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# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: WEST NEW BRITAIN

STATION: Talasea

VOLUME No: 16

ACCESSION No: 496.

1966 - 1967

Filmed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea,  
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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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1-67/68.

PATROL REPORTS WEST NEW BRITAIN DISTRICT 1966-67

TALASEA

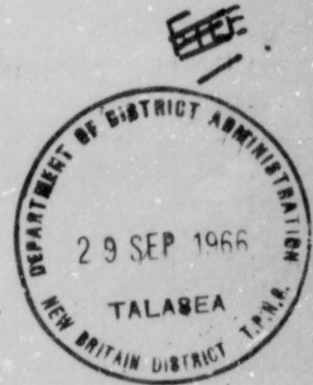
<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
1-66-67	D.R. Nolan	Dagi River-Bola Census Div.
5-66-67	J.P. Ellem	Kombe Census Division
11-66-67	B. Mc Bride	Kombe Census Division

GLOUCESTER

1-66-67	K.R. Kelly	Kilenge/Lollo Census Div.
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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



# PATROL REPORT

District of West New Britain Report No. 1 - 66/67

Patrol Conducted by D. R. Nolan Cadet Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled Dagi River - Bola Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

Natives Nil

Duration—From 26/7/1966 to 16/9/1966

Number of Days Thirty (Broken)

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? no

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

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

Map Reference .....

Objects of Patrol Gain experience in methods of road and bridge construction.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION,  
Director of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

28/10 / 1966

K. J. ...  
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 ... ..

.....

.....

.....

Pop

Over 13		Females in Child Birth
M	F	

9

57-17-8

14th December, 1966.

The District Commissioner,  
West New Britain District,  
H O S K I N S.

TALASEA PATROL REPORT NO. 1 OF 1966/67:

Receipt is acknowledged of Mr. Nolan's report of his patrol to the Dagi River area of the BOLA Census Subdivision and of covering memoranda from yourself and the Assistant District Commissioner, Talasea.

2. Whilst it is realised that this patrol was for a specific purpose and therefore restricted in its scope, 31 days spent in the bush should have produced more than 1 1/2 pages of narrative.
3. This would have been an excellent opportunity for Mr. Nolan to get to know the people of the area and to carry out an investigation into their customs, their housing or some similar activity. An excellent training opportunity has been lost.
4. Mr. Nolan has no doubt benefited from his activities and has acquitted himself well.

(J. K. McCarthy)  
DIRECTOR

e Pop

67. 17. 8

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



Telegrams..... 67-1-1

Our Reference.....  
If calling ask for

Mr.....

Department of District Administration,  
HOSKINS, WEST NEW BRITAIN  
28th October 1966

The Assistant District Commissioner,  
TALASEA.

TALASEA PATROL No. 1 - 66/67

DAGI RIVER - BOLA CENSUS DIVISION.

Thank you for Mr. Nolan's report on his work in the Dagi River area. I have watched with interest and pleasure the progress in completing this vital road link. Both Mr. Nolan and Mr. McClelland are to be commended on what they have achieved.

I am sure that the practical nature of this work will be of great benefit to Mr. Nolan if and when he is posted to other areas of the District where there are no P.W.D. road and bridges supervisors.

I do not want patrol reports held up. If you are absent on patrol and not likely to return to deal with the report within say 3 or 4 days then the report should be forwarded to me with comment by the O.I.C. or merely forwarded with comment, if any, to follow later. You must try to ensure that reports reach me within 2 weeks from completion of the patrol. I would like them within 1 week.

*K.W. Dyer*

(K.W. Dyer)

District Commissioner.

Director,  
Department of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU.

For your information please. At the end of June 1966 it was a relatively complex matter to get from Talasea to Hoskins other than by vessel. When the Hoskins/Talasea road was wiped from the Works Program there was an urgent need for a bridge over the DAGI River and completion of the road to either side. Though very rough and unformed in sections it is now possible to get through by road. I have been to Talasea and back in the one day using the road on at least 3 occasions. Mr. Johnson (A/A - Services) recently used the road. The Dagi bridge I understand will be on next years Works program.

The construction done was mainly on the surveyed route. A minor departure from this has been examined by the Department of Lands and the Regional Engineer P.W.D. (and myself). Using this route which is superior it has been possible to bridge the IBENI (AIBINI) River with our own resources.

*K.W. Dyer*

(K.W. Dyer)

District Commissioner.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

attached with  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ P/Report  
⑦

Telegrams DISADM  
Telephone  
Our Reference 67-2-4  
If calling ask for  
Mr.

Department of District Administration,  
Talasea.

16th October 1966.

The District Commissioner,  
District Office,  
HOSKINS.



TALASEA PATROL REPORT 1 - 66/67.

SPECIAL ROAD WORKS - DAGI.

Enclosed please find the above Special Patrol Report by Mr. D.E. Nolan C.P.O. covering the period spent on road extensions in the Dagi River area, together with F.O.J. Folios 4 - 12, Claim for Camping Allowance and Claim for Boot Allowance.

The Report is a description of work done on the roads and bridges between the Aibini and Dagi Rivers.

The delay in forwarding is due to the fact that the report was kept over pending my return from the Kombe Patrol and subsequently the Local Government Course held at Talasea.

Invaluable experience has been gained by Mr. Nolan in this aspect of field duties.

*Lyle Hanson*  
Lyle Hanson.  
Assistant District Commissioner





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams I/SADM

Telephone

Our Reference..... 67-2-4

If calling ask for

Mr.....

Department of District Administration,

TALASEA,

West New Britain.

26th. September 1966.

Assistant District Commissioner,  
TALASEA.

TALASEA PATROL REPORT - No. 1 - 1966/67  
SPECIAL PATROL - DAGI RIVER AREA

Introduction

The purpose of this patrol was to allow me to gain knowledge of various methods of road and bridge construction and to get practical experience by working with a P.W.D. Road Supervisor.

This work was being carried out in an area near the Dagi River, and the project included construction of two bridges, an invert, a culvert and clearing of approximately three miles of bush for the road. I spent thirty patrol days at a road camp near the work site and during that time saw the completion of rough clearing work through to the Dagi River and the completion of two large bridges and a culvert.

This was a special patrol which concentrated only on road work so little contact with native people residing in the area was made. Therefore this report is not set out in the manner as stated in D.D.A. Standing Instructions but is submitted in memorandum form only.

While at the Dagi I was working in conjunction with Mr. D. McClelland, Public Works Department Road Supervisor at Talasea, who was carrying out this project. All labour used was employed by P.W.D. and the planning of route and bridge construction was done by Mr. McClelland.

Diary

- Tuesday 26th. July 0800-1200 Departed for Dagi River area to view construction of roads and bridges. Discussion on work being done with P.W.D. Road Supervisor M. McClelland. 1300-1630 Inspected three labour lines doing various parts of work.
- Wednesday 27th. July 0700-1200 Accompanied Mr. McClelland to site where first bridge being built and viewed construction procedures. 1300-1600 Inspection of route planned for road.
- Thursday 28th. July 0700-1200 Supervised labour line cutting bush on road. To date excellent progress has been made by this line. 1300-1600 Supervised labour line gathering stone for foundations.

Friday 29th. July 0700-0900 Heavy rain so no work done on bridge. Labour gathered stone. 0900 departed for Talasea arriving 1000 and proceeded to office. General duties till 1600.

Monday 1st. August 0800-1000 office duties. 1000 departed for Dagi River arriving 1100 and inspected forward labour line. During afternoon placement of logs on first bridge commenced.

Tuesday 2nd. August Supervised placement of running logs during morning. Inspected forward labour line during afternoon.

Wednesday 3rd. August Gaps between logs on bridge packed  $\frac{1}{2}$  with stone and molten tar poured over as sealer. During afternoon walked to Dagi River to inspect track which had been cut.

Thursday 4th. August Supervised labour line which was preparing materials to be used in bridge over AIBINI River. Discussion with Mr. McClelland on various methods of road and bridge construction.

Friday 5th. August Inspected labour lines until 0915 then walked through to Dagi River to accompany District Commissioner, Mr. Dyer, on inspection of proposed route. Interviewed Tolai Settler at Dagi re debt complaint before returning Talasea at 1400hrs.

Monday 8th. August Departed Talasea 0945 for Dagi River arriving 1100. Organised camp and awaited main labour line coming from Talasea. Inspected labour line which was collecting stone during afternoon. Searched surrounding bush for further stone deposits.

Tuesday 9th. August Supervised labour which commenced preparation of site for bridge over AIBINI R. This will have a span of approximately 34 ft. and is 13 ft. wide. Piles were driven and a cement base 2 ft. deep was set today.

Wednesday 10th. August Viewed setting up of supporting pipes which are to be filled with cement and stone. Walked down to forward line which is cutting road returning 1200hrs. Inspected line gathering stone during afternoon.

Thursday 11th. August Cementing of pipes completed and retaining wall from abutment back 20ft. built and cemented. Proceeded to Dagi Settlement during afternoon and interviewed two men re debt complaints.

Friday 12th. August Cement boxing set on top of pipes and poured. When this was completed the 'run-up' area was filled with sand and stone and packed. Departed Dagi at 1400hrs. for Talasea.

Monday 15th. August General office till 1000 when departed for Dagi. Arrived camp at 1100 and organised labour into groups to collect stone and sand. During afternoon inspected all lines.

Tuesday 16th. August      Sharpened large bush saw then inspected foward line which is now approximately three quarters of a mile from the Dagi. During afternoon starter motor of one tractor broke down so sought aid for repairs. Inspected all work lines.

Wednesday 17th. August      Interviewed two settlers from Dagi who had to see me re debt complaints. Inspected labour lines on stone and sand.

Thursday 18th. August      Supervised labour line cutting road and gathering stone. During afternoon proceeded Talasea to collect pay for all labourers.

Friday 19th. August      Proceeded to Dagi at 0700 and supervised labourers during morning. Paid all workers during lunch break and left for Talasea at 1500hrs.

Wednesday 31st. August      Departed Talasea 0800 and proceeded Dagi River. Met D.C. Mr. Dyer, and Regional Works Engineer and accompanied them on inspection of road. Supervised labourers carting stone and sand during afternoon.

Thursday 1st. Sept.      Inspected all labour lines and supervised packing of sand and building up of road surface near AIBINI.

Friday 2nd. Sept.      Inspected and supervised labour which was clearing trees from side of road. Departed 1400 for Talasea.

Monday 5th. Sept.      Departed Talasea 1000 for Dagi. Viewed driving of piles and setting of boxing in river bed for second abutment.

Tuesday 6th. Sept.      Cement pipes set over piles and filled with stone, reinforcing wire and cement. Part of stone pitching on sides completed.

Wednesday 7th. Sept.      Boxing set over pipes and cemented; stone pitching of sides completed.

Thursday 8th. Sept.      Timbers cut for main runners pulled to site and prepared for laying in place. Supervised line collecting stone.

Friday 9th. Sept.      Two of the timbers set in place during morning. Departed for Talasea 1400hrs.

Tuesday 13th. Sept.      Departed for Dagi 0800 where viewed completion of placement of running logs. Work started on laying  $\phi$  of 8" X 3" decking planks.

Wednesday 14th. Sept.      Viewed welding of metal 'angle-iron' rods which hold large timbers in position. Aibini bridge completed and work moved on to small swampy area. Temporary corduroy crossing completed.

Thursday 15th. Sept.      Cleared debris from final river across road and boxing 17' X 11' laid and filled to water level with stone. Cement layer then poured over this during afternoon.

Friday 16th. Sept.      Nine 3ft. diameter cement pipes laid on base and another boxing 6ins. deep set on top of these. Departed 1330 for Talasea.

General

The Dagi River is approximately thirty two miles from Talasea and nineteen miles from Cape Hoskins patrol Post. Roads run from both of these centres to the river but on the Talasea side the AIBINI River, which is subject to extreme flooding during the wet season has proved a stumbling block in attempts to keep a road open to the Dagi. Bridges previously erected over the Aibini have been consistently washed away with each flood. A site for construction of a large span bridge over the wide Aibini River has been chosen and a road extending approximately three miles from the Dagi River back through the Dagi Agricultural Settlement and linking with the present Talasea road surveyed. The road cut through many of the settler's blocks though and it was considered expedient to find a route which skirted the Settlement and still met the Dagi at the planned bridge site. For this reason Mr. McClelland thoroughly inspected the area to the south-west of the Settlement and marked out the route which is at present being developed.

It was previously considered that this land would be unsuitable for a road because of large swampy areas thought to extend over most of it, but it can now be seen that this idea was incorrect as only two such areas have been encountered and these do not present any great difficulties in crossing. The placement of large pipes to carry the very slight flow which occurs in them and building up of the road with soil and stone will provide a very suitable crossing.

The two bridges required were over a tributary of the Aibini River at a point where it is approximately eighteen feet wide with banks five feet high, and over the Aibini itself. This latter was constructed over an extremely suitable stretch of the river where the banks, although being rather high, were not very wide and the course was relatively straight for seventy yards or so. Both bridges were constructed along similar lines using piles driven into the river bed to a depth of eight to ten feet with eighteen inch diameter pipes placed over these and set on a stone and cement base. The pipes were packed with stone and cement and a cement headstock one foot deep and two feet wide was set over this. The whole abutment was tied together with reinforcing wire in the cement. On the smaller bridge over the Aibini's tributary the running surface was made by placing six hardwood timbers each one foot thick across it. These had been adzed down to give a reasonably level surface. The small cracks left were filled with stones bound together by coal tar. On the Aibini bridge four large timber bearers thirty four feet ten inches long were placed and held in position by three inch angle-iron bars sunk into the cement and welded across them. Decking of eight by three inch timber was nailed on to these.

The new section of road being built is approximately three and a half miles long branching off the present Talasea - Dagi road a short distance from the beginning of the Dagi Agricultural Settlement. It then more or less follows the boundary of the Settlement for about one and a half miles and meets with the surveyed route which carries through to the river.

The composition of the soil is quite good for a road as there seems to be a layer of sand about a foot under the surface layer of loam. It will stand up very well to wet weather traffic but difficulties will be encountered during wet weather as the water table is only a few inches below the surface and problems will arise with drainage. At the height of the wet season 'king' tides are experienced around the Stettin Bay area and this inhibits flow of water towards the sea.

Work had progressed very well up to the time that I left the area; the road had been cleared through to the Dagi and all

clearing work through to the Dagi was completed and the rivers had been bridged so it was possible to drive to within five minutes walk of the Dagi. All that remains is for a rough track to be cleared the rest of the way and for crossings over the two swampy areas to be constructed. As soon as this is done work will start on forming the road surface. This will involve clearing of some large trees still remaining and digging out roots so a grader can complete the forming work.

As the San Remo is being considered for the setting up of the West New Britain District Headquarters and it is planned to build a large wharf there, this stretch of road is liable to be one of the most important sections in the District. Because of the planned development of timber industry on both sides of the Dagi and institutions nearby <sup>of oil palms</sup> it is essential that all year round road <sup>industry</sup> travel be possible. As mentioned it may be difficult to use the road during the wet season, but as soon as a bridge is constructed over the Dagi River, road communication between Talasea and Cape Hoskins will be possible for most of the year.

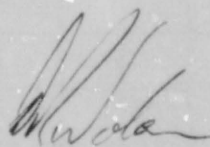
#### Native Attitude

Little contact was made with people residing in this vicinity as all labour used was from Talasea and villages close to the station. A line of thirty men from RUANGO and MORAKIA villages was employed for a short while cutting undergrowth from the road but they were only required for three weeks.

During this time I did speak with some of the men and mentioned some of the ideas in mind for the area. They did not show a great deal of enthusiasm though, possibly because none realised the great effect these were liable to have on them.

#### Conclusion

During the period I spent at the Dagi I learnt a good deal about bridge and road construction, but more important was that I acquired a different outlook towards problems liable to be encountered and methods of overcoming them.



D. R. Nolan  
Cadet Patrol Officer



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of WEST NEW BRITAIN Report No. 5-66/67

Patrol Conducted by J.R.Ellem, Cadet Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled Kombe Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Mr. L. Hanson- A.D.C.

Natives 2 members R.P.N.G.C.

Duration—From 6 / 9 / 66 to 1 / 10 / 66

Number of Days Twenty- Six

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services Feb. / 19 / 66

Medical May / 19 / 66

Map Reference Lands Fourmil Cape Raoult

Objects of Patrol Tax-Census- General Administration

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 .....

Pop

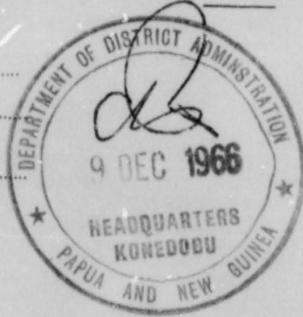


TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

14  
67.17.10

Over 13  
M F Females in Child Birth

Telegrams.....  
Our Reference..... 67-1-1  
If calling ask for  
Mr. Carey



Department of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
West New Britain,  
HOSKINS.  
3rd December, 1966

The Director,  
District Administration,  
KONEDOBUBU

TALASEA - PATROL REPORT No 5

Your memorandum 67-17-10 of 24th November refers.

The Assistant District Commissioner, Talasea did in fact comment on Mr Ellems report and a copy of his 67-2-4 is forwarded herewith, should the original not have been received at yours.

*K.W. Dyer*  
K.W. DYER *KW*  
District Commissioner.

12

67-2-4

Sub-District Office,  
TALABRA.

67-17-10

13th October 1966.

The District Commissioner,  
District Office,  
HUSKINS.

24th November, 1966.

District Commissioner,  
West New Guinea PATROL REPORT TAL 5-66/67.  
ROSKINS Mr. J. Ellen C.P.O.

TALABRA KOMBE ROSKINS 5-66/67

Receipt is acknowledged for the enclosed patrol report to the Kombe Camp. Enclosed please find -  
i. Memorandum of patrol, Lyle Hanson.  
ii. Associated correspondence  
iii. Patrol Report, J. Ellen  
iv. Travelling and Camping Allowance Claims  
v. F.O.J. Folios.

The enclosed Patrol Report by Mr. Ellen covers this officer's first patrol as a Cadet Patrol Officer, while showing that there is improvement needed in layout and typing it does show that the Cadet has taken an interest in his duties and has the potential for the making of a keen officer with experience.

Mapping in general has been discussed with Mr. Ellen and this facet of his reporting will improve.

Despite the officer's only brief association with Pidgin English he has shown that he is willing to learn and his understanding has increased rapidly during the patrol.

Further comments on the patrol report are:

Introduction.

Kombes are renowned travellers and the village men think nothing of leaving their village for several weeks at a time, in their canoes, taking their wives and children with them.

Political situation.

At Raipisi, several villagers did mention that they had 'heard' that self-government was very close and could possibly be starting in a year. Further discussions however, revealed that these thoughts were not very clear and the people themselves said that they could not envisage self-government for many years yet. Throughout the patrol there were no questions asked as to when this would occur and the villagers did not seem to be particularly interested in any case.

*Lyle Hanson*  
Lyle Hanson,  
Assistant District Commissioner



67-17-10

24th November, 1966.

District Commissioner,  
West New Britain District,  
H O S K I N S.

TALASEA PATROL REPORT NO. 5-1966/67:

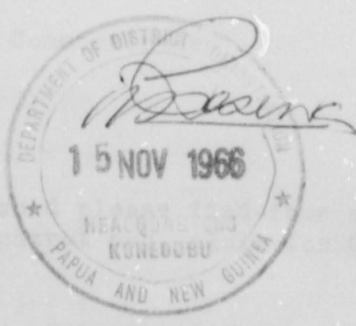
Receipt is acknowledged of Mr. Ellem's report on his patrol to the Kombe Census Division with Mr. L. Hanson, Assistant District Commissioner. It is noted that the A.D.C. did not forward his comments on the report. In training exercises such as these, such comments are valuable and should be in writing.

You have covered fully all matters raised in the report and no further comment appears necessary at this stage.

Quite a good first effort by Mr. Ellem and no doubt with guidance and experience, his reports will improve.

(J.K. McCarthy)  
DIRECTOR.

67-16-11  
→ 67.17.10  
67.16.17



K.W. Dyer  
K.W. DYER /arc  
District Commissioner

67-1-1-

ATC

West New Britain,  
HOSKINS.  
7th November, 1966

Assistant District Commissioner,  
TALASEA

PATROL REPORT - TALASEA No 5/66-67  
KOMBE C.D.

The above Patrol report of Mr Ellem, and your memorandum of Patrol are acknowledged.

I note your comments on layout and typing. The latter will improve with time and practice, the former, I take it, has been pointed out to Mr Ellem. I would suggest also that he read through his report after typing, or write and correct prior to typing, so avoiding spelling and grammatical errors which detract from the best of reports.

Mr Ellem has shown, from his report, that he has taken an active interest in the people and their way of life. He should however, not hasten to condemn some customary practices until taking logically into account all factors. He states at Page 2 (Agric) that coconuts could have been used for copra making, but were pulled 'whilst young for drink'. With a water shortage as is reported in the same report, it is surely logical that large quantities of nuts would be used for that purpose - possibly a better usage, healthwise than for sale. This does not however detract from his contention that large expansion of existing plantings are needed to provide agricultural economic advancement.

What was his approach, and yours, to the request from Natanavua for assistance in village water supplies? If potable water is available at the depth stated, possibly village purchased cement pipes or drums would be a solution. We could and would assist in the transportation using the regular scheduled workboat service, and with any technical assistance required.

The lack of shipping through the area is appreciated. It must be explained to the people that such a state must remain (as far as private shipping is concerned) until production makes a regular call a worthwhile proposition. Whilst there is no shipping at all, I would be prepared to assist the movement of crops on the present regular run. This would need thorough checking in advance. Though the Kombe is a good seaman, copra is often damaged in canoe movement over long distances.

Anthropological. Realizing that Mr Ellem is under a great disadvantage in gaining full information whilst learning a new language, his attempt to do so indicates that he is willing to learn, and will increase his understanding of the people with whom he will be dealing in the future. I query his statement that 'members of the same clan can marry' is this so?

A good first effort. I am sure that, following the points raised by you, his next report will show improvement. He should be encouraged to factual objective reporting, and critical appraisal of possible courses to follow.

Camping Allowance Claims have been amended to 19 days - actual patrol - and forwarded to Treasury for payment.

KONELOBU

K.W. Dyer  
K.W. DYER  
District Commissioner

SUB-DISTRICT OFFICE.  
 TALASEA.  
 WEST NEW BRITAIN.  
 12/10/66

10

The Assistant District Commissioner.  
 Talasea.  
 West New Britain.

Attached please find four copies of my Kombe.Census and Tax Patrol No. 5/66/67, a patrol map, claim for Camping and travelling Allowance and a police report.

John Reginald Ellem. Cadet Patrol Officer.

*J. R. Ellem*

The village has a ...  
 this area of ...  
 The village is ...  
 The village is ...  
 The village is ...  
 The village is ...

REPORT OF PATROL.

GENERAL STATUS friendly ...  
 to console a visiting patrol ...  
 The village showed little ...  
 Each household provided ...  
 Fresh vegetables were ...  
 There are 15 villages ...

KOMBE PATROL REPORT, NO. 5/66/67.

INTRODUCTION.

The Kombe Villages are situated along the coast of the area. There are 18 Villages of which 14 are situated on small islands a short distance from the main land. Each village has a respective area of land adjacent on the inland, this area of land extends miles inland. Ownership of this land is not individual or clan but village group.

The clan divisions in the villages are not very strict, but where possible families are kept together.

Many tidal creeks can be found in the mangrove swamps which line most of the coastal area & extend inland for some distance.

Economic advancement is hindered by the Kombe's preference for living on small islands, therefore they spend much of their time travelling to & from the inland to fetch water, food, fire wood & building materials.

roundingreefs for sea foods & Commercial Shell.

b/ to the

c/ to other

places as far away as the Bali-Witu Islands & other distant places for the purpose of,

- 1/ Visiting friends & relations.
- 2/ Collecting debts.
- 3/ Participating in dances and feasts.

These occupations take up much time leaving little for attention to economic activities. The villagers frequently reply to the question; why is there not more attention & care given to growing and caring for coconuts and producing Copra by saying "we have a lot of work."

Social ties are very strong. There being little individuality despite the fact that individual coconut plantings in blocks is preferred preferable to community schemes. What attempts have been made are just about all on a community basis.

The climate is seasonal with the dry season late April to September with S.E. winds and the wet season October to February with N.W. Winds. These offshore winds are good for the Kombe people as they are seamen and these winds provide suitable sailing conditions.

RECEPTION OF PATROL.

GENERAL Attitude friendly without being enthusiastic. Complete readiness to console a visiting patrol with dancing and song at night after the hours of the day's inspection, talks and tax collections.

Assistance was readily given to the patrol personnel and their requirements.

The villagers showed little hesitation in approaching the patrol for advice and assistance in village problems and endeavours.

Each Rest house was provided with water and fire wood without request having been made.

Fresh vegetables were readily offered for sale to the patrol members, but there was not a wide variety offered. Those offered were sweet potato, bananas, Oranges & Pawpaws.

VILLAGES.

There are 18 villages in the Kombe area of which two are hamlets of other villages; Nasasi to Vessi & and Maputu to Kalapiai.

The villages are mainly situated on small off shore islands some being only mounds which are hidden by houses- while Woge Woge and Guhi consist mainly of islands reclaimed from the sea. There are four villages on the main land Taraua, Nukuhu, Gihhi and Maputu.

The villagers prefer to live on islands as in the wet season (N.W.) there are too many mosquitoes on the main land, the mangroves produce perfect conditions for mosquitoes.

8

VILLAGES CONT.

The houses were generally sound and there were only minor repairs required with a few exceptions to family houses. Several <sup>Mens</sup> house boys which were in a poor condition are to be rebuilt. Owing to the small islands, the houses were being built very close together and further back into the sea. They were built with Sago leaves & and split cane matting for the floor.

The Villagers on the islands have the disadvantage of having to carry water, Food ~~and~~ and firewood a long way and this wastes a lot of time.

The Kombe villagers rely on the large creeks and rivers for their water supply. At Nutanavua the villagers asked for government assistance in constructing well and pump (For their water supply) on the ~~main~~ main land in their coconut plantation. The water level is at present five feet below ground level in two holes. During the wet season the villagers at Nutanavua get their water supply from either of these holes. During the dry season the water is no good for drinking as a result of leaves & other organic matter getting into the water and the direct sun light on it.

is good,

The cleanliness of the villages throughout the Kombe/with Nutanavua, Woge and Rangihī being very clean. In all cases good sanitation was evident and the hygiene was fair. At Rangihī where the village has been moved to a new site, the villagers are attempting to grow a cover crop (Grass and another small plant) to minimise dust and improve the appearance of the village.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

The Kombe people are happy with the Luluai & Tultul System but are not too enthusiastic in obeying them. On the average the officials are doing a good job. At Talangoni the Tultul died a few months ago. The appointment of a man <sup>ongati</sup> for this position is recommended. He appears to be a reasonable type and the people of Talangoni agree to his appointment.

POLITICAL SITUATION.

Throughout the Kombe there was no talk of Cargo Cults. In the eastern area of the Kombe it was observed that a rumour was going around stating that independence would come next year. We informed the villagers that this was not so.

There is no apparent aspiration towards political development the people are quite satisfied with their Luluai & Tultul systems, who are aided in various spheres (Church, schools and copra production) by elected committee men.

The attitude towards mission schools was not very desirable. The mission schools in the area are entirely mission financed. The local villagers showed little interest in helping to improve the schools. At Kakasi school (C.M.) there were no houses for the children to sleep in- they sleep in the class rooms. Nutanavua was interested in helping but the other local villagers Kapo, Taraua and Akuhu were not. After discussing the situation with the Tultul of Nutanavua I feel that he can get the other villagers to help with Improvements to the school.

The Kombe people appear to be taking reasonable care of their elders and infirm persons.

AGRICULTURE.

The General attitude in the Kombe area towards Agriculture was not too enthusiastic. In most cases the villagers reply to the question "Why don't you plant more coconuts for the production of copra" "we have too much work", but if they spent less time collecting Tambu debts and visiting friends at distant villages they would have enough time to plant a lot of coconuts and look after them. At Nugakau where the villagers has several hundred trees, it was observed that there were only a few nuts bearing on the trees. The people claimed that this is the result of the severe dry seasons last year. Observations showed that a large number of nuts had been pulled whilst young for the drink. Although this large number of nuts would not have made an economic crop it would have doubled

(7)

AGRICULTURE CONT.

led the existing crop.

At other villages there were only a few trees except for Nutanavua which had a total of:

	5,330	Mature	)
	4,231	Immature	)
	1,314	Young Plantings	) as at 8/2/66.
TOTAL	10,875		)

The mature trees carried a ~~maxim~~ good crop, and more preparation has been made for further advancement. The following facts were noted on the Nutanavua plantation.

Poor planting in the early stages of development (too close) resulted in many trees bearing no nuts. The people understand this and have corrected this in the recent plantings.

Several young palms had fallen down as a result of a caterpillar eating at the base of the palms reducing it to a pulp.

Two thirds of the plantation was covered with dense growth of grass and shrubs. Some attempt is being made to clear this ground as follows;

- 1/ Cutting the grass, in some cases only a few feet around the base of each palm
- 2/ Encouraging the growth of a legume with which to smother weed growth.

The villagers get their coconuts to market via Iboki Plantation

There were several cocoa trees growing between the palms of which some were bearing and the other half were immature.

The Kalapiai & Talangoni people asked for advice on growing coconuts and building a drier. (There is an Agriculture patrol in this area now which will deal with this matter.)

Throughout the Kombe area there did not appear to be any surplus of cash foods available for cash sale. This is partly due to the fact that the villages are at some distance from the villages, in some cases 3 miles.

There were beans, tomatoes, onions and cabbages being grown & I feel that the Kombe people but as yet only a few were being grown and I feel that it will take a couple of years before the villagers really grow these crops to any great extent.

LIVESTOCK.

The livestock in the area consists of Pigs & fowls. Each village has approximately one to two dozen fowls in the village. They have several pigs which they keep on their own land on the main land. These pigs and fowls are eaten by the villagers themselves and not sold outside the district. (Kombe)

TIMBER.

It was noted that there was no available millable timber within two to three miles of the coast line - as a result of the swamps.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

There were several trade stores throughout this area some licensed and a few unlicensed. Those unlicensed approached us for advice on how to get a licence. The Nutanavua store seemed to be the best in the area and has been operating for a long time. It has made a profit of \$190-00 in the past three years.

In all these cases there is the handicap of getting a reliable cargo supply. The shipping in this area is limited and the villagers may have to wait for two to three months to get the cargo.

The means of transport in this area is by canoe.

(6)

THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE SHORTAGE OF LAND WITHIN THE SUBDIVISION.

COMPLAINTS:

Several small complaints were heard during the patrol but they usually <sup>were</sup> concerned with women and second wives.

QUESTIONS:

Nil.

REST HOUSES.

There are ample rest houses throughout the Kombe area, they are as follows:

- 1/ Nutanavua - Small and in a fair condition.
- 2/ Taraua - Small and exposed to the wind, in a good condition.
- 3/ Kapo - Slightly larger than those above in a good condition.
- 4/ Nugukau - Small and in a fair condition.
- 5/ Woge Woge - reasonable size and situated on top of the island.
- 6/ Rangihi - Small and in a good condition.
- 7/ Sumalani - reasonable size and condition.
- 8/ Poi. - Large and in a good condition.
- 9/ Kalapiai - Large and in a good condition.
- 10/Talangoni - Small and in a fair condition.
- 11/Kou - Reasonable size good condition.

CARRIERS AND CANOES.

Carriers and canoes were available and willing at all villages there was no hesitation or hardship in getting enough. Mostly the people preferred money instead of trade tobacco. They were hired at the rate of 10¢ per hour.

HEALTH.

division

There is only one effective aid post in the Kombe Census ~~zone~~ <sup>area</sup> which is at Nutanavua. Taraua, Nukuhu, Kapo and Muliagani go to the Kalapiai Mission for first aid treatment, but as this is a long distance away, the villagers have requested that an aid post be placed at one of the above villages, I feel that Nutanavua would be the best as the people are more enthusiastic there.

The other villagers go to Mauputu for treatment. It was suggested that the Mauputu aid post be moved further down the Kombe zone (Guhi) Discussed with Dr. Weibe.

The Talangoni eastern Kombe villagers also visit the Silovuti Mission Hospital.

At Talangoni it was observed that many children were suffering from an eye disease but the villagers had not bothered to take them to the aid post.

EDUCATION.

The Kombe villagers are supplied with many small mission schools and three large Catholic and one large S.D.A. school. Mission schools were provided at villagers as listed below and the children visited other schools at other villagers (The larger schools)

- Nutanavua - Children to C.M. School Kakasi.
- Taraua - Children to C.M. School Kakasi and small S.D.A. School in village.
- Nukuhu - Children to C.M. School Kakasi and small S.D.A. School at Taraua.
- Kapo - Children to Kakasi & Sasavoru C.M. Schools.
- Muliagani - Children to Silovuti S.D.A. School and small S.D.A. School on island a few to Kakasi C.M. School.
- Nugakau - Children to S.D.A. School on island and to Silovuti.

EDUCATION Cont.

- Woge Woge -Children to S.D.A. at Silovuti and C.M. at Kiria.
- Guhi. -Children to C.M. School Kiria.
- Rangihi - Children to small S.D.A. School in village.
- Sumalani. - Children to small S.D.A. School in Village.
- Poi/Makarti-Children to C.M. School Sasavoru.
- Kalapiai. - Children to small S.D.A. School on island and to Silovuti.
- Vessi -Children to S.D.A. School in village and to Silovuti.
- Talangoni -Children to S.D.A. School Silovuti.
- Kou -Children to small S.D.A. School in village.

Throughout the area except the Sasavoru and Silovuti Schools the attendance at the schools tended to be very poor with some children being away for weeks at a time. Generally the children want to go to school but their parents will not allow them.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

NIL.

CEMETRIES

At present the majority of cemeteries in the Kombe are located on the Main Island.

MISSIONS.

There are two Missions established in the Kombe, they are S.D.A. at Silovuti and the C.M. at Sasavoru. The attitudes of the people towards the missions were none too enthusiastic and thus their influence is none too great.

PLANTATIONS.

NIL. A small field is being constructed at Linga Linga Plantation but it will be some time before it is finished.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL.

The villagers spend a great deal of their time working with tambu seeking loans and repaying them. The villagers are usually greatly in debt to other villagers. The Vaulo system is one which amounts to interest of 100% being repayed. If a friend had a singsing and his friends came they would give presents such as pigs, then when these friends had a singsing he would be expected to return the gift double.

This Tambu system is one of the main reasons why the Kombe do not spend much time in development such as copra development production, as they spend much time preparing for singsings, travelling to friends singsings, and collecting debts.

A person is in debt almost from the time he is born to the time he dies. Then his debts go onto his children.

The Kombe have a totemic patrilineal clan system with the clans taking the names of fish found in the local waters for example: Kalbasise, Aleavusaha and Pekiau. In each village is to be found a men's house containing and decorated with carvings and symbols peculiar to the particular clan of the members frequenting this house. Members of the same clan may marry so long as they are not to closely connected in blood ties.

?



LABOUR.

The Kombe area employs only a small number of its population, who work casual on Linga Linga Plantation. The Kombe themselves appear to be rather unenthusiastic as regards being employed. It appears that the villages are realising that it is to their advantage to work. There are a number of Kombe men employed as boats crews and from Kapo there are four men employed as boats captains.

With a population of 3,464 there are 245 men employed outside the district and 73 men employed inside the district.

PERSONAL TAX.

Tax to the value of 957 Dollars was collected in the Kombe.

When collecting tax I noted that in several cases the villages used several excuses to avoid paying tax. The general attitude was that they had to pay tax but did not like doing it.

CONCLUSION.

After being with the Kombe people for three weeks I feel that at this stage they have done and are doing little towards any aspect to the development of West New Britain. I feel that this is partly due to their traditional ways. Within a few years I feel that this situation will have changed and that they could be playing an important part in the development of this District.

It was noted that already a few Kombe people felt that they were lagging in modern development and were wanting to improve their situation. Examples of this is the Luluai of Nutanavua and the Tultul of Kaliapiai who showed interest towards future development.

J.R. ELLEM.  
Cadet Patrol Officer.



SUB-DISTRICT OFFICE,  
TALASEA.  
WEST NEW BRITAIN.

② ①

Report on the two Policeman provided for the Kombe Patrol. No 5/66/67

LEISIAT No. 10661 CST.4th.  
Conduct whilst on patrol Good.  
Efficiency whilst on patrol Good.

KINDRELI. No. 9340 Cst 5th  
Conduct whilst on patrol Good.  
Efficiency whilst on patrol Good.

Report submitted by J.R. Ellen Cadet Patrol Officer.

*J.R. Ellen*  
.....



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



# PATROL REPORT

District of WEST NEW BRITAIN Report No. TALASEA. 11/66-67.

Patrol Conducted by R. McBRIDE, ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

Area Patrolled KOMBE CENCUS DIVISION.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans ALLAN LEAF, CADET PATROL OFFICER.

Natives 2 MEMBERS R.P.N.G.C.

Duration—From 26 / 2 / 1967 to 3 / 3 / 1967.

Number of Days SIX.

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 1 / 10 / 1966

Medical 5 / 1966

Map Reference LANDS FOURMILE, CAPE ROUIT.

Objects of Patrol AREA SURVEY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL.

ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION.

Director of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

5 / 4 / 1967

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 £



67. 17. 20  
67. 16. 17

67-2-4

Dept. of District Administration,  
TALASEA,  
West New Britain.

27th March, 1967.

The District Commissioner,  
Dept. of District Administration,  
HOSKINS.

TALASEA PATROL NO. 11-66/67 - KOMBE CENSUS DIVISION  
BY MR. A. LEAF, C.P.O.

Three copies of above report together with claim for camping allowance and two copies of patrol map enclosed, please.

This is Mr. Leaf's first patrol from Talasea. I took him with me to further his experience. The patrol was of short duration and all villages were not visited - due to time element involved. The people were gathered at relevant points not more than an hour's canoe sailing time from respective "home" villages.

**AGRICULTURE:**

- 22. Trees generally planted too close together. New plantings at standard distance.
- 23. A shipping service certainly would benefit the Kombe group, if they were in the council, and if they would work their coconut groves.
- 24. Probably, more practical to bring live crayfish to a freezer at Talasea - am referring this to Agriculture, but considers, as Mr. Leaf states should not be attempted unless through council.

**CONCLUSION:**

Agreed, unless there is potential of violence in which case the administrating authority is gaining little.

Considering the nature of the patrol and the time involved Mr. Leaf has submitted a satisfactory report. He has been advised to include full diary section in future reports.

(B. McBride)

Assistant District Commissioner

At the two villages that were stayed at the day great length of time, MR. HAYWARD and JACO, for the night respectively, the reception to the patrol was quite friendly.

The people had been told to expect the patrol in their area and had also received prior notice via the village radio. It was noticed that relations between the patrol and the people improved during our stay as the people showed their natural openness and hospitality.

The reception to the patrol was quite good. Almost all of the adult male, and a good proportion of women

forwarded  
District  
New London

#### INTRODUCTION:

1.

The Kombe Census Division is situated on the North Coast of New Britain Island, between the Bola and Kaliai Census Divisions.

2.

The climate is Tropical Monsoonal. The two major wind systems being the South East Trades, this off-shore wind system is prevalent during the major portion of the year, April to November, and the North West Monsoons, blowing between the months of December and March. Although the North Westerlies blow for only 3-4 months of the year they are responsible for more than two thirds of the total rainfall.

3.

The population of the Kombe, 3,464 persons last census patrol, is concentrated into 15 villages, 13 of which are situated on off-shore islands. All of these villages, on small coral islands, have gardens or plantations on the mainland adjacent to their island.

4.

The Kombe people are renowned seamen. Journeys of long duration, the whole family participating, are not uncommon. Their outrigger canoes are well known along the whole of the North Coast.

5.

The aim of the Patrol was twofold, (a) To obtain information from the Kombe for inclusion in an Area Survey, conducted for the proposed Talases Council.

(b) To give talks and hold discussion groups to try to give the people a better understanding of the working of Government, with emphasis on the House of Assembly and role of Local Govn. Councils. The Patrol was conducted by Mr. B. McBride Assistant District Commissioner.

6.

Because of factors that limited the duration of Patrol, it was decided to spend the first day on a quick visit, by speedboat, through the whole of the Census Division, calling briefly at certain villages to inform them of our intention to call them together in a few days time.

#### RECEPTION OF PATROL.

7.

At the two villages that were stayed at for any great length of time, NUTANAVUA and KAPO, for two nights respectively, the reception to the Patrol was quite friendly.

8.

The people had been told to expect the Patrol in their area and had also received prior notice via the village radio. It was noticed that relations between the Patrol and the people improved during our stay as the people overcame their natural shyness and misgivings.

9.

The reception to the lectures was quite good. Almost all of the adult male, and a good proportion of adult

RECEPTION OF PATROL CONTD.

The majority took some degree of interest in the proceedings. female population, were in attendance.

VILLAGES.

10.

The standard of housing is generally good, the houses having, in the main, been completely rebuilt less than a year ago.

12.

The off-shore island sites are occupied in preference to the mainland because of mosquitoes, of plague proportions that emanate from the many small creeks and mangrove swamp areas along this coast. Because of this preference for island life, the obtaining of water, food and firewood, means frequent short canoe trips to the mainland.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

13.

The village officials generally reflected the attitude of their people towards Local Govn. Councils.

14.

The Luluais of NUTANAVUA, KAPO and NUKAKAU, traveled with the Patrol after the meetings had been held in their respective villages and actively campaigned, at latter meetings, in favour of Councils.

POLITICAL SITUATION.

15.

The Kombe Census Division is, at the present time, still under the Luluai, Tultul system of village administration. Within a short time the Kombe, it is anticipated, will be incorporated into the new Talasea Council that will include the Kombe and the Bola Census Division.

16.

The new Talasea Council is one of three that are new in their formative stages within the District. The other two being the Central Nakani Council and the Gloucester Councils.

17.

The Kombe people are divided on the question of Local Govn. Councils. Villages such as NUTANAVUA and KAPO, WELL KNOWN PRO-government villages were decidedly in favour of councils. Although, it was not a blind acceptance. Intelligent questions were asked where certain aspects were unclear.



POLITICAL SITUATION CONTD.

18.

Anti-council villages did not hesitate to express their feelings at the meetings. They were very adamant in their dislike, which mainly, seemed derived from some imaginary or mistaken grievance stemming from cargo-cult thinking.

19.

Routine information for the area survey was collected from both pro and anti-council villagers. It became quickly apparent, as the meetings progressed, that many people had come to the meetings with their minds already made up and that no amount of reasoning would appreciably change their opinion.

20.

However, the meetings were extremely useful in clarifying the Government's policy on councils to the local people. Also, in rectifying misunderstandings that were prevalent amongst even pro-council villagers.

AGRICULTURE.

21.

Agriculture in the Kombe will become increasingly more important. As the people will tend to associate the success of the council by the results that they can see before them.

If the new council can help Agriculture overcome some of the difficulties that it is facing at the moment the prestige of the council, in the eyes of the Kombe people, will rise accordingly.

For example.

22.

A frequent complaint of the people is that they can obtain very little copra from their trees. The main cause of this is the use of young coco-nuts for drinking water, due to the isolation of the villages, on their offshore islands, to their water supplies on the mainland.

23.

An Environmental Sanitation Scheme introduced and sponsored by the council would improve the water supply, through wells and/or tanks, and would be instrumental in reducing the amount of young coco-nuts taken for drinking.

AGRICULTURE CONTD.

23.

Another factor hindering the production of copra, at the present moment, is the lack of small coastal shipping to transport the copra to main centres. It is realized that there is little chance of improvement in private coastal shipping, however, if the Talasea Council, in conjunction with the Central Nakani and Gloucester Councils, for example, combined to purchase a small motor vessel, of say, the proportions of the M.V. Garnet, I feel that it could be run as a commercial proposition.

24.

Besides transporting copra the boat could also have a deep-freeze unit installed to take crayfish, another industry that is flagging because of lack of facilities for quick transport.

25.

The last two suggestions, I realize, could be implemented only after the council has become consolidated. However, schemes such as these, where the people can see tangible evidence of the councils work, will go a long way in bringing acceptance of councils.

26.

More large scale plantings of coco-nuts in the area are both feasible and desirable. However, regular harvesting of existing trees would also go a long way to increase the quantity of copra at present obtained from this area.

LIVESTOCK.

27.

A few fowls and pigs are kept by the Koube people. They do not figure very highly in the local cash, or subsistence, economy.

FORESTS

28.

The large areas of swamp, covering the coastal fringes of the Koube, make it a hard area to obtain millable timber from.

LAND.

29.

There is no shortage of land on the mainland, though the majority of island villages are becoming crowded. It is inevitable that the mainland will be used, more and more, as the site for future dwellings.

REST HOUSES.

30.

The Patrol stayed at only two village rest houses in the Kombe. These were at-

NUWANAVUA- small but adequate.

KAPO- Larger than above, however, roof leaking.

The Rest House at NUKAKAU has blown down in a recent storm and was being rebuilt.

CANOES AND CARRIERS.

The patrol was conducted via the Govn. work boat M.V. Alawa, and no carriers or canoes were used.

HEALTH.

32.

The Kombe is served by the KALAPIAI MISSION for First Aid service, also the SILAVUTI MISSION HOSPITAL. The more serious cases are sent to Talasea Hospital, or to the Kalied Catholic Mission Hospital.

MISSIONS.

33.

The two Missions present in the Kombe are the Seven Day Adventists Church, with headquarters at Silavuti and the Catholic Mission at Hahavoni.

Both the missions have placed their support behind Local Govn. Councils.

LABOUR.

34.

Population, as per last census, was 3,464 of which 245 are employed outside the District.

73 are employed inside the District.

Crews of small coastal ships are often recruited from the Kombe, whilst Police and Army careers are also well thought of by the people.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

35.

At MULIAGANI village I noticed a small house made of local materials, situated on top of long stilts appreciably higher than the surrounding houses. Entrance was gained through a small opening in the floor.

On inquiry I was informed that the house was used by adolescent girls in a ceremony to proclaim their womanhood. After the ceremony they are considered eligible to be married.

The father of the girl decides when she is ready for the ceremony and for how long she should stay in the house, named LUMAGILEGI.

Before, up to three weeks were necessary, but today, one week seems to be the usual time.

Red paint is placed in the girls hair at this time and she discards the more modern dress for the traditional PulPul.

She is not allowed to be seen by anyone during this time, she may, however, come down for short periods of time during the night.

The initiation ends with a traditional sing-sing called BARUKU, after which the girl may wear the teeth of a dog around her neck.

CONCLUSIONS.

36.

patrol

Conclusions drawn from the patrol seem to suggest the following,

(a)

That the best way to learn about councils, and for the people to gain a better understanding of it, is for them to see it in operation. Therefore an early recommendation is advisable.

(b)

The Kombe people would probably accept the council once it is a concrete fact, though opposition from some sectors is inevitable.

Ignorance and mistrust will only be overcome when the council is established and its functions are discernable by the people.

CONCLUSIONS CONTD.

(c)

Tactful handling of the Tax question, with constant explanation of why the tax rate is set at a certain level and what is done with the monies collected.

(d)

A tax-rate set, initially at the previous head-tax level seems advisable.

Although the patrol was of short duration, I gained good experience in the handling of preliminary surveys for councils and in peoples reactions to such patrols.

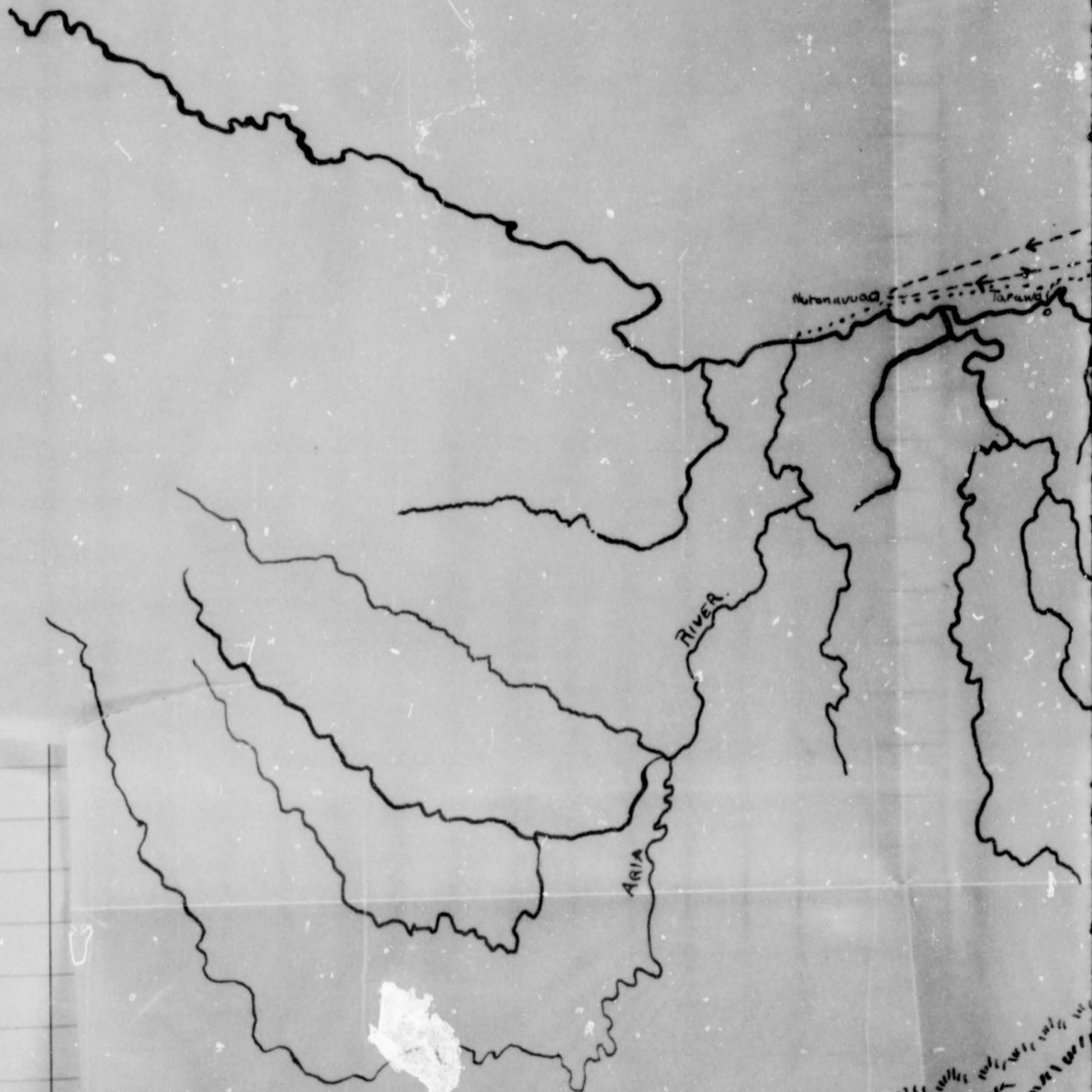
*ALLAN LEAF* 9/3/67  
ALLAN LEAF.  
CADET PATROL OFFICER.

ON R  
KOMBE  
CENSUS  
DIVISION

P A C I F I C

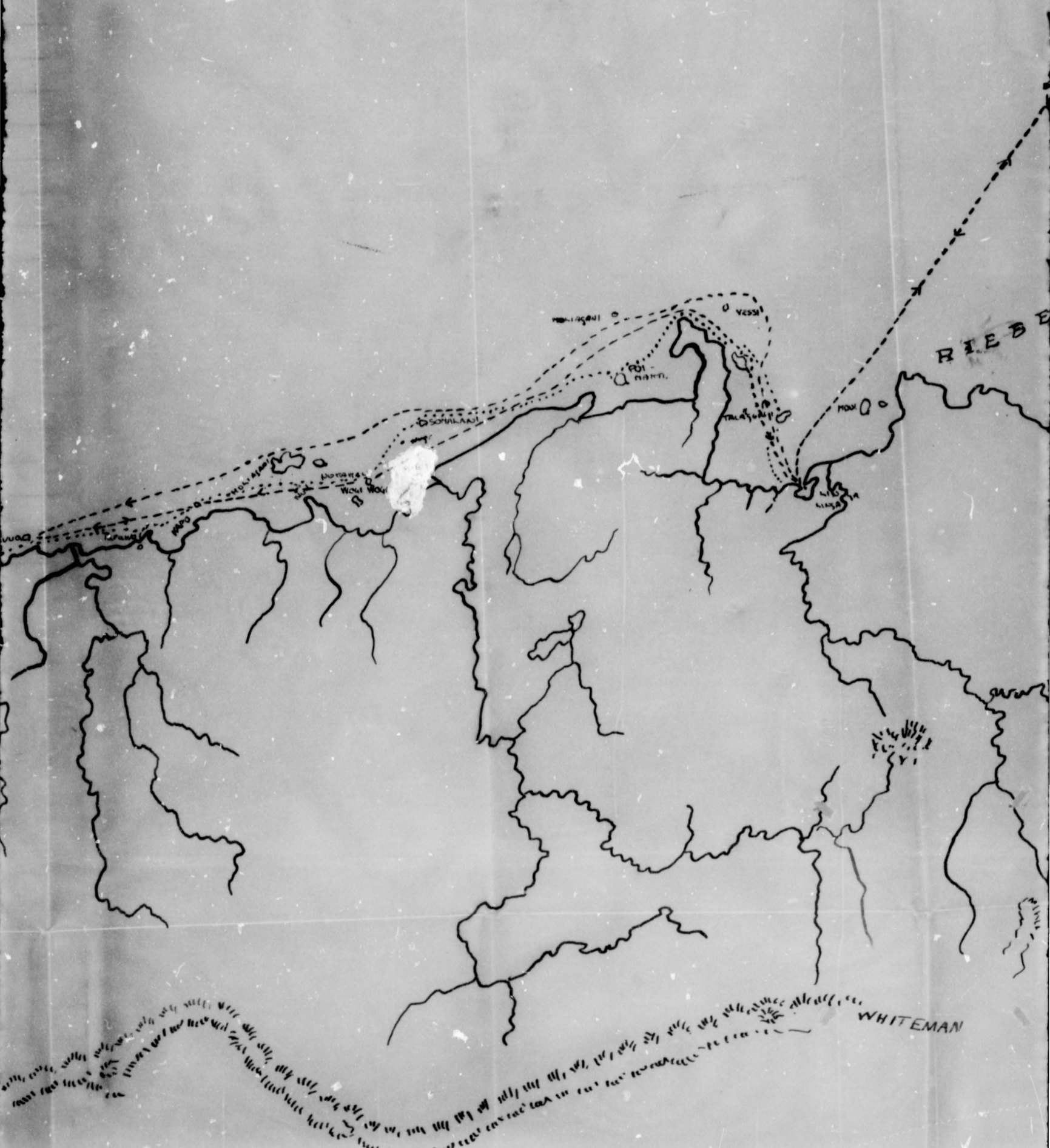
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26/2/67 - 3/3/67.

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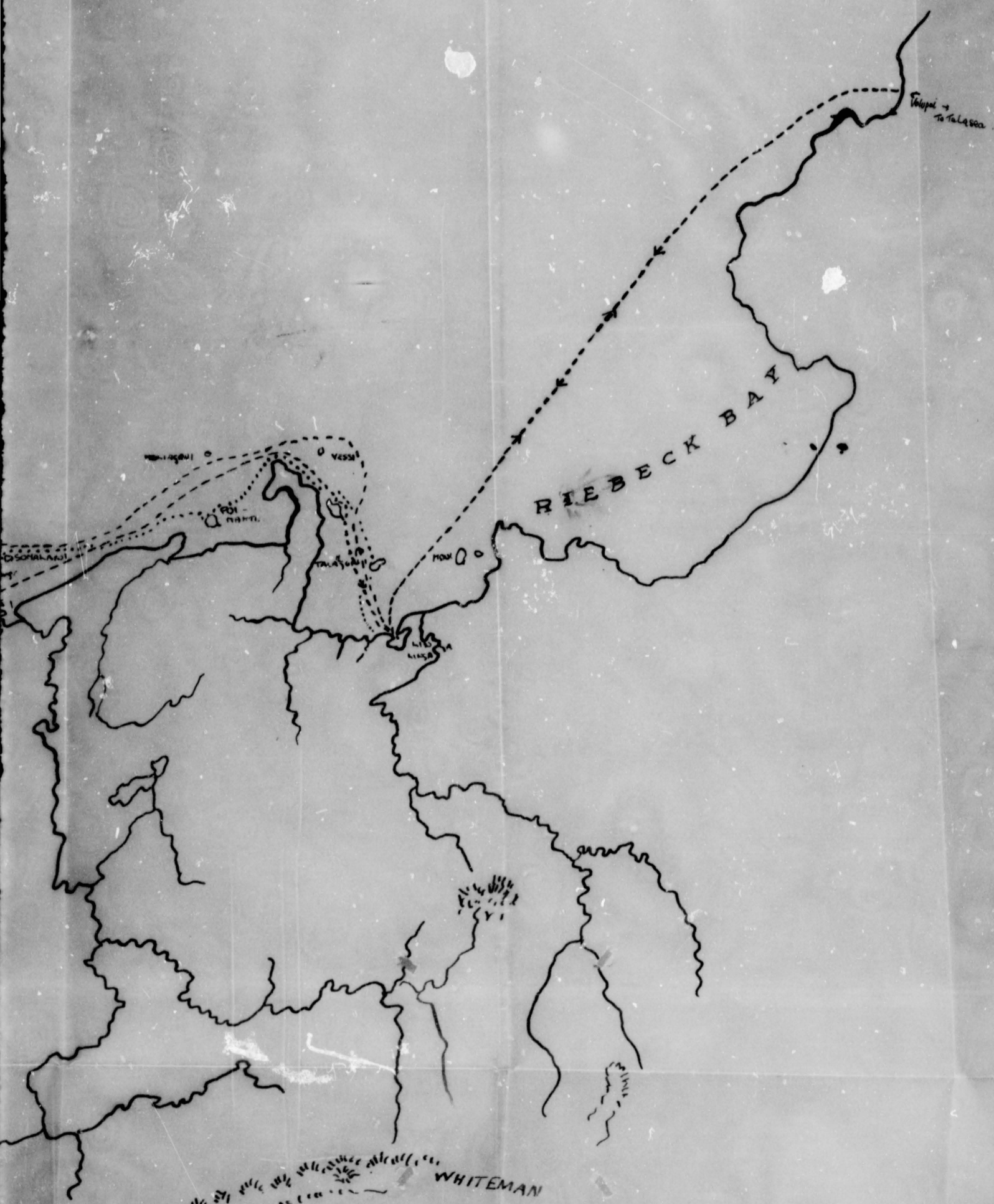


with, some, will, not, be, in, the, same, way, as, the, other, side, of, the, river, is, a, different, way, of, life.

I C O C E A N



C E A N



RIEBECK BAY

Telapai to Talasea

WHITEMAN

RANGE

SEA