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OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MOROBE

STATION: SIASSI, 1963 - 1964

Original documents bound with reports
for: Kalolo, volume 4.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORTS MADANG DISTRICT 1963/64

KALALO, SIASSI & KAIAPIT

<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled.</u>
<u>KALALO</u>		
1-63/64	P. T. Worsley	Uruwa and Yupna Census Divisions
2-63/64	T. J. Downes	Uruwa and Yupna Census Divisions
3-63/64	P. T. Worsley	West Sio, Uruwa and Yupna Cens Divs
<u>SIASSI</u>		
1-63/64	R. M. Lee	Siassi
2-63/64	R. M. Lee	Siassi Census Division
<u>KAIAPIT</u>		
1-63/64	A. J. Akins	Onga Census Division

67.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



PATROL REPORT

District of MOROBA Report No. SIASSI No. 1-62/64

Patrol Conducted by R. M. Lee P.O.

Area Patrolled SIASSI

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans 2

Natives 3

Duration—From 15/2/1964 to 9/3/1964

Number of Days 23

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 1/1/1964 part

Medical 11/1963

Map Reference

Objects of Patrol House of Assembly Elections

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

27/5/1964

[Signature]
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

67-6-33

22nd June, 1964.

District Officer,
Morobe District,
LAE.

PATROL REPORT NO. 1 - 63/64 - SIAESI.

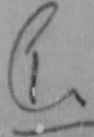
Receipt of the abovementioned report is acknowledged with thanks.

The composition of the polling team, comprised as it was of officers of native affairs, Agriculture and Lands, would certainly provide a good opportunity for combined action in the area.

I am pleased to see that the longstanding dispute at AUPWEL was settled by arbitration and the people were enlightened on resettlement procedures in relation to ex-servicemen.

I am pleased to see that an alternative route for this patrol has been recorded - I have no doubt it will be used to advantage.

It is of interest that the people did not consider that the candidate listed first on the ballot paper did not have any great advantage over any other candidate.


J. K. McCarthy,
DIRECTOR.

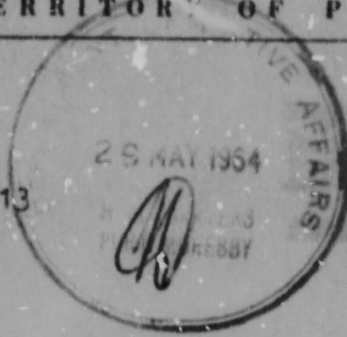
DNA:JGC

67-6-33



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

8



Telegrams
Telephone 67-2-13
Our Reference
If calling ask for
Mr.

Department of Native Affairs,
District Office,
L A E ... Morobe District.
28th May, 1964.


The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

PATROL REPORT SIASSI No. 1 of 1963/64

I attach for your information a report received from Mr. R.M. Lee, Officer-in-Charge of the Siassi Patrol Post together with covering comments from Assistant District Officer, Finschhafen.

Cognizance will be taken of Mr. Lee's recommendations when the next electoral patrol is planned.

The report has been shown to the District Commissioner.


(D.N. ASHTON)
District Officer

Department of Native Affairs,
Sub-District Office,
PINSCHAPEN.

67-1-6

28th. April, 1964.

The District Officer,
MOROBE DISTRICT?
LAE.

SIASSI PATROL No. 1 of 1963/64.
SIASSI CENSUS DIVISION.

Mr. Lee's report on the conduct of the patrol for the House of Assembly elections is enclosed.

It is good to hear that the people were interested and keen to record their votes but I am disappointed that assistance was given to literate natives. If nothing else it shows the peoples confidence in the Electoral Officials but should not have been encouraged.

The revised patrol routes are useful material from which a less expensive electoral patrol schedule can be prepared.

The next patrol in the Siassi Division will be conducted in June and will be for the dissemination of Local Government propaganda in preparation for the elections which could well be held in September this year. I understand that Mr. R. Cleland, Assistant District Officer, (L.G.) from Lae will be with Mr. Lee for about ten days of the patrol.

A useful report.

(GORDON SMITH.)
Assistant District Officer.

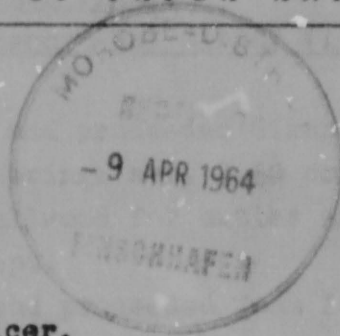
c.c. O.I.C SIASSI.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-1-6

①



Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference
If calling, ask for
Mr.

Patrol Post
SIASSI.
MOROBE DISTRICT.
21 st., March 1964

The Assistant District Officer,
Sub-District Office,
FINSCHHAFEN.

PATROL NO. SIASSI (1) - 63/64.

I have to report that I have completed 23 days patrolling in the SIASSI CENSUS DIVISION of the FINSCHHAFEN SUBDISTRICT in connection with the 1964 House of Assembly general elections.

Claims for Camping Allowance and Travelling Allowance for the writer are attached.

- AREA PATROLLED : SIASSI CENSUS DIVISION (48)
- DURATION : 15.2.64 to 9.3.64 - 23 days.
- PATROL CONDUCTED BY : R.M.Lee Cadet Patrol Officer.
- PATROL ACCOMPANIED BY: J.A.Wallis, D.A.S.F. Finschhafen, as Assistant Presiding Officer.
J.L.Wellwood, Dept. Lands, Konedobu as Poll Clerk.
No. 8318 Const. DEGUPA.
Kure Mais of Omom village as interpreter.
Niwarang of Lanitzera, Scrutineer for candidate Oku Zongetzia.
- OBJECTS OF PATROL : Conduct polling for the 1964 House of Assembly general elections.

(R.M.Lee)

Cadet Patrol Officer.

PATROL DIARY.
Patrol report No. SIASSI (1) 63/64.

(6)

- 14.2.64 - Dep. Patrol Post and proceeded Gizarum Plantation to await ship. M.V. Beringa arr. 3.30 pm. Proceeded Sampenan to collect J.L. Wellwood for duties as Poll Clerk: on to Mandok Is. Slept.
- 15.2.64 - Dep. Mandok Is. and proceeded Tuam Is., arr. 9.00 am.
- 16.2.64 - Observed Tuam Is.
- 17.2.64 - Dep. Tuam Is arr. Malai Is 9.00 am. seas rough. Poll closed 2.30 pm. , proceeded Mandok to anchor.
- 18.2.64 - Poll held Mandok Is. In pm. proceeded Lablab for mail, slept Aromot Is.
- 19.2.64 - Dep. Aromot Is. and proceeded Aronai Mutu Is. Poll closed 12.00 noon. Proceeded Gizarum Plantation and anchored the night.
- 20.2.64 - Dep. Gizarum Plantation and proceeded Tokokiwa Is.
- 21.2.64 - Votes collected Tolokiwa Is.
- 22.2.64 - Dep. Tolokiwa Is. and proceeded Sakar Is.
- 23.2.64 - Observed Sakar Is.
- 24.2.64 - Poll held Sakar Is. Then on to Aipalang anchorage.
- 25.2.64 - Dep. Aipalang and proceeded Kampalab village, Poll conducted, and on to Lablab.
- 26.2.64 - Poll conducted Marli thence on to Aromot Is. to anchor.
- 27.2.64 - Poll held Aromot Is.
- 28.2.64 - Dep. Aromot Is per canoe and proceeded Yangla, Poll conducted and returned Aromot Is. On to Mandok Is.
- 29.2.64 - All day spent Mandok Is. replenishing water.
- 1. 3.64 - Dep. Mandok Is. and proceeded Aipalang Anchorage.
- 2. 3.64 - Proceeded Aupwel. Poll conducted and returned Aipalang anchorage for the night.
- 3. 3.64 - Dep. ship and proceeded Mararamu. Elections held. Slept.
- 4. 3.64 - Dep. Mararamu/Aiyau and proceeded Gasam, inspecting proposed re-settlement land enroute.
- 5. 3. 64 - Poll conducted Gasam.
- 6. 3.64 - Dep. Gasam and proceeded Tarawe via the Patrol Post at Omam/Barang villages.
- 7. 3.64 - Elections held Tarawe.
- 8. 3.64 - Dep. Tarawe and proceeded Opai beach to await ship.
- 9. 3.64 - All day awaiting ship.
- 10. 3.64 - Ship arrived. Proceeded Finschhafen, arr. 9.30 am 11.3.64.

END OF PATROL DIARY.

INTRODUCTION: The 1964 House of Assembly general elections were conducted in the Siassi Census Division of the Finschhafen Open Electorate from 15.2.64 to 7.3.64. For this task the M.V. Beringa was chartered from Mr. E. Foad of Finschhafen. (5)

The patrolling team consisted of the writer as Presiding Officer, Mr. J. A. Wallis of D. A. S. F. Finschhafen as Assistant Presiding Officer and Mr. J. L. Wellwood of Department of Lands Port Moresby as Poll Clerk. Mr. Wellwood was working in the Siassi area at the time of the elections and his help in filling in the position as Poll Clerk was much appreciated.

This Census Division is situated off the Western tip of New Britain and consists of one main island, Umboi, and eight smaller inhabited islands scattered around Umboi. Of these eight, Tolokiwa and Sakar are the only two which are any distance from the main island, the distance being approximately ten to fifteen miles.

As the object of this patrol was to record and collect votes for candidates in the Finschhafen Open Electorate, it was considered desirable to limit the patrols' activities to this one task as much as possible.

At no time was the Court for Native Affairs convened.

No doubt it is unusual for representatives of D. N. A., D. A. S. F., and D. L. S. & M to be patrolling together. Thus a long-standing dispute at Aupwel was settled by arbitration between the residents of the village, Mr. Wallis and the writer.

The Mararamu/Aiyau people have, for some time been considering selling land to the Administration. These people have been under the false impression that land bought by the Administration for re-settlement was leased to ex-servicement only. Mr. Wellwood was able to explain fully the conditions of land re-settlement.

Exceptionally good weather was experienced by the patrol. At this time of the year, it is usual for strong N.W. winds to be blowing, causing rough seas. M.V. Beringa was only occasionally delayed by poor weather, and no mishaps occurred with patrol gear while landing.

POLLING PLACES: All polling places seemed adequate for the patrol route taken; no village population had to travel more than two hours to vote.

One village expressed dissatisfaction for its scheduled polling place. This was Mantagen, a small break-away group from Tolokiwa Is., now living at Luther Anchorage on the North West tip of Umboi Is. It was easier for these people to vote at Gasam village on 6.3.64 than to walk over a little used track for three hours to Aupwel.

PATROL ROUTE: The route taken by this patrol could, I think be improved on considerably. It was quite unnecessary to circumnavigate Umboi Island twice.

Following are two suggested routes which might prove more economical and suitable. It must be remembered, though, that in this Division, the weather could dictate the patrol route, and when the next elections are to be held, it would be advisable to revise all previous proposals.

- (1) Begin Sakar Is. thence to Tolokiwa Is., Aronai Mutu Is., Mandok Is., Malai Is., Tuam Is., Aromot Is., Yangla village, Marli, Kampalab and depart the ship at Aupwel and walk over the Kowai area (This area is the non-insular group in the heart of Umroi Is.) using the same polling places as were used in these last elections ~~xxxx~~ viz. Mararamu, Gasam and Tarawe; meeting the ship again at Bunsil anchorage.
- (2) The patrol team could be flown to Lablab (which should then be open to D.C.3 aircraft); charter M.V. Karapo from the Australian Lutheran Mission at 10 pounds per day for one day to take the team to Gizarum Plantation, proceed to the patrol post and commence polling for Oropot, Gasam, Gom, Omom and Barang. The patrol would then proceed to Tarawe for Gomlongen, Opai, Tarawe, Parim and Obongai. From Tarawe the team would proceed to Mararamu and then down to the coast at Aupwel and there meet the ship. From here polling team would do Kampalab, thence Sakar Is., Tolokiwa Is., Aronai Mutu Is., Mandok Is., Aromot Is., Yangla village, Marli village, Malai Is., and finally Tuam Is. The ship could then return to Finschhafen and any personnel or effects to be returned to the Patrol Post could be transported by canoe.

This second proposal seems, at present to be clumsy, but it is envisaged that within the next couple of years the Lablab airstrip will be open to D.C.3s.; that many of the Kowai villages will be linked with vehicular roads and that there will be a vehicle on permanent allocation to the Patrol Post. At present there is about 15 miles of four wheel drive road on Siassi and road building is not too difficult as there are few mountains.

Under this second proposal, a ship would be used for a total of approximately twelve days. M.V. Beringa was used for nineteen days during these 1954 elections.

NATIVE AFFAIRS: The patrol was well received at all villages.

Keen interest was shown in the elections and it was possible to record votes quickly as all voters were assembled and waiting in the villages on their respective polling days.

A very large percentage of voters required the assistance of the Presiding Officer in recording their votes. Often it was quite obvious that some of these voters seeking assistance could certainly read and presumably write also. However, I think this was only a rather natural reaction towards something new and unfamiliar and not a refusal to help ones self.

For the most part, the Siassi voters were familiar with only three of the seven candidates standing in the Finschhafen Open Electorate. Mostly voting was restricted to these three candidates and I do not consider that the candidate listed first on the Ballot Paper had any great advantage over any other candidate by virtue of this fact

As mentioned in the Introduction, the villagers at Mararamu, Aiyau and Cropot have, for some time been ^{considering} making land available to the Administration for re-settlement. Mr. Wellwood was able to explain to the people the conditions of such an agreement and to later have a look at the land in question.

The Mararamu people have a large number of ex-servicemen in their ranks and they thought that it would be a good idea if the Administration bought this land from the owners, many of whom are the ex-servicemen, and then the Administration re-settle the ex-owners on the land. This misconception was cleared up by Mr. Wellwood and the writer.

This will be the subject of later correspondence.

(2)

CONCLUSION: AS this patrol made great use of the vessel under charter and did not sleep on land at any of the island or coastal villages, it would be presumptuous of the writer to enter into detailed discussion of the various subjects usually dealt with by a routine patrol

A further patrol of this division will be launched in mid April and will be concerned with census, Local Government talks and routine administration. Thus a much fuller and worthwhile report will be submitted following this patrol.

The patrol just completed ~~XXXXX~~ presented a good opportunity for the writer to introduce himself to the Sias si people.



(R.M. Lee)

Cadet Patrol Officer.

original.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District Heaven Report No. SIASSI 2-63/64

Patrol Conducted by R. M. Lee P.O.I.

Area Patrolled Siassi Census Div. (48)

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans R. D. M. Bland A.C. (66) Lee.

Natives Const 1/c Saman MPA.

Duration—From 4/6/1964 to 26/6/1964

Number of Days 12.

Did Medical Assistant accompany? No.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services Feb. /1963

Medical May /1964 (Malaria eradication) from Rabaul

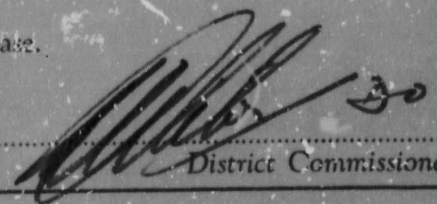
Map Reference "Tuanit - Sag sag" Survey Map

Objects of Patrol 1. Local Govt. talks. 2. Routine admin.

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

28/8/1964


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 £.....

(11)

Department of Native Affairs,
KOHELOBU. PAPUA.

10th September, 1964.

67-6-46

District Officer,
Morobe District,
L.A.E.

PATROL REPORT NO. 2-1964/64 - SIASSI:

Receipt of the above-mentioned report is acknowledged with thanks.

2. Bring the proposition of the second airstrip at Siassi and/or the road up on a subject file with supporting argument as to why the construction is desirable. The origin of the name Siassi is of interest.

3. Be sure the people's enthusiasm does not turn into a cult. Emphasize they will have to work harder to support their council. Ensure the people are encouraged to develop self-reliance. Economic development might encourage improved transport facilities to move produce to market.

4. Perhaps the council could undertake as its first project a subsidised programme of road construction. You might have this investigated.

5. Contact between the groups will not be effectively established without suitable water transport being readily available.


(J.K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR.

67. 6. 47
10

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams

Telephone

67-2-13

Our References

If calling ask for

Mr.



Department of Native Affairs,
District Office,
L A E ... Morobe District.
28th August, 1964.

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU

PATROL REPORT - SIASSI NO. 2 of 1963/64

The above report together with a covering memorandum from Assistant District Officer, Finschhafen Mr. G. Smith is forwarded for your information.

Mr. Lee, Patrol Officer-in-Charge, Siassi has just completed his first term as a Cadet Patrol Officer and has had practically no experience with native local government. As mentioned in the report, Mr. Cleland Assistant District Officer Local Government accompanied Mr. Lee for the first section of the patrol and Mr. Lee should have benefited greatly from Mr. Cleland's experience. Mr. Lee is currently attending the Native Local Government Council Course being held in Lae and immediately after his return to Siassi will conduct the elections of the ~~annually~~ ^{monthly} constituted Council.

You are no doubt aware that the Siassi area has, for far too long, been neglected but I am hopeful that this neglect will now be remedied. The people are enthusiastic over the formation of the Council and there has been a very good response to land recently advertised for allocation on the main island of LABUL.

The Administrators Department has not shown any enthusiasm for the development of an airstrip near the Patrol Post at OMOM on the West Coast because an airstrip was constructed some two or three years ago at Lablab on the East Coast. In so far as the Patrol Post at Omom is concerned the Lablab Airstrip is of little importance because it is approximately 40 miles distance by sea from the Patrol Post. I have, however, discussed this matter with the Officer-in-Charge and he informs me that there is every possibility that a road could, without any great difficulty, be cut through from the west to the east coast across the island and then follow the coast line down to Lablab. There are many large areas of excellent land which at present are not being utilised and this road should prove invaluable in opening up this land and assisting in the general development of the area. Application has been made for a land rover for this station.

The establishment of the Council and the development of agricultural blocks on this island should lift the Siassi group from its former lethargic state.

Mr. Lee has carried out a fair patrol and extracts from his report have been forwarded to the District Agricultural Officer, The Regional Medical Officer and the District Inspector. The report has also been shown to the District Commissioner.

c.c. Assistant District Officer,
Finschhafen.

(D.N. ASHTON)
District Officer



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

(9)

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference 67-1-6

If calling ask for

Mr.....

Sub-District Office,
PINSCHHAFEN.

18th. August, 1964.


The District Officer,
District Office,
L A E.

PATROL REPORT No. 2 - 63/64 - SIASSI.

The attached patrol Report in Triplicate from the Officer in Charge, Siassi Mr. R. M. Lee, Patrol Officer, was received at this office on the 13th. August, 1964. Claims for camping and travelling allowance are enclosed. No map was submitted with the report.

The patrol was, essentially, for the education of the people to local Government prior to elections for the Siassi Native Local Government Council which should take place in October this year. It appears to have been unnecessarily hurried. The questions asked by the people indicate that some of them should now be aware of the responsibilities which they will undertake in the near future.

Presentation of the report could well be improved.


(GORDON SMITH.)
Assistant District Officer.

67.1.2

Patrol Post,
SIASSI via IAE.
Morobe District.

27 th., July 1964.

The Assistant District Officer,
Sub-District Office,
FINSCHMAREN.

PATROL NO. SIASSI 2-67/64

I have to report that I have completed a patrol of the
SIASSI CENSUS DIVISION of your Sub-District.

Claims for Camping and Travelling Allowance are forward-
ed herewith.

Details of the patrol are listed here below:

<u>AREA PATROLLED.</u>	SIASSI CENSUS DIVISION (48)
<u>DURATION.</u>	4.6.64 to 11.6.64 and 21.6.64 to 26.6.64 - 12 days.
<u>PATROL CONDUCTED BY.</u>	R.M.Lee P.O. Gr. I
<u>PATROL ACCOMPANIED BY.</u>	R.D.M.Cleland, A.D.O. (L.G.) Iae. Const. I/C Samar No. 6111PA.
<u>OBJECTS OF PATROL.</u>	1. To give the first series of talks prior to the establishment of a Native Local Government Council. 2. To familiarise the writer with some aspects of Local Govt. Councils. 3. Routine Administration.



(R.M.Lee)
Patrol Officer Gr. I.

PATROL DIARY.

- 4.6.64 Departed Patrol Post and proceeded Gizarum Plantation. M.V. Morcbe arrived late p.m. Slept Gizarum anchorage.
- 5.6.64 Departed Gizarum 5.30 a.m. and arrived Mantagen 8.00 a.m. Anti malarial drugs issued to all crew and passengers on board in preparation to proceed Tolokiwa Is. where new drugs are being experimented with to eradicate malaria on the island. Held talks at Mantagen until mid day.
- 6.6.64 Departed Mantagen 5.30 a.m. and arrived Mulau village (Tolokiwa Is.) 7.30 a.m. Talks until noon and then proceeded Aipalang anchorage near Kabih on the North coast of Umbol.
- 7.6.64 Proceeded Bakar Is., talks and returned to Aipalang anchorage. Talks at Kabih in p.m.
- 8.6.64 Proceeded Kempalab, talks for 3 hours and on to Aromot Is. Conducted talks at Aromot in late evening.
- 9.6.64 Proceeded Lablab Mission station and held talks with people from Marli and Birik. Talks concluded noon. Departed Lablab and proceeded Yangla on foot, talks and hired a canoe to take the party to Aromot and the ship.
- 10.6.64 Departed Aromot and proceeded Tuam Is. held talks, proceeded Malai Is. further talks and then on to Mandok Is. and slept.
- 11.6.64 Talks for 3½ hours at Mandok, then proceeded Aromot Mutu, talks and onto Gizarum, departed ship and returned to the Patrol Post.
- 12.6.64 to 20.6.64 spent on Patrol Post.
- 21.6.64 Departed Patrol Post and proceeded Tarawe and conducted talks for people from Tarawe and Obongai.
- 22.6.64 Departed Tarawe and proceeded Gomlongon and talked to Gomlongon and Opai people.
- 23.6.64 Proceeded Arot and held talks for Arot and Aupwel people.
- 24.6.64 Proceeded Mararamu and Aiyau and held talks.
- 25.6.64 Departed Mararamu and returned to the Patrol Post, speaking to people from Cropct, Gasam and Gom enroute.

Introduction. This patrol was the first of a series for explanatory talks on the proposed Siassi Native Local Government Council.

Throughout the Siassi area, great interest but little knowledge was shown in and of Local Government.

The patrol was conducted in two separate parts. Mr. R.D.M. Cleland, Assistant District Officer, Local Government, Lae supervised the first part of the patrol and returned to Lae with M.V. Morobe on 11.6.64. As M.V. Morobe was available for eight days only, this first part of the patrol was necessarily rushed and time did not permit the writer to hear or arbitrate in any complaints and disputes. However, the second part of the patrol was less hurried, and a rather large number of complaints was settled. These included marital troubles, animal trespass and damage to gardens, and some minor land disputes.

The Siassi Census Division consists of the inhabited islands of Umboi, Tusa, Malai, Mandok, Aramot, Aronai, Mala, Tolokiwa and Sakar and many tiny uninhabited islands.

Four main linguistic groups prevail - one on the S.E. and N.E. coasts of Umboi; one for the small islands; one in the highlands to the West, and one on Tolokiwa Is. Though Long Is. (or Arop) is regarded by the Siassi people as being in the Siassi group, this island is in the Madang District.

The name SIASSI is not derived from any of the Siassi dialects, but from a Sio dialect - the word SIA meaning island, and the word SIA'SI meaning archipelago.

Observations and Comments.

The proposed establishment of the Siassi Native Local Government Council is an extremely popular move, and is awaited with much interest and enthusiasm.

As mentioned in the introduction of this report, the Siassi people are very interested in the establishment of a Native Local Government Council, were convinced that this was a "good thing" but really did not know why it was a good thing.

Talks usually lasted for upwards of two hours. It is thought that keener interest was shown in the Kowai area than in the islands or the Kalmanga. This seems to be usually the case. From mission reports and this officers' own observations the Kowai people seem to be more sophisticated than their coastal and insular counterparts.

Listed below are some of the questions more commonly asked after the conclusion of the preliminary talks.

- (1) Would any remuneration be made to the retiring Village officials by the Administration?
- (2) Would individual Councillors collect tax in their own constituencies?
- (3) Would the amount of money spent on any one village or electorate be proportionate to the amount of tax collected in that village or electorate?
- (4) Would there be a judiciary appointed by the Council, or would the present system remain?
- (5) Would the Council Chambers and the personal emoluments of officials be supplied by the Administration?

- (6) Would village committee members be appointed as deputies of the elected Councillors?
- (7) If an illiterate man was elected as a Village Councillor, could he appoint a literate clerk to sit with him during Council meetings?
- (8) Would Council Tax be collected annually or monthly?
- (9) Would the Supervising Officer be the only signatory on the Council bank account?

From the nature of some of these questions, it can be seen that during the talks, the people were listening fairly closely to what was being explained to them.

It is felt that it was rather hard for the people to grasp the fact that within the Council the Native Affairs officer would be a guiding influence and not, as he is now sometimes tended to be seen, all powerful and unbending. When it was explained why the Native Affairs officer would be a guiding influence only, the majority of people expressed concern that perhaps things would not run completely smoothly, stressing their ignorance and possible incompetence in matters of government. To some extent this fear was dispelled by conducting long discussions and explanations indicating that this is the first step towards self government and that every New Guinean must recognise his responsibility to help bring this about in a timely and peaceful manner, and that this responsibility can not be ignored by any one group.

The writer was given the opportunity of addressing an assembly of the older students and the teachers at Gelem Junior High School, and here again great interest was shown and intelligent questions asked.

Villages. The standard of Siassi housing is satisfactory, though not particularly note worthy, except that the houses on the smaller and heavily populated islands are usually built on six to eight foot stilts. The ground floor is used to store fishing gear, water and eating utensils. Cooking is invariably done on the ground floor to alleviate the danger of fire, which, starting in one house only would almost certainly raze the entire village.

Most village sites seem to be well chosen, but are deliberately built some distance from potable water, the Siassis being rather fastidious with regards to hygiene.

Political and Social Situation.

No cult activity has been observed during this officers' service in the area, though ~~rumours~~ rumours have been heard to the effect that the old Yali cult may still have a following on Long Island in the Madang District. For the most part, the Siassi people seem to regard cults with disdain.

It was recently reported that a man from Milinge (New Britain) had come to Siassi to trade with the Siassi people. This man is supposed to be a sorcerer, and it

is reported that he exercised his unusual powers on the land at Yagla, to make it more productive. However, casual enquiry at Yagla did not throw any light on the matter and it is considered preferable not to mention the matter again.

Absenteeism from the Siassi villages poses several problems.

The Siassi people prefer to work in the New Britain area according to their traditional trade alliances with these areas. Transport from the New Britain area to Siassi is both difficult and expensive to arrange. One Roman Catholic ship runs from Milasso to Por Island (Siassi) occasionally, and other than this, aircraft charter is the only other alternative.

It is therefore understandable that absentee labourers remain for long periods in the New Britain area before returning. This problem does not exist with absentees working in Lae and Finschhafen, as there is a monthly ship service from Siassi to these ports. These long absentees are used as excuses by the wife so often left in the village to commit adultery, but it is an accepted Siassi practice to do this regardless of the whereabouts of the spouse.

Siassis from the smaller islands have been great traders in the past, carrying out trade from Finschhafen to Madang, along both coasts of New Britain. Whilst this has by no means died out completely, it is not as apparent as it used to be, and relationships between Siassis and their neighbours are generally good.

Agriculture. The Kowai people's main staple is taro: very little Chinese taro is eaten thus indicating an absence of the taro beetle. The coastals rely on yam and mami for their subsistence, whilst the people on the smaller islands consume large quantities of sago supplemented with sea foods.

Cash cropping in the area is almost entirely coconuts. Coffee is somewhat lethargically planted in a few selected Kowai villages, there being no mature trees, and perhaps one thousand seedlings in all. If coffee is to be exploited as an economic crop in this area, it is thought that an extensive agricultural extension and education programme will first have to be conducted.

Coconuts are widely popular as an economic crop and all villages have semi-communal plantings. These plantations are planted and cleared by the village as a group, but the rows of planted coconuts are owned by individuals, and the individual takes copra from those rows of coconuts which belong to him. On occasions one man in the village may need a greater sum of money than only his coconuts can yield, so he may make an arrangement with other people in the village to take all the copra from their trees besides his own, for one harvest only. He will then return the favour by permitting the others to harvest his copra when his trees again bear.

It is estimated that the average adult male has between seventy five and one hundred trees.

THE MARKET

Two months ago it was suggested by the writer that a native market be started and held on the Government station. These people are traditional traders, and the market has so far proved popular. The distance of the Patrol Post to the smaller islands and the Kaimanga area is rather too great for these people to attend the market regularly, but when the winds are favourable, these people come in canoes and sell sea food at good prices.

Very little barter is carried out. The mount-

ains people usually purchase fish and meat first, and then the cash is returned to them when the coastals buy tobacco and feed.

The only organisation buying copra at Siassi is the Pingshafen Marketing and Development Society. Due to the irregularity of P.M.D.S.'s operations, some people prefer to sell their copra to the Australian Lutheran Mission, though the A.L.M. is not interested in competing with P.M.D.S.; their own plantation at Gizarum giving them sufficient work in this line.

It is believed that the potential for copra production in Siassi is very great, but that more interest should be shown by the Administration in expanding this industry.

Livestock.

The livestock on Siassi consists largely of pigs, while the baron people own three head of cattle, and the Yanglas have some goats. The mission will sell cattle to the locals for very reasonable prices, but will not sell unless the prospective buyer has had some experience in looking after cattle.

Land.

Land on Siassi is plentiful and only a small percentage of the arable land is being put to use.

The Administration purchased four small blocks of land during 1963 to be used for land resettlement. Applications for these blocks were received in May 1964, and it is reported that the Land Board will meet at Siassi on the 1st., 2nd. and 3rd. of September to consider these applications.

A further two blocks of land are available to the Administration for land resettlement. The first of these, 995 acres at Bunsil on the South coast of Umboi Is., was investigated and surveyed by the Department of Lands in January and February of this year. Another block is reported to be available at Aiyau, approximately 4 hours walk from the Patrol Post in the mountains. This has not yet been investigated by the writer.

Complaints.

Complaints settled by arbitration during the patrol consisted of pig damages to gardens, marital disputes and unpaid debts. No particular trend seems evident.

Courts.

The Court for Native Affairs was convened on four occasions during the patrol. Details are as follows.

Case No. 3-63/64	Logan of Tarawe (Compl)	Ake of Tarawe (Def)	Reg. 83(d)
Case No. 9-63/64	Mais Nanaiyo of Aupwel, Complainant.	Gima Kapu of Aupwel, Defendant.	Reg. 84(e)
Case No. 10 to 14-63/64	Const. Degomba 8318 Complainant.	Gima, Mais, Ulae, Yang, Hanzor, all of Aupwel, Defendants.	Reg. 83(e)
Case No. 15-63/64	Peko of Mararamu, Complainant.	Garai of Mararamu Defendant	Reg. 83(a)

Health.

The general health of the Siassi people is good, the most common ills encountered by the patrol being malaria and eye and ear infections.

The seven Administration Aid Posts in the area are situated at Aiyau, Gasam, Tarawe, Tolokiwa Is., Turu Is., Kampalab, Aromot Is. An eighth Aid Post has recently been established at Lalai Is. All Aid Post Orderlies at these Administration Aid Posts appear to be doing their job, but only that. A.P.O. Angori Tali of Aiyau is the only exception.

Angori is a most capable and trustworthy A.P.O. and accepts responsibility readily. An A.P.O. Gr. I, Angori sometimes takes the responsibility of an A.P.O. Gr. II and inspects the other Siassi Aid Posts.

The Australian Lutheran Mission has hospitals at Lablab and Awelkon, staffed by three Registered Nurses.

These nurses attend to all the infant welfare work besides running the hospitals, and carry out patrols to generally look to the health of the people, and to aid and advise the A.P.O.'s where necessary.

Education.

The Australian Lutheran Mission attends to the schools on Siassi. The mission has established six area schools at Aiyau, Gasam, Tarawe, Yangla, Tolokiwa and Bukum.

A "B" certificate teacher is in charge of these schools and teach classes from preparatory to Standard II.

On completion to Standard II, students may attend the schools at Lablab or Awelkon to complete Standard III. From these schools, the students graduate to the Gelem Junior High School, which is staffed by three qualified Australian teachers, one deaconess, one Minister of Religion and several indigenous, 'B' certificate teachers.

Five ex-Gelem students are now studying in Australia under assistance given by the mission.

The Roman Catholic Mission has two schools, one at Mandok Is. and one at Aupwell village, both of which take students to Standard III. Beyond this, Catholic students attend mission schools in New Britain.

Roads and Bridges.

A vehicular road runs from the S.E. coast at Gizaram Mission Plantation, through the Patrol Post to Oropot village, a distance of some ten miles. A road branches from this main road at the Patrol Post and leads to the Awelkon Lutheran Mission Hospital and school, a distance of approximately three miles. The present condition of this road is poor, but funds have now been made available which will permit this to be improved.

Work has begun on clearing the road from Oropot and extending it to Aiyau. Once the road reaches Aiyau and Mararamu, little difficulty should be experienced in extending it to Aupwell on the N. coast.

The villagers from Opai, Gowlongon, Tarawe and Obongai hope to begin clearing the road from Awelkon and putting it through to Opai as soon as the dry season is well entrenched.

It is hoped that by the end of the year a four wheel drive road will link all thirteen of the Kowai villages.

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Missions.

Mission establishments in the area are as follows.

- Schools - A.L.M. - Lablab, Avelkon, Gelem.
- R.C. - Mandok Is., *
- Hospitals - A.L.M. - Lablab, Avelkon.
- R.C. - Aid Post at Mandok Is. staffed by Rev. Father.
- Plantations A.L.M. - Cixara plantation producing approximately 170 bags per month.

The Australian Lutheran Mission has been working in and around Siassi for the last seventeen years, and the majority of the Siassi people belong to this denomination. The A.L.M. staff consists of three ministers of religion, one deaconess, four ex-patriate school teachers, three registered nurses, a plantation manager and one motor mechanic.

The Roman Catholic Mission has an estimated five hundred adherents and is staffed by two ministers of religion.

Though some villages have adherents of both the abovementioned denominations no trouble has yet become evident because of this.

Conclusion.

The recent establishment of a Patrol Post at Omom village in the Kowai area, and now the proposed establishment of a Native Local Government Council has given the Siassi people a great deal to think about and discuss.

Some most influential Siassi men are interested in the proposed council, and it is thought that some able leaders may find their way into the ranks of council officialdom.

The various Siassi groups are separated by large expanses of dangerous sea and thus there is not a great deal of contact between these groups. It is hoped that the establishment of a Native Local Government Council will alter this to the benefit of all concerned.

(R.M. Lee)
Patrol Officer Gr.1