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# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: LOSUIA

VOLUME No: 14

ACCESSION No: 496.

1971 - 1972

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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999-7/72  
MILNE BAY DISTRICT

PATROL REPORTS

LOSUIA

1971 - 1972

Patrol No.

Officer conducting  
patrol

Area patrolled

1/71-72

J.C.Daras-Wells

Marshall Bennets & Woodlark C.D.

GUASOPA

1/71-72

G.W.Taylor

Woodlark Island



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

Report Number..... LOSUIA 1 71/72.

Subdistrict..... LOSUIA.

District..... MILNE BAY

Type of Patrol..... CENSUS AREA STUDY.

Patrol Conducted by..... J.C. DARAS-WELLS

Area Patrolled	}	MURUA COUNCIL AREA
(Council and/or		(MARSHAL BENNETS CENSUS DIVISION
Census Division/s.)		AND WOODLARK CENSUS DIVISION)

Personnel Accompanying Patrol

1. R.P.N.G.C.

1. PATROL INTERPRETER.

Duration of Patrol—from 27/7/71 To 22/9/71 (Broken)

No. of Days..... 33 days.

Last D.D.A. Patrol to Area : Guasopa 1 70/71 No.

Date August 1970 Duration 41 Days.

Objects of Patrol (Briefly)..... Census Area Study, Political Education,  
Council Amalgamation, Routine Administration.

Total Population of Area Patrolled.....

Director of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU.

Forwarded, please.

/ /19

District Commissioner.

*Area Study. Copy filed  
[Signature] 22/12*

GG:MG

P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

67-4-13

24th December, 1971.

The District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

LOSUIA PATROL NO. 1 OF 1971/72.

Your reference 67-7-6 of 14th October, 1971.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of the above Report by Mr. J. O. Daras-Wells, to MARSHAL BENNETS and WOODLARK Census Divisions.

Your comments adequately cover this report. In the diary on 4th August, a mention was made re land disputes, the author failed to mention what measures were taken in the body of the report in this regard.

Mr. Daras-Wells is reminded here again that in his future reports spellings of place names must correspond with those appearing in the Village Directory or with those approved by the Place Names Committee. A much better result in compiling Village Population Register is expected from the officer of his rank.

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



67-4-132

67-7-6  
Cl:cl.

Division of District Administration

District Headquarters,  
Milne Bay District,  
MOULAU.

27th October, 1971.

The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub District Office,  
MOULAU.

MOULAU PARISH - 1/1971-72

Receipt is acknowledged of the above patrol report submitted by Mr. J.C. Darrs-Wells.

The Village Population Register is not compiled in accordance with Departmental Standing Instructions, (refer Volume 1 page 79 paragraph 11). Villages are not listed in alphabetical order nor do they agree with the village list shown in the Directory.

The following villages do not appear in the population Register:

- ALDOSTER ISLAND
- KADUAI
- LAUGHAN ISLAND
- MAPAS

The following appear in the population register, but not in the Directory:

- BUBIBUDI
- OVIAI
- KADOLEC

The following show different spellings:

<u>DIRECTORY</u>	<u>POPULATION REGISTER</u>
GUSUP	PASUPA
MAKER ISLAND	IRAGO
KUNIVSO	MUNIVSIO
UNGHAN	UNGHAN
WABUNUNA	WABUNUNA
KAVAIAN	KAVAIAN
KWAIWETA ISLAND	KWAIWETA ISLAND

The Census figures have not been totalled to give a grand total for the Division, nor have you carried out a reconciliation as per page 79 paragraph 11 (xi) of Departmental Standing Instructions.

In view of the above, I am not prepared to accept the Village Population Register in its present form. You are therefore to compile new Village Population Registers correcting all points mentioned above and resubmit as soon as possible.

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- 2 -

The section on political education does not contain the information requested in my circular 80-4-2 of 3/6/71. While your Political Education talks may have been a failure through lack of vital aids, I still require the information requested in the above circular.

The problem of the closure of Guessem has now been resolved by the posting of Mr. Masi Kotanga and Mr. Edgar when he returns from leave.

Due to the immense problem of communications in this widely scattered area, I can see little development taking place in the future. I am afraid that these people must be left behind in the overall development of Papua New Guinea. Their environment is against them. Their geographical isolation alone is enough to impede development.

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

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



5  
19  
Distroff  
67-6-1. JDW/ig.  
Daras-Wells

Sub-District Office  
LOSUIA.

14th. October, 1971.

The District Commissioner,  
Milne Bay District,  
ALOTAU.

PATROL REPORT LOSUIA 1 of 71/72

Herewith please find attached Patrol Report Losuia  
No. 1 of 71/72 conducted by Mr. Daras-Wells with map, and Camping  
and Travelling Allowance Claims.

For your information.

*Daras-Wells*  
(J. Daras-Wells)  
Assistant District Commissioner.

att.

B  
R

LOSUIA PATROL REPORT 2 - 11/72

WOODLARK CENSUS DIVISION

DIARY

TUESDAY 27

10 p.m. Gear on to ALONG  
3a.m. per Aka to Iwa arriving  
1000.

To Iwa village talks with people  
etc.

Night at Iwa.

WEDNESDAY 28

0800 from Iwa to Kwaiawatta  
arriving 1215. Malaria team  
dropped and then to Gawa. 1400  
Clear up to Gawa villages round  
all hamlets talks to people  
Councillor etc. Night at Gawa.

THURSDAY 29

0600 From Gawa to Kaurai arriving  
1130. Ashore at Kaurai, talk to  
Councillor and some people. Return  
to boat.

FRIDAY 30th.

0800 Kaurai to Dikoias arriving  
1030. Ashore to Dikoias. Talks  
to people but Councillor at  
Kulumadau. Discussions re  
various matters. Day at Dikoias -  
Night at Dikoias.

SATURDAY 31st.

0730. From Dikoias to Munuveon  
and dropped Malaria team thence  
Madau village. Talks with Madau  
people. 1400 Madau to Boagis.  
Talks with Councillor and people  
night Boagis.

SUNDAY 1st. August

0700 From Boagis to Kulumadau.  
Talks with Dikoias Councillor and  
Mr. D. Keat at Kulumadau. Night  
Kulumadau.

MONDAY 2nd. August

0600 KULUMADAU to SOLOGA Haalat  
for spraying thence to Unumatana  
thence to Gnasopa arriving 1500  
Night Gnasopa.

TUESDAY 3rd. August

0900 Gnasopa to Laughlan  
Islands arriving 1530. Ashore  
and arranged meeting for next  
day. Night Budibudi.

WEDNESDAY 4th

0830 to Budibudi for Census and  
talks with people. V.C. paid  
and 2 Court Cases carried out.  
Talks re land disputes etc.  
Night Budibudi.

THURSDAY 5th.

0700 From Laughlan Islands to  
Kavatan for Malaria spraying etc.  
Arranged for census and return.  
Talks with Council President  
Night Kavatan.

FRIDAY 6th.

0600 Kavatan to Gnasopa thence to  
Alcester island arriving 1530.  
Talks with people and census  
Night Alcester.

SATURDAY 7th.

0800 Alcester island to Egun  
arriving 1265. Census Egun and  
talks with Egun people. V.C.  
taken on board for Losuia.

SUNDAY 8th.

0900 to Ianaba - Observed Ianaba.

MONDAY 9th.

0730 Census and talks Ianaba  
people thence Losuia.

TUESDAY 10th TO

MONDAY 16th

AT LOSUIA.

TUESDAY 17th

1130 Per Macair to Gnasopa  
arriving 12.30. Checked mail etc  
and Office Correspondence. Night  
Gnasopa.

.....✓

WEDNESDAY 19th.

All day Guasopa. Talks with Councillors, President, Parents and Citizens Association etc. Night Guasopa.

THURSDAY 19th.

0830 Per plane to Kavatan arriving 1530 due bad weather and rain. 1630 Census and Talks Kavatan. One court. Night Kavatan.

FRIDAY 20th.

Per canoe Kavatan to Ungonum. Census Ungonum and ~~xxx~~ talks. Return to Guasopa 1645. Night Guasopa.

SATURDAY 21st.

Two Courts heard and correspondence Night Guasopa.

SUNDAY 22nd.

Observed Guasopa.

MONDAY 23rd.

M. Kotauga dispatched Census Sinamata etc. Self 2 court cases and preparing handover to M. Kotauga.

TUESDAY 24th.

Inspection housing, stove etc with M. Kotauga. Through books and correspondence. Afternoon writing reports. Night Guasopa.

WEDNESDAY 25th

Writing Patrol Report. Court Cases. Correspondence. Night Guasopa.

THURSDAY 26th.

1100 Per Plane to Losuia.

FRIDAY 27

1030 Per Ako to Kitava - Political Education talks at Kitava and films shown. Night Kitava.

SATURDAY 28th

0630 Walk to Kumwageia and Political Education talks Kumwageia

SATURDAY 28th.

1130 to Iwa. Films and Political Education talks. Talks with Iwa re opening store at Iwa. Night Iwa.

SUNDAY 29th.

0830 to Gawa arriving 12.00. Talks with Councillor and V.O. Films and Political Education. Talks at night. Night Gawa. 0830 Return Losuia.

MONDAY 30th.

To Iwa per M.V. Possum to arrange store opening at Iwa. 0800 Night Iwa.

TUESDAY 21st. Sept.

~~1200 Night Iwa~~ Talks with people re store, training of storeman and pricing of goods. To Kitava Night Kitava.

WEDNESDAY 22nd. Sept.

0800 Return Losuia

THURSDAY 23rd. Sept.

SITUATION REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The objects of this patrol were.

- a) Conduct a Census Area Study of Woodlarks Area,
- b) Ascertain the peoples attitude towards amalgamation of Kiriwina and Murua Councils.
- c) Assess the impact of the closure of Guasopa Patrol Post.
- d) Conduct Political Education Discussions.
- e) Hold various court hearings.
- f) Routine Administration.

The patrol got much co-operation from the people. The Woodlarks are unsophisticated and very much out of the way but they are helpful and friendly. Considering their small population they have achieved quite a reasonable economy through ~~and~~ carvings, copra and sale of ebony. The money gained is only used to buy articles from the two stores on the island and pay council tax as the people still rely completely on subsistence agriculture.

Although the people of Woodlark island had much contact with Europeans in the early part of the century when the gold rush period was on, they have been almost completely neglected since contact being limited to a once or twice a year patrol by D.D.A. Officers. Since the patrol post was opened up the main island people have had more contact but the outer islands have not due to lack of boats.

POLITICAL

a) The people in the area have little political awareness. Political Education discussions were held in all places and the overall ignorances was almost complete. The general understanding is that the House of Assembly is virtually a counterbalance to the government. Attempts were made to explain the real functions of the House and also the Local Government Council but I do not think that it was very successful.

b) Attitude to Local Government  
This is covered in Area Study.

c) COUNCILLORS

Most Councillors are illiterate, but the majority of them were elected because they were natural leaders in the

group. They are a co-operative group but are frustrated because of the council's recent unfunctioning status.

d) HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Little is known of the House. The member visits the area approximately once in two years and a large number of people have little idea of the function of the House.

e) THE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The member, Mr. Watson has only visited the Woodlarks three times in four years. He has not been round all villages and most people have not seen him at all. His popularity is waning and there was some talk of a Woodlark candidate standing.

f) POLITICAL EDUCATION

Talks were given on this but were received usually with little understanding. Being so isolated and unable to pick up clearly Radio Milne Bay on radios, local politics also is not understood. The main object of Political Education on this patrol was to show that the government and the House of Assembly were one entity and work together. This concept was not really accepted and will not be I feel until members stop acting as ombudsman for their areas and interfering in parochial Public Service Matters. This does not effect Woodlarks to any extent but word from other areas filters through. Generally it may be stated that political Education talks were a failure. I think the next patrol should use some visual guides as well as verbal to hold the peoples interest. A lecture on some aspect of politics almost invariably sends people into a doze or a daze.

2. ECONOMIC.

This was covered in the Area Study and in D.A.S.F. report No. 1 of 70/71 of this area. No further comments are needed.

ACTIVITIES OF DEVELOPEMENTAL DEPARTMENTS

a) Co-operatives - Nil

a(1) The people of Iwa requested the Patrol to help them start a trade store on a buyers' club basis. This was done and with the money collected a store has been set up in the latter stages of the patrol. Whether it works or goes broke only time will tell.

b) Agriculture

D.A.S.F. have two Field Assistants at Guasopa. As well as this a six

monthly patrol is done by a Rural Development Officer who buys copra and advises on plantations. This is a much needed service as no other trade vessel plies this area. If more frequent calls were made the copra output would be doubled or trebled.

### NON INDEGINEOUS DEVELOPMENT

There is one plantation on Woodlark Island owned by Mr. D. Neate. His copra activities are tied in with a sawmill, ebony marketing and buying of carvings. He provides a good service to the area in this respect but being the only one in the area has a monopoly. He gives fair prices for carvings and ebony however and is well liked by the people.

### 3. SOCIAL

#### a) HEALTH

Aid posts are located at Guasopa, Wabununa and Madau. Minor aid posts with half trained orderlies paid by the Council service - Iwa, Gawa, Kaurai, and Budibudi.

#### b) EDUCATION

Schools are located at Guasopa - Primary 'T' School - 150 pupils up to standard 6 and Kulumadau - Catholic Mission School 79 pupils up to standard 3. Only about 30% of school age children attend.

#### c) LAW AND ORDER

People are generally law abiding and majority of cases are civil action. 8 courts were heard on the patrol courting of 1 stealing, 2 adultery and 5 civil actions.

#### d) SERVICES

A fortnightly Government charter services Guasopa. A boat goes to Kulumadau every month and a government trawler when available goes completely round the area every three months.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### a) Attitude towards amalgamation with Kiriwina Council

The Murua Local Government Council at a general meeting on July 3rd. voted 9-2 against amalgamation with Kiriwina. The dissenters were Iwa and Gawa and the Ianaba Councillor - not present - also wishes to join Kiriwina. Their reasons are:-

- 1) If they join with Kiriwina they will be outvoted at meetings and gain nothing.



- 2) Services will not improve if they join with Kiriwina as they have no boat and it will be harder for Councillors to attend meetings.
- 3) They are different people with a different language and do not wish to join with Kiriwina.

The people from Iwa, Gawa and Ianabo on the Patrol told the police that they would prefer to join Kiriwina Council and break away from the Murua Council. As Iwa, Gawa and Ianabo have half of the council's population, this would leave Murua Council almost non-viable as a body. There is strong feeling with Woodlark island people against joining Kiriwina. They realize the difficulties they face as an entity but feel it is the government's responsibility to make their council function properly as the government started their council. This attitude is firm and I do not think easily changed. The Council has reached an impasse it does not earn enough money to employ a clerk and the Administration has not enough Officers to place one at Guasopa to act as a clerk. As well as insufficient boats to provide regular services at present.

#### ATTITUDE TOWARDS CLOSURE OF PATROL POST

The people were all very concerned about the closure of Guasopa Patrol Post. They require it opened again so that an officer will be available for maintenance of law and order and also for advisory functions. This patrol however noticed no great impact on the people by the closure. When previously the post was manned, the main function of the Officer-in-Charge was Council Clerk/Adviser. The council is the only thing that seems to have been effected by the closure. As the Officer-in-Charge had no transport at Guasopa anyway it is only the day to day bookwork of the council which has fallen behind. Various projects such as the wharf and the school have taken much longer to complete than they should, but this was to be expected and the erection of these should be a council responsibility in any case. I do not feel that the closure of Guasopa Patrol Post has had any significant impact on the people of the area.

#### CONCLUSION

The objects of the patrol were achieved satisfactorily. The problems in this area are extreme and at present insurmountable. Transport and communication in the Woodlark is almost negligible. The scattered nature of the population and the many islands make economic and social progress very hard to obtain and with the present government resources it seems this situation will continue for some time.