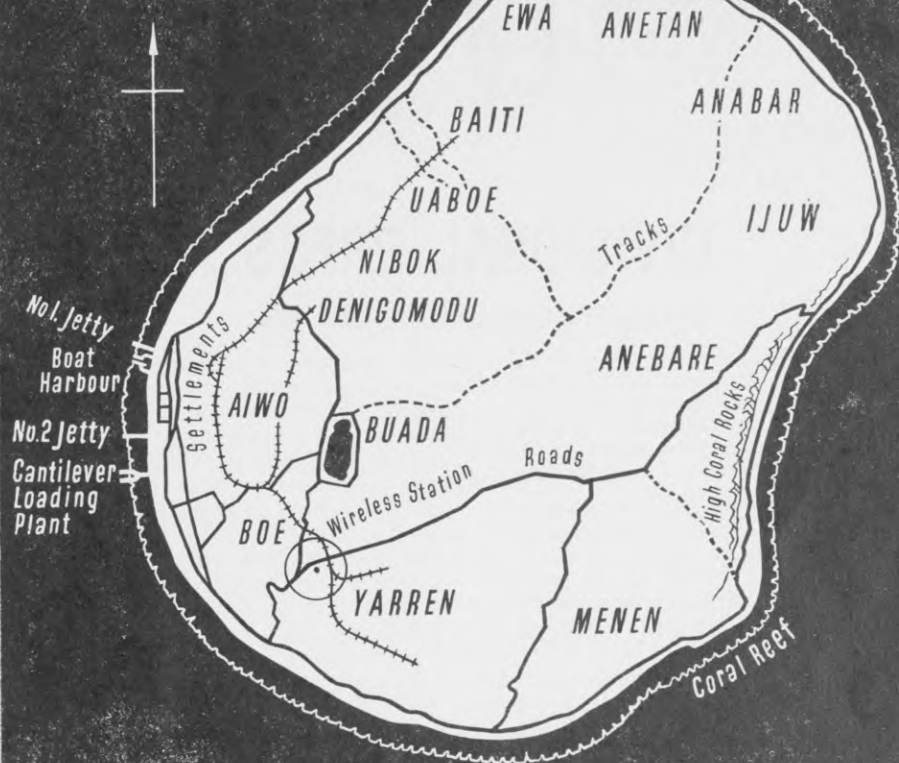


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tion were completely mechanized. From quarrying to loading, through the crushing and drying processes, the rock was carried by cableways, railways, and electric belt conveyors.

The method of loading the phosphate ships was unique, being evolved to suit the local conditions. The island is completely surrounded by a coral reef beyond which the sea-bed slopes sharply down at an angle of 45 degrees to a great depth. It was impossible to build either a harbour or a dock, so in 1930 a cantilever conveyor was constructed at Yangor.

From massive pillars on the coral reef two 172 ft. cantilever arms swung out to

the phosphate ships and electric belt conveyors loaded both fore and after holds simultaneously at the rate of a thousand tons per hour.

To-day all this complicated equipment is probably just a mass of twisted steel. The phosphate, however, is still there. When the island is once more in Allied hands exports of this valuable fertilizer will no doubt be resumed as soon as possible. It plays an important part in the farm economy of both New Zealand and Australia. At present shortage of fertilizer is limiting our supply of food-stuff to Great Britain.