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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: SUAUA, 1962 - 1963

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

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORTS MILNE BAY DISTRICT 1962/63

LOSUIA, SAMARAI & MISIMA
SUAU

<u>Report No.</u>	<u>Conducted by:</u>	<u>Area Patrolled.</u>
Lesuia 1-62/63	G.P.W.Smith	South Kiriwina Census Division
" 2-62/63	G.W.P.Smith	Kitava Census Division
" 8-62/63	J.J.Coad	Kilivila Census Division
Sam 1-62/63	B.Fischer	Samarai Local Islands Census D
Misima 2-62/63	I.McLachlan	Sudest Island Census Division
Suau 2-62/63	R.B.Creagh	Suau Census Division
" 3-62/63	R.B.Creagh	Mariawatte-Gadaisu Road

Department of Native Affairs,
Headquarters.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of MILNE BAY Report No 2 of 1962/63 (SUAU).
Patrol Conducted by Richard Blakeney Creagh, Patrol Officer Grade 1.
Area Patrolled SUAU Census Division.
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans 2 members U.S.A.F. Geodetic Survey Team (part).
Natives 4 R.P. & N.P.C. members; 1 Interpreter.
Duration—From 5/3/1963 to 18/7/1963 (broken)

Number of Days 59

Did Medical Assistant Accompany No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 10/1962

Medical No records

Map Reference 4 Mile Series

Objects of Patrol 1) Compilation of Common Roll; 2) Investigate Land Leases;
3) Gain knowledge of the area.

Director of Native Affairs,

PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

B.110 11963

B. 10. [Signature]
District Commissioner OFFICER

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

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

Amount Paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund

.....

.....

.....

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Ref: 67-4-15

Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU. Papua.

18th November, 19 63.

The District Officer,
Milne Bay District,
SANARAI.

PATROL NO. 2-52/63

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of :-

* ~~Memorandum of Patrol No.~~

* Patrol Report No. 2-62/63 SUAU

covering Patrol by . R.B. TREACH . P.O. GR. I

(J. K. McCarthy).
DIRECTOR.

* Delete as necessary.

67.4 15

BKL:BS



67-1-8

Department of Native Affairs,
SAMARAI...MILNE BAY DISTRICT.

29th October, 1963.

Assistant District Officer,
Sub-District Office,
SAMARAI.

PATROL REPORTS NO.2 & NO.3 - 1962/63
SUAU CENSUS DIVISION - MARIAWATTE -
GADAIU ROAD.

Please bring to the attention of Mr. Creagh the necessity of submitting reports to you as soon as possible after the completion of the patrol; the value of current knowledge is lost when reports are up to 2 - 4 months old; I fully appreciate Mr. Creagh's commitments on the Common Roll both at Suau and the Samarai area - but I still consider these two reports could have been completed and forwarded to you much earlier than they have.

Please ensure written patrol instructions are issued to the Officer-in-Charge in future, it would appear that the then Assistant District Officer, Samarai, did not issue instructions for these two patrols.

Native Affairs:

It can be expected that initially, there will be little interest in the coming House of Assembly elections; however constant perseverance with propaganda will stimulate interest: I propose to arrange for two Councillors from the Milne Bay Council to visit the area and have discussions with the Suau Councillors on various matters.

Commercial Activity:

I was not aware that the Department of Agriculture in any way discouraged copra production in the area. The economic situation will be discussed with the District Agricultural Officer.

Village Officials:

Would it be possible for you to personally present the Certificates to the ex Village Constables on your next inspection.

Suau Local Government
Council:

The matters brought up will be discussed with the

ack only

2.

Assistant District Officer (L.G.) and you will be advised in due course.

The report is clear and well written. The map excellent.

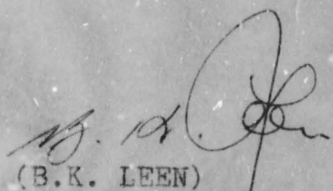
(B.K. LEEN)
District Officer.

67-1-8

Minute to:-

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

For information and records, please.


(B.K. LEEN)
District Officer.

WWC:BS

67-1-4

Sub-District Office,
SAMARAI

23rd October, 1963.

The District Officer,
Milne Bay District,
SAMARAI.

SUAU PATROL NO.2 OF 1963/1964.

Enclosed please find a report on this patrol of Suau conducted by Mr. Creagh.

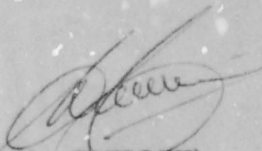
The objectives of the patrol were successfully carried out.

A Council committee to advise and make recommendations on village housing could be of value in improving general standards provided that it avoids the pitfall of so many of the various committees in this area, which is to form a discussion group without advancing to the necessary action stage.

Mr. Creagh will be instructed to use every endeavour to persuade the people to make better use of their copra potential, which, I agree, is not fully utilized; however the mere fact that a profusion of nuts may be seen on the ground at any specified time does not mean that they are wasted, most villages do not produce sufficient copra to keep their dryers operating full time. The lack of interest in coffee is probably because it is a strange crop and shows no better return for labour than copra with which they are so familiar and which is not so exacting in harvesting and processing.

The tardiness with which many Council projects are being carried out is doubtless due, to a large extent, to the absence of the Officer-in-Charge of Suau, who, as you are aware, has spent a great deal of his time away from Suau carrying out specific tasks elsewhere in the District.

Another patrol of the area is now being undertaken which will be able to devote more time to economic development and completion of Council projects.


(W.W. CRELLIN)
Assistant District Officer.

Encl.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

FILE 67-1-1.
Patrol Post,
SUAU, Fife Bay,
Milne Bay District.
27th September, 1963.

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

SUAU PATROL REPORT No. 2 of 1962/63.

Please find enclosed herewith three copies of the above patrol report. The delay in submission is regretted.

No patrol instructions were issued for this patrol. It must also be pointed out that although the Common Roll census was compiled for the area, no annual census was done. The writer was advised by the then District Officer that the Common Roll only was to be completed. It would seem essential that the census be conducted sometime before the conclusion of this year.

For your information and advice, please.

Richard Blakeney O'neagh
.....
Richard Blakeney O'neagh,
Officer-in-Charge.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

File 67-1-1
Patrol Post,
SUAU, Fife Bay,
Milne Bay District.
27th September, 1963.

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

SUAU PATROL REPORT No. 2 of 1962/63.

Patrol Conducted by: Richard Blakeney Creagh,
Patrol Officer, Grade 1.
Area Patrolled: SUAU Census Division.
Patrol Accompanied by: 2 United States Air Force Officers
)Part(.
4 R.P. & N.G.C. members,
1 Interpreter (trainee).
Duration of Patrol: 5.3.63 to 18.7.63.
(Broken periods)
Number Days: Sixty.
Last Patrol of Area: Mr. G.B.O'Farrell, P.O.
during March-October, 1962.
Objects of Patrol: Compilation of Common Roll.
Investigate Land leases.
Gain overall knowledge of area
before taking over as Officer-
in-Charge.

Contingencies for Camping Allowance are attached.

Richard Blakeney Creagh
Richard Blakeney Creagh,
Patrol Officer Grade 1.

PATROL DIARY:

The diary for this patrol is to be found in the writer's Field Officer's Journal. The undermentioned Folios and Paragraphs refer;

Folios 1 to 6 - Paragraphs 13 to 30;
" 7 " 9 - "n 31 to 41,
" 9 " 10 - " 44 to 47,
" 11 " 15 - " 61 to 84,
" 4 " only " 16 to 18, (Diary for 1963/64).

Richard Blakeney Creagh.....
Richard Blakeney Creagh,
Patrol Officer, Grade 1.

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this patrol was to compile the Common Roll for the Suau Coast. The period taken for the actual compilation was in the vicinity of forty days. However the writer was in the bush for sixty days. This was due to many circumstances outside the writer's control.

No problems were struck whilst the writer was away from the station and the welcome given the patrol was good in all villages. Not all villages were visited due to the heavy rain which resulted in the flooding of many of the streams. IO village, which is situated behind GADAISU village, was not visited due to the fact that the only road to this mountain village lies along the bed of one of the rivers, and this river was in flood. It is hoped to visit this village at the end of the South-East season.

The writer accompanied two members of the United States Air Force to the summit of Cloudy Mountain where a geodetic survey station was opened. The writer led the patrol and supervised the labourers on the site. At all times the Americans were most helpful to the patrol personnel.

Two blocks of land were investigated in the vicinity of GADAISU village for the owners of BAIBARA Plantation.

The patrol was greeted with the usual SUAU hospitality. Food was in short supply due to the heavy rains which had spoilt numerous gardens. These people would appear to be a law abiding lot, and the only disputes heard were in relation to marriage price payments and damage by pigs to gardens. All these matters were settled by the people in an amicable manner.

NATIVE AFFAIRS:

The people showed little interest in the coming Assembly elections, and this seems in keeping with their attitudes towards the Local Government Council. The writer hopes to patrol the whole area again before the elections with the intention of disseminating information which has become available since this last patrol.

The standard of housing throughout the whole area still remains rather poor. Local Government Councillors were reminded of their duties in this regard, and were advised that they had the power to lay a complaint against a person who disobeyed any order that was reasonable. It is hoped that the SUAU Council will take more interest in the future

NATIVE AFFAIRS (Cont).

in village housing. It was suggested in the last Council meeting, by one of the Councillors, that a committee be set up to advise and help the people in the construction of their houses. This would appear to be an excellent idea which I hope would have the backing of District Headquarters.

Numerous villages of this area outshine other villages with their standard of housing. The cleanest villages that the writer saw were those of SUAU Island, LEILEIAFA and BOROAI. The last named village in particular showed signs of some sort of planning and co-operation between the people. It was exceptionally tidy, and the roads well constructed and clean. This group stands out above all others on the SUAU Coast.

The people still prefer to live in scattered hamlets. Every census group has at least two hamlets scattered over the countryside. This is understandable when one considers the fact that there is a paucity of suitable agricultural land in the immediate coastal area. The village of ILO ILO gave the writer the best example of scattered hamlets he saw on this patrol. There are five hamlets in this group, the closest being one hour's walk from the rest house, and the furthest being four hours walk.

Rest houses and police barracks were adequate throughout the area. However instructions were given for the repair of some of these constructions.

(B) COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY:

The coastal SDAU area is well off financially. This is due to the large amounts of copra which is available. The economy of the area is centred around the production of copra. Coffee was introduced into this area by the Department of Agriculture, but the people did not respond to this crop at all. All the coffee plots that the writer observed were overgrown and the trees were badly in need of pruning.

The Department of Agriculture would be well advised to allow the people to push on with the planting of coconuts. Without constant supervision other crops, such as coffee, peanuts, rice etc. would only go to waste. The people should be advised to concentrate on a crop which is not alien to them and coconuts would seem to be the ideal one. It would be advisable if following Agriculture patrols were accompanied by an officer of the Department of Native Affairs. The last Agriculture patrol through this area met with very

NATIVE AFFAIRS (Cont.)(B) COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY:

little co-operation from the people. This patrol took place whilst the writer was in the field. Mr. E. Mobbs reported that in the majority of villages the attendance at talks on local agricultural problems was small. In one village seven people attended talks given by him and his assistants. It is thought that if the Officer-in-Charge of the area were to accompany the patrol the attendance would show a sharp rise. A D.N.A. patrol through this area is needed at least every six months if the people are going to be kept informed of the latest developments in the political, legal and Local Government spheres. I see no reason why Agriculture could not provide an officer for at least one of these patrols.

The people of the SUAU coast do not tap their copra potential to the full. An example of this was witnessed by the writer at GADAISU village where coconuts were seen to be lying two feet deep in many places. This village possesses three copra driers and there is no reason why they could not be kept in production all the time. These people are fortunate in that they can sell their copra to BAIBARA Plantation.

Numerous villages engage in community coconut plantings. This seems to overcome the difficulties that the individual experiences in clearing bush and planting. It would seem however that this system of community plantings could eventuate in future legal squabbles over ownership.

It is very difficult to estimate the overall annual copra production for this area. Some groups produce far more than their brother groups, and it is virtually impossible to fathom out the reason why.

The Co-operative movement seems to have taken some steps forward in the last year. The Co-operative store at ILO ILO was closed down this year due to the lack of co-operation from the members who seem to prefer to travel to Samarai with their produce. However a new branch store of the SCAU Island Co-operative was opened at SAVAIA on the 17th July. The attendance at the opening was most heartening. The writer took the opportunity to take three observers from the Fife Bay area in the hope of stimulating some interest in co-operatives in this area. This move has been rewarded as the people of SIA SIA are keen to open a store as soon as possible.

The various village committee organizations still function with a minor degree of success. At present

NATIVE AFFAIRS: (Cont.).(B). COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY.

a few women's committee produce mats, baskets etc. for sale in Samarai, but beyond this the amount of actual organised activity is just about nil.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS:

All Village Constables have been paid off since the completion of this patrol. Their duties in regard to advice, reporting of crimes, etc. have been taken over by the Local Government Councillors. It was pointed out to these Councillors that they did not possess the same powers as the former Village Constables. The SUAU Council has appointed a Council Policeman, who it is hoped will apprehend any miscreants. The Patrol Post police detachment will be used where necessary in conjunction with the Council Policeman.

The writer has been advised that certificates will be supplied to be presented to the ex Village Constables. It has also been arranged that all Constables will attend a Council meeting in the near future to receive these certificates and also to receive the formal thanks of the Council for their work in the past.

ROADS AND BRIDGES:

The writer saw the majority of the area on foot during this patrol. The roads appear to be adequate but are subject to local flooding if there is more than an inch of rain.

The writer supervised the construction of a road from GADAISU to LAIMODO. (See Suan P/R.No.2 63/64). This road will eventually link BAIBARA Plantation with MARIAWATTE Plantation. However difficulty is being experienced in bridging the Laimode and Suabina Rivers. This problem, it is hoped, will be overcome with the construction of "bush fords".

The owners of BAIBARA Plantation have constructed a road from their property to GADAISU to facilitate the unloading and loading of ships. At the present time this plantation has no place in the vicinity of the plantation at which to load their copra. Copra is now hauled from BAIBARA to GADAISU per tractor and trailer.

There are no other vehicular roads in the SUAU area.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH:

No Aid Post Orderly accompanied the patrol. There are three Aid Post Orderlies in the SUAU area, plus the L.M.S. Mission Hospital. The Aid Post at

KONEMAIAVA has just recently moved into a new set of buildings which have been constructed by the SUAU Local Government Council. These buildings, all partially completed, consist of an aluminium aid post, a bush materials ward and an Orderly's house. The A.P.O. at this post is inefficient and seems incapable of carrying out his duties. He spends about 30% of his time in Samarai obtaining drugs and this could be overcome by his sending in written orders on one of the regular boat services. The remainder of his time he spends at the post, with the rare trip up the coast to inspect villages. He is rude into the bargain!

There is an Aid Post at SUAU Island operated by a local man, who would appear to be good at his job. The Aid Post at NAUABU serves all of Baxter Harbour, and the A.P.O. in charge would appear to do a sound job. The L.G. Council is at the present constructing an aluminium Aid Post building at NAUABU, however on last reports this was far from finished.

The L.M.S. Mission still provide medical services at Fife Bay and these are mainly confined to pre-natal and post natal care, plus infant welfare. The hospital is staffed by one European sister and one Papuan nurse.

The general health of the SUAU coast is good and should improved with the installation of an AID Post at ILO ILO and BOROAI. Both these posts will be installed by the Local Government Council.

MISSIONS AND EDUCATION:

There are Administration schools at KONEMAIAVA, SUAU Patrol Post, and SUAU Island. The Education Department's staff consists of one European, one Papuan and one New Guinean. The writer has been advised by the District Education Officer that next year it is hoped that one more European will arrive in the area plus two more Papuans. The Education Department is at present having a S.O.Q. constructed at Suau Patrol Post.

The Local Government Council has set aside an amount for the construction of a school at SUAU Island. It is hoped that this will be finished by the end of this year.

The majority of villages contain an L.M.S. school, but these are mainly interested in religious instruction. Lawes College is run by the L.M.S. and this institution caters mainly for theological students. The mission also have a primary "T" school at Fife Bay.

SUAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL:

This body since it's inception has undertaken

SUAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL:

numerous projects in varying fields. Below are listed the projects as they stand at present:

The Council Chambers: These are nearing completion and it only remains for them to be painted at the present. In common with every other Council project there have been unnecessary delays due to the incompetence of the workmen.

The Clerk's Residence: Materials are on order for this structure and it is hoped to have it completed by the beginning of next year.

Councillors' Dormitory: Plans have been drawn up for this and an order for materials is expected to be forwarded at the beginning of October.

Aid Post, KONEMAIAVA: This building was started in January of this year and is still not completed. The only reason, as far as the writer can see, is the laziness of the Resident of the Council who resides in KONEMAIAVA. He has promised on numerous occasions to have the building completed within two weeks, but today when the writer interviewed him the post was still unfinished. The only solution to the problem would appear to be for the writer to visit the area and organise the remainder of the construction.

Aid Post, NAUABU: This is another project which was started early in this year and is still not completed. The Councillor from this village, although verbose in Council meetings, seems to hold very little sway in the village itself.

"Underground" Water Tank, BONARUA: The purpose of this tank is supply this village, which is on an island, with water. However, although there have been promises made about the delivery of this tank, it has as not yet eventuated. This tank is of iron construction and has a capacity of ten thousand gallons. It was previously proposed that this tank would be of cement construction but this plan was dismissed in favour of the easily constructed iron tank.

SUAU Island School: This school is not in actual fact situated on the island itself, but on the mainland opposite. The people of the area have already constructed one bush materials dwelling for a teacher. The people seem very pleased about the school and are working solidly at its construction.

Community Centre, SAVAIA: Work has not been started on this as yet as the council are still waiting on plans from Australia.

The general attitude of the people towards the Council seems to be one of acceptance. They are not over keen on what goes on and are very lax when it comes to constructing any Council project. The writer pointed out

SUAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL (Cont.)

on numerous occasions that all Council projects were for the benefit of the people themselves and future generations.

The writer has noted the lack of people attending Council meetings, and this would seem to indicate the interest, or lack thereof, in the Council and its aims. The Council has come up with some very sound ideas to overcome local problems, and it would appear that it is only the passage of time which will infuse the people with any interest in this their Council.

CONCLUSION:

The main object of this patrol was to compile the Common Roll of the SUAU coast. This aim was achieved without any trouble. The patrol was accorded every help but the amount of discussion about the coming elections for the House of Assembly was well nigh nil. The people do seem to have a clear picture of their political future as it stands at the present, and this should be the foundation for future 'indoctrination'.

As has been pointed out in the past, by the majority of officers of this Department, this area has a good potential economically. The people still need convincing that any effort is worthwhile. The writer suggests that the area be patrolled at least twice a year. The present plantings of coconuts are sufficient to meet the needs of the average person of the SUAU area. There are the odd labourious people, but unluckly they are few and far between.

As there has not been a medical patrol of the area for at least ten years it is suggested that Public Health should send an officer to the area to carry out a complete medical survey.

The main impression gained by the writer was of a happy and hospitable people with no real future aims, except to keep the 'wolf from the door'.

.....

Richard Blakeney Creagh
.....
Richard Blakeney Creagh,
Patrol Officer, Grade 1.

APPENDIX "A"

REPORT ON MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEAN
CONSTABULARY

REG.No. 10311 Constable ANNA

A young man with a lot of potential. Tends to be a little hasty in making decisions, however no doubt this will improve with maturity.

Reg.No. 10512 Constable BCRUGAWA

Another young man. Less hasty than the above member - but lacks initiative. A real trier.

Reg.No. Constable BILI

This member was on loan from Samarai. No comment is needed here as the member has resigned.

Reg.No. Constable MAMO

This member was also on loan from Samarai. He was not outstanding, and had very little bush sense.

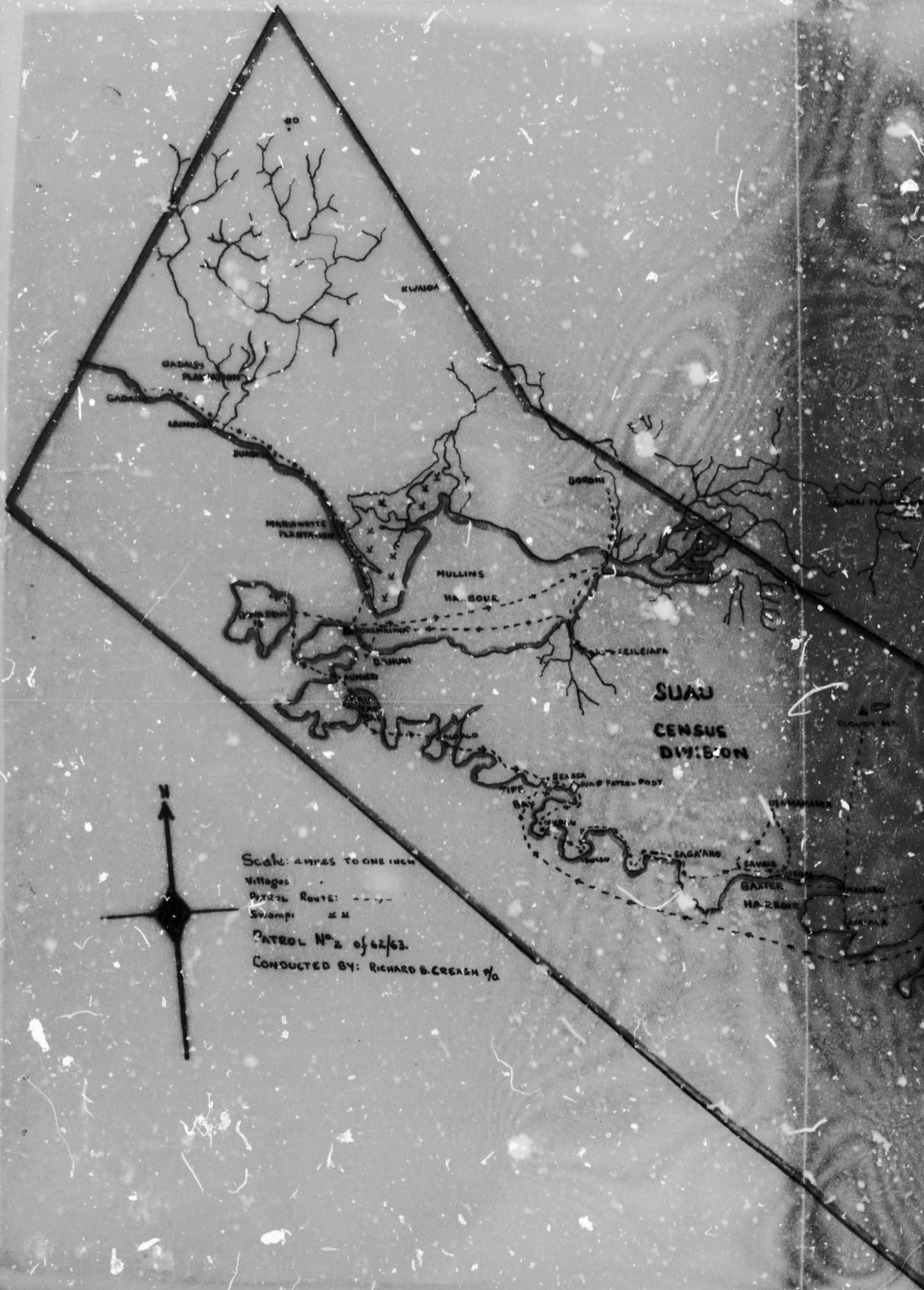
I certify that the above comments have been entered in the members records of service.

Richard Blakeney Creagh
Richard Blakeney Creagh,
Officer of R.P. & N.G.C.



**SUAU
CENSUS
DIVISION**

6209.1.763



Scale: 4 MP&S TO ONE INCH

Villages: .

Patrol Route: - - -

Swamp: x x

PATROL No 2 of 62/63.

CONDUCTED BY: RICHARD B. CREAM P/O



D.N.A. Headquarters.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Milne Bay Report No. 3 1962/63

Patrol Conducted by Richard Blakeney Creagh, Patrol Officer Grade 1

Area Patrolled Mariawatte - Gadaisu Road

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

Natives 2 B.P. & N.G.C. Members
1 Interpreter (Trainee)

Duration—From 27/5/1963 to 7/6/1963

Number of Days 12 days

Did Medical Assistant Accompany No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 3/1963 (self)

Medical Unknown/19

Map Reference 4 Mile Series

Objects of Patrol Construction of Mariawatte - Gadaisu Road

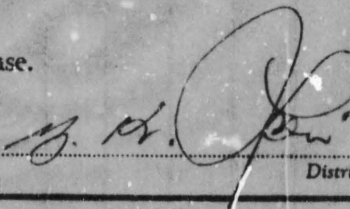
Director of Native Affairs,

~~PORT MORSBY.~~

KONEJORU.

Forwarded, please.

28/10/1963.


District Commissioner Officer

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation ... £ /

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund ... £ /

Amount Paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund ... /

.....
.....
.....

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Ref 67-4-16

Department of Native Affairs
Headquarters,
KONEDOBU.

9th December, 1963.

District Officer,
Milne Bay District,
SANRAL.

PATROL NO. 3 of 1962/63

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of:

- + ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 3 of 1962/63
- + Patrol Report No.

covering Patrol by..... MR. R. B. CLEGG - PO 1......

(J.K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR

+ Delete as necessary.

67. 4. 16

WVC:BS



67-1-4

Sol-District Office,
SAMARAI

23rd October, 1963.

The District Officer,
Milne Bay District,
SAMARAI

SEAU PATROL NO. 3 OF 1962 - 1963.

Enclosed please find Mr. Creagh's report on this patrol.

The trip was for the purpose of road construction along the Grangerie Bay coast, and for House of Assembly election publicity.

You will be kept informed of progress on the road and airstrip.

Mr. Creagh's field journal has already been posted to you.

Encl.


(W.W. CRELLIN)
Assistant District Officer.

c.c. Mr. Creagh.

pro journal

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

File 67-1-1
Patrol Post,
SUAU, Fife Bay,
Milne Bay District.
26th September, 1963.

The Assistant District Officer,
Sub-District Office,
CAMAR I.

SUAU PATROL REPORT No. 3 of 1962/63.

Patrol Conducted by: Richard Blakeney Creagh
Patrol Officer Grade 1.
Area Patrolled: CADAISU - MARIAWATTE Road.
Patrol Accompanied by: Nil Europeans,
2 R.P. & N.G.C. members,
1 Interpreter (Trainee).
Duration of Patrol: 27.5.63 to 7.6.63.
Number of days: 12 days.
Last Patrol of Area: Self-during March, 1963.
Objects of Patrol: Construction of road between
CADAISU-MARIAWATTE.

Contingencies for Camping Allowance are attached.

Richard Blakeney Creagh
Richard Blakeney Creagh,
Patrol Officer Grade 1.

GENERAL:

The purpose of this patrol was to supervise the construction of a road from GADAIKU village to Mariawatte Plantation. This area is at the western end of the SUAU area. The reason for the construction of the road was to enable an extension of the Baibara Plantation - GADAIKU road which is nearing completion. A road from Baibara to Mariawatte would mean that three plantations, Baibara, Gadaisu, Mariawatte, would be connected by a road capable of taking light traffic, and would also be of benefit to some 500 hundred Papuans in the area.

The people of GADAIKU and LAIMODU are in the habit of selling their copra to Baibara Plantation. With a road connecting these two villages with the aforesaid plantation it will be easy for the people to hire tractors from either Baibara or Gadaisu Plantations so as to enable them to transport their produce with ease and efficiency.

The people were most helpful in the construction of the road. This area is sadly lacking in manpower as most of the able bodied men are employed at either of the three plantations. The road runs parallel to the beach and this enabled easy access to supplies of stone on the beach. Bridges across the Laimodo and Suabina Rivers have not been started as yet. However it is hoped that a start will be made when the south-east season finishes sometime this month (October). It is proposed to construct "bush fords" in an attempt to bridge these rivers.

When this road is completed it will mean that there will be a connecting link between Baibara Plantation and Mariawatte Plantation, a distance of some twenty miles.

As the reader probably knows Baibara Plantation has its own light aircraft strip. The people of Suabina and Laimodo were of the opinion that there was an airstrip site in their area. Upon investigation by the Department of Civil Aviation it was found that this was indeed so. The people have, on their own initiative, started construction of this strip. When the writer last saw the proposed airstrip site it had been cleared and the people were waiting for the weather to improve so as to enable them to "burn off" the area.

The strip site, SUABINA, is ideally having near perfect approaches and very little labour, comparatively speaking, will be entailed in completing the venture. The people are to be congratulated on their efforts,

GENERAL (cont.).

which will no doubt see fruition within the next six months.

With the opening of the road between GADAISSU and Mariawatte, and the airstrip, the people of Baibara and Gadaisu will be able to use the airstrip should the Baibara one be closed. An airstrip, and a road servicing it, will mean that the people of the Orangerie Bay - Mallins Harbour area will be better off than in the past. Gone will be the days of waiting for boats from Samarai when there is a medical emergency. It is hoped that the interest of the people will not wane in regard to both the airstrip and the road. Frequent visits to the area should keep up their interest.

The writer took the opportunity during this patrol to explain to the people the meaning of the forthcoming House of Assembly elections.

A few minor complaints were heard, but these all involved bride price payments, and they were without exception settled to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

Richard Blakeney Creagh
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Richard Blakeney Creagh,
Patrol Officer, Grade 1.

Scale: 4 miles to one inch
 Roads: ————
 Railway: ————
 Rivers: ————
 Contours: ————
 Contour interval: 100 feet.

