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# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: ESA'ALA

VOLUME No: 24

ACCESSION No: 496.

1970 - 1971

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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870-7172

MILNE BAY DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

ESA'ALA, SEHULEA BOLUBOLU

1970-1971

<u>Report no.</u>	<u>Officer conducting patrol</u>	<u>Area patrolled</u>
<u>ESA'ALA</u>		
2-70-71	A.M. Didlick	Amphletts & Banaroo, East Ferguson C.D.
<u>SEHULEA</u>		
1-70-71	J.C. Edgar	Part Southern Normanby
2-70-71	J.C. Edgar	Part Southern Normanby
3-70-71	J.C. Edgar	Part Southern Normanby
<u>BOLUBOLU</u>		
5-70-71	G.K. Staples	North West Goodenough Is.
6-70-71	G.K. Staples	Goodenough Island
7-70-71	T. Maravila	West Ferguson C.D.
8-70-71	A.D. Stevens	Goodenough Island
9-70-71	G.K. Staples	West Ferguson Is.
10-70-71	A.D. Stevens	Part Goodenough Island.

Updating the common roll  
Not in this report

BOLUBOLU	1-70-71	Stevens	13 days
"	2-70-71	Staples	15 days
"	3-70-71	McIndoe	14 days (?)
"	4-70-71	Moore	14 days (?)





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

Report Number..... 2 of 1970/71

Subdistrict..... Esa'ala

District..... Milne Bay

Type of Patrol..... Election

Patrol Conducted by..... A.M. Didlick, Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled	}	Amphletts and Sanaroa - East Fergusson
(Council and/or		Census Divisions of the Dobu Council
Census Division/s.)		Area.

Personnel Accompanying Patrol .....

Mrs. S. Didlick.  
Mr. Pius Sagap.

Two Crew members M.V. Nonoleta.

Duration of Patrol—from 19/9/70 To 6/10/70

No. of Days..... Eighteen

Last D.D.A. Patrol to Area :..... Common Roll Revision.

Date..... June / July ..... Duration..... Eleven days.

Objects of Patrol (Briefly)..... To conduct a By-Election for the House of  
Assembly.

Total Population of Area Patrolled.....

Director of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU.

Forwarded, please.

/ /19

.....  
District Commissioner.

(10)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

Report Number..... Esa'ala No. 2 of 1970/71 .....

Subdistrict..... Esa'ala .....

District..... Milne Bay .....

Type of Patrol..... House of Assembly Election.....

Patrol Conducted by..... A.M. Didlick .....

Area Patrolled )..... Amphlett, Sanaroa and part Fergusson Islands.

(Council and/or )..... Dobu .....

Census Division/s.) )..... Amphletts and Sanaroa - East Fergusson.

Personnel Accompanying Patrol..... Mrs. S. Didlick.....

..... Mr. Pius Sagap.....

..... Two crew members M.V. Nonolet.....

.....

Duration of Patrol - From 19/9/70 To 6/10/70

No. of Days..... Eighteen .....

Last D.D.A. Patrol of Area..... Common Roll Revision.

Date..... June/July..... Duration..... Eleven days.....

Objects of Patrol (Briefly)..... To conduct a By-Election

for the House of Assembly.....

.....

.....

Total Population of Area Patrolled.....

Director of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU.

Forwarded, please

/ /19

.....  
District Commissioner



(13)

67-4-12

Division of District Administration,

KONEDORU, PAPUA.

3rd. December, 1970.

The District Commissioner,  
ALOTAU,  
Milne Bay.

ESA'ALA PATROL NO.2 70/71

Your reference 67-3-1(2) of 23rd November,  
1970.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Special Report by Mr. A.M. DIDLICK, Patrol Officer of the AMPHLETT and SANGROA - East Ferguson Census Division.

An informative report of a routine nature calling for little comment.

*T.W. Ellis*  
(T.W. ELLIS)  
Departmental Head

c.c. MR. A.M. Didlick,  
Patrol Officer,  
Esa'ala Sub District Office,  
Esa'ala,  
MILNE BAY.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-4-12

(12)

Telegrams

Telephone

Our reference 67-3-1(2)

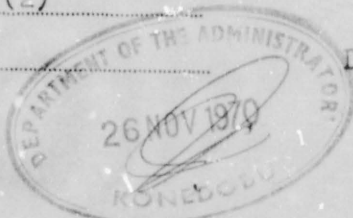
If calling ask for

Mr.

In Reply

Please Quote

No.



Division of District Administration,  
Department of the Administrator,  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU

23rd November, 1970.

The Departmental Head,  
Department of the Administrator,  
Division of District Administration,  
KONELOBU

ESA'ALA PATROL NO. 2/1970-71

I attach two (2) copies of the above report.

The patrol was for the specific purpose of conducting the By-Election and does not call for any comment.

*F. G. Driver*  
F. G. DRIVER  
District Commissioner

c.c. The Assistant District Commissioner,  
ESA'ALA



67.3.1

11  
Division of District  
Administration,  
Sub-District Office, Esa'ala  
Milne Bay District.

11.11.70

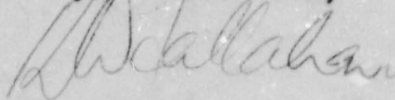
The District Commissioner,  
Alotau,  
Milne Bay District.

Esa'ala Report No. 2 of 1970-71.

Herewith the abovementioned Patrol Report by Mr. Didlick.

Mr. Didlick has compiled a sound report which requires no comment. Relevant claims are enclosed.

For your attention,



R.W. Hallahan.  
( Assistant District Commissioner. )



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

9

Department of the Administrator,

Telegrams—

Telephone

Our Reference..... 67.I.I.

If calling ask for

Mr.....

Division of District Administration,  
Sub-District Office,  
Esa'ala,  
Milne Bay District.

File 67.I.I 12.I0.70

The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
Esa'ala,  
Milne Bay District.

Introduction.

1. Esa'ala Patrol No. 2 was mounted with the object of conducting a By-Election for the Esa'ala Open Electorate. The vacancy in the House of Assembly was created by the death of Mr. Norman Evannett after a long period of illness.

2. Six Mobile Polling Teams were fielded for the operation. The team I accompanied as Assistant Presiding Officer was Mobile Polling Team No. 6. Team 6 was constituted as follows.

Presiding Officer Mrs. S. Didlick.  
Assistant Presiding Officer A.M. Didlick.  
Poll Clerk Mr. Pius Sagap.

3. The team thus included one Papuan, one European and one New Guinean respectively.

4. Owing to illness the duly appointed interpreter for our team was forced to return to Esa'ala. A substitute interpreter was appointed in accordance with Section 701(2) of the Ordinance.

5. The Polling Places and scheduled dates for polling are listed hereunder in respect of our team.

Polling Place.	Date.
Etana	19.9.70
Sebutuia	21.9.70
Duduna	23.9.70
Tewara	25.9.70
Basima	26.9.70
Urua	29.9.70
Wadalei	1.10.70
Iava	2.10.70
Nabwaga	3.10.70
Gumuwana	5.10.70

6. An accompanying map illustrates the area visited.

7. A situation Report is included and I have used the Local Government Format in my Election Report.



Patrol Diary.

8

Saturday, 19th. September.

Departed Esa'ala 0600 to conduct Election at Etana. Poll opened 1000. Polling closed 1800. Overnight Etanna.

Sunday, 20th. September.

Interpreter ill and taken back to Esa'ala. Patrol proceeded to Sebutuia via Kedidia where we provisioned. Heavy seas forced us to seek shelter thirty minutes from Sebutuia.

Monday, 21st. September.

0700 arrived at Sebutuia. Heavy rain and rough seas made it impossible to unload our boat ( M.V. Nonclets ) which anchored about forty yards offshore. Unloaded finally at 1030. Polling opened 1100 and closed at 1800.

Tuesday, 22nd. September

Polling opened 0800 at Sebutuia. Polling closed 1800.

Wednesday, 23rd. September.

Departed Sebutuia 0600. Arrived Duduna anchorage 0800. By the time gear was unloaded by canoe in heavy seas it was 0900 and polling opened 0930. Polling closed 1800.

Thursday, 24th. September.

Patrol departed Duduna for Tewara. No rest house at Tewara so we anchored close to the village. Overnight aboard.

Friday, 25th. September.

Polling commenced Tewara 0800. All people present and eligible had voted by 0900. Tewara has a franchised population of fifteen. Patrol waited until 1200 then departed for Basima arriving 1345.

Saturday, 26th. September.

Polling commenced Basima 0800 and last vote for the day was taken at 1100.

Sunday, 27th. September.

Observed.

Monday, 28th. September.

Polling opened Basima 0800 and closed at 1600 as it was reasonable to conclude that all persons wishing to vote had done so. Patrol moved to Urua. Overnight Urua.

Tuesday, 29th. September.

Polling opened Urua 0800. Reasonable show. Polling closed 1800. Overnight Urua.

Wednesday, 30th. September.

Patrol moved to Wadalei. Overnight Wadalei.

(7)

Thursday, 1st. October.

Polling opened Wadalei 0800. Good turnout. Polling closed 1800.

Friday, 2nd. October.

Patrol moved to Iava. There were no people to be found on Iava. We spent two hours trying to find Iava people. Eventually they were found on another island. Polling opened 1100 and closed at 1200 as everybody listed had either voted or was absent on another island.

Saturday, 3rd. October.

Polling opened at Nabwageta where we arrived previous afternoon. Poll opened and closed on schedule.

Sunday, 4th. October.

Patrol moved to Gumuwana. Overnight Gumuwana.

Monday, 5th. October.

Polling opened 0800 at Gumuwana and closed on schedule. People brought clay pots and artifacts for sale. Overnight Gumuwana.

Tuesday, 6th. October.

Returned to Esa'ala. Patrol stood down.

End of Patrol.



Situation Report.

Social.

1. Over the period that the Administration has been in contact with the Dobu speaking people, much anthropological data must have been compiled. I have therefore not delved into the culture with any depth in this submission. I deal hereunder with a few of the external and non esoteric aspects of Dobu society.
2. I was surprised to note the number of adult males still garbed in traditional costume; this being a pandanus leaf artfully twisted around the loins. It lends the required modesty without covering any areas other than the genitals. Aproximately 10% of the adult males seen wore the costume described, they were mainly elderly citizens. Women on the other hand wear the traditional grass skirt universally. A European style dress is certainly the exception and rather rare.
3. Marriage customs do not differ greatly from those of most coastal Papuan societies. Perhaps the most noteworthy difference is that people prefer payment in traditional articles of value rather than in money. Bride price normally consists of pigs, armshells, neckshells and yams.
4. When the parents have decided on a wife for their son they tell the parents of the girl and send a bundle of betel nut to their house. The betel nut is the sign for the father to call a meeting of the girls uncles. A discussion ensues wherin all parties concerned express their views as to the suitability of the suitor. Chewing the betel nut offering signifies acceptance of the match.
5. Over the next twelve months to two years the suitor is under an obligation to assist his fiance's parents in any way he can; the girl is to an extent similarly obliged.
6. During this engagement period, payments of yams are made at intervals. The marriage is finally consecrated when the bulk of the bride price is paid in pigs, armshells and neckshells. A small feast is held for all relatives after payment is effected.
7. When a person dies in a Dobuan village he is not buried until a reasonable gathering of the relatives have arrived. There is then a period of wailing until late afternoon when the body is buried.
8. After the burial the widow must exchange her normal knee length grass skirt for an ankle length one and commence wearing a long heavy necklace. These articles can only be discarded when a feast is held to honour the deceased some eight to twelve months after burial. At the feast the skirt is cut and the necklace destroyed. The widow's hair which has been allowed to grow long during mourning is cut; she is now free to remarry.
9. As far as I can discern there are no puberty rites incorporated in the Dobu culture. My sources may have reservations about their disclosure.
10. There is no ritual attached to birth as with some other Papuan societies.

11. A woman bears her child in her own house and is helped by her mother or sister usually.

12. At the time of birth the woman is seated on a slab of stone or a split log and a rope is suspended from a crossbeam for her to grasp during labour.

13. It must be borne in mind that the Methodist Faith is very strong in this area and has almost certainly altered many traditions.

Footnote:

Feasts are sometimes held to strengthen ties between families. For example; the parents of a girl who has been married for one or two years may kill a pig and hold a feast for the parents of their daughter's spouse. This is done to ameliorate the bond which already binds them.

Political.

14. See " The By-Election " .

Economic.

15. Copra is the major source of income in the region visited. The total production in cash crops for the last financial year is listed hereunder.

Copra	200 tons
Estimated potential	337 tons
Cocoa	591 lbs.
Only five growers.	
Robusta Coffee	351 lbs.
Only fifteen growers.	

16. The average density for coconuts is 350 per acre.

17. Roads would not in my opinion vastly accelerate economic development in the East Fergusson area. Wharves however, might definitely encourage more people to visit the region and purchase copra this might raise prices and encourage higher production.

18. There are a few tradestores in the area but prices are high and I do not believe the average family would purchase a great deal from them over a year. Mr. Preece's boat also carries trade items at a reasonable price and I heard from the Sebutuia people that they frequently walk around to the Kedidia tradestore.

19. At the present time Thesis Mining is prospecting in a small way in this area. Should anything be found worth investigating it would create employment and noticeably increase the per capita income.



(C)

The Esa'ala Open By-Election.

Pre-Election Activities.

Prior to the commencement of elections the Common Roll was revised. This necessitated visiting nearly every village in the electorate and carrying out a complete census. During these patrols villagers were informed of the commencement date for polling. Little apparent interest was evoked at this stage.

The increase in the number of electors was not great although it may be reasonably assumed that new electors will bring a more sophisticated attitude to elections as a result of their higher standard of education.

No pre-election patrols were carried out with the express purpose of teaching people to vote.

Radio Milne Bay broadcast all polling dates and places as did the candidates who campaigned.

There was evidence of strenuous campaigning by some of the candidates, namely Henry Andrew, Tim Ward and Arnold Willman. Other candidates do not appear to have spent much time in the area patrolled by team G.

The only poster seen by myself during the patrol was one for Tim Ward. Village sources informed me that other candidates took their posters with them when they departed for other villages.

Manner of Elections.

Ten Polling Places were used ( see Introduction for names and dates ). The schedule used was the one used for the last General Election. I found the schedule did not offer sufficient time for travel if Presiding Officers were to open and close polling according to schedule. This patrol lasted eighteen days, a twenty day patrol would have permitted the polling to adhere to requirements. As it happened nobody was denied the opportunity to vote and many hours were spent at each Polling Place waiting for voters who chose not to vote.

Those persons spoken to by myself were all aware that there was no legislation compelling them to vote.

The overwhelming majority of voters requested assistance in marking their papers; in these cases the voter whispered his choice and the Presiding Officer or Assistant Presiding Officer duly marked the paper. For statistics see appendix.

A voting compartment was constructed within each booth for persons wishing to mark their own papers.

No scrutineers were appointed by any of the candidates.

Most electors displayed a reticence to vote if they were by themselves at the Polling Booth, they generally waited for a group to gather outside the booth for a discussion before entering in filr.

3

Feminine Interest in the Election.

There were no female candidates for election.

Women were much more hesitant in making their choices. One woman handed me a piece of paper on which somebody had kindly written down the candidates from one to eight in the order he or she placed their respective merits. Another woman told me she had forgotten what her husband told her and would just have to point at one of the pictures if that was permitted.

It appeared outside the Polling Booth that some women were asking others who had already cast their vote for whom they should vote.

I do not believe most women had any interest in the election but a significant percentage dutifully accompanied their husbands to the poll.

Incidents.

There were no incidents during the patrol save that one man entered the Polling Booth stark naked and rather flustered our female Presiding Officer.

Candidates.

Four European candidates stood for election. Three of these have been known to the people of the area for many years, they are Lance Wilkinson, Arnold Willman and Clement Rich. The other European candidate Tim Ward moved into the Electorate only recently from Losuia.

Of the Papuan candidates Tobedi Maladina has spent a great deal of time away from the area looking after business interests in the Eastern Highlands District. I surmise that Tobedi's absence from the area and his wealth may have had an adverse effect on his chances. To a certain extent he must have alienated himself from his people.

I did not discern any xenophobic attitudes among electors. I am certain that the man considered best, be he Papuan or European will win.

Result of Election.

The seat in the House of Assembly was won by Mr. Tim Ward by a good margin.

Mr. Ward's active and ubiquitous campaigning was rewarded by a large response in nearly all areas of the electorate. In the area covered by Team 6 he was also helped by being related to Mr. M. Preece of Kedidia. On many occasions when people were being assisted with their vote they did not call Mr. Ward by his name at first but rather as 'Mr. Preece ena nakimi'.

Mr. Preece is widely known in this area where he has dwelt for sixteen years and several people wished to vote for him in spite of the fact he was not standing for election.

Mr. Ward is resident at Nuatutu plantation and he is married with one child. Mr. Ward has already made a considerable effort in opening the Milne Bay District to tourism on Kiriwina before he moved to the Esa'ala Sub-District.

( A.M. Didlick )  
Patrol Officer

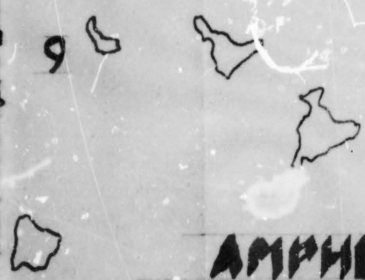
*Didlick*  
( Siniva Didlick )  
Presiding Officer.



Appendix A.

(2)

Total Number votes recorded by Team 6	507
Total Number Sectional votes	40
Unassisted voters	54
Percentage of potential vote	Aprox. 32%
Total number votes cast by males not including sectional voters.	270
Total number votes cast by females not including sectional voters.	197



**AMPHLETTIS**



**SANAROA**

- 1 ETANA
- 2 SEBUTUIA
- 3 DUDUNA
- 4 TEWARA
- 5 BASIMA
- 6 URUA
- 7 WADALEI
- 8 LAVA
- 9 NABWAGETA
- 10 GUMUWANA



**NUMBERS INDICATE  
POLLING PLACES,**



**AMPHLETT, SANAROA**

**AND FERGUSON ISLANDS**

**SCALE 1 INCH = 4 MILES**

**-A.M. DIDLICK-**