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***PATROL REPORTS***

DISTRICT: EAST NEW BRITAIN

STATION: POMIO, 1969

Original documents bound with reports  
for: Rabaul, volume 11.

# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORT OF:

ACCESSION No. 496

VOL. No 12: 1969-70

NUMBER OF REPORTS: 1

100 pages

EAST NEW BRITAIN DISTRICT PATROL

REPORTS

1969-1970

RABAU

KOKOPO

POMIO

Report no.

Officer conducting  
Patrol

Area patrolled

RABAU

1-69-70

R. Chamberlain

Trans Kerevat Forest  
Vunapalandig (Rangoulit)  
& Mandres Native reserve

2-69-70

W.H. Biscoe

Watom Island

5-69-70

R. E. DARGIE  
R. CHAMBERLAIN

VUNADIG  
RABAU

KOKOPO

1-69-70

J.K. Nalau

Central Bainings C.D

1A-69-70

M. Sangkol

Inland Bainings

1B-69-70

J. Bori

Inland Bainings

2-69-70

K. S. TAYLOR

KULON-B. K. TAP SULA

POMIO

J. SUTTON

CENTRAL BAININGS

1-69-70

W. van Rikxoert

East Mengen C.D.

8-69-70

W. H. MUSEKENS

EAST AND WEST MENGEN

9-69-70

R. Frost

MANSING, LONGPAL AND INLAND  
MELIKO, MUMUS, NO1 AND NO2





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

## PATROL REPORT

District of EAST NEW BRITAIN Report No. POMIO 1/1969-70

Patrol Conducted by W. van Rikxoort, Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled East Mengen Census Division (Part Only)

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans No

Natives 1 Member R.P. & N.G.C.

Duration—From 1.1/8/1969 to 26/8/1969

Number of Days 16

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services January/1969

Medical June/1969 (Malaria Control)

Map Reference New Britain 1 Mile Army Provisional

Objects of Patrol Road Survey, Investigate migrations from Kol C.D.

villages, Investigate land disputes.

Director of District Administration,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

27/1/1970

H. W. W. T.

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 ....

67-10-5

Division of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU.....Papua.

17th February, 1970

District Commissioner,  
East New Britain District,  
RABAU.

PATROL NO. POMIO 1/69-70.

Your reference 67-4-18 of 27/1/70.

2. I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Situation Report by Mr. W. van Rikxoort, Patrol Officer to part East Mengen Census Division.

3. The reason for the delay in submission is noted.

4. Mr. van Rikxoort has conducted a useful patrol, and his report is quite interesting. The Assistant District Commissioner's detailed covering comments add to the report's overall value.

(S. J. Pearsall)  
a/Secretary

Department of the Administrator.

40. Mr. W. van Rikxoort,  
Rabaul Sub-District Office,  
MATUPIT.....East New Britain District.

Whilst political education is a continuing process it is becoming a more specialised task, and you are still expected to participate fully in its extension at every opportunity.





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67.10.5.

DPO'S/lec

(14)

Telephone

3261

Telegrams

DISCOM

Our Reference

67-4-18

If calling ask for

O'SULLIVAN

Mr.



Department of District Administration,  
Rabaul - T.P.N.G.

27th January, 1970.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
Division of District Administration,  
K o n e d o b u - Papua.

PATROL REPORTS NOS.1 ~~2~~ OF 1969/70

The above mentioned Patrol Reports had been  
mislaid in the office at Pomio and were found again on  
the 8th January, 1970.

*H. W. West*  
( H. W. West )  
District Commissioner  
East New Britain District



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

13

DPO'S/lec

Telephone 3261  
Telegrams DISCOM  
Our Reference 67-4-18  
If calling ask for  
Mr. O'SULLIVAN

Department of District Administration,  
Rabaul - T.P.N.G.

27th January, 1970.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
Division of District Administration,  
Konedobu - Papua.

POMIO PATROL REPORT NO.1 OF 1969/70

The attached Report of a special patrol to part of the East Mengen Census Division is submitted by Patrol Officer W. van Rikxoort.

It is a Report and Mr. van Rikxoort has carried out his assignment efficiently.

The Assistant District Commissioner, Pomio, has adequately covered all matters raised in the Report.

*H. W. West*  
( H. W. West )  
District Commissioner  
East New Britain District



Rural Development.

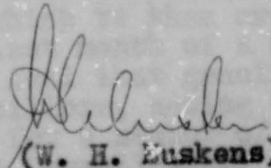
Mr van Rikxoort's report of a vehicular road route linking Cutarp and Matong is disappointing and he is correct in his comment that the expense of constructing such a road, with the many bridges required, can probably never be justified in comparison to sea transport.

Resettlement.

Lack of interest by local people in taking up resettlement blocks on the Administration land at Cape Kwoi (adjoining Manguna Pltn.) is not new. Your file reference is 35-30-23. At the moment I have no further suggestions to offer concerning future utilisation of this area. It appears that the land on the whole is not prime cash cropping land, there are insufficient blocks for a large scale scheme, and the availability of services (education, health etc.) are not sufficient, combined with the other factors, to attract outside settlers.

General.

Mr Van Rikxoort has conducted a worthwhile patrol under difficult conditions (see Diary). The information he has gathered will be of value to future patrols to the area. His report is of a good standard, marred only by his failure to correct spelling and typographical errors. This officer transferred to Rabaul early in September.



(W. H. Euskens)  
Assistant District Commissioner.

COPIES  
67-4-18  
2928

(11)

A.L.P.R. 69/70

WHM

Sub-District Office,  
POMIC.  
East New Britain.

17 October 1969.

The District Commissioner,  
East New Britain,  
RAHAUL.

POMIC PATROL No.1 OF 1969/70.

I enclose three copies of the above report, covering a Special Patrol to part of the East Mengen Census Division conducted by Patrol Officer W. van Rikxoort.

As outlined in the instructions, the patrol had specific purposes concerning a number of local matters and correspondence in respect to these have been placed on file at Pomic for future information and attention.

My comments on matters raised in the Situation Report are as follows:-

Local Government.

Lack of action on the part of the Mengen Council to enforce Council Rules relating to village hygiene etc. has been raised at Council meetings on a number of occasions. Councillors readily agree that they are reluctant to enforce Council rules themselves, they would rather have Administration officers carry out such tasks, which to them are obnoxious. The appointment by the Council last month of a Rules Inspector may prove worthwhile, however I feel that genuine enforcement of Council Rules by Mengen Councillors, acting on their own initiatives, will not occur for a number of years. In the meantime efforts to make the Council aware of its responsibilities in this regard will be continued.

Economic Development.

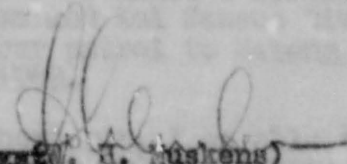
There is little that can be done at the moment to improve the situation regarding cash cropping. By far the biggest stumbling block is apathy and the lack of real incentives, both largely as the result of the influence of the Kivung Movement. The people can see little sense in rapid economic development; they have stated on a number of occasions that they desire neither self-government nor independence, so why work more than is necessary to cover day to day needs. The fallacy of such a philosophy is perfectly clear to ourselves but the majority of the Mengen people think this way and they consider that they are right. One obvious remedy would be for the Council to pass an obligatory planting and maintenance rule, but it is equally obvious that the Council, whilst having a majority of Kivung Councillors, would never consider adopting such a rule.

Coconut plantings by the Tol and Timolip people living along the coast will be watched with interest. Like most activities of this nature in the Mengen area, progress is likely to be painfully slow.



In the course of your discussions with people in the area of your patrol, seek their views on the matter of the Manguna Resettlement area - there are 20 blocks of land, averaging about 27 acres, suitable for coconut development. I would consider that land-short Mengens should be interested in leasing one or more blocks from this scheme. See Pomio file 35-2-3.

I expect your patrol to be of at least 3 weeks duration, possibly longer, to enable you to deal with the three tasks in full detail. I wish you success.

  
Assistant G. A. Miskens  
Assistant District Commissioner.

67-1-4

WHM

Sub-District Office,  
POMIO.  
East New Britain.

30th July, 1969.

Mr. W. van Rikxoort,  
Patrol Officer,  
POMIO.

INSTRUCTIONS - POMIO PATROL No. 1-1969/70.

Please make preparations to conduct a special patrol to parts of the East Mengen and Kol Census Divisions. The Pomio workboat will convey your patrol to Matong on forthcoming Monday, 4th August, 1969.

Due to extreme police shortages, I am able to allocate only one policeman to accompany your patrol, however this should not effect the successful conduct of your patrol as the nature of your duties should not involve too much police work.

The purpose of your patrol, and specific aims, are as follows:-

1. Investigation of Land Disputes. The Councillor from Matong has reported that there are several pieces of land in his ward which have disputed ownership. Your task is to investigate fully these disputes and to document these, complete with rough plans of the areas concerned. It is presently not intended to activate Demarcation Committees in the East Mengen area, however should you find a large number of disputes to be existing in the area, you should discuss the principles of Demarcation Committees with the people and ascertain their willingness to adopt this method of adjudication of land disputes. It clearly is impractical for the Land Titles Commissioners (and Deputies) to adjudicate large numbers of land disputes and for this reason the people should be encouraged to form active Demarcation Committees.

Of the disputes that you record, please indicate whether or not there is an urgent need to resolve them, and priorities.

2. Waterfall Bay Resettlement. Some ten years ago patrols from Pomio expressed concern about migration of Kol and Timolp people from the inland to the coast in the Waterfall Bay area. As you are aware, this migration still continues and I would like you to make a full investigation of the present situation in this regard, including the gathering of data such as the numbers of groups and people involved, their use of coastal land, their views as well as views of the landowners (Mengen?) to their occupation of land on the coast, and possible future trends. I also want your recommendations concerning possible steps to rationalise these migrations and the associated land questions. See Pomio file 35-2-1.

3. Road Survey - Matong to Cutarp. I require you to carry out a detailed survey of a route for a vehicular road linking Matong and Cutarp. There are a large number of rivers and minor waterways along this stretch requiring bridging: categorise them into those that can be built with local resources, and those that can be considered as major engineering works.



(8)

PATROL DIARY

- 11/8/69 Departed per MV PAM at 0630 hours for special patrol. Arrived at MATONG anchorage at 0830 hours. Patrol gear off loaded. Arrived Matong village at 0930 hours. Camp made at resthouse. Rain for most of the day.
- 12/8/69 Walked to Manguna Plantation (3/4 hour) and inspected nearby resettlement blocks. Inspected small area of land under dispute and heard evidence of claimants. Inspected road route between Matong and Manguna.  
Returned to Matong at 1400 hours in heavy rain. Talks with village leaders at night.
- 13/8/69 Inspected and marked possible road route between Matong and Son River.  
Inspected Kolai Plantation for possible road. Returned to Matong in heavy rain at 1300 hours.  
Evidence taken in various land disputes and two mediated settlements effected.
- 14/8/69 Heavy rain most of the day.
- 15/8/69 Surveyed possible alternative route from Matong to Kolai plantation, but without success.  
Talks with villagers at night on economical development.
- 16/8/69 Surveyed a small area to avoid a mangrove swamp. Rain from 1000 hours until night.  
Talks with some village leaders.
- 17/8/69 Sunday observed.
- 18/8/69 Departed MATONG at 0800 hours. Arrived TOKAI village at 1050 hours after some delays at river crossings. TOKAI and nearby RAM villages found to be in a disgraceful mess and 16 men prosecuted for violation of a number of Council rules. Inspected one road site between TOKAI and KOLAI river.
- 19/8/69 Further survey of road site between TOKAI and KOLAI River and a possible alternative route.  
Rain for most of the afternoon.
- 20/8/69 Surveyed road site between TOKAI and BERG BERG River. Only one route possible. Arrived PONGOLA Village at 1300 hours, camp already set up. Inspection of nearby road built some year ago by sawmill operators. Talks with some KOL people migrated to the coast some years ago.
- 21/8/69 Rain all day.
- 22/8/69 Surveyed possible road site between BERG BERG and ~~ESAU~~ ESAU Rivers and between SUBOLI River and CUTARP Plantation border. Talks with people from Penoi and other villages on roads, economic development and resettlement.
- 23/8/69 Surveyed possible road site between Berg Berg and Esau Rivers. Inspect some old sawmill roads now neglected. Returned to camp at 1600 hours.  
talks with various village committees.

- 24/8/69 Sunday observed.
- 25/8/69 Completing survey of possible road sites. Talks with villagers on possibilities of building a road. Inspecting site for a plantation to be started by local villages.
- 26/8/69 Departed Pongola at 0800 hours, arrived Cutarp Plantation at 1100 hours. Departed Cutarp by MV PAM at 1700 hours, arrived Pomio at 1830 hours. Patrol stood down.



## INTRODUCTION.

The patrol was conducted through part of the East Mengen Census Division from Matong village to the Siboli River and comprised only a small portion of the entire Census division.

Its purpose was to investigate and document land disputes in Matong village, survey a possible roadside from Matong to Cutarp Plantation and look into any problems arising out of the migration of Kol people to the coast from inland areas.

The area covered by this patrol consists of a comparatively narrow coastal strip between Waterfall Bay and mountains and hills. It is noted for its high rainfall, approximately 260 inches per year, which results in a large number of creeks and rivers traversing the area.

Vegetation is luxurious and consists mainly of heavy timber stands with thick secondary growth, probably largely the result of the abundant rainfall.

The soil has in most places a high sand or coronass content which affords an excellent drainage. There are some areas however, especially between the Berg Berg and the Esau Rivers where the absence of sand or coronass results in many places being flooded for much of the year and have become semi-permanent swamps. The soil does not appear to be particularly fertile, judging by the poor subsistence crops being grown, and is probably suitable only for the single cash crop at present produced in the area, copra, and coconut palms on the whole seem to do well.

Two distinct tribal groups are settled in the area, the Mengen group from Matong to Pogove and part of the Kol and Timoip groups, closely related, occupy the remainder. The latter tribal group has only moved to the coast within the past five years or so from the nearby Kol Census Division and still maintain strong ties with their former neighbouring villagers.

See file 35-2-1 on Resettlement of Kol people in the Waterfall Bay area, file 10-3-21 on Road Survey from Matong to Cutarp Plantation and file 35-7-1 on investigation of land disputes at Matong.

### A. POLITICAL.

1. Local Government. The Mengen Local Government Council was established in the area some 5 years ago, but has had little success so far in exerting much influence in political, economic or social development and has not developed into an effective local government body.

Little interest is taken generally by these people in the affairs of the council and there is widespread ignorance of Council rules in force, which are continuously being broken with impunity. This is partly due to the influence of the of the Kivung Movement and general apathy of these people who appear to loathe any change in their traditional way of life

and have mostly a negative attitude.

The Council rules have never been enforced and the various Committees at present in office are quite incapable of rectifying this situation. Apparent attempts to improve the standard of the Committees over the years has met with little success.

One of the reasons for this unfortunate state of affairs is the low standard generally of the Councillors elected. Matong is the only village which has had Councillors providing strong leadership and as a result it is head and shoulders above the other villages in regard to general progress.

## B. ECONOMIC.

2. Village Cash Crop Extension. The extension of village cash crops has made progress during the past few years but there is still great potential to expand further production of copra, the only cash crop which seems to have any success.

Matong village is the only one visited which has a regular output of copra and this is mainly due to the efforts by one of the village leaders, one Tovlon, an entrepreneur of long standing. He has succeeded in convincing several of his clan members of the desirability of regular hours and the need to work their plantation to work their plantations according to the rules laid by the Department of Agriculture.

The result is a more than average efficiency and a regular income for the individual producers involved.

Unfortunately many of the villagers, either through uncertainty of land ownership or plain apathy, have not bothered to plant more coconuts than are necessary to buy necessities, pay school and Council tax etc. The idea of cash crops is gaining however and several areas of bush have been cleared or have been marked out for future planting.

The other Mengen villages visited, Tokai, Ram, Lam-lampun and Pogove have never made the effort to produce copra on a regular basis and present production is haphazard, depending greatly on the moods and whims of the villagers. The amount of land available in these villages is sufficient for several generations to come. One of the problems here is the shortage of manpower as these people prefer to live in very small villages, with the result that initial gardens can only be cleared with great difficulty. This The amount of copra produced in these villages is insignificant.

The Kol and Timoi people, occupying the land between the Berg Berg River and Cutarp Plantation, are migrants from an isolated inland area and the concept of cash crops is still new to them. Efforts to persuade them to plant coconuts has met with some success and they have marked a large area which will be cleared at the end of the current wet season on a communal basis and blocks allotted to individuals. The Councillor has promised to give the Assistant



District Commissioner regular progress reports on this project.

These people will probably need more technical Assistance than the Mengen villages in order to teach understanding of the necessity of agricultural hygiene etc.

3. Activities of Development Departments. There have been little or no activities in this respect in the area.

Some months ago an Agricultural Officer from Taliligap near Rabaul, paid a short visit, as is done every year or so. However these visits are limited in value. Visiting officers merely lecture on cash crop extension and associate questions but are unable, because of the limited time available, to give much practical help. As a result such visits are soon forgotten.

There is a definite need, as is the case with the remainder of the Sub-District, for regular agricultural advice when required and until such time as this become available copra production will probably remain below its potential output for many years.

This is especially the case with the Kol and Timoi villages.

4. Processing and Marketing. The processing of copra causes few problems. Those villages that do have any production have copra driers on the plantation sites and, being a relatively simple process, drying seems to be done fairly efficiently. Matong has a large drier made of cement, steel pipes, funnels etc and is used almost daily.

No drier has been constructed as yet near any of the Kol villages. There is no need to ~~now~~ build one at this stage because all the coconut palms are still immature.

The marketing arrangements are somewhat erratic at present but this is more the result of a lack of organisation and regular production than the difficulty in obtaining transport. Small coastal vessels call regularly at Matong village and some nearby plantations for loading to Pomio or direct to Rabaul whilst nearby Manguna Plantation will buy copra at the standard price in force. The Tokai, Ram, Lamlampun and Pogove villages have to transport their copra by canoe for some distance but no doubt loading could be arranged at the village if production warrants this.

Matong village has an excellent all weather anchorage protected by reefs and a nearby island. The other villages will not be able to load from the beach for about three months of the year during the South East monsoon but this merely involves organisation of the producers working schedule.

There have been requests made on several occasions for the Mengen Local Government Council and the Mengen Co-operative Society to buy a workboat as a joint venture in order that copra can be collected according to a more reliable schedule. Such a capital outlay is not warranted however in view of the comparative inefficient and irregular production in most of the villages within the Sub-District.

5. General Rural Development. One of the objects of the patrol was to survey a possible route for a road from Matong to Cutarp Plantation and comment on the various rivers and other obstacles. (See also file 10-3-1).

It seems highly likely that such a road will not be constructed for many years, if ever, for the following reasons:

1. The large number of rivers and creeks in the area, most of which increase in size several times in the wet season. Most of them are subject to flashfloods.

2. The very high rainfall, an average of 260 inches per year. This area, being close to Pomio Station, has in fact the highest recorded rainfall in the Territory on an average yearly basis.

3. The small population. An average of no more than 100 men would be available for construction and maintenance on a voluntary basis.

Bridges would probably have to be built under professional supervision and require a large capital expenditure, whilst roads would need constant repair and attention for much of the year. Such a road would have to be closed for at least the wet season and it is doubtful, in view of the excellent connection by sea to Pomio and Rabaul that building a road and connecting bridges will ever be justified.

Some of the protected anchorages, at either end of Matong and at Tokai for example could be further developed for coastal shipping with a comparatively small capital outlay.

#### SOCIAL.

6. Education and Health. The educational and health facilities available in the area compare favorably with the rest of the Sub-District and probably with most other parts of the Territory for that matter.

The Catholic Mission runs a school at Matong and another one at Kolai, near Penoi village on the Esau River. These two schools provide an ~~average~~ adequate coverage for all the villages in that part of the Mengen Census Division.

An aidpost is situated at Matong and another one at Pongola, the latter one was established mainly to treat Kol people for malaria which they often become infected with after moving to the coast. As a result medical treatment is available to all people at or near their village.

The area is also visited regularly by child and maternal health clinics conducted by PHD from Pomio.

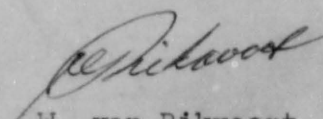
#### MISCELLANEOUS.

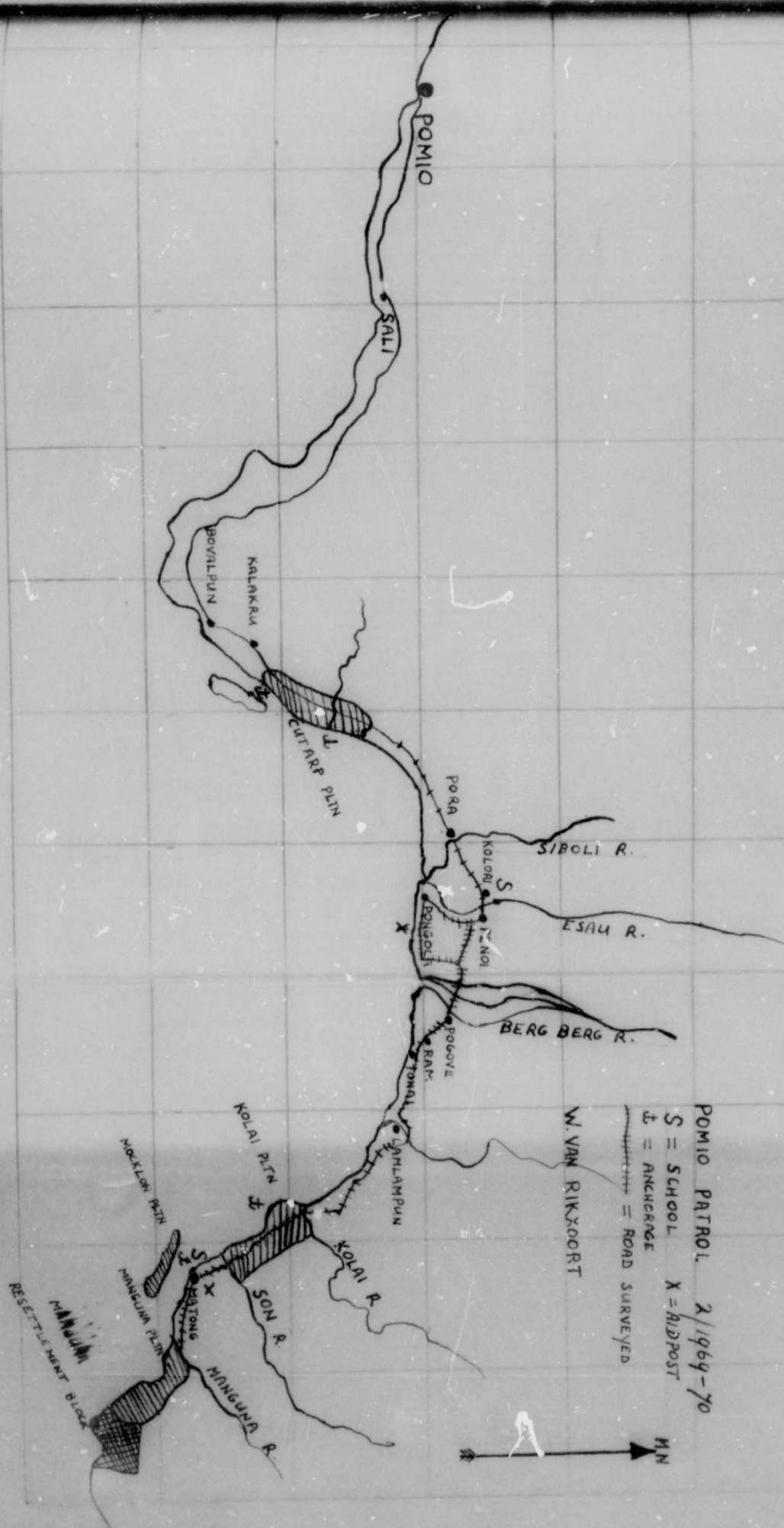
7. Resettlement. An investigation was carried out to see whether the local people were interested in any of the blocks at the Manguna Resettlement Area, bordering Manguna Plantation. It was found however that none of the villagers or clans were interested enough to apply for a block. The officer who carried out the survey allegedly told one Tovlon from Matong, when on a visit to Rabaul, that the soil is not fertile and the area not suited generally for plantation.



purposes. The block was inspected during the patrol and the assertion by the surveyor, if true, seems to have considerable merit. The topography is hilly with outcrops of coral and a number of gullies and creeks. It is probable that many of the leases will not be applied for, if at all, by the local people and that outside applications will have to be called again.

Although some of the Mengen villages will be short of land in the not too distant future, their position is not acute and it was intimated to the patrol that they will apply for an agricultural lease only as a last resort.

  
W. van Rikxoort  
Patrol Officer



POMIO PATROL 2/1964-70

W. VAN RIJKZORT

S = SCHOOL X = HIDPOST

t = ANCHORAGE

----- = ROAD SURVEYED







TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of East New Britain Report No. Pomio No. 2 of 1969/70  
Patrol Conducted by Trevor John Buising, Assistant Patrol Officer  
Area Patrolled Part Kol Census Division (Non-Council)  
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil  
Natives 3 B.P.N.G.A.  
Duration—From 2/9/1969 to 12/9/1969  
Number of Days Ten (10)  
Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No  
Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 22/2/1969 TO 6/3/1969  
Medical 4/1969  
Map Reference D.D.A. Pomio Fourmil of Subdistrict  
Objects of Patrol A) Application for Prospecting Lease B) Nutuve Airstrip  
C) Routine Administration

Director of District Administration,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

27/1/1970

A. W. W. L.  
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 ....

67-10-6

Division of District Administration,

KONEDOBU. PAPUA.

11th February, 1970.

The District Commissioner,  
East New Britain District,  
RABUL.

PATROL S.J. POMIO 2/69-70

Your reference 67-4-18 of 27th January, 1970.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Situation Report by Mr. T. J. Bulsing, Assistant Patrol Officer, to part KOL Census Division.

Mr. Bulsing's first solo patrol appears to have been extremely useful. I am pleased with his neatly presented, informative report.

(S.J. FEARSALL)

s/Secretary,

Department of the Administrator.

c.c.

Mr. T. J. Bulsing,  
Sub-District Office,  
POMIO. East New Britain District.

Whilst political education is a continuing process it is becoming a more specialised task, and you are still expected to participate fully in its extension at every opportunity.



67.10.6-10  
TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

DFO'S/lec

3261  
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Telephone

Telegrams

Our Reference

If calling ask for

Mr

67-4-18

O'SULLIVAN

Department of District Administration

Rabaul T.P.N.G.

27th January, 1970.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
Division of District Administration,  
Konedobu - Papua.

POMIO PATROL NO.2 OF 1969/70

This report covers a special patrol of the  
Kol Census Division by Assistant Patrol Officer, K.  
J. BUISING; his first solo patrol.

It is pleasing to see that he has equipped  
himself so well in the field, and submitted a good  
report.

The Assistant District Commissioner, Pomio,  
in his covering memorandum A.L.P.R.69/70 of 17th  
October, 1969 has adequately commented on the subject  
matter of the Report.

*H. W. West*  
( H. W. West )

District Commissioner  
East New Britain District



A.L.P.R. 69/70

WHM

Sub-District Office,  
POMIO.  
East New Britain.

17 October 1969.

The District Commissioner,  
East New Britain,  
KABAU.

POMIO PATROL No.2 OF 1969/70.

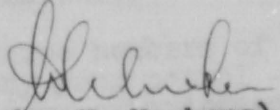
Forwarded for your information and attention are three copies of the above report covering a patrol to part of the Kol Census Division by Assistant Patrol Officer T. J. Buising.

The patrol was sent out primarily to inform Kol people of Application for Prospecting Authority No.132 by Titan New Guinea Pty. Ltd., and to explain the implications to them. Mr Buising indicates that he gave full and detailed explanations to the people and held lengthy discussions with them; I am confident that the reported favourable reaction is genuinely based on an understanding of the issues involved and hope that representatives of these groups will give evidence accordingly at the Mining Wardens hearing at Pomio next month. It should be noted that to date no village groups in the Sub District have expressed objections to mining companies exploring on their land.

Since Mr Buising's return to Pomio I have been able to send a fair quantity of tools to Nutuve to assist the people with the construction of the airstrip. The airstrip will prove to be of particular value to the Catholic Mission as to date all their supplies have to be carried manually up from the coast, an arduous journey.

Although this has been a very brief patrol, I consider that the experience has been extremely valuable for Mr Buising. He has carried out the objectives of the patrol commendably, and has submitted quite a good report.

Claim for Camping Allowance is attached.

  
(W. H. Muskens)  
Assistant District Commissioner.

67-1-4

WHL

Sub-District Office,  
POMIO.  
East New Britain.

29 August, 1969.

Mr. T. J. Buising,  
Assistant Patrol Officer,  
POMIO.

PATROL INSTRUCTIONS - POMIO PATROL No. 2-69/70

As discussed with you, please prepare to carry out a Special Patrol to part of the Kol Census Division, leaving Pomio on 2 September. The purposes of your patrol are as follows:-

1. Application for Prospecting Authority.

See Pomio file 35-8-1. Titan New Guinea Pty. Ltd. have applied for an Authority to prospect in an area of approx. 290 sq. miles inland from Wide Bay. The area is probably completely uninhabited and it is not known which tribal groups claim ownership to it, however it is likely that both Wide Bay and Timcip people have interests in the land. You are required to: a) determine the interest in the land by people from the Kol Census Division, and b) discuss the application and all aspects of it with those people interested, using the contents of Lands Circular 67/142 of 20/5/68 to explain matters fully. Record reactions and make every endeavour to clarify any doubts or ill-informed ideas that the people may have regarding mining operations.

2. Nutuve Airstrip.

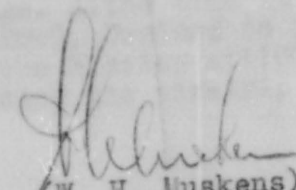
With the wet season coming to an end, Kol people will recommence work on the construction of the Nutuve airstrip. Discuss work schedules with Village Officials in order to rationalise supply of labour, and give any advice regarding future work such as drainage and surfacing that may be necessary. Liaise closely in this respect with the Catholic Priest at Nutuve.

3. Routine

Deal with any matters that are raised on the patrol or that require attention. Village hygiene is of particular importance.

I have designated three members of the Police Detachment to accompany your patrol - the N.C.O. Const. 1/C Savaio is very experienced and has an intimate knowledge of the Kol area and people. Ensure that proper Police discipline is maintained.

I wish you success on this, your first solo patrol in the Territory.

  
(W. H. Muskens)  
Assistant District Commissioner



TJB

The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Pomio,  
East New Britain,  
POMIO.

Sub-District Office,  
POMIO.  
East New Britain.  
17th September, 1969.

PATROL REPORT POMIO No. 3 OF 1969/70.

Patrol Conducted by: T. J. Buising, A.P.O.  
Area Patrolled: Part only KOL Census Division  
(Non-Council)  
Personnel Accompanying Patrol: Const. 1/Class SAVAIO 1474  
Const. KINA 2093  
Const. POSALEIAU 3147  
Duration of Patrol: 2nd September, 1969 to 12th September,  
1969  
Ten (10) days  
Last D.D.A. Patrol to Area: 22/2/69 to 6/3/69 - 13 days  
Objects of Patrol: 1) Inform People of the No. 2 Kol  
of the Proposed Application for  
Prospecting Authority in their  
Area.  
2) Discuss Work on Nutuve Airstrip  
With Village Officials.  
3) Routine Administration

PATROL DIARY

Tuesday  
2/9/69

Left Pomio for Cutarp at 0930, arriving at 1300.  
Waited at Cutarp Plantation for the M.V. Pam to  
bring up the bulk of the patrol personnel and  
equipment. Pam arrived at 1800 approx.. Night  
spent at Cutarp.

Wednesday  
3/9/69

Left Cutarp Plantation at 0800 in heavy rain.  
From Pora sent back carriers after some hours  
delay. Reached Haus Koloai at 1300. Discussed  
with local Councillor, a former Kol inhabitant,  
the attitude of the Kol people towards mining  
activities. Night spent at Haus Koloai.

Thursday  
4/9/69

At 0700, broke camp and walked up to Nutuve  
Mission. Met Rev. Fr. B. Otto on the way up and  
discussed with him the work on the airstrip.  
Arrived at the Mission at 1500 and made camp.  
Discussions with Village Officials and heard  
some complaints from the teachers at the Mission.

Friday  
5/9/69

Walked from Nutuve Mission to the Esau River to  
inspect the bridge. At the time it could not have  
supported the patrol. Decided to remain at Nutuve  
and returned to the Mission at 1100. In the  
afternoon, inspected the airstrip with the local  
village leaders.

Saturday  
6/9/69

Discussed with Village Officials the work on the airstrip. In the afternoon, talked with the leaders and people of Kiagi and Kavali about the application for a prospecting lease in their area.

Sunday  
7/9/69

Discussion with the people of Ora and Mongu on the mining lease, told all the Village Officials to start clearing the airstrip on Monday.

Monday  
8/9/69

0700, began clearing the airstrip of all secondary growth. Estimated the work force at approx. 100. Rain curtailed work at 1500.

Tuesday  
9/9/69

Continued work on airstrip 0800 to 1700. Evening, investigated some complaints and in consultation with the airstrip project supervisor, worked out a programme for the local work force.

Wednesday  
10/9/69

In the morning, explained to the Village Officials the work programme for the airstrip. Left Mutuve at 1300 for Paturu and thence to Tail to investigate a complaint by one of the teachers at the Mission. Returned to Paturu at 1730. Night spent at Paturu.

Thursday  
11/9/69

Walked some 6½ hours to Haus Koloai. Road in very poor condition because of recent heavy rain. With rivers in flood, could not proceed further. Night spent at Haus Koloai.

Friday  
12/9/69

Walked 1½ hours to Cutarp Plantation to wait for the M.V. Pam. Went to Bovalpun to arrest one Kente and returned to Cutarp at 1130. Returned to Pomio at 1800.  
End of Patrol.



## Introduction

The main purpose of the patrol was to inform the people of the Kol Census Division of the application by Titan New Guinea Pty. Ltd. for a prospecting lease in the area between the Esau River and Wide Bay. With respect to this application, it was also desirable to find out what interest the people have in the land at present; to explain fully the Government's policy on mineral deposits; to explain the rights of local land holders under present legislation. In particular, the patrol was to inform the people of the Mining Wardens hearing at Pomio in early November and to explain the purpose of the hearing.

Secondly, with the end of the wet season, it was expected that work would soon resume on the airstrip at Nutuve and the opportunity was taken to provide some assistance in the way of organizing the works programme and advising on how to overcome problems of drainage and surfacing. As the local people will be the ones gaining most from the airstrip, the patrol was to get things moving on this and to impress on them that this was very much a self help project.

## APPLICATION FOR A MINING LEASE

See Pomio file 35-8-1. The area in which Titan New Guinea proposes to prospect is approximately within a quadrilateral marked out by the villages of Ora (Kol), Kavali (Kol), Tagul (Wide Bay) and Kalip (Wide Bay) (see patrol map). In discussions with the leaders and people of the villages of Kavali, Kaigi, Lakiri, Mongu and Ora I found that, at present, this is virgin bush and thus the possibility that the activities of the mining company ~~INTERFERING~~ would interfere with local gardens is negligible. The overall impression gained at these discussions was that everyone welcomed any interest in the area by mining company's and while so far there has been no evidence of any economic deposits, they would whole heartedly support the exploitation of any that might be discovered.

With reference to the Land's Circular 67/142 of 20/5/68, I explained at some length the policy of state ownership of all minerals. While ~~this~~ ~~xxxx~~ this point took some time to be understood only one individual queried it, proposing instead a 50% division of ownership between the state and the traditional owner. I do not think this was anything more than one man's preference. That this was not a question open to debate between the people and the Government, was also stressed. The reaction of the village leaders and officials was that this was okay, it was good that a prospecting company was coming to their area. The lack of any opposition to this policy is probably a result of the general insularity of the Kol region as much as it is an indication of approval of Government policy.

Several other matters were brought up at these meetings. I explained to them the functions of the Mining Warden as an ombudsman between themselves and the company and I told them that if they had any further questions or any objections they could attend the hearing at Pomio in November. They were also told of their rights to compensation in the unlikely event that the prospecting or at a future date, mining resulted in damage to their property.

To all this, their answer was that they were very much in favour of prospecting company's visiting their area.

### THE NUTUVE AIRSTRIP

Before the beginning of the wet season, a strip some 300 feet wide by 2300 feet long had been cleared. However, as this year's south east season has been the wettest for the last three years, little work has been done recently. While the patrol was at Nutuve, the strip was cleared of all undergrowth and roughly surveyed. The underlying rock is limestone with a clay subsoil and a humus derived topsoil. As is common in many limestone areas the surface is pitted with numerous sinkholes. Some of these are up to 10 feet deep especially in the middle of the strip where it is crossed by a small stream. Along the side closest to the Mission, the ground slopes downwards in some places and half way along the ~~strip~~ strip there is a small hill that will have to be excavated. As well, two gullies, one about eight feet deep and the other about three feet run right across the strip. To provide proper drainage, both surface and underground watercourses will have to be dug out and filled with limestone. The cost of pipes would be far too high and anyway there is plenty of limestone close at hand. This will also be used to surface the strip as well.

Several of the Village Officials asked me for spades, sledge hammers, and crow bars. At present the only tools at Nutuve are two crow bars and seven shovels and the shovels are not very good for digging clay. Perhaps the Administration could help the people in this matter. It is expected that a weekly work force, working in village groups on their own sections of the strip, of between one hundred and two hundred will be involved and, provided they have enough tools, this project could be finished before Easter, 1970.

### POLITICAL

At present, there is no Local Government Council in the Kol Census Division and this is unlikely to change in the near future. However, the local leaders seem to be in favour of Councils even if their knowledge of the function and working of Councils is somewhat limited. Probably this interest in Councils is no more than a reflection of Kivung influence in the Kol. The only Council in the Sub-District, The Mengen Local Government Council is dominated by councillors with strong ties with the Kivung Movement. Incorporation of the Kol area with this Council has been suggested but the poverty of the area, and the isolation of the Kol would impose a heavy burden on the Council.

The Kol is represented by Mr. Koriām Urekit in the House of Assembly and he has, either knowingly or unwittingly, become the figurehead of the Kivung Movement. The people tend to confuse Mr. Urekit with the House of Assembly and thus to expect him at some time to change overnight their present poverty into their own concept of prosperity. Political Education by D.D.A. patrols into the area have made little impression. A major cause of this confused outlook is the lack of communications with the outside world. There are no radios in the area and the only information these people get on such things as the House of Assembly comes from the infrequent Administration patrols through the Kol. The only real answer to the Kivung, and while its influence is strong the peoples idea of democratic government will remain distorted, is closer contact with the rest of the world, a higher general standard of education, and economic development.



### ECONOMIC

The economy of the Kol is fairly primitive. The village gardens grow sweet potatoes, taro, bananas and sugar cane and these are the only crops of any, cash or subsistence, kind grown in the area. Around Nutuve, the local people supplement their diet by occasionally buying rice and tinned meat at the mission store but there is not a great deal of money in the villages. The Census Division itself has no plantations or business organizations, the mission's labour requirements are limited, as are those of the Pomio station (which does employ some people from this area from time to time) and the coastal plantations use either labourers from nearby villages or contract workers. What is needed is some suitable cash crops but unfortunately there are few crops that would grow well here, have a ready market, or be small in volume for a worthwhile return.

### SOCIAL

While the Government has no educational or health services operating in the area, these are provided by the Catholic Mission at Nutuve. The school teaches Prep and standards one to three with an enrolment of over 150. The teachers told me that one problem, that of absentees was still evident. Those villages closest to the school seemed to be the worst and much of the blame for this must fall on parents who, not realising the value of education and being un-schooled themselves, keep their children out of school to work in their gardens. Still, the Mission has already sent some pupils to the Gazelle Peninsula for higher education and hopes to maintain a rate of between two and five students per year.

Likewise, the Mission health service is not used by all those in need of attention. The nurses at the hospital complained about in particular mothers who do not bring very young children to the regular patrolling clinics. Another factor hampering the hospital is the distance medical supplies must travel to reach Nutuve. Often these supplies are held up on the coast for some time before carriers can be obtained. The new air-strip should be a great help in this.

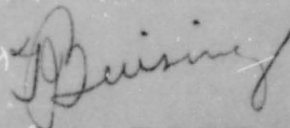
As mentioned in previous reports (i.e. Pomio No. 3 of 1969/70), the Mission is building a domestic school at Nutuve. This is almost finished and when it opens the practice of "child marriages" should decline if only from a lack of young girls outside the Missions protection, and, as well these girls will probably find the skills taught quite useful.

### LAW AND ORDER

The spread of the Kivung Movement through the Kol was marked by the formation in each village of "Komitis", one function of which was to enforce the "Laws" of the Kivung. The laws were based on the Ten Commandments and courts were held with the Komiti-men presiding to fine any offenders. This aspect of the Kivung has been clearly an infringement of the prerogative of the Administration and as such has been "out-lawed". One complaint was made against two Komiti men in one of the villages and they were brought back to Pomio by the patrol. The fact that some individuals will no longer allow themselves to be intimidated in this way shows that the cult is losing some of its grass-roots support.

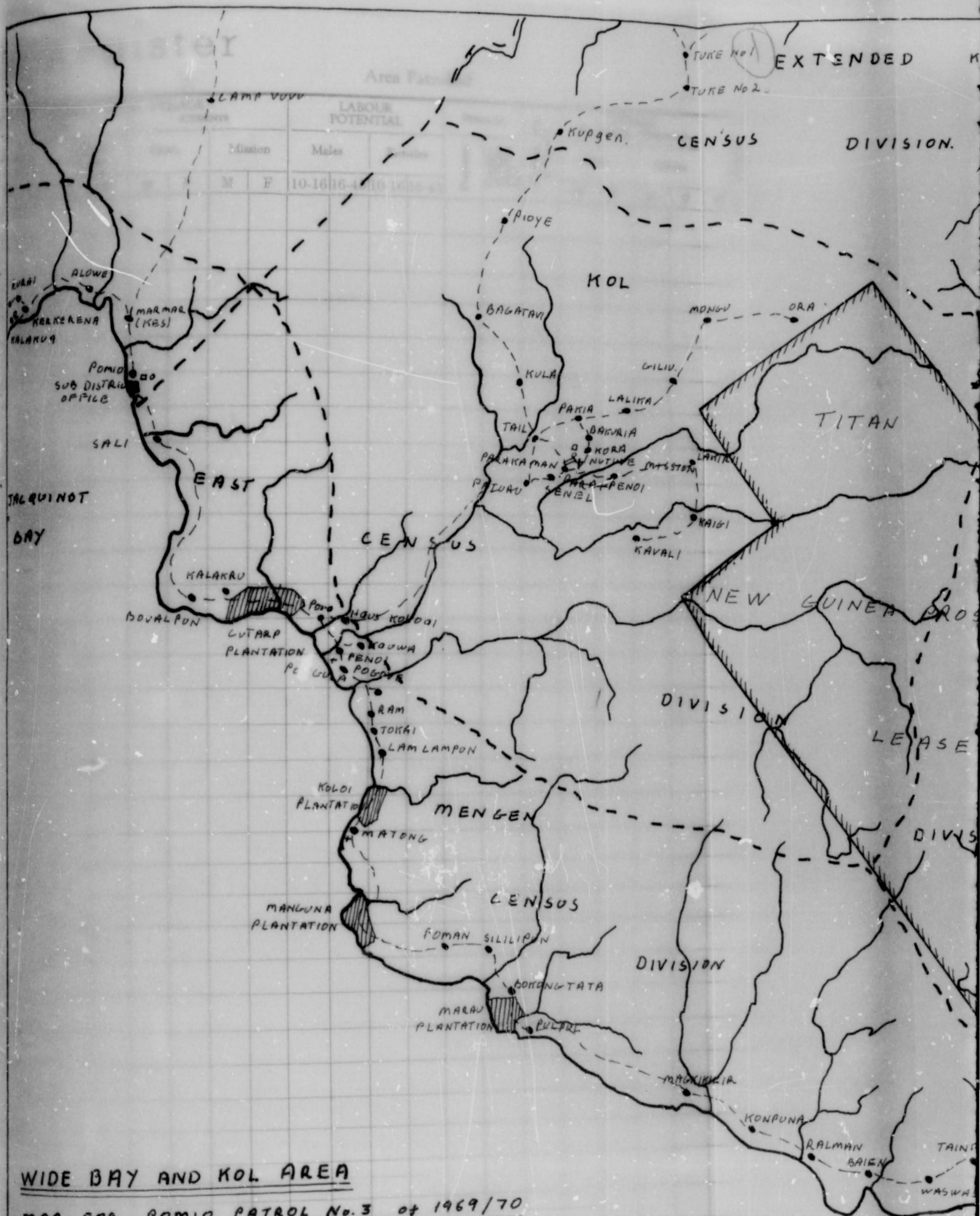
SUMMARY

The Kol Census Division, being so far inland, is severely handicapped in many ways. Communications with the outside world are poor and this is reflected in the lack of progress made in such things as political education and the wide if weakening adherence given to the rather simplistic ideas embodied in the Kivung creed. Another severe disadvantage is the complete lack of any economic development in the area. Still, I believe these people are quite willing to work to improve their lot and this positive attitude can be seen in such things as the airstrip project and their keenness to see prospecting companies operating in their area.



T.J. Buising  
Assistant Patrol Officer





# WIDE BAY AND KOL AREA

MAP FOR POMIO PATROL No. 3 of 1969/70

DRAWN BY T. J. BUISING 19/9/69

SCALE: 1 INCH = 4 MILES

