

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES  
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: ALOTAU

VOLUME No: 6

ACCESSION No: 496.

1971 - 1972

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PORT MORESBY - 1991

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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900 15/1/73  
MILNE BAY DISTRICT

PATROL REPORTS

ALOTAU

1971-1972

<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Patrol conducted by</u>	<u>Area patrolled</u>
1-71-72	R.S.Sutten	N.E.Coast C.D. & Maramatana Local Govt.Council Area.
2-71-72	G.L.Parker	Ealeba & Buhutu C.D.
3-71-72	R.S.Sutten	Milne Bay L.G. Council Area
4-71-72	R.S.Sutten	Part N.E.Coast C.D.
5-71-72	A.D.McArthur	Coastal Inland C.D.
6-71-72	A.D.McArthur	All Census Divisions Aletau
7-71-72	E.S.Sharp	Buhutu
8-71-72	L.Tau	Ealaba/Buhutu C.D.
9-71-72	R.J.Wallent	N.E.Coast C.D.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

REPORT NUMBER: ALOEAS No. 1. of 1971/72.  
 SUB-DISTRICT: ALOEAS.  
 DISTRICT: MILNE BAY.  
 COUNCIL AREA: HAMBAYATA.  
 PATROL CONDUCTED BY: R.S. SUPA.  
 DESIGNATION: PATROL OFFICER.  
 AREA PATROLLED: NORTH-EAST COAST CENSUS DIVISION and HAMBAYATA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL AREA.  
 PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL: RANDOLF PETER (INTERPRETER), KASIAS GUNAWA (FIELD ASSISTANT), CPT. DUNG (M.P.M.G.C.).  
 DURATION OF PATROL: 13/10/71 to 3/11/71 - 22 days.  
 DATE AND DURATION OF LAST D.D.S. PATROL: 18/ 1/71 to 10/2/71 - 24 days.  
 OBJECTS OF PATROL: CENSUS, POLITICAL EDUCATION AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.  
 TOTAL POPULATION: 4,629.  
 MAP REFERENCE: JOURNAL SARARAI, MILNE BAY.  
 VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER: ENCLOSED.

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 ....

*Area Study: Filed  
R 23/12.*

GG:JB

P.O. Box 2396, KONEDOBUI.

67-4-16

23rd December, 1971.

The District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

MATAU PATROL NO. 1 OF 1971/72.

Your reference is 67-2-10 of 25th November, 1971.

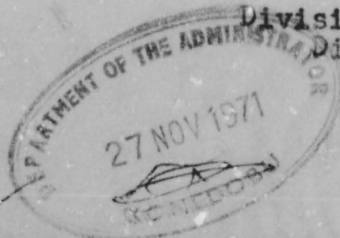
I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Area Study and Situation Report by Mr. R.S. Sutton, Patrol Officer, of North East Coast Census Division and Maramatana Local Government Council area.

*S. J. Pearsall*  
(S.J. PEARSALL)  
Secretary.

67-4-16

67-2-10

(P)



Division of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
ALOTAU.

Milne Bay District.

25th November, 1971.

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

ALOTAU PATROL REPORT NO.1-71/72

Thank you for the above Patrol Report submitted  
by Mr. R.S. Sutton.

The Report does not call for a great deal of  
comment, due to the stable situation in the area.  
Mr. Sutton's comments on page 12, paragraph 36 have been  
passed to the District Health Officer.

*F.G. Driver*

(F.G. Driver).

District Commissioner.

c.c.



The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
KONEDOBU.

sure  
any

67-1-1

Division of District Administration,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

5th October, 1971.

Mr. R.S. Sutton, Patrol Officer,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

PATROL INSTRUCTIONS - NORTH EAST COAST.

As per verbal advice you will prepare to depart for a patrol into the North East Coast Division. You should leave on Wednesday, 13th October, 1971, per Macair for GARUAI.

2. Due to the special problems existing in the Sub-District - portage and accommodation - you will base at GARUAI. Travel from GARUAI, but avail yourself of rest-houses or suitable accommodation where available. On your departure for the EAST CAPE area and the OBSTRUCTION ISLANDS, inform this Office when you require the Sub-District Hercules and cut-board motor.

3. During the course of the patrol, the following is to be observed and/or achieved:-

- (a) Revise the census
- (b) Update existing area study
- (c) Compile a situation report
- (d) Carry out a Political Education programme as advised by the District Political Education Officer. Advise the people of dates involved for the 1972 elections.
- (e) Carry out a Ward Committee propaganda campaign
- (f) Pay particular attention to Rural Development projects progress
- (g) Investigate WARREN'S Estate to enable distribution
- (h) Carry out land investigations for MARAMATANA COUNCIL Applications at:
  - (i) HUHUNA - a school site of approximately 4 acres and;
  - (ii) Aid rest site at NUAKATA, approximately 1 acre.

If you consider it necessary, arrange to have the Field Assistant travel across when you are ready for the surveys.

- (i) It has been reported by Mr. J. Guise that a man named CECIL is causing trouble in the EAST CAPE area. Liase with a/Inspector Stiller and take an investigating policeman with you. I feel sure there will be many such instances. Leave all investigation to the policeman. Do not hear any



Do not hear any/ court cases yourself, refer all such to Alotau.

- (j) Liase with MARAMATANA Council executive
- (k) Do not travel on religious day
- (l) Do not make promises we cannot keep
- (m) Take a cash advance for launch and canoe hire
- (n) On your return, submit a report in accordance with Departmental Standing Instructions and Headquarters and District Instructions.

4. Wishing you an enjoyable and successful patrol.

*E. S. Sharp*

(E.S. Sharp.)

Assistant District Commissioner.

AIOTAU PATROL No. 1. of 1971/72  
North-East Coast Census Division  
PATROL DIARY

WEDNESDAY 13th October 1971

0810-0822 By Macair aircraft from Gurney to Garuai.  
1030-1300 Political Education discussions and revision of census.  
OVERNIGHT AT GARUAI.

THURSDAY 14th October 1971

0810-0925 By Maramatana Local Government Council tractor to TAUPOTA village.  
0945-1315 Political Education discussions and revision of census.  
1330-1450 Returned to GARUAI.  
OVERNIGHT AT GARUAI.

FRIDAY 15th October 1971

0730-0900 By hired 9' dinghy to WAMAWAMANA village.  
1030-1200 Political Education discussions and revision of census.  
OVERNIGHT AT WAMAWAMANA.

SATURDAY 16th October 1971

0745-0910 By hired dinghy to TOPURA village; seas rough.  
1045-1330 Revision of census and Political Education discussions.  
1330-1415 Heard and arbitrated many minor complaints. Inspected Aid Post.  
OVERNIGHT AT TOPURA.

SUNDAY 17th October 1971

Observed at TOPURA.

MONDAY 18th October 1971

0800-0915 Walking to IAPOA No. 1. village.  
1000-1100 Revision of census and Political Education.  
1100-1200 Heard and arbitrated minor complaints.  
1200-1315 Walking to TOPURA. Topical discussions with Father Barnes, Anglican priest also on patrol.  
OVERNIGHT AT TOPURA.

TUESDAY 19th October 1971

0600-0700 By hired dinghy to LAVORA village  
0800-1130 Revision of census and Political  
Education discussions.  
1200-1300 Returned to TOIURA village for  
patrol gear.  
1430-1815 By dinghy to AWAIAMA village.  
OVERNIGHT AT AWAIAMA

WEDNESDAY 20th October 1971

1000-1400 Revision of census and Political  
Education discussions.  
1400-1800 Heard numerous minor complaints  
about damage to gardens by village owned  
pigs.  
OVERNIGHT AT AWAIAMA.

THURSDAY 21st October 1971

0800-0845 By hired dinghy to KEIA village.  
1000-1230 Political Education talks and  
revision of census.  
1230-1430 Minor complaints heard and  
arbitrated.  
OVERNIGHT AT KEIA.

FRIDAY 22nd October 1971

0900-1000 By hired dinghy to Local  
Government built, council wharf at KALO.  
1000-1030 Walked to IAPOA No. 2. village.  
1040-1315 Revision of census and Political  
Education discussions.  
1315-1345 Returned to KALO.  
1345-1450 By dinghy to HUHUNA village.  
OVERNIGHT AT HUHUNA.

SATURDAY 23rd October 1971

0700-0800 Walked to FOLOTONA village.  
0930-1200 Political Education discussions  
and revision of census.  
1200-1330 Returned to HUHUNA village.  
During day two Field Assistants from Alotau  
began a land survey of land known as  
"Hewagani" to be purchased by Maramatana  
Local Government Council for a Primary 'T'  
School.  
OVERNIGHT AT HUHUNA.

15

SUNDAY 24th October 1971

Observed at NUHUNA.

MONDAY 25th October 1971

0700-0900 Land investigation for land known as "Hewagani".

100-1330 Revision of census and Political Education talks.

1430-1520 By dinghy to GUGA village.

OVERNIGHT AT GUGA.

TUESDAY 26th October 1971

1000-1230 Political Education discussion and revision of census.

1300-1430 Heard minor complaints. Village Constable ordered to accompany man named Bobodeia to Sub-District Office ALOTAU re assault on his wife with a bush-knife.

1445-1600 By dinghy to WAGAHUHU village.

OVERNIGHT AT WAGAHUHU.

WEDNESDAY 27th October 1971

1000-1230 Revision of census and Political Education talks.

1230-1330 Minor complaints heard. Inspected United Church, first aid dispensary.

OVERNIGHT AT WAGAHUHU.

THURSDAY 28th October 1971

0800-0900 By hired dinghy to BIWA village.

1000-1230 Political Education discussions and revision of census.

1300-1415 By dinghy to RONANA village.

OVERNIGHT AT RONANA.

FRIDAY 29th October 1971

Interviewed Miss PEORA-TANURARAI re stabbing of Miss RAIKI-KAIODI on night of Wednesday 27th October 1971. PEORA sent to ALOTAU for court.

0900-1200 revision of census and Political Education talks.

1300-1400 heard minor disputes.

1400-1445 By dinghy to East Cape.

OVERNIGHT AT EAST CAPE.

SATURDAY 30th October 1971

0930-1145 Political Education talks and revision of census.

Member of Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary arrived in P.D.A. dinghy. .... / 5

SATURDAY 30th October 1971 (Cont.)

1330-1430 By dinghy at WAGAHUHU village to interview man named Cecil (see Patrol Instruction No. 3 (1). Cecil not at WAGAHUHU but in Alotau. Policeman took notes of complaints about Cecil from village people.

1630-1730 returned to EAST CAPE.

OVERNIGHT AT EAST CAPE

SUNDAY 31st October 1971

Observed at EAST CAPE.

MONDAY 1st November 1971

Rough weather and heavy seas delayed start for NUKATA ISLAND.

1300-1430 By D.D.A. dinghy to NUKATA ISLAND. People not ready for census. After waiting till 1200 hrs. they returned to their gardens. Census to be revised 0800 hrs. on 2nd November.

Field Assistant conducted land survey for Aid Post site to be purchased by Maramatana Local Government Council.

OVERNIGHT AT NUKATA ISLAND.

TUESDAY 2nd November 1971

0700-0800 Land investigation completed for Aid Post site.

0800-1200 Waiting for village people to assemble for census.

1200-1430 Revision of census and Political Education talks.

1430-1510 By government dinghy to IABAM Island.

1530-1625 Revision of census.

1645-1800 By dinghy to EAST CAPE.

OVERNIGHT AT EAST CAPE.

WEDNESDAY 3rd November 1971

0800-1205 Returned to ALOTAU by dinghy.

PATROL STOOD DOWN

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 1 of 1971/72

SITUATION REPORT

Introduction

The North-East Coast Census Division covers an area of 360 square miles, and stretches approximately 23 miles west of, and 40 miles east of, the Maramatana Local Government Council centre at GARUAI. Villages in this area are scattered along a narrow coastal strip which is backed by steep hills rising to a height of 3000 feet.

2. The vegetation cover consists mainly of rain forest and swamp interspersed with areas of grassland. Rainfall averages 100"-120" per year.

3. Through long and close contact, the people of this division are familiar with the Administration, its aims and policies. All villages on the mainland, with the exception of LAVORA are within a day's walk of ALOTAU. NUAKATA, IADAN and PARIBELE islands are within a day's travel of ALOTAU by canoe.

4. The Patrol Programme was broadcast over Radio Milne Bay each day for the duration of the patrol.

5. The 1971/72 Village Population Register for the North-East Coast Census Division is attached. Figures for 1971/72 balance with those given for 1970/71.

6. The patrol was carried out in accordance with the attached instructions.

(a) POLITICAL

(1) Local Government

7. The Maramatana Local Government Council area covers the whole North-East Coast Census Division. The 1971 Census figures (see attached population register) shows a population of 4,629. The people, generally, have a good idea of the concepts and ideals of local government and its work.

8. The Council is running efficiently under the efficacious leadership of its President, Vernon Guise, backed by a strong and keen Executive.

9. Pre-selection in the next Local Government elections, from 1st December 1971 to 18th December 1971 is most evident in a number of wards. Many of the current Councillors appear reluctant to stand for another term. The reason given for this, "lack of support and co-operation from our own village people".

10. The GARUAI/HURUNA road has been cleared for a distance of five miles east of GARUAI. The road is definitely not vehicular over the full 12 miles to Annie's Inlet as stated in a previous report. The section of road between IAPOA No. 2 and POLOTONA will pose many difficulties, with a number of creeks and steep valleys to negotiate.

11. A Rural Development Grant of \$2,000 for 1971/72 has been approved to further this road. This, added to the carry over of \$2,160 from the previous year gives the Council ample funds for the current year. However, the Council cannot match the grant on a dollar for dollar basis and the people are most reluctant to work as voluntary labour. As a result progress is at a virtual standstill.

12. A further grant of \$1,000 has been approved for a wharf at East Cape. This project is confronted with the same problems as outlined above and work has not commenced.

13. The GARUAI/TAUPOTA road was completed during the 1970/71 financial year. After recent heavy rains, this road is in urgent need of maintenance.

14. The Council is negotiating for a loan of \$8,000 to have a 26 foot work-boat built at Kwato Mission. A boat of this kind would kind ample work in the area and prove to be an asset to the Council.

(ii) House of Assembly

15. Interest in central government is sadly lacking and response to discussions was poor. Apart from knowing that there is a House of Assembly, it sits in Port Moresby, and "it makes laws which we must obey". Little interest is shown in its activities. This lack of interest, I feel, stems from the stable society in which the people live with the feeling of security with no hunger nor much want apart from small trade store luxuries. Generally, the people see no reason why this situation will not continue in the future and so concern themselves with parochial matters only.

(iii) House of Assembly Member

16. The Speaker of the House and member for Alotau Open Electorate, Dr. John Guise, has a strong following in his "home" area. Being a regular visitor, he has close contact with his people, their thoughts and their views. He will receive solid support from these people in the 1972 House of Assembly Elections.

Political Education

17. The Political Education Officer in ALOTAU was consulted prior to the patrol. Two visual aids in the form of flip charts were provided, one entitled "The Good Councillor", the other "Self Government". These charts were used in each village and consequently interest was able to be maintained during talks lasting 30-40 minutes.

18. The story of "The Good Councillor" was particularly appropriate with council elections due in December. However, after eight years of Local Government the message in the chart contained nothing new and was of little real value. The chart on "Self Government" was well received, judging from the type and number of questions asked. "Will Papua New Guinea have a new currency after Self Government?" This was the question most often asked and appears to be of concern to many people.

19. An enlarged facsimile of a ballot paper was used to explain the system of Preferential Voting. The basic principles are understood by the majority of the people.

ECONOMIC

20. The native material Co-operative Bulk Store at CARUAI has been replaced with a pre-fabricated aluminium building. This new establishment was opened on 22nd March 1971. The Trading and Profit and Loss Statement for the MARAMAPANA MERCHANDISE CO-OPERATIVE LTD., for the period 10/2/1971 - 27/7/1971 shows a gross surplus of ¥94-56. This small surplus is due to:

- (a) A freight increase of 10% during the period,
- (b) Incompetent costing of goods,
- (c) A relatively small mark-up of 15%,
- (d) Dishonesty of storemen.

with the addition of running costs, i.e., Insurances, wages, depreciation, stationery, etc., the Society made a net loss of ¥520-75. Sales have fallen off due to the privately owned member stores preferring to buy from Steamships Trading Company, whose prices are still more attractive than the Society's. Sales for the period totalled ¥6,863-52.



21. Privately owned member stores have been established in all villages except those on RUAKATA, LABAN and PANIBELE Islands. With the exception of GUGA, POLSTONA, LOFURA and GARUAI, none of the stores are operating efficiently. The store at AWAIANA is in debt to \$62-33 and is closed, as is the store at NUNUNA which has a debt of \$90-00. Main reasons for the failure of these stores are as follows:-

- (i) Poor Management,
- (ii) Dishonesty of Storemen (in some cases),
- (iii) Little or no training or supervision of Storemen,
- (iv) Insufficient stocks and poor ordering,
- (v) Competition from private Trade stores.

22. A visit by the Business Advisory Officer from ALOKAB is recommended. A short business management course for storemen conducted by this officer at the Local Government Centre, GARUAI would prove beneficial and is surely needed.

23. Funi Funi plantation which is owned by the Maramatana Local Government Council has still not realized its full potential. Most of the plantation is heavily overgrown with long grass, bush and small trees. Time and labour is wasted searching for the nuts many of which are never found. An ideal would be the regular cutting of undergrowth by tractor-drawn mower, once clearing of heavy bush was completed by hand. Production figures supplied by the President of the Council, Mr Vernon Guise, show a monthly output of 6½-7 tons of copra. Labour is still a problem and the Council is regularly seeking 10-12 men. Those labourers that are employed, work until their existing monetary requirements are met and then return to the village.

24. The serious lack of young men who have migrated out to "greener pastures" continues to be a problem. A shortage of arable land is said to be the main reason for this. Villages in the EAST CAPE area are still complaining about damage to their gardens by wild pigs. Migrations out are also attributed to this. Suggestions on pig eradication by previous officers have so far gone unheeded, and damage to gardens continues.

25. The Development Bank has approved two loans for the introduction of a cattle industry to the North-East Coast. Ceccil Mark of AWAIAMA village has a loan of ¥1400 to buy 10 heifers at ¥120 each and ¥200 to purchase wire for fencing. Romney Gumua of TOPURA village has an approved loan of ¥670 to purchase 4 heifers at ¥140 each and wire to the value of ¥110. This project to be on 15 acres of grassland near TOPURA.

26. Cashews, chillies and pepper are being cultivated at WAMAWANANA, TAUPOTA and TOPURA. Coffee is growing in a test plot near WAMAWANANA village. Another 12 months should prove whether these projects are viable or not.

27. Copra is still the staple crop of the area with an annual estimated production of 350 tons. The 1970 census showed 180,000 coconuts in the area. Plantings have increased since then although the Rural Development Officer could not advise the exact number.

28. The printing press at the United Church, EAST CAPE, is managed by a New Zealander, Mr. David Golding. Six indigenes are employed and the press is in constant use. Large orders for Christmas cards have been completed as well as school magazines and orders for private enterprise. This venture has proved to be an asset to the community as well as a valuable training ground for the Papuans employed there.

#### SOCIAL

29. Three missions operate in the area. The Anglican mission in the west from IAPOA No. 2 to LAVORA. The United Church in the east from POLOTONA to NUAKATA Island. The Seventh Day Adventists have a small but increasing following in the POLOTONA, HUFUNA area. These missions appear to be living and working in harmony with each other at present.

30. Health throughout is good due to several well stocked and efficient Aid Posts. A small Council hospital at GARUAI employs one male Medical Orderly and five Nursing Aides. Two United Church nurses are at WAGANUMU, another is at EAST CAPE. Regular infant welfare patrols are conducted by these nurses, providing valuable advice and assistance to nursing mothers and mothers-to-be. New-born babies receive a Triple Antigen injection against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough and their mothers are vaccinated against tetanus. As in other parts of the Sub-District, sipoma is prevalent.

30. (Cont.) At KMA village an estimated 35% of the population is affected. All major health problems are referred to ALOTAU hospital.

31. Two Local Government Council Welfare Officers conduct regular patrols from GARUAI to outlying villages. Courses on hygiene, sewing, cooking, womens clubs, etc., are given and reportedly well attended and received.

32. Education is well catered for with a United Church Primary 'T' school at EAST CAPE and the Council school at GARUAI. This school is staffed by mission teachers - six Anglican and one United Church. The biggest problem facing both of these schools at present is overcrowding and lack of permanent class-rooms. Of the 29 pupils who completed Standard VI at EAST CAPE this year, only 5 have been recommended for secondary education. The rest are destined to return to the village or complete another year at Primary school.

33. A number of child maintenance cases were reported to the writer. These have been referred to welfare, ALOTAU. A member of the R.F.N.G.C. accompanying the patrol investigated reports that a man named Cecil was causing trouble in the EAST CAPE area (See Patrol Instruction (i) Cecil was not in the area at time of patrol, but in ALOTAU. Police in ALOTAU are to follow up. Many cases of theft at WAGAHUHU village are blamed on this man. One case of stabbing was reported to the patrol. As a result one young woman was sent to ALOTAU, where she was charged and convicted in the Local Court under Section 8 (a) of the Police Offences Ordinance 1912-1966.

34. The social problem as reported in Patrol No. 3 of 1970/71 is again evident. That is, a shortage of arable land, has resulted in migrations out by young men, causing an unbalanced ratio between males and females of marriageable age. The net result is a serious threat to the social structure, especially in the villages of TAUPOTA, WAKAWAKANA, TOFURA and LAVORA. However, the 1971/72 Village Population Register shows a more stable picture. Of the 58 migrations out during the past 12 months only 23 of these are males. During the 1970/71 period, migrations out totalled 264, 134 of which were males.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

35. GARUAI airstrip is in excellent condition. The grass is cut weekly and the Council regularly contracts school children to remove grass cuttings, stones and weeds from the surface. The markers are well spaced and in good condition. Macair now operates a service between GURNEY

35. (Cont.) and GARUAI each Wednesday.

36. A recent Malaria Spraying programme drew complaints from the Local Government Councillor at POLOTOMA. On completion of the programme, the Spraying Team spent three idle days in the village before being asked to leave by the Councillor. They then returned to AIOTAU. This same team left two cartons of D.D.T. powder in the Rest House at EAST CAPE. As the village people in the area are ignorant of the properties and dangers of D.D.T., greater care should be taken by Malaria Spray Teams to ensure that the powder is not irresponsibly dumped in villages.

37. The patrol was well received and the village people, Councillors and village officials were most co-operative.

END SITUATION REPORT

*R. S. Sutton No.*

*Area Study Field*  
*2/12*



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

REPORT NUMBER: ALOTAU No. 2 of 1971/1972.  
 SUB-DISTRICT: ALOTAU.  
 DISTRICT: MILNE BAY.  
 COUNCIL AREA: MILNE BAY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL.  
 PATROL CONDUCTED BY: G.L. PARKER, A.D.O.  
 DESIGNATION: ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER.  
 AREA PATROLLED: EALEBA AND BUHUTU CENSUS DIVISIONS.  
 PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL: INTERPRETER (PART ONLY).  
 DURATION OF PATROL: 14/10/71 to 22/10/71 } TOTAL OF 12 DAYS.  
 1/11/71 to 5/11/71 }  
 DATE AND DURATION OF LAST D.D.A. PATROL: EALEBA - JUNE, 1971.  
 BUHUTU - DECEMBER, 1970.  
 OBJECTS OF PATROL: ANNUAL CENSUS; UPDATE AREA STUDY;  
 POLITICAL EDUCATION.  
 TOTAL POPULATION: EALEBA - 2,162 } - 3,059.  
 BUHUTU - 897 }  
 MAP REFERENCE: ARMY SERIES T504 FOURMIL.  
 VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTERS: ENCLOSED.

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 ....  
 .....  
 .....

*Area Study*  
*2/12*

GG:MG

P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

67-4-21

28th December, 1971.

The District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 2 OF 1971/72.

Your reference 67-2-11 of 3rd December, 1971.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of the above Report by Mr. G.L. Parker, Assistant District Officer, of EALEBA and BUHUTU Census Divisions.

You have adequately covered the report. No further comments are offered on amalgamation of Ealeba and Buhutu Census Divisions until further advised from your office as you have already requested a separate submission from the Assistant District Commissioner, Alotau concerning this matter.

*S. J. Pearsall*  
(S.J. PEARSALL)  
a/Secretary.



67-4-21  
67-2-11

Division of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
ALOTAU,  
Milne Bay District.

3rd December, 1971.

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

ALOTAU PATROL NO.2/71-72.

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

Please let me have a separate submission concerning the amalgamation of the Ealaba and Buhutu Census Divisions. I do not agree that the interval between Area Studies should be extended to 5 years. Even though the situation in the area may be static, it could change radically in a 5 year period. The taking up of the Sagarai tender lease, for example, would drastically alter the situation in the Buhutu.

Mr. Parker's comments covering political development clearly indicates that the people are in a state of apathy. While his comments are no doubt valid, I would have preferred him to offer some suggestions for improving the situation. Would more visual aids assist in getting through to the people? We have little time left before Self-Government and we must explore every avenue of instilling at least a modicum of national political awareness in the people before the event of Self-Government.

At the same time, it is our responsibility to attempt to change the people's attitude to Local Government. If the flip charts were not a success, has Mr. Parker any alternative suggestions? Mr. Parker's use of the word distaste in describing the reaction to the flip chart on the "good councillor" could well be a wrong conclusion. The lack of response, and impression that they had heard it all before, could well spring from apathy or a wrong approach in presentation, rather than a dislike of the material presented to them.

*F. G. Driver*  
(F. G. Driver).  
District Commissioner.

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

20

Division of District Administration,

Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

1st December, 1971.

67-1-1

District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
District Headquarters,  
ALOTAU.

ALOTAU PATROL REPORT 2/71-72.

BUHUTU - EALEBA.

Enclosed is the above report covering a patrol into these census divisions conducted by Assistant District Officer G.L. Parker. Camping allowance claim is also enclosed.

2. A memorandum referenced 67-1-1 dated 30th November, 1971, is enclosed. I strongly recommend the adoption of the suggestions contained in this memorandum. Would you submit these proposals to the Secretary for his approval?

3. Mr. A.D.O. Parker has written a most informative report. He has arrived at the basics, and summed up the situation as it exists. There are no "fairy stories" in it and the next patrolling officer will have a far better starting point than A.D.O. Parker had. Remedial steps will be taken where required, but rural development funds remain a problem and will continue to do so until the complete adult populace understand the concept.

4. For your information and necessary action, please.



(E.S. Sharp.)  
Assistant District Commissioner.

encl..



9

Division of District Administration,

67-1-1

Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

30th November, 1971.

Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

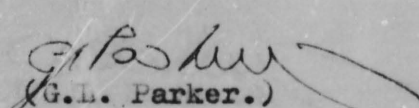
ALOTAU PATROL REPORT NO. 2 - 1971/1972.

Accompanying this memo are four copies of the above report for your perusal, comment and onforwarding, please. Also enclosed are camping allowance claim and patrol map.

I wish to make the following recommendations for your consideration and approval. Because of the low populations of the EALEBA and BUHUTU Census Divisions, a joint total of 3,059, and the proximity of the divisions one to the other, I firmly believe it would be an advantage to incorporate them into one division. Progress and development within the two areas is advancing at much the same pace, and patrolling of the BUHUTU generally commences from the west EALEBA village of GIBARA SOUTH (KILAKILANA).

From the point of view of Area Studies, I see no reason for recompilation every three years, the interval could, without any detriment whatsoever, be extended to five years. I make this submission on the basis that change in the BUHUTU and EALEBA is but a little better than static, extraordinary considering the decades of contact experienced by these people. Nevertheless, from year to year there is little to report in respect of change in the overall situation.

For your comments, Sir.

  
(G.L. Parker.)  
Assistant District Officer.

B

67-1-1

Division of District Administration,

Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

30th November, 1971.

Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

ALOTAU PATROL REPORT NO. 2 - 1971/1972.

Accompanying this memo are four copies of the above report for your perusal, comment and onforwarding, please. Also enclosed are camping allowance claim and patrol map.

I wish to make the following recommendations for your consideration and approval. Because of the low populations of the BALEBA and BURUTU Census Divisions, a joint total of 3,059, and the proximity of the divisions one to the other, I firmly believe it would be an advantage to incorporate them into one division. Progress and development within the two areas is advancing at much the same pace, and patrolling of the BURUTU generally commences from the west BALEBA village of GIBARA SOUTH (KILAKILANA).

From the point of view of Area Studies, I see no reason for recompilation every three years, the interval could, without any detriment whatsoever, be extended to five years. I make this submission on the basis that change in the BURUTU and BALEBA is but a little better than static, extraordinary considering the decades of contact experienced by these people. Nevertheless, from year to year there is little to report in respect of change in the overall situation.

For your comments, Sir.

*G. L. Parker*  
(G.L. Parker.)  
Assistant District Officer.



17

ALOTAU PATROL REPORT NO. 2 OF 1971/1972

PATROL DIARY:-

1971.

- Thursday, 14th October: To LAMHAGA per "Off-shore" and 20 h.p. out-board, 1 1/4 hours. Census revised. Discussions. Returned ALOTAU 17.45.
- Friday, 15th October: To DAWADAWA with A.D.C. Mr. Sharp. Census revised. People particularly unresponsive to discussions. Returned ALOTAU.
- Monday, 18th October: To GWAWILI. Census revised. Boat engine loan discussed on behalf P.N.G. Development Bank Officer, Alotau. Interest shown in discussions re alternatives to personal tax, e.g. Council sponsored business ventures. Returned ALOTAU.
- Tuesday, 19th October: To GWAWILI per out-board and walked to DAIO along war-time road - 45 minutes. Road overgrown and some culverts U/S - minimum effort required by villagers to rectify.  
Census revised at DAIO. Many migrants in of DAIO people returning from WAGAWAGA, result of divorce, death.  
Discussions as usual re prospecting authorities, Councillors' duties, ward committees and need for people to maintain pressure on Council for what they require  
Returned ALOTAU with hospital patient and court witnesses, arriving 19.00 hours.
- Wednesday, 20th October: To GWAWILI with message for ex P.I.R. cook.  
To DAIO to pick up Councillor Mathew.  
To WAGAWAGA on foot to inspect road - 15 mins.  
Census revised. Discussions.  
Discontentment re Council's proposed classroom discussed.  
Village tractor inspected.  
Returned ALOTAU 17.00 hours.
- Thursday, 21st October: To GAMADOUDOU. Census revised. Inspection of Aid Post. Lengthy discussions. Agreed to arrange mechanic to inspect village tractor at WAGAWAGA.  
Returned ALOTAU 16.45 hours.
- Friday, 22nd October: To KILIKILANA. Census revised for GIBARA North and South.  
Discussions. Inspected village plantation and new road.  
Returned ALOTAU 17.00 hours.
- Monday, 1st November: Per out-board to KILIKILANA (GIBARA SOUTH).  
To MILA ward boundary - 2 hours.  
This section of road follows creek beds for one (1) hour, then five (5) minutes steep climb to TARDY's road - graded walk track built pre-war to service goldmine at ULOULO, half an hour inside MILA ward. Further half an hour down mountain to IWAME in BUHUTU VALLEY. One and a half hours (1 1/2) flat walking to MILA on SAGARAI RIVER. Road muddy and tree roots an annoyance. Several creek crossings and subject to flooding. People not present at MILA. Discussions with men-folk and overnight at MILA.

ALOTAU PATROL REPORT OF 1971/1972 - No. 2.

PATROL DIARY - Continued.

1971.

Tuesday, 2nd November: Census revised. Several deaths claimed the result of sorcery - refuted by P.H.F. patrol recently in the area. (Mostly deaths of old people and some young children.)  
1 hour 40 minutes to GELEMALAI. Roadwork inspected.  
People assembled at 20.00 hours for talks re prospecting authorities and self-government. Concluded 22.00 hours. Overnight GELEMALAI rest house.

Wednesday, 3rd November: Census revised. Talks re R.D.F. and Council taxation.  
To IPOULI - 2 hours.  
Council tractor capable of reaching HO'OLAI, 45 minutes out of IPOULI. Sorcery discussed. People gathered and census revised after discussions. More talks re sorcery at night. Overnight at GELEMALAI.

Thursday, 4th November: 1½ hours by tractor to TAMONAU Plantation. (1 hour walking time). Road overgrown and in appalling condition.  
Met manager, Mr. Jack Parry.  
50 minutes to SIASIADA. Road inspected.  
Census and discussions. 10 minutes to proposed air-strip site adjacent to SIASIADA P.T.S. Returned TAMONAU 17.00 hours. Overnight.

Friday, 5th November: Per vehicle to SAGARAI Plantation, 6 miles from TAMONAU.  
5½ hours to NAURA village, carriers lost way several times. Followed GUMINE RIVER downstream for 2½ hours along bed and both banks. Left GUMINE thence along overgrown road clearing by NAURA people for 1 hour 10 minutes to village, arriving 17.00 hours.  
By vehicle to ALOTAU - 1 hour 10 minutes.

E N D C F P A T R O L.

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

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

In Reply  
Please Quote

No.  
Division of District Administration,  
Department of the Administrator,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

5th October, 1971.

Mr. G.V. Parker,  
Assistant District Officer,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

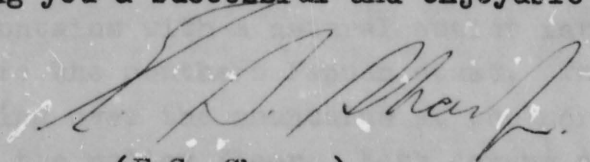
PATROL INSTRUCTIONS - EALABA BUHUTU.

As per verbal advice, you will prepare to depart for a patrol into the EALABA BUHUTU census division. Your departure date will be dependent on you pre-patrol propoganda. Use the "Off-shore" and out-board motor for transport.

2. During the course of your patrol, the following is to be observed and/or achieved:-

- (a) Revise the Census
- (b) Update the existing area study
- (c) Compile a situation report
- (d) Conduct a series of Political Education meetings in accordance with advice received from the District Political Education Officer
- (e) Carry out a Ward Committee propoganda programme
- (f) Pay attention to Rural Development Project progress
- (g) Do not hear court cases; refer all such to Alotau
- (h) Obtain a cash advance for carrier payments
- (i) Do not travel on religious days
- (j) Do not make promises we cannot keep
- (k) On your return submit a Report in accordance with Departmental Standing Instructions, and District and Headquarters instructions

2. Wishing you a successful and enjoyable patrol.

  
(E.S. Sharp.)  
Assistant District Commissioner.

14

ALOTAU PATROL REPORT NO. 2 OF 1971/1972.

SITUATION REPORT.

POLITICAL.

Discussions during the patrol centred around self-government, local government councillors' duties and ward committees. Use was made of two flip charts, one demonstrating the relation of the Papua New Guinea government to the Australian government as it was, is and will be at self-government. The second chart illustrated the duties of a councillor, his responsibility to his constituents and meeting procedure.

These visual aids were obviously beneficial in retaining the people's attention, but generally failed to bring a response in the form of questions or participation in the discussion. At GIBARA the patrol encountered the only question within its duration and this from a well-travelled woman who queried the distinction between self-government and independence. The only other comment made was that the towns may be ready for self-government but this was not the case in the villages.

It is difficult to perceive how these people can really associate themselves with the rapid change in times now taking place. The EALEBA Census Division is isolated although only seven miles across Milne Bay from the town of Alotau - the centre of speedy expansion and population rising now in excess of 2,000 persons. There is no road communication, the villagers commuting by privately owned launches built locally and often assisted by Development Bank loans. The villages occupy a narrow coastal strip broadening towards the western end and are bounded to the south by a mountain range exceeding 3,000 feet at its highest point. This, except for self-imposed trips to Alotau, the people of the EALEBA coast are in perfect isolation. Similar remarks can be made of the people of the BUHUTU valley. The valley is enclosed by a ring of mountains with a natural outlet into MULLINS HARBOUR and on to the southern Papuan coast. The valley is visited by walking over the mountains at the northern end and descending into the valley floor. Both census divisions could be and have been by-passed by progress. It is difficult to assess the impact upon the people and whether they are, in fact, grateful for the omission. Surely the people of the central EALEBA coast miss the advantages derived from the presence of a full-scale town as existed during the last world

13

POLITICAL - (Cont.)

/ full-scale town as existed during the last world war and occupied by the Americans in grandiose style.

It is difficult to believe these people can relate themselves with an emerging country and the associated responsibilities. Very few changes have taken place at the village level and the whole concept of self-government and control of the country's destiny seems unrealistic. As a result, participation and genuine concern in the patrol's discussions were lacking and perhaps the only reason their attention was maintained was a result of conditioning - every year in living memory the people have been obliged to assemble for census, hear out the various topics raised by the patrolling officer, extend due courtesy, and in but a matter of hours he has departed and village life has reverted to normal with every possibility that the impact of the stay has been minimal.

The chart and explanation related to the duties of local government councillors were received with distaste discerned from the people's lack of response and the conveyance to the writer of the impression that they had heard all this before. This is another area where the Council is not regarded as belonging to the people, but another government instrumentality imposed upon them for vague purposes not of concern to the villager anyway. At the inauguration of the Milne Bay Local Government Council, almost two decades ago, enthusiasm was no doubt high, but with disappointment after disappointment, this attitude consolidated into one of disinterest sometimes verging onto discontentment when the Council fails to fulfil its obligations. The DAWADAWA people informed the patrol they had resisted payment of Council tax for four years as a protest by a village that had received nothing from the Council. The people of WAGAWAGA said they had refused to pay tax to the recent Council tax patrol visiting the village because the Council had failed to make a concerted effort to complete the construction of a classroom at the primary school in the village. Construction of the classroom has been carried into the current estimates from 1970/1971 and the building to date is only semi-complete. Incompetent ordering has been a major obstacle to the success of the project.

POLITICAL - (Cont.)

Alternatives to personal tax were discussed and received favourably. The success of the Council operated Alotau garbage service as a profitable business venture was discussed, and interest was displayed in the Council's present attempts to agree to a second form of enterprise capable of offsetting taxation as the only source of revenue. Pressure from the villages such as lobbying by their representatives for what the people want was discussed in relation to the above in an effort to demonstrate that the people could in fact have a direct influence upon the decisions of the Council, a point which seems to have been lost in later years. Whilst on the subject of taxation, the GWAWILI gathering expressed concern that the Council was lax in the collection of back tax which led to displeasure among those who consistently paid their tax year after year. Defaulters must be penalised if the Council does not wish to see an even greater rise in the percentage of evaders.

Ward committees, their powers and functions as described under Section 39 of the Local Government Ordinance 1963-1971, were detailed without reaction. Total unconcern would best fit the attitude towards this matter.

ECONOMIC.

The attitudes of the people of the EALEBA coast towards a vehicular road differ in the extreme from village to village. In recent years the Milne Bay Local Government Council has made available Rural Development Funds for the upgrading of the wartime road running the full length of the coast. Dependency on water transport has negated any enthusiasm the villages of LAMHAGA, DAWADAWA and GWAWILI may have otherwise had, and it was stated that only if the Council was prepared to pay full casual labour rates would work be carried out in any form. At present, no funds have been available for over six months on this road and thus the road as upgraded as far as the DAWADAWA RIVER is overgrown and in need of several replacement culverts and a few small scale bridges. The work involved to repair this wet season damage is not great and this includes a small number of low-level crossings requiring fresh approaches cut into the banks. The road closely follows the high water mark, particularly between GWAWILI and DAIC Catholic Mission, where the coastal strip becomes non-existent. A number of the bridges previously installed were deliberately constructed from soft-wood to facilitate the work regardless of the obvious



ECONOMIC - (Cont.)

facilitate the work regardless of the obvious consequences. This attitude surely reaffirms that these people do not find a road essential and work purely for the monetary gain derived and not for any developmental advantage that may be theirs.

As the Council is now experiencing difficulty in meeting R.D.F. grants on a cash basis and as the people are willing to work only for full wages, it seems likely no further grant will ensue, the road thus reverting to bush.

The people of DAIO are on the other extreme. Having purchased a tractor with Development Bank assistance, they are keen for the road system to extend, and have through their own efforts extended a branch road to the hamlet of BWADA BWADA inland. The tractor is presently limited to travel between DAIO to BWADA BWADA and DAIO to WAGA WAGA (15 minutes walking time). The obstacle at WAGA WAGA being a deteriorated bridge at the western extremity of the village on the DADONADONANA creek. The Department of Public Works has been engaged to reconstruct this bridge, logs being supplied on the site by the village.

The villages of GAMADOUDOU and GIBARA are anxious about a road but experience the same problems regarding payment for work performed. The people will use and appreciate a road if it is presented to them complete and serviceable. If they are personally to attain this goal then all possible assistance, both monetary and equipment, must, in their opinion be extended to them. Councillor GADOSISI of GIBARA is a dynamic figure who has successfully impressed upon his people the need for self-help. They have commenced the construction of a road on high ground inland from the village, with the ultimate aim to extend it to the GUMINE RIVER where it will connect with the efforts of the NAJIRA people. This is an immense task and quite frankly I consider this beyond the resources of the people. That they see a need for a road is, however, off-set by their insistence to receive full cash wage.

The BUHUTU roadwork has ceased pending receipt of 1971/1972 Rural Development Funds. The opportunity was taken to advise the people that the grant could very probably be withheld due to the Council's failure to meet it on a dollar for dollar basis. The only alternative open was cheap labour thus contributing to the grant in kind. The proposal was accepted and discussion among the villages continues. It will

ECONOMIC. (Cont.)

/ It will

be interesting to observe the outcome and if the people are genuinely motivated by the benefits they can derive from the road system.

The Section MILA to GELEMALAI has been cleared to over one chain width for the first 45 minutes. Total walking time is 1 hour 40 minutes. The section is low lying and the ground soft, quite unsuitable for vehicular traffic except under the driest conditions. Parts of the stretch have had small drains cut only 9 feet apart - insufficient and a problem to rectify. From the hamlet of POMAFOMA the bush has been cleared to in excess of 20 feet but the forest canopy remains intact overhead. No levelling has been undertaken but the surface is stony and appears good for traffic. The ground is slightly elevated and undulating. A further difficulty is encountered as village environments are entered, in that raised walking tracks were constructed some decades ago by digging drains and throwing the earth into the centre. These drains are too narrow for vehicles and will require a substantial effort to fill on one side.

The GELEMALAI people have been enthusiastic in their efforts to link up with the existing road from TAMONAU Plantation to HO'OLAI. This undoubtedly is to enable them to make use of the Council donated tractor at present operating on the road. Bush has been cut and cleared to a width of 28 feet for the first 35 minutes walking time out of the village. There has been a spasmodic construction of drains some 20 feet apart. The road then connects with an old early century walk road constructed by those intrepid Patrol Officers of yesteryear. This path extends to IPOULI and again presents difficulties, being confined to 8 or 9 feet in width by the gutters. The first 15 minutes encounters gravelly soil which gives way to soft ground suitable only for dry weather usage. The tractor can reach HO'OLAI, 45 minutes out on the GELEMALAI side of IPOULI, but with difficulty and some damage to the surface.

IPOULI to TAMONAU Plantation is appalling. This section has been cleared of bush and accepted as a completed road by the people. Surfacing with stones and draining have been kept to a minimum. As a result, the tractor, through continual use in all weather conditions, has reduced the track to a quagmire. Maintenance has been nil, grass stands waist high and the only indication of a road is two deep ruts depicting the path taken by the tractor.

ECONOMIC. (Cont.)

These ruts are full of water unable to escape or evaporate due to overgrowth, and make walking along the route uncomfortable in the extreme. Walking time is 1 hour whilst the tractor is painfully slow, negotiating the distance in 1½ hours, and is rarely out of low gear. In 20 months the tractor has clocked up less than 600 hours and remains therefore in good condition. Maintenance is provided by the Plantation to the good fortune of the villages. Hire rates are ridiculously low considering the time factor and condition of roads:-

IPOULI - TAMONAU	\$1.00
HO'OLAI - TAMONAU	\$1.00
SIASIADA - IPOULI-TAMONAU	\$1.50

The driver receives \$5.00 per week from the Committee passbook - the tractor was donated to BUHUTU in June of this year and is run entirely by them on village funds.

There are two roads to SIASIADA, one from IPOULI and one from TAMONAU. The former is suffering from tractor damage and consists of a wide swath cut through level low-lying country. The road is boggy and several corduroys have been constructed and proven fairly unsuccessful.

It is an unrewarding task attempting to impress upon the people that a path cleared of trees and stumps is a road in name only and of no practical use. A praiseworthy job has been done of clearing, but this is but, the first of a number of stages in road-building, and certainly not the biggest.

TAMONAU to SIASIADA is 50 minutes walking time. The first 15 minutes are along a clearing greater than a chain wide and cleared of all rubble for ½ chain. The soil is soft and even more so with the removal of binding matter such as roots and stumps. Small gardens have been planted in places and will serve to control regrowth. The purpose of the road is to connect the Plantation with a proposed airstrip some ten minutes from SIASIADA. Plantation labour has played significant role in the construction under the direction of the Manager, Mr. Jack Perry, a man intent on the airstrip becoming a reality.

The proposed site for the airfield is upon Administration land purchased early in the century and re-surveyed by Department of Lands in mid 1970. The area lies adjacent to the SIASIADA Primart "T" School lease and is covered with kunai, having been cleared of timber over an area 3,000 feet by 200 - 300 feet.

ECONOMIC. (Cont.)

The ground is firm and gravelly and well drained, rising in the centre and dropping away at the eastern end to a small creek. The strip is east-west orientated with the possibility of an extension to the west if required. Some dips and depressions will require fill and timber on the approaches will need felling. SAGARAI ESTATE (TAMONAU AND SAGARAI Plantations) will make available a tractor drawn mower and small earthmoving blade, the only hindrance to proceeding with the task lying in the granting of the lease to the Plantation Company. Once this is done the road mentioned previously will be completed (by Plantation labour if need be) and work in earnest commenced to upgrade the site to approved standards. Mr. Parry has confirmed this as Plantation policy, feeling an airfield would be a definite advantage to all sections of the community of the BUHUTU valley. As no major problems are envisaged, it is estimated the strip would be operable within a month - in Mr. Parry's estimation.

There are over 18,000 mature coffee trees in the BUHUTU and no new plantings.

Marketing is effected by D.A.S.F. patrols to the area once a year to buy the produce. Three and a half tons was bought in late 1970, and during the course of the patrol another one ton was purchased, the ruling rate being 16¢ per lb 1st grade and 14¢ per lb 2nd grade. These figures were supplied by the Assistant Rural Development Officer who made the recent purchases. Three coffee plots were seen on the patrol and each, although kept clean of undergrowth, were overgrown in the respect that no pruning and thinning had taken place for what appears to have been years. The trees are tall and misshapen, beans becoming out of reach as evidenced by the carpet of coffee seedlings spread throughout the plots. D.A.S.F. proclaim that the people are too apathetic to heed advice to prune and that with more coconuts coming of bearing age, the interest in coffee production has dropped off. Perhaps the gap between purchases also has a bearing on the production level - I cannot see the grower picking throughout the year and stockpiling until the time of sale, being both out of character and practically impossible when the crop is subject to mould attack and other hazards through the wet season, adequate drying facilities and incentive to take precautions being non-existent.

In 1965, some \$60,000 was dispersed throughout the BUHUTU for a 144,400 acre timber purchase. Most of this money was squandered and only some \$9,000 remains in village savings accounts. Recently a third of this was invested in Bougainville Mining shares.

ECONOMIC. (Cont.)

To date, no Company has shown sufficient interest to commence operations, although several inspections of the area, the entire BUHUTU valley, have been carried out. The patrol generally followed standard patrol routes, much of which are through old or current garden sites. However, few millable trees were sighted in the areas of forest and certainly far fewer than expected. It can only be reasoned that the areas of interest must lie in the foothills and on the slopes encompassing the valley.

The EALEBA COAST is copra orientated and this is the major source of income. In the GWAWILI sector it is apparent that some difficulty is experienced in the establishment of cash crops - much of the land holdings being on the slopes of the range where the littoral diminishes to nothing. Slopes are steep and the coconuts grow at precarious angles, becoming unstable as height increases.

Councillors MATHEW and GADOSISI of DAIO and GIBARA respectively are men who appreciate the demands of a new era and are determined to create an economically viable situation for their people. MATHEW has been the driving force behind the purchase of a tractor to bring in produce from the river valley behind DAIO plus, of course, hiring and roadwork. GADOSISI has been urging his following for some years since he visited Australia and New Zealand on a three month tour. The inspiration gained from this experience has developed a situation where some 11,000 coconuts have been planted directly behind the village site and planting continues. GADOSISI states his aim is to prove to the Administration his people are capable of hard work and self help for a sustained period. In this way he hopes to secure Administration assistance for the establishment of a new village complete with water supply and power plant. When planting has ceased a loan will be applied for to set up a cattle project. This man has long range schemes in mind and has indeed proven his ability to fulfil them. He has been instrumental in the construction of a wharf at KILAKILANA and the erection of a new co-operative store there. Both are a credit to the village.

SOCIAL.

Sorcery is a much discussed subject in the BUHUTU. Many deaths over the last couple of years have been attributed to it for reasons universally associated with sorcery - land encroachment, adultery and wife stealing. The matter came to a head in late 1970 when a reputed sorcerer, GAISENI of GIBARA, was murdered for such activity but the matter has not rested there. The census reveals that some 35 people have died in the period

SOCIAL. (Cont.)

/ some 35 people have died in the period April, 1970, to November, 1971. Despite the condemnation's of the people, most of these deaths were of old people and some children, and have been accredited to the gastroenteritis and pneumonia in the majority of cases by the Hospital Assistant who patrolled the area early in September this year. This patrol was at the request of Sub-District Office in response to reports of several deaths during 1971.

It is said there are sorcerers in each of the BUHUTU villages. A person unskilled in the art and aggrieved by the acts of another will employ a sorcerer to rectify the wrong done him.

It is difficult to assess the matter when information obtained may be padded and relevant points omitted for reasons best known to the informants. The impression gained is that the situation is not extraordinary but that it has been more exposed and given greater publicity. The people reject conventional explanations, such as lack of hygiene, for the deaths and haste to admit that although sorcery is discounted by Europeans and plays no part in their society, it is a real and a fact of life to them.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The application for renewal of Prospecting Authority No. 154 (P) by Pacific Island Mines Ltd., was discussed in detail in all villages. The Villagers were advised of the date of the Mining Warden's hearing at Alotau on 13th December, 1971, after explanation of the intricacies thereof as per Lands and Departmental Circulars. Both EALEBA and BUHUTU census divisions are involved in the renewal application! Concern was high particularly on the EALEBA coast, the prime anxiety stemming from the fear of loss of traditional land for mining operations, regardless of the generosity of compensatory gestures, be it monetary or in kind or a combination of both.

The exception was DAIO, where a complete reversal of attitudes was displayed. These people were definitely in favour of the proposal and had no objections to mining should economic deposits come to light. Other villages, however, especially WAGA WAGA were adamant that mining should not be countenanced on their land and stated their intention to despatch representatives to the hearing in December. GAMADOUDOU was less animated but was inclined to agree that a spokesman should speak to the Mining Warden. DAWA DAWA and LAMHAGA, concerned though they were, are unlikely to voice an opinion through sheer apathy.

MISCELLANEOUS. (Cont.)

BUHUTU villagers were less perturbed and felt they needed some sort of industry to develop the region. They may have been influenced, however, by gold mining operations that had occurred in their area in by-gone days. That new mining operations need not necessarily be on such a small scale was impressed upon them but seeing is often believing. All villages suggested that they hold gatherings after the patrol's departure to determine their position!

Rest houses in the BUHUTU are overly large and in good order. The people were instructed that on ~~XXXX~~ their replacement an attempt should be made to reduce their size for practical reasons - space not required, number of visits does not warrant large majestic structures, and maintenance becomes on hand and abhorred by the people.

AREA STUDY.

The EALEBA Cnesus Division is hereby updated where applicable from Patrol No. 16 of 1969/70 conducted in April/May of 1970. The BUHUTU Cnesus Division is equally revised from Patrol No. 4 of 1970/71 mounted in November, 1970.

EALEBA CENSUS DIVISION:-

POPULATION - DISTRIBUTION AND TRENDS:-

Village Population Register is attached.

Of the total population; the percentage of adults recorded as absent workers is 12½%.

LEADERSHIP:-

As previously reported, some Councillors of the area are influential, particularly the following:

GADOSISI of GIBARA  
BONDAI of GAMADOUDOU  
ABEL of WAGAWAGA (M.H.A.)  
MATHEW of DAIO.

The first and last have been mentioned in the "Economic" section of the Situation Report. BONDAI PITA is influential in local matters and his opinion regarded as gospel, particularly in Council affairs, and this no doubt as a result of his 14 years as clerk to the Milne Bay Local Government Council. Cecil ABEL, M.H.A., has been absent from his ward for most of his tenure of office and his constituents are suitably disgruntled. He has the fortune to be a man with a "silver tongue" and fluent in the local language, enabling him to manipulate any situation to his own satisfaction.

COMMUNICATIONS:-

Roads have been adequately covered in the Situation Report.

There is no change in the position regarding sea, air and river communications.

ECONOMY OF THE AREA:-

The Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries has advised that no new figures are available for coffee and coconut crops in the EALEBA. As previously reported, total possible copra production is in the vicinity of 1,000 tons annually, but actual production would be approximately one third. All copra is sold to the Copra Marketing Board in Samarai, growers making



ECONOMY OF THE AREA:- (Cont.)

/ Copra Marketing Board in Samarai, growers making their own way on local private vessels. The picture overall remains disappointingly static.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS LOCAL GOVERNMENT:-

Refer to "Political" section of the Situation Report.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT:-

The overall attitude is one of acceptance of the Administration, the result of long term familiarisation dating from the late nineteenth century. Little has been asked or expected of these people, and their attitude towards the Administration, at least nowadays, is the same.

ACCOMMODATION, SERVICES AND FACILITIES:-

Rest houses are to be found in all villages, in one form or another. At LAMHAGA, GWAWILI and GAMADOUDOU, they take the form of Community Centres built by the Council - not particularly suitable from the point of view of privacy. The only vehicles located on the EALEBA coast are two tractors located at DAIO and WAGAWAGA, the latter being unserviceable at the time of writing. Both are available for hire. Trade stores are numerous, but those containing anything like a variety of items may be found only at DAIO and the Co-operative store at GIBARA. Small vessels up to 26 feet are found all along the coast and may be chartered. Being designed along the lines of workboats to permit transportation of copra, they are uncomfortable, noisy and unstable without ballast. Aid Posts are at WAGAWAGA and GAMADOUDOU, the latter being the only one operational at present.

BUHUTU CENSUS DIVISION:-

POPULATION - DISTRIBUTION AND TRENDS:-

Village Population Register is attached. The relatively high percentage of deaths has been discussed fully in the Situation Report under "Social". The adult absent workers amount to 16% of the total population.

COMMUNICATIONS:-

The inter-village road system and the proposed airstrip are detailed under "Economics" of the Situation Report.

The only shipping outlet at present is TANONAU plantation. There is no wharf, simply a steep bank on a small creek from which cargo is loaded. The creek, and indeed much of MULLINS HARBOUR and the channels through the mangrove islands, is only navigable at the peak of the tide. With the use of a local guide

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COMMUNICATIONS:- (Cont.)

/ With the use of a local guide, coastal vessels of up to 6 foot draft follow the tide in, load at the ebb and retreat again with the tide. This is not always possible due to circumstances, in which case the boat must be propped against the bank and secured with ropes tied to trees, the creek when drained containing less than a foot of water. The people of SIASIADA propose constructing a wharf a short distance from the existing point and this should prove superior. The site was previously utilised by the plantation.

THE ECONOMY OF THE AREA:-

The Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries has stated there is no increase in coffee figures, all plantings are mature and the people have expressed no interest in new plantings. The coconut census for 1970/1971 as quoted are:-

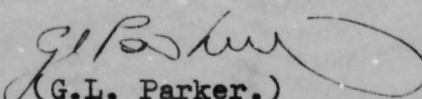
Mature	40,700
Immature	22,200

ATTITUDE TOWARDS LOCAL GOVERNMENT:-

Refer Situation Report under "Political".

ATTITUDE TOWARDS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT:-

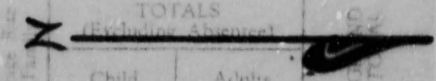
As in the EALEBA Census Division, the people of BUHUTU accept the Administration from long term contact but expect little from it. The BUHUTU is isolated and but a small pocket of less than one thousand people, or less than 1% of the population of the district. There are three significant events in the history of the BUHUTU that have permitted some contact with the outside and these are the establishment of SAGARAI Estate, the goldmines at ULO ULO in the thirties and the timber purchase in 1965, the latter may have the greatest impact if commercial operations get underway.

  
(G.L. Parker.)  
Assistant District Officer.

Register

Area Patrolled

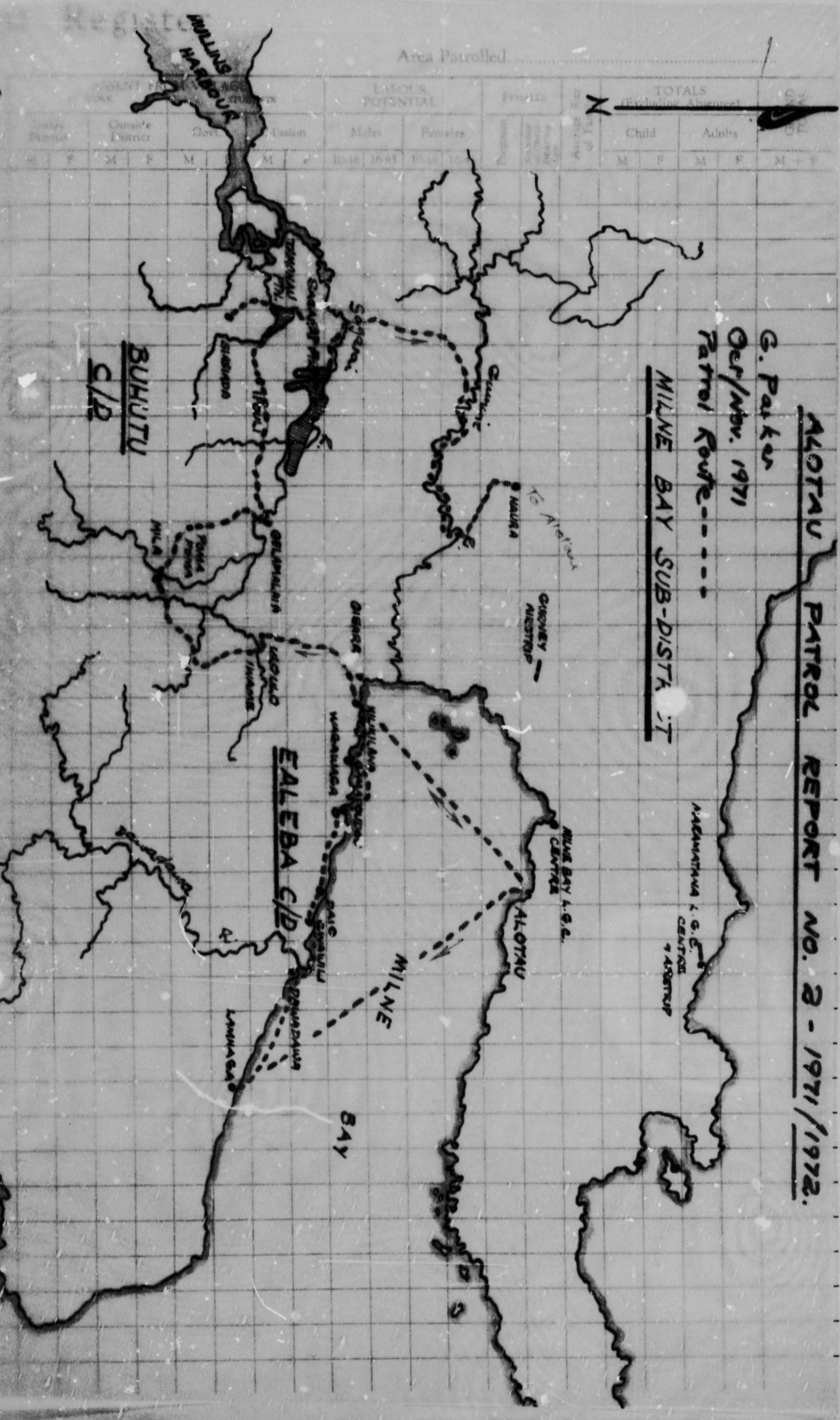
Census District		Census District		Mission		LABOUR POTENTIAL		Females		TOTALS (Including Absent)	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	10-16	16-65	Child	Adults
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			M	F



ALOTAU PATROL REPORT NO. 2 - 1971/1972.

G. Parker  
Oct/Nov. 1971  
Patrol Route-----

MILNE BAY SUB-DISTRICT



SAMARAI



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

REPORT NUMBER: ALOTAU NO. 3 OF 1971/1972.  
 SUB-DISTRICT: ALOTAU.  
 DISTRICT: MILNE BAY.  
 COUNCIL AREA: MILNE BAY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL.  
 PATROL CONDUCTED BY: R. SUTTON.  
 DESIGNATION: PATROL OFFICER.  
 ACCOMPANIED BY: R.J. WALLENT.  
 DESIGNATION: ASSISTANT PATROL OFFICER.  
 DURATION OF PATROL: 21-3-72 to 24-3-72. TOTAL 3½ DAYS.  
 LAST D.B.A. PATROL: 1-11-71 to 5-11-71.  
 OBJECTS OF PATROL: POSSIBILITY OF LAND PURCHASE,  
 POLITICAL EDUCATION,  
 ROAD EVALUATION.  
 MAP REFERENCE: ARMY SERIES T504 FOURMIL.

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 ....

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.....  
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67-4-27



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

15

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION  
4 MAY 1972  
KONEDOBU

In Reply  
Please Quote

Telegrams  
Telephone 67-2-12  
Our Reference  
If calling ask for WHW/sm  
Mr.

Division of District Administration,  
Department of the Administrator,  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

2nd May, 1972.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 3 of 1971/72.

Your reference 67-4-27 of 26th April, 1972, refers.

Comments have been noted.

Medical authorities have been notified of the disease.

*F. G. Driver*  
(F.G. DRIVER)

District Commissioner.

CA/JK

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P.O. Box 2396 - KONE DOBU

67-4-27

26th April, 1972

The District Commissioner  
Milne Bay District  
ALOTAU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 3 of 1971/72

Your reference 67-2-12 of 18th April, 1972.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Situation Reports 1 and 2 arising out of the above patrol of the BUHUTU Census Division, together with the appropriate assessments as submitted by MR. R. SUTTON, P.O. and MR. R. WALLENT, A.P.O.

What Mr. Wallent has titled a "Situation Report" is really the Patrol Report which should have terminated at your headquarters. The term "Situation Report" should be used only for the specific reports. There is no need to type a diary - see instructions.

Has the note of people coughing blood been passed to medical authorities?

(T.W. ELLIS)  
Secretary

87

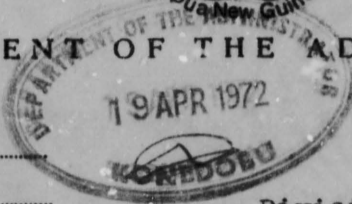
82967-4-27

13



DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Telegrams  
Telephone  
Our Reference... 67-2-12  
If calling ask for  
Mr. WHW/cl,



In Reply  
Please Quote

No.

Division of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

18th April, 1972.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 3 - 1971/72

Attached please find two copies of the above report submitted by Mr. R. Wallent, I.P.O. The old procedure has been followed due to the fact that the Officer is only new.

2. It is considered that the proposed land purchase be dropped and the Lands Department concentrate on sub-dividing the many acres of unoccupied alienated land in the District.
3. Matters mentioned under "Social" will be looked into from this Headquarters.

*F.G. Driver*  
(F.G. DRIVER)  
District Commissioner

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,  
ALOTAU.

87

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1

STATION ALOTAU.....OFFICER COMPILING R.S.SUTTON.....  
 DISTRICT MILNE BAY.....SUB-DISTRICT.....ALOTAU.....  
 CENSUS DIVISION.....BUHUTU.....L.G. COUNCIL.....MILNE BAY.....  
 SUBJECT: LAND PURCHASE.

SUB-DISTRICT OFFICE  
ALOTAU

ASSESSMENT ASSISTANT DISTRICT  
COMMISSIONER

DATE RECEIVED

7th APRIL, 1972.....

It seems that the people of the Buhutu (Sagarai) Valley are not adverse to the sale of land. Ample time and low pressure negotiations will be required, however, if a suitable outcome is to be achieved. Difficulty is possible in securing one large tract of land rather than numerous scattered blocks of vastly different acreages - a position probably not at all desirable in the opinion of the Department of Lands.

ACTION TAKEN:

SGD.....*E.S. Sharp*.....  
 DATE.. 11th April, 1972.....



DISTRICT OFFICE  
ALOTAU  
DATE RECEIVED

ASSESSMENT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

17th April, 1972.....

In view of the land matter discussed in this Situation Report it is considered that the probable purchase be dropped and the Lands Department concentrate in sub-dividing the many acres of unoccupied alienated land in this District

ACTION TAKEN: NIL

SGD..... *F. G. Guier* .....

DATE... 18-4-72.....

HEADQUARTERS

DATE RECEIVED

.....

Forwarded \_\_\_\_\_ Section

PROJECT OFFICER.....

DATE.....

SITUATION REPORT NO. 2

STATION ..ALOTAU..... OFFICER COMPILING .R.S.SUTTON.....  
 DISTRICT ..MILNE BAY..... SUB-DISTRICT..ALOTAU.....  
 CENSUS DIVISION..BUHUTU.....L.G. CCUNCIL ..MILNE BAY.....  
 SUBJECT: POLITICAL EDUCATION

SUB-DISTRICT OFFICE  
ALOTAU

ASSESSMENT ASSISTANT DISTRICT  
COMMISSIONER

DATE RECEIVED

7th.APRIL,.1972.....

Clearly, Political Education must take priority rating in field staff operations. The difficulties arise in retaining the people's interest and achieving participation in discussions. Visual aids are an obvious remedy and their supply and distribution in adequate numbers is essential to the programme.

ACTION TAKEN:

SGD.....*E.S. Skaf*.....

DATE..11th.April,.1972.....

DISTRICT OFFICE  
ALOTAU  
DATE RECEIVED

ASSESSMENT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

17th April, 1972.....

The time available on this patrol was insufficient to carry out any further discussions on Political Education, however, what was discussed, and the questions asked by the people showed that people were generally interested and understood.

ACTION TAKEN: NIL

SGD. *J. J. J. J.*  
DATE 18-4-72

HEADQUARTERS  
DATE RECEIVED  
.....

Forwarded \_\_\_\_\_ Section

PROJECT OFFICER.....  
DATE.....

PATROL REPORT

(1) Prospect of Land Purchase Buhutu Valley.  
(ii) Political Education.

Patrol Alotau  
REPORT NUMBER 3/71-72  
DISTRICT: Milne Bay  
PATROL CONDUCTED BY: R. Sutton.  
AREA PATROLLED: Buhutu C.D.  
DURATION OF PATROL: 21/3/72-24/3/72  
LAST D.D.A. PATROL: 1/11/71-5/11/71  
LAST O.L.G. PATROL:  
MAP REFERENCE: Army Series T 504 Fournil  
OBJECTS OF PATROL:  
STATION: Alotau  
SUB-DISTRICT: Alotau  
DESIGNATION: Patrol Officer  
PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING: Mr A.P.O. Wallent.  
NUMBER OF DAYS: Four  
TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA: 897  
COUNCIL AREA: Milne Bay  
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTORATE: Alotau

The District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

In respect of this patrol, I attach  
FIELD OFFICERS JOURNAL, FOLIOS 46 TO 48, (✓)  
PATROL INSTRUCTIONS, (✓)  
THE REPORT AND MY COMMENTS, (✓)  
AREA STUDY, ( )  
UPDATING OF AREA STUDY ( )  
SITUATION REPORTS NO'S 1 - 2, (✓)  
PATROL MAP, ( )  
*Assessment Sit. Reports 1-2* ✓

DATE: 11/4/1972.

*E.S. Sheep*  
Assistant District Commissioner

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
Division of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU. Papua.

In respect of this patrol, I attach  
AREA STUDY, ( )  
UPDATING OF AREA STUDY, ( )  
SITUATION REPORTS NO'S. 1 - 2 (✓)  
..... ( )  
*Assessment Sit. Reports 1-2* (✓)

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS ASSESMENT OF  
PATROL & REPORT  
ABOVE AVERAGE  
AVERAGE ✓  
BELOW AVERAGE

DATE: 18/4/1972.

*A. G. J. J. J.*  
District Commissioner

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1.

STATION.....	ALOTAU	.....OFFICER COMPILING	.....	R. SUTTON
DISTRICT.....	MILNE BAY	.....SUB-DISTRICT	.....	ALOTAU
CENSUS DIVISION	.....BUHUTU	.....L.G. COUNCIL	.....	MILNE BAY

(For the reporting of information specifically of Headquarters value and requiring Headquarters knowledge or actions. Information is required on matters of political significance, important trends in the economic and social structure, cult and unrest situations, law and order problems, and miscellaneous matters that Headquarters needs to know. One report will be compiled for each specific topic. Each to be submitted to Headquarters in duplicate).

(Use Reverse side if necessary)

SUBJECT: Land Purchase - Buhutu Valley.

The Buhutu Valley consists of approximately 19,500 acres of flat fertile land most of which is heavily covered by rain forest. The only relief in this coverage is the small village garden plots near the villages of Mila, Gelemalaia, Ipouli and Siasiada. The 1971 Village Population Register shows a total population of 897 people. However, this figure dwindles each year as young people migrate out to "greener pastures" and the elderly die off. (Reasons for the high death rate are covered in Mr A.D.C. Parker's Alotau Patrol No. 2 of 1971/72.)

2. The main object of this patrol was to investigate the prospect of purchasing a large area of land in the Buhutu Valley. See attached memorandum dated 25th January, 1972 from the Director of Lands, Surveys and Mines, and Minute 68/3367 dated 17th December, 1971 from the Land Development Officer. N.B. Under heading "Distance to and name of nearest centres" Section (1) District Headquarters Alotau is approximately 25 miles overland not 180 as shown.

3. The villages of Mila, Gelemalaia and Ipouli were visited and preliminary talks held with the view of determining the attitude of the landowners towards purchase.

4. At Mila village one of the principal landowners, Simeni, died the same afternoon that the patrol arrived. The funeral was held next morning and a meeting with all landowners was not possible. An area of approximately 500 acres to the north-east of Mila village was offered for sale by a man named Ipuwela Awaena. This man stated that he and his family would still have ample land left for gardens and future family expansion.

5. The people of Gelemalaia village were far more cautious in their attitude towards the sale of land. Many landowners were interested in selling but would not commit themselves until an affirmative was given by their M.H.A. Doctor Guise and their Local Government Councillor, Nesterio Phillip. This wary approach is the result of being "rapped over the knuckles" by their M.H.A. for not seeking counsel during negotiations for the Sagarai Timber Lease.

(Cont.)

SGD : .....

DATE: .....

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6. The landowners requested a follow-up patrol in 3 or 4 months time when a definite answer would be given. Ex D.D.A. Patrol Interpreter, Maurice Towasi offered 100 acres of uncleared land for sale. This land lies between the Garduowai and Gulele creeks and stretches from the Sagarai River in the north, to the foothills of the mountains in the south.

7. At Ipouli the concensus of opinion was that the people did not own enough land for future family needs. They too, asked for time to "think it over" and talk to their M.H.A. Doctor Guise and Local Government Councillor Didiutuna Henoka.

8. It was emphasized at all times that this patrol was only a preliminary investigation to determine the attitudes of the landowners towards selling part of their land. This point was appreciated by those spoken to. Given time to digest the idea, I am sure that other landowners will come forward with offers of land and a total figure in excess of 1,000 acres would not be unrealistic.

SGD : *R.S. Sutton*  
DATE : *2/4/72*

25th January, 1972.

The District Commissioner,  
Department of District Administration,  
ALOTAU, Milne Bay District.

68/3367 Mr. P.S. BARRETT:GS

SAGARAI VALLEY,  
MILINCH DOGURA, FOURMIL SAMARAI DISTRICT SHEET 9 E.D.

Attached find map and report on abovementioned land. As mentioned in the report this land is suitable for agricultural development.

Is the land available for purchase, please.

SIGNED  
(D.S. GROVE)  
DIRECTOR OF LANDS,  
SURVEYS AND MINES.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA  
PRINCIPAL LAND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

MINUTE

File No. 68/3367

SUBJECT HELICOPTOR INVESTIGATION REPORT on SAGARAI VALLEY (NATIVE LAND ) MILINCH OF DOGURA, FOURMIL OF SAMARAI.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND:

- (1) NAME: Sagarai Valley (Native owned land).  
(2) AREA: Approximately 7882 hectares (19476 acres).  
(3) LOCALITY:  
(a) DISTRICT : Milne Bay  
(b) MILINCH : Dogura  
(c) FOURMIL : Samarai  
(d) DISTRICT SHEET : 9 ED

DISTANCE TO AND NAME OF NEAREST CENTRES:

- (1) District Headquarters is Alotau which is approximately 180 miles overland.  
(2) Port Moresby is approximately 1½ to 2 hours flying time.

ACCESS:

- (1) Road: The only roads in the immediate area are those linking the Sagarai Valley Plantations, which are situated in the extreme west of the valley. The extent and Durability of these roads is not known. It was reported from sources at Alotau that a mule track links Sagarai Valley with the south west coast of Milne Bay, and I have no doubt that various other foot tracks exist throughout the area in question; these were especially evident along the south west of the valley providing links between the various scattered native hamlets.  
It is worth mentioning that timber rights have been purchased throughout the area north of Sagarai Valley, and it can be expected, when logging operations eventually begin, that a road system will be introduced linking the area with Milne Bay.
- (2) Sea : There are satisfactory wharf facilities at Alotau with definite future plans for a large 'overseas wharf'. Mullins Harbour in the south west could provide suitable sea access, however the size of the vessel's are limited due to tides.  
Once again it is worth noting that future logging operations will eventually necessitate the provision of wharfing facilities on the South Coast of Milne Bay.
- (3) Air : There is an excellent ex-World War 11 sealed airstrip at Gurney.



FREQUENCY OF SERVICES TO NEAREST CENTRES:

- (1) Road : As previously mentioned the only present system of access of this nature is foot tracks, therefore the frequency of services in this instance could only be described as marginal.
- (2) Sea : Alotau is serviced regularly by coastal vessels and in the future will be serviced by overseas shipping.
- (3) Air : Gurney is serviced regularly by Ansett DC 3 plus small aircraft.

ADEQUACY OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES:

- (1) First Aid : There are adequate medical facilities at Alotau which include both doctor and dentist. There are no doubt first aid facilities provided closer by the scattered mission stations.
- (2) Education : Adequate facilities of this nature at Alotau including High School, also there are schools at the mission stations.
- (3) Agriculture: There is a large and well staffed agricultural station at Alotau which covers both agricultural and livestock requirements.

SUITABILITY FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) Soils : Unfortunately we were unable to land on the area in question, so a detailed inspection of soil suitability was not carried out. However, by taking into account the regular and health vegetation coverage of heavy rain forest, plus the healthy conditions of the rubber and coconut plantings on the Sagarai Plantations bordering the western end of the valley, and also the scattered gardens established throughout the valley by natives, there is no doubt that the soil is adequate for any agricultural settlement requirements.
- (2) Vegetation: The valley has an even and consistent vegetation coverage of heavy rain forest. There is no break in this coverage except for garden sites both old and abandoned, and newly established.
- (3) Topography: The area is generally flat throughout, gently sloping to the centre of the valley where adequate drainage is supplied by the Sagarai river, and gently rising to the bordering ridges both north and south.

(4) Water Supply : The valley is adequately supplied by both the Sagarai River, which flows westwards practically along the centre of the valley, and the Watuti River, which flows from the south ridge in a north westerly direction linking with the Sagarai River in approximately the middle of the valley. Both these rivers are perennial and appear to have a stoney base with fairly low banks which widen at the river bends which indicate overflows when subject to heavy rain. I would say that by judging by the course of the rivers and the bordering vegetation coverage that flooding is not prevalent and would only be restricted, if any, to the river banks and bends.

(5) Climate : The climate could be best described as a seasonally dry type. If the general <sup>gravel</sup> deposits on the river beds are any indications then rain during the "wet" period could be very heavy.

GENERAL: The valley has all the requirements for agricultural purposes, with excellent soils and drainage. The only disadvantage at present is the non-existence of adequate road access; however it can be expected that with the advent of logging operations in the area immediately north of the valley, access roads linking the area with Milne Bay will almost definitely be provided.

Development and population in the valley is at present restricted mainly in areas south of the Sagarai River and consist of scattered native hamlets and subsistence gardens.

The subject of future purchase and development of the Sagarai Valley was discussed with Assistant District Commissioner at Alotau who was of the opinion that the local people of that area would not be willing to sell the land.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UTILISATION: In my opinion the Sagarai Valley, due to its large area and suitability, offers great potential for future agricultural development. At present only a fraction of the valley is being utilised by local resources on a subsistence basis.

It is recommended that the District Commissioner at Alotau be requested to investigate purchase of the land in question for future subdivision and agricultural development. As far as recommendations for utilisation are concerned, it can only be generally stated at this stage that the land is suitable for all lowland crops.

SIGNED.  
M.C. KEEBLE.  
LAND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

17/12/1971

SITUATION REPORT NO. 2.

STATION...ALOTAU.....OFFICER COMPILING .....R. SUTTON.....  
 DISTRICT...MILNE BAY.....SUB-DISTRICT . ....ALOTAU.....  
 CENSUS DIVISION ..BUHUTU.....L.G. COUNCIL .....MILNE BAY.....

(For the reporting of information specifically of Headquarters value and requiring Headquarters knowledge or actions. Information is required on matters of political significance, important trends in the economic and social structure, cult and unrest situations, law and order problems, and miscellaneous matters that Headquarters needs to know. One report will be compiled for each specific topic. Each to be submitted to Headquarters in duplicate).

(Use Reverse side if necessary)

SUBJECT: Political Education.

Preferential Voting was discussed at length in the villages of Gelemalala and Ipouli. Specimen Ballot Papers were used as an aid to explain the system of preferential voting and the differences between Open and Regional Electorates. How to mark the respective papers was discussed in detail due to the large percentage of informal votes recorded during the recent General Elections. 6,141 informal votes were recorded for the Milne Bay Regional Electorate out of a total number of 30,965.

2. The people were advised that Doctor John Guise is once again their Member for Alotau Open and Mr Denis Young is the new member for Milne Bay Regional. The results were as expected by the people and little reaction was noted. This question was asked, however, "Can we replace our member if he does not do a good job?" Discussions then centred on the principles of a Democratic Government and the peoples right to be able to elect a new member at the next election.

3. One person expressed dismay at the apparent lack of interest in the Buhutu Valley, and its people, shown by Members of the House of Assembly. He asked "Why is it that our member does not visit the Buhutu more often". The duties of an M.E.A. and the problems involved in meeting all of his constituents regularly, were then discussed.

4. Discussions up to this stage were extremely one-sided with few people taking an active part. Generally speaking, the Buhutu people see no reason to concern themselves with anything but parochial matters. Talk relating to the proposed land purchase (See Situation Report No. 1) was received with interest and had many active participants.

SGD : ..... *R.S. Sutton* .....

DATE: ..... 7/4/72 .....

67-3-2

GLP/sm

Division of District Administration,

Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.  
Milne Bay District.

21st March, 1972.

Mr. Sutton,  
Patrol Officer,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

PATROL INSTRUCTIONS.  
ALOTAU PATROL NO. 3, 1971/72.

As per verbal instructions, you are to proceed to the Buhutu Census Division today. Mr. Assistant Patrol Officer Wallent will accompany. The speedboat will transport your patrol to Kilakilana, at which place you will then proceed on foot. The patrol will return to Alotau on the evening of the 24th March, 1972, by vehicle from Naura.

The format of the Patrol Report will be in accordance with the Secretary's 67-1-0 of 25th November, 1971 and of 24th February, 1972.

Objects of the Patrol are:-

- (a) Investigate the prospect of purchasing a large parcel of land in the Buhutu Valley in line with the request from the Director of Lands, of which you have a copy. Further copies of this correspondence should be attached to your Situation Report on the matter.
- (b) Compile a Situation Report on the people's understanding of preferential voting as a result of the recent General Elections and the large percentage of informal votes. Explain the system using specimen Ballot Papers. Advise the people of the outcome of the Elections and note their reactions. As the Regional member was declared only yesterday, the people will be as yet unaware of the results.
- (c) On the local plane, discuss roadwork in conjunction with the R.D.F. grant allocated to the Milne Bay Local Government Council. There has recently been a revision in thinking on roadwork, particularly in the contribution of half their services to the self-help factor inherent in R.D.F. grants. Assist the people in their understanding of the position and workload programming.
- (d) Check with Treasury re N.M.T.A. payments.
- (2) Time permitting, deal with any other matters that come to your attention or refer them to this office where you consider it necessary.

(G.L. PARKER)  
a/Assistant District Commissio

ALOTAU PATROL REPORT NO. 3 OF 1971/1972.

PATROL DIARY.  
1972.

Tuesday, 21st. March: With Patrol Officer, Mr. Sutton and interpreter to FILIKILANA per "Hercules" and 40 H.P. out-board. Walked to MILA, 4½ hours. Overnight at MILA.

Wednesday, 22nd. March: Discussed proposed land sale with MILA villagers. Few people present because the funeral of a village elder was being held at this time. Walked to GALAMALAI, 2 hours. Held meeting with villagers, discussing proposed land sale, election results, informal voting and roads. Walked to IPOULI, 2 hours. Overnight at IPOULI.

Thursday, 23rd. March: Held meeting with IPOULI villagers. Discussed proposed land sale, election results, informal voting and roads. Walked to TAMANAU Plantation. Paid one N.M.T.A. at TAMANAU. Overnight at TAMANAU.

Friday, 24th. March: By vehicle to SAGARAI Plantation. Walked from SAGARAI Plantation to NAURA, 5 hours. By vehicle to ALOTAU.

END OF PATROL.

\* \* \* \* \*

SITUATION REPORT.

POLITICAL.

Discussions held during this patrol centred around the House of Assembly election results, the duties of the elected Members, the concept of a Democratic Government and voting procedures.

The last mentioned subject was felt to have been very necessary because of the high incidence of informal votes registered in this District- 6,141 informal votes in the Milne Bay Regional Electorate.

The people seemed pleased with the results of the elections, although they say that they will watch with interest the efforts of the new Regional Member. They also claim that Members should spend a great deal of time visiting each village in their electorates.

Looking at the Local Government aspect, it would appear that the people are not particularly impressed with the efficiency of their Council, but even that being the case, their councillors are held in high regard, so much so that the people appear loath to make any decisions without first consulting their councillor.

When discussing the sale of land, it was interesting to note that the people felt obliged to speak to their Members of the House of Assembly about this matter before committing themselves. This is due to the fact that in 1965, when discussions took place about the Sagarai Timber Lease, their Members were not consulted, and, as a consequence, the people were "abused" (their word) by their Members.

ECONOMIC.

The main reason for the patrol was to ascertain the villagers' feelings about selling part of their land to the Administration for re-settlement purposes.

Generally speaking, the people appeared interested but cautious about committing themselves. It appeared that they wanted time to consider and discuss the matter. Much land seems to be lying idle. Many of the younger people have left the area and are working in large towns. Many abandoned houses are to be seen.

The few people who said that they would be prepared to sell some of their land, suggested that about 500 acres would be made available by them. However, a more accurate and probably a larger figure would be able to be obtained once the people have discussed the matter amongst themselves and their councillors.

The roads in most of the area require a good deal of work to be done on them before they can be classed as operational.

ECONOMIC.( cont.)

/ Much work remains to be done in clearing, draining and, in some cases, levelling. One exception to this is near NAURA, where a good deal of work has taken place. Now that the Local Government Council has a grant of \$3,200 for the Buhutu Road, interest should be re-kindled. The feeling was that as long as the Council had no money, there would be no work done.

A geologist working for A.O.G. Minerals was met at TAMANAU Plantation, but he was not optimistic about finding anything of commercial value in the area.

SOCIAL.

'Puri-puri' is often given as the reason for deaths in the area. Several people were observed to be coughing blood, indicating the possibility of a reasonably high incidence of tuberculosis.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The rest-houses in the area are large and in good repair, several obviously having recently been renovated for the recent elections.

The patrol was well received and good hospitality was extended towards it.

Prior to the departure of the patrol, a check was made with Treasury, in accordance to the Patrol Instructions, and, as a result, one N.M.T.A. payment was made at TAMANAU Plantation.

*R.J. Wallent.*

.....  
(R.J. Wallent.)  
Assistant Patrol Officer.

APPENDIX 'A'.

DETAILS OF POLITICAL EDUCATION DISCUSSIONS.

The people were told the results of the House of Assembly Elections. They appeared quite happy with the results even though in the Ealaba/ Bubutu Census Division the voting was 353 for Arnold Joseph and 138 for Dennis Young. Questions were raised as to what the people could do if their elected Member failed to do a satisfactory job. They were told that they had the right to vote for whom they chose, and that if their Member did not perform in a satisfactory manner, they should vote for a different person in the next election.

In the Ealaba/ Bubutu Census Division there were 50 informal votes recorded in the Alotau Open Electorate and 80 informal votes recorded in the Milne Bay Regional Electorate. Efforts were made to ascertain the reason for the difference of 30 informal votes between the two electorates, and it would appear that some people had been advised to vote John Guise no. 1 and every one else number 2, 3, 4, etc.

The difference between the Regional and Open Electorates was then explained. Specimen ballot papers were displayed and the people shown how to fill in each ballot paper correctly.

Preferential voting was explained at length, and, although generally understood, many remain confused on the matter of distribution of preferences.

The duties of the Members were explained and the people told of their rights to approach their Members. At this stage the people spoke of their wish for frequent visits to their villages by the Members.

The concept of a Democratic Government was explained and emphasis placed on "by the people, for the people" phrase.

The people were then asked if they had any questions. The queries were centred around polling procedures. The role of the Voters Identification Tribunal was queried and this was explained. Confusion existed in regard to an independent witness in the case of illiterate voters. This was explained.

Although there were a few questions, the general response was somewhat disappointing and a feeling of apathy was evident.



DDA 67-4-70  
 (i) Political Education. (9)  
 (ii) Publicise Post Census Survey  
 (iii) Payment of Village

PATROL REPORT

REPORT NUMBER: Patrol Alotau  
 DISTRICT: Milne Bay  
 PATROL CONDUCTED BY: R. Sutton  
 AREA PATROLLED: Part North-East Coast C.D.  
 DURATION OF PATROL: 26/4-28/4/72  
 LAST D.D.A. PATROL: 13/10-3/11/71  
 LAST C.L.G. PATROL:  
 MAP REFERENCE: Fournal Samarai Milinch Gehua

OBJECTS OF PATROL: Constables.  
 STATION: Alotau  
 SUB-DISTRICT: Alotau  
 DESIGNATION: Patrol Officer  
 PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING: Mr. W.R. Paterson, P.O.  
 Mr. R. Wallent, A.P.O.  
 NUMBER OF DAYS: 3  
 TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA: 4,629  
 COUNCIL AREA: Maramatana  
 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTORATE: Alotau

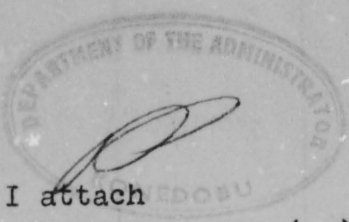
The District Commissioner,  
 Milne Bay District,  
 ALOTAU.

- In respect of this patrol, I attach
- FIELD OFFICERS JOURNAL, FOLIOS 55 TO 56, (✓)
  - PATROL INSTRUCTIONS, (✓)
  - THE REPORT AND MY COMMENTS, (✓)
  - AREA STUDY, ( )
  - UPDATING OF AREA STUDY ( )
  - SITUATION REPORTS NO'S 1 - , ( )
  - PATROL MAP, ( )

DATE: 31/5/1972

*[Signature]*  
 Assistant District Commissioner

The Secretary,  
 Department of the Administrator,  
 Division of District Administration,  
 KONEDOBU. Papua.



- In respect of this patrol, I attach
- AREA STUDY, ( )
  - UPDATING OF AREA STUDY. ( )
  - SITUATION REPORTS NO'S. 1 - ( )
  - ..... ( )
  - ..... ( )

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS ASSESMENT OF  
 PATROL & REPORT

ABOVE AVERAGE  
 AVERAGE  
 BELOW AVERAGE

DATE: / / 19 .

.....  
 District Commissioner

P.O. Box 2396  
KONEDOBU

67-4-70

6th February, 1973

The District Commissioner  
Milne Bay District  
P.O. Box 35  
ALOTAU

ALOTAU PATROL NO.4 - 1971/72

Reference your 67-1-2 of 19th December, 1972.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Report arising out  
of the above patrol of Part of NORTH EAST COAST Census  
Division as submitted by MR. R. Sutton, Patrol Officer.

*C.G. Littler*  
C.G. LITTLER  
a/Secretary

3  
W

67-1-1

Sub-District Office,  
P.O. Box 76,  
ALOTAU... Milne Bay District.

19th. April, '72.

Mr. R.S. Sutton,  
Patrol Officer,  
ALOTAU.

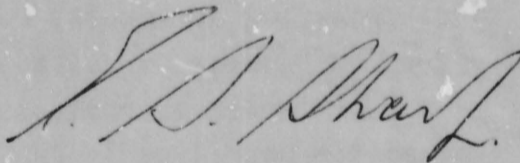
PATROL INSTRUCTIONS - MARAMATANA COUNCIL AREA.

As per verbal instructions you will prepare to depart for a patrol into the Maramatana Council area. You will be accompanying W.R. Paterson I.E.O., and you will be assisting this Officer in the conduct of Political Education courses at Garuai. Please liase with Mr. Paterson in regard to departure date, and the contents of pre-information to the people.

2. Whilst in the area you will inform those people concerned of the post census to be conducted in May. Read the requirements carefully, and explain their content to the people fully, our file is 14-2-1.

3. Obtain a cash advance, and pay all the Village Constables too date. We have sufficient funds to enable us to do this. My verbal instructions were for a complete patrol to be made, however due to the post census operations this will not now be possible. Submit a report in accordance with Departmental Instructions on your return.

4.. Wishing you a successful, and enjoyable patrol.



( E.S. Sharp. )  
Assistant District Commissioner.

PATROL REPORT NO. ALOTAU NO. 4 of 1971/72

STATION.....ALOTAU.....OFFICER COMPILING ...R. SUTTON.....  
DISTRICT... MILNE BAY.....SUB-DISTRICT .....ALOTAU.....  
                  NORTH-EAST  
CENSUS DIVISION COAST.....L.G. COUNCIL.....MABWATAKA.....

For recording of routine information not of a situation report nature, actionable at Sub-District or District level, and of value to succeeding officers. No copy is required at Headquarters).

(For further pages, use foolscap blanks).

Political Education.

The main purpose of this short patrol was to assist the District Political Education Officer, Mr W.R. Paterson, in the conduct of Political Education courses at Huhuna and Garuai. Three courses were held.

2. The first course, at Huhuna Village, was attended by thirteen male adults. Included in this figure were two Local Government Councillors; Hihinaua of Huhuna and Masopa of Polotona. Discussions centred round the new House of Assembly and the first National Coalition Ministry. The formation of Political Parties, their aims and ideals was discussed and proved of interest to those present. The concept of Self-Government was explained in detail and, judging from the questions asked by two or three of the learned few, understood by some. Concern was expressed that Papua New Guinea would achieve Self-Government before the country reached autarky.

3. The Garuai Primary 'T' School set the stage for the second course. Students from Standards V and VI proved to be a most receptive and interested audience. A question/answer type discussion on Government, progressed through three main stages. These were:-

- (i) traditional village type government,
- (ii) Local Government,
- (iii) Central Government.

A natural progression through these stages and similarities between them was seen and comprehended by the students. Likewise, the duties of village leaders, Local Government Councillors and Members of the House of Assembly. The work and responsibilities of the Government Departments, the Ministers and the Administrator's Executive Council was explained to provide a complete picture of

government at a central level. The knowledge and interest shown by these children, in the political system which is evolving in this country was most enlightening.

4. The third course was conducted at the Maramatana Local Government Council Chambers. Thirty-five persons attended including Local Government Councillors, Teachers, Missionaries, Council Workers, Village people and students. The format for discussions was basically the same as for the second course. However, more time was spent explaining the formation of the National Coalition and the allocation of portfolios among the seventeen Ministers. Some were puzzled as to the position held by the Opposition Party in the House.

5. The President of the Maramatana Local Government Council, Mr Vernon Guise, gave a brief talk on his observations at the opening of the new House of Assembly. Mr Guise also acted as interpreter for Mr Paterson and in this capacity proved to be a forceful and, at times, humorous speaker.

6. If the success of these courses can be gauged from the active participation of the audience and their attentiveness to the subjects discussed, then each course achieved optimum results. The response from the students at the Garua Primary 'T' School was particularly gratifying and I suggest that future D.D.A. patrols make an effort to visit Primary Schools and conduct Political Education courses at this level.

Miscellaneous.

7. Despite publicity over Radio Milne Bay, only one Village Constable met the patrol. V.C. Welibo from Huhuna was paid \$6-00 for period 1/7/70 - 30/6/71.

8. The Local Government Councillors from Huhuna and Polotona were instructed to publicise the population census post enumeration survey to be conducted in their area during May. They were asked to advise the people of Biwa, Guga, Huhuna, Polotona and Iapoa 11 to expect a patrol early in May. The people from Huhuna and Polotona were instructed as per the Statistician's memorandum 52-1-179 dated 14th April, 1972 and Appendix "B" attached thereto.



R.S. SUTTON,  
PATROL OFFICER.

NLM/AH

7

P.O. Box 2396, KOROBOBU.

67-4-30

7th June, 1972.

The District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOMAN.

ALOMAN PARCEL NO. 5 - 1971/72.

Reference your 37-2-64 of 25th May, 1972.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Situation Report 1 arising out of the above parcel of part Goodenough Bay Inland/Coastal Census Divisions, together with the appropriate assessments, as submitted by Mr. A.D. McArthur, Assistant Patrol Officer.

Mr. McArthur has given a concise picture of the damage inflicted by the cyclone "hannak" in the Wedau area.

Please keep me informed of the rehabilitation of this area, and also let me have your reassessment, as soon as practicable.

(T.W. SMITH)  
Secretary.



DOM 67-4-30

DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Telegrams  
Telephone  
Our Reference..... 67-2-14  
If calling ask for WHW/sm  
Mr.....

In Reply  
Please Quote

No.

Division of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

25th May, 1972.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 5 - 71/72.

Attached find two copies of Situation Reports submitted  
by Mr. A. McArthur, A.P.O.

Maps are included also to show shat areas were subject to  
damage by floods.

(F.G. DRIVER) f  
District Commissioner.

PATROL REPORT

5

REPORT NUMBER: 5-71/72  
 DISTRICT: MILNE BAY  
 PATROL CONDUCTED BY: A.D. McARTHUR  
 AREA PATROLLED: PART GOODENOUGH BAY INLAND/COASTAL  
 DURATION OF PATROL: 16/17.5.72  
 LAST D.D.A. PATROL: -  
 LAST O.L.G. PATROL: -  
 MAP REFERENCE: MILINCH CAPE FREERE

OBJECTS OF PATROL: FLOOD DAMAGE ASSESSMENT  
 STATION: ALOTAU  
 SUB-DISTRICT: ALOTAU  
 DESIGNATION: ASSISTANT PATROL OFFICER  
 PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING: NIL  
 NUMBER OF DAYS: TWO  
 TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA: 9741  
 COUNCIL AREA: WERAURA  
 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTORATE: ALOTAU

The District Commissioner,  
 MILNE BAY District,

In respect of this patrol, I attach

FIELD OFFICERS JOURNAL, FOLIOS 16 TO 162	(x)
PATROL INSTRUCTIONS,	( )
THE REPORT AND MY COMMENTS,	(x)
AREA STUDY,	( )
UPDATING OF AREA STUDY	( )
SITUATION REPORTS NO'S 1 - ,	(x)
PATROL MAP,	(x)

DATE: 24/5 /1972.

*E.S. Sharp*  
 Assistant District Commissioner

The Secretary,  
 Department of the Administrator,  
 Division of District Administration,  
 KONE DOBU. Papua.

In respect of this patrol, I attach

AREA STUDY,	( )
UPDATING OF AREA STUDY,	( )
SITUATION REPORTS NO'S. 1 -	(x)
.....	( )
.....	( )

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS ASSESMENT OF  
 PATROL & REPORT

~~ABOVE AVERAGE~~  
 AVERAGE  
 BELOW AVERAGE

DATE: / /19 .

*F. G. Drives*  
 District Commissioner



SITUATION REPORT NO.

1/71/72

ALOTAU  
 STATION.....OFFICER COMPILING .....A.D. McARTHUR  
 MILNE BAY  
 DISTRICT.....SUB-DISTRICT .....ALOTAU  
 COASTAL/TI LAND  
 CENSUS DIVISION .....L.G. COUNCIL .....WERAURA

(For the reporting of information specifically of Headquarters value and requiring Headquarters knowledge or actions. Information is required on matters of political significance, important trends in the economic and social structure, cult and unrest situations, law and order problems, and miscellaneous matters that Headquarters needs to know. One report will be compiled for each specific topic. Each to be submitted to Headquarters in duplicate).

(Use Reverse side if necessary)

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT - FLOOD DAMAGED GARDENS

This patrol was initiated to assess reports of flood damage to gardens in the WEDAU area during the period of the recent cyclone 'Hannah' which resulted in the flooding of the WAMIRA and MAGAVARA rivers and associated creeks, causing damage to irrigated gardens adjacent to these waterways.

I accompanied Mr W.J.G. Lambden, DDC, on an aerial survey of the affected area and it became apparent that a closer survey was warranted to assess losses and possible food shortages. Accordingly, acting on verbal instructions, I remained in the area on 16th and 17th May, 1972, and visited POVA, MANUBADA, WEDAU and WAMIRA village garden sites. The results of my enquiries are set out hereunder.

POVA VILLAGE - This village has a population of 239 persons and is situated on the west bank of the WAMIRA river approximately one hour's walk SSW from DOGURA Anglican Mission. During my visit the river was still in flood and some difficulty was experienced during crossings. Foliage damage placed the high water flood mark at an estimated 16 feet above normal river level.

My inspection of the gardens revealed that about half an acre of mature and nearly mature taro and sweet potato, and about one acre of bananas had been completely washed away. Additionally, one acre of mixed banana, taro and sweet potato had been devastated by the flood waters. Although numerous clumps of full grown plants survived, the garden area to the high water mark was either heavily silted or eroded to the gravel sub - soil.

At the village itself there is a plantation of 1,500 coconut trees, the majority of which are young and not bearing fruit. In the immediate vicinity of the residential area there is one large garden still intact and small quantities of sago palm were sighted on the outskirts of the village. The gardens of the village of IDAE about two miles from POVA were undamaged and are a potential food source to supplement the remaining POVA gardens. 29 families, comprising of 136 persons, suffered garden damage, however, the gardens of only half of this number were completely destroyed or severely damaged.

.../2 'MANUBADA VILLAGE

SGD : .....

DATE: .....

MANUBADA VILLAGE - Population 300 persons, this village is situated about 1½ hour's walk west of Dogura. Damage in this locality was confined to irrigated gardens on the banks of the MAGAVARA river and TAI creek. About a quarter of an acre of taro and a similiar amount of banana had been washed away. 27 families originally requested assistance, but this number was reduced to 18 families consisting of 65 adults and children, whose gardens sustained severe damage.


WEDAU - Population 344 persons, is situated about one mile from DOGURA. Gardens planted adjacent to the WAMIRA river were damaged and approximately a quarter of an acre of taro and banana was destroyed. Eight families numbering 20 persons suffered the main losses.

WAMIRA - Population 571, the situation at this village is similiar to that at WEDAU, with 30 people bearing the majority of the severe damage.

Although there are numerous gardens still producing in the area, the losses have caused a feeling of insecurity for the future. Village officials, however, are of the opinion that assistance over the next two months should regularise the situation. I informed them that one ton of rice had already been ordered and arranged a meeting for the various village representatives at DOGURA Mission, where the cereal will be distributed.

No difficulties are envisaged in obtaining materials for re-planting which has been started at all villages, and I feel that the provided cereal will adequately supplement existing gardens. However, I would recommend that the situation be re-examined in late July or early August of this year.

A map showing the areas of damage is attached for your information.

  
(A.D. McARTHUR)  
Assistant Patrol Officer

4/71/72

ALOTAU

A. G. McARTHUR

MILNE BAY  
GOODENOUGH BAY  
INLAND / COASTAL

ALOTAU

WERAURA

ASSESSMENT - FLOOD DAMAGED GARDENS

ALOTAU

24/5/72

The situation is not as serious as originally reported. The ton of rice stored at Degura will ensure that there is no food shortage in the area. A reassess will take place in late July.

(W. J. G. LAMSDEN)  
DDC  
24 MAY 72



COLOMBIEN BAY

Flood Damages 1918

Scale 1 inch = 1 mile

# PATROL REPORT

5

Report number: 6-71/72

District: MILNE BAY

Patrol conducted by: A. D. McARTHUR

Area patrolled: ALL CENSUS DIVISIONS,

ALOTAU SUB-DISTRICT

Duration of patrol: 5 - 17 JUNE, 1972

Last D.D.A. patrol: -

Last O.L.G. patrol: -

Map reference: MILNE BAY 2 MIL  
MAP 5

Objects of patrol: STATISTICS 1st PIB,  
NGIB PERSONNEL.

Station: ALOTAU

Subdistrict: ALOTAU

Designation: A.P.O.

Personnel accompanying: A.D.C., INTERPRETER

Number of days: 10 DAYS BROKEN

Total population of area: 12,543

Council area: MILNE BAY

House of Assembly Electorate: ALOTAU

The District Commissioner,  
MILNE BAY District,  
ALOTAU

In respect of this patrol, I attach

Field Officers Journal Folios 19 to 20, (✓)

Patrol Instructions, (N/A S.D. VHA. 11-1-1 REFERS)

The Report and my comments, (✓)

Area study, ( )

Updating of area study, ( )

Situation Reports No's 1- (✓)

Patrol map, ( )

DATE: 3/7/1972

*J. P. Pharo*  
Assistant District Commissioner

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
Division of District Administration,  
KONEDOEUBU, Papua New Guinea.

In respect of this patrol, I attach

Area study, ( )

Updating of area study, ( )

Situation Report No's. 1- (✓)

..... ( )

..... ( )

District Headquarters assessment of

Patrol & Report.....

Above average

Average

Below average

Date: 4/7/1972

*J. G. Krueger*  
District Commissioner

NLM:MG

P.O. Box 2396,  
KOIEDOBU.

67-4-35

14th July, 1972.

The District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 6 OF 1971/72.

Reference your 67-2-15 of 4th July, 1972.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Situation Report No. 1 arising out of the above patrol of the whole of the Alotau Sub-District, together with the appropriate assessments, as submitted by Mr. A.D. McArthur, Assistant Patrol Officer.

Your comments have been noted.

Mr. McArthur's report is rather brief, and he should give more attention to this aspect in future reports.

(T.W. ELLIS)  
Secretary.

DA 67-4-35 (A)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Telegrams  
Telephone 67-2-15  
Our Reference.....  
If calling ask for  
Mr. WFW/sm

In Reply  
Please Quote

No.

Division of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

on

4th July, 1972.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 6 - 71/72.

Attached find the above submitted by Mr. A.D. McArthur, A.P.O.,  
on a patrol covering the whole Alotau Sub-District.

Information as required by the Secretary, Department of  
Social Development and Home Affairs, has been dealt with locally. This  
information was difficult to obtain due to the scattered area in  
which these ex-servicemen lived. Mr. McArthur is commended for his  
hard work and interest.

*F. G. Driver*  
(F. G. DRIVER)  
District Commissioner.

c.c. The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

67-1-1

Division of District Administration,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

3rd July, 1972.

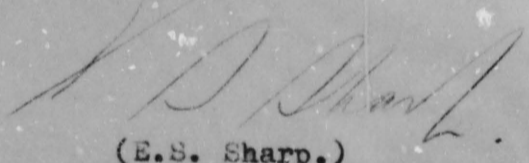
District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
District Headquarters,  
ALOTAU.

PATROL REPORT No. 6-71/72.

Enclosed is the above report, also Camping Allowance claim for A.P.O. McArthur.

2. No instructions were issued from this Office, as Circular memorandum 44-1-1 from the Department of Social Development and Home Affairs was considered sufficient. The original and duplicate lists have been forwarded direct to this Department, your copies being included in the report.

3. A.P.O. McArthur has worked hard and well to gather the necessary information.



(E.S. Sharp.)  
Assistant District Commissioner.

encl.



SITUATION REPORT No. /

Station..... ALOTAU ..... Officer Compiling..... A. D. McARTHUR  
 District..... MILNE BAY ..... Subdistrict..... ALOTAU  
 Census Division..... NORTH EAST COAST ..... L.G. Council..... MILNE BAY

(For the reporting of information specifically of Headquarters value and requiring Headquarters knowledge or actions. Information is required on matters of political significance, important trends in the economic and social structure, cult and unrest situations, law and order problems, and miscellaneous matters that Headquarters needs to know. One report will be compiled for each specific topic. Each to be submitted to Headquarters in duplicate.)

(Use Reverse side if necessary)

Govt. Print.—1792/40,000.—5.72.

Subject:..... WIND DAMAGE......

Prior to my arrival at Garuahi Airstrip on 7th May, 1972, strong Katabatic winds had prevented light aircraft landing for a two week period and the following damage had occurred in the area:

GARUAHI STATION.

Three (3) native material houses and two (2) native material School dormitories were destroyed by winds.

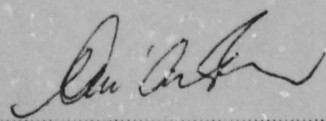
GARUAHI VILLAGE.

Two (2) native material houses were destroyed by falling trees and wind.

TAUPOTA NO. 2 VILLAGE.

Two (2) native material houses destroyed by falling trees.

There was no loss of life, injury or crop damage other than coconut palms throughout the Census Division. Some 200 old coconut palms were felled by wind or cut to prevent damage.

Sgd:..... .....Date:..... 29. 6. 72.....

SITUATION REPORT No. 1

Page 1.

Station.....ALOTAU.....Officer Compiling.....A. D. MCARTHUR  
 District.....MILNE BAY.....Subdistrict.....ALOTAU  
 Census Division.....MARAMATANA.....J. G. Council.....MARAMATANA  
 Subject:.....WIND DAMAGE.

Subdistrict Office      Alotau      Assessment Assistant District Commissioner

Date Received      29th. June, '72.

The majority damage was done to the Mission (Anglican) Station at Garuai. Having personally viewed the buildings concerned shortly before destruction I do not recommend any action by the Government. They were in a deplorable state of repair. The village houses destroyed were in much the same condition. These localised winds are an annual occurrence, and the people have become fatalistic about them. There was no request by the people for any assistance.

Action Taken: Forwarded to District Commissioner on 3rd. July, '72.

Sgd. *A. D. McArthur*

Date..... 3. 7. '72

District Office

Assessment District Commissioner

Date Received

4th July, 1972

There were no food gardens damage done by the winds. All occupant whose houses were destroyed have found shelter elsewhere. The Administration is not required to give assistance in providing emergency rations or shelter.

Action Taken: No action required by the Administration.

Sgd. *A. G. Diner*

Date: 4th July, 1972

Headquarters

Date Received

Forwarded.....Section

Project Officer.....

Date.....

# PATROL REPORT

Report number: 7/71-72

District: Milne Bay

Patrol conducted by: E.S. Sharp

Area patrolled: Bulutu

Duration of patrol: Four days

Last D.D.A. patrol: 24th. March, '72

Last O.L.G. patrol: Nil

Map reference: Army Series T 504 Fourmil

Objects of patrol: Feasibility of incorporating Bulutu into Ealaba Census Division.

Station: Alotau

Subdistrict: Alotau

Designation: District Officer - A.D.C.

Personnel accompanying: A.D. McArthur A.P.O.

Number of days: 4

Total population of area: 897

Council area: Milne Bay

House of Assembly Electorate: Alotau

The District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
Alotau

In respect of this patrol, I attach	
Field Officers Journal Folios 9 To 11,	(✓)
Patrol Instructions,	(N/A)
The Report and my comments,	(N/A)
Area study,	(N/A)
Updating of area study,	(-)
Situation Reports No's 1—	(✓)
Patrol map,	(N/A)

DATE: 19/6/1972

*E.S. Sharp*  
Assistant District Commissioner

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
Division of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU, Papua New Guinea.

In respect of this patrol, I attach	
Area study,	( )
Updating of area study,	( )
Situation Report No's. 1—	( )
.....	( )
.....	( )
District Headquarters assessment of	Above average
Patrol & Report.....	✓ Average
	Below average

Date: / /19

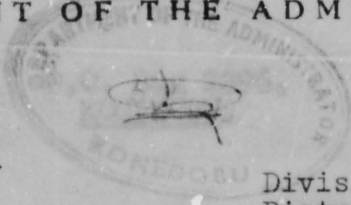
.....  
District Commissioner



DIA 67.4.31

DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Telegrams  
Telephone  
Our Reference..... 67-2-16  
If calling ask for WHW/sm  
Mr.....



In Reply  
Please Quote  
No.

Division of District Administration  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

4th July, 1972.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 7 OF 1971/72.

Your memo 67-4-31 of 27th June, 1972, refers.

The assessment that should have been entered on the Report Jacket is "Average".

*F.G. Driver*  
(F.G. DRIVER)

District Commissioner.

c.c. The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

NLM:MG

P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

67-4-31

27th June, 1972.

The District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 7 OF 1971/72.

Reference your 67-2-16 of 22nd June, 1972.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Situation Report No. arising out of the above patrol of the Buhutu Census Division, together with the appropriate assessment, as submitted by Mr. E.S. Sharp, Assistant District Commissioner.

Your assessment of the above mentioned patrol was not entered on the report jacket.

Please advise me of same.

(T.W. ELLIS)  
Secretary.



67-4-31 (3)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Telegrams  
Telephone  
Our Reference 67-2-16  
If calling ask for  
Mr. WTW/sm

23 JUN 1972  
KCNEDOBU

In Reply  
Please Quote

No.

Division of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

22nd June, 1972.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
P.O. Box 2395,  
KCNEDOBU.

ALOTAU PATROL REPORT NO. 7 - 71/72.

Attached find two (2) copies of Situation Reports arising out  
of the above Patrol.

*F.G. Driver*  
(F.G. DRIVER)  
District Commissioner.

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

SITUATION REPORT No. 1.

Station.....ALOTAU.....Officer Compiling.....E.S. SHARP  
 District.....MILNE BAY.....Subdistrict.....ALOTAU  
 Census Division.....BUHUTU.....L.G. Council.....MILNE BAY.

(For the reporting of information specifically of Headquarters value and requiring Headquarters knowledge or actions. Information is required on matters of political significance, important trends in the economic and social structure, cult and unrest situations, law and order problems, and miscellaneous matters that Headquarters needs to know. One report will be compiled for each specific topic. Each to be submitted to Headquarters in duplicate.)

(Use Reverse side if necessary)

Govt. Print.—1792/40,000.—5.72.

Subject: Amalgamation of Baleba and Buhutu Census Divisions.

This situation Report should be read in conjunction with my memorandum 67-1-1 dated 24th August, 1971, titled "Patrolling Techniques", it also answers your memorandum 67-2-11 dated 3rd December, 1971.

A brief description of conditions existing in, and access to the Buhutu is necessary. The area lies south-west of Alotau and is situated on the main watershed of Mullin's Harbour on the south coast of Papua. It is heavily bisected with annoying flash flood creeks, all flowing into the Sagarai River. This river has to be crossed four times and there are no bridges situated along its entire length. A population of 897 souls are spread over 96 square miles of valley. There are four main Census points, numerous hamlets and many singular houses throughout.

To reach the Buhutu requires five hours walking from Kilakilana to Mila, six hours from Naura, crossing the large Gumini River nine times to reach Sagarai Estate; or a two day trawler trip from Alotau to Mullin's Harbour via the Suau Coast. It can be seen that accessibility is not the forte of the Buhutu. Neither is the portage potential, as latest statistics reveal only 133 able bodied men throughout the whole area.

Even though a gallant effort is being made on roads, they leave much to be desired and in the wet can be classified as nothing less than a clearly defined morass.

A glimmer of light is the proposed construction, by Steamships Trading Company, of an air strip near Siasiada. Correspondence on this has been voluminous, so I will not offer description or necessity. With this in mind I recommend the construction of a modest Rest House, at Siasiada, containing basic patrol equipment. An Officer need only then take food, bedding and clothing when contemplating a patrol of the Buhutu. The Officer concerned can fly from Gurney to Siasiada for

Sgd: *E.S. Sharp*

Date: 20. 6. '72



The Officer concerned can fly from Gurney to Siasiada for/

a modest fare - approximately half the cost of the first days carrier payments, and work overnight stops to villages from this point.

Even if the above is not instigated I do not recommend the amalgamation of Ealeba and Bukutu as it is quite possible to have an uncompleted patrol adjourned for many months whilst awaiting climatic conditions to improve.

# SITUATION REPORT No. 1/71-72

Station..... Alotau ..... Officer Compiling..... E.S. Sharp..... A.D.C.  
 District..... Milne Bay ..... Subdistrict..... Alotau  
 Census Division..... Buhutu ..... L.G. Council..... Milne Bay  
 Subject: Amalgamation Buhutu and Ealeba Census Divisions

Subdistrict Office Alotau Assessment Assistant District Commissioner

Date Received 20 June, '72

Not applicable

Action Taken: Forwarded District Commissioner, 20th. June, '72.

Sgd. E.S. Sharp

Date..... 20 June, '72.

District Office , ALOTAU

Assessment District Commissioner

Date Received

21st June, 1972.

I do not recommend the amalgamation of the Ealeba and Buhutu for reasons stated in the Report by the Assistant District Commissioner, Alotau. Access to the division is at present by walking only. The suggestion of a modest rest house at Siasiada is a necessity and will be looked into further once the airstrip is built by Steamship Trading Company.

Action Taken: A.D.C. Alotau advised of my decision.

Sgd. *F. J. Driver*

Date. 22/6/72

Headquarters

Date Received

Forwarded.....Section

Project Officer.....

Date.....

# PATROL REPORT

Report number: **8 - 71/72**  
 District: **MILNE BAY.**  
 Patrol conducted by: **L. TAL, L.G.A.**  
 Area patrolled: **BALABA/BUHUTU  
Census Division.**  
 Duration of patrol: **19/2/72 - 1/3/72.**  
 Last D.L.A. patrol: **5/11/71**  
 Last O.L.G. patrol: **---**  
 Map reference: **ARMY SERIES T504  
FOURMIL**

Objects of patrol: **1972 House of Assembly  
Elections.**  
 Station: **ALOTAU.**  
 Subdistrict: **ALOTAU**  
 Designation: **PRESIDING OFFICER.**  
 Personnel accompanying: **A.D. MCARTHUR, A.P.O.**  
 Number of days: **10 days**  
 Total population of area: **BALABA 2,162 )  
BUHUTU 897 ) 3,059**  
 Council area: **MILNE BAY**  
 House of Assembly Electorate: **ALOTAU**

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

In respect of this patrol, I attach

Field Officers Journal Folios	To <b>Previously submitted.</b>	( )
Patrol Instructions,		( )
The Report and my comments,		( <b>X</b> )
Area study,		( )
Updating of area study,		( )
Situation Reports No's 1-1 ,		( <b>X</b> )
Patrol map,		( )

DATE: **7 / 7 1972.**

*[Signature]*  
 Assistant District Commissioner

The Secretary,  
 Department of the Administrator,  
 Division of District Administration,  
**KONEDOBULU, Papua New Guinea.**

In respect of this patrol, I attach

Area study,	( )
Updating of area study,	( )
Situation Report No's. 1-	( <b>✓</b> )
.....	( )
.....	( )
District Headquarters assessment of	<b>Above average</b>
Patrol & Report.....	<b>Average</b>
	<del>Below average</del>

Date: **11 / 7 / 1972.**

*[Signature]*  
 District Commissioner

67-2-17

WHW/kv

Division of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

4th August, 1972.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO.8 - 1971/72.

Your 67-4-40 of 31st July, 1972, refers.

Note that both Mr. McArthur and the Assistant District Commissioner acted correctly under your instructions in the first instance. Please refer to your memo 67-1-0 dated 21st June, 1972, paragraph 4, which states:-

"Please also secure from all officers who were obliged to camp out during the elections a brief situation report specifically on the election . . . ."

Prior to the elections, instructions were given verbally that no report is required as the whole elections will be covered under one report - the Returning Officer's Report.

*A. G. Driver*  
(F. G. DRIVER)  
District Commissioner.

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

DDA 67-4-40 (7)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Telegrams  
Telephone 67-2-17  
Our Reference  
If calling ask for WHW/kv  
Mr.

In Reply  
Please Quote  
No.

Division of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

4th August, 1972.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 8 - 1971/72.

Your 67-4-40 of 31st July, 1972, refers.

Note that both Mr. McArthur, the Assistant District Commissioner acted correctly under your instructions in the first instance. Please refer to your memo 67-1-0 dated 21st June, 1972, paragraph 4, which states:-

"Please also secure from all officers who were obliged to camp out during the elections a brief situation report specifically on the election . . . . ."

Prior to the elections, instructions were given verbally that no report is required as the whole elections will be covered under one report - the Returning Officer's Report.

*F.G. Driver*  
(F.G. DRIVER)  
District Commissioner.

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

N.I.

JWK:JB

(6)

P.O. Box 2396, KONEBOBU.

67-4-40.

31st July, 1972.

The District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 8 OF 1971/72.

Reference your 67-2-17 of 12th July, 1972.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Situation Report 1 arising out of the above patrol of EALABA/BUHUTU Census Divisions, together with the appropriate assessments, as submitted by Mr. A.D. McArthur, Assistant Patrol Officer.

It is noted that Mr. McArthur completed his field work on the 1st March, 1972 but the report was only compiled as a result of your letter, 67-1-2 of 29th June, 1972. Does this imply that Mr. McArthur failed to submit any form of report prior to receipt of your letter. If so then both he and the Assistant District Commissioner were sadly remiss in the matter.

A report that contains some useful information which is being forwarded to the Political Education Officer.

(T.W. ELLIS)  
Secretary.

Sgd. *G.L. Parker* (G.L. Parker.)

Date. 11th July, 1972.

DOA 67-4-40

13



DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Tel-grams  
Telephone  
Our Reference... 67-2-17  
If calling ask for  
Mr. WHW/sm



In Reply  
Please Quote

No.

Division of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

12th July, 1972.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

ALOTAU PATROL NO. 8 - 71/72.

Attached find two (2) copies of the above report submitted by Mr. A.D. McArthur, Assistant Patrol Officer. This report covered the House of Assembly Elections conducted in part of the Alotau Open Electorate.

Mr. McArthur has submitted an informative and useful report.

*F. G. Driver*  
(F.G. DRIVER)  
District Commissioner.

c.c. The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

Sgd. *G.L. Parker* (G.L. Parker.)  
Date. 11th July, 1972.



## SITUATION REPORT No. 1.

Station.....ALOTAU, S.D.C. Officer Compiling.....A.D.McARTHUR  
 District.....MILNE BAY Subdistrict.....ALOTAU  
 Census Division.....MALEBA AND BUHUTU L.G. Council.....MILNE BAY  
 Subject: 1972 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

Subdistrict Office  
ALOTAU.

Assessment Assistant District Commissioner

Date Received

11/7/72

The District Commissioner's 67-1-2 of 29th June, 1972, entitled "Situation Reports - House of Assembly Elections, 1972", refers. This instruction gave rise to the enclosed report.

Mr. McArthur has reported adequately on the conduct of the elections.

The necessity for continuous education in voting procedure and the functions of open and regional members is obvious. While the elector is confronted with two ballot papers confusion will prevail for a considerable time in the future. The inclination to place consecutive numbers running from one paper to the other is understandable and a natural consequence of instruction in the preferential voting system. Time, however, must overcome these difficulties.

Mr. McArthur's recommendations, and comments in regard to V.I.T's, are valid.

Action Taken:

Sgd. *G.L. Parker* (G.L. Parker.)

Date 11th July, 1972.

District Office ALOTAU.

Assessment District Commissioner

Date Received 11t

11th July, 1972.

Political Education at present places emphasis on unity and Self-Government with some comment on voting procedure. Voting procedure and the comparison of Regional and Open seats will be dealt with more fully during further Political Education patrols. Recommendations No. (c) and (d) must be taken seriously by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Action Taken: Political Education Officer advised of misunderstandings which arose during the elections.

Sgd. *F. G. Griner*

Date. 11-7-72

Headquarters

Date Received

Forwarded.....Section

Project Officer.....

Date.....

SITUATION REPORT No. 1

Station.....ALOTAU.....Officer Compiling.....A. D. MC KEUR.  
 District.....MILNE BAY.....Subdistrict.....ALOTAU  
 Census Division.....BALABA/BOHUTU.....L.G. Council.....MILNE BAY

(For the reporting of information specifically of Headquarters value and requiring Headquarters knowledge or actions. Information is required on matters of political significance, important trends in the economic and social structure, cult and unrest situations, law and order problems, and miscellaneous matters that Headquarters needs to know. One report will be compiled for each specific topic. Each to be submitted to Headquarters in duplicate.)

(Use Reverse side if necessary)

Cont. Print.—1792/40,000.—5.72.

Subject: 1972 House of Assembly Elections.

The 1972 House of Assembly elections were conducted in the BALABA/BOHUTU Census Divisions over the period 19th February to 1st March, 1972.

Prior to the poll commencing, regular broadcasts were made over Radio Milne Bay advertising the Elections. "How to Vote" posters and lists of polling places were displayed in prominent positions at each polling place well in advance of the actual election.

SCHEDULES PRE-VOTING PROCEDURES

The pre-arranged schedules were adhered to, and the team found that there was ample time allotted at each of the eight polling places. After arrival at each polling place, the team gave a detailed demonstration of the correct method of marking a ballot paper and a simple explanation of the work of the Regional Member, as opposed to the Open Member, emphasis being placed on the need to cast a vote on both Regional and Open ballot papers. Demonstration papers were used initially, and at the conclusion of this talk the papers to be used were shown. Naturally, the names of the candidates were not mentioned during these talks.

VOTING.

Voting was orderly and dignified and there were no incidents caused by the village people. During a visit by the United Nations Visiting Mission observers some Members of the Mission became over-zealous in their approach and eventually had to be requested to refrain from interfering. The incident I refer to took place when, after being allowed free access to the polling area for some time, a Member of the Mission watching a paper being marked began speaking to the voter. As the people were aware of the secret vote and the banning of persons from the polling areas, the voter became understandably confused and showed hesitancy in casting a vote.

The party left the area to see the remainder of the village. ONLY

Sgd:.....

Date:.....

to re-appear some 15 minutes later ~~and re-enter~~ when the majority again re-entered the polling area. The Administration-organised press, particularly the photographers, although more contained, tended to disrupt the harmony of the polling.

and A total of sixteen Regional ballot papers were found under the polling compartments on dismantling. These incidents took place at four different polling places at different booths and were spread through the team. All papers on hand balanced with the sex tally-sheets remaining papers and it was apparent that some confusion arose about the two papers. The papers were placed in the ballot box in the presence of the Voting Identification Tribunal and other witnesses.

On the return journey from Tamaunau, the last polling station, the team were hampered by inclement weather and a flooded river which had to be crossed on ten different occasions, water entered the boxes through the holes at the handle hasps and top, but fortunately, although very wet, all papers were legible. See Recommendations.

#### VOTING PARTICIPATION.

The Election area has a total population of 3,059 persons, of whom 1,591 are enrolled as electors. Of these there is a 12% absentee factor. 525 votes were cast for the Open Electorate Candidate and 491 were polled in favour of the Regional Seat. At first glance this appears a disappointing figure, however, this seemingly low figure can be partially explained, considering that P. Guise who is an extremely popular and active figure in the lives of the people, again nominated, and many voters considered the Election a foregone conclusion. This manner of thinking was confirmed by poll results. Additionally there was little active campaigning by Open Electorate Candidates and such a combination does not lead to over-enthusiastic participation.

Lack of understanding of the work of the Regional Member and the correct manner in marking the ballot paper accounted for informalities of 9.52% and 16.29% in the Open and Regional results respectively. Feminine interest was high and on a par with the male population. Approximately 65% of voters required some form of assistance.

#### VOTING IDENTIFICATION TRIBUNAL.

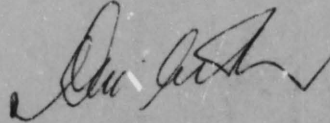
The Voting Identification Tribunal was extremely useful in addition to their main function, they were a quick source of reference in correcting anomalies in the common roll, or incorrect information given by the elector.

I did not hear of any criticism being levelled at this body, or their function, and I feel that in the future the Tribunal will eliminate the need to record the rural population on the Common Roll, and the necessity for section 130 (1) and 131(1) voting.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The following aspects are raised for consideration:-

- (a) Prior to the Elections, more emphasis could be placed on explaining the mechanics of voting, informalities, etc.
- (b) Further education as to the functions of the Open and Regional Members.
- (c) Whilst future Visiting Missions should be accorded every assistance, their function should be in an observer's capacity only. Interference with the Election in any manner which influences the elector's rights or interferes with normal voting conditions should not be tolerated.
- (d) The old type fibre boxes be fitted with rubber seals and filling be inserted in the holes at the handle hasps.



A.P. MCARTHUR.  
Assistant Patrol Officer.

11 JULY 1972



JWK:MG

DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Telephone  
67-2-13  
Cable Address  
KONEDOBU

P.O. Box 2326,  
KONEDOBU.

67-4-42

Division of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
15th August, 1972.

26th July, 1972.

The District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU, 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

ALOTAU MEMO NO. 9 - 1971/72.

Attached ALOTAU PATROL NO. 9 OF 1971/72. report submitted  
by Mr. R. Wallent, A.P.O., covering the House of Assembly Elections.

Reference your 67-2-18 of 26th July, 1972.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Situation Report  
1 arising out of the above patrol of the North East Coast  
Census Division, together with the appropriate assessments,  
as submitted by Mr. R.J. Wallent, Assistant Patrol Officer.

c.c. The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALOTAU.

(T.W. ELLIS)  
Secretary.



CC 67-467-23-2 (13)  
67-4-42

DEPARTMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Telegrams  
Telephone  
Or Reference 67-2-18  
If calling ask for WEW/sm  
Mr.

In Reply  
Please Quote

No.

Division of District Administration,  
District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

26th July, 1972.

The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

ALOTAU REPORT NO. 9 - 1971/72.

Attached find two copies of a Situation Report submitted  
by Mr. R. Wallent, A.P.O., covering the House of Assembly Elections.

(F.G. DRIVER)  
District Commissioner.

c.c. The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
ALCTAU.



PAGE 1 (7)

# SITUATION REPORT No. 1

Station.....ALOTAU.....Officer Compiling.....R.J. Wallent.  
 District.....MILNE BAY.....Subdistrict.....ALOTAU.  
 Census Division.....NORTH-EAST COAST.....L.G. Council.....WARAMATANA.

(For the reporting of information specifically of Headquarters value and requiring Headquarters knowledge or actions. Information is required on matters of political significance, important trends in the economic and social structure, cult and unrest situations, law and order problems, and miscellaneous matters that Headquarters needs to know. One report will be compiled for each specific topic. Each to be submitted to Headquarters in duplicate.)

(Use Reverse side if necessary) Govt. Print.—1792/40,000.—5.72.

Subject:.....1972 House of Assembly Elections;

This Situation Report covers the 1972 House of Assembly Elections, conducted in part of the Alotau Open Electorate over the period 1st. February to 2nd. March, 1972.

### SUITABILITY OF VCTERS' IDENTIFICATION TRIBUNAL.

The average age of the men used on the V.I.T. in the above area was approximately 45. Most of the men used were Local Government Councillors, ex-Councillors, Village Constables and Public Servants.

These Tribunals were able to positively identify all persons brought before them. The more literate members proved most useful in assisting the Poll Clerk in locating names in the Nominal Roll.

It is felt that the use of elderly and respected men on these Tribunals was a major reason for the success of same.

On one occasion a relatively young V.I.T. was used. The members of this Tribunal had to be warned because of suspected attempts to influence the voters.

### KNOWLEDGE OF VOTING PROCEDURES.

In the Alotau Open Electorate, the informal count was reasonably low at 6.4%, however the informal count in the Regional Electorate was high with 6,147 informal votes being recorded out of a total of 31,042. This would indicate:-

- a) An incomplete Knowledge of voting procedures,
- b) More effective campaigning by at least one Open candidate than by his Regional counterparts.

### POLLING TIMES.

After a large early roll up of voters, the numbers dropped off suddenly in the afternoons. On three occasions our team had two days at the one village. This was not necessary as on one occasion only 36 people turned up on the second day.

Sgd:.....  
 Date:.....

INTEREST DISPLAYED.

Approximately 42% of the eligible voters availed themselves of the opportunity to vote. This is not particularly high, but it must be remembered that the result in the Alotau Open electorate was, in the minds of the vast majority, never in doubt. Not a great deal of interest was displayed in the Regional voting and many people were confused when confronted with two ballot papers.

PERCENTAGE OF ILLITERATE VOTERS.

The illiteracy rate was about 25%-30%. Many of these people declined witnesses when being assisted in the polling booths. The reason for this is not clear, but it could result from a sense of shame.

FLOW OF TRAFFIC.

The flow of traffic through the booths was swift and orderly. This was largely due to two factors:-

- a) The excellent control of the traffic by Village Constables,
- b) The Poll Clerk's intimate knowledge of the local language and the customs related to the naming of people in this particular area.

E

DETERMINING THE AGE OF VOTERS.

Several under-age persons attempted to vote, however of more concern were the persons of approximate voting age who could not state with any degree of certainty their actual age. These persons voted under Section 130(1), and the Returning Officer informed accordingly.

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION.

- 1) That consideration be given to a comprehensive 'How to Vote' program being broadcast over all Administration Radio stations. Ideally this program should originate from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer. It is felt that with a large number of people hearing the mechanics of voting, in their own language, the number of informal votes would drop.
- 2) That where feasible, Poll Clerks be selected from the area where the voting is due to take place. No doubt there would be some criticism of this idea, but the Poll Clerk merely marks off the Roll and does not handle the ballot papers. The illiterates could be assisted by the Presiding Officer and his assistant.
- 3) That V.I.T.'s be retained and that only elderly and well respected men be utilised.
- 4) That small remuneration be paid to Village Constables who assist in the orderly conduct of the polls.
- 5) That one day is sufficient to conduct a poll in most villages.

*R. J. Wallent*  
.....  
(R.J. Wallent.)

.18th..July.1972

# SITUATION REPORT No. 1

①

Station... Sub-District Office, ALOTAU. Officer Compiling... R.J. Wallent.

District... MILNE BAY. Subdistrict... ALOTAU.

Census Division... North-East Coast. L.G. Council... MARAMATANA.

Subject... 1972 House of Assembly Elections.

Subdistrict Office

Assessment Assistant District Commissioner

ALOTAU.

Date Received

18/7 '72.

The District Commissioner's memo 67-1-2 dated 29th June, 1972, entitled "Situation Reports - House of Assembly Elections, 1972", refers.

Mr. Wallent has adequately covered the points raised.

Assistance through the use of Administration radio stations to educate the people in voting procedures is worthwhile, however the bulk of the task must remain the onus of Political Education teams in the field.

The use of Poll Clerks from the area being patrolled is not 100% foolproof and leaves the door open to allegations of misconduct. The use of a door-keeper is recommended for all polling teams.

Action Taken:

Sgd. *[Signature]* (S.L. Parker.)

Date... 19th July, 1972.

District Office **ALOTAU**

Assessment District Commissioner

Date Received

24th July, 1972

Matters reported on have been adequately assessed by the Assistant District Commissioner, Alotau.

Points put forward for consideration by Mr. Wallent have been included in the Returning Officer's Report to the Chief Electoral Officer. Other points raised have been referred to the Political Education Officer.

Action Taken: **Nil**

Sgd.....

*A. H. Diver*

Date.....

26th July, 1972.

Headquarters

Date Received

Forwarded.....

Section

Project Officer.....

Date.....