



Patrol Reports. Bougainville District, Boku
1968 - 1969

Transcribed by: Julie Smith, Sarah Fuchs

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: Bougainville

STATION: BOKU

VOLUME No: 8

ACCESSION No: 496.

1968 - 1969

Filmed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea,
PORT MORESBY - 1989.

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

PATROL REPORT OF: BOKU
 ACCESSION No. 496
 VOL. No: 8: 1968-69
 NUMBER OF REPORTS: 1
 REPORT No: 5 ONLY IN FOLDER

REPORT NO:	FOLIO	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL	AREA PATROLLED	MAPS/ PHOTOS	PERIOD OF PATROL
[1] 5/68-69	01- 17	T.M. Keiliher (PO)	Part Banani C. Division (Bana Council)	1map	7.6.69-19.7.69

67-11-42
PATROL REPORT No 5-68-69
BY
MR. T.M. KILLIHER
P/A A17/8

BOKU/

BUIN

BOUGAINVILLE DISTRICT

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA
PATROL REPORT

Report Number: BOKU No. 5 of 1968/69
Sub-District: BUIN
District: Bougainville
Type of Patrol: Special
Patrol Conducted by: T.M. Kelliher, Patrol Officer
Area Patrolled: Part BANONI Census Division (BANA Council)
Personnel Accompanying: R.A. Hoad, District Officer (7/6 >0 11/6)
1839 Constable PHIA
2033 Constable BUNSIK
Duration of Patrol: From 7/6/69 to 19/7/69
Number of Days: 42 days
Last D.D.A. Patrol to Area: BOKU No. 3 Of 1968/69
Date: 6/1-12/1/69 & 20/1-24/1/69 Duration: 10 days
Objects of Patrol: Establishment of Garage and Rest House;
Commencement of re-construction of PIVA Airstrip; Political
Education and evaluation of political awareness; General routine
Administration.
Total Population of area patrolled: 1961
Director of District Administration,
PORT MORESBY.
Forwarded, please.
// 19
District Commissioner
Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation \$....
Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund \$....
Amount paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund

DDA 67-11-42

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

16

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference

67-1-7

If calling ask for

Mr

DNA/ek

In Reply

Please Quote

No.

Department of the Administrator,

District Headquarters,

Bougainville District,

KIETA.

26th August, 1970.

The Secretary,

Department of the Administrator,

KONEDOBU.

BOKU PATROL NO. 5/68-69

Your 67-11-42 of 17th August, 1970, states correctly that the late submission of the above report reflects not only upon Mr. Kelliher but also on his Assistant District Commissioner at that time.

2. This memorandum is to clarify the situation.

The Assistant District Commissioner at that time was Mp. R. Hoad relieving Assistant District Commissioner Mr. M. Lang who was on recreation leave.

(D. N. Ashton)

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,

Sub District Office,

BUIN.

Noted

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HRD:EMB

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67-11-42

Division of District Administration,

KONEDOBU. Papua.

17th August, 1970.

The District Commissioner,

Bougainville District,

K I E T A.

BOKU PATROL NO. 5/68-69

Your reference 67-1-7 of 29th July, 1970.

I acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of Situation Report by Mr. T.M. Kelliher, Patrol Officer, of part BANONI Census Division.

The late submission of this report is inexcusable; not only does it reflect on Mr. Kelliher but also his Assistant District Commissioner at the time for not ensuring the prompt submission of the report.

(T.W. ELLIS)

Secretary,

Department of the Administrator.

67-11-42

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

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In Reply

Please Quote

No.

Telegram

Telephone

Our Reference 67-1-7

If calling ask for

Mr...

PBM/ek

DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

31 JUL 1970

KONEDOBU

Department of the Administrator,

District Headquarters,

Bougainville District,

KIETA.

29th July, 1970.

The Secretary,

Department of the Administrator,

KOHEDOBU.

BOKU PATROL NO. 5 OF 1968/1969

Forwarded herewith are two copies of the above specified patrol which was conducted by Mr. T. Kelliher, Patrol Officer, from 7th June, 1969, to 19th July, 1969.

This report has just been unearthed by the incoming Officer in Charge, Boku.

2. It is forwarded without comment - this is rather typical of Mr. Kelliher's approach to work, my confidential C.2 of 21st May, 1970, refers.

(D.N. Ashton)

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,

Sub District Office,

BUIN.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

BOKU Patrol Post,

Buin Sub-District,

Bougainville.

3rd. June, 1969.

Mr. T. M. Kelliher,

Patrol Officer, BOKU.

PATROL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please prepare to depart on patrol to TOROKINA. You are to re-establish the PIVA bomber-airfield to a condition suitable for operations by Cessna aircraft. Refer to Patrol Report BOKU-17 of 1967/68 for background information.
2. In your discussions with the people and the organisation of labour, reiterate that the project is a combined venture by the Administration and local self-help. They are the people who will benefit from improved communications.
3. You should establish a resthouse near the airstrip site and you should also build a tractor shelter. The BANA Local Government Council is discussing the purchase of a BMC-mini tractor and grass cutting attachment. It is proposed to place an order for this early in the new financial year.
4. As the work progresses you may take the opportunity to visit surrounding villages. Discuss matters such as council and tax (payable in July), the House of Assembly, and try to evaluate political awareness.
5. Communications: Items which may be of interest to radio Bougainville should be posted to District Office KIETA with a copy to this office for information. Radio communications through the Catholic Mission via CHABAI; trading and mission vessels collect mail at TOROKINA.
6. I would like you to consider the TOROKINA area as your administrative area for the next few months. You may find the people somewhat lithargic in work but you will also find they have a happier disposition towards the Administration than other groups of people in Southern Bougainville. I wish you a pleasant patrol.

(R. A. Hoad)

District Officer

PROGRESS REPORT - PIVA AIRSTRIP

As instructed, both verbally and in writing, this patrol proceed to the TOROKINA area with the intention of establishing a garage and rest house at the airstrip and of gauging the attitude of the people. The original plan was to establish these buildings within a period of three weeks.

The patrol arrived at TOROKINA on 7th June, 1969, with Mr. R.A. Hoad, District Officer, and Mr. I.M. Cooper, Rural Development Officer, accompanying. The patrol spent two nights at KOROMAKINA village and then proceeded to PIVA village on 9th June. At PIVA that day, representatives from villages in the TOROKINA area met with District Officer Hoad and myself. After about one hour of discussion, it was decided that the airstrip would be re-constructed on a self help basis. It was also decided that construction of the rest house and garage would be carried out first and that the people would be paid for this.

Accordingly, clearing of land commenced on 10th June. Fifteen labourers were supplied from LARUMA, PIVA, KOROMAKINA and TENGEREPAIA villages. During the following 5 ½ weeks, the frames for a 20' x 20' garage and a 408' x 15' rest house were completed. The buildings were complete except for roofing (sac sac) and walls (bamboo). This stage was actually reached within 3 ½ weeks and would have been completed earlier except for the following impediments:

- (a) inefficiency of labour;
 - (b) refusal by labour to work on Saturdays;
 - (c) scarcity of good timber;
 - (d) weather;
- in that order.

During the final two weeks of work within the area, progress declined to an even slower rate. It became obvious that the people were not interested in co-operating in establishing a rest house or garage as, despite frequent requests by both Councillors and myself, they would not work

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on the preparation of sac sac and bamboo in sufficient numbers to enable rapid completion of the buildings. However, on the day of my departure from the area (19th July), a turn for the better occurred when all the people from TENGEREPAIA and TSITO villages arrived at the airstrip site to assist in the preparation of saccac. This, according to Councillors, was because the people were xxx ashamed. It was unfortunate that by that time all patrol supplies of food and fuel had been depleted and it was necessary to return to BOKU. No actual work was commenced on the airstrip as the people were quite adamant that no work would be done until the garage and the rest house were completed. On 1st August it was reported to me by Councillor BIATO of TENGEREPAIA that sac sac had been placed on the rest house and that bamboo had been prepared for walls on both buildings.

(T.M. Kelliher)

PATROL OFFICER

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SITUATION REPORT - TOROKINA AREA

POLITICAL

House of Assembly

The people of this area regard the House as a law making body which is in control of the Councils in the Territory. However, the people do not regard this as an indigenous institution as they believe that the House is directly controlled by the Australian government. They believe that the House only makes laws which follow Australian laws and therefore it cannot make laws which are suited to the Territory. They do not believe that the House can achieve any physical work within its area as all allocation of money is done by the Administration. The following comment was often heard in casual conversation: "Gavman na Huas ov Asembli i no save givim samting long mipela." (The Administration and the House of Assembly do not give us anything). It was obvious that the people expect a lot of things to occur within their area without any effort on their own part.

Council

The BANA Council has constructed 3000 gallon cement water tanks at KOROMAKINA and KOIRE villages in this area. Other than this there has been no development. However, the people still believe that the Council system is probably better than the Luluai/Tultul system although they are a little disappointed that the Council is not as successful as they were led to believe that it would be by Administration officers. They will not believe that its lack of success is their own fault.

Both Councillors and people are well aware of the fact that, in a democracy, Councillors are the spokesmen for the people. However, this knowledge has proved to be somewhat detrimental as the people believe that this is the only function that Councillors have. The people regard the Council as the channel for representation of their views on the way their area should be administered and they further expect that this should happen without any deviation or correction.

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As a result of this attitude, Councillors find that they cannot achieve anything physical within their Wards.

The people regard Council tax as a very high imposition for which they receive nothing in return.

When it was pointed out to them that the Council had built two water tanks within their area which cost approximately \$500 each, the people replied that "emi liklik samting tasol" (that is only a small thing). It was further pointed out that the Council, with Administration assistance, was now prepared to upgrade the PICA airstrip and provide a tractor for maintenance and other developmental work which would cost at least \$2000. The people appeared to think that the act of clearing grass and trees of the airstrip offset this expenditure.

The people also believe that any work which is done for the Council should be paid for highly. They believe that the work on the airstrip will probably be their last act on a self help basis.

One of the major holdups to the advancement of the Council in this area is the lack of enforcement of Council Rules. The people tend to ignore the existence of Rules and Councillors allow this. During this patrol, Rules in respect of Road Maintenance and Hygiene were enforced and it was quite obvious that the people resented this. Councillors are afraid to enforce Rules as the people do not acknowledge their right to do so. Councillors were made aware of their responsibilities but their attitude is not very different from that of their constituents.

Administration

The Administration is still regarded as being powerful in some respects and work can be achieved in those fields which are still covered by law. It is impossible to work with these people in a friendly atmosphere. The officers who work in the area are regarded as transient, highly paid whitemen who know nothing about the native way of doing things. Although the people heap all the responsibility of development onto the officers who work in the area, they will do nothing to assist those officers in the execution of these responsibilities.

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National Unity

There is no feeling of national unity within this area. Nor does the Bougainville nationalism attitude exist. The people have adopted a "wait and see" attitude on both independence of Papua and New Guinea and Bougainville.

Independence

However, independence is regarded as being very close. One gets the feeling in this area that the people will welcome independence. Despite the disintegration of their social system and their complete lack of ability to organize and develop their own area, the people believe that independence will make very little difference to their way of life and that they will be able to handle the situation without difficulty according to "native custom". Although a lot of time was spent trying to convince the people that they would require assistance from outside sources and they would also have to put some effort into their own area in order to achieve orderly and stable transition, it was easy to see that my statements were received dubiously.

Political Education

Talks were given and discussions were held on the political system as it exists now and what the ideas behind it are. The people received these talks politely but disinterestedly. During discussions it was apparent, although no direct statements were made, that the people feel that there is a great difference between what the Administration says is happening and what actually is happening. As pointed out previously, the people have a good understanding of the principles of election and democratic representation but they have no understanding of democratic government. In my opinion, present propaganda in respect of political education is not being accepted by the people.

House of Assembly Members & Councillors

Members and Councillors are regarded as working in conjunction. Although the people seem satisfied with the

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efforts of Members and Councillors they do not seem satisfied with the systems under which they operate. Comments in other sections of this report cover Councillors' attitudes. The Member for South Bougainville has not been seen by myself so comment in this respect is superfluous.

General

The general picture which was received on this patrol in respect of the political situation was one of confusion. The impression was gained that the people of this area are still in the process of forming their opinions but they are not willing to accept any help in this regard. They do not trust the systems advocated by the Administration as it is all relatively new to them and beyond their comprehension owing to foreignness.

ECONOMIC

Roads and Bridges

The only road in existence in the area patrolled which is all weather runs from TOROKINA Mission to the site of the airstrip. This road is maintained partly by the people and partly by the Catholic Mission. Councillors reported that maintenance was a sporadic affair which normally occurred prior to visits by patrols. Even this placatory gesture had not been performed before the arrival of this patrol.

An extensive road system was constructed by the Allied forces during World War II. This two lane road is still in relatively good condition even though it receives no maintenance. Some bridges have deteriorated but bridging material is available at TOROKINA. If the Council Rule in respect of road maintenance were enforced, it would be possible to re-open the road to LESIOPAIA and TSITO villages. This would take some time but it is necessary to educate these people in their responsibilities. The road will be a vital need in the area within the next twelve months when large coconut plantings in the "Rotokas" area begin to bear. If a trailer were supplied with the tractor which is being purchased for airstrip maintenance,

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it could well be utilized on this work when not engaged on maintenance. However, it would be necessary for an Administration officer to be in constant supervision.

Agriculture

The TOROKINA area is controlled from BOKU by a Rural Development Officer who has Rural Development Assistants working in the field. The Rural Development Officer was in the area during the period covered by this report and some statistics supplied by him are attached as an appendix to this report. For details of agricultural development in the area, reference should be made to his Area Project Report dated 28th July, 1969, and referenced 32-8/4-69. Generally, development has speeded up when compared with previous years but is still not as fast as it could be.

Processing and Marketing

Processing of crops occurs within the area itself but, according to the Rural Development Officer, quality in respect of copra is poor and in respect of coca satisfactory only. Marketing facilities are poor. The only means of marketing available are sporadic visits by a chinese trading vesser. The Catholic Mission sometimes transports produce to BUKA subject to availability of space on its vessels. Upon development of roads and the airstrip in the area the situation will be improved. A possible project for future consideration by the Council would be the construction of a wharf at TOROKINA. The possible of establishment of a branch of the BANA Producers' Co-operative at TOROKINA is at present being investigated. If formed, the branch would bring about a vast improvement in facilities.

SOCIAL

Education

Schools are operated by the Catholic Mission at TOROKINA Mission, BETERIOPAIA and TENGEREPAIA villages. In times gone by, schools were operated in some other villages

but were forced to close owing to lack of support from the

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people. Their attitude in respect of education is that "emi samting bilong Misin na Gavman" (it is the Mission's and the Administration's work) in that order. They feel no responsibility for teacher assistance or child control. They Kill not become invovled in Parents & Citizens Associations or in any other aspect of school operation.

Health

Heath in the area is satisfactory as the occurence of major diseases is rare. However, large numbers of yaws and grilli infections were observed. Although all cases appeared to be obtaining regular treatment, the recovery rate did not appear to be good. It was also observed during work and sport that the coastal people have very little stamina. It is hard to say whether this is caused by diet deficiencies or the unaccustomed application to continous physical activity.

Facilities in the area are supplied by both the Administration and the Catholic Mission. They are capable of handling minor illnesses and slight injuries. The Administration Aid Post is located at the LARUMA River and the Mission operates a similar institution at the PICA Hansenide Colony. Serious cases would have to be transported to either MOROTONA Mission Hospital or to BUKA. This could take up to two days if the weather is good. The proposed airstrip will supply the solution here as it is only 10 minutes flying to MOROTONA airstrip and 20 minutes to BUKA.

Law and Order

The area is very quiet as the people seem to solve most things in their own way. It is hard to say whether problems are being solved in a correct and just manner as most complaints never reach Administration officers. Previous comments in the Political section of this report are applicable here.

Services Provided by Administration

Apart from the Aid Post mentioned in Health above - nil.

Cult and Unrest

No evidence of cult activity was observed on

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this patrol. However, as mentioned previously in this report there is a general air of dissatisfaction in the area.

Missions

The Catholic Mission has two establishments in the area. The TOROKINA Mission is engaged in general mission activity. The PIVA Hansenide Colony, apart from its obvious primary function, engages in the provision of health services and the operation of women's clubs. All missionaries are active in the area and have a strong desire to help the people. However, they report that they receive very little co-operation. The Missionaries' attitudes towards the Administration are good and a good working relationship was established on this patrol.

C.R.A.E.

There was not much discussion of the actual exploration activity by C.R.A.E. on this patrol as, owing to the isolation of the people from the area in question, they were not particularly interested in the physical working of the project. However there was some discussion over the resumption of land in the Kieta area, as this was in the news at the time. Although various people referred to the KIETA people as "man bilong bikhet", I gained the impression that the real attitude of the people was of a wait and see nature. The situation was obviously being regarded as a testing ground. The involvement of Mr. P. Lapun, M.H.A., brought the matter under more intense scrutiny.

CONCLUSION

In this area, the Administration is faced with a situation wherein the people have assumed the right of complete independence without the stability of economy or social structure which is required for such independence. On the other hand, they are completely confused as to what sort of governmental system they wish to follow. They will not commit themselves to the Council as it is foreign to them and will not accept the explanations of Administration officers about the Local Government system. Thus, it is impossible for Councillors to develop into forceful leaders, even if they want to

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It would appear that the only way to solve this problem is for the Administration to supply the leadership that is presently lacking for a period long enough to induce respect for the Council in the people and thus build the Councillors into leaders. The people must be made to respect the right of their elected representatives to govern and to legislate. Owing to the isolation of the area and the unusual attitude of the people, the normal style of patrol will not achieve this as the effectiveness of such patrols in this area is minimal, at the present time.

(T.M. Kelliher)

PATROL OFFICE.

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APPENDIX "B"

COCONUT PRODUCTION - TOROKINA AREA

(as projected from census records)

Area includes: Laruma River area, Coastal Strip area, Plains area, and KOROVI, Does not include 67-69 plantings by K1GIRI and LARUMA. Assumes 7 cwt. per acre (70 palms) per year mature•
(Taken from Area Project Report by R.D.O. BOKU, 28/7/69)

BOKU Patrol No. 5 of 1968/69
TOROKINA AREA
SCALE: 1 INCH = 4 MILES.