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OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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STATION: SUAU

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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67-4-63

PATROL REPORT NO 1-70-71

— BY —

MR. J. BALDERSON

SUAU

MILNE BAY DISTRICT.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of.....**MILNE BAY**..... Report No.....**1-69/70**.....

Patrol Conducted by.....**JOHN DALWISON**..... **PATROL OFFICER**.....

Area Patrolled.....**SUAS CENSUS DIVISION**.....

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....**R. NEMME**..... **ASSISTANT PATROL OFFICER**

Natives.....**SUNTAI LALE**..... **President Suas L.G.C.**

Duration—From.....**12/2**...../19**70**.....to.....**14/3**...../19**70**.....

Number of Days.....**30**.....

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....**No**.....

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

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

Map Reference.....**Furuli Searai, Milne Bay**.....

Objects of Patrol.....**Political Education, Pro Council Election Propaganda**

.....**Discussions, Routine Administration.**.....

Director of District Administration,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ / 19

.....
District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation \$.....

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund \$.....

Amount paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund

.....

.....

.....

REPORT NO.

Suan Patrol Report No. 1-15/70

SUB-DISTRICT

Saverai

DISTRICT

Mline Bay

COUNCIL/IN COUNCIL

Suan Council Area

PATROL CONDUCTED BY

John Balderson

DESIGNATION

Patrol Officer

AREA PATROLLED

Suan Census Division

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL

R. Hickey A.P.O.
S. Alsop President Suan Local Government
Council

DURATION OF PATROL

12/2/70 to 14/3/70 (30 days.)

LAST D.S.A. PATROL

November 1969.

SUBJECTS OF PATROL

Political Education, pre Council Election
Explanatory talks, General Administration.

TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA
PATROLLED

546

MAP REFERRED

Female Saverai
Mline Suan

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER
ENCLOSED

No

PATROL DIARY.

Thursday 12/2/70.

Commenced political education patrol departing Suva Patrol Post for Isugau village at 0930 hrs. Spoke on political development and delivered pre-election talks. Moved by canoe to Zausa at 1530 hrs. and set up camp in preparation for approaching cyclone.

Friday 13/2

Two groups addressed today, that of Isugau in the morning, and after a 90 min. walk, Saha'ake. Slept Saha'ake.

Saturday 14/2.

Walked the 2 hours to Savala village however meeting delayed until 1300 as people late in arriving. Concluded at 1730 hrs. Slept Savala.

Sunday 15/2

Observed Savala.

Monday 16/2

Patrol proceeded inland to Olanuremia (1 hr.), spoke again on coming Council elections and political education, and returned to the coastal village of Isua at 1400 hrs. Slept at Isua after addressing all those assembled for three hours.

Tuesday 17/2

Departed Isua at 0730 hrs. by canoe, arriving at Navabu within the hour after miraculously staying afloat during a sudden squall. Addressed these people and pushed on to Savalala arriving there at 1400 hrs. Patrol waited in vain until 1800 hrs. for the villagers arrival. Slept Savalala.

Wednesday 18/2

Gave lengthy address to Savalala people, ably assisted by President/Interpreter Sunday Aleale. Patrol arrived at Ipalai after a 2 hour walk, however once again there had been a misunderstanding, thus meeting postponed until tomorrow. Slept Ipalai.

Thursday 19/2

Postponed discussions at 1000 hrs. due to non arrival of villagers. Instructed Councillor that Ipalai people to travel to Sibalai tomorrow, before departing by canoe for Suva Is. Discussed the reconstruction of the wharf as present one flattened during cyclone last week. Slept Suva Is.

Friday 20/2

By canoe to Sibalai to speak to both Sibalai and Ipalai people. Departed Sibalai at 1330 hrs. for a 4 hour walk and a 2 hour wander in mangroves when the writer became lost, before patrol rested for the night at Medwa.

Saturday 21/2

Addressed Medwa people on the usual subject before travelling to Iloilo by launch. Arrived Iloilo at 1645 hrs. and camped.

Sunday 22/2

Observed Iloilo.

Monday 23/2

Commenced discussions at 0830 hrs. Departed Ileile at 1500 hrs. by launch for the one hour trip to Bonarus where the patrol overnights.

Tuesday 24/2

Departed Bonarus by launch for Baibaisiga after a 3 hr. talk on political education. Arrived at Baibaisiga at 1400 hrs., and as all were present, a second meeting was held that day. Slept Baibaisiga.

Wednesday 25/2

Chartered launch and departed Baibaisiga at 0500 hrs. in order to reach Fife Bay before the usual mid-morning North-Westerlies began. Arrived Fife Bay 1100 hrs. and commenced overhauling patrol gear, preparing for second leg to Western side, and discussing the patrol with A.P.O. Kehay.

Friday 27/2

Departed Fife Bay 0830 hrs by Terohai, arriving Gadaisu 1400 hrs. General paper work for remainder of afternoon because of prolific rain.

Saturday 28/2

Addressed at length on Political Development after attending to numerous Administrative duties. Although the rain had eased, patrol was forced to remain at Gadaisu due to the flooded condition of the Sagasua Creek. Slept Gadaisu.

Sunday 1/3/79

Observed

Monday 2/3

A 6½ hr. walk to the inland village of Vie, arriving at 1430 hrs. Spoke to the small number of inhabitants on Council Elections, their recent sale of timber rights and other general matters. Slept Vie.

Tuesday 3/3

Further talks on political education before departing for Wadauda. Letter reached at 1630 hrs. after a 4½ hr walk. Slept Wadauda.

Wednesday 4/3

Similar talk given to this small group before departing at 1230 hrs. for the 5½ hr. walk to Kenda in Central District. Arrived at Kenda and spoke to the 45 odd people who reside there on Political Development until 2030 hrs. Slept Kenda.

Thursday 5/3

Travelled from Kenda to Suabina, a journey of 14 hrs., via Baibara. Arrived Suabina 2000 hrs.

Friday 6/3

Returned by foot to Gadaisu plantation to investigate a labour brawl while APO Kehay spoke to Laamede and Suabina people. Slept at Suabina after returning at 1830 hrs.

Saturday 7/3

Journeyed inland again for 6 hrs. to Beilava village. Commenced address at 1430 hrs, and continued with various routine duties until 2300 hrs.

Sunday 8/3

Observed Bailava

Monday 9/3

Patrol moved to Barawai (3 1/2 hrs.), where writer spoke once again on political education. Slept Barawai.

Tuesday 10/3

Patrol delayed further by low tide and lack of water transport. Finally departed at 1430 hrs. by dinghy along Wallias Harbour to Tahuni. Arrived Tahuni 2000 hrs.

Wednesday 11/3

Writer visited Mariuette Plantation and Komeulava Primary School while Mr. Hony spoke to Ben-bona, Leileiafa, and Tahuni people at Komeulava. Returned to Tahuni resthouse at 1745 hrs.

Thursday 12/3

Patrol moved to Anieri, a 2 hour walk, addressed the small population, and continued walking to Aleale, a further 2 hours. Arrived Aleale at 1430 hrs. and prepared camp.

Friday 13/3

Lengthy address given to the 150 listeners at Aleale. Departed Aleale by Hukahi to Fife Bay, arriving at 1600 hrs.

Saturday 14/3

Walked to Sasona to hold the final meeting of the patrol and probably the most successful. Returned to Suan Patrol Post at 1230 hrs. Patrol stood down.

INTRODUCTION

This short but essential 30 day patrol was mounted primarily for the purpose of disseminating Council election propaganda before the Suva Council elections commence on 23/4/70, and secondly, because of the lack of political development at village level, to deliver talks on political education.

The President of the Suva Local Government Council, Sunday Aloalo, had intended to patrol by himself to the 29 villages and harangue the 5000 Council members on matters relating to their Council, however an extremely satisfactory arrangement was made whereby he accompanied the patrol as an interpreter and still addressed those assembled before the meetings were concluded.

Assistant Patrol Officer Richard Nohmy, joined the patrol on the 27th February for its two weeks visit to the Western side of Suva Patrol Post.

POLITICAL

The need for this patrol has been evident for some time as political awareness has not increased hand in hand with the development of the Council, with a few individual exceptions, since its formation in 1962. Fortunately the Suva area is home to numerous semi-educated and semi-sophisticated villagers, thus their ability to comprehend the general outline of politics made the patrolling officer's task much simpler. As no political education patrol had been launched for some 9 years, the writer concentrated his efforts almost wholly on Local Government, with the hope that a follow up patrol dealing with wider political topics, can be carried out within the next 6 months.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Although only a minority were against the introduction of Local Government in the Suva area in 1961, the general reaction was one of apathy, a reaction which has been replaced today by a feeling of interest in its growth, but also annoyance at what appears, at village level, to be deliberate attempts by the Council in delaying the commencement of rural projects. Naturally, with a total of only 1500 taxpayers, 29 permanent staff to pay, and a 27 foot workweek to operate, only a certain amount of annual works assistance can be given, and as educational facilities increase to a point where the majority of taxpayers can comprehend an estimator explanation, these factors will be appreciated.

Another impression held by a number of individuals was that of likening the Council to a baby - "one has to feed it for many years until it grows older and can look after itself, and then one receives the benefits, either monetary or physical". This line of thought shows faith in the Council, however the facts are that less money is spent today on Capital Works - which as far as the taxpayers are concerned, is proof of its ability to assist its people - than was spent during earlier years. Unless the population increases sharply, or there is an economic boom, the above comparison will not prove entirely true. To a few of these egotists it proved difficult in explaining that as the Council progresses, its general expenses, e.g. maintenance and salaries, are going to increase also.

Nevertheless Local Government was introduced in Suva, not only to allow for schools, bridges, aidposts, and roads to be constructed as many people thought, but for numerous reasons, many of which are given in a press of the Political Education address contained in Appendix 1. It proved advantageous for the writer to be quite familiar with the area thus allowing for many first hand examples to be given.

President Sunday, who, incidentally, was interpreter for the last Political Education patrol, that of Mr. Frow's in 1961, ended each meeting with a 20-30 minute fiery harangue on the benefits of Local Government, drawing on his knowledge of the Suna Council. The impact was surprising, probably because this was the maiden patrol of the whole area by a President, and when the meetings were thrown open at the end, it was pleasing to see that just as many questions were directed to him as to the patrolling officer.

REACTION TOWARDS TAX PROSECUTIONS.

During the course of the patrol, the writer set out to gauge the true feelings of the taxpayers over the commencement in 1969 of prosecutions of all tax defaulters. Approximately twelve only defaulters had been prosecuted during the first 6 years of the Council's operation, however this number has now leapt to approximately 160, one half of whom have been jailed. The Council had previously passed a resolution that all tax defaulters be prosecuted, and during the patrol approximately 30 persons appeared in court to face charges.

Apparently it was unanimously thought that it was at the patrol officer's discretion whether tax courts should be conducted, and that the Suna Council had no say in the matter. Needless to say, when certain parts of the Local Government Ordinance were being explained, particular attention was given to the section on breaking of Council Rules. No dissatisfaction was revealed, although the mass prosecution programme still in progress has been the major topic of conversation at village level for some time. Many, including a host who have paid their tax righteously since 1961, expressed their gratitude at the Council's new policy which has boosted its income by \$1400 in tax and back tax, and \$350 in court fines.

When time permitted the writer corrected some of the many discrepancies in the Tax Register, yet its accuracy still leaves much to be desired.

RESPONSE TO POLITICAL EDUCATION TALKS.

It can be seen from the précis of the talks in Appendix 1 that the addresses were fairly lengthy. As many examples as possible were given, and the actual content at each village varied to suit the local circumstances. The talks were fairly well received at all villages, and interest appeared high when the beginning of the Council System in England, Tax, Elections, and Government Revenue, were discussed. The main types of questions asked concerned tax exemption, nominations for elections, Government revenue, and general ones concerning the Suna Local Government Council, which President Sunday answered.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND MEMBERS.

Councillor Gailake of Seaser Village and Vice President of the Council, was attending the main sitting of the House of Assembly as Mr. John Guise's personal guest, during the patrol's visit to this village.

During short, explanatory talks at the House of Assembly, it was surprising to discover that no more than about 5 villagers, mostly Councillors, had seen the House in session, although there might be numerous absent workers in Port Moresby who regularly attend. Knowledge of the duties and purpose of the House of Assembly is extremely poor and during one of our many discussions on the success of the talks, President Sunday put forward the worthwhile suggestion that this can be partly overcome by sending different

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Out
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Councillors to each meeting in Port Moresby at the Council's expense, until all have seen and relayed their impressions to their own constituents.

Of the two House of Assembly members who represent the South Coast, Messrs John Guise and Cecil Abol, the former made one 5 day tour of the area just prior to the patrol's commencement. There had been an expressed wish that their Members visit this part of the Electorate for some time prior to Mr. Guise's arrival, however many of his constituents still feel no closer to him as his tour was brief and his talks general ones to those who had congregated.

Villagers were not comital on their reaction to his speeches, but it is assumed that they were excellent audiences as it was this Members first visit to the area in over 4 years. Mr. Guise requested the people not to sell any more timber rights to the Department of Forests, nor sell any land to the Administration unless it was required for schools, aidposts, airstrips, etc. The Speaker also spoke at length on Home Rule, Self Government, and Independence.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILLORS AND ELECTIONS.

With Council Elections imminent, all 25 Councillors have been serving for at least two years during which period 16 Council Meetings were conducted. The writer, at each Ward, informed the relevant Councillor's constituents of the number of meetings their Councillor had attended (varied from 8 to 16 with an average of 13). With the coming election in mind the work of each Councillor was openly discussed, and basic points that a Councillor must follow to be at all efficient, given. It was the writer's aim, in view of the mediocre group of Councillors elected during 1968, to impress upon the people that only the fullest advantage could be gained by electing the most suitable candidate. Remarks on successful candidates in the forthcoming Election Report will show if this part of the address was successful.

Open dissatisfaction with the present Councillor was prevalent in two villages, whilst in the wards of the President and Vice President, Isuisu and Sasea respectively, from impressions gained, it appears that these two influential leaders will be re-elected unopposed.

President Sunday Aloale has a bright political future, and is one of the minority of village men who places his Council and Country before his Family and Village. He is gifted with common sense and an urge to improve and help his people, and although he has worn a badge for only two years, he rarely has to seek assistance from the Administrative Advisor, except in matters of Government policy. To be elected as Council President after his initial election as Councillor is proof of the respect this man commands.

Actual voting procedures were not explained as it was thought best to delay this explanation until immediately prior to the elections when, as discovered by past experience, it proves far more effective. No nominations were asked for or received.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

As a brief introductory outline to this section, an Economic Development programme was introduced in the Suva area in 1969 by the patrolling officer with assistance from the Council. The plan, which related to Suva only, called for all to combine and take part in the following 5 continuous tasks-

- (a) picking up all coconuts before they rot.
- (b) Doubling the number of trees through increased planting.
- (c) Cleaning around both new and old trees.
- (d) Building pig fences around new plantings if need be.
- (e) repair or reconstruct copra driers.

Further stimulation of economic development was not undertaken on this patrol, but progress of new plantings etc. was asked about at all villages. Enthusiastic answers were not received as was usual in the past, however verbal accounts from Agricultural Committees and Field Assistants seem to have come to hand. Of the 25 coastal villages in the Administrative Area, the majority had ceased work in November and were still resting after 4 months. The only exception was Seasea village which had stuck to its task throughout. In comparison to 1969 statistics, (attached as Appendix 2), this was a severe blow to the writer's optimism and resultant glowing reports on Economic Development in the Saau area in 1969.

In contrast to the system of stimulation used in 1969 where the majority of communication was by direct administration in the field together with some Council assistance, a new approach, apparently with poor results, had been decided for 1970. At Council meetings, after more stress had been placed on the importance of implementing the programme, it was decided to leave the bulk of the work to the Council. It is fairly certain that communal participation on the land will not re-emerge with the same willing fashion as was evident in 1969 unless another Economic Development patrol is launched in the near future.

The majority of the subsistence farmers can see the benefits of economic development, but the impact of most talks at village level is not permanent, and considering that the residents of the South-east Coast have not been financially worried in the past, and probably never will be, the task of changing their traditional easy day of gardening, hunting, and attending to village chores, is not an easy one.

Seasea village in Fifa Bay is an exception - here is a village group kept working continually by the Councillor, Governor Galleke, and it may be interesting to point out that it embraces no tax defaulters. Monetary benefits are increasing although full benefits will not be noticed until the new plantings, to date 3228, gain maturity. Seasea's success can be attributed to Councillor Galleke, and the way he has planned work to suit local conditions is definitely worthy of mention.

Firstly all work carried out is on a group participation basis, the number who do the clearing, burning, planting, weeding, collecting or erecting, ranging from 30 to 100. The actual owners of the land do not participate, but remain in the village preparing their own feed for the workers at the conclusion of the day. A messing arrangement has been set up, and after cleaning up, the workers wait for a bell which signifies that feed is ready. They line up with their own plates and are given a generous helping of feed, which usually includes, apart from native produce, pig, rice, tinned meat and biscuits. There is no evidence of antipathy at all.

I am writing in detail because I believe that without the organization that has been put into this venture, Seasea village would have long ago slipped back into its customary ways of "passing the time".

OTHER INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

The villages of inland Gadeisu-Vie, Wadauda, Bala,

Tubu, and Katalawagi, all rely heavily on Arabica coffee as a cash crop although it does not appear to bear properly. The symptom has been diagnosed as Third Blight and Agricultural staff at Fife Bay are currently investigating and inspecting the 8000 trees to determine how far the disease has spread.

The typical small craft between 18 and 26 feet, that are so common to Milne Bay waters, now total 9 on the Suau Coast. Their work entails uplifting copra, sago, and native produce for Samarai, together with passengers and general freight, and charter work. Two have been purchased with the aid of Development Bank Loans, and the owners of a third currently being constructed have recently submitted an application, and are awaiting approval.

Although Beibaisiga Island is rarely visited as it is part of the Suau Island Ward, the patrol overnights there in the Beibaisiga Savings and Loans Society's new clubhouse. The Society was formed in 1968, and to date has around \$1400 to its credit, although its membership is only 60. Chairman of the Society, and the Island's entrepreneur, is Josua Laidia, who has recently returned home after working as a boatbuilder at Kwato for 16 years. He has set up his own shipbuilding yard and with excellent craftsmanship has completed three small craft, all of which now operate in local waters. As he is inhibited by the lack of tools and machinery, the patrol questioned him on his desirability of a Development Bank loan, but apparently he intends to approach the Society initially for the purpose of expanding his business.

NON INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT.

Orangerie Bay, as a result of non indigenous activity, is by far the most productive area in Suau, and possibly in Milne Bay District, and this is reflected in the annual exports from the area- 30000 lb rubber, (Mariawatte Plantation only, does not include Sagarai Rubber Plantation), 520 tons copra (mostly Gadaisu and Mariawatte Plantations), and the immense tonnage of prawns caught seasonally by a one and a half million dollar prawning complex. Approximately 250 head of cattle graze on the two plantations of Gadaisu and Mariawatte, but twice this number are thought to roam in the bush behind the Estates.

The Administration purchased 640 square miles of timber rights in the Orangerie Bay area during November 1969, in addition to the \$35000 worth purchased in the Mullins Harbour area during 1966. With a sawmill, chip export business, and overseas wharf all proposed in Mullins Harbour, the economic boom along this stretch of coast could be tremendous.

EFFECTS OF TIMBER PURCHASE.

Of the \$50000 handed out for sale of timber rights in November, it is believed that no more than \$5000 is remaining. Mr. Hehny, in his Patrol Report No. 2-69/70, itemizes some of the articles that have been purchased.

The patrol was approached on several occasions by Councillors with complaints, not concerning the actual total handed out, but on the method of distribution. People belonging to one of the Clans holding full rights over the timber in question, but residing in another village at the time of the purchase, thereby receiving no monetary compensation, complained bitterly, but there was little the patrolling officer could do to assist. On the other hand, individuals who had migrated in to the area because of marriage, had sometimes received a share of the amount, but once again the writer was powerless to intervene as the money had been spent in

any case. Mr. John Stutz, manager of Mariawatte Plantation, asked for the patrolling officer's opinion on whether these people who had full rights to the timber but had received nothing for its sale, could legally declare it as still rightfully theirs, and refuse the Administration permission to commence logging, but I was unable to supply a suitable answer.

Overall satisfaction with the sale was expressed nevertheless, and the impression gained was that the payees are now waiting patiently for the Government's second move to see if it as silly as I its first.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKS PROGRAMME.

The first Rural Development Works Project in the Suva area, the Suva Island wharf, was completed in early January, 1970, six and a half months after the first rock was laid. A cyclonic disturbance commenced shortly after the patrol's departure from Fife Bay and the following week of buffeting seas and strong south-west gusts brought about catastrophic results. On arrival at Suva Island, the patrol was dismayed to see only piles, decking, and 50 feet of the original 250 feet of causeway, remaining.

Fortunately, during the four week period of utilization before disaster struck, the Suva people became fully aware of the great asset which had been lost, and consequently little morale had been lost. Lengthy discussions were held that very day with work forces from Baibara Island, Ipulai, Sivala, and Suva Island, but, although all concerned were keen to see the work done, a difference of opinion arose over the actual siting and means of construction, thus it was unanimously agreed to seek the Local Government Engineer's assistance.

A partly constructed wharf at Kenemaiava, another Rural Development Works Project, was inspected during the course of the patrol. The work commenced about 6 weeks before the patrol's arrival, had also suffered damage caused by the cyclonic disturbance, although only slight. One hundred and thirty feet of rock causeway had been laid down, and instructions were given that the sides should be covered in hard iron plates in progress of construction so that any more wave damage may be avoided.

LAW AND ORDER.

Many complaints are arbitrated successfully by the Councillor or sometimes the resident Pastor, nevertheless the patrol conducted were Local Courts than are usual, and defendants were jailed for robbery, stealing, fighting, adultery, and tax evasion.

The patrol did not intervene in a small disturbance at Baibara Plantation (14 miles into Central District) by the Manager who feared, at the least a wounding, if the Queen's justice was not administered. At this juncture the officer leading the patrol thought it wise to investigate, although it was in the Margerida Administrative area, as the manager had next to no experience at settling labour disputes.

Twenty Goodenough Island labourers deserted Baibara Plantation after they had been involved in a scuffle with a smaller group of Gailala labourers. Apparently they feared reprisals when the remainder of the Gailala work force heard news of the incident. Three of the Goodenough labourers were jailed for threatening behaviour, and the remainder requested to return to their work. The latter finally decided to return after receiving firm assurances from the Magistrate, Manager, and Gailala Boss-Bey, that no retaliatory measures would be taken.

MISSIONS

The United Church, formerly the London Mission Society, is the predominant mission, and has spread its influence to all villages with the exception of Kwaiex (Anglican), and Vie/Konda/Wadanda, only contacted in 1961 and as yet belonging to no church.

Typical of Missions in Milne Bay District, the United Church exerts tremendous influence over its members, probably because it has been part of their life for as long as can be remembered (85 yrs.) and has achieved so many things during that period. Unfortunately its days of glory in the Sasa area are a thing of the past, and when one hears about its boats, trucks, roads, wharf, plantations, cattle, poultry, boatbuilding yards, slipway, vocational school, flannelled cricket teams capable of defeating Port Moresby, Laue Theological College (closed in 1969), and last but not least, the still adored Rev. C.H. Rich, minister at Fife Bay for nearly 40 years, one can imagine how impressive the Mission complex must have been in pre-war days.

Nowdays all spiritual staff employed are Papuans, with each village having a Pastor, trained at the Theological College at Fife Bay, two to three Deacons, and the usual Church Committees and helpers.

HEALTH.

There is a growing resentment towards D.D.T. spraying along the South East Coast, and the four standard complaints were received whenever the Malaria Eradication Programme was mentioned.


The common belief and complaint that EXCESS D.D.T. shortens the life of a sage roof was confirmed at Kenomaiava where the writer conducted a detailed inspection of the resthouse roof which had been erected early in 1969 and sprayed twice in the interim. It is infested with insects which literally chew their way along in any direction, thus seriously weakening the roof. Although holes have appeared and sections have been replaced, it is not yet completely destroyed, but it is of the writers opinion that its expected life will be no longer than 18 months, compared to three to four years in the past.

Numerous complaints were still lodged concerning bed bugs, increase in rats, and of domestic pets and animals dying after devouring dead insects. With a fairly tight patrol programme, it was not feasible to investigate all statements, but even after allowing for some exaggeration, the appeals of hundreds of villagers can not be taken lightly.

Unrest is increasing and it was stated openly by one Councillor that he is prepared to face a jail sentence rather than allow his house to be sprayed. In the light of this statement, I predict that the fourth spraying team which will visit in approximately August 1970, will run into opposition. The Area Malaria Officer has been advised, and a suggestion made that he places his most competent Team leader in charge of the patrol.

CONCLUSION.

This proved to be an enjoyable month in the field, and a feeling of achievement gained. A.P.O. Nehmy received valuable field experience during this, his first patrol of any length.


.....
J. Balderson (Patrol Officer)

APPENDIX 1

FRSIS OF POLITICAL EDUCATION TALK GIVEN.

For more detail, refer Suva Patrol Report No. 2-69/70.

Introduction
Beginning of Council System in England
Local Government
Reasons For Having Local Government
Suva Local Government Council
Councillors and Elections
Requirements of a Competent Councillor
Elections
How You can Support Your Council
Council Tax
Tax Review Committee
Tax Payers Meeting
Courts and Prosecutions
Government
Government of Papua and New Guinea
Government Revenue
President's Speech on Advantages of Local Government
Question Period

APPENDIX 2.

RECORD OF COCONUT PLANTINGS IN THE SUVA AREA IN 1969.

ILOILO	1204
FOHARUA	111
MOTEMA	72
SIMALAI	899
SURU	948
IFULAI	794
SAVALALA	1253
HAVABU	2029
ISUAI	944
SAVALA	2286
GEAMANANIA	1413
SAGA'AHO	2185
ISULU	1576
ISULU	918
SEASKA	2865
ALCALO	1455
AUNIERI	183
BORABONA	545
TAHONI	1602
LELISIAPA	323
BOKOHAI	2055
SUABINA	538
QATASU	25

26,044

Approximately 5,000 trees have been planted in 1970,
but exact figures are not yet available.

SILAU PATROL NO. 1-69/70





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of.....MILNE BAY..... Report No.....1-69/70.....

Patrol Conducted by.....JOHN BALDERSON, PATROL OFFICER.....

Area Patrolled.....SUVAU CENSUS DIVISION.....

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....R. NEWMY, ASSISTANT PATROL OFFICER.....

Natives.....SUNDAY ALEALE, President Suva L.G.C.....

Duration--From.....12/2...../1970.....to.....14/3...../1970.....

Number of Days.....30.....

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....No.....

Last Patrol to Area by--District Services.....No...../1969.....

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

Map Reference.....Federal, Samarai, Milne Bay, Suva.....

Objects of Patrol.....Political Education, Pre-Council Election Propaganda
Discussions, Routine Administration.....

Director of District Administration,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ / 19

.....
District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation \$.....

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund \$.....

Amount paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund

.....

.....

.....

REPORT NO.	Suau Patrol Report No. 1-69/70
SUB-DISTRICT	Samarai
DISTRICT	Milne Bay
COUNCIL/NON COUNCIL	Suau Council Area
PATROL CONDUCTED BY	John Balderson
DESIGNATION	Patrol Officer
AREA PATROLLED	Suau Census Division
PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL	R. Nehay A.P.O. S. Aleale President Suau Local Government Council
DURATION OF PATROL	12/2/70 to 14/3/70 (30 days.)
LAST D.D.A. PATROL	November 1969.
OBJECTS OF PATROL	Political Education, pre Council Election Explanatory talks, General Administration.
TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA PATROLLED	5416
MAP REFERENCE	Feurail Samarai Milinch Suau
VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER ENCLOSED	No

CDW:SBC

67-4-68

Division of District Administration,

Koror, Pagan.

20th January, 1971.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
AUSA.

SHAN PATROL NO. 1 OF 1969/70.

Your reference 67-8-1 of 7th December, 1970.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Special and Situation Reports by Mr. J. Balderson of Suma Council Area.

It is a most comprehensive and interesting report. To make any further comment at this late stage (almost a year after the patrol was completed) is somewhat pointless. No real harm appears to have been done by the late submission in this instance but please ensure that it does not happen again.

Please ensure that the next patrol to the area makes a fuller assessment of whether or not the payment for timber rights was properly distributed.

(F.W. ELLIS)
Departmental Head.

c.c. Mr. J. Balderson,
District Office,
Aletca,
Milne Bay District.

67-8-1



67-4-68 17

Division of District Administration,

District Headquarters,
Milne Bay District,
ALOELE

7th December, 1970

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
SAMARAI

SIAM PATROL REPORT NO. 1 OF 1970/71.

Thank you for the above mentioned Report.
Again, at this stage, no comment is
necessary.

F. G. DRIVER
District Commissioner

c.c. The Departmental Head,
Department of the Administrator,
KOROROBU

For your information, please.

F. G. DRIVER
District Commissioner

DISTROFF
Samarai 52
67-1-1/67-1-3
ITS/TAS/try

16
Department of the Administrator,
Division of District
Administration,
Sub-District Office,
SAMARAI M.B.D.
29th September, 1970

District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
ALOTAU

REPORT ON PATROL NO 1 of 69/70
MR. JOHN BALDERSON P.O.

Three copies of the above report are forwarded for your comment and onforwarding, please.

The late submission of this report is regretted, but the paucity of staff in this Sub-District, a situation that has now been temporarily alleviated to some degree, has been responsible for the delay.

I have the following comments to make:

Diary

Thursday 19/2/70. I feel sure Mr. Balderson means that he requested the Councillor to request the Ipulai people to travel to Sibalai the following day.

Local Government

With respect to Para. 2 in the Introduction where the word "harangue" is used Mr. Balderson's attention will be drawn to your Memo 1-3-10 of 4/3/70 following Mr. Nehmy's use of the same word, when he was also based at the Samu Patrol Post, but it should be noted that it was the President of the Council who "harangued" and not Mr. Balderson. Perhaps it would be wise to excise this word from the station's dictionary, and request for a copy of Roget's Thesaurus. A copy of former memo quoted above is attached as an appendix to this letter. ²

Economic Development Programme

With regards to the three final paragraphs of the section on "Other Indigenous Economic Activities" this was also remarked on in my report S.L. of 8/7/70. the declassified portion which reads as following:

"Possibly regimentation, often an ingredient of Cargo Cult or "Vallala Madness", may be present in the village of Seasea, where communal work, such as the planting of a single very large garden at one time by the whole work force of the village, regardless of individual land ownership, and joint working of the village's combined copra resources, takes place under the direction of Councillor Gaileko Besai. This forceful individual appears to be a natural leader, and would probably be leading this small (in that it is confined to one village) movement, even if he was not the councillor for that particular ward/village.

He was formerly a cult leader, but this goes back some time ago, even possibly pre-war. Although he is still known locally by the term "Governor" which is what he was known of at that time apparently.

Poss ibly it was significant that at that time he was accorded this "title" to Administrator of Papua was also a Lieutenant-Governor.

The village is almost along side the Suau Patrol Post, and the situation can be watched closely if the station is continually manned. The production of copra by this village is spectacular when compared to that of other Suau Coast villages, and it may be unfair to suggest any signs of cultism. No anti-social aspects have manifested themselves, and in time this could come to be regarded a model piece of community development work.

Following your visit to this village, accompanied by the Officer in Charge of the Suau Patrol Post, and the writer, most of this information will be known to you, but it is repeated here in writing for the record, and as information for perusal of other officer if ever required please.

Political

The information contained in Mr. Balderson's final paragraph on the "House of Assembly and Members" has been passed on by this officer promptly, and has not been delayed by the late submission of this report. This was also touched on by Mr. Whymy's Patrol Report Suau No.2 of 1969/70 forwarded previously and commented on by para 3. of my 67-1-1 of 10/9/70

Effect of Timber Purchase

Para 2. The timber purchase was carried out by an Assistant District Officer in company with a Forestry Officer. Naturally, there will be complaints by "owners" who claim they did not receive pay, or the right amount, and that these claims should be well investigated for authenticity. I imagine a legitimate claim would receive sympathetic consideration. Do you have any views on this?.

Mr. Balderson has submitted a easy to read, detailed report, which illustrates that he knows his area very well, and that he conducted his patrol most competently.

The numbering of paragraphs would make reference to matters in the report easier, especially since the paragraphs are not numbered.

(T.A. Steen)

Assistant District Commissioner.

c.c Mr. J. Balderson.

Officer-in Charge.
Suau Patrol Post.
T.A. STEEN

OPY
1-3-10

Division of District Administration,
Department of the Administrator,
District Headquarters,
ALOTAU Milne Bay District

4th March, 1970

Mr. R. Nehmy,
Assistant Patrol Officer,
Patrol Post,
SUAU

FIELD OFFICER'S JOURNAL

References entries in your F.O.J. dated 17th December, 1969, Folio No.20, Paras 322-325.

According to the dictionary "harangue" means to make a "loud or vehement address to an assembly". Whilst this may be the prerogative of the ex-councillor and new councillor, it is not fitting for a young, inexperienced Assistant Patrol Officer. Did you "Contact" over 9 PM on 27th February, 1970, during which a broadcast was made of an address to the Motaungan Association in Rabaul by the Assistant Administrator, Mr. L. Johnson?

Regarding pre-selection of Council candidates, I have already issued a Circular-reference 39-1-22 dated 2nd February, 1970.

In future, play it cool.

W.J.G. Lamborn.
Acting District Commissioner

B

PATROL DIARY.

Thursday 12/2/70.

Commenced political education patrol departing Suau Patrol Post for Isudau village at 0930 hrs. Spoke on political development and delivered pre-election talks. Moved by foot to Isuisu at 1530 hrs. and set up camp in preparation for approaching cyclone.

Friday 13/2

Two groups addressed today, that of Isuisu in the morning, and after a 90 min. walk, Saha'aho. Slept Saha'aho.

Saturday 14/2.

Walked the 2 hours to Savaia village however meeting delayed until 1300 as people late in arriving. Concluded at 1730 hrs. Slept Savaia.

Sunday 15/2

Observed Savaia.

Monday 16/2

Patrol proceeded inland to Oiamamaia (1 hr.), spoke again on coming Council elections and political education, and returned to the coastal village of Isuai at 1400 hrs. Slept at Isuai after addressing all these assemblies for three hours.

Tuesday 17/2

Departed Isuai at 0730 hrs. by canoe, arriving at Navabu within the hour after miraculously staying afloat during a sudden squall. Addressed these people and pushed on to Savalala arriving there at 1400 hrs. Patrol awaited in vain until 1800 hrs. for the villagers arrival. Slept Savalala.

Wednesday 18/2

Gave lengthy address to Savalala people, ably assisted by President/Interpreter Sunday Aleale. Patrol arrived at Ipulai after a 2 hour walk, however once again there had been a misunderstanding, thus meeting postponed until tomorrow. Slept Ipulai.

Thursday 19/2

Postponed discussions at 1000 hrs. due to non arrival of villagers. Instructed Counciller that Ipulai people to travel to Sibalai tomorrow, before departing by canoe for Suau Is. Discussed the reconstruction of the wharf as present one flattened during cyclone last week. Slept Suau Is.

Friday 20/2

By canoe to Sibalai to speak to both Sibalai and Ipulai people. Departed Sibalai at 1330 hrs. for a 4 hour walk and a 2 hour wander in mangroves when the writer became lost, before patrol rested for the night at Modewa.

Saturday 21/2

Addressed Modewa people on the usual subject before travelling to Ileile by launch. Arrived Ileile at 1645 hrs. and camped.

Sunday 22/2

Observed Ileile.

12
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Monday 23/2

Commenced discussions at 0830 hrs. Departed Ilcile at 1500 hrs. by launch for the one hour trip to Benarua where the patrol overnights.

Tuesday 24/2

Departed Benarua by launch for Baibaisiga after a 3 hr. talk on political education. Arrived at Baibaisiga at 1400 hrs., and as all were present, a second meeting was held that day. Slept Baibaisiga.

Wednesday 25/2

Chartered launch and departed Baibaisiga at 0500 hrs. in order to reach Fife Bay before the usual mid-morning North-Westerlies began. Arrived Fife Bay 1100 hrs. and commenced overhauling patrol gear, preparing for second leg to Western side, and discussing the patrol with A.P.C. Nehmy.

Friday 27/2

Departed Fife Bay 0830 hrs by Torshai, arriving Gadaisu 1400 hrs. General paper work for remainder of afternoon because of prolific rain.

Saturday 28/2

Addressed at length on Political Development after attending to numerous Administrative duties. Although the rain had ceased, patrol was forced to remain at Gadaisu due to the flooded condition of the Saqasaga Creek. Slept Gadaisu.

Sunday 1/3/70

Observed

Monday 2/3

A 6½ hr. walk to the inland village of Vie, arriving at 1430 hrs. Spoke to the small number of inhabitants on Council Elections, their recent sale of timber rights, and other general matters. Slept Vie.

Tuesday 3/3

Further talks on political education before departing for Wadauda. Latter reached at 1630 hrs. after a 4½ hr walk. Slept Wadauda.

Wednesday 4/3

Similar talk given to this small group before departing at 1230 hrs. for the 5½ hr. walk to Kendu in Central District. Arrived at Kendu and spoke to the 45 odd people who reside there on Political Development until 2030 hrs. Slept Kendu.

Thursday 5/3

Travelled from Kendu to Suabina, a journey of 14 hrs., via Baibara. Arrived Suabina 2000 hrs.

Friday 6/3

Returned by foot to Gadaisu plantation to investigate a labour brawl while APO Nehmy spoke to Leamede and Suabina people. Slept at Suabina after returning at 1830 hrs.

Saturday 7/3

Journeyed inland again for 6 hrs. to Beilava village. Commenced address at 1430 hrs, and continued with various routine duties until 2300 hrs.

Sunday 8/3

Observed Beilava

Monday 9/3

Patrol moved to Berewai (3½ hrs.), where writer spoke once again on political education. Slept Berewai.

Tuesday 10/3

Patrol delayed further by low tide and lack of water transport. Finally departed at 1430 hrs. by dinghy along Mullins Harbour to Dahuni. Arrived Dahuni 2000 hrs.

Wednesday 11/3

Writer visited Mariawatte Plantation and Kenemaiava Primary School while Mr. Nehmy spoke to Benakona, Leileiafa, and Dahuni people at Kenemaiava. Returned to Dahuni resthouse at 1745 hrs.

Thursday 12/3

Patrol moved to Anieri, a 2 hour walk, addressed the small population, and continued walking to Aleale, a further 2 hours. Arrived Aleale at 1430 hrs. and prepared camp.

Friday 13/3

Lengthy address given to the 150 listeners at Aleale. Departed Aleale by "Hekaha" to Fife Bay, arriving at 1600 hrs.

Saturday 14/3

Walked to Seasea to hold the final meeting of the patrol and probably the most successful. Returned to Saau Patrol Post at 1230 hrs. Patrol stood down.

INTRODUCTION

This short but essential 30 day patrol was mounted primarily for the purpose of disseminating Council election propaganda before the Suau Council elections commence on 29/4/70, and secondly, because of the lack of political development at village level, to deliver talks on political education.

The President of the Suau Local Government Council, Sunday Aleale, had intended to patrol by himself to the 29 villages and harangue the 5000 Council members on matters relating to their Council, however an extremely satisfactory arrangement was made whereby he accompanied the patrol as an interpreter and still addressed those assembled before the meetings were concluded.

Assistant Patrol Officer Richard Wehmy, joined the patrol on the 27th February for its two weeks visit to the Western side of Suau Patrol Post.

POLITICAL

The need for this patrol has been evident for some time as political awareness has not increased hand in hand with the development of the Council, with a few individual exceptions, since its formation in 1962. Fortunately the Suau area is home to numerous semi-educated and semi-sophisticated villagers, thus their ability to comprehend the general outline of politics made the patrolling officer's task much simpler. As no political education patrol had been launched for some 9 years, the writer concentrated his efforts almost wholly on Local Government, with the hope that a follow up patrol dealing with wider political topics, can be carried out within the next 6 months.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Although only a minority were against the introduction of Local Government in the Suau area in 1961, the general reaction was one of apathy, a reaction which has been replaced today by a feeling of interest in its growth, but also annoyance at what appears, at village level, to be deliberate attempts by the Council in delaying the commencement of rural projects. Naturally, with a total of only 1500 taxpayers, 29 permanent staff to pay, and a 27 feet workboat to operate, only a certain amount of annual works assistance can be given, and as educational facilities increase to a point where the majority of taxpayers can comprehend an estimates explanation, these factors will be appreciated.

Another impression held by a number of individuals was that of likening the Council to a baby - "one has to feed it for many years until it grows older and can look after itself, and then one receives the benefits, either monetary or physical". This line of thought shows faith in the Council, however the facts are that less money is spent today on Capital Works - which as far as the taxpayers are concerned, is proof of its ability to assist its people - than was spent during earlier years. Unless the population increases sharply, or there is an economic boom, the above comparison will not prove entirely true. To a few of these egotists it proved difficult in explaining that as the Council progresses, its general expenses, e.g. maintenance and salaries, are going to increase also.

Nevertheless Local Government was introduced in Suau, not only to allow for schools, bridges, aidposts, and roads to be constructed as many people thought, but for numerous reasons, many of which are given in a preface of the Political Education address contained in Appendix 1. It proved advantageous for the writer to be quite familiar with the area thus allowing for many first hand examples to be given.

9

President Sunday, who, incidentally, was interpreter for the last Political Education patrol, that of Mr. Frew's in 1961, ended each meeting with a 20-30 minute fiery harangue on the benefits of Local Government, drawing on his knowledge of the Suva Council. The impact was surprising, probably because this was the maiden patrol of the whole area by a President, and when the meetings were thrown open at the end, it was pleasing to see that just as many questions were directed to him as to the patrolling officer.

REACTION TOWARDS TAX PROSECUTIONS.

During the course of the patrol, the writer set out to gauge the true feelings of the taxpayers over the commencement in 1969 of prosecutions of all tax defaulters. Approximately twelve only defaulters had been prosecuted during the first 8 years of the Council's operation, however this number has now leapt to approximately 160, one half of whom have been jailed. The Council had previously passed a resolution that all tax defaulters be prosecuted, and during the patrol approximately 30 persons appeared in court to face charges.

Apparently it was unanimously thought that it was at the patrol officer's discretion whether tax courts should be conducted, and that the Suva Council had no say in the matter. Needless to say, when certain parts of the Local Government Ordinance were being explained, particular attention was given to the section on breaking of Council Rules. No dissatisfaction was revealed, although the mass prosecution programme still in progress has been the major topic of conversation at village level for some time. Many, including a host who have paid their tax righteously since 1961, expressed their gratitude at the Council's new policy which has boosted its income by \$1400 in tax and back tax, and \$350 in court fines.

When time permitted the writer corrected some of the many discrepancies in the Tax Register, yet its accuracy still leaves much to be desired.

RESPONSE TO POLITICAL EDUCATION TALKS.

It can be seen from the précis of the talks in Appendix 1 that the addresses were fairly lengthy. As many examples as possible were given, and the actual context at each village varied to suit the local circumstances. The talks were fairly well received at all villages, and interest appeared high when the beginning of the Council System in England, Tax, Elections, and Government Revenue, were discussed. The main types of questions asked concerned tax exemption, nominations for elections, Government revenue, and general ones concerning the Suva Local Government Council, which President Sunday answered.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND MEMBERS.

Councillor Gaileke of Seasea Village and Vice President of the Council, was attending the ninth sitting of the House of Assembly as Mr. John Guise's personal guest, during the patrol's visit to this village.

During short, explanatory talks on the House of Assembly, it was surprising to discover that no more than about 6 villagers, mostly Councillors, had seen the House in session, although there might be numerous absent workers in Port Moresby who regularly attend. Knowledge of the duties and purpose of the House of Assembly is extremely poor and during one of our many discussions on the success of the talks, President Sunday put forward the worthwhile suggestion that this can be partly overcome by sending different

8.

Councillors to each meeting in Port Moresby at the Council's expense, until all have seen and relayed their impressions to their own constituents.

Of the two House of Assembly members who represent the South Coast, Messrs John Guise and Cecil Abel, the former made one 5 day tour of the area just prior to the patrol's commencement. There had been an expressed wish that their Members visit this part of the Electorate for some time prior to Mr. Guise's arrival, however many of his Constituents still feel no closer to him as his tour was brief and his talks general ones to those who had congregated.

Villagers were non-committal on their reaction to his speeches, but it is assumed that they were excellent audiences as it was this Members first visit to the area in over 4 years. Mr. Guise requested the people not to sell any more timber rights to the Department of Forests, nor sell any land to the Administration unless it was required for schools, airstrips, airstrips, etc. The Speaker also spoke at length on Home Rule, Self Government, and Independence.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILLORS AND ELECTIONS.

With Council Elections imminent, all 25 Councillors have been serving for at least two years, during which period 16 Council Meetings were conducted. The writer, at each Ward, informed the relevant Councillor's constituents of the number of meetings their councillor had attended (varied from 8 to 16 with an average of 13). With the coming election in mind the work of each Councillor was openly discussed, and basic points that a Councillor must follow to be at all efficient, given. It was the writer's aim, in view of the mediocre group of Councillors elected during 1968, to impress upon the people that only the fullest advantage could be gained by electing the most suitable candidate. Remarks on successful candidates in the forthcoming Election Report will show if this part of the address was successful.

Open dissatisfaction with the present Councillor was prevalent in two villages, whilst in the Wards of the President and Vice President, Isuisu and Seasea respectively, from impressions gained, it appears that these two influential leaders will be re-elected unopposed.

President Sunday Aleale has a bright political future, and is one of the minority of village men who places his Council and Country before his Family and Village. He is gifted with common sense and an urge to improve and help his people, and although he has worn a badge for only two years, he rarely has to seek assistance from the Administrative Adviser, except in matters of Government policy. To be elected as Council President after his initial election as Councillor is proof of the respect this man commands.

Actual voting procedures were not explained as it was thought best to delay this explanation until immediately prior to the elections when, as discovered by past experience, it proves far more effective. No nominations were asked for or received.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

As a brief introductory outline to this section, an Economic Development programme was introduced in the Suva area in 1969 by the patrolling officer with assistance from the Council. The plan, which related to copra only, called for all to combine and take part in the following 5 continuous tasks-

- 1
- (a) picking up all coconuts before they rot.
 - (b) Doubling the number of trees through increased planting.
 - (c) Cleaning around both new and old trees.
 - (d) Building pig fences around new plantings if need be.
 - (e) repair or reconstruct copra driers.

Further stimulation of economic development was not undertaken on this patrol, but progress of new plantings etc. was asked about at all villages. Empathic answers was not received as was usual in the past, however verbal accounts from Agricultural Committees and Field Assistants soon came to hand. Of the 25 coastal villages in the Administrative Area, the majority had ceased work in November and were still resting after 4 months. The only exception was Seasea village which had stuck to its task throughout. In comparison to 1969 statistics, (attached as Appendix 2), this was a severe blow to the writer's optimism and resultant glowing reports on Economic Development in the Suva area in 1969.

In contrast to the system of stimulation used in 1969 where the majority of communication was by direct administration in the field together with some Council assistance, a new approach, apparently with peer results, had been decided for 1970. At Council meetings, after more stress had been placed on the importance of implementing the programme, it was decided to leave the bulk of the work to the Council. It is fairly certain that communal participation on the land will not recommence with the same willing fashion as was evident in 1969 unless another Economic Development patrol is launched in the near future.

The majority of the subsistence farmers can see the benefits of economic development, but the impact of most talks at village level is not permanent, and considering that the residents of the South-east Coast have not been financially worried in the past, and probably never will be, the task of changing their traditional easy day of gardening, hunting, and attending to village chores, is not an easy one.

Seasea village in Fife Bay is an exception- here is a village group kept working continually by the Councillor, "Governor" Galleko, and it may be interesting to point out that it embraces no tax defaulters. Monetary benefits are increasing although full benefits will not be noticed until the new plantings, to date 3228, gain maturity. Seasea's success can be attributed to Councillor Galleko, and the way he has planned work to suit local conditions is definitely worthy of mention.

Firstly all work carried out is on a group participation basis, the number who do the clearing, burning, planting, weeding, collecting or erecting, ranging from 30 to 100. The actual owners of the land do not participate, but remain in the village preparing their own food for the workers at the conclusion of the day. A messing arrangement has been set up, and after cleaning up, the workers wait for a bell which signifies that food is ready. They line up with their own plates and are given a generous helping of food, which usually includes, apart from native produce, pig, rice, tinned meat and biscuits. There is no evidence of antipathy at all.

I am writing in detail because I believe that without the organization that has been put into this venture, Seasea village would have long ago slipped back into its customary ways of "passing the time".

OTHER INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

The villages of inland Gadaisu- Vie, Wadanda, Bala,

6.

Tubu, and Katalawagi, all rely heavily on Arabica coffee as a cash crop although it does not appear to bear properly. The symptom has been diagnosed as Third Blight and Agricultural staff at Fife Bay are currently investigating and inspecting the 8000 trees to determine how far the disease has spread.

The typical small craft between 18 and 26 feet, that are so common to Milne Bay waters, now total 9 on the Suau Coast. Their work entails uplifting copra, sago, and native produce for Samarai, together with passengers and general freight, and charter work. Two have been purchased with the aid of Development Bank Loans, and the owners of a third currently being constructed have recently submitted an application, and are awaiting approval.

Although Baibaisiga Island is rarely visited as it is part of the Suau Island Ward, the patrol overnighted there in the Baibaisiga Savings and Loans Society's new clubhouse. The Society was formed in 1968, and to date has around \$7400 to its credit, although its membership is only 60. Chairman of the Society, and the Island's entrepreneur is Jogaia Laidia, who has recently returned home after working as a boatbuilder at Kwate for 16 years. He has set up his own shipbuilding yard and with excellent craftsmanship has completed three small craft, all of which now operate in local waters. As he is inhibited by the lack of tools and machinery, the patrol questioned him on his desirability of a Development Bank loan, but apparently he intends to approach the Society initially for the purpose of expanding his business.

NON INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT.

Orangerie Bay, as a result of non indigenous activity, is by far the most productive area in Suau, and possibly in Milne Bay District, and this is reflected in the annual exports from the area- 30000 lb rubber, (Mariawatte Plantation only, does not include Sagarai Rubber Plantation), 520 tons copra (mostly Gadaisu and Mariawatte Plantations), and the immense tonnage of prawns caught seasonally by a one and a half million dollar prawning complex. Approximately 250 head of cattle graze on the two plantations of Gadaisu and Mariawatte, but twice this number are thought to roam in the bush behind the Estates.

The Administration purchased 640 square miles of timber rights in the Orangerie Bay area during November 1969, in addition to the \$350000 worth purchased in the Mullins Harbour area during 1966. With a sawmill, chip export business, and overseas wharf all proposed in Mullins Harbour, the economic boom along this stretch of coast could be tremendous.

EFFECTS OF TIMBER PURCHASE.

Of the \$50000 handed out for sale of timber rights in November, it is believed that no more than \$5000 is remaining. Mr. Nehay, in his Patrol Report No. 2-69/70, itemises some of the articles that have been purchased.

The patrol was approached on several occasions by Councillors with complaints, not concerning the actual total handed out, but on the method of distribution. People belonging to one of the Clans holding full rights over the timber in question, but residing in another village at the time of the purchase, thereby receiving no monetary compensation, complained bitterly, but there was little the patrolling officer could do to assist. On the other hand, individuals who had migrated in to the area because of marriage, had sometimes received a share of the amount, but once again the writer was powerless to intervene as the money had been spent in

5.

My case. Mr. John Stutz, manager of Mariawatte Plantation, asked for the patrolling officer's opinion on whether these people who had full rights to the timber but had received nothing for its sale, could legally declare it as still rightfully theirs, and refuse the Administration permission to commence logging, but I was unable to supply a suitable answer,

Overall satisfaction with the sale was expressed nevertheless, and the impression gained was that the payees are now waiting patiently for the Government's second move to see if it is as silly as its first.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKS PROGRAMMES.

The first Rural Development Works Project in the Suva area, the Suva Island wharf, was completed in early January, 1970, six and a half months after the first rock was laid. A cyclonic disturbance commenced shortly after the patrol's departure from Fife Bay and the following week of buffeting seas and strong south-west gusts brought about catastrophic results. On arrival at Suva Island, the patrol was dismayed to see only piles, decking, and 50 feet out of the original 250 feet of causeway, remaining.

Fortunately, during the four week period of utilization before disaster struck, the Suva people became fully aware of the great asset gained, and consequently little morale had been lost. Lengthy discussions were held that very day with work forces from Baibaisiga Island, Ipulai, Sibalai, and Suva Island, but, although all concerned were keen to recommence, a difference of opinion arose over the actual siting and means of construction, thus it was unanimously agreed to seek the Local Government Engineer's assistance,

A partly constructed wharf at Kenemaiava, another Rural Development Works Project, was inspected during the course of the patrol. The wharf, commenced about 6 weeks before the patrol's arrival, had also suffered damage caused by the cyclonic disturbance, although only slight. One hundred and thirty feet of rock causeway had been laid down, and instructions were given that the sides should be cemented hand in hand with progress of construction so that any more washouts may be avoided.

LAW AND ORDER.

Many complaints are arbitrated successfully by the Councillor or sometimes the resident Pastor, nevertheless the patrol conducted more Local Courts than are usual, and defendants were jailed for sorcery, stealing, fighting, adultery, and tax evasion.

The patrol ~~XX~~ was asked to intervene in a small disturbance at Baibara Plantation (14 miles into Central District) by the Manager, who feared, at the least, a wounding, if the Queen's justice was not administered. At this juncture the officer leading the patrol thought it wise to investigate, although it was in the Margarida Administrative area, as the manager had next to no experience at settling labour disputes.

Twenty Goodenough Island labourers deserted Baibara Plantation after they had been involved in a scuffle with a smaller group of Geilala labourers. Apparently they feared reprisals when the remainder of the Geilala work force heard news of the incident. Three of the Goodenough labourers were jailed for threatening behaviour, and the remainder requested to return to their work. The latter finally decided to return after receiving firm assurances from the Magistrate, Manager, and Geilala Boss-Bey, that no retaliatory measures would be taken.

MISSIONS

The United Church, formerly the London Mission Society, is the predominate mission, and has spread its influence to all villages with the exception of Kwaiea (Anglican), and Vie/Kendu/Wadauda, only contacted in 1961 and as yet belonging to no church.

Typical of Missions in Milne Bay District, the United Church exerts tremendous influence over its members, probably because it has been part of their life for as long as can be remembered (85 yrs.) and has achieved so many things during that period. Unfortunately its days of glory in the Sugu area are a thing of the past, and when one hears about its boats, trucks, roads, wharf, plantations, cattle, poultry, boatbuilding yards, slipway, vocational school, flanneled cricket teams capable of defeating Port Moresby, Lawes Theological College (closed in 1969), and last but not least, the still adored Rev. C.H. Rich, minister at Fife Bay for nearly 40 years, one can imagine how impressive the Mission complex must have been in pre-war days.

Newdays all spiritual staff employed are Papuans, with each village having a Pastor, trained at the Theological College at Fife Bay, two to three Deacons, and the usual Church Committees and helpers.

HEALTH.

There is a growing resentment towards D.D.T. spraying along the South East Coast, and the four standard complaints were received whenever the Malaria Eradication Programme was mentioned.

The common belief and complaint that ~~XXXXX~~ D.D.T. shortens the life of a sage reef was confirmed at Kenemaiava where the writer conducted a detailed inspection of the resthouse reef which had been erected early in 1969 and sprayed twice in the interim. It is infested with insects which literally chew their way along in any direction, thus seriously weakening the reef. Although holes have appeared and sections have been replaced, it is not yet completely destroyed, but it is of the writer's opinion that its expected life will be no longer than 18 months, compared to three to four years in the past.

Numerous complaints were still lodged concerning bed bugs, increase in rats, and of domestic pets and animals dying after devouring dead insects. With a fairly tight patrol programme, it was not feasible to investigate all statements, but even after allowing for some exaggeration, the appeals of hundreds of villagers can not be taken lightly.

Unrest is increasing and it was stated openly by one Councillor that he is prepared to face a jail sentence rather than allow his house to be sprayed. In the light of this statement, I predict that the fourth spraying team which will visit in approximately August 1970, will run into opposition. The Area Malaria Officer has been advised, and a suggestion made that he places his most competent Team Leader in charge of the patrol.

CONCLUSION.

This proved to be an enjoyable month in the field, and a feeling of achievement ^{was} gained. A.P.C. Nehmy received valuable field experience during this, his first patrol of any length.


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J. Balderson (Patrol Officer)

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APPENDIX 1

PRESIS OF POLITICAL EDUCATION TALK GIVEN.

For more detail, refer Suva Patrol Report No. 2-69/70.

Introduction
Beginning of Council System in England
Local Government
Reasons For Having Local Government
Suva Local Government Council
Councillors and Elections
Requirements of a Competent Councillor
Elections
How You can Support Your Council
Council Tax
Tax Review Committee
Tax Payers Meeting
Courts and Prosecutions
Government
Government of Papua and New Guinea
Government Revenue
President's Speech on Advantages of Local Government
Question Period .

APPENDIX 2.

RECORD OF COCONUT PLANTINGS IN THE SUVA AREA IN 1969.

ILOILO	1204
BONARUA	711
MODENI	72
SIBALAI	899
SUAV	948
IPULAI	794
SAVALALA	1253
NAVABU	2029
ISUAI	944
SAVAIA	2286
OLAMAMANLA	1413
SAGA'ANO	2186
ISUISU	1576
ISURAU	938
SEASEA	2865
ALOMLO	1455
AUNIERI	183
BONABONA	545
DAHUNI	1602
LELEBIATA	323
BOROMAI	2055
SUBINA	538
GADUISU	

1044

Approximately 5,000 trees have been planted in 1970,
but exact figures are not yet available.

SUAU PATROL NO 1-69/70

Patrol Route

Boat or Canoe

Walking

