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OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: East New Britain

STATION: Rabaul

VOLUME No: 11

ACCESSION No: 496.

1969 - 1970

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORT OF: Rabaul, Kekepo, Pomio
 ACCESSION No. 496
 VOL. No 12: 1969-70 NUMBER OF REPORTS: 7

REPORT NO:	FOLIO	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL	AREA PATROLLED	MAPS/ PHOTOS	PERIOD OF PATROL
[1] 1-69/70	1-13	Chamberlain R PO	Trans-Keravat forest, Vanapaladiq (Raungulit) & Mandros Nature Reserve	1 map	24-6/8/69
[2] 2-69/70	14-23	Biscee WH ASO	Water Island		11-13, 16-17/9/69
		- KOKOPO -			
[3] 1-69/70	24-42	Nalan J.K PO	Central Bairings Causo Division	-	1-21/7/69
[4] 11-69/70	43-57	Mesio Sangkel TPO	Inland Bairings	1 map	25/8-11/9/69
[5] 18-69/70	58-72	Joseph Ben TPO	Inland Bairings	-	25/8-11/9/69
		- POMIO -			
[6] 2-70	73-88	Bikkerert Van W PO	East Mengen C/E (Part only)	1 map	1-26/8/69
[7] 9/70	89-100	Buisong T.J ed. ASO	Part Kel Causo Division (Non-local)	1 map	22/2 - 6/3/69

100 pages

EAST NEW BRITAIN DISTRICT PATROL

REPORTS

1969-1970

RABAU

KOKOPO

POMIO

Report no.

Officer conducting
Patrol

Area patrolled

RABAU

1-69-70

R. Chamberlain

Trans Kerevat Forest
Vunapalandig (Rangoulit)
& Mandres Native reserve

2-69-70

W.H. Biscoe

Watom Island

5-69-70

R. E. BARKER
R. LAMBERTSON

VUNADIG
RABAU

KOKOPO

1-69-70

J.K. Nalau

Central Bainings C.D

1A-69-70

M. Sangkol

Inland Bainings

1B-69-70

J. Bori

Inland Bainings

2-69-70

W. S. TAYLOR

KULON-B. K. TAPU SULEA

3-69-70

J. SUTTON

CENTRAL BAININGS

POMIO

1-69-70

W. van Rikxoert

East Mengen C.D.

8-69-70

W. H. MURKENS

EAST AND WEST MENGEN

9-69-70

R. Frost

MANSING, COMPAL AND INLAND
MELIKO, MUMUSI, NO1 AND NO2

EAST NEW BRITAIN DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

RABAUL 1 69-70

R. Chamberlain

67-10-1

Division of District Administration,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEPOBU. PAPUA.

23rd October, 1969.

District Commissioner,
East New Britain District,
RABAU.

PATROL NO. RABAU 1/69-70.

Your reference 67-2-19 of 13th October,
1969.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Special Report by Mr. R. Chamberlain, Patrol Officer, to Trans Kerevat Forest, Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) and Mandres Native Reserve.

Mr. Chamberlain's short patrol appears to have been quite effective.

The matter of the encroachment on the Kerevat-Vudal Forest land will be followed up in separate correspondence.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Secretary,
Department of the Administrator.

c.c.
Mr. R. Chamberlain,
Rabaul Sub-District Office,
MATUPIT. East New Britain District.

Please note that political education must be a continuing process in all situations with the emphasis on the advantages of national unity.

(11)

Division of District Administration,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOBU, PAPUA.

35-11-10
67-10-1

22nd October, 1969.

The District Commissioner,
East New Britain District,
RABAU.

ENCROACHMENT BY BAININGS ON
VUDAL FOREST AREA.

Your memo 67.2.19 of 13th October, 1969, refers.

2. Action taken by Mr. Chamberlain meets the special circumstances, however care should be taken to ensure that there is no further encroachment.
3. The original explanation given to the Bainings is clearly shown in memo FR. 2/7 of 9th October, 1951 from the Regional Forest Officer to the District Commissioner, Rabaul. The pertinent point here being that any move to establish settled areas would be subject to the approval of the District Commissioner and the Regional Forest Officer.
4. If at all necessary, eviction can be effected through section 123 of the Land Ordinance. If this course is taken and should a notice to quit issued by a District Officer be subsequently ignored it would be advisable to secure a conviction in the District Court prior to carrying out eviction.
5. It is not quite clear as to what Simbatka was told about the Western Boundary of the Forestry Land Purchase Area. South of the Reserve, the boundary in fact follows the Valilie to its source and thence to Minum Village. The area west of the Valilie is the Mandres Timber Purchase which, of course is not Administration Land.

T.W. Ellis
(T.W. ELLIS)

Secretary
Department of the Administrator.



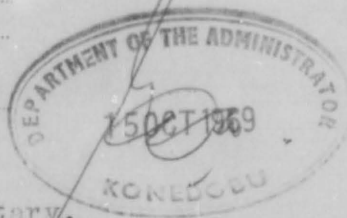
TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67.10.1 (10)

Telephone.....
Telegrams..... DISCOM
Our Reference..... 67-2-19
If calling ask for.....
Mr..... DPO'S/lec

Department of District Administration,
R a b a u l .

13th October, 1969.



The Secretary,
Dept. of the Administrator,
Division of District Administration,
Konedobu.

RABAUL PATROL REPORT NO.1 OF 1969/70

Attached please find two copies of the above report submitted by Mr. (Patrol Officer) R. CHAMBERLAIN.

All of the points raised have been adequately covered by the Assistant District Commissioner, Mr. A.D. PITT, in his covering memorandum which is also attached.

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

District Commissioner
East New Britain District

DISTROFF
62-2-16

ADP/LL

(9)

Rabaul Sub-District Office,
MATUPIIT,
East New Britain.

23rd September, 1969.

The District Commissioner,
East New Britain District,
RABAU.

RABAU PATROL REPORT NO. 1 OF 1969-70

Please find enclosed a Patrol Report submitted by Mr. Patrol Officer R. Chamberlain. The purpose of the patrol was to investigate reports that the Rangoulit people had moved off the Reserve and were clearing preparatory to planting a considerable area of the Forestry lands.

Mr. Chamberlain's investigation and action taken by him were forwarded under cover of my 33-1-1 of the 12th August, 1969.

POLITICAL.

It is a pity that Moalat is losing some of his influence particularly if the reason is as Mr. Chamberlain suggests, his support for the Administration in its efforts to obtain land in the Malasait area.

Unfortunately Malasait's only hope at present of obtaining a road connection with the Gazelle Peninsular network, and thus ending its isolation, is to sell land for resettlement purposes. At present however, the Bainings fear of Tolai resettlement within their area has prevented them from disposing of land in the Malasait area.

ECONOMIC.

The problem of the water buffalo was discussed by the Council with an agricultural officer at its August meeting. Estimation of numbers vary between 100 and 1000. As Mr. Chamberlain very correctly points out the buffalo will present a very real problem in future years and a threat to both life and crops.

SOCIAL.

It is hoped that the distrust that the Bainings people have for the Tolais may lessen somewhat when they are brought together to discuss the future development of the 5000 odd acres within the Vudal Forestry area, and 3000 acres of Mandress C.P.L. which is being handed over for Baining and Tolai resettlement.

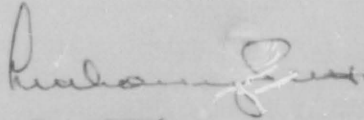
During a recent patrol to the Raunsemna area the O.I.C. at Lassul Bay fully informed Father Hesse of the situation regarding the Rangoulit Reserve and the Administration land surrounding it. It is hoped that Father Hesse

will check the ownership of land in future before giving encouragement to the people to clear and plant.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There have always been claims that the Forestry land was incorrectly purchased, or only trees were purchased etc., probably because the price paid was, by present day values extremely low. I feel there is no way to overcome this feeling except by providing vehicular access to land still in the hands of the Malasait and Rangoulit people. At present the only Baining Village in this area which has vehicular access is Rangoulit which makes cash cropping by the other Inland Bainings villages extremely difficult.

For your information, please.



(A.D. PITT)

Assistant District Commissioner

SPECIAL PATROL REPORT

NUMBER: Rabaul No. 1/69-70

SUB-DISTRICT: Rabaul

DISTRICT: East New Britain

COUNCIL AREA: Baining Local Government Council

PATROL CONDUCTED BY: Robert Chamberlain P.O.

AREA PATROLLED: Trans Kerovat Forest, Vunapalandia
(Rangoulit) and Mandres Native Reserve.

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL: Nil

DURATION OF PATROL: Date out: 4/8/69
Date in: 6/8/69
Duration: 3 days.

DATE, DURATION OF LAST D.D.A. PATROL TO AREA: Rabaul No. 14/68-69
13/1/69 to 16/1/69.

OBJECTS OF PATROL:

- A. To advise Baining people against:-
 - (i) further clearing of the Forestry Reserve and
 - (ii) Planting of cash crops on land already cleared.
- B. Investigate availability of an alternate area for encroachers to plant cash crops.

TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA PATROLLED: 107

MAP REFERENCE: Milinch of Ataliklikun

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER: Not enclosed.

(6)

PATROL DIARY

- 4/8/1969 0800 Rabaul to Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) village by motor vehicle.
- 1100 Accompanied by former Councillor Simbatka on inspection of extent of clearings on Forestry Reserve.
- 1230 Discussions with 4 Baining men clearing Catholic Mission Cocoa block which is on the Forestry Reserve.
- 1400- Discussions with individual Vunapalandig
1600 (Rangoulit) villagers.
- 1900- Discussion with all Vunapalandig
2100 (Rangoulit) villagers re an alternate area on which Inlanders could plant cash crops.
- Slept Vunapalandig (Rangoulit).
- 5/8/1969 0700 Further discussions with 4 Inlanders met on previous day.
- 0800 Accompanied by Simbatka walking to Kusingum and thence to Mandres Native Reserve
- 1300- Conferring with Mualat Tavanga, President
1600 of Baining Local Government Council and Councillor of Malasait.
- 1600 To Mandres Plantation.
Slept Mandres Plantation.
- 6/8/1969 0800 To Vunapalandig Native Reserve by speedboat.
- 0830- Walking to Rangoulit village.
0900
- 1000 To Rabaul by motor vehicle.

END OF PATROL

DISTROFF
33-1-1

RC/11

122 (5)
Rabaul Sub-District Office,
MATUPIT,
East New Britain.

6th August, 1969.

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Rabaul Sub-District Office,
MATUPIT.

ENCROACHMENT BY BAININGS ON
KEREVAT - VUDAL FOREST LAND

A. Position as at above date is as follows:-

- (1) Clearing has taken place along either side of the Rangoulit-Malasait walking track, for a distance of approximately 2 miles, beginning on the Eastern boundary of the "Rangoulit Reserve" near Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) village.
- (2) TARO is only crop planted to date.
- (3) Cleared areas definitely within Forestry Reserve.
- (4) Majority of people clearing land are from Alakasam village with some from Galavit and Malasait.
- (5) Both Simbatka, leader of the Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) group, and Mualat Tavanga, Councillor of Malasait, claim to have warned the people that land being cleared was owned by the Administration.
- (6) Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) village people deny that they invited the encroachers to clear land within the Forestry Reserve but claim that it is common knowledge that Fr. Hesse, of the Roman Catholic Mission at Raunsemna, has encouraged the people to clear the area in question.
- (7) The Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) villagers claim that Malasait and Alakasam people were invited to plant cash crops on Kusimgum (that section of Vunapalandig Native Reserve ruled as belonging to the Rangoulit people).
- (8) Rangoulit people unwilling to give up any portion of "Rangoulit Reserve" for use by the Encroachers but are still willing for them to occupy portion of Kusimgum.
- (9) A block of bearing cocoa exists on the Forestry Reserve which is referred to as "Cacao bilong Pata" or "Cacao bilong Mission." Four Baining men:-

TAINGBUM	of	ALAKASAM
SAULMIT	of	ALAKASAM
SIMBATKA	of	ALAKASAM
KATKA	of	WILAINSEMKI

were engaged in clearing this "Mission block" at

(4)

the time of arrival of the patrol. Of these four, TAINGBUM and SIMBATKA had assisted with recent clearings on the Forestry Reserve.

B. Action taken:-

- (1) The four men referred to in (9) above were requested to return to their villages and advise the people against making further encroachments on the Forestry Reserve. They were also asked to inform the people that the Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) people are willing for them to plant cash crops on approx 200 acres of Kusingum land (confirmed at a meeting held at Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) village on the evening of Monday 4th August 1969 and attended by majority of Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) villagers).

It was also mentioned that the Forestry Dept. may be willing to clear a section of Kusingum land.

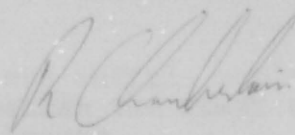
- (2) Mualat Tavanga, Councillor of Malasait, who is at present domiciled on Mandres Native Reserve, agreed to visit Malasait and Alakasam villages to advise people against continued encroachment.

It is suggested that P.O. Mr. G. Laphorne, on his forthcoming Patrol through the Inland Bainings, explain the situation to each village and perhaps also call on Fr. Hesse.

C. Points raised by villagers in Discussions:-

- (1) TAINGBUM of Alakasam (mentioned in A (9) above) asked if it would not be possible for his people to clear and plant section of the Forestry Reserve and that, when eventually the land was required for reforestation, the Administration could buy the cocoa trees. It was explained that this would be unacceptable to the Administration.
- (2) SIMBATKA, leader of the Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) village group claims to be confused as to the actual boundaries of the Forestry Reserve and stated that:-

When the Land was purchased the people were informed that only land to the east of the Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) walking track was involved. Later P.O. Mr. Hanson marked out an area now known as the "Rangoulit Native Reserve." Later still, a surveyor (name not known) was seen surveying to the West of "Rangoulit Native Reserve." Simbatka was told that the Administration also owned land to the West of the Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) - Malasait walking track, but he does not agree with this.



(R. CHAMBERLAIN)
Patrol Officer.

(3)

SITUATION REPORT

A. POLITICAL.

Local Government Councillors.

- (i) Ward 1, which includes Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) Village.

Councillor L. Aming, Manager of Mandres Plantation, makes occasional visits to Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) and appears to be respected by the people.

Simbatka, leader of the Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) village group, makes monthly visits to Mandres Plantation and conveys details of Baining Council meetings to people.

- (ii) Ward 2, including Malasait Village.

By his own admission, Councillor Moalat Tavanga, appears to have lost support of majority of voters. Moalat claims the loss of support is attributed to his support of the Administration in its' efforts to purchase land for resettlement in the Malasait area. While this is possible it may also be due to the fact that Moalat now lives at the rear of Mandres Native Reserve in Ward 1, only visiting Malasait at lengthy intervals.

B. ECONOMIC.

General Rural Development.

A gravelled road now exists to within a few minutes walk of Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) village. Villagers and the Gazelle Timber Co. Pty. Ltd. are now working to extend a vehicular road all the way to Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) village.

The road has resulted in an increase in Cocoa plantings within the "Rangoulit Native Reserve." Wet beans are sold to the Dept. of Agriculture Stock & Fisheries which collects them at the road head.

Crop Damage.

Damage ^{to} crops by water buffalo on Mandres and Vunapalandig Native Reserves appears to have been exaggerated. The buffalo were originally confined to Mandres plantation where the Manager, Mr. L. Aming claims to have killed in excess of 400 buffalo in the last 2 years, stating that in his estimation less than 100 remain. These 100 are scattered along the coast from Mandres Native Reserve to Vunapalandig Bay. When walking from Vunapalandig Bay to Mandres on 5/8/69, no evidence was encountered of destruction caused by buffaloes.

If allowed to multiply, these buffalo would present a problem in future years as they relish the flesh of sprouting coconuts and young cocoa leaves.

It is possible also that animals wounded by light weapons may attack humans in the area.

②

C. SOGIA.

Tolai-Baining relations.

Distrust and dislike of the Tolai people by the Bainings, appears to have increased following the demonstrations against the newly Constituted Gazelle Peninsula Local Government Council. These demonstrations were witnessed by several Baining Councillors.

Several Baining men expressed their disgust that the demonstrators should show such disrespect for His Honour, the Administrator.

Missions.

As commented on in attached memorandum 33-1-1 of 6/8/69 it appears that Fr. Hesse, of the Roman Catholic Mission at Naunsewa, has encouraged Inland villagers to clear sections of the Trans-Kerevat Forestry Reserve for cash crops. The Roman Catholic Mission also has a cocor block on the Forestry Reserve approximately 10 minutes walk from Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) village.

In addition the Administration Rest house has been removed to a site further from the village and a permanent materials Church erected on the old site.

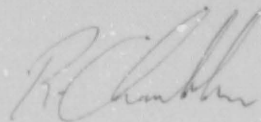
Relations with Private Enterprise.

Gazelle Timber Co. Pty. Ltd. is at present employing several Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) villagers and has promised to extend a vehicular road to Vunapalandig village.

D. MISCELLANEOUS.

As mentioned at C(2) in attached Memoranda 33-1-1 of 6th August, 1969, Simbatka, leader of the Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) people, claims that Forestry land to the West of the Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) - Malasait walking track was not purchased outright by the Administration. Whilst holding this view, however, the Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) people have not attempted to clear land outside the boundaries of the "Rangoulit Native Reserve", due no doubt to the fact that land within the reserve is adequate for their present needs. Should migrations from Inland villages to Vunapalandig (Rangoulit) increase, a problem could arise in the future.

It would be advisable therefore if the Forestry Department instituted periodic patrols of boundaries.

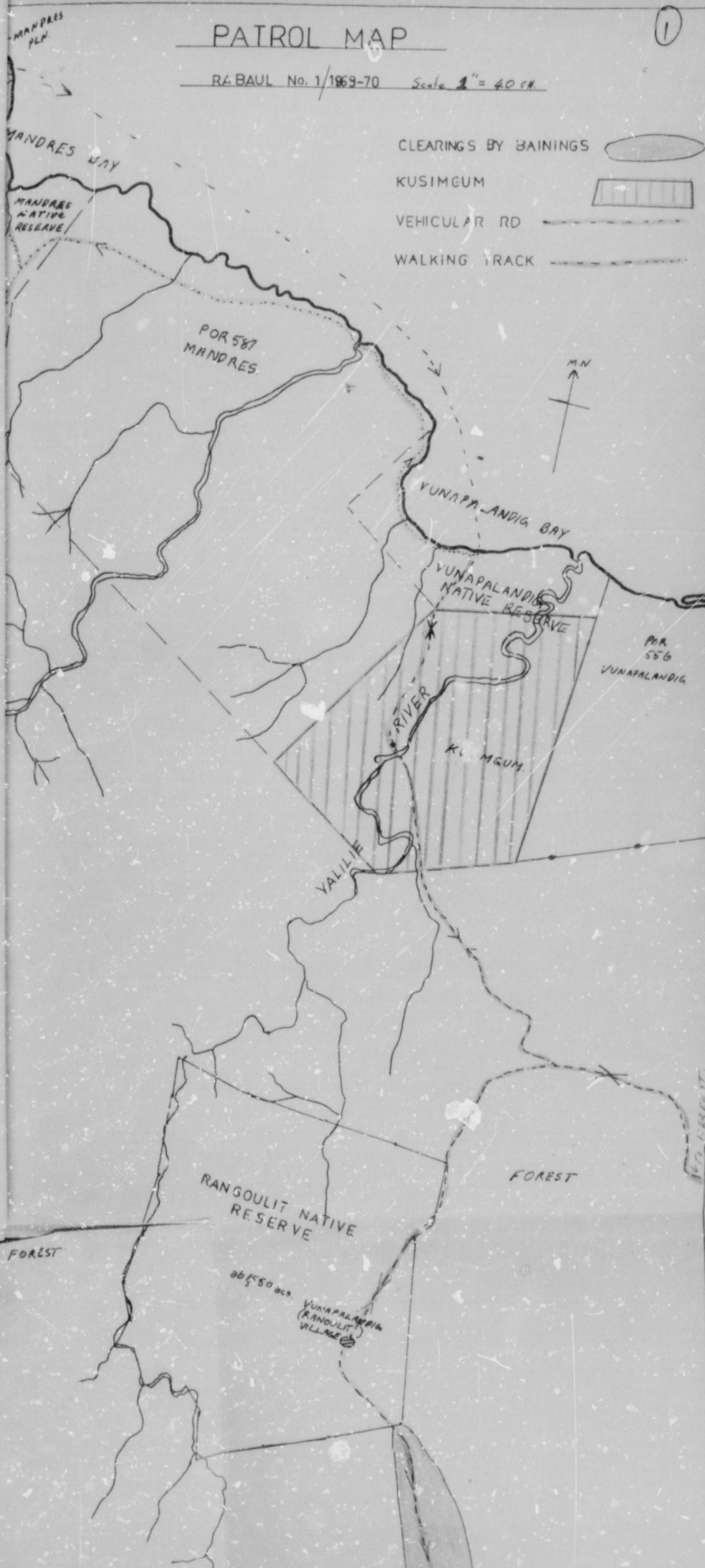


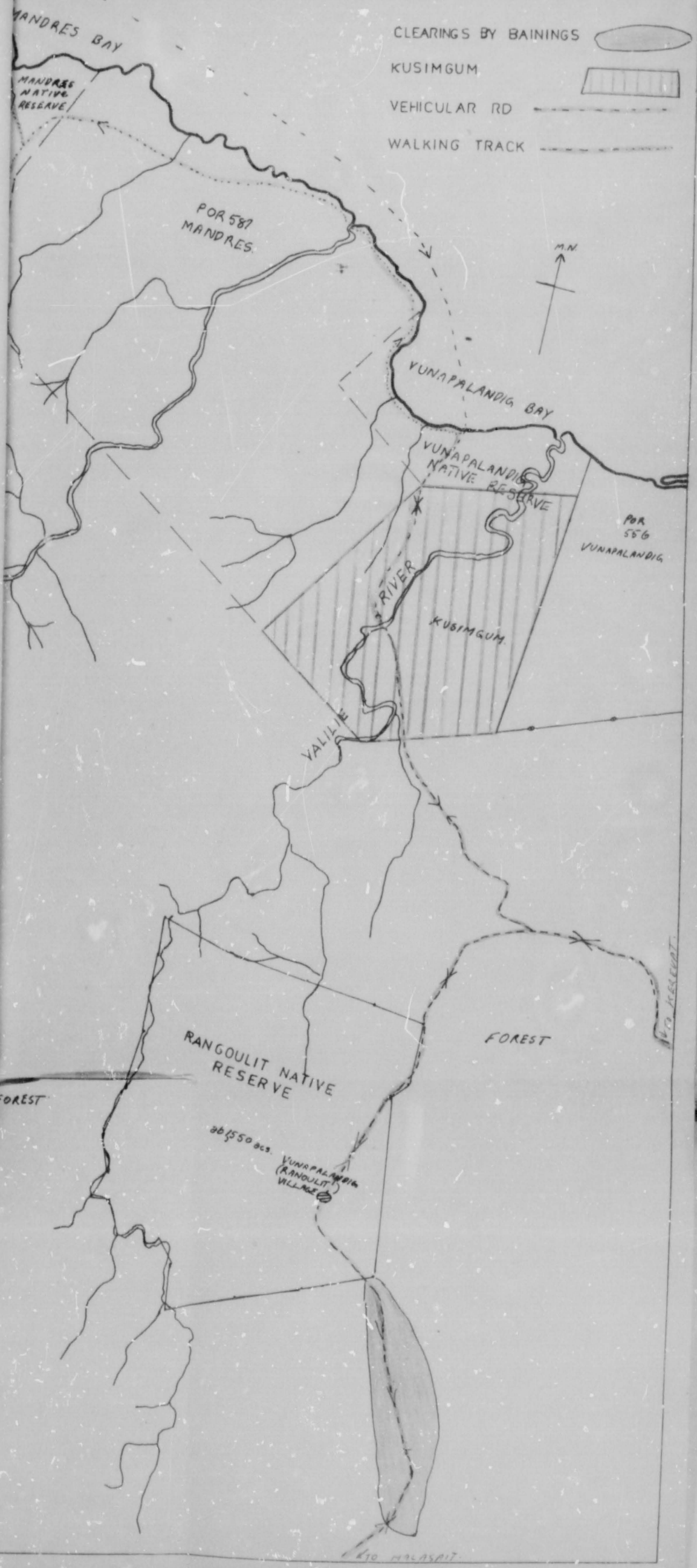
(R. CHAMBERLAIN)
Patrol Officer.

PATROL MAP

①

RA BAUL No. 1/1969-70 Scale 1" = 40 CM





EAST NEW BRITAIN DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1969-1970

RABAU- 2-69-70

W.H. Biscoe

GFB:BT

67-10-2

Division of District Administration,

YONEDOBU. PACUA.

12th December, 1969.

The District Commissioner,
East New Britain District,
RABAUL.

PATROL NO. RABAUL 2/69-70

Your reference 67-2-19 of 3rd December, 1969.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Special Report by Mr. W. H. Biscoe, District Officer, to part LIVUAN-WATOM Census Division.

Mr. Biscoe has made some thoughtful observations in this short report.

I am pleased to note that action has been taken on matters arising from the patrol.

(T. W. ELLIS)

Secretary,

Department of the Administrator.

c.c. Mr. W. H. Biscoe,
Rabaul Sub-District Office,
MATUPIIT. East New Britain.

Please note that political education must be a continuing process in all situations with the emphasis on the advantages of national unity.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67. 10. 2. (8)

In Reply
Please Quote

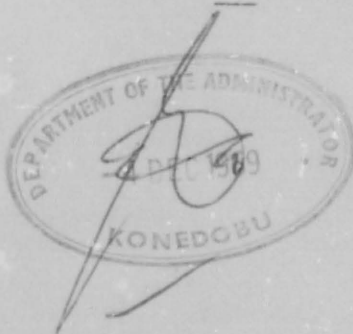
No. 67-2-19

Department of the Administrator.

RABAUL

3rd December, 1969.

EVS/jr.



The Secretary,
Department of the Administrator,
Division of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

RABAUL PATROL REPORT NO. 2 OF 1969/70

Attached please find copy of the above-mentioned Patrol Report which covered a duration of five days only. Comments from the Assistant District Commissioner are also attached and are self-explanatory.

You may recall that during the September emergency eight (8) field teams accompanied the Council tax collection groups to all areas of the Gazelle to give assistance to a renewed campaign to give the people an opportunity to pay Council tax. In this instance I had called for a field patrol report from the District Officer, since he was obliged to camp over night on two occasions at Watom Island and in addition he carried out other normal administration work.

The comments made by the reporting officer have been noted by the Senior Local Government Officer and the Council where appropriate.

H.W. West
(H.W. WEST)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
EAST NEW BRITAIN DISTRICT

Enc.

DISTROFF
67-2-16

ADP/LL

7
Rabaul Sub-District Office,
MATUPIT,
East New Britain.

24th October, 1969.

The District Commissioner,
East New Britain District,
RABAU.

RABAU PATROL REPORT NO. 2 OF 1969-70

Please find enclosed a Patrol Report submitted by Mr. W. Biscoe, District Officer. The purpose of the Patrol was to accompany the Council Tax Collection team and to maintain as much contact with Watom Island as possible.

TAX.

The unsatisfactory features of the Tax system mentioned by Mr. Biscoe have occurred in other parts of the Gazelle and are causing considerable annoyance on the part of people. In an attempt to reduce criticism of the Council during the current patrol programme I have issued instructions for the Tax Register to be amended so that the names agree with the Census records. This should remove the possibility of children be given final notices or demands being made of people who have migrated out or have been absent for many years. However, we from this office can only go so far: I feel that Council may have to consider writing off as bad debts many of the "Back Taxes". This would then give a much more realistic figure of what is owned as much the present amount I feel will be impossible to collect or relates to exempt persons, persons under age etc. or persons who have paid tax but which has been recorded under another name.

POLITICAL.

Mr. Biscoe's remarks under this heading are extremely interesting. I feel that the Watoms could go either way without fairly intensive patrolling from this office. The Livuan administrative area at present allocated to Mr. P. Hyland is small and easily visited; he should have no difficulty in visiting the island once a month.

ECONOMIC.

The Tolai Cocoa Project have reposted their Clerk to Watom and have reopened the fermentary. Present indications are that the people are supporting it and production figures are quite good.

The Rest House owned by Leslie Tokavul at Nabil has been used now on several occasions.

SOCIAL.

There seems to be little hope of finding a solution to the young "layabout". The problem is probably more difficult at Watom than on the mainland as opportunities for doing anything are necessarily limited.

6

CONCLUSION.

Mr. Biscoe has presented a report of his usual high standard.

A. D. Pitt

(A.D. PITT)
Assistant District Commissioner

(5)

PATROL REPORT

NUMBER: RABAU 2/69-70

SUB-DISTRICT: Rabaul

DISTRICT: East New Britain

COUNCIL AREA: Gazelle Peninsula Local Government Council

PATROL CONDUCTED BY: W.H. Biscoe, District Officer

AREA PATROLLED: Watom Island

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL: Henry Boboko, t/C.A.O.
Ran Bole, t/C.C.

DURATION OF PATROL: 11-13, 16-17.9.69
(5 days)

DATE & DURATION OF LAST D.D.A PATROL TO AREA: Rabaul No. 11/68-69
25.11.68 - 19.12.68

OBJECTS OF PATROL: Collection of Council Tax and delivery of Final Notices of Tax.

TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA PATROLLED: 1652

MAP REFERENCE: Milinch of Blanche, Fourmil of Rabaul

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER: Not enclosed.

(4)

PATROL DIARY

Thursday, 11th September, 1969. 1500 to WUNAWUTUNG in heavy rain. To NABIL 1540 and then returned WUNAWUTUNG to await Councillor TOWARTOVO (Tax Review Committee). Waited till 1720 and then returned NABIL 1800 in heavy seas. Local Court Magistrate ISIMEL TOVUE also at NABIL. Night at NABIL.

Friday, 12th September, 1969. Tried using portable transceiver 0815 as instructed with no result. 0845 to VALAUR, distributed Final Notices and discussed Mataungan Association activities with locals. 1200 to TARANATA and again distributed notices. 1630 returned NABIL. 1930-2200 talks with locals on political matters. Night at NABIL.

Saturday, 13th September, 1969. Left NABIL 0730, direct to Rabaul 0845.

Tuesday, 16th September, 1969. Left WUNAWUTUNG 0900 to NABIL 0930. Thence to VUNABUK 1015. Distributed Final Notices and talked with people and collected some tax. 1200 Councillor NAPITALAI arrived and discussions held on future of Fermentery. 1430 to RAKIVAL and distributed Final Notices. Thence NABIL 1630 where speedboat engine broke down. Night at NABIL.

Wednesday, 17th September, 1969. Left NABIL 0730, towed by Administration work-boat. To WUNAWUTUNG and thence Rabaul 0930.

(3)

INTRODUCTION.

This patrol was conducted principally to accompany a two-man team of Vunadidir L.G. Training Centre students engaged in collecting taxes for the Gazelle Peninsula Local Government Council. This objective was accomplished with limited success, but the group was able to distribute most of the Final Notices advising taxpayers of their total indebtedness. This distribution was generally done through the local committee-man at each village, with the assistance of the Councillor. The only village not visited, due to a breakdown of the speedboat engine, was VUNAKABAI, but as most of the Final Notices for this village were distributed either direct at VUNAEUK, where many people had gathered on Tuesday 16th, to discuss the Tolai Cocoa Project Fermentery, or through the Councillor, who is from VUNAKABAI. At other villages, at least two or three hours were spent to allow people to pay their taxes if they wished. Except at VUNABUK, attendance was almost negligible.

Unfortunately, Councillor TOWARTOVO, the vital member of the Tax Review Committee, did not appear at any stage, so that it was impossible to consider applications for Exemptions. In several cases, this led to a certain amount of dissatisfaction, particularly on the part of aged persons.

Several unsatisfactory features of the Final Notices were noted:

1. The old system of names was used. In many cases these were inaccurate and misleading. Considering the amount of work which officers of this Department carried out in order to record names in accordance with the Council's "Names Rule", it seems a pity that these names cannot be used by the Council itself.

2. Amounts of back-tax are inaccurate - in two cases, people showed me Certificates of Total Exemption for last year's tax, yet they are still shown as owing money for that year.

3. In many cases, people have paid part of their current tax, eg, \$8, yet this has been marked off back-tax instead of current tax.

It was noted that a large number of people owe two years full back-tax as well as current tax. Publicity given to recent successful prosecutions of tax defaulters has made these people realise that the Council may well take action against them for their default and a number expressed a desire to make payment as soon as possible. Apparently, lack of action by the Council - or, more probably, police - in the past, had led to a certain casualness in attitude by offenders.

SITUATION REPORT

A. POLITICAL.

The Watom Island people are fairly insular in their attitudes and tend to feel detached from mainland activities, mainly because very few people such as politicians or aspiring politicians bother to visit them. Consequently, they were quite vocal in their disgust with the Mataungan Association and their incomprehension of its aims. They claim that they consider its leaders foolish and self-seeking and the stated reasons for their activities to be illogical and without substance. Quite long talks were held on an informal

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basis with people on various parts of the island and the appointment of the Commission of Inquiry explained. People thought that the latter idea was quite good, although here again their detachment from main affairs led to a failure to recognise how serious the situation was.

Only one man produced a Mataungan Association receipt (for \$12) when given his tax demand. The uselessness of this to cover his tax obligations was explained and he appeared quite surprised. It should be noted that this man spends much of his time at Tavui, his wife's home village.

Generally, the Watom Islanders are, at present, pro-Council and pro-Administration, but it would be interesting to see what the general reaction would be to a visit by any of the Mataungan Association members, particularly if they were subjected to the spell of Mr. Tammur's oratory.

B. ECONOMIC.

During a previous visit to the Island on another land matter, the people raised the issue of the Tolai Cocoa Project's Fermentery at Vunabuk. This Fermentery has been running at a loss for some time and it had been decided to close it down. The Project Manager then - rather foolishly - offered to sub-lease it to ISAAC TOVULARIA, ex-Councillor of VALAUR, without first discussing it with the land-owner or with the Watom Island people. When the VUNABUK people heard of this, there was a howl of protest, as TOVULARIA is from another village and never very popular anyway and also because the land-owners were never consulted.

On Tuesday, 16th September, a meeting was called at VUNABUK. The Project Manager was apparently supposed to attend, but eventually about midday, Councillor NAPITALAI TOLIROM only turned up. One presumes that he was fully briefed by the Project Manager, as he told the meeting that they had three choices: to allow TOVULARIA to operate the Fermentery at VUNABUK; to allow TOVULARIA to remove the equipment to his own land at VALAUR; to bring the Tolai Cocoa Project back to reopen the Fermentery. TOVULARIA and two of his supporters made impassioned speeches, but even more emotional speeches were made against it, and on the final vote 83 voted in favour of the Project returning, 6 voted in favour of TOVULARIA and about 60 abstained.

The Project has lost a considerable amount of trade recently, quite possibly because of its connection with the Council, and it is hoped that it will be possible for the Project to maintain its good relations with the Watom Island people. It is realised that the Fermentery was closed because of lack of support, but it is apparent that no attempt was made to explain the situation to the people. The result was suspicion and anger and a very real danger of the people turning completely against the Project. After the meeting, the people were exhorted to support the Project fully - Councillor NAPITALAI suggested that to start off with, the Project vessel should pick up cocoa beans for delivery to Volavolo Fermentery, until the amount of cocoa warranted re-opening the Fermentery. This suggestion was quite well received and, if put into effect without delay, should restore good relations with the people.

The Patrol lived at NABIL during its stay, in accommodation provided by LESLIE TOKAVUL. This entrepreneur

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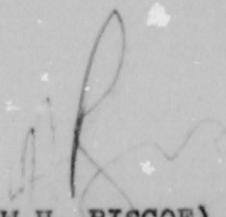
has shown a considerable amount of initiative in his business enterprises. He has a two-storied building, with a licensed trade-store on the ground floor and three bedrooms and a living-room above. These rooms are partially furnished and ideal for use by visiting officers. Mr. TOKAVUL also has two work-boats which ply between the mainland and the Island. The anchorage is safe and sheltered. It is recommended that his enterprise be encouraged by publicising the availability of his accommodation for Administration patrols.

C. SOCIAL.

Watom Island suffers from the usual Tolai problem of "layabouts", young men with insufficient education for a job and insufficient ambition for agricultural enterprise. The problem is, perhaps, accentuated on the Island, as there are fewer schools (one Administration and three Mission) and less children are actually at school than appears to be the case on the mainland. Arable land is limited, because of the mountainous nature of the terrain, and costs of production are higher because of the problems of transport. The Island thus has a lower rate of progress than the rest of the Tolai population. At the same time, social problems are not as acute and tend to follow nearer to the traditional type of problem, as there is less money and less contact with the "big-city" atmosphere of Rabaul.

CONCLUSION.

At present, the Watom Island people are almost totally pro-Council, principally because of the lack of easy communication with the mainland. However, quite a number of people from the Island spend a fair percentage of their time on the mainland eg, at Vunadavai or Tavui, because of land acquired through marriage, so that there is an inherent danger that the people here may swing away. This can be avoided by regular contact. If the proposed system of Administrative areas proposed last January can be brought in, the officer responsible for the Livuan-Watom Census Division should visit the Island at least once a month to keep in touch with the people. With good accommodation available at NABIL and the Sub-District speedboat, this should cause no problems at all.


(W.H. BISCOE)
District Officer (Lands).