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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: TAGULA, 1969-1970

Original documents bound with reports
for: Misima, volume 18.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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MILNE BAY DISTRICT
PATROL REPORTS

1969-1970

MISIMA & TAGULA

<u>Report no.</u>	<u>Officer conducting</u> <u>PATROL</u>	<u>Area patrolled</u>
1-69-70	J.B.GEGYO	SUDEST ISLANDS
2-69-70	P.A.GERARD	DEBOYNE & RENARD C.D.
3-69-70	D.K.ROBERTSON	ROSSEL ISLANDS CENSUS DIVI...
^A 4-69-70	P.A.GERARD	MISIMA CENSUS DIVISION
4-69-70	P.A.GERARD	MISIMA ISLANDS CENSU DIVI...
5-69-70	W.G.SPELDEWINDE	MISIMA ISLAND, SUDEST & ROSSEL ISLANDS.
6-69-70	G.J.MATHEWS	DEBOYNE & RENARD C.D.
<u>TAGULA</u>		
1-69-70	P.A.GERARD	SUDEST ISLANDS
2-69-70	P.A.GERARD	PART SUDEST ISLANDS, C.D.

MILNE BAY DISTRICT PATROL REPORT

1969-1970

TAGULA - 1- 69-70

Patrol conducted by P.A, Gerard

Area patrolled Sudewt Island

67-13-1

District Office,
ALOFU.
Milne Bay District.

11th June, 1970

The Secretary,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOBU.

TAGULA PATROL NO.1. OF 1969/70

Attached please find report submitted by Mr. P. A. Gerard, Patrol Officer, covering the abovementioned Patrol to several villages on Sudest Island in the Louisiade Local Government Council Area, and copy of comments thereon by the Assistant District Commissioner.

2. In view of the Assistant District Commissioner's comments no further comments are considered necessary except to say that Mr. Gerard will have to show a more active interest in his work and area, and comply with patrolling and reporting procedures.

F. G. Driver
F. G. DRIVER. *JD*
District Commissioner.

GFB/RG

Division of District Administration,
Department of the Administrator;
ADMIRALTY, ISLANDS.

67-4-44

23rd June, 1970.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
MILNE BAY.

PATROL NO. TAGUA 1/69.70

Your reference 67-13-1 of 12th June, 1970.

I acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of special report by Mr. P.A. Gerard, Patrol Officer of the MILNE BAY Census Division.

The detailed comments by the Assistant District Commissioner adequately cover this short report. At this stage I have nothing to add.

(P.W. ALLIS)

SECRETARY,
Department of the Administrator.

c.c. Mr. P.A. Gerard,
Sub-District Office,
BPAGAOIA,
Milne Bay District.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-4-44 (19)

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

In Reply
Please Quote

No. 67-13-1

Department of the Administrator,
District Office,
ALOPAU.
Milne Bay District.



12th June, 1970

The Secretary,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOB.

TAGULA PATROL NO.1. OF 1969/70

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[Signature]
G. B. ER. G.
District Commissioner.

8

to build a road. The people have walked tracks between the villages and as an African means there could be advised to use a motor cycle quite easily.

11. It is a pity that more time was spent on this patrol talking to the people. It is hoped that this will not happen again. In future specific instructions will be issued from this office and a copy sent to you.

12. I will request Mr. Gaxard to submit his claim for August Allowance as soon as possible. I know that he used (over) Mr. Sigmond's boat for the patrol but to date - almost two months later - no claim has been submitted for payment.

W. G. SPENCER
Assistant District Commissioner

67-1-7

Division ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Sub District Office,
BAGAMIA.

8th May, 1970.

The District Commissioner,
Mils Bay District,
ALONG.

TAGULA PATROL No 1 - 1969/70 - Mr P. A. GERARD (P/O)

Attached please find the above-mentioned report submitted by Mr P. A. Gerard (P/O). Originally no map or Situation Report was attached. These have since been added. No claim for camping allowances has been received.

2. No patrol instructions were issued as such although in my 35-1-9 dated 17th February, 1970 to the OIC Tagula I requested that the Application for Prospecting Authority by J.J. Jordan be given the widest possible publicity and a report forwarded as soon as possible.

3. The Patrol Diary is inadequate in that travelling times are not included for the following officer's assistance.

4. SITUATION REPORT

Political More information should have been given about the Local Government Council in the area. No of wards, councillors, committees or their efficiency etc.. Are they keeping their constituents informed of decisions made in the Council Chambers etc.?

5. Social Only comment made concerns 'cults and unrest'. Nothing on the condition of the Aid Post, are APOs patrolling? Educational facilities - existence or non-existence of these.

6. Economic The solution is in the hands of the people. Traders will call if more copra is produced. A system of roads would be the answer and I will comment on this aspect later.

7. There is really no reason for the brief Situation Report. There was no need to make this patrol's itinerary so busy. Tagula is only a Patrol Post and there is nothing there which needs the presence of the OIC. There is no large population around the Post - the main areas are in the centre of the island. Since Mr Gerard's arrival at TAGULA in January, 1970 no real patrolling has been done.

8. MINING LEASE Closing date for objections was 17th February, 1970. Your 35-8-27 dated 29th January, 1970 did not reach here until 11th February, 1970. The delay at this end was unavoidable. I note that the Mining Warden hopes to commence Hearings approx 9th June, 1970.

9. ROADS This submission is totally and completely inadequate. I have discussed this matter with Mr Gerard and handed him a copy of a pro-forma used in another District when requesting Rural Development Funds. If he follows this pro-forma his submission will improve sufficiently for me to forward it to you.

10. I am amazed that in the time Mr Gerard has been at Tagula no previous attempt has been made to inspect road sites etc.. The main centres of population are across the middle of the island and viewing the countryside from a boat going round the coast it would not be too difficult

(6)

PATROL REPORT.

Patrol Report TAGULA No. 1.-69/70

Sub-District MISIMA.

District Milne Bay

Council Area LOUISIADÉ Local Government Council Area

Patrol Conducted by P.A.Gerard, Patrol Officer.

Personnel accompanying patrol 1 member R.P.N.G.C.

Duration of Patrol 9/3/70 to 12/3/70 5 days

Date and duration of last Patrol June '69 5 days.

Objects of Patrol To inform the people of the application for mining permit by Mr. J.Jordan and ascertain their reaction.

To survey road prospects between MADAWA, GRIFFIN POINT, and TAGULA Patrol Post. General Administration.

~~(S)~~

Total Population of Area Patrolled . 1790.

Map Reference. Enclosed.

Village Population Register not enclosed .

(5)

PATROL DIARY.

(Note; it was originally intended that the patrol should commence on the second of March, however the SIBONA was not available until the 9th.)

Monday 9th. March 1970 Departed TAGULA Patrol Post about 1000. Called in at NCMOA mission to drop mail and obtain supplies, then proceeded GRIFFIN POINT where heard one minor Local Court. Proceeded RAMBUSO where overnighed.

Tuesday 10th. March 1970 Discussions with RAMBUSO villagers re. the mining application of Mr. J. Jordan. People unanimously favourable. Proceeded East Point village, people generally not in favour. Proceeded REWE where overnighed.

Wednesday 11th. March 1970 Discussions with people in REWE (favorable). Proceeded JUMU, PANTAVA and PABELA, holding discussions in each village with people re. the mining lease. Reaction favorable in all villages. Proceeded to MADAVA where overnighed.

Thursday 12. March 1970 One minor Local Court in MADAVA. Departed on foot about 1000 for GRIFFIN POINT to survey road prospects. Arrived Griffin Point about 1500. (Note: this is not the shortest time possible, as in places alternative routes were sighted).
* Departed GRIFFIN POINT about 1600, arriving at EMBABALIA at about 1900.

Friday 13th. March 1970 Departed EMBABALIA by canoe about 0900 for TAGULA Patrol Post, arriving about 1100.

END OF PATROL.....

(4)

SITUATION REPORT.

POLITICAL.

In every aspect, these people are, and have apparently always been, out on a limb. This is nowhere more evident than in the political sphere, where ignorance of an awe-inspiring profundity is united with a more or less complete apathy. The attitude to the administration can best be summed up as, 'you leave us alone and we'll leave you alone'. Council tax must be paid of course, to avoid imprisonment, but the average Sud-Est resident regards himself far too much occupied with his village activities, (including the prosecution and avoidance of sorcery) to take an active interest in matters, the importance, or even the relevance of which, he remains almost totally unconvinced, however he has a natural courtesy and pleasantness of manner, and respect for the Administration.

Mission loyalty is divided between the North of the Island, who are mainly Catholics, and the Southern, who are mainly Methodist (United Church), however this does not seem to have at present any overt political effect.

SOCIAL.

The main social bane of this Island is sorcery. As in other areas where this occupation is prevalent, almost every vague threatening word is taken as a threat of sorcery, every old person with any eccentric tendencies whatever is marked as a sorcerer, and there is very little respect of, or active recourse to Administration or Mission health services. Some persons actively claim to be expert sorcerers, and these are greatly respected and dreaded. These persons claim to be responsible for almost every death, natural or otherwise, and this is generally credited.

Economic.

The cash income is very low, and the potential income from the very considerable coconut plantings, for instance, are scarcely touched. The people's explanation is that the traders don't come round often enough to buy their copra, the traders in turn claim that the people don't make copra often enough to make visits worth while. At this stage the only solution I can see is some system whereby copra could be concentrated at a central point for collection en masse. A road system would appear essential for this.

(5)

The above Situation report is brief, however the brief duration of the patrol and the fairly busy itinerary of the patrol, my first in this area, prevented a longer or more detailed analysis. The following is a report on the specific purposes of the patrol.

MINING LEASE, J. JORDAN.

It was explained that an application for a mining lease had been received by the Administration, and that while it was of course the Administration's prerogative to refuse or grant this permit, the mining warden would assess their reaction first, and that the Administration would almost certainly not grant the permit if the people did not want it granted. This was readily understood, as this is not the first mining lease to be applied for on this Island, and the people were not backward in expressing their views on the subject.

In no village except East Point village was there any opposition at all, the most general reaction being, 'Miners always need helpers and it will mean a lot more money around.' No-one knew Mr. Jordan's name, so that this reaction was based on a general rather than a personal approbation. In East Point, after a good deal of discussion among themselves, the people decided that 'We want to close our land to the miners'. I was unable to ascertain any particular reason for this reaction, although it is possible that as the most isolated village of this isolated island these people are just a little bit more cautious and conservative. It could also be that the comparative proximity of ROSSELL Island to this village had something to do with it. (The ROSSELL people's opposition resulted in the refusal of a mining lease on that island). I could find no real evidence to support this however.

ROADS - SUDEST ISLAND.

A road directly across the Island from MADAWA to GRIFFIN POINT ~~MADAWA~~ would not be practicable, although a more indirect route, probably a branch from the proposed WESTERN POINT to GRIFFIN POINT road may be practicable. This possibility will be investigated.

My walk along the coast from GRIFFIN POINT to EMBARALLIA confirmed my ideas about the WESTERN POINT to GRIFFIN POINT road, which will have to be well back from the coast, and the mouths of the creeks. The latter are too wide to be crossed without major bridging work, and are mostly flanked by marsh and bog.

CONCLUSION.

The patrol was a very brief one, for a specific purpose. It is ~~proposed~~ proposed to conduct a full census patrol of the area concerned later this year, and a full area study and situation report will accompany the report of this patrol.



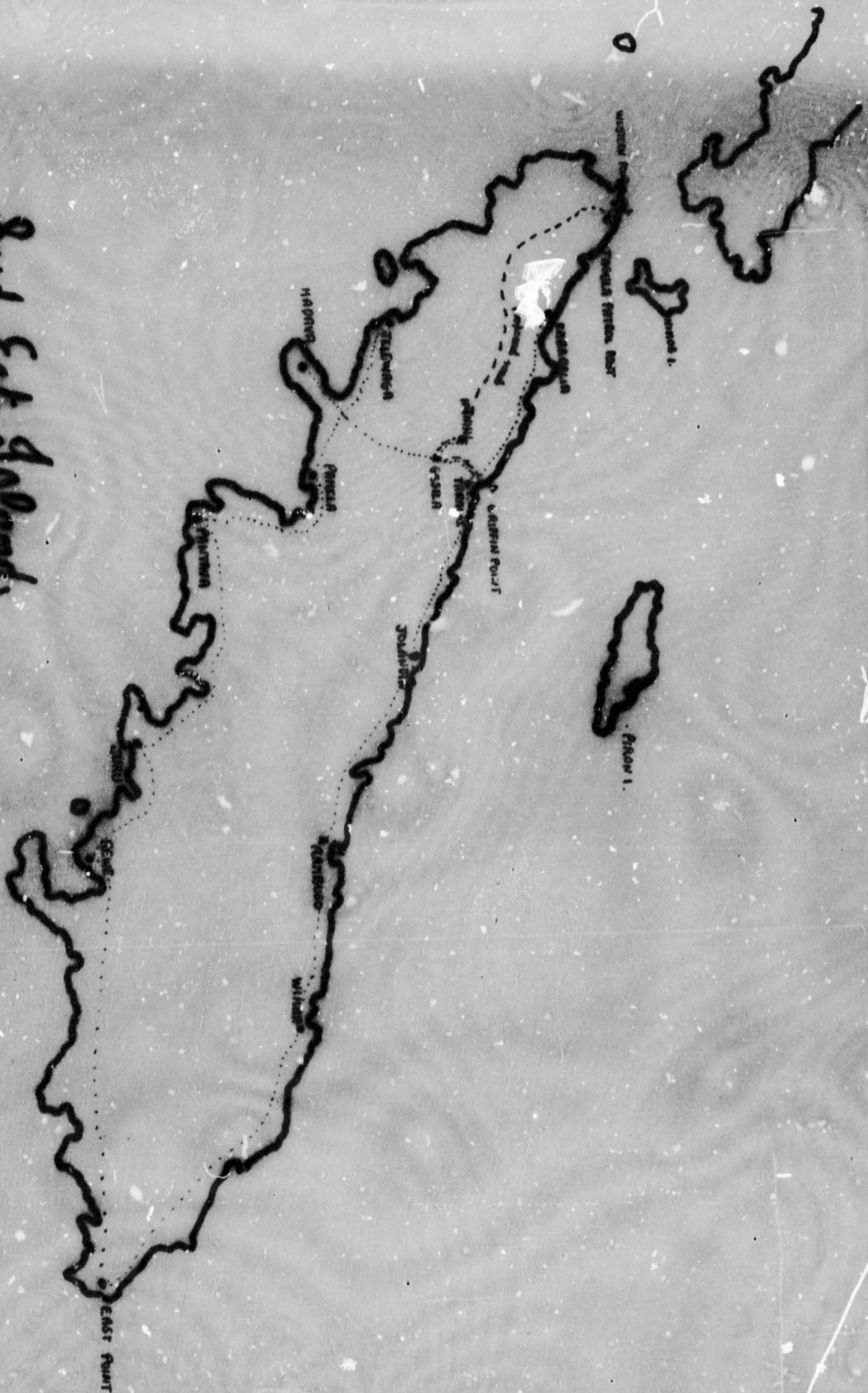
(P. A. Gerard)

Patrol Officer.

Bud-Eat Islands

Scale: approx 1" = 5 miles

Edward J. P...



MILNE BAY DISTRICT PATROL REPORT

1969-1970

TAGULA- 2- 69-70

Patrol conducted by P.A. Gerard

Area patrolled part Sud-east Island C.D.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

DDA 67-7-46

11

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

In Reply
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No. 67-13-1



Department of the Administrator,
District Headquarters,
ALOTAU
Milne Bay District.

18th August, 1970

The Secretary,
Department of the Administrator,
Division of District Administration,
KONEDOBU Papua

Solid 10

PATROL NO. TAGULA 2/69-70

Thank you for memo 67-7-46 of the 24th June, 1970.

As yet I have not had an opportunity to visit Tagula Patrol Post, but propose to do so in the near future.

I wonder whether the reporting officer was in a position to comment. The starting of the station was done by Senior Officers prior to my arrival in the District but who I feel certain would take into account numerous aspects, some of those being:-

- (a) Anchorage
- (b) Possibilities of an Air strip
- (c) Position in relation to the Administrative area which covers not only Sudest Island but those surrounding Sudest mainly Rossel, Nimoa, Joannette, the Calvados Chain, to name a few.

I would comment more fully on this after I have visited the station but I feel we are too limited to do anything as there has been considerable expenditure on housing at Tagula during the last year.

F.G. Driver
F.G. DRIVER
District Commissioner.

Copy placed in file 1-4-13
AGB

GFB:KP

10

67-4-46

Division of District Administration,

KONAKOBU. Papua.

24th June, 1970.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
AKOTAU.

PATROL NO. TAGULA 2/69 - 70

Your reference 67-13-1 of 12th June, 1970.

I acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of Special Report
by Mr. P.A. Gerard, Patrol Officer of part SUDEST Island Census
Division.

Whilst this report is indeed an incomplete submission,
Mr. Gerard's remarks about the location of Tagula are of interest.
I would appreciate your comments on the value of this station.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Secretary,

Department of the Administrator.

cc: Mr. P.A. Gerard,
Sub-District Office,
BWACACIA,
Milne Bay District.



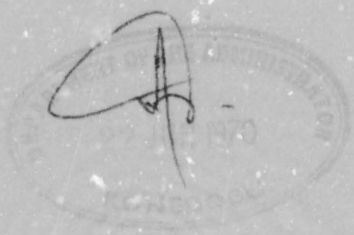
TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-4-46 (9)

In Reply
Please Quote

No. 67-13-1

Department of the Administrator,
District Office,
ALOTAU.
Milne Bay District.



12th June, 1970

The Secretary,
Department of the Administrator,
KOROROA.

TAGULA PATROL NO. 2. OF 1969/70

Attached please find report submitted by Mr. P. A. Gerard,
Patrol Officer, covering the abovementioned Patrol.

2. This was a special patrol to advise the people of the Eastern half of Sudest Island concerning a Mining Application which is covered in Appendix "B" of the report.
3. It is considered that the officer concerned will have to make more contact with the people before he will be able to satisfactorily assess the overall situation in the area.
4. The Assistant District Commissioner will be advised that a man is required to accompany all Patrol Reports.

F. Driver
F. DRIVER.
District Commissioner.

4

67-13-1

District Office,
ALOTAU.
Milne Bay District.

12th June, 1970

The Secretary,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDCBU.

TAGULA PATROL NO. 2. OF 1969/70

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Patrol Officer, covering the abovementioned Patrol.

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4. The Assistant District Commissioner will be advised that a map is required to accompany all Patrol Reports.

J. G. Driver
J. G. DRIVER.
District Commissioner.

Distroff
67-1-7

Division
XXXXXXXX

Dept. of District Administrator,
Sub-District Office,
FWAGAOFA.

25th May, 1970.

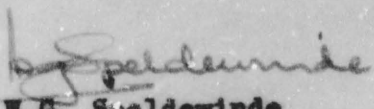
District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
Alotau.

TAGULA PATROL NO 2-69-70

Attached please find the abovementioned patrol report covering a special patrol to advise the people of the eastern half of Sudest Island about a Mining application.

I have nothing further to add to my 67-1-7 dated 8th May, 1970 on a similar patrol of Mr. Gerard.

No Camping Allowance claim was forwarded and only one map. I would like your ruling on the question of maps to accompany patrol reports. I was under the impression that each copy of the report forwarded to Sub-District Office had to be accompanied by a map. Evidently in this District this is not the case. Your advice would be appreciated.


W.G. Speldewinde
Assistant District Commissioner.

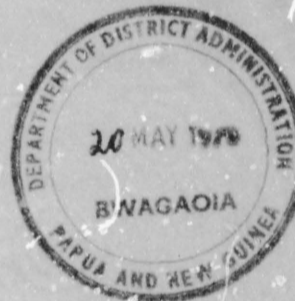
cc. Office in-Charge
TAGULA.

6

PATROL REPORT.

Patrol Number. TAGULA 2 69/70
Sub-District. MISIMA.
District. Milne Bay
Local Government Council Area. LOUISIADE Local Government Council.
Patrol Conducted by. P.A.Gerard, Patrol Officer.
Area Patrolled. Part Sud-East Island census division.
Personell accompanying patrol. Nil.
Duration of Patrol. 29/4/70 to 2/5/70. 4 days.
Date and Duration last D.D.A. Patrol. March 1970, 5 days. (TAGULA 1 69/70)
Objects of Patrol. To inform people of mining authority application
by MINJUR MINES P/L, general Administration.
Map Reference. Enclosed.
Village Population Register. Not Enclosed.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-



5

PATROL DIARY.

Wednesday 29th April 1970 Departed TAGULA per m.v. 'TOARIPI' about 1000. visited NIMO mission to obtain supplies and deliver mail, then proceeded to RAMBUSO, arriving about 1600. Overnigheted at RAMBUSO.

Thursday 30th April 1970 Discussions with RAMBUSO villagers. Departed RAMBUSO about 0900, arrived EAST POINT about 1200. Discussions with EAST POINT villagers. Proceeded to REWE, arriving about 1500. Overnight and discussions with villagers at REWE.

Friday 1st. May 1970 0500 departed REWE, arriving at JUNU about 0700. Discussions with villagers. Departed about 0900, arriving at PANTAVA about 1200. Discussions with villagers. Proceeded to MADAWA where overnigheted.

Saturday 2nd. May. 1970 Proceeded to TAGULA, and then to BWAGACIA, finally arrivng abt 1900.

+C+O+O+O+C+O+O+C+O+O+C+

(4)

SITUATION REPORT.

This report is brief and uncomprehensive due to the nature and duration of the patrol. My very recent report on the same area in TAGULA I 69/70 should be referred to; also I intend on my return from a compulsory medical examination, to carry out a full census patrol, to which a fuller and more comprehensive Situation report will of course be attached.

POLITICAL.

Sud-Est Island is in many different senses of the word, isolated. In most regards there are in fact probably few more isolated areas in this Territory. While Administration Contact with these people has been of considerable duration contact has generally been only desultory and patchy. A question was raised in the House of Assembly not long ago as to whether this Island (and two others in a similar position) were administered by this Territory at all, or whether they were really part of the Solomon Islands.... The question was not entirely without justification.

TAGULA station, first a base camp, and now a patrol post, has as yet done little to change the resultant abysmal ignorance and indifference of these people.

The people still don't know quite what to make of the station. Since I took over in January only three different village committee members and one councillor have visited the station uninvited. No Local Court matters have been brought to the station, although some minor cases have been heard on patrol, or day visits to villages. This is without doubt partly due to the positioning of this station far from the main population centres on the Island, but another factor seems to be an attitude of 'You leave us alone and we'll leave you alone.'

As yet, the transport available has been limited to one motor cycle (with about one mile of trafficable road) plus one unseaworthy whale boat. A combination of a few small local canoes and footwork (although there are few walking tracks at this end of the Island) has enabled a fair bit of patrolling to be done in the past by other officers, and the BWAGAIA work boat, M.V. TOAPIPI, as well as Mr. T. SIGAMATA's launch 'SIBONA' are spasmodically available; however until a workboat is stationed here, and funds are supplied for the construction of some motor cycle trails (I will discuss the latter herunder) the usefulness of the post must be limited. When the transport situation is improved, frequent, casual visits to the villages would become possible, and this is, I feel, the only way that the Administration could make itself felt. Routine patrols are not enough when they form the ONLY means of contact with village people (In most places, of course, this is far from being the case.) Especially is this so in an area that has been for so long neglected.

ECONOMIC

There is ample suitable land on this island for fairly extensive cash cropping. The main problem seems to be that traders are not unnaturally unwilling to call at a village for one bag of copra. A system of roads would enable concentration of produce, and I believe this would arouse the currently weak enthusiasm among both traders and local people. The answer may be a Producers Co-operative. (A Trading co-operative, with trade stores, would probably run into the same problems as those on MISIMA.)

A full survey of this and other economic prospects will be compiled on the census patrol of this island.

SOCIAL.

After such a short patrol I am not really in a position to make any further observations on my last report. The main social problem seems to be the universal practice of, and faith in, sorcery. The sorcerer is unusually powerful in this area, and he is respected far more as a healer of disease than is the medical orderly, although this attitude may be gradually changing. I will do a fairly close survey of sorcery on this Island on my census patrol, and will then be in a much better position to suggest measures to remedy the present undesirable situation, if indeed it can be remedied, deep seated superstition is hard to modify at the best of times.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

APPENDIX - SUDEST ROAD SYSTEM

Although in a sense this is not strictly relevant to this patrol, recent correspondence on the subject would seem to indicate that in spite of frequent and lengthy correspondence on this subject from this office, the position is still not clear.

On my arrival here I carefully considered the possibility of using existing walking tracks as a basis for motor roads. On my last patrol I walked over a number of these to investigate this feasibility. As a result of this I submitted the remarks on this subject in my last report, which were intended as a progress report pending a survey of road prospects between Western Point and Griffin Point. This survey will be done during the census patrol, although it should be pointed out that there is no walking track at all for much of the distance between these two places, communication at present being largely by canoe due to the large number of wide deep creeks there are to cross; and that much of the track there is I have walked over, and found it quite unsuitable as it is very damp and subject to flooding.

APPENDIX 'B' MINING APPLICATION.

The application of MINOR MINES was explained to the people. Not unexpectedly, there was little change in attitude from the last such application. The attitude being generally very favorable. Neither of the names concerned meant anything to anyone, but miners generally are apparently approved. The EAST POINT people, who were in opposition to the last application, felt at first that they were being nagged to give up their position, and were half inclined to do so, although I explained the situation carefully, and assured them that the decision was up to them entirely.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

SUDEST ISLAND.

