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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MOROBE

STATION: SIASSI, 1969 - 1970

Original documents bound with reports
for: Pindiu, volume 8.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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[Original report filed with Pindiu, 1969/70]

PATROL REPORT OF: SIASSI
 VOL. NO: 6 : 1969/70

ACC. NO: 496

NUMBERS OF REPORTS: 1

REPORT NO.	FOLIO	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL	AREA PATROLLED	MAPS/ PHOTOS	PERIOD OF PATROL	FICHE NO.
[1]	1-6/70	1-19	LUSCOMBE P.C.C. RD.	KAIMANGA AREA.	26.7.69 - 1.8.69	
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MOROBE DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1969/1970

PINDIU and SIASSI

<u>Report No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
<u>PINDIU</u>		
1-69-70	M.P. Slough P.O.	Mongi Valley
2-69-70	P.E. Wilson, A.D.O.	Head Waters Kua River
3-69-70	M. Slough, P.O.	Part Hube Census Division
4-69-70	P.E. Wilson, A.D.O.	Bulum Valley
6-69-70	J.B. Balagetuna,	Kua Valley
7-69-70	P.D. Oates, A.P.O.	Mindik to Ogeranang
9-60-70	P.D. Oates, A.P.O.	Pindiu to Ogeranang
10-69-70	P.E. Wilson, A.D.O.	The Mongi Valley and part of Finschhafen Area.
<u>SIASSI</u>		
1-69-70	Peter C.C. Luscombe	Kaimanga Area of Umboi and surrounding Islands.

SIASSI PATROL REPORT NUMBER 1 OF 1969/70

PINSCHHAFEN SUB-DISTRICT

MOROBE DISTRICT

SIASSI LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL AREA

PATROL CONDUCTED BY PATROL OFFICER PETER C.C. LUSCOMBE

AREA PATROLLED - KAIMANGA AREA OF UMBOI AND SURROUNDING ISLANDS

CONSTABLE 1860 NABARANG R.P. & N.G.C. AND ASSISTANT MAGISTRATE HANS ANTERE AMGO ACCOMPANIED PATROL

PATROL DEPARTED 26/7/69 RETURNED 1/8/69 AWAY 6½ DAYS

LAST D.D.A. PATROL TO AREA (3 of 68/69) 36 DAYS

- OBJECTS OF PATROL:
1. APPROACH VILLAGERS EASTERN SIDE OF UMBOI ISLAND RE SALE OF LAND FOR RESETTLEMENT SCHEME.
 2. CONDUCT LAND INVESTIGATION M.O. 102 AT GUIN, NEAR YANGLA VILLAGE.
 3. INSPECT WORK AT COUNCIL PROJECT, TUAM ISLAND.

TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA PATROLLED IN 1967.

MAP REFERENCE - ARMY SERIES MILINCH OF UMBOI AND TOLOKIWA ISLANDS.

FOURMIL OF SAG-SAG.

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER NOT ENCLOSED.

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ / 19

.....
District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation £.....

..... Paid from: D.N.E. Trust Fund £.....

..... paid from P.T.D.P. Trust Fund £.....

HRD:HC

67-6-125

Division of District Administration,
KONEDOBU. PAPUA

25th November, 1970.

The District Commissioner,
Morobe District,
LAE.

SIASSI PATROL NO. 1-69/70

Your reference is 67-2-13 of 2nd October,
1969 and 17th November, 1970.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of
Special Report by Mr. Luscombe, Assistant District
Officer, of the KAIMANGA area of UMBOI and surround-
ing islands.

A valuable report documenting local problems
and attitudes adequately.

Your comments adequately cover the report.

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

C.C.
Mr. P.C. Luscombe,
Patrol Post,
SIASSI. Morobe District.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-6-125

(17)

Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference
If calling ask for
Mr.....

In Reply
Please Quote

No. 67-2-13

Department of the Administrator.

Division of District Administration,
Morobe District,
LAE.

17th November, 1970.

Departmental Head,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOBU

SIASSI PATROL NO. 1 OF 1969/70

A recent review of patrol reports at this office brought to light that the original and duplicate of Siassi Patrol No. 1 of 1969/70 was not forwarded to you under cover of my 67-2-13 of the 2nd October, 1969.

I now attach the original and duplicate of this report together with two copies of my original memorandum.

(B. BUNTING)
a/District Commissioner



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67. 6. 27

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

Department of the Administrator,
Department of District Administration,
Division
Morobe District,
LAE.

2nd October, 1969.



P. C. C. LUSCOMBE
SIASSI C. D.

The Secretary,
Department of the Administrator,
KONIGDOBU.

SIASSI SPECIAL PATROL NO. 1 OF 1969/70

The original and duplicate of a special report to a portion of the Siassi Census Division together with map and comments from the Assistant District Commissioner and a copy of patrol instructions are attached.

The report indicates that present thinking of these people is that land for resettlement is not to be made available at this stage. Although the Councillors meeting at Siassi expressed the opinion that their people were eager to sell the land to the Administration, it is clear that this view is not a reflection of the attitudes of the people. However, it is possible that a change in attitudes will be forthcoming following continued discussions on this subject with the local people.

The construction of a wharf at Tuam appears to be quite a useful project and should materially assist in gaining the support of these outlying island people for the Council.

The break-up of the F.M.D.S. is continuing at a very slow rate but the local people appear to be in favour of an autonomous society and it is possible that this will do much to stimulate economic development for this group.

Comments on adult education have been forwarded to the District Inspector, Department of Education, Lae.

Mr. Luscombe's report is quite satisfactory.

H. P. Seale

(H. P. SEALE)
District Commissioner

67-6-27

MOROBE DISTRICT
LAE.

(1)

2nd Oct. 1969

The Secretary,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOBU.

*not attached
H. Hill*

SIASSI SPECIAL PATROL NO. 1. of 1969/70

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(H. P. SEALE)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

s.c. A.D.C.
FINSCHHAFEN.

67-1-6

SUB DISTRICT OFFICE
FINSCHHAFEN
MOROBE DISTRICT.

16th Sept. 1969.

The District Commissioner,
Morobe District,
F.F.S.

SIASSI PATROL No. 1 - 69/70.

1. Attached are four copies of the above mentioned report.
2. The patrol was a special one for the purpose of establishing how much land is available for resettlement on Siassi. The distinct "No" is in direct contrast to the feelings of Siassi Council Meeting No. 50. I quote an extract from this -
"The following councillors Aigal of Sakar Is. Aibele of Kabip, Matke of Aupwel and Mario of Mandi, stated their people were eager to sell their land to the Administration."
The councillors were told the land would probably be used as resettlement with blocks being about 50 acres in extent. It is hard to understand the complete change that has occurred. The main conclusion one must come to is that the matter was not thrashed out sufficiently in the villages beforehand. Both factors 1 and 2 on p.8, 4th and 5th paras. would be constant. Factor 3, para. 6 would have had some influence on the matter. It is debatable as to whether it was the deciding factor or whether in fact the councillors did not report the true feelings of the village people in the first instance. I will instruct Mr. Luscombe, with your approval, to mention selling land at every opportunity to try for a change of attitude. Also whether the other schemes are successful will be a determining factor. We must insure that they use only land set aside for them and not village lands.
3. Instruction MD.102 has been forwarded to yourself under my 35-2-77 of 12/9/1969.
4. The penultimate paragraph on p.4 refers. No. K.D.F. were swung into the wharf. Council money was used. Mr. Luscombe tends to judge the islanders too harshly. It would appear to me that the majority of people will support a movement or project if they see some direct material benefit. Apathy to local government is only not confined to New Guinea.
5. Mr. Luscombe has submitted a fairly comprehensive situation report. I do not agree with the last sentence para.1, as it seems to me that leadership would be imposed and thus liable to rejection.
6. Darius Wako Kuk has not yet been granted the lander under the L.T.C. Ordinance. There has been a hold up, but it is hoped to have the matter straightened within 2 - 3 months.
7. The land recently occupied by the Mendak Islanders on the mainland is to be surveyed and title given to them. This request came from the Council.
8. The assault by Darius is being investigated. The man Arumbong has now died but death was due to a number of natural causes not the assault. However, I understand most people relate the death to the assault.
9. For your information please. Mr. Luscombe has presented a good report which is the result of a great deal of work in the field.

(R. C. HILL)
ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

PATROL DIARY

(14)

- 26/7/69. Departed Siassi Patrol Post on foot (vehicle to Orepot) and walked to Aupwel via Aiyau/Mararamu. Inspected new road site near Aiyau. Talked with Fr. Sasse at Aupwel Mission.
- 27/7/69. Sunday. Held discussion with villagers after church service. Walked to Kabip Village in afternoon. 3½ hrs.
- 28/7/69. Discussion with villagers re sale of land. Walked to summit of Mt. Bier to view land better, and later to top of Mt. Sangal. Village boundaries indicated to me. Walked to Kampalap in afternoon.
- 29/7/69. Lengthy village meeting held in morning. Then walked along beach and coastal tracks to Marli. Visited Lab-Lab Mission (A.L.M.) to arrange hire of M.V. "Karape".
- 30/7/69. Met with Marli villagers to discuss sale of land to Admin. Also talked about roadworks. Discussed administrative problems with Pastor Winderlich of Australian Lutheran Mission. Walked to Birik then to Yangla. Conducted land investigation for Council lease in evening and talked with villagers generally.
- 31/7/69. Walked to Guin Area School for signatures of land documents and also walked boundaries with executives. Walked back to Yangla. Canoeed down Tarawe River to mouth. Went with Fr. Mulderink in dinghy to Aromej. Boarded M.V. "Karape" and went to Tuam Island. Seasick all the way. Inspected work on Tuam Wharf, a community project and discussed work with carpenter. Gave talk to villagers in evening re moon landings and support for Council. All elder generation most puzzled by my revealing that there is really only one moon, not 12.
- 1/8/69. Left Tuam early for Mandek and Per Islands. Talked to Father Mulderink about local matters. Councillor met in village so left word that he should make a formal approach through the Siassi Council to have recent native custom land acquisition recognised by L.T.C. Returned to Gizarum and then to station.

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INTRODUCTION

The patrol was mounted in response to the A.D.C. Finschhafen's memorandum 67-1-6 of 17/6/69 to me. (See Appendix "A"). Items 2, and 3 under "Objects of Patrol" were added by myself. They were matters which were pending and fitted in well with the patrol programme.

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LAND ACQUISITION - EAST COAST UMBOI ISLAND

It becomes obvious to anybody sailing past or flying over this coast that there are few inhabitants living on this rather vast area. The District Commissioner has intimated more than once that it would be highly desirable to have this ground utilised in the form of resettlement blocks, probably of about fifty acres each. This was the basis on which I undertook to inform the people owning the ground of the Government's wishes.

I consider Kabip and Kampalap villages to be the most backward of all the Siassi group. The people do little cash-cropping, being dependent on absent workers for pocket-money and Council tax to a large degree. Local missionaries inform me that there is more than a normal amount of in-breeding taking place. Singe-sings, initiation ceremonies etc., still rate a high priority in village life.

Aupwel village has had, over the last few years, many leadership problems, with at least two factions perpetually quarrelling. These seem to be the Councillor and his adherents and the Opposition, the personages differing from time to time. The people are on a par with other Siassis re education, health and general advancement. Aupwel Catholic Mission is adjacent to the village.

Marli village, being quite close to Lab-Lab also is not particularly backward, socially, but talks with them revealed that the concept of a large resettlement scheme is quite beyond them. It is not surprising that their reaction in this matter was almost exactly the same as that of Kampalap. These villages have close kinship ties.

A meeting held at Aupwel on 27/7/69 brought the following reaction from the people. They might sell some ground but they had first to talk the matter over with the Arot people. Originally there was only one village but Aupwel broke away when the Catholic Mission started up on the coast and left the Lutherans up at Arot. They still own ground communally and are not going to divide it until the next generation when the people will be distinctly Arots or Aupwels. They said they would talk the matter over and come and see me. I am still waiting. Obviously they are not ever keen to sell.

I explained it would be preferable that any coastal ground for sale be contiguous with Kabip ground. I estimate they own about 5,000 arable acres on the coast, and about three or four thousand arable acres of reportedly flat ground in the hinterland behind Arot village. There would also be another thousand acres or so higher up on the slopes suitable for subsistence farming but not considered "arable" for resettlement. The populations of Arot and Aupwel villages in May 1969 were 108 and 197 respectively and the increase is about 3 to 4 percent per annum.

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The inland area mentioned is rather inaccessible and joins up with Gemlengen land on the other side of the mountains. The people said they would let a European come and settle on this ground so that they (Aupwel) could work and get their tax money easily. This ground would not be available for foreign natives to settle on. Kampalap and Marli also said they would make ground available on this condition.

A meeting at Kabip village on 28/7/69 brought a firm "no" from the people in response to my asking re sale of land to the Administration for resettlement. The people there claimed they had not enough land and were not interested in selling any. They said it was alright for me to go and have a look at their land from the top of Mt. Bier and Mt. Sargal both large kunai knolls in the area. Their land extends to past where Kampalap is situated, but for most of the area past Kabip is only about a mile deep from the coast.

Kabip has a population of 207 (May 1969) an annual increase of about 3% and arable ground reserves of about 7,000 acres of which four or five thousand acres would be suitable for cash-cropping. I did not spend much time with either Aupwel or ~~Kampalap~~ Kabip as I knew that Marli and Kampalap were the owners of a large expanse of vacant ground.

Lengthy discussions with Kampalap villagers on 29/7/69 revealed the people were quite adamant about not selling. I was first of all asked would the settlers be European or native. When told native settlers they claimed this would not help them financially and foreign natives would only cause trouble. They quoted me the example of Futibum and Tolai settlers (or squatters?) in Lae and Rsbaul who had finished their pieces of ground and were hungry for more. I replied to this that a fifty acre block would keep a family busy for many years. They then said that they had not enough ground to sell. I said this was not ~~was~~ true and an investigation report would reveal that they had many thousand acres they could never use. But their final word was no.

Talks at Marli on 30/7/69 went along similar lines to those at Kampalap. The people want a European settler or none at all. Foreign natives will make trouble and not help the local people financially. Not enough room for expansion if they sell ground etc. A very strong "no" was the final answer despite lengthy explanations to allay their fears.

Kampalap and Marli have populations of 474 and 114 respectively as at May 1969. I estimate they own about 17,000 acres of arable land between them and the Mingo people, an old group which has been absorbed into both villages. Village boundaries have not been marked by demarcation committees. Of this area about 12,000 acres would be suitable for cash-cropping and the rest suitable only for subsistence farming.

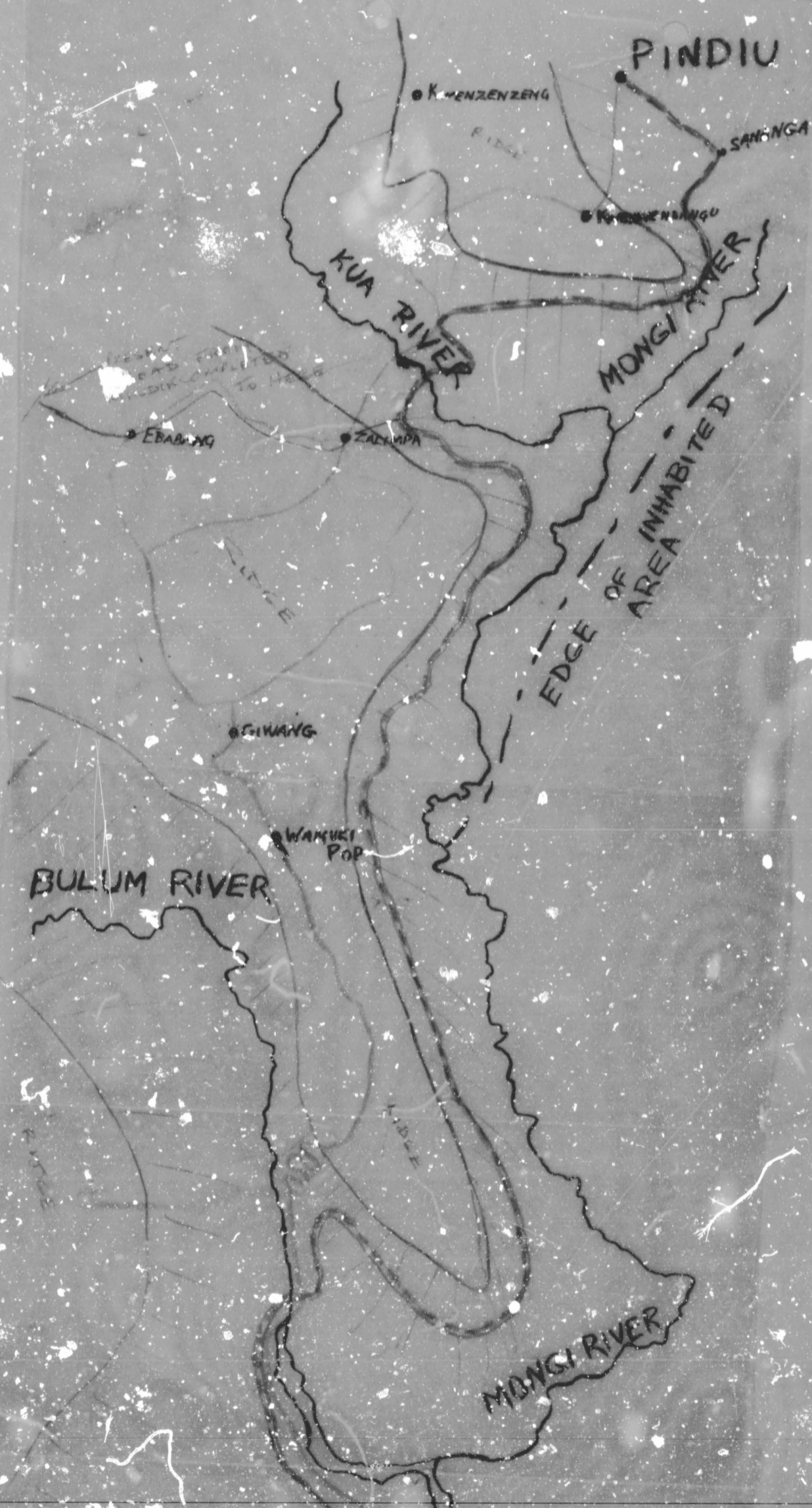
In the cases of all four villages the people have only occupied the ground since the Mt. Ritter explosion late last century caused a tidal wave which wiped out the original coastal owners. The forbears of the present occupants then moved down from the Siassi "highlands".

I did not labour the point of the Administration's strong desire to purchase ground in the area due to the people's equally strong desire not to sell. I did not insist on making a detailed inspection of the ground, but all along this coast the soil is mainly volcanic in origin, ranging from black to chocolate in colour and my unprofessional opinion is that it would be good for coconuts, possibly coconuts, and certainly cattle would do well. The mountain

PINDIU - OLGEDU

MAP NO. 1

1



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range is about three to four thousand feet high and the ground slopes down to the coast quite gradually. Naturally my estimations of acreage do not include the higher slopes.

The area has an average rainfall of around the 100" mark. To the North of Cape Umboi the North-West season rain is experienced, chiefly between December and February. South of this point the South-East rains are felt. Some of the slopes are kuni from between Angwa and Kampalap, but from there on it is coastal forest with some quite good timber stands including cedar, New Guinea walnut, rosewood, tau and calophyllum. Aerial surveys by Forestry have indicated these stands are not commercial.

During discussions at all four villages I went to some pains to explain that the Government never bought ground unless an investigation report revealed that the vendors could really afford to sell. That blocks would be open to application from all Papuans and New Guineans and that settlers would be eligible for loans thus bringing more money into Siassi for circulation to the ultimate benefit of all Siassi. If the scheme was a big one a development officer would be posted to ensure the smooth running of operations. Fringe benefits to local people were mentioned only in passing as I have already been criticised for committing the Administration at a Council meeting and making resettlement seem too attractive on hypothetical merits. (D.C.'s memo to A.D.C. Finschhafen 35-161-1 of 23/1/69.

I can give three reasons for the people's adamant refusal to sell ground for resettlement.

Firstly, Siassi insularism and fear of foreigners which is still very much present among the older generation which has the executive power over land.

Secondly, the backwardness of the people and the strong traditional value placed on land in the present-day village society. Particularly applicable to the Kabip and Kampalap folk and to a lesser extent, Marli.

Thirdly, and most importantly, the visit of Mr. John Kauramo, Land Titles Commission clerk, to the area about twelve months ago. Mr. Kauramo and Mr. Salambung Sakain, Deputy Land Titles Commissioner, came to Siassi to hold demarcation committee meetings with local members in an effort to hasten this work along. It seems that Mr. Kauramo has exceeded the bounds of his specified work. Allegedly, he told the Siassi people that they were not to sell land to anybody, native or European, because now is the time for economic expansion and utilisation of land. He is also reported to have said that land is the cause of most fighting, including European wars, therefore it is to be kept and not played about with. The people of Marli and Kampalap particularly believe his spruik and would not listen to me when I said I thought they had mis-interpreted his advice. They have interpreted it as good advice to hold onto their ground come hell or high water. This, to me, is illogical, because they have also said they would make ground available for a European settler because he could help them financially.

I am not one to cast aspersions on Mr. Kauramo's attitude to his work until I could confront him with what I have discovered on this patrol. It seems, though, that he should be contacted immediately and find out what he actually ^{is} say at Kampalap and Marli.

In conclusion, I feel the only way to change the people's

is by education by myself, by the A.D.C. MR. Hill and, perhaps Mr. Kauramo if this is practical. I do not know where he is posted at the moment, but if, as seems highly probable, he is responsible for having the people think like they do, he could probably ~~handle~~ under the deed with a bit of heavy work.

Providing the people are willing to sell the ground I think a scheme of between fifty and one hundred blocks of fifty acres each would not be unreasonable to aim at.

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LAND INVESTIGATION - INSTRUCTION M.C. 102

Siassi Patrol Post reference 35-2-7.
District Office Lae reference 35-131-2.
Lands Department reference 6S/3813.

This investigation was carried out by me at Yang's Village and Guin Area School on July 30th. and 31st. The matter had been outstanding for some time and had been overlooked when patrol instructions for Mr. Whites's patrol in May/June of this year.

The purpose of the lease is so that the Siassi Local Government Council can obtain secure title over the land on which it has constructed a double permanent materials classroom valued at \$800.00. The school is an Australian Lutheran Mission Area School at which there is also a Mission aid post. It is recognised by A.L.M. and the Council that the Council must eventually take over responsibility of primary education and aid post facilities in the Siassi area.

The lease will be over about 11 acres. Most of the owners were contacted including the two executives, and no problems arise. A report has been compiled and forwarded independently of this patrol report to the A.D.C. Finschhafen.

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COUNCIL PROJECT - TUAM ISLAND

The patrol visited Tuam Island on 31/7/69 and an on site inspection of work on the new wharf was carried out. Work had only started four days previously, so there is not much to report.

The structure will be of concrete reinforced sides 10" thick, rock-filled, three to four feet high, seven feet wide and 90' long including a 20' abutment. The concrete deck will be reinforced and about 4" thick. The foundations are about one foot deep dug out of the coral shelf on which the wharf sits. At the 90' mark this shelf drops vertically into 14' of water.

The project was decided on late last financial year when it seemed as though all of the road development fund money would not be used due to the fact that the Kowai people were still working on the airstrip project and the wet season had started in the Kaimanga area. Due to supply difficulties the project was carried over to this financial year. It will cost about \$300.00 as the labour, apart from a carpenter/ supervisor, is free, and the tools have been provided from leftovers from the airstrip project.

It is not a priority project in my book, but very much a felt need by the people. (Tuam Island Pop. 550). The wharf will be used by the Australian Lutheran Mission vessels "Karap" and "Umbei" which call at irregular intervals, the F.M.D.S. boat "Vitiaz" and the new Siassi Co-Operative vessel which will be arriving

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arriving soon. It is to be hoped the new edifice might encourage more copra to be produced from the Island, particularly when the new Society vessel begins making regular runs. It is being built in the South-East anchorage and will be useful for eight or nine months of the year.

The people apparently have been working quite well on the project with enthusiasm I never thought possible from Islanders. The merits of this project from a strictly Council angle are its cheapness and the fact that it puts 550 people on side with the Council who were otherwise very disillusioned with it.

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SITUATION REPORT

POLITICAL

COUNCILLORS IN AREA PATROLLED

Cr. Metke. Aupwel village. Not particularly intelligent and has not got the people's support. Some people support him only because he is the Government man in the village. Tends to have a "bull-at-a-gate" attitude and does not pre-think situations. He is a loud-mouthed chap whose attitude of "harin tek tassel" easily alienates the villagers and there is constant unrest in the village. (Refer my opening paragraphs on Land Acquisition.) I am at a loss to understand why he was elected. There is a move in the village to have Father William Sasse of the Fathers of Marienhill Catholic Mission elected in his stead at the October polls for the first multi-racial council. This would be good for two reasons. He would be the only European on the Council and I think to have at least one would be desirable. Also, because of the leadership problem at Aupwel perhaps an outsider could muster all the people into supporting the Council and unite the village that way.

Cr. Aibike. Kabip Village. Seems to be not the real leader in the village as he is too young. The villagers here are fairly backward and the Councillor is no exception. This is due largely to Kabip's geographical isolation from other centres on Siassi.

Cr. Aun. Kampalap village. Has a fair amount of influence in the village but is a bit old to be really active in development work. He is fairly backward in his outlook and does not say much at meetings. I suspect much goes on in the village which he does not report. (See also under Social).

Cr. Apun. Birik/Marli villages. Merely a figurehead. The fact that he has been in the Council for over a year and has not made a speech is indicative of his executive ability. He is a classic example of the Siassi maxim "trai-in tassel".

Cr. Mangai. Yangla village. A rather big-headed young chap who has been Councillor for about twelve months. I think he is really trying hard but finding it difficult to follow the copy-book. Even though young, the people seem to listen to him. Yangla is one of the best copra-producing villages on Umbei.

Cr. Dan. Tusa Island. A former mission teacher, Dan is one of our foremost entrepreneurs; store owner, private copra kiln etc. Quietly spoken but long-winded. One of the more intelligent and educated Councillors. He is at a disadvantage to use his skills because of the isolation of his ward and its non-involvement in Umbei Is. affairs. People seem to have faith in his "savvy" and recognise him as their leader. He is reputedly something of a trickster in village affairs.

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ATTITUDE TO COUNCIL

This is largely unchanged from previous reports as the Council has done little for these people as yet. It is hoped roadworks will be started very soon in the Aupwel to Lab-Lab area and this should get the people a bit mobile and gain status for the Council movement. I also, will be spending more time in the area.

Also, it is to be hoped that the October elections will uncover some hidden talent as regards Councillors.

A well to be built very soon at Aupwel should help the Council image there apart from supplying the mission school and village.

Another shortcoming with attempts to spread the Council doctrine so far has been lack of knowledge of Council affairs, estimates and where all the five dollars are going to. A duplicating machine which will be arriving shortly should be able to turn out weekly news-sheets to help educate the villager in these matters. I feel that support for the Council and also the appreciation by the people of administrative problems within the Council is very important if the community approach to rural development is to succeed.

I am expecting a lot of the new batch of Councillors. During my stay at Biassi I have not lost an opportunity to tell the people that they must believe in the Council and elect their proper leaders if the Council is to succeed. They certainly have not been doing this to date.

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ECONOMIC

ROADWORKS

Roadworks in the area patrolled are still mainly at the talking stage. I have not yet surveyed the area Lab-Lab to Aupwel via Kampalap and Kabip, but this will be done quite soon. Needless to say such a road will be essential to any resettlement scheme in the area. It will also be essential to have this road joined up with the patrol post as soon as possible.

The people are capable of working hard - the Kabips and Kampalaps were among the strongest workers on the airstrip project - and given the incentive, some feed and some supervision by myself this road should not be long in the making.

In the other direction from Lab-Lab, the Gauru and Yangla people are both keen to join up to Lab-Lab by road. I have been encouraging this because they have many acres of new cash crops which will be bearing soon and I had envisaged a Society bulk store adjacent to the new wharf at Lab-Lab. However, the F.M.D.S. breakup is proving very slow and the Lab-Lab wharf has little priority on district R.D.F. projects despite a quite large self-help component by the A.L.M., the Council and the Kaimanga people. Therefore this road seems to be taking second place to the Lab-Lab Patrol Post road.

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CASH-CROPPING AND MARKETING

The Aupwel people seem to work in fits and starts, even though Fr. Sasse buys all the copra they can make. Kabip and Kampalap make very little copra, possibly because they are too far from stores and money has less significance for them than other villages. Also, they depend a lot on money from absent workers. The M.V. Karapo (A.L.M.) and the MVCellemb (Catholic) both call regularly to buy copra, but this does not seem to make any difference to production.

Marli is almost adjacent to Lab-Lab Mission but copra is made

only spasmodically and is usually of inferior quality.

Yangla seems to be the shining light in the area and the people have become strong supporters of F.M.D.S. It would probably rank second to Barim as the major producer at Siassi. There are also quite a number of "business-men" at Yangla and various types of artisans working away filter quite a deal of money back into this particular village.

Darius-Nake-Kuk of Yangla in was recently granted individual title to some 600 acres known as "Cereval" adjacent to Guin Area School. He is the first on Siassi to get title in this manner and has applied for a large Development Bank loan using the plantation as security. Darius is a good carpenter/builder and works at Finschhafen contracting to the Council and the Administration. Unfortunately he is most unpopular in the village and says he will employ a Chimbu or Menyarya labour line with the loan money, as the local team cannot be trusted. (See "Social" below).

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FINSCHHAFFEN MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

This Society is still in the process of being fragmented. It is taking quite a bit of time for the process to be completed. The end result will mean for Siassi an autonomous Society here associated with the other thirteen or so in the Finschhafen area. It will also mean the posting of a co-ops. officer here full-time, and the purchase, probably on overdraft, of a 31' ferro-cement cepra trading vessel valued at \$15,000.00. This boat will ply between the Islands and around the Umbei coast buying cepra and delivering trade goods to private store owners. The cepra will be stored in one or two bulk stores on Umbei Island and then shipped to Lae by the Association vessel "Vitiaz" or the new Siassi boat.

I see the formation of the new Society here as the basis for an economic boom for Siassi. The people claim they would make a lot more cepra if it were bought quickly. Over the years there have been quite a few bags lost because they weren't bought quickly. Siassi cepra production has the potential for doubling immediately on this score alone, and it should double again in about another three years with new plantings bearing. If these estimates are a bit optimistic they are still not far off the mark. Reports of other officers will bear out my judgement. This extra per capita income will mean a much greater Council tax rate at which stage Siassi will be able to commence bearing the burden of education and health facilities in the area, which to date are given virtually free. More, also, will be able to be accomplished in the capital works field.

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SOCIAL

ADULT EDUCATION - AUPWEL

Father Sasse and the two European lay teachers at Aupwel Mission have commenced a trial course in adult education for the villagers.

It is only in its infancy but is an excellent idea, and certainly worth the serious efforts being put into it by Fr. Sasse and Misses Trinder and Brandt.

Pidgin classes are held for the more backward persons. Simple

(4)

English and Arithmetic, Current Affairs, Needlework, Hygiene etc are also taught for two or three hours one or two nights per week.

I shall make it my business to be kept informed of the developments of these classes as they are the only ones in the area.

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KAMPALAP - STILL BIRTH

It was reported to me by Sister Schneider of A.L.M. Lab-Lab when I arrived there that a woman from Kampalap had given birth after a five day labour. The baby was in bits and pieces by this time.

It seems the husband of the woman had returned from Rabaul only three weeks prior to the birth to find his wife pregnant to somebody else and decided to punish her in this way. According to Sister Schneider the woman must have been in a great deal of pain during labour. The husband refused to give any assistance and refused to let anybody else help her. Sister Schneider found out independently and sent the mission boat "Umbei" to collect her and bring her to Lab-Lab hospital. She was rather lucky to survive as her first baby was also delivered by Caesarian Section. Villagers had been under instruction to bring her to Lab-Lab for sending to Lae to have the baby at Angau Hospital. When Sister Schneider asked the husband about the incident he replied "Oh Sister, yu savvy long pasin bileng mipeta bei." I feel this is not good enough and police action on the matter will be initiated. The matter was not mentioned to me by the Councillor when I passed through the village.

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EDUCATION

There are quite adequate facilities in the area for education. There are excellent primary "T" schools at Lab-Lab (Std. VI) and Aupwel (Std. IV). Area schools also exist at Guin and Kampalap and there are prep schools at Tuam. ~~.....~~

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HEALTH

Aid post exist at Kampalap and Tuam. First aid is dispensed at Aupwel Mission and the people from there go to Aiyau for more sophisticated treatment.

The Australian Lutheran Mission has a 25 - bed hospital at Lab-Lab run by Sister Schneider and three orderlies. All serious cases are flown out to Lae from the all-weather strip at Lab-Lab.

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MANDOK ISLANDERS - MOVE TO MURU

It was reported to me recently that the Mandok Islanders had formalised their land purchase at Muru adjacent to their island on mainland Umbei. A feast was held with the Gauru people (vendors) and a price of three pigs handed over.

The Mandek people have been using the ground for some years on a squatting or usage only basis. The ADC Finschhafen has

advised that the matter should be finalised and a certificate of communal ownership be obtained from the Land Titles Commission.

Mr. E. Murray (D.A.S.F. Finsch.) visited the area during his recent patrol. The area is not very large and many Mandek people have begun building homes on a village site, and it is obvious they mean to stay.

Unfortunately, the Counciller and many villagers were absent when I went to Mandek recently. I intend to follow up this matter and ensure that the purchase does become recognised by the Administration in the prescribed manner.

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ASSAULT - DARIUS NAKO KUK

Whilst at Yangla the Counciller reported that during a recent visit of the above-named to the village he assaulted the former councillor ARUMBONG over a domestic matter. According to reports this is not the first time Darius has tried Al Capone tactics on people who have obstructed his path in his rise to fame and wealth.

However, the incident being related is ~~rather~~ slightly complicated. Arumbong has been to Lae for treatment of a damaged jaw. It failed to knit and he has been returned to his village as incurable. I deduce from hearsay that it is either cancerous or too old to knit properly. He is in extremely poor physical shape at present ~~with~~, being unable to eat save for a small amount of soup at irregular intervals. He is confined to bed and appears to be awaiting the angel of death.

Action has not been taken yet as Darius is still living at Finschhafen. I shall discuss the matter with the A.D.C. when he visits here shortly pending court action.

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APPENDIX "A"

Reference: 67-1-6

Department of District Administration,
Sub-District Office,
PINSCHAFEN,
Merobe District.

17th., June 1969.

The Patrol Officer,
Patrol Office,
SIASSI.

PATROL - SIASSI MAINLAND

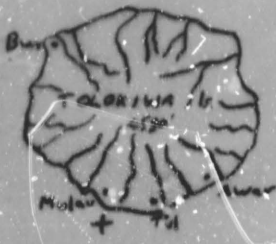
The following are your instructions for the patrol mentioned in my 35-4-1 of to-day's date. I would like you to do this patrol personally and you are to assess, as accurately as possible, the acreage of land available for resettlement.

Advise the people that if the scheme is gone ahead with, applications will be called for from throughout the Territory and that any person may be awarded a block. The blocks will not only be for Siassi Islands people.

Attempt to assess fertility of the soil and give a fairly detailed description of the topography of the country.

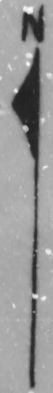
Please have your report in my hands by the 31st. July.

(R. C. HILL)
ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



BISMARCK SEA

SIASSI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA



SCALE: 4M = 1"

LEGEND

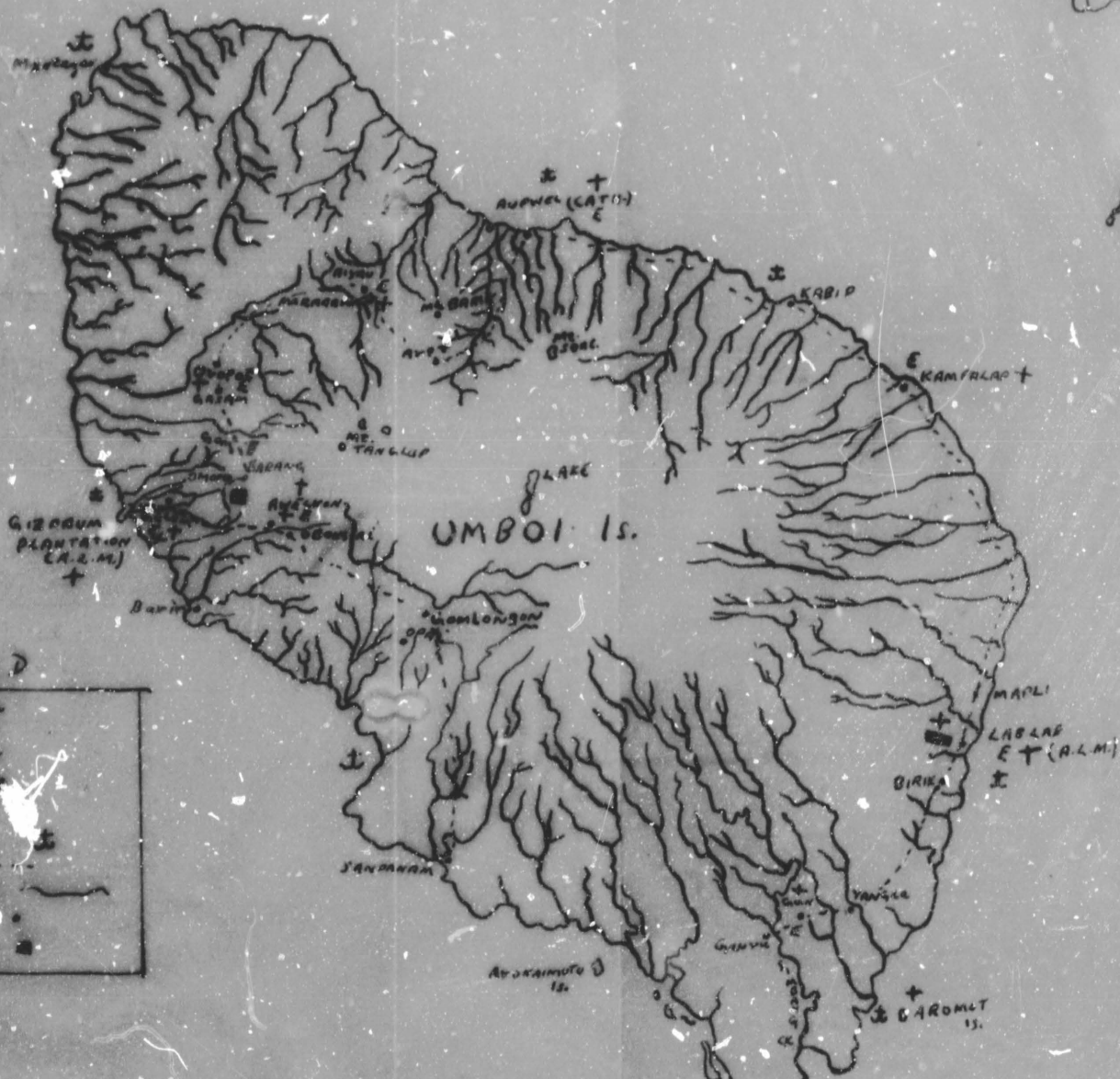
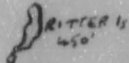
AID POST	+
MISSION	+
"T" SCHOOL	E
AIRSTRIIP	▬
WEARF OR ANCHORAGE	⚓
TRAIL	---
WATER COURSE	~
VILLAGE	•
PATROL POST	⊕

VITIAZ STRAIT.

AROKIMU 15.
 NUBU 11.
 MATEKA 15.
 HAKHI 15.
 MANJOK 15.
 O MUTUMU 1.
 TAMBUK 15.
 TAMUN 15.

SEA

SIASSI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA



LEGEND

- + (with cross symbol) : POST
- + (with circle symbol) : ...
- + (with triangle symbol) : ...
- + (with square symbol) : ...
- + (with diamond symbol) : ...
- + (with circle and cross symbol) : ...

DAMPIER STRAIT

VITIAZ STRAIT

Arxamulu Is.

NUP IS.

MATEM IS.

MAKAI IS.

MANDEK IS. (CATH.)

TAMON IS.

OMUTUMALAU IS.

TAMUN IS.

SIRIK IS.

NEUP IS.

TUAMB

VASSEE IS.