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# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: WEST NEW BRITAIN

STATION: Talasea

VOLUME No: 21

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1968 - 1969

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of WEST NEW BRITAIN Report No. TAL 10 - 68/69

Patrol Conducted by J. BAGIPA ADO

Area Patrolled BOVA CENSUS DIVISION

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans T.C. VOASE CPO.

Natives 3 MEMBERS OF R.P. & N.G.C.

17	3	69	21	3	69
24	3	69	29	3	69
7	3	69	11	3	69
10	5	69	18	3	69
30	5	69	2	6	69

Duration—From 7/11/1969 to 11/11/1969  
Number of Days 24

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services OCT/NOV/1968

Medical ...../...../19.....

Map Reference FOURMIL ROUALT AND TALASEA, MILINCH MEGIGI, GARUA, VOLUPAI AND PENCK

Objects of Patrol (a) CENSUS REVISION (b) ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION

Director of District Administration,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

*Miss Slingsby*

/ / 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 ....

.....

.....

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67-1-1

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Department of the Administrator,  
Div. of District Administration,  
Sub District Office,  
TALASEA  
West New Britain District.  
29th October 1969

67-1-1

The District Commissioner,  
West New Britain District,  
KIMBE Via Talasea.



TALASEA PATROL REPORT No 10 - 68/69. BOLA C.D.

Attached please find three (3) copies of the abovementioned patrol report submitted by Mr J. Bagita a/D.O. covering a 24 day patrol in the BOLA Census Division. Camping claims are submitted herewith for your approval.

The patrol terminated on the 2nd June 69 and I can find no satisfactory explanation why this report was received some four months late.

The census figures are not correct and amended sheets have been forwarded to Mr Bagita in order that he may compare these with his own and resubmit new sheets direct to you at Kimbe. I feel that this report has been delayed long enough.

A copy of the patrol instructions is attached and should be appended to the report. All matters have been actioned by Mr Bagita and are included in the report.

The Area Study and Situation Report require little comment. Mr. Bagita has indicated a general "couldn't care less" attitude by the people in Political Development and Economic Situation. This apathy amongst the Bola people might best be explained by Mr Bagita's paragraph 6. - Population - Distribution and trends, viz.

"although Talaseans may not be rich (in terms of money) they are nevertheless, well endowed with good land and food. Therefore, there is no need for them to go out slaving all day in some plantation working for wages."

These people are in general contented with their lot and have an easy care free life. Such circumstances are not conducive to political or economic development by the people themselves. The best method of fostering economic development is to support the individual block holders in the settlement areas. The success of these men is a graphic example to the more enterprising locals who want something better than the ordinary village life.

With regard to Peoples Attitudes and Opinions, I see no reason why the Council could not apply for literature in pidgin on birth control and perhaps hold adult education courses. It would seem that there is considerable interest in the topic.

For your information and onforwarding please.

SECRETARY  
DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATOR  
KONEDOBU.

Your 67-17-72 of 15/12/69  
refers. I apologise for omission  
A.T. [Signature]  
A/D.C.

[Signature]  
W.G. Spaldewinde.  
a/Assistant District Commissioner

[Signature]  
5/11/70

15  
GFB:BT

67-17-72

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

15th December, 1969.

The District Commissioner,  
West New Britain District,  
KIMBE.

PATROL NO. TALASEA 10/68-69

Your reference Tal. P/R. 10/68-69 of 25th November, 1969.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Annual Census and Area Study by Mr. J. Bagita, Assistant District Officer, to BOLA Census Division.

Despite some omissions, and a lack of detail in some sections, this report provides a good insight into the attitudes of the BOLA people; particularly in regard to their apparent inclination to sit and watch other areas progress while they stagnate.

Your detailed comments soundly cover the matters arising from the patrol. Please forward a copy of the Assistant District Commissioner's comments.

Mr. Bagita has expressed himself clearly and well, and the report is generally good value, though it is essential that his next report is more comprehensive.

The patrol map is a neat and informative piece of work.

(T.W. ELLIS)  
Secretary,

Department of the Administrator.

c.c. Mr. J. Bagita,  
District Office,  
KIMBE. West 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.

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DISCOM  
Talasea P/R, 10-68/69  
NFF

the Administration  
District Headquarters,  
KIMBE, West New Britain.

25th November, 1969.

Assistant District Commissioner,  
TALASEA.

Talasea Patrol No. 10/68-69  
Bola Census Division.

Thank you for Mr. Bagata's report on his patrol to the Bola Census Division and your covering comments. The report is well written and provides useful information. Unfortunately the value of this is greatly reduced by the late submission.

I have the following comments:-

Area Study: In general the information provided is adequate. However I would have liked more information in regard to:-

- (E) Land tenure and useage.
- (I) Non-Indigines, and particularly
- (M) The Economy of the Area, and
- (N) Possibilities of Expanding the Economy

An estimated per capita income figure in respect of both settlers and villagers would have been extremely useful and in the light of current developement the other information would assist in assessing the present attitudes of the Bakavi people.

Situation Report: the local member Mr. J Maneke does not appear to have a very good image in this area. Has he been invited to attend local council meetings? Does the Talasea Local Government Council recieve copies of the House of Assembly Debates? These provide a good source of information to the activities of the members.

Mr. Bagita referes continually to the apathetic attitude of the villagers to the increased economic developement. Although the settlers may set an example of industry and application to a few, a raise in the wants and needs of the people is required.- a raise which would include the population as a group. In this well endowed area this presents problems. The developement now planned in the Oil Palm Kimbe areas will no doubt have some effect in raising the desire for a higher standard of living as well as stimulating more effort. However we should look at other avenues and possibilities for getting the people moving. We have to get across what increased per capita income can do for the average man.

Mr. Bagita's comments at paragraph 21 are disturbing and I require full details on the present situation as soon as possible. The delays and changes have no doubt made the people heartily sick of self help.

In general this is a good report marred by a few omissions and late submission.

A. T. Carey  
a/District Commissioner

c.c. The Secretary,  
Dept. of the Administrator,  
KONEDOBU.

pul:

PATROL DIARY

13

Monday 17th March, 1969.

Departed in company with Mr. CPO Voase per landrover for NARUNAGERU - set up camp. Village inspected. Thence censused KOMARAKI village and compiled the new type Census-Tax Roll - Roll of Electors (both officers). Discussions with the people re general Administration, work of the Council and road work. Overnight NARUNAGERU.

Tuesday 18th March, 1969.

Cargo and police proceeded to DAMI village. Mr. Voase and self to GANEMBOKU village - 45 minutes walk. Mr. Voase inspected village while self on census revision. Discussions with the people. Thence on to DAMI. Census figures and compilation of the new type Census-Tax Roll - Roll of Electors for GANEMBOKU village. Overnight DAMI.

Wednesday 19th March, 1969.

Self on census while Mr. Voase inspected village. Discussions with the people. Thence on to KUMAVAVU village - 35 minutes walk. Mr. Voase conducted census while self on village inspection. Discussions with the people. Census figures and compilation of the new type Census-Tax Roll - Roll of Electors for DAMI village. Overnight KUMAVAVU.

Thursday 20th March, 1969.

Visited the Bulu settlers and conducted census. Thence to BULUWARA village. Inspected partly completed Buluwaru bridge. Census checked by Mr. Voase while self on village inspection. Discussions with the people. Thence census figures and compilation of the new type Census-Tax Roll - Roll of Electors (both officers). Overnight BULUWARA.

Friday 21st March, 1969.

To VOLUPAI village - 25 minutes walk. Self on village census while Mr. Voase conducted census of the Catholic Mission personnel. Brief discussion with the elders. Village inspection. Thence to Volupai Plantation - 35 minutes walk. Brief discussion with the Plantation Manager. Thence back to Talasea per L/R.

Saturday 22nd - Sunday 23rd March, 1969.

At Talasea.

Monday 24th March, 1969.

To LIAPO village per L/R. Censused and inspected village while Mr. Voase proceeded to Volupai Plantation to conduct census there. Discussions with the people and then inspected the bad section on the Liapo road. Mr. Voase returned from Volupai and both officers proceeded to BAMBIA village to do census there. Village inspection. Thence back to Talasea.

Departed per M.V. Aimara at 1430 hours for RUANGO Village - arriving about 1700 hours. Discussions with the people. Overnight RUANGO Rest House.

Tuesday 25th March, 1969.

To MOROKIA village - 20 minutes walk. Census checked with the committee men while Mr. Voase inspected village. Thence proceeded to the Dagi settlement and inspected road and back to RUANGO village (census of settlers having been done a month previously by Mr. PO Leaf). Thence census of RUANGO village checked with councillor and committee men. Census figures. Overnight RUANGO Rest House.

Wednesday 26th March, 1969.

To San Remo - brief discussion with OIC Mr. Leaf. Inspected Aid Post. Thence on to KULUNGI village - 1 hours walk. Census checked with the committee men while Mr. Voase inspected village. Discussions with the people. Census figures. Overnight KULUNGI.





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Wednesday 14th May, 1969.

Lined and censused KAMBILI village. Thence to BAGUM village by canoe. Village inspected. Thence lined and censused BAGUM village. Census figures and compilation of the new type Census-Tax Roll - Roll of Electors. Overnight BAGUM.

Thursday 15th May, 1969.

To MINDA village by canoe. Lined and censused MINDA village. Brief discussion with the people. Inspected village. Thence by canoe to BULUWARA village. From there by foot to VOLUPAI village and thence by canoe to WOGANAKAI village. Discussions with the people. Overnight WOGANAKAI.

Friday 16th May, 1969.

Lined and censused WOGANAKAI village. Discussions with the people. Inspected village. Thence back to Talasea per L/R.

Friday 30th May, 1969.

To WAROU and DISE villages and conducted census. Discussions with the people. Village inspections. Thence to Bitokara Catholic Mission and conducted census of the mission personnel. Back to Talasea.

Saturday 31st May, 1969.

To Pangalu Settlement per L/R. Conducted census and held discussions with the settlers. Thence back to Talasea.

Monday 2nd June, 1969.

To Gagua Island per the plantation speed boat. Conducted census of the plantation personnel. Back to Talasea.

End of Diary.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

1. This whole area comes under the one social and language group of Sakovi. There does not appear to be any further division within this group. The only people who might be regarded as being different from the Sakovi are the ones living around the headquarters of the Sakovi Mission. They numbered thirty-eight (1964 census) and were at the time living on a place called Weri. They have since moved to another site - these people tend to be considered as 'Weri'.

2. The social functional unit within this area is the village family. This is one of the reasons why the houses may be built in a family group. In every village there is a 'head' in which all the men of the village live - in some cases married as well as the head.

3. The nearest neighbors of this people are the Sakovi on the north west coast. The Sakovi have done well and are still doing well. The result of their business dealings was that after a time a number of the Sakovi migrated into the Sakovi area. The most important of these is the 'Weri' - the ritual exchange of the Sakovi. This exchange system forms a circle in which the Sakovi cannot break away from their obligations or debts, no matter how long they may try to evade them. The Sakovi is one of the items used in bride price payments and it can be exchanged for money, food, and other goods.

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AREA STUDY

INTRODUCTION:

The area patrolled is the Bola Census Division of the Talasea Administrative area. It comprises the whole of the Willaumez Peninsula, west to Kandoka on the Riebeck coast, east to the Dagi River and inland to the Whiteman Range. This inland section is uninhabited - population being concentrated along the coastal strip and at the base of the peninsula.

2. With the exception of the outlying villages of Bulumuri and Buludava on the northern tip of the peninsula and those on the western coast which can only be reached by boat or canoe, all the others are easily accessible by car from Talasea.
3. The Willaumez Peninsula is an old volcanic region and as such the soil around this area is very fertile. This is evidenced by the fact that any crops the people plant usually do very well.
4. The census of the area was fully revised and as far as the census taking went it was carried out <sup>without</sup> any unwarranted incident.

POPULATION - Distribution and Trends:

5. For the latest population figures - see the attached Village Population Registers (sheets 1 and 2). The figures for those villages marked with an asterisk could not be reconciled with last year's figures owing to errors by the previous officer.
6. On the whole the Talaseans do not like leaving their home area for purposes of seeking employment elsewhere - those who do leave the place (such as policemen) usually come back after only a few years because they miss the easy life of sitting under the palm trees and chwing bettle nut all day long. The situation was well summed up by a number of people during discussions when they stated among other things that although Talaseans may not be rich (in terms of money) they are nevertheless, well endowed with good land and food. Therefore, there is no need for them to go out slaving all day in some plantation working for wages.

SOCIAL GROUPINGS:

7. This whole area comes under the one social and language group of Bakovi. There does not appear to be any further division within this group. The only people who might <sup>be</sup> regarded as being different from the Bakovis are the ones living around the headwaters of the Daliavu River. They numbered sixty-eight (1964 census) and were at the time living at a place called Neviria. They have since moved to another site - these people tend to be nomadic at times.
8. The usual functional social unit of this area is the simple family - this is one of the reasons why the houses they build are fairly small. In every village there is a 'haus boi' in which all the single men of the village live - in some cases married men also use these houses.
9. The two nearest neighbours of this people are the Kombes on the south western side with whom the Bakovis have done and are still doing most of their business dealings; and the Nakanais in the east. The result of these business dealings was that after a time a number of the Kombe customs slowly crept into the Bakovi area. The most important of these is the 'Vaulo' - the ritual exchange of the Tambu Shell. This exchange system forms a circle in which those taking part cannot break away from their obligations on debts, no matter how long they may try to avoid them. The Tambu Shell is one of the items used in bride price payments and it can be exchanged for money, food, pigs and other goods.

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LITERACY

10. There are eight Primary Schools in the Census Division (listed below), of which two only are run by the Administration. The remainder and a number of lower primary schools are operated by the Catholic Mission.

Mission schools:

<u>Location</u>	<u>No. of Teachers</u>	<u>No. of Pupils</u>	<u>Classes</u>
Bagum	1	43	Prep. to Std.2
Bitokara	11 (1 O/S)	411	" " " 6
Kambili-Garu	2	40	" " " 2
Patanga	5	202	" " " 4
Ruango	3	96	" " " 4
Volupai	6	230	Std.1 " " 5

Administration schools:

Dagi	3	75	Std.1 to Std.5
Namova	2 (1 O/S)	83	Prep. to Std.3

11. The Catholic Mission has, and is doing a great job towards educating these people. It is, perhaps, largely due to this mission's efforts that a high literacy rate exists amongst the adult population today. Figures are about 65% literate in the vernacular and Pidgin and about 4%, in English.

12. At the present time there is only one student who is away attending the PNG University. He is Peter Malala, aged about 20 who comes from the Bola village.

STANDARD OF LIVING

13. HOUSING: Housing generally was quite good throughout the area - most of the houses either being new or under repair. Interior of the houses were also reasonably clean and tidy. The buildings are constructed of bush materials except in two instances where European materials have been used.

14. STAPLE FOOD: The staple food of the area is taro, supplemented by sweet potatoes, bananas and tapioca. The 'taro' is involved not only as a food but is also a symbol in the social life of the people. When a village's taro crop is harvested a traditional singsing is held, in which the neighbouring villages are invited to attend.

15. For those who can afford the high costs, rice and tinned meat and fish are becoming a popular substitute for taro. There is also a good availability of fish in the coastal waters for anyone who is energetic enough to go out and catch them.

16. CLOTHING AND TRENDS: The general attire for men is shorts or laplap with or without a shirt. The women normally wear laplaps with blouses.

MISSIONS

17. The only religious denominations operative in this area are Catholic and Seventh Day Adventist. The former is by far the biggest with two mission stations at Bitokara and Volupai. It is also fairly influential - majority of the people being Catholics. The remaining few are either SDA's or non-believers. The Seventh Day Adventists have a small establishment at Talasea, which is staffed by a local pastor and his wife. They do not appear to have much influence in this census division mainly because they are right in the midst of a Catholic stronghold.





ECONOMIC (cont'd)

7. The people of this Census Division generally are very much against leaving their area for purposes of seeking employment elsewhere. When, and if, they so desire to work, they prefer working in their own area. However, because of their disinterested attitude towards work only a very limited number can find employment at the local plantations.

SOCIALSTANDARD OF LIVING:

8. a) HOUSING: On the whole housing was quite good throughout the division - most of the houses either being new or under repair. Interior of the houses were also quite clean and tidy. The buildings are constructed of bush materials except in one or two instances where European materials have been used.

9. b) STAPLE FOOD: The food of the area is taro which is supplemented by sweet potatoes, bananas and tapioca. The 'taro' is involved not only as a food but is also a symbol in the social life of the people. When the village's taro crop is harvested a traditional singing is held, in which the neighbouring villages are invited to attend. These villages reciprocate as their crops become ready.

10. For those who can afford the high costs, rice and tinned meat and fish are becoming a popular substitute for taro. There is also a good availability of fish in the coastal waters for anyone who is energetic enough to go out and catch them.

11. c) CLOTHING AND TRENDS: The general attire for men is shorts or laplap, with or without a shirt. The women normally wear a laplap with a blouse.

12. EDUCATION: All schools in the area with the exception of the two at Namova and Dagi are operated by the Catholic Mission. The Namova and the Dagi schools are run by the Administration. The former caters for the children in and around Namageru and Dami areas while the Dagi school is run especially for the settlers' children.

13. The biggest of the mission schools is located at Bitokara where the highest standard taught is standard six. After graduating from here the students are either to Vuvu or Vunapope High Schools. Apart from its recognised schools the mission also runs a number of lower primary schools. The mission has, and is still doing a great job towards educating these people. It is, perhaps, largely due to its efforts that a fairly high literacy rate exists amongst the people today.

14. A separate memo as school statistics is submitted under appendix 'A'.

15. HEALTH: The general health situation of the area appeared to be quite good, and at each village it was noted that everybody was reasonably clean and tidy.

16. There were 31 deaths recorded of which 12 were children. The principal causes of death were malaria and diarrhoea. This low figure is reflective of the tremendous amount being done by medical personnel in the area, and for this they should be commended.





HEALTH (cont'd)

17. This census division is quite adequately covered as far as medical services are concerned. There is an Administration hospital at Talasea, staffed by a doctor and a medical assistant and also aid posts at various places throughout the area (see appendix 'B').

18. The Catholic Mission at Bitokara also maintains a small maternity hospital which is staffed by a Sister and a number of nurses. In addition to maintaining the hospital the nurses hold regular clinics throughout the area.

19. MISSIONS: The following mission establishments were visited during the course of the patrol:-

a) Catholic Mission - Bitokara. This is a fairly big establishment which is staffed by a Priest, four nuns, ten local teachers and a number of nurses. The services provided here are a maternity hospital and a primary school. The mission also runs a small trade store.

b) Catholic Mission - Volupai. This is smaller than (a) and it has a staff of only a priest and six local teachers. The services provided here are a primary school, a trade store and a small workboat which the mission hires out.

MISCELLANEOUS

PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS:

20. Discussions were held in every village where the patrol overnights. Although the people were reluctant to ask questions there was, nevertheless, one topic upon which they did show some interest. This was the question of birth control. Many men especially in the Warou - Narunageru - Dami area where there are fairly large families, expressed the opinion that it was about time that some form of birth control was introduced. In support of this they stated that many people only wanted three or four children but there was no means of preventing conception, they kept on having more and more children. It was pointed out to them that as they were all Catholics, they were forbidden to use any form of birth control. However, they were advised that should they really desire to commence birth control then the logical person to see would be the doctor who would explain the various methods to them.

21. The question of 'self help' was mentioned during discussions but the answer in most cases was the same - they would be prepared to work provided they could clearly see the benefits that the undertaking was to bring. A typical example of why people are always keen on the self help idea was encountered at Buluwara village. About two years ago the people commenced work on the bridge over the Buluwara river. Abutments on both banks were built up with coral stone and gravel. Each of these measured about 35 feet in length, leaving a gap of about 30 feet in the middle. This work was completed in early 1968. The Council then promised to finish it off for them if they would cut some logs. After the logs were brought to the bridge site, however, PWD came along and told them to get rid of the logs because cement pipes were going to be used. Two such pipes were eventually brought out from Talasea but nothing further was done. After more delay the Council again decided to use logs and the people were asked to cut more logs. However, by this time the people had become so disillusioned that they decided to do nothing.

22. This is a weak effort on the part of the Council and the Administration. The least they could have done was finish off the bridge as the costs involved would not have been all that great.

APPENDIX 'A'

Mission Schools:

Location	No. of Teachers	No. of Pupils	Classes
Bagum	1	43	Prep. to Std. 2
Bitokara	11 (1 O/S)	411	" " " 6
Kambili-Garu	2	40	" " " 2
Patanga	5	202	" " " 4
Ruango	3	96	" " " 4
Volupai	6	230 (approx.)	Std. " " 5

Administration Schools:

Dagi	3	75	Std. 1 to Std. 5
Namova	2 (O/S)	83	Prep. " " 3

APPENDIX 'B'

Aid Posts - Permanent materials

Location	A.P.O.	Villages Served	Degree of Assistance given to APO.
Ruango	nil	Ruango, Morokia	-
San Remo	Dau Reu	Kimbe, Kulungi	-
Patanga	Gambu Bambe	Patanga, Kilu, Garili.	No help given. APO has to find own food.
Narunageru	Waluka Gorea	Komaraki, Ganemboku, Dami.	-
Bulumuri	nil	Bulumuri	-
Buludava	Eliakim Toule	Buludava	Help given only when APO asks for it.
Bagum	Wowola Bagin	Bagum, Kambili, Garu.	Very little help given. Apo has to find own food. APO's house almost falling down.
Kandoka *	nil	Kandoka	-

\* bush materials.

