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OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MANUS

STATION: LORENGAU, 1955 - 1956

Original documents bound with reports for: Manus, volume 8.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORT OF: MANUS MANUS
ACCESSION NO. 496
VOL, NO: 8 : 1955/56 NUMBER OF REPORTS: 8.

REPORT NO	FOLIO	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL	AREA PATROLLED	MAPS/ PHOTOS	PERIOD OF PATROL
LORENGAU					
[1] 1 OF 1955/56	1 - 18	W.G. MURDOCH P.O	NORTH AND WEST COASTS	MAP	18.7.55 - 19.8.55
[2] 2 OF 1955/56	19 - 31	F.V. REITANO A.D.O	WESTERN ISLANDS CENSUS DIVISION		9.8.55 - 17.8.55
[3] 3 OF 1955/56	32 - 43	I.D. BURNET C.P.O	SAU AND BIPI CENSUS DIVISION		23.8.55 - 13.9.55
[4] 4 OF 1955/56	44 - 55	I.D. BURNET C.P.O	LEVEI TO LEIHUWA, SAU AND BIPI CENSUS DIVISION	MAP	11.10.55 - 23.10.55
[]					
[5] 5 OF 1955/56	56 - 68	W.G. MURDOCH a/A.D.O	BALUAN AND BUNAI CENSUS DIVISION		26.10.55 - 2.1.56
[]					
[6] 6 OF 1955/56	69 - 133	I.D. BURNET CPO	LORENGAU AND SAU CENSUS DIVISION	MAP	24.11.55 - 24.2.56
[7] 7 OF 1955/56	134 - 199	D.J. PENHALE P.O	SAU AND BIPI CENSUS DIVISION	MAP	30.11.55 - 8.2.56
[] BALUAN					
[8] 2 OF 1955/56	200 - 249	W.G. MURDOCH a/A.D.O	BALUAN AND BUNAI CENSUS DIVISION		3.1.56 - 10.2.56
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MANUS DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1955/56

LORENGAU & BALUAN

Report No.	Officer Conducting Patrol	Area Patrolled
LORENGAU		
1 - 55/56	W.G.Murdoch	North and West Coasts
2 - [illegible]/56	F.V.Reitano	Western Islands CensusDivision
3 - 55/56	I.D.Burnet	Sau - Bipi Census Division
4 - 55/56	I.D.Burnet	Levei to Leihuwa, Sau - Bipi Census Division
BALUAN		
1 - 55/56	W.G.Murdoch	Baluan - Bunai Census Division
LORENGAU		
6 - 55/56	I.D.Burnet	Lorengau - Sau Census Division (Includes an Appendix on Land Decisions extracted from Village Books)
7 - 55/56	D.J.Penhale	Sau - Bipi Census Division
BALUAN		
2 - 55/56	W.G.Murdoch	Baluan - Bunai Census Division

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Manus Report No. 1 of 55/56

Patrol Conducted by N.G. Murdock P.O.

Area Patrolled North & west coasts.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....

Natives.....

Duration—From 18/7/1955 to 19/8/1955

Number of Days 24

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....

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

Medical ..../...../18.....

Map Reference.....

Objects of Patrol N/L Inspections & familiarisation of Office patrolling.

Director of 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 .....

XXX NA.30-15-2 ✓

26th March, 1956.

The District Commissioner,
MANUS.

PATROL REPORT MANUS NO.1 OF 1955-56.

Your NA.30/5/527 of October 1st, together with this Report, is acknowledged.

2. It is to be regretted that Mr. Murdoch was not able to carry on with the comprehensive and detailed survey as envisaged. The information he was collecting seems to be a basic requisite without which the main problems of the North Coast cannot be attacked. I hope you will be able to have this work continued, expanded and completed.

3. I am writing you separately on the land matters dealt with on pages 4 and 15 of the Report.

A. A. Roberts
(A. A. Roberts)
Director.

P/A
10/4

PR.1 of 1955/56. -388.

THE DIRECTOR OF NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Some further progress has been made on the work which was to have been undertaken by Mr. Murdoch, particularly as regards the proposed North Coast Council, Education and, to some extent, land matters. The information is contained in Patrol Reports Nos. 6 & 7 which are being forwarded by this mail.

(W. M. English)
ACTING DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

LORENGAU.
6/4/56.

XXX NA.30-15-2

26th March, 1956.

The District Commissioner,
LORENGAU.

Catholic Mission Land - BOWAT, BUNDRALIS, PONAM and PAPITALAI.

I refer to your P.190/93a of 9th August, 1955, addressed to Mr. W. G. Murdoch and to Manus Patrol Report No.1 of 1955-56.

2. Would you please advise me of the present position in regard to this land and whether there has been any development thereon. Briefly, what is needed are your views on the advisability of attempting to have the land resumed, together with supporting facts. Your reply should contain the information required by Circular Instruction 221 (of 14th November, 1955).

(A. A. Roberts)
Director.

XXX NA.30-15-2

26th March, 1956.

The District Commissioner,
MANUS.

PATROL REPORT MANUS No.1 OF 1955-56.

Your NA.30/5/527 of October 1st, together with this Report, is acknowledged.

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3. I am writing you separately on the land matters dealt with on pages 4 and 15 of the Report.

(A. A. Roberts)
Director.

P/A
S.1/3

30/15/20

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

In Reply
Please Quote

No. 276.

District Headquarters,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

12th March, 1956.

The Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

PATROL REPORT MANUS NO. 1 - 1955/56.

---- The enclosed map is for attachment to Manus Patrol Report No. 1, 1955/56.

(W. M. English)
ACTING DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

NA 30/5/522

30/10/2
30/15/25

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

District Headquarters,
Lorengau.
Manus.
October 1st, 1955.

The Director,
Department of District Services
and Native Affairs.
Port Moresby.

Manus Patrol Report Man No.1 - 1955/56

The Report covers the initial stages of what has proved to be an abortive attempt to investigate and settle the many problems outlined in the Report.

Patrol instructions are attached and it will be seen that investigations were to have been thorough and would in all probability have taken twelve months to complete in the first instance. Mr Murdoch's transfer to Baluan Native Local Government Council precluded the plan coming to any degree of success.

The problems will remain unsolved till an experienced officer is available to deal with them without interruption.

W. M. English.
District Officer.

COPY

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA:

WME/JWR P.190/31a.

District Office,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

14th July, 1955.

Mr.W.G.Murdoch,
District Office,
LORENGAU.

It is proposed that you undertake patrols along the north coast and adjacent islands of Manus and Los Negros and at the Western end of Manus Island, including KALI and MALAI Bays. The work will involve special reports covering in the main Native Labour Inspections, land investigation, unofficial councils, migration, economic development and potential, inter relations between unofficial counmils and Co-operative Societies.

2. It is suggested that you might consider undertaking all Native Labour Inspections first throughout the whole area stated above in order that the inspections may be completed in the minimum of time and that you might become familiar with the area in which you are to operate.

3. Land investigations will involve ascertaining the boundaries of land belonging to each village group situated along the coast and on theislands. The boundaries must be defined in writing and fixed, as far as possible, by salient features, e.g., foreshore, rivers, roads, mountain peaks, ridges, place names and so forth. When the work is completed it will be necessary to prepare a map showing the various village areas as nearly as possible. All village groups will be required to mark their group boundaries by 6 ft. stone cairns, where desirable marked trees and by whatever means possible where permanent boundaries and records may be established. Stone cairns will be insisted upon along the foreshore, even if boundaries are clearly defined by rivers and streams. It will also be necessary to investigate, re-establish and clearly mark, as far as possible, the boundaries of all alienated land in the area. Survey instruments will be available if required by you.

4. The unoffical councils will require determination of the number of adults and children who are adherents to the principles of local government in the form of Local Village Council. It will also be necessary to determine the number of natives, male, female and children, ~~either~~ clearly opposed to local government or who are undecided on the matter.

5. Further, it is required that the aims of each particular group of local government adherents be ascertained, detailing the projects they might wish to undertake as regards schools, aid posts, or any other form of social services. Their political and economic views are to be obtained as far as possible.

6. The leaders they may wish to nominate, or may have already nominated, are to be listed and your remarks on the capabilities of each one are to be set down.

7. It is to be made quite clear to local government adherents that it is not proposed to establish an offical council at this stage and that till such time that a group of

...

approximately 4,000 natives desire a council, it is unlikely that consideration can be given to the formation of an offical council. However, they could be informed that unoffical council groups may quite well undertake very worthwhile social and economic development within their areas.

8. The inter-relation between Council and Co-operatives is to be investigated along the lines of how many adherents of local government principles are members of socities, those who are opposed to societies, and those who are undecided. Non-adherents to local government should be listed as:-

(a) Supporting Native Socities;

(b) Adverse; and

(c) Undecided.

9. Economic potential and development will involve close inspection of all coconut groves and establishment of potential production of each grove or group of groves in each village area, the enforced and proper cleaning of all groves where necessary, the erection of copra driers and store houses as recommended by you, the extension of all groves where possible by utilising all available seed nuts (krus) and the acceleration of production of copra and extension of groves by whatever other means you consider practicable.

10. In addition, it will be necessary to ascertain as far as possible the extent of all reef formations adjacent to each village group land holding and ascertain, as far as possible, the potential shell production of each village group. Where natives fail to work shell beds regularly and effeciently they are to be encouraged to do so.

11. The problem of migration by inland natives to coastal regions is to be carefully investigated with the object in view as to where they can be settled with the full concurrence of coastal village groups. The possibility of inland groups being given permanent land rights be coastal groups is to be thoroughly investigated in conjunction with the possibility of full reciprocal rights to inland areas being granted to the correcponding coastal group.

12. One possible permanent solution might be that if full reciprocal rights are granted by both groups the combined areas might then be registered under the Native Lands Ordinance under a single group name which might tend to wipe out the land division which now exists giving scope for population and agricultural development to both groups within an area which they might eventually come to consider their common property.

13. An unofficial visit should be paid to all non-Administration schools and vital statistics and the general conduct of the school ascertained without giving rise to any objection by the various Missions. Administration Schools may be offically and more thoroughly investigated.

14. Briefly, what is required is a complete assessment of the ecomomic, political and social conditions and potential of each individual village area, and closely related group of villages.

15. You are at liberty to undertake the work in whatever manner you consider most suitable and to investigate any other matter or undertake any other work apart from that detailed above. It is possible that you may be recalled from work in hand from time to time and you may be subject to transfer to the Baluah area as Native Authorities Officer, however, it is hoped that the latter will not be necessary and that you will be able to continue the work generally uninterupted. The investigations might quite conceivably take twelve months.

Sgd. W.M.English a/D.C.

c.c. Mr.D.J.Penhale.

C O P Y

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA:

WME/JWR

P.190/93a.

District Office,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

9th August, 1955.

Mr.W.G.Murloch,
District Office,
LORENGAU.

Please make a thorough investigation at the earliest, of native settlement on the Mission area at BOWAT.

2. Permission has been granted to natives by the Roman Catholic Mission to settle on the ground at BOWAT on a tenancy at will basis. This, however, gives future generations of natives virtually no security and may well give rise to a theocratic type of administration which I consider undesirable.

3. The number of natives migrating to Bowat is in excess of expectations and might well lead to disruption and discontent amongst a section of the North Coast natives.

4. It is unlikely that any valid steps can be taken at present to prevent the migration to Mission ground, but a thorough investigation of the whole situation might substantiate action to have the ground resumed for a Native Reserve. The area has long been alienated under a free-hold Title and no development of the area is apparent after nealry 50 years. The Mission has already been approached as regards selling portion of the 500 hectares. The reply has been in the negative.

5. Tied in with this investigation will be a survey of land tenure and availability along the whole of the North Coast with a view to supplying the natives now settled at Bowat alternative areas comprising native-owned ground.

(W.M.English)
Act. DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

c.c.

Assistant District Officer,
LORENGAU.

N.T 30/5-527

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

District Headquarters,
Lorengau.
Manus.
October 1st, 1955.

The Director,
Department of District Services
and Native Affairs.
Port Moresby.

Manus Patrol Report Man No.1 - 1955/56

The Report covers the initial stages of what has proved to be an abortive attempt to investigate and settle the many problems outlined in the Report.

Patrol instructions are attached and it will be seen that investigations were to have been thorough and would in all probability have taken twelve months to complete in the first instance. Mr Murdoch s transfer to Baluan Native Local Government Council precluded the plan coming to any degree of success.

The problems will remain unsolved till an experienced officer is available to deal with them without interruption.

W. M. English.
District Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

DISTRICT MANUS REPORT NO LORENGAU 1-55/56

Patrol Conducted by		W.G.MURDOCH P.O.
Area Patrolled		North and West Coasts
Patrol Accompanied by	Europeans	Nil
	Natives	Two
Duration	From	18/7/55
	To	19/8/55
	Days	24 on Patrol
Did Medical Assistant accompany:		No
Last Patrol to Area by	District Services	6/4/55
	Medical	Oct 1954
Map Reference		Patrol maps for Patrols 6 & 8 -54/55

Objects of Patrol: i Native Labour Inspections.

ii Familiarisation of Officer patrolling.

INTRODUCTION i Native Labour Inspections were carried out at R.A.A.F. LOMBRUM; R.A.N. MANUS; Salami Estates SALAMI, SOPASOPA, SAHA and SAU. The Forces establishments were very good, the Salami Estates establishments were unsatisfactory.

ii This Patrol was undertaken in accordance with the instructions contained in LORENGAU Memo. P.190/31A of 14th July 1955. Advice was received on the 15th August that the patrolling Officer was to take over BALUAN Post in the near future.

The main impression gained by the writer is that there is a definite need for an experienced Officer to concentrate on the problems of the North and West Coasts. A lot of work has been done in the past but very little of it is permanent. (See P.3)

P/R 1-55/56 LORENGAU

DIARY

Mon 18/7/55: To PAPITALAI per workboat. Prepared LOMBRUM N.L.O.Form 12s.

Tues.19th: Native Labour Inspection LOMBRUM. Called NUTT POINT and heard allegation of assault. Roll call PAPITALAI villagers.

Wed. 20th: Visited PEHEKA. To LOMBRUM to load Quonsett frames onto pontoon. To MOKERANG, roll call and disputes. Returned to PAPITALAI.

Thurs 21st: Native Labour Inspection MOMOTE. Unloaded pontoon at POLOKA and loaded timber.

Fri 22nd: To LONIU. Roll call of adult males. First talks PAPITALAI V LONIU land boundary dispute.

Sat 23rd: Walked over ground the subject of a dispute between PAPITALAI and MOKERANG.

Sun 24th: As Such.

Mon 25th: Waiting for workboat. Visited C.M.

Tues 26th: Returned LORENGAU by canoe.

Fri 5/8/55: Per M.V. EROS to SORI. Checked additions for Co-Operative Store.

Sat 6th: By canoe to LESSAU and NIHON.

Sun 7th: By canoe to BIPI. Visited C.M.

Mon 8th: Inspected Administration and C.M. schools. Disputes and discussion in village.

Tues 9th: To KALI by canoe. No disputes.

Wed 10th: To BUTORAHEI and SAPONDRALIS overland.

Thurs 11th: To LIKUM and KABULI and walked to KALI Bay. To NIHON.

Fri 12th: To LESSAU and JOHAN by canoe.

Sat 13th: Trade-store and Native Labour Inspection SOPASOPA plantation. To ALUKUK, dispute over coconuts. To NYADA, dispute over gardens. To LEVAI and then carry to SORI.

Sun 14th: Rest.

Mon 15th: Disputes over land and price of sago. Co-Operative Society canoes in 2200 hrs.

Memorandum from D.C. advising have been posted BALUAN.

Tues 16th: To DREMET and TULU.

Wed 17th: Walked to LEIHUA/SAHA.

Thurs 18th: By canoe to ANDRA and SAU. Checked additions for Co-Operative Store.

Fri 19th: Demonstration and supervision of soil erosion control. Meeting of SAU "Council". "Council clerks" instructed on procedure.
By workboat to BOVAT and then to LORENGAU.

P.R. [illegible] LORENGAU

NATIVE AFFAIRS

Land and reef disputes: During the course of the Patrol the following Villages brought land and reef disputes to the notice of the Officer;

PAPITALAI	V LONIU	land
"	V MOKERANG	"
MOKERANG	V PITILU	reef
SOU	V ANDRA	"
SAHA	V "	"
SORI	V LEVAI	land (two)
LESSAU	V NIPON	land and reef
BUNDRAHEI/SAPONDRALIS	V BIPI	land
LIKUA	V KABULI	"

Mention is made in various Village Books of other land and reef disputes which are at present dormant.

A feature of these disputes is the lack of information concerning them. This lack is due largely to the loss of the Village Books during the War, but noticeable is the fact that much comment is of no assistance to following Officers and that no mention is made of the disputes being settled in the C.N.A. Comments such as "- XXX Village given the decision", "(these) villages have so intermarried that no definite boundaries can be laid down", offer no help at all. Perhaps the prize for this type of comment should go to the three Officers who wrote in the same book about a certain land dispute " Re the land ------. Ex Paramount IULUAI --- holds the records of the decisions given by Mr.----- and Mr.----. The parties were told to adhere to these decisions." The fourth Officer before whom this squabble was brought post-War went a little further and at least wrote down the names of the two disputing parties.

Comments such as the above are uninformative, settle nothing, are unenforceable.

My own solution to the constantly re-occuring land and reef disputes which are a feature of the area patrolled is as follows:

An experienced Native Affairs Officer should be given the opportunity to concentrate on settling these disputes by;
(a) assembling all available information contained in previous Patrol Reports, Village Books, alienated land records, notes held by litigants and statements by old men and village leaders on ancient customs, neutral areas, old village sites, previous concessions and agreements, trading partners etc.
(b) systematically moving along the coast taking each village in turn and hearing each land or reef dispute in the C.N.A.
(c) making four copies of the depositions and decision together with sketch maps so that both parties to the dispute will have copies and Court action can be taken on the spot should either party attempt to renew the dispute at a later date.

The above is not a quick solution but it should be a permanent one. The C.N.A. should not be held until at least the second or third visit to the villages concerned and it would be advisable to spend a week in each village before holding the Court.

COUNCILS: The "Council movement" on the North Coast takes various forms.
PEHEKA. This is a breakaway group from the Village PAPITALAI. Following the formation of a "Council" group in PAPITALAI the village formed into two settlements but as the village is situated on land belonging to the Catholic Mission the "Council" group was evicted by the Father-in-charge and they settled at PEHEKA on what the LONIU villagers claim is their ground. A "tax" is levied. There being no adequate records and no regular system of collecting the "tax" the people were told to cease this particular aspect of their activity. There is a need for an Officer to check the existing records and ensure the security of the money already collected.

P.R. 1-55/56 LORENGAU

NATIVE AFFAIRS Councils (Cont).

PITYILU/POLUSO. This is the centre of a movement to form a council for North Coast Villages. Monthly meetings are held in a "Council House" at POLUSO and representatives from most villages between POLUSO and SAU attend.

SAU. There is a fairly active "Council" in this village with a large "Council House", a "monument", much bell ringing and an ornate house for the leading light in the movement. The sum of £200 "tax" is held in the village and a further large sum is held in trust at District Office. These people were advised against further tax-collecting until they could join a regular council. The Catholic Mission still maintains teachers in this village. The people were advised to consider their "Council" as a Village Council and to concentrate on village improvement. Three tasks requiring immediate attention were; 1 Planting of wind-breaks to shelter the village during the N.W. Season, 2 Erosion control to stop sheet and gully erosion in the village, 3 Erection of Aid Post buildings off the ground.

The "Council Movement" on the North Coast stems from the Paliau Movement and to various degrees, exhibits some of the signs of the latter movement. The main activity is in the area SAU-POLUSO with factions at PEHEKA and PITYILU. To-date, the PEHEKA group has not combined with any other group. Antagonism to the "Council Movement" is based on several factors. Loyalty to the Administration being a carryover from the time when the Paliau Movement was in disfavour and the BALUAN Council had not been formed. Ancient feuds and present disputes over land or reef rights. LONIU, ANDRA and HUS have disputes with "Council" villages. The influence of Mission disfavour, here the Catholic Mission. Villages affected- PAPITALAIX, MOKERANG, portion of PITYILU and villages WEST of SAU. Villages on Shallow Bay and along the WEST Coast are indifferent, not having been affected by the Paliau Movement. There is a strong Catholic influence at BIPI. The S.D.A. Mission influences the MALAI Bay area.

The only hope of extending pro-Council feeling would be for an Officer to be constantly in the area carrying out intensive propaganda at the same time settling inter-village disputes to remove sources of friction. The remaining elements of the Paliau Cult must be removed. Tax collecting must be halted or rigidly controlled to ensure equitable contributions and to guard against losses. Village Officials should be induced to co-operate in setting up temporary village "progress associations" as training grounds for a council.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES: The Co-operative Movement is well under way in the area and has been welcomed by most. The main problem is that of distance. The Society at BIPI can reckon on at least a week away from the village for any canoe travelling to LORENGAU with produce or for stores.

There is little support for the ZOLAC Society in the villages of MOKERANG and PAPITALAI. The Society was formed in LONIU Village the inhabitants of which are not popular with their neighbours. The utmost care should be exercised by Officers establishing Societies or Councils to ensure that the initial moves are not made in a village which has a bad name with it's neighbours, otherwise there is little hope of extending the body or of obtaining wholehearted co-operation.

MISSION SETTLEMENTS: There appears to be a move on the part of the local Catholic Mission to establish Native settlements on land owned by the Mission.

PAPITALAI. The village of PAPITALAI is built on Mission ground on the basis of tenancy at will. When portion of the village rebuilt their houses apart following disagreement over "Council" the "Council" faction were evicted.

With the encouragement and assistance of the local Father, the villagers have been collecting money and banking it with the idea of building houses of permament materials. Individual contributions vary between Five and Thirty pounds.

P.R. 1-55/56 LORENGAU

NATIVE AFFAIRS Mission Settlements (cont)

BUNDRALIS. The three villages of ARAN , LEIHUA and SAHA are all on the Mission property of BUNDRALIS and apparently have been at their present location since the land was alienated. (The alienation of SAHA Plantation and BUNDRALIS Plantation deprived the villages of SAHA and LEIHUA of free access to the foreshores in front of their village sites.)

The people of PONAM now have a collection of shacks near the Mission landing but as the Mission staff were absent it was not possible to find out if there was any intention of allowing a permanent settlement there. The Mission maintains a group of houses on the plantation for the purpose of housing groups of Natives who work the plantation on a share basis. Apparently men from the villages where the Mission has adherents take it in turns to work on the plantation and thereby have a reasonably valuable source of income at their disposal.

BOWAT. A rather odd move is taking place at the C.M. property at BOWAT. The majority of the people from LABAHAN,DRAKOT and PULANG and some families from LOUA I and TINGAU II (in all approximately 180 people) have all moved onto the Mission ground. When asked why they had all settled on the Mission's land the spokesmen said that the Mission and the Administration had given thempermission to do so. Questioned as to which Officer of the Administration had given them permission the people said that they had been told by the Father (Rev. Fr. PATRICK of PAPITALAI) that the District Commissioner had given the permission. The latter allegation should be treated cautiously, the informants being from LABAHAN. (Comments in the LABAHAN book by several Officers would indicate a definite shiftiness in the attitude of the inhabitants). Further discussion revealed that the move had taken place during the last two months and that the people were unaware that they had no rights to any coconuts or gardens that they might plant should their tenancy be terminated.

The situation at PAPITALAI and BOWAT seems rather unsatisfactory. "Tenancy at will" is not a satisfactory way for Natives to occupy and till alienated land. It cuts right across the traditional concept of land rights and land usage. If after a lapse of years one of the tenants is evicted for some reason or other, the tenant and his family will suffer hardship. His old gardens and food trees will have been abandoned or neglected and will not be producing, the "new" gardens and trees will not belong to him being on the alienated land. Assets such as a house of permanent material will depreciate unduly and he will either have to sell them, possibly at a very low price or dismantle them. In a nutshell, the Native Tenant at Will will lack real security.

The formation of a third type of organisation in the District is not a very happy idea. The PAPITALAI Advancement Society as it is known can lead to confusion. The word "Society" is already associated with Co-Operative methods. The object of the organisation is the improvement of village housing, a task which could very properly be undertaken by an embryo Village Council as training prior to the formation of an official Council. The fund into which the contributions have been paid is also acting as a bank, several contributors have made withdrawals. The money collected is being paid into a trust account through the C.T.B.A. Agency at MOMOTE.

HEALTH

Native health throughout is good. Village Aid Posts at NIHON, LESSAU, NYADA,TULU,ANDRA and SAU were seen. The NIHON and NYADA Orderlies have built new treatment centres out of permanent materials. They are to be commended on the neatness of their work. The NIHON Orderly has trained(?) a deputy to care for patients while he is away. It might be a good idea for this youth to be brought in to LORENGAU for examination to ensure that he is not doing more harm than good and to have impressed upon him/~~ha~~/very severe limitations of his unofficial position. The LESSAU Orderly is hampered by an untrustworthy LULUAI. The latter pays no attention to village maintenance or hygiene. The NYADA Orderly suffered a setback when a large tree fell on the framework of his new in-patients' quarters. The TULU Orderly has several female "assistants" one of whom was happily ~~cutting up~~ preparing dressings when I called. She was using the Aid Post steps as a "table".

P.R. 1-55/56 LORENGAU

HEALTH (Cont.

The Aid Post at ANDRA is badly infested with termites. The Orderly and the Village Officials received permission to use sheet iron from the Rest House in an effort to improve matters. The villagers at SAU were advised that a worthy project for their "Council" would be the erection of substantial Aid Post buildings off the ground.

EDUCATION

The Administration and the C.M. schools at BIPI were inspected. Both are of high standard in the grades taught.

The C.M. school is in the charge of Rev. Fr.LAMARS who has a staff of four Native teachers (2M,2F). Classes A,B,Std I, Std II are taught. A new teacher is expected at the end of the year to teach Std III. The Father expressed a desire for a visit from the D.E.O.

The Administration school consists of two classes, Std III and Std IV, taught by a Native teacher. There is little future for this school as at the instigation of Fr. LAMARS all new pupils are attending the C.M. school.

-

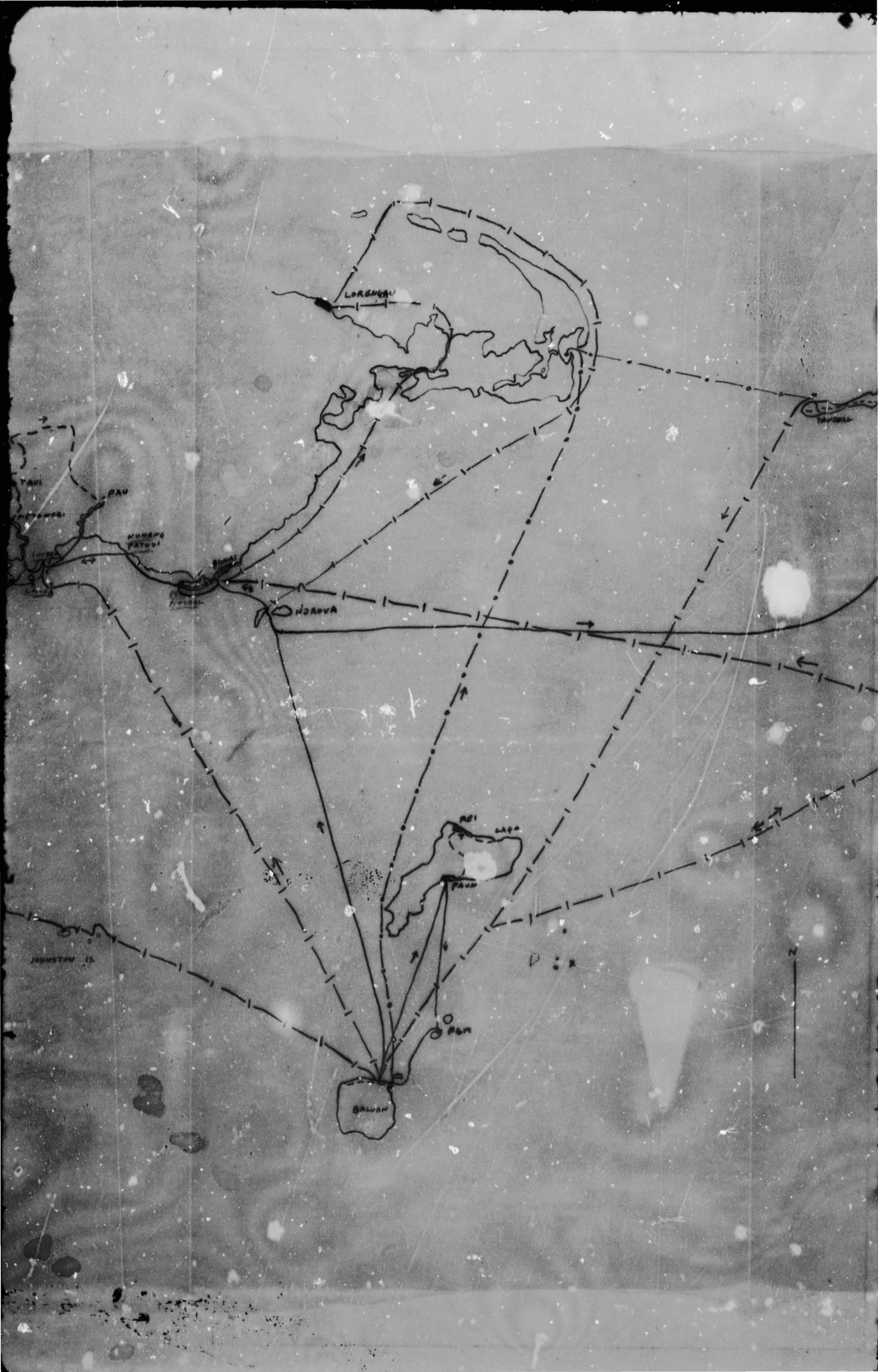
The following figures are additional to those compiled during the course of Patrol 8-54/55.

VILLAGE	COCONUTS	FOWLS	DUCKS	PIGS
ARAN	456	2	-	1
DREHET	1493	17	-	10
SORI I	2555	108	-	7
TULU I	2820	69	-	41
" II	1272	74	-	-

-

W.G.MURDOCH P.C.


LORENGAU
TAUI
PAU
METAWARI
NORANG PATUDI
PELIKAWA
PATU
SUGAI
NORONA
JOHNSTON IS.
BALWAN


LORENGAU
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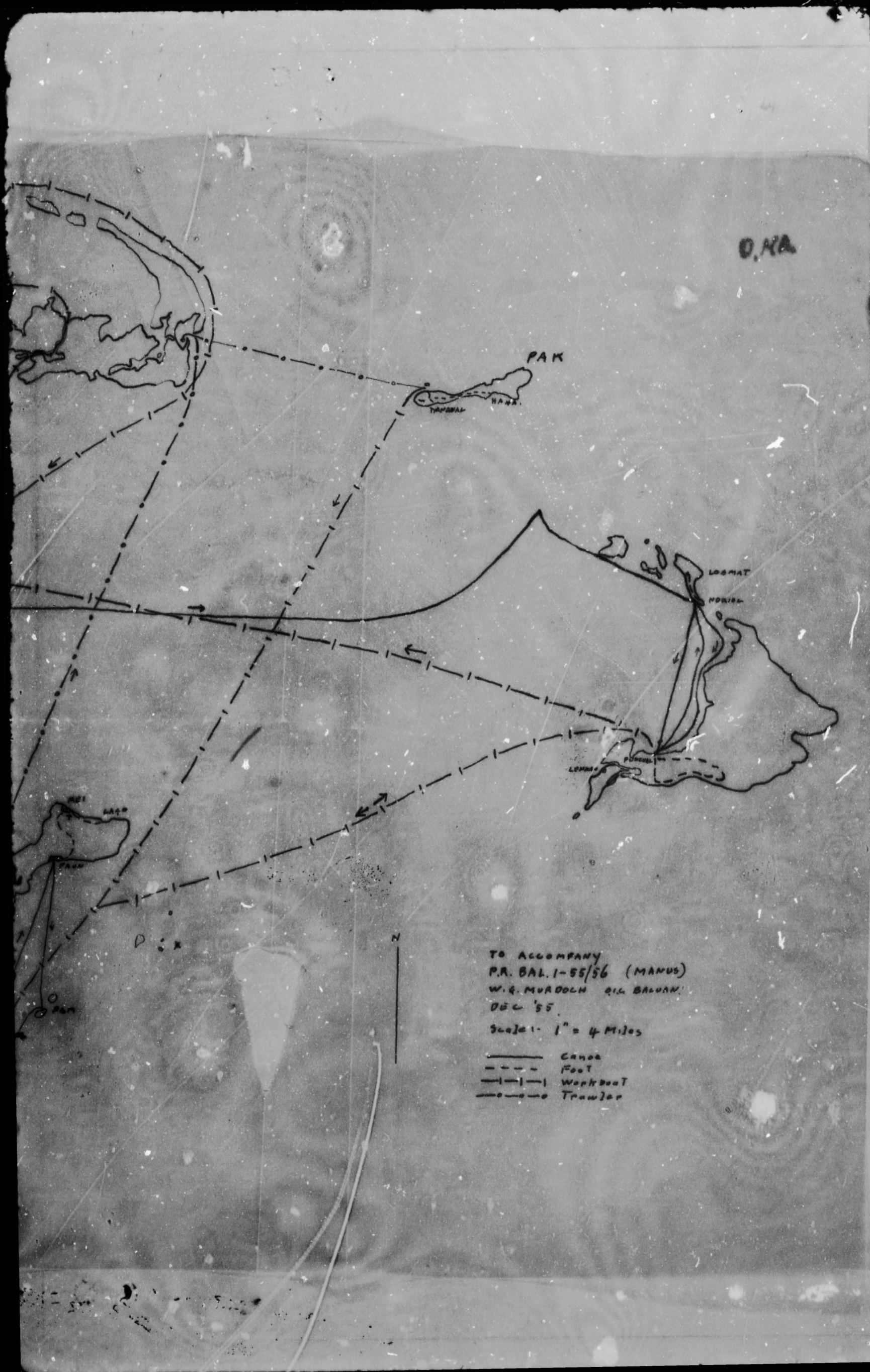
O.H.A.
PAK
HANA
LOSMAT
NORIOL
LOMMA
PONDEL
REI
MAO
PAUN
PAM
N
TO ACCOMPANY
P.R. BAL. 1-55/56 (MANUS)
W.G. MURDOCH O.I.C. BALOAN
DEC '55.
Scale:- 1" = 4 Miles
Canoe
Foot
Workboat
Trawler

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Manus Report No. v of 55/56

Patrol Conducted by F.V. Leitano A.D.O.

Area Patrolled Western Islands Lenous Subdivision

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....

Natives.....

Duration—From 9/8/1955 to 17/8/1955

Number of Days.....

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....

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

Medical ..../...../18.....

Map Reference.....

Objects of Patrol.....

.....

Director of 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 ....

.....

.....

.....

Mr. Gienberg

A review of P/R 203 from Manns makes it clear that our L.G. efforts are meeting opposition.

I am certain that further opposition will be met when Mannagle gets going around Poponetta.

It is possible that animosity exists only at lower levels but in any case I was wondering if it would be advisable to have the matter of L.G. brought up at the next Mission Conference in an endeavour to get policy statements from the Heads of Missions.

With expanding L.G. work this issue and Missions may very likely become more acute and I feel we should do something about it now

Fred Hamel

I agree J.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

In Reply
Please Quote

No. P.F. 2/55-56 -469.
District Headquarters,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

24th April, 1956.

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

PATROL REPORT NO. 2 of 1955/56

Memorandum NA.30-15-3 of 29th March, 1956, is acknowledged.

The enclosure mentioned in paragraph 2 of the memorandum was not attached. Might a copy be forwarded, please?

Copy despatched 8/5/56
P/A
8/5.

(J. Preston White)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Copy/ S.D.A. Mission and Local Government in MANUS.

Mr. Kaad,

S.D.A adherents in the Manus District have, in the post war period at least, exhibited a certain aloofness to Administration sponsored projects.

When the Baluan N.L.G. Council was being formed, the S.D.A. minority on Baluan itself opposed entry to the Council but eventually did join. It can hardly be said that they have given their vote whole co-operation. When the Council introduced a clause in the 1955 Tax Rule whereby women, who had voluntarily enrolled themselves on the Council Tax/Electoral Roll, could have their names removed from the roll (thereby disqualifying themselves from having a vote and relieving themselves of the obligation to pay tax), a considerable number of women from the S.D.A. Section did withdraw their names from the roll.

The S.D.A. population of LOU have persistently opposed participation in the Council's activities. At the beginning the reason given was that they did not wish to become tainted by association with adherents of the Paliau doctrine. (It is worthwhile mentioning that by and large S.D.A. adherents did not subscribe to the Paliau movement.) It is hard to say just how valid that reason is today as it seems there is now no Paliau Movement activity at all. It will be a major administrative achievement when the Lou people can be persuaded to join the Council.

In mid 1954 when Co-op societies were being formed, the S.D.A. element on Baluan did not wish to join the Society being formed by the predominently Catholic Section of the Baluan population. However some of them did subscribe money towards the formation of a society at Lou, saying they wished to combine with the S.D.A. population there. The move was refused as the officer concerned did not wish to split the island populations in this manner (at that time the Lou people could not agree among themselves about the formation of a society and I do not know what eventually happened).

For some years, reports from Manus have mentioned the attitude of S.D.A. adherents and I personally feel that it lies largely and its roots in the opposition shown by S.D.A. groups to the Paliau doctrine. More recently officers have reported a more co-operative attitude on the part of these people and perhaps sympathetic and patient handling will eventually bring them to join other groups in area activities e.g. the Council.

Voluntary participation is the basis for local government at the present and so long as that policy remains the LOU cannot be brought into the Council fold except by permission.

(H.T. Plant). 22/2/56

XXNA.30-15-3

20th. March, 1956

The District Commissioner,
MANUS.

PATROL REPORT No.2 of 1955/56.

I acknowledge your unnumbered letter of 3rd. October, 1955 covering this report.

Following perusal of Mr. Reitano's Report, I asked the Native Authorities Officer, for his comments and these are attached, so that you will have on file a history of this matter. I suggest that some of your officers there should add to it.

I am referring both this and P/R. No. 3 of 1955/56 to the Director, in an endeavour to have the matter brought up at the next Mission Conference. We should then have a clear cut policy enunciated by each Mission and this could be used in situations such as those mentioned in the Reports.

(A.A. Roberts)
Director.

Sen. Staff

P/A

36/4

30/1/3

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

District Headquarters,
Lorengau.
Manus.
October 3rd, 1955.

The Director,
Department of District Services
and Native Affairs.
Port Moresby.

Patrol Report Manus No.2-1955/56
A.D.O., F.V. Reitano.

The above report was brought under the heading of a Patrol Report rather than a special report for the reasons stated in my 30-1-5/160a - attached.

W. M. English.
District Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

WME/JWR

30-1-5/160a.

District Office,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

27th September, 1955.

Mr. P.V. Reitano,
Assistant District Officer,
LORENGAU.

PATROL - WESTERN ISLANDS.

Reference P.-183/146a of 8th September, 1955.

2. It is requested that this report be brought in under the normal method of submitting Patrol Reports as even short visits to the Western Islands need to be recorded fully so that the aggregate of days can be computed over a twelve months period. Normally this procedure would not be necessary but it is desirable under the special circumstances.

(W.M. English)
Actg. DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

WME/JWR

P. 183/92a.

District Office,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

9th August, 1955.

Mr. F.V. Reitano,
Assistant District Officer,
LORENGAU.

PATROL WESTERN ISLANDS CENSUS DIVISION.

It is required that you proceed to the above Division per the m.v. Eros as early as possible and attend to the following matters:-

(a) Serve Summons on Mr. J. Morgan, Longan Plantation, Ninigo Islands.

(b) Inform the natives in the Ninigo Group, Matty and Aua Islands of the proposed visit of the Administrator, giving them such instructions relative to the visit as you consider necessary.

(c) Inform all Europeans as far as possible of the Administrator's visit and enlist their aid as required as far as possible within local limits which might prevail. Fresh foods might be arranged. Road Transport from Agita to Auna might be possible and the use of radio facilities at Longan and Matty might be available to inform natives of any changes or delays in the itinerary.

(d) Perform such duties on behalf of other departments as may be requested by them.

(e) Attend to all such matters as you consider necessary.

2. The matter of native personnel returning to the Division has already been discussed with you. Census in the Division is due in AUGUST, 1955; however, it is most unlikely you will find time to carry out a census during the patrol.

(W.M. English)
DISTRICT OFFICER.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA:

FVR/EVS

District Office,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

30th September, 1955.

District Commissioner,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

PATROL - WESTERN ISLANDS:

Reference your Memorandum 30-1-5/160a dated 27th September, 1955 and your verbal instructions of even date to attach an itinerary to the Special Report of my Patrol to the Western Islands conducted during August, 1955.

The diary for the Patrol is as follows:

9th August, 1955:	Depart LORENGAU
10th August, 1955:	Arrive MARON.
11th August, 1955:	Depart MARON, arrived LONGAN (Ninigo)
12th August, 1955:	Depart LONGAN, arrived AUA Island.
13th August, 1955:	Departed AUA, arrived WUVULU (Maty).
14th August, 1955:	Departed WUVULU, arrived AUA.
15th August, 1955:	Departed AUA, arrived LONGAN.
16th August, 1955:	Departed LONGAN, arrived MARON.
17th August, 1955:	Departed MARON, arrived LORENGAU.

As I intended submitting this Report as a Memorandum only in accordance with the ultimate paragraph of D.S.& N.A. Circular Instruction No. 79 of 1948/49, I did not make a point of closely investigating the native situation, but as it is desired to submit the Report as a Patrol Report to the Director of Native Affairs, it may be said that from my observations and discussions with village officials and the native peoples with whom I came into contact, the situation appeared satisfactory; the people appeared healthy and contented and no complaints were received.

Delay in the submission of the Memorandum report was caused by my departing for BALUAN shortly after my return to Lorengau to conduct an audit of the Council books, and a tour of the St. Andrews Straits Islands as a peliminary to preparation of an evacuation plan in the event of a volcanic emergency arising.

F. V. Reitano

(F.V.Reitano)
Assistant District Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA:

FVR/JWR

P. 183/146a.

District Office,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

8th September, 1955.

District Commissioner,
LORENGAU.

PATROL - WESTERN ISLANDS - 9/17th AUGUST, 1955.

Reference your memorandum P. 183/92a dated 9th August, 1955.

2. The specific objectives of the patrol as listed in your memorandum were accomplished.

3. The primary purpose of the patrol, to warn the people of a visit from His Honour the Administrator (since cancelled) was carried out by calling at MARON, LONGAN, AUA, WUVULU and BIPI Islands.

4. Medical supplies were distributed to Aid Posts at the ports called at and several discharged patients returned to their home.

5. The Teacher in Charge of the Government School at AUA, one JOSEPH TORO, was also taken back to AUA after completing a teacher training course at LORENGAU.

6. The influence of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission in these Islands is worthy of note. My visit was a brief one, but my impression was that the influence of the Mission will ultimately prove detrimental to the welfare of the people because of the dietry prohibitions imposed and also, whether deliberate or otherwise, an anti-government attitude that seems to have developed.

7. This situation is most clearly ~~shown~~ crystallised at AUA. There is a Seventh Day Adventist Missionary (native) on the Island, and reports were received that this person does not assist the village officials in helping with the maintenance of the Government School and Aid Post. He was interviewed and informed that the Government subsidised his Mission to provide educational and health services to the people and he should therefore instruct his adherents to co-operate with the Administration.

8. My later visit to the Baluan Native Local Government Area confirmed my impression of an unco-operative attitude towards the Administration.

9. The fact that the whole population of LOU Island refrains from participation in the Local Government Council, combined with the presence of a resident European Seventh Day Adventist Missionary compels one to draw the inescapable inference that the Mission opposes the future political development of the people as envisaged by the Administration.

10. To my mind, the attitude of the Mission (in practice amongst the people, as opposed to utterances of its desire to co-operate) needs to be closely examined at a high level.

11. Although there is no Local Government development amongst the Western Islanders, experiences elsewhere indicate that should a move be made to develop Council work, Administration overtures will meet a stony opposition.

12. The close programme mapped out for the M.V."Ercs", plus the date of the proposed v isit by His Honour the Administrator, did not permit me to conduct a census of the area.

F. V. Reitano

(F.V.Reitano)
ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER.

FOL 1

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

FVR/JWR

P. 183/146a.

District Office,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

8th September, 1955.

District Commissioner,
LORENGAU.

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Reference your memorandum P. 183/92a dated 9th August, 1955.

2. The specific objectives of the patrol as listed in your memorandum were accomplished.

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11. Although there is no local Government development amongst the Western Islanders, experiences elsewhere indicate that should a move be made to develop Council work, Administration overtures will meet a stony opposition.

12. The close programme mapped out for the m.v. "Eros", plus the date of the proposed visit by His Honour the Administrator, did not permit me to conduct a census of the area.

F. V. Reitano

(F.V. Reitano)
ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER.

Amount Returned to Store

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Manus Report No. 3 of 55/56

Patrol Conducted by I. D. BURNET C.P.O.

Area Patrolled SAU - BIPI CENSUS S.D.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans

Natives

Duration—From 23/8/1955 to 13/9/1955

Number of Days

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?

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

Medical ..../...../18.....

Map Reference

Objects of Patrol Prepare natives for a visit by H.H.

Director of 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 ....

XXX NA.30-15-4

27th March, 1956.

The District Commissioner,
LORENGAU.

MANUS PATROL REPORT [illegible]3 OF 1955-56.

I acknowledge receipt of your NA.30/6/1-523 of October 3rd, 1955. I regret that I have not been able to attend to all Reports as rapidly as I would have desired, but there should be no delays in future.

2. I am attaching some notes prepared by the Executive Officer, Local Government, which may be useful in combating any mission or other hostility towards Councils. Would you please ensure that all your officers peruse them.

(A. A. Roberts)
Director.

P.R.3 of 55/56 - 389.

THE DIRECTOR OF NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Receipt of the notes on Local Government is acknowledged and the notes should prove of considerable value in dealing with the proposed formation of the North Coast Council.

LORENGAU
6/4/56

(W. M. English)
ACTING DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

GUIDELINES TO PATROL REPORT NAMUS NO. 2 OF 1955-56.
"LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS".

1. Missionary influence has proved to be an important factor in most areas where Native Local Government units have been established. This has been particularly marked in the Gazelle Peninsula and not only the Catholics have been involved, although their part has received greater publicity (see recent articles in the "South Pacific Post").

2. Following incidents at Rabaul, it is reasonable to suspect that Catholic missionaries in Namus would be on the "qui vive". The attitudes expressed are by no means new and I will deal with each:-

(a) The natives are not sufficiently advanced:- This presumes that Councils should only be established when a particular group has somehow attained:-

(i) Sufficient education to be able to manage its own affairs; and

(ii) Sufficient economic advancement to pay for the running of them.

3. With reference to (i), it is well to remember that the local government system, as envisaged by the relevant legislation, is primarily a matter of establishing a self-supporting administrative machinery on area basis, and making it work to raise living standards.

4. The initial standards of education and economic advancement in an area are NOT of vital importance. Measures which can be introduced to raise education, economic, health, etc., standards are all important. They provide the basic reasons for establishing a Council.

5. The more backward the Councils, the slower the rate of progress and the greater the responsibility resting on the supervising officer. He must make the machinery work. The Councillors need not even be literates. Experience has already shown that some persons who cannot sign their names have developed into most reliable executives.

6. Establishment of a Council marks the commencement of a long, slow, educational process, which cannot be commenced until the Council is started. It has been found the most effective way to get schools is for a Council to build them.

7. The first years of a Council's operation entail responsibility for initiating and supervising measures by Native Affairs officers. Later some of those responsibilities may be taken off their shoulders, but overall responsibility and control remain the District Officer's privilege.

8. The N.L.G. system is the only way for a community to learn to manage and pay for its local services. This it can only do after a long and hard apprenticeship and it is the only feasible means by which we can hope to improve health, education, agriculture, etc., whilst keeping efforts in those fields attuned to social and political development.

9. It is certain that lack of technical skills in an area is a more formidable obstacle to Council administration than lack of literate Councillors.

10. With regard to 2(a)(ii) above, just as a Council must co-operate with the Education Department for the provision of more and better educational facilities, so must it co-operate with the Agriculture Department or any other Department in promoting economic advancement. The relevant legislation makes it a public duty for a Council to help raise living standards and the only way it can expand its services is by increasing the Community's ability to pay for them. Native economic advancement cannot be divorced from native administration.

11. A Council, with the assistance of an efficient field officer who co-operates with technical officers, can play an important role in:-

(a) Improving cultivation methods through paid instructors working under D.A.O.F. supervision and introducing new crops.

(b) Enforcing necessary measures of pest control, clean cultivation, etc., through local rules.

(c) Increasing per capita production through persuasion and economic pressure and where necessary assisting with installations, equipment and transport.

(d) Regulation of land usage and adjusting land tenure practices to the changing conditions brought about by cash cropping.

(e) Fostering, in conjunction with Education and D.A.E.F., schools with an agricultural bias.

Co[illegible] are at [illegible]ent involved in all of the above activities.

12. We cannot get away from the fact that the rate of progress of native [illegible] in any given area must be governed by the area's developmental [illegible]. In areas where there is a potential, the Council machinery must be geared to placing first priority on increased production. Until this is done, tax rates must necessarily remain low and social services given little support from Council finances. In areas where the economic potential is poor, the whole approach must be based on a careful appraisal of the possibilities and limitations. The people must be told the facts and made to understand [illegible] the new establishment of a Council is no short cut to prosperity and [illegible]. It is merely a means of helping people to help themselves.

<u>Taxes [illegible] the scale of [illegible]5 per person would be a burden and they would not receive any [illegible] from them.</u>

13. The second part of the statement has largely been answered by the foregoing remarks. But the following points are worthy of consideration:-

(a) The fact that a native local govt. Council has a legal and administrative status never previously enjoyed by any representative native group in the Territory is surely worthwhile.

(b) If people want to learn to stand on their own feet local government provides the way and there is no other means.

([illegible]) [illegible] people's future is assured until they are capable of paying for their own social services.

(d) The system paves the way for economic and social advancement, without which the native[illegible] children would be no better off than their parents.

14. As to the first part of the statement, the answer is simple. A N.L.G.C. [illegible] its own tax subject to approval [illegible] the D.O. It is not too much to presume that the members themselves have a better idea of the capacity to pay tax, of the community concerned, than any European.

15. Because it is usual to levy the tax as a head tax, the supervising officer finds it necessary to advise the Council to fix a rate compatible with the paying-power of the lowest income group. This gives a certain advantage to those with high earning capacity but is unavoidable in the circumstances.

16. Just because one Council levies £5 per adult male, it does not mean that every Council must do the same. In practice there is considerable variation in tax rates.

<u>Most of the tax money would be spent on Social Services which the Government and Missions would otherwise supply free.</u>

17. As a statement it is perfectly true. However, wherever Councils are operating, the variety and extent of social services supplied is much better than in most non-Council areas. Education is one in particular and possibly one which the Missions least want to think about. As was stated earlier, the best way to get schools is to build them. Once a Council has erected a permanent school building, we have found little trouble in getting the Education Department to supply a trained teacher.

18. It is well to remember in regard to services supplied by the Administrations:-

(a) The degree to which this Territory is being subsidised by the Australian Government.

(b) The source of the Australian Government's funds - taxation.

(c) The moral obligation resting on the native population to shoulder part of their own administrative burden.

<u>Councils would provide a natural outlet for natives' talent for regimentation.</u>

19. The Ordinance and Regulations do not bestow on Councils any autonomy at all. There is ample scope for the development of native initiative but until Councils become skilled in the art of administration most of the initiative must come from N.A. officers. But irrespective of the degree of expertise acquired by any Council, ultimate control remains in the person of the D.O. or his authorised representative. A N.L.G.C. like any other mechanism in native administration is as good or as bad as its supervising officers make it. A capable officer would soon notice any steps in the direction of regimentation and stop its progress.

(H. T. Plant)
27/5/50.

30/15/4

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

NA. 20/6/1 — 523

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,
Lorengau,
Manus.
October 3rd, 1955.

The Director,
Department of District Services
and Native Affairs.
Port Moresby.

MANUS PATROL REPORT No. 3 -1955/56.
I.D.Burnett - Cadet Patrol Officer.

Mr Burnet took over Sori Base Camp from Mr Pengale who was hospitalized in Rabaul for six weeks. The patrol was primarily a familiarization one for Mr Burnet.

The Mission attitude as regards Native Local Government is worthy of note for future reference.

Mr Burnet has been requested to submit a map and an abstract for Health Department.

It is anticipated that the next patrol undertaken by Mr Burnet will be to the Western Islands which will give the officer full scope to conduct a Census and Statistics patrol.

W.L.English.
District Officer.

3/10/55

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Manus Report No. 3 55/56

Patrol Conducted by I.D.Burnet Cadet Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled SAU-BIPI census sub-division excluding MALAI BAY .

Patrol Accompanied by - Europeans nil

Natives Const MOROP R.P.N.G.C No 3070

Duration - From 23/8/55 to 12/9/55

Number of Days 21

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by - District Services July 1955

Medical June 1955

Map Reference U.S Army Provisional map Admiralty Islands 1944.

Objects of Patrol - To prepare natives for a visit by His Honour The Administrator.

Director of Native Affairs,

Port Moresby.

Forwarded, please.

3/10/55

District Officer

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL DIARY

August 23rd :Arrived SORI (I) 1300hrs. Addressed natives and inspected village.

August 24th :Supervised repairs to rest house.

August 25th :Attended general meeting of BAREBEU Native Society.

August 26th :Departed SORI (I) 0930hrs by road to DREHET arrived 1145hrs. Addressed natives inspected village. Departed DREHET 1430hrs by road to TULU (I) arrived 1800hrs. Overnight at TULU (I)

August 27th :Inspected TULU (I) village and addressed natives. Departed TULU (I) 0930hrs by road to TULU (2) arrived 1030hrs . Addressed natives inspected village. Departed TULU (2) 1100hrs by road to ARAN arrived 1130hrs. Addressed natives and inspected village. Departed ARAN 1145hrs by road to BUNDRALIS Mission arrived 1230hrs. Visited Father Kelly. Departed BUNDRALIS 1430hrs by canoe to PONAM arrived 1530hrs. Addressed natives and inspected village. Overnight at PONAM.

August 28th :Departed PONAM 0800hrs by canoe to SORI (I), arrived 1100hrs. Sunday observed.

August 29th :Visited SORI (2) and LEVEI villages from SORI (I). Addressed natives and inspected villages.

August 30th :At SORI (I).

August 31st :Departed SORI (I) 0930hrs by canoe to NYADA arrived 1300hrs. Addressed natives and inspected village. Overnight at NYADA.

September 1st :Departed NYADA 0800hrs by canoe to ALUKUK arrived 1000hrs. Addressed natives and inspected village. Departed ALUKUK 1050 by canoe to ALUS arrived 1100hrs. Addressed natives and inspected village. Departed ALUS 1130hrs by canoe to JOHAN arrived 1200hrs. Addressed natives and inspected village. Overnight at JOHAN.

September 2nd :Departed JOHAN 1200hrs by canoe to HARENGAN arrived 1300hrs. Addressed natives inspected village. Departed HARENGAN 1700hrs by canoe to JOHAN arrived 1800hrs. Overnight at JOHAN.

September 3rd :Departed JOHAN 1000hrs by canoe to SOPA SOPA plantation. Visited Mr H.Rigby plantation manager. Overnight at SOPA SOPA plantation.

September 4th :Sunday observed. Departed SOPA SOPA plantation 1700hrs by road to LESSAU arrived 1800hrs.

September 5th :Addressed natives of LESSAU and inspected village. Departed LESSAU 1000hrs by canoe to NIHON arrived 1200hrs. Addressed natives and inspected village. Departed NIHON 1230hrs by canoe to GALI arrived 1300hrs. Addressed natives and inspected village. Departed GALI 1500hrs by canoe to SALIEN arrived 1700hrs. Addressed natives and inspected village. Overnight at SALIEN

PATROL DIARY cont.

September 6th :Departed SALIEN 0900hrs by canoe to BIPI arrived 1300hrs. Visited Father Lamers of the Roman Catholic Mission BIPI. Addressed natives and inspected villages. Overnight at BIPI.

September 7th :Administration Trawler Eros arrived at BIPI bringing news of the cancellation of the visit of His Honour The Administrator. Patrol abandoned. Returned to SORI (I) on M.V.Eros.

September 8th :At SORI (I).

September 9th :At SORI (I).

September 10th : Administration workboat arrived with instructions for the writer to visit BIPI , PONAM and HUS.

September 11th :Visited BIPI and returned to SORI (I) via Palawat Is.

September 12th :Visited PONAM, BUNDRALIS and HUS. Overnight at HUS.

September 13th :Returned to Lorengau

END OF PATROL DIARY

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

INTRODUCTION. The purpose of the patrol was to prepare the natives of the SAU - BIPI census sub-division for the visit of His Honour The Administrator. Unfortunately when the patrol was near completion word came through that His Honour's visit to the area had had to be abandoned. When this happened the patrol was also abandoned and the writer returned to SORI Base Camp on the trawler Eros.

As this was the writers first solo patrol advantage was taken of the opportunity to become familiar with the problems of the area and to carry out as many of the functions of a rputine patrol as was possible in the limited time.

INTENDED VISIT BY HIS HONOUR THE ADMINISTRATOR. It was a pleasant task to bring news of His Honour's visit to these people. At all villages keen interest was shown in the visit. At SORI and BIPI the two villages His Honour was to have visited the people had repaired the houses, cleaned the roads, cut the grass, and made ready to decorate the villages in native fashion. At BIPI Father Lamers had the celebrations well organized and it came as a great dissappointment when it was heard that the visit was cancelled. One Luluai would not speak to anyone for three days. At SORI the old men and women of the village had gone to some trouble to teach the younger generations the traditional dances of the people for a 'Sing Sing' which was to have been held. When the writer returned to Lorengau he was accompanied by 15 village officials who were able to bring back some account of His Honour's visit to Lorengau.

NATIVE SITUATION. From all appearences the native situation could only be described as satisfactory. The newly formed BAREBEU Native Society is very important to these people. All villages affilliated with this society insisted on being present at SORI when His Honour inspected the Society Store, although in some cases it might have been more convienient to have congregated at BIPI. The importance of water transport to the Society has lead each village to construct at least one large canoe. At SORI (I), SORI (2) and LEVEI those canoes are not owned by individuals but are the property of the Society.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS. On this hurried patrol it was thought that talk of councils could only be confused and the initiative in raising the subject was left to the natives. There appeared to be no evidence of any unofficial councils in the area. No native made any enquiries about starting an official council.

The priests in charge of missions at BUNDRALIS and BIPI did take the initiative in discussing councils and their influence in the area is such that their attitudes may be important. Father Kelly of BUNDRALIS Missionwas of the opinion that the natives were not sufficiently advanced to support a council. He thought that taxes on the scale of £5 per household would be a burden to the people and that they would derive little benifit from them anyway. He says that he has pointed out to the natives that most of their tax money would be spent on social services that the government and the missions would otherwise supply free. Father Lamers is unsympathetic to councils for another reason. Father Lamers spent the war in Hitler's Germany and he has strong views about the rights of the individual. He fears councils would provide a natural outlet for the natives' talent for regimentation.

ROADS AND BRIDGES. The writer inspected the road from SORI to BUNDRALIS. This road is well maintained. Apart from one or two sections through mangrove swamps this road would be quite suitable for bicycles or handcarts. At present the natives along the road possee neither.

HEALTH. Aid posts in the area were inspected and these all appeared to be satisfactory. There were a number of cases of "grille" amongst the west coast villages . The reason advanced by the N.M.A's was lack of medicine. The Medical Officer, Lorongau advices that such an excuse is evidence of their failure to report regularly to Lorengau.

LAND. Natives were encouraged to settle their village land boundaries and to mark them with stone cairns. Erection of these cairns is now almost complete from TULU (2) to LESSAU. In some cases however the cairns were less than six feet high and obscured by ~~underg~~ obstructions on the foreshore. The natives were told to clear the approaches to the cairns of trees and make them clearly visible from the sea.

The people of PONAM made enquiries about purchasing the alienated section of their island. This matter has been the subject of a special report by Mr E.V.Smith P.O.

AGRICULTURE. The groves along the SORI - BUNDRALIS road were inspected . These groves were fairly clean but there were a great number of dries on the ground. Most of these had sprouted and would be useless for copra. One symptom of the land shortage at PONAM was the dense planting of coconuts. All of the native owned section of the island has been planted and the palms would be on the average about 8 feet apart. The natives were advised to thin them to 30 feet. They seemed very reluctant to cut down food trees but it was observed on a later visit to the island that the people had begun to thin the trees slowly so that they could make use of the green nuts and the heart of the palms for food.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS. There were three vacancies for village officials noted on the patrol.At SORI (2) the Luluai , SALAPEI, is old and blind and a native AMO has been acting as Luluai for some time. A recommendation for his appointment as Luluai has been forwarded to the District Commissioner in a separate memorandum. The Tultul at DREHET is at present serving a two year sentence for incest at the Lorengau gaol. He is a fairly old man and he should be replaced. The natives of DREHET were told to consider likely successors. The Luluai of SALIEN died recently but too many men were absent from the village at the time of the patrol for replacement to be considered.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA. NA30/6/1-523

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,
Lorengau,
Manus.
October 3rd, 1955.

The Director,
Department of District Services
and Native Affairs.
Port Moresby.

MANUS PATROL REPORT No. 3 -1955/56.
I.D.Burnett - Cadet Patrol
Officer.

Mr Burnet took over Sori Base Camp from Mr Pengale who was hospitalized in Rabaul for six weeks. The patrol was primarily a familiarization one for Mr Burnet.

The Mission attitude as regards Native Local Government is worthy of note for future reference.

Mr Burnet has been requested to submit a map and an abstract for Health Department.

It is anticipated that the next patrol undertaken by Mr Burnet will be to the Western Islands which will give the officer full scope to conduct a Census and Statistics patrol.

W.M.English.
District Officer.

Amount Returned to Store

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of MANUS Report No. 4/55-56

Patrol Conducted by Cadet Patrol Officer I.D.Burnet

Area Patrolled LEVEI to LEIHUWA SAU-BIPI sub-division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans nil

Natives 3

Duration—From 11/10/1955 to 23/10/1955

Number of Days 12

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? --

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services ...../8/1955

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

Map Reference 4 miles to 1" Stat Series Manus and Adjacent Islands.

Objects of Patrol To encourage copra production, stimulate interest in Local Government and other routine matters.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

17/11/1955

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 .... £ ---

xx NA.30-15-5

10th December, 1955.

The District Officer,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

Patrol Report - Manus No. 4 of 55/56-
Mr. I.D. Burnet, Cadet Patrol Officer.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the above Report. Mr. Burnet is to be commended for concise and lucid coverage of routine field activities.

2. Native Situation. Obviously some real progress has been made in making the north coast population "Area Administration" minded. It should be repeatedly emphasised that the native local government system is basically a change-over from single village to native area administration, and that most of its administrative advantages derive from this controlled pooling of resources.

3. KOL of PONAM. This man will need watching. I believe he gained a temporarily privileged position during the war when he dragged Major-General Morris from a burning plane. After the war he settled at Malagunu, in Rabaul, operated a truck and earned notoriety as a police informer. He became associated with the Baluana Movement, and may still be in contact with it. He was a constant tax evador and finally left Rabaul after the Malagunu paople had made repeated requests for his removal. He is very definitely "anti-council".

4. Co-operatives. When co-operative societies are the only focal points for group interests they inevitably become involved in political and administrative activities far beyond their original purpose. This development has already occurred to a rather alarming extent, along portions of the West Papuan coast.

The whole question of the relationship of Co-operative Societies, Rural Progress Societies and the economic aspect of Native Local Government Councils is under consideration at the present time. The major problems that have to be resolved may be tabulated thus:-

(a) The native population in general does not clearly distinguish between the religious, economic and political aspects of daily life.

(b) The communal elements inherent in native society still survive fairly strongly over most of the controlled areas.

(c) The immediate effect of stimulating native economic production is that these communal elements become emphasised. There is a widespread belief, in which a "cargo-cult" ingredient is

discernible, that regimented group production yields some mystical economic advantages over and above those normally associated with communal effort.

(d) The evolution of cash-cropping, however, gradually accentuates individualism in land usage and ultimately in economic thinking. Customary land tenure ideas begin to change, and the rate of change accelerates. Any system of production based on vague communal effort ultimately breaks down.

(e) The prime administrative problem is to guide native economic production along lines making for a reasonable level of per capita production, and hence per capita income. (The production of a group means little without regard to these factors.) This necessitates paying attention to the tenure of the land on which cash crops are grown. The communal spirit must be utilised to the full, but with this there must be clear legal demarcation of individual holdings.

5. The difficulty of your "family unit" idea lies in the final sentence of the instruction you have quoted in your covering memo. With increasing population and inter-group marriages, claims to "ground traditionally belonging exclusively to the family unit" become progressively diversified, and there is increasing fragmentation. I have tentatively concluded that the only solution lies in vesting the land of each community in its own local authority, blocks being allocated to individuals as required. Such an approach constitutes a major upset of traditional native land tenure ideas, but there may not be any other solution that meets long range requirements. Before this can be even considered, we have to establish the local authorities.

6. You will be kept advised of any developments in policy formulation.

(J.K. McCarthy)
A/Director.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

File No. 30/3 - 670.

District Headquarters,
Manus District,
LORENGAU.

WME/MB.

16th November, 1955.

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

PATROL REPORT - MANUS NO. 4/55-56

C.P.O. I. D. BURNET

The following comments are made for your information :-

Co-operatives.

The Directors of all Co-operative Societies in this District have been repeatedly warned that they are not to intrude into village affairs beyond the scope of their duties as Directors of their respective Societies. However, many of the Directors are the most able leaders in their own communities and it is not unnatural that they should organise the general aspects of community life and endeavours. I feel that they are acting in a dual capacity rather than abusing their authority as Society Directors. It is, however, a matter which will need careful surveillance at all times.

As regards community efforts to plant large blocks of perennial cash crop trees on areas owned by one individual, without a clear-cut policy as regards subsequent rights of collection, the following instruction has been issued to all Field Staff :-

"It is considered that the term "family units" requires precise definition and for the purposes of this instruction it is desired that family units be taken to mean -

(a) the individual family, comprising mother, father, dependent children and dependent relatives - e.g. the aged parents of the married couple, either one of them or both and elderly and infirm other relatives who are dependent upon the head of the family for their sustenance and housing in the main;

(b) male marriageable members of the family who are to be considered as a potential family unit and treated as such when preparing statistics for the purpose of this Appendix; and

(c) married couples without children, the wife being of child-bearing age, who may also be treated as potential family units.

"It is requested that the number of "family units" be determined in each village throughout a Census Division.

"This is required to determine as far as possible the agricultural requirements of the Division in question and it will be realised that where agricultural projects are undertaken on a community basis and large consolidated areas of cash crops are planted, litigation will probably

follow as regards the working of groves and distribution of cash proceeds when groves reach maturity. It seems, therefore, highly desirable that each family unit endeavours to plant sufficient perennial cash crop trees on ground traditionally belonging exclusively to the family unit". ...

Local Government.

The response to Local Government along the North Coast has been better than expected being greater in extent than formerly anticipated and even though there are complete villages opposed to the idea of Local Government it is felt that they can be gradually won over.

It is interesting to note the influence which can be exerted by one individual, namely Kol, of PONAM, who apparently based his conception of Native Local Government on the activities of a Council in another area.

Agriculture.

After several months' delay "Baibara" nuts have now been delivered and further consignments are expected in the near future. Distribution throughout the District is being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture. Blocks formerly cleared for cocoa in the TULU area were not acceptable to the Agricultural Officer and the area might well now be used for "Baibara" nuts.

Land.

The map accompanying the Final Order restoring title to SAHA Plantation clearly shows the surveyed boundary to be the BOBAP River in the east.

(W. M. English)
DISTRICT OFFICER

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL DIARY.

September 23rd - October 11th. At Base Camp SORI. Visited SORI I, SORI II and LEVEI villages.

1 October IIth :Departed SORI (I) 0930 hrs by road to DREHET arrived 1145 hrs. Inspected village. Overnight at DREHET

2 October 12th :Addressed village inspected groves. Overnight at DREHET.

3 October 13th :Departed DREHET 0900 hrs by road to TULU (I) arrived 1215 hrs. Inspected village. Overnight at TULU (I).

4 October 14th :Inspected groves and cocoa project. Overnight at TULU (I).

5 October 15th :Addressed village. Overnight at TULU (I)

6 October 16th :Departed TULU (I) 0100 hrs by road to TULU (2) arrived 0110 hrs. Sunday observed.

7 October 17th :Inpected village. Addressed natives. Departed TULU (2) 1200 hrs, by road to ARAN. Inspected village addressedx natives Departed ARAN 1300 hrs by road to LEIHUWA arrived 1330 hrs. Visited Roman Catholic Mission at BUNDRALIS. Overnight at LEIHUWA.

8 October 18th :Addressed natives of LEIHUWA and SAHA villages. Inspected both villages. Overnight at LEIHUWA.

9 October 19th :Investegated boundaries alienated land claimed by SAHA natives . Overnight at LEIHUWA.

10 October 20th :Departed LEIHUWA 1100 hrs by canoe to PONAM arrived 1230 hrs. Overnight at PONAM.

11 October 21st : Addressed natives. Inspected village. Overnight at PONAM.

October 22nd :Departed PONAM 0830 by canoe to SORI Base Camp arrived 1130 hrs.

END OF PATROL DIARY

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

INTRODUCTION. This patrol of twelve days duration took in the eastern section of the SAU-BIPI census sub-division from LEVEI to LEIHUWA. The patrol was conducted from SORI Base Camp and was aimed at encouraging copra production, stimulating interest in the proposed North Coast Council and other routine matters.

NATIVE SITUATION. The reaction of the various villages to the proposed North Coast Council provided a useful insight into the native situation. All the villages that came out in favour of a council did so because they had confidence in the Administration. They did not show much understanding of the aims of Local Government but they welcomed the prospect of a council as a "good thing" which would make for progress. The success of co-operatives in the area has given the natives a great deal of confidence in government innovations.

The outright hostility to councils shown by the PONAMs seemed to be an expression of their dissatisfaction with the way their position in relation to the mainland villages has deteriorated over the years. The PONAMs have barely enough land for their houses. In their trading with the mainland fish are no longer acceptable in exchange. The mainland people insist on money or tobacco. The PONAMs have no Society although some of them have taken out shares in the Kurti Society. They even appear to have come of second best in their reef dispute with the ANDRAs. These people are reactionaries. Their solution to their problems would simply be for the PONAMS to be restored to their once dominant position on the North Coast so that they could exploit the mainland people as before. Unfortunatley the PONAMs lack leadership. The village officials are loyal to the Administration and in favour of a council and as a result they are at odds with the rest of the village. The old Luluai SISOR should be replaced but there appeared to be no suitable candidate to replace him.

CO-OPERATIVES. The newly formed BAREBEU Native Society has the energetic support of its member villages LEVEI, SORI (1), SORI (2) and DREHET. The Society has become a great deal more than a marketing organization to these people. The effectiveness of co-operative endeavour has lead to its extension to most phases of their everyday lives. In the leadership of the village the Director seems to be almost as important as the Luluai. Between them they organize the work of the village. One week will be devoted to food gathering, the next to copra production, the next to village housing and so on. In regard to copra production individual ownership of land or palms is ignored. The entire village combines to produce the copra and the profits are distributed by the Director mainly on the basis of the amount of work done by each individual. This "Totalitarianism" does seem to be effective.and at present it does not seem to be threatened by bureaucracy or internal dissention. Should the system break down then the individuals could return to working their own land without much trouble. In the case of the newly planted areas there may be some confusion. The cocoa plots at TULU and LEVEI,and the new coconut groves at TULU were inspected. In each case the owner of the land had given permission for its use and the whole village had helped to clear it. The owner appeared to have no special rights to the trees which were to be planted on it. There is no record in the village books of the conditions under which these new areas are developed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT. The visit of His Honour the Administrator created a good deal of interest in councils. After His Honours' address in Lorengau village officials from the area patrolled held a meeting and came out unamincusly in favour of a North Coast Council. In some cases however the village officials are far from being the dominant influence in their village.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT cont. At each village a short talk on Councils was given. The natives were asked to discuss the matter amongst themselves and if possible indicate whether they were for or against the proposed North Coast Council. The natives did not show much understanding of the aims of Local Government. Two questions emerged quite frequently. Would women be treated as they were under the Paliau regime? Would individuals continue to own ~~their~~ land and coconuts?

SORI (I), SORI (II), LEVEI and DREHET can be considered together. At each of these villages the natives met to consider the question and then sent a delegation to tell me that they were unaminously in favour of the proposed council. At SORI (I) the people have already made plans for earning their tax money.

At TULU (I) and TULU(II) the natives could not be persuaded to give anopinion. They seemed interested and open minded about councils but would not commit themselves because of the influential people who were absent at work. Thirteen men from TULU (I) are employed as carpenters and mechanics at Vunapope and another eleven men, mainly tradesmen, are employed in Manus and Rabaul. The carpenters still take an interest in village affairs. One native DREIWO is even trying to run the village from Vunapope. He has sent word that all trees on the village site are to be cut down and the houses rebuilt in line. I think that given further information and encouragement both villages could become enthusiastic supporters of a Council.

The two small villages of ARAN and LEIHUWA showed no interest at all in Councils. These people live and work on mission ground. Some people have shares in Kurti Society but they can produce no copra for sale through the Society. The village officials did not come to Lorengau for the Administrators' visit. The people showed no opposition to the proposed Council just bewildered indifference.

SAHA village is also on mission ground but these people displayed more independence. SAHA represents the western extremity of the unnofficial council movement. The SAHAs needed no convincing all but three having long ago thrown in their lot with the "wait " council at SAU.

The natives at PONAM were more aware of the implications of the proposed Council than at any other village visited. Mr K.Brown P.O. records that when propagandizing the Co-operatives in June 1953 the PONAMs were suspicious that he might be associated with Native Authorities. The Tultul from PONAM had heard my talk at TULU and in accordance with instructions had called a meeting to discuss the question before my arrival. The PONAMs leading authority on councils proved to be KOL. KOL is a former police boy and Government House driver. He owned a truck in Rabaul for several years after the war. As an outsider KOL considers he got a rough deal from the Tolais and their Council. Apart from his altercations in Rabaul KOL is against a Council for PONAM because he feels that they have not got the recources to pay tax. Against my vague assurance that the PONAMS would not be expected to pay a tax that was out of proportion to their recouces KOL had explained to them that in Rabaul tax defaulters were sent to gaol. After my talk the men of the village trooped up to the rest house and made it quite clear that they wanted nothing to do with a council. They refused to be drawn into any discussion and would not concede that they were premature in making a decision.

The following table is based on village population figures and those defectors from majority opinion noted on the patrol.

Village	In favour	Against	Undecided
LEVEI	152	-	-
SORI (II)	91	1	-
SORI (I)	148	-	-
DREHET	118	-	-
TULU (I)	-	-	162
TULU (II)	-	-	91
ARAN	-	-	118
LEIHUWA	-	-	84
SAHA	67	3	-
PONAM	3	342	-
	579	346	455

AGRICULTURE. Only four of the villages visited have rights to agricultural land. These villages are LEVEI, DREHET, TULU (I) and TULU(II). The groves owned by these villages appear to be well maintained. In the case of DREHET particularly there was a substantial improvement on what was observed on my last patrol through the area. All villages showed a keen interest in the prospect of obtaining Baibara nuts and setting up well lined plantations. At TULU and DREHET these new projects should be carefully watched as the villages appear to have barely sufficient manpower to maintain existing groves. The TULUs have already abandoned some old poor yielding groves inland to concentrate on planting the foreshore. At TULU and LEVEI blocks of about four acres have been cleared for cocoa. The LEVEIs have planted gardens on their block and on the advice of the former District Agricultural Officer coconuts as well. The block at TULU has not been touched since it was cleared a year ago and now has a heavy secondary growth. The natives were told to wait for advice from an Agricultural Officer before recommencing work on this area.

HEALTH. Aid Post Orderly SIPOSE of NIHON accompanied the patrol. A few cases were sent to Lorengau but for the most part health and sanitation were very satisfactory. The Aid Post at TULU (I) was in disrepair and the natives were advised to build a new one.

EDUCATION At present there are mission schools at SORI (II), BUNDRALIS, and PONAM A new school is planned for TULU (I). At SORI (I) a new dormitory and kitchen have been built in recent weeks.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS. PLEI'ION the Luluai of DREHET wishes to resign. He has not proved very popular with his village or visiting Officers and he was told that his replacement would be recommended. KABWEI was nominated as his successor. KABWEI has no education or experience outside Manus. He worked for five years before the war at Lombrum Plantation. KABWEI has some hereditary claims to leadership and his nomination was unaminously approved by the men of the village. A recommendation for his appointment has been submitted in a separate memorandum.

LAND. An investigation was made into the boundaries of SAHA plantation. The Luluai of SAHA produced a communication from the District Commissioner requesting that the SAHAs claim to certain land thought to be alienated be investigated.

The boundaries of SAHA plantation are cleraly marked by cement posts. The land claimed by the natives amounts to the eastern two thirds of the area within the markers. This land has never been planted. The land is bounded by a small watercourse known as PARIOU in the west and the BOBAR river in the east. The natives say the land had always been regarded as theirs. It is still an important source of sago for them . The natives could point out each section of the land as belonging to some individual. They say that Mr Rice the original owner of SAHA plantation never disputed their title to the land. It was not until the land was surveyed in 1937 that their rights were taken away. The former Luluai KARU (now deceased) is said to have disputed the boundary with the survyor and been beaten for his pains. The natives say they were afraid to carry the matter any further. If the SAHAs could gain possesion of the land they say they would leave their present village site on mission ground and develop this area.

The natives were advised that there was little prospect of their claims being substantiated but that for the time being they could continue to gather sago from the area.

CONCLUSION. At the end of this patrol SORI Base Camp was taken over by Mr D.Penhale P.O. The natives of the north west and west coast were very pleased to see a post established within their sub-division. At all times they were co-operative and eager to please. In some cases instructions to build houses and clean groves were fully complied with within a fortnight. It is satisfying to think that these untroublesome people will in future be getting almost as much assistance as the recalcitrants on the South Coast.

J.D.Brunt
Cadet Patrol Officer

17-11-55

Abstract of comments under "Health"
Taken from Patrol Report No 4 1955/56 (Manus) conducted by C.P.O. I.D.Burnet.

HEALTH. Aid Post Orderely SIPOSE of NIEON accompanied the patrol. A few cases were sent to Lorengau but for the most part health and sanitation were very satisfactory. The Aid Post at TULU (I) was in disrepair and the natives were advised to build a new one.

I.D. Burnet.

17-11-55

Report on Police accompanying Patrol No 4 1955/56 (Manus)
Patrol conducted by C.P.O. I.D.Burnet

Const DRONG No6791 A competent police boy DRONG is overdue for leave and seems a bit jaded.

Const MOROP No8070 Capable and energetic,

I.D.Burnet.