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STATION: Milne Bay

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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ANNUAL REPORT 1956-57.

MILNE BAY DISTRICT.

1. Introductory Narrative:

The Milne Bay District is a maritime one and can rightly be termed the "Island District" of the Territory of Papua. In addition to the eastern extremity of the mainland, the District embraces the archipelagos of D'Entrecasteaux, Woodlark, Trobriands, Lusaneay and Louisiade. The District comprises approximately 50,000 square miles, of which only 6,900 square miles is represented by land mass. Consequently it must be realised that sea travel between islands is time consuming. Within the District are approximately 160 islands which have been named and a further 500 islets and atolls which, although visited periodically by natives on fishing or shelling voyages, carry no permanent population.

Much of the area on the mainland is occupied by the mountains of the main central range which lose altitude in an irregular dip towards the forked tail, which the outline of New Guinea suggests on a map. Run off is short and the stream flow rapid. The only sizeable rivers are the Ruaba emptying into Goddenough Bay on the north coast and the Sagarai into Mul'ins Harbour on the south coast. The geological map of New Guinea (1952) represents almost the whole of the mainland portion of the District and one half of the D'Entrecasteaux group of islands as occupied by Mesozoic and Palaeozoic metamorphics associated with which are a few small occurrences of granitic rocks. The Cape Vogel Peninsular appears on geological maps as upper Tertiary sediments with local volcanic deposits of the same age. In economic geology, the District figures early and not ingloriously in the history of Papua. The earliest efforts to win underground wealth in

the Territory were in gold. In 1888, the first discovery of payable gold was made on Sudest Island in the Louisiades Archipelago. This, and rich finds on Misima and Woodlark Islands, led to great activity in prospecting in the District. Gold was also won in limited quantities in the mountains behind Bartle Bay and Milne Bay. At the present moment mining activity in the District is negligible. Sulphur deposits have long been known in a lowland area of hot springs, fumaroles and salt lakes on Seymour Bay on Fergusson Island.

At the present moment deposits of iron ore and associated minerals are being examined on Woodlark Island.

The native population of the District numbers approximately 82,000, of which 23,000 are located on the mainland coastal fringes, 5,000 within the inland mountainous area and 53,000 in the chain of archipelagos. The non-indigenous population is approximately 450. There is a part native population of 200.

The District has been under full administrative control for more than forty years.

## 2. District Organisation:

District Headquarters are located on Samarai Island which is the main commercial centre for the eastern end of Papua. This small island of 60 acres carries a European population of 200 and a native population of 900. Land availability on the island has therefore reached saturation point. Any further general development of Samarai will cause the establishment of a satellite town on the nearby mainland.

### Sub-Stations and Patrol Posts:

There are six administrative centres within the District. These are located at:

Samarai  
Baniara - Mainland and Cape Vogel Area.  
Gehua - Mainland - Milne Bay Area.  
Esa'ala - D'Entrecasteaux Islands.  
Ewagaia - Misima Island.

SAMARAI.

The Assistant District Officer at Samarai in addition to acting as Assistant to the District Commissioner/District Officer, is responsible for the control of the south mainland coast and the numerous islands within a radius of fifty miles of Samarai. When staff permits, which is very infrequent, the Assistant District Officer is assisted by a Patrol Officer or Cadet Patrol Officer.

BANIARA.

Baniara Sub-District Headquarters are located on Mosquito Island which comprises 70 acres. The population of the Sub-District is approximately 13,000 of whom 8,500 are domiciled on the coastal fringe of the mainland. The remainder of the population live on the slopes of the main range.

The whole of Mosquito Island is planted with coconuts. The water supply comes from rain water tanks and brackish wells. Firewood has to be ferried from the mainland. There is no electricity supply.

Dogura, which is the Headquarters of the Bishop of the Anglican Mission, is located in this Sub-District.

The staff at Baniara comprises an Acting Assistant District Officer, Patrol Officer, Cadet Patrol Officer and Medical Assistant.

GEHUA:

The post war patrol post of Gehua has now been transferred to the new site of Sinaeada at the western

extremity of Milne Bay. The Assistant District Officer in charge is responsible for the control of the Milne Bay area and the north east coast to Cape Freere. The Assistant District Officer is also responsible for the guidance of the activities of the Malaba and Tavara Village Councils, the first Councils to be established in the Milne Bay District.

The Administration staff at Gehua comprises an Assistant District Officer (Native Authorities) and a Cadet Patrol Officer.

Esa-ala:

Esa-ala Sub-District Headquarters are located at the north eastern end of Normanby Island. The Assistant District Officer in charge is responsible for the Administration of Goodenough, Fergusson and Normanby Islands, Dobu Island, Sanaroa, the Amphlett Group, Egum Group, Marshall Bennett, Woodlark, Alcester and Laughlan Islands. The area is a vast one, and as most islands lie off normal shipping lanes, considerable inconvenience of movement is experienced. The smaller island groups are exposed to the heavy south east season, and patrols can only be attempted when adequate shipping is available.

The population of this scattered Sub-District is 32,000.

Salamo, the main centre of the Methodist Overseas Mission is in the Esa-ala Sub-District. The only Hansenide colony in Eastern Papua is at Ubuia, off the west coast of Normanby Island.

The Administration is developing a Native Hospital at Mapamoiwa on Fergusson Island. Mapamoiwa is approximately 30 miles north west of Esa-ala.

The staff in the Sub-District comprises:

Esa-ala: Assistant District Officer and two Patrol Officers.

Manamoiva: Medical Officer on malarial research, and a Medical Assistant.

LOSUIA:

This Sub-Station is located on Kiriwina Island in the Trobriand Group. The Assistant District Officer is responsible for the control of the Trobriand Group, the Insancay and Jouveney Islands. The native population is approximately 9,000.

The staff at Losuia comprises an Assistant District Officer, Cadet Patrol Officer and Medical Assistant.

BWAGAOIA:

Bwagaia on Misima Island, was, until 1940, a thriving gold mining centre. Operations are now negligible. The population of the Sub-District is 8,000 scattered over Misima, Sudest and Rossel Islands and the numerous islets of the Calvados Chain. Patrolling is governed by the availability of vessels.

The staff at Misima comprises an Assistant District Officer, Patrol Officer and native Medical Practitioner.

The staff of the District is as follows:

District Headquarters - Samarai.

District Commissioner/District Officer

Assistant District Officer

Secretary Clerk

Treasury Clerk

Typiste

Civil Affairs Assistant

Postmaster

Medical Officer

Radiographer

European Medical Assistant

Nursing Sisters (3)

Senior Radio Telegraphist  
Senior Radio Technician  
Radio Female Assistants (2)  
District Education Officer  
Area Education Officer  
Education Officer  
Collector of Customs  
Female Assistant Customs  
Works Supervisor  
Senior Carpenters (3)  
Senior Plumber  
Senior Mechanic  
Senior Electrician  
Officer in Charge Police  
Co-operative Officer  
Stores Officer  
Storeman  
Female Assistants (Stores) 2  
Regional Agricultural Officer  
Agricultural Officers (3)  
Copra Inspector  
Manager Baibara Estate  
Overseer Baibara Estate  
Harbour Master  
Master Engineer (2)

GENJA (SINARABA):

Assistant District Officer  
Cadet Patrol Officer

BANIARA:

Assistant District Officer  
Patrol Officer  
Cadet Patrol Officer  
European Medical Assistant



LOSUIA:

Assistant District Officer  
Cadet Patrol Officer  
European Medical Assistant

Esa-ala:

Assistant District Officer  
Patrol Officers (2)

Manamoiva:

Medical Officer  
European Medical Assistant

BWALAQIA:

Assistant District Officer  
Patrol Officer  
Co-operative Officer  
Native Medical Practitioner.

3. Native Administration.

(1) (a) Comments on Patrols:

The patrol programme for this year shows a marked improvement in Patrol activity compared with the previous year. Figures would have been more entertaining if Administration vessels, such as trawlers M.V. "Huon" and "Managuna", had been commissioned for the whole year under review. At the commencement of the year "Huon" was tied up for at least three months undergoing major repairs. Soon after "Huon" was placed in commission the ship was temporarily transferred to Manus. "Managuna" was effective for approximately eight months of the year. However twenty four (24) patrols were conducted, an increase of seven (7) over the preceding year, and days spent on patrolling increased from 308 to 646.

The patrols conducted were as follows:

Baniara Sub-District	9 patrols	193 days
Misima Sub-District	4 patrols	73 days
Esa-ala Sub-District	8 patrols	236 days
Samarai Sub-District	2 patrols	104 days
Losuia Sub-District	1 patrol	40 days
Total	24	646

In addition to this figure Cadet Patrol Officers in training in patrol procedure carried out 97 days on patrol, the District Commissioner/District Officer 63 days on regular inspection tours, the Assistant District Officer (Native Authorities - Gehua) 38 days and the Assistant District Officer Samarai 30 days on Native Labour inspections and Court matters, for which reports were not submitted. This does not take into account journeys of less than 48 hours duration. The actual minimum figures for patrolling is therefore 874. It would be time consuming to estimate the daily journeys made by officers in the performance of their duties.

Patrols were carried out in a normal routine manner. There was nothing spectacular in the patrol programme. Patrols were consistent in manner and were of a regular nature.

3. (1) (b) Areas Patrolled and Purposes.

As already stated, the entire District is under full Administration control. Patrols conducted were of a routine nature only and were concerned only with inspections of general welfare, census taking, the observance of any changes in the social background of the native peoples upon whom Administration inspired activity has been accepted. In this regard I refer to Councils, Co-operatives and the earnest extension programme of the Department of Agriculture.

It was pleasing this year, however, to see that patrols had been conducted in the sadly neglected areas of the Woodlark Islands, the Alcester Islands and the more remote and completely isolated Laughlan Islands. This Islands Group received two (2) patrols this year. The patrols emanated from Esa-ala only by the fact that a ship was available for the patrol parties at a very specified time. It is refreshing too, to see that a patrol from Samarai along the south coast saw fit to walk through the

main range onto the north east coast and terminate at Baniara. On the other hand, at Esa-ala, staff has been tied up or restricted in meeting the demands of the possible eruption of Lominau, Oiau and Lobu. Mr. D.J. Fitzer's effort in descending Lominau crater is commendable. I know that other officers have shown themselves to great advantage, but not with his small term of office. The Vulcanologist, Mr. Taylor, was full of praise for Fitzer.

I hope, and sincerely hope, that next year a more systematic and prolonged patrolling programme can be endured. This will depend upon an efficient shipping service, and a body of officers previously trained in patrolling. In the small land mass of this District, there is arduous mountain patrolling - at sea it requires a good seaman of contented stomach, a sense of good humour and a sympathetic approach to uncomfortable travel.

3. (1) (c) New Areas.

It has been said, and I have also said it, that there are no new areas in the District which have been considered under full Administrative control.

However, I feel that there may be small groups of people living in the mountain ranges where the Abau Sub-District (Central District) and the Baniara (Milne Bay District) have a common boundary. The establishment of a new Patrol Post at Koneava on the south coast of this District, may allay any fears because of the isolation of these native people.

The purposes of future patrolling will be to intensify contact with the native people and to provide the native people with sympathetic guidance on all aspects of Administration policy.

3. (1) (c) New Areas.

There are no new areas in this District, There may be one or two pockets of small populations now regularly visited, but these pockets would not be new. As staff increases in respect to experienced personnel, patrols can be carried out to search every nook and cranny.

3. (1) (d) Outstanding Incidents on Patrol.

Under this heading nothing could be even reported upon. The people are law-abiding, have a desire to improve their lot and intensely loyal to the Administration. A very slight impact of war on several areas has been a reminder to the native people of loyalty to "Queen and Country". I know this, because I have been with them during the war, immediately post war and now. The best the native people received during the war was from Administration officers whom they knew. Such treatment did not come from the enemy.

All patrols were of a routine nature. However, in the D'Entrecasteaux Islands, it is refreshing to see and sometimes hear of the tremendous endeavour of native people to safeguard themselves and others from the effects of a possible eruption of Lominau or Giau. The native people have accepted the Administration's evacuation programme and, I think, will abide by it. This was borne out in Mr. Fitzer's patrol to the floor of Lominau crater.

3. (1) (e) and (f)

There were no attacks on patrols, and no new anthropological data was collected.

3. (1) Native Welfare and Food Supplies.

Condition of Crops etc.

Food supplies have been adequate throughout the year. There was a slight shortage in the Wedau area, where an extreme food shortage occurs for a few months annually.

For many years past the Wedau people relied upon Government assistance during the drought period. However this year, the people produced sufficient copra, the revenue from which enabled them to purchase food.

There has been an abundance of food in the D'Entrecasteaux and Trobriand Islands. The yam harvest was an excellent one.

In the vicinity of Samarai the freak tides of February, 1957 caused some damage to low lying garden areas.

The work of Agricultural Extension Officers is continuing in the establishing of economic crops and the distribution of seed for the improvement of staple diets. Agricultural patrols have been active in most parts of the District, and special attention has been paid to the desirability of extending existing coconut plantings and the establishment of new areas. Demonstration driers of different types have been erected in certain areas with a view to improving the quality of copra. These small family driers are becoming popular with the native people, and during the last six months 22 driers have been erected in various villages. The copra produced has been graded by the Copra Inspector as first quality Hot Air.

Experiments with Robusta and Arabica coffee are continuing. Small pilot plots of Robusta coffee have been planted in the Sagarai valley, on the south and north-east coasts, in Milne Bay and the D'Entrecasteaux, Misima, Sulest and Rossell Islands. It is estimated that there is something of the order of 800 to 1,000 Robusta coffee pilot plots in various stages of development. It must be borne in mind that these plots are of an experimental nature only.

The position in regard to Arabica coffee is quite different, since on the basis of reports it is concluded that this strain will bear satisfactorily in the mountain hinterland of Goodenough Bay. There are approximately 400 pilot plots in this area and fifty three (53) of these plots

are now being expanded to 500 trees in each plot.

It has been the policy of the Regional Agricultural Officer at Samarai to encourage the adoption of rice into the normal staple food crop cycle. As a result, there are many small rice gardens scattered throughout the District whose number would probably be of the order of 150 or 200 covering a planted area of 100 acres. The paddy obtained from these plantings is stored in the villages and eaten by the people as required, after husking with a pestle and mortar and winnowing basket.

Peanuts continue to be grown on a small scale for local consumption.

Crop Plantings. (Estimates of present totals in field.)

Coffee Arabica	15,000 trees
Coffee Robusta	50,000 Trees
Cocoa	3,500 trees
Rice	100 acres
Peanuts	10 acres.

3. (11) (c) Standards of living.

Notwithstanding the fact that the whole of the District has been under full Administration control for approximately 40 years, the general standard of living can be regarded as low. The greater percentage of population inhabit small hamlets scattered along the coastal fringes. An exception is the Trobriand Islands, which are low-lying and could provide an opportunity towards concentration.

In the Milne Bay area, houses are still being erected of the scrap materials left over from army occupation. It will be a good thing when all the black iron, introduced by the Army, is no longer available.

In the Islands Sub-Districts, thatch for roping is scarce and in many cases has to be purchased from the mainland people. There are no large stands of sago or kipa palm in the District. For the most part, the sago

palm is hand cultivated. Good grass thatch too is difficult to obtain.

It must be admitted that considerable sums of money have been earned by the native people from the production of copra and fishing for trochus shell. I would say that a large amount of this money has been spent on cooking utensils, clothing and footwear, gramophones and records and the such like. Too little money has been expended on building materials.

In the Milne Bay area, one native owned small saw-mill is operating at Divinai on the north coast of the Bay. Production is limited but with increased output, timber may be made available to villagers to improve housing conditions in that particular area.

3. (11) (c) Community Effort and Improvement in Village Welfare.

The greatest impact of community effort and improvement in village welfare is confined to the Milne Bay area, where the Ealaba and Tavara Councils are operating and to other areas keenly interested in agricultural development. This will be dealt with in the next paragraph.

3. (111) (a) Village Councils.

There are two Native Local Government Councils in the District, viz. Ealaba and Tavara Councils both situated in the Milne Bay area.

The Ealaba was first established in 1952. The Council covers the south coast of Milne Bay and the Sagarai Valley area, which has a population of approximately 2,000 people.

The Tavara Council, established in 1954, covers the north coast of Milne Bay and the Maivara area with a population of approximately 3,300.

The activities of both Councils have been hampered through lack of numbers. Early this year both Councils

MILNE BAY DISTRICT

formed the opinion that one greater Council for the Milne Bay area, the Sagarai Valley and the North East Coast area could achieve more than two small Councils with limited resources. It is anticipated that the formation of the new Council will come into being next year.

The existing Councils are becoming more familiar with the processes of the local government system. The Councils are providing various social services and are engaged in certain developmental activities especially in regard to agricultural extension work.

The Councils are now considering the establishment of a Council Farm in the Milne Bay area where people can attend classes and receive training in particular aspects of economic development. This will be done with the co-operation of the Department of Agriculture. The Councils fully support the establishment of Village Agricultural Committees, and encourage the distribution of the Milne Bay District monthly publication of our Newsletter "The V.A.C.", which keeps native people advised of developments and of requirements in the field of agricultural extension.

Bridges are maintained in the Council areas and the Councils have erected aid posts and school buildings.

3. (111) (b) Attitude towards Administration, Missions, Europeans, Asiatics etc.

Throughout the District a friendly atmosphere exists between Papuan and European peoples. Administration patrols are well received and the relationship between the native people and Europeans engaged in private enterprise is good.

Five Mission bodies are engaged in Mission work throughout the District. There are the London Missionary Society, Kwato Mission Incorporated, Roman Catholic Mission, Anglican Mission and the Methodist Overseas Mission. Relationship between native people and the Mission groups is

MILNE BAY DISTRICT



good, and inter-mission friction negligible. It must be admitted that Missions have been operating in this District for more than fifty years.

3. (111) (c) Native Industry.

The Co-operative movement has been firmly established in the Milne Bay and Misima areas. In all there are twenty (20) Societies and two (2) Association of Societies. Society membership is 6,015 with a capital of £46,468. Store turnover was £53,401, Copra Production £39,626 and other Production (shell etc.) £19,061, thus making a total turnover of £112,088.

The Association of Societies at Misima is still going through the "growing-pains" period owing to a shortage of working capital. This will be rectified slowly.

In the Milne Bay area two societies were liquidated during the year. The action taken had the desired effect upon the other Societies in the area who are now endeavouring to create more benefits from their projects.

Any further expansion of the Co-operative movement in the District will depend upon the availability of experienced staff to implement the scheme.

Native industry outside the scope of co-operatives produced approximately 5,000 bags of copra during the year. This figure only includes copra sold direct to the Papua and New Guinea Copra Marketing Board. Figures of direct sales of copra by native people to traders are not available.

Demands for the introduction of Co-operatives in the D'Entrecasteaux and Trobriand Islands are being received at regular intervals, but, as already stated, nothing can be accomplished until the staff position improves.

A pleasing feature of native industry is the interest shown by natives in the erection of small copra driers which produce good quality first grade hot air copra. The materials for these small driers cost approximately £30

1956/57 - MILNE BAY DISTRICT

and the copra being produced from these driers has been described by the Copra Inspector as being "top grade".

Trochus shell provided a good income for the island people for several months of the year.

I have already dealt with the intense interest shown by the people in respect to coffee.

3. (111) (d) Native Situation and Development - Crimes and Offences.

The native situation throughout the District is normal. The people are law-abiding and serious crime rarely exists. Simple crime is confined to adultery, assault, threatening behaviour, failure to properly maintain roads and houses, being in possession of explosives and petty stealing. There are no particular trends in crime.

For example, Esa-ala Sub-District, which has a population of 31,000 people, has the following figures:

Court of Native Matters:

Gambling	9
Adultery	62
Assault	37
Stealing	17
Evasion of Census	3
Threatening behaviour	29
Escaping from Custody	1
Refusing to Carry	26
Sorcery	1
Refusing to Maintain Roads.	4
Unlawful Burying	2
	<hr/>
	191
	<hr/>

Court of Petty Sessions - Summary Jurisdiction.

Stealing	7
In possession of Explosives	29
	<hr/>
	36
	<hr/>

Indictable Offences:

Murder 1

Lesuia Figures reveal:

Court for Native Matters/

Threatening Behaviour	12
Assault	11
Stealing	11
Evasion of Census	11
Escaping Custody	1
Failure to Clean Roads, Villages	118
Adultery	6
Giving False Evidence	5
Drinking Intoxicating Liquor	2
Total	<hr/> 177 <hr/>

Court of Petty Sessions.

Stealing 2

Indictable Offences.

Nil

MISIMA.

Court for Native Matters.

Adultery	16
Desertion of Children	5
Stealing	3
Gambling	1
Sorcery	1
Assault	6
Threatening Behaviour	4
Failure to clean Roads	1
	<hr/> 37 <hr/>

Court of Petty Sessions.

Nil.

Indictable Offences.

Nil.

ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - KINSHASA DISTRICT.



Court for Native Matters:

Giving False Evidence	1
Escaping from Custody	1
Assault	65
On a Public Street after hours	54
On P. wharves after hours	32
Maintenance of wife and child	2
Stealing	3
Gambling	21
Adultery	20
Drinking Intoxicating Liquor	2
Careless use of fire	1
Evasion of Census	15
Failure to clean roads	18
Refusing to carry	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>

Court of Petty Sessions:

Stealing	33
Unlawfully using a vessel	1
Discharging oil from vessel in Harbour limits	1
Being unlawful immigrants	5
Dangerous Driving	1
Native Women's Protection Ordinance	1
Vagrancy	1
Assault	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

Indictable Offences:

Exposing private parts to insult	1
Breakfast and Enticing	1
Indecent assault	1
Indecently dealing with children under 12 years	1
Grievous Bodily Harm	2

ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - NINE SAV DISTRICT.

Entering Dwelling to indecent assault 1

Total 7

3. (111) (e) Status of Women.

There are no variations or marked trends in the status of women in the District, the only exception being in the Milne Bay Sub-District where two women have been elected to the Balaba and Tavara Village Councils. Both women are not slow to express their opinions, and make their presence felt during discussion at Council meetings.

4. Health.

There has been no major outbreaks of diseases throughout the District during the year. A few cases of measles and whooping cough were reported in the Fife Bay, Sagarai Valley and Rogeia Island areas.

Administration Native Hospitals are located at Samarai, Baniara, Mapamoiwa, Losuia and Misima. The Administration staff of the Department of Public Health is:

Medical Officer	Samarai
Radiographer	Samarai
Medical Assistant	Samarai
Medical Officer (on malarial research)	Mapamoiwa
Medical Assistant	Mapamoiwa
Medical Assistant	Baniara
Medical Assistant	Losuia
Native Medical Practitioner	Misima

Gesila Island is still being used as an isolation hospital for T.B. patients. All Hansenide patients previously held at Gesila have been transferred to Ubuia Hansenide Hospital, which is staffed by members of the Methodist Overseas Mission. Ubuia Hospital is heavily subsidised by the Administration.

ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - MILNE BAY DISTRICT.

Hospitals are maintained at the main centres of the various Missions. At Salomo, the Methodist Overseas Mission specialise in Infant and Maternal Welfare, at Dogura the general hospital is in charge of a fully qualified Medical Practitioner, while the hospitals at Kwato and Fife Bay are administered by nursing sisters.

At Losuia the Administration has almost completed an 80 bed hospital, which is the most modern hospital in the District. Buildings of a permanent nature are also being erected at Baniara and Mapamciwa.

In addition, the Administration has established Village Aid Posts at numerous locations throughout the Sub-Districts. These small centres are administered by Aid Post orderlies. There are 66 Aid Posts in the District.

Throughout the District there is an increased tendency for native peoples to visit Administration Hospitals for treatment. This is encouraging.

**5. Education.**

The native people of the District are "education minded". Requests are being received regularly for the establishment of Village Higher Schools in the areas adjacent to Samarai, Milne Bay, the D'Entrecasteaux and Trobriand Islands.

At the present moment there are ten (10) Village Higher Schools in the District. These are located at:

Rogea Island	Samarai Sub-District
Esa-ala	Esa-ala Sub-District
Kaipola	Losuia Sub-District
Eabe	Gehua Sub-District
Wagawaga	" " "
Divinai	" " "
Naura	" " "
Bwagaia	Misima Sub-District
Liak	" " "
Panaeati Island	" " "

ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - MILNE BAY DISTRICT.

The attendance of these schools is 743. The Rogeia School is in charge of an Education Officer. This school has been operating for ten years, and will be developed into an Intermediate School. The remaining nine (9) schools are in the charge of Sogeri-trained native teachers. At the present moment Rogeia School students can be brought forward to Standard VII - at the remaining schools to Standard VI.

Planning desires the establishment of Intermediate Schools at Rogeia, Gebua, Esa-ala, Misima and Losuia. The exact locations for these schools have yet to be determined.

The Village Higher Schools buildings in the Milne Bay District have been established without financial assistance from the Administration. The Administration has provided staff and school requisites. The schools work to a syllabus produced by the Department of Education. The inspection of schools is carried out by the District Education Officer, school discipline is enforced and welcomed from parents of students attending Administration schools.

At Village Higher Schools, the parents of students have formed Parent's groups to raise moneys to assist in the education of their children. This factor is commendable.

During the year, 155 Mission schools with an attendance of 8,329, applied for Registration or Recognition. At the close of this year, the District Education Officer was in the process of carrying out examinations at these schools. These examinations will take at least six months to complete.

Boarding schools operated by Missions are now established at Sideia (Roman Catholic), Dogura (Anglican Mission) and Bwaruada (Methodist Overseas Mission). The education at Sideia (Roman Catholic) is perhaps the best in the District. The Boys' School carries six European School

ANNUAL REPORT 1955/57 - MILNE BAY DISTRICT.



Teachers with 211 students. The Girls' School has an attendance of 78 with three (3) Sisters teaching the various classes.

At Dogura the Anglican Mission have established a school for part native children. The school attendance as boarders is 50. The Roman Catholic Mission, too, is extending help to part native children.

At Samarai, the Department of Education provides a primary school in charge of an Education Officer. Numbers vary due to the fluctuating population of the town. But it can be emphasized that 40% of the attendance of an average of 30 pupils are of mixed race. It is a Standard VI school.

Ele. n native people from this District are at present in Australia on native Secondary School Scholarships provided by the Department of Education.

There are innumerable Mission schools in the District in charge of Cathchists or instructors. The language of these schools is in the vernacular.

#### 6. Station Buildings.

During the year the Works Programme improved to a slight extent.

Most work was confined to the maintenance of buildings and minor new works, a continuous operation.

New work performed was of the following categories:

##### Baniara:

- (i) The new office and store, the erection of which was commenced last year, was completed.
- (ii) Two (2) 40' x 20' permanent type wards were constructed at the Native Hospital.
- (iii) A new gaol was erected.

##### Losuia:

New work at Losuia was restricted to the new Native Hospital, which is almost completed. The Hospital is occupied but certain modifications

are required.

**Esa-ala:**

At Esa-ala the new single Patrol Officers' quarters was completed.

**Maranoiva:**

The Administrative block of the new proposed Native Hospital was completed.

**Misima:**

There were no new works attempted at Misima during the year.

**Samarai:**

(a) During the past three months construction was commenced on 2 x 2 Single Officers' Quarters  
1 unit Type M Married Officers Quarters.

(b) At Kuiuaro, on the mainland opposite Samarai, five (5) standard type married Administration Servants quarters and one single Administration Servants quarters were erected.

(c) Timber racks and office for the Public Works Department were constructed.

Station buildings generally are in poor condition, and the amount of new works accomplished in the District post war is of small consequence. Most out-station buildings are of native materials which require continual maintenance.

6. (b) Alterations and Additions to Buildings.

There have been no alterations or additions to existing buildings carried out during the year.

6. (c) Availability of Timber and other Materials.

Three small sawmills operate within the District, and these are located at Wakaiuna on Normanby Island, Milre Bay and Sidea Island. The output from these mills is insufficient to meet the requirements of the District. The quality of the timber is fair and supplies

irregular.

The bulk of timber supplies is drawn from Popondetta in the Northern District. Here again, supplies are governed by the availability of coastal shipping.

Other building materials can be purchased from the three commercial stores conducting business at Samarai.

#### 7. Public Works and Utilities.

All Administration Works Projects are carried out by the Public Works Department through a Works Branch organisation at Samarai, which comprises:

- Works Supervisor
- 3 Senior Carpenters
- 1 Senior Plumber
- 1 Electrician
- 1 Power House Mechanic

assisted by mixed race and native artisans.

The maintenance of all roads, bridges, wharves, Administration owned buildings, Power Houses etc., has been carried out by the Works Branch in addition to new works.

Public Utilities comprise:

- (1) A main shipping wharf, 100' x 42', with good approaches and adequate storage sheds. Vessels to 10,000 tons can be berthed alongside the wharf. The wharf is in fair condition.
- (2) A power house, which provides a twenty four service, will satisfy the lighting and power requirements of Samarai for some years.
- (3) The eight (8) bed General Hospital is staffed with a Medical Officer and three (3) nursing sisters.
- (4) The District Office carries out the agency function of the Commonwealth Savings Bank.
- (5) At Samarai, the Post Office provides for private mail boxes, telephone exchange and radio-telephone service to Port Moresby and out-stations.

7. (a) Roads and Bridges.

The only roads of any consequence are those located at Samarai, Milne Bay area and the Kiriwina Islands. The roads at Milne Bay and on Kiriwina Island were constructed by the Armed Forces during the war. The only plant in the District for road maintenance is a light drawn grader based in the Milne Bay area. Therefore the condition of the roads is poor.

Bridges erected by the Armed Forces have long since fallen into a state of disrepair. The maintenance of bridges is beyond the meagre potential and resources of the Works Branch.

7. (b) Aerodromes and Alighting Areas.

There are five (5) recognised alighting areas for flying boats in the District. These are situated at Samarai, Dekadeke (the alternative area if weather at Samarai is adverse), Esa-ala, Losuia and Nivani (Deboyne lagoon). There is a fortnightly Catalina service from Port Moresby to Samarai and return. The other alighting areas are used only in cases of emergency.

The following aerodromes are considered suitable for aircraft operations up to DC3 standards:

Gurney Field - Milne Bay:

This aerodrome is a Department of Civil Aviation responsibility. The landing surface is in excellent condition. The field is used regularly by Anson aircraft operating from Port Moresby.

Viviani Aerodrome - Goodenough Island:

This strip of wartime construction is rarely used, and is maintained by the Administration.

Kiriwina Aerodrome - Trobriand Islands:

This strip was constructed during the war, and is an Administration responsibility. The strip is used regularly by Anson aircraft operating from Port Moresby.

The only other aerodrome in the area is that which is situated at Dogura. The strip is maintained by the Anglican Mission and is restricted to light aircraft such as Auster, Cessna etc.

7. (c) Harbour Works - Jetties etc.

The main wharf at Samarai contains a rain water storage tank of 60,000 gallons to provide water for overseas and coastal vessels. The water is piped from the tank to the outside edge of the wharf.

The passenger wharf and the small ships wharf at Samarai were completely destroyed by the freak tides and adverse weather conditions of February of this year. No replacements have as yet been undertaken.

Small jetties or wharves are maintained at all out-stations. Coastal vessels can berth at most of these wharves.

The Commonwealth Department of Navigation and Lighthouses have based the M.V. "Wallach" on Samarai. This ship provides the Lighthouse mechanic with transport to service all navigation lights and beacons within the waters of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. There are twelve (12) flashing beacons within the District.

7. (d) Administration Vessels.

The following vessels are on allocation to this District on full time duty:

M.V. "Managuna"	66' Trawler	Samarai
M.V. "Poseidon"	66' Trawler	Samarai
Erlo	40' Work boat	Samarai
Nuakata	40' Work boat	Misima
Kingfisher	35' Launch	Losuia
Fairwind	30' Launch	Samarai
Nari	20' Launch	Samarai
Sambio	20' Launch	Samarai

In addition there is a box scow for servicing Catalina aircraft.

The small launches based on Samarai are used as ferry ships to the mainland and adjacent islands and can operate only in sheltered waters. The trawlers maintain services between Samarai and out-stations.

With the exception of "Poseidon", most vessels are in need of considerable repair. During the year no fewer than 533 days work was lost through vessels being out of commission.

7. (e) Vehicles and Transport.

Administration transport within the District comprises:

- Samarai: Land Rover
- 3 Ton Morris Tipper
- 3 Ton International Tipper
- 1/2 Ton Morris Utility
- Getua: Land Rover
- 3 Ton Chevrolet 4 x 4
- Losuia: 15 Cwt. International Utility
- Mirima: 3 Ton Marmon Harrington

With the exception of the Land Rovers all vehicles are in a dilapidated and poor condition.

In addition to Administration transport, the following vehicles are held by private enterprise and Mission Societies:

- Cars 2
- Tractors 5
- Trucks 16
- (a) Land Rovers 3
- Jeeps 4
- Total 30

7. (f) Workshops.

Workshops in the District are not numerous. They comprise the following:

Slipways: There are four slipways in the District.

These are located at Sariha Island (private ownership), Kwato Island (Kwato Extension Incorporated), Sideia Island (Roman Catholic Mission) and Salamo (Methodist Overseas Mission). Each slipway is served with a small saw mill and engineering and woodwork shop. Each slipyard is restricted in size, and normally cater for small coastal ships of no greater capacity than 50-60 tons.

The only other workshops in the District are a small joinery shop and plumbing works operated by private enterprise.

7. (g) Water Supplies.

The Township of Samarai is dependent upon rain water tanks for water supplies. During the north west season, i.e. the dry season for Samarai, it is not unusual for the island to suffer severe drought conditions.

Esa-ala and Mapamoiwa are supplied with water from gravity feed systems from dams constructed in the hills behind the station. Water is reticulated to all houses. These pipe lines however are constructed with old army disposals piping and continual maintenance is necessary.

At Misima water is pumped from a nearby stream up to a reservoir and then reticulated through the station. Similar conditions exist at Losuia, except that the water is pumped from a well to the reservoir.

All other out-stations depend upon rain water tanks.

8. Communications.

(a) Surface and Air Transport.

Qantas Empire Airways maintain a fortnightly Catalina service from Port Moresby - Samarai - Port Moresby. The service is inadequate.

A weekly land plane service is provided by Carsair Air Services from Port Moresby to Baibara, Milne Bay and Losuia. Passengers for this service have to be transported from Samarai to Milne Bay, a five hour journey by small

ship, and thence moved by motor transport to Gurney Field. The journey by this service from Samarai to Port Moresby occupies twelve hours of travelling and waiting times. In-coming passengers from Port Moresby do not arrive in Samarai until approximately 8 p.m.

Surface communications within the District are good. However, there are no subsidised or regular scheduled shipping services. Coastal vessels operate to those centres where freight is offering. Consequently isolated areas such as Misima and Woodlark Island may receive surface contact once every six weeks.

The Harbour Master advises that there are 40 registered vessels operating out of Samarai. An additional 40 vessels are to be registered and a further 32 vessels which may have to apply for registration. Therefore it must be realised that this District is completely dependent upon water transport.

Overseas shipping services to Samarai are conducted by Burns Philp and Co. Ltd. and the China Navigation Co. These two shipping services provide for passenger and general freight purposes. The Bark Line Ltd. ships call at Samarai for bulk and bag loading of copra.

Overseas ships berthing at Samarai during the year numbered 150. This comprises 75 vessels inwards and 75 outwards.

Overseas shipping cargo handled at Samarai was 18,641 tons, of which 9,148 tons was inward cargo and 9,493 outwards.

Small coastal ships, only those which had been registered, called at Samarai on 1,957 occasions and handled 12,643 tons of cargo. Figures in this instance show:

Inward movements	981
Outward movements	976
Tonnage inwards	7,884
Tonnage outwards	4,759



8. (b) Wireless Communications.

The zone centre at Samarai maintains 39 centres within the District. This provides an adequate pattern for communication with Samarai. This service is of great benefit to isolated areas and is used to full advantage. In addition thirteen (13) coastal vessels based on Samarai are equipped with transceivers and, I hope, more ships will be fitted out with wireless communications this coming year.

Radio telephone communications have been developed to such an extent that services are now extended to all parts of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea and to Australia. This is a great improvement and worthy of mention.

8. (c) Telephones.

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs Samarai maintain a telephone exchange which operates daily from 7 a.m. - 12 midnight. At Samarai subscribers number 64. The exchange is a manual one and mostly used in daylight hours for business purposes. It is planned for the installation of an automatic exchange for Samarai within two years.

8. (d) Postal Services.

A public utility of this nature in Samarai has provided every service to the public. The Post Office has been renovated, all services rendered are excellent. As already explained, private mail boxes numbering 30 have been installed telephones operate, mails are expeditiously sorted and despatched, and radio telephone communications have been consistently maintained.

Postal articles handled at the Post Office Samarai have risen to the extent of 60%.

The position for the year reveals:

<u>Posted:</u>	Letters	77,981
	Other articles	4,300
	Parcels	1,040
<u>Received:</u>	Letters	89,616
	Other articles	73,500
	Parcels	3,000
<u>Redespatched:</u>	Letters	33,000
	Other articles	29,000
	Parcels	1,307.

These figures do not include the statistics from Post Offices at out-stations, where the agency functions are carried out by the Department of Native Affairs staff.

These figures, in comparison with last years statistics, show a sharp rise in actual business.

#### 9. Stores and Supplies.

During the last year the Stores Branch of the Department of Civil Affairs was responsible for the supply of all rations to the Milne Bay and Northern Districts. Ration lines were indented for and received on direct import from Australia. All other items pertaining to Stores procedure through the Superintendent of Stores were received as transshipment cargo from Port Moresby. The Stores Branch Samarai functions efficiently. During the year, 1,042 tons of freight was received from Australia, 523 tons was received from Territory ports, and 1,465 tons of transshipment cargo was despatched to various centres. For the most part, requirements were in good supply and the only complaints raised were those where supply from Port Moresby was lacking. Complaints were mostly associated with items of furniture and very essential commodities, such as spares for pressure lamps and such like.

The stores of Messrs. Burns Philp (N.G.) Ltd., Steamships Trading Co. Ltd. and A.H. Bunting Ltd. offer

most everything required by the European and Native communities. Meat supplies and fresh vegetables are available as well as hard rations.

Samarai is the commercial centre for the eastern part of Papua. There are no commercial stores of any consequence in the District apart from at Samarai.

10. Mining Activity.

Mining activity in the District is confined to the prospector. No large companies have, as yet, commenced operations. Activity is restricted to Misima and Woodlark Islands, where the search is for gold, iron ore and associated minerals. Two (2) mineral leases granted on Woodlark Island during the year. At the moment of writing interest is being shown by overseas companies in respect to mineral deposits on both Misima and Woodlark Islands. For the time being the attention shown is cursory, but it is hoped that something of great benefit will develop.

Mineral wealth earned by native people is negligible.

11. Forestry.

As already stated previously, four (4) small sawmills operate in the area. Production is small and much timber is used by the operators, for the most part, in the repairs to shipping.

The District lacks a thorough survey in respect to millable timber.

12. Native Labour.

The statements made in previous reports that the Milne Bay District is self-supporting in native labour is incorrect. In numerous areas of the Baniara and Esa-ala Sub-Districts over-recruiting has occurred. Plantations, which believed an adequate source of labour was available locally, are now dependent upon labour imported from other Districts even as far as the Highlands Districts. The

employment of native people from the D'Entrecasteaux Islands as plantation and general labour is disappearing at a rapid rate. The D'entrecasteaux Islands for the past 45 years has provided its only potential i.e. native labour. It is surprising now to notice the gradual tendency to seek other employment such as assistants to artisans, as boat crews, to engage in work on a contract basis outside the Milne Bay District, and, at a late run, to try and develop their own coconut groves.

Ten native people are offering from the Trobriand Islands, Woodlark Islands and the Misima area and Calvados Chain. In the Milne Bay area and South and North East mainland coasts, no labour is forthcoming.

There is practically no need for any native people to seek employment <sup>outside</sup> in the District, unless he desires the wish to see other parts of the Territory.

The labour potential of the Milne Bay District is deteriorating. It would be stupid to predict a forthcoming labour potential.

#### CONCLUSIONS.

The Milne Bay District has, since 1946, been sadly neglected. A review of works development reveals that only nine new houses for Administration officers were constructed in almost eleven years. With the exception of the Native Hospital at Losuia, no major new works have been undertaken. At the present moment, I would estimate that 80% of Administration officers and Administration servants are living in sub-standard quarters. At the present rate of progress, with monies made available at the present rate, I cannot see any great material change for another eleven years. Any criticism levelled at this statement can be easily answered.

The District Commissioner/District Officer staff at Samarai has been narrowed down to two field officers, and to the Assistant District Officer, Mr. Synons, I give full

credit. Staff and commitments of shipping to out-stations have been completely inadequate. I appreciate the difficulties of a Headquarters organisation and do not intend to criticise.

During the year a few Departmental Heads saw fit to visit the District for a few hours on each occasion, and in almost every case to Samarai only.

I sincerely hope and trust that this year more attention can be paid to the Milne Bay District. It sorely cries for it.

*A. T. Timperley*

A.T. Timperley,

District Commissioner.

**ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - KINE BAY DISTRICT.**

(1) PATROLS CONDUCTED AND NUMBER OF INSPECTION VISITS BY THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER DURING YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1957.

SUB-DISTRICTS	PATROL POST	NO. OF PATROLS	NO. OF PATROL DAYS	INSPECTIONS BY P.C.
SAMARAI	..	2	104	..
GEHUA	..	NIL	NIL	8
BANIARA	..	9	193	3
LOSUIA	..	1	40	4
MISIMA	..	4	73	1
ESA'VIA	..	8	236	8
TOTALS:	..	<u>24</u>	<u>646</u>	<u>24</u>

NOTE: GEHUA 6 special short patrols, reports not submitted 38 days

Grand Totals: 684 days.

ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - MINE BAY DISTRICT.

(11) NATIVE WAR DAMAGE COMPENSATION.

TOTAL at: 30th June, 1957.

SUB-DISTRICT	NO. OF CLAIMS	AMOUNT PAID	NO. OF CLAIMS	AMOUNT PAID.
SAMBAI	..	..	2282	£69,552. 8. 2
GEHUA	..	..	..	..
BANIARA	..	..	..	..
LOSUIA	..	..	1142	3,997.18. 9
MISIMA	..	..	109	2,423.18. 9
ESL'ALA	..	..	1126	9,206. 8. 4
TOTALS:	..	..	4659	£84,090.14. 0

ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - MINE PAV DISTRICT.

(111) AREAS UNDER ADMINISTRATION CONTROL OR INFLUENCE.

SUB-DISTRICT	TOTAL AREA SQ. MILES	AREA UNDER CONTROL SQ. MILES	AREA UNDER INFLUENCE	AREA UNDER PARTIAL INFLUENCE	AREA PENETRATED BY PATROLS
SAMARAI	1537	1537			
GEHUA	615	615			
BANIHARA	1810	1810			
LOSUIA	205	205			
MISIMA	895	895			
ESA'ALA	1189	1189			

NOT APPLICABLE

6251

6251



ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - MINNE BAY DISTRICT.

(IV) VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

SUB-DISTRICT	VILLAGE CONSTABLES	FULFUIS	MEDICAL FULFUIS	TOTAL VILL. OFFICIALS	COUNCILLORS OFFICIAL	COUNCILLORS UNOFFICIAL	TOTAL VILLAGE OFFICIALS & COUNCILLORS.
SAMARAI	58	-	-	58	-	178	236
GEHUA	36	-	-	36	53	45	134
BANLARA	66	-	-	66	-	183	249
LOSUIA	23	-	-	23	-	98	121
NESTINA	45	-	-	45	-	97	142
ESA'ALIA	113	-	-	113	-	315	428
	341	-	-	341	53	916	1310

ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - MILNE BAY DISTRICT.

(V) NATIVE POPULATION.

ENUMERATED.

CHILDREN

ADULTS.

A	PRESENT IN VILLAGE		ABSENT AT SCHOOL		ABSENT AT WORK		TOTAL	PRESENT IN VILLAGE		ABSENT AT SCHOOL		ABSENT AT WORK		TOTAL	Unaccounted Population Estimated	Grand Total Incl.
	B	C	D	E	F	G		H	I	J	K					
SAMARAI	1658M	1522F	327M	184F	..		3691	2488M	2462F	...	764M	185F	5899	...	9590	
GEHUA	1275M	1207F	252M	93F	..		2817	3102M	2993F	...	453M	80F	6623 <sup>8</sup>	...	9446 <sup>5</sup>	
BANIARA	3019	2713	282	150	..		6164	3538	4219	...	1109	93	8953	...	15123	
LOSUIA	2199	1794	15	11	14M	8F	4041	3049	2704	5M.	4F	76	16	5854 <sup>4</sup>	...	9899 <sup>5</sup>
MISIMA	1595	1418	277	174	..		3464	2729	2594	68	20	552	15	5978	...	9442
RSA'ALA	5825	5200	446	169	..		11640	8261	9040	8	-	2233	104	19646	...	31286
TOTALS:	15571	13854	1599	781	14	8	31817 <sup>2</sup>	23167	24012	81	24	5187	493	52965 <sup>A</sup>	...	84785 <sup>91</sup>

ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - NIWE BAY DISTRICT.

(VI) NON-INDIGENOUS POPULATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1957.

EUROPEAN	9	
ASIAN		
OTHERS		
BRITISH		
OTHERS		
TOTAL EUROPEAN	408	408
CHINESE		
OTHERS		
TOTAL ASIAN	1	1
HAIF CASTES		
STATELESS	288	
TOTAL OTHERS		288
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>	<u>697</u>	

ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - MINE DISTRICT.

LICENCES AND PERMITS ISSUED.

LICENCES	SABARAI	GERUA	PATARA	IOSUA	NISEA	ESA'AI	TOTAL
SPECIAL ARMS PERMITS	96	2	110	31	36	53	328
EMPLOYER'S ARMS PERMITS	36	3	3	3	3	4	52
LICENCES TO TRADE WITH NATIVES	93	10	23	17	28	25	196
TRADING ALLOTMENT LICENCES	8	..	..	..	4	..	12
MINER'S RIGHTS	11	..	..	..	8	..	19
GOLD BUYER'S PERMITS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
GOLD BUYER'S LICENCES	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
DOG LICENCES	74	..	..	..	..	..	74
MOTOR VEHICLE REG. LICENCES	5	..	..	7	..	..	12
MOTOR CYCLE REG. LICENCES	..	..	..	2	..	..	2
PERMITS TO LEARN TO DRIVE	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
PERMITS TO LEARN TO DRIVE CYCLE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
DRIVERS LICENCES	42	..	..	12	..	..	54
DRIVERS LICENCES CYCLE	1	..	..	1	..	..	2
FISHING LICENCES BOATS	160	..	..	..	..	..	160
FISHING LICENCES PERSONAL	58	..	..	..	..	..	58
CUSTOMS AGENTS LICENCES	5	..	..	..	..	..	5
NATIVE ASST. PERMITS N.L.O.	9	..	3	..	..	..	12
PERMITS TO ENGAGE EMPLOYEES N.L.O.	30	..	2	2	6	..	40

ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57 - MILNE BAY DISTRICT.

(VII) COST OF COMMODITIES

1. STAPLE FOODSTUFFS ETC.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AV. RETAIL PRICE</u>
RICE	PER LB.	10d
WHEATMEAL	PER LB.	7d
PEAS	PER LB.	1. 9
MEAT TAPER	PER TIN	3. 0
DRIPPING	PER TIN	2. 3
SUGAR	PER LB.	1. 2
TEA	PER OZ.	6d
SALT	PER LB.	5d
FRESH VEGETABLES	PER LB.	3d
TOBACCO	PER STICK	8d
MATCHES	PER BOX	2d
SOAP	PER LB.	1. 4

2. CLOTHES AND DOMESTIC ITEMS.

LAVALAVA (RAMI)	EACH	6.10
KHAKI SHORTS	PER PAIR	12. 0
SHIRTS	EACH	12. 6
BLANKETS	EACH	15. 0
MOSQUITO NETS	EACH	17. 0
PLATES	EACH	5. 2
PANNIKINS	EACH	1. 8
SPOONS	EACH	1. 2
KITBAGS	EACH	12. 6



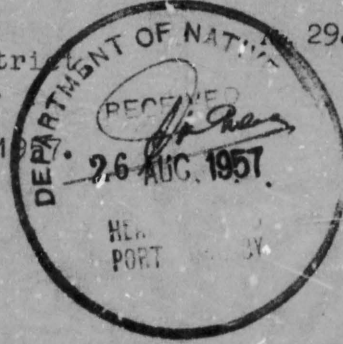
TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

In Reply  
Please Quote PH. 1MCI.

Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District  
S A M A R A I.

29.4.1/129

21st August, 1957.



The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

ANNUAL REPORT 1956/57.

Reference your NA 1-1-16 (12) of 27.6.57, would you please add to part VII of my Annual Report the following.

VII 2 CLOTHES & DOMESTIC ITEMS.

	Average price	
Towels		3/6
Boxes Small	" "	20/8
" Medium	" "	22/6
" Large	" "	24/4

It is regretted this information was not supplied with the Report, but it was inadvertantly overlooked.

*A.T. Timperley*  
A.T. Timperley,  
District Commissioner.