

"The Milk Run"

A safe route to skirt enemy activity during World War II in the Pacific

Aitutaki and Penrhyn, in the Cook Islands, formed one of several vital links from the USA to its Southern Allied Forces in the South Pacific. From April 1943 until August 1944, the US Air Transport Command (ATC) Pacific Wing operated what was known as the "milk run". The "milk run" carried mail, periodicals, films, and miscellaneous supplies to the military and naval personnel stationed along its route. It was a morale-building service, continuing long after Allied advances had canceled the strategic importance of these islands. After the ATC abandoned this service, the US Navy, which had permanent establishments at Tutuila and Bora Bora, agreed to supply a shuttle service from Tutuila to Penrhyn, Bora Bora, and Aitutaki.



Insignia used on US military aircraft from 1943 to 1947.

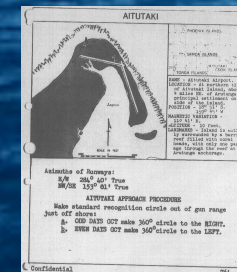


United States Air Transport Command emblem.

Hickam Field
(Hawaii)

Christmas Island
(Kiribati)

Penrhyn
(Cook Islands)



Approach procedure and airfield details for pilot's flying to Aitutaki during WWII.

Nadi
(Fiji)

Tutuila
(American Samoa)



Aitutaki
(Cook Islands)

Bora-Bora
(French Polynesia)