recreation area.

From the beginning, the focal point of the valley has been Christmas Circle. Here is located the business center and the hub through which nearly all traffic must pass.

Recently completed in the business center is a new Post Office building built by Harrison R. Baker and Hobbs B. Marlow. A shopping center, designed to accommodate 30 stores and 15 offices, is being built at Hacienda del Sol by William Furlong.

One of the most ambitious sub-

division programs in Borrego's history is now being planned by John W. Anderson, a San Diego land developer and building contractor, who recently purchased the 1,120-acre Ensign Ranch for \$1,450,000.

Anderson's overall plan calls for a senior citizen development of 4,000 homesites, to be known as Sunland City, with an 18-hole public golf course, shopping centers, apartment houses, motels, trailer courts and community recreation areas.

Construction on this project is expected to start this fall.

Building permits issued in 1960 by the county totaled \$579,700. Included were 26 one-family dwellings worth \$345,000 and 11 commercial and public buildings worth \$158,000.

Real estate transfers in 1960 totaled 435, the highest in history. Conservative estimates place the total value of these sales at more than one million dollars.

The growth of the Borrego Valley in the last 15 years has been fairly steady. Burnand's foresight and pioneering spirit gave it great impetus. His action

(Continued on Page 15)

BORREGO SUN
15 JULY 1961

YEAR IN REVIEW

Construction Highlights '61

The final figures have not yet been compiled, but indications are that a record volume of construction will be one of the highlights of the year 1961 in Borrego.

While residential construction continued at a good pace, centered mainly about the golf course where seven new homes were started or completed, it was in the commercial and business field that building got its big boost.

Projects in this field included Bill Furlong's El Patio Shopping Center near Christmas Circle, a new Post Office building and Norman Gilbert's Building Service Center on Stirrup road.

San Diego County completed a new road department station on Borrego Valley road, and now nearing completion on Palm Canyon drive is a drive-in cafe being built by J. J. Svoboda.

Remodeling and additions also added to the 1961 construction total. These included a face-lifting of the Mercantile Building and Hugh Woods Food Center at Christmas Circle, construction of a new swimming pool and a complete remodeling of six more units at La Casa del Zorro.

Manuel Rodriguez has just finished a complete overhauling of his Rancho Trailer Villa which now boasts 32 trailer spaces each served by underground electricity, gas and telephone connections. More trailer spaces and a swimming pool are contemplated for the future, Rodriguez said.

A swimming pool was also added during the year at the Park n' Plunge resort trailer park on Palm Canyon drive, and Floyd Andres' Sun and Shadows cooperative homes development nearby has grown to four duplex units and a swimming pool.

At De Anza Desert Country Club, in addition to seven new homes, rest rooms were built on the course, and as the year ended construction began on a \$65,000 expansion of the clubhouse facility.

Real estate sales continued active, although one of the biggest deals on record—sale of the Ensign Ranch—failed to materialize. This transaction fell through in December after John

Anderson was unable to raise the financing for his proposed golf course and senior citizens development. Jack Russell and Patrick Nolan, owners of the ranch, said at year's end that they are now working on another plan for development of the 1,120-acre property.

Three other ranches (Adolph Kosky, J. W. Baker and Joseph Costello) were sold during the year for future development, and one new subdivision (SunGold, near the golf course) was opened by Carlson-Corey Real Estate Co. The first unit of this subdivision has been sold out, and the second unit is expected to be opened early this year.

A number of changes were recorded during the year in the business community. The Borrego Pharmacy was sold by L. W. Lindberg to Arthur Holzman; Hacienda del Sol was sold by William Furlong to Donald and Carol King-Ellison; the Borrego Village Motel was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Beaudry; Ed Rogers took over the painting business of Denis Sack; the Chevron station near La Casa was taken over by Hugh Woods, and Phil Middlesworth sold the Union Station at Christmas Circle to Jack Barling.

In escrow at the end of the year was the sale of La Placita Restaurant at Christmas Circle by Joe Cooper to Peter Mogavero of San Diego.

Carlson-Corey Real Estate Co. opened offices in the El Patio Shopping Center as did Margaret Jackson with the Marg-a-Reta Shop and Remembrance Shop. Perry Burnand opened a retail liquor store, the Bottle Shoppe, at Christmas Circle; Hugh Woods opened his Bantam Mart near La Casa del Zorro; Carl and Olga Vogt opened the Lazy V Cafe on Palm Canyon drive, and John Lee and Neil White organized Borrego Motors as dealer for the San Diego-made Crofton "BUG."

Several new faces appeared in key positions in the valley. Harry Lister was named manager of the Clair W. Burgener Co.; John Smithers became manager of La Casa del Zorro, and George Lenz took a similar position at Borrego

(Continued on Page 4)

ENSIGN RANCH SOLD

Kahn And Tavares Plan Development Of 1160 Acres

The 1,160-acre Ensign Ranch was sold last month to Borrego Springs Park Corp., headed by Irvin J. Kahn and Carlos Tavares, which plans immediate development of the property with an 18-hole golf course and home-sites.

Revenue stamps on a deed filed March 14 with County Recorder Al Gray indicate a purchase price of \$1,420,000.

Sellers of the property, who are also stockholders in the new corporation; were Patrick Nolan, Jack A. and Margaret Russell, Hardy and Vivian R. Maddox, R. E. Frederling, John E. Poole, Jefferies Concrete Products, Ltd., Russell and Daphne MacLean, George E. Poole, H. W. and Inge L. Krussman, G. Leslie and Eva L. Willox, Paul D. and Arvella Bowless, Ross M. and Jewell Rodger, Standard Holdings, Ltd., Walter C. and Dorothy MacKenzie, Alan and Elizabeth MacLean, Don R. and Mary Elizabeth Brandt, P. A. Grannons and J. E. Johnson.

Both parties in the transaction were represented by Louis C. Burgener.

Kahn is president of Borrego Springs Park Corp., and Jesse W. Stacy, vice president of Tavares Construction Co. in La Jolla, is vice president.

A spokesman for the company said a master land use plan for development of the acreage is now being drafted by Kenneth Mitchell of Los Angeles, former head land planner for the Los Angeles FHA office.

Kahn announced that the company would break ground for the development within two months.

Vincent H. Mattingly of La Mesa has been named chief engineer for the project, and Robert Fontana of La Jolla, also a vice president of Tavares Construction Co., has been named project manager.

An 18-hole golf course is being designed by Billy Bell Jr.

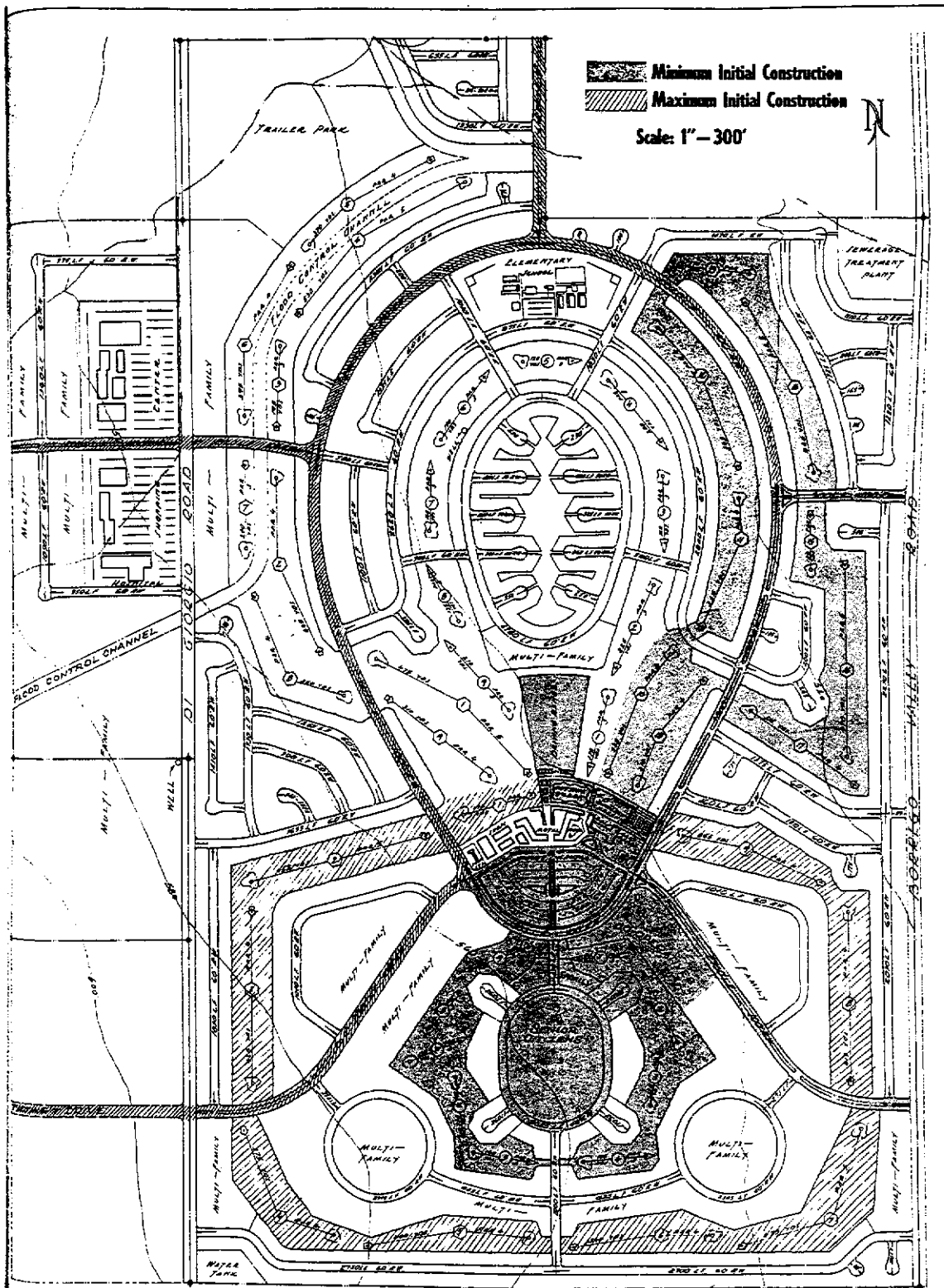
The golf course and construction
(Continued on Page 4)



CARLOS TAVARES



IRVIN J. KAHN



MASTER PLAN—Proposed development of the 1,200-acre Ensign Ranch is shown in this land use plan drawn for Borrego Springs Park Corp. by Kenneth Mitchell of Los Angeles.

Maximum and minimum construction planned for initial phase is shown by shaded areas. Target date for the start of construction is Sept. 1.

Plans Revealed For Ensign Ranch

(Continued from Page 1)

A recreation building and go shop will be built in the community center. Future plans for the center include tennis courts, a motel, shops and two service stations.

Main access to the development will be via an extension of Tilling T drive to Borrego Valley road.

A sewage treatment plant, Borrego's first, will be constructed on the north end of the development.

Overall plans call for two nine-hole, par-3 golf courses, a nine-hole and an 18-hole regulation course, a shopping center and 1,982 dwelling units, including 1,801 single family dwelling units, 1637 multi-family units and 244-space trailer park.

Plans Revealed For Ensign Ranch

Details of the proposed development of the 1,200-acre Ensign Ranch were revealed last month by officers of Borrego Springs Park Corp.

A land use plan for the area is now before the County Planning Commission and the Federal Housing Administration for final approval.

Vincent H. Mattingly, project engineer, said the initial construction phase, scheduled to start about Sept. 1, calls for 180 dwelling units, a par 3 golf course, nine and possibly 18 holes of a regulation course and a community center.

The dwelling units will include 112 senior citizens apartments, 48 large and 16 small cooperative apartment units and four single family homes.

The senior citizens development will be surrounded by a par 3 golf course. The single family homes and cooperatives will be built around the outside perimeter of the course.

Nine holes of a regulation 18-hole course will be built to the north of this development, bordering Borrego Valley road.

The senior citizens project will have a swimming pool, putting green and lawn bowling facilities.

(Continued on Page 7)

10c Per Copy

Sept. 1 Target For Construction On Ensign Ranch

Officials of Borrego Springs Park Corp. said last month they are working toward a Sept. 1 target date for the start of construction in the company's development of the 1,160-acre Ensign Ranch which it purchased in March.

Robert Fontana, project manager for the company, said a master land use plan for development of the property is now in its final stages of preparation and should be ready for adoption early this month.

The first construction phase of the project, Fontana said, will be approximately 200 dwelling units around a proposed 18-hole golf course. These will include single family dwellings, triplex units and one-story one and two-bedroom apartments.

Both FHA and conventional financing will be available, he said. The FHA financing will include Section 231 (senior citizens), Section 213 (cooperatives) and Section 203 (conventional).

The golf course layout is being prepared by Billy Bell Jr. who has designed and constructed many Southern California courses, including Fletcher Hills, Poway, Laguna Beach, Irvine Coast and San Marcos.

The Ensign Ranch was purchased by Borrego Springs Park Corp. from Patrick Nolan, Jack Russell and others for a reported \$1,420,000. Principal stockholders in the corporation are Irvin Kahn of San Diego, a prominent real estate developer, and Carlos Tavares of La Jolla, president of Tavares Construction Co.

Vol. IX, No. 11

Master Plan For Ensign Ranch Wins County Approval

The master plan of Borrego Springs Park Corp. for development of the 1,215-acre Ensign Ranch was approved last month by the County Planning Commission.

Robert Fontana, project manager, said he expected plans for the start of construction will be announced before the end of this month.

Meanwhile, the developers are appealing certain requirements established by the Planning Commission and are negotiating with Federal Housing Administration officials to secure approval for FHA financing.

One change in the master plan now being sought is the Planning Commission's requirement for 60-foot-wide streets in the subdivision. The developers are seeking authority to build two 20-foot wide strips divided by date palm trees.

"We are trying to keep the desert atmosphere throughout our development," Fontana said, "—not just bring the city to the desert."

Action on the developers' request was postponed by the Planning Commission until Sept. 11.

Irvin J. Kahn, who along with Carlos Tavares is the major stockholder in Borrego Springs Park Corp., also announced last month that he is working on a unique three-way "residence-exchange" plan for the senior citizens development which will be a part of the overall project.

Under this plan the senior citizens would be able to live in Borrego during the winter and divide their summers between similar developments in Hawaii and San Diego.

Kahn was reported to be in

(Continued on Page 12)

Ensign Ranch Wins County Approval

(Continued from Page 1)

Hawaii last month working out details of this plan.

The overall master plan for the project provides for 2,500 multi-family units and 1,200 single-family units, most of them bordering one of the four golf courses which have been laid out. These will provide 45 holes of golf with one 18-hole and one 9-hole regulation course and two 9-hole par 3 courses.

The project also includes Borrego's first sewage treatment plant, a shopping center, medical center and other recreation facilities.

Borrego Sun



February, 1963, Borrego Springs, California

10c Per Copy

Contracts Readied For Start Of Work On Ensign Ranch

Contracts for the first phase of work on development of the 1,200-acre Ensign Ranch will be awarded by Borrego Springs Park Corp. early this month, Robert Fontana, project manager, announced.

These contracts will cover streets, sewers, water lines and grading, including grading of one par-3 golf course, he said. Work will start immediately after the contracts are awarded.

Fontana said he could not estimate at this time when construction of the first dwelling units and other facilities would be started. He said, however, this phase probably would be started before the underground work is completed.

Plans for a clubhouse to serve both the par-3 and a proposed regulation 18-hole golf course, he said, are in the final drafting stage.

Fontana said the company is aiming towards a major sales effort for this project next fall.

The master plan for development of the entire 1200 acres calls for nearly 5,000 dwelling units surrounding four golf courses, plus a community service area, shopping center, recreation center and other facilities.

The project also includes Borrego's first sewage treatment plant.



A TALE OF THE GROVE—Palms fluttering in the desert breeze could tell quite a tale, if they could talk. Few Borrego Springs Park visitors, however, are aware of the many uses to which this area of Borrego Springs has been utilized over the past.

DATES AND TANKS FOR THE MEMORIES 8-6-66

What A Story Those Palm Trees Could Weave, If They Could Talk

When the last golf club cuts through the air at dusk, the remaining sentinel palms at Borrego Springs Park might well sigh, ruffle their fronds, and wonder what's next.

Over the years, they have seen military trucks and tanks rumbling, herds of cattle grazing beneath their foliage and self-propelled golf carts driven by golfers wearing some pretty fancy hats.

WATER STARTS SPOUTING

The Moorish club house, modern homes and apartments that border luxuriant golf greens today are a long way from the dairy, military and date farm enterprises that once occupied these fertile acres.

The Ensign family was among early Borrego pioneers who established the county's only date ranch here. To prove their claim, the Ensigns sunk a well and started a small orchard.

Their first well, the only one here of any magnitude, produced 1,000 gallons of water a minute. It serviced vast fields of alfalfa and later, an entire military unit during World War II.

It was 'Doc' Beatty, another early settler, who conceived the idea of growing commercial dates in the valley, arranging a meeting between Ensign and Dr. Swingle of Coachella Valley.

TREATMENT KILLS SOME

Ensign first planted 27 off-pair shoots from Coachella. The following year 119 more were planted and the Ensign date garden were underway.

But first the new shoots had to undergo sterilization before planting lest some noxious insect might have been imported here from Coachella on the host palms.

Baking in an oven for several hours at 180 degrees was the recommended treatment. Some of

the plants did not survive. Those which did produced excellent dates that were shipped throughout the country.

The old ranch has housed a turkey-raising business, a dairy with herds of Jersey cows and, during the war, Marines bivouacked nearby. The ranch became known as Camp Ensign. Traces of foxholes can still be found with remnants of debris from an artillery range. It also became a truck-driving school for those about to encounter Nazi Gen. Rommel on the sands of North Africa. Bor-

rego Springs' sands proved a realistic training ground.

In 1957 the Ensign holdings were sold to Patrick Nolan and his associates. Under a fluttering palm tree near the sales room one could sip a tall frosty date shake and order several varieties of dates, all delicious, to be shipped to friends far and near.

GROVE RETAINED

Nolan's group was the last commercial enterprise promoting the date ranch. A small grove of the original stand still remains. Some palms have been removed and placed in strategic spots around Borrego Springs Park, near greens and on a long majestic avenue that leads to the park development. They provide a setting reminiscent of a movie set for the clubhouse and new homes that have sprung up around the golf course.

(Historical data for this article was researched by the Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce historian, Mrs. Ethel Schoneman.)

Borrego Sun
6 AUG '66

Military Wash bears evidence of 1942 maneuvers



*Aptly named, Military Wash
near Ocotillo Wells is a
graveyard of old shell clips,
projectiles and
other reminders
of war exercises conducted
in the area 47 years ago.*

State Park Ranger

*Jeri Zemon points out
remains of two old bunkers
standing like huge globs of
cement dropped from above
on the desert landscape.*

*Men were trained here for
desert warfare to be waged
in far away North Africa
against German troops led
by Field Marshal Rommel.*

Photo by Minnie Surles.

Borrego Sun
23 NOV '89

By Minnie Surles

In 1942 when military forces were training for desert warfare in what is now Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Ranger Jeri Zemon was yet to be born.

However, this young Ranger can quickly guide you on the easiest and shortest route to Military Wash, near Ocotillo Wells, where evidence still remains some 47 years later, that extensive war exercises took place in this part of California's vast desert region.

I was on a civilian ride-along with Ranger Zemon and was anxious to see terrain that I had been through at an earlier date, when I had not appreciated what I was seeing. I didn't know the history of the area and I had not bothered to get out of our 4-wheel drive vehicle.

If you scout around on foot in Military Wash, shell clips and projectiles are still to be found. Remains of two old bunkers stand like huge globs of cement dropped from above on the landscape. Railroad tracks and ties believed to have been used here are no longer seen but what is clearly seen is the long narrow strip of land that was cleared of all vegetation for the tracks.

According to Ranger Fred Jee who once had Military Wash as part of his patrol area, the railway targets may have been stationary or they may have been rigged on a short piece of isolated track so that they might be moved back and forth presenting moving targets for the tanks.

An interesting bit of information, that Ranger Jee offers, is that still discernable in the area are straight lines of nails remaining from large stacks of wooden boxes left by the troops. It is not clear whether they were ration boxes or ammunition boxes, but in either case, the boxes have long since disappeared leaving a few pieces of wood and long lines of rusting nails in perfect formation where they had been placed.

The starkness of land must have made it seem like another planet to many of the fighting men for whom this was their first encounter with such bleak desert country.

Maneuvers were carried on through days as hot and dusty as the men had ever experienced and with nights so dark that only their vehicle lights guided them.

What a far cry this must have been from the peace and quiet that may be enjoyed (well, most of the time) in the desert now.

What was it that happened to cause the U.S. to frantically start training men for desert warfare? Quite simply it was the fact that just a month after the U.S. entered the war, German troops under the command of Field Marshal Rommel started pushing across North Africa toward Egypt, threatening the Suez Canal. British troops were unable to stop the assault. It was evident that U.S. troops would have to engage in a desert campaign.

There was no background for such an engagement in the history of U.S. warfare. General George S. Patton Jr., a relative unknown two-star general at that time, was designated to organize and command a Desert Training Area.

While the center grew to 11 camps and would train over a million men in seven armored divisions, none of Patton's camps was in the Borrego Valley region.

Marine planes from El Centro, Navy planes from Holtville and Army planes from Yuma continuously flew missions over this part of San Diego County.

Targets were floated on the Salton Sea for planes to destroy. The Carrizo Badlands, in the lower part of the park, were so heavily bombed by planes that to this day they remain out-of-bounds to the general public because of possible

unexploded munitions.

Robert S. Begole, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Natural History Association's volunteer archaeologist, is a man who has hiked this park, probably more than any person alive, searching for artifacts. It was Begole who donated to the park the Borrego Archaeology Research Center. The Center houses a variety of fascinating artifacts including military type debris from WWII.

"The Army with its mechanized units made the greatest impact on the landscape," Begole wrote in an article in a recent issue of the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly. "The Navy during the war leased some 640 acres on the east side of Clark Dry Lake for use as an airfield and as a horizontal bombing target area.

The military also leased many acres around the old Borego Hotel in the vicinity of Ocotillo Wells."

Lois von Voigtlander, who still lives in Borrego Springs, wrote about the war years in the valley in a 1971 article in the *Borrego Sun*. "suddenly Borrego came alive with Army and Marine units and the service influence expedited the completion of Yaqui Pass Road." In the article she told of how the wives of the men in training coped with living at a "small desert resort," the forerunner of today's La Casa del Zorro Resort Hotel.

Army tanks rumbled through the valley relentlessly. The Ensign Ranch, which encompasses the area now known as Club Circle Resort, was designated a Marine outpost to train recruits slated for duty in the northern deserts of Africa.

One could not find any better informed residents on what it was like to live in Borrego Valley during WWII than Bernice and Tom Davis. Tom was employed by the Ensign Ranch and they lived there when it was being used by U.S. military troops in 1942.

The Davis family has an old map that shows in detail the buildings that were used by the military.

Tom and Bernice experienced first hand the excitement and confusion that the troops generated. Tom Davis recalls how the 29th Army Engineers camped kitty-cornered from where the Elementary School is now.

"In those days not many of the roads in Borrego Valley were more than dirt lanes. The Army Engineers in conjunction with the county oiled most of the roads in the valley. Any surface dirt that was used probably came from the Ensign Ranch and our Number One Well furnished the water that was needed by the military," explained Davis.

Things did not always go smoothly while the ranch was hosting the troops. An Aircraft Searchlight Group was close-by the Davis home. Davis recalls "When fox holes were dug in our date groves we protested to the officer in charge and the digging stopped." The men were then directed to near-by hills to dig their fox holes but disaster awaited some of them.

Whoever was in charge of the men obviously knew little about what it takes to survive in arid desert lands. They were rationed out only a quart of water per man for a 24 hour shift. Fifty of the men had to be sent back to San Diego because they couldn't take it, according to Davis.

In 1943, Marines from San Diego set-up a Motor Transport Camp in Borrego Valley and surrounding areas. They had found a perfect place to practice "black-out" driving.

The driver trainees came to the valley in groups of 100. Every Thursday the drivers were given a night-driving test. If they passed they could return to San Diego and "civilization."

The house where the Davises lived on the Ensign Ranch, and where they still live today, was literally surrounded by Troop activities. During this time headquarters for one detachment was just a stone's throw from their front door and tent houses the troops lived in were close-by.

One time a bulldozer was brought in to make a swimming pool for the men. Before the pool could be cemented the outfit got their orders to leave. "Mr. Ensign decided that the ranch could use a fish pond so he just filled the excavation with water," Davis said.

The granary on the ranch was used for Saturday night dances for the service men. "Girls came down from Julian and a few local girls attended the dances," Bernice Davis remembers.

Whenever planes flew at tree top level over the ranch it was very annoying. The noise scared the cows so much that they frequently stampeded and cut their udders on the barbed wire fences.

Davis remembers when a plane out of the Clark Dry Lake area crashed and wasn't found for a period of time. The parents of one of the flyers rented pack horses from the ranch to search for the downed plane with no luck.

The commanding officer, who had been absent at the time the plane went down returned and from the air sighted the wrecked plane on the sloped of Rabbit Peak north of Borrego Valley. The two flyers did not survive the crash.

When you listen to Bernice and Tom Davis talk about when the Ensign Ranch was used for a training ground for Uncle Sam you know why they remember those days so vividly.

Lorretta Laag, long time resident of Borrego, recalls the family's homestead land was taken over during the war by the military. (The now deserted homestead remains near a grove of Tamarisk trees, east of La Casa del Zorro Resort, near the Borrego Sink.)

Long after the troops had left their land Laag recalls that the family found all sorts of things that were left by the men in training.

Throughout the most desolate and remote parts of the desert tanks and jeeps streamed along the old Truckhaven Trail. Highway S-22 was not in existence yet. At times traffic became so congested that it was necessary to use Military Police to do nothing but direct the massive mess of military vehicles that roared up and down Truckhaven Trail to and from the Salton Sea.

From time to time men that once trained in this part of the desert return with their families to show them where they once were stationed in the middle of what General George S. Patton Jr. once described as ... "The Place God Forgot."

(If you are interested in learning more about Patton's role in training men for desert warfare be sure to visit the new General Patton Memorial Museum. It is located in Chiriaco Summit, CA — Interstate 10 east of Indio.)

Activities Of World War II Stir Borrego With Marine, Army Units Training Here

Editor's Note: The lively history of present-day La Casa del Zorro, which includes the founding of Burks Ranch and The Desert Lodge, is recalled in this last article in a series by subscriber Noel Crickmer, who owned and operated the Lodge.

By LOIS von VOIGTLANDER

The Noel Crickmers planned to operate The Desert Lodge resort as a winter business and keep summers free for travel and recreation when they opened up in 1939.

But Dec. 7, 1941, changed many plans of many persons, including those of the Crickmers. Immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, the few employes at the Lodge left thinking there would be little business until after the war.

Suddenly, Borrego came alive with Army and Marine units. Service influence expedited the completion of Yaqui Road. The Ensign Ranch, where Borrego Springs Park is now, was designated a Marine outpost to train recruits, slated for duty in the northern deserts of Africa.

In Borrego they learned to drive under desert conditions at nighttime without lights.

Army tank destroyer units from New Mexico rolled into the valley. The Lodge was swamped with soldiers, their families and mounds of luggage. Built to accommodate 18 guests at the most, the Lodge was trying to squeeze in from 30 to 40.

No one cared how crowded it became as long as families could be together a few more days or hours. One night Crickmer and a guest slept on kitchen chairs after giving up their beds to tired, bewildered military wives.

Rationing and the OPA (Office of Price Administration) came into being. The Crickmers were able to serve staggered meals for guests by using ration stamps on hand. Then the stamp allotment was cut

in half, necessitating drastic revisions.

Guests, who still came when they could, brought in cigarettes, candy and cokes for soldiers until the Lodge was able to obtain a special permit to purchase such items.

Kitchen help was hard to come by. Mrs. Crickmer baked fresh bread three times a day. The Desert Lodge's source of milk, cream and butter — Bessie, the cow — was indispensable. Sometimes the Ensign Ranch could help with dairy products. A friendly merchant in Westmorland assisted when possible and when Ranchita ranchers butchered, fresh beef was available.

With help from desert friends the Lodge subsisted.

Two units of anti-aircraft units from Camp Callam near I Jolla arrived in the desert to train each week. In between times, clean-up squads arrived. They brought their own lunches but found the amount of food inadequate. They, too, found their way to the Crickmers' doorstep. Guests sometimes brought in extra rations to help out.

Executives from the aircraft industry arrived as did professional people hard pressed in a war-oriented society.

To conserve fuel, the Lodge owners closed down the lighting system at 10 p.m. Guests who wished to stay up later did so with good grace, merriment and with the help of candles and kerosene lamps.

Soon P-38 planes were roaring and diving overhead on desert practice missions. Two pilots who crashed over Clark Dry Lake never went home.

As the war continued, maintenance problems became acute. Nothing was ever thrown away, not even bailing wire. It was a long haul to the outside for food and supplies and only an "A" card for gas was made available for the Lodge.

Sometimes friends donated gas



THANKSGIVING ALL YEAR — A bumper crop of turkeys was grown in Borrego Springs during the war years on the Roy F. Ensign Ranch. As many as 4,000 were fed at a time.

Borrego Sun
28 AUG '71

or coupons. One couple, the Walter Treptes, who came often to the Lodge, helped solve the transportation problem.

Mrs. Trepte, a volunteer Gray Lady, needed a larger car. She traded her sedan for the Crickmers' station wagon and tossed in a cement mixer with a five-horse power engine into the deal. The mixer was worth its weight in gold, because by using it as a gasoline requirement the Lodge was able to operate its vehicles with a narrow margin of safety.

Later, the cement mixer was used to help build two of Borrego's first motels.

As the war years drew to a close more visitors and realtors became interested in the valley. Some who had learned to enjoy the desert during the war returned.

There was talk of an agricultural future. Sam Fortiner had already begun to grow gladiolus.

The face and pace of Borrego began perceptively to change. Crickmers subdivided part of The Desert Lodge property and named the new section "Rancho Borrego."

In 1947, Di Giorgio Corp. moved in. Needing temporary housing for workers, it leased the Lodge for six months until its own buildings were completed.

"Residents began to note billowing clouds of desert dust that swirled as far as the Julian hills," Crickmer said.

Bulldozers were converting carpets of purple spring verbena beds into furrowed fields and sites for warehouses.

Regretfully, the Crickmers decided to sell the Lodge. The purchaser was A. A. Burnand Jr. Burnand family members managed the Lodge until it was purchased by James S. Copley in 1960 and it was renamed La Casa del Zorro.

Meanwhile, the Crickmers had purchased Tub Canyon Ranch from Fred Lanz. There they created a small guest accommodation.

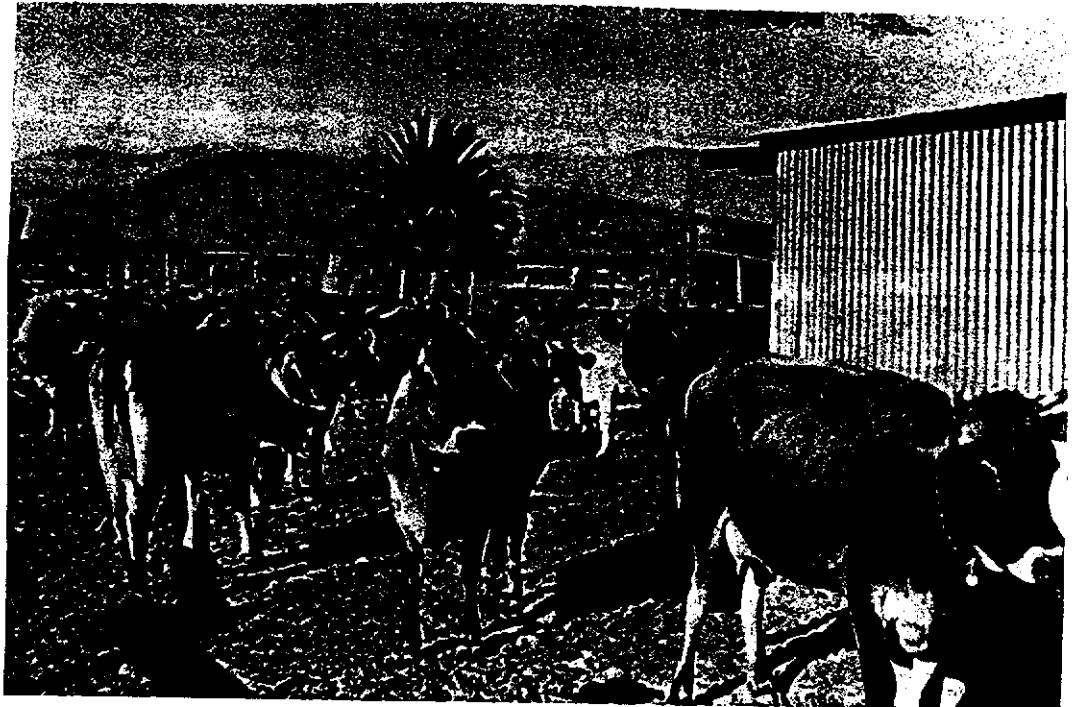
One morning shortly after the Crickmers had moved in, Crickmer recalls, someone drove into the yard from the Lodge requesting Crickmer to come and rescue them from Towser, the dog.

Towser, born on the property and guarding it for all his years, was not about to permit new owners access to the place, deed or no deed.

Looking over the lush grounds that enhance La Casa del Zorro today, Crickmer remarked, "We were often asked why we didn't try to grow more flowers around the place.

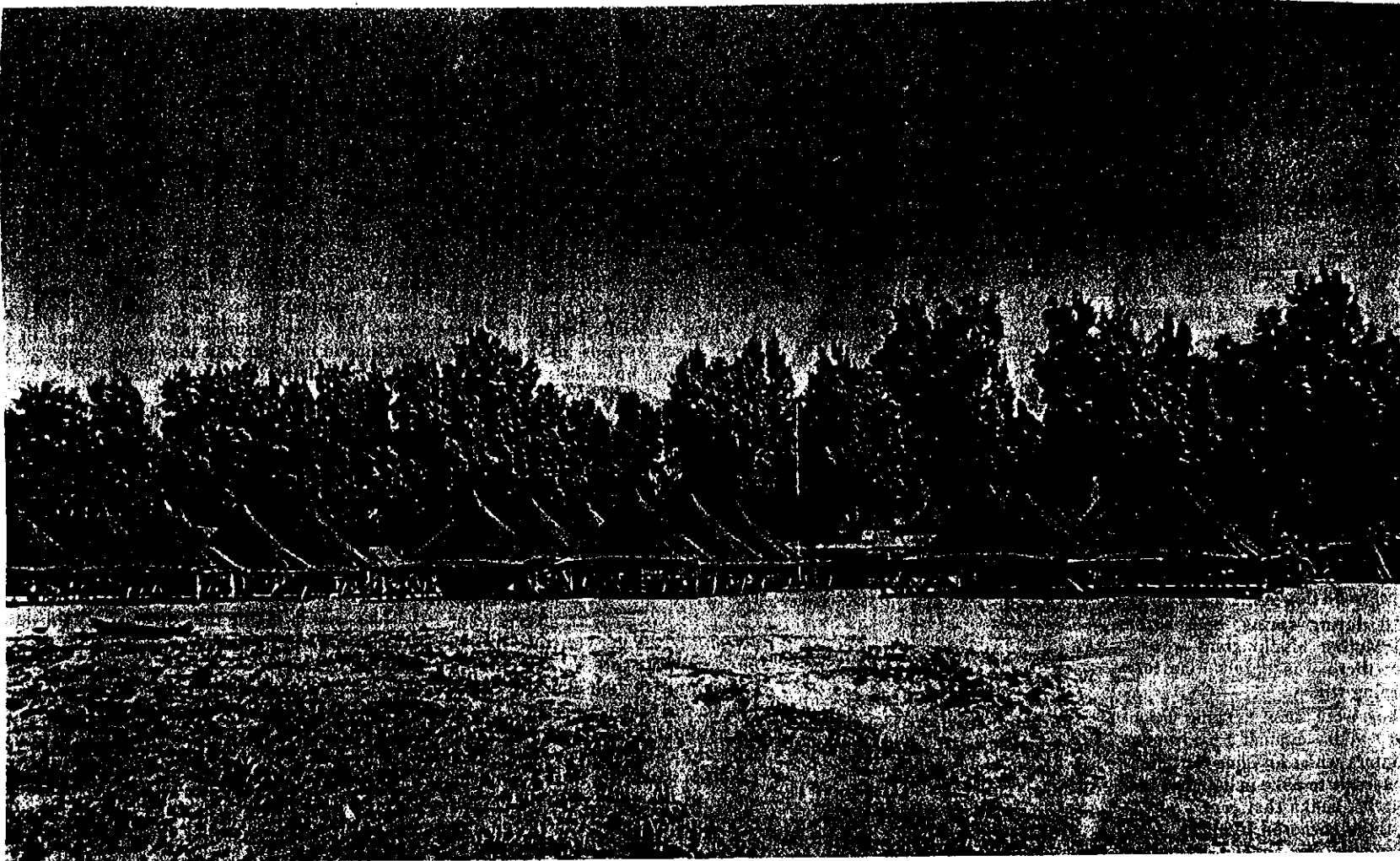
"Once we did try a lawn. The jack rabbits nibbled one side and the dogs cavorted on the other. We did have a vegetable garden and constructed a living Ocotillo fence which blossomed in spring. We believed the desert should remain unsullied, with the natural charm that is God given.

"And, even in those days," Crickmer continued, his face crinkling ruefully, "visitors from Palm Springs used to drive over and raid our desert for barrel cacti, especially the tall six foot ones."



LOCALLY SUPPLIED MILK — A herd of about 25 milk cows were kept on the Ensign Ranch at one time. Crops like cotton, milo,

alfalfa, and dates were also grown in the agriculture-rich valley, which is fed by a large, natural underground watering system.



CAMP ENSIGN IN BORREGO – Marine and Army units trained in Borrego during World War II so they could get the feel of the desert before going to sandy beaches and terrain of North

Africa. Up to 2,000 underwent training here at the same time. The military activity helped put Borrego on the map, including the finishing of Yaqui Pass Road.

Union 1/16/43
Camp Ensign
Flag Raised

The Marines have raised another flag—this time in dedication ceremonies of Camp Ensign near Borrego, the most distant outpost of the San Diego marine corps base. Camp Ensign is on the edge of the Colorado desert. Here motor transport drivers and mechanics get training under rugged field conditions.

In simple, time-honored ceremonies Lt. Col. Joseph M. Swinnerton, U.S.M.C., commanding base service battalion, hoisted Old Glory to the top of the 30-foot home-made pole. Standing by was Maj. Ralph L. Schiesswohl, U.S.M.C., commanding the motor transport school, and Lt. Col. Theodore H. Cartwright, U.S. M.C.

"The best spot of color here," said Maj. Schiesswohl, looking at the Stars and Stripes flying lazily from the mast.

"Or at any other place," replied Lt. Col. Swinnerton who has served with the marines in more places than today's "boots" have read about.

More than 100 drivers from the school, clad in working dungarees, stopped work long enough to line up for the ceremony. Shortly afterward they were away on a convoy over the trailless acres of the Colorado desert.

Tom and Bernice Davis oldest Borrego residents

By Helens L'Hommedieu

It was on Friday the 13th that Tom Davis came to Borrego Springs — 49 years ago, and although he admits that life was challenging back in the 1930s and '40s, he really never seriously thought of living anywhere else. He and his wife are the oldest continuous residents of Borrego.

He arrived in the valley on November 13, 1936 to work at De Anza Ranch, owned by A. A. Burnand, Jr., and where his brother was foreman. In June, 1937, he brought his new bride, Bernice, to Borrego from Wisner, Nebraska.

He worked at that ranch until April 1939, levelling the ground and planting 50-60 acres of grapes. In the years following, he worked at other ranches around the valley, such as the Fred Lanz farm in Tub Canyon, where the major crops were tomatoes, and egg-plant. Later that year he went to work for the Ensign Ranch.

The Ensigns, brothers Paul and Roy, had an extensive agricultural operation in the valley, which included a date garden — which was to become a major crop. They also had a small herd of Jersey cows, hogs, and many acres planted in alfalfa and milo (maize for feed).

Davis said that the Ensigns had 20 acres in cotton in 1937, but had to import pickers from Brawley, and they soon gave this up for more profitable crops.

The ranch became very important in the training of troops destined to fight in the deserts of North Africa in World War II. Truck drivers learned how to drive in sand, in the dark, and how to keep their vehicles moving with on-the-spot makeshift repairs, Davis recalled. "Nothing was thrown away — everything was recycled," he said. This period brought the first paved road in to the valley.

The crops were important at this time — turkeys, milk from the herd of dairy cows that produced 30-40 gallons a day, hogs, dates, alfalfa and milo. A 120-volt generator provided power for the farm. A diesel-powered pump provided the water from the wells.

The dairy remained in operation until 1946, Davis said, when the cows were sold off because it was too hard to get milkers. The milk was of top quality, he said. It was trucked to a Julian icehouse where it was picked up by a San Diego dairy, taken to the city plant and pasteurized. Bernice Davis

said she helped strip the cows and washed the separators and machines in the dairy.

The first power lines into the valley in 1945, Davis said, brought many changes. In the spring of 1946, he and Bernice had their first swamp cooler. Their heat in the winter was butane — but now they use wood. They had their first telephone in 1947.

The Ensign brothers, Roy and Paul, and their father, O. H. Ensign, acquired 160 acres in 1926, under the Desert Land Act. A well was drilled and a small orchard started to prove or hold the claim. Additional land was purchased from the Borrego Fruitlands Association. Their #1 well, was reputed to be the first really good well in the valley, with a yield of 1,000 gallons a minute. It served their ranch and provided for other landowners who had not yet gotten water, as well as serving the entire military camp during World War II.

Davis recalled the date garden started by the Ensigns, which had the first harvest before he came to work there, in 1939. The crop was small because the palms were young. In 1942, there was a crop of about 40,000 lbs., and by 1945, there were 90,000 lbs. brought to market. A date palm can live 200 years and bear fruit for 100 years, growers say.

A date shop was opened on Borrego Valley Road in the 1950s, and Davis said it was a popular stop for residents, as well as for many former Marines who trained in the valley during the war and returned to see how the area had changed. Dates were sold, as well as date malts and confections. Dates were packed and shipped from the building, which today is used as the business office of the Borrego Springs Park Community Services District.

Davis is the general manager and secretary of the Community Services District, and has operated the water system and sewer plant for 18 years. Casey Rodriguez operates the plant at present. The system serves the homes and condominiums at Club Circle.

Ensign Ranch was sold to Patrick Nolan in 1957 and then to Irving Kahn in 1963. In 1964, Carlos Tavares took over the property, until it eventually was sold to Federated Development Corporation, which still has plans "in the works" for additional development of the remaining property.

The Davises live in a house owned by Federated, which they have occupied



Bernice and Tom Davis outside their Borrego Springs Park home.

since 1963. They have four sons, Richard of Oceanside; Tom Jr., a landscaper in the Napa Valley; Gary of Forest Ranch and Glenn of Chico, and 10 grandchildren. Richard and Tom Jr., were graduates of Julian High School and Gary and Glenn graduated from Borrego High School.

Bernice Davis worked for the Post Office from 1963 until 1977 as a part-time clerk. "I got \$2.16 an hour, when I started," she said.

She said that her husband was president of the Borrego Homesteaders

Chamber of Commerce and they had many good times in those early days with community potlucks and dances. She served as president of the Parent-Teacher Club. They have a lot of old friends in the area, but they also number among their friends many of the relative "newcomers" to the valley.

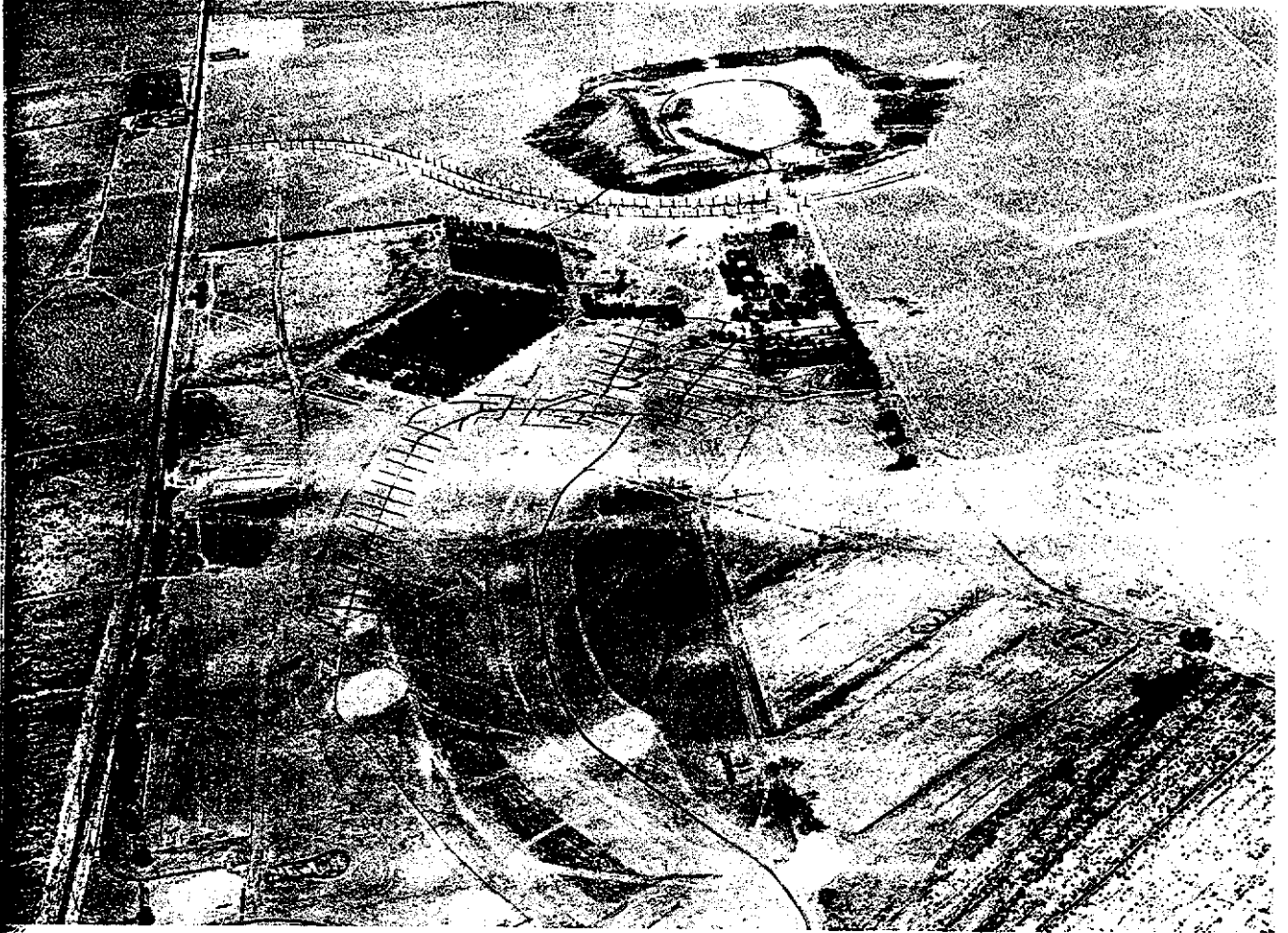
Borrego Sun

Vol. X, No. 9

July, 1963, Borrego Springs, California

10c Per Copy

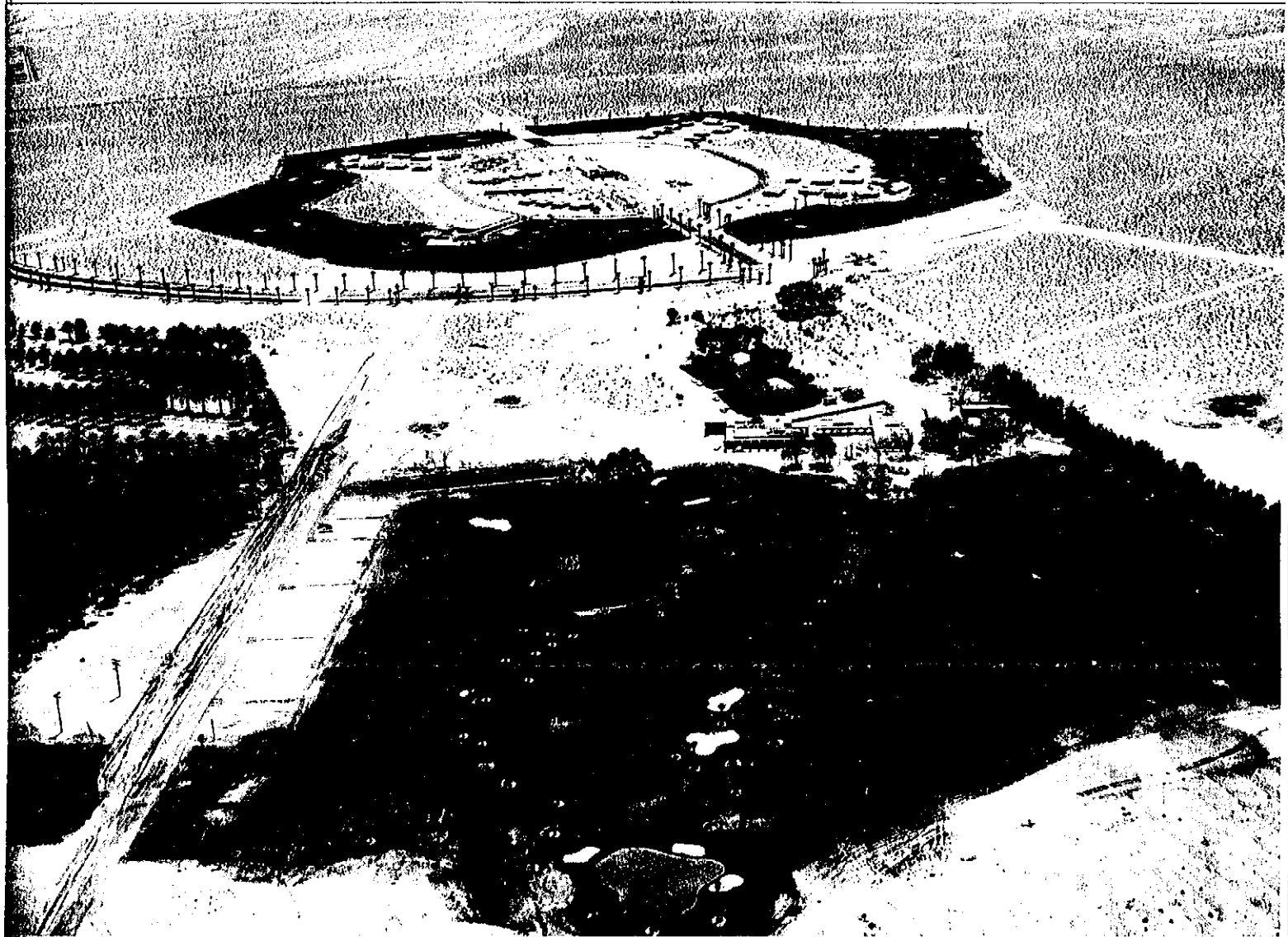
ENSIGN RANCH SHAPES UP



PROGRESS REPORT — Aerial view taken late last month shows Borrego Springs Park development as it looks today. Stretching from center to left foreground is graded area for nine holes of the regulation golf course. Dark lines are mains and laterals for sprinkler system now being installed. In

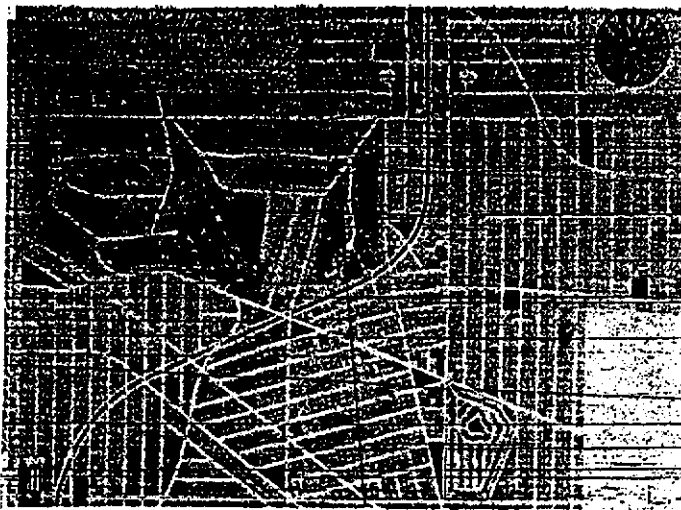
center background is par 3 course which already has been seeded. Palm trees transplanted from Ensign ranch date grove (dark area) line Tilting drive from Borrego Valley road (left) into heart of development. First homes will be constructed around and within the par 3 course.

BORREGO SUN
AUGUST 1964



NEW COMMUNITY—Nearing readiness for a major opening this fall is the Borrego Springs Park community shown in this recent aerial photograph. First nine holes of the regulation course is in foreground with clubhouse in center of picture.

At rear is par 3 course where 32 homes have been built and more than 100 condominium apartments are either complete or under construction. Second nine of regulation course is scheduled to be started this fall.



PROPOSED IN BORREGO: A senior citizens community with an eventual 4,000 home sites around an 18-hole golf course is planned on the 1,120-acre Ensign Ranch, purchased last week by John Anderson, San Diego land developer and builder. This is a subdivision sketch of the first 320 acres.

Plan Sunland City

Giant Unit For Seniors Set At Borrego

Plans for the proposed development of a senior citizens community on the Borrego Valley desert floor to be known as Sunland City were announced yesterday by John W. Anderson, a San Diego land developer and home builder, who has purchased the 1,120-acre Ensign Ranch.

Anderson paid a reported \$1,450,000 for the ranch, one of the first agricultural developments in Borrego and the only commercial date farm in San Diego County. The purchase was made from a group of owners represented by Jack Russell and Patrick Nolan of Borrego Springs.

According to Anderson, it will be six to eight months before any residential construction may be started. Eventually planned is a development of 4,000 home sites around an 18-hole golf course.

First construction will be the golf course, Anderson said. The first phase of the development will cover 320 acres and provide, in addition to the golf course, about 500 home sites. Model houses will be erected and the homes built as sales are made.

Anderson said he anticipates the entire acreage may be developed over a 10-year period. Ninety acres of the ranch will be reserved as commercial property for shopping centers, apartment houses, motels and trailer courts.

The development is planned in units of about 175 homes, each unit to contain its own community center building and recreational facilities which will include a swimming pool and game areas with horse-shoe, tennis and shuffle-board courts and bowling greens. These will be turned over to the residents to operate, Anderson said.

According to present proposals, the home sales will be limited to retired families 50 years or older who have no children under age 18. A variety of easy financ-

ing plans will be available, Anderson said.

The homes are planned for year-around living, with heat pump systems which will both air-condition the houses in the summer and heat them in the winter.

Anderson said there are now approximately 6,000 date palms on the property, which will be transplanted for ornamental purposes. No commercial production is planned. Alfalfa, lettuce, cotton and other crops have been grown on the ranch.

Anderson said a water company will be formed to serve the community, using the three commercial wells on the property, and a sewer system — Borrego's first — will be constructed.

Lots will be approximately 70 by 100 feet and will sell for between \$2,150 and \$3,400. Home prices will range from \$13,000 to \$16,000, he said.

The transaction for the ranch was placed in escrow last week with Union Title Insurance Co. James Murphy, manager of the Clair

W. Burgenor Co. office in Borrego represented both parties in the sale.

The Ensign Ranch was started in 1926 when O. H. Ensign and his son, Paul Roy, purchased 160 acres under the Desert Land Act and drilled their first well. This well with a capacity of 1,000 gallons a minute is still producing.

As Camp Ensign, the ranch served as a training ground for U. S. Marines during the war.

The ranch, expanded to 1,160 acres, was purchased by Patrick Nolan of Detroit in 1937. Nolan began rehabilitating the date grove which had not been worked or harvested for several years.

All but 40 acres of Nolan's original purchase are included in the sale to Anderson.

Russell, another Borrego rancher who came there from Alberta, Canada, and other Canadians acquired an interest in the ranch about two years ago.

SAN DIEGO UNION
7 MAY 1961

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
FOR THE FORMER
CAMP ENSIGN
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
PROJECT NUMBER: JO9CA701102

APPENDIX I

INTERVIEWS

APPENDIX I

INTERVIEWS

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- I-2 Conversation with Frederick Jee dated 1/27/97
- I-3 Conversation with Mark Jorgenson dated 1/27/97
- I-4 Conversation with Charles Hahn dated 1/27/97
- I-5 Conversation with Andrew Yatsko dated 2/21/97
- I-6 Conversation with John Cameron dated 1/29/97
- I-7 Conversation with Steve Sawyer dated 1/27/97

CONVERSATION RECORD	TIME 1225	DATE 30 JAN 97
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TYPE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VISIT	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE
		<input type="checkbox"/> INCOMING
		<input type="checkbox"/> OUTGOING

NAME OF PERSON CONTACT WITH Kenneth A. Smith	ORGANIZATION P.O. Box 252 Borrego Springs, CA	TELEPHONE NO. (619) 767-3303
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SUBJECT Camp/Ranch Ensign

SUMMARY
Mr. Kent Smith was interviewed concerning his knowledge of possible ordnance, explosives, or HTRW presence on lands associated with the former Camp/Ranch Ensign. Kent was a park ranger at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park from 1978-91.

He was familiar with OE being used in various areas such as Military Wash and the Badlands. He said he had found a smattering of projectiles (.50 cal.). He had also found HE bombs that was reported to the Navy and destroyed by them. He said the target areas in the park were full of scrap metal and old bombed out military vehicles. Kent had no knowledge of any type of CWM training taking place in the area. He said he had heard of Marines being stationed at Camp Ensign but was unaware of any reports of OE being found in or around Camp Ensign. He had a slide of a tank parked next to a date palm tree. He said that the Ensign Ranch was the only place in the area growing date palms. Kent did not have any details or background information on the tank in the slide.

He also provided several referrals.

ACTION REQUIRED None

ACTION TAKEN None

NAME OF PERSON DOCUMENTING CONVERSATION Eric A. Aubrey	ORGANIZATION CENCR-ED-DO	TELEPHONE NUMBER 309-794-6016
SIGNATURE <i>Eric A. Aubrey</i>	TITLE QASAS	DATE 30 JAN 97

CONVERSATION RECORD	TIME 0915	DATE 27 JAN 97
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TYPE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VISIT	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE
		<input type="checkbox"/> INCOMING
		<input type="checkbox"/> OUTGOING

NAME OF PERSON CONTACT WITH Frederick Jee	ORGANIZATION 200 Palm Canyon Dr. Borrego Springs, CA	TELEPHONE NO. (619) 767-5311
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SUBJECT
Camp Ensign

SUMMARY
Mr. Frederick Jee was interviewed concerning his knowledge of possible ordnance, explosives, or HTRW presence on lands associated with the former Camp/Ranch Ensign. Fred has been a park ranger at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park since 1975.

He is familiar with some of the OE related sites on the state park such as Military Wash and Clark's Lake. He is also knowledgeable about archaeological sites such as villages, burial grounds, tool-making sites and sleeping sites used by Indians on the state park. Fred said there are no local records or logs of past park activities/incidents documented by park rangers.

He has no knowledge of any CWM training that took place in the area, just the use of conventional OE items.. He has no knowledge of any OE activities that took place at Camp/Ranch Ensign. He provided some referrals.

ACTION REQUIRED
None

ACTION TAKEN
None

NAME OF PERSON DOCUMENTING CONVERSATION Eric A. Aubrey	ORGANIZATION CENCR-ED-DO	TELEPHONE NUMBER 309-794-6016
SIGNATURE <i>Eric A. Aubrey</i>	TITLE QASAS	DATE 27 JAN 97

CONVERSATION RECORD	TIME 1030	DATE 27 JAN 97
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TYPE

VISIT CONFERENCE

TELEPHONE
INCOMING
OUTGOING

NAME OF PERSON CONTACT WITH Mark Jorgenson	ORGANIZATION 200 Palm Canyon Dr. Borrego Springs, CA	TELEPHONE NO. (619) 767-5311
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SUBJECT
Former Camp/Ranch Ensign

SUMMARY

Mark Jorgenson was interviewed concerning his knowledge of possible ordnance, explosives, or HTRW presence on lands associated with the former Camp/Ranch Ensign. Mark is a resource ecologist for State of California, Department of Parks & Recreation, at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

He has some knowledge of OE use on the state park. He has no knowledge of any CWM use in the area. Mark did not have any relevant knowledge of OE activities associated with Camp/Ranch Ensign. He provided several referrals.

ACTION REQUIRED
None

ACTION TAKEN
None

NAME OF PERSON DOCUMENTING CONVERSATION Eric A. Aubrey	ORGANIZATION CENCR-ED-DO	TELEPHONE NUMBER 309-794-6016
SIGNATURE <i>Eric A. Aubrey</i>	TITLE QASAS	DATE 27 JAN 97

CONVERSATION RECORD	TIME 0800	DATE 27 JAN 97
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TYPE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VISIT	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE
		<input type="checkbox"/> INCOMING
		<input type="checkbox"/> OUTGOING

NAME OF PERSON CONTACT WITH Charles K. Hahn	ORGANIZATION San Diego County Sheriff's Dept.	TELEPHONE NO. (619) 767-5656
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SUBJECT Former Camp/Ranch Ensign
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SUMMARY
Deputy Sheriff Charles Hahn was interviewed concerning his knowledge of possible ordnance, explosives, or HTRW presence on areas associated with the former Camp/Ranch Ensign. He has been assigned to Borrego Springs for the past 6 years. He is unaware of any OE related accidents or incidents at Camp Ensign or in the area. Mr. Hahn has no knowledge of any CWM training occurring in the area. He provided some referrals.

ACTION REQUIRED None

ACTION TAKEN None

NAME OF PERSON DOCUMENTING CONVERSATION Eric A. Aubrey	ORGANIZATION CENCR-ED-DO	TELEPHONE NUMBER 309-794-6016
SIGNATURE <i>Eric A. Aubrey</i>	TITLE QASAS	DATE 27 JAN 97

CONVERSATION RECORD	TIME 1330	DATE 21 FEB 97
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TYPE		
<input type="checkbox"/> VISIT	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE
		<input type="checkbox"/> INCOMING
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUTGOING

NAME OF PERSON CONTACT WITH Andrew Yatsko	ORGANIZATION Route 1 Coquille, OR 97423	TELEPHONE NO. (541) 347-9865
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SUBJECT Ensign Ranch

SUMMARY
Mr. Andrew Yatsko was interviewed concerning his knowledge of possible ordnance, explosives, or HTRW presence on lands associated with the former Camp Ensign. Andrew was in the Army from September 1942 through February 1946. He was a chaplain's assistant and was stationed at Camp Callan.

He stated that the Hq of the of the AAA battalions that were training in the desert were setup at the Ensign Ranch. He said that the Hq was located in the area of the date palm grove. The Hq included a small field hospital and mess units. Everybody in the Hq was setup in tents, which occasionally had to be moved when the dates were to be irrigated. He said that Mr. Ensign did not let them dig foxholes on the ranch. He also stated that they only occupied a very small portion of the ranch.

He was at the Ensign Ranch on two different occasions for a two-week period in 1943. He doesn't recall any other military units stationed there. Mr. Yatsko can't recall any of the soldiers carrying weapons and said that no live ammo was issued while at the ranch because it wasn't needed for the type of training they were doing. He doesn't recall the military using or having a dumpsite and believes the one there now is post-WW II.

He supported the anti-aircraft artillery units that were in the desert with 40mm and 90mm guns. He said they had half-tracks in their unit but never saw any tanks or tank destroyers. Searchlight batteries made up part of their battalions.

Mr. Yatsko has no knowledge of any OE or CWM activities ever taking place on the Ensign Ranch.

ACTION REQUIRED None

ACTION TAKEN None

NAME OF PERSON DOCUMENTING CONVERSATION Eric A. Aubrey	ORGANIZATION CENCR-ED-DO	TELEPHONE NUMBER 309-794-6016
SIGNATURE <i>Eric A. Aubrey</i>	TITLE QASAS	DATE 21 FEB 97

CONVERSATION RECORD	TIME 0700	DATE 27 JAN 97
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TYPE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VISIT	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE
		<input type="checkbox"/> INCOMING
		<input type="checkbox"/> OUTGOING

NAME OF PERSON CONTACT WITH Steven L. Sawyer	ORGANIZATION Borrego Springs Fire Department B.S., CA 92004	TELEPHONE NO. (619) 767-5436
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SUBJECT Camp/Ranch Ensign

SUMMARY
Mr. Steve Sawyer was interviewed concerning his knowledge of possible ordnance, explosives, or HTRW presence on lands associated with the former Camp Ensign. Steve has been working for the Borrego Springs Fire Department as a fire marshal and arson/bomb investigator since 1983. He has been in Borrego Springs for the past 14 years and been visiting this area for the past 19 years.

He is familiar with the OE contamination from the known impact areas that are located in the vicinity, mostly on Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Steve did recount the findings of 2 MK 23 3-pound practice bombs on a private residential lot in Borrego Springs. However, there were no explosive hazards associated with these practice bombs. He has no knowledge of any injury related accidents resulting from OE encounters. Steve is unaware of any CWM training taking place in the area.

He has no knowledge of any OE reports or findings on Camp Ensign. He did provide several referrals.

ACTION REQUIRED None

ACTION TAKEN None

NAME OF PERSON DOCUMENTING CONVERSATION Eric A. Aubrey	ORGANIZATION CENCR-ED-DO	TELEPHONE NUMBER 309-794-6016
SIGNATURE <i>Eric A. Aubrey</i>	TITLE QASAS	DATE 27 JAN 97

CONVERSATION RECORD	TIME 0830	DATE 22 JAN 97
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TYPE

VISIT CONFERENCE

TELEPHONE
 INCOMING
 OUTGOING

NAME OF PERSON CONTACT WITH Sgt. Conrad A. Grayson	ORGANIZATION San Diego County Sheriff's Department	TELEPHONE NO. (619) 467-4579
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SUBJECT
Camp/Ranch Ensign

SUMMARY
Sgt. Conrad A. Grayson is a member of the Arson/Explosives Unit, San Diego County Sheriff's Department, was interviewed concerning his knowledge of possible ordnance, explosives, or HTRW presence on lands associated with the former Camp Ensign. He has been with the Sheriff's Dept. Arson/Explosives section for 20 years. He is also the chairman of all military/civilian Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) activity in San Diego County.

He is aware of OE presence in various areas of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Most often he deals with the 70th EOD Detachment when called to respond to military ordnance calls. Sgt. Grayson said that he is not aware of any incidents/accidents resulting from ordnance remaining on/removed from the subject sites.

ACTION REQUIRED
None

ACTION TAKEN
None

NAME OF PERSON DOCUMENTING CONVERSATION Eric A. Aubrey	ORGANIZATION CENCR-ED-DO	TELEPHONE NUMBER 309-794-6016
SIGNATURE <i>Eric A. Aubrey</i>	TITLE QASAS	DATE 22 JAN 97

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
FOR THE FORMER
CAMP ENSIGN
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
PROJECT NUMBER: JO9CA701102

APPENDIX J

PRESENT SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

APPENDIX J

PRESENT SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

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- J-3 Looking north across the relatively barren former Camp/Ranch Ensign.
- J-4 Looking south on the site as a large section of land is being cleared and leveled.
- J-5 A future golf course in the making while looking north.
- J-6 Looking south, more cleared area with previously developed homes in the background.
- J-7 Some of the new construction that has taken place on the former Camp/Ranch Ensign.
- J-8 A new resort in development on the old Ensign property.
- J-9 Another view of the development with a former home of the Ensign Ranch on the left.
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- J-16 Looking NE from the SW corner.

J-17 Part of date palm grove that the troops camped near during the World War II era.

J-18 Closeup of a date palm tree with dates.



J-1 Looking east across the former Camp/Ranch Ensign.



J-2 Searching the area for any evidence of OE with a view to the ENE.



J-3 Looking north across the relatively barren former Camp/Ranch Ensign.



J-4 Looking south on the site as a large section of land is being cleared and leveled.



J-5 A future golf course in the making while looking north.



J-6 Looking south, more cleared area with previously developed homes in the background.



J-7 Some of the new construction that has taken place on the former Camp/Ranch Ensign.



J-8 A new resort in development on the old Ensign property.



J-9 Another view of the development with a former home of the Ensign Ranch on the left.



J-10 An old abandoned junkpile that sits on the northern section of the former Ensign Ranch.



J-11 Miscellaneous junk at dumpsite.



J-12 Old car bodies litter the junkpile.



J-13 Looking SE from NW corner of site.



J-14 Possible site of an Ensign house.



J-15 Looking east toward the former landing strip area.



J-16 Looking NE from the SW corner.



J-17 Part of date palm grove that the troops camped near during the World War II era.



J-18 Closeup of a date palm tree with dates.

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
FOR THE FORMER
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APPENDIX K

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

APPENDIX K

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

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K-1 Tank Crew Making a Rest Stop at the Ensign Ranch (B-10 & I-1)



K-1

M3 TANK CREW MAKING A STOP AT THE ENSIGN RANCH CIRCA 1942

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
FOR THE FORMER
CAMP ENSIGN
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
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APPENDIX L

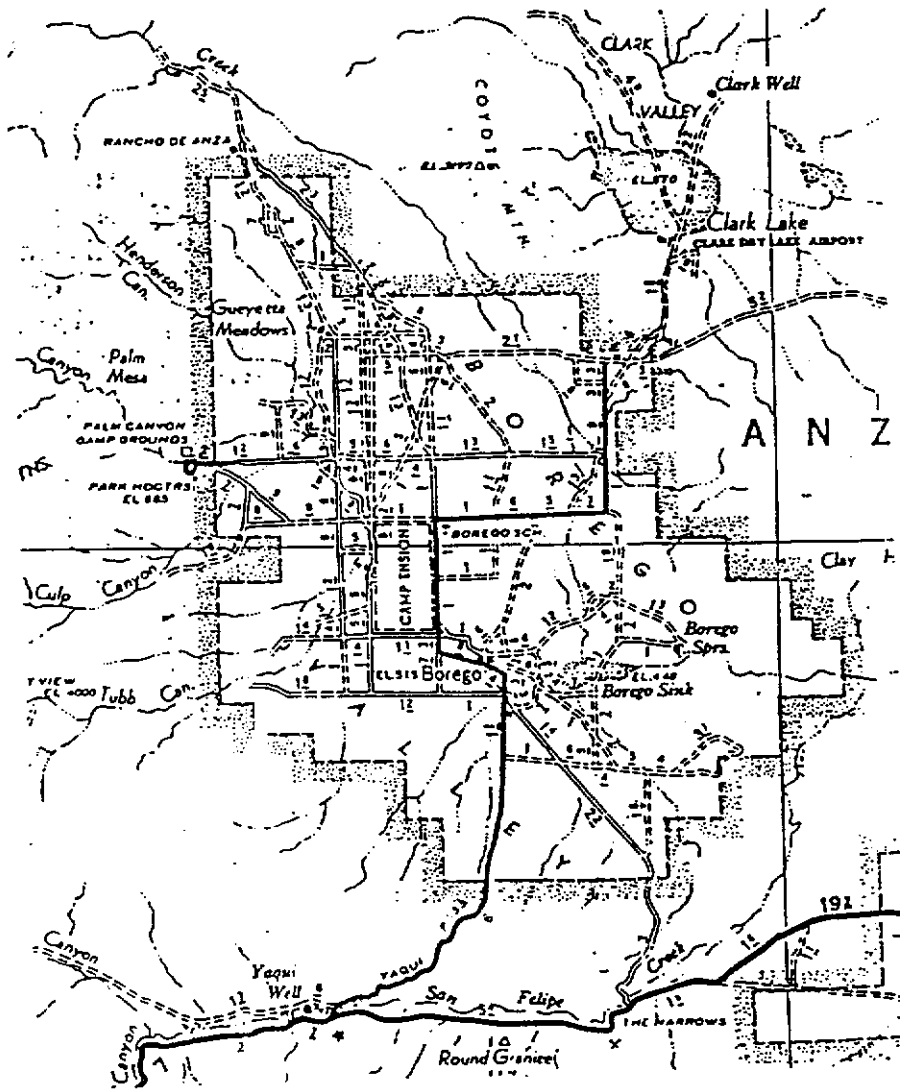
REFERENCE MAPS/DRAWINGS

APPENDIX L

REFERENCE MAPS/DRAWINGS

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L-1 Map, 1943, Armed Forces Road Map of Borrego Valley (B-10)



Credit: Southern California Automobile Club

Corrected to November 22, 1943
Special map for Armed Forces use only

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
FOR THE FORMER
CAMP ENSIGN
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
PROJECT NUMBER: JO9CA701102

APPENDIX M

ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT CORRESPONDENCE

(NOT USED)

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES
ARCHIVES SEARCH REPORT
FOR THE FORMER
CAMP ENSIGN
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
PROJECT NUMBER: JO9CA701102

APPENDIX N

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APPENDIX N

REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

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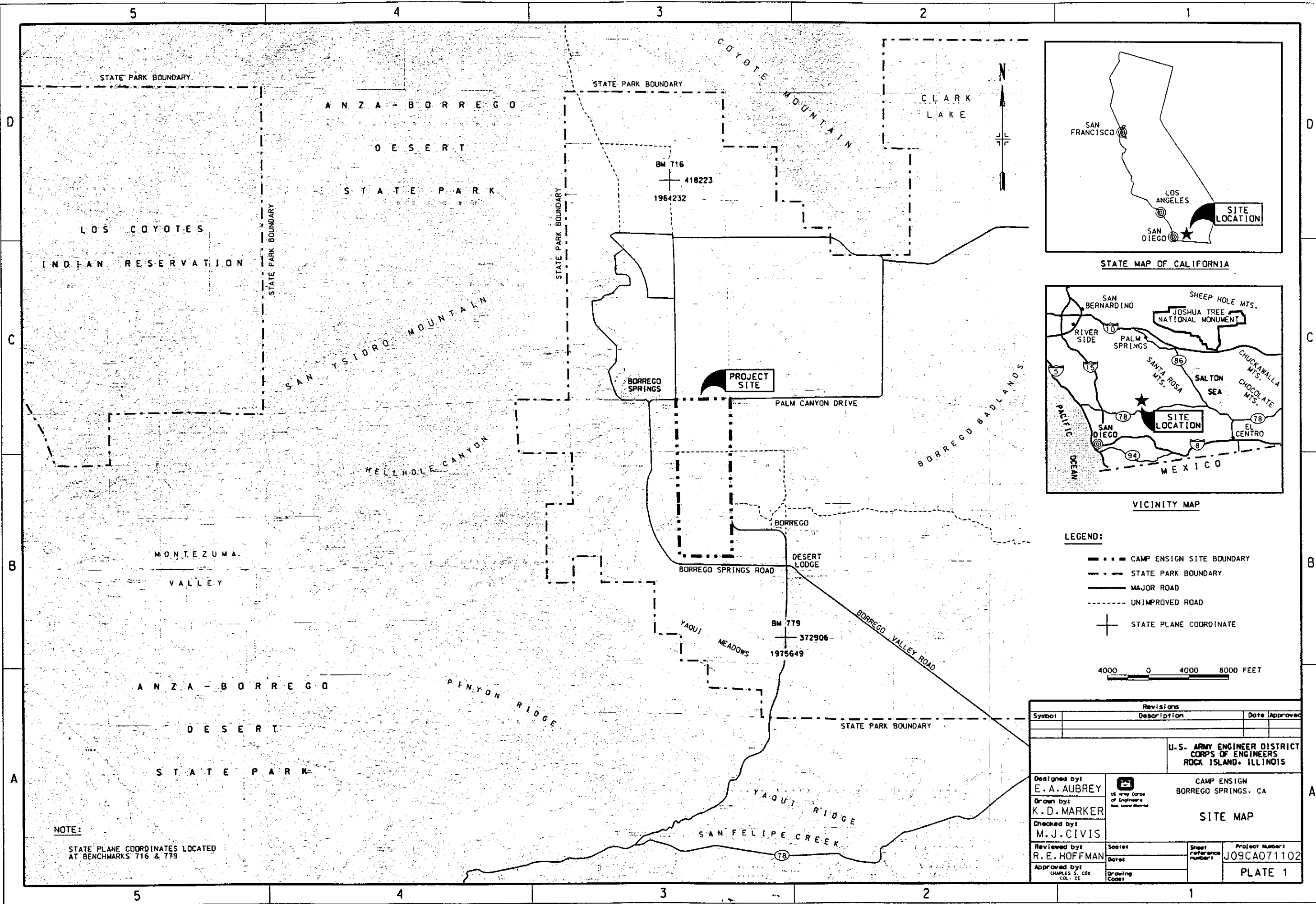
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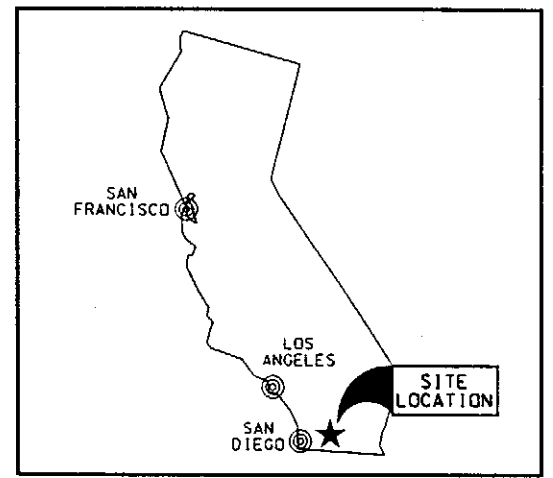
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REPORT PLATES

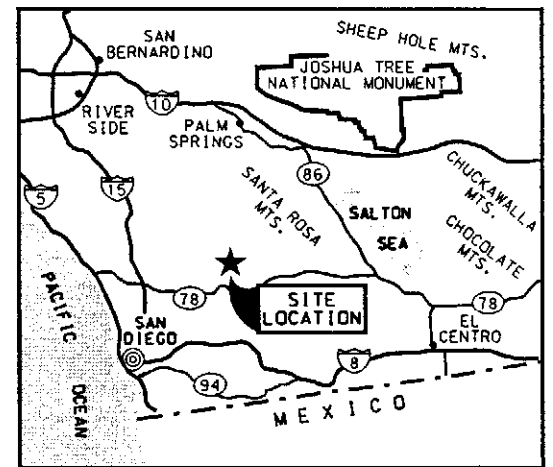
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NOTE:
 STATE PLANE COORDINATES LOCATED
 AT BENCHMARKS 716 & 779



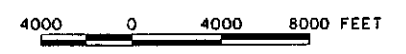
STATE MAP OF CALIFORNIA



VICINITY MAP

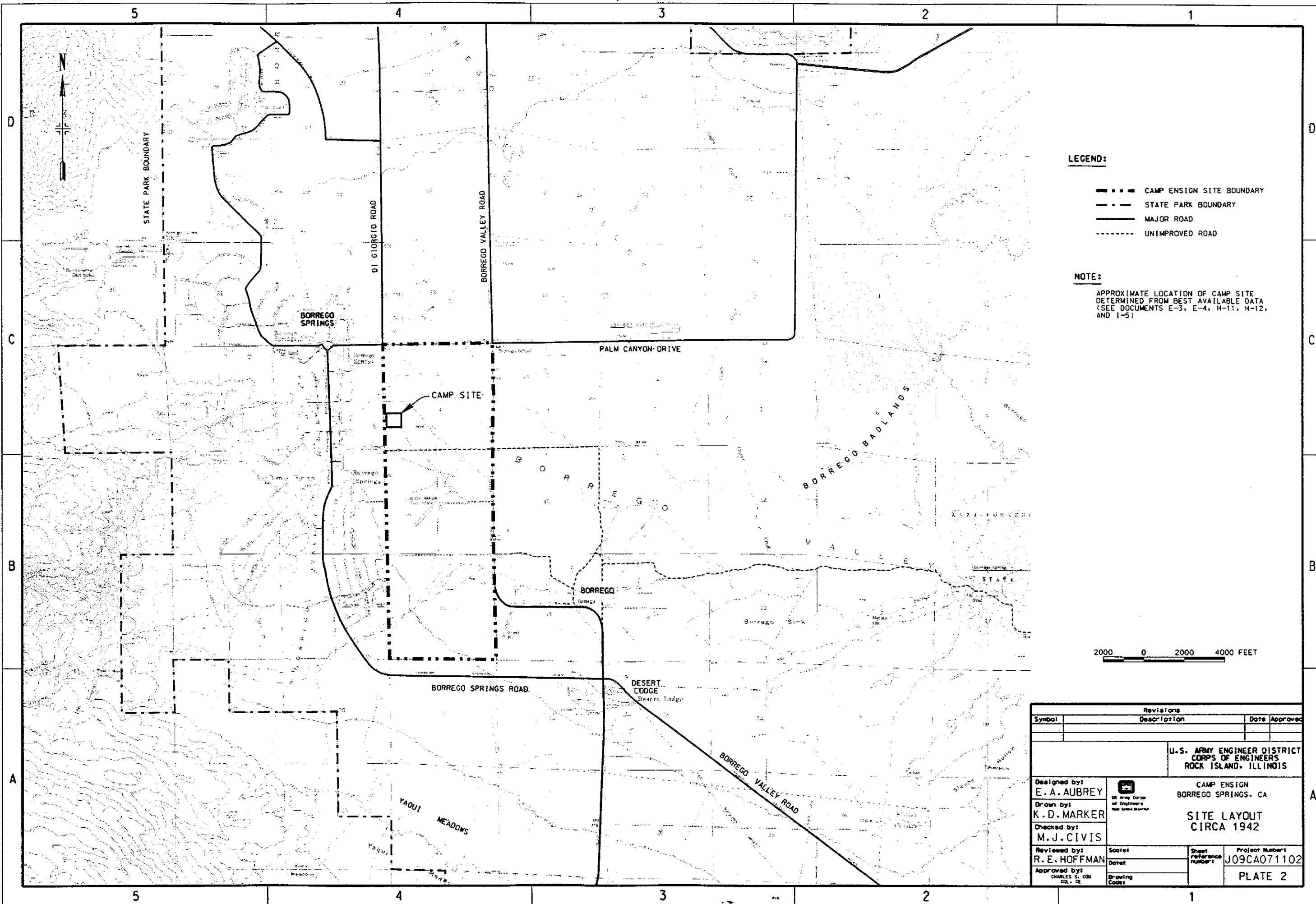
LEGEND:

- CAMP ENSIGN SITE BOUNDARY
- - - STATE PARK BOUNDARY
- == MAJOR ROAD
- UNIMPROVED ROAD
- + STATE PLANE COORDINATE




Revisions		
Symbol	Description	Date Approved
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS		
Designed by E. A. AUBREY	 CAMP ENSIGN BORREGO SPRINGS, CA	SITE MAP
Drawn by K. D. MARKER		
Checked by M. J. CIVIS	Scale:	Sheet reference number:
Reviewed by R. E. HOFFMAN	Date:	Project Number: J09CA071102
Approved by CHARLES S. COX COL. CE	Drawing Code:	PLATE 1

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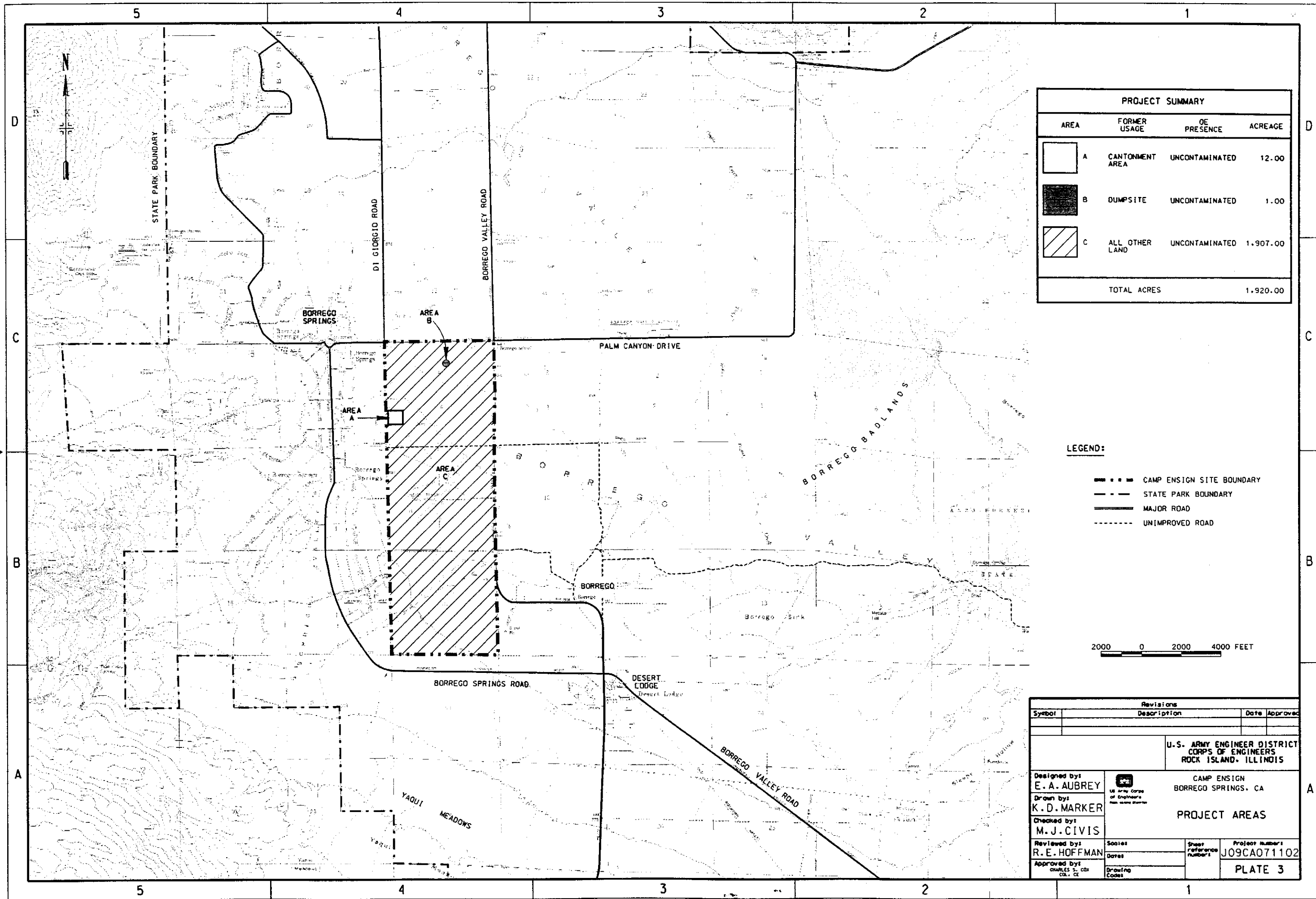


- LEGEND:**
- — — — — CAMP ENSIGN SITE BOUNDARY
 - - - - - STATE PARK BOUNDARY
 - MAJOR ROAD
 - UNIMPROVED ROAD

NOTE:
 APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF CAMP SITE
 DETERMINED FROM BEST AVAILABLE DATA
 (SEE DOCUMENTS E-3, E-4, H-11, H-12,
 AND I-5)

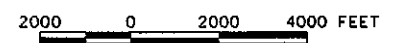
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U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS			
Designed by: E. A. AUBREY	 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District	CAMP ENSIGN BORREGO SPRINGS, CA	
Drawn by: K. D. MARKER		SITE LAYOUT CIRCA 1942	
Checked by: M. J. CIVIS	Reviewed by: R. E. HOFFMAN	Scale:	Sheet reference number: J09CA071102
Approved by: CHARLES S. COX COL - CE	Drawing Code:	Date:	Project Number: PLATE 2

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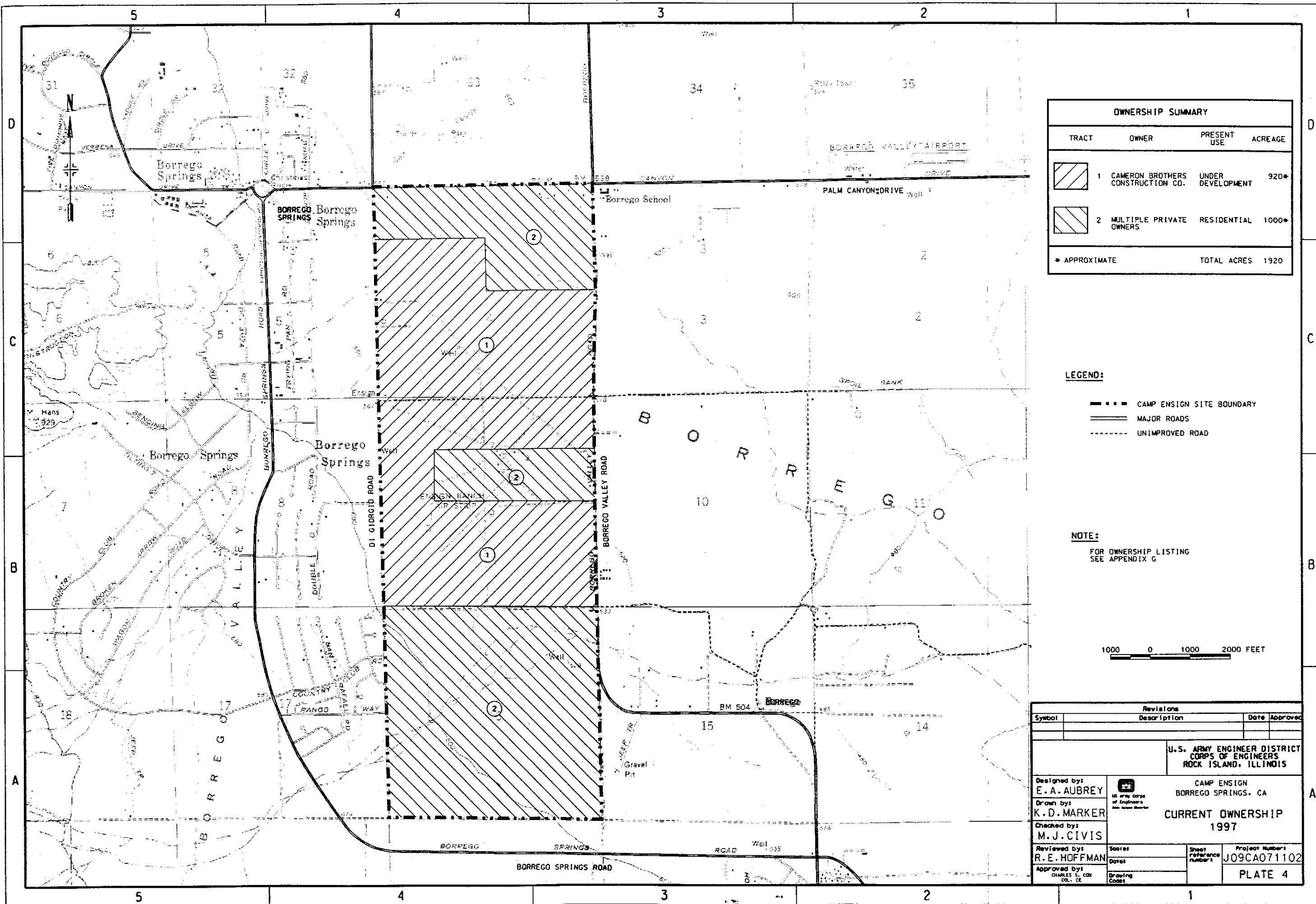
PROJECT SUMMARY			
AREA	FORMER USAGE	OE PRESENCE	ACREAGE
	A CANTONMENT AREA	UNCONTAMINATED	12.00
	B DUMPSITE	UNCONTAMINATED	1.00
	C ALL OTHER LAND	UNCONTAMINATED	1,907.00
TOTAL ACRES			1,920.00

- LEGEND:**
- CAMP ENSIGN SITE BOUNDARY
 - STATE PARK BOUNDARY
 - MAJOR ROAD
 - UNIMPROVED ROAD



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Symbol	Description		
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Designed by E. A. AUBREY		CAMP ENSIGN BORREGO SPRINGS, CA	
Drawn by K. D. MARKER			
Checked by M. J. CIVIS	PROJECT AREAS		
Reviewed by R. E. HOFFMAN	Scale	Sheet reference number	Project Number J09CA071102
Approved by CHARLES S. COX COL, CE	Drawing Codes	PLATE 3	

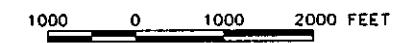
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OWNERSHIP SUMMARY			
TRACT	OWNER	PRESENT USE	ACREAGE
	1 CAMERON BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION CO.	UNDER DEVELOPMENT	920*
	2 MULTIPLE PRIVATE OWNERS	RESIDENTIAL	1000*
* APPROXIMATE			TOTAL ACRES 1920

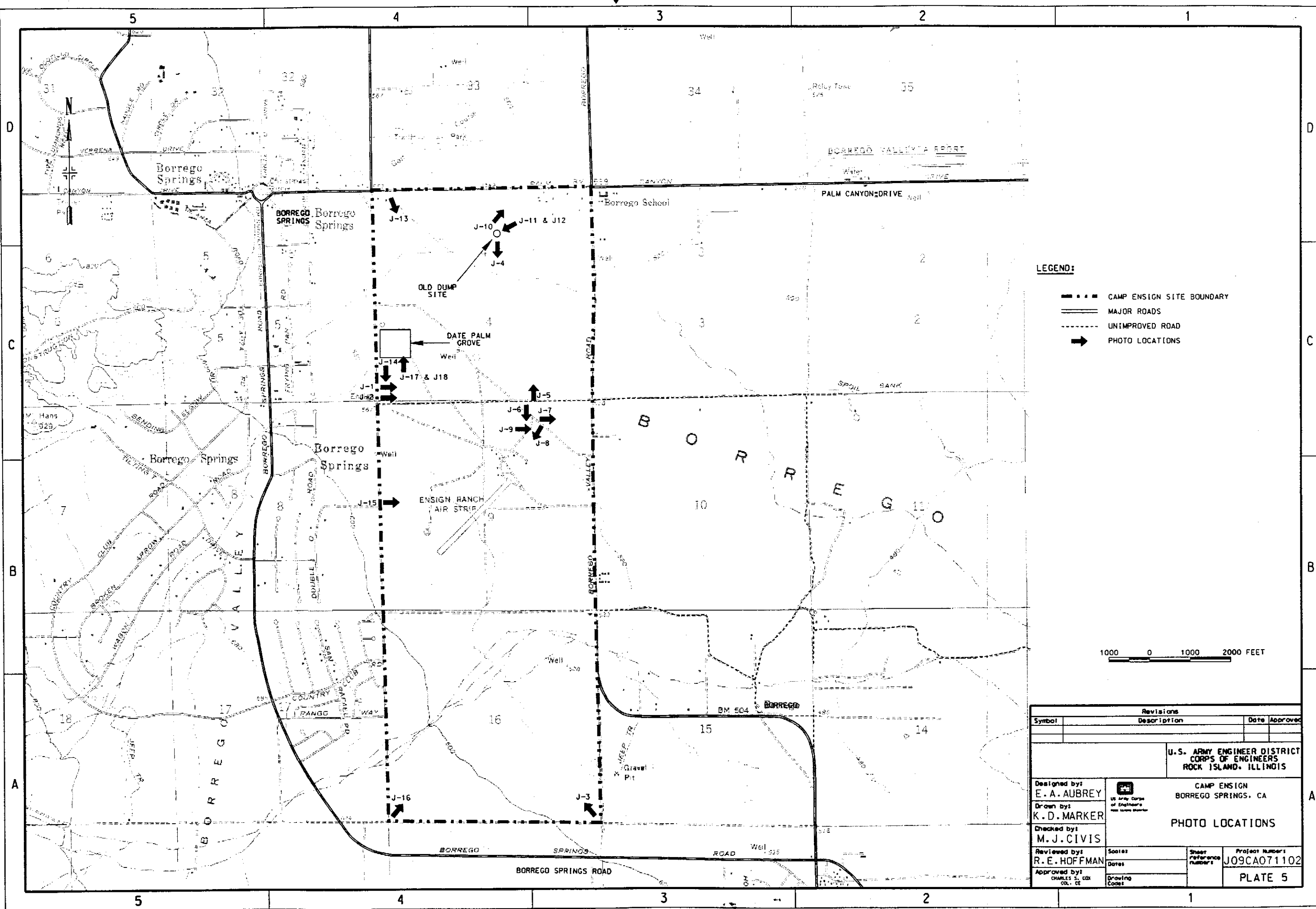
- LEGEND:**
- CAMP ENSIGN SITE BOUNDARY
 - MAJOR ROADS
 - UNIMPROVED ROAD

NOTE:
 FOR OWNERSHIP LISTING
 SEE APPENDIX G



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Designed by: E. A. AUBREY	CAMP ENSIGN BORREGO SPRINGS, CA CURRENT OWNERSHIP 1997		
Drawn by: K. D. MARKER			
Checked by: M. J. CIVIS	Project Number: J09CA071102		
Reviewed by: R. E. HOFFMAN	Scale:	Sheet reference number:	PLATE 4
Approved by: CHARLES S. COX COL. CE	Date:	Drawing Code:	


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LEGEND:

- CAMP ENSIGN SITE BOUNDARY
- == MAJOR ROADS
- - - UNIMPROVED ROAD
- ➔ PHOTO LOCATIONS

1000 0 1000 2000 FEET

Revisions		Date Approved	
Symbol	Description		
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS			
Designed by E. A. AUBREY	 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District	CAMP ENSIGN BORREGO SPRINGS, CA	
Drawn by K. D. MARKER		PHOTO LOCATIONS	
Checked by M. J. CIVIS	Scale:	Sheet reference number:	Project Number: J09CA071102
Reviewed by R. E. HOFFMAN	Date:	Drawing Code:	PLATE 5
Approved by CHARLES S. COX COL, CE			