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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: GUASOPA

VOLUME No: 2

ACCESSION No: 496.

1967 - 1968

ISBN: 9980 - 910 - 21 - 6

Filmed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea,
PORT MORESBY - 1991

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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NUMBER OF REPORTS: 3

[illegible]

MILNE BAY DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1967-1968

GUASOPA, MISIMA

<u>Report No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
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GUASOPA

1-67-68

H.W. Morris

Woodlark C.D.

2-67-68

H.W. Morris

Woodlark C.D.

MISIMA

1-67-68

R. Kopi

Sudest Island C.D.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of MILNE BAY Report No. GUASOPA No.1 of 1967/68

Patrol Conducted by H.W.MORRIS, PATROL OFFICER

Area Patrolled WOODJARK CENSUS DIVISION

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans NIL

Natives 9 MURUA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILLORS

Duration—From 21/9/1967 to 26/10/1967 (BROKEN PERIOD)

Number of Days 23

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 11/4/1967

Medical —/6/1967

Map Reference Adm. v. H. 2035

Objects of Patrol (Council Tax collection, Political Education)

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
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 £.....



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-4-20
(20)

Telephone DISCOM

Telegrams

Reference 67-1-1/35-

If calling ask for

Mr. ERJ/cs



Department of District Administration,

District Headquarters,
Milne Bay District,
SAMARAI.

4th July, 1968.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

PATROL REPORT NO. GUASOPA 1/67-68

Your memorandum 67-4-20 dated 27th May, 1968 refers.

2. I attach hereto two copies of an unreferenced memorandum dated 3rd April, 1968 from the Officer-in-charge, Guasopa, to the Assistant District Commissioner, Samarai. These were located on Samarai sub-district file 35-6-12 though no copy of the Assistant District Commissioner's memorandum dated 6th April, 1968 was seen. There is no record of this correspondence being received at District Headquarters.

3. You will note that Mr. Morris' memorandum is headed "Land Application - Woodlark Island - Rivai Semnane" (Lands File 67/2023 refers). This was in reply to my request for an evaluation of the current position together with an assessment of future trends should further applications by Woodlark islanders for land already alienated be received.

4. The attached memoranda qualifies to a certain extent Mr. Morris' contention of "vocal resentment" contained at page 5, paragraph 3 of Guasopa Patrol Report 1/67-68. Their resentment is aimed at the fact that large alienated areas of Woodlark Island have not been developed and are lying idle.

5. The suggestion of "land settlement" through the Marua Local Government Council contained at paragraphs 7 and 8 of the attached memorandum has merit and may be the only equitable means of re-apportioning this land to the inhabitants rather than having piece-meal development take place such as envisaged in the application by Mr. Rivai Samnane. The priority would appear however to be very low.

6. For your information and comments, please.

M. J. Denehy

(M. J. Denehy)

A/District Commissioner.

Do Projects

Taken up on 35-14-4

Thanks for unearthing this!

J. J. Gorman

HM/cs

Sub District Office,
SAMARAI.

3rd April, 1968.

~~Assistant District Commissioner,~~
Sub District Office,
SAMARAI.

LAND APPLICATION - WOODLARK ISLAND
RIVAL SEMWANE

Survey and mapping equipment was received too late for me to complete a chain and compass survey of the area under application prior to my departure from Guasopa.

2. A number of enquiries have been received at Guasopa from villagers regarding their ability to obtain various areas of land, centered mainly along the south coast of the MUYUW District of Woodlark Island. These enquiries fell into four main categories -

a. Those from "foreigners" living at Woodlark Island, who had married into one of the Woodlark Clans, who had been given usufructuary rights to portion of his wife's Clan land but who wished to obtain land for themselves in order that his plantation commenced on Crown Land, would not be distributed amongst his wife's relatives upon his death. An example of this type of enquiry is that of TATAMU HEPAL now living at TOBU Plantation.

b. Those Woodlark males who had married a foreign woman and thus whose children possessed no rights to land at Woodlark Island other than those minor rights which he himself could pass on to his children. Examples of this type of enquiry were related to both Crown and Native owned land belonging to village kin of the man involved.

c. Villagers wishing to establish their own plantations on Clan land but as in a. above who wished that their property be retained by their children upon the death of the father.

d. Villagers as in the case of RIVAL SEMWANE who claim they have no land of their own and who wish to obtain portions of clan land which was sold to the Administration over four generations ago. Enquiries in these cases reveal that, as in the case of RIVAL SEMWANE, the applicants have primary rights to other areas of unalienated land but, due to inter lineage disputes they wish to break away from the other members of the Clan or Lineage.

3. Although over 75% of Woodlark Island consists of alienated land (Crown or Leasehold), there is no shortage of land available to villagers for either subsistence or plantation needs. In the MUYUW District of Woodlark Island approximately 95.1% of all land has been alienated, leaving approximately 4200 acres of native owned land. However very little of the alienated land has ever been exploited with the result that former clan land ^{owners descendants have now moved back to their original sites} in fact they actually did ever move from their villages in the first place when the land was bought). They have established food gardens and small village plantations and now regard the land as their own on the basis that the land once sold to the administration, has not been used and therefore the Administration whilst still owning the land, has forfeited the right to use the land.

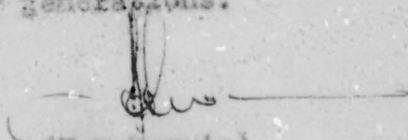
4. Whilst the current trend of individuals applying for leases of Crown Land or Tenure Conversion of their own land, could lead to a rather haphazard pattern of development in the MUYUW District, it is suggested that there is no danger of this pattern ever reaching a stage whereby serious problems regarding population distribution, access to services etc. will arise. Whilst there is no threat of eviction being made to the villagers at present squatting on Crown Land, or the remaining unalienated areas are adequate to provide food gardens etc. for villagers, it is doubtful whether there will be any large number of applications for agricultural leases originating from the villagers in the district.

5. Present settlements are confined to the southern and east coastal areas of the district. Land utilization patterns centre around the use of the littoral areas for food gardens and plantations whilst the inland areas are mainly used for forest gathering, the collection of Betel Nut and the manufacture of Bago from palms found in the SINKUBI Valley. Neither in the enquiries made to me nor during the discussions which followed was any mention made of fertile alluvial soils in the inland portion of the district. The reason for this may be that the central portion of the island, originally densely populated, is now uninhabited, legend saying that the inhabitants died of a disease called SERRAM (smallpox?) No Woodlark Islander, through fear of dying of SERRAM would ever think of living for any period in the SINKUBI region.

6. It appears therefore that there is no need at present to formulate a policy which would deal in detail with the possible resettlement or relocation of villages in the MUYUW District, as on current development trends there is no likelihood of there being any large scale utilization of Crown land or Native Land areas which would prevent villagers from obtaining access to those areas for food gathering.

7. It is suggested however that consideration be given to the Administration "reserving" for the villagers those areas in a belt 2 miles to the south coast of the island to QUASOPA and then north to DIRECTION POINT. It is estimated that in this area, excluding those leasehold areas which are being used (e.g. TOBU Plantation, M.O.N. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ leases at WAIVATA, QUASOPA and the contemplated purchase at WABUNURU: and the future use of portions of the QUASOPA Peninsula by the Administration for station and airstrip purposes) and the remaining unalienated areas, ~~that~~ there is approximately 10200 acres available for cultivation on the already established basis of 40% of the area being arable land. On current population trends and on the basis of a utilization pattern of 1.5 acres per adult male per annum being required for gardens over a seven year gardening cycle there is sufficient land available in this area to support 4850 people at subsistence level.

8. The area reserved for villagers could be disposed of with little difficulty by using the MUYUW Local Government Council as the body through which MUYUW District Villagers would be encouraged to apply for agricultural and residential leases over portions of the area on a clan or preferably a lineage basis. It is stressed that this proposal does not contemplate it being necessary to move any villages at all from their present sites, but rather secure for the villages of the more preferable community level, title to land which they have been using for generations.


(H.W. Morris)
Patrol Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

(17)

Ref: 67-4-20

Dept. of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, Papua.

27th May, 1968.

District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,

PATROL NO. SAUNGOA 1-67/68

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Memorandum
* of Patrol/Patrol Report covering patrol by.....
to Census Divisions.

Please thank Mr. Morris for his interesting
comments on political and social change in this area.

I do not appear to have yet received copies of
Memorandum 35-6-12 of the 6th April, 1968, to you from the
Assistant District Commissioner, Samarai. As this apparently
deals with the details of the problems of alienated land
in the area causing increased vocal resentment, these would
be appreciated with your comments in due course.

T.W. Ellis
(T.W. ELLIS)
Director

* Delete as necessary.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telephone DISCOM

Telegrams 67-1-1

Our Ref. 67-1-1

If calling ask for ERJ/cs

Mr.



Department of District Administration,

District Headquarters,
Milne Bay District,
SAMARAI.

17th April, 1968.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDORU.

Patrol Reports - Guasopa 1 & 2/67-68

Attached please find copies of the above mentioned patrol reports prepared by Mr. H. Morris, Patrol Officer.

2. Patrol report Guasopa No. 1 provides valuable material in relation to the social and political changes currently taking place in this remote census division.

3. Forwarded for your information please.

M. J. Denehy

(M. J. Denehy)

A/District Commissioner.

67-1-4

RIB/cs

Sub-District Office,
SAMARAI. M.B. District.

8th April, 1968.

District Commissioner,
SAMARAI.

GUASOPA PATROL NO.1 of 1967/68

Attached please find three copies of the above report which came to hand on the 3rd April 1968.

2. Travelling times are not shown in the patrol diary but these are fully covered in Guasopa Patrol 3/65-66. I also consider that the information supplied in the diary is too brief.

3. Mr. Morris has made a detailed study of the political situation in the Woodlark Area. The information supplied under the heading "Outline of Political Situation, Trends and Attitudes" can only be described as excellent.

4. Social change in this area appears to be due to:

(a) Modern influences forcing the re-alignment of traditional (Kula) groups to cash earning groups for the production of copra and carvings.

(b) Traditional influences of the matrilineal society and an imbalance of male and female adults making a woman difficult to obtain has forced a change from Patrilocality to Matrilocality and other resultant changes in Society.

5. I do not consider it possible to calculate from Village Population Registers with any accuracy the marriage age for males. I consider a physical count and investigation would be the only method to obtain such information. I also feel that the estimate of a proportion of 1.9 males to 1.0 females should have been supported by facts and figures.

6. The problem of land tenure in the Woodlark area was discussed in my memorandum 35-6-12 of 6th April 1968.

7. The information supplied under the heading "Attitude Towards Europeans" was further discussed with Mr. Morris. Mr. Morris informed me that Dr. Lithgow has studied the Fijian Indian Community and feels that to create a thriving local economy would be to move towards detribalisation with all its resultant problems. Thus Wabununu Village continues to be one of the most economically backward villages in the Woodlark area.

8. The effects of the reputed drought in the Woodlark area was supplied in my memorandum 6-1-1 of 8th March 1968.

9. An alternative to Formal Committees being established in each Ward for the settlement of KULA exchange disputes would be for an Assistant Magistrate to determine these matters. These committees would be numerous and have little to do whereas one man would gain considerable knowledge after settling several of these disputes and thus do the job more efficiently.

10. The late submission of this report has to a slight extent limited the value of the information supplied. Notwithstanding this, I consider that overall this is a first class report.

F.I. Becke

(F.I. Becke)

Assistant District Commissioner.

PATROL DIARY

- 21.9.67 0900 sailed from Guasopa to Kulumadau overnight Kulumadau
Discussions with assembled villagers at KROPAN
- 22.9.67 1000 Kulumadau to Boagis 1300 Overnight Boagis
- 23.9.67 0715 Boagis to Iwa 1440 to Kitava 2230 to shelter from
rough seas whilst tax collection being conducted Iwa.
- 24.9.67 Iwa from Kitava ON Iwa
- 25.9.67 at Iwa Yelangili again from Kitava
- 26.9.67 Iwa to Kwaiwatta, tax collection, collected villagers to take to
Gawa, to Gawa Overnight.
- 27.9.67 At Gawa.
- 28.9.67 At Gawa.
- 29.9.67 Gawa 0715 to Ianaba, too rough to land, to Egum 1200
- 30.9.67 Egum to Ianaba
- 1.10.67 Ianaba to Egum
- 2.10.67 Egum to Boagis 1200
- 3.10.67 At Boagis, Council Tax, Political Education etc.
- 4.10.67 Boagis to Kulumadau Harbour.
- 5.10.67 Council Tax and discussions with DIKOIAS, KAU RAI, KAWAI and
KROPAN Villagers.
- 6.10.67 At Kwaiapwan Bay as above.
- 7.10.67 0830 to Guasopa.
-
- 13.10.67 Collected Ungonam, Kavatana Tax ex Sinamata
- 21.10.67 Guasopa to Kulumadau to Guasopa.
- 23.10.67 0530 Guasopa to Laughlan Islands, Tax and Political Education
- 24.10.67 Laughlan Islands
- 25.10.67 Laughlan Islands
- 26.10.67 Laughlan Islands to Guasopa

(10)

- Guasopa Base Camp,
Samarai Sub-District,
Milne Bay District.
Patrol No.1 of 1967/68

Patrol Conducted By : H.W.Morris, Patrol Officer,
Area Patrolled : Portion of Woodlark Census Division.
Personnel Accompanying : Murua Local Government Councillors.
Duration of Patrol : 23 Days
Last Patrol to Area : D.D.A. April 1967.
: P.H.D. June 1967.
: Malaria Control ~~XXXXXX~~ August 1967.
: D.A.S.F. Unknown.

Objects of Patrol : To accompany Local Government Councillors in
dual capacity of Council Adviser/Acting
Council Clerk and assist the Council in the
collection of the first Council Tax.
: Political Education for 1968 House of Assembly
Elections.
: To carry out preliminary work on Council
Projects.
: To investigate rumours of famine conditions
prevailing in Outer Islands of Census Division.
Map References : Murua (Woodlark) 4 miles to inch series.
Murua Admiralty Chart No. 2035.

INTRODUCTION The prime objective of this Patrol was to accompany the
Murua Local Government Tax Patrol Team and to teach the Councillors
and Tax Collector by practical demonstration, the manner in which Council
Tax is collected and brought to account. As it was my intention that
the Councillors and tax collectors work as much as possible by themselves
, thus removing any confusion in the minds of the more isolated villagers
as to whether the tax was being collected for the Administration (as
previously) or for the Council, the opportunity was taken to continue the
Political Education programme and to conduct preliminary investigations
regarding the siting etc. of Council Projects. As was to be expected the
Patrol passed without incident and fullest cooperation was received from
all villages.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS Appendix B contains a list of the names of Village
Constables appointed in the Council Area. It is recommended that
GEORI VAUSA of DIKOLAS Village be appointed Village Constable to fill the
vacancy caused by the death of his brother MICKIDULANA VAUSA.

OUTLINE OF POLITICAL SITUATION, TRENDS AND ATTITUDES

Mention has been made in earlier reports of the essentially conservative attitude of the villagers in the Census Division. There are a few, mainly young men with a basic mission education who have been reported as voicing ultra progressive and on occasion anti-european thoughts. But it appears that, to their disappointment, the villagers on the whole are taking little notice.

The Villagers in all areas continue to follow the traditional pattern of activities and their outlook does not have appeared to have broadened much from its traditional base of the lineage, the Clan or on occasions the Kula Ring. Thus the establishment of the Murua Local Government Council, although accepted because it was sponsored by the Administration, did not result from any widespread feeling amongst the villagers that their area should possess a Local Government Council. But, reflecting the prevailing attitude which the people regard the Administration, once the Council was established and Councillors elected, the people gave their complete support to the concept of the Council. Those enthusiastic about Councils in the villages appear to be the comparatively educated young men mentioned above, who perhaps can see an avenue whereby they may break away from the traditional methods of acquiring wealth and prestige and may use a new method to achieve the same ends. An example of this attitude is Cr. GINTOVES LONIGA of GUASOPA, elected to the Council on the basis that he was being "sponsored" by myself. Councillor GINTOVES subsequently was elected Vice-President of the Council and has since been observed to use his position to attempt to influence traditional activities in a way which would not have been tolerated if he were not a Councillor. On several occasions I have observed Cr. GINTOVES being publicly rebuked by traditional leaders for actions. No groups are known to oppose the activities of the Murua Council, and if the current tax collections are any indication, no refusals to pay tax occurring during the patrol, all villagers are showing that they support the Council.

Tax Collected during the Patrol amounted to approx. 82% of the total Tax Estimated for the Council Area (including known absentees and persons to whom exemptions were given). Actual collection percentages based on those in the village capable of paying tax ranged from 92% to 100%. No incidents occurred during tax collection. There did however appear to be considerable rivalry between village groups as to which group could pay the greatest amount of tax on a pro rata basis. Although this attitude is in some ways undesirable it was not discouraged in that it at least was an expression of the villagers attitude towards the Council.

Whilst the villagers of the Census Division do occasionally speak of the entire Division as BODA (the eastern quadrant of the Kula Ring), there do not appear to be any traditional large scale alliances between groups other than those through Kula Trading and Marriage alliances. Woodlark Island itself is divided into three "Districts", MUYUW (Eastern third of Island), WAMWAN (central portion) and MADAU (MADAU, OLKOSAS and BOAGIS Villages). MUNEVEIO Village on the MADAU Peninsula is closely related to DIKOTIA Village in WAMWAN. The lack of unity amongst these Districts is shown on the occasions when the Administration or Private Business activities have brought alien labour from one District to another. On these occasions (including the opening of the Murua Local Government Council in May 1967), there usually result brawls which are started by villagers remembering past insults etc. As a result of this disunity, considerable difficulty has been experienced, the veneer of unity brought about through the Murua Council notwithstanding, in obtaining any large scale agreement to various enterprises on an extra-District basis.

Matters have not been helped by the diversity of dialects spoken in the Council Area. They are as follows -

- MUYUW - MUYUW District (Population 540 persons) * A.S.I.L.
Linguist has so far spent nearly five years translating the Bible into this dialect and teaching villagers to read and write in their own dialect).
- WAMWAN - WAMWAN District and MUNEVEIO Village (Population 450).
- BUDIBUDI - LAUGHLAN ISLANDS - Population 139
- MADAU - MADAU, BOAGIS and ALCESTER (NFSIKWABU) - Population 200.
- EGUM - EGUM and IANABA (related closely to GAWA) - population 120
- GAWA - GAWA and KWATWATTA - population 540.
- IWA - IWA, population 480.

The establishment of an Administration Primary T School at Guasopa and a Methodist Overseas Mission Primary School at Wabununu on Woodlark Island, will eventually lead to a greater number of villagers being literate in English or Dobu, a factor which will in itself be a unifying factor.

Other factors which are beginning to break down the ultra-parochial attitude in villages in the Census Division include the increasing number of inter-District marriages and migrations (the latter being due mainly to economic reasons). The increasing number of inter-District and inter-island marriages has been brought about by the great disparity in numbers of males and females born in the period 1948 - 1954 (thus including females who now are of an eligible age).

This sexual imbalance has begun to have important consequences upon traditional groupings. Residence patterns were usually patrilocal during early marriage becoming definitely patrilocal about 8 to 10 years after the marriage. The shortage of marriagable females has resulted in a trend becoming apparent in which the prospective husband is required to move to his bride-to-be's parents hamlet or village. This trend may be expected to continue as estimates based upon current census figures indicate that the disparity between young males and females should become greater over the next five years, reaching a peak of approx. 1.9:1.0, and then easing as the post 1955 generation reaches village adulthood.

Village informants have told me that they expect the marriagable age for females will be lowered from the present 19-14 age group to something approaching 15-13 group, however it is difficult to imagine that the Mission influence in the Census Division would tolerate this trend and instead young males will be obliged to outside their home areas for wives.

The actual effects of this trend which have been observed over the past 18 months show that already far reaching and mainly beneficial economic influences have resulted. In the village groups where this trend is well established the effects of young males, who would normally form a large part of the labour force, migrating to marry into another village has resulted in the remaining males in the village group working as a far more effective group than before. The shortage of a male labour force has caused former social prohibitions such as that of men working in another's garden where the garden owner belongs to a different clan, to be relaxed. To date there has been no decrease in areas of garden being tilled, with the result that those villages whose young male population has been slightly depleted, have large food surpluses which they are able to use in ceremonials such as funeral feasts (and thus being able to bring other village groups attending such ceremonies under a greater obligation due to the greater amount of food being provided by the host village). Similarly in cash cropping, no decline in amount of copra produced has been observed, rather it would seem that as there are fewer males in the group having a right to call for a share in the proceeds of copra, the males remaining in the village have increased copra production and thus have achieved a higher individual income than before.

The young male marrying into a village, particularly a large group such as IWA or GAWA, brings few negotiable rights with him. They could be summarized as gathering rights, a few remnants of rights to till land obtained through his matrikin, and of more importance, he brings with him a negotiable right from his own village in that his trading rights and kula partners remain with him even though he has moved from his "home" village.

The migration by a young man into a village is thus welcomed in both the traditional sphere as mentioned above and also in the cash cropping sphere in that the man provides additional labour for plantation work.

It has become the quite openly admitted goal of several young men to successfully arrange marriages to areas outside that in which they traditionally would have been limited. Preferences indicated may be divided into traditional and cash,--

<u>traditional</u>	<u>cash</u>
Laughlan Is. to Guasopa (Kula)	Egum to Laughlan Islands (copra)
Iwa to Kaurai (Kula)	Guasopa to " " "
Kwaiawatta to Dikoias (Kula)	Waiavata to Dikoias (carvings)
Kwaiawatta to Kaurai (Kula)	Kwaiawatta to Dikoias (")
Kaurai to Alcester (Kula)	

If the trend becomes permanent as predicted there is thus a unifying influence being established in the Census Division which has its base in the actual society. At the risk of being charged with heresy, this appears to be preferred to any Administration sponsored form of unifying factor such as using the Local Government Council as the means of obtaining unity rather than the eventual aim of the Council being regarded by all of the villagers as the local authority in the Census Division.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS LAND

Mention has been made in earlier reports of a slowly developing but increasingly vocal resentment by a number of Woodlark Islanders towards the long established land tenure pattern on Woodlark Island. A list of those known to be more vocal in their complaints regarding the failure of the Administration to hand back tracts of Crown Land to the villagers, is attached as Appendix C. It is suggested that efforts be made to keep a watch on the activities of those villagers listed and later, a programme of educating the villagers as to rights of access, squatting and tilling Crown Land or abandoned Freehold/Leasehold Plantations, be conducted throughout Woodlark Island.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS EUROPEANS

Few Anti-European or Anti-Administration statements have been heard or reported in the Census Division. Where these have been reported they usually relate to a specific complaint or incident. It may be of some consequence to note that of the 17 such statements or incidents reported 13 have been clearly traced back to having their source in WABUNUNU Village where a S.I.L. Linguist Dr. D. Lithgow resides for several months each year. Because of the several generations which have had close contact with Europeans in the Woodlark area, the average villager invariably freely cooperates with Europeans (both Private persons and Administration personnel).

AGRICULTURE: As reported in my 6-1-1 of 14th December 1967, reports had been circulating throughout the Census Division of severe food shortages in the Outer Islands of the Census Division. Investigations established that the prolonged dry period during 1967 slowed down the period during which traditional crops matured, thus delaying the harvest. As a result the clearing of new garden areas was not commenced until well towards the commencement of the wet season with the effect that planting and harvesting of "standing" taro and corn crops was delayed by over two months. During this period of food shortage, more than adequate supplies of food were obtained either by trading with villages which had food surpluses remaining from funeral feasts held during July-August, or by sending parties to make sago in the center of Wooldark Island.

Local Traders have reported a slight increase in the amount of money spent on store foods such as rice, flour etc, but the increase when considered on a Census Division level was not great.

As has been discussed at length in other reports, the Murua Local Government Council possesses a Trading Licence and has been establishing a copra purchasing venture based at Guasopa. In this project, copra is purchased by the Council from the villagers, for every 160 lbs of copra purchased from the villagers, the latter being obliged to purchase a new copra sack from the council. To date the amount of copra purchased by the Council is not significant but now that the basic machinery has been established and the villagers are aware of the Council's activities, it is to be expected that the amount of copra traded to the Council should increase, eventually yielding the Council a return which would assist in the payment of wages for a Council Clerk (which it does not have at present).

No serious attempts have been made to introduce another cash crop to the Census Division in order to break down the complete dependence upon copra producing as the ~~only~~ current sole source of cash from agricultural activities. I have been informed that Chillis and Pepper would be suitable alternatives for the soils/climate combinations found in the Census Division. It is suggested that during the financial year 1968/69 a programme of agricultural extensions work be conducted by the Administration through the Murua Council to introduce these two cash crops to the villagers.

To date only one loan has been applied for and obtained from the Native Loans Board for the use in the development of native owned plantations. The person who obtained this loan is an ex Administration employee who has married into the Census Division and currently has a small plantation established at TOBU approx. 8 miles from Guasopa Base Camp.

An education programme has been commenced throughout the Census Division in an attempt to encourage the establishment of either communal or individually owned copra plantations. No applications have yet resulted from the numerous enquiries so far made however if the programme is continued and receives active support from the Murua Council, several new plantations could be established with Administration assistance in areas which have little cash income at present.

LIVESTOCK Although a few head of cattle are running wild in the KULUMADAU area of Woodlark Island, no European or Native owned cattle ventures are in operation in the Census Division. In view of the complete lack of knowledge of villagers regarding the operation of cattle ventures, it is suggested that no attempt be made at present to introduce such ventures to the Census Division. More than adequate supplies of protein are obtained from traditional sources through fishing and the slaughtering of village pigs.

Pigs are found in almost every village of the Census Division. The LAUGHLAN ISLANDS at present is regarded as the main source of new stock in that the herd at these islands currently exceeds 180. The pigs are bred for use in funeral feasts (M= SAGALI) although they are occasionally killed to supply fresh meat in villages.

Some attempts have been made in the past to introduce European tropical species to the Islands but the breeding programme from this stock apparently was uncontrolled and any benefits from the introduction of new stock has largely disappeared through the progeny of the boars involved being used in feasts immediately they grew up rather than them being dispersed throughout the Census Division.

Occasional enquiries have been received regarding the obtaining of good breeding stock to improve pig quality. It could be a project to be suggested to the Murua Council in the future that they in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture investigate the possibility of the Council acquiring breeding stock which could be circulated around the main breeding areas of the Census Division, thus improving the quality of the pigs being bred whilst providing another but minor source of revenue to the Council through serviceing fees.

FORESTS Utilization of the extensive lowland rainforests found on islands in the Census Division is confined to the commercial extraction of EBONY (*Diospyrus* sp.) in the Kulumadau region of Woodlark Island, the small amount of hardwoods (TAUN, KWILA, SATIN ASH, YELLOW HARDWOOD and "PACIFIC MAHOGENY") milled at Kulumadau for mainly local consumption, and the intermittent use of EBONY by villagers throughout the Census Division in carvings. Specialized timbers such as BEACH *kalofilum* and KASIKASI are exported from Woodlark Island when required.

It is understood, although no copies of such reports have been seen, that extensive surveys have been conducted by the Department of Forests at the request of Mr. D. Neate of Kulumadau.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Essentially the Census Division, even on District Standards is economically depressed. The sparse European population coupled with the distance (185 miles) from the nearest commercial center and overseas port has meant that any commercial activity which yields only a marginal return to the producer, cannot be economically carried out. High Coastal Freight Rates and infrequent shipping services to and through the Census Division do not provide any incentive to people to establish new commercial ~~ventures~~ ventures (The Murua Council's Copra Venture is an example in this context).

Three Trade Stores are operated in the Census Division, at KULUMADAU, SABURAH (LAUGHLAN IS) and TOBU (WOODLARK IS). Mobile Trading Licences are held by Messrs. D. Neate and T. Voight, the latter operating through the Outer Islands of the Census Division whilst the former confines his trading activities to the Main Island. Trading voyages conducted by Mr. Neate are operated on a three weekly schedule to the GUASOPA end of Woodlark Island and a two weekly schedule to the MADAU end of the Island. The trading trips by Mr. Voight through the Outer Islands are irregular and the practice of Mr. Voight of discriminating in his trading at the various islands has resulted in not only frequently expressed resentment ^{being expressed} by the villagers but also large amounts of copra and cash being held by the villagers in the islands of IWA, GAWA, LAUGHLAN, and KWAIWATTA.

The following table lists in decreasing order of importance the various commercial activities conducted in the ~~viii~~ Census Division -

NATIVE

Copra

Labour

Carving

Gold Mining

EUROPEAN

Trading (with or without copra trading)

Copra

Ebony extraction

Reselling Carvings

Sawmilling

It is suggested that in the near future it will become necessary to conduct an intensive campaign to encourage the villagers to either commence commercial ventures on their own or to become involved to a greater degree in European commercial activities. Various villages have had long experience with such activities as small ship running, timber hauling, mass production of carvings (both of Ebony and other timbers) etc.. The cash demands being made upon the villagers by the Murua

Local Government Council through tax rates has resulted in some increase in cash producing activities amongst the villagers. A Council sponsored carvings purchasing and shipping agency could be established with little difficulty and could be so organized as to provide, through slightly increased prices paid to villagers, coupled with the attraction of the enterprise being native owned and operated, sufficient stimulus to keep production of carvings at the high level reached immediately prior to Council Tax Patrols last year.

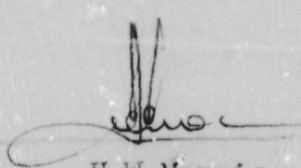
In the immediate future it is suggested that native operated ventures be confined to cash cropping such as copra production or, if introduced chillis or pepeper being grown for resale, or the carving venture outlined above. It would be creating further problems in the area if ventures requiring extensive mechanical or clerical knowledge were introduced as the task of maintaining such ventures would in the first instance fall upon the Administration Officers stationed in the Census Division

LAND This matter ~~xx~~ has been dealt with in previous reports.

COMPLAINTS No complaints resulting in Court action were received during the Patrol.

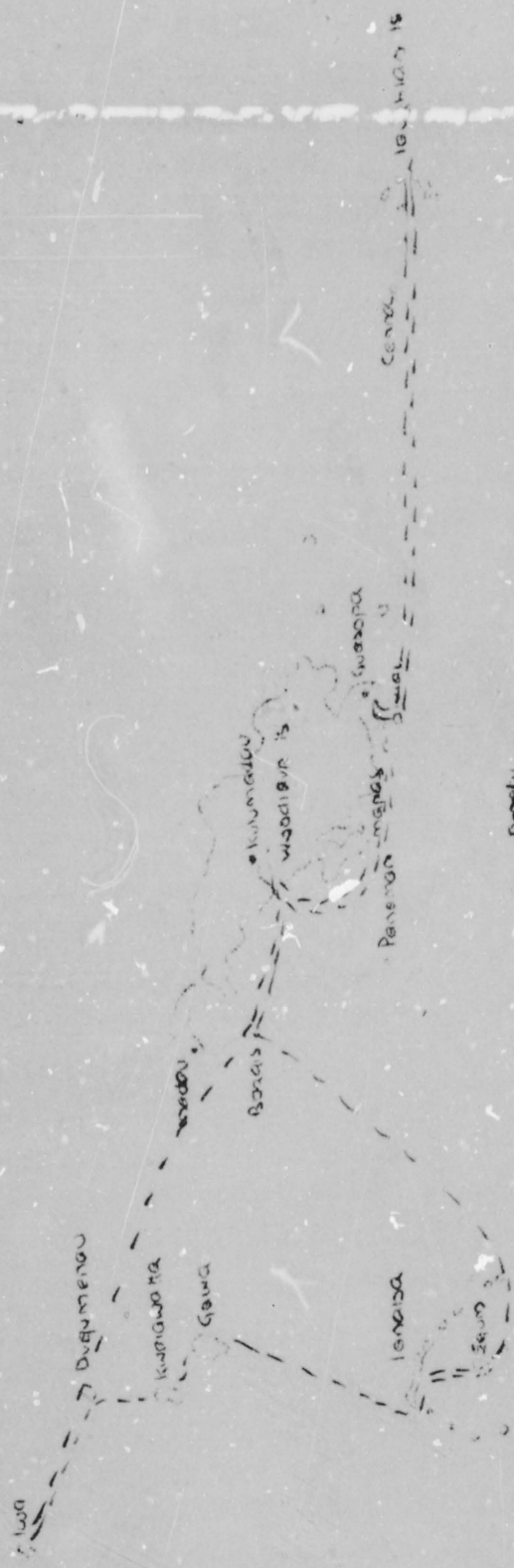
The majority of criminal complaints relate to Adultery, Brawling or occasionally, theft. However the number received since March 1966 (9) suggests that there is no serious problem in the Census Division with regards to breaches of the law.

The patrol received 8 civil debt complaints, all arising out of the failure of villagers to obey their traditional obligations in the Kul a Exchange. Following upon instructions issued by the District Commissioner in 1964, the villagers were advised to commence civil court action to cover the valuables for which they have not yet received payment by way of another traditional valuable being returned by the original recipient. To date over 40 such complaints have been received and the advice outlined above has been given in each instance, however no civil debt cases have been commenced by the villagers. Recently a Local Government Councillor (Cr. TAGALANA of DIKOIAS) was involved in a similar complaint and there has been some discussion amongst the Councillors of the Murua Council as to the passing of a Council Rule which would establish a formal committee in each Ward whose task would be to initially investigate and later mediate in these disputes. No Rule on this matter has yet been formally raised in the Council Meetings.


H.W. Morris
Patrol Officer

APPENDIX A PATROL ROUTE GUAPORA 1967/68

WOODLARK CENSUS DIVISION



Scale 1" = 20 miles

Route taken by Patrol

W. M. Morris

Alister (Newbury)

APPENDIX B

LIST OF VILLAGE CONSTABLES - WOODLARK CENSUS DIVISION

POPORA TAURE
TAPULENA JACK
KWAIWATTA

I

W

MUNEVEIO

KAURAI

WABUNUNU/OIUIAI

MEPAS

UNGONAM/KAVATANA

LAUGHLAN

EGUM/IANABA

KWAIKO

DIAMBA PULIA

TALABEIO

MISKOLOS

ALUPASA KOGA

BAGITA KAUEARA

LOKAP

URETAU

APPENDIX C

List of Villagers known to have expressed open resentment regarding the Land Tenure system on Woodlark Island

DONALD POSIM of P.H.D. Samarai (Dikoiias Village)
GUIDALONA KALOS of Waiavata Village
TAULEASE RONIN of Wabununu Village
RUSRI of Waiavata Village
TAULIBA ALLAN of Olkosas (Madau) Village
LOIASI SAMWELA of Dikoiias Village
PITOI USEBEKUNA of Guasopa Village
WAIENA GABAGABA of Guasopa Village
TOROBOK KEREMES of DABF Mt.Hagen (Guasopa Village)
DENDIL SEMWANE of PHD Mapamoiwa (Uramaden Village)
LEDIMO MESKAPINA of PHD Suau (Wabununu Village)
GINTOVES LONIGA of Bomaseu Village (Vice President M^urua LGC)
TAKINANA ASAGO of Guasopa Village



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of..... MILNE BAY Report No..... GUASOPA No.2 of 1967/68

Patrol Conducted by..... H.W.Morris. Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled..... Woodlark Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans..... NIL

Natives..... 8 Murua Local Government Councillors

Duration—From 23 / 1 / 19 68 to 3 / 2 / 19 68

Number of Days..... 13

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?..... NO

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services..... / 10 / 19 67

Medical / 1 / 19 68

Map Reference..... Murua (woodlark) 4 miles to inch military series

Murua (Admiralty) Chart 2035

Objects of Patrol..... Tax Payers Meetings, Murua Local Government Council

Political Education.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ / 19

Dist. Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation £.....

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund £.....

Amount Paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund £.....

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Ref: 67-4-21

Dept. of District Administration,
KONEDOBU. Papua.

5th June, 1962.

District Commissioner,

Milne Bay District,

RAMBURA

PATROL NO. GUASOPA 2-67/C

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Memorandum
* ~~Patrol~~/Patrol Report covering patrol by...H. F. MORRIS.....
to.....TOOBLARK..... Census Divisions.

This report is not sufficiently informative or analytical. Matters mentioned in the diary such as Court actions, inspections of Council projects and so on are not dealt with in the body of the report. Mr. Morris should be instructed to comply with standing instructions when compiling a report.

T.W. Ellis
(T.W. ELLIS)
Director

* Delete as necessary.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67.4.21

Telephone

Telegrams

Our Reference

If calling ask for

Mr.

67-1-4

RIB/cs



Department of District Administration,

Sub District Office,
SAMARAI. M.B. District.

8th April, 1968.

District Commissioner,
SAMARAI.

GUASOPA PATROL REPORT NO.2 of 67/68.

Attached please find three copies of the above report.

2. The report is self explanatory and very brief. If read in conjunction with Guasopa Patrol Report No.1/67-68, an overall adequate coverage of the various aspects of the Woodlark Census Division and the people can be found.



R.I. Becke

(R.I. Becke)

Assistant District Commissioner.

Dde

67-1-1

PATROL DIARY

- 23.1.68 0630 sailed from Guasopa in MV "Yelangili", arrived Laughlan Islands 1330. Landed and held Tax Payer's Meeting, discussed Council Projects.
- 24.1.68 0530 sailed from Laughlan Islands to Guasopa, 1159, discussions with Commanding Officer, HMAS Moresby, sailed from Guasopa 1330 arriving at Kulumadau 1730. Discussions with assembled villagers at KROPAN. Overnight KWAIPAN Bay.
- 25.1.68 At KROPAN, discussions with villagers from WAMWAN District. Overnight KWAIPAN Bay.
- 26.1.68 Sailed Kulumadau 0715, Boagis 1125, discussions with villagers, sailed 1345 for Gawa, arriving at 1830. Overnight Gawa.
- 27.1.68 AM Discussions at Gawa, sailed for IWA via Kwaiawatta arriving at IWA at 1440, unloaded building materials. Yelangili sailed to anchor at Kitava. Overnight Iwa.
- 28.1.68 Sunday at Iwa - discussions with villagers re Council Tax Rates, Political Education and Council Water Supply Project. Overnight Iwa.
- 29.1.68 At Iwa awaiting Yelangili, Heavy NW Seas. Day spent in pegging out Catchment Area for Council Project. Overnight Iwa.
- 30.1.68 Yelangili arrived 0950, sailed in very rough seas to Gawa, arriving at 1745. Overnight Gawa.
- 31.1.68 Gawa 0600 to Ianaba to Egum 1100. Discussions with Egum and Ianaba Villagers. Overnight Egum.
- 1.2.68 Egum to Ianaba, conducted Local Court Hearing, to Kulumadau via Panaman Is. arriving at Kulumadau 1840. Overnight Kulumadau.
- 3.2.68 At Kulumadau, discussions with Mr. D. Neate and Dikolas Villagers regarding various complaints. Overnight Kulumadau.
- 4.2.68 Loading timber at Kulumadau. Overnight Kulumadau.
- 4.2.68 Sailed for Guasopa 0600 in very rough seas, arriving at 1850.
-

Guasopa Base Camp,
Samarai Sub-District,
Milne Bay District.

Patrol No.2 of 1967/68

Patrol conducted by

: H.W.Morris, Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled

: Woodlark Census Division (portion)

Personnel accompanying

: Murua Local Government Councillors.

Duration of Patrol

: 13 Days.

Last Patrol to Area

: D.D.A. October 1967

: P.H.D. October 1967

: P.H.D. (Medical) January 1968.

: P.H.D. (Malaria) January 1968.

: D.A.S.E. Unknown.

Objects of Patrol

: To accompany Local Government Councillors

on Tax Payer's Meetings Patrol and wherever possible, assist Councillors in the conducting of Tax Payer's Meetings.

: To carry out further preliminary work on

Council Water Supply Project at IWA and delineating Smokenhouse Site at Laughlan Islands.

: Further Political Education and preparations for 1968 House of Assembly Elections.

Map References

: Mutua (Woodlark) 4 miles to inch series.

: Murua Admiralty Chart No. 2035.

INTRODUCTION Long submitted trawler requisitions had provided the period immediately following the January 1968 Council Meeting of the Murua Local Government Council to be set aside for a Tax Payer's Meeting Patrol to be conducted throughout the Census Division. It quickly became apparent in the early stages of the patrol that the long programme (commenced in September 1967) of encouraging the villagers to discuss very fully the whole matter of Council Tax and the ability of the villagers themselves to pay rates with which they were satisfied, had been very successful. Thus in every village group visited tax rates were announced by the Local Government Councillor and Committeemen for the Ward concerned, and this was approved unanimously by all present. The opportunity of the Patrol was also taken to carry out further Political Education for the 1968 House of Assembly Elections and to advise villagers of polling dates etc.. Whilst at IWA and the LAUGHLAN Islands, further work was carried out on Council Project. As on all previous occasions, the patrol passed without incident and the fullest cooperation was received from all villages.

(2)


COUNCIL TAX RATES: Appendix B contains a list of the tax rates decided by the villagers for the 1968/69 financial year. Following upon the instructions of the Senior Local Government Officer, Samarai and the Regional Local Government Officer, Papua Region, considerable efforts were made to obtain a lower tax rate than those paid for the 1967/68 financial year (these rates included a "back tax" component of approximately 50%). However in all villages visited on Woodlark Island it was found that the tax rates already decided were either the same as those paid during 1967/68 or in one instance higher (KAUWAI/KROPAN). Further, as suggested during the education programme which has been conducted over the past 3 months, all Wards decided to pay a female tax rate of 50 cents, or again, against the advice of the Executive Committee and myself, \$1.00.

F

On the surface the tax rates put forward by the villagers are very satisfying and generally speaking there is little doubt that the villagers will be able to pay the amounts they have put forward. However I have observed that throughout the Council Area there exists a certain amount of rivalry between villages and groups, as to which village group shall pay the largest amount of tax. There is no clear relationship between this trend and any movement to expect that the Council shall accordingly carry out projects which equal in value, or exceed the amount of tax paid.

It is suggested that no attempt be made at the village level to obtain a revision of the tax rates agreed to by the villagers. Rather it would be less confusing, (and of course of great benefit to the Councillors as a body), if any lowering of tax rates be made at the Council Meeting. At the March Council Meeting it will be suggested to the Councillors that the 1968/69 Tax Rate include rates equivalent to 75% of those passed in 1967/68.

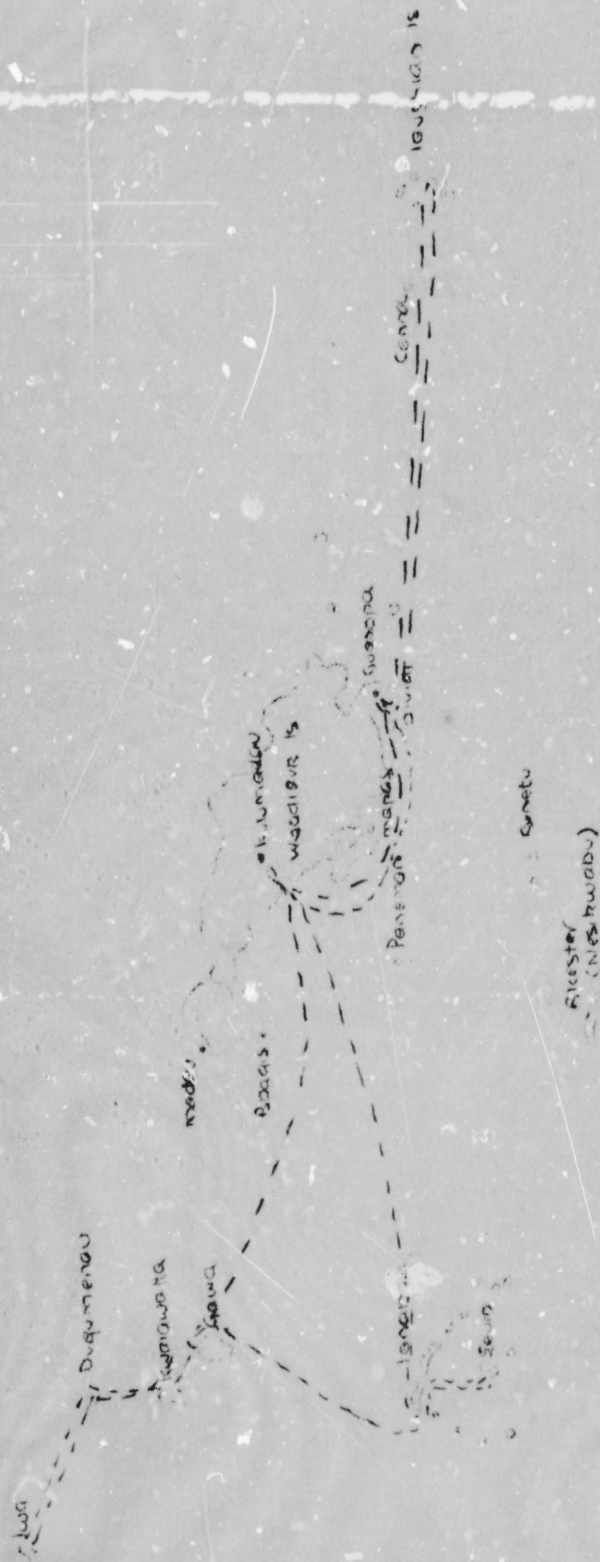
POLITICAL EDUCATION Further pamphlets received were distributed to the villagers and voting procedures were again explained. It is not anticipated that there shall be any technical difficulties encountered during the Elections in the Census Division due to the recent (April 1967) Local Government Council Elections having given the villagers an opportunity of becoming more familiar with voting procedures.


H.W. Morris
Patrol Officer

APPENDIX A.

PATROL REPORT GUASOPAK No. 2 of 1967/68

WIGODLARK CENSUS DIVISION



Scale 1" = 10 miles

Route taken by Patrol

W. Morris

F

APPENDIX B

TAX RATES DECIDED BY TAX PAYER'S MEETINGS

WARD	1967/68(Males only)	1968/69 (Males)	1968/69(females)	
IWA	\$ 6	\$ 4	50 c.	F
GAWA/KWAIWATTA	\$6	\$ 4	50 c.	
EGUM/IANABA	\$ 6	\$ 4	50 c.	
MAPAS/UNAKATANA	\$ 6	\$ 6	\$ 1.00	
LAUGHLAN Is.	\$10	\$10	\$ 1.00	
BOAGIS/MADAU/ MUNEVEIO	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 1.00	
KAUWAI/KROPAN	\$ 8	\$10	50 c.	
DIKOLAS	\$ 8	\$ 8	50 c.	
KAURAI	\$ 8	\$ 8	50 c.	
WABUNUNU/OIVIAI	\$ 8	\$ 8	50 c.	
GUASOPA ETC.	\$ 8	\$ 8	50 c.	
UNGONAM/KAVATANA	\$ 8	\$ 8	50 c.	