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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: ESA'ALA, 1967 - 1968

Original documents bound with reports
for: Bolubolu, volume 3.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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MILNE BAY DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1967-1968

BOLUBOLU, SEHULEA, ESA'ALA

<u>Report No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
<u>BOLUBOLU</u>		
1-67-68	J. Balderson	Goodenough Island
2-67-68	J. Balderson	Goodenough Island
4-67-68	J. Balderson	Goodenough Island C.D.
5-67-68	R.F. Moore	Part West & Inland Fergus- son Island
<u>SEHULEA</u>		
1-67-68	D.J. Young	Duau L.G.C. area
<u>ESA'ALA</u>		
1-67-68	G.P. Sewell	Dobu L.G. C.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT.

REPORT NUMBER. NSA'ALA NO. 1 OF 1967/68.

SUB - DISTRICT . NSA'ALA.

DISTRICT. MILNE BAY.

COUNCIL/ NON-COUNCIL AREA DOBU LOCAL GOVT. COUNCIL AREA.

PATROL CONDUCTED BY. GEOFFREY PATRICK SEMELL.

DESIGNATION. CADET PATROL OFFICER.

AREA PATROLLED. WHOLE OF DOBU L.G.C. AREA

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL. KEVIN CLARK BAKHUNI L.G.A
MARD - GIMU COUNCIL CLERK.
MADATY - MOIRA D.D.A. INTERM
-STR.

DATE AND DURATION OF LAST P.D.S. PATROL. HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ELECTIONS 17.2.69
TO 2.3.69.

SUBJECT OF PATROL. COUNCIL ELECTIONS

TOTAL POP. OF AREA PATROLLED. 8808.

REFERENCE. MILINCX SERIES 51 FERUSSOMER AND
FOURMIL REFERENCE SALAND AND NSA'ALA

VILLAGE POP. REGISTER. NOT ENCLOSED.

Discom
67-1-3

ERJ/emj

District Headquarters,
Milne Bay District,
ALOTAU

10th September, 1968.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU

PATROL REPORT ESA'ALA 1/67-68

Attached please find two copies of a patrol report submitted by Mr. G.P. Sewell, Cadet Patrol Officer together with covering comments by the Assistant District Commissioner, Esa'ala.

2. The Assistant District Commissioner has commented adequately on the report and no other comment appears necessary.

3. In relation to this being the only formal patrol report from the Esa'ala administrative area for 1967/68 you will be aware no doubt, that due to staff shortages, we had a Patrol Officer (A/Assistant District Commissioner) and one cadet at Esa'ala for the greater portion of the year. Station development works precluded formalised patrols to adjacent areas. The Staff position in the Esa'ala Sub-district has since improved and the Patrol Programme for that Sub-district will be adhered to.

4. For your information, please.

M. J. Denehy

(M.J. Denehy)
A/District Commissioner.

DISTROFF

67-3-1

ESA'ALA,
Milne Bay District.

6th July, 1968

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SAMARAI.

PATROL REPORT - ESA'ALA NUMBER 1/67-68

OFFICER CONDUCTING - G.P. SEWELL, C.P.

In addition to a report covering the elections for the DOBU Local Government Council, Mr. Sewell is required to submit a formal patrol report in accordance with the instructions Volume 1.

2. Mr. Sewell is a careless worker and this is evidenced by poor spelling and incorrect spelling of village names despite the fact that I have made comment from myself to various officers in this Sub-district.


3. Since his arrival at ESA'ALA some nine months ago this officer has been almost wholly engaged in treasury and other clerical work to the detriment of instruction in formal field work. He will shortly accompany me on a patrol of some six weeks duration. Under close guidance and instruction I expect his work to show steady improvement as the potential is there.

4. The Amphletts clay crisis has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion under the hand of Assistant District Officer BRAGGE who visited the Amphletts and West Fergusson peoples involved. The situation will be closely inspected during my forthcoming visit to the Amphletts on which occasion I will purchase all the small pots which Mr. Peterson encouraged the people to manufacture for sale.

5. The results of the elections were recently published in the Local Government Gazette without resort to comments concerning incorrect presentation. Both Mr. Sewell and Mr. Baibuni, Local Government Assistant, are to be commended for their efforts. Council elections closely followed House of Assembly elections and this was obviously a little too much for some people.

6. This is the only formal patrol report to be submitted from ESA'ALA for 1967/1968. Patrol jackets are not held and supplies of the jackets as revised, yet to be printed, will be ordered this month.

7. For your information, please.


(J.A. EDWARDS)
Assistant District Commissioner

67.4.33



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

11

Telephone.....
Telegrams.....
Our Reference.....
If calling ask for.....
Mr.....

Discom

67-1-3

ERJ/emj



Department of District Administration.

District Headquarters,
Milne Bay District,
ALOTAU

10th September, 1968.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU

PATROL REPORT ESA'ALA 1/67-68

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M. J. Denehy

(M.J. Denehy)
A/District Commissioner.

DISTROFF

67-3-1

ESA'ALA,
Milne Bay District.

6th July, 1968

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SANARAI.

PATROL REPORT - ESA'ALA NUMBER 1/67-68

OFFICER CONDUCTING - G.P. SEWELL, C.P.O.

In addition to a report covering the general elections for the DOBU Local Government Council, Mr. Sewell was asked to submit a formal patrol report in accordance with Standing Instructions Volume 1.

2. Mr. Sewell is a careless worker and this is evidenced by poor spelling and incorrect spelling of village names despite thurst inducing comment from myself to various officers in this Sub-district.


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7. For your information, please.


(J.A. EDWARDS)
Assistant District Commissioner

SEWELL

Sub-District Office,
Esa'ala,
Milne Bay District.

2nd July, 1968.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SAHARAI.

A. PREAMBLE

STATION	-	Esa'ala
SUB-DISTRICT	-	Esa'ala
DISTRICT	-	Milne Bay District
PATROL REPORT NO.	-	Esa'ala No 1 of 1967/68
PATROL CONDUCTED BY	-	G.F. Sewell - Cadet Patrol Officer
PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Kevin Clarke Saibuni - Local Government Assistant. (2) Mare-Simu, Council Clerk, Dobu Local Government Council. (3) Madaty Morea - Interpreter Esa'ala.
DURATION OF PATROL	-	22nd April, 1968 to 17th May, 1968 (25 days).
LAST PATROLS INTO AREA	-	D.D.A. - House of Assembly Electic 17th February to 2nd March, 1968 D.A.S.P. - 15th August, 1967 to 24th August, 1967. P.H.D. - 29th March, 1968 to 29th April, 1968.
MAP REFERENCE	-	Milinch series 51 Fergusson and fourmill reference Esa'ala and Salamo.
OBJECTS OF PATROL	-	To conduct Council elections for the Dobu Local Government Council.

B. DIARY Monday 22nd April, 1968. (8)

Proceeded to Bwaiea by M.V. Sansii (Dobu Local Government Council boat) and arrived 0800. Conducted elections and Toni - Gelenawa (new councillor) was elected on a second preference count by six votes over Elisala-Togibi. Proceeded to Sawaadi where the election was uncontested as only the former councillor, Seelinia-Magaleta, was nominated. Returned to and slept at Esa'ala.

Tuesday 23rd April, 1968.

Left for Nunamua at 0700 hrs arrived 0930. Two seats filled by Mwardoda-Boioli (70 votes - old councillor) and Tedi-Nuwanura 59 votes - old councillor). Returned and slept Esa'ala.

Wednesday 24th April, 1968.

Left for Tobu Island 0700 arrived 0800 hrs. Two seats filled by Gogenoi-Bidilue (58 votes - old councillor) and Kama Sole 55 votes - new councillor). Returned and slept Esa'ala.

Thursday 25th April, 1968.

Anzac Day observed at Esa'ala.

Friday 26th April, 1968.

Left for Niadeba 0600 hrs arrived 0900 hrs. Yogai - Kaiadeta (64 votes to closest rivals 14). Yogai was a councillor 1964-66.

Saturday 27th April, 1968.

Conducted elections for Talu and Susiana at Esa'ala. Former councillor Nebai-Flaida got in by five votes. Slept Esa'ala.

Sunday 28th April, 1968.

Sunday observed Esa'ala.

Monday 29th April, 1968.

Proceeded Korwea arrived 1000 hrs. Nelson Kainamale was returned with 80 votes to his closest rivals 5. Slept Korwea.

Tuesday 30th April, 1968.

Proceeded Bwakera arrived 1000hrs. Two seats filled by new councillors Heary-Tauweioke (45 votes) and Kuknebe-Manigan (65 votes). Slept Bwakera.

Wednesday 1st May, 1968.

Proceeded Nade and arrived 1100 hrs. a lot of people absent at a feast so decided to postpone till next morning. Slept Nade.

Thursday 2nd May, 1968.

Conducted elections Nade and former councillor Laubai - Deubole got in on 2nd preferences by 5 votes. Departed for Si'ilugu 100hrs. arrived 1030 hrs. election uncontested as former councillor only one standing - Abilaga - Nisa. Returned and slept Nade.

Friday 3rd May, 1968.

Proceeded Gomwa and arrived 1000 hrs. Jack-Tolube voted in (54 to 34 votes). Jack is a trained A.P.C. ex Village constable and ex-councillor (64-66) Slept Gomwa

Saturday 4th May, 1968.

Proceeded to Galubwa by foot and arrived at 1000 hrs. after 1 1/2 hrs. walk. The two seats were filled by Galedi - Dulala (former councillor) with 18 votes and Liosi-Moabe with 118 votes. Returned and slept Gomwa.

Sunday 5th May, 1968.

Observed Gomwa.

Monday 6th May, 1968.

Took Sans to a point on the coast near Tonomadal and walked in and arrived at 0900 after 2 hrs. easy walk. Taigamun-Jeremaia was elected with 58 votes to his rivals 26 votes. Taigamuna is a new councillor. Proceeded Esa'a'a and slept night.

Tuesday 7th May, 1968.

Proceeded to Sanarua Island and arrived at 1100 hrs. Steven-Kinokine a former councillor was elected with 68 votes to his closest rivals 17. Slept Sanarua.

Wednesday 8th May, 1968.

Proceeded to Sebutua and arrived 1100 hrs. Mwaillu-Kenisu was returned 162 votes to his closest rivals 74. Slept Sebutua.

Thursday 9th May, 1968.

Proceeded by foot to Garaa and arrived 1030 hrs. after 2 hrs. walk. Former councillor Mwalagesi-Tunalia was returned with a 6 vote majority. Returned to and slept at Sebutua.

Friday 10th May, 1968.

Proceeded to Duduna and arrived 1000 hrs. New councillor Mradiwe-Mwaicu was recording 98 votes to his two rivals 8 and 2. Slept Duduna.

Saturday 11th May, 1968.

Proceeded to Basima and arrived at 1000 hrs. Togadoya - Awao was elected (122 votes to 26 and 24). Slept Basima.

Sunday 12th May, 1968.

Observed Basima.

Monday 13th May, 1968.

Proceeded to Urua and arrived 0900 hrs. New councillor Madibese-Gunadawa was elected with 63 votes. Proceeded to Wadalei and slept there.

Tuesday 14th May, 1968.

Conducted elections at Wadalei with Bometu-Kwasoma winning with 121 votes over his rivals 21 and 1. Slept Wadalei.

Wednesday 15th May, 1968.

Proceeded by foot to Baselawa (2 hours) arriving at 1000 hrs. Yamaludi-Pida elected by a large majority over his 4 rivals. Returned Wadalei and slept there.

Thursday 16th May, 1968.

Proceeded to Amphletts (Habwageto village) and arrived 1100 hrs. The people of Gunwabaulli were not present due to a mix up and dates and so we proceeded to Gunwan in an effort to ring some people back, only 10 men and a few women of voting age could be found as the rest were in the gardens on another island. Proceeded back to Habwagetta and arrived 1400 hrs. and conducted elections. W-vanilo-Beona was elected with 66 votes over his rivals 42 and 4. Slept Gunwana.

Friday 17th May, 1968.

Proceeded to Habwagetta village to uplift Mr. and Mrs. Las'on for Ksa'a'a. Arrived Ksa'ala 1700 hrs.

End of Patrol.

(3)

OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS.

1. Reception of Patrol.

The patrol received a friendly reception from all villages especially those on N.E. Fergusson Island which have not had as much patrol contact as other areas. Food in great variety and abundance was to be purchased in all villages and the attitude of the populous could be described as "chatty" as it was not unusual to have 20 or more people come to the resthouse to talk and listen to Radio Milne Bay which seems to be very popular in the area.

2. Standard and Type of Housing.

On the average I would say the standard of housing was good to fair with the exception of the people of Gumawana village on the Amphlett Islands whose houses are very sub standard.

3. Water Supply.

All villages with two exceptions, are situated close to or around fast flowing creeks or rivers which supply an adequate all year round supply of fresh water. The two exceptions mentioned above are Numa Numa and Nabwageta which are provided for by wells. The well water at Nabwageta although a suspicious brown in colour is palatable and no side effects were noted on the writer.

4. Outline of the Political Situation.

(a) Administration.

The attitude towards the Administration is generally quite good although the people living on Mid and Southern Normanby, Debu Island and on Fergusson Island around the Mission stations have over the years formed a complacent attitude. These people have had a fair amount done for them and expect it still to be done without they themselves raising a finger to help. The attitude of the people on N.E. Fergusson is the reverse of this and they seem an enthusiastic group and keen to get ahead.

(b) Council.

The attitude towards the council is covered by the above. The complacent group being old members and the keener groups the newer members (1966) of the Council. Nevertheless all the wards were keen to have councillors and seemed to be content with the council system.

(c) Missions.

There are two denominations in the area, Methodist and Catholic and thus two spheres of conflicting ideas are forced on the people. It appears that the "iron control" of the Methodists is waning due to the influence of the Catholic Mission. This growing influence of the Catholic Mission can probably be attributed to the differing ideas of the denominations i.e. the Methodists enforce the non drinking, smoking rule etc while the Catholic Mission do not enforce such rules. Although there is no apparent outward conflict between the Missions themselves there is much rivalry between people of different religions.

(4)

(d) Europeans

The attitude of the people towards the European trader is mixed and is due to the sort of person that the particular trader/plantation owner is. There is no excessive friction between the Traders/plantation owners and the people.

(e) Relationships with Adiesant Groups.

Traditionally the people of Dobu Island were the arch enemies of the Goodenough Island people, frequent raiding parties plying back and forth in search of heads etc. It is quite surprising that this traditional animosity has not broken down over the years. The main reason being I suppose that the Dobu Island people have no need (trade etc.) to "get on" with the Goodenough people and vice versa.

(f) Social Problems.

Aside from the usual social problems of land (matrilineal society) and adultery the most glaring problem concerns the people of the Amphlett Islands and their clay pot making industry.

Before the problem can be understood it is essential to understand the role of the clay pots in the peoples economy.

As these people have little or no money (The Tax Rate of \$1.00 underlined this) and not sufficient gardening area the clay pot is used as a medium of exchange to obtain yams and other necessary foodstuffs. The pots are distributed widely being in evidence on the three islands of the D'entrecasteaux group and the Lesuia Sub-District.

Unfortunately the old clay beds on the Amphletts are worked out and the only source of usable clay is on West Fergusson Island near Gwabegwabe village. The problem as it stands now is that the Gwabegwabe people have decided to charge a flat rate of \$6.00 per yam basket of clay. The idea was instituted recently by the councillor although prior to this the clay was free. As the Amphlett people have little or no money it is impossible for them to pay this rate for one yam basket of clay out of which 8 or 9 medium sized pots can be made.

I suggest that it would be advisable for the Amphlett people to with councils help take out a lease on the Gwabegwabe clay beds, thus safeguarding the industry. See Patrol Report Number 8 of 67/68 of Bolubelu by Mr. A.D.O. Brooge for further information on prices of pots etc.

5. Agriculture, Commerce and Industry.

The main cash crop produced in the area is copra all villages having smoke dryers which are either communally owned and operated or run by an individual for mostly his own use. Unfortunately the peoples attitude towards copra making has been influenced by the irregular pick-up of the copra which goes bad and therefore not saleable. If a regular copra pick-up could be instituted the people would, after the idea was got across that service was regular and "not up in the air", I feel, start producing much more.

5. (Cont.)

Coffee was in evidence on the inland of Salamo (Galubwa, Gussana) and I am informed by the Agricultural Officer Mr. A. Brownhill that approximately 1,000lbs was produced in this area in the 1967/68 financial year. Cocoa in its first year of production (235lbs. dry beans) in this area also and although of a poor quality (much internal mould). Mr. Brownhill expects to hold "Cocoa Schools" at Galubwa in the near future. This should show a marked increase in quality of bean.

Toak seems to be a crop of much interest to the people and although only 350 are planted out amongst 4 individuals (Korwea and Sisiaua villages) most of the people with a bit of go and suitable land seem to be interested in the idea of this long term investment.

The only European introduced subsistence crop of significant amount to mention is peanuts which are present in nearly all gardens to varying extents. The peanut situation can be expected to expand once enough peanuts have been introduced to take the delicacy look away.

Within the Dobu Local Government Council area there is, at present one co-operative at Korwea which appears to be doing quite well. A good store (permanent materials, cement floor, ample storage room, spacious etc.) has just been completed and is a credit to the Society. The people seem to be interested in co-operatives and at present there are three in the sub-district. (Kurada, Korwea and Anuluni.)

Quite a few of the villages especially those on N.E. Fergusson which has no access to co-operatives and or Mission establishments, have stores which are usually run by one individual not group owned and are small. The villages with stores are Bwakera, Sebutuia, Urua, Wadalei, Bosalewa, Basima, Numanuma, Nade, Bwalewa and four on Dobu Island.

6. Rest Houses.

The rest houses were generally in good repair with the exceptions of Wadalei (new rest house under construction) and Bwakera (rest house being repaired). In many cases the rest houses were colourfully decorated with flowers for the occasion.

7. Roads and Bridges.

As the patrol was done by sea not much was seen of the roads. Those that were seen require, in all cases, bridges to make them passable by land rover etc. Maintenance also needs to be carried out as many roads are showing signs of erosion and or being overgrown. The only exception is the Seblagawa, Deidei, Numanuma, Sawaedi road network (approx 6 miles).

The road to Awarai Bay is fairly well defined but will need a fair amount of work to turn it into an all weather road.

2

8. Health.

The health of the people was good and council aid posts are situated in nearly all villages. Two Mission hospitals at Budoyn (Catholic) and Salamo (Methodist) serve the area well; there is also a leper station on Ubuia Island on the West Coast of Normanby Island.

9. Carriers.

Carriers were only used 4 times and were keen to volunteer. A rate of 1 stick of twist tobacco or 1/- as desired was paid.

10. Conclusion.

There were 22 polling places used and 26 councillors were elected. Two seats were filled for the one ward at Numanuma, Dobu Island and Gouwabila (Galuba, Guesana village group) and bwakera.

The period covered was from 22nd April 1968 to 17th May 1968 (25 days). The total number of electors enrolled was 2,970 males and 2,478 females out of this 1,170 males were unavoidably absent and 681 females unavoidably absent. Six hundred and thirty-two (25%) of the females could have voted but did not and 487 or 18% of the males could have voted but did not.

Thirteen new councillors were elected and 13 old councillors re-elected. Only two wards (Si'ilugu and Sawaadi) were uncontested.

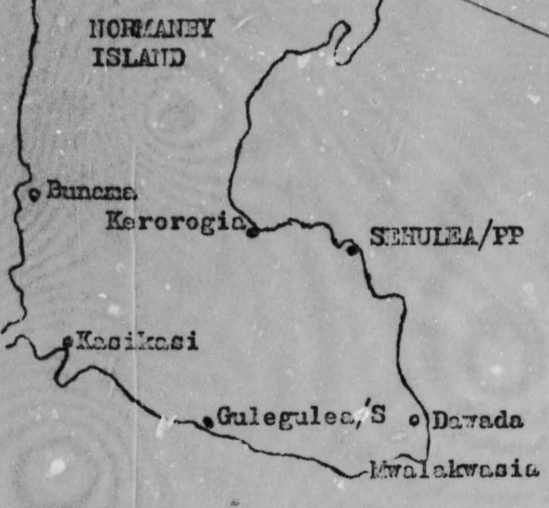
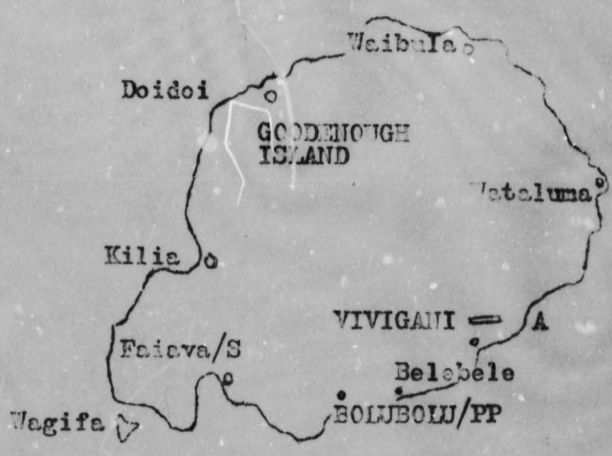
Scrutineers were nominated in all wards but no complaints were received. The elections were a success and all wards were keen to have councillors and satisfied with the council system.

It is regretted that the preceding report is brief and not very informative but this was due to the time factor and the overriding importance of the Council Elections.

J. P. P. P.
Cadet Patrol Officer

- A Airstrip
- H Hospital
- S School
- RPS Rural Progress Society
- PP Patrol Post
- SDEQ Sub-District Headquarters
- Scale 8 miles to an Inch
- North

C Co-operative
CO Coffee and Cocoa
- Area patrolled



ESA'ALA SUB-DISTRICT
 MILIE BAY DISTRICT

M. Mad. Br.