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Patrol Reports. Bougainville District, Buka
1962 - 1963

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

DISTRICT: Bougainville

STATION: Buka

VOLUME No: 4

ACCESSION No: 496.

1962 - 1963

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PATROL REPORT OF: Buka Passage
 ACCESSION No. 496

REPORT NO:	FOLIO	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL	AREA PATROLLED	MAPS/ PHOTOS	PERIOD OF PATROL
[1] 9a- 62/63	1-11	Rochfort Peter CPO	Cartaret Islands Calso referred as 10-62/63	1 map	17/12/62-20/12- 62
[2] 12-62/63	1-12	Reading J.M. C.P.O.	Buka Census Division (Part)	1 map	11/2/63-18/2/63
[3] 14-62/63	1-8	Reading J.M. CPO	Nusuria (Fend Is Group) atolls	-	6/3/63-8/3/63
[4] 16-62/63	1-8	Liddle G.W. ADO.	North Buka	-	22/4/63-27/4/63 6/5/63-9/5/63
[5] 19-62/63	1-7	Robins B.G. P.O.	Nissan Island Census Division		19/5/63-31/5/63
[6] 20-62/63	1-10	Robins B.G. P.O.	North Coast, Buka	-	11/6/63-15/6/63

VOL. No: 4 : 1962 - 1963 NUMBER OF REPORTS: 6

PATROL REPORTS BOUGAINVILLE DISTRICT 1962/63
 BUKA PASSAGE

<u>Report No.</u>	Conducted by:	Area Patrolled.
Buka 9(a)-62/63	P.Rochfort	Cartarets Islands
" 12-62/63	J.M.Reading	Buka Census Divisior
" 14-62/63	J.M.Reading	Nuguria Atolls (Fead Is)
" 16-62/63	C.W.Liddle	North Buka
" 19-62/63	B.G.Robins	Nissan Island Census Div.
" 20-62/63	B.G.Robins	North Coast, Buka Is.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA
PATROL REPORT

District of BOUGAINVILLE Report No Buka Passage 9(a) 1962/63

Patrol Conducted by Peter Rochfort - Cadet Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled Cartarets [Carterets] Islands

Mr. Assistant District Officer C.W. Liddle

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Mr. Agricultural Officer B. McBaron

Natives nil

Duration - From 17/12/1962 to 20/12/1962

Number of Days four

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? no

Last Patrol to Area by - District Services 17/8/1960

Medical / /19

Map Reference National Mapping Office, Dept. of Territories NMO/52/214

Objects of Patrol Investigation of claim of food shortage as a result of recent heavy seas in area.

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

67-11-8

6th February, 1963.

District Officer

Bougainville District,

SOHANO.

PATROL REPORTS NOS. 9 AND 10 OF 1962/63

BUKA PASSAGE.

Receipt of the abovementioned Patrol Report, together with accompanying memoranda, is acknowledged with thanks. I am particularly interested in the comment by the Assistant District Officer.

2. The people's attitude towards shifting from the Cartarets [Carterets] has not changed since 1938. It appears that their diet is reasonably satisfactory, particularly because of the abundance of clam.

3. I am very favourably impressed with the appendices of the report, which reveal Mr. Rochfort as a painstaking and observant officer.

(W.R. Dishon)

A/DIRECTOR

67. 11. 8

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

In Reply

Please Quote

67/1/3.

No.

Department of Native Affairs,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO.

7th, January, 1963.

16 JAN 1963

The Director,

Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU. PAPUA.

BUKA PASSAGE PATROL REPORT NO. 9 OF 1962/1963
AND NO. 10 OF 1962/1963.

Forwarded herewith are two Memoranda covering
a Patrol to the CARTARET [CARTERET] ISLANDS by Mr. C. W. LIDDLE, Assistant
District Officer, HUTJENA, and Mr. P. ROCHFORT, Cadet Patrol
Officer.

Reports were received from the Catholic Priest at
the CARTARETS [CARTERETS] and later from the Tultul of IEHAN of damage to
gardens and resultant food shortages. Mr. LIDDLE, Mr.
ROCHFORT and Agricultural Officer, Mr. McBARRON visited the
Island to investigate these Reports.

The result of their Investigations confirmed my
earlier suspicions. Whilst some damage has been done by
excessively high tides, the actual shortage of food was due
mainly to the fact that WONG YOU's Trade Store had been closed
because of the illness of the Store Manager. The Store has
since been reopened and restocked with supplies.

I questioned the Tultul at SOHANO on Copra Production.
He informed me that the people were not making Copra because
the Store was closed. It appears that these people make small
quantities of copra and with the money obtained supplement their
rations. With no Store operating they could see no reason to
make Copra. Hence the fact that Mr. WONG YOU only obtained one
(1) bag of Copra this trip.

These people are undoubtedly short of land. The
Catholic Mission has offered to make land available at MABIRI
for resettlement. However, the people refuse to avail themselves
of this offer so little can be done at present.

(A. J. ZWECK).

A/DISTRICT OFFICER

67/2/1

Sub District Office,
HUTJENA,
Bougainville District.
29th December, 1962.
The District Officer,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO

PATROL - CARTERETS ISLANDS.

Patrol No. 10 of 62/63.

The purpose of this patrol was to investigate alleged food shortages in the Cartarets [Carterets] Islands. The tides had damaged taro crops on EIHAN and PIUL Islands only. None of the other Islands suffered any damage by these high tides.

2. Mr Rochfort has given a concise account of the position on the Islands. I would like to make a few comments which were not made in this report. Whilst inspecting the damage to the swamp taro on EIHAN Island, I asked the size of an individual garden and it was marked out to be approximately 12 ft by 6 ft. Thus the taro produced from such a small garden would not add much variety to the diet and certainly the loss of such a garden would not cause starvation to the individual.
3. When the NIVANI was at anchor off EIHAN Island, some of the crew members went out to the reef and in less than an hour had collect four or five giant clams. These clams produced over a hundredweight of meat. I am informed that clams are plentiful on the reefs in this atoll group.
4. The people also did well out of the two wrecked Japanese fishing ships. They have taken the water tanks out of the ships and have now a good catchment for rain water. On EIHAN they have a fresh water soak. I tasted it and there was no salt in it. They also collected many other things from these ships such as fishing lines, floats, pots etc.

2.

5. Regarding the sea wall on PIUL which the people are building: the Luluai asked me for some drums. I will get Mr Pitt to collect some to take with him - there are many old ones around here.

6. These people do not appear to be suffering from any malnutrition and I agree with Mr Rochfort that the closing of Wong's store stopped their supply of rice and this was, in fact, the reason why the complaint was made. The taro was destroyed but as it would only be 1% - if that - of their crop, no hardship can come of it.

(C.W. LIDDLE)

Assistant District Officer.

Department of Native Affairs,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO.

21st December, 1962.

The District Officer,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO.

PATROL REPORT NO. 9 (a) of 1962/63.

INVESTIGATION OF NATIVE FOOD SHORTAGE COMPLAINT -
CARTARETS [CARTERETS] ISLANDS.

INTRODUCTION.

Acting upon a report of a food shortage by the people of EIHAN Island in the CARTARETS [CARTERETS] Group, I proceeded to the CARTARETS [CARTERETS] on the 17th December, 1962, in company with Mr. A.D.O. Liddle and Mr. A.O. McBaron. We commenced our examination of EIHAN Island and the surrounding islands of the group on 19th December, 1962, afetr [after] having been one day at NISSAN Island while the "Nivani" brought school children home - no matters for attention arose during the short stay at NISSAN.

SITUATION.

A map is attached showing the six island s of the CARTARETS [CARTERETS] Group. Two red portions are shown, which indicate the approximate areas of land ravaged by the big seas. The area enclosed by a blue line is the area destroyed by the most recent seas, that is on the island of EIHAN. The area not so enclosed is an area of desolate grounds which is attributed to a similar flood some eighteen months ago. This flood also washed away part of EIHAN, without apparently damaging any crops at the time. None of the other islands have had similar disastrous experiences - this is perhaps due to the fact that they lie inside what appears to be a fairly wide expanse [expanse] of reef which breaks up the seas before they reach the islands.

The island of IANGAN is the best off comparitively [comparatively]. That is to say, while at no time would it ever be possible on

the ground available for cultivation to grow sufficient to maintain the population of the island, it is possible to grow some crop to vary their staple diet of coconuts and fish - their diet is varied in this way with swamp taro, "kongkong" taro, tapioco [tapioca] and bananas. The islands of IESILA and YULOSA (the latter also having gardens on the unpopulated HOUEN) are in a similar position : while their crops of taro, bananas etc.

are inadequate for their needs, there is sufficient to provide occasional variation in diet.

It is thus with the islands of PUIL and EIHAN that the problem of food shortage arises, and I shall examine the situation on both separately.

.....2

EIHAN Island at the last census had a population of 296 persons in two villages - without the benefit of another census it was estimated that the population had increased by approximately thirty. It is too far fetched to suppose that out of an island of area 102.616 acres (Buka Patrol Report No. 3 of 1960/61) enough ground could be utilised to grow crops for this population - without the people of PUIL, who also have their gardens on this island, there is only approximately one third of an acre available for each person. Further, while the soil shows surprising loaminess for a coral atoll, much of the ground is not conducive to the growing of crops, and the people have made coconuts and fish, which they smoke over fires, their staple diet - taro itself is rarely eaten except at a "singsing". It was noted that of the crops of taro and bananas examined, none were mature - in fact they indicated that they had been planted within the last few years, and that there had never been a dependency on these crops. Their diet supplementations came from purchases of rice and tinned meat from Wong You's Trade Store on the island - this store has been closed for some time due to illness of the storeman, and the people are possibly tiring [tiring] of their constant unvaried diet. This store was due to re-open on the day we left the area, and this will relieve the situation somewhat.

As to the actual damage caused, it was estimated by the Agricultural Officer that 60% of the swamp taro crop had been completely destroyed, but so much of the produce thought destroyed had only incurred superficial damage and after a temporary setback will recover

That the people are going short of food is a rather fantastic claim - the area abounds with fish, which are netted in considerable quantities, and along with the coconuts and various nuts and fruits of the island no-one is showing signs of going hungry. With the re-opening of Wong You's Store any claim there may be will certainly have no weight.

The situation at PUIL does bear some Government attention - they have not complained of a food shortage, but their need is greater than that of EIHAN'S - for one thing, all their gardens at present are on EIHAN, but they rely almost one hundred percent on coconuts and fish and very small quantities of nuts and fruits. A small amount of the island shows fertility, but they are reluctant to plant crops because the seas frequently wash over their gardens - what they are doing is endeavouring to put in a type of retaining wall. A strong wall could succeed

in being a buffet against the sea, and I feel that some help with materials such as empty kerosene drums could be given - certainly their enterprise and willingness should not go un-noticed.

CONCLUSION.

Two needs became obvious from the patrol - one, the need for the people to be resettled, a point which has been brought up time and time before without result. The present situation, while not alarming, will only steamroll into into a real food problem with the ever increasing population. As previously mentioned there is not adequate ground for the people now. With the population increasing also there will be a decline in the health of the people, which is at present good. What appears to be necessary is for the decisive step to be made to move the people for their own good, for like anybody unwilling to leave their home, they will, probably never agree to such a step being made. It is recommended that this matter be given consideration.

.....3

.....3

The second point to arise, is the recommendation that some future patrol endeavour to devote a few days to advising the people on a suitable system of drainage. Drainage of any kind is sadly lacking - any sea water washing over the hump of the beach is contained in the lower garden areas like water in a dam, until it seeps through. Perhaps an officer of the Dept. of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries could be requested for this duty, as he would be in a more able position to give the advice.

I have previously concluded that the position is not as bad as first painted - there is no obvious food shortage, other than the diet limitations already mentioned. The people all appear quite healthy and even happy - the children are all robust and there is a minimum of illness. With Wong You's Store again open again, diet varients [variants] will be again be obtainable - certainly there is insufficient crops grown to provide an adequate variation to diet at the best of times. The people themselves are endeavouring to rehabilitate their gardens and the setback of the floods should only be very temporary.

(Peter Rochfort)

CADET PATROL OFFICER.

appendices

NOTE I: These appendices are the result of observations only - it was not possible in the time available to make accurate calculations, and the last formal patrol to the area was in August, 1960.

APPENDIX A = AGRICULTURE

Island	Crop	under cultivation	remarks
EIHAN (area 102 acres)	"Kongkong" taro		immature - only slightly destroyed
	Wild tao	5%	poor quality
	Swamp taro	2%	60% destroyed - rest
	Bananas	12%	retarded - immature.
	Coconuts	10%	immature - only
		overall	very slightly
	Tapioco	*%	destroyed
	Breadfruit	2%	all carry fairly high
	Other nuts and fruit	2%	number of nuts each*
PUIL (area 38 acres)	Coconuts		productivity slightly less than EIHAN
	Apau nut	50%	
	Okara	3%	
	Other fruit & nuts	1% 2%	
	Tapioco	1%	
IOLUSU (area 15 acres)	Coconuts	40%	as above
	Wild taro	3%	fair condition
	"Kongkong" taro	4%	" "
	bananas	20%	immature
	Nut species	3%	
HUHIN (area 8 acres)	Coconuts	80%	as for PUIL
	Tapioco	5%	
	Bananas	10%	
IANGAIN (area 23 acres)	Coconuts	40%	as for PUIL
	Swamp taro	10%	good condition
	"kongkong" taro	2%	" "
	Wild taro	3%	Immature
	Taploco	4%	
	Bananas	20%	
	Nut species	3%	

IESILA
(area
11 acres)

Not seen because of
heavy seas and rain -
believed to be very
similar to IANGAIN.

APPENDIX B - ECONOMICS.

As informed by Mr. Wong You, Trader of Buka Passage, Bougainville, the natives of the Cartarets [Carterets] sell through him (the sole agent) approximately 400 bags of copra per year.

Mr. Wong pays them £2.2.0 per bag - this means that the per annum income in the Cartarets [Carterets] is in the vicinity of £850.

Working on an approximate population of 730, there is a per capita annual income of a little over £1.2.0 for each man, woman and child.

A 56 lb. bag of rice in the Trade Store cost £2.16.0.

Corned Beef costs 4/6 per tin.

Tinned Mackerel costs 2/- per tin.

I am further informed by Mr. Wong that the native of the Cartarets [Carterets] prefers to buy the more expensive Corned Beef, and tends to spurn the "issue" fish, which perhaps that their income is adequate enough - "issue" meat at 2/- per tin is also rarely bought.

It is interesting to note, however, that on the recent trip of the M/V "Kilinailau" to collect the copra of the island, only 1 bag was brought - obviously the people are being forced to eat the copra they normally sell, even though Mr. Wong is of the opinion it is a "front". His opinion is that the people are too lazy to work - recently when the Mission complained that the people had no clothing the government supplied them with laplaps, and they trying for something similar again. Whilst I do not agree with him entirely, the people to show signs of not being too industrious, and certainly with more endeavour their economy would improve. An incentive would be another more lengthy combined D.N.A. and D.A.S.F. Patrol to the area.

APPENDIX C - GENERAL

1. SUPERSTITIONS:

It was noted by the Ptarol [Patrol] that the people attached carved wooden symbols to their fishing nets. These are reputed to ensure good fishing, and are held in some reverence by the people.

2. The rat plague, which has been so prevalent on the Mortlock and Tasman Islands, has been relieved by the many cats on the Cartarets [Carterets] - the natives maintain the rats have been almost wiped out.

3. On the island of EIHAN it was noted the large number of sea fowl nesting in the trees of the island, leaving their deposits of guano all over the island. There were none of these birds on any of the other islands.

CARTERETS ISLAND.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA
PATROL REPORT

District of BOUGAINVILLE Report No 12 BUKA

Patrol Conducted by J.M. READING CADET PATROL OFFICER

Area Patrolled BUKA CENSUS DIVISION (PART)

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Mr.M.NEAL P.O.

Natives NO

Duration-From 11/2/1963 to 18/2/1963

Number of Days 13

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO

Last Patrol to Area by-District Services /NOV./1963

Medical /NOV./1963

Map Reference ENCLOSED MAP

Objects of Patrol 1. CENSUS REVISION 2. COMPILING OF COMMON ROLL

3. ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION

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

67-11-18
20th August, 1963.

The District Officer,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO.

PATROL REPORT NO. 12-62/62 - BUKA PASSAGE.

Receipt of the abovementioned Patrol Report is acknowledged with thanks.

I am pleased that Mr. Neal was available to give Mr. Reading on-the-job training. I am sure he will benefit from it.

I am gratified to note that the people have such a high regard for the Council Supervising Officer. It makes them much more receptive to his guidance. Council talks should be extended to fringe areas wherever practicable. It gives people something in return for their taxes.

The balance of the report is adequately covered in the remarks by Mr. Liddle.

(J. K. McCarthy),
Director.

67.16.11

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

169

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference 67/1/3.

If calling ask for

Mr

18 APR 1963

Department of Native Affairs,

Bougainville District,

SOHANO.

10th, April, 1963.

The Director,

Department of Native Affairs,

KONEDOBU. PAPUA.

BUKA PASSAGE PATROL REPORT NO. 12 OF 1962/1963.

Memorandum of Patrol, Report by Mr, J. READING, Cadet Patrol Officer, and comments of the Assistant District Officer, HUTJENA forwarded herewith for your information please.

This was the first Patrol for Mr. READING and he gained valuable experience in revision of Census and compilation of the Common Roll.

He has since been posted to KIETA to assist in the compilation of the Common Roll in that Sub-District.

(A.J. ZWECK).

A DISTRICT OFFICER.

Copy [illegible] Readings Patrol Report

67.11.18.

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67-2-1

Sub District Office,
HUTJENA
Bougainville District.

The District Officer,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO

PATROL REPORT NO. 12 of 62/63, BUKA PASSAGE.

Attached please find Memo of Patrol Buka No. 12 of 62/62,
and Cadet Patrol Officer's Patrol Report No. 12 of 62/63.

2. During the Patrol Mr Reading accompanied Mr Neal, not as stated on the Patrol Report Cover. Some of Mr Reading's observations seem to be pure conjecture on his part and not factual, i.e. I refer to his comments about Village Officials where he states that "the Councillors appeared much stronger than the old village officials" and secondly "Hahalis still draws a few of the young single girls". None of the villages, according to Mr Neal, had young girls who have gone to Hahalis.

3. It was a pity that Mr Reading did not visit Beikut village; without realising it, he passed right through it on his way to Gagan. Beikut consists of a number of hamlets astride the road between the present rest house (Tank house) and Gagan. I agree with his remarks about the pigs being kept in the school house.

4. The attitude towards the patrol by these people visited was good and it is indeed pleasing to know of the high regard they have for the Council Supervising Officer, Mr M.V. Neal. The people within the Council Area are gaining knowledge of government and the difficulties of it.

5. The Council Houses mentioned are the houses built for catchments for the Council Tank Scheme. These houses are used for rest houses and also for village functions.

6. Health of the area was good, "girili" is always endemic in every area.

7. The percentage of absentees amongst active men seems a little high and thirty percent is more like it. Only a few of the villages with small populations have fifty per cent of active men away.

8. The roads and wharves were adequate. The Gagan road is only a dirty road and, during heavy rains, becomes muddy. In dry weather it is all right.

(C.W. LIDDLE)

Assistant District Officer.

67.11.18

18 APR 1963

67/1/3.

Department of Native Affairs,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO.

10th, April, 1963.

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

BUKA PASSAGE PATROL REPORT NO. 12 OF 1962/1963.

Memorandum of Patrol, Report by Mr. J. READING, Cade
Patrol Officer, and comments of the Assistant District Officer,
HUTJENA forwarded herewith for your information please.

This was the first Patrol for Mr. READING and he
gained valuable experience in revision of Census and compilation
of the Common Roll.

He has since been posted to KEITA to assist in the
compilation of the Common Roll in that Sub-District.

(A.J. ZWECK).

A/DISTRICT OFFICER.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA
DISTRICT OFFICE?

SOHANO,
BOUGAINVILLE DISTRICT.

5th MARCH 1963.

The Assistant District Officer,
Sub District Office,
HUTJENA.

BUKA CENSUS DIVISION PATROL REPORT No.

Officer Conducting Patrol - J .M.READING, C.P.O.

Area PATROLED - BUKA CENSUS DIVISION
(PART)

Objects of Patrol
- 1. CENSUS REVISION
2. COMPILING OF COMMON ROLL
3. ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION

Duration of Patrol - 11-2-63 to 18-2-63 13 days.

Personnel Accompanying Patrol - Mr.M.NEAL, P.O.

?

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA
BUKA CENSUS DIVISION PATROL REPORT

5-3-63

DIARY

MONDAY 11th.

Left Sohano to join Mr.M.Neal at Chinatown.
Proceeded by Landrover to Ieta Village. Lunch at Ieta.
On completion of work, left by Landrover for Hangan.
Finished work by 5p.m. and left for Sohano. Slept at Sohano.

TUESDAY 12th.

Rejoined Mr.Neal at Chinatown and proceeded
to Malasang. Spent the day here. Left for Lonahan by Landrover
on completion of work. Slept at Lonahan.

WEDNESDAY 13th.

Spent this day at Lonahan. The census was held
outside the new rest-hours. Slept at Lonahan.

THURSDAY 14th.

Departed Lonahan on foot to inspect work on
the new land subdivision to the West of Lonahan. Rejoined
Landrover on the road to Telatu. On completion of census
here we drove on to Kohino. Work at Kohino interrupted [interrupted] by
rain. At the completion of census work we left on foot for
Nopan. Slept at Nopan.

FRIDAY 15th.

Nopan census work completed this morning. Due
to time lost yesterday we have decided to postpone the
Barakua census. Proceeded on foot to Beikut. Work completed
at Beikut we rejoined the Landrover and moved on to Gagan.
Spent the night at Gagan.

SATERDAY [SATURDAY] 16th.

Completed Gagan census and moved on by foot
to Kohiso. The census was held at the new village site.
Rejoined by the Landrover and proceeded home after a brief
visit to the Gagan Mission. Slept at Sohano.

SUNDAY 17th.

SUNDAY at Sohano.

FEBRUARY 1963

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

February, 1963.

MONDAY 18th

Left Sohano by motorised canoe for the West Coast. Stopped at Petats for refueling before proceeding to Yapar. Completed census and moved on to Pororan for the night.

TUESDAY 19th

Pororan census work was completed during thr [the] morning. We then moved on to Hitau where census was completed and then moved by canoe to Bei where the census was completed and patrol remained the night.

WEDNESDAY 20th

Completed work at Bei and then motored up the river to Hapan where the census was completed. Returned to Bei and thence on to Yegits to carry out census revision. At the finish of work here we moved on to Petats. Slept at Petats.

THURSDAY 21st

This day was spent on census work at Petats.

Slept again at Petats.

FRIDAY 22nd

Left Petats and after a short visit to Skotolan motored up the river to Poka. Census completed we left Poka and moved down the coast to Tung. Tung census completed we left for Matsungan. Slept at Matsungan.

SATURDAY 23rd.

Completed work at Matsungan and moved across to Kahule/Sapane. On completion of work here we moved on down the coast, through rough seas to Nova. Finished work about 4.30 pm and left for Sohano. Slept at Sohano.

END OF PATROL.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

1.

BUKA CENSUS DIVISION PATROL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This patrol, made in two sections each of a week, covered the south-east coast and the central villages as well as the west coast and islands region.

The travelling in the first week was by Landrover and by foot. The second stage was entirely by motorised canoe. The roads and xxxxxxxx xxx the conditions of the wharves will be delt [dealt] with in a later section.

OBJECTS OF THE PATROL

The standard census routine was carried out in each village visited. The one innovation was the compiling of a common roll in preparation for the 1964 general elections. This I undertook to prepare. A discussion on the common roll and the 64 elections was given my Mr.M.NEAL at each village.

The point emphasised was the importance of the greater indigenous representation in these elections but that it was not yet self government. The people were urged to consider themselves as a national body to prepare themselves for eventual self government. It will take more than one patrol for the people to be able to understand this.

VILLAGES

On the whole the houses were adequate and reasonably clean. Some villages did not appear well laid out but neatness is not always the most important factor in village planning.

IETA A clean place evidently benefiting materially from the close proximity of Europeans.

HANGAN Another clean village and rather more attractive. The grass had been cut short although that could have been for our benefit.

MALASANG This village sprawls considerably and only a small section could be seen. The houses seen were old and shabby but there was considerable rebuilding. Not as clean as it could have been.

LONAHAN Another large sprawling village. The houses appeared adequate and the beach new them had been swept of debris. A good progressive village.

TELATU Quite good housing for such a small village. The people appear willing to learn.

KOHINO A well layed [laid] out and progressive village but unfortunately rain prevented a closer inspection.

2.

NOPAN The village is well layed [laid] out but did not seem very clean. However I was assured that most of the houses were to be rebuilt. The rest house was quite impressive.

BEIKUT The village could not be seen from the rest house.

GAGAN Quite good for a non council village but the Mission would have some effect on the people. The houses appeared rather old.

KOHISO A progressive but isolated village in the process of changing its site. A number of new houses had already been built at the new site were the census was held.

IAPARAU A neat village; the houses forming a rectangle enclosing an area of fine cut grass. Small but progressive.

HITAU Small and not particularly clean. Its relative isolation may have some effect on this.

PORORAN A large and progressive village; clean and neat. It has the advantage of both Co-op and Chinese stores.

HAPAN Considering its isolation great progress is taking place. A number of European type houses are being built and the place is clean and neat. An impressive village but can this progress last?

BEI Old but being rebuilt on a different site.

The new site was not inspected.

YEGITS A good village but with a most inadequate path through half a mile of swamp to the coast. The people were better dressed than at other villages.

PETATS Good large and progressive. The houses were adequate and the people appeared relatively well off.

POKA Smallx [Small] with some very old houses. However recent work had been done on the village and it was clean.

TUNG An attractive and progressive village but the practice of locking pigs in the schoolroom should be stopped. Another impressive place.

MATSUNGAN Clean but with rather poor housing. More could be expected from this reasonably wealthy village.

KAHULE A good well-off village producing a fair quantity SAPANI of copra. The village is a five minute walk to

the coast.

NOVA The housing here is built in two rows. The village is clean but not attractive.

3.

HEAD MEN AND VILLAGE OFFICIALS

The Buka L.G.C. Councillors appeared much stronger personalities than the old village officials. I feel sure that a great deal of the progress [progress] which has been made in the last year is the result of their efforts.

However in Hapan and Petats they were quite evidently not the sole driving force behind their people.

At Gagan the Luluai is quite senile and ineffective and one wonders at the villagers reluctance to join the Council.

ATTITUDE TO THE PATROL

The attitude to the census and patrol was particularly good. Credit must be given to Mr. Neal for his constant [consistent] patrolling [patrolling] through the same areas. His unassuming manner has one of the respect of all the villages visited and made the patrol a very satisfactory one. More emphasis can be placed on night discussions.

Thanks to the efforts of the Councillors, there is a much greater political awareness among the people than there has been previously. With constant patrolling this would be increased even further.

COUNCIL HOUSES AND REST HOUSES

The Council houses are in various stages of completion all with at least the framework and roof finished. Those at Lonahan, Kohino, Beikut, Kohiso, Tung and Nova are completed but unfurnished. The Lonahan Council house was slept in.

Village rest-houses varied in quality. Those at Petats and Nopan were excellent with Matsungan and Pororan being very poor. The rest were adequate without being good.

HEALTH

Most of the villagers appeared healthy and the villages have a very low death rate. Girili was the only disease noticed with several cases at Hapan. T.B continues to be the main killer with family of six, from Yegits, having died from it in the last couple of years.

ABSENTEES FROM VILLAGES

Three villages complained of lack of manpower from this cause - Telatu, Nopan and Yaparau. The recruiters seem to be too thorough in some of the small villages and their are justified. Often more than 50% of the active men were absent for this reason.

However many school children were absent at various Schools and there can be no complaint [complaint] with this except that a few seemed excessively old for study.

There were some migration between villages but less

than that recorded last year. The small villages seemed to gain from this more than the large ones. Hahalis still draws a few of the young single girls.

ROADS AND WHARVES

The east coast road is as good as ever but the road from Lonahan to Kohiso is poor and treacherous and in wet weather the steep gradings on the hills prove troublesome [troublesome] even for the Landrover.

Wharves at Nova, Petats, Pororan and Bei are adequate but are in need of minor repairs [repairs]. The other are broken or non-existent [existent]. It would be a big help if all the west coast villages did provide wharves as beach landings can be a problem.

J.M. Reading C.P.O.

BUKA ISLAND
CENSUS DIVISION

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of BOUGAINVILLE Report No 14 - 62/63 BUKA PASSAGE

Patrol Conducted NUGURIA (FEAD IS. GROUP) ATOLLS

Mr. D. ANDERSON D.E.O.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans TWO AMERICAN MISSION WORKERS

Natives NO

Duration-From 6/3/1963 to 8/3/1963

Number of Days TWO

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?

Last Patrol to Area by-District Services //19

Medical //19

Map Reference

Objects of Patrol 1.CENSUS REVISION 2. COMPILING OF COMMON ROLL

3. TAX COLLECTION 4. ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION

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

67-11-17

16th August, 1963.

The District Officer,
Bougainville District,
S O H A N O.

PATROL REPORT NO. 14-1962/63,

BUKA PASSAGE:

Mr. Reading has carried out his work
satisfactorily.

It appears to me that the people have
considerable contact with other parts of the
Territory.

(J.K. McCarthy)

DIRECTOR.

Actually I do not agree with Mr. READING'S remarks that the people are not encouraged to travel outside the area. Recently, Mr. W. HALLAM, the Manager, took three young men with him to Australia. There are at present eleven (11) FEAD Islanders on SOHANO who had been sent by the Estate to RABAUL for a visit and were being returned on the M. V. "MATARANI". Unfortunately, because of the "POLURRIAN" disaster the trip was cancelled. The Master of the "MATARANI" expects to return them on his next trip.

The District Education Officer also visited the FEADS to instal [install] an Administration Teacher and open the school.

This was Mr. READING'S first solo Patrol and its main purpose was the compilation of the Common Roll. He carried this out satisfactorily.

(A. J. ZWECK).
A/DISTRICT OFFICER.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA
SUB-DISTRICT OFFICE,
HUTJENA,
BOUGAINVILLE DISTRICT.
25 - 3 - 63
DISTRICT OFFICER,
BOUGAINVILLE DISTRICT,
SOHANO.
BUKA PASSAGE PATROL REPORT No. 14 - 62/63
NUGURIA (FEAD ISLAND GROUP)

Patrol Conducted by:-	J.M.Roading C.P.O.
Area Patrolled :-	NUGURIA ATOLLS
Europeans Accompanied :-	Mr.D.Anderson D.E.O. Two American Mission Workers
Duration of Patrol :-	6-3-63 to 8-3-63
Objects of Patrol :-	1/ CENSUS REVISION 2/ COMPILING OF COMMON ROLL 3/ TAX COLLECTION 4/ ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

DIARY

MARCH 1963

WEDNESDAY 6th.

Departed SOHANO 5.30p.m. aboard M.V.NIVAKI for NUGURIA (FEAD ISLAND GROUP). Mr. D. ANDERSON D.E.O. and two member of an American Mission phonographic [linguistic] team accompanied this patrol.

Heavy seas were met an hour out from SOHANO.

Dinner on board M.V. NIVANI. Slept on board.

THURSDAY 7th.

Heavy seas continued during the early morning.

The NUGURIA GROUP sighted around 10.30a.m. Arrived at the plantation wharf at 12.15a.m. Lunch at the FEAD ISLAND ESTATES residence occupied by Mr. W. HALLAM.

2.00p.m. proceeded by canoe to NUGURIA VILLAGE some fifteen minutes from the main island. Collected taxes for the year xxxx 1962. No defaults. Compiled the census. The village, on its new site was inspected. No complaints were heard.

Returned by canoe to the residence for dinner.

During the evening, completed the census and compiled the COMMON ROLL. Slept on board M.V.NIVANI.

FRIDAY 8th.

During the morning,inspected the school and aid post. Discussed the general situation with Mr.HALLAM. 1205a.m. left on board M.V.NIVANI for the return trip. Seas rough but decreasing. Arrived SOHANO 5.20a.m. 9/3/63.

[J.M. Reading C.P.O]

END OF DIARY

THE TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA
BUKA PASSAGE PATROL 14-62/63
INTRODUCTION

This was a very short patrol consisting of two half days in travel and two half days in the islands.

NUGURIA (FEAD ISLAND) is an atoll approximately 110 miles due north of SMALL BUKA, N.N.E. OF THE NISSAN group. Due to its comparative isolation this group is not patrolled regularly. However the FEAD ISLAND ESTATE owners have taken it upon themselves to look after the economic welfare of the people.

The group was visited during a period of drought.

NATIVE AFFAIRS

No complaints were heard.

TAX

Twelve pounds was collected for the year 1962.

No one considered the tax rate of 10/- p.a. a hardship and all eligible paid without hesitation. It was impressed upon the men that they had not paid tax for 1963 which would be collected later in the year.

RESPONSE TO THE PATROL

The headmen and villagers were quite co-operative.

However they were quite reserved in most matters outside the census and tax collection. Mr.W.HALLAM, the resident manager, was most hospitable and helpful.

POLICY OF THE PLANTATION OWNERS

The plantation holds a sort of benevolent dictatorship over the village. There is a works committee comprising of the head men with Mr. HALLAM as chairman which advises improvements for people and settles small complaints. The economics of the village is xxxxx completely dependent on the plantation.

The villagers are not encouraged to travel outside the islands. The reason was given that the people had no immunity against common diseases [diseases]. This is a short sighted view.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

No contagious [diseases] [diseases] were reported. One case of first degree burns was noticed in the aid post.

The people are healthy and the new village clean but the cook houses were below standard.

LIVELIHOOD OF VILLAGERS

Most of the men work for the plantation at one

time or another. There is a small store near the plantation from which they purchase goods.

Food is obtained from the sea and lagoon in the form of fish and shellfish. A few crops are grown on the islands. However most of the land belongs to the plantation and all plantings must xx be approved by the manager.

2.

THE TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

THE NEW VILLAGE

The new village on BISSORIA IS. has been occupied for less than a year. Eleven houses have been built and for a lesser number of people they would be quite adequate. Each house is equiped [equipped] with a seperate kitchen but they are obviously used as extra sleeping quarters as well as what they were built for.

This diagram illustrates the layout of the villages :-

[map]

BISSORIA IS.

Each house is equipped with a small verandah, evidently an innovation of the works committee. The village is well laid out but there are no frexsh [fresh] water facilities. Most of the water is supplied from the kulau or Mr. HALLAM'S tanks.

CONCLUSIONS

I agree with the previous patrols that any change in policy by the plantation owners would leave the people in a very precarious position. In my opinion the villagers are forced to rely too heavily on the plantation and this is likely to incur lack of initiative and eventual discontent, especially in their stifled [stifled] disire [desire] to travel.

[J.M. Reading C.P.O.]

On Register
Area Patrolled PART ATOLLS
[table]

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA
PATROL REPORT

District of BOUGAINVILLE Report No 16 - 1962/63 Buka

Patrol Conducted by Mr. C.W.LIDDLE A.D.O.

Area Patrolled NORTH BUKA

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans B.G.ROBINS P.O.

Natives 3 Members R.P. & N.G.C.

Duration-From 22/4/1963 to 27/4/1963 & 6/5/63 to 9/5/63 (By B.ROBINS only.)

Number of Days 6 + 4 Total: 10

Did Medical Assistant Accompany No.

Last Patrol to Area by-District Services March/1963

Medical / /19

Map Reference BUKA ISLAND Milinch Series

Objects of Patrol 1) Routine Administration

2) Settlement of Complaints

Director of Native Affairs,

PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

21/5/1963

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

67-11-22

22nd August, 1963.

The District Officer,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO.

PATROL REPORT NO. 16-62/63 - BUKA.

Receipt of the abovementioned Patrol Report and covering comment is acknowledged with thanks.

The comment by Mr. Liddle applies to the content of this Patrol Report.

Every encouragement should be given the non-welfare people to continue to engage in their economic projects.

I am gratified to note that apart from the attempt of the welfare to squeeze out the non-welfare property owners, it would appear that the situation has not deteriorated of late and that relations between the Catholic Mission and the welfare groups have become less strained in the LEMANMANU area.

(J.K. McCarthy),
Director.

67. 11. 22

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference 67/1/3.

If calling ask for

Mr.

24 MAY 1963

Department of Native Affairs,

Bougainville District,

SOHANO.

20th, May, 1963.

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

BUKA PATROL REPORT NO. 16 OF 1962/1963.

Report of a Patrol conducted by Mr. B. G. ROBINS,
Patrol Officer, together with comments of the Assistant District
Officer, HUTJENA, forwarded herewith.

Mr. ROBINS was recently transferred to the Area
from BOKU. He appears to have settled in well and I support
the remarks at Paragraph 3 of Mr. LIDDLE's Memorandum.

Because of commitments with the Common Roll it is
doubtful whether he will be able to visit NORTH BUKA on the
27th, May, 1963. He is at present doing the compilation of
the Common Roll at NISSAN and will be absent for at least a
week.

The Report should be treated as an Appendix to
No. 16 of 1962/1963, submitted by Mr. LIDDLE.

(A.J. ZWECK).

A/DISTRICT OFFICER.

67/2/1.

Sub-District Office,
HUTJENA.

17th. May 1963.

The District Officer,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO.

Buka Patrol Report No. 16 - North Buka Is.

Attached please find Patrol Officer' B. Robin's report.

2. I have covered the affairs in my memorandum 51/1/1 of 3rd. May 1963. This was Mr. Robins first patrol in this area and I accompanied him to introduce him to the peculiar type of situation prevailing there. In these types of situation even small disputes which one would not normally hear, must be heard as a generally the disputants belong to op posing [opposing] political facti ons [factions] and one must give a decision. I have impressed this on Mr. Robins and have instructed him to listen and to inquire into all matters brought to his notice.
3. So farx [far] Mr. Robins has impressed me with his attitude to the politics in the area and I have confidence in him. His job is not an easy one, and there is a strain on an officer working in such an area. I will continue to assist and advise him.
4. It is regretted that this report is typed on green paper but at the time I had no white paper here as my last order had been 'nil stocked'

(C.W. Liddle.)

Assistant District Officer

Base Camp,
Bougainville District,
HANAHAN.

11th, May 1963.

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

BUKA PASSAGE PATROL REPORT NO. 16-62/63

NORTH BUKA.

OFFICER CONDUCTING:

C.W. LIDDLE A.D.O. from 22/4/63 to 27/5/63

B.G. ROBINS P.O. from 6/5/63 to 9/5/63

AREA PATROLLED:

NORTH BUKA & PART EAST COAST.

DURATION OF PATROL:

AS ABOVE.

NUMBER OF DAYS:

SIX PLUS FOUR TOTAL: TEN

OBJECTS OF PATROL:

- 1) ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION
- 2) SETTLEMENT OF COMPLAINTS
- 3) ASSESS PRESENT SITUATION

MAP REFERENCE:

BUKA ISLAND MILINCH SERIES.

PERSONNEL:

C.W. LIDDLE A.D.O.

B.G. ROBINS P.O.

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

(B.G. ROBINS.)

OFFICER IN CHARGE.

2.

INTRODUCTION.

The patrol was conducted in two parts by separate [separate] officers, both parts having been brought together for the purposes of this report, conciseness and easy reference. The first part of the patrol, from 22/4/63 to 27/2/63 was to the North Buka villages and was conducted by Mr. Liddle A.D.O. with Mr. Robins P.O. accompanying. The second part was merely a short trip to the east coast villages of HAHALIS and TAHAITAHAI, mainly for the benefit of Mr. Robins, recently arrived at Hanahan Base Camp, as officer in charge.

The main aims of the patrol were routine administration, to answer any complaints and disputes and generally to keep the area in question under close surveillance. There was nothing of a pressing nature which necessitated close scrutiny, however.

The patrol was conducted without incident.

NATIVE SITUATION.

It is hard to make a general comparison between the situation in the area as it stands at the moment and as it stood before, being newly transferred to the area. However, an assessment may be made on first impressions. Generally the people of LEMANMANU, Lemankoa and other villages of north Buka seem more dynamic in their enthusiasm toward the Welfare than the east coast villages of Hahalis and Tahaitahai. They appear more aggressive and non co-operative. This may be due to the fact that they have more recently joined the Welfare whereas the other villages have settled down to more of a routine. Another reason is that in north Buka there is a small number of quite powerful non-Welfare natives engaged in business, mainly copra. The full fervour of the Welfare is directed at victimizing and ousting these individual "entrepreneurs". It is quite apparant [apparent] that there is a consolidated effort to squeeze these people out. The feeling towards the non-Welfare natives is quite bitter.

This was most apparant [apparent] at LEMANKOA when hearing the disputes there on April 25th. The first dispute concerned the construction of a new copra drier there. Due to the fact that the Welfare people wanted such a high price for loaning their own drier, the non-Welfare decided to erect their own. The main instigators of this are two non-Welfare headmen of the area who finally decided to erect a drier across their adjoining land. There was no doubt as to their right to do this, but the idea not bitter opposition by the Welfare who had no right to stop them but merely did not want to see non-Welfare progress in the area. During the dispute the area of land in question was closely looked

at and when these plantaation [plantation] owners were told of their full right to go ahead with the project, feeling ran quite high. However, it remains to be seen as to the outcome. The non-Welfare natives are now quite determined to go ahead and should be given every bit of help and protection in doing so. It must be respected that there is no question as to their right in doing so.

After this dispute, ensuing events made it even more apparant [apparent] as to the aim of victimization. This was lead by the Welfare "spokesman" of Lemankoa, one John HABOU, a young man who has none of his own individual property and has everything to gain by the Welfare concept of pooling all assets. While holding a meeting in close proximity to the rest house he began to send complainants forward one by one demanding pay from these entrepreneurs for the years they had worked on these plantations. This was quite out of line with local custom as the idea has always been that members of an extended family group have the right to harvest the family groves in turn. Now these family members want pay for the times their turn came round to harvest. Some of the claims were quite preposterous and would be quite unheard of under native custom.

3.

NATIVE SITUATION. (CONT.)

It was quite obvious that many of the complainants did not really in themselves seem convinced of their claims but were merely reciting parrot-fashion what they had been told to say. It should be mentioned that a number of legitimate claims, in the form of straight out debts were upheld in the Court for Native Affairs.

Apart from the aim of the Welfare to squeeze out the non-Welfare proerty [property] owners, it would appear that the situation has not deteriorated of late. Relations with the Catholic Mission at Lemanmanu though by no means good, have become less strained. It also appears that one or two people have become dissatisfied with the Welfare and have left. One young woman left the Welfare, demanded her money back, that which she had paid in as a form of "tax", and was repaid without dispute. I feel that a number of other people would also like to leave but at present do not have the courage to do so. However, while there are these powerful non-Welfare natives in the area there is more chance of "borderline cases joining them.

At Hahalís the situation is somewhat different. The Welfare is astrongly established bloc with little or or no local opposition. While the situation is far from pleasing in having this anti Administration group there, the internal situation appears quiet. But both Hahalís and Tahaitahai natives are engaging only in Welfare projects and any other work they may have agreed to do such as the construction of a school house or maintaining rest houses is less than half-hearted.

To sum up generally, it may be that overall there is an easing of tension, but again, it is difficult at this stage to make a comparison.

VILLAGES AND HOUSING.

Generally throughout the area the housing is adequate and in good order. A number of roofs need maintaining and a few deserted houses need to be pulled down, but most are kept quite clean and tidy inside. All are constructed of softwood planking and a gathering of mould on the outside gives a false impression of dilapidation.

The cleanliness of the village environments need a great deal to be desired. Pigs and numerous unhealthy dogs roam at will leaving behind their unhygeinic [unhygienic] deposits. Rubbish and discarded food is also seen everywhere. Thus while the individual houses are quite well looked after, the surroundings are badly neglected. The problem of lack of water is, of course, ever present.

HEALTH and HYGEINE [HYGIENE].

The health of the people is good and all children appear fit and well nourished. Adequate medical aid is reasonably close at hand to all villages either at Lemanmanu Mission or at Hanahan Mission.

Hygeine [Hygiene] as mentioned above needs much to be desired. Personal cleanliness appears good but the people neglect the villages far too much and do not restrict their livestock, giving rise to numerous flies, and mosquitos are aided by the neglect of stagnant water.

DIARY.

Field Officer's Journal folios 18, 19, 20, paras 91 to 98 and folios 22, 23 paras 106 to 111, refers.

4.

CONCLUSION.

The patrol was of a routine nature without incident and achieved [achieved] its aims of settling disputes and generally supervising the area. Much, XXXXX can be attained, I feel with constant patrolling of the area with little more in view than merely being there on hand to settle any matters than may come up without waiting for those disputes to build up. Constant supervision is needed in protecting the rights of those people who wish to do something for themselves and have assets that have only come about by their initiative and hard work. Should the area be thus patrolled it will be very hard for those people bent on victimization to get any firm start.

It is aimed that a patrol from Hanahan should visit North Buka once a month in order to effectively police the area. It is proposed to mount a patrol from Hanahan to this area again on the 27th. of this month, (May.) This should coincide with the first meeting of heads of family groups to be held at LEMANMANU on June 3rd.

(B.G.ROBINS.)

Patrol Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA
PATROL REPORT

District of BOUGAINVILLE Report No BUKA 19-62/63
Patrol Conducted by B.G.ROBINS. PATROL OFFICER.
Area Patrolled NISSAN ISLAND CENSUS DIVISION
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans NIL
Natives 2 Members of R.P. & N.G.C.
Duration-From 19/5/1963 to 31/5/1963
Number of Days Twelve
Did Medical Assistant Accompany No
Last Patrol to Area by-District Services November/1962
Medical //19
Map Reference Nissan Milinch Series
Objects of Patrol Compilation of common Roll.
Land Investigation, Pinipel Islands.

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

67-11-32

16th August, 1963.

The District Officer,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO.

PATROL REPORT NO. 19-62/63 - BUKA.

Receipt of the abovementioned Patrol Report is
acknowledged with thanks.

The main job of the patrol (completion of the
preliminary lists for the Common Roll) has been satisfactorily
completed.

The general attitudes reported appear to be
highly satisfactory.

I have no comment.

(J.K.McCarthy),

Director.

67.11.32

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference 67/1/3.

If calling ask for

Mr

19 JUL 1963

Department of Native Affairs,

Bougainville District,

SOHANO.

17th, July, 1963.

The Director,

Department of Native Affairs,

KONEDOBU. PAPUA.

BUKA PATROL REPORT NO. 19 OF 1962/63.

Forwarded herewith is a Report of a Patrol to NISSAN and PINIPEL Islands conducted by Mr. B.G. ROBINS, Patrol Officer together with comments of the Assistant District Officer, HUTJENA.

I support Mr. ROBIN'S remarks regarding the Rate of Tax for these people. Even without decreased production through drought their economy will not support a Tax Rate of £2/-/-.

The main purpose of the Patrol was the compilation of the Common Roll. This was achieved.

(A. J. ZWECK).

A/DISTRICT OFFICER.

Att.

67/2/1

Sub District Office,
HUTJENA
Bougainville District.
5th July, 1963.
The District Officer,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO

PATROL REPORT No. 19 - 62/63.

Attached please find the above report of a Patrol to Nissan Island by B. Robins, Patrol Officer. The main reason for the patrol was the compilation of the Common Roll.

2. The drought at the beginning of this year affected the Atoll Group as well, particularly with regard to the production of copra. This was affected in various ways:

- i. The lack of rain affected the growth of the copra in the nut, some nuts being practically empty.
- ii. The people drank the juice from the coconuts, due to lack of drinking water.
- iii. Less nuts matured.

3. Generally, the situation as regards Native Affairs remains good, and all objects of the patrol were accomplished.

(C.W. LIDDLE)

Assistant District Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

HANAHAN BASE CAMP,

Buka Passage Sub-District,

BOUGAINVILLE DISTRICT.

27th. June, 1968.

The Assistant District Officer,

Sub-District Office,

HUTJENA.

PATROL REPORT - BUKA No. 19-62/63 - NISSAN Is.

CENSUS DIVISION.

Conducted By: B.G.ROBINS PATROL OFFICER.

AREA PATROLLED: Nissan and Pinipel Islands.

Members Accompanying: Two members of R.P. & N.G.C.

Duration: 19/3/63 to 31/5/63

Twelve Days.

Objects of Patrol: Compilation of Common Roll.

Land Investigation, Pinipel Island. .

(B.G. ROBINS.)

PATROL OFFICER.

2.

INTRODUCTION

The principal aim of the patrol was to compile the Common Roll for the Nissan Census Division which involved the census of all villages on Nissan Atoll itself and those few on Pinipel Island to the North. A strategic U.S. air base during the last war Nissan Island still has an excellent road of (?) which runs at least three quarters of the island. The remainder is also accessible by jeep. All villages are on the road and thus accessibility is one hundred percent. The use of a jeep was made available to the patrol by WONG YOUxxxxxxx Planatations. The trip to Pinipel Island to census the three villages there necessitated the hire of a small craft also belonging to WONG YOU. The trip may be done by canoe, however this is often hasardous [hazardous] due to strong currents in the passage between the two islands.

An official census was not conducted as there was insufficient time to do this and collect tax as well. Other duties carried out by the patrol included H.M.T.A. payments, banking (C.S.B.), the hearing of minor disputes and a land investigation on the Catholic Mission station at URUH on Pinipel Island. Also information was gathered from Europeans and mixed race residents of these islands, regarding the General Roll.

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DIARY.

Please refer to the Field Officer's Journal of the officer conducting Folios 28 to 29, paras 144 to 157.

NATIVE SITUATION AND ECONOMIC.

The natives of both islands appeared quiet, friendly and co-operative.

The people lined for census with a minimum of fuss and at all times were attentive.

Disputes were all but negligible, debts being the main cause for complaint. One village, TERUATEP, near the Catholic Mission at Tungul complained the boatscrews from the various smallships that call in there, take without permission of the owners, large quantities of bamboo, cooked fish and crabs, fowls and other small items which the local people find it hard to come by in the first place. The luluai requested that a price should be put on these items and recorded in the village book. This was considered a very reasonable request, not only because people should be stopped from taking these items for granted, but also it may help to provide some vestige of economic means to the people, which at the present time is sorely lacking. Prices for certain items of food and native building materials were recorded and the luluai was told that complaints could be made against offenders for theft if this was not adhered to. It was also suggested that the luluai show the village book to the skippers of vessels anchoring off Tungul.

If the native situation appears sound, the economic picture certainly does not. The only form of earning a living on the islands, apart from the small amount of work available at the Mission and the plantations is the sale of copra. During last year droughts caused the depletion of green coconuts which were very low in quantity due to a preceding season of much rain, which in turn had stopped the palms from flowering. Thus for some time copra sales have been negligible, and it will take some time to catch up again. There appears to be virtually no money in circulation. The patrol was not with numerous requests for C.S.B. withdrawals, a rather pathetic attempt to hold at least a few shillings for pocket money. Most C.S.B. Pass Books had less than five pounds left and were a record of constant withdrawals. The people seem to be living purely on war damage and in many cases this is fast running out. Because of this shortage of money many people have sought work elsewhere. The number of absentees, especially in the age group 20-80 is quite alarming, and the flow of people out continues.

3

NATIVE SITUATION AND ECONOMIC (CONT.)

The previous Native Affairs patrol to the area also noted the economic plight of the area and encouraged more intensive planting of coconuts. Unfortunately there was insufficient time to check on how much had been done, but each village claimed that it was continuing with the planting of more palms.

It was also noted that at the last tax collection a great number of exemptions were given due to economic distress. It would seem that the problem will not over at the next tax collection either. I do not agree with the 1958 tax recommendation of £2 per head. Perhaps at that time there was more money around due to the fact that war damage compensations had not been used up. Now there is not a great deal and in comparison with other areas with a head tax of £2 it seems excessive. I would respectfully suggest that if the rate was dropped to 10/- per head the people would still not be getting off too lightly.

Response to the two Catholic Missions at TUNGUL and SIGON, both in the sphere of education and in attending the hospital, is very high.

Most villages appear clean and tidy and housing is adequate. Gardens are planted where possible but there is a great deal of stone and (?) which makes good locations hard to find.

Generally the people seem contented and happy especially since the economic prospects are not good.

(B.G.ROBINS.)

Patrol Officer.

4/7/03

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

A/D.O.

PATROL REPORT

District of BOUGAINVILLE Report No BUKA 20-62/63
Patrol Conducted by B.G.ROBINS. PATROL OFFICER.
Area Patrolled NORTH COAST, BUKA Island.
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

Natives 2 Members of R.P.& N.G.C.
Duration-From 11/6/1963 to 15/6/1963
Number of Days Five

Did Medical Assistant Accompany No
Last Patrol to Area by-District Services April/1963

Medical / /19

Map Reference Buka Island Milinch Series

Objects of Patrol Settlement of Disputes

Regular check on area.

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.ED.P. Trust Fund

67-11-31

19th August, 1963.

The District Officer,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO

PATROL REPORT NO. 20-62/63 - BUKA.

Receipt of the abovementioned Patrol Report is acknowledged with thanks.

The matter of BALAI is being dealt with in separate correspondence.

What was the outcome of people's approach to the Director of Education concerning the establishment of schools?

You should continue to give assistance to the non-welfare people in their claims for land rights. Are decisions by Administration officers on disputes between welfare people themselves acceptable to them? I would like a clear statement on this. Are our efforts in retaining the use of rights for non-welfare members being successful? I would like advice on this.

I agree in the ease of the assault on LUMANKOA.

I am interested to note that a number of people in the area are becoming dissatisfied with the welfare, mainly because of the moral aspect and the lack of individual freedom. The action of the welfare people in refunding money so promptly to those wishing to withdraw is in line with their past activities.

It is gratifying to note that GAMITS agreed to return the (?)uts belonging to SOMBAT.

These welfare people operate a lot on "tak begis" or oblique reference and it is very hard to interpret their true meaning. Paragraphs 4 and 6 refer.

This is a very informative report and I look forward to resolving that for the month of July.

(J. K. McCarthy),

Director.

c.c. Mr. Dishon,

Chief of Division (Dev. & Welfare),

Dept. of Native Affairs.

This refers to the copra drier/injunction case at Buka Island.

(J. K. McCarthy),

Director,

Department of Native Affairs.

67.11.31

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference 67/1/3.

If calling ask for

Mr

15 JUL 1963

Department of Native Affairs,

Bougainville District,

SOHANO.

5th, July, 1963.

The Director,

Department of Native Affairs,

SOHANO.

BUKA PATROL REPORT NO. 20 OF 1962/1963.

Forwarded herewith is a Report of a Patrol to the NORTH BUKA Area conducted by Mr. B. G. ROBINS, Patrol Officer, together with comments of a Assistant District Officer, HUTJENA.

I agree with Mr. LIDDLE's remarks at Paragraph 7.

The Report gives a true picture of the situation in NORTH BUKA and presents the problems we are facing there.

Copies of the Depositions in the case referred to have already been forwarded yours - refer my Confidential Memoranda dated 2nd. and 3rd. July, 1963. It appears to me that an obvious defence to the issuing of the injunction would be that BALAI has no rights to the land. If it were possible to obtain a Court Order giving him [usufructory] usufructuary rights - then the injunction would probably be valid.

Unfortunately it appears that at present there is no Court or person competent to make such an Order. I await your advice on this matter.

Mr. LIDDLE's comments cover all aspects of the Report and I support them. Mr. ROBINS is to be congratulated on the manner in which he has been handling a difficult situation. It is an unenviable task working amongst people like the Members of the Welfare Society.

(A. J. ZWECK).

A/ DISTRICT OFFICER.

Att.

67/2/1

Sub District Office,
HUTJENA

Bougainville,
2nd July, 1963.

The District Officer,
Bougainville District,
SOHANO

PATROL REPORT No. 20 of 62/63.

Attached please find the above report on the patrol conducted by Mr Robins in the Haku Area, North Buka. This patrol carried on after the village officials' meeting held on the 11th of June, 1963. At this meeting, John Hakena gave a talk about his trip to Canberra, which was well received. There was also some discussion about schools and those people were told to see the Director of Education when he visited here. They did this last week.

2. The report covers the situation in North Buka quite well, especially in regard to the situation at Lemankua where there has been a dispute between Welfare and non Welfare over a copra drier. Previously, I had told the people of this area that I would protect the rights in regard to land of the non Welfare people to take over all of the land. Thus the non Welfare people have the choice of joining the Welfare or of losing their rights to land. I was relying on Regulation 59 of the Native Administration Regulations which gives members of the Court for Native Affairs powers to decide usufructory [usufructuary] rights to land, and had no idea at that time that the powers of the regulation would be preceded by the Land Titles Ordinances which, by implication, takes away any powers of the Court for Native Affairs in relation to land.

3. In the case in questions, Gereard Balai of Lemankua had had a drier xxxxx near the main road for some years. Recently, because it had deteriorated, it was removed and he intended to construct a new drier with the aid of the District Agricultural Officer. Because the Court for Native Affairs has lost any judicial function in regard to land, I considered that the only way to prevent interference by the Welfare who are trying to prevent the re-construction of the drier would be to issue an injunction against them. Regulation 7 b. of the Native Administration Regulations gives the Court jurisdiction in all civil matters. On my

instructions, then, Mr Robins issues an injunction against those people who had been interfering with the construction of this drier. At the time of hearing the Court, those against whom the complaint was made, declined to give evidence and so the court, after making a statement of fact, granted the injunction to Gerard Balai against those people. After the Court was finished, SAWA of Hahalis stated that he would appeal against the injunction granted by the Court, and to date I have heard nothing further.

4. The patrol, at this time, seemed to have accomplished something. The Welfare people had returned timber, which they had previously removed, back to the site of the drier after the Court Order was made. Also some people got out of the Welfare and received back their £2. Last week also

2.

a man from Lontis who had previously been in the Welfare, informed me, to my surprise, that he was no longer in the Welfare. It appears that, given some backing, some people would get out of the Welfare if they were sure that their rights would not be interfered with by the Welfare. I feel we must continue to give these people who are not in the Welfare this assurance that we will look after their rights.

5. A copy of the Court proceedings is attached hereto.

I believe that this is the only way of protection rights of individuals - that is an injunction against interference with their normal rights to live. If the Court cannot give such injunctions, I do not know of any other means of protecting their rights.

6. The report about cargo cult being in the Welfare Society is not new, and I think we have suspected that such was the case all of the time. Also, in relation to courts being held, this has been common practice on Buka Island for some years by various village officials and the unofficial Hahalis Courts are probably a carry-over from this. Such punishments meted out are, in fact, voluntary punishments, as these people know that they can have their complaints settled in the official Court for Native Affairs. I most certainly am not in agreement with village officials or anyone else holding unofficial courts.

7. The report is concise and gives a true picture of the present situation and does not deal with any irrelevancies.

(C.J. LIDDLE)

Assistant District Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Hanahan Base Camp,
Buka Passage Sub-District,
BOUGAINVILLE DISTRICT.

29th. June, 1963.

The Assistant District Officer,
Sub-District Office,
(?).

PATROL REPORT - BUKA NO. 20-62/63 - NORTH COAST
BUKA ISLAND.

Conducted by: B.G. Robins. Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled: North Coast, Buka Island.

Natives Accompanying: Two members of R.P. & N.G.C.

Duration: 11/6/63 to 15/6/63

Five Days.

Objects of Patrol: Settlement of Disputes.

Routine check of area.

(B.G.ROBINS.)

Officer in Charge.

2.

INTRODUCTION.

The aim of this patrol was a continuance of the routine checks being made to HAKU, the North Coast area of Buin Island. This area is being visited by Native Affairs patrols at least once a month where possible and this was the second since the end of April. It is intended that the next patrol to Haku be commenced on the 15th. July, 1963.

The main work of such patrols to this area continue to be the hearing (and settlement, where possible) of disputes between the Welfare members and that small minority of non-Welfare natives, and the protection of this minority from victimisation. As this victimisation, though definitely present, is a somewhat intangible affair, it is always hard to pin it down to a definite offence against which action can be taken. However, during this patrol some headway was made.

NATIVE SITUATION AND EVENTS.

General Situation in Brief.

Most of the trouble lies, ostensibly at any rate, in those villages which are neither fully Welfare nor fully non-Welfare. These are LEMANMANU, LEMANKOA, and LONTIS. In these three large villages there are perhaps 10 to 20 adult males from each who are not in the Welfare. At TANDEKI the number of non-Welfare is small and so-far there has been little trouble of consequences there. HANPAN is, I believe, practically all Welfare and there the situation is quiet. The last village of that area, EULTAPAN has a reasonably large number of non-Welfare people, and the disputes over land and coconut groves are going on all the time.

In these villages which have a number of non-Welfare, trouble arises because families are split. What this amounts to is that those numbers of a family inside the Welfare do not want their relatives outside to have any land or harvesting rights at all. It is a case of "Join the Welfare or Starve." However, the non-Welfare merely wish to be able to work some portion of their land and keep those palms which they themselves have planted.

Events.

1) Proposed Copra Drier at Lemankoa.

A) A propos of the above the main issue for some months has been the active efforts of the Welfare to stop non Welfare natives from building their own drier even though the site was on the undisputed ground of one of them.

Reasons: i) The Welfare does not want any non-Welfare establishment of any discription [description] in the area.

ii) The Welfare have their own drier some two hundred yards away; but wish to charge the others £5 for every time they ask the Welfare permission to use it. (The non-Welfare have refused this dubious offer.)

B) However, it is an established fact that BALAI, the man who now wants to put this non-Welfare drier on his land did in fact have one there before on exactly the same sight. This was never in any way disputed. It was finally pulled down due to age and decay with the intention of replacement.

C) Firstly, some three months ago the group wishing to put up the drier cut a large amount of timber and (?) it by the side of the main road at Lemankoa. The following day a large group of Welfare men returned the timber to the house of each builder some 150 feet below on the beach. Repeated requests failed to get the timber back on top. The previous patrol to the area in April of this year heard the dispute over this and stated that the timber should be carried back. This was not carried out. In May a Police Constable was sent to the area and under instructions told those people who had removed the timber to return it to the main road. Unfortunately the Officer in Charge, Hanahan Base Camp was absent at Nissan Island, but the District Agricultural Officer was present. Under supervision his assistants dug a hole for the drier on the old site. A number of Welfare women then sat in the hole to stop further work. The Welfare then filled the hole in again.

Events (Cont.)

D) i) This was still the position when the patrol now under report arrived at Lemankoa. On the 12th June Gerard Balai laid a civil complaint against those natives who had unlawfully carried his timber from the Road to the village. Each defendant pleaded guilty to this and stated that they had been told to do so by a Welfare headmen. No further statement was made by them. The Court for Native Affairs then ordered that the timber be carried back to the road by noon the following day, or in default action would be taken under Reg. 61 of the N.A.R.'s. The timber was carried back that afternoon.

ii) Gerard Balai then laid a further civil complaint, praying the Court to grant an injunction against a number of natives for protection in the construction of the drier in question. The defendants declined to make any statement. The injunction was then granted protecting those building the drier from any unlawful interference from the defendants under Reg. 7(b) and Reg. 60 of the N.A.R.'s.

Points of note.

a) Gerard Balai had a drier on the site in question for many years prior to its recent removal for replacement.

b) This had never been the subject of any dispute before its removal and the strengthening of the Welfare.

c) Coconuts planted by Balai surround the site.

d) Without the drier Balai is completely unable to make a living from his copra, which is the intention of the Welfare in either trying to squeeze him and other entrepreneurs from the area [out] or force them to join the Welfare.

It now remains to be seen whether the Welfare will adhere to the above court order.

2. Court for Native Affairs - Assault.

Rarely does the Welfare give any chance for direct action to be taken against it in its victimization and bullying of non-Welfare people. However, at Lemankoa prior to the arrival of the patrol a woman was severely beaten because she complained to a girl about her relationship with the woman's husband. A fight ensued between the two females which was stopped by a Welfare headman who then whipped the woman for complaining and "causing trouble". The husband of the woman also joined in and instead of helping his wife beat her for decrying his actions, i.e. his relationship with the other girl. Both men were convicted and sentenced to gaol at Sohano.

3) A number of people in the area are becoming dissatisfied with the Welfare mainly, they say, because of the moral aspect and their lack of individual freedom. During the patrol's visit to Lemankoa two natives, one a female, complained that they were "getting out" and they wanted their money back. Surprisingly, without any decision being made by

the patrol Welfare "officials" came hurrying up with their coconuts book, showed the patrol the entries and paid the money, a fee of £2 per head to join, back without any dissent. A further £2 was paid back before the complainant had a chance to approach the patrol.

4) At LONTIS Village a further long standing dispute was settled concerning the unlawful removal of dries from coconut groves. The family headman had given permission to the luluai to collect the next harvest of dries. However, an ex-senior constable of police and now a Welfare leader, organized the removal of the dries before the luluai had a chance to take them.

4.
Events (Cont.)

4) cont. SOMBAT, the luluai laid a civil complaint against GAMITS the Welfare leader. These people delight in irrelevencies [irrelevancies] and clouding the issue, but after a period of two hours GAMITS finally admitted that he had wrongly taken those dries. The Court ordered that GAMITS arrange for their replacement within a period of two months (i.e. about the time needed for the next harvest to be ready. (Reg. 60 of the NAR's.) Gamits agreed to this.

5) Other disputes brought before the patrol where all of a minor nature and did not contain the political issues involved in the above cases. These mainly consisted of straight out debts of money which were ordered to be paid back within a stipulated time.

6) Various pieces of information were also given to the patrol regarding certain activities of the Welfare, but these were merely hearsay and were accepted as such. For true though some of them may be, further evidence and enquiries are not easy. However, for the purpose of this report they will be put down as additional in formation [information].

a. A report from a headman, recently defected from the Welfare has said that at the secret meetings there is much talk along cargo cult lines. Substantiated by other odd pieces of information, the people are apparently told by the leaders to pair off into male and female couples and go into the bush. There, whatever they are doing they should be looking for 'something to come up.' They are apparantly [apparently] told to have personal relations during this time but must constantly keep an eye out for this 'something', as it is put. It is said that they are constantly told that the way of the Welfare is the only path to the cargo and that people not in their society will be left out when the time comes.

b. It is reported also that courts are held at HAHALIS by the leaders and that certain people who may offend the regulations of the society are gaoled there. This first came to bear when the patrol enquired into the whereabouts of a native required in a debt case. A number of people said he was serving time at HAHALIS. This was not substantiated but the people said it was a practice to this in the Welfare.

c. Other information included talk of various magic(?) religious aspects such as acknowledging spiritual powers of snakes and toads. It is a common belief that if a member of the Welfare sees a snake and notices its tongue flickering then it is talking to that person and that person in turn must reply. The patrol did notice at Lemankoa and Hanpan groups of natives chanting in unison as at prayer meetings.

Again it is stressed that this information is taken at hearsay only and no comment is offered. It is merely entered hear to point out the sort of things people are talking about and as further information generally.

No further events of consequence were encountered.

CONCLUSION.

The above mentioned events were as encountered by the patrol. And the following points are of note.

1. The all embracing problem is economic friction between Welfare and non-Welfare natives. The presence of non-Welfare natives in those Haku villages is bitterly resented.
2. The Welfare is Haku is very militant but members seem to be very careful about keeping just within the law.
3. Thus it is very hard to take definite [definite] action.
4. It has been found that the only way action can be taken is through civil claim. If civil court orders are disobeyed then more definite [definite] action can be taken.
5. Opposition to government action is very strong and patrols are not generally met with any enthusiasm among the Welfare.

5.

CONCLUSION (CONT.)

6. The main works of Native Affairs patrols to the area continues to be an endeavour to protect the rights of the non-Welfare.

7. Finally, it may be said that though the Welfare is very strong in that area it is no longer growing in size in adult membership. And while the resignation of some of its members should not be regarded as a very hopeful sign, for it does not seem to discourage them or deplete them of any appreciable strength, it is nevertheless a trend.

DIARY.

Please refer to the Field Officer's Journal of the Officer in Charge, folios 32 to 36, paras 115 to 129.

(B.G. Robins.)

Officer in Charge.