



Patrol Reports. Bougainville District, Buka  
1963 - 1964

Transcribed by: Asa Yoshie, Sarah Fuchs

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES  
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: Bougainville

STATION: Buka

VOLUME No: 5

ACCESSION No: 496.

1963 - 1965

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

PATROL REPORT OF: Buka, Tinputz, Kunua  
 ACCESSION No. 496  
 VOL. No:5: 1963-1964  
 NUMBER OF REPORTS: 5

REPORT NO:	FOLIO	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL	AREA PATROLLED	MAPS/ PHOTOS	PERIOD OF PATROL
[ ] BUKA					
[1] 8-63/64	1-10	Phillips R.B. CPO	Nissan Island	-	25/11/63- 4/12/63
[ ] Tinputz					
[2] 3-63/64	1-10	Pamplin J. P.O.	Portion of Teop Census Division	-	1/4/64-28/5/64
[3] 4-63/64	1-7	Pamplin J. P.O.	Villages in vicinity of Tinputz	-	3/6/64-16/6/64
[ ] Kunua					
[4] 1-63/64	1-22	Parker F. PO	Kunua Census Dvision	2maps	19/7/63-17/3/63
[5] 2-63/64	1-13	Parker F. PO	Keriaka Tax Cansus Division	-	17/9/63-2/10/63
[6] 6-63/64	1-13	Staples R.J. CPO	Kunua and Kariaka Censu Divisions		27/4/64-7/5/64

PATROL REPORTS BOUGAINVILLE DISTRICT 1963/64  
BUKA PASSAGE, TINPUTZ & KUNUA

Patrol No.	Officer	Area Patrolled.
BUKA	Conducting Patrol	Nissan Islands
8 - 63/64		
TINPUTZ	B.G. Robins	Part Teop Census Division
3 - 63/64	J. Pamplin	Villages in vicinity of Tinputz
4 - 63/64	J. Pamplin	Kuna Census Division
KUNUA	F. Parker	Keriaka Census Division
1 - 63/64	F. Parker	Kunua and Keriaka Census Division
2 - 63/64	R.J. Staples	
6 - 63/64		

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

BUKA PASSAGE

District of BOUGAINVILLE REPORT No. 8 - 63/64

Patrol Conducted by B.G. ROBINS. PATROL OFFICER.

Area Patrolled NISSAN IS.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans R.B. PHILLIPS CADET PATROL OFFICER.

Natives. CONST. SAMLI & CONST. GABIST.

Duration - From 26 / 11 / 1963 to 4 / 12 / 1963

Number of Days 8

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO

Last Patrol to Area by - District Services 31 / 5 / 1963

Medical ? / / 19

Map Reference NISSAN MILINCH SERIES.

Objects of Patrol REVISION OF CENSUS & TAX COLLECTION : POLITICAL EDUCATION FOR HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ; LAND INVESTIGATIONS NISSAN & PINIPEL.

Director of Native Affairs,

PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ / 19

District Commissioner

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

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

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

67-11-10  
6th March, 1964.

The District Officer,  
Bougainville District,  
SOHANO.

PATROL REPORT NO. 8-63/64 - SOHANO.

Receipt of the abovementioned Patrol Report

1. acknowledged with thanks.
2. The content of the report is well covered in your accompanying memorandum.
3. i agree it is frustrating to not be in a position to give more assistance to these people in isolated groups where communications are poor but i am afraid it is something we will just have to live with with our present restricted resources.
4. I am pleased that Mr. Liddle was available to give guidance to Mr. Phillips.
5. The Patrol Report is well presented and it is obvious that Mr. Phillips has benefited from it.

(J. K. McCarthy)

DIRECTOR.

67-11-10  
TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA  
Telegrams  
Telephone  
Our Reference 67/1/3.  
If calling ask for  
Mr  
10 FEB 1964

Department of Native Affairs,  
Bougainville District,  
SOHANO.  
4th, February, 1964.  
The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
KOREDOBU. PAPUA.  
PATROL REPORT NO. 8 OF 1963.1964 - MR.  
R. B. PHILLIPS TO NISSAN ISLAND.  
The attached Report is forwarded to your information please.

This was Mr. PHILLIPS first Patrol and he was fortunate to have the advice and assistance of Messrs. LIDDLE and ROBINS. He has obviously benefited by it. The main purpose of the Patrol was to again explain to the people the purpose of the mechanics of the forthcoming Elections. I cannot say with any sureness how the Elections will go in this Electorate but the amount of work done should bear good fruit. The fact that there are nine (9) Candidates shows at least that there is some political awareness and ambition. Some of the Candidates are campaigning like professionals.. There were no Candidates from NISSAN but perhaps their isolation and grim struggle for existence has some bearing on this. NISSAN is poor and undeveloped but there is evidence that a Council would be welcomed but even a low income Council would be impossible without better communications than are now available. The population is 2,300 and has expanded in the order of 43.3% over ten (10) Years. This may rise more spectacularly as the area is now malaria free. The departments of Native Affairs and Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries know what should and can be done to help these folk but these plans depend on better supervision than can be given by occasional and hurried visits by Field Officers. These visits are regulated and restricted by shipping. Neither of these



two Departments are able to station Officers on NISSAN and the only way than is to make the place more accessible to the existing inadequate Staff.

The matter of the plight of these people and problem of communication was raised at a recent meeting of the District Economic Development Committee and the District Commissioner was requested to bring the matter before his Headquarters with a view to exploring the feasibility of re-opening the old wartime Strip. Mr. LIDDLE states that the 8,000 feet long Aerodrome is in good condition and could quite easily be brought into operation again by hand labour. This is, of course, a technical matter but it should be gone into if we are to make an honest attempt to help the NISSANS.

The people of this Island group have often been called 'apathetic' or 'lazy'. This may be true but also it is understandable. Their only source of income now that the war compensation reserves are almost exhausted is exporting labour. The absence of these young men (151 out of a work force of 478) must have an effect on development and the result of a comparison on the traveller freshly returned from the riches of RABAUL or BOUGAINVILLE to NISSAN must be profound. It would make even the most optimistic apathetic.

- 2 -

I have mentioned the word 'communicatioins' a lot in this memorandum but with reason for until they are improved there is little point in going ahead with rehabilitation plans for NISSAN as poorly supervised plans fail to flourish and frustration and bitterness are the only fruit.

(D. J. CLANCY).

DISTRICT OFFICER.

Att.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

DIARY

NOVEMBER 1963

TUESDAY 26th

Departed SOHANO 10 p.m. aboard M. V. NIVANI for NISSAN accompanied by Mr. C. W. LIDDLE A.D.O. AND Mr. B.G. ROBINS P.O. Slept on board.

WEDNESDAY 27th.

Arrived at NISSAN ISLAND 9 a.m. Loaded patrol gear onto pinnace belonging to WONG YOU and departed for rest house at MAPIRI arriving 10.30 a.m. Talks with village officials of MAPIRI and TANAMALIT on the aims of the patrol during the next few days. Settled in remainder of the morning. In the afternoon inspected NIHAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY and the airstrip with MR. LIDDLE and Mr ROBINS. Thence to BALIL and back. Mr LIDDLE left at night on the NIVANI for the FEADS. Slept at MAPIRI.

THURSDAY 28th.

Departed 7.45 a.m. with Mr. ROBINS for SIAR. Villages of SIROT, BALIL, SALAPEN and SIAR in for tax / census. Completed by 1.30 p.m. In the afternoon Electoral Education given together with flip sheet and projector to all present. Further general talks but no complaints. Returned to MAPIRI approx. 6 p.m. Balanced village books until 12 o'clock midnight. Slept at MAPIRI.

FRIDAY 29th.

Departed 8 a.m. for SIAKEN where villages of LIHON, PORIWON and STAKEN were in for tax collection and census. Electoral education with visual aids given. One N.M.T.A. paid out and a number of C.S.B. withdrawals made. No complaints. Returned to MAPIRI and balanced books until 10.30 p.m. Slept at MAPIRI.

SATURDAY 30th.

Census and tax collection of MAPIRI and TANAMALIT conducted during the morning at MAPIRI. Electoral education given together with visual aids. Some banking done. Dispute heard regarding adulterous behaviour of A.P.O. and matter settled. In the afternoon to SIGON Mission re Investigation of Provisional Order on Nissan North Reserve, thence returned to MAPIRI at approx. 4 p.m. where considerable banking done. Balanced books. Slept at MAPIRI.

DECEMBER 1963.

SUNDAY 1st.

Visited TONGAL Mission for discussion with Father

MILLS on alienation of the Mission pre war. Thence to MAPIRI where considerable banking done. Slept at MAPIRI.

MONDAY 2nd.

Departed 8 a.m. to TANAHHERON where villages of TANAHHERON, TAPONGAL, TERUATAP and YOTCHIBOL were in for tax and census. This completed by 1.30 p.m. Electoral instruction given with visual aids until 2.45p.m. Court held. LESLI of TERUATAP convicted of having committed adultery and sentenced for 2 months THL SOHANO. Investigation made on Provisional Order of Nissan South Native Reserve and Tongol Lease. Returned to MOPIRI at 4.30p.m. Quickly packed patrol equipment and drove down to WONG YOUS plantation. Departed 7 p.m. per pinnacle for PINTEL Island, accompanied by Mr. ROBINS and DENNIS LOW Plantation manager for WONG YOU. Storm blew up between Nissan and Pinipel and we were unable to see the reef. When storm abated we were approx. 2 miles off course to the west. Arrived at SAU a small island off Pinipel approx. 10 p.m. Unable to get across reef to MANTOIA in darkness. Slept in copra shed on WONG YOU'S Plantation on SAU Island.

TERRITORY OR PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA  
DIARY CONTINUED.

TUESDAY 3rd.

Departed 6.30 a.m. on pinnace for ROKUS on Pinipel Island arriving 7.30 a.m. Tax/census conducted. Short talk given on forthcoming elections. Departed 8.45 a.m. for MONATOIA arriving 10.0 a.m. Census and tax collectionxx of MANTOIA and TEAH conducted. Thence electoral instruction given together with visual aids. Thence general talks and investigation of Pinipel Native Reserve. Village books were then balanced. At 4.15 p.m. received word from A.D.O. LIDDLE on NIVANI that he wished to depart from Nissan that night. Departed 5.30 p.m. for Sau. Island where copra was loaded onto pinnace. Departed Sau for Nissan 6.30 p.m. and arrived at Nivani at 8.30 p.m. Loaded patrol equipment. Thence to MAPIRI to collect remainder of patrol equipment. Arrived back at Nivani at approx. 10.0 p.m. and departed for BUKA at 10.45 p.m. Slept on board.

WEDNESDAY 4th.

Nivani arrived KAMERAU approx. 9.30 a.m. Patrol equipment transported to HUTJENA, and Patrol stood down.  
END OF DIARY

## INTRODUCTION

This patrol to Nissan and Pinipel was my first patrol.

It was conducted by B.G. ROBINS P.O. whom I accompanied throughout.

The principal aims of the patrol were revision of Census and tax collection, education for the forthcoming House of Assembly Elections and investigation of the Provisional Orders of Nissan North, Nissan South and Pinipel Reserves.

The Nissan group of islands, which are atolls, lies adjacent to the intersection of longitude 154 degrees 12 minutes east and latitude 4 degrees 32 minutes south, and is approx. 70 miles from Sohano. The climate is favourable, warm days and nights being encountered. Average rainfall is in the order of 10 inches per month. A jeep for travelling around Nissan and a pinnace for the journey to Pinipel were hired from Wong You's plantation.

There are thirteen villages on Nissan and three on Pinipel. All villages on Nissan with the exception of SIROT (which is on a small island) can be reached by road. There are no roads on Pinipel.

## RECEPTION OF PATROL

The natives appeared very friendly and co-operative at all times to the patrol.

## VILLAGES

The standard and type of housing varies at each village.

On the Eastern side of Nissan the villagers are constructed mainly out of war surplus materials due to a shortage of native building materials. Many of the houses are an eyesore in appearance but are kept reasonably clean and tidy. On the Western side of Nissan the villages are better looking, cleaner and greater use is made of native building materials. The three villages on Nissan Pinipel are well laid out and are very clean and tidy. All the villages are on the coast and are well situated. Water supply is somewhat of a problem as there are no streams on the islands. Water is obtained from 44 gallon drums scattered throughout the villages. Sanitary facilities are generally satisfactory, many of the toilets being built over the sea.

## VILLAGE OFFICIALS

All xx the village officials appear to be loyal to their positions and are taking an interest in the welfare of their villages. A couple of the older officials are a little ineffective, but it is not recommended that their services be terminated at the moment. One recently appointed Luluai, TONAIN of Teruatap village is a very capable fellow, conscientious and quite a vigorous young leader.

#### POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

The current political situation is all but negligible. One of the patrol's aims was education for the forthcoming elections. Considering that these natives have had no experience of an election, the electoral talks given by Mr. ROBINS went over reasonably well, and the natives seemed to grasp the essentials of electoral method. However it will be quite a while before these people will become interested in the political sphere. There was no evidence of any cult activities. the native's attitude towards the Administration is excellent, so is their attitude towards the Catholic Missions and the two Co-operative societies.

Economic development is at a low ebb due to the very small production of copra, the sale of which affords xxxxxxxxx

2.

#### POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION (CONT)

practically the only cash wage to the natives. As little money is in circulation there is a low standard of living on both islands. The natives are not progressing and can find little outlet for their emotions.

There are two Producer-Consumer Co-operative societies on Nissan. One is at TANAMALIT and is known as the NIHAN Society. The other known as the SULUMAL Society is located at PORIWON. Many C.S.B. withdrawals were made, and most pass books had very little money left in them. No deposits were recorded in the native's pass books.

The economic, social and political development of these people could be greatly furthered if local Government influence was extended to these islands. This could be done if the airstrip on Nissan is opened up, thus affording easy access for these people to the outside world and vice versa.

At the time of census 151 men were absent at work from the villages inside and outside the district. There is a high proportion of absentees in the 20-30 years age group due to the distressing economic conditions. Consequently the work force is weakened due to this factor. However, with the conditions such as they are, the natives have quite a happy disposition and lead a peacefully contented life, probably due to their isolation from the outside world.

#### AGRICULTURE

The agricultural situation at the present time is not good. Some of the native gardens have been destroyed by the foraging of wild pigs at night. Because of this there is a crop shortage in some places. Crops grown include mami, yams, bananas, taro, tapioca and kaukau. Most of the garden sites have nigger heads and coronis in the soil, and these have to be cleared before the area is planted up. Good garden sites are difficult to find.

Last year there was a severe depletion of green coconuts, which resulted in a sharp fall in copra sales. At the present time copra sales are negligible and there is little prospect of increased sales in the next couple of years. The natives have not planted enough coconuts, and those that have been planted are grown far too close together to bear efficiently. In times of crop shortage the natives rely on coconuts as their staple diet.

In my opinion it is desirable that an agricultural officer correct planting of coconuts and to inspect the general agricultural situation.



Copra is marketed through Wong You's plantation and the two Co-operative Societies.

The people of TERUATAP have been told to banish their pigs, but this instruction is likely to have little effect. If the natives on both islands could be made to banish their pigs, there would be a definite increase in the yield of crops and a general improvement in the agricultural situation.

#### LAND

Two Provisional Orders were investigated on Nissan and one on Pinipel. All of these involved Mission leases. The present land situation is most confusing because both islands are native reserves. All these matters have been covered in separate correspondence by Mr.B.G.ROBINS P.O.

#### BEST HOUSES

There is only one rest house on the Nissan group and is at MAPIRI. It is clean, spacious and in a good position just outside the village. Separate kitchen facilities are provided. The "Mens House" at MANTOIA serves as a rest house when officers visit Pinipel.

#### HEALTH

The health of the villages visited seems to be of a very high standard. No contagious diseases were reported to the patrol. The Aid Posts Visited were clean and tidy and appeared to be run efficiently. During the census it was noted xxxxx that all villages

3.

#### HEALTH (CONT)

had a high birth rate in comparison to a very low death rate. The Catholic Mission at TONGOL runs a small hospital attended to by the nuns.

#### ROADS

On Nissan there is an road right round the island which is open to all vehicles. The principal road is between the Mission at Tongal and the Mission at Sigon and has an excellent surface. The natives keep this road in good condition and well cleared of bushes. There are other subsidiary roads right across the island, but these have been reclaimed by secondary growth. There are no roads on the island of Pinipel.

#### MISSIONS

There are two mission stations on Nissan both run by the Roman Catholic Church. One is at Tongol where there is one priest and two nuns. The other is at Sigon and is looked after by a priest. The Mission run the only schools on the island.

#### AIRFIELDS

There is a large airfield built by the United States during the last war situated to the North of MAPIRT. There are two strips on the airfield, one a heavy bomber strip, the other a fighter strip. The strip is about a mile in length and has an excellent surface consisting of crushed coral on a natural coral base. Sparse secondary growth covers most of the airstrip, but little work would be needed to clear the strip at this stage.

#### LABOUR

It was noticed while conducting the census that there is a severe shortage of labour in the 20-30 years age group. This is due to the unavailability of work in the area brought about by the distressing economic conditions. The only wage earners are mission teachers, Co-operative workers. Aid Post Orderlies and a few men who work on a sub-contract basis on Wong You's plantation. There is no contract labour on Nissan and Pinipel, all labour being met from local sources and is on a casual basis. No indigenous persons are employers on labour.

#### PERSONAL TAX

£9-15-0 was collected in tax without incident from Nissan and Pinipel. A great number of exemptions were given due to economic distress. The only tax payers were the small number of wage earners found on both islands. The economic position is such that few natives can afford xxx any tax let alone the £2 per head tax which is the assessed rate for the area.

#### CENSUS

A copy of the Village Population Register is attached to this report. 128 births were recorded which is an increase of 44 on the previous years statistics. Only 23 deaths were recorded, an increase of 4 on last years figures.

This years statistics reconciled with last years with the exception of one village MAPIRT where the grand total of 239 for 1963 was one more than the adjusted figures for 1962.

The following population trends are noted.

a	b	c	d	
1955	1612	135	90	
1954	1670	94	41	a = year
1955	1710	70	35	b = total population
1957	1846	(?)	48	c = number of
1962	2203	84	19	births
1963	2312	128	23	d = number of
				deaths

CENSUS (CONT)

There has been a 5 % increase in population between 1962 and 1963. There has been a 43.4 % increase in population for the 10 year period of 1953 to 1963.

CONCLUSION

An interesting patrol with all the aims achieved. While the economic prospects for Nissan and Pinipel are not good the people live a happy harmonious life of which they have no complaints. However, there is a certain lassitude and lack of enterprise among the natives due to the lack of much outside influence.

4.