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***PATROL REPORTS***

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: MISIMA, 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-Gadaiu Road





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of MILNE BAY Report No. No. 2 of 62-63 *Naama*

Patrol Conducted by I. McLachlan, Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled SUDEST ISLAND CAISUS DIVISION.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans R. Forth, Cadet Patrol Officer.

2 members R.P. & N.G.C.

Natives 2 Medical Orderlies. 1 Interpreter

Duration - From 8/10/1962 to 28/10/1962

Number of Days Twenty-one

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by - District Services 29/5/1961

Medical Recent & various  
Aid Post Various

Map Reference Army Strat. Louisiade Archipelago

Objects of Patrol (i) Census Revision (ii) Tax collection (iii) Route

Administration (iv) Patrol experience Mr. Forth.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES  
AND 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 ... £

67-4-9c

July 23rd, 1963.

The District Officer,  
Mina Bay District,  
BANARAI

PATROL MISIMA 2-62/63

Thank you for your memo 67-1-6 dated 10th of April, 1963, the above report, and memo 67-0 dated 16th of November, 1962, from the Assistant District Officer, Misima Sub-District.

2. Some comments follow:-

I understand the pattern of medical patrolling is changing and medical patrols are now primarily concerned with inspecting the work of aid posts.

3. How does the patrolling officer propose to enforce the order concerning road maintenance mentioned in the diary entry for the 9th of October, 1962?

4. How did the patrolling officer deal with the mass absence from census reported on 20th October, 1962? Could earlier consultation with the people concerned have avoided this situation?

5. The orders issued concerning houses and shown in the diary entry 27th October, 1962, are contrary to Circular Instruction 40/46-47 dated the 2nd of January, 1947. They will probably be ignored by the people concerned but they should be rescinded. I am surprised at this contravention of Departmental policy and it suggests that Mr. McLachlan's training has not been as thorough as it should. On page 4, the Sudast people are described as lazy and lacking in initiative. These superficial and subjective judgments are not particularly helpful.

6. The patrolling officer seems confused on what is economic activity. Any production of food is economic activity. If the production is for home consumption it is subsistence - if it is for exchange or sale, it is market. Mr. McLachlan could usefully devote some of his time to looking at the Sudast situation from the point of view of the Sudast people. If he can understand their motives he will be better equipped to help them pursue a higher standard of living. Criticizing people does little to change them.

7. The comments on education would have been improved by mentioning the status, under the Education Ordinance of the schools.

8. On page 8, the phrase "has now given this away" hardly seems suitable for inclusion in a report.

9. I feel this area is already well served by the Department of Public Health and it is unnecessary for patrols to spend as much of their time on health matters as this seems to have.

10. Mr. Forth's appendix is an interesting exercise. I feel however, rather than write what amounts to a second report on the patrol, he could have been asked to write an essay on one or other of the aspects of Administration; Rather than making subjective



judgments of people after a very short study he would usefully and instructively attempt to understand peoples outlook and views on their current problems.

11. This is an absolutely essential prerequisite towards helping people to help themselves.

12. It is apparent that the formation of a Local Government Council is urgently needed in this area. I feel also you could ask the district development committee to consider an outline programme for this census division.

13. Please ensure the patrolling officers receive copies of this memorandum. Despite the criticisms, they appear to have done an honest piece of work.

J. K. McEl.

(J. K. McCarthy)  
DIRECTOR



67.1.6

Department of Native Affairs,  
Milne Bay District,  
SAMARAI.

10th April, 1963.

The Assistant District Officer,  
Milne Bay District,  
BWAGAOIA.

Misima Patrol Report No. 2 of 1962/63.

Thank you for the reports submitted by Messrs. Forth and McInchlan of their patrol to Sudest Island. The delay in acknowledging receipt of their reports is regretted.

2. Every effort should be made, in conjunction with D.A.S.F., to encourage increased plantings of coconut palms. In addition, a campaign should be commenced to bring a halt to the destructive practice of firing grasslands.

3. With regard to the prospects of encouraging native gold-mining, Mr. Trestrail of the Mines Department, on his recent visit here, advised me that he would be sending one or two native assistants to teach mining methods to the people at Sudest.

4. Staff shortages and poor communications between Sudest and Bwagaia and large scale local government activity in other parts of the District precludes consideration of local government extension to Sudest at this stage.

5. The patrol was well conducted and Mr. Forth obviously benefited from the experience.

( L.J. De Llan )  
District Officer.

Mirrite :

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
Konedobu.

For your records and information please.

  
District Officer.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

*In Reply  
Please Quote  
No. 67 - 0*

Sub-District Office,  
Misima Sub-District,  
BWAGAOIA.  
16th November, 1962.

The District Officer,  
Milne Bay District,  
SAMARAI.

PATROL REPORT NO. 2 of 62/63 - SUDEST ISLAND.

There is little I can add to my comments covering Sudest Patrol Report No. 3 of 1960/61. The conditions remain unchanged.

Sudest was to be patrolled in February/March last but unfortunately due to staff changes the patrol did not take place. The Island has been visited several times this year by our officers but there has only been the one patrol.

I do not anticipate any difficulty in increasing the number of patrols to two a year as recommended in your 67-1-6 of the 27th April, 1961.

The future development of this Island will be difficult. The population is sparse and with Rossel Is. (Pop. 1,695) it leaves in this Sub-District a total of 3,316 people to be brought into Local Government administration. There would be many practical difficulties in establishing a Local Government Council in the Sudest-Rossel area for some time to come.

The solution for immediate economic development is the consolidation of the V. A. C.s on the island. They could do much to encourage coconut plantings and to educate the people against the burning of their grasslands.

As you know the Mines Department is to send their Chief Mining Assistant to Milne Bay to survey the native mining potential. Sudest Is. should receive his early attention as, I feel, there is a latent native mining industry on this Island.

The marketing of gum appears to be a problem and could this matter be investigated by the Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Forth, Cadet Patrol Officer, has written an excellent supplementary report and his assessments of the area are good.

Another good patrol completed by Mr. McLachlan.

For your information, please.

*G. G. Littler*  
(C. G. LITTLER)

Assistant District Officer.



67-0

Sub-District Office,  
Bwagaic.

5th October, 1962.

Mr. I. Melachian,  
Patrol Officer,  
Bwagaia.

Patrol Instructions - Sudest Is. Census Division.

Please prepare to depart on 8th October to patrol Sudest Island. I estimate that the patrol will take three weeks. Mr. Forth, Sade Patrol Officer, will accompany you.

The objects of the patrol are:-

- Census revision,
- (ii) Tax collection,
- (iii) Routine administration,
- (iv) Encouragement of economic development,
- (v) Inquire into the trading activities of Mr. R. Sommers of Griffen Point, and
- (vi) Patrol training and experience Mr. Forth, C.P.O.

*C.G. Littler*  
(C.G. Littler)  
Assistant District Officer



Misima Patrol No. 2 of 1962-63.

Introduction:

The Sudest Island Census Division was last patrolled in May, 1961 when a tax collection was made by Mr. Littler, Assistant District Officer. The last census patrol was in October, 1960 by Mr. R. Smith, Patrol Officer. There have been no recent Medical Patrols but frequent visits are made to Aid Posts by both the Medical Assistant and native Medical Orderlies.

This recently conducted patrol, which was accompanied by Mr. R. Forth, Cadet Patrol Officer, conducted a census, collected tax and made a brief medical inspection in each village and carried out routine Administration.

DIARY.

Monday 8th October. Departed Bwagaia per M.V. Tava at 0855 for Griffen Point (Sudest) via Catholic Mission Nimoa. Accompanied by C.P.O. Forth and A.O. Murrie. Arrived at Griffen Point 1715. Meeting held with all available Village Officials and informed them of patrol's programme.

Tuesday 9th October. Collected tax from Mr. R. Sonner's labour prior to his departure for Samarai. Also spoke to him re a trading licence for the 'Redbill'. (See patrol instructions and body of this report). Departed at 0930 per Tava for Rambuso arriving at approximately 1200. Very few people in attendance and therefore arranged for census the following morning. Self and Mr. Forth to hamlet of Rambuso for inspection. Thence C.P.O. to Methodist Mission and self to inspect the remaining two hamlets. In reasonable condition but roads poor. Orders given to clean up same.

Wednesday 10th October. Census revised and tax collected from Rambuso village. Heard some minor complaints which were settled on the spot. Investigated claim from Methodist Missionary of a child marriage. Departed 1330 per Tava for WIMBA arriving at 1530. This hamlet consisted of two houses with a total of seven people in residence. Census revised and tax collected. Rest House had fallen down some time previously and a new one had not been built. As far as the people were concerned this provided one of the best jokes that they had heard for some time. Returned to the Tava and slept on board it being too late to proceed.

Thursday 11th October. Departed WIMBA at 0730 and arrived EAST POINT at 1000. Census revision and tax collection, together with talks and medical inspection. C.P.O. Forth to inspect two hamlets which were in good condition. Self heard numerous complaints, made very difficult by the lack of a good interpreter. However eventually all settled. M.V. Tava left patrol at this stage and returned to Bwagaia.

Friday 12th October. Departed EAST POINT at 0755 and walked to the other side of island where embarked on canoes. Canoeed for 2½ hours in sailing canoe (4 hours conventional canoe) and then walked 20 minutes to REWE. Village all but deserted, the people all being across the bay at a feast. Village and Rest House area in a shocking condition. When the people eventually arrived the place was cleaned up under supervision. This took the rest of the afternoon.

Saturday 13th October. Census and tax collection of REWE. Usual talks. Heard complaints. Mr. Forth to Tambamba plantation (Mr. Williams). Self to inspect hamlets on southern side of bay. All reasonable with some good housing. Roads not so good however and orders given to clean them up. Latrines to be constructed. Proceeded across Dumaga Bay to hamlet of



Dalala, met C.P.O. and inspected hamlet and Aid Post both of which were quite good. Departed at 1500 by foot for JURU arriving at 1645.

Sunday 14th October. Observed at JURU.

Monday 15th October. Tax and census of JURU. Inspected village and heard complaints - all of which were minor. Village in reasonable order and housing good. C.P.O. Forth proceeded overland to inspect one small hamlet which was in good order. Self proceeded by canoe to PANTAVA meeting Mr. Forth en route. Left canoe approximately half hour's walk from main village of PANTAVA. Inspected two hamlets en route. C.P.O. inspected a third hamlet 15 minutes from main village. Self inspected PANTAVA. All in order.

Tuesday 16th October. Census revised and tax collected at PANTAVA. Usual talks and medical inspection. No complaints. Departed at approximately 1030 by canoe for POMELA, arriving at 1200. Census revised and tax collected. Usual talks and medical inspection. One complaint settled. Inspected village which, although not very attractive was clean and tidy with good housing. There were previously two hamlets but those have now joined together to form the largest single village on Sudest.

Wednesday 17th October. Departed 0730 by canoe for Madaua arriving at 0930, including 20 minutes walk across peninsular. M.V. Yelangili in bay with A.D.O. on board - visited. Census revised and tax collected at MADAUA. Usual talks and medical inspection. Heard complaints and inspected hamlet. Visited Madaua Plantation and collected tax from labourers.

Thursday 18th October. Departed at 0800 in the M.V. Uni kindly provided by Mr. T. Sigamata and went to JELEWAGA. Self disembarked and Mr. Forth continued on and inspected three hamlets around the bay belonging to Madaua. All found to be satisfactory. Heavy rain fell for the rest of the day making a census and tax collection impossible. Heard two complaints both of which concerned small debts. Canoeed for half hour and inspected three Jelewaga hamlets. Housing good but village areas to be cleaned up. Returned to Rest House.

Friday 19th October. Census revision and tax collection of JELEWAGA. Talks as usual and medical inspection. Departed at 1215 overland for Griffen Point arriving at 1515 after inspecting three small hamlets of Jelewaga and NANHIL village near Griffen Point. Road across the island exceptionally good.

Saturday 20th October. The people of the villages close to Griffen Point - NANHIL, GESILA and TARANGIA were found to be all at Rambuso attending the opening of a new church. They had previously been told of the patrol's intended arrival at Griffen Point. Mr Forth inspected the village of Gesila and self Tarangia. All in good condition with a good standard of housing. During the afternoon spoke with a number of people concerning a mass migration from Nanhil village because of sorcery (see Body of Report).

Sunday 21st October. Observed at Griffen Point.

Monday 22nd October. Spent at Griffen Point waiting for people to return from Rambuso. Discussions with all Village Officials that were available.



Tuesday 23rd October. Departed Griffen Point at 0700 and walked 3 hours to EBABALIA. Road satisfactory. Census revised and tax collected. Talks as usual and medical ~~an~~ inspection. Heard two complaints. Mr Forth inspected hamlet approximately 16 minutes walk from main village. Both villages were found to be in good order. Returned by canoe to Griffen Point arriving at 1700.

Wednesday 24th October. Griffen Point people had all returned from Rambuso and so revised census and collected tax. from villages of NANHIL, GESILA and TARANGIA. Usual talks given and medical inspection. No complaints. 1200 departed for JOLANDIN by canoe arriving at 1330. Village Constable not in attendance. Census revised and tax collected. Talks as usual. Heard one complaint. Self inspected village and Mr. Forth to small hamlet 15 minutes from main village. Both satisfactory. Returned to Griffen Point arriving at 1940.

Thursday 25th October. 0800 set forth in small canoes for PIRON Island some 6 to 8 miles distant. After approximately 400 yards abandoned the attempt as being too hazardous. 1330 departed Griffen Point for EBABALIA by canoe along the coast. Arrived at 1600.

Friday 26th October. Departed Ebabalia at 0615 for Western Pt. arriving at 0800. Census revised and tax collected. Talks as usual. One complaint settled. Inspected village which was in good condition. M.V. Tava arrived at 1600. Embarked and went to Nimoa Catholic Mission. Collected tax from Mission workers.

Saturday 27th October. Departed Nimoa at 0900 and went to PIRON Island arriving at 0930. Census revised and tax collected. Talks as usual. No complaints. Villages inspected and general appearance satisfactory. Houses although newly constructed were not good and orders were issued that in future all houses constructed were to be larger and of more substantial construction.. Departed at 1500 per Tava and went to Grass Island. Two Court for Native Matters heard and two convictions made. Addressed the whole village at request of Councillor on their obligations re village cleanliness and housing.

Sunday 28th October. Departed Grass Island at 0715 and returned to Waganua arriving at 1230.

END OF PATROL.



NATIVE AFFAIRS.General:

The general situation on Sudest Island apparently remains the same, as conditions now are exactly similar to those reported by Patrol Officer Smith in his report No.3/60-61.

The Sudest Islander continues to be pro-Administration lazy and lacking in initiative. With regard to the later in particular, although he will talk for hours he will not express an opinion of any sort and no amount of encouragement will get him to do so. This makes it difficult to know exactly what the people are thinking but their general behaviour with regard to tax collections, carrying and the patrol in general make it obvious that there is a general good feeling towards the Administration.

Many minor complaints were brought before the patrol, mainly small debts, and these were all adjusted arbitrarily with no trouble being experienced. In fact I would say that the majority would have been settled in any case, as there appeared to be no ill feeling at all between parties and the novelty of appearing before a Magistrate too great to resist.

Sorcery and superstition continue to play a large part in the life of a Sudest Islander. One case was brought to the notice of the patrol but it had occurred some months previously and the people were reluctant to discuss it. However most of the facts came to light and the matter had righted itself and no action was taken. Practically all villages have their 'bigmen', in wealth, influence and the practice of sorcery and it is when these men clash that trouble occurs. This occurred in the case mentioned above and practically the whole of Nanhil village migrated. When this happened it appears that a halt in proceedings was agreed upon, the people returned and life continued as usual.

Village Officials:

Village Constables and Councillors seem to have a good knowledge of their duties and the refresher course conducted by Mr. Smith in 1960 has had a good effect. A few Councillors are still not fully conversant with the role that they are supposed to play and these were once again instructed, individually, as to their duties. These however were in the minority. The majority of Village Constables obviously had good control over their people and their area were in good order. All were particularly helpful and every co-operation was given to the patrol. There were however one or two cases, in particular Juru, where the Village constable obviously had no say whatever in village affairs. The Juru Village Constable for instance kept well in the background and one would not have known whether there was a Village Constable or not.

Villages:

Villages and he lets, of which there were many, were all inspected and nearly all found to be satisfactory. The exception was REWE where a feast was in progress at the time of the patrol's arrival. The Village Constable had been told



personally some three weeks before hand of the patrol's visit but nothing had been done. The area was cleaned up under supervision during the day.

Housing was generally of a good standard with houses being much larger than required. However on Piron Island the houses, although comparatively new, were of a poor standard and orders were issued to have this corrected. Other than this only odd houses were ordered repaired or renewed.

With the exception of the Best House at East Point, which was in a state of collapse, all Rest Houses were in good condition. This reflects the good feeling towards the Administration as they are apparently maintained constantly despite little use by Administration Officers. Very little new work was evident in them.

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#### Roads and Carriers:

Most travelling on Sudest is done by canoe and consequently most of the roads are neglected, except at the time of a patrol's visit. Of the roads that the patrol travelled over most were in good condition having been cleaned one or two days previously. Near East Point and Juru however nothing had been done and orders were issued for the cleaning up of same.

The roads across the island from Pomela, Madaua and Jelewaga to Griffen Point are an exception and are usually maintained because of the large volume of traffic that they carry.

Carriers and canoes were readily provided and no difficulty, except at Griffen Point where the majority of people were at Rambuso at the opening of a new church, was experienced.

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#### Complaints:

As stated previously many minor complaints were brought before the patrol. These were mainly debts and were settled arbitrarily with no apparent ill feeling between the parties.

No Court for Native Matters cases were heard and the people seem very law abiding. One land dispute was brought up. This concerned people collecting gum on another's land but when the complaint was investigated it was found that a mistake as to where the gum was being collected had been made, and no infringement of land usage rights was being made. Land is very plentiful on Sudest with only 4.8 persons per square mile and no land disputes should occur.

It was thought that there could possibly be more trouble over women, because of an obvious surplus of single men, but although the matter was looked into, the only complaints brought forward were two cases of wife stealing, both of which were settled amicably.

At Rambuso the Methodist Missionary complained of the marriage of a girl aged 13 years. The position was explained and the parties agreed to postpone the marriage until the girl left school in 12 months time. Whether they will abide by this agreement remains to be seen.



PERSONAL TAX

The reasons for personal taxation and taxation generally were explained in each village prior to the tax collection. The people have had this explained to them by many previous patrols and should have been fully aware of why they paid tax. However further explanation was given with the hope that an even clearer picture might be obtained by them.

Tax was paid willingly and all called upon to pay did so and no trouble was experienced. Amounts collected in each village are shown hereunder:

East Point	£38	Pamela	£64
Ebabalia	£26	Pantava	£40
Gesila	£38	Piron Is.	£36
Jelewaga	£82	Rambuso	£104
Jolandin	£48	Rewe	£114
Juru	£28	Tarangia	£24
Madaua	£60	Western Pt.	£38
Nanhil	£44	Wimba	£ 6.

Total £ 790.

A total of 110 exemptions were issued.

AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTSubsistence:

Food was in plentiful supply during the patrol's visit and the people appear to be relying less and less on sago as a staple diet. Gardens appeared to be small but considering the small size of the families and the amount of food available this is apparently of no consequence.

Economic Activity:

Sudest Island has the most potential of any in the Sub-District. There is copra, copal gum, shell, beche-de-mer and gold all offering and an abundance of land for more plantings. The Sudest Islander however does little to exploit the resources available to him, except prior to tax collection time when large quantities of gum are collected.

There are not a great number of coconut trees belonging to the villagers on the island, but even so practically <sup>all</sup> is done with what they have, and many of the small plantations seen were overgrown with many shot nuts two to three years old throughout. The people of Piron Island take more care of their trees and produce nearly half of the total production from Sudest. They have little else and are therefore forced into this position. All copra is bought by private traders and reconditioned before sale.

Gum trees grow throughout the island but are more concentrated on the Southern end and it is from this that the people obtain most of their income. The gum is sold to private traders, mainly Mr. R. Sonners of Griffen Point. The market for gum is apparently very unstable and prices fluctuate greatly, the present price being approximately £90 per ton of which the native gets some £40 per ton.

Very little if any shell is collected and no beche-de-mer, although this is extremely prevalent along the south-east coast.

Small amounts of gold are collected but mining is sporadic and only carried out by a few.



Prior to the census in each village a talk was given with special emphasis being placed on economic development and the planting of cash crops, preferably coconuts. The Agricultural Officer spent a week at Griffen Point in October and an Agricultural Field Worker has now been stationed on the island with a view to encouraging and assisting with more plantings.

Large scale burning of grassland takes place on Sudest and much good land is being destroyed. No purpose is served by the burning because game is practically non-existent and it is done purely to enjoy watching the fire. This was also condemned during the talk but without strict policing it is doubtful if it can be stopped.

The Agricultural Officer, Misima, has estimated that the annual gain from copal gum is £2790 and from copra £2500. This is encouraging but the people are being pushed along by private traders and if it were not for these people it is doubtful if the same production would be maintained.

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#### MEDICAL AND HEALTH.

Sudest is served well by three Administration Aid Posts and a hospital at Namoa run by the Catholic Mission. This amounts to a medical centre for every 400 people which is more than adequate.

The three Aid Posts, at Rambuso, Rewe and Griffen Point, were visited and found to be in excellent condition. The buildings were substantial and well maintained and the Orderlies reported that the people were very good in this respect. No complaints were made by the Orderlies who appear to have the confidence of the people.

Two medical orderlies accompanied the patrol and inspected all people after the census. A few minor cases were sent to the Aid Posts but no serious cases were found. Skin diseases are very prevalent as also are small sores but the general health of the people is quite good.

A talk in conjunction with the census was given in each village by the senior medical orderly on village hygiene, cleanliness, support and attendance at Aid Posts and general medical matters.

The overall natural increase in population is 1.8% since the last census two years ago. This is a 0.9% annual increase which is not very impressive. However the Island has always been much the same with births just keeping ahead of the deaths. Why this should be is unknown. There is no shortage of land and births should not be restricted because of this factor. There is however a slight shortage of women but even so there are very few large families. Most couples have only one or two children and there are a great number of childless couples. Contraceptive and abortive plants are known but do not seem to be common or in common use. The only other reason appears to be diet. Although sago is largely being replaced as the staple diet much of it is still eaten. Fish and shell fish are in abundance around the island but the Islander does not eat them to any extent.

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#### NATIVE LABOUR.

There are very few Sudest Islanders absent from the Division at work. There are 16 males working inside the District and 1 male and 1 female at work outside the District. The percentage of adult males absent at work is 2.7.

The majority are working for the Missions, particularly the Catholic Mission at Sideia and as boats crew on ships working out of Samarai.



EDUCATION:

There are two Missions operating in the area and these supply all education facilities on Sudest Island. They are the Methodist Mission with its main station at Rambuso and other small establishments operating in some villages, and the Catholic Mission with its main and only station at Nimoa.

The Methodist Mission with its schools in each village is not being very successful with its education programme, especially, as was found in one instance, when the teacher in charge cannot speak the local language and the pupils do not understand the language of the teacher.

The Catholic Mission has centralised its school and only has the one at Nimoa, the pupils all being boarders. At the present time pupils from Sudest are not great in numbers but are slowly being increased.

Very few of the educated Sudest Islanders remain on the island and most are away at work. This situation will not be corrected until more people are educated and they can be made to see some of the advantages of helping their people. This can be considered a large factor in the lack of interest in development shown by the people and if more educated people returned to the villages this situation may be corrected to some degree.

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EUROPEAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Mr. R.J. Williams operates a plantation of a low standard at Tambambo near Rewe and Mr. W. Callanan a plantation at Med and Rambuso. No complaints were received from or about these gentlemen.

Mr. R.E. Sonners lives aboard his lugger, the 'Redbill', at Griffen Point. Previously he was concerned only with pearl shelling but has now given this away and is buying gum from the local people.

As outlined in patrol instructions, memorandum 67-0 of 5th October, 1962 from the Assistant District Officer Mr. Sonner's trading activities were investigated. He stated that he had not been trading from the 'Redbill' but has been looking into possibilities. He said that he had no licence to trade from the 'Redbill' but would enquire about this in Samarai. This he apparently did and Mr. Forth C.P.O. has sighted an interim receipt for such a licence issued by the Collector of Customs Samarai. As far as could be ascertained from the people Mr. Sonners has not been trading with them from the 'Redbill' but has carried out all transactions from his Griffen Point store.

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CONCLUSIONS.

It is felt that the patrol achieved its aims, but the encouragement of economic development cannot be successfully carried out with only one patrol per year. In my opinion the people are willing to do whatever is asked of them but they would require much supervision and guidance if anything was to be achieved.

If a patrol post cannot be contemplated there is a need for at least two patrols each year, preferably three, and many visits of short duration to attend to routine administration and to show the people that they have not been entirely forgotten.

Another alternative, and a better one, would be the establishment of a Local Government Council, perhaps of



Sudest and Rossel Islands and the Calvados Chain up to Grass Island. This would present many problems, including supervision, long distances and education, but it would provide the necessary stimulus to 'get the people moving' and make them think. As it is the people have very little idea of local development, either economically, politically or socially and as far as fitting into the advancement of the Territory as a whole it is far beyond them. This is purely a problem of education, not only of basic school education, but in all spheres of development.

Sudest has the most potential, economically, of any island in the Sub-District but so far it has not been developed and will not be developed until education in all spheres is given to the people and closer contact is made with them. In my opinion a Local Government Council could do this for them.

*I. McLachlan*

(I. McLachlan)  
Patrol Officer

*Separate subject for other  
report*

APPENDIX "A".

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

INTRODUCTION.

For my own part the patrol sufficed primarily for the purposes of acquainting myself with routine patrol procedures. As a routine tax and census patrol, I am told it was most suitable.

In addition to learning the more standard patrol procedures I feel that I have gained valuable experience in such matters as housing, disputes, economic development and the like.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Generally speaking the Sudest people are both likeable and lazy. Pro-Administration sentiment as previously noticed by Mr. L. Smith in 1960 is still present and the patrol received willing co-operation and assistance in nearly all instances. As far as I can gather the overall situation on Sudest remains unchanged since Mr. Smith's patrol in 1960 with very little economic activity amongst the people, a negligible increase in the population and belief in sorcery still strongly entrenched.

Tax was collected without incident in all instances. The people seem to have little difficulty in obtaining their tax money and there were no defaulters, although some were reluctant to pay tax if they considered (as the patrol frequently did not) that they warranted an exemption.

Prior to the taking of census and tax collection a talk was given on the necessity for taxation, during which the use made by the Government of the peoples' tax money was covered in some detail. The need for increased economic activity in the form of large scale planting was explained and a brief and simple description of the growing political importance of Papua was also given.

It appeared to me that these talks were received either with bored indifference or politely concealed disbelief. No response at all was received when at the conclusion of the talk it was announced that questions may be asked. In the whole patrol not one query was raised by way of response to these talks. As the people are quite ignorant of even the most elementary matters concerning self Government I can only conclude that either we gave an exhaustive talk leaving no room for doubt or inquiry or that the people are completely disinterested.

On several occasions the patrol was told that \$2.0.0 tax was too much to pay. The attitude appeared to be "two pounds is not much for a European but it's too much for a Native". This was generally countered by the explanation that if the people would take an interest in cash-crops there poverty would be short lived.

Sorcery stills plays an important part in the Sudest peoples' lives. Several months previous to the patrol



an altercation developed in Nanhil village which resulted, through fear of sorcery, in practically the whole population migrating to a site some ten miles distant. The chief instigator is this incident is a man known to Europeans in the area as "Feelergauge" who apparently commands some respect. The dispute has now been settled and the bulk of the people have returned although a few hamlets still remain deserted.

Housing in the villages was found to be of good standard with the exception of some houses in Rewe, Gesila and Piron Island which were considered to be either too small or in a state of disrepair.

Rest houses varied from a state of near collapse, (East Point) to excellent. (Griffen Point)

Inquiries into the diet of the people reveal that sago is gradually losing ground as a staple to improved root crops. Sago still forms the staple in a number of areas, a case in mind being a small hamlet near East Point where I was told there was no food garden. Fishing does not appear to have much importance. Little evidence of nets, spears, traps, etc. was seen.

Livestock in the villages was remarkable for its excellent condition. Pigs are regularly fed on sago and garden produce and frequently confined to well constructed pens set a distance from the village. Very few crippled or diseased dogs were seen. Cats, which I was told were eaten were seen in large numbers and most looked surprisingly sleek. Most villages had large numbers of fowls. By comparison with Misima and other areas of the Sub-District I would consider the Sudest people to be well off for both numbers and quality of their livestock.

Gardens were inspected and found to be smaller than those of Misima. The main garden crop is taro and one variety, "German" taro appears to be dominant. Other crops, bananas, paw paw, sweet potato, etc. were in evidence. Gardens were always fenced as bush pigs are particularly numerous.

#### NATIVE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

Generally speaking the economic activity of the Sudest people remains at a low level. Little attempt is made to earn more than is necessary for the annual tax and the payment for a few trade articles. The main source of income is gum which is collected and sold to the three European traders currently operating on the island. This has proved a fairly easy way of acquiring wealth in the past and it is probably its ready availability and high price that has discouraged the development of cash cropping in the area. This "concentrate on gum" policy has apparently been the practice for some time and continues to be so as most Native coconut plantations are badly neglected and so overgrown as to make the collection of nuts very difficult indeed. It was pointed out to the people in the course of the talks that gum may decline in value in the future (as it already shows signs of decline) and that they might well have to start producing copra.



At present the only village group relying on copra is on Piron Island where there are no gum trees, in fact very few trees at all.

A recent visit to Griffen Point was made by Mr D. Murrie, Agricultural Officer, to encourage the people to start serious planting. There is no lack of land suitable for extensive cash cropping and the patrol attempted to similarly interest the people and endorse the efforts of Mr Murrie.

In particular it was pointed out that the pointless and destructive practice of frequently burning off the grass cover, thus destroying all tree seedlings and preventing the grassland from reverting to natural bush cover must cease. It is to be hoped that some notice is taken by the people over this matter as there are large areas now lost to future cropping through burning and the resultant erosion.

Gold mining still lies in the doldrums. As far as I could ascertain there is but one native who bothers to carry out simple mining. This particular man was closely associated with the miner and trader Pierce before the unfortunate incident which led to that person's removal from the Island. It to be regretted that that more interest is not taken in mining. Although the area has been thoroughly worked over by Europeans in the past there is still possibly a considerable amount of surface gold remaining. This could provide the people with an additional source of income if they cared to work it. I did see evidence of native mining near the sites of old European claims but this was of a minor nature and, I was told, had only yielded gold to the value of a few pounds. If the people could be encouraged to prospect, manufacture simple sluiceboxes and attempt to work the sites seriously then gold could well become an important feature of the Sudest Native economy.

At present the Sudest Native is disinterested and apathetic towards any form of economic advancement. If an Officer could be stationed for a period on Sudest, or, alternatively if fieldwork in the in area could be substantially increased in order to allow encouragement and supervision, then a marked improvement may be possible in the overall economic situation. It is significant that Sudest Island, now the least developed of the three large islands of the Sub-District has what is probably the best potential.

Agriculturally at least it remains virtually untouched, there being but two European planters on the whole island. There is no reason why extensive areas of undulating land cannot be planted to provide the Sudest people with a constant and considerable source of income for the future.

#### HEALTH.

The health of the Sudest people appears to be reasonable. The medical inspections revealed no serious cases apart from a few enlarged spleens among children. A noticeable feature was the high incidence of filaria, particularly among the Piron Island people. Skin disease is very prevalent indeed and was particularly widespread in Pomela village where I noticed that practically every adult had it in some degree and a good many of the children were similarly afflicted. Although not a serious disease it must have some deleterious effect on the vigour and general health of the people.

Medical Aid Posts were inspected by the patrol and without exception were found to be in excellent condition.



In several villages and a great number of hamlets it was found necessary to instruct the people to build proper latrines as where they existed at all, they were often in a very poor state of repair.

#### ROADS.

The Sudest people appear to do the bulk of their travelling by canoe, poling over the shallow reef enclosed water. It is to be expected therefore that roads would be poor and limited in extent but this is only partly true. Excellent roads are in evidence especially in the western portion of the island. A well kept, wide and well graded road crosses the island from Jelewaga to Griffen Point this being a three hour walk. In a great many places roads are non-existent or where they do exist, entail difficult stretches through mangrove swamps and across wide mud flats which so slow progress that it is easier to wait for high water and travel by canoe.

It was evident that the people had cleared and repaired the roads just prior to the patrol's visit. Whether they are kept clear for the remainder of the year is unlikely.

#### CENSUS AND POPULATION.

The census figures reveal a natural increase of 29 in the total population which is an increase of .9% per annum. This figure is considerably less than the figures for the remainder of the Sub-District. The low birth rate is probably attributable to the poor diet and a high unrecorded infant mortality rate. It was noticed that a high proportion of marriages were childless. There were men with several wives and no children. This may be due in part to the use made of plants with an abortive or contraceptive effect, whether the effect is actual or psychological they are commonly used. I tried to obtain a specimen of the plant but met with constant evasion and reticence.

#### CONCLUSION.

In general the position regarding economic development, education and population remains stationary or very nearly so. The people show little interest in development and may not change their view or knowledge of it if there is not a substantial increase in the Administration activity in the area.

*R. Forth*  
(R. Forth.)  
Cadet Patrol Officer.



APPENDIX 'B'

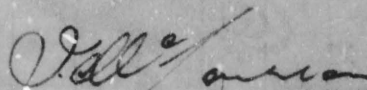
Report on members of the R.F. & N.G.C. accompanying patrol

Reg. No. 3503 Const. 1/C MANDGEE.

This member has above average ability and carried out his duties very well. He has excellent command. Dress good; bearing good; conduct excellent.

Reg. No. 10754 Const. Trainee HARA.

Member is very inexperienced but considering this was his first patrol this is understandable. Is rather rash in some of his actions and needs to think before rushing into things. Should improve with training. Conduct satisfactory; dress good; bearing good; command average.



(I. McLachlan)  
Patrol Officer