

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: WEST NEW BRITAIN

STATION: Talasea

VOLUME No: 19

ACCESSION No: 496.

1968 - 1969

Filmed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea,
PORT MORESBY - 1989.

Sole Custodian: National Archives of Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

Digitized version made available by



Copyright: Government of Papua New Guinea. This digital version made under a license granted by the National Archives and Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea.

Use: This digital copy of the work is intended to support research, teaching, and private study.

Constraints: This work is protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) and the laws of Papua New Guinea. Use of this work beyond that allowed by "fair use" requires written permission of the National Archives of Papua New Guinea. Responsibility for obtaining permissions and any use and distribution of this work rests exclusively with the user and not the UC San Diego Library.

Note on digitized version: A microfiche copy of these reports is held at the University of California, San Diego (Mandeville Special Collections Library, MSS 0215). The digitized version presented here reflects the quality and contents of the microfiche. Problems which have been identified include misfiled reports, out-of-order pages, illegible text; these problems have been rectified whenever possible. The original reports are in the National Archives of Papua New Guinea (Accession no. 496).

67-2-4



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



PATROL REPORT

Report Number..... No. 9 Talasea 1968/69.....

Subdistrict..... Talasea.....

District..... West New Britain.....

Type of Patrol..... Road maintenance Kimbe Talasea road.....

Patrol Conducted by..... R.H. Topham.....

Area Patrolled..... Part Dola census division.....

(Council and/or.....).....

Census Division/s.).....).....

Personnel Accompanying Patrol..... Const Nara R.P.N.G.C......

Duration of Patrol—from 2 / 6 / 69..... To 13 6 / 69.....

No. of Days..... 12.....

Last D.D.A. Patrol to Area :.....

Date..... Duration.....

Objects of Patrol (Briefly)..... Repairs and maintenance to the Kimbe Talasea road......

Total Population of Area Patrolled.....

Director of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

Forwarded, please.

/ /19

.....
District Commissioner.

GFB:BT

67-17-69
Division of District Administration,

KONEDOBU. PAPIA.

9th December, 1969.

The District Commissioner,
West New Britain District,
KIMBE.

PATROL NO. TALASEA 9/68-69

Your reference Talasea P/R 9/68-69 of 25th November, 1969.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Special Report by
Mr. R. H. Topham, A.P.O., to part BOLA Census Division.

Mr. Topham appears to have conducted an effective patrol.

Comments on the report are noted. While the patrol was
of a special nature, Mr. Topham's report is unnecessarily
brief, and it does not contain any worthwhile information
about the people. Also, he should take more care with his
presentation and spelling in future.

(T.W. ELLIS)

Secretary,

Department of the Administrator.

c.c. Mr. R. H. Topham,
Sub-District Office,
KANDRIAN. West New Britain.

Please note that political education must be a
continuing process in all situations with the emphasis
on the advantages of national unity.

Dept. of the Administration,
KONEDOBU.

67. 17. 69. (6)

DISCOM
Talasea P/R 9/68-69
NFF

the Administration,
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
District Headquarters,
KIMBE, West New Britain.



25th November, 1969.

Assistant District Commissioner,
TALASEA.

Talasea Patrol No. 9/68-69
Talasea - Kimbe Road

Thank you for Mr. Topham's report on the above mentioned patrol and your covering comments.

Your comments adequately cover the report and I endorse comment on the lack of a Situation Report and late submission of the report. These matters will be drawn to Mr. Topham's attention.

A.T. Carey
A.T. Carey
a/District Commissioner

↙
c.c. the Secretary,
Dept. of the Administration,
KONEDOBU.

52334 Distroff

67-1-1

Division

#####

TALASEA, Talasea, New Britain District.

West New Britain District.

10th September, 1969.

29th Sep, 1969.

The District Commissioner,
West New Britain District,
District Patrol Officer,
K I A B E TALASEA.

TALASEA PATROL REPORT - No. 9/68-69

Forwarded herewith please find a report by Mr. R. H. Topham, Assistant Patrol Officer, on his Talasea-Kimbe Road Maintenance patrol.

patrol to supervise road maintenance work along the Talasea-Kimbe section of the Kimbe road. Make an initial

Paragraph 2 of Mr. Booth's patrol instructions sets out the principal reasons for Mr. Topham's work, which he carried out in a satisfactory manner. At the end of the patrol, on 2nd June and commence work. Talasea may be a suitable time also.

Mr. Topham stated that there were no difficulty in recruiting labour, and that there was an enlightened attitude towards road development on the part of the native people. It is to be hoped that this attitude will continue until the road improvements are completed. reconstruction, repair and

improvement of the numerous spots along this road which are

Having established such a good rapport with the people, vide Mr. Topham's comments on hospitality and supplies of vegetables, I am surprised that Mr. Topham did not comment on the Native situation, the thoughts and aspirations of the people, and on the Economic situation in the area which he patrolled.

Funds are available to employ labour from the various

The patrol instructions requested that Mr. Topham submit his report upon his return to Talasea from situ. In future Mr. Topham should ensure that he submit his reports a little more promptly.

I am confident that you will keep on the move and obtain

Copies of Mr. Booth's patrol instructions are attached for your information.

You should plan to return Talasea by the 13th June

Mr. Topham's claim for camping allowance is forwarded for funding, please. Upon your return to Talasea on site, you will be required to write a Situation Report of the For your information, please. with D.O.A. Circular 67-1-0 of 21st June, 1968.

I wish you a pleasant and productive trip.

(W. G. Speldewinde)
Assistant District Commissioner

(G. F. Booth)
Assistant District Commissioner

(4)

XXXXX

67-1-1

Sub-District Office,
TALASEA,
West New Britain District.

29th May, 1969.

Mr. R.H. Topham,
Cadet Patrol Officer,
TALASEA.

PATROL INSTRUCTIONS


As discussed with Mr. Carey, you are to proceed on patrol to supervise road maintenance work along the Talasea-Numuudo section of the Kimbe road. Make an initial inspection by vehicle to-morrow - assess what needs to be done and the best way it may be accomplished - and then move out to a central site on Monday, 2nd June and commence work. Walindi may be a suitable camp site.

2. As you are aware P.W.D. intends to move along this road with heavy equipment as part of a general improvement programme. However, until this major work is started, your task is to supervise the reconstruction, repair and improvement of the numerous spots along this road which are at present a hazard to traffic. This work will at best be only of a temporary nature but it should facilitate the movement of vehicles to and from Kimbe and appreciably reduce travelling time.

3. Funds are available to employ labour from the various villages at day labour rates. You are acquainted with the inefficiency of local labour unless it is given maximum supervision. You will have a vehicle at your disposal and I am confident that you will keep on the move and obtain a satisfactory work output.

4. You should plan to return Talasea by the 13th June so that preparations may be made for your movement to Witu for a census patrol. Upon your return to Talasea ex Witu, you will be required to write a Situation Report of the road work undertaken in accordance with D.D.A. Circular 67-1-0 of 21st June, 1968.

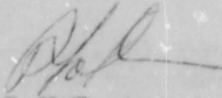
5. I wish you a pleasant and productive trip.


(G.F. Booth)
Assistant District Commissioner

PATROL DIARY

- June 2 1969.. 0730 Departed Talasea per Government landrover for Kilu arriving 1030. Held talks with the people and recruited labour. Rest of day spent setting up camp. Overnight Kilu.
- June 3 1969 0730 Organised labour line Kilu village and marked out work to be done Numondo plantation to Batanga. Rest of day spent recruiting labour and on road inspection Overnight Kilu.
- June 4 1969 All day spent on road supervision of Numondo to Garelli section of the road. Overnight Kilu.
- June 5 1969 0700-1700 Supervision of road works. Overnight Kilu.
- June 6 1969 0700-1600 Supervision of road works Numondo-Garelli 1600-1700 Payment of salaries to labourers. 1700 Broke camp and departed Kilu to return to Talasea arriving Talasea 1900 Overnight Talasea
- June 7 1969 Observed, overnight Talasea
- June 8 1969 1400 Departed Talasea to return to road work on section of road Garelli No.2 village to Bola. arriving Garelli 1500. Rest of afternoon spent recruiting labour. Overnight Garelli.
- June 9 1969 0700-1700 Supervision of section of road from Garelli to Bola. Overnight Garelli.
- June 10 1969. 0730 - 1700 Work supervision on the Garelli - Bola section of road. Overnight Garelli.
- June 11 1969 0800-1700 Road supervision on Garelli-Bola section of road. Overnight Garelli.
- June 12 1969 0800-1700 Road supervision on the above section of road. Overnight Garelli.
- June 13 1969 0800-1700 Inspected all work that had been completed on the section of road from Numondo to Talasea. 1700-1800 Payment of salaries for all labourers employed during the week 1830 Broke camp and returned to Talasea per government landrover arriving Talasea 1930. Overnight Talasea

End of Patrol


R.H. Topham
Assistant Patrol Officer.

(2)

Introduction

The following patrol was carried out from verbal instructions received from the Assistant District Commissioner Talasea, no patrol instructions were issued. The main purpose of the patrol was to carry out maintenance repairs on the road section known as the Kimbe-Talasea road.

As major repair work was already started by Public Works Department from the Kimbe end of the road all work that was carried out was from the boundary of Numondo plantation. The patrol was of two weeks duration and on completion of the patrol the road was open to 4 wheel drive vehicles.

Before work was started on the road difficulties in travel were being experienced due to heavy erosion and numerous boggy sections. The purpose of the maintenance was to fill in the boggy sections and landscape the sections of the road that had become impassable.

The complete cost of all labour employed was \$300 for a two week period.

Geography

The geography of the area is made up of sharp arêtes falling down to narrow coastal plains. Most of the vegetation is of the rain forest variety with a heavy dense secondary growth emergence. Most of the stone basis is of a dolerite nature with no good deposits of scoria type road surfacing materials in close proximity to the road.

Road Maintenance Report

As stated above all work carried out was purely of a maintenance nature as a fuller road developmental project was to be carried out by Public Works in the near future. A total of 87 labourers were employed in the two week period, and total costs were \$300.

One of the difficulties experienced in the construction of any road in this area is that of maintenance, as the area is subject to a heavy annual rainfall. Due to the fact that the original road had not been maintained for the last 5 years heavy damage by erosion was most evident.

The work that was carried out was done in two sections as the whole length of the road extends over 13 miles and constant labour supervision over such a distance is infeasible. The first week of work was carried out from Numondo boundary to Batanga village. The second week was engaged from Batanga to Talasea.

There were 7 bad sections that required a great deal of maintenance work. Between Numondo plantation and Walindi plantation numerous sections were heavily bogged and required filling with a heavy soil to consolidate the base. Although this method is not entirely satisfactory at the time no great deposits of stone could be located in close proximity.

Another problem experienced as the effect of heavy rainfall on the steep mountain slopes whose geological basis as mentioned previously is of a doleritic type and is subject to heavy erosion during rainfall periods.

①

Road Maintenance Report cont

The second section of road from Batanga village to Talasea is much the same as the first section. Although on this section there are more hills and ascents and major landscaping was necessary, there was one section running through the land owned by Volupai plantation that was a complete bog. Before work was started on this section numerous potholes and boggy stretches made the road impassable during rainy periods. However with the clearing and introduction of new side drains this section was improved considerably.

Roads and Bridges and Culverts

There are three bridges along the section of road where work was carried out and during the inspection all were found to be in good condition.

The majority of all culverts that had been installed originally when the road was first constructed have sunk below the surface of the road and were completely blocked with soil and debris. Attempts were made to clear these but these attempts were fruitless as soon as heavy rain fell these culverts became blocked again. If these culverts are to be more fully utilised they will have to be excavated and re set.

Labour Recruitment and Attitudes

During the patrol no difficulties were experienced in the recruitment of general labour. The attitude of the people towards the development of this road is excellent.

All the people spoken to were enthusiastic about the road as they realised that it would be of great benefit to them in the selling of produce, and better communications to Talasea and Kimbe.

Miscellaneous

The whole time of the patrol was spent camping out but due to the fact that there are no rest houses in the area the writer was forced for the first week to camp out in the old Walindi plantation residence and during the second week in a house donated by the ex luluai from Garelli No.2 village.

Hospitality by the people was excellent with supplies of fresh vegetables being given ex gratia by the people.

Although the patrol was concerned mainly with road maintenance other administrative duties were also undertaken.

Several minor disputes and arbitrations were heard these being mainly over credit payments and domestic issues.

One person was arrested for stealing and he was duly transferred to Talasea for hearing and was sentenced to 4 mths I.H.L. sect 398 Q.C.C.

The patrol was accompanied by Const. Nara and he excelled himself in all aspects of his police duties. His conduct and diligence was very good.

R.H. Topham
Assistant Patrol Officer.