

# A Cruising Guide To The Kingdom Of Tonga



The Moorings®

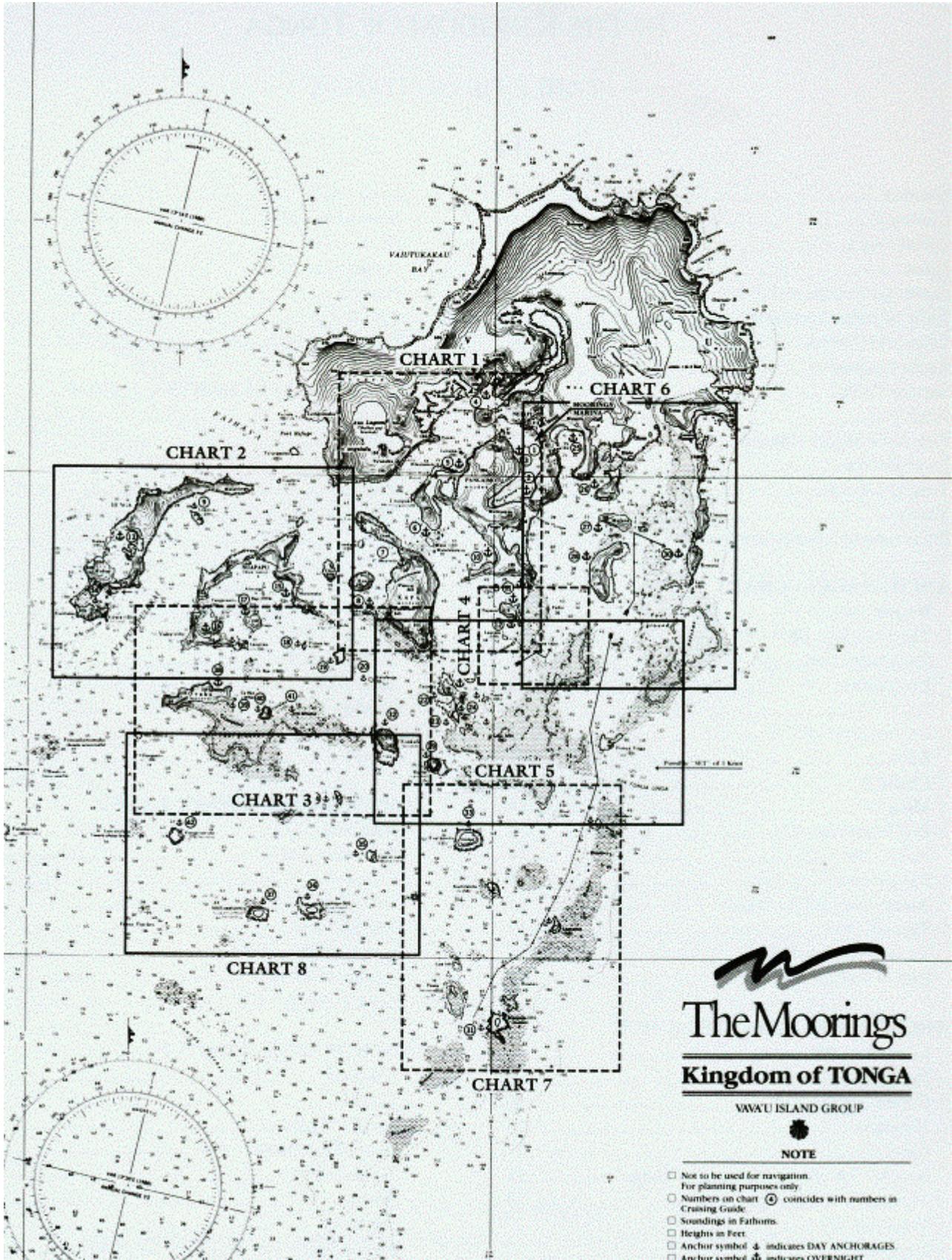
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# A CRUISING GUIDE TO THE VAVA'U ISLAND GROUP IN THE KINGDOM OF TONGA

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## **MALO E LELEI!**

### **WELCOME TO TONGA!**

The following information has been compiled at The Moorings, Tonga, to help answer the most common questions which spring to mind while planning a holiday cruise. Upon arrival at the charter base, we will be happy to answer any further questions you may have remaining after your pre-cruise chart briefing.

#### **WEATHER**

The weather in Vava'u is very pleasant, being slightly cooler and less humid than many tropical areas. The average daytime high temperature hovers around 25 - 26C (77-80F) between May and September. It rises to 29C (85F) October through April and the humidity is highest in January and February. The average sea temperature is 25C (79F). SE trade winds (15-25 knots) predominate during the Austral winter (MaySept). In summer, breezes are lighter (10-20 knots) and more often from the NE. Hurricane season is December-March. Happily, Vava'u has suffered far fewer storms than the rest of the South Pacific islands in the past years.

#### **CURRENCY**

Tongan currency is called Pa'anga. Foreign currencies are not readily accepted in Tonga except at the charter base. Credit cards are accepted at a few restaurants in Neiafu town and at The Moorings base. Visa and Mastercard only please. In general, the shops in Neiafu do not accept credit cards. The Bank of Tonga has branches in Tongatapu and in Vava'u. Westpac and ANZ Banks in Vava'u have ATM's. There is also a currency exchange at Nuku'alofa airport. Banking hours are 0930- 1530 hrs. Monday through Friday. On Saturdays the Mfb Bank is open in Neiafu town 0930-1100 hours. Banks remain open throughout the day. They do not close for lunch.

#### **EATING OUT**

There are currently ten restaurants in Vava'u. Of these, six may be reached by yacht (anchorage # 5, 13, 14, 11, 16, 41). Two restaurants accept credit cards. For the remainder, local currency is required. `Ana's Waterfront Cafe, adjacent to The Moorings base, is open Monday-Saturday for breakfast, lunch, Happy Hour and dinner. A detailed restaurant guide will be provided at the time of the chart briefing.

#### **SHOPPING**

Shops are open Monday-Friday from 0800-1600 hrs. Saturdays from 0800-noon only. The Fruit and Vegetable market is open 0700-noon daily except

Sunday. On Sunday throughout Tonga, all businesses are closed. This includes The Moorings base. Those choosing to shop for their own provisions in Neiafu should be aware that the local supermarket has a relatively limited stock. All shops are subject to the vagaries of shipping schedules. There are no "lite" or "low-fat" food items to be found in Neiafu. Occasional exceptions are low-fat milk and diet sodas. Self-provisioners may find it more relaxing to arrive one day ahead of their charter start in order to shop at leisure. We will be happy to provide a town map and other pertinent information. A full beverage store is located at the base. Tongan handicrafts make lovely gifts or souvenirs. There is a gift shop/boutique at the base.

#### **DRESS**

The Tongan people are very conservative in their dress. In town or villages there is therefore a minimum "Dress Code" of shorts (not too short!) and T-shirt for all. On the many uninhabited beaches and islands, swimwear and usual holiday attire of course is fine. Topless or nude sunbathing etc. should be restricted at all times to uninhabited islands only. Visitors to Tonga should also be sure to pack the following; Ladies- longer length skirt or wrap around and a blouse which covers the shoulders. Gentlemen- long trousers and a shirt with a collar. (Polo or equivalent) The above are required if attending Church (highly recommended for the beautiful singing), or any special event which may be taking place at the time of your visit.

#### **SHORESIDE ACCOMMODATIONS**

(Vava'u) highly recommended are; **The Paradise International Hotel** (ph. 676 70211) 3 min. drive from Base. Swimming pool/ restaurant/ garden. **The Tongan Beach Resort** (ph. 676 70380) 20 min. drive from Base. Beach bungalows/ restaurant. There are a few other shore side options in Neiafu. "Back-packer style" accommodation may be had on several of the outer islands. Bookings for these may be arranged at the base.

#### **MEDICAL DETAILS**

The Ngu Hospital in Neiafu has an out-patients' dept. and dispensary. (3 min. drive from Base.) Dr. Alfredo Carafa's "Italian Clinic" at the village of Toula, (3 min. drive from Base.) has a reasonable range of medicines but like the hospital, is sometimes in short supply of even the most basic drugs. If you will be taking prescription medication during your charter, remember to bring enough plus a little extra in case of unforeseen delays etc. No vaccinations are required to enter Tonga however current typhoid vaccination is recommended.

## **ACTIVITIES**

In addition to exploring the Vava'u group under sail, the following list may prove helpful in planning other aspects of your time with us in Tonga. We are happy to arrange any extra activities for you at the base.

### **DIVING:**

Dolphin Pacific Diving-NAUI, PADI & SSI approved. Full equipment rental for certified divers. Rendezvous dives from anchorages #1-8 inclusive. Resort courses and full certification ph. 676 70292 or 70160. USA ph. 619 728 4200 fax 619 728 4220

### **GAME FISHING:**

Kiwi Magic; ph.70441 - Delray; ph 70380  
Hook Up Vava'u; ph 70528

### **SEA KAYAKING:**

Friendly Islands Kayak Company - ph. 70173

### **BICYCLE RENTAL:**

Chanel College (check upon arrival)  
Hilltop Guesthouse; ph. 70209

### **ROAD TOURS:**

Various taxi cars and minibuses are available for full or half day tour. (check upon arrival)

We look forward to seeing you soon!

## **DAILY WEATHER FORECASTS**

Radio NUKU-ALOFA: Dial 1020 KHZ on the A.M. radio at 0800, 1300 to 1330 and 2000. Radio FIJI: Dial 1600 KHZ on A.M. radio at 0700 and 0800. Fiji time is one hour earlier than Tonga. Radio PAGO PAGO: 24 hours a day for U.S. news, music and sports. Dial 650 KHZ on A.M radio between 0900 and 0930 (Reception often poor). Base personnel are happy to relay weather forecasts on VHF Ch.72 Sam-5pm daily.

## **TIDES AND CURRENTS**

In Vava'u there are two high and low tides in a 24-hour period. The mean tide rise and fall is 3.3 feet. When going ashore, make sure the dinghy is well above the high water mark and use the dinghy anchor on the beach to prevent a rising tide from floating the dinghy off the beach. Tide tables are provided on each yacht.

The tides sometimes cause strong currents in narrow passages, as in the entrance to Hunga (#13). Please take note of the advice given in the guide regarding

such locations in the cruising area. Care and normal seamanship should be used in your assessment of situations.

During periods of strong winds from a constant direction, surface currents will build up. An example of this would be during the southeast trades between April and December. These winds will build up a current across the southern part of the area from east to west. When steering a compass course, be aware these currents may set you off your intended course. Take a bearing with the hand-bearing compass to verify your position.

## **RADIO PROCEDURES**

The Moorings monitors and communicates on VHF channel 72 during office hours from 0800 to 1700 hours daily (except Sundays). Call us at any time during these hours and usually someone will be close at hand to reply. If you don't reach us on the first try, wait a short while and call again.

Channel 16 is monitored by some of the local restaurants and the police station. However, yachts cruising in the area may monitor this channel and use it to establish communication, before changing to another channel.

Call in each day between 1600 and 1630 hours to give us your location and intended nighttime anchorage. At that time we will be able to inform you of any salient weather information or notices to mariners that we might have on hand.

In the event of an emergency, should you be unable to contact us on the VHF, continue to broadcast your location and problem. At times we are able to hear you when you may be unable to hear us. Our VHF radio range is approximately 25 miles, covering all of the anchorages in the Vava'u group. Occasionally we get radio shadows at anchorages #7 and # 13. Communications are possible even though some breaking up of the signals will occur.

## **SERVICE CALLS**

Should your yacht need service due to mechanical or other problems, call us on channel 72 on the VHF at the time of occurrence to give us details. Anchorages #11 and #25 are accessible by vehicle. At other anchorages we will be with you quickly via chase boat.

The Moorings base is happy to collect your garbage and bring provisions to anchorage #11 and #25 – Monday to Friday.

## **ANCHORING**

Most anchoring will be done at depths of 15 to 45 feet. Virtually all the anchorages have visibility beyond such depths and it is easy to check for coral heads. Snorkel over your anchor to check for proper set. Use normal anchoring techniques with scope of 4 to 6 times the depth. When using a CQR anchor, wait until the yacht is head to wind. Then check the anchor set by backing with a slow reverse pull from your engine. Should you get an anchor stuck, shorten the rode to near vertical position and fasten it off to one of the cleats. Try to break the anchor out with the yacht in forward gear at slow engine speed. Do not make the rode fast to the windlass drum as this may damage the windlass. If you are unable to break out the anchor, cast off the entire anchor, chain and rode. Make careful note of its position and tie one of your fenders to the rode end as a floating marker for easy identification. We will send a diver to retrieve it. It is best to call us immediately if this happens at a time when you can make VHF contact with us.

In unsettled waters with strong wind conditions, use more than the normal scope. It may be prudent in some circumstances to use a second anchor, having the two anchors off the bow at a 45-degree angle to each other.

The second anchor is a Bruce, which has good holding characteristics. When the weather improves, shorten the rode to prevent the excess line from fouling on coral heads. You will find that anchorages #7, 10 and 16 make good all-weather anchorages.

## **FISH AND POSSIBLE HAZARDS**

Many fish can be caught and most make excellent eating. We are fortunate not to have any fish-poisoning problems. However, when fishing in any unfamiliar area, it is best to check with the local inhabitants before consuming your catch. No fishing permits are required; however, please note that spear fishing is illegal if using SCUBA apparatus.

There are few hazards in the sea, as indicated by the many Tongans you see swimming. However, normal caution justifies: (1) do not swim at night, (2) do not wear jewelry and (3) do not swim where fish have been cleaned or near garbage.

Do watch out for sea urchins as their sharp spines can inflict a painful wound. Stonefish are very poisonous, but fortunately are not very common. The stonefish is

normally about 10 inches long, rests on the bottom, resembles a rock and has venomous spines.

Similarly, sea snakes are a rare problem. They are about 12 inches long, have black and white bands and bask on the surface in shallow, warm water. With a very small mouth and fangs set well back in their mouth, it is virtually impossible for them to bite a person. You may see Tongan boys playing with these snakes, but this is not recommended.

We have not heard of any cases of sea snake or stone fish poisoning in Vava'u. However, if you should experience this, go immediately to the hospital in Neiafu. These types of poisons could be serious.

Fire coral is a nuisance in all tropical waters. Therefore, to avoid the associated rashes, do not touch any coral. We suggest you wear a pair of gloves while diving.

## **EMERGENCIES**

In an emergency you have several alternatives:

Contact us on VHF 72,16 or 26

Go to the Neiafu wharf - the police station is near the market

Ask any local boats or yachts for help or

Seek help in the villages.

## **TONGAN CUSTOMS**

There are several Tongan customs to be noted and respected in order that we may fit into this society with minimal impact.

Tippling in Tonga is acceptable. Good service can be rewarded.

Sunday is a religious holiday and is strictly observed. Business stops, and Tongans may not swim or fish by law. Please be quiet, tolerant and pay deference to the Tongan Sunday. However, if you are in the islands away from any villages, carry on with your usual charter activities.

Tongans are conservative in dress. Men always wear shirts in public places. Charterers should too. Tongan ladies do not wear scanty attire anywhere and even swim fully clothed. We suggest when entering a village, charterers should wear shorts and a blouse. Away from villages, a bikini, if you wear one, is fine for swimming. On Sunday, if entering a village and particularly when attending church (a worthwhile experience and you will be made very welcome), please wear long slacks and a shirt for the men and at least a knee length skirt and blouse for the ladies. No hats or photographs in Church, please.

Tongan handicrafts are acknowledged to be among the best available in Polynesia. Their large Tapa cloths are unique and worthwhile buys. The basketwork is particularly distinctive and a worthwhile investment. Arrangements may be made for mail

shipments at a very reasonable price if you wish. Handicrafts are available from the handicraft stores in Neiafu, at the Tongan feast and from villagers on outer islands.

Coconuts and fruits growing ashore are private property. Do not take any without permission from the landowner. Please call The Moorings base for re-provisioning. Deliveries can be made to anchorages #11 and 25 – Monday to Friday.

#### VAVA'U

Vava'u, with its encircling waterway, has one of the most beautiful harbors in the Pacific, or for that matter, in the world, as you will soon discover for yourself. Vava'u has gem-like islands that make a perfect setting for all your dreams of a Pacific paradise. However, the islands, like women, must have something more than beauty if they are to continue to attract.

Vava'u has that something extra. You have only to talk to some of its bright young people to discover a history so cosmopolitan that it virtually connects these islands to every continent in the world. Or, listen to the elders to be carried back in history to ancient times of myth.

Fishing has always been a part of the Tongan way of life. The fish story to end all fish stories became a part of Tongan storytelling when Maui, the great Polynesian God, threw his line into the sparkling ocean and soon felt that tug which spells excitement. He gave a mighty pull, another mighty pull, then another, and there were all the islands of Vava'u. No wonder the local people feel so much at home on the sea. The islands themselves curve lovingly around the water, creating endless bays, tiny beaches and secret inlets.

The first inhabitants of 'Maui's fish' settled in a yet undetermined date in the history of mankind. They settled on the island and learned to make use of everything they found on the islands and in the surrounding sea. In doing so, they grew to love their home, and even today the most adventurous and the most sophisticated of Vava'u's people, either overseas for business, study or pleasure, always have a compelling nostalgia for their own islands.

It was perhaps such a love that kept Captain Cook, the greatest of all Pacific explorers, from ever seeing Vava'u. In 1777 he was in the Ha'apai group where he discovered and charted many islands. One of Cook's

greatest friends was Finau, the Chief of Vava'u. When Chief Finau told Cook he was going home to collect feathers from the tail of the frigate bird, Captain Cook said at once that he would take one of his ships and go along. Chief Finau discouraged him. Was Finau seized by the fear that the white men might take over his precious Vava'u? Did he have some other reason for not wanting to take his English friend home? No one will ever know. We know only that Captain Cook stayed in Ha'apai; recording sadly in his journal that Finau had told him that in Vava'u "there was neither harbor nor anchorage." Needless to say, that must stand as one of the greatest historical lies of all time.

Finau kept Cook from coming to Vava'u, but he could not stem the tide of history which was filling the Pacific with explorers of many nations. Only four years after Captain Cook's disappointment, the honor of discovering Vava'u fell to Spain. Francisco Maurelle, after a brief stop at the island of Late, reached the main island of Vava'u on 5 May, 1781 and anchored near the present village of Longamapu, in the bay to which he gave the name "Port of Refuge" (the name now applies to the whole of Vava'u's harbor). Maurelle was not looking for new worlds to conquer. He was merely trying to deliver dispatches from Manila to the Spanish authorities in San Blas, Mexico. The commission had come to him so late in the season that he had not been able to follow the usual more northerly route of the galleons, but had come south, hoping to be, as eventually he was, swept up the coast of South America by favorable currents and winds. When Francisco Maurelle arrived in Vava'u, his ship was leaking, his men were sick with scurvy; cockroaches had eaten all the ship's biscuits and what little water he had left was stinking. To Maurelle, Vava'u was indeed a port of refuge as he found friendly people whose chiefs supplied him with fresh food. His commission was uppermost in his mind; therefore, he made no extended exploration of the island and contented himself with sailing a short distance south to the bay which now bears his name (Port Maurelle). There, close to the present village of Falevai, he found an abundance of fresh water. With his ship prepared and his men refreshed, he was on his way.

In spite of his haste to leave, Maurelle was not unaware of the potential value of Vava'u, and upon his return to Spain he reported on it and its people, in such glowing terms, that the King ordered Don Alejandro Malaspina to include Vava'u on the anticipated great voyage of discovery in the hopes that new islands would be added to the Spanish empire.

Malaspina, like Columbus before him, was an Italian in the employ of the Spaniards, and like Columbus, he too fell into disgrace on his return to Spain. In fact, Malaspina's disgrace was so profound that his journals were not published for many years and have yet to be translated into English in their entirety. It has been said that his troubles began when he cast amorous eyes on the wife of an important Madrid official. It seems more likely that his difficulties arose because he was a man, humane beyond his time, who although he dutifully carried out his obligation to annex land for

Spain, questioned the morality of taking over places which already had perfectly good governments of their own. As far as the Pacific history goes, Malaspina was rescued from obscurity largely through the efforts of the late Queen Salote, who discovered references to him while doing research in the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

In those days the world moved so slowly that it was twelve years from the time of Maurelle's visit to the day when Malaspina, in command of the *Descubierta* and the *Atrevida*, sailed into the Port of Refuge. In December 1787, an unfortunate Frenchman, La Perouse, stopped briefly at Port Maurelle, but finding no people there at the time and being uncertain about anchoring, had sailed away again, leaving only a few paragraphs in his journal to mark the first French visit to Vava'u. There is not any record of other ships visiting between the time of Maurelle and Malaspina.

To Malaspina and the men of his expedition must go the honors for a detailed and accurate observation of Tongan society at the time of their visit. The men with Malaspina included naturalists, artists, linguists and astronomers, in addition to the ship's officer's - all of whom seemed to have been exceptionally intelligent and sensitive observers. Unlike the anxious Maurelle, Malaspina accompanied the chief of that day up the harbor to Neiafu, which was then a well-established religious center.

The day Malaspina left Vava'u against the dictates of his conscience, he took possession of the islands in the name of the King of Spain, and on the site of the observatory that his men had set up near today's Longamapu, he buried a bottle containing a proclamation to that effect. In recent years the present King of Tonga, Taufa Ahau Tupou IV, acting on the advice of historians who thought they had identified the site, attempted to find the bottle, but his efforts apparently were in vain and the bottle has not yet been found.

The Spaniards never came back. Troubles in Europe made them forget Vava'u, but within the next century, the pace of history accelerated. The Pacific was explored, charted, written about, annexed, converted and lived in by a vast assortment of peoples.

Religion brought some of them. The London Missionary Society was the first religious institution to bring Englishmen to Tonga. For the most part they had a rough time here and in the end the most unfortunate ones were killed; the others fled. Only one, George

Vason, a former bricklayer, found joy in the islands. It was short lived. He forsook his religion and his countrymen for the charms of the Chiefs daughter and the Tongan way of life. His protector was killed in a civil war; so, he took refuge on an English ship, returned to his country, and there wrote an engaging account of his Tongan years. Although he said he regretted his lapse into heathenism, his book includes more nostalgia for his Tongan days than regret for religious strayings. His book remains one of the best accounts of early Tongan society.

Before many years had elapsed, the Wesleyan Church brought fresh supplies of Englishmen. The religion has endured and is today the state religion of Tonga. Until recently England has been the dominant foreign influence in Tongan life and politics. In the 19th century the Catholic religion brought French priests, nuns and traders to the islands. German businessmen drifted down from Samoa and settled mainly in Vava'u, where there are still the descendants of many old German families.

The whaling ships which filled the western Pacific with adventure were largely American, but their officers and crews were men of every nation and every continent. Less exciting, but more enduring, were the traders and government people who followed in the wake of the missionaries and whalers.

Today, men and women from everywhere in the world find their way to the islands. Some linger for the rest of their lives; some stay only a day or two. Each has his own story which becomes part of the ever-growing tale of the islands, and each adds something to the interest which, like the beauty of Vava'u, is ever new, ever changing.

## **Environmental Protection Policy:**

The Vava'u island group in the Kingdom of Tonga is a very special place in this rapidly changing world of ours. It is a paradise that has seen very little change in the past 50 years. The waters around the islands are crystal clear and pollution is minimal. Many of the local inhabitants use the ocean as a food source. It is very important that all visitors cruising the Vava'u group do as much as possible to protect the undersea environment so the future of Vava'u remains healthy. If all yachts follow the simple rules listed below we will help preserve this South Pacific paradise.

- a) Whenever possible anchor in sand. Make sure when the yacht swings on its anchor that all chain has enough room to miss any coral heads. Coral takes many years to grow and supports the delicate marine ecological balance.
- b) Do not take any live/dead coral or shells. The Giant Clam shell and the Triton shell are not allowed through U.S. customs. These shells are protected here in Tonga.
- c) Do not anchor or swim in any giant clam reserve. These are located near anchorages 8, 26, & 28. For more information about these reserves contact The Moorings on channel 72, 16 OR 26.VHF.
- d) Return all garbage to The Moorings base. The outer villages do not allow yachts to bring their garbage ashore. Never throw trash into the water. The Moorings now operates a recycling system. Please separate glass, tin and plastics. All organic produce can be thrown overboard for the fish to eat.
- e) When visiting outer villages, always ask permission from a village official to explore their island. This is plain common courtesy and will make your visit more enjoyable.

## CHART 1

ANCHORAGES in describing the anchorages of the *Vava'u* group we will cover those in the "*Neiafu fjord*" region first. Thereafter we will move from the west, the area of deep water, to the east where more shallows and coral heads appear. In fact, longitude 174 passes through *Neiafu* and is an easy division between the deep water to the west and the more tricky shallows to the east. The eastern area is for more experienced sailors and for exploration in good weather with plenty of sun to visibly showing the hazards.

**NEIAFU AREA** The body of water on which the town of Neiafu is situated is a five-mile long bay and is well protected. It is much like a Norwegian fjord. There are two shallow areas. One extends out from the village of 'Utulei (marked F.S. on the chart) which is to the west of Neiafu on the opposite shore. As you head out of Neiafu toward Mount Talau, there is one turning buoy off the Utulei shallows. You may pass on either side but stay close to the buoy. Once at this position you will see the southwest port and starboard channel buoys. Pass between them and out of the harbour. The second shallow is between our dock and the main town wharf. Avoid the area inshore between the two. In the Neiafu area there is one discernible plateau which is useful in taking bearings. This plateau, Talau, elevation 430 feet, is just a mile west of Neiafu and is easily seen from our base. Further south, about four miles S. W. of Neiafu, is a second plateau called Mo'ungalafa, elevation 610 feet. This plateau can be seen from most of the southern cruising area.

### (CH. 1 - #1) - THE MOORINGS BASE

You may tie alongside our dock for resupplying or pick up one of the buoys.

### (CH. 1 - #2) - CAUSEWAY ANCHORAGE

Causeway Anchorage is about 1.5 miles south of our base on the E side of the harbour. It is good in all easterly weather conditions and the bottom is sand and coral with a depth of 20 to 30 feet. From this anchorage you may walk at low tide across the causeway and out to the reef at 'Ahanga Passage. Heading S on this reef you are sure to find good shelling. Do wear reef shoes and watch that the incoming tide does not strand you. One-half mile N of the causeway is the village of Toula where a large freshwater cave, Ve'emumuni, may be found. This is an interesting walk and a most unusual formation.

Ve'emumuni once belonged to a spirit who, although often taking the shape of a beautiful woman, was really a very selfish devil who had no intention of sharing

waters with any of the men who worked in the nearby gardens. One very hot day, one of the men grew thirsty and decided to ask the woman for a drink

As he approached she disappeared into the well and covered it with a great stone so he could not reach the water. He went back to work and when he looked up and saw the woman, once again sitting by the water, he tried to approach again. He failed three times to reach the water and each time he tried the woman would disappear into the well and cover it with a stone. He finally realized she was a supernatural being. He then took off his turban and his girdle and put them onto a little tree to make it look like a man. The woman sat guarding her well and staring at the turbaned tree while the man crept stealthily around behind her. He came closer and closer until he was near enough to spring on her, gold so fast that she begged for mercy. The man agreed to let her go if she would give him the well. She did so and since that time it has been uncovered, and the stone which the spirit used to seal it lies nearby for all to see.

Today, in times of drought, Ve'emumuni is a communal water supply for the Toula people. Most days after school you will find it full of laughing village boys. Visitors should respect the village's claim to the pool and confine their swimming to the nearby sea.

A short walk along the east coast below Ve'emumuni will bring you to a series of caves. In the old days the Toula people buried "foreigners" (anyone from any other village) there. Today the caves are exciting places to explore. You will enjoy taking a lunch and sitting in the welcome shade while watching the waves break over the surrounding reef. Shelling is good at the caves, and in the tidal pools, one can often see the gaily colored nudibranchiate which have been described as 'shell-less shells.'

At low tide it is possible to walk around to the north, returning to Neiafu on the opposite side of the peninsula from which the walk began, passing the Garden Bay Village Motel. Northwest of the anchorage, off the opposite shore of Pangaimotu, in about 120 feet of water, is a 400' sunken cargo ship which burned years ago at the wharf and was towed there to sink. With good visibility it may be seen from the surface.

(CH. I - #3) - PANGAIMOTU Directly opposite our base on the Pangaimotu shore is a fine anchorage in sand. It is just S. of the conspicuous footpath leading down through a clearing and is a good anchorage during southerlies.

Today Pangaimotu village, with its neat gardens, is fast becoming a model community, but it was once the scene of great sorrow. Vuna, a high chief, built a house that stood on stilts in the waters just beyond the village, facing Ofu Island. In addition to being a chief, Vuna was one of Vava'u's famous "handsome men" and his vanity and his lust could be satisfied only by a never-ending stream of beautiful virgins. These girls, whom Vuna's scouts chose for him, were brought to the chief by their mothers who would cling to them and weep until they were torn from their arms.

The name Pangai in Vava'u and Tonga denotes land which belongs to the Crown, as does all of Pangaimotu, including Pangai and 'Utulei villages.

(CH. I - #4) - TALAU Rising 430 feet from the sea, Talau is one of Vava'u's highest spots. A few years ago a young Tongan nurse, a native of the flat island of Tongatapu, was assigned to the Vava'u Hospital. A religious young person, she was filled with fervor at the thought of working on a high island and she exclaimed "I'll be so much closer to heaven there, and from the top of Talau I might even be able to glimpse an angel or two flitting about."

Continuing around Talau to the north, you will come to a quiet anchorage bordered by two 300-foot mountains. The holding is generally good but there are a few coral heads to be avoided when dropping anchor.

From this anchorage one may climb Talau. However, the trail up the west slope may be overgrown and the easiest access is by way of the road up from town or the causeway. There are several trails and the best is on the E. slope. There are spectacular views of the islands from the top.

All along the N W shore of Pangaimotu you will find good anchorages. Do not, however, pass between Lotuma and Pangaimotu as there is not sufficient depth. This island SW of Talau is a Tongan Navy base and it is restricted.

(CH. I - #5) - LOTUMA BAY This anchorage lies south of Lotuma Island in the SE corner of the bay and east of the headland where the Tongan Beach Resort is

located. Drop anchor in approximately 25 to 30 feet of water. Here you will be well protected from most winds. Lotuma Bay is only about three miles from the marina and provides a good first or last night stop for your cruise.

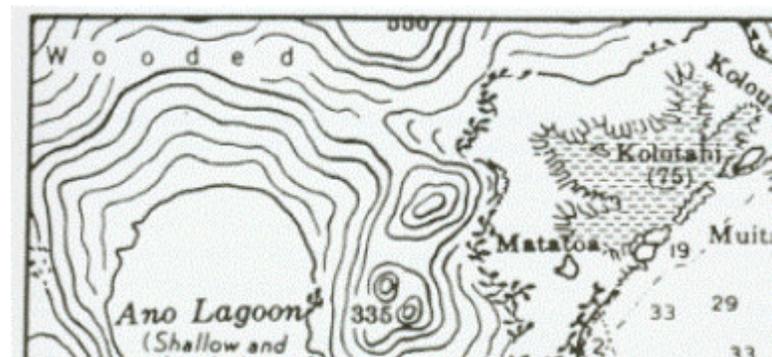
From the anchorage at #5, it is a short dinghy ride to the South of Utungake. Here you will find the Tongan Beach Resort with a fine-dining restaurant.

You may anchor on the shelf, just in front and slightly to the south of the resort, during the day for a lunch stop or just a beer. However, this shelf is rather narrow with a steep drop-off and should not be used as a nighttime anchorage. If you wish to have dinner at the restaurant, anchor in the bay at #5 and dinghy the short distance around to the resort's dinghy dock. This is a splendid last night stop if your departure from our marina is mid-morning next day. On the morning of your departure, you may easily reach our dock by 0830 from anchorage#5.

The Tongan Beach Resort monitors channel 71 on the VHF for reservations and they are open every day of the week. You should call before 1400 for reservations and the daily menu.

Use one of our buoys if you have to depart our marina for the airport in the early morning. We recommend dining the last night at Ana's Café, The Moorings' restaurant located next to The Moorings' base.

KAPA Kapa is another large island with two fine anchorages and several interesting off-lying islands. Swallows' Cave is a worthwhile attraction on the NW tip of Kapa and is marked on the charts. Near the cave the depth is 250 feet and therefore, anchoring is impossible. To visit the cave, either anchor 1.5 miles to the SE at Port Maurelle (#7) and dinghy to the cave, or lay just off the cave with the yacht under power and go in shifts in the dinghy to see the cave visible and accessible in all but heavy swells.



Don't forget to take your camera along with you. The cave entrance is easily The best time to see Swallows' Cave is in the afternoon from 1500 hours onward, when the sun from the west

lights up the multi-colored stalactites. However, at any time of the day, the cave offers beauty. The intense blue of its deep water rivals Italy's Blue Grotto and is of special interest on a bright day when the sun lights up the coral formations far below the surface. If you hit the pulpit-like rock rising on the left side of the cave with an oar, you will hear a deep bell-like tone. Overhead you will see the mud apartment-like nests of the birds that often fill the cave with their staccato calls. Although the cave is named Swallow's Cave, according to ornithologists, the birds nesting here are starlings. The entrance and most of the walls are covered with graffiti which does detract from the cave's beauty. Some of the older scrawlings date back to whaling days and have a certain historical interest.

At the back of the cave is a shaft of light and if you follow it by crawling around the coral wall or swimming about six feet, you will find a rocky path which will lead you into a dry cave, a great kiln-like room with a circular opening in the top through which you can see blue sky and growing trees. At the turn of the century, V.I.P.'s were entertained here. Entire feasts were let down through the opening by pulley-like arrangements making a gargantuan Tongan version of a dumb waiter. Off to the side of the dry cave is what looks to be a well-built road. This is a natural formation leading to a vast deposit of guano and walking on it gives the springy effect of walking on a mattress. To reach and explore the dry cave you will need a flashlight.

(CH. 1 - #6) - MALA Mala is a small island just NE of Kapa. Anchor to the NW of Mala in 20 to 30 feet of water with a sand bottom. You will find a good swimming beach at Mala with good snorkeling but be careful of a fair current which runs as much as two knots at times. This current reverses with the tide and may cause the anchor to pull out. For this reason, it is prudent to move a bit to the N out of the current if you intend to stay over night.

Do not try to go E over the shallows alongside Mala. This area is full of coral heads and the depth is only four feet at low tide. Recently, a cruising yacht with a draft of six feet became stuck in the area and had a difficult job getting free.

The little island of Mala was once the home of a terrible cannibal, a demi-god, who liked nothing better than to catch and eat people who dared to paddle by in their canoes. No one has seen him for a very long time, but his memory is kept fresh in a folk tale. A resort is currently being constructed on Mala Island.

(CH. 1 - #7) - PORT MAURELLE Port Maurelle is a beautiful and well-protected anchorage, except in a strong blow from the NW. Entering Port Maurelle is not difficult, but remain well away from the beach area as there are numerous coral heads close to the beach. Drop anchor at least 50 yards out in 20 to 35 feet of water. Upon leaving our 'fjord', the area to the west is generally deep water with very bold shores and you may encounter a ground swell. For those wanting to feel the long Pacific swells under their keels, just turn to starboard at Mo'ungalafa, the big plateau, then head north. The view of Vava'u is impressive with its five hundred foot cliffs. You may also see dolphin and whales offshore in this area, along with considerable bird life.

Port Maurelle is where the Spaniard Maurelle, the first European to see Vava'u, anchored while watering his ship. Present day inhabitants of nearby Falevai, who collect their water by catchment for storage in cement tanks, have neglected the overgrown spring-fed swamp close to the village, which was probably the source of Maurelle's water.

(CH. 1 - #8) - NUKU Nuku offers a good overnight anchorage. Anchor between Nuku and the village on Kapa, staying clear of the shallows and running between Nuku and the shore. Nuku is known as the picnic island of Vava'u. Many official functions for visiting dignitaries have been held here. Churches and schools use it for annual celebrations and private parties constantly visit the sandy white beaches to explore the island. In 1983 we had the honor and pleasure of hosting Prince Edward, the youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II of England, to a feast in Nuku during a day of sailing and snorkeling. The reef on the northern side of the island is an ideal spot for beginning snorkelers, because there is little or no tidal surge here.

If the wind is fairly strong and you wish to anchor for the night a little closer to the village of Falevai on Kapa, you should drop anchor close to the island in front of the village, over the spot indicated by the 8 fathom mark on the chart and you will be well protected in the lee of Kapa.

Do not anchor to the north of the jetty off the village as there is a clam reserve located here. Please ask in the village for permission to snorkel over the clam reserve. Hazard: When rounding the SE end of Kapa there are extensive shallow reefs approximately 1/4 of a mile off. They are generally easy to see, but keep well offshore and avoid them.

**Pangaimotu** is a large island connected to Vava'u by a coral causeway at Ahanga Passage. On the S end of this island are beautiful and well-protected anchorages.

(CH. 1 - #10) - AISEA'S OR LISA BEACH Aisea's or Lisa Beach is currently a pearl farm and no longer a day or overnight anchorage – private area.

(CH. 1 - #11) - TAPANA This bay formed by Pangai to the N and Tapana to the S offers several good anchorages in about 15 feet of water with good beaches.

There are two beaches on Pangaimotu known as Ano Beach and Hinakauea and are popular Tongan feast locations. When the wind is strong from the SE, a sheltered anchorage may be found in the S of the bay in the lee of Tapana, just off the small beach on the north end of Topana. There is a restaurant called La Paella, Moorings balls available. La Paella monitors Channel 10 and the Ark Gallery offering unique and personalized gifts and paintings or local scenes. Moorings buoys are available to hire. The Ark Gallery monitors channel 10.

(CH. 1 - #12) – TAPANA SOUTH

This is a quiet little anchorage tucked close under the southern shore of Tapana, in about 10 feet of water at low tide, on a gravel shelf.

Tapana will be to the N and the tip of a small island to the E. Lautala and a small islet will be on the south, and this may be used as a nighttime anchorage in settled wind conditions.

#### **A NOTE OF HISTORICAL INTEREST**

Port of Refuge is just around the corner to the N.W. It is very exposed and deep, and the drop-off is sheer. A yacht was wrecked here in 1976, and now only the lead remains with much of its gear now fitted on local boats.

The explorer, Maurelle, anchored here in 1781 and named the bay Puerta del Refugio (Port of Refuge). Today an occasional motor boat or rowing dinghy from nearby Longamapu may well be the only vessels to be seen in the area. Imagine if you will how it looked to Maurelle who wrote, "By eight o'clock in the morning we had more than a hundred canoes around the frigate carrying on their traffic, and the cries of the people who were in them were so shrill

and loud that it was impossible to hear one another speak on board."

Maurelle was visited on the ship and feted ashore by the Tupou, the chief at that time, who urged him to take "La Princesa" up the harbour to Neiafu where he resided. As much as Maurelle would have liked to have done so, he felt that once he had taken on supplies of fresh food and water and made some necessary repairs, he must be on his way to San Blas. So, after a visit of only a few days, Maurelle reluctantly left Vava'u.

## CHART 2 & 3

(CH. 2 - #9) - LUAMOKO

There is a small shelf running along the eastern side of this island, which provides a daytime anchorage where the snorkeling is interesting. Use this anchorage only in fine weather as the sandy area is very small and holding is marginal. Avoid anchoring on the coral as this is a pristine reef with excellent snorkeling.

(CH. 2 - #13) - HUNGA *Hunga* is the most westward island and it is a beautiful island with abandoned citrus orchards on the SE end of *Fofoa Island* and a fine village in the lagoon. The one navigable entrance to the lagoon is on the W side of the island between high cliffs and is similar in appearance to a false entrance about 1/2 mile further N. The correct entrance is about 150 feet across and is bordered by cliffs, with a very high cliff on the S side. In the entrance is a rock about 6 feet in diameter and 10 feet high and it is about 50 feet from the N side and 100 feet from the S. side. Leave this rock to port on entering. Once between the rock and the S shore the channel becomes narrow and shallow. Bear 115 magnetic, which will lead you between two privately maintained markers and toward the small beach on the far side. Once beyond these markers and into deep water again turn and proceed to the anchorage area.

Even though we have used dynamite to improve this entrance to Hunga, it remains tricky and hazardous. It should be made at high tide without current and with good sunlight. Never try it with a large running sea, at low water, with a strong current or without adequate sunlight. You may enter only between one hour before and up to one hour after the actual high tide. Once inside the lagoon there is a magnificent lake-like anchorage. In fact, there are several good beaches and anchorages in generally deep water. The area around the two small islands midway up the E shore is too shallow for anchoring. The village is in the NE corner and at the S end you may dinghy through a shallow pass to Fofoata, with good snorkeling off that island, however, check the tidal times and height to make sure you will be able to return.

Ika Lahi Game Fishing Lodge is based here and has mooring buoys for hire as well as a restaurant and bar and monitor channel 71.

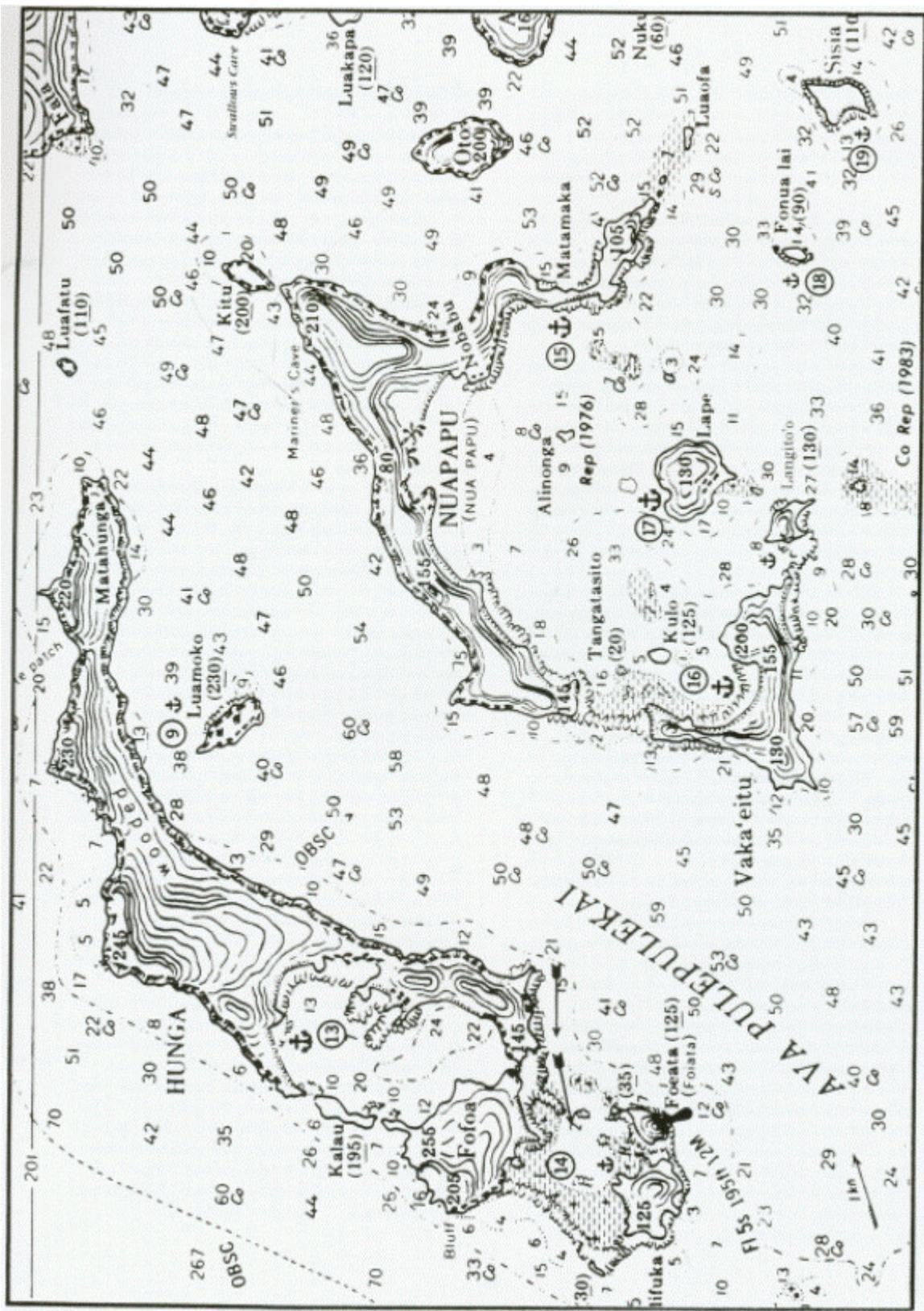
(CH. 2 - #14) - FOEATA ISLAND *Fofoata Island* is a beautiful, clear weather, daytime anchorage, surrounded by magnificent white sand beaches with plenty of snorkeling. Drop anchor in the protected SE corner in about 15 feet of water. Entrance should be made through the northern pass sailing from east to west. Pass over the three-fathom mark shown on the chart lying between the southern fringe reef of *Hunga* and the coral patch to the south with two coral heads shown. When taking this route in, it is a clear pass into the area, but proceed slowly with a lookout on the bow. Remember, this is a daytime anchorage only; do not overnight here. Blue Lagoon Restaurant is located on *Fofoata* and monitors channel 16.

One of the most shameful things white men have ever done in the Pacific is engage in "black birding," which is the practice of kidnapping islanders and selling them into slavery. In the last century many Tongans were taken forcibly from their homes and thrown onto ships which sailed to South America, where they were forced to work in the mines.

When 'George Tupou the First' realized what depredations were being made against his people he ordered wholesale evacuations of many of the smaller outlying islands. The people of *Late* were reestablished in the village of *Hunga*, whose enclosed lagoon offered safety from raiders. Another *Vava'u* group affected at that time was the settlement on the northern island of *Toku*, whose people were brought to the site of the present village of '*Utulei* on the shores of the inner harbour.

NUAPAPU *Nuapapu* is E of *Hunga* and S of *Mo'ungalafa* and it has several anchorages in its bight. On the W shore is the famed Mariner's Cave. The western shore is generally steep, so be careful and do not go between *Nuapapu* and *Vaka'eitu*, as the reef there is continuous between the two islands. It is difficult to see at high water with the sun in the E, especially during early morning.

Mariner's Cave is an underwater cave requiring good snorkeling skills; however it is not too difficult for the competent swimmer. The following interesting article, is written by Mrs. Patricia Farquhar-Matheson, who has lived in the *Vava'u* group for over forty years. It first appeared in *Pacific Islands Monthly* in August, 1975.



THE KINGDOM OF TONGA • CHART 2

HAZARD

*"IN ...AT LAST AND OUT AGAIN.  
A MAGIC MOMENT IN TONGA"*

*Twenty-six years ago, when I first came to Tonga, I had already read of Mariner's, the famous Vava'u Cave that can be reached only by diving.*

*Naturally, I decided I must see it. I had heard the often-told tale of the young Tongan chief who, having fallen in love with a beautiful maiden of a family who was due for extermination in the civic broils of the time, spirited her away from danger and hid her for two weeks in the cave.*

*There he brought food and protestations of love to sustain the girl until he was able to prepare an expedition to Fiji. Then he picked her up en route, married her, and when the time of trouble had passed, brought her back to Vava'u and lived happily ever after. My determination to get into the cave was strengthened by the romantic story.*

*My own romance thwarted me. My newly-married husband shook his sober Scots head and gave me a gruesome account of an officer from a copra ship who, while attempting to swim in, smashed into the coral at the top of the passage, cracked his skull and died.*

*"I wouldn't do that," I said, with all the courage of ignorance. When my husband spoke of the obvious fact that I had no skill whatsoever as a surface diver, and mentioned the eight foot descent to the entry of the cave and the fourteen feet of passage in, I hesitated and in that hesitation fear was born.*

*The cave is miles down the harbor from my home, but that did not keep it from haunting me. As the years went by, humiliation was added to fear as hosts of people of every age and both sexes came to boast to me that they had been "in" and then they gave vivid descriptions of the place's eerie beauty.*

*The crowning humiliation came when our daughters, half grown by then, witnessed my defeat at the very entrance to the cave. My husband said one day, "Oh go in if you must and get it out of your system." With so much agreement from him I set out that very afternoon with visiting American yachtsmen and was undaunted by the gray blustery weather that threatened to blow up a storm. As we left our home beach my husband bade us farewell and added sternly, "You mustn't let the girls attempt it today."*

*The warning was unnecessary because long before we'd reached Nuapapu, the island on which the cave is located, one of them was violently seasick and the other was shivering with cold. It was, to say the least, an unpropitious day for diving. By the time we reached our destination the sea had risen so high that we had to anchor far out lest the yacht be dashed against the island's sheer coral cliffs. Mrs. Yacht took one look at*

*the stormy world and said at once that she didn't feel up to trying it and would stay on board with the girls.*

*What could I do but follow Mr. Yacht and the Tongan guide we'd brought along? I slipped over the side into the wild gray waves and beat my way toward the forbidding looking island. Long before I got there I was winded and when, at last, I stood on the narrow ledge beside the cave's entrance I was panting for breath. The guide stood beside me and seemed in no better state although he pointed authoritatively to a spot in the nearby sea. Mr. Yacht nodded, flipped his feet into the air and disappeared from sight. Before long he was back shouting excitedly to the guide and me to follow him and then he was gone again. I looked down at the sea and in the uniform grayness could see no spot that looked more like an opening than any other.*

*I thought of the girls on the boat, of my husband at home, of our happy life together and saying to the guide, "Go on, I can't." I plunged into the sea and swam defeated, back to the yacht.*

*All the way home the proud Mr. Yacht regaled us with the ease with which he had glided into the cave and of the beauty he had found there. I felt as anyone feels who's had a chance to do the thing he wanted to do and has muffed it.*

*And so the years sped by. My husband died and, full of new responsibility as head of our little family, I told myself and all my friends that I couldn't think of going into the cave "until the girls were through school." With my fears thus disguised as maternal virtue I felt better than I ever had before about sitting in a boat watching other people go into the cave.*

*Last year both my girls were through school, I was free to do any foolish thing I wanted to do, meanwhile time had played its usual tricks as my rusty hair was almost white and I could hear the village children referring to me as "that old papalangi woman who lives on the beach," therefore I told myself, not without a sense of relief, that for me the time of diving into cave had passed and I was too old for such antics. I accepted my defeat so gracefully and so finally that I wrote it into a chapter of a book and so, I thought, laid for all time the old ghost of my desire "to get in."*

*This year my daughters are back in Tonga teaching in Nuku'alofa. When they came home to Vava'u for the May holidays they brought with them a houseful of their friends who had read my book and knew of my long failure with the cave. One night we all sat in the living room discussing it and suddenly in a lull in the conversation, Tom, a tall blonde New Zealander, who has that most wonderful of all qualities, the ability to inspire confidence in his hearers, looked across the room at me and said, "I can take you into Mariner's Cave."*

*As he spoke my fears and my years dissolved. "Are you sure?" I asked "Certainly," he smiled. For a few minutes I let myself believe him and then I laughed and said, "That's not good enough, Tom, I'd have to come out again, too." "I'll bring you out, too," he said and although he's not yet as old as my fears, I found myself believing him.*

*A few days later my niece and her husband from England arrived and we decided to make up a small party to show them the harbor, just the two of them, my daughter Tami, Tom and myself.*

"We'll go to Nuku for snorkeling and a picnic lunch"; I said, "then on to Mariner's." Tom looked at me and smiled.

May 14 was sunny and Nuku was as ever - a perfect gem of a tropical island. We lunched in the shelter on the white sand beach and after lunch, we snorkeled, but the wonders of the submarine world did not, as they usually do, make me lose all sense of time. A feeling of urgency swept through me. I took off my mask and went ashore explaining to our English visitors that I didn't want to get too tired before I went into the cave. They had been diving last year in the Mediterranean and remarked as casually as one chooses cakes at tea, that they would probably go in too.

When, however, we arrived at Nuapapu and stopped the engine before the grim gray cliffs and Tom, who'd been in before, waved a careless hand toward one of them and said, "Just there ... there's where we go in"; my relatives changed their minds and kindly volunteered to keep the boat afloat; so Tami, Tom and I got into the water and left them in command.

Tom decreed a practice period. "We'll swim under the boat" he said, and gave me time only to adjust my mask and take a deep breath before he grabbed my hand and down we went.

"Nothing to it" he laughed as we surfaced 70 feet the other side of the boat. I laughed too. Practice was fine, but it was not the real thing. Out of the corner of my eye, I could see Tami impatiently circling the entrance waiting for us. Slowly I swam towards her and soon all three of us were treading water over the dark sapphire hole in the sea.

It was to be Tami's first time in, but she had been kept out by nothing more than parental restrictions so going in was merely one more assertion of her new grown-up status. As for me, I was rushing towards the object of my defeat with 26 years of accumulated fear clinging to me.

"Ready?" queried Tom. "No, "I wanted to shout, but I swallowed the 'No, "fitted my mask as tight as I could, gulped in a massive lot of air and did what I imagined was a surface dive. I'm sure it wasn't, but Tom had one firm hand on my middle pushing me down and the other hand I clung to with a vice-like grip. I wanted to breathe. Coral and sea were a blue white blur beyond my mask and [just wanted to breathe. I looked at Tom, arrow straight, swimming beside me. I had to breathe. The sea rushed in on me, and choking through all my body, I resolutely shut my mouth and my eyes and moved through oblivion.

Suddenly I felt Tom shoving me upward. My head came up above the surface and once more there was air to breathe. I gulped it greedily.

"Are you all right?" Tom shouted and I realized I had never let go of his hand. "Yes, fine. "My ears were popping and my chest felt as if someone had broken it in two, but I felt reassured by the sight of Tami who swam up behind me in her leisurely amphibious way.

I crawled onto a coral rock and sat on it while

Tami and Tom bobbed in the water in front of me shouting congratulations. Only then did I feel secure enough to look about, but I had waited too long. A thick green fog filled the air plunging everything into obscurity. Then, as suddenly as it had come, it was gone and I was in a magic place, a large dome-like chamber, whose walls and ceiling seemed to have been sculpted of some rosy, lucent rock. Directly across from me, beneath the water floor was a heart-shape opening through which surged the sapphire strange light that filled the place. Then it was gone again in a swirl of green fog. The fog disappeared and I looked down at Tami and Tom who were making bubbles and I marveled at those bubbles for they were like no other bubbles big, round, sky-shining globes that broke into silver-edged pieces. Tami pointed to the wall above her and I looked up to see the ledge where the maiden of the old story is said to have waited for the young chief. It faded in the fog and came back into view, faded and came back again like some fleeting, half recaptured dream.

I wondered if the moonlight and the bright shine of the stars penetrated the cave at night and shuddered thinking of the watery darkness of moonless nights. What a stout heart that girl must have had I thought, with a sudden return to reality. After a fortnight in this place of fog that recurred every time the tide surged in, even her thoughts must have been wet

By then I was breathing more or less normally so I slipped back into the water and joined the bubble makers for a time before swimming leisurely about, passing from fog to brilliance and back again. When I had returned to the young people once again, I said, "I guess we'd better go out now." Tom's smile flashed and he held out his hand as if he were offering to lead me in the grand march. I took his hand and g deep breath and minutes later when I was back in the boat my niece said "You came up like a cork out of a bottle." I know, people go in and out of Mariner's Cave all the time and, as those who are given to belittling every experience say, "There's nothing to it, "for me there was something to overcoming 26 years of fears and failure. Beyond that, there is the dream bright memory of the blue beauty of that place which, along with everyone else who's been "in, "I shall treasure the rest of my life. And so I must say, "Thank you Tom, for taking me in and for bringing me out."

Thank you for your story with a happy ending, Patricia. As Pat said in her story, the best way to test your ability to tackle the entrance into Mariner's Cave is to dive from a few yards to one side of your yacht, swim under the keel and come up a few yards

*on the other side. If you can do that with confidence, then you can try the Mariner's Cave entrance.*

*Mariner's Cave is situated on the chart in the position where the underlining of the name touches the cliff. This is approximately 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile SW of the narrow gap at Kitu. Proceed SW from that position and be on the lookout for a patch of white and orange 'leaching' or stain on the cliff face approximately 600 meters from the point. When you are approximately 100 feet from the cliff, you will observe one prominent coconut tree standing right above the white patch area. Mariner's Cave entrance is directly below this position.*

*Plan to visit the cave on a bright sunlit afternoon at about 3:00 when you will have the best lighting for the cave. As with Swallow's Cave, you cannot anchor the yacht due to the depth at this point; therefore, you will have to take turns exploring the cave. You can dinghy in whilst someone remains on the yacht.*

*You cannot mistake the entrance to the cave. It is big, wide and goes down for over twenty feet. When entering the cave, dive down and while swimming through, keep looking up at the rock ceiling above you. On the inside, when you see where water meets the rock, you can come straight up to the surface with no problems. You are now on the inside.*

Nearby on the N end of Nuapapu lies Kitu. The passage between is narrow, gusty and plagued by strong currents. If you use this pass, do so under motor only. On entering the bight of Nuapapu you have two choices. You may either follow close around to the south shore of Matamaka or enter to the E of Lape. These anchorages should be entered before 1500 as late afternoon sun reduces visibility and reefs are difficult to see.

#### (CH. 2 - #15) - MATAMAKA ANCHORAGE

Matamaka Anchorage is good in most weather except when a strong S or SW wind is blowing. In approaching from the E, stay about 100 yards offshore and watch for a very treacherous reef to port. Go in to the N end of the beach and round up N of the jetty to anchor. Just behind the jetty is a conspicuous red roof and there is a fine beach and village here. Beware of the reef coming out from the S end of the beach.

(CH. 3 - #16) - VAKA'EITU Vaka'Eitu is another good overnight anchorage. Keep close to Lape and well away from Kulo on entering and anchor in about

30 to 40 feet. Shallow water extends far out and there is a coral head about 1/4 mile S of Kulo that is hard to see; therefore, give it plenty of room.

The pass between Lape and Langitau has a point of reef stretching from Lape; however, if you stay close to Langitau and post a lookout on the bow, you may use this pass with caution. Enter the pass only in good weather with bright light. If in doubt, take the northern route around Lape to make your approach to the areas west of Lape.

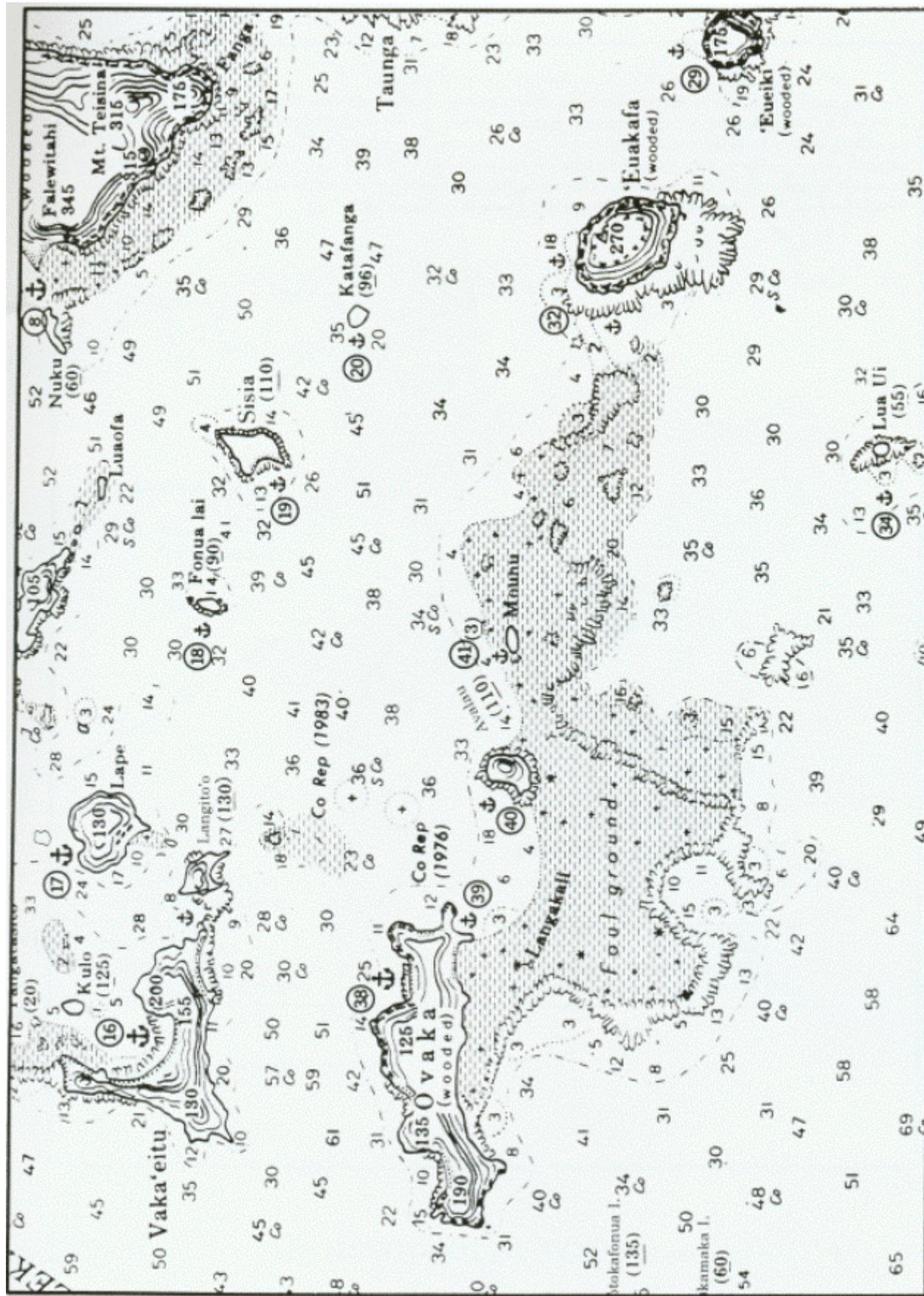
Langitau is a very beautiful island and, as indicated on the chart, may be used as a day anchorage, in sand, in approximately 15 to 20 feet of water. You will find interesting snorkeling in this area.

Papao Village Resort is nestled on the hillside with magnificent view. Use the jetty and follow the path to the top. They monitor channel 16.

(CH. 3 - #17) - LAPE Lape is in the middle of Nuapapu's bight and shelters a fine anchorage on the NW side. There is also a small island just NE of Lape; therefore, anchor SW of this island, just off the small beach on Lape.

(Ch. 3 - #18, 19 & 20) To the E of Lape lie three similar islands: Fonua Lai, Sisia and Katafanga, and they are all day anchorages, since they are very exposed. Sisia, the largest, offers good diving off the beach and towards its southern end. At Katafanga you will find a small beach lined with coconut trees and grass. It is a beautiful picnic spot.

Hazard: A most dangerous reef lies SSE of Langitau and is not properly marked on the navigational chart of Vava'u. However, we have drawn it in on Chart 3. Covered by 4 feet of water, the reef lies to the SE of the charted reef. Keep close to Langitau or Ovaka to avoid this hazard.



THE KINGDOM OF TONGA • CHART 3

HAZARD

## CHART 4, 5 & 6

### TAUNGA

Taunga is one of the smallest inhabited islands of the group and it has some excellent beaches and good diving on the S. end. Taunga is the estate of the noble Akau'ola. The title, which means "Navigator to the King," is at least five generations old and is said to have originated in Samoa.

Present day members of the family, skilled in all the arts of the sea, have also distinguished themselves in public life. The present titleholder, the Hon. George Akau'ola, Tonga's Minister of Police, is stationed in Nuku'alofa. A younger brother, London-based Inoke Faletau, once represented his country in Great Britain and several other European countries.

(Ch. 5 - #21) This anchorage is the only good overnight anchorage stop on Taunga. It is protected when southerly and westerly winds are blowing.

(Ch. 5 - #22) The anchorage off the village is only a day stop and it is protected on two sides by extensive reefs that dry at low tide. Approach this anchorage from the W and head roughly for the middle of the island. As you get closer, steer E for the coral wharf. Once between the two reefs, proceed slowly until in 30 feet of water. You may then anchor with adequate swinging room. Do not go in as far as the wooden stakes. These mark a channel of about four feet depth to the wharf.

(Ch. 5 - #23) The best beachcombing and diving are accessible from a daytime anchorage to the W of the pass between Ngau and Pau. This anchorage requires good light to enter and to avoid fouling your anchor in coral. Be very cautious, as the water is either very deep or very shallow. At high tide the reefs are awash and the anchorage can be rolly. At low tide you are protected by the drying reef.

Diving is good all around this anchorage. The beach on Pau is excellent and another on the S.E. end of Ngau provides good hiking. Go N until you reach the isthmus; then cross to the village.

(Ch. 5 - #24) This is one of the most beautiful beaches in all of the Vava'u group. Enter from the S end of the beach and be sure to proceed slowly as there are some coral heads. If the southeaster lies are

strong, this anchorage is very exposed and can be rough; therefore, use only as a day anchorage.

### FANUA TAPU PASSAGE

Going E at longitude 174 is similar to moving from the West Indies to the Bahamas; the change is generally from deep water and high islands to shallow areas where good sunlight and eyeball navigation are necessary to avoid the numerous reefs and shallows.

The passage of Fanua Tapu is not too difficult if care is taken. The channel is deep throughout with a minimum of 12 feet at low tide. Plan to negotiate the pass in bright, high sunlight and use the chart to keep your bearings and orientation on the island of Fanua Tapu itself and Lautala. Finding the passage is easiest if you depart West of Lautala and steer 120 for about 3/4 mile. You should then see the S-shaped channel S of the small island of Fanua Tapu.

You will see the two starboard beacons quite easily, but stay out from the reef area until you are able to line up both beacons. Proceed in, and as you close on them, leave both to starboard by approximately 50 feet (just over one boat length). Immediately on passing the inner beacon turn to 90 magnetic. From here you will easily see the red buoy to port. Proceed towards that marker and leave it to port by a couple of boat lengths (70 to 100 ft). Once past it, make a turn to 10 magnetic as indicated on the detail chart in the guide.

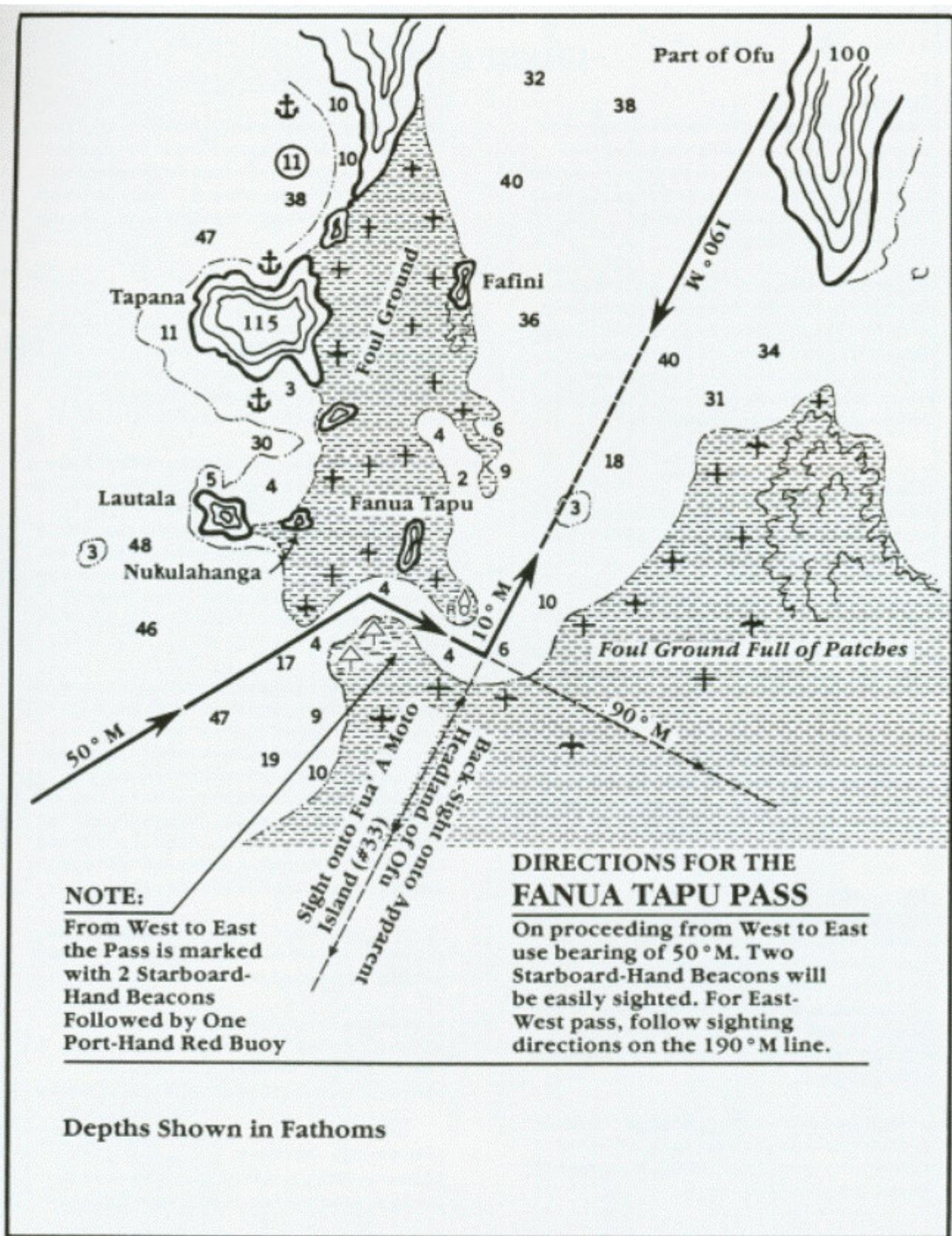
To return, again follow the course instructions on the chart. Basically, put the apparent headland of Ofu on the stern and the island of Fua'amotu (#33) on the bow.

In the eastern region around Ofu there are several anchorages protected from the normal S.E. trades. Near the village of Makave there is excellent anchorage, and it is well-protected in most all weather.

(CH. 6 - #25) - MAKAVE, Makave on Vava'u is only 1.5 miles from our base. During an easterly anchor on the E shore of this bay.

There is an excellent anchorage shown on the chart, in about 20 feet of water. Be aware of a very extensive shallow area which extends nearly 1/2 mile out from the beach on the NW shore. This area dries at low tide to become a walkway.

Should you wish to explore the village of Neiafu from this anchorage, leave the yacht anchored and dinghy to the W side of the bay.



**NOTE:**

From West to East  
the Pass is marked  
with 2 Starboard-  
Hand Beacons  
Followed by One  
Port-Hand Red Buoy

**DIRECTIONS FOR THE  
FANUA TAPU PASS**

On proceeding from West to East  
use bearing of 50° M. Two  
Starboard-Hand Beacons  
will be easily sighted. For East-  
West pass, follow sighting  
directions on the 190° M line.

Depths Shown in Fathoms

Enter the small boat pass at the west end of the bay and anchor the dinghy near the local boats. Walk north around the edge of the bay until you come to the road which leads a short way over the hill into town. Do not, even at high tide, take the dinghy into the back of the bay where the road is, as you will most likely have to carry the dinghy the 1/2 mile back over the dried reef to get to open water again.

Grumbling about taxes is an activity almost as old as man. Most people merely grumble, but the enterprising inhabitants of Makave and the nearby island of Utuatea long ago did something about them.

The chief who owned both places was always giving feasts and the burden of supplying food, for his hospitality fell on his people. As Makave and Utuatea were two separate places, the people had to pay a double levy. After a time, they decided that if they filled in the sea between them, they would become one and would then be liable to a single levy instead of the two they were paying. So eager were they to escape this burden that they accomplished the job in a single night. This speaks well for their industry, considering that the area of the fill is nearly 200 yards wide and averages six feet above the shoreline.

The former island, now the isthmus of Utuatea, contains the remains of an interesting old wall called the Kilikilitefua, meaning first-born son's wall. Originally 250 feet long and six feet wide, it stood five feet high until the government started using the stones for building cement tanks. It is said that the wall was built by the parents of first-born sons, each stone representing one son.

(CH. 6 - #26, 27 & 28) - 'OLO'UA, MAFANA AND OFU Olo'Ua, Mafana and Ofu have similar anchorages. All three offer shelter on the West shore. Ofu is by far the most scenic, offering the best anchorage

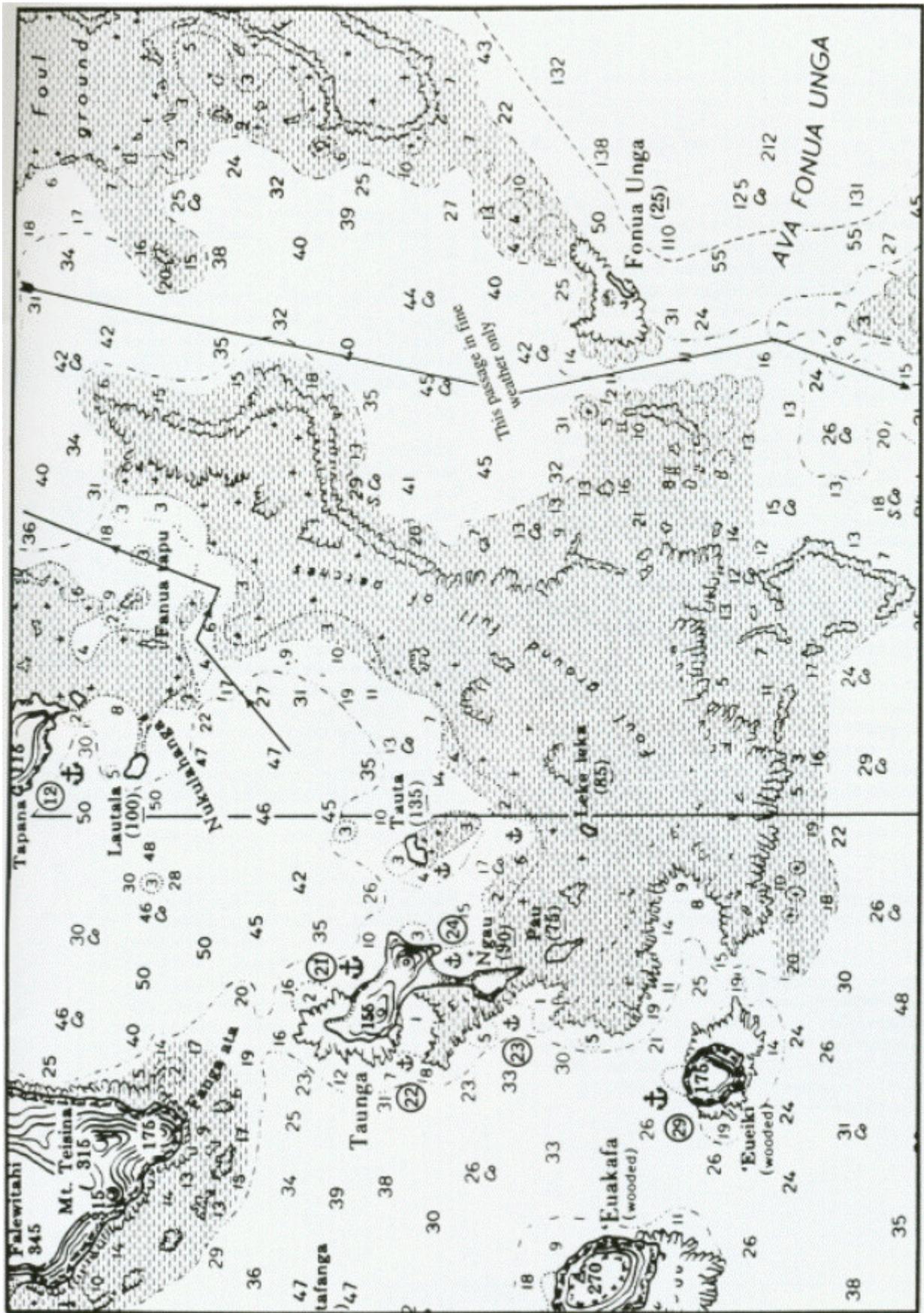
Between Ofu and Mafana is a small-unnamed island, but the owners of the house there do not appreciate visitors. The island is private, so please respect their privacy and stay away.

(CH. 5 - #29) - EUEIKI is privately owned.

(CH. 6 - #30) - KENUTU Kenutu is the most easterly of the islands and is difficult to approach. Rounding Ofu, be careful to avoid the coral patches off the SE point. There are several patches which dry at low tide. Proceed N for approximately 1/4 mile until you see a large coral head to port. Passing this coral head, turn E and steer for the south end of Kenutu or the gap between Kenutu and Lolo is. The stern should be in line with the S end of the beach on Ofu. The water shallows rapidly here as you go towards shore; therefore, proceed slowly while keeping a sharp lookout for coral. Anchor about 100 yards off the island, in the well-protected anchorage.

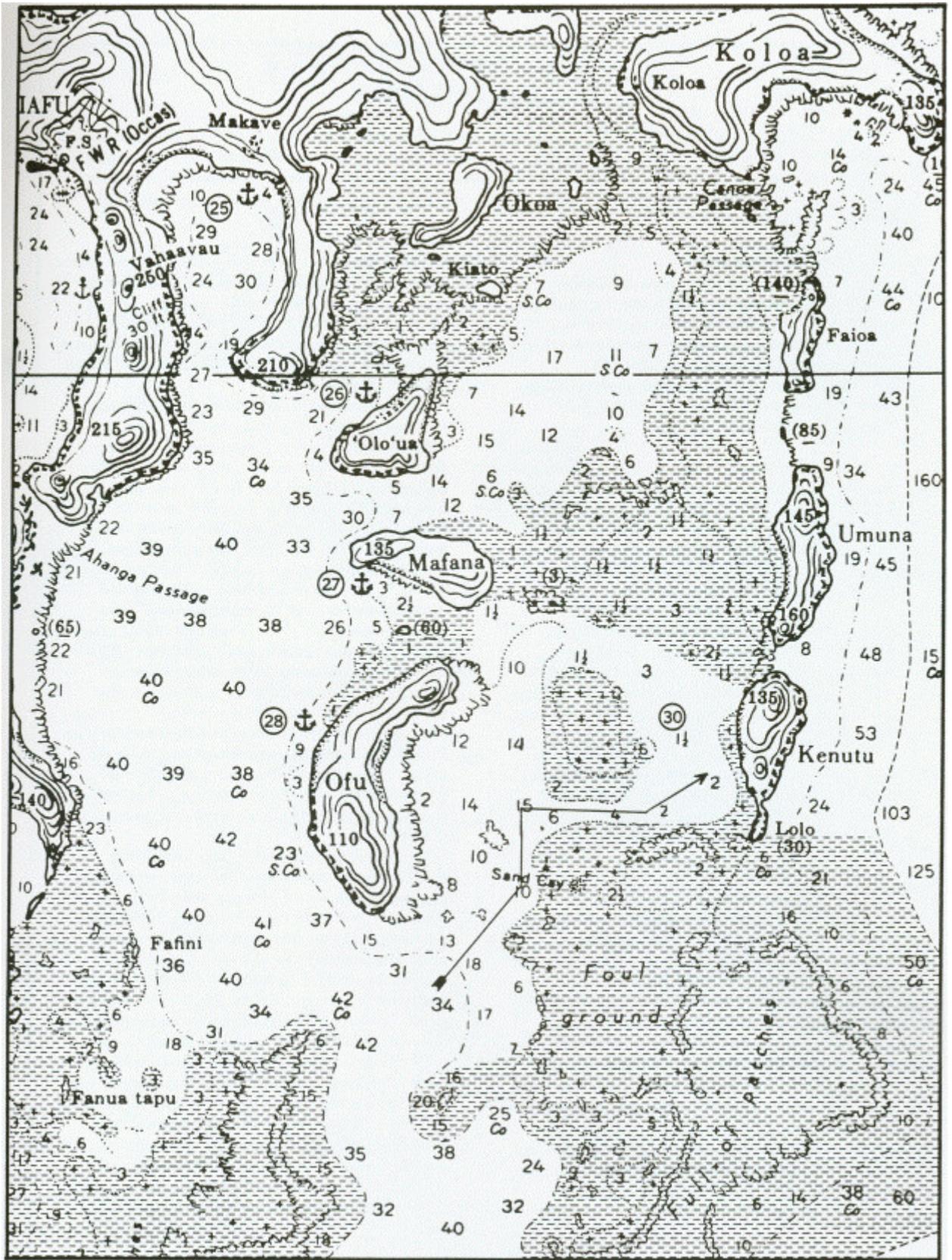
The island is overgrown with brush and trees, yet the beach is very attractive. The exposed reef is excellent for experienced divers, but be prepared, as it is difficult getting in and out of 'OLO'UA with the surge.

The islands of Umuna and Faioa to the N can be visited by dinghy from this anchorage. A visit to Kenutu would not be complete without a walk to the other side of the island to view the beautiful surf crashing against the high exposed cliffs.



THE KINGDOM OF TONGA • CHART 5

HAZARD



HAZARD THE KINGDOM OF TONGA • CHART 6

## CHARTS 7 & 8

In the southeastern area of the *Vava'u* group it is possible to sail S inside the reef and chain of small islands to the most southern island of *Maninita*. The chart is not totally accurate along this route. Eyeball navigation is necessary with a constant lookout on the bow. Some of the reefs shown are actually islands, and in some areas, there are extensive reefs where none are indicated on the charts. It would be foolish to try this passage on a cloudy day or when a large sea is running. See charts 4, 5 and 6.

(CH. 7 - #31) - MANINITA The intricate net of reefs which make *Maninita* so dangerous for yachts to approach is also responsible for making it one of the most beautiful and interesting of islands. Do not attempt to anchor here when heavy or even moderate ocean swells are present. This observation is true for all of the small southern islands, where anchoring becomes not only difficult, but dangerous in high wave conditions.

It will take less than half an hour to circle *Maninita* on the white sand beach, but you'll be tempted to linger far longer on going into the interior. It is like one vast room filled with brilliant green light filtering down from the big-leafed puko trees that provide an airy ceiling. Fishing around the island is good and the many reefs provide rewarding snorkeling.

*Maninita* is a difficult anchorage, and generally it is wise to have local knowledge when visiting there. However, for the experienced tropical sailor using caution, a daytime visit will be rewarding. We ask that you leave an experienced crewmember onboard while others go ashore or snorkeling.

*Lautafito*, a good daytime anchorage in calm weather, is easier to approach than many of the other smaller islands. However, the advice on anchoring given for *Maninita* still applies to this entire area.

(CH. 8 - #32) - EUAKAFA *Euakafa* is a high island with a large plateau about 300 feet high. It is a good place to spend an entire day, with good beaches on the NE side, good snorkeling and hiking.

*There was once a ruler of Tonga called Telea who quite sensibly decided that, as Vava'u was the most scenic part of Tonga, he should live in this group. After giving the matter some thought he chose to make his home on the island of Euakafa and selected a site high above the cliff from which he had a commanding view of Vava'u harbor.*

*When Talafaiva, the most beautiful of maidens, not only consented to be his third and most loved wife, but brought him 100 other alluring girls as part of her dowry, his happiness knew no bounds. One day, as the couple was making plans for their home, Talafaiva spied a big fo'ui tree just outside the royal*

*enclosure and implored her husband to have it cut down. Telea only shrugged his shoulders and said they would leave it. The house was built, a strong fence to safeguard them all was erected around it and outside the fence grew the fo'ui tree. Telea spent entire days and nights in amorous dalliance with his lovely bride, but after a time, he succumbed to a common Tongan urge, the desire to go fishing. Had he been less concerned about collecting bait and seeing that his lines were in order, he might have noticed a stranger on the beach. As it was, he and his men sailed off over the midnight sea with many a jest about the "big ones" they were going to land.*

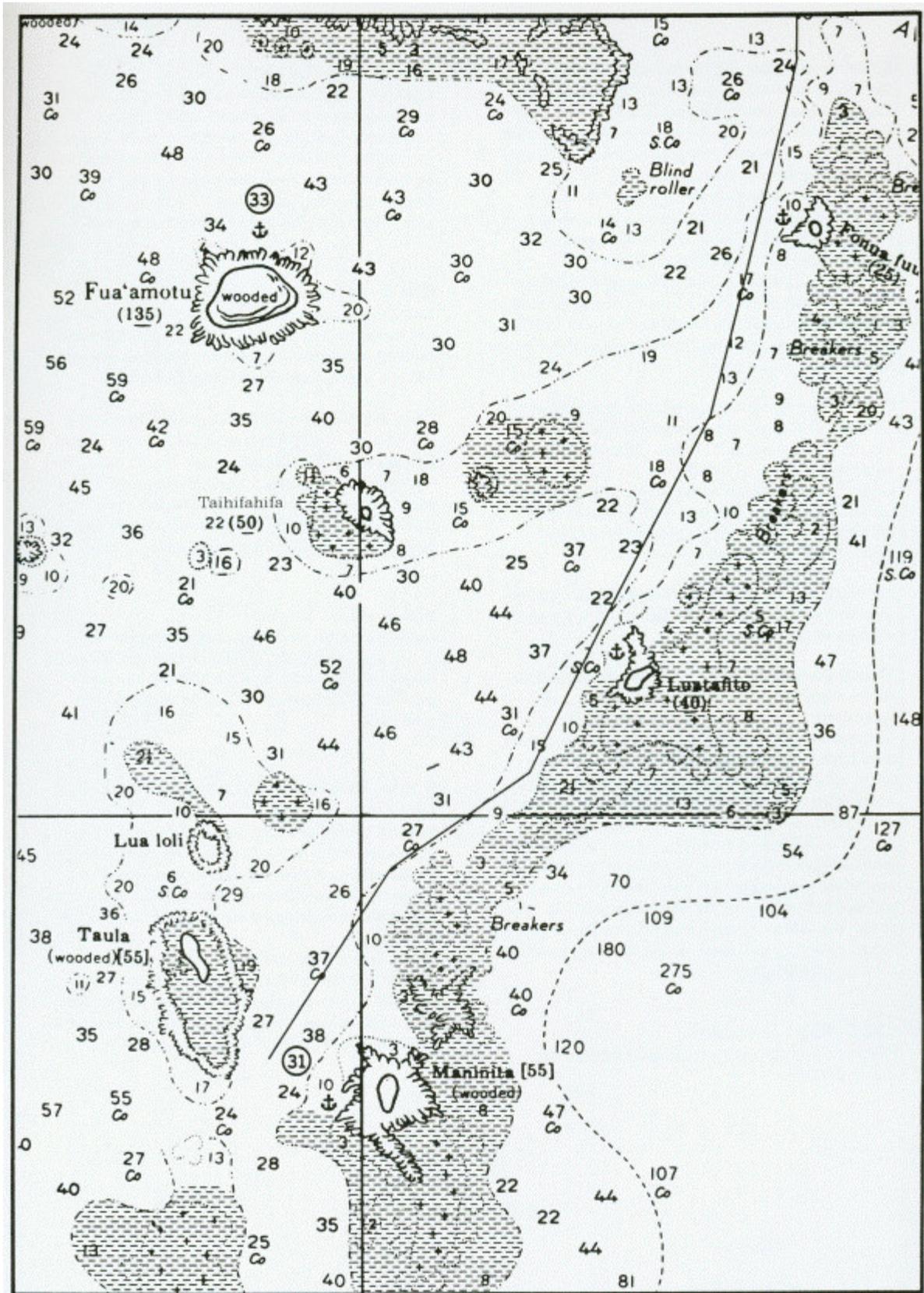
*The stranger was one Lepuha, "a handsome man of Vava'u. " Like the glorified stagecoach robbers of Australia and America, "the handsome men" were above the law and had no concern with morals. They shocked the public and the public loved them. What they stole was not money but beautiful women and Lepuha, since first he had heard of Talafaiva, had known she was one conquest he must make. To pursue that end, he had, as a matter of fact, been some time on Euakafa and had made repeated attempts to see the queen. The guards who watched at the gate of the royal compound turned him away as if he had been a dog. Like a dog, he ran about to see what he could find to help him.*

*He found it. On the night Telea went fishing, Lepuha lingered on the beach only long enough to see the King's canoe over the horizon. Then he turned, and dodging around to the side of the fence, climbed the fo'ui tree, swung out on a branch that hung over the compound, jumped down and in a very few minutes reached the object of his desire. It is well known even today that no woman can resist Vava'u's "handsome men." There is no record of Talafaiva's having tried to do so. In spite of his pulchritude, Lepuha was that nasty creature, a "kiss and tell boy, "so when he had taken his pleasure with Talafaiva, he tattooed her stomach with his special mark and having done so, left her.*

*That evening Telea and his men returned home, triumphant, with canoes full offish. Naturally, the first thing he thought of was boasting to his queen and enjoying her admiration and her favors. But when he saw the telltale mark on her stomach, his love turned to rage.*

*Bitterly he asked her why she had allowed such a thing. She was all innocence. "It was not I who allowed it. The fo'ui did it. " Since that time "The fo'ui did it" has become a proverbial Tongan saying for those who don't accept responsibility for their own actions.*

*Needless to say, it did not placate Telea. Calling his servant, Auka, he ordered him to beat his erring wife.*



HAZARD

**THE KINGDOM OF TONGA • CHART 7**

*. A few hours later, he called Auka again and asked him if he had done his command. "I have, " the faithful servant replied. "And how is the queen?" "Dead." Rage and grief burst from Telea. He had only wanted to teach his favorite a lesson. He had certainly not wanted her killed. He ordered a fine tomb built for her and sat for two days and two nights beside her dead body, pouring out his tears.*

Today, almost five hundred years later, you may see the tomb. It is empty and some people say Talafaiva was never laid to rest in it. Others claim her body was stolen by Lepuha or by members of her family. No one knows. At the other end of the island, you may see the site of Telea's house. It is gone and the fence which surrounded it is gone. Only a few stones mark the place. The fo'ui tree is gone, too.

The best anchoring at Euakafa is on the N side, but do try to find a sandy patch for the anchor. This is very exposed, thus a daytime stop only.

There is a second anchorage on the W side of Euakafa. On the chart, just off the NW edge of the fringing island coral, is a small coral patch. It is possible to anchor just to the north and east of this patch or directly to its south. To approach the southern position from the N, leave the patch on your port side, pass over an area marked on the chart as 4 fathoms and anchor just S of the patch. From here there is good access to the beaches on Euakafa or snorkeling on the reefs nearby. Also take the dinghy over to the banks of the reef to the west where you may snorkel from the dinghy on the reef tops and swim along the edge of the drop-off. The underwater scenery is very attractive over this drop-off. Often you will be swimming among the many colorful schools of small fish.

(CH. 7 - #33) - FUA'AMOTU Fua'Amotu is a day anchorage in good weather but anchor with care (CH. 8 - #34) - LuA UI Lua Ui is a small island, 1.5 miles SW of Euakafa and surrounded by coral for about 50 yards offshore. There are isolated coral heads in the shallow water. Lua Ui is surrounded by pristine coral and anchoring should only be attempted in calm weather when you may be sure to find the small sand patch. Lua Ui Vaha has a larger area of sand to anchor in and is therefore favored.

(CH. 8 - #35) - LUA HIAPO - Lua Hiapo is a small island W to SW of Fua'amotu and two miles S of Euakafa. The island is surrounded by coral with some isolated heads 100 yards offshore, and it is a good daytime anchorage for diving.

`Lua' is a Tongan word meaning underwater reef or shallows, so when you sail about the Luas, be warned. Lua Ui means `the calling reef and Lua Ui Yaha, "the reef calling over the sea." Luahiapo is named for the paper mulberry tree, from which Tongans make tapa. Luaa Fulehe is named for an attractive small bird, the honeysucker, which is often found there.

(CH. 8 - #36) - FONUA ONE' ONE - Fonua One'One is a day anchorage in good weather and is one of the easier to use. Anchor as indicated inside the `Hook' of coral to the W of the island on the sandy patch there. Access to the island by dinghy is then quite easy.

(CH. 8 - #37) - LUAA FULEHEU Luaa Fulehe is a difficult day anchorage in good weather. Please note that none of the small southern islands are in any way suitable as overnight anchorages. Caution and care should always be exercised when anchoring at any of these southern islands. Anchoring should not be attempted if the incoming ocean swells are large. Ovaka is S of Yaka'eitu and is generally exposed, making it uncomfortable as an overnight anchorage. In steady SE trades, it is possible to anchor in the three bays on the N side. These are over 40 feet deep but the most easterly of the three is shallower and is by far the best.

(Ch. 8 - #38) The Ovaka coral wharf marks this bay. Anchor off in about 30 feet of water. Use this as an overnight anchorage in only very fair weather.

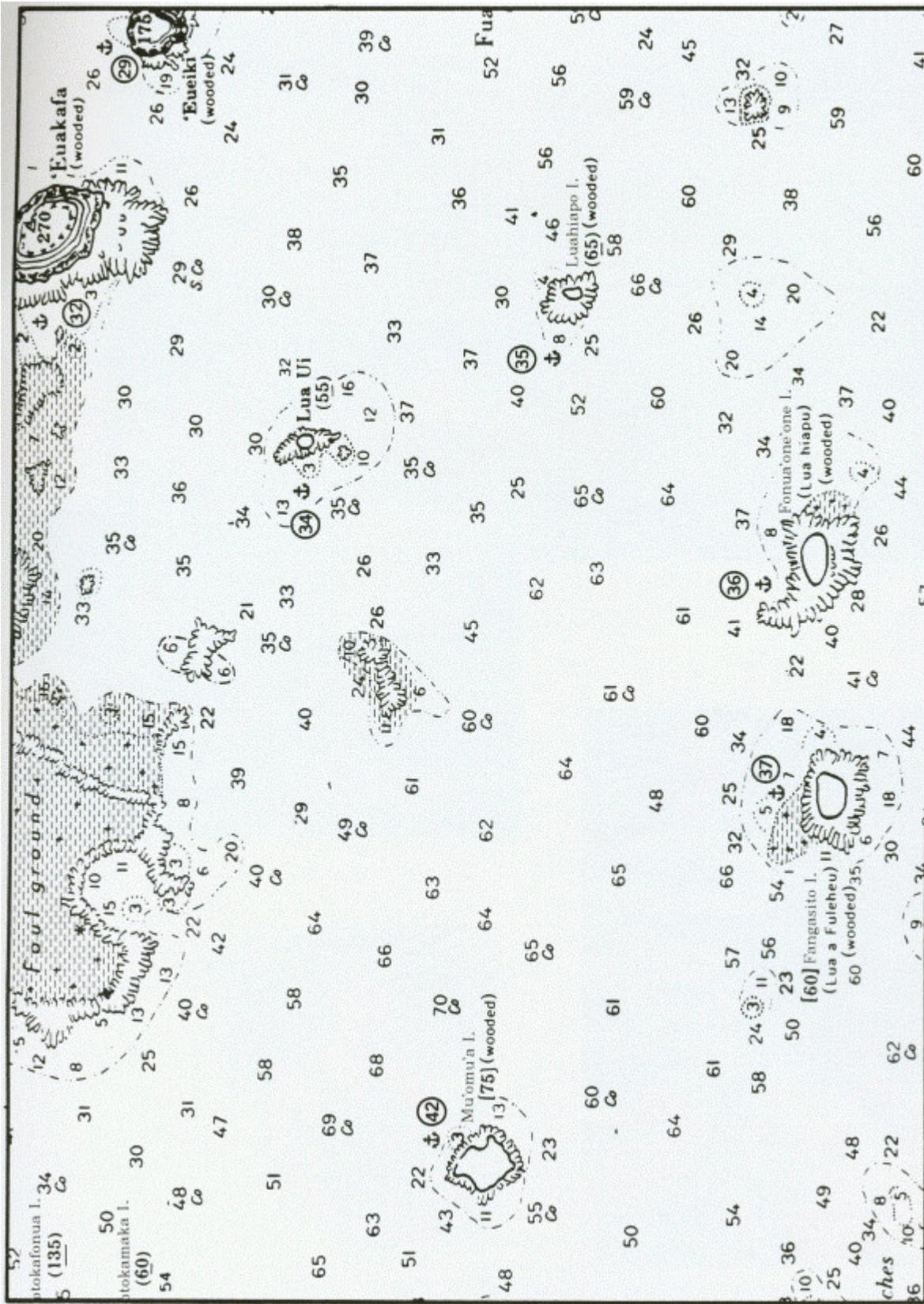
(Ch. 8 - #39) On the SE end of Ovaka, the water shallows more, making it possible to anchor here even though it is a lee shore. Ovalau and the reefs to the E of this anchorage keep the sea down. This is a very exposed anchorage, thus would be worrisome in unsettled weather. Use this as a day stop only.

(CH. 8 - #40) - OVALAU Ovalau is in the shallow area to the E and provides another good picnic beach with good snorkeling. Anchor about 100 yards offshore to the W of the island after approaching from the NW. To the S of Ovalau the water shallows dramatically, accommodating only small or shallow draft boats.

(CH. 8 - #41) - MOUNU  
Mounu Island Resort & Whale Watch Vava'u. Monitor VHF Channel 77. Please call 24 hours in advance to make a booking for lunch or dinner. Please do not use or pick up a mooring buoy until you have called the exclusive resort in advance.

Hazard: A very dangerous reef lies NE of Ovaka and is not properly marked on the navigational chart of Vava'u. We have, however, drawn it in on The Moorings' chart.

(CH. 8 - #42) - FONUA'ONE'ONE Fonua 'One 'One is a day anchorage in good weather only. Approach with extreme caution.



THE KINGDOM OF TONGA • CHART 8

HAZARD