

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: NEW IRELAND
STATION: KAVIENG
VOLUME No: 18

ACCESSION No: 496.

1964 - 1965

ISBN: 9980 - 910 - 57 - 7

Filmed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea,
PORT MORESBY - 1992.

Sole Custodian: National Archives of Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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NEW IRELAND DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1964/1965

KAVIENG & TIANG

<u>Report No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
<u>KAVIENG</u>		
1 - 1964/1965	I.T. Spencer	North Coast New Hanover
4 - 1964/1965	F. Power	South Coast, New Hanover
6 - 1964/1965	L.A. Meintjes	Tabar Census Div.
<u>TIANG</u>		
4 - 1964/1965	A. R. Beard	Tiang Census Div.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of New Ireland Report No. 1 of 64/65 ~~1000~~ KAVIENG

Patrol Conducted by I.T. Spencer POII

Area Patrolled North Coast New Hanover

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans No

Natives 8 Members RP&NGC

Duration—From 7/9/1964 to 17/9/1964

Number of Days 10

Did Medical Assistant Accompany No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services/...../19.....

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

Map Reference

Objects of Patrol General Administration. Arrest of OLIVER and WATLESI.

Report on roads houses and Council works.

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

20/10/1964

[Signature]
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

.....

.....

.....

67-9-9

December 7th, 1964.

The District Commissioner,
New Ireland District,
KAYLISH.

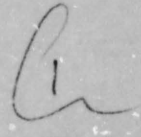
PATROL REPORT No. 1.-64/65 - NEM HANOVIS

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

The constant pressure being kept up with a view
to effecting the arrests of OLIVER and ROBIN will in time
cause the people to want to be rid of them.

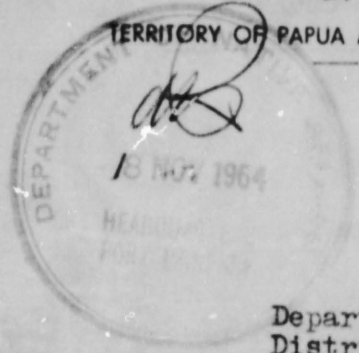
I hope that appreciation has been expressed to
ex-Councillor FREDI and his brother BETHAN for their
assistance.

I agree that the task is frustrating but must
continue.


(J. K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR

67 9.9

(12)



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

*In Reply
Please Quote*

No.

Department of the Administrator

Department of District Administration,
District Headquarters,
KAVIENG.

30th October, 1964.

Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

PATROL REPORT NO. 1 64-65
I.T. SPENCER
NORTH COAST NEW HANOVER

Cessation of activities to apprehend Oliver and Robin could result in two attitudes. A more co-operative attitude, as hoped for by Mr Spencer, or one of derision. It is the latter attitude which is most likely to develop.

The continual movement of patrols no doubt has a harassing effect upon the local people while keeping Oliver and Robin on the move but it is just as likely that the continued presence of the patrols will alienate Oliver and Robin from the people and they can only gain relief by turning in the wanted men.

This task is frustrating but must continue to be carried out although it should not take priority over the major patrol programme planned for the remainder of the year.

K. R. WILLIAMSON
DEPUTY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
New Ireland District

TERRITORY OF PAPUA & NEW GUINEA

(11)

EWB/-

67-1-1
51-1-1

Taskul,
New Hanover,
New Ireland District.

23rd October, 1964

District Officer,
New Ireland District,
KAVIENG

PATROL REPORT NO 64/65 - I. SPENCER P.O.

NORTH COAST AND INLAND - NEW HANOVER

Hereto please find attached in duplicate patrol report by Mr Spencer P.O. Gr 2, patrol instructions and claim for camping allowance.

The prime object of this patrol was to apprehend OLIVER & WATLESI. A Warrant in the First Instance was issued in respect of OLIVER on the 9/7/64 for Spreading False Reports, Contra section 30 (b) of the P.O.O. A warrant in the First Instance was issued in respect of WATLESI on the 9/7/64 for Unlawfully Striking one LENA, Contra Section 30 (a) of the P.O.O. This is the 8th patrol that has left Taskul to apprehend OLIVER & WATLESI and I concur with Mr Spencer that until the local population are prepared to co-operate they will successfully avoid arrest. However during a visit to LAVONGAI on the 20th, 21st & 22nd October information was received that OLIVER WAS AT BAIKEB. He remained in the bush but his personal effects were recovered and seven people have been brought to Taskul for investigation and charges will be laid for harbouring and assisting OLIVER. The results of any convictions will be circulated throughout the area and this should deter people from assisting him any further-

Mr Spencer's comments on lack of co-operation and low standard of rest houses and village housing substantiate the fact that these people have been left too long. It is now 4 months since I visited the north coast and inland villages and informed them of policy in respect of tax collection and administration enforcement of law and order. Commitments on the south coast and in the Tikana Council Area made it impossible for this area to be patrolled. It is essential that tax collection be completed before the end of November and I suggest that Mr Meintjes and a police officer carry out this patrol. During this period I will be on the north coast carrying out a council project survey and conducting annual tax payers meetings.

The movement of people inland can be studied after tax collection when a census should be carried out to assess the migration pattern developing along this coast.

The neglected rest houses and poor standard of housing reflect the attitudes of the people towards the Administration. Enforcement of sections under the NAR's in respect of village communities must be carried out and all orders given must be recorded in the Village Books so that future patrols can check that orders are being carried out.

E.M. BENHAI
(E.M. BENHAI)
a/ADO.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA & NEW GUINEA

(10)

EWB/-

Taskul
New Hanover

2nd September, 1964

Mr I. Spencer,
Patrol Officer
TASKUL

PATROL INSTRUCTIONS

On Monday 7th September you will depart on a patrol of the North Coast of New Hanover.

The prime object of this patrol is to apprehend OLIVER and WATLESI both of MAMION VILLAGE TSOI ISLANDS. A police patrol led by Const 1/c Morris departed on the 2/9/64 to METAMIN. They will work in that area and then join you on the north coast.

You will proceed to KULPETAU using prisoners as carriers and from KULPETAU on use village people. Prisoners to return to TASKUL under escort.

On Friday the M.V. MERCY will return from KAVIENG with supplies and on its return will leave two Constables (ANIS and SELEBOT - Kavieng Detachment) on the Tsoi Islands. They are to remain there until you complete your patrol.

Your police strength will be 5 - Sgt 1/c Aipul, Constables KURI, BOPUA, KOSKOM, SIBING.

During your patrol please report on the following:-

- (1) Village Inspections
- (2) Reports on roads
- (3) List number of houses in each village
- (4) Type of water supply
- (5) Council projects in each village - completed/partially compl.
- (6) Condition of Rest Houses.

The A510 will be available to you for this patrol.

£26 has been left with Mr Meinjtes for your patrol advance.

E.W. Benham

(E.W. Benham)

a/ Assistant District Officer

cc. District Officer.
KAVIENG.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

(9)

TASKUL PATROL POST
NEW HANOVER

20/9/64

File 51.1.1.

The Assistant District Officer
TASKUL

NATIVE SITUATION NORTH COAST
AND INLAND NEW HANOVER

As per your patrol instructions of the 2/9/64, I departed Taskul for the north coast on Monday the 7/9/64. The patrol camped at KONEMATELIK on the first night, after having been advised that Robin WATLESEI had been seen a few hours earlier on the road to PATIPAI. During the night a police party under Const 1/s Moris joined the patrol and reported that the village had been under watch and that Robin was not in the vicinity. The following day the patrol moved to Patipai. From Tuesday till Sunday the patrol searched the garden houses along the North east coast and questioned village people about the movement of OLIVER and Robin. On Sunday the patrol returned to Patipai and prepared to move inland the following day.

On Monday a party of four police and myself moved through the inland area of the north coast, passing through VAISAVAMVAM and countless settlements and finally camped ~~at~~ on the northern slopes of Mount Patibung. The following morning the party returned to Patipai by the same route.

The conclusions drawn from the questioning of the people on the coast, was that Oliver and possibly Robin had gone to the south coast as a result of the Patrol's activities on the north coast. There are two roads cutting the island at the eastern end, one through VAISAVAMVAM and one through Min. However, the road via Vaisavamvam splits and branches to Patipai and Patiagaga villages, and as these roads gave ~~me~~ them both the best opportunity of avoiding the patrol planned for the South coast, it was decided to place a watch on their junction just north of Patibung. The roadblock was not successful, and the party returned to Patipai. During the trip back we were met by a youth who informed the party that

(8)

Oliver had gone to Tsoi by canoe the night before and had left from Mossuang. Obviously Oliver had come across via the MIN track. There were two Constables at Tsoi and a handful of dependable village people to take Oliver into custody should he been seen at Tsoi. A shortage of canoes made it impossible for the party to ~~xxxxxxx~~ pursue him further.

The reactions of the people to this type of Patrol made every move a hard fought battle. While stating that they ~~would~~ would be all happy to see both Oliver and Robin caught, their true feeling were obvious by their complete lack of cooperation assistance and politeness. During the party's stay in each village they remained deserted except for a few women with very young children, and people met on the road would either go into the bush on sighting the party or sullenly answer questions put to them. No one volunteered any information. On the other hand ex councillor Fredi and his brother Betman who at all time traveled with the patrol proved valuable assistants. At the completion of the patrol prisoners from Taskul were required to carry patrol equipment.

RECOMENDATIONS

In my opinion it would be foolish to continue this type of 'manhunt' patrol as it only tends to alienate the people further. Also, none of these patrols can be successful until the village people start to cooperate with the Administration. There are too many places, and too many people assisting to make capture possible.

I feel Councillor LAININIS should be questioned very closely as he is rumoured to have assisted Oliver on many occasions. His village is KITING, and he was not available during the patrol's stay there.

For your information.

I.T.S.

o
i

DIARY

PATROL REPORT No 64/65 TASKUL

(7)

Monday. 7/9/64

Departed Taskul at 10.30 for ATLA.
Party delayed at crossing due lack of canoes
Arrived ATLA 1.30 pm. Further delays
due shortage carriers, women assisted
to SUNGANPAKAN. Arrived 2.pm. Inspected
departed for KONEMATELIK 2.30 pm arrived
4 PM. People reported Robin @ WATLESEI
in the area. Patrol camped. Const. 1/c
Moris arrived late at night after search-
ing village.

Tuesday. 8/9/64

Departed Konematelik at 9 am after village
inspection and delay for carriers, bound
PATIPAI arrived 12 noon. All houses and
hamlets on the way were searched. Patrol
camped at PATIPAI. Villagers questioned
about the whereabouts of OLIVER and
ROBIN.

Wednesday. 9/9/64

Patrol remained camped at Patipai and
groups of police searched all houses
and garden areas in the area. People
stated Oliver had been in village some
time earlier but had not been there for
a while. Do not appear to anxious to be
helpful.

Thursday 10/9/64

Departed PATIPAI at 10 am for MOSSUANG
arrived one hour later. Village nearly
deserted except for women and young
children. No cooperation with patrol.
Councillor escorted to the village. One
villager had removed the floor of the
rest house to floor his own house. The
culprit was unavailable. Police parties
despatched to search ~~XXXX~~ gardens and
bush houses. Villagers present unsucces-
fully questioned about the movements of

DIARY cont.

OLIVER and ROBIN. Camped MOSSUANG.

- 11/9/64 At Mossuang. Police parties out to KITING, AUTUNG and PATIPAI.
- 12/9/64 At Mossuang. Police parties out. Village inspection.
- 13/9/64 Returned to Patipai per MV Mercy prepared to go inland.
- 14/9/64 Left Patipai 7.30 to ambush inland road from Bolpua and PATIBUNG. Arrived VAISAVANVAM at 11.30 inspected and continued to the junction of the KULPETAU road. There are four families living in this area and the party decided to move further south to avoid any chance of the people warning Oliver. Finally camped on the northern slopes of PATIBUNG mountain about half an hour from Patibung settlement. Very dense bush and party was forced to sleep in a river bed. Police and self placed night watch on the road with no luck. Heavy rain during the night. Const 1/c Morris's party had been instructed to watch the KULPETAU branch of the road but due to our position further south, his party moved up and formed a second block about a mile and a half north of us. A suspected sympathizer was kept with the party during the night. Estimated position during the night was 10 miles north of BOLPUA village on the south coast.
- 15/9/64 12 midnight to dawn watch maintained on the road. All out at dawn-returned 7.30 packed and broke camp. Returned to Patipai along same route. Return trip took 5½ hours as against 7 hours in. Party met by a youth about four miles south of Patipai and informed that Oliver had come across via Min and was on his way to Tsoi. The party was unable to follow on to Tsoi due to lack of canoes and Patipai village on our return was also deserted.
- Camped at Patipai.

DIARY cont.

- 16/9/65 Remained at PATIPAI attempting to round up carriers for return to Taskul.
- 17/9/64 Obtained 2 canoes to take patrol equipment to SUNGANPAKAN. Self returned to TASKUL and despatched prisoners to carry cargo from SUNGANPAKAN to Taskul. Cooperation from these villages non existant. Patrol arrived Taskul 5.45 PM.

End of Patrol

INTRODUCTION

The patrol was conducted through the north east coast and the north east coast inland areas and the purpose was to

- a) Inspect villages
- b) Report on roads
- c) List houses in each village
- d) Report on water supply
- e) Report on council projects
- f) Report on the condition of rest houses.

The prime object of the Patrol, however, was to apprehend both OLIVER and WATLESEI of Tsoi.

Throughout the area patrolled the patrol was met by a lack of cooperation which prevented the successful conclusion of this operation, and will defeat any future attempts made by the Administration to apprehend OLIVER and WATLESEI.

Housing in the area is in a very poor condition, and evidence seems to indicate that the villages are only being used as base camps for the numerous family groups living about in the bush. It is impossible to say if this fragmentation of village groups is a direct result of the Johnson cult, or a continuation of the general exodus inland since the Council began.

OLIVER and WATLESEI

The people of the patrolled area were not anxious to give the party any information on the whereabouts of the above mentioned men, and what information could be extracted, was always hazy. The old local trick of playing ignorant or of being somewhere else at the wrong time was well used. Two men however, do require a mention for their assistance to the patrol and they are ex-councillor PREDI and his brother BETMAN. These men accompanied the patrol at all times and their assistance proved invaluable to the patrol. It was because of information tendered by these two that the patrol decided to ambush the Bolpua-PATIPAI road. After spending a week on the north coast it was decided that the two wanted men would have gone to the south coast, as was their custom, to avoid capture and a police divers-

ion was prepared by the A.D.O. taskul to land at METERANKAN and attempt to force OLIVER and WATLESEI back across the island into the ambush. The diversion was a success, but Oliver returned to the north coast via a road through MIN village. From there he returned to ISOI. The patrol decided on the VAISAVAMVAM road as against the MIN road as the former gave a better opportunity for escape branching to PATIPAI and KULPETAU/Patiagaga.

METERANKAN

22 houses. Fair good house. Good creek water. No Council projects. Village goodly place.

ROAD to KUMBEKILIK very good, but needs retting in parts

MIN

27 houses. Village clean and populated. Housing moderately good. Council projects. Good creek water. No Council projects. Good house. Good supply.

ROAD to PATIPAI fairly good.

PATIPAI

14 houses in village itself, further 8 at KUMBEKILIK. Five houses more. Very dirty village, all houses poor. Well and tank water supply. Good gull tank installed. The Council for PATIPAI and KUMBEKILIK have house water supply in development condition.

ROAD to KUMBEKILIK fairly good, better than road to MIN.

KUMBEKILIK

3 houses. Fairly clean. Housing good. Council projects. Tank with PATIPAI also has wells. No road here.

ROAD to KUMBEKILIK good, along the coast all the way

5

TASKUL PATROL REPORT No. of 64/65

VILLAGE REPORT

ATLA

11 houses, in a poor condition. No rest house. Good creek water supply. No Council projects. Village dirty and deserted.

ROAD to SUNGANPAKAN excellent.

SUNGANPAKAN

23 houses. Four good houses-rest poor. Good creek water supply. Rest house partly built. No Council projects. Village moderately clean.

ROAD to KONEMATELIK very good, but needs cutting in parts

KONEMATELIK

27 houses. Village clean and populated to some extent. Housing moderately good. Councillor's village. Good creek water. No Council projects. Rest house good (just completed)

Road to PATIPAI fairly good.

PATIPAI

11 houses in village itself, further 8 at ATIVAD hamlet five minutes away. Very dirty village. All housing poor. Well and Tank water supply. 600 gall tank installed by the council for PATIPAI and Meteiai. Rest house large but in a very bad condition.

ROAD to METEIAI fairly good. Mostly built up through mangrove swamp.

METEIAI

8 houses. Fairly clean. Housing poor. Shares 600 gall tank with PATIPAI also has wells. No rest house.

ROAD to MOSSUANG good, along the coast all the way

MOSSUANG

24 houses. Some new remainder moderate. Village deserted and dirty. Rest house large but deteriorating floor partly removed. Council installed 600 gallon tank. Also has wells.

VAISAVAMVAM

12 houses mostly fair. Village clean. Rest house good, but roof needs patching. Good creek water supply. No Council projects.

Road in from Patipai fair.

Original



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of New Ireland Report No. A-64/5

Patrol Conducted by P.O. Peter Power

Area Patrolled South Coast, New Hanover

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans L.A. Mearns P.O.

Natives 22 members R.P. & V.C.C.

Duration—From 4/11/1964 to 6/11/1964

Number of Days 3

Did Medical Assistant Accompany No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 23/8/1964

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

Map Reference New Ireland 1:50,000 Sheet 5850 IV Army Series

Objects of Patrol Accompany Lavongai Council Tax Appeal Tribunal

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ /19

District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damag. Compensation £.....

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

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

pula

MIGR

IR

67-9-11

December 7th, 1964

The District Commissioner,
New Ireland District,
DUBLIN.

PATROL REPORT No. 4-64/65 - NUN HANCOCK

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

The attitude of the people is heartening but still suspect because of past performances.

I agree that patrols must travel by foot so far as practicable.

The notes on BENGERRAU are of interest - I think he is just a "big-head".

Is the passive resistance perhaps breaking down, or are our officers being conditioned to the attitude of the people? It is hard to get an objective appreciation.

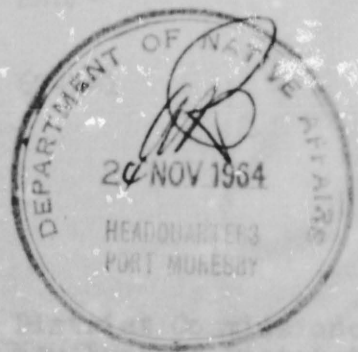
The pattern of patrolling suggested is I think suitable.

(J. K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR

67. 9. H (6)



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



In Reply
Please Quote

No. 4-64/5(20)

Department of District Administration,
District Headquarters,
KAVIENG.

18th November, 1964.

Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

KAVIENG PATROL 4-64/65
SOUTH COAST NEW HANOVER
P.O.'s POWER & MEINTJES

I have commented on this report in my memorandum 51-5-10(19) of today's date, but would add this further comment.

Whilst carrying of patrol equipment is next to impossible in this area at present, a patrol vessel is essential but patrols must travel inter Village as much as possible on foot. In most cases the vessel can proceed to overnight camp sites and await the arrival of the patrol. The Acting District Officer, Taskul, will ensure, as far as possible, that this pattern of patrolling will be followed in future.

M. J. Healy
.....
M. J. HEALY
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
New Ireland District

(5)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

EWB/-

67-1-1

Dept of District Administration,
Taskul Patrol Post,
NEW HANOVER

9th November, 1964

District Commissioner,
New Ireland District,
KAVIENG

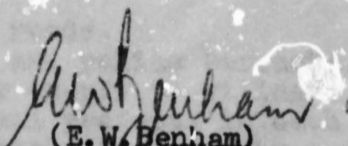
PATROL COMMENTS - P.O. L. MEINTJES
LAVONGAI/MAGAM AREA N.H.

Hereto please attached in duplicate patrol report submitted by P.O. L. Meintjes. The patrol accompanied the Tax Clerk and Tax Appeal Tribunal to enforce law and order if necessary and to hear cases of non-payment of Council tax.

This portion of the south coast was not completed in the last patrol of the area conducted by E.W. Benham. The people through Councillor KASI asked for a month in which to find tax money. This was the first occasion that this has happened. From Mr Meintjes report it appears that the people were more favourable to the administration and the Lavongai Council. This is important because the Johnson Cult commenced in this area.

A follow up patrol for purposes of census and routine administration will be commenced on November 18.

Contingency for camping allowance is attached for your approval.


(E.W. Benham)
Acting District Officer

(4)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA & NEW GUINEA

EWB/-

67-1-1

Department of District Administration
Taskul Patrol Post,
NEW HANOVER

29th October, 1954

District Officer,
New Ireland District,
KAVIENG

PATROL INSTRUCTIONS - MR HEINTJES P.O.

Be prepared to depart on patrol on Monday the 2nd November for the LAVONGAI - MAGAM area, South Coast, New Hanover.

You will be accompanied by a police officer and 25 members of the R.F. & N.G.C. Two shotguns and 3 rifles should be carried by the police. These have already been issued to members who have proved themselves with these firearms on the range. You should carry a .380 revolver and when acting as Magistrate have this revolver within reaching distance.

You should draw 40 rounds 12 gauge shotgun ammunition and 50 rounds .303 ammunition. Ammunition only to be issued when an officer is present with the police.

The main object of this patrol is accompany the Lavongai Council Clerk and tax appeal tribunal in the collection of taxes. You will act as Magistrate and hear cases when an information has been laid by the Council Clerk. The police officer will be responsible for the enforcement of law and order.

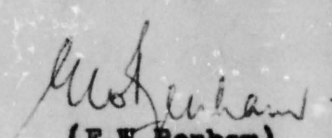
However on this patrol you are to carry out the following:-

- (a) Inspect all villages and report on standard of housing and where necessary issue orders for the rebuilding of houses. These orders are to be written in the village book.
- (b) Report on condition of roads.
- (c) Report on Rest Houses and police barracks.
- (d) Report on type of water supply to village.
- (e) Report on type of Council projects in each village.
- (f) Assess attitude of people towards the patrol.

A £20 patrol advance should be drawn.

Ensure that you have sufficient rations for police and prisoners.

If a police officer is not available then you are not to commence this patrol.


(E. W. Benham)
a/Assistant District Officer

(3)

PATROL OF LAVONGAI/MAGAM AREA, NEW HANOVER.

Introduction:

The patrol, which accompanied the Lavongai Local Government Council Tax Appeal Tribunal, was of three days duration. Twenty-two members of the Royal Papua and New Guinea Constabulary accompanied the patrol. The M.V. Kuak was chartered to transport the patrol personell. No incidents were recorded.

Council Tax Collection:

A total of £75 was collected from the villagers of LAVONGAI, SAULA, KULUNGUT, MAGAM, NEILA, NUSAWONG and NEIKAPUTUK villages. This represented payment in part and/or full by thirty seven adult males. Twenty informations were laid before the Court for Native Affairs for failure to pay the Council tax. All were convicted, two persons receiving suspended sentences and eighteen committed to the Corrective Institution at Taskul. The attitude towards payment of tax monies has softened in so far as genuine efforts were made by the majority of villagers to meet their tax commitments. This is a marked change for the better as compared to the attitude prevalent on previous patrols to this area one of which was accompanied by the author.

Worthy of mention is case of one, BENGERAU of Neikaputuk Village. He is about 45 years of age and from his dress apparently among the more "wealthy" of this area. Bengerau, who was convicted in the Court for Native Affairs ~~and committed~~ for failing to pay Council tax, is an ex Serviceman and gave the impression whilst before the Court that he cares nought for the Council and though able, loathe to pay the tax. However, as far as could be ascertained from the reaction of other villagers present to his conviction, he does not have what could be termed a solid following.

VILLAGE HOUSING:

The only villages sited by the patrol were those of Lavongai and Magam. The housing standard in these two villages is low as is the standard in the general New Hanover area. Both villages have reasonable rest-houses the one at Magam being the better. Neither village can boast a police barrack but villagers were co-operative and the police were housed in private houses.

ROADS:

No roads were travelled on by the patrol, all movement being by the M.V. Kuak.

WATER SUPPLY.

Both Magam and Lavongai draw their water supplies from streams. At Lavongai a fairly lengthy carry is involved whilst the water course at Magam is somewhat closer. The inland villages of Saula and Kulungut share a Council introduced water tank at Kulungut. This is a 1,000 gallon tank.

COUNCIL PROJECTS:

No Council projects were found in any of the coastal villages the only project being that at Kulungut (water Tank).

ATTITUDE OF PEOPLE TOWARDS THE PATROL:

The passive resistance which has been the case in this area on previous patrols is showing signs of breaking down. This was shown by a more genuine effort on the part of villagers to meet tax commitments and also by the fact that some villagers approached the patrol with those routine problems which would tend to show a return to the awareness of administration. Concerning the 'Johnson Cult' the writer got the impression that the people are showing signs of being disillusioned as the promised American Cargo and representatives have not arrived and those portents as to the arrival not seen.

Concillor KASI of the Magam area has made a solid effort in his endeavour

①

Register ----- 3 -----
HCR
F
ATTITUDE OF PEOPLE TOWARDS THE PATROL contd:

----- effort in his endeavour to persuade the people of his area to pay their taxes.

L.A. Meintjes

L.A. Meintjes. Patrol Officer.

Original



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of... NEW IRELAND Report No. 246 of 1964/65

Patrol Conducted by... L.A. MEINTJES PATROL OFFICER

Area Patrolled... TABAR CENSUS DIVISION

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans... I.B. BECKHAUS C.P.O.

Natives... Consts. TOROH and MOTIKE R.P. & N.G.C.

Duration—From... 30 / 7 / 19.64 to... 17 / 8 / 19.64

Number of Days... SEVENTEEN

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? ... NO

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services... FEBRUARY/19.63

Medical ... JULY / 1964 (Infant Welfare)

JULY 1964 Medical Patrol

Map Reference.....

Objects of Patrol... TAX/CENSUS GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please

27/7/1965

H. P. Spale
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 ... £.....

pula

MIGR	
Ip	
Birth	
M	F

(21)

67-9-12

17th August, 1965.

District Commissioner,
New Ireland District,
KAVIENG.

KAVIENG PATROL REPORT NO. 5/1964-65:

Thank you for the patrol report by Mr. Meintjes covered by your memo of 27th July, 1965.

2. No purpose would be served at this stage by commenting upon this report.

(T.G. Aitchison)
DIRECTOR.

67. 9. 12(20)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

grams DISADM
Telephone
Our Reference.....
If calling ask for
Mr.....



Department of District Administration,
District Headquarters,
KAVIENG. N.I.D

27th July, 1965.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEOBU.

REPORT OF PATROL No. 6/64-65
PATROL OFFICER MEINTJES -
KAVIENG

The above report is now forwarded after having been lost in the files for many months.

There is little point in comment at this distance - as the two points of real interest, airstrips and native coconut plantings, have been taken up in other correspondence since the writing of the report.

agree

H. P. Seale
(H.P. SEALE)
District Commissioner.

(E)

Report on members of the Royal Papua and
New Guinea Constabulary is attached with a copy
for the Commissioner.

J. W. Frawley
J.W. Frawley
Assistant District Commissioner

COPY

67-1-1

(8)

Department of District Administration,
District Office,
KAVIENG.

18th November, 1964.

District Commissioner,
New Ireland District,
KAVIENG.

Patrol Report 6-1964/1965
Tabar Group
Patrol Officer L.A. Meintjes

Report of Tabar Patrol conducted by Mr L.A. Meintjes, is attached. Also attached is report submitted by Mr. I.B. Beckhause who accompanied the patrol.

Two items contained in the report are important. They are the continued planting of coconuts and the mention of the airfield site. Dealing with the former items first - the planting of 2000 nuts per month - Mr Meintjes' figure is only an estimate but it indicates an improvement in the usual situation which, if continued, will result in a major overall advance in the economic status of the Tabar people. The second item relating to a possible airstrip is also important. Tabar has had the advantage of frequent, if irregular, shipping. Nevertheless, the people have the insular outlook so often attributed to them. But an aerservice seems to outdistances and this may help the Tabar people to become more a part of the community as a whole and more receptive to progressive moves. Since the patrol work has commenced on the airstrip under the direction of Father Miller of the Catholic Mission, Mapua, with active participation by the majority of the Tabar people. Department of Civil Aviation inspectors have visited the site.

Personal Tax for 1963 and Council Tax for 1964 were paid virtually without default. No action was taken against the few defaulters by the patrol. Where necessary it will be taken by the next patrol.

Census figures are attached. Previous census figures show a total of ~~1661~~ 1691 present figures show 1756 an overall increase of 65 or 3.25%.

In their separate reports Mr. Meintjes and Mr. Beckhaus show an ability to observe and note. I have passed on to them suggestions as to their presentation of future reports.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

17

In Reply
Please Quote

No. 67-1-4

~~DEPARTMENT OF POLICE~~

Sub District Office,
KAVIENG.
20/10/64.

Assistant District Officer,
Sub District Office,
KAVIENG.

REPORT ON PATROL POLICE.

Patrol - Tabar Islands of 17 days duration.

Constable TOBON R.P.&N.G.C. Reg. No. 10834.

A keen and willing patrol worker showing fair initiative. Dress: Good under supervision.

Constable MOTEKE R.P.&N.G.C. Reg. No. 11178

Shows promise of becoming a good patrol worker. Young but keen. Dress: Good at all times.

L.A. Meintjes. Patrol Officer.

c/c Commissioner of Police,
KONEDOBU.

(12)

Native Situation cont'd:

--- their qualities of leadership but the present trend of "freedom" thinking has usurped some of their authority. By "freedom thinking" is meant the attitude, particularly among the young men of the villages, brought about by recent changes in and additions to Territory Legislation. The anti-discrimination ordinance and that enabling and allowing the indigene to consume alcoholic beverages being the two concerned. Particularly these have contributed to the modern attitude which is aptly described in the vernacular as " mipela olegeta i free " -- "we have attained freedom" being the literal translation. The traditional system of leadership and authority must then be broken down by those, the younger men and in years past the subservient majority of the native community, who see these recent developments in legislation as a lever to usurp traditional authority. Of the remaining village officials then it might be said that they are officials in name only having little or no authority and influence.

Law and Order:

The Tabar Islanders are a law abiding community only two cases being brought before the Court of Native Affairs. One, an assault charge, did not involve a local native the defendant being from the Sepik District. The other charge, initiated by the patrol concerned a married woman who neglected to obtain medical treatment for her two young children. Disputes arising from unpaid debts, damage to gardens by livestock and etcetera were settled by arbitration.

The incidence of adultery and prostitution is still high but these are considered by the Tabar Islanders as pleasant diversions rather than violations of the law. A number of women appeared for census who though unmarried had several children in their care.

Economic Development:

The only cash crops of the Tabar Islands are copra and coffee. Coffee plots are small and confined mainly to the two islands of Tatau and Simberi. Income derived from the sale of beans is not substantial but a recent decision by the Co-operative Section to assist the project and provide outlets should confirm and strengthen the industry. Not all of the coffee plots were sighted by the patrol but a recent count (November 1963) by an officer of the Department of Agriculture Stock and Industry, reveals the number of plantings to be a fraction short of ten thousand. Although this number is far from

NATIVE SITUATION - Economic Development cont'd:

---. adequate it must nevertheless be remembered that this is but a novel venture and with D.A.S.F. and/or Co-operative advice and assistance would prove to be sufficient basis for a healthy industry. The writer would presume to suggest here that every consideration be given here by the Department of Agriculture and/or Co-operative Section to the fostering of the coffee industry in this division. The Tabar Islands are an insular group and lack many of the facilities taken for granted on the mainland and consequently genuine assistance in such an industry would not go astray. Should fervour in this coffee venture peter out, having being initiated by the Administration, a great deal of harm could well be wrought on people/Administration relationship.

Since 1961, when a scant few new coconut plantings were in evidence, a concerted effort has been made and young palms now greatly outnumber the mature. In all villages ground has and is being cleared for these new plantings. A conservative estimate on new plantings going in would be 2000 per month which when divided amongst the able bodied males is a scant 4 each per month showing definite room for improvement. This position, however, is a vast improvement on the 1961 figures. A palm count carried out by an officer of the Department of Agriculture Stock and Fisheries in November of 1963 shows a total of 66000 new plantings as opposed to the 45000 ~~new~~ mature trees.

A member of the company of John Seeto & Co., which operates the only regular freight service between Tabar and Kavieng, volunteered the information that some 20 ton of copra per month is shipped out of Tabar. This would realise, at an average price of £50 per ton, £12000 per year.

The Co-operative movement in Tabar has shown some improvement over the last two years and has a greater air of vitality. A third consumer store is now in the process of being established at Koko village on Big Tabar supplementing those at Simberi and Korumbo villages. In some areas, notably Sos, the local villagers had shown a lack of co-operation in assisting with the loading of vessels apparently not appreciating the fact that these vessels provide the only outlet for native copra. A recent visit by an officer of the Co-operative Section should bolster the local's willingness to co-operate.

(A)

AGRICULTURE AND STOCK:

GARDENS.

All, except the more remote gardens, were sited by the patrol and are adequate to meet the needs of the people and there is no sign of food shortage. The Luluai of Teripats village on Big Tabar did mention that his area was short on sweet potato but this is certainly not due to a lack of suitable garden acreage but rather to the added time spent by these villagers on a communal coconut plantation in the Kowamarara area. The people were advised to tend their gardens more frequently lest a serious food shortage befall them. Other food crops grown are Sago and Tapioca with limited Taro being grown. Some corn and pineapples have been planted but these are considered as a welcome addition to the diet by the myriad parrots. It was suggested that small ~~of~~ plots of these crops could be situated in the immediate village environs where the presence of the village people might well dissuade the pests from further forays.

Most of the gardens are adjacent to the road and are fairly well cared for. Fencing, of which there is much, is of a high standard. Very well tended communal gardens were noticed in the Karumbo area on Tatau and the Matlik/Rakubo area of Big Tabar.

STOCK.

The majority of the pigs of Tabar have been banished to central areas inland and few were noticed in the villages. This is in keeping with the recent trend to deny these beasts the opportunity for sampling newly planted palms and garden produce. Large numbers of pigs have been slaughtered with this end in view. It is gratifying to see, however, that quite a large number of adult boars and sows are being retained for breeding purposes.

Five goats, obtained from the herd at Mapua Catholic Mission, are at Wang village on Big Tabar. This herd at the mission station is about 25 strong and at Pigiput plantation on Simberi is the only other herd in the Tabar group.

Fowls are plentiful and form a welcome addition the native diet. Fish, of which only limited numbers are ~~caught~~ caught, are bountiful.

TAX COLLECTION.

A total of £476 Head tax was collected for the 1963 period and £624 as council tax for 1964. All those liable for the Government tax paid promptly and without apparent financial difficulty and no defaults were recorded. Exemptions, where warranted, were issued. The levied tax rate for this area is two pounds per year.

The £624 collected as council tax represents the payment by 312 male adults being about 60 per cent of those present at the time of patrol. Generally the attitude towards payment of council tax was favourable being excellent at Simberi village where virtually all male adults willingly paid the tax. At Lava, Tatau and Maragat villages on Tatau Island the only marked reluctance to pay council tax was encountered. A male adult, PAWUT of Lava village, was among the first to be called to the census table and he refused to pay his council tax stating rather loudly his reasons for this refusal. He claimed to be conversant with the laws pertaining to the payment of tax and maintained that as he had three dependant children he could not be called upon to pay council tax. Several others then followed suit, seeing the disturbance as a chance to save two pounds, and the writer called a halt to proceedings and conferred with the village officials after which the situation improved and very few others declined to pay the council tax. PAWUT is a young man and possessed of quite a healthy income from copra sales. His refusal to pay the council tax stems, not from any economic distress, but from a tendency on the part of his cranium towards the swollen state. Fortunately he has no real following as he displays these same tendencies towards his fellow villagers who, in many cases, are heartily sick of him. In all cases where council tax was not proffered no action was taken to enforce payment but a note made of the name and circumstances concerned.

ROADS AND TRANSPORT.

Tracks for the most part are circumlittoral deviating inland only briefly where such a route provides a short cut to the next village. The road is well maintained throughout though in some cases grass had been cut only pending the arrival of the patrol and sarriff blades will probably be returned to use only when the next patrol hoves in sight. Bridges have been thrown over all creeks and streams and are in fair state of repair. Those few seen to be in a rotten and decaying condition were replaced under supervision. Only one vehicle is at present on Tabar that of Mr. Berve of Koko plantation.

TRADE and COMMUNICATIONS:

The chief primary product of these islands is copra followed by cacao and a limited quantity of coffee. There are no copra crushing mills, fermentaries or the like, all produce being shipped in the dried state only. Native copra from all sources, co-operative and private, is in the vicinity of twenty tons per month. Native coffee and cacao is grown in limited quantities only but is on the increase. Copra from the privately owned plantations, European and Chinese, of which there are ten main ones, realises some 100 tons per month. All primary products are marketed thru Kavieng.

Most of the private plantations operate trade stores and stock the usual items such as tinned meat and fish, rice, sugar, tea, lava-lavas, bush-knives, limited fishing gear, plates, spoons and the like. Prices are competitive. In addition there are four Co-operative operated trade stores and some five native owned and operated.

Shipping:

John Seeto and Company operates the only regular shipping service to the Tabar Islands with two vessels the M.V.s Jason and Medea. Freight charges for copra vary between 8/- and 10/- depending on individual weight. That is 8/- to 10/- per bag. In addition the privately owned vessel M.V. Tabar of Tomolabat Plantation carries native copra where cargo space allows. Passengers are charged a pound per head for the single journey.

Airfields:

At present Tabar has no airstrip but a site on Mapua Island (Catholic Mission) investigated by the patrol has much promise. It is a flat island some thirty feet above sea level and covered in the main by grass and course but stunted bush. The overall area is approximately 5,000,000 square metres (3000 by 1600 metres). A full investigation report will be submitted. The only other possible site is a similar grass plain inland from Totau village but this has drawbacks with regard to surface, being undulating, and it is not as centrally situated as the site at Mapua. Mapua, too, is within easy call of the Mission operated two way radio.

L.A. Meintjes
L.A. Meintjes. P.O.

(11)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

INTRODUCTION:

The Tabar Census Division, consisting of three main islands, Simberi, Tatau and Big Tabar, is some eighty sea miles south east of Kavieng. All three islands are mountainous inland with a coastal plain varying in width from a mere ledge to a 1000 yards or so. The soil is a rich volcanic loam and supports well all types of tropical agriculture. Inland from MARAI village on Tatau are found warm mineral springs. Water supplies from streams and small rivers are adequate though in some instances a lengthy carry is involved.

The patrol, of seventeen days duration, was of the general administration nature and Head tax for 1963 and Council tax for 1964 collected.

Weatherwise the patrol was fortunate in that no time was lost to or delays caused thru inclement weather. Carriers and, where necessary, canoes were readily provided and the patrol moved smoothly from point to point. All villages and plantations in the Tabar Census Division were visited

NATIVE SITUATION:

As mentioned in previous patrol reports the Tabar Islanders are lacking in vitality and are generally a lethargic people. Content to remain as they are and have been for years past very little effort or thought is given to improving their lot. The lack of vigorous leaders will not help this situation. Villages in the main are well kept as regards the upkeep of the actual site but the standard of housing in most areas leaves much to be desired. Pride in appearance is noticeable in its absence and many instances of soiled and ragged clothing were in evidence. A notable exception being the villages of Wang, Banessa and Matlik where all, adults and children alike, were turned out in as neat an attire as their resources allow.

In general then, it might be said that in most matters pertaining to living conditions, social and economic advancement the Tabar people are singularly possessed of a lack of enthusiasm. Previous reports have made mention of the lack of keen and vigorous leaders and the writer can see no evidence of an improvement in the situation. Patrol report No. 1 of 1962/63 reveals that Luluais SOWGIS of Tatau and LUMUS of Matlik were at that stage the two most influential leaders in their respective areas. At the present time these two officials still retain



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

In Reply
Please Quote

No. 67-1-4

~~DISPATCHED TO THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER~~

Sub District Office,
KAVIENG.

20/10/64.

The Assistant District Officer,
Sub District Office,
KAVIENG.

PATROL NUMBER 6 OF 1964/65.

Herewith please find the above Patrol Report together with claims for camping out allowance for Cadet Patrol Officer I.B. Beckhaus and myself.

L.A. Meintjes Patrol Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA ET-AND NEW GUINEA.

AREA PATROLLED: Tabar Census Division.

INTRODUCTION.

The patrol to the Tabar Census Division was mainly instigated to collect 1963 Government Tax and 1964 Central New Ireland Council Tax. As well as this the patrol was to look into a land dispute at Pikung Plantation and carry out a survey into possible airstrip sights in the area. Reports on the latter are submitted separately.

The patrol also undertook general Administrative Duties.

In its objectives the patrol was completely successful. Due to the co-operation received from the villagers in the supplying of carriers and transport the patrol was able to move quickly and efficiently from village to village. Bad weather did not in any way hinder the patrol, although good weather conditions did not always prevail

Native Situation.

The people of Tabar are generally well endowed with natural wealth. They live on three small islands surrounded by waters which are teeming with all kinds of sea foods. They have the good fortune to be sitting on rich volcanic soils, for the most part suitable for all types of tropical agriculture. They have ample flat ground to use for gardens. The people of the Tabar Group have only one major setback—they suffer from a natural indolence. This point has been stressed over and over again in reports, but the "sickness" still prevails

Another setback that the Tabar people suffer is that they have no natural leaders. To summarise, the Luluais and Tultuls encountered on patrol, with the exceptions of two or three, are useless. Perhaps the best Luluai encountered was the one at Banesa village— at least he was neatly dressed and displayed some intelligence, even though he was not a leader in the true sense of the word.

On the whole the native situation is quite good, although some of the younger men in the village society are starting to rebel against the older men's authority. One young man belonging to this "new breed" Parwut of Lava village was quite outspoken in his rebellion.

These younger men, however outspoken, paid their tax meekly when asked— that is with the exception of Parwut. In general these men have no following amongst the village people, but tend to stand alone. It was noticed amongst the younger men that they were cautious about joining the Council, whereas the older members of the community were quite enthusiastic— especially the village officials who no doubt wish

to get out of a little work.

An amazing point about the people of the Tabar Group is their apparent lack of concern about their numbers being diminished by drowning. Although many drownings have occurred because people attempt canoe trips to Lihir Island and the mainland, the people still persist. Drownings have also occurred in the passage between Simberi and Tatau Islands. Attempts were made to explain the futility of such trips.

The Tabar people have an excellent opportunity for ~~progression~~ and if some strong leaders were available, the people of this group could advance tremendously. With the introduction of a Council System into this area, there could well come a burst of enthusiasm and perhaps some good leaders. A Council in this area will do nothing but good.

Law and Order

During the two week duration of the patrol, only two court cases were held, from this it can be gathered that the Tabar people are generally law abiding.

The two cases brought before the court were one of assault and one of failure to report for medical service. The rape of a 14 year old school girl was also brought to the notice of the patrol, but the charges proved groundless.

A few disputes over coconuts and land were brought to the patrol's attention but these were settled by arbitration. Nothing, except old disputes, came up about pigs. It appears that pig complaints have died out with the pigs.

Nothing definite was ever brought to the patrol's attention, but it appears that by far the most common offences committed by the Tabar people are adultery and prostitution. Evidently this is not looked down upon in the community as unmarried women often appeared at census with children by different fathers. From general talk it appears that adultery is generally worked out between the two parties concerned, and a cash settlement usually occurs.

It appears that Tabar women are sadly lacking in morals - or perhaps the men are.

TAX COLLECTION.

The attitude towards collection of 1963 Government tax was very good throughout the area. Although some men were loathe to part with their two pounds, they saw the error of their ways and decided to pay.

Council tax collection was met with many and varying ways. From an excellent reception at Simberi village, it deteriorated to very poor at Tatau village. Throughout the area the people adopted the attitude that two pounds for Council was a hardship, and many came with the story that they hadn't heard about the Council and thus didn't have the money. When it was explained that, if the Council had not come to the area, they still would have had to pay head tax for 1964, most of the men paid. It was explained to the women that they would have to pay tax if they wanted to vote in the elections, but no money was received from the female community.

Tatau villages' reception to Council tax can be attributed to one man, namely Parwut of Lava village. Parwut was semi-exempt from paying Government tax as he had three children, this he decided gave him an exemption from Council tax. Parwut voiced his opinions quite loudly and refused to pay, also he could not be arrested for default as the patrol did not have the power. Seeing this many other young men in the village suddenly lost their money. Parwut was suspected, although nothing could be proved, of telling the men of the following villages not to pay their Council tax: Tatau Lava Sea and Pekinberiu. This was to no avail, as most men of these villages paid tax willingly.

It was found out later that Parwut is quite wealthy because of his interest in the Co-operatives and his copra.

Most men appeared to have no trouble finding the required four pounds although some appeared unwilling to part with it. Indeed, some men had to find eight or ten pounds, and this did not prove impossible.

VILLAGE HOUSING.

All villages except two were neatly arrayed and clean for the patrols arrival. The two defaulters were Maragat and Tumindar which can be described as very unwholesome places, however both of these are relatively small. Two of the best villages encountered on patrol were Morai and Sanipari both on Tatau Island but as they are both relatively new, no comparison can be drawn. The greater percentage of good villages were encountered on Tabar Island itself.

The universal type dwelling used in the Tabar Group is still the "haus kuk". Many of these buildings are relatively old, and it can be hoped that when they are pulled down, houses on stilts will be built. Some of these "haus kuk" type dwellings even have copra burners incorporated in them.

However in the relatively new village of Marai, the "haus kuk" dwelling is still in the majority.

Usually at least two buildings in each village were built on piles. These were invariably the "haus kiap" and the house belonging to the Luluai, who no doubt builds this type house for prestige.

It seems a universal practice in the Tabar Group to build the "haus boi" in the cemetery or vice versa. These houses are used for the unmarried men and visitors to the village. These houses were generally very untidy and in bad repair, in fact a few were ordered ^{to be} demolished. One exception was the "haus boi" at Rokubo, and this can only be described as a marvellous piece of indigenous architecture in excellent repair.

In Tabar houses are generally made of split bamboo walls and thatched sago palm roofs. In all cases these building materials are in plentiful supply and quite close to the villages. There is no excuse for badly repaired houses in this group, it is just a reflection of their laziness.

However, without the two exceptions already mentioned, all villages were very neat in appearance and cleanliness was of a very high order. Most villages are well located, although some are quite a distance from fresh water. Wang and Sos have the best harbours of the villages and Banesa and Koko have quite good harbours. All told most villages are quite close to an anchorage of some description.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

All Aid Posts in the area were visited during the course of the patrol. The four Aid Posts in Tabar are located at Simberi, Rokubo, Banesa and Tatau villages. Generally, they are all well equipped with drugs, ably manned and in a good state of repair. Some of the wards maintained by the Aid Posts were not in particularly good condition. They are all made out of native materials in the traditional style, some appearing to be quite dilapidated. Water tanks were in good repair with no sign of rust.

Judging by the prevalence of (Grilli) in the area it is the writer's opinion that the Aid Posts are not used to their full advantage.

Apart from the prevalence of Grilli and to the writer's unprofessional eye, the general health of the Tabar people appears to be excellent. It was particularly that the children in this area appear to be in excellent condition. In one village particularly, Wang, the children were thoroughly clean and tidy in excellent health. The good condition of the children could probably be attributed to the regular trips made by the Infant Welfare Sister

A.P.Os were all neatly dressed and clean in appearance and were quite intelligent. The A.P.O. at Banesa was particularly good and appeared to have an important standing in the community.

EDUCATION.

There are two main school centres in the Tabar census division, both being located on Tatau Island. These are a Government Primary "T" school at Tatau village and a Catholic school at Mapua. There are other smaller schools throughout the group but these only cater for the lower grades and are all mission run. A Catholic school at Datava village provides "prep." and 1st grade training, there is a Methodist school at Simberi and a S.D.A. school at Wang.

All schools were visited and in general the standard was found to be good. The two main schools at Tatau and Mapua villages were in excellent condition and appear to have a standard comparable to Australian schools. At Tatau some English Composition books were inspected and proved to be very good. All teachers appear to be quite competent and doing a good job. Attendance at these schools is very good.

There seems to be a growing awareness amongst Tabar parents of the importance of schooling for their children. Many of the Catholic children are being sent to Lemakot on the east coast of New Ireland to further their education when they finish at Mapua. In one family of about ten children it was found that all were attending schools. This is a prevalent feature throughout Tabar, except in the Sambuari Sanipari area, where the attitude is a bit lax.

Radio communications in the area are carried out through two mediums, the Catholic Mission and Woodlark Plantation. Radio contact is thus constantly maintained with Kavieng. In addition S.V. Tabar all belonging to the Catholic Mission, Mapua, are in constant contact with Kavieng.

MISSIONS.

Of the missions located on the islands, the predominant one is Catholic. Adherence to Catholic teachings was found throughout the area, and this is probably boosted by the father's regular tours of inspection. The Methodist Mission is the next in line of importance, and it has quite a large following.

The S.D.A. Mission is the only other mission located in the area. They have a small following of about 30 people in the village of Wang. At Wang all three missions are in operation and a comparison can be drawn between the S.D.As and the rest of the village. The S.D.As lived in their own little block in the village, and were generally better dressed and better housed than the rest of the village.

The only big religious centre in the islands is located at Mapua where the Catholic Father has his residence. This centre is particularly well equipped and located. It has an excellent harbour, a small motor boat and is in constant radio contact with Kavieng. The Father also has a supply of drugs.

Generally the missions appear to work in harmony with no friction. This is well illustrated by the community at Wang, which has all three missions.

The pace for agriculture in the area is slow. The common gardens throughout Tabar are in various stages of being cleared, and are generally well cared for.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Tabar has excellent roads, although they have deteriorated somewhat due to the high annual rainfall. It is quite conceivable that a limited network of jeep tracks could be constructed with a minimum of labor. Jeep tracks already exist between Sos and Tetau villages and Matlik and datava villages.

As there are no rivers of any size in the Tabar group, bridge building is relatively unimportant. Bridges are mainly built to cross small creeks and drains, Bamboo being the main constructional material. In most cases these small foot bridges were found to be inadequate, poorly constructed, and in bad repair. Almost every second bridge encountered was ordered replaced or repaired.

Canoes in the Tabar Group appear to be quite plentiful and in good repair. From appearances, many of the canoes are quite new, and in many of the villages new canoes are being constructed. During the course of the patrol there were adequate canoes to transport both patrol and gear. It appears that it is still quite common practice to travel by canoe to Lihir Island and the mainland, especially when there is a big "sing sing". This has caused drownings in the past, but the natives still persist, even though they have been warned against it time and time again.

Radio communications in the area are carried out through two mediums, the Catholic Mission and Tomalabatt Plantation. Radio contact is thus constantly maintained with Kavieng. In addition M.V. Tabar and the boat belonging to the Catholic Mission, Mapua, are in constant contact with the villagers. M.V. Medea and M.V. Jason, belonging to John Seeto and Co. are also in contact as they come out from Kavieng on copra runs regularly.

AGRICULTURE.

Although many coconuts are grown by the villagers as a cash crop, it can be said that the backbone of agriculture in this area is still subsistence farming. All food crops are grown under the subsistence method.

The main food crops are Sweet Potatoe, Sago and Tapioca. Sweet potatoe appears to be the main crop grown, and frequently whole hillsides could be seen covered in this crop. Today the people of Tabar are tending to change to large communal gardens, evidently preferring these to the small single plots.

Some particularly good examples of these communal plots were seen in the Marai Sanipari area, and indeed the people of this area seem to be setting the pace for agriculture in the Tabar Group. These communal gardens throughout Tabar are in excellent condition, well cleared, well fenced and generally well cared for.

Besides these communal gardens, family plots appear to be very poor. Some particularly poor gardens were seen on Tatau Island around Sos Lava and Maragon. The gardens in this area were not cleared properly, many of the fallen trees were left, some even blocking the roads. Gardens in this area were rarely fenced. Even though pigs are now practically negligible on Tatau, the writer thinks there is still a necessity to fence gardens, as only a few pigs are required to do a lot of damage.

During the course of the patrol only two pawpaws came to light, both appearing at Koko. Both pawpaws and pineapples are very scarce throughout Tabar. It was noted at Rokubo that extensive sweet potatoe plots had been planted, and pawpaws were being grown as a secondary food crop.

Although reported by other patrols, hardly any ^{small} coffee was seen during the normal garden inspections. The most important cash crop on Tabar is still the coconut. Coconuts are extensively planted by all villages, and there is still great scope for further plantings as much of the village land is still unused.

Again the area bounded by Marai and Sanipari appeared to be the best producer. This area leads the field in the planting of new coconuts and from the villagers reports it would appear that young coconut trees do extremely well. This area seems to be far advanced agriculturally compared with the rest of the Tabar Group.

A report by the plantation manager of Dataru, who is one of John Seeto's employees, states that the native population of the Tabar Group produces about twenty tons of copra a month. Nearly all of this is picked up in John Seeto's boats, under the supervision of the manager of Dataru. The natives dry their own copra in the village burners. Burners are scattered throughout the Islands and almost every village can boast at least one burner, indeed some villages have two or three.

Livestock

Pigs are a rapidly dying member of the Tabar community. In fact possibly no more than twenty were sighted during the course of the patrol, and on Tabar Island itself the writer cannot recollect seeing any pigs at all. The pigs on Tatau and Sipheri Islands were rarely sighted, and then only in scattered groups of two or three.

Poultry now appears to be the most important form of livestock on the Islands, and these thrive in great numbers in all the villages. The numbers are so great that they will soon outnumber the human population. According to reports, the poultry is rarely eaten but fairly substantial supplies of eggs are available. In most cases the poultry is in very scruffy condition, and eggs produced are very small indeed. The manager of Dataru supplied some of his Rhode Island

Red poultry to the local villagers some years ago for breeding purposes. The result is an improved breed, larger than the normal village fowl and also a better egg producer. The eggs here are also much bigger than the normal village fowl produces.

Goats as yet have little place in the Tabar community, although some are kept by the S.D.A. people at Wang village. These goats only number about one dozen. The major stronghold for goats is at the Catholic mission where the Fatherbruns about twenty or thirty. It is quite conceivable that some of these goats will stray to other villages, and possibly goats will fill the place left by the pigs.

PLANTATIONS.

There are three major plantations in the Tabar Census Division. These are Tomalabatt, Dataru and Pigiput also there are five other smaller plantations.

Plantations in the area generally exist amiably side by side with the villages, and in all cases supplement the local natives' cash income by employing casual labour. Tomalabatt has started a system of share farming with some of the more industrious natives, and this appears to be quite successful.

No disputes between local people and plantation labour lines were brought before the patrol. There appears to be some inter-marrying between these two groups, and some of the labour line appear to stay behind in the villages after their contracts have finished.

CONCLUSION.

It can be seen that the people of the Tabar Census Division are a law abiding community, although they have a tendency to indolence. In all areas they lack strong and influential leaders and a motive to do more work. The people appear to be content to live day by day, their only worry being where their next meal is coming from.

With the introduction of a Council system into the area, and the responsibility it implies, it is to be hoped that the Tabar people's attitude to work will change. Through the council system it is also to be hoped that some strong leaders will emerge, and that the area will progress at a more rapid rate.

A Council system in this area can do nothing but good.
