



Schematic for Earhart's W.E. Model 13-C transmitter. The final amplifiers (V3 and V4) were two type 282A tubes in parallel. This equipment could be remote controlled.

craft. The *Itasca* searched too, along with a task force that included the aircraft carrier, *USS Lexington*, and the battleship *USS Colorado*, and an armada of smaller ships. Some quarter of a million square miles were combed (with the help of the *Lexington's* sixty aircraft) without sighting Earhart's plane or its wreckage.

In 1960, researchers spoke to an American woman who had lived on Saipan in 1937 and said that she had seen two captured Americans there who fit the descriptions of Earhart and Noonan. Thirteen natives of Saipan corroborated her story, although inquiries to our own government concerning Earhart's fate were met with hostility and closed doors. That researcher, Fred Goerner (of CBS News in San Francisco), published his findings in a book entitled *The Search for Amelia Earhart* (1966).

Goerner felt that Earhart and Noonan were asked by our government to fly over the Truk Islands (in the Carolines) to look at secret Japanese military installations there. He thinks that on the way towards Howland Island they hit squalls and crash-landed on Mili Atoll where they were captured and taken to Saipan for interrogation and later murdered. He thinks that their bodies were

uncovered by the U.S. Marine Corps and secretly returned to the United States.

Another researcher, Joe Klass, in his book *Amelia Earhart Returns from Saipan*, claimed that Earhart sat out WWII in the Imperial Palace (Tokyo) and left Japan in secret after the war, possibly still being alive as long as twenty-five years after the war ended. He said that her life had been spared in exchange for American assurances that the Emperor of Japan would not be charged with war crimes.

In late 1986, researcher T.C. (Buddy) Brennan of Houston said that he spoke to Marshall Islands and Saipan residents who support the story that Earhart had been imprisoned and then executed on Saipan. A reputed gravesite was opened in 1986 and, although no bones were seen, a piece of cloth was found—it was claimed to have been the blindfold used during Earhart's execution. Brennan said that Earhart and Noonan, after landing on Mili, were taken aboard the Japanese ship *Fukuun Maru* to Saipan for interrogation. He said, "Her plane was doused with gasoline and burned on Saipan." (One report said the plane was found and destroyed by our own forces in 1944.)

Virtually every researcher agrees that our own government knows far more than it is willing to say about Amelia Earhart's mission as well as her ultimate fate. It's apparent that until and unless our government opens its files on this curious incident, the search for the truth will continue. For those interested in communications, the story seems to hold many clues on the basis of Earhart's electronic equipment and radio transmissions, although none of those who have done extensive research on the subject were communications experts and analysts.

Perhaps some of our readers might wish to embark upon a research analysis of the communications and electronics aspects of the incident.

### Additional Reading

*The Search for Amelia Earhart*, by Fred Goerner, 1966.

*Amelia Earhart Returns From Saipan*, by Joe Klass, 1970.

*Amelia Earhart: The Final Story*, by Vincent V. Loomis with Jeffrey L. Ethell, Random House, 1985.

*Eyewitness: The Amelia Earhart Incident*, by Thomas E. Devine with Richard M. Daley, Renaissance House, 1987. **PC**