

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: WEST NEW BRITAIN

STATION: Talasea

VOLUME No: 14

ACCESSION No: 496.

1963 - 1964

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

Sole Custodian: National Archives of Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

Digitized version made available by



Copyright: Government of Papua New Guinea. This digital version made under a license granted by the National Archives and Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea.

Use: This digital copy of the work is intended to support research, teaching, and private study.

Constraints: This work is protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) and the laws of Papua New Guinea. Use of this work beyond that allowed by "fair use" requires written permission of the National Archives of Papua New Guinea. Responsibility for obtaining permissions and any use and distribution of this work rests exclusively with the user and not the UC San Diego Library.

Note on digitized version: A microfiche copy of these reports is held at the University of California, San Diego (Mandeville Special Collections Library, MSS 0215). The digitized version presented here reflects the quality and contents of the microfiche. Problems which have been identified include misfiled reports, out-of-order pages, illegible text; these problems have been rectified whenever possible. The original reports are in the National Archives of Papua New Guinea (Accession no. 496).

14

[illegible]

PATROL REPORTS NEW BRITAIN DISTRICT

TALASEA, CAPE GLOUCESTER, CAPE HOSKINS

1963/64

<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled.</u>
<u>TALASEA</u>		
2-63/64	R.S. Willis	Kombe Census Division
3-63/64	K.R. Kelly	Bola Census Division
5-63/64	R.S. Willis	Kulu-Dagi Timber Purchase area
<u>CAPE GLOUCESTER</u>		
1-63/64	N. Wright	Kilenge-Lollo Census Division
2-63/64	N. Wright	Kaliai and Bariai Cens Divs
4-63/64	G.L. Parker	Inland Kaliai Census Division
<u>CAPE HOSKINS</u>		
2-63/64	D. N. Hooper	Central Bakanai and part West Nakanai Census Divisions
3-63/64	D. N. Butler	East N. kanai Census Division
4-63/64	D. N. Butler	West and Central Nakanai Census Divisions



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WEST NEW BRITAIN Report No. TALASEA 2/63-64
Patrol Conducted by R. S. WILLIS PATROL OFFICER
Area Patrolled KOMBE CENSUS DIV
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans NIL
Natives 2 MEMBERS R.P.N.G.C.
Duration—From 7/10/1963 to 25/11/1963
Number of Days FIFTY
Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO
Last Patrol to Area by—District Services / / 19
Medical / / 18
Map Reference LANDS FOURMIL OF CAPE RAOULT
Objects of Patrol TAX-CENSUS LAND MATTERS GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Director of Native Affairs,
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

Over 13

M F

67-10-8

9th March, 1964.

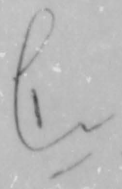
The District Officer,
West New Britain District,
R A B A U L.

PATROL REPORT NO. 2-63/64 - TALASEA:

Receipt of the abovementioned Patrol Report is acknowledged with thanks. The content of the report has been well covered by the Assistant District Officer at Talasea.

2. Mr. Willis has done well in clearing the people's thinking when there has been evidence of false impressions.

3. The report is very well recorded and is indicative of Mr. Willis' keenness, application and ability to record.


(J.K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR.

67-5-13

District Office,
Rabaul.

5th February, 1964.

Assistant District Officer,
Talisea Sub District,
TALISEA.

PATROL No. 2-1963/64 - KOMBE DIVISION
R. S. WILLIS, PATROL OFFICER

Your memorandum 67-2-1 of 20th January, 1964, forwarding copies of the above report, census figures and camping allowance claim is acknowledged.

Copies of Mr. Willis's map have been printed and will be forwarded under separate cover.

Land matters investigated by the patrol during the patrol and forwarded with the report will be dealt with on their individual subject files.

Alleged Killings - V.A. River.

I have discussed this matter with the Superintendent of Police, Rabaul, and arrangements are in hand for a senior Police Officer to proceed to the Kombe where a field investigation will be made immediately the current sittings of the Supreme Court at Rabaul are concluded. The Superintendent of Police will advise details of the investigating officer's movement to yours.

Education for Elections.

Efforts in this field are apparently yielding worthwhile results so far as the Kombe people are concerned.

It was only to be expected that word of the forthcoming elections would give rise to all manner of rumours and speculation particularly in remote areas and hence the importance of an effective educational programme designed to get across in the simplest possible terms the full significance of the election of members to the new House of Assembly.

I am pleased to note that Mr. Willis took pains to correct wrong impressions held by the people by the use of diagrams and explanations which enabled them to grasp the situation more fully.

Anthropological.

The Patrol Officer's remarks under this heading are an interesting commentary on Kombe society. I agree that the hearing by field staff officers of debt complaints involving traditional tambu exchanges is undesirable for the reasons you have given.

67-10-8

- 2 -

This was a satisfactory patrol by Mr. Willis and your covering comments deal quite adequately with the subject matter of the report.

(E. G. HICKS)
District Officer
West New Britain

c.c. Minuted to:
The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

A copy of the above mentioned Patrol Report, Talasea No.2-1963/64 (including patrol map and village population register for the Kombe Census Division) and other associated correspondence, is forwarded herewith.

(E. G. HICKS)
District Officer
West New Britain

5/2/64.



67-2-1

Sub-District Office,
TALASEA.

20th January, 1964.

The District Officer,
West New Britain District,
RABAUL.

PATROL NO. 2 63/64 TALASEA - KOMBE CENSUS DIVISION
R. S. WILLIS, PATROL OFFICER

Three copies of the above report, census figures and claim for camping allowance are enclosed.

I would appreciate six copies of Mr. Willis' map for distribution at Talasea, please.

Enclosed with the report are the following land matters investigated during the patrol:

34-2-19	of 3/12/63	N.G.L.T.R.O. GUHI
34-2-17	of 4/12/63	N.G.L.T.R.O. NUTANAVUA
34-2-18	of 4/12/63	N.G.L.T.R.O. TARUA-GAHO
35-18-4	of 5/12/63	Disputed Ownership Talasea Clan Land - KOMBE

ALLEGED KILLINGS:

A copy of Mr. Willis' investigation into alleged killings in the Via River area is enclosed. As a result of further information gleaned through the native "grape vine" I now have one man at Talasea who admits to witnessing the "killing" of the "Kaulong" male. This man states there were two Kombe canoe parties in the Via; as soon as this "killing" occurred the group in his canoe paddled away from the bank and downstream as they did not want to get involved. Whilst they were paddling away they heard the woman and child cry out too. I have today sent out the M.V. Aimara to pick-up five others who allegedly witnessed the killing of the "Kaulong" male. These witnesses should all be at Talasea by the time the investigating police officer (ex Rabaul) arrives. The Assistant District Officer of Kandrian has been advised of all events to date and I have requested his co-operation to ascertain if a male, wife and child are missing from his area. I have the names of six witnesses and also the names of four alleged killers.

At this stage it certainly does appear that the killings did occur and the questioning of the remaining witnesses will probably confirm the events. I do not anticipate any difficulty in picking up the alleged killers, ANUNU, IAPAN, BULO and GIRO of Sumalani Village, Kombe. However, there may be difficulties associated with establishing existence of the "Kaulongs" if bodies of the women and child cannot be found. I have yet to find out if the bodies of the woman and child were buried in shallow graves or thrown in the river. MAGAI, the witness now at Talasea says that the "killers" did not tell him what they did with the bodies.

As a point of interest I note that my information concerning witness to the Via River "killing" first "cropped up" because the four alleged killers did not fulfill their promises to the six witnesses. Promises of tambu payments to be made "in friendship" to their "village brothers" so they would keep quiet about ^{the} in the Via River. My witness now at Talasea is very angry because the Tambu payments were not made.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS:

The recommended dismissal of Luluai Kaumu is supported; subject separate correspondence.

POLITICAL SITUATION:

The Kombe people appear to be supporting Mr. Hans Wetzel in the forthcoming House of Assembly Elections. The Kombes readily admit that "the Kombe is divided against itself" as Mr. Willis' remarks.

I concur with remarks about the awakening desire for progress by the younger people. On both my visits to the Kombe, invariably, later at night, young men would come to the rest house to discuss ways and means of breaking up the elders' "rule"; a "rule" through secrecy, tambu and staunch parochiolism.

AGRICULTURE, FORESTS, HEALTH:

Extracts have been forwarded to the Departments concerned.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL:

I have instructed officers not to hear debt complaints concerning Tambu, "work Tubuna" - they are as bad as "Moga" payments in the Western Highlands District and once you start hearing them you will continue doing this forever.

OUTSTANDING LAND MATTERS:

The following Sacred Heart Mission Leases Applications were also dealt with on this patrol; these will be submitted very shortly:

KAKASI

SASAVORU

KIKIVIA

BONA (see attached memo 35-18-4; ownership in dispute)

.....
(B. McBride)

ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER.

INTRODUCTION: The KOMBE Census Division is situated on the north coast of West New Britain, extending Eastwards from the ARIA R. to KANDOKA Village, and inland to the headwaters of the VIA R.

Sub-District Office

TALASEA

The population is concentrated in small offshore islets protected by numerous reefs. All the gardens and coconut groves are situated on the mainland. Although much of the mainland coastal plain can be cultivated, there are large areas of mangrove swamp through which run numerous tidal creeks. The mainland area opposite GUMI is by far the worst in this regard, as the low-lying portions are covered with old coral formations which make the area bad for gardening.

Assistant District Officer,
TALASEA
West New Britain.

The people are seamen and spend a large amount of their time in gathering a variety of sea foods; consequently, **Patrol - KOMBE Census Division.** Patrol No: such as beans, ABIOA, and fruits which are grown in nearby BAKOV 2/63-64.

Conducted by: R.S. Willis. **Patrol Officer I.**
Personnel Accompanying: Two members R.P.A.N.G.C.

Duration: 7.10.63 to 25.11.63, inclusive..... 50 days.

Last DNA Patrol: July 1963

Last PHD Patrol: July 1963

Last DASE Patrol:

Last Other Patrol: Malaria Control Spray Round: October 1963

RECEPTION OF PATROL: Friendly.

Objects of Patrol: Tax Collection & Census Revision.

VILLAGES: Investigation of Land Matters.

ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION: Routine Administration.

Map Reference: Dept Lands FOURMIL OF CAPE RAOULT.

Journal: Folios 8 to 17. Paras 83 to 132 inc.

Both of which they suffered from lack of water supplies. The people moved to the islands about 1950, both of which they suffered from lack of water supplies. Mainland. Now however, many of the villagers have in people up to two miles to reach their water and water supplies.

Houses are made of split-coconut matting (PANGAL). R.S. Willis. are obtainable in abundance. Villages are built on the edge of the water. Rubbish is quickly disposed of by the pigs, or is thrown into the sea.

Some of the villagers are contemplating a move back to the mainland, but to date, this has only been done at K0 Village. The only inland village, KASOINI is shortly to be moved to the coast, KIRIVIAI, an old site previously occupied by GUMI, WOODHOLE, and SUBABANI villagers.

INTRODUCTION: The KOMBE Census Division is situated on the north coast of West New Britain, extending Eastwards from the ARIA R., to KANDOKA Village, and inland to the headwaters of the VIA R.

The population is concentrated in small offshore islets protected by numerous reefs, while almost all the gardens and coconut groves are situated on the mainland. Although much of the mainland coastal plain can be cultivated, there are large areas of mangrove swamp through which run numerous tidal creeks. The mainland area opposite GUHI is by far the worst in this regard, as the low-lying portions are swampy, while the higher ground is studded with old coral formations which make the area bad for gardening.

The people are seamen and spend a large amount of their time in gathering a variety of sea foods; consequently, their gardens contain only a few of the foods grown in abundance elsewhere. There is a definite lack of "greens" such as beans, ABICA, and fruits which are grown in nearby BAKOVI communities.

The climate is seasonal with a NW period of up to five months during which there is little movement in or out of the villages due to heavy seas.

The social life of the average inhabitant of the KOMBE is completely involved in a complicated and localised form of TAMBU distribution which will be briefly discussed under the Anthropological heading.

The economic situation in the area is directly involved with the prevailing TAMBU system and will be described under Anthropology and Agriculture.

RECEPTION OF PATROL: Friendly.

VILLAGES: As most of the KOMBE villages are situated on islets, the houses are closely built and overcrowded. In some cases, the islets themselves are being built up with stone, coral and debris to provide a larger village space, while the houses are being built further back into the water.

The people moved to the islands about a century ago to avoid sickness and attacking LAMONGAI'S, both of which they suffered from while living on the mainland. Now however, many of the villagers have to paddle up to two miles to reach their gardens and water supplies.

Houses are made from Sago (MORITA) and split-cane matting (PANGAL), both of which are obtainable in abundance. Villages are generally untidy, but edible rubbish is quickly disposed of by the pigs, or is thrown into the sea.

Some of the villagers are contemplating a move back to the mainland, but to date, this has only been done at KO Village. The only inland village, RANGIHI is shortly to be moved to the coast, KIKIVIAI, an old site previously occupied by GUHI, WOGWOGE, and SUMALANI villagers.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS: Generally, KOMBE officials are not not the "big Men" of the village in that they have no influence over the social and traditional spheres of village life, but the group, TAMBU, or clan to which the official belongs will follow his orders and will come to him with disputes etc. This means that where a Luluai belongs to say DAIA group and the Tultul to PALEMOGOHO group, each official will deal primarily with his own group and may not attempt to interfere or help the other. It is not clear to what extent this carries on in the general village life, but at KAPO it was noticed that there were two distinct "lines" which seemed of equal strength, each lead by a different official.

At KAPO, the LULUAI KAUMU was charged under S.98 of NARS, following his attempted bribery of one of the members of the Native Constabulary. In view of this, together with the fact that KAUMU is a known sorcerer, his dismissal is recommended.

See Appendix "A".

POLITICAL SITUATION: There is no prevailing pattern of native politics at present in this area, as the "KOMBE" is in fact divided against itself. Recently, there has been ill-feeling in the "Western" KOMBE over TAMBU and pig distribution, while the "Central" KOMBE, (i.e. GUHI, WOGEWOG, SUMALANI & NUKAKAU Villages) has been known to criticize the Western section for its preoccupation with money-making schemes and advancement generally. In the "Eastern" sector however, there is a dispute between sections of the TALASEA Clan over land rights, and it is here that LANGONGO the Luluai of KO is involved together with his family in a long-range cash-cropping scheme initiated by Mr H.B. Wetzel of NUKAKAU.

It is worth noting that a recent decision by the Native Lands Commission regarding Clan Boundaries is being disputed by sections of TALASEA clan on the grounds that the information given to the N.L.C. at the time was inaccurate as one group, the KANDOKAS were prevented from giving information by other sections of the TALASEA clan.

The attitude to the Administration varies from place to place but generally, there is a genuine desire, especially amongst the younger people, for assistance in all fields from education through agriculture. However while the prevailing system of TAMBU distribution is in force, little can be done.

There is a fair degree of absenteeism which in many cases is actual outward migration with no intention of returning. Several cases were noted where a young man has settled and married in another district and on application, has shortly refused to return, even to the point of running away from kinfolk. Other cases were noticed where a man either single or married has gone to other districts to collect debts owed, or as a result of complaints of laziness from his family, and has stayed away for periods up to eight years. The patrol received many applications from young men to join the services, and from ~~many~~ parents to have their sons repatriated.

AGRICULTURE: Being primarily seamen, the KOMBES do not cultivate as extensively as for instance the TOLAI and due to their manifold TAMBU commitments, the men spend very little time in the gardens at all. Consequently, there is no great surplus of fresh foods for sale or other purposes.

Cash-cropping is at this stage limited to copra production which itself is to say the least limited. Over the last two years, the entire division including LINGALINGA Plantation has been struck by Promecathica attacks which, in most cases, reduced copra production to nil. It was noticed that the western areas are now recovering or recovered but other more eastern regions are still affected. A D.A.S.F. patrol at present in the area may be able to provide more detailed information.

Crop diseases are not, however, the main reason for the areas small copra production. Once again the TAMBU system is responsible. When a man must spend up to six months of any year canoeing from place to place in the pursuit of TAMBU owed to him, and in doing so must engage up to 200 other men in the same task, that man and his debtors have little time in which to make copra. When it is taken into consideration that at any given time, there are 2-6 TAMBU distributions "on the go", involving up to 7-800 individuals, it seems surprising that any copra is produced at all. Invariably complaints are brought to the patrolling officer that the entire produce of such and such a coconut grove has been eaten while the palms themselves have been stripped of fronds for building purposes. This practice occurs mainly with communal or "Government" groves.

On the other hand, it was pleasing to note that some individuals were making an honest attempt to start and maintain their own plantations and others expressed a desire to plant cacao and even coffee. These people were advised to seek expert advice before embarking on an all out planting spree. In some cases, the prevalence of coconut thefts caused individuals to leave the village and build in their plantations where they could keep watch over the palms.

It is unfortunate that the marketing of copra is so difficult in this area. There are four main outlets, three private and one direct to Rabaul. LINGALINGA and IBOKI Plantations both buy local copra but the latter is difficult to reach due to distance. Mr H.B. Wetzel of NUKAKAU purchases a small amount, but all three depend on local shipping which is irregular. One KAPO villager had (and possibly still has) ten or so bags waiting for shipment for five months; naturally the copra is now virtually unsaleable. In view of the amount of copra produced the marketing problem is no greater, and probably less, than in other areas.

LIVESTOCK: Pigs are produced and figure in the subsistence economy but are rarely sold out of the division. Their types and number are not known. There are set values in TAMBU for the various grades of growth and size.

The TALASEA claim that during the course of the SAC investigation, incorrect information had been given and other relevant information had been withheld with the result that the area east of LINGALINGA Plantation was shown as being TALASEA land actually belongs to a combination of KANDORA

FORESTS: Although most of the coastal plain is either swampy, or has been extensively cultivated, there are three main areas containing virgin forests.

The patrol inspected land on both banks of the ARIA R., and found a concentration of good-sized timber. This area was said to contain TON, MALAS, ERIMA, GALIP, and others not identified by the patrol. Samples were taken including one thought to be Red Cedar. The villagers of NUTANAVUA expressed a desire that a sawmill should be set up in the ARIA area, and were told that this was not up to DNA. It is not known how far up the timber extends, but it was said to exist several miles along the river which is navigable by small vessels. Nearest anchorage for heavy shipping should be UTANO IS, although no soundings are shown on wartime naval chart "CAPE GAUFFRE TO STETTIN BAY".

The headwaters of the VIA R., are said to contain large areas of millable timber, but the problems of working an area 12-20 miles inland in broken country would be considerable.

This applies to the timber on the mainland opposite KO Is. This region was worked before the war, but does not seem as heavily timbered as the ARIA R. New Guinea Walnut is said to exist here. No samples taken.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY: Trade stores are not successful in the KOMBE due to the lack of ready cash amongst the people. Some individuals hold licences but make little attempt to provide a steady supply of consumer goods. Once again the erratic shipping service does little to alleviate the situation.

At POI, the villagers are engaged in the production of TAMBU, a lengthy process involving the cutting of the shell discs by the women and the polishing of the finished product by the men. Fathoms of TAMBU are accepted in the POI Catholic Mission Trade store as tender, the value of a fathom being ten shillings.

Canoes and canoe hulls from the VIA R., are sold to the UNEA and WITU islanders, together with carved paddles, but the demand is small.

Probably not more than £200-400 would be made by the people each year from TAMBU and trading.

LAND. The patrol was informed of an area of land about five hours journey up the VIA R. Rev Fr Paivu of POI mentioned that this area was very good ground and would make an excellent agricultural school. The patrol did not visit the area.

There is no immediate shortage of land within the sub-division.

COMPLAINTS: Recently, following a Native Lands Commission investigation in 1961, all major KOMBE clan land boundaries were defined and mapped. (See patrol map) During the patrol a complaint was made by both KANDOKA people and sections of the TALASEA clan that during the course of the NLC investigation, incorrect information had been given and other relevant information had been withheld with the result that the area east of LINGALINGA Plantation now shown as being TALASEA land actually belongs to a combination of KANDOKA

TALASEA AND SAPULO people. The claim was supported by those sections of TALASEA clan living at TALANGONI and KO, but was refuted by those TALASEA clan members living at KALAPIAI. The Native lands Commissioner will be notified of the complaint.

Other minor complaints were recieved during the patrol and were dealt with wherever possible. Several complaints of sorcery were found to refer to alleged offences which had occurred years previously.

At NUKAKAU, statements were taken from Ex-Constable KUNTA who claimed to have found a decomposed body washed up on uninhabited MAGAHAVU island. The site was examined but no traces of animal remains were found.

Following the incident, the patrol recieved information supposedly regarding the body to the effect that the deceased had been a KAULONG (bushman) from GASMATA who, in the company of five or six others, had walked to the head-waters of the VIA R., Later, most of the KAULONGS returned to the KANDRIAN area, but PAPULIU, his wife IAREME, and their two children remained at the VIA R.

Soon after, a party of KOMBES from GUHI, WOGEWOG and SUMALANI villages are said to have gone into the Via to cut canoes, and on their return encountered the KAULONG family near the mouth of the OREI R. Following an argument over a pig, the KOMBES are alleged to have tied PAPULIU to a tree, cut off his arm and leg, and then assaulted his wife, killing both her and the female child. They are then said to have thrown the two females into a shallow grave, and to have thrown the man into the VIA R. The mans son, SIPIDIO, is reported to have seen the incident while hiding in the bush and to have reported the matter to his Lulua at IAKAS.

The matter was investigated and all informants questioned with the result that no evidence could be found that the offences ever took place. All information recieved was hearsay, and invariably the informant refused to divulge the source of his information, or said that he heard it from unidentified people living elsewhere in the Sub-District. The scene of the alleged offences could not be examined due to the vast area involved and the lack of willing witnesses. The A.D.O. KANDRIAN will be advised of the matter.

COURTS: Several marital disputes were brought to the patrol but in no case was court action taken.

KAUMU/MOVA charged under S. 98 NAR

BONI of POI charged under S.83 (a) NAR

WAKORE of WAROU charged under S. 97 (f) NAR

All courts heard at TALASEA.

REST HOUSES: See patrol Map.

CARRIERS: All villagers were willing to act as crew for the patrol although some signified that they wished to carry only to the next village. When a voyage of two or three days became necessary however, there were more than enough young volunteers. Many of the younger crew prefer to be paid solely in cash rather than some cash and some trade tobacco.

Generally, KOMBE canoes are seaworthy under both sail and paddles, however patrolling officers should check outrigger bindings of all canoes used as there is a tendency for maintenance to be completely neglected.

HEALTH: There is only one effective AID POST in the census division situated at MOPUTU. Other attempts to provide Aid Posts in the area by PHD have met with a complete lack of cooperation on the part of the people. As a result of this uncooperative attitude, several Aid Posts have been shifted to other areas. One application was made to have an Aid Post provided at KAKASI, the site of a new Mission school which is attended by both KOMBE students and children from the GAHO R. area. The patrol was assured that PHD would receive the utmost cooperation in installing the service. The application has been referred to the Medical Officer stationed at TALASEA.

During the patrol, all native personnel accompanying suffered from boils and sores. It is not known whether this was due to lack of personal cleanliness or the lack of available green vegetables and fruit. All personnel were fully rationed and washed frequently.

The medical officer stationed at TALASEA states that much of the sickness in the census division is caused by cramped and unhygienic living conditions. It was seen that a single unventilated house would contain up to twelve people, three dogs, two burning hurricane lamps and a smoky fire. Small pigs are often taken inside for warmth. All occupants sleep on the floor.

When sickness does occur, there is a marked tendency not to bring the ailing person to TALASEA but rather to look around for the cause of his illness, or rather to find out who made sorcery against him. Even when ordered by a medical officer, the KOMBES often leave the patient until he is on the point of death.

Medical facilities are provided by SDA Mission at SILAVUTI and also in some mission schools.

EDUCATION: Almost every village has both a Catholic and in most cases a Seventh Day Adventist mission school. Invariably, attendance at these village schools is extremely poor as parents engaged in TAMBU distributions will take their children away to work in their gardens for weeks at a time. It is a common practice for school children to attend a certain school for a week, then go to the neighboring village and attend school there. (Unless there are no relations at the second village, when the child will miss school until dragged back by his parents.)

When the mission teachers attempt to discipline their students or seek aid from the parents, they are always rebuffed and sometimes threatened. The patrolling officer spoke to all villagers, but these people refuse to see that education is not only a matter for student and teacher but involves parent cooperation as well. The Rev. Fr. PAIVU claims that the only way to ensure attendance in this area is to alienate the children and make them independent of their parents and outside food sources. He is putting this into effect in the Missions four mainland schools, KAKASI KIKIVIAI, SASAVORU, and BONA. Despite their uncooperative attitude, KOMBE parents clearly desire their children that have a good education.

Village mission schools teach Standards I - III only while mainland schools will eventually teach as high as Standard VI. At present, some Catholic Mission students are attending TALASEA Primary "T" school. Very few attend schools in and around Rabaul.

ROADS & BRIDGES: NIL

CEMETERIES: The majority of KOMBE cemeteries are located on small uninhabited islands.

MISSION INFLUENCE: Two Missions are established in the area; S.D.A. stationed at SILAVUTI, and Sacred Heart Mission at POI. Mission influence is strong but there is no friction between the religions. As in most other divisions, SDA adherents tend to build away from the village proper.

AIRFIELDS: NIL

ANTHROPOLOGICAL: The four systems of TAMBU distribution, AGALUNGA, WAULO, AUNINGA & LUANGA, have been previously described by other officers and therefore need no detailed description. A few points are worth noting however.

The TAMBU used is reportedly similar to that used in New IRELAND, and is different from the Tolai DARA.

The sole purpose behind the distribution is to gain a reputation: therefore the system does not involve profit.

Although the KOMBES do not yet realise it, the entire system is breaking down. Before European intervention, perhaps two men in each village would have a distribution in their lifetime. These were the "Big Men", all other villagers were socially inferior to them. Now however, young men with money are having their own distributions (Work TUMBUNAS), and some are having two or even three. These "Work Tumbunas" are throwing the system out of gear by causing large and compounding debts to be incurred, causing people to neglect gardens etc, in the frantic pursuit of TAMBU, and generally lowering the value and prestige once attached to the system. In addition to this, young unmarried women are forsaking the ideal of a future husband who has reputation for a future husband who has, and will spend, money.

Several of the divisions few remaining "Big Men" are contemplating a move whereby the value of a fathom of TAMBU will be raised to £1. This will certainly affect the number of "Work Tambunas" now raging unchecked, but will also provide a fat profit for anyone lucky or clever enough to have a hoard of TAMBU at the time.

LABOUR: The KOMBE has never been a great source of labour, partly because KOMBE'S have an aversion to most forms of organised work, and partly because many employers have an aversion to all things KOMBE. The situation is changing however as more young men are finding their home environment too backward, and are moving out to other areas.


From a population of 3,171, 213 men are at present working within the district and 34 in other areas. It is uncertain how many are actually employed and how many are simply living elsewhere.

PERSONAL TAX: Personal Tax to the value of £394 was collected during the patrol, the low figure being due to the poor coconut crop. The general attitude towards tax is to avoid paying it if one possibly can, and this attitude persists despite repeated lectures on the reason for taxation and the benefits thereof.

32 exemptions were issued, mainly on grounds of Old Age or Family Obligations.

GEOGRAPHY: The Dept Lands Journal of Cape RAOULT was found to be slightly inaccurate regarding place names and watercourses in this area. The attached patrol map contains minor alterations.

PERSONNEL: Duplicate Records Service have been noted and Commissioner of Police advised.


R. S. Willis.
Patrol Officer.

ELECTIONS - HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

At all villages in the KOMBE census division, lectures were given on the subject and in most cases the basic principles behind the elections were understood.

In some cases however, the ideas and concepts expressed by the villagers before the lectures were given showed clearly that rumours and speculation had been widespread. Several individuals held the view that self determination would follow the elections, but after listening for a while, seemed to grasp the situation more fully.

In all cases it was found that a simple statement of fact, although accepted was not sufficient. Invariably, villagers showed a much greater comprehension of the position if examples were given and verbal diagrams drawn. When a few basic principles had been absorbed, many people began showing a healthy interest and requested further details.

It was noticed that there were several individuals who had plans for "electioneering", and it was heartening to see that these people did not intend restricting their efforts to local areas, but were prepared to express their views in all parts of the Electorate. No nominations have been recieved to date however.

R.W.L.

R.S. Willis.
Patrol Officer.

COPY

Sub District Office,
TALASEA.

2nd December, 1963.

Assistant District Officer,
TALASEA.

Investigation into alleged offences - VIA R.,

KOMBE C/D

During my last KOMBE patrol No. 2/63-64, the following information was brought to my notice.

Several months ago, (June, 1963), a group of men from GUHI, WOGEWOG, and SUMALANI villages, went to the headwaters of the VIA R., to cut canoes. They stayed in the area for 2½ weeks.

In July 1963, a second party went to the VIA for the same purpose. Party was composed of SUMALANI villagers and stayed 3½ weeks.

Some time later, (no dates available). a third party from GUHI went into the Via R., but state they only went as far as the village gardens, staying three days.

Some time in late August or early September, 1963, Ex-Constable KUNTA of NEMAKAU was returning home from POI by canoe when he found the remains of a body washed up on the shores of uninhabited MAGAHAVU Is. Kunta states that one arm and one leg was missing from the body, which was so decomposed as to be virtually a skeleton. KUNTA did not remove the body, and later examination of the site showed no trace of it. MAGAHAVU lies about 2 miles off-shore from the mouth of the VIA.

On 3rd November, 1963, a KAULONG Luluai from AMOLO Gasmata Sub-District, came to RANGIHI village situated inland from KIKIVIAI on the coast. As far as can be ascertained, the Luluai's sole purpose in visiting RANGIHI was to settle a debt dispute, but he is reported to have given the following information to MASUNGA of GUHI.

Some time ago, (No Dates), the Kiap at Kandrian wanted some men to work on the airstrip, but some men of AMOLO did not want to and they ran away to a creek called MURUK near RANGIHI. Later they moved to RANGIHI, but one man, PAPULIU stayed behind with his child. When some native police came from Kandrian to take back the runaways, they missed PAPULIU and his family. PAPULIU and family have not been seen since.

On hearing this information, ALFRED, SDA Mission teacher at RANGIHI told the Luluai about the body allegedly found by KUNTA. The Luluai is then said to have gone to MULIAGANI Is, further down the Coast.

MARANGA, a KAULONG from IAGAS, Gasmata S/District, who is now living at RANGIHI, states that the Luluai made no mention of any killings or other incidents while he was at Rangih. MARANGA goes on to say that the people missed by the native police from Kandrian were:

PAPULIU of IAGAS
IAREME wife of the above.
..... and SIPIDIO, sons of apauliu.

On November 16th, 1963, while the patrol was at KO village, GORI, Tultul of KALAPIAI said that the following information had been given to him.

When the third party of KOMBES had finished cutting canoes in the Via., and were on their way back, they came across a family of KAULONGS living on the banks. They tried talking to the woman, but she could not understand, and send her daughter into the bush to find her (the Daughters) father. The father was working in the bush with his son and told the boy to stay hidden while he went to speak to the KOMBES. He talked with the KOMBES who wished to buy a large pig that was near the house, but the man refused to sell. Whereupon the KOMBES tied him to a tree and one man cut off his arm and his leg while the others assaulted his wife and then killed her together with the young daughter. The KOMBES then cut up the pig and went away. After they had gone, the young boy went back to his village and later brought some men to see the bodies.

KOMBE party took the pig back to their villages and said it was bush pig, but other people said it had too much grease for a bush pig.

On receipt of the above information, I broke my patrol and retruned to NUKAKAU where I questioned every individual who seemed to know something about the affair. I could find no evidence that the events described ever took place; nor could I trace the source of the "talk", as in every case, informants stated that they had forgotten, who told them of the affair, or said that they had heard it from KILEGE Census Division. Mr. H.B. Wetzel of NUKAKAU was with me at the time and said that he was in the VIA R. area about the time the second canoe-cutting party was there. He does not think there was a third party.

Various discrepancies are to be seen when the story is examined closely, but about the only outstanding point is that of the body found by KUNTA. Why was the body not taken by crocodiles; and if not touched by crocs or sharks, why was there no flesh on the bones? Conceivably, the numerous hermit crabs to be found on MAGAHAVU might have stripped the bones in a week or so, but when the site was visited a few days later by MASUNGA of GUHI, there was no trace of the body. The sea during this period was moderate. If the body was in the condition claimed by KUNTA, it would not have floated, having no buoyancy. The site was later examined by myself and Sr. Const. DAUN. No traces were found of any animal remains whatsoever.

Although the VIA R., was not examined due to the huge area involved, it is my belief that the story, as set out, is untrue, however I submit that the A.D.O. Kandrian be notified of the investigation.

For your information.

R.S. WILLIS.
Patrol Officer.

HOME CENSUS DIVISION



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of.....~~WEST NEW BRITAIN~~..... Report No.....^{TALASEA}~~3/6-64~~.....

Patrol Conducted by.....~~K.R. KELLY~~.....~~CADET PATROL OFFICER~~.....

Area Patrolled.....~~BOLA CENSUS DIVISION~~.....

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....~~NIL~~.....

Natives.....~~2 MEMBERS R.P.&N.G.C.~~.....

Duration—From.....~~7~~...../~~14~~...../19~~63~~.....to.....~~29~~...../.....2...../19~~64~~.....

Number of Days.....~~23 DAYS (BROKEN PATROL)~~.....

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....~~NO~~.....

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services...../~~11~~...../19~~62~~.....

Medical /...../18.....

Map Reference...~~DEPT. LANDS FOURMIL OF WILLAUMEZ PENINSULA~~.....(~~ATTACHED~~)

Objects of Patrol...~~CENSUS REVISION AND TAX COLLECTION, ELECTION~~.....

~~EDUCATION AND ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION.~~

Director of Native Affairs,

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

67-10-17

Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU. PAPUA.


7th September, 1964.

District Officer,
West New Britain District,
RABAU.

PATROL REPORT NO. 3-1963/64 - TALASEA:

Receipt of the abovementioned patrol report and
your comment is acknowledged with thanks.

2. I have no comment other than to record I am
pleased the electoral education was successful.
3. The lateness of the report makes it practically
valueless.



(J.K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR.



67-5-13

District Office,
RABAU.

23rd July, 1964.

Assistant District Officer,
TALASEA.

TALASEA PATROL REPORT NO.3 of 1963-64
BOLA CENSUS DIVISION

Receipt of your memorandum 67-2-1 of 21st July 1964 forwarding the above numbered Patrol Report submitted by Mr. K.R. Kelly, Cadet Patrol Officer, is acknowledged.

It is noted that this patrol was conducted between the dates of 7th November, 1963, and 29th February, 1964, but the report was not received at this office until 22nd July 1964. Even allowing for the re-typing of certain sections of the report as indicated in paragraph 1 of your memorandum under reply, I feel that there is absolutely no reason why forwarding of this report should have been delayed so long.

Please inform Mr. Kelly that in future Patrol Reports will be submitted not later than two weeks from the date of completion of the patrol to which the report refers. Mr. Kelly should also be aware that copies of patrol maps should accompany all copies of each Patrol Report. Furthermore 3 copies of Village Population Registers are required by this office - one for filing here and the remaining 2 for forwarding to Headquarters. Only 2 copies accompanied Mr. Kelly's Patrol Report and an additional copy is therefore required please.

It is requested that you draw the foregoing matters to Mr. Kelly's attention. My impression is that this Officer's field work is satisfactory but he needs to give much more care and attention to the preparation of his reports.

(E. G. HICKS)
District Officer,
West New Britain.

C.C. MINUTED TO:
Director of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

Copy for your information please. Duplicate copy of Talasea Patrol Report No.3 of 1963-64 together with Village Population Registers for the Bola Census Division in duplicate are forwarded herewith.

(E. G. HICKS)
District Officer,
West New Britain.

23/7/64.

(8)

Sub-District Office

TALASEA

6th April 1964.

Assistant District Officer

TALASEA

West New Britain.

PATROL -- POLI CENSUS DIVISION.

Patrol No: 3/63-64

Conducted By: K.R.Kelly Cadet Patrol Officer

Personnel Accompanying: Two members R.P.&N.G.C.

Durations: 7.11.63 to 29.2.64 inclusive -- broken patrol 29 days

Last DNA Patrol: November 1962

Last PND Patrol:

Last DASF Patrol:

Last Other Patrol: Malaria Control Spray Round June 1963.

Objects of Patrol: Census Revision and Tax Collection

Election Education

Routine Administration.

Map References: Dept Lands FOURMEL OF WILLAUMEZ PENINSULA

Journals: Folios 3 to 7 -- 14 . Paras 16 to 47 inclusive & 127 to 130.

K.R.Kelly
K.R.Kelly,
Cadet Patrol Officer

Sub-District Office
TALASEA
6th April 1964.

BOLA PATROL 3/63-64.

INTRODUCTION: Bola Census Division includes the whole of the Willaumes Peninsula extending from Ruango village near the Dagi River to Kandoka on the extreme southern tip of Riebeck Bay.

This census Division takes in approximately 140 miles of coastline and extends inland to the centre of the Whiteman Ranges, a distance of approximately 35 miles.

The Bola Division is flanked by the Kombe Census Division on the west and the West Nakanai (Controlled by Cape Hoskins) on the east.

The majority of the population in this census division is situated along the coast on in close proximity to it. The one exception being Neveria which is about one day's walk from the coastal village of Kilu.

Most of the villages are connected to Talasea by roads which are trafficable to Landrovers.

The two largest rivers in the area are the Dagi, which forms the eastern boundary of the Division, and the Kulu River which empties itself into Riebeck Bay a few miles north of Kandoka.

Both are navigable for small boats for approximately fifteen and ten miles respectively.

The main purpose of this patrol was revision of the census, collection of head tax and election education.

NATIVE AFFAIRS: The most influential people in this area appear to be TELE KULU, president of the Bola Local Government Council, from Kumeraki village and a former councillor and present member of The District Advisory Council, Joe Reio of Ganemboku village.

Tele has extensive influence in the Volupai, Liapo and Buluwara area while Joe Reio has the solid support of the people in the Ganemboku, Bagum and Kambilli area.

The Non-Council villages west along the coast from Talasea tend, complacently, to follow the ideas of the West Nakanai people with no particular "Big" man in mind.

Both the above mentioned men are standing as candidates for the West New Britain Open Electorate and it will be interesting to note the result when votes are counted. Both are pro-administration.

House of Assembly talks were given in all villages during this patrol.

The people of this census division have a fairly good understanding of the way elections are conducted, as they have been having council elections for the past six years.

The idea of an election was not completely foreign to them as it seemed to be to people of the Koube, Barai and Kaliai census divisions, before the Assistant District Officer at Talasea Mr. McBride visited them.

The functions of the House of Assembly were carefully explained to the Bolas.

They seemed particularly impressed by the fact that they would, in all probability, have an elected native majority in the new House.

One of the main questions asked when election talks were being held was whether the person elected to the House of Assembly would have omnipotent powers when he returned to his village.

Many of the people in the non-council villages of Kila and Garilli seemed particularly afraid that the person elected might return and have court powers etc. because of this many of them said they did not want to vote.

When this fear was dispelled and the fact that voting was not compulsory explained many of them changed their pre-conceived ideas about elections.

VILLAGES AND HOUSING: The standard of housing throughout the area is reasonably good and only in isolated cases were villages instructed to rebuild parts of their houses.

At Bagum the hospital roof was badly rotted so residents of Kambilli and Giru were instructed to repair this roof as the hospital is cared for by them and the Aid Post by Bagum.

Housing in the other villages was good with the exception of Neveria.

In this village houses are at ground level, distinctly different from the "stilted" houses in the rest of Bola, with no flooring and dried grass roofs.

This is mainly caused through lack of material in the near area and the unwillingness of the local Kaulongs to carry roofing material any distance.

During conversations with the people it was learnt that they own a little Jac sac about a two hour walk from the village. They were advised that although "it would be very labourious work" it would be for their own benefit to use this material for roofing.

The number of toilets in each village was high, but many of them were dilapidated and few had doors.

In fact it seemed that the toilets were "for show" only and were hardly ever used.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS: This area is largely controlled by councillors, who in the main do a good job.

Committee men appointed to assist councillors are also carrying out their work reasonably well.

LAW AND ORDER: Remarkably few complaints were brought to this patrol. This was probably due to the fact that most of the villages are within easy walking distance of the Sub District Office, and people tend to bring their complaints "in".

However councillor Bulu of Bulumuri, on the tip of the Willaumez peninsula, complained about the absence of an Aid Post Orderly.

He claimed he had been told by the Public Health Department, Talasea, that if he readied a house and an Aid Post an Aid Post Orderly would be sent to the village.

Councillor Bulu claimed after doing so and informing PHD, he had been told that an Aid Post Orderly could not be sent to Bulumuri.

On returning to Talasea the matter was discussed with PHD.

Dr. B. Young, Medical Officer in Charge Talasea, said that at the time when the Bulumuri people had been asked to build the Aid Post, which was about five months before the patrol arrived, an Aid Post Orderly had been available.

However during the five months it took for them to renovate the Aid Post the Orderly had been transferred to the Aid Post Training School at Mt. Hagen for a six months course.

Dr. Young said the Aid post Orderly from the Silanga settlement, Central Nakanai, has been brought to Talasea for a refresher course, following which he will be sent to Bulumuri.

PHD comment on the matter was that it was through lack of co-operation from the Bulumuri people that the situation was brought about.

TAX: A total of £129-0-0 tax was collected from the non council villages in the area. Three exemptions were issued for old age reasons.

No difficulty was experienced in collecting tax.

ROADS AND BRIDGES: Travel in this area is mainly done by canoes or in Landrovers. Most of the Villages being reasonably close to Talasea.

A single lane bridge is being built over the Bulu river as part of the proposed road from Kumuvavu to Volupai.

This road has been cut and for the most part is trafficable to four wheel drive vehicles. However a few minor alterations in gradients had to be made.

The traverse for a road linking Volupai mission and Volupai Plantation has been cut but will need many alterations from the present site as many of the gradients are as steep as 12%.

AIRFIELDS: Talasea airstrip is situated between Bamba village and Volupai plantation, slightly north of both.

This is an excellent all weather airstrip except when sixteen inches of rain falls overnight.

The " strip " is 5,000 feet long and 300 feet between the markers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The people of the Bola area have an extreme dislike for work. They have all they need to satisfy their immediate demands and most of them live on a day to day basis.

The area's potential is very high as proved by the fact that six large plantations in the region are producing cocoa and copra at a high rate.

Many of the villages have their own small plantations, but through lack of upkeep, mainly due to laziness most of these are overgrown.

Even so some copra is produced by the natives which is either sold to a society, a plantation, the local Chinese merchant or shipped direct to Rabaul.

Food is plentiful in all the villages with the exception of Neveria.

The main diet for the people of this village is sago. They do not have any variety as in other villages. Also being an inland village they cannot supplement their diet with fish.

Since the last patrol in this area the village has been moved from a ridge site from its former swamp position.

At present there are plans to construct three new fermentaries of the 'kukum' type in the area. The three will be built at Liapo, Morekia, and Patanga.

NATIVE AGRICULTURE: The main food crops grown here are Taro, Kaukau, Sugar Cane and Bananas. Fish is also in plentiful supply and is used to supplement the diet, along with Tomatoes, Beans, Onions and Pawpaws.

Even with this good variety of native foods there is a certain reluctance, mainly caused by laziness, to keep up present crops.

CENSUS: The population has risen by 240 since the last patrol in this area. This is mainly due to the inclusion of Kandoka, formerly censused on Kombe patrols, in this patrol.

The natural increase of 91 was arrived at after births, deaths, migrations in and out were balanced.

HEALTH: The health of the people in this area is quite good. There is very little infant mortality, mainly due to the work of European sisters at Bitokara Catholic Mission.

The Talasea hospital is staffed by a doctor, a European Medical Assistant and Several Medical Orderlies. In addition to this there is also a Papuan Medical Assistant and a Dental Assistant stationed at the hospital.

MISSIONS AND EDUCATION; ref P/R Tal 3/62-63 Mr. F.L. Leibfried Patrol Officer. "There are two mission stations in the area, one at Bitokara and the other at Volupai".

Both these stations are under the control of european missionaries and at Bitokara there is an additional staff of four european sisters, who look after the maternity section and are in charge of the Bitokara hospital.

The government school at Talasea has the highest standard of education in the area, going as far as standard six.

When pupils reach a higher standard they further their education in Rabaul.

The Bitokara mission school teaches as far as standard five, and there are also mission schools, of a lower standard at the villages of Bola, Patahga, Ruango, Were, Pangalu and Bagum.

CONCLUSION: The Bola people have one of the richest areas in the West New Britain District, much of the land compares more than favourably with the Gazelle Peninsula.

However the laziness and complacent attitude of the people prevents and real expansion of native economics.

The people in this area will have to learn to work before any real progress can be made.

The Dagi River Land settlement scheme is beginning to function well and this is showing people the Bola people just what can be done with their land.

Some are now beginning to realise that they can have a small fortune if they are prepared to work for it.

The Bolas MUST learn to work if they ever want to progress economically.

K.R. Kelly,
Cadet Patrol Officer

"BOLA CENSUS DIVISION"

Extracted
from

FOURNIL OF TALASEA

LEGEND

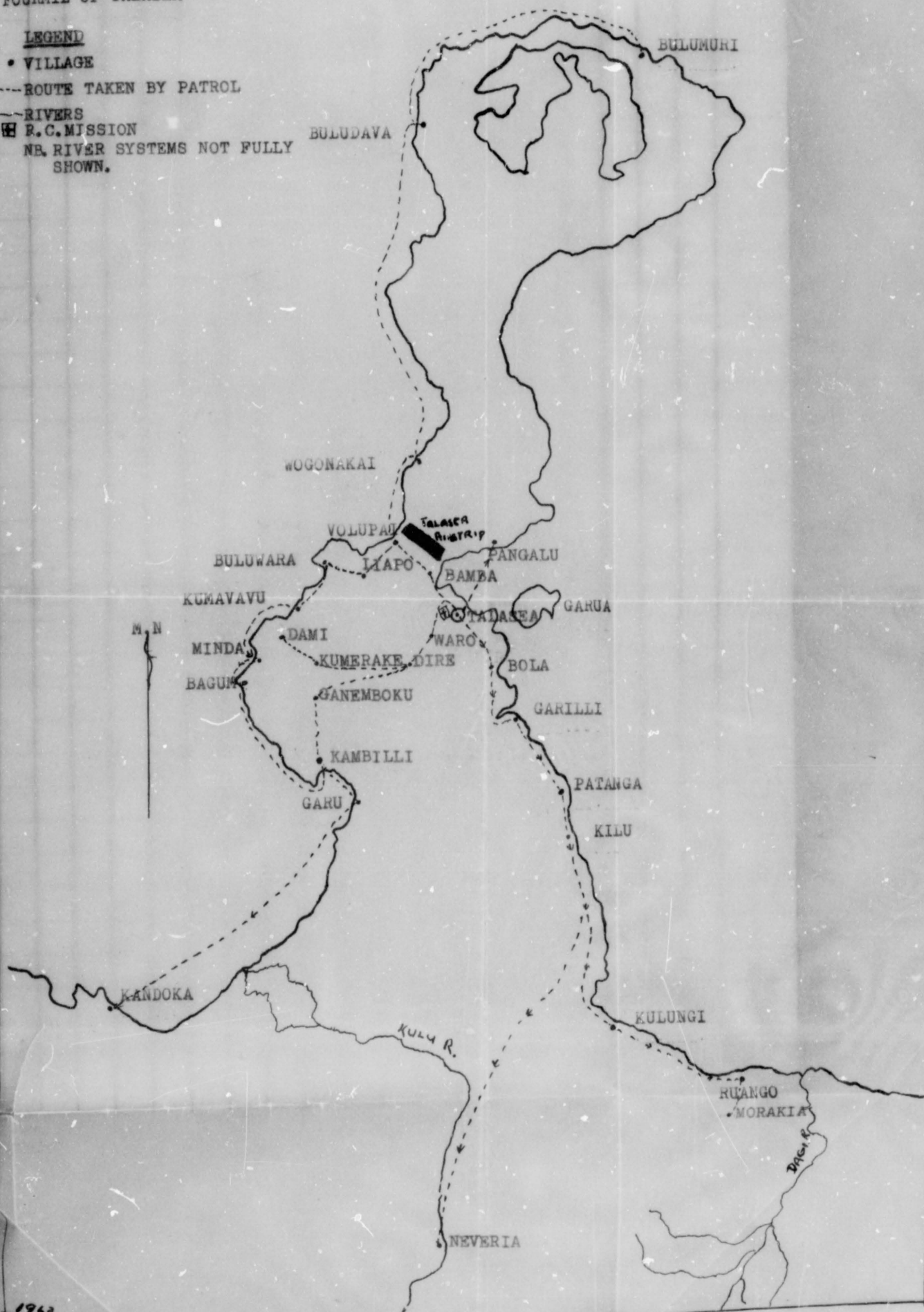
• VILLAGE

--- ROUTE TAKEN BY PATROL

--- RIVERS

⊞ R.C. MISSION

NE. RIVER SYSTEMS NOT FULLY
SHOWN.





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of... WEST NEW BRITAIN Report No. TAL 5/63-4
Patrol Conducted by... R. S. WILLIS PATROL OFFICER I
Area Patrolled... KULU-DAGI TIMBER RIGHTS PURCHASE AREA
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans... DEPT FORESTS PERSONNEL (5 OFFICERS)
Natives... 1 MEMBER R. P. N. G. C., DEPT FORESTS EMPLOYEES
Duration—From... 18./4./1964 to... 20./6./1964
Number of Days... 53
Did Medical Assistant Accompany?... NO
Last Patrol to Area by—District Services... / / 19
Medical ... / / 18
Map Reference... DEPT FORESTS KULU-DAGI B 308
Objects of Patrol... INVESTIGATION INTO OWNERSHIP OF TIMBER
COMPILATION OF GENEALOGIES AND OWNERSHIP LISTS.

Director of Native Affairs,
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

67-10-15
(11)



67-2-1 63/64

Sub-District Office,
TALASEA.

20th October, 1964.

The District Officer,
West New Britain District,
RABAU.

PATROL REPORT NO.5 63/64

Your 67-5-13 of 30th July, 1964 refers.

Although Mr. Willis worked under the Rabaul Lands Commissioner he states he has never had any training in genealogy compilation (excepting typing of same).

Mr. Willis states the existence of the cargo cult was allegedly in GUANGA, MAI and BULUMA Villages. His informant WURI, a previous Councillor in the Bola N.L.G.C.

San Remo extended has now been actioned vide my 34-2-11 of 22nd September, 1964.

(B. McBride)

ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER

MINUTE 67-5-13

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

Copy for your information please.

Your 67-10-15 of 23rd July 1964 refers.

E. G. Hicks

(E. G. HICKS)
District Officer
West New Britain

23/10/64.

P/M

67-10-15.

23rd July, 1964.

District Officer,
West New Britain,
RABAU.

PATROL REPORT NO. 5 OF 1963/64 - TALASEA.

Receipt of the above-mentioned Patrol Report is acknowledged with thanks.

Has Mr. Willis received extensive training in the compilation of Genealogies?

Wuri should be fostered.

In what neighbouring villages does cargo cult exist? I am pleased to see that assistance was given the trade store owner to help him in his business. To whom will the small work-boat belong, who will control it and what are proposals for its use?

It is most important that the San Remo be extended. Number two should be completed at the earliest possible date.

I am pleased that the genealogies are to be perused by the Senior Land Titles Commissioner. His comment will be valuable. It is appreciated that the people are not a cohesive group and customs probably not very clearly established. Only yesterday I was reading a paper compiled by the Land Titles Commissioner in which it was recognised that in many cases there are no clear sets of principles evolving in relation to such areas and you may get a mixture of inheritance along both matrimonial and patrimonial lines. Your officers should be instructed to take care that a good cross section of informants are interviewed and what they say carefully recorded and analysed.

(J.K. McCARTHY)
DIRECTOR

②

67-5-13

District Office,
RABAU.

1st July, 1964.

The Assistant District Officer,
TALASEA.

REPORT OF TALASEA PATROL NO. 5-1963/64
KULU-DAGI TIMBER RIGHTS PURCHASE

Your memorandum 67-1-2 (67-2-1) forwarding the abovementioned report by Mr. R. Willis, Patrol Officer, and related correspondence refers.

Senior The matter of what would appear to be inconsistencies in the genealogies of the Bola clan has been referred to the Chief Land Titles Commissioner, Rabaul, for comment as requested in your 7-3-1 of 29th June, 1964. I will advise you further in this regard when his reply is to hand.

The following matters raised in the report merit comment:

Commerce and Industry (p.2)

Reference is made to a proposal by the coastal people - presumably KULUNGI and RUANGO - to purchase a small workboat. This is the first I have heard of this project and would appreciate further information.

With regard to the ultimate disposal of monies paid out in connection with the Kulu-Dagi Timber rights purchase, I have already written to you stressing the importance of follow-up action aimed at inducing the people to invest the money either in Saving Accounts or in Territory Premium Securities. My minute 33-2-19 of even date on copy of 33-2-10 of 25th June, 1964, from the Director of Native Affairs and previous correspondence refers.

Complaints (p.2)

Re SAN REMO EXTENDED No.2: Although a preliminary investigation was carried out by Mr. M. Behr and his report forwarded under cover of your 34-5-1 of 20th November, 1962, certain additional information is still outstanding. Please see my memorandum 34-5-11 of 27th May, 1963, wherein you were requested to arrange for depositions to be taken from suitable natives (vide para. 3 of Mr. Behr's Report of Information for Counsel, dated 19th November, 1962) for forwarding to the Director of Native Affairs and the Public Solicitor. You might give this matter your early attention.

67. 10-15

(9)

- 2 -

Anthropology (p.3 and Appendix 'A')

Extracts from the Patrol Report have been forwarded to the ^{Chief} Land Titles Commissioner, Rabaul, for perusal and comment, vide para.2 above. Clan membership patterns in the area appear confused, to say the very least.

Mr. Willis' claim for Camping Allowance has been certified and forwarded to the Sub-Treasury, Rabaul, for payment by cheque.



(E. G. HICKS)
District Officer
West New Britain

c.c.
The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

For information please.

One copy of Talasea Patrol Report No.5 of 1963/64 covering investigations relating to the Kulu-Dagi Timber Rights purchase is forwarded herewith.

E. G. Hicks

(E. G. HICKS)
District Officer
West New Britain

1/7/64.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

In Reply
Please Quote

No.

Sub-District Office,
TALASEA.

West New Britain.

23rd June, 1964.

Assistant District Officer,
TALASEA.

KULU-DAGI TIMBER RIGHTS INVESTIGATION.

STATION: TALASEA

DISTRICT: WEST NEW BRITAIN.

PATROL NUMBER: TALASEA 6/63-64.

CONDUCTED BY: R.S. Willis. Patrol Officer I.

AREA: KULU and DAGI River area, BOLA Census Div.,
TALASEA Sub-District.

PERSONNEL: The patrol was carried out in company with
officers of Dept Forests. Native Personnel
included one member of R.P.N.G.C., and Dept
Forests employees.

DURATION: 18/4/64 - 20/6/64.
Patrol broken for period 16/5/64 - 26/5/64.
Total Patrol Days - ~~55~~. 53

LAST DNA PATROL Feb. 1964

LAST DASF PATROL JUNE 1964

LAST PHD PATROL JUNE 1964

OBJECTS OF PATROL: This patrol was to investigate thoroughly the
ownership of timber within the area, and to
compile genealogies and ownership lists. During
the patrol, the investigating officer worked in
conjunction with officers of Dept Forests.

MAP REFERENCE: DEPT FORESTS KULU-DAGI B 308.

R.Will.
R.S. Willis.
Patrol Officer I

KULU-DAGI TIMBER RIGHTS INVESTIGATION.

The area investigated is situated on Stettin bay between the DAGI and KULU (or DALIAVU) rivers. The area extends inland to a small lake, RUEK, and is of approximately 90,600 acres. Another area, east of the DAGI R., and investigated separately by Mr ADO Gaywood is also part of the KULU-DAGI timber purchase, and brings the total area up to 93,000 acres.

The area investigated by myself is owned by eight clans who also own the timber growing on their land. The clans-people are widely separated, living on the coast, inland, and in the adjoining West Nakanai Census Division.

RECEPTION: The patrol was received in a friendly manner, though material requests, (e.g. Carriers, building of latrines etc), were met with a certain apathy which is usual to these people.

VILLAGES: There are three main villages in the area, KULUNGI & RUANGO, on the coast, and MOROKIA, slightly inland.

Two groups of semi-nomadic clanspeople inhabit the rather inaccessible inland regions of the area and do not have compact villages, but live separately in individual houses. The two groups, KENDO and POMAI-U, occasionally move together and build temporary villages.

The general standard of housing throughout the coastal villages is quite good, and water is readily available.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS: The three coastal villages are members of the Bola Native local Government Council and have one elected representative, Councillor WURI of MOROKIA. This official is a man of alert and enthusiastic attitude, however his efficiency ~~is~~ is impaired by his people who make no great attempt to carry out his directions. The greatest cooperation was given by WURI during the patrol, though it was noticed that other matters not directly concerned with the eventual purchase money did not receive the same amount of attention.

POLITICAL SITUATION: As the patrol was solely concerned with the investigation of timber rights, it was not possible to get a full picture of the peoples feelings toward Administration work in general, however from conversations with the villagers and various observations it clear that there is a definite indifference to anything that will not bring them hard cash. No traces were found of Cargo Cult, though it is known to exist in neighboring villages.

Mission influence is strong in the coastal villages, being exclusively Catholic and being administered from BITOKARA Mission at TALASEA.

The prevailing attitude towards other races living in the area is one of tolerance and indifference depending on the amount of contact. It was noticed that there is a marked feeling of trust and friendliness by the KULUNGI people towards the manager of NUMUNDO Pltn with whom they have a fair amount of contact. This, to a minor degree, is brought about by the people working in the plantation as casuals

and it is necessary to recognise that as the other plantation in the area is a far smaller concern, the contact is proportionally less.

AGRICULTURE: Native foods are available in fair supply on the coast, however there are reports of a Taro blight which has seriously reduced the supply of this item.

The TOLAI settlement on the IBENI blocks adjacent to the DAGI R., produces good quality native foods in equally fair amounts.

Small numbers of pigs are kept by the villagers.

FORESTS: For a full and accurate account of millable timber in the area, Dept Forests reports must be examined. No such reports are available at this office.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY: There are several trade stores in the Coastal villages, none of which appear to be thriving concerns. Advice was given to one trade store owner as to better running of his store and it is hoped that some good may come of it.

It is encouraging to note that the coastal people have all contributed money towards the purchase of a small workboat. Such a vessel should not only make transport of foods and other items to and from Talasea easier, but will provide a source of income from hiring and charters. The very fact that these people will be engaged in the financial problems of running a vessel economically will do much for their education.

It is not known what use the relatively primitive inland people intend to put their share of the purchase money. Being by their own desire, cut off from the rest of the population, they are not likely to want to enter into any economic scheme, although some have contributed money to the workboat fund purely on a clan basis. The patrol made efforts to find out the intentions of this group, but to a man they were non-committal. It is probable that given time to get used to the idea of money, they will become more open minded towards the idea of self-improvement through financial projects. (A number of these inland clansmen are in the habit of taking casual plantation work 'incognito', so the concept of a cash economy is by no means completely foreign to them.)

LAND: A portion of the land was purchased some time ago and has been divided into the IBENI Re-Settlement blocks. It is possible that a further several thousand acres may be offered by the people, though it is not yet known what areas or when.

COMPLAINTS: No complaints of a criminal nature were encountered, although one clan leader stated that a portion of SAN REMO Plantation had never been paid for by the Administration.

From files held this office, (34-2-11, SAN-REMO EXTENDED No2), it is clear that the matter was investigated under the N.G.L.T.R.O. by Mr M. Behr (then CPO). I have reason to believe that the now deceased PATO/TUTU, clan-leader of the LAULIMI people, stated before witnesses that

(4)

two installments of money had been paid over to the people by Mr J.K. McCarthy, and that this was the full purchase price.

CARRIERS AND CANOES: Generally response to requests for carriers was good, however a large percentage of the coastal people were at this time working as line-cutters for a party of contract surveyors and neglected their duties towards the cutting of their own clan boundaries. The patrol made it known to the villagers that this attitude was rather poor. An arrangement was reached whereby some clansmen worked on their clan boundaries while others continued to cut lines for New Guinea Surveys.

HEALTH: There is an Aid Post at Ruango which serves the coastal area. Unfortunately local support of this establishment was lacking until a recent patrol by Mr McKinnon ~~the~~ EMA which brought immediate results.

Skin diseases were noticed among the inland people, and one case of an advanced tropical ulcer was brought to Talasea.

EDUCATION: The Catholic Mission has a school at RUANGO Village which has a fair attendance.

ROADS AND BRIDGES: Work is being carried out on the DAGI-TALASEA road.

ANTHROPOLOGY: The area under investigation is owned by eight different clans; LAULIMI, HONDE, BOLA, KISANG, MALUM, TOA, BUNGA, and KEVELOHO. Members of these clans are scattered throughout the area and also in adjoining census divisions. Throughout the investigation, the people were dealt with on a clan rather than a village basis.

The investigation into the ownership of the area was commenced by ascertaining the system of inheritance and clan custom within the area. Upon investigation it was immediately found that the system in use was very loose one with practically no set method of defining clan membership or clan rights. It was found that the majority of the clans were matrilineal, but that within a matrilineal clan were small family lineages which were patrilineal.

When an instance of this was found in HONDE Clan, the informant stated that although his father had taken his (fathers) mothers clan, all his (informants) progeny were following a patrilineal pattern. The informant said that the reason for this was that he wanted to produce more clan members. Had he allowed his children to follow the more usual matrilineal system, they would have assumed their mothers clan identity and be thus lost to HONDE Clan. Instances of this nature were found in other clans as well. In each case the reason given was as above.

One instance was encountered with LAULIMI Clan ~~where~~ where the clan leader NULLI, 'adopted' several members of a different clan, KEKEA. The KEKEA clansmen had been living on LAULIMI land for a long period although they had no actual rights to the land, their own holdings being in a different area. NULLI agreed that the KEKEA people should

join LAULIMI clan as full members having full clan rights.

An interesting statement was made by one of the BOLA clansmen. When asked whether his lineage was matrilineal or patrilineal, he replied that this depended on whether the Administration was buying his fathers or his mothers land, he following the system most advantageous. His brother clansmen rather anxiously disclaimed this suggestion on further questioning. Shortly after this all genealogies were checked in the presence of all the land-owning clan leaders. Generally there was little argument over the genealogies, and there was no case of false information being given.

On completion of all the genealogies, it was found that all but one clan followed a roughly matrilineal pattern; one clan was patrilineal.

It is thought that one of the reasons for the lack of strict clan customs is the abundance of available land.

LABOUR: The majority of the coastal people do not engage in plantation work, but some are hired as casuals on the neighboring plantations. The TOLAI settlers living on the IBENI Blocks hire casuals on occasion.

GEOGRAPHY: Dept Forests reports on the area give a clear description. None are yet available at this office.

PERSONNEL: The patrol was carried out with officers of Dept Forestry, and by working together most satisfactory results were obtained.

R.W.

R.S. Willis.
Patrol Officer.

(7)

APPENDIX "A"

KULU-DAGI TIMBER RIGHTS PURCHASE

The "Anthropology" section of the preceding report was compiled during the patrol and drafted on the site. Since my return to TALASEA, various occurrences and a conversation with the ADO Talasea make it necessary to revise the second paragraph of that section.

When taking the genealogies in the area, I was struck by the instances of matrilineal lineages within an allegedly patrilineal clan and vice versa, however the informants insisted that all information they gave me was correct and that what I had written was what they had told me. I therefore assumed that these glaring ~~xx~~ contraventions of clan law were due to a loose clan system. (No instances occurred of on clan objecting to another's claims.)

On perusal of old Talasea files and as the result of a discussion with the ADO Talasea, I believe that on at least one occasion, other genealogies were taken from these people, and that a finding by the then Native Lands Commission may have been made.

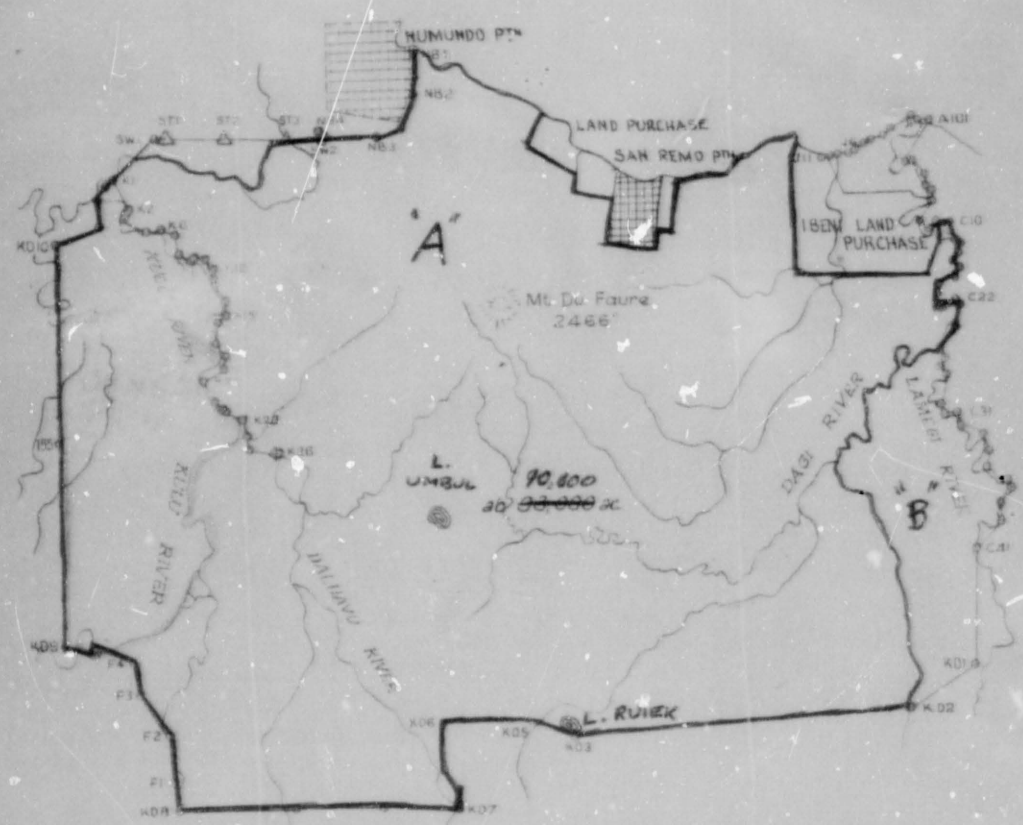
The genealogies of the allegedly patrilineal clan BOLA will be sent to the Lands Titles Commissioner Rabaul with a memo for his perusal and advice. Genealogies of the other matrilineal clans will be kept at this office pending further advice.

R. U. L.

R. S. Willis.
Patrol Officer.

①

KULU DAGI TIMBER AREA TALASEA SUB DISTRICT NEW BRITAIN DISTRICT Scale : 3 Mile to 1 inch



LOCALITY MAP



Area investigated by
 R.S. Willis. P/O
 Portion of area investigated
 by Mr ADO Gaywood.

2/186