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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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MILNE BAY DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1955/56

LOSUIA

Report No.

Officer Conducting
Patrol

Area Patrolled

LOSUIA

1 - 56/57

B.E.Jinks

Vakuta Island

2 - 56/57

B.E.Jinks

Kiriwina North

No. 1 of 55/56

B.E. JINKS C.P.O

7th September 1955.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SAMARAI.

PATROL REPORT NO. 1-55/55 - MR.
CPO JINKS: VAKUTA.

Enclosed please find copies in quadruplicate of this Report.

For a first attempt it seems to me to be most satisfactory.

Under "Diary" dated Wednesday 24th August 1955, mention is made of a call at MUWO Plantation. Mr. Jinks will be asked to provide a separate memo report of his impressions as to labour conditions, etc., if the District Commissioner so desires.

The nine months hiatus in patrol activity as far as VAKUTA is concerned has resulted in a rather unsatisfactory break-down of village unity. The development of cliques as mentioned by Mr. Jinks in para. 2, page 4 of the Report seems to result from the assumption by the Village Constable and his faction of more authority than they legally possess. This resulted mainly in the foolish business of the destruction of the marking fence of Mr. Riley's trade store site - which has been a bone of contention for as long as I have been at Losuia. My memoranda 34/3-72/54 of 12th June 1954 and 34/3-26/54-55 of 20th August 1954 refer. However, it is hoped that the determination of boundaries made by Mr. Jinks on this patrol will settle the matter.

It may well be that the development of a Co-Operative would provide some solidarity - a trait that is notably lacking among the VAKUTANS as well as other KIRIWINAN natives. The Co-Operatives Officer Samarai has been contacted re this (vide my memo 14.1.1/76-55 of 17th March 1955, a copy of which was sent to the District Commissioner). However, as the Co-Operatives Officer pointed out, pressure of present co-operative operations coupled with lack of staff renders it unlikely that anything will be possible within the next two years. Another point to consider is that Vakuta population is barely 400 - which does not provide a very broad framework on which to place one isolated Society.

"Gardens" - para 2 P. 6: The Vakuta village people are notorious wanderers, sometimes spending as long as six months cruising in their canoes between the Amphlette and their homes. Emphasis has been - and will continue to be - placed on larger gardens and less sailing about.

As mentioned by Mr. CPO Fitzer in his report No. 4-54/55 (27th October-1st November 1954), the mixed-blood child of a previous European manager of MUWO Plantation is still living in VAKUTA. Although her guardian had earlier indicated that the child would be sent to DOGERA for schooling, nothing has yet happened. It seems a great pity that something constructive cannot be done about such unfortunate cases - but, of course, once action is begun in one case, a score of equally deserving cases will inevitably come to mind; and whether it would be practicable (or desirable) to institute a mass movement of h/c children, is doubtful.

It is proposed to continue flying visits to VAKUTA and an improvement is anticipated.

Page 2.

Mr. Jinks has taken a lot of trouble over the survey of the VAKUTA trade site; it is to be hoped that his work may be of value to the Lands Department.

In all, a very workmanlike patrol and for a first attempt, very satisfactory.

W. J. Jinks
a/ADO.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

*In Reply
Please Quote*

D.S.

/1884.

HEADQUARTERS,
MILNE BAY DIVISION,
SAMARAI.

MEMORANDUM—

20th. September, 1955.

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORSBY.

Isania Patrol Report No. I of 55/56.

Attached please find copy of patrol report submitted by Mr. B.E. Jinks, C.P.O. Mr. Jinks is only a recent arrival in the Territory and this is his first patrol. Whilst it is desirable that our young cadets should receive as much experience as possible the least medium appears to be personal tuition by a senior officer, and the A.D.O. would have been well advised to have accompanied the C.P.O. on this, his first patrol.

In this patrol Mr. Jinks has been quite searching in his inquiries into various aspects of native life and his deductions appear to be quite sound. However, it is well known that the VAKUTA people are quite a sophisticated group, and I fail to see how an inexperienced cadet could in any way impress them or induce them to carry out a given policy.

The A.D.O. is now directed to proceed to VAKUTA as soon as possible, accompanied by the Cadet and there fully investigate the following matters:-

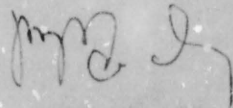
- (a) The activities of V.C. TODUANEBU over the last nine months.
- (b) The location of the new Aid Post.
- (c) The lack of interest in Copra production with an effort to improve the quality of copra produced.
- (d) The aim of the VAKUTA Village Society.
- (e) The possibility of individuals making and marketing copra without subscribing to the Society.
- (f) A full investigation of Riley's land taking into consideration the possibility of heavy erosion since late area was alienated. I cannot accept the Cadets decision in this instance.

Matters as enumerated above would appear to be of prime concern to the Vakuta people and a lively interest

shown by the Administration might tend to stimulate the people generally, and relieve them of the boredom of existence into which they appear to have fallen. Interest in copra production on a family basis without the governing background of a nebulous commercial banking account should be encouraged to the full, and the A.D.O. should make this his prime concern on the coming patrol.

Finally the A.D.O. is requested to give full particulars in a separate memo of the part native child on VAKUTA, and at the same time report on other part native children in his Sub. District. I presume that when referring to Para. 7 of his covering memo to "a score of equally deserving cases", he is not confining his observations to the Trobriand area only. However, no doubt there are other part native children in the area.

I regret commenting so unfavourably on the report as it is the first effort of an enthusiastic cadet. However, there appears to be a host of problems on Vakuta and one generally does not send "a boy on a man's errand".



M.J. Healy,
District Commissioner.

Encl.

c.c.a/A.D.O., Losuia.

30.5.

18th August 1955.

Mr. CPO Jinks,
LOSUIA.

PATROL TO VAKUTA ISLAND -
INSTRUCTIONS.

Please be prepared to leave by ML "Kingfisher" for VAKUTA Island, as soon as "Chinampa" unloading is completed, or early tomorrow morning. You should be prepared to remain in the area for about 5-7 days. "Kingfisher" and crew will remain with you.

I suggest that Const. DOIWA accompany you. ASERA of the Kingfisher crew is competent to act as interpreter. Doiwa should be instructed to take a week's rations from the Police monthly ration issue which has already been made, and the Kingfisher crew are also already provided. 10 lbs. of trade tobacco and four gallons of kerosene (ex store) should be ample.

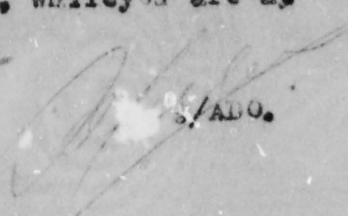
Supplies of Census Books, and other necessary stationery will be required.

Check existing Vakuta area censuses and, if you consider it warranted, prepare new census books. Check all villages for cleanliness, condition of housing, state of gardens, water-holes etc. Take notice of any complaints that may be brought to your notice, under NRO, and bring the parties in any Court cases to Losuia on your return. There is one matter concerning an alleged assault by a mission teacher upon a child which will require your investigation. I believe the child is in the Native Hospital at present, probably with a guardian or parent who may be a competent witness.

There will probably be the usual spate of complaints on behalf of the natives concerning the activities of Mr. Riley, who has a trading lease at Vakuta. Take notice of whatever may be said, but remember that the Vakuta natives, in common with other semi-isolated groups in this Sub-District, are prone to exaggerate and to try to play off one European against another in the hope of some vague advantage which they think might be gained. It will be best, should such complaints come to light, to bring the parties concerned (native) back to Losuia and let them make their complaints to me.

On your return to Losuia, you should be prepared to write a patrol report, in the accepted form, (quintuplicate) mentioning under the various headings your findings, and also any instructions which you may have given. Remember to make a note of all such instructions in the Village Constable's Register.

It is desirable that you check with Mr. EMA Kenny as to any particular matters he would like seen to, while you are at VAKUTA.


S/ADO.

19th August 1955

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SAMARAI.

REPORT OF A PATROL (LOS No 1 OT
1955-1956) TO VAKUTA ISLAND VIL-
LAGES BY B. JINKS, CPC.

Purposes of Patrol: Census and General Administrative Duties.
Duration: 19th August- 24th August and 26th August-30 August 1955.
Number of Days: Seven.
Personnel Accompanying: RPC: 1
Customs and Marine: 3
Native Medical Orderly: 1
Personal Servant: 1
Last Patrol to Area: DDS: J. D. Fitzer P/R 4 of 54/55 from
27th October to 1st November 1954;
PHD: J. J. Kenny in January, 1955.
Map Reference: Losuia Subdistrict Census Division of
Kiriwina South.

DIARY

Friday 19th August 1955

Departed Losuia wharf at 0620 per ML
"Kingfisher", and landing at Vakuta Rest House at 1110.
Instructed village party plaiting coconut fronds to carry out
minor repairs to the rest house. During the afternoon inspected
OKINAI village. Lined villagers and inspected for scabies etc.
Proceeded to VAKUTA village, where inspection of village, gardens
and latrines was carried out. Twenty five natives with minor
ailments were instructed to proceed to the Native Hospital, Losuia
per ML "Kingfisher" on the following Monday.

Saturday 20th August, 1955

Census of OKINAI village taken and village gardens and latrines inspected. At 1015 proceeded to GILIBWA village per ML "Kingfisher". Census taken and complete inspection carried out. During the afternoon Mr F. Rilae arrived from Losuia and immediately came to me concerning damage to the fencing of his trading lease near the rest house and barracks. See remarks under "Land".

Sunday 21st August 1955

OBSERVED

Monday 22nd August 1955

Proceeded to KAULAKA village where census was taken and comprehensive inspection carried out. Talk with villagers and village officials, during which it was decided that a Medical Aid Post would be constructed at this village.

Tuesday 23rd August 1955

Census of VAKUTA village taken. Talk with villagers concerning general matters and Mr F. Rilae. During the afternoon Island officials at rest house and further investigation into trading lease.

Wednesday 24th August 1955

Departed for Losuia 0915, calling in at Muwo Island Plantation for inspection of labour etc. Arrived at Losuia at 1510.

Friday 26th August 1955

At 0635 departed for Vakuta island, arriving at 1225 after rough passage. Afternoon spent in preliminary survey of Mr Rilae's land. Also talk with native Raiwau, selected to replace V.C. Toduanebu, dismissed by Mr Geelan on Thursday 25th August.

Saturday 27th August 1955

Morning spent in surveying trading site and marking it permanently. Land boundaries were carefully pointed out to villagers present.

Sunday 28th August 1955

OBSERVED

Monday 29th August 1955

Visit to KAULAKA village to inspect site of new Aid Post. Instructions were given with regard to size and construction of the building. Also inspected timber available for building between VAKUTA and KAULAKA villages. At VAKUTA village the new Village Constable was appointed before the assembled villagers.

Tuesday 30th August 1955

Left for Losuia per "Kingfisher" at 0820 with four more patients for native hospital. Arrived at Losuia 1320.

— 0 —

Native Situation

At present the native situation of Vakuta island seems to be even slower in progressing than in the usual Kiriwina village, for at this time of the year in particular there is nothing to do that appeals to these people. They usually harvest their yams later than the other Trobrianders, the final gathering this year being in October when the mila mala ceremonies take place. At the moment there is a little gardening and harvesting, and although the villagers have a good deal of spare time there is not the slightest inclination or effort to make copra despite the fact that there must be several tons of coconuts lying in the scattered stands of trees. By now these would be useless.

The general procedure seems to be to wait until the harvest is completed and everyone has recovered from the festivities. No amount of persuasion seemed to convince the villagers that between a half and two thirds of their labour could quite easily be engaged in copra production providing that the remainder spent a full day in the gardens. Apparently this copra is of poor quality and the traders are obliged to re-smoke it before it can be dispatched. During the last season there was a small smoke house at VAKUTA village, but this has since collapsed and no plans have been made to build a new one.

The village people gather coconuts from groves that are planted in most cases on land belonging to individuals, but the gatherings are pooled and the whole proceeds are banked in an account in the name of "Vakuta Village Society" with three signatories. There appears to be no co-ordination of effort, and there seem to be factions in the village working against each other. This is particularly awkward in the case of their copra making as well as in the case of general administration. The village Constable seemed to be leading a group working after their own obscure interests, and with his replacement matters may improve in the future.

From the above it would appear that a Co-operative movement as suggested by several previous officers on the station would prove quite unsatisfactory. Besides this there is a total population on the island of ^{only} 435, but if these people could be guided effectively towards methodical production a Society might well be possible. The Vakutans have shown in the past that they realize fully the benefits that such a movement could bring, and it would provide an excellent

example for the other people of these notoriously indolent islands. There are good supplies of copra on Kiriwina as

well as beche de mer and shells. The shelling ban for Europeans in these waters was last year under consideration and may well be lifted, although the natives wish it to stand even though they do no shelling themselves. Situation such as this could perhaps be relieved if a good example were given.

It should be an interesting and possibly profitable experiment if some careful work were carried out on this island by the local field staff, and although results would probably be slow in coming, there is definitely room for considerable improvement.

As is the case with most Trobriand Islanders, these people are quite contented and live well together, there being no native complaints brought forward during the patrol.

Housing

The housing on the island is satisfactory, but there are a number of small improvements that could be made that would give the villages a cleaner and more orderly appearance. In many cases roofing was poor, and orders were given to effect repairs. Houses of aged people were in almost every case very bad, and the frame of one house was completely recovered during the patrol's stay.

The people of Vakuta seem to have lost a number of customs and superstitions of the main islanders, and all dwellings are built approximately two feet from the ground, besides being a little larger than those on Kiriwina. The Kaulaka villagers have a good site picked for an Aid Post, and a little progress had already been made on what should be an adequate building.

Roads

The native roads as far as Vakuta village are poor owing to the great number of coral outcrops, but these are unavoidable. None of these are well cut, which once again illustrates the general state of "just good enough".

Gardens and Food

The only crops in evidence were the eternal yam and a little sweet potato, which are supplemented by some fishing. The village gardens are in all cases on relatively good ground and should be ample for all needs. After an inspection of all gardens it was noticed that the garden at Okinai village was almost as large as that at Vakuta, the largest village, with ten times the population. Eight natives from Gilibwa village are gardening at Okinai, but further than that there appeared to be no reason for such a large area, and it is probably another case of misdirected energy.

Health

The health of the two larger villages, Kaulaka and Vakuta, was very poor, with many cases of scabies and a few bad ulcers that would have been serious had they been let go further. All but two cases were children under twelve. With the establishment of an Aid Post this situation should improve.

Census

Figures are attached. There has been a considerable increase in population since the last census taken, but this is mainly due to the fact that a great number of men were absent on the Kula when the last patrol visited the area and some were not entered in the new books compiled at that time. Unfortunately this complicated the present check, and combined with the fact that book had insufficient spacing to allow for marriages and births, it made the compilation of new books again necessary.

Land

During the patrol Mr F. Riley returned to his trade store from Losuia, and soon afterwards came to the rest house with a complaint that natives had pulled down part of the fence around his lease. His trading site consists of three separate leases taken out by earlier traders. There have been earlier enquiries concerning this land, but there are no proper records in the Lands Department files apart from a sketch map which was sent to Losuia last year in answer to a letter.

Mr Riley had conducted a rough survey of his own, apparently from this map, and has built on it accordingly. The ex Village Constable, however, insisted that he had too much land, and destroyed the fence, moving the boundaries about eight feet inwards at either end. This action followed several that were unsatisfactory, and he has been replaced.

The patrol returned to Losuia, where surveying equipment was obtained, and a survey was then carried out. The sketch map, DA 1515, is incomplete, but it was obvious from the 161 degree bearing that this was unsatisfactory, as this placed almost the whole of the land frontage below the high water mark. In order to settle the disputes on the spot it was decided to make a completely new survey. Both surveys are drawn in on the plan attached, and the land areas are approximately equal.

Besides the water line question, there are also buildings in the line of the original 51 degree bearing on the south end of the lease and coconut trees at the north end. The land cannot be positioned so that the 161 degree line ends above the high water mark, as this will set the north end of the lease back into a swamp. On the present location these appear to be the only possible boundaries for this lease, and it is suggested that the original Deed of Attestation be amended to conform with this survey.

quadroon child - Vakuta village

During his patrol to the area Mr Fitzer noticed and commented in his patrol report on a quadroon child at present living in Vakuta village. She is the child of a half caste who is descended from J. Clark, an ex manager of Muwo plantation, no longer residing in the Territory. This girl has white skin, which is most unusual even for a quadroon, and perfectly regular European features.

She was born on the 27th July, 1951, and although not yet old enough to attend the school at Dogura, it is quite possible that they or some other body may be interested, as this is possibly an unusual case. If the father could be contacted and wishes to keep the child it would present no difficulty as she could pass for a European anywhere.

Conclusion

This patrol to Vakuta Island found the people and the villages in a common position - there was nothing to condemn, and nothing to praise. These people apparently improved last year when they were regularly visited, but over the last nine months, things have deteriorated somewhat. A short follow-up patrol in the near future would perhaps be useful to check on orders given during this patrol and the effect of the new Village Constable.

B. Jones
CFO

REPORT ON NPJ MEMBER ACCOMPANYING PATROL

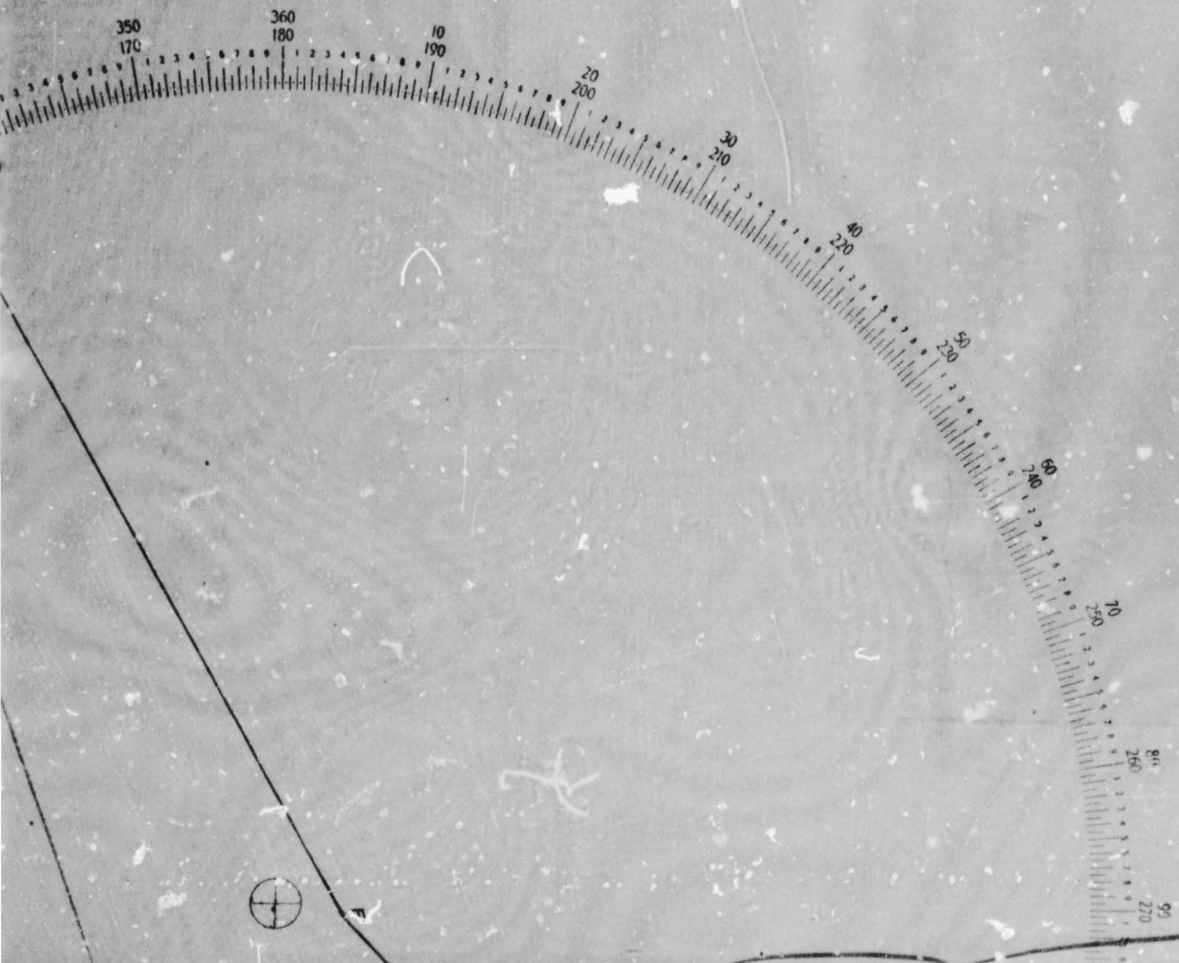
No. 1073 Constable DOIWA.

A satisfactory policeman in all respects.

B. Jenkins
CPO

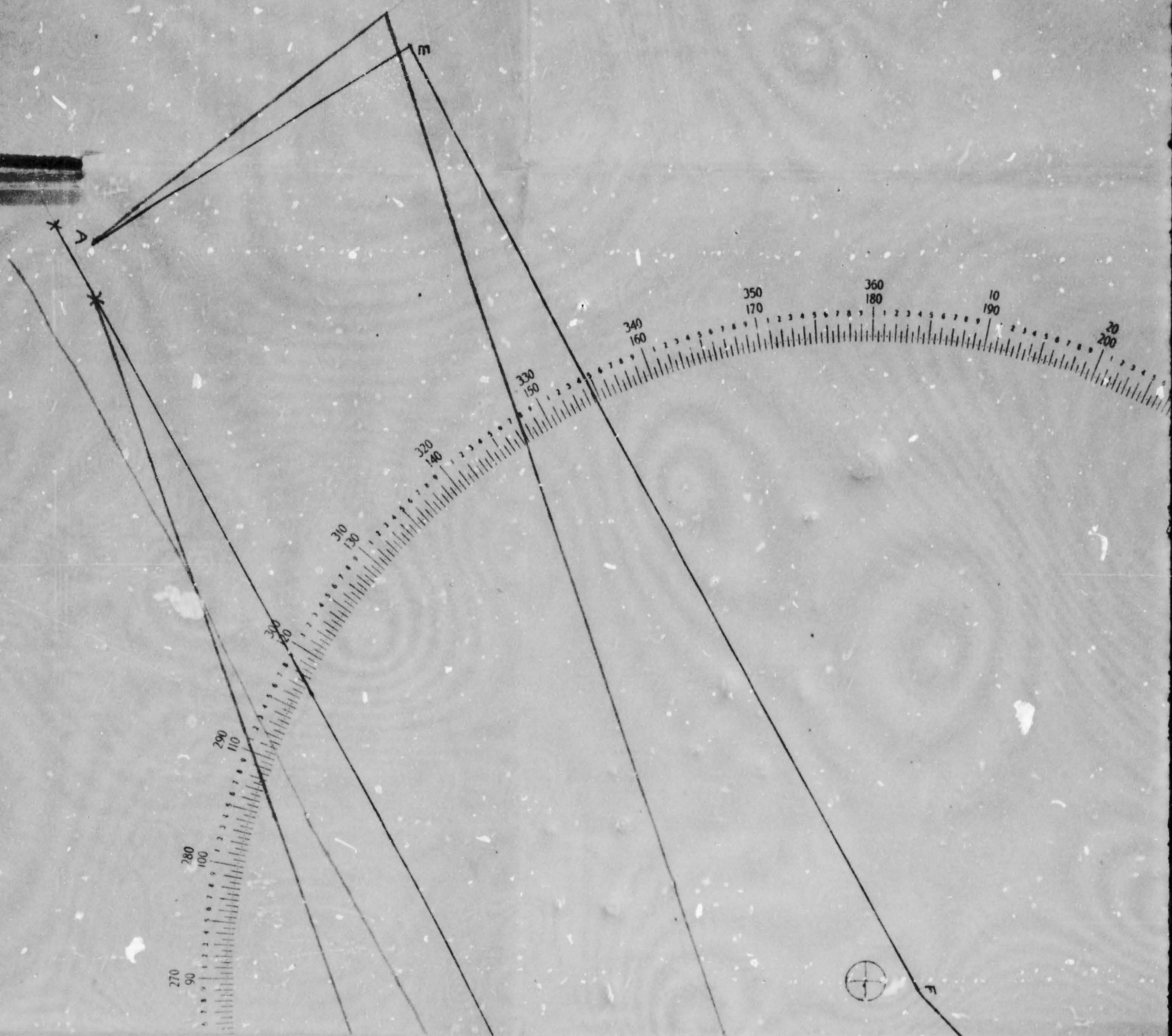
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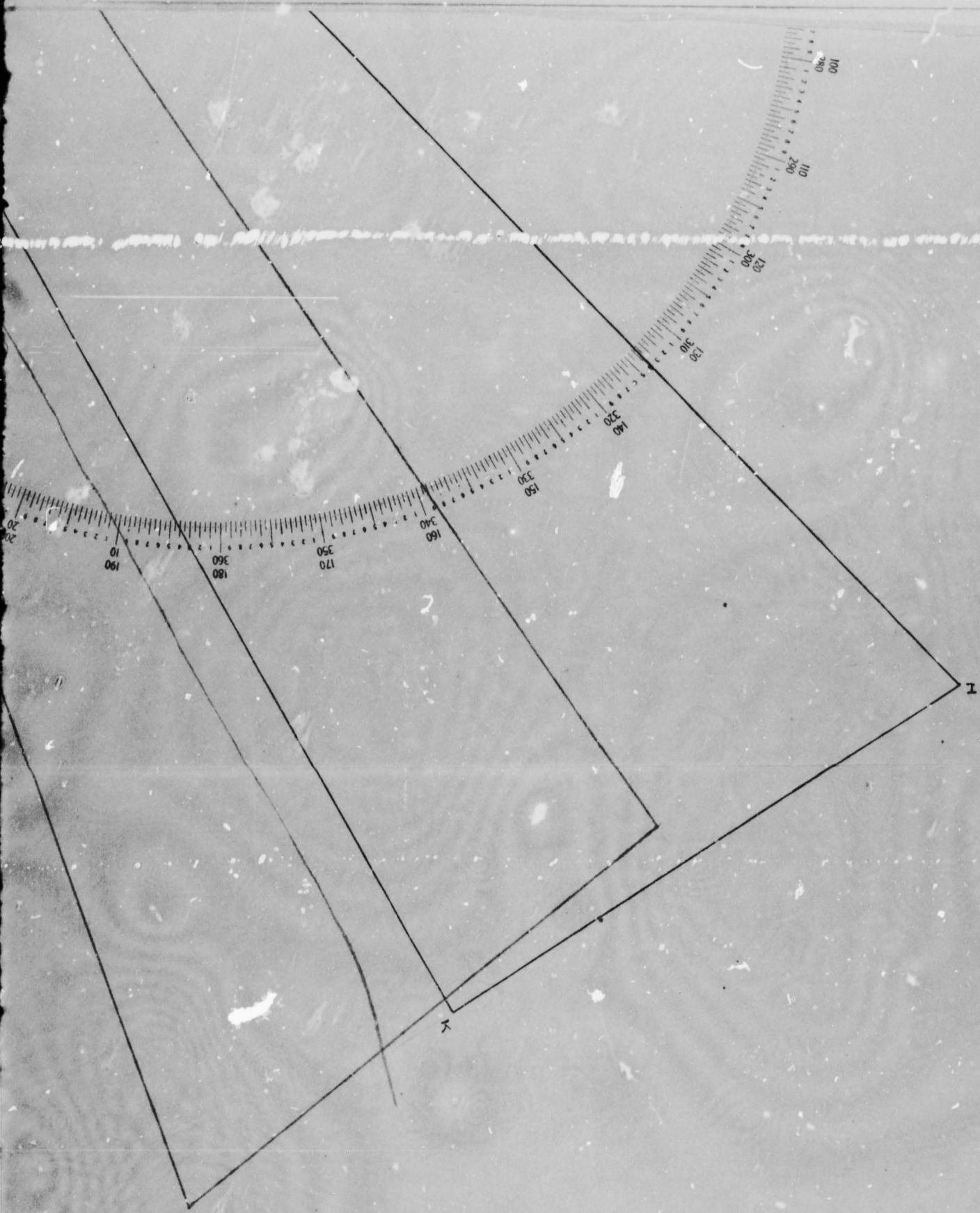
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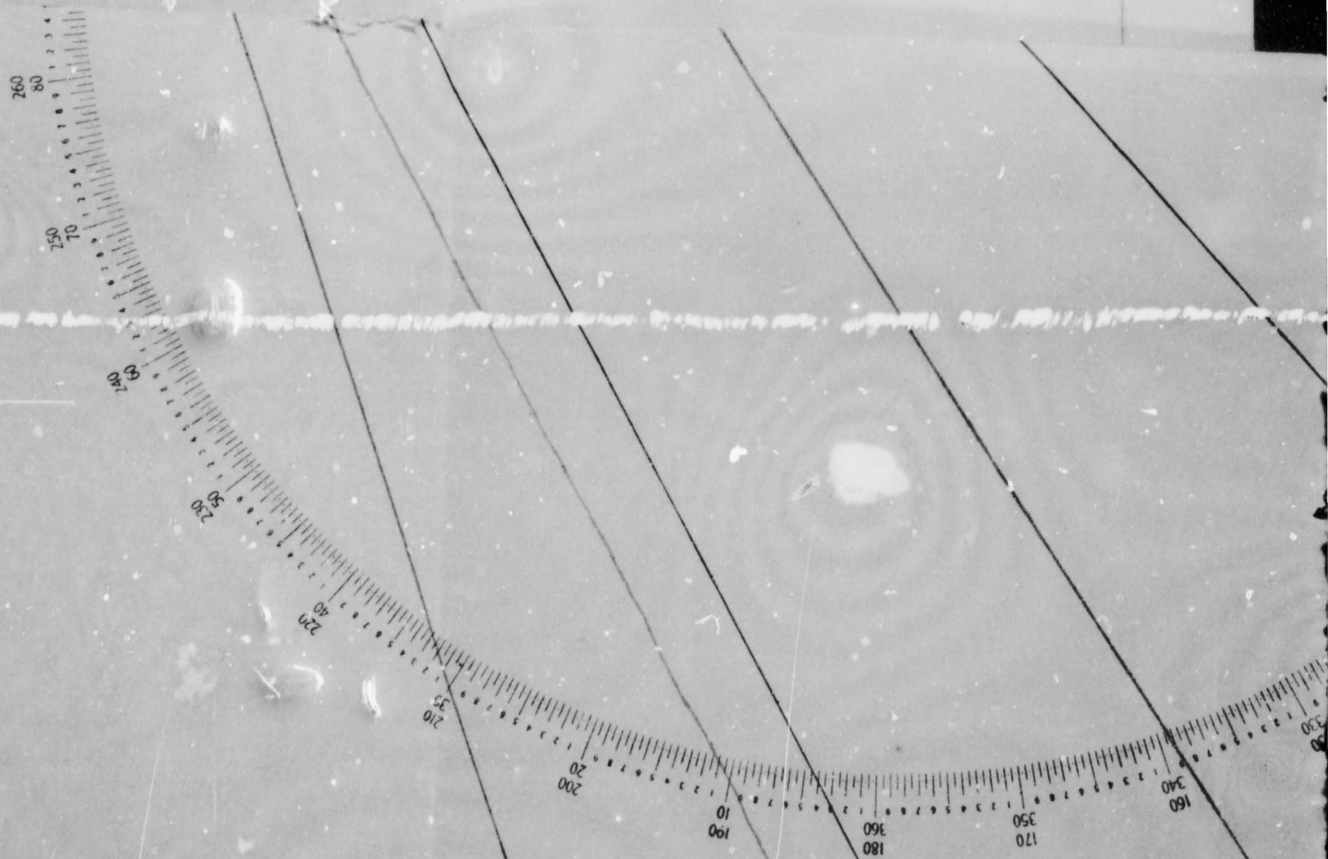


LEGEND

- High water line
- Original D1515 received from Lands 26/7/54
- This survey







2 OF 55/56

B.E. JINKS C.P.O.

30.2-83/55

21st October 1955.

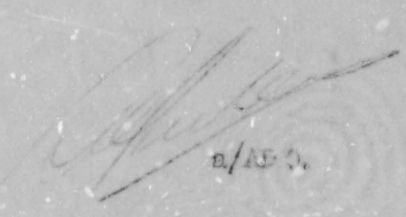
The District Commissioner,
Maline Bay District,
SARAWAK.

PATROL REPORT NO. 2-55/56;
MR CPO JINKS.

Please find enclosed copies in quintuplicate of this
Report.

Mr. Jinks' field work is, I think, quite good, considering
his short length of service; and his report is presented in a work-
manlike manner.

For your information, please.


a/ASO.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

In Reply
Please Quote

D. S.

/2III.

HEADQUARTERS,
MILNE BAY DISTRICT,
SAMARAI.

MEMORANDUM FOR :-

28th. October, 1955.

T The Director.
Department of Native Affairs,
PORU MCRESBY.

Losuia Patrol Report No. 2 of 55/56
B. Jinks - C.P.O.

Attached please find the above-mentioned report.

This is the second patrol conducted by Mr. Jinks. He is a very young man with barely six months in the Territory, and for one who has not been accompanied on a patrol by a senior officer, I think he is a promising Cadet.

The fact that Mr. Jinks has not been accompanied by a senior officer on a patrol is serious. However, covering memo to Report No. 1 of 55/56 dated 20th. September obviously was not received by the A.D.O. before the patrol under review was commenced on the 22nd. September.

On page 5 Mr. Jinks refers to a lack of co-operation among the people saying "Another thing that is lacking is a spirit of co-operation, as all help given in the construction of houses must be paid for, even among relatives." I feel that had Mr. Jinks been accompanied on patrols by an experienced officer, he may have found that while the owner of a new house kills a pig and prepares a feast for his helping relatives, it is merely a harmless native custom bound up with a very close spirit of co-operation and reciprocity in that each relative in turn becomes a new house builder and provider of a feast in which all providers all share. Mr. Jinks' statement might be true but without training from his senior officer, readers are not sure of the importance to be placed on his observations, and indeed it could be read as an indication of a deterioration within the native social life - presuming of course that the Kiriwinans have, as is universal in most native communities, always helped their relatives on a reciprocal basis.

Other matters which will be brought to the A.D.O.'s attention are :

- I. The patrol has only covered and censused about one third of the Census division, Kiriwina North. Census patrols should cover a whole Division at a time.

2. It is presumed that the dismissal of Village Constable SELIVALIYA of KABWAKU referred to on page 7 was done in a legitimate manner on the A.D.O's recommendation to the Director of Civil Affairs.
3. The undesirability of a young Cadet Patrol Officer being sent on patrol without the assistance of a reliable interpreter.
4. That only one extra copy of Census figures are required for the Dept. of Health.

Mr. Jinks is obviously interested in his work, and has done a very good job within his limitations which I am confident he recognises.

D. Clifton-Bassett
D. Clifton-Bassett.
a/District Commissioner.

30.5

21st September 1955.

Mr. CPO B. Jinks,
LOSUIA.


PATROL INSTRUCTIONS.

Please make arrangements to leave the station tomorrow morning, for the OBWELIA-OKA IKODA area.

You will be required to complete a census of the villages in this area, as well as conducting usual village-, garden-, and similar inspections.

It is suggested that two Constables accompany you. I think that Constable OGAI will serve as an interpreter; he has worked on a number of previous census patrols and should understand what is required.

After completing the OBWELIA group, go on to OMARAKANA, where census should be completed as well.


a/ADO.

5th October, 1955.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SAWARAI.

REPORT OF A PATROL (LOS No 2
OF 1955-1956) TO KIRIWINA
NORTH VILLAGES BY B. JINKS, CPO.

Purposes of Patrol: Census and General Administrative Duties.

Duration: 22nd September to 5th October 1955.

Number of Days: Twelve.

Personnel Accompanying: RFC: Two from 22nd Sept. to 1st Oct.
One from 2nd to 5th October.
The Medical Orderly from Okakoda Aid Post accompanied the patrol on visits to nine villages.
Personal Servant: One.

Last Patrol to Area: DNA: J. D. Fitzer P/R 4 of 54/55 in November 1954.
PHD: BMA visits these villages weekly by car.

Map References: Losuia Subdistrict Census Division Kiriwina North.

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D I A R YThursday 22nd September

Patrol departed from Losuia at 1535 after delays owing to heavy rain, arriving at OBWELIYA village Post House at 1710. Carriers paid off and preliminary inspection of village.

Friday 23rd September

Census of OBWELIYA village and inspection of housing and gardens during the morning. In the afternoon

2.

the census of OKAIKODA village was taken and village housing and gardens inspected. Talk with people of both villages.

Saturday 24th September

Inspection of OKAIBOWA village and census and inspection of KULUWA village. Talk with KULUWA villagers.

Sunday 25th September

OBSERVED

Monday 26th September

Proceeded to LUYA village by way of IALAKA and BUDUWAILAKA, where housing inspections were carried out. Census of LUYA village and inspection of housing and gardens. Patrol then moved to MOLIGILAGI village, where census was taken and complete inspection carried out, returning via IALUMUGWA village for inspection of housing.

Tuesday 27th September

Census of IALAKA and BUDUWAILAKA villages. Inspection of gardens, latrines etc. Patrol returned by way of KULUWA village. In all villages previous instructions had been, or were being, carried out.

Wednesday 28th September

Inspection of housing in OBOWADA and WAKAILUA villages on route to KAULAGU, where census was taken and a complete inspection made. In the afternoon the patrol proceeded to IALUMUGWA village to check the census and inspect results of instructions given on Monday's visit. Short talk with KAULAGU and IALUMUGWA villagers.

Thursday 29th September

Census of OKAIBOWA village and inspection of village gardens etc. Patrol returned

~~by way~~

3.

by way of OKAIKODA to inspect maintenance work done on Aid Post and housing. Second visit to OBOWADA village during the afternoon for census check and complete inspection.

Friday 30th September

Patrol moved to OMARAKANA rest house, where carriers were paid off and a preliminary inspection of OMARAKANA village made. In the afternoon the census was taken and village surrounds fully inspected.

Saturday 1st October

Inspection of housing and gardens at KABWAKU village during the morning. Census of this village and a talk with the people. The patrol then moved to WAKAILUA, passing en route through TILAKAIWA and IYOLAOTA villages, where inspections of houses were made. Census of WAKAILUA checked and a short talk with the villagers. Constable HOMB I returned to Losuia to re-engage and to supplement the station detachment, as another member had gone on leave.

Sunday 2nd October

OBSERVED

Monday 3rd October

Proceeded to KABULULA village through KWAIBWAGA. Census and full inspection of KABULULA and housing inspection of KWAIBWAGA. Returned to rest house through WAKAISA village, where a preliminary inspection was made. During the afternoon census checks were made at IYOLAOTA and TILAKAIWA, two small villages near the rest house. A further inspection of gardens and water supply was made.

Tuesday 4th October

Census of KWAIBWAGA and WAKAISA villages. Inspection of gardens, latrines and

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watering-places at both villages and a short talk with the people of KWAIBWAGA.

Wednesday 5th October

Returned to Losuia by main Kaibola road. Carriers paid off and patrol disbanded.

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Native Situation

At present the situation on the island is very quiet, as the harvest festivities ended some weeks ago and the people are occupied with the serious work of planting for the new season. Although it has been remarked by earlier officers that the villagers are lax in regard to Government work at this time of the year in particular, this patrol found the area in a very satisfactory condition in most respects. Particular attention was paid to housing, instructions for repairs being given in every village visited, but these were carried out in every case. In some instances this may have been because the people were told they would be visited twice, but on several occasions instructions were exceeded, and in one case the native decided to build a new house.

There is no interpreter at Losuia at present, and consequently it was impossible to carry out lengthy talks with the villagers. The constables on the patrol have little more than a working knowledge of Kiriwina, and on only one occasion was it possible to guide a conversation along definite lines, this through two interpreters. It was obvious from the short talks, however, that the people regard themselves as an isolated, unique community whose development is in no way related to the population of the Territory as a whole. Because so few of them have left their

villages and beloved yams, they have no idea of comparative standards of housing, economic development and education. With regard to housing, it is difficult to believe that the old superstition of spirits entering houses built off the ground through the floor is so widely believed now. The majority of houses built from wartime scrap are elevated because with the increased weight it is more secure than burying the iron in the ground. The effort of evolving a new system of house-building, however, is too much for a native with very few examples and no experience to draw upon. An ex-prisoner recently returned from Samarai has the foundations built for a large, elevated house which should be a good example in his own village at least, although the villagers seem to have no sense of pride or competition. Another thing that is lacking is a spirit of co-operation, as all help given in the construction of houses must be paid for, even among close relatives.

Economic development, too, has no further meaning than the selling of a few pounds of copra to a trader in exchange for tobacco, and the words "Co-operative Society" merely result in blank stares. The visit of Mitakata to Samarai and the Milne Bay area some four years ago was reported to have promising ~~results~~ ^{effects} in this regard, but these have died through lack of a driving force, and Mitakata himself now passes it off as an interesting sight-seeing tour.

A number of adult natives in the villages visited have attended mission schools before the war, but on first appearances can

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do no more than count to ten. One or two, however, can understand English quite well and can construct sentences, but the words must be coaxed out. No doubt this is partly due to lack of practice, but these people take no pride in any achievement of this sort, and in this instance adopt almost a sulky air. This attitude is difficult to explain, but it is consistent with the Kiriwinan's manner in regard to anything that is outside the old, established order.

It is unlikely that the native situation in these islands will progress appreciably until the people realize that the Administration is not giving them benefits such as free medical attention, which in many cases must be forced upon them, simply because it enjoys doing so. Any change must come largely from the people, but before this can take place they must realize what the other people of the Territory are doing for themselves. The people of Vakuta island, at the southern tip of Kiriwina, are more advanced than the main islanders simply through visiting Dobu island for the Kula ceremonies. This is evidenced by their embryo co-operative movement and their superior housing.

The Kiriwinan must leave his island world and see for himself.

Law and Order

The only complaint brought forward during the patrol's stay in the area was a minor one concerning the fencing of gardens. This was obviously a village matter, and was settled amicably among the people concerned. There is rarely any

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trouble in these villages, and any complaints are reported promptly by the Village Constables.

Village Authorities

The four village groups visited - ~~OBWELIYA, KAWAKU, OBWELIYA and OBWELIYA~~ are each in the charge of a Village Constable. SELIVALIYA, VC of KABWAKU, was dismissed for inefficiency shortly before the patrol, and it is recommended that MEAYOYU, Village Councillor and chief of KABWAKU, be appointed. The other Village Constables are doing a good job, and the roads etc. in these groups are well up to standard. The area controlled by NIGUYA of OBWELIYA, however, consists of six villages, the farthest over an hour's walk away, and some of his work is of necessity falling on the Village Councillors. This could well be divided into two groups of three villages each, with even better results than at present, and the people may come to realize the proper function of the Councillor. A new Councillor was elected when the patrol visited IYOLAOTA village, and although all the men were interested in the "election", they obviously considered him a supplementary Village Constable. An attempt at explanation through a poor interpreter failed to clear up the matter.

Commerce

The source of these villagers small income is through copra and carvings, but according to one of the local traders, there is little market in Samarai for the latter at present. Coconut trees are planted along all the village tracks, and most of the copra is gathered from these. For several weeks before the patrol the coconuts had

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been too green for copra-making, and production has recently re-commenced. These trees do not produce enough even for the modest energies of the Kiriwinian, and almost all coconuts are cut from them instead of being allowed to drop. Explaining the virtues of patience and the benefits of increased production if the nuts drop, however, is rather difficult, to say the least. There are several small plantations near these villages which should bear moderately well if they were cleared. During the next patrol, at the end of the month, it is intended to pass through this area and see if any progress can be made in this direction. About five acres of coconuts near KABWAKU village have been cleared for general village use, and this will be used as an example.

All copra is dried on a rack in the sun with the slight assistance of a fire underneath. A smoke house has not been built "because there is not enough copra for one". With the clearing of the groves mentioned, one excuse at least should be eliminated.

Gardens

There is considerable gardening activity at present, most sites having been burnt off and cleared, and planting has begun. There can be no possible criticisms of the Kiriwinian garden. Most villagers are planting sweet potatoes besides their yams, and a number have considerable variety, mostly intended for sale in Losuia. These crops include tomatoes, pumpkin, chinese cabbage and sweet corn.

Last season's yam crop is expected to be ample for all needs, and approximately the same acreage is being planted this year. These

people show great care and skill in the preparation of their gardens, and it seems that they can and will work hard when the issue is vital.

Water Supplies

The only real source of water in this area is from the ground - wells and water-holes. The water is in all cases clean and clear, and considerable care is taken to keep it so. Some of these water-holes have been known to fail, but there has been no serious shortage for quite a few years, and as the recent South-East season was exceptionally wet, supplies were, and are, ample.

Roads

With only one exception, all roads were well maintained. The exception was sighted en route to another village, and when the patrol visited the village with responsibility it was to maintain the track, it had been already cut. The main Kaibela motor traffic road had become overgrown and was two-track in some places. Orders were given to cut it, and traders have reported that it is now full width. The cutting will be carried through for the full length when the Kaibela area is patrolled in the near future.

Parts of the airstrip are thinly grown with grass, but this has not affected the surface of the strip itself. When road-cutting is complete, maintenance will be carried out. A request was made to the Department of Civil Aviation for funds for the upkeep of the strip, but as yet there has been no reply. Its measurements are 6000 by 180 feet, and 500 feet of approaches have to be maintained at either end, through the scrub, so there is considerable work involved.

Rest Houses

OBWELIYA - The frame and flooring are quite good, but the roof, of rusty corrugated iron, has a limited life. Walls are of plaited coconut fronds, and need constant renewal.

IALAKA - Built of the same materials as Obweliya, but the roof is in slightly better condition. The verandah needs widening, but otherwise it is quite good.

OMARAKANA - Once more an iron roof, but in need of renewal, as are the pandanus walls. MITAKATA, the paramount chief, gave assurances that a completely new rest house would be built. Developments will be awaited, but not for too long.

The police barracks are all in fair condition, and there are latrines at each rest house.

Village Cleanliness and Housing

All villages visited were in a very clean condition, which is seldom the case when surprise visits are made by motor transport.

Most of the war-time American installations were in the area visited, and a great deal of salvaged materials have been used in the construction of houses. These include flattened petrol and bitumen drums, pieces of aircraft and flattened ammunition cases, as well as wood from packing cases. The flattened drums are mostly rotten and rusty, and the few nails holding them in place are rotting away. The other materials will probably be weather-resistant indefinitely, but they cannot be regarded as waterproof by any means. Much of the wood has been powdered by white ants, and only a coat of paint holds it together. These houses have served for some ten years, and cannot be expected to do so for much longer, and although wholesale reconstruction

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is impossible immediately, owing to the shortage of good building materials, replacement must begin soon. During inspections of the villages, the people were carefully shown the rotten condition of these houses, and it was obvious that they did not fully realize the situation themselves.

The nearest supply of timber is three miles away, but this should be no obstacle to a village effort, and although sage leaf is not plentiful, it can be found in sufficient quantities in the swampy land to the west of these villages. There are a number of new houses being built in the area, and all are of a good standard. With these as an example, and some steady persuasion, it should be possible to carry out steady replacement. The present situation is by no means serious, but such a situation could easily develop, and it is best to remedy it while there is plenty of time.

Health

There is an Aid Post at OKAIKODA village and the Medical Orderly visits the surrounding villages regularly by bicycle. Six people out of the two thousand visited were sent in to the Loggia hospital, including one who had not obeyed the EMC's orders. The position with regard to health was very satisfactory.

Missions

The teachers from the four Methodist Mission schools in the area were all absent at Oyabia Mission Headquarters during the fortnight of the Patrol's stay, and consequently these could not be visited. It is intended to do so in passing through on the next patrol.

Census

Figures are attached. The census was taken satisfactorily in all the villages. Births are quite good, and the population is obviously increasing.

Conclusions

Unfortunately the people of the Trobriands must be virtually forced into adopting new measures or ideas, but there are men in the villages who could be of considerable help. The undertakings outlined earlier in this report should be carried out without difficulty. The lack of an efficient interpreter, however, is a handicap.

Native affairs at the moment are quite satisfactory, and there is no reason why they should not remain so.

B. J. J. J.
C.F.O.

REPORT ON MEMBERS OF R.P.&N.G.C. WITH PATROL

No 1914 Constable HOMB

A reliable, efficient constable,
neat in appearance and of a good disposition.

No 3083 Constable OGAI

A good, solid policeman, an
asset to a patrol. He obviously has the respect of
the local people, and his knowledge of the language is
fair.

B. J. ...
SPO

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER

YEAR 1955.....

Govt. Print.—5438/1.54.

VILLAGE	DATE OF CENSUS	BIRTHS		DEATHS												MIGRATIONS				ABSENT FROM VILLAGE				LABOUR POTENTIAL				FEMALES Number of Child-bearing age	Size of Family	TOTALS (excluding absentees)				GRAND TOTAL						
				0-1 Mth.		0-1 Year		1-4		5-8		9-13		Over 13		Females in Child Birth	IN		OUT		At Work		STUDENTS		MALES		FEMALES			Child	Adults									
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M		F									
		M F		M F		M F		M F		M F		M F		M F		M F		M F		M F		M F		M F		M F		M F		M F										
OBWELIYA	23/9	5	2													2		1	3	2			1	1			1		13	35	5	35	1	3	35	27	59	53	174	
OKAIKODA	23/9	7	3												3		1	5	2	1	4			1	1			2		18	49	9	52	3	40	54	39	62	62	223
KULUWA	24/9	1	2																	1										4	18	4	54	17		20	12	25	24	71
LUYA	26/9	4	4												1	1	1	1											9	28	11	26	2	28	35	26	48	43	152	
MOLIELAGI	26/9	2	1														1												8	15	4	13	10		12	12	22	17	63	
IALAKA	27/9	6	7												3		1	2	3									8	28	13	23	3	33	35	28	59	46	160		
BUDUWAILAKA	27/9	2					1									1												6	13	6	8			9	7	23	15	54		
KAULAGU	28/9	2															1		1									2	5	5	5			3	10	11	6	30		
IALUMUGWA	28/9	2	1												3		1	4	7									8	27	4	22	23		30	21	46	30	124		
OKAIBOBWA	29/9	2													1		1	1	4	3									1	7	8	8			6	5	10	8	39	
DBOWADA	29/9	2	1														2											9	32	8	31	3	28	34	23	44	42	143		
OMARAKANA	30/9	1	3				1										5	5	3	8			1						9	30	7	45	2	41	41	22	43	55	167	
KABWAKU	1/10	3	5				1								2	2	1	6	4	2									10	55	10	51	3	56	68	41	88	75	272	
WAKAILUA	1/10	1	1															4	3	10									3	11	5	7	8		17	11	14	12	54	
KABULULA	3/10	1	1														4	3	10	3	3							4	20	5	15	2	16	19	16	27	23	85		
NYOLAOTA	3/10	3	2												2		2	6	5	4									2	18	5	11	2	16	17	20	23	22	82	
TILAKAIWA	3/10	1	2														11	5	1	3									5	17	3	11	2	12	23	11	26	22	82	
KWAIBWAGA	4/10	5	2				1								1		4	6	10	5									17	44	11	37	40		52	30	72	58	212	

REPORT ON MEMBERS OF R.P.M.C.C. WITH PATROL

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