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OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: SUAU, 1970 - 1971

Original documents bound with reports
for: Samarai, volume 14.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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RPH-874-7/2

MILNE BAY DISTRICT
PATROL REPORTS
1970-1970
SAMARI & SUAU

<u>Report No.</u>	<u>Officer conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
<u>SAMARI</u>		
1-70-71	R.NEHMY	Samari Islands Census Division Part only/
2-70-71	A.J.POTTER	Easterh portion of Bwara Bwara Local Government Council Samarai Islands.
<u>SUAU</u>		
1-70-71	R.NEHMY	Part Suau Census Division.
2-70-71	R.C.MUMME	Part Suau Census Division.
3-70-71 (69-70)	R.NEHMY	Suau Census Division.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Milne Bay Report No. Suau Patrol No. 1 of 1970/71

Patrol Conducted by Richard Nehmy Assistant Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled Part Suau Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by European Nil

Natives Sunday AleAle (Interpreter)

Duration—From 7/10/70 to 13/10/70

Number of Days Seven

Did Medical Assistant accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services April / May 1970

Medical Unknown / / 19

Map Reference Millinch Kay Fourmill Jamarai

Objects of Patrol 1. To obtain views of the people regarding the issuing of prospecting authorities. 2. To ascertain the position as regards useage of mangroves by both the village people and the Administration.

Director of District Administration,
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

.....

.....

.....

BR:LB

35-1-2
67-4-13

KONEDOPU....PAPUA.
10th March, 1971.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
M.B.D.

GUANO PATROL NO.1 - 70/71
NATIVE RIGHTS BEHIND HIGH WATER MARK

By 67-4-13 of 12th January, 1971 refers.

Please find herewith copy of memo RA 71/6 of
5th March, 1971 from the Crown Solicitor.

Please bring this to the attention of all field
staff.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Secretary

35-1-2

151

KA 71/6

5th March, 1971.


The Departmental Head,
Division of District Administration,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOBU.

Re: Native Rights Below High Water Mark -
Your Ref. 35-1-2 / 67-4-13

149

I refer to your memoranda of the 11th January and 26th ultimo. The statement in the Suau Patrol report that "all minerals which are contained in native owned land are controlled commercially by the Administration" is quite correct. In Papua, all minerals are vested in the Administration under Section 166 of the Mining Ordinance and the validity of the equivalent Section in the New Guinea Ordinance was recently upheld by the High Court in *Teori Tau v. The Commonwealth* (1969) 44 ALJR 25.

However, it is not correct to say that "mangrove trees, as their roots are under high water mark, are Administration owned." Whatever the position might be at Common Law, Section 8 of the Native Customs (Recognition) Ordinance, 1963, specifically recognises the possibility of customary rights existing "in, over or in connection with the sea or a reef, or in or on the bed of the sea or of a river or lake" and customary rights "over or to water". If there are well established customary rights to mangrove trees, the mere fact that the roots of these trees are under high water mark will not result in the trees being the property of the Administration. Whether customary rights exist or not would, of course, be a matter for determination by the Land Titles Commission.


(P.J. CLAY)
Crown Solicitor

BR:HC

35-1-2 / 67-4-13

Division of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, Papua

26th February, 1971.

The Crown Solicitor,
Office of the Crown Solicitor,
Department of Law,
KONEDOBU.

LEGAL OPINION - NATIVE RIGHTS BELOW HIGH
WATER MARK

A reply to my 35-1-2/67-4-13 of 11th January,
1971, would be appreciated please.

T.W. Ellis
(T.W. ELLIS)
Secretary.

BR:LB

67-4-13

Division of District Administration,

KONEDOBU. Papua.

12th January, 1971.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
ALOTAU.

SUAU PATROL NO. 1 - 70/71

Your reference is 67-8-1 (2) of 7th December, 1970.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Situation Report by Mr. R. Nehmy, A.P.O. of Part Suau Census Division.

Paragraph 1 (Social) refers. The question of native customary rights below high water mark is by no means clear at present and I am not happy about officers telling village people that anything below high water mark is Administration owned. It appears that each question should be looked at on its merits until legislation is more definite and I have referred this specific matter to Crown Law for an opinion.

In the meantime please instruct officers to refrain from commenting on like matters to the people until the question becomes more clear.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Departmental Head

c.c.
Mr. R. Nehmy,
Patrol Post,
Suau,
Milne Bay District.

BR:CG

35-1-2- 67-4-13

Division of District Administration,

KONEDGETU, Papua.

11th January, 1971.

The Crown Solicitor,
Office of the Crown Solicitor,
Department of Law,
KONEDGETU.

LEGAL OPINION - NATIVE RIGHTS
BELOW HIGH WATER MARK

Telephone conversation between Mr. Bredmeyer
and Mr. Robins on 8th January, 1971, refers.

The following are extracts from Subj Patrol
Number One of 70/71, Milne Bay District.

"At Borowai and Leleiafa the patrol discussed
any "Loss of Rights" which would be incurred if access roads
were needed through the mangroves for access to the recently ac-
quired timber around this area."

"The writer had difficulty explaining the
concept that all minerals which are contained in native owned
land are controlled commercially by the Administration. Sim-
ilarly the idea that mangrove trees, as their roots are under
high water mark, are Administration owned."

It appears that some compensation will be
given so there is no immediate problem but there is a danger of
incorrect information being imparted in such marine matters gen-
erally unless a guideline is available.

Would you please let me have a legal opinion
regarding native customary rights below high water mark.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Departmental Head.

c.c. The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
ALOTAU.

67-4-13 (9)



67-3-1(2)

Division of District Administration,

District Headquarters,
Milne Bay District,
ALOTAU

7th December, 1970

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
ALOTAU

SUMMARY REPORT NO. 1 OF 1970/71

Thank you for the above mentioned report.
Your comments concerning the forwarding of the report
have been noted.

I would be interested to know who will take
50 head of cattle per month.

I agree with your comments concerning the
Warden's Court, however there is little that can be
done other than to keep 'hammering the idea home'. This
matter will be discussed with Dr. Wise during his next
visit to Alotau.

Camping sites herewith.

ns
F. G. DRIVER
District Commissioner

The Departmental Head,
Department of the Administrator,
ALOTAU

For your comments please.

A-5
F. G. DRIVER
District Commissioner

6

DISTROFF
Samarai 331
67-1-1/67-1-3
Patrol Report
(Lever Arch File)
TAS/ty

Department of the Administrator,
Division of District
Administration.
Sub-District Office,
SAMARAI M.B.D.
6th November, 1970

District Commissioner.
Milne Bay District,
ALOTAU

SUAU PATROL REPORT 1/70-71

Please find herewith 3 copies of the above report.

This report has further built up the general background information on the Suau Coast of this Sub-District by Mr. Balderson and Mr. Nehmy.

The more specific matters reported on and requiring action have already been dealt with by individual memoranda and radio or personal conversations.

Mr. Nehmy has quoted the relevant references of this memoranda and radiograms throughout his report, and the references of this office are as follows:

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Addressee</u>	<u>Subject Matter</u>
35-5-17	3/11/70	O.I.C. Suau P/Post	Land Dispute-Isu'isu
35-7-1	29/10/70	District Commissioner	Prospecting Authority Appln
35-5-17	27/10/70	O.I.C. Suau P/Post	Appln. Lands Title on Commn Forms.

It is felt the report is a concise and very informative one.

The patrol was mounted principally for the canvassing of the views of the inhabitants of those areas, for which there are applications for prospecting authorities 84, 91 and 100.

In forwarding the separate report of the O.I.C. of the Suau Patrol Report on this matter, this office commented as follows:

"The only point I would like to make before forwarding, is that there have been a number of hearings for these applications in recent years, and even if the applications are granted, the man in the village seems to feel that nothing ever eventuates in any case, and sees little point in attending meetings now. From discussions with the Mining Warden on his way through Samarai, I feel that he is sympathetic to this view, and understands the reasons for poor attendance at hearings as being this attitude, as the hearings have been well publicised by Radio Milne Bay, the Suau Patrol Post, and this office."

Please find the 3 copies of this patrol report enclosed as stated.

(T.A. Steen)

Assistant District Commissioner

c.c Officer-in-Charge,
Suau Patrol Post,
FIFE BAY
Mr. Nehmy,
Suau Patrol Post
FIFE BAY

Could it please be noted that the report is being forwarded on by this office 4 working days after its receipt.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

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

Division
~~Department~~ of District Administration,
Department of the Administrator,
Suau Patrol Post,
Fife Bay via SAMARAI,
Milne Bay District,
T.P.N.G.
28th October 1970.

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub District Office,
SAMARAI.

PATROL REPORT - SUAU PATROL NO. 1 OF 1970/71.

Please find enclosed 4 copies of Suau Patrol Report No. 1 of 70/71 by Mr. Richard Nehmy, Assistant Patrol Officer.


It is realised that the patrol was completed on the 13th of this month and that I have disobeyed instructions regarding the prompt submission of patrol reports, but I ask that the following factors be taken into consideration.

1. The patrol was completed on the afternoon of Tuesday the 13th, and on arrival at Fife Bay I was informed of the drowning of a young child at IsuIsu. As Mr. Balderson was at Ronemaiava, all of Wednesday the 14th was spent at IsuIsu investigating the drowning, and then back at Fife Bay compiling my report on the objects of the patrol for urgent onforwarding to Alotau. On Thursday I returned to IsuIsu to try and arbitrate in a dispute between a surveyor and village people re alleged crown land. As the surveyor was working to a strict schedule and doing work for which the Administration was paying, a speedy settlement was needed. The remainder of Thursday and all of Friday was spent in discussions with the landowners, eventually resulting in a submission to your office requesting a Land Title Commissioner to settle the dispute; and in documenting my report on the drowned child.

2. The next week was spent in discussions re another land dispute. These discussions and investigations totalled 2 full days, and culminated in an all morning discussion between the land owners, yourself, Mr. Balderson and myself. The rest of the week was spent in discussions with yourself, Mr. Balderson and myself; the Handover/Takeover between Mr. Balderson and myself; and in preparation for the Suau Local Government Council's United Nations Day Celebrations. Consequently the first opportunity to write my report was this week.

3. As no boat is expected until Saturday, the report will probably not reach your office until the 2nd or third of November, thus meaning a delay of another 6 days.

4. Submitted for your information, comments and onforwarding, please.
5. Also attached is a camping claim for the period of the patrol.


R. Nehmy. OIC.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL DIARY.

(4)

Wednesday 7/10/70

1000 Departed for Gadaisu per M.V. Alepa.

1630 arrived Gadaisu.

1900 Snakebite victim arrived rest house - administered first aid, thence to Mariawatte - Slept at Mariawatte.

Thursday 8/10/70.

0600 Victim recovered - to Cadaisu. Arrived 0730.

0900 Meeting at Gadaisu - meeting completed 1000, small matters.

1100 to Suabina, as the creekbed/road to Vio was chest high in water.

1400 arrived Suabina after swimming 3 creeks normally knee high.

1500 discussions with councillor - Slept Suabina.

Friday 9/10/70.

0730 meeting - completed 0900, small matters.

1000 departed for Boilava - arrived 1430 - track in shocking condition.

1600 carriers arrived after some difficulty.

Village deserted - I had spoken to several people at Mariawatte who had assured me that they would be at the village on my arrival.

Saturday 10/10/70.

Day spent awaiting the arrival of people.

1200 Rain ceased for the 1st time since the commencement of the patrol.

1930 Councillor and some people arrived - rest on the way.

Sunday 11/11/70.

0800 meeting held - poor attendance - completed 0900 - small matters.

1000 departed for Borowai - arrived 1500 - track very bad.

Monday 12/10/70.

0700 meeting held - completed 0900.

1000 departed for Mullins Harbour - arrived on dead low tide.

1530 Palderson P.O. arrives as arranged - by outboard to Leleiafa.

1800 arrived Leleiafa after disembarking at the wrong point and wandering around in the mangroves for an hour.

Tuesday 13/10/70.

0800 meeting at Leleiafa.

0900 to Fife Bay - main track was in unusable condition, so used an old track which was in almost as bad a condition.

1530 arrived Fife Bay.

Patrol Stood Down.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

SUAU PATROL NUMBER ONE OF 1970/71.

INTRODUCTION.

The patrol was mounted to ascertain the feelings of the people in the area covered as regards the issuing of prospecting authorities. At Borowai and Leleiafa the patrol discussed any "Loss of Rights" which would be incurred if access roads were needed through the mangroves for access to the recently acquired timber around this area. Both of these matters have been covered by separate correspondence.

Situation Report.

POLITICAL.

1. The Borowai people expressed dissatisfaction with their new councillor (elected in May) and feel that they will be neglected by the council due to their poor representation. The previous Borowai Councillor had gone "walkabout" last August (69) and only returned in April.

2. The people canvassed re the mining applications were almost unanimously against the issuing of authorities. (Our 35-4-4 of 14/10/70 refers.) Although the matter had been discussed in March (Suau Patrol 2 of 69/70) and May (Suau Patrol 3 of 69/70) and at 2 consecutive council meetings, a mining court held at Suau and Konemaiava had elicited no response, thus making the patrol necessary. (Our 35-4-4 of 18/9/70 and Discom's telegram 701 refer.)

3. The Speaker and member for Alotau, Dr. John Guide, had been in the Suau area in March urging the people not to part with any land, mineral or timber rights, but he had not visited the area visited by the patrol.

ECONOMIC.

1. Mr John Stuntz, the Manager of Mariawatte plantation, shipped 50 head of cattle to Port Moresby a week after the patrol visited Mariawatte. For Mr. Stuntz this was a once only effort, although the buyer of the cattle had stated that he could take 50 head per month. Mr Stuntz believes that this is another first for Orangerie Bay as regards Economic Development. Bailara Plantation, even though it is just over the central district border, has 1000 head of cattle, but the plans for these are unknown. The sister plantation, Gadaisu, has 300 head as well. Many wild cattle are also in the area. (THE managers of both Baibara and Gadaisu have left in the past few weeks, and yet another mixed race Chinese employed to look after both until replacements can be found. It is believed that these two plantations are producing far below their capabilities at the moment. The reasons appear to be 1. Lack of experience on behalf of the managers. 2. The quick turn over in Managers 3. The managers's dissatisfaction with their conditions of employment and consequent lack of total effort.)

2. In Suau Patrol Report No. 2 of 69/70 I mentioned the several outboard motors in the area, and predicted a short life for most of them.

a) The ex Gadaisu Councillors outboard is not running, but the fault appears to be only minor.

b) The new Gadaisu Councillors outboard (Bought at a cost of \$1400) was chartered to rush a snake-bite victim to Mariawatte, as no anti-venom was held by Gadaisu plantation. It took the writer an hour to get 3 gallons of benzine from 4 different sources to enable the boat to make the trip. For the return trip Mr. Stuntz kindly donated 4 gallons to the owner. When asked if he required outboard oil as well, the owner expressed ignorance as to the use of outboard oil. He had always used straight petrol. Two days later this gentleman was at Baibara trying to purchase petrol when a large wave engulfed his boat, smashing the hull. The motor is "O.K., except there is something wrong with the pistons."

c) An outboard at Suabina, overturned in heavy seas and the engine spent an hour immersed in salt water. The owner plans to strip the engine for cleaning "soon" and feels that the engine will then function as normal.

d) The Borowai village outboard broke down a month or so ago with a major defect. It is not known what attention this has received.

It is a pity that these motors have had such a short life, but perhaps their owners have now realized the necessity for a working knowledge as well.

SOCIAL.

1. The writer had difficulty explaining the concept that all minerals which are contained in native owned land are controlled commercially by the Administration. Similarly, the idea that mangrove trees, as their roots are under high water mark, are Administration owned. The writer did not attempt lengthy explanations when it became obvious that the fact was unacceptable at the time, and that the people needed time to think about and discuss this. No difficulties are envisaged, as regards compensation for loss of rights of mangrove products, except that some may feel they are getting money for the mangroves themselves.

2. At Leleiafa Village, during the course of a stroll around the village, five new houses under construction were seen, as well as a new church. The new councillor has shifted in from a hamlet to the main village and it appears that one or two other families are following suit. Most of the village are working on the buildings. The outlying hamlets are all very small.

3. On returning to Fife Bay, the patrol passed through Enaia, a hamlet of SeaSea Village, where two new large gardens are under construction. "Governor" Gaileko is still a commanding force.

4. Due to the intensive tax-defaulter prosecution campaign last year and the commencement of prosecutions this year, a few defaulters returned with the patrol. But a disappointing note was the lack of awareness of tax exemption and appeal procedures, although Mr. Balderson had covered this topic fully on a previous patrol. (Suau Patrol No. 2 of 69/70.)

5. Councillor Gaileko of SeaSea Village had collected the tax from every tax payer in his village, with one or two exceptions, and handed the tax patrol approximately \$600 when they arrived at SeaSea in August. Subsequently it was noted that Gaileko himself had not paid his own tax. He was subsequently taken to court and fined. Whether he had honestly forgotten, or if he had been so busy on his many projects he had not been able to accumulate his tax money, or whether he felt his friendship with the station staff made him immune to prosecution, I cannot say.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. The small number of people present at each meeting was surprising. Perhaps the nature of the patrol did not interest many people, or perhaps the people are becoming less interested in patrols. Another factor may be the disappointment which the writer sometimes noticed when the people found that Mr. Balderson was not with the patrol. Mr. Balderson is held in high esteem by the Suau people, and perhaps the people felt that if a deputy had been sent, then the patrol could not have been very important. It was generally known that Mr. Balderson was going on leave, and several village leaders expressed concern that he may not return to Suau.

CONCLUSION.

1. Although the views of the people were obtained on the relevant aspects of the patrol, the number of people attending and the apathetic approach to the topics under discussion was disappointing. Perhaps a leisurly patrol with 2 days spent in each village may be of some use in a few months time.

Richard Nehmy.
Assistant Patrol Officer.

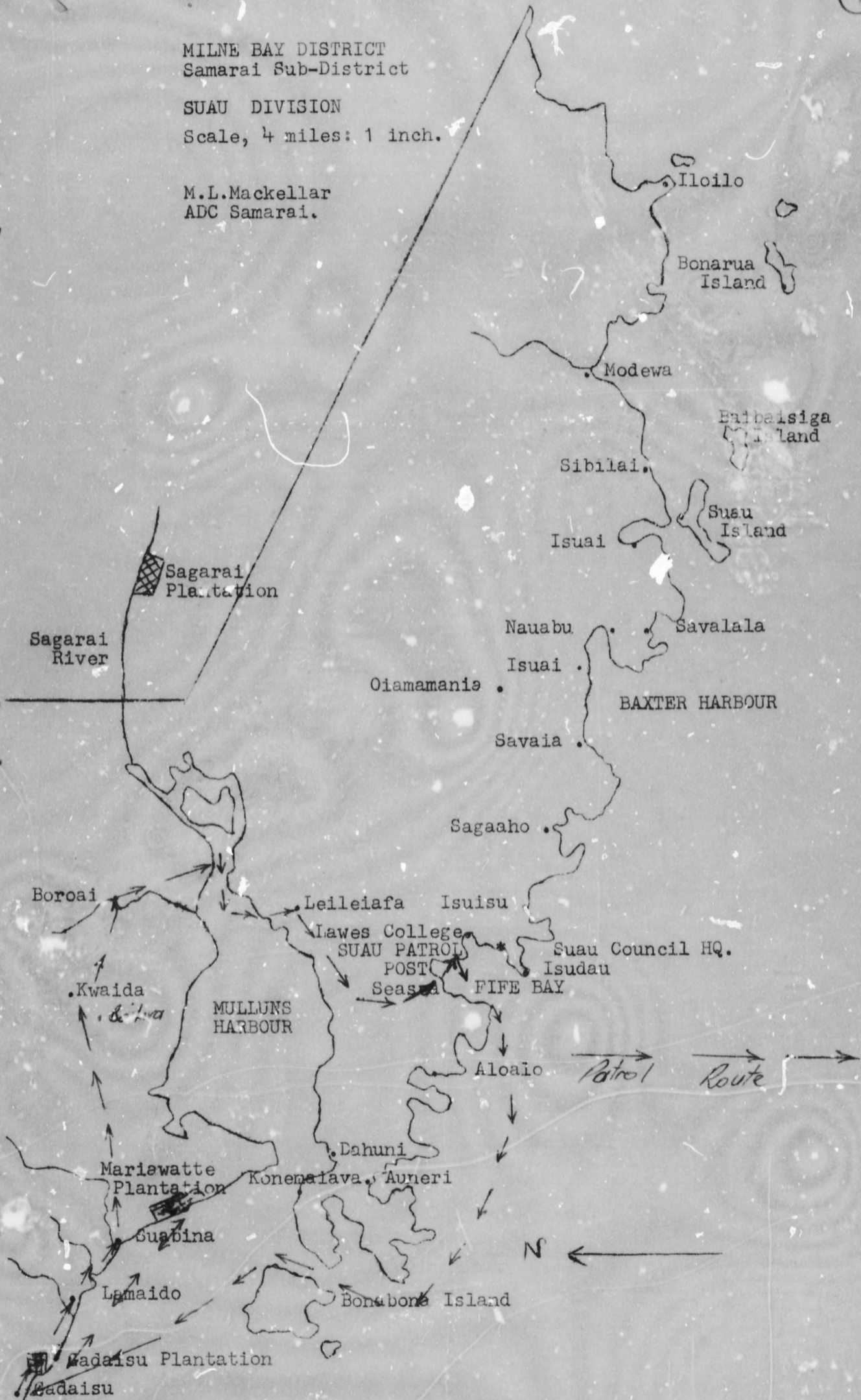
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MILNE BAY DISTRICT
Samarai Sub-District

SUAU DIVISION

Scale, 4 miles: 1 inch.

M.L.Mackellar
ADC Samarai.





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

Report Number..... SUAU NO. 2 of 1970/71

Subdistrict..... SAUWAI.

District..... MILNE BAY

Type of Patrol..... CENSUS

Patrol Conducted by..... R.C. MOSE (A.P.O.)

Area Patrolled
(Council and/or
Census Division/s.) } PART SUAU CENSUS DIVISION.

Personnel Accompanying Patrol
..... J. BALDWIN P.O. (1 week)
..... B. PATTERSON P.E.O. (3 days)
..... A. PROUT (Interpreter)

Duration of Patrol—from..... ~~MAY~~ / ~~MAY~~ to..... 10th June 1971

No. of Days..... TWENTY DAYS.

Last D.D.A. Patrol to Area:.....

Date..... Duration.....

- Objects of Patrol (Briefly).....
1. Compilation of Common Roll for 1972 House of Assembly Elections.
 2. To carry out brief pre-Territory Census talks in villages.
 3. To accompany Mr. B. Patterson, P.E.O. while he conducted political education talks along the Suau Coast.

Total Population of Area Patrolled.....

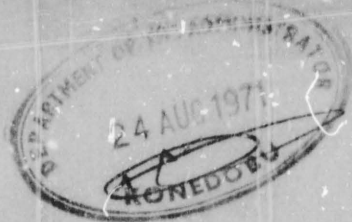
Director of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

Forwarded, please.

/ /19

.....
District Commissioner.

MO



67-4-60

(12)

67-3-3 (2)

Division of District Administration,

District Headquarters,
Milne Bay District,
ASOPAH.

19th August, 1971.

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
SABAHAI.

SUVA PATROL 2/1970-71

Thank you for the above report submitted by Mr. Mumme.

2. To overcome the problem of "field officers" "switching in" brief often badly directed discussions of "political education", I intend to have all junior single officers undertake a 3 months tour of duty with Mr. Paterson, our Political Education Officer. This will, in the long term provide us with a hard core of officers who know what they are talking about, and understand the various techniques of getting the message across.

(P.O. DRIVER)
District Commissioner

c.c. The Secretary,
Department of the Administrator,
KOROHEKE

DISTROFF.

Lever Arch File : Suau Patrol Reports.
67-1-3

TAS:IP

Division of District Administration
Sub-District Office,
SMARAI: M.B.D.

13th August 1971.

District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
ALOTAU.

SUAU PATROL REPORT NO. 2 of 1970/71

Please find herewith three copies of Suau Patrol Report No. 2 of 1970/71. The submission of this patrol report has been delayed by the compilation of the Common Roll and the conducting of the Territory Census.

The reasons for the patrol are as follows :

1. Compilation of Common Roll for 1972 House of Assembly Elections.
2. To carry out brief pre-Territory Census talks in villages.
3. To accompany Mr. B. Paterson, P.E.O. while he conducted political education talks along the Suau Coast.

The Common Roll for the Suau Administrative area/Census Division has been updated, typed in sextuplicate and lang since forwarded to your office.

Similarly the Territory Census for which preliminary work was done on this patrol has been completed and the relevant statistics and papers forwarded yours.

Judging from Mr. Paterson's report as well as this patrol report, the Political Education carried out during this patrol and from personal observation, it seems that this was a real achievement. The visit of Mr. W.K. Paterson, Political Education Officer for the District, has been appreciated. As previously reported by Mr. Nayuy, A.P.O., in a previous patrol report for this area as well as memoranda from the former officer in charge of the Suau Patrol Post, Mr. J. Balderson, P.O., there is a need for continuing political education in this area. Mr. Paterson's work here aided by Mr. Mumme will considerably assist to consolidate the political education work initiated by Mr. Balderson and Nehmy. As stated in my Annual Report - "Having even only one specialist officer working full time on this District Political Education programme appears to be more efficient than each field officer 'sandwiching' in brief, often badly directed discussions on Political Education when visiting villages on other routine D.D.A. duties, although it is appreciated that Political Education is a continuing process and the responsibility of each field officer to do as much to assist the programme as he is able".

Mr. Mumme should consult the Village Directory published by this Department for a guide to the standard spelling of village names.

With reference to Mr. Mumme's remarks concerning sorcery, this is yet another example of how traditional beliefs have endured despite the impact of an expatriate culture is that sorcery is still practised and fervently believed in by a large number of indigenous people. The only murder in this sub-district for a number of years was the slaying of a sorcerer on Sideia Island approximately 3 years ago and since that time there have been a number of court cases involving the use of sorcery. The recent legislation on sorcery passed by the House of Assembly and which imposes bigger penalties than the previous legislation under the native regulations would seem to put more teeth into the Administrations efforts to deter sorcery. In the past year as a result of one of these court cases the defendant was sentenced to a maximum period of 6 months for alleged sorcery. The Suau people believed

he had killed two or three people through his practice of "black magic".

With reference to Mr. Mumme's final paragraph in his report, possibly the District Medical Officer may be able to make available the services of a Health Educator to visit the area and if you approve of this I will approach him accordingly.

The section on economic activity in the report on Page 6. may be of interest to the Rural Development Officer and his officers at Alotau and a copy will be forwarded.

The report submitted by Mr. Mumme is a brief one but has supplied us with a certain amount of concise information. This A.P.O. has submitted a good report, especially considering that most of the report was compiled over a weekend before leaving again to continue Territory Census duties. The undersigned was unable to give Mr. Mumme the customary working time off to write his report immediately upon return from patrol due to Common Roll and Territory Census commitments.

Please find herewith 3 copies of a contingency voucher submitted in respect of Mr. Mumme's claim for camping allowance. The claim in respect of Mr. Froust, Interpreter, was paid at this office by special arrangement with special approval because of the then imminent end of the last financial year, and patrol funds would have been lost to this Department had they not been expended then. Could special permission for future cases of local officers in such positions accompanying patrols be given, so that their camping allowance claims can be paid at the sub-district level on the approval of an A.D.C. rather than have to wait on the submission and acceptance of a patrol report please.

(T.A. STEEN)

Assistant District Commissioner

PATROL REPORT

REPORT NUMBER. SUAU NO. 2 of 1970/71
SUB-DISTRICT SAMARAI.
DISTRICT MILNE BAY.
TYPE OF PATROL SPECIAL.

PATROL CONDUCTED BY R.C. MUNNE (A.P.O)

AREA PATROLLED PART SUAU CENSUS DIVISION.

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL J. BALDERSON. P.O. (1WEEK)
B. PATERSON P.E.O. (3DAYS)
A. PROUT (INTERPRETER)

DURATION OF PATROL FROM 30th MAY 1971.
TO 19th JUNE 1971.

NO. OF DAYS. TWENTY DAYS.

OBJECTS OF PATROL

1. COMPILATION OF COMMON ROLE FOR 1972.
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTION.
2. TO CARRY OUT BRIEF PRE-TERRITORY
CENSUS TALKS IN VILLAGES.
3. TO ACCOMPANY MR. B. PATERSON P.E.O.
WHILE HE CONDUCTED POLITICAL
EDUCATION TALKS ALONG THE SUAU
COAST.

PATROL DIARY

MONDAY
1.6.71
0900 - 1330 hrs. BY MV. MANAGUNA from Samarai to Suau Island with P.O. Balderson.
1400 - 1415 hrs. by boat across to Sibilai with the intention of leasing the land for the government school. However matter could not be settled in afternoon.
1630 - 1700 hrs. by canoe back to Suau Island. Slept Suau Island.

TUESDAY
2.6.71
0800 - 0815 hrs. to SIBILAI.
Due to amount of disputes which arose in claim for land ownership, the matter was postponed until a later date when more time would be available.
Investigation of sorcery complaint - alleged sorcerer and witness to be taken back to Samarai on return trip.
1100 - 1330 hrs. SIBILAI to NAVABU.
1400 - 1630 hrs. Pre-Census talks and updating of House of Assembly Electoral Common Roll. Slept. Navabu.

WEDNESDAY
3.6.71
0800 - 0930 hrs. NAVABU to ISUAI.
0930 - 1130 hrs. Pre-Census talks and compilation of 1970 Common Roll.
1130 - 1330 hrs. ISUAI to SAVAI'A.
1400 - 1500 hrs. walked up to New Oiamamania. Self and P.O. Balderson carried out Pre-Census talks and updated Common Roll.
1600 - 1700 hrs. back again. Slept Savai'a.

THURSDAY
4.6.71
0800 - 1000 hrs. Pre-Census talks and updating of Common Roll for 1972 House of Assembly Elections.
1000 - 1230 hrs. Walked to Saga'aho.
1300 - 1530 hrs. Pre-Census talks and compilation of Common Roll. Enquiries into leasing of land for airstrip $\frac{1}{2}$ mile inland from Saga'aho village. Slept Saga'aho.

FRIDAY
5.6.71
0730 - 1000 hrs. Patrol to Isu'Isu.
P.O. Balderson took patrol to the Bay (Suau Patrol Post) while self updated Common Roll.
1200 - 1300 hrs. Self and interpreter to Isudau village.
1330 - 1500 hrs. conducted pre-census talks and compilation of Electoral Common Roll.
1500 - 1530 hrs. walked to Suau Patrol Post. Slept Suau P.P.

SATURDAY
6.6.71.
Morning spent in office planning programme for following week.
Observed Suau P.O. Slept Suau P.P.

SUNDAY
7.6.71
Morning observed.
Afternoon spent in office. Slept Suau P.P.

MONDAY
8.6.71.
0800 - 0830 hrs. to SEASEA village.
0830 - 1030 Explanatory talks on Territory Census and updating of Electoral Common Roll.
1100 - 1400 hrs. walked to ALOALO village.
1430 to 1630 Census talks and updating of Common Roll for 1972 House of Assembly Elections. Slept. Alo' alo.

TUESDAY
9.6.71. 0730 - 1100 hrs. walked to AUNIERI.
1130 - 1330 hrs. Pre-Census talks and updated Common Roll.
1330 - 1530 hrs. across to DAHUNI. Sent word for people from
Konemaiava and Bona Bona to come on following morning.

WEDNESDAY
10.6.71. 0900 - 1030 hrs. Pre-Census talks and updating of Common Roll for
DAHUNI Ward.
1030 - 1100 hrs. Dahuni to Konemaiava.
1100 - 1200 Revision of Common Roll for Bona Bona Ward.
1230 - 1300 hrs. back to Dahuni.
1330 - 1630 walked to Veliveli halet while cargo went by canoe.
1630 - 2000 hrs. by canoes up Mullins Harbour and various rivers
to LEILEIAFA. Slept Leileiafa.

THURSDAY
11.6.71. 0930 - 1100 hrs. Pre-Census talks and updated Electoral Common Roll.
1130 - 1500 hrs. Leileiafa to Suau P.O. Slept Fife Bay (Suau P.P.)

FRIDAY
12.6.71. Spent in office at Fife Bay clearing up various matters pertaining
to patrol. Organised charter of MV. TOROHAI for Monday morning.
Charged batteries for radio. Slept Suau P.P.

SATURDAY
13.6.71. Small amount of office work.
Observed. Slept Suau P.O.

MONDAY
14.6.71. 0315 - 1415 by MV. TOROHAI to GADAISU village.
1530 - 1600 hrs. Pre-Census talks at Gadaisu Primary School.
1630 - 1730 Pre-Census talks and updated Common Roll at Gadaisu
Plantation. Slept Gadaisu.

TUESDAY
15.6.71. 0830 - 0930 hrs. talks on Territory Census and compilation of
Electoral Common Roll.
0930 - 1030 hrs. by Tractor to LAMAIDO accompanied by Agric.
Assistant from Suau Patrol Post.
1130 - 1230 hrs. Pre-Census talks and updated Common Roll.
1300 - 1500 hrs. Laimodo to Suabina. Talks postponed due to
heavy rain. Slept Suabina.

WEDNESDAY
16.6.71. 0800 - 0830 hrs. to central halet.
0900 - 1130 hrs. Explanatory talks of Territory Census and
compilation of Common Roll for 1972 House of Assembly Elections.
Advised people of Political Education talks to be held on following
day at KONEMAIAVA and advised them to select representatives to
attend the meeting.
1200 - 1400 hrs. walked down to MARIWATTE Plantation - Compilation
of Common Roll for Labourers.
1900 - 1930 hrs. by outboard across to Konemaiava. Slept Konemaiava.

THURSDAY
17.6.71

Rang Samarai from Konemaiava to advise position and find out E.T.A. of MV. AKU.

1100 hrs. arrival of MV AKU and B. Paterson, P.E.O. from Alotau.

1100 - 1200 hrs. patrol equipment moved to MV. AKU.

1300 - 1530 hrs. Political Education talks by B. Paterson.

1530 - 1600 hrs. Brief pre-election campaign carried out in anticipation of coming By-election for Dahuni Ward.

1900 - 2100 hrs. Political Education films shown at school.

Slept Konemaiava.

FRIDAY
18.6.71

1630 - 1900 hrs. by MV. AKU to Fife Bay.

1000 - 1130 hrs. Self and interpreter to Sea Sea village to collect people for meeting.

1200 - 1330 hrs. back to Fife Bay through torrential downpours.

1400 - 1445 hrs. walked to Isudau where meeting was to have been held. However continual rainfall prevented meeting.

1830 - 2030 hrs. Films held in Council Chambers. Slept Isudau.

SATURDAY
19.6.71

0530 - 0930 hrs. by MV. AKU to Suau Island. Self and Interpreter across to Sibilai to collect and inform people.

1100 - 1400 hrs. Political Education talks by P.E.O. Paterson.

1430 - 1830 hrs. by MV. AKU to Samarai.

1930 - 2000 hrs. to Sududu village.

2000 - 2200 hrs. films shown to people.

Back to SAMARAI.

END OF PATROL.

SUAU PATROL REPORT NO. 2 of 1970/71

SITUATION REPORT

A. POLITICAL

No political education talks were given by this patrol. The main reasons for this are because the main purposes of this patrol were to propagate the coming Territory Census and to compile names for the Electoral Common Roll in as many villages as possible within a limited period of time. Also the patrol, on its return to Samarai, was to accompany Mr. Bill Patterson, P.E.O. from Alotau, and assist him with his programme of conducting political education talks at various villages along the Suau Coast.

Detailed explanatory talks concerning the July Territory Census were carried out by Mr. J. Balderson, P.O. who accompanied the patrol during the first week of its duration. These talks were propagated in each of the six villages along the Suau Coast, which are to be the representative villages in the Territory Census, for the Samarai Sub-District.

The talks carried out by Mr. Balderson and the writer were generally well received, and time was allotted at the conclusion of the talks, for the people to ask questions on any queries they had regarding the Territory Census.

During the patrol's visit to the various villages, plantations and schools between Gadaisu and Konemaiava, the people were informed about the job of Mr. Patterson, P.E.O. from Alotau, and how he would be visiting Konemaiava for the purpose of conducting detailed political education discussions with all those people who were interested.

The people were advised to select three or four representatives from the village, in order that they would be able to go down to Konemaiava, listen to the talks, and then after returning to the village they could impart the knowledge they had gained onto the remaining people. However, the writer did not choose or force any member of the villages to attend this meeting, but stressed the point that the political education talks were provided for the peoples' benefit, and as Mr. Patterson did not have the time to visit each village, it was up to the people to help themselves and make an effort to get several representatives to attend and take part in the discussions.

It was disappointing to find that no one person from this section of the Suau coastline attended the meeting at Konemaiava.

B. POLITICAL EDUCATION TALKS AT KONEMAIAVA

(i)

This meeting was held in the Konemaiava school, and was made up largely by school children, although quite a few village people from Dahuni and Konemaiava also attended.

Only about 4 - 5 men actively took part in discussions, but many intelligent questions were put forward.

Many of the audience did not want Self-Government in the foreseeable future, as they believed that a much higher standard of living, education etc., had to be attained before such a step could be taken. Many of the people were confused

by the difference between Self-Government and Independence. A common belief amongst the people was the thought that once the step of Self-Government had been achieved, all expatriate workers would return to Australia.

It was explained to the people that with the coming of self-government, sudden changes in the standard of living, economic development etc., would not suddenly materialise. The only way these changes could eventuate, was through hard work by each individual.

The people were informed of the process by which the House of Assembly and its Ministerial Members are gradually taking on more responsibilities, and receiving more power to make laws etc., in the governing of their country. It was explained to the people how this is a significant step towards self-government.

With the use of diagrams on a blackboard the people were able to gain an understanding of the break-up of government into the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary sections. And they were shown how the individual is able to influence and be influenced by each of these sections.

POLITICAL EDUCATION TALKS AT FIFE BAY

(ii) The writer was unable to attend this meeting, but after speaking with various members of the audience it was found that the meeting was generally well accepted by the students, teachers and mission staff. These talks however, were catered only for English speakers, as at the time of the meeting, an interpreter was not available.

After talking with a spokesman for the village men who attended this meeting from a nearby village, it was discovered that although these men had a basic understanding of the English language, and could understand the majority of what Mr. Paterson was saying, they were hesitant about asking questions, and would have felt more sure of themselves if they could have used an interpreter.

A. POLITICAL EDUCATION TALKS HELD FOR SAMARAI SCHOOL AND VILLAGE, (iii) AND ALSO FOR PEOPLE FROM SUAVU ISLAND

Leaflets showing the diagram of the new flag were distributed amongst the audience which was made up largely of common village people. It was explained to the people that the flag was a way of bringing a feeling of unity amongst themselves and an example of a gradual breakaway towards independence from their Australian protectors.

It was interesting to see that although no member of the audience had gone into Samarai to listen to the Select Committee for Constitutional Development, many of the radio listeners had heard about the visit, and the implications of its outcome.

The people here were once again confused between the difference of Self-government and Independence.

The gradual process towards independence was explained to the village people by using the example of a young boy (Papua New Guinea) who becomes a youth attending school to gain an education (P.N.G. receiving aid from Australia) and then becomes a young man ready for marriage (self-government).

3

Before he gets married he is still dependent on his parents or protectors (Australia). After marriage he becomes independent and if he wishes to go fishing or needs help he will ask another independent person (country).

B. ECONOMIC

The only cash crop produced in the coastal villages visited is copra. Near Suabina village however, many Robusta Coffee trees were observed. These trees have not been cultivated and ripe coffee beans were found withering on the branches. It appears that the task of cultivating and producing coffee proves too arduous for these coastal people who prefer to continue with the easier job of producing copra.

The production of Birds Eye Chillies is being introduced this year to the villages of Isuai and Savaia where the climatic conditions appear relatively favourable.

An agricultural assistant from Fife Bay accompanied the patrol from Gadaisu down to Konemaia, and at each village carried out talks concerning the improvement of the quality and quantity of the copra produced. The people from each of the villages were encouraged to start using the more favourable system of "Hot-Air-Dryers" in preference to the customary method of "Smoke-Drying" the copra.

The majority of these villages have ready access to ports which enable the copra produced to be shipped regularly to Samarai.

It is interesting to note, that in order to increase the village economy, the people from Oiamania are gradually moving their village down to a situation approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the coast. The main reason for this mass-migration is that at the previous site, the surrounding land was unsuitable for cultivation. Therefore, the people cleared land closer to the coast where the soil and climatic conditions prove far more favourable. Approximately fifteen houses have already been completed at 'New Oiamania', and new plots of young coconut trees, taro, sweet potato etc., are being cultivated.

SOCIAL

The villages visited by this patrol appear extremely well catered for in the way of educational and medical facilities.

Government schools appear at Gadaisu, Konemaiava, Fife Bay, ~~Savata~~ and Sibilai, while the United Church have schools situated at Navabu, ~~Savata~~, Isuai, Saga'aho and Fife Bay.

The patrol was well received in each of the villages visited and generally the people appeared friendly and law-abiding. One sorcery complaint however, was brought to the attention of the writer at Sibilai village when an attempt on a woman's life had been made one week before the patrol's visit to the village. The alleged sorcerer and witnesses for the court case were brought back to Samarai on the return trip of this patrol.

Generally the village houses in this area are in an extremely poor condition. The people appear to have little pride in the appearance of their villages, as a general impression of filth was usually gained upon entry.

R. C. MUMME

(R. C. MUMME)
Assistant Patrol Officer

GUAN PATRIA No. 2 1918/71.
SAMARU SUB-DISTRICT
MELNE BAY DISTRICT.

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E. M. [Illegible]
A. P. [Illegible]

SAMARU

ILOLO

BOU [Illegible] ISLAND

HOEVA

BAIRIDGE ISLAND

SIEVA

BOU ISLAND

[Illegible]

NAIABU

SWATEA

NEW [Illegible]

BAYTER HARBOR

NEW [Illegible]

SARAU

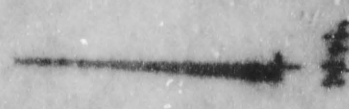
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BUNABONA ISLAND



67-8-1



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of MILNE BAY Report No. Suau Patrol No. 5 of 69/70.

Patrol Conducted by Richard Nehmy A.P.O.

Area Patrolled Suau Census Division.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil.

Natives Francis Bevesi: Suau Council Clerk. Charles Kingsley: Interpreter.

Duration—From 26/4/1970 to 26/5/1970.

Number of Days 31 days.

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services Feb/Mar/1970

Medical Unknown / / 19

Map Reference Millinch Leani Feurmill Samarai.

Objects of Patrol To conduct Elections for councillors for the Suaj Local Government Council.

Director of District Administration, PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ / 19

District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation ... \$.....

Amount Paid from D.N.F. Trust Fund ... \$.....

Amount paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund

.....

.....

.....

KJH:KP

67-4-67

KONEDOBU. PAPUA.

24th March, 1971.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
ALOTAU.

SUAU PATROL NO. 3-1969/70.

Your reference 67-8-1 of 7th December, 1970.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Special Report by Mr. R. Nehmy, Assistant Patrol Officer, of SUAU Census Division.

Mr. Nehmy seems to have conducted the SUAU Council election in a competent manner.

Would you please advise why the report has apparently been delayed for six months before on-forwarding to this Headquarters.

T.W.E.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Secretary.



67-4-67

67-3-1

Division of District Administration,
District Headquarters,
Milne Bay District,
ALBANI

7th December, 1970

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
ENIATAI

GUAN PATROL REPORT NO. 3 OF 1969/70

Thank you for the above mentioned report.

Have you contacted the Rural Development Officer concerning the Chili and Cherry project?

Have you advised the Medical Officer regarding the lack of medical supplies at Guan Patrol Post?

Mr. Penny tends to write involved sentences, he should try in himself to be more succinct.

ACS
F. G. DRIVER
District Commissioner

The Departmental Head,
Department of the Administrator,
KOROROE

Forwarded for comment, please.

ACS
F. G. DRIVER
District Commissioner

67-1-1

jb

Division of District
Administration,
Department of the Administrator,
Suva Postal Post,
FIVE FIVE
Via Samarai
19/6/70

Assistant District Commissioner,
Samarai.

SUAU PATROL REPORT NO. 3-69/70----R. NEHMY

Please find enclosed four (4) copies of the above mentioned patrol report, together with a claim for camping allowance for the period camped out.

My comments as per Paragraph 1 and 3 of my 67-1-1 dated 16/6/70 still pertain, however Mr. Nehmy compiled this report before receiving a copy of my above mentioned correspondence.

Mr. Nehmy, as Presiding Officer, handled the Elections well, and his Election Report (41-1-2 dated 1/6/70) is both detailed and factual. The Assistant Returning Officer was present at 4 of the Polling Booths on election day in those particular villages, and witnessed and aided in conduct of the polling which was carried out in a competent manner.

For your information and onforwarding please.

.....
J. Balerson. (O.I.C.)

c.c Mr. R. Nehmy.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telephone
Telegrams.....67.m.1.m.i.....
Our Reference.....
If calling ask for
Mr.....j.b.....

Division
--Department of District Administration,
Division of the Administrator,
Suva Patrol Post,
Fife Bay,
Via Samarai.
18/4/70.

Mr. R. Nehay,
Suva Patrol Post.

Dear Mr. Nehay,

Please prepare to depart on a Council election patrol in the Suva area on Sunday the 26th April, per "Terahai".

The purpose of the patrol is to conduct elections for Councillor and Ward Committee for the Suva Local Government Council. Accompanying you as Assistant Presiding Officer will be Francis Sevesi, and as Poll Clerk, Charles Kingsley.

Unfortunately I will be absent at the District Staff Conference at Aletau when you commence, nevertheless I will attempt to rendez-vous with you at Heile village, transport permitting, and accompany you for a period of 3 to 4 days.

Please bear in mind that the area you will be covering is extensive, and you will require the full period that the Writ covers, 27/4/70 to 25/5/70, to complete the Election. If you fear that you will be unable to complete the polling at the 25 Wards during this period, contact me immediately, and I will organize water transport and extra Electoral Staff.

Please ensure that you have copies of the booklet, "Conduct of Council Elections", and the Secretary's 39-12-0 of the 8th January, 1970, and you refer to them at all times. On detailed discussions over the past few days, re voting procedure, refer.

Wishing you an enjoyable and successful patrol.

Billy
.....
J. Alderson (O.I.C.)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL DIARY.

9

Sunday 26/4/70.

1000 Depart Fife Bay for Ilelle per Council Boat Terehai.
1830 Arrive Ilelle. Night at Ilelle.

Monday 27/4/70.

0800 Army demonstration: 1PIR "A" Company.
1100 Council elections commence.
1400 Election over, Ward Committee election.
1430 Rain forced postponement of polling.
1445 Baljerson P.O. arrives - discussions re elections.
1700 Rain ceased - Balderson to Fife Bay - polling commenced.
1800 Ward committee election completed.
Evening spent in discussion with village elders.

Night at Ilelle.

Tuesday 28/4/70.

0630 To Benarua per Terehai.
0800 Council elections commence.
1030 Elections over, Ward committee elections commence.
1230 To Medewa on Completion of Ward Committee election.
1400 Arrive Medewa - Council Election Commences.
1630 Election over - Ward Committee Election.
1845 Election completed - to Suau Island.
Night at Suau Island.

Wednesday 29/4/70.

0730 to Sibalai.
0800 Elections commence.
1100 Election completed as heavy rain commences, so Ward
Committee election postponed.
Discussions and a minor dispute arbitrated.
1430 Terehai captain wished to shift to a safer anchorage, so
back to Suau Island. (Rough seas and driving rain.)
1900 Rain ceased just on nightfall.
Night at Suau Island.

Thursday 30/4/70.

0700 To Sibalai for Ward Committee election.
1000 Return to Suau Island.
1045 Council Election commences.
1330 Election over - Ward Committee election.
1600 Ward Committee election over.
Terehai water pump malfunctioning so Night spent at
Suau Island while trouble was being rectified.

Friday 1/5/70

0630 to Ipulai.
Heavy rain caused postponement of election.
1000 Elections commenced.
1300 Elections over - Ward Committee elections.
1530 Completed - to Savalala.
Night at Savalala.

8
Saturday 2/5/70.

0730 Council Elections commence.

0740 Heavy rain commences.

1030 Rain continuous, so elections held in, under and around the rest house.

1530 Ward committee elections over.

1600 To Navabu per Terohai.

Night at Navabu.

Sunday 3/5/70.

Observed at Navabu.

Monday 4/5/70.

0800 Council Elections Commence.

1100 Election over, Ward Committee Election.

1330 Election over.

1400 to Isuai.

1500 Arrive Isuai - very easy walk.

Night at Isuai.

Tuesday 5/5/70.

0800 Council Elections Commence.

1030 Election over - Ward Committee election.

1230 Ward Committee election over.

1245 To Cimamania - gear sent straight to Savaia.

1400 At Cimamania Council Elections Commence.

1600 Elections over - Ward Committee Elections.

1745 Ward Committee elections over - to Savaia.

1850 Arrive Savaia.

Night at Savaia.

Wednesday 6/5/70

0830 Council Elections commence.

1130 Elections over - Ward Committee elections.

1430 Ward Committee elections over.

1500 to Saga'aho.

1700 Arrive Saga'aho.

Night at Saga'aho.

Thursday 7/5/70

0800 Council Elections commence.

1030 Elections over - Ward Committee elections.

1230 Elections over - To IsuIsu.

1400 Arrive IsuIsu.

Self to Fife Bay for more ballot papers:

1800 Return to IsuIsu.

Night at IsuIsu.

Friday 8/5/70.

0800 Council elections commence.

1100 Elections over, Ward Committee Elections.

1400 Ward Committee Elections over.

To Isudau.

1500 Arrive Isudau.

Night at Isudau.

Saturday 9/5/70.

0800 Elections Commence.
1015 Elections over = Ward Committee Elections.
1230 Elections completed. To SeaSea.
1400 Arrive SeaSea.
Compilation of Statistics.
Night at SeaSea.

Sunday 10/5/70.

Self plus carriers returned to Fife Bay for extra provisions etc.
Afternoon spent examining patrol paperwork.
Night at SeaSea.

Monday 11/5/70.

0800 Council Elections commence.
1130 Elections over - Ward Committee Elections.
1400 Ward Committee elections over - To AleAle.
1700 Arrive AleAle.
Night at AleAle.

Tuesday 12/5/70.

0845 Elections commence.
1130 Completed - wind, rain and cold providing trying conditions.
1345 Ward Committee elections completed.
Several small matters discussed during the afternoon.
Night at AleAle.

Wednesday 13/5/70.

0700 to Anuieri.
1000 Anuieri Elections commence.
1230 Election over, Ward Committee Election.
1430 Ward Committee Election Completed.
1500 Depart for Dahuni - arrive 1700.
Night at Dahuni.

Thursday 14/5/70.

0745 Council election commences.
1030 Completed - Ward Committee Election.
1245 Completed.
1300 Return to Anuieri re complaint.
1845 Return Dahuni.
Night at Dahuni.

Friday 15/5/70.

0900 Terohai arrives - to Leleiafa.
1145 at Leleiafa.
1200 Elections Commence.
1430 Elections over - Ward Committee Elections.
1700 Elections completed.
Tide was unfavourable so remained at anchor in the mangroves and slept on the Terohai.

Saturday 16/5/70. 6

0400 to Berowai.

0615 as far as Terohai can go - self to Berowai to arrange carriers from Mullins Harbour to Berowai.

0715 arrive Berowai - consult councillor.

1230 gear eventually arrives - long 2 hours!

1300 Council Election Commences.

1530 Elections over - Ward Committee Elections.

1800 Elections Completed.

Night at Berowai (well earned!)

Sunday 17/5/70.

1100 to Beilava

1500 arrive Beilava - a good walk.

Night at Beilava.

Monday 18/5/70.

0900 Council Election.

1130 Completed - Ward Committee Election.

1400 Completed.

1500 To Suabina.

1930 Arrive Suabina.

Night at Suabina.

Tuesday 19/5/70.

0030 Council Elections.

1100 Election over - Ward Committee Election.

1330 Election Completed.

1400 to Gadaisu.

1600 arrive Gadaisu.

Night at Gadaisu.

Wednesday 20/5/70.

0700 Elections Commence.

0900 Completed - Ward Committee Elections.

1100 Completed - to Vie.

1830 Arrive Vie

Night at Vie.

Thursday 21/5/70.

0730 to Wadauda.

1130 arrive Wadauda.

1300 Elections Commence.

1530 Election over - Ward Committee Election.

1800 Ward Committee Election over.

Evening spent in discussions re council, tax, etc.

Night at Wadauda.

Friday 22/5/70.

0700 to Gogo Village (Central District)

1500 arrive Gogo.

1530 to Gadaisu (by tractor supplied by Gadaisu Plantation)

1800 arrive Gadaisu.

Night at Gadaisu.

Saturday 23/5/70.

1000 Terehai arrives. - to BonaBona,

1200 Arrive BonaBona.

1500 Elections Commence.

1700 Election over - Ward Committee Election.

1900 Ward Committee Election Over,

Night at BonaBona.

Sunday 24/5/70.

Observed at BonaBona Compiling Statistics AndvReport.

Monday 25/5/70

0700 Return to Fife Bay

1400 TO IsuIsu For re- election for IsuIsu Ward.

Night at IsuIsu

Tuesday 26/5/70.

0800 Return to Fife Bay.

Patrol Steed Down.

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.
SUAU PATROL NO. 3 OF 1969/70.

INTRODUCTION.

The patrol was mounted in order to conduct an election for one councillor and one Ward Committee member in each of the 25 wards of the Suau Local Government Council. The patrol departed on the 26th of April to commence elections, and the last election was completed on the 25th of May, an hour or so before the ^X expiration of the writ.

A complete election report has been forwarded under separate cover; this contains all data pertinent to the elections themselves.

This report will be fairly brief, due to the writer's transfer on immediate completion of the report. (Distreff's telegram No. 390 of XX 12/5/70 to OIC Suau refers.)

SITUATION REPORT.

There were 105 nominations for the 25 seats on the Suau Council, 20 of these from the retiring councillor of a ward. Eight of these were re-elected, plus 17 new councillors.

The Suau people appear to realize the importance of local government, and all elections were well attended.

There was a small incident at the IsuIsu election. The incumbent councillor (and Suau Council President) SUNDAY was defeated by one vote after 3 preference distributions. Due to several "borderline" votes, SUNDAY asked for a recount, and all papers were forwarded to the Returning Officer in Samarai. Telegraphic advice was received to have a re-election, at which the previously elected candidate was again elected, this time by a large majority. SUNDAY did not nominate for the re-election. He states that without the backing of the large majority of his people he would not be an effective councillor, so he had decided not to stand again. Rumours are rife concerning his reasons for not standing, but none can be confirmed. Talk has been heard that the re-election was held because Sunday is a good friend of the Patrol Post staff (as indeed he is) but the reasons for the re-election were explained as fully as possible considering the lack of accurate explanations received by the time of the election due to the infrequent mail service.

As a part of the election, an example was used in which two candidates receive the same number of votes in an election. Then the people were asked to state who would become councillor. Most felt that

- 1) the man closer to the top of the paper should be councillor; or
- 2) a new election should be held; or
- 3) have either nil or two councillors.

This question was asked immediately after an explanation and demonstration of preferential voting, and only two men were able to give even approximately correct answers. (Both of these men are ex-Presidents of the Suau Council). But even so only about 25% of

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unassisted voters indicated preferences. Preferences were not needed often in the council elections, but many of the Ward Committee elections were close, needing the use of preferences to obtain an absolute majority for one candidate.

However a few situations arise where, even after two or three explanations, people were not quite sure of what had happened.

Sibalai Ward Committee.

A: 26
B: 4
C: 4
D: 20
Inf. 3

57

57 votes cast, 3 informal, making 54 live votes, and 28 the absolute majority. No candidate had an absolute majority, so preferences had to be distributed. As B and C had the equal amount of smallest number of votes, they drew lots. (Several puzzled looks over this as the fairness and impartiality of secret ballot had been stressed.) After the drawing of lots, B

remained and C's preferences were distributed. None of the votes indicated a second preference, so all were excluded. The result was that A, B, and D all remained on the same number of votes, but A now had an absolute majority, with no change in the no. of votes.

The writer was assured that his explanation of the situation was understood by everybody, but he very much doubts this.

Similar situations occurred elsewhere. In the Ieleiafa Ward Committee election A scored 15 votes, B scored 11 votes. As there were 16 candidates, the other 30 votes were well spread. The lot method of determining the first preferences to be distributed was used again, and after preferences had been distributed until only 2 candidates remained, A had 18 and B had 19. This reversal of the first count result only further confused the people who were already confused by the proceedings. They could not relate this with the earlier comments on preferential voting. (Only 11 of the 30 preferences distributed indicated a preference for a remaining candidate - usually only a number 2 had sufficed for the voter.)

Luckily most councillors had been pre-selected and these difficulties did not arise in council elections. But this may not always be so.

ECONOMIC

The speed and nature of the patrol permitted few observations in this sphere.

Trade stores are becoming very popular ventures, but most are operating on extremely small capitals. Bakers are also appearing in several villages.

The people of Kondu village approached the patrol with a request which will be passed on to the appropriate person. These inland people who were only contacted 10 years ago and have no cash crops whatsoever wish to start a cherry and chile garden. They state that they have 110 coffee plants which they carried over from Rabaraba (2 days walk away) and they wish to obtain another 150. This proposal was discussed for some time. The Suva Local Government Council is purchasing a Coffee Machine for the treatment of coffee beans for Vie village, and the Kondu people state that they will carry the beans to Vie for processing.

(Vie is a day's walk away over 2 peaks 4,000 ft high. It is a further day to the coast from Vie, but the Kondu people state that this is the only way they can market cash crops, so it will have to be used.)

The spokesman for the Kondu group is a man who spent 7 months at Bubuletta Agricultural Station in Milne Bay as a trainee.

These people were urged to do as much as possible, especially as they have NOTHING in the way of economic prospects at the moment.

SOCIAL.

Whilst at Suau Island the patrol was asked to find out what had happened to the Aid Post orderly, who had gone to Samarai a month before and had not been heard of since. He returned a day or so after the patrol's departure from Suau Island. It is unknown whether he bought any additional medical supplies with him, but the stock on hand at the Aid Post was two boxes of penicillin and a tin of Magnoplasm. The Navabu Aid Post had no Elastoplast, so even the smallest dressing required a yard or so of gauze to keep it in place. It is realized that medical supplies are often in short supply and difficult to send to small remote Aid Posts, but a 2,000 dollar Aid Post with few supplies is not a worthwhile investment.

At the moment several village pastors are in Port Moresby on a training course. As these men usually double as the village school teachers, their pupils have an unexpected month's holiday.

The Alvals people were asked to repair the roof on a new school building nearing completion. The classroom was almost completed 6 months ago, only a small section of roof remaining to be finished. But this was not done. As a result, every time it rained, the mission teacher had to send this class home. As the South East season is now in full swing, this meant that one class was that in name only.

The patrol had a short discussion with a few men at Gadaisu. The manager at Gadaisu plantation, together with his boss boy, had stated that a little friction was developing because of villagers claiming that the beach was their land, and that they did not want the plantation tractors to use it. The position as regards the beach was explained (i.e. all below high water mark was government land and therefore anybody could use it.) The basic cause of this is the differing manner of the present Chinese mixed race manager to that of the previous European manager. The present manager is efficient and business like. One village grumble is that the plantation should give them a tractor to use when they require one to transport their personal copra. Because the previous manager used to do this, they feel the present manager should do so too. But this is only an extremely small matter; no repercussions are envisaged. The two factions are settling in to a relatively harmonious co-existence.

MISCELLANEOUS.

When the patrol arrived at Iloilo it was surprised to find over 100 members of IPIR entrenched on Delina Island, about 150 yards away. They had been on exercises in Milne Bay and were returning to Port Moresby after spending Anzac day in Samarai.

The O.I.C. of Suau Patrol Post had arranged for the soldiers to "show the flag" the following day. This was an ideal opportunity as the people were all coming in for the Council Election.

The drum and pipe band was very impressive, although the wail of bagpipes caused considerable speculation among villagers. Then a display of sleeping equipment, food, and weapons was given. The main points of interest were the army ration packs and cookers, followed by the sleeping equipment. (The writer was enviously eyeing a foam rubber type bed sleeve which was not only extremely comfortable but also waterproof.) Interest shown in the weapons was not extremely great, but a lieutenant attached to the company informed me that usually at village level the interest shown in weapons was nil, except by ex PIR members or men who had been directly involved in the war.

After the demonstrations a game of volleyball was played in which villagers were invited to take part, but they were reluctant to do so.

The men were extremely well received at Iloilo, and they made a large impression on the villagers.

On the first appearance of the soldiers the day before, reactions had been varied. The older men were a little worried, as the last time they had seen soldiers was during the war, and they thought another may be in the offing. The younger men thought that they may be on a patrol, but they did not know what the aims or purpose of an army patrol could be. The young men (especially the more worldly ones) thought that they were on exercises, but none had heard about them.

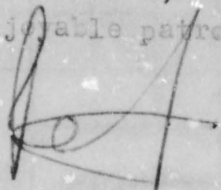
The patrol arrived at Sibalai the day after the army had been. Here the people had been given advance warning of the coming demonstration. However, this only enhanced the appeal. All people spoken to were extremely impressed, and, judging by the number of young men sporting bandages on various parts of their anatomy, the football match was a greater success than the volleyball match at Iloilo.

The soldiers then moved on to Fife Bay for 2 days, then on to Kenemaiva for a day, where people from half a dozen surrounding villages came to watch. Again a very successful day.

If an Army recruiting team visits the area soon, they should find many interested applicants. The demonstrations were very well received,

CONCLUSION.

The object of the patrol, i.e. conducting elections for the Suau Local Government Council, was successfully achieved, as well as other routine administrative work. Another enjoyable patrol.


Richard Norman.

Assistant Patrol Officer.