

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICE
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: GUASOPA, 1970-1971

Original documents bound with reports
for: Losuia, volume 13.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

Digitized version made available by



Copyright: Government of Papua New Guinea. This digital version made under a license granted by the National Archives and Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea.

Use: This digital copy of the work is intended to support research, teaching, and private study.

Constraints: This work is protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) and the laws of Papua New Guinea. Use of this work beyond that allowed by "fair use" requires written permission of the National Archives of Papua New Guinea. Responsibility for obtaining permissions and any use and distribution of this work rests exclusively with the user and not the UC San Diego Library.

Note on digitized version: A microfiche copy of these reports is held at the University of California, San Diego (Mandeville Special Collections Library, MSS 0215). The digitized version presented here reflects the quality and contents of the microfiche. Problems which have been identified include misfiled reports, out-of-order pages, illegible text; these problems have been rectified whenever possible. The original reports are in the National Archives of Papua New Guinea (Accession no. 496).

Rin. 833-21/72

MILNE BAY DISTRICT

PATROL REPORTS

1970-1971

~~SPECIAL REPORTS~~

LOUSVIA

<u>Report No.</u>	<u>Officer conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
<u>LOUSIA</u>		
1A-70-71	ROSS. S. SUTTON	Kuboma Census Division
1-70-71 (SPECIAL)	F.G. DRIVER	Losuis and Misima SubDistric
2-70-71	ROSS. S. SUTTON	Kilivila Census Division.
3-70-71	D. R. DEAN	Vakuta, Kitava, Gawa and Kwaiawatta.
4-70-71	J. DAPA WELLS	Lusancay Census Division.
<u>GUASOPA</u>		
1-70-71	G. W. TAYLOR	Woodlark Census Division.

PATROL COVER.

Report	Guasopa No. 1 - 1970/71
Sub-District	Torua
District	Milne Bay District
Council Area	Murua
Patrol Conducted By	G.W. Taylor
Designation	Patrol Officer
Area Patrolled	Woodlark Census Division
Personnel Accompanying	P.J. Sandery, ADO (part only) I.S. Readon, RDO (part only) C. Daniel, Field assistant DASF.
Duration of Patrol	25/7/70 to 1/8/70 and 17/8/70 to 31/8/70. Total 23 days.
Date and Duration of Last DLI Patrol:	27/9/69 41 days
Objects of Patrol	1. Collection of Council Tax 2. Familiarisation of area 3. Routine.
Total Population	2506
Map Reference	Fourmil of Woodlark
Village Population Register	Unattached

67-12-1

Division of District Administration,

District Headquarters,
Milne Bay District,
110340

16th October, 1970

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
LOSUIA

GU.SOPA PATROL NO. 1/70-71

MR. G. F. TAYLOR

Thank you for the above report.

Mr. Taylor has submitted a clear picture of this isolated and scattered Census Division. The geographic nature of the Census Division will prevent any large scale economic development. I am pleased to hear that Mr. Taylor is trying to encourage development even though it may be on a small scale.

A determined effort should be made to ensure that the Council completes this years work programme. I realize that there are innumerable problems but it essential that the people see some material return for their taxes. The employment of a carpenter should assist in their works programme.

The problem of an elected representative also carrying out law enforcement duties is one recognised but there is no solution at present. The appointment of a rules inspector has been tried in other areas but due to the scattered nature of the Woodlark Census Division would not be suitable for this area.

Camping Allowance Claims will be forwarded under separate cover.

F. G. Driven
F. G. DRIVEN
District Commissioner

c.c. Departmental Head,
Department of the Administrator,
N. DOW

Original and copy for your information please.

F. G. Driven
F. G. DRIVEN
District Commissioner

HRD:KP

67-4-7

Division of District Administration,

HOHEDEBU, PAPUA.

30th October, 1970.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
HOHEBU.

GUASOPA PATROL NO. 1/70-71

Your reference 67-12-1 of 16th October, 1970.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Situation Report
by Mr. G.W. Taylor, of the Woodlark Census Division.

An informative and well presented report demonstrating
Mr. Taylor's ability to acquire a good appreciation of attitudes
and problems in this area.

Your comments adequately cover the points of interest
raised by the report. Could you please confirm that GUASOPA
administrative area is part of the LOUBIA Sub-District as our
records show it as being part of the General Sub-District.

J. E. Ellis

(J. E. Ellis)

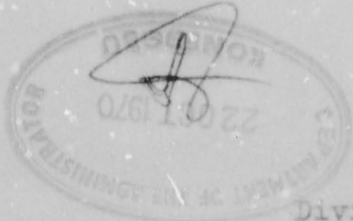
Departmental Head.

cc:

Mr. G.W. Taylor,
Base Camp,
GUASOPA.
Milne Bay District.

67-4-7

17



67-12-1

Division of District Administration,

District Headquarters,
Milne Bay District,
RAKIMU

16th October, 1970

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
LOSUEA

GUASOPA PATROL NO. 1/70-71

MR. G. W. TAYLOR

Thank you for the above report.

Mr. Taylor has submitted a clear picture of this isolated and scattered Census Division. The geographic nature of the Census Division will prevent any large scale economic development. I am pleased to hear that Mr. Taylor is trying to encourage development even though it may be on a small scale.

A determined effort should be made to ensure that the Council completes this years work programme. I realize that there are innumerable problems but it is essential that the people see some material return for their taxes. The employment of a carpenter should assist in their works programme.

The problem of an elected representative also carrying out law enforcement duties is one recognised but there is no solution at present. The appointment of a rules inspector has been tried in other areas but due to the scattered nature of the Woodlark Census Division would not be suitable for this area.

Camping Allowance Claims will be forwarded under separate cover.

EC Driver
F. G. DRIVER
District Commissioner

c.c. Departmental Head,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOBU

Original and copy for your information please.

EC Driver
F. G. DRIVER
District Commissioner

Distroff
67-6-1W

Single

CVS/1c

Sub-District Office,
LOSITA,

7th October, 1970.

DC MBD.
The O.I.C.,
Guasopa Patrol Post,
Woodlark Island,
Losita Sub-District.

Patrol Report 1 - 70/71

Thank you for this report, which is the most valuable I have seen on your area. I am most impressed at the grasp you demonstrate on the important problems, and most thankful that this patrol was undertaken when it was, before the outgoing O.I.C. left and took all his accumulated knowledge with him.

Introduction

Very good topographical study - and specially useful for Officer taking over.

Political.

The limited outlook of Councillors (your Para. 7 is fairly general and quite acceptable where the council area is homogenous so that everyone's problems are similar. Where (as in your case) this is not so, and somebody is needed from time to time to be able to propose a grand design, how about 2 or 3 Councillors elected regionally ^{by} the whole council area? With no Ward responsibilities, I mean?

Paragraph 8 Good. Local Government propaganda is political education, and the best so far, at this early stage.

Paragraph 9. Communication difficulties have prevented any works programme ever being carried out fully. The resulting scepticism is understandable. Just one fully completed programme would change everything: but you will know how very hard this will be to achieve. By the same token, plumb to take Council's tanks goes forward to you today.

Paragraph 10. I entirely agree with you about the need for a central government representative at village level.

15

You are quite right in my opinion in pointing out that there are certain unavoidable but unpopular duties in a vill age, like the telling off of carriers - and this must be done if we are to patrol - and the reporting of minor and major crimes, that cannot be fairly be left to the Councillor, who is the elected political representitave of the people of the ward. The Councillor has two choices - report crime, and lose his seat, or go along with it and stay in office. At the best the system can only lead to some very bad councillors.

However, the last instruction I saw on this was that Village Constables who died were not to be replaced; and I know of no alternative to Village Constables under consideration.

I have not found that there is necessarily any clash between councillors and village constables, it is only a matter of getting everyone to understand that there are two entirely separate jobs to be done.

Of the possible alternatives to V.C.'s, the one that attracts me is a village constabulary, formed from long service police, who would with Council assistance have a police station built for them in the centre of - say - six villages, and would be the Central Government's man for those villages, not only enforcing law, but teaching it to people who could come with questions before unwittingly breaking the law. Members should serve in their home areas.

ECONOMIC.

Your comments on the economy are interesting and true. Little will be done by individual plantings, for as the Council President said when I discussed the Woodlark Development Society idea with him 'Of course we have to work with Kiriwina - we have no population'. The Society scheme, now before both Councils for consideration, is as you know based on using the great and available areas of land on Woodlark, and developing with the great labour potential of Kiriwina, Iwa and Gawa. Nothing more to say on this until the Councils react. Kiriwina Local Government Council took to the idea but declined to express a firm opinion until the councillors had recourse to their wards.

Your Para. 26 I agree that half yearly cray fishing is much more likely to work than througho ut the year fishing, as it can be phased in to the garden cycle; gardening must never be dropped; areas have been fished out before.

SOCIAL. You will be glad to hear that the Catholic

14

Church is more than interested in a school on Woodlark; and in the person of Father Fallon has expressed the keenest support for any developmental thinking in the area.

SUMMARY. I am glad you like the people; I shall be amazed if it is not reciprocal.

Thank you for an excellent report.

b
(C.V. Single)

Assistant District Commissioner.

Losuia,
5/10/70

67-6-1W

MINUTE FOR
District Commissioner,
ALOTAU.

Please find three copies of the Patrol Report, with claims for Patrol and Boot Allowance, herewith.

I would like very much to know your opinion of my comment under the heading Political about Regional Councillors.

b
(C.V. Single)

Assistant District Commissioner.

att.

PATROL DIARY.

B

Saturday 25/7/70

0530 Preparation for patrol.
0730 Departed Guasopa on M.V. "Yellangille" accompanied by M.V. "Managuna", with malaria control teams on board, for Laughlan Islands
1430 Arrived Budibudi, went ashore in dinghy and walked around island observing gardens, and soil etcetera.
1530 Returned to Yellangille.
2000 People grouped, collected tax, gave talk on local government, a short talk given by agriculture officer, no complaints rec'd.
2230 Returned to Yellangille.
Overnight at Laughlan Islands.

Sunday 26/7/70

0630 Departed for Alcester Islands.
1700 Arrived Nesikwabu village, a very deep anchorage close inshore.
1730 Inspected village and general discussion with people.
1930 Collected tax, and returned to boat.
Overnight at Alcester Islands.

Monday 27/7/70

0200 Departed for Egum island.
0700 Arrived Egum, went ashore inspected village and water supply, thence walked around the island.
0800 Departed for Ianaba island with approx. 50 Egum taxpayers on board
0945 Arrived Ianaba village seas rough and people told to cross to other side of is.
1100 Arrived westside Ianaba island, agric. commenced buying copra, self inspected plantation and council copra drier.
1330 Commenced collecting tax Egum people, then Ianaba, all given talk on local govt.
1500 Departed Ianaba for Egum island.
1745 Offloaded people from Egum.
1755 Departed for Gawa island.
2055 Arrived Gawa island
Overnight Gawa island.

Tuesday 30/7/70

0730 Went ashore to Gawa, climbed steep coral cliff of 200ft to top of island and thence walked to village.
0900 Commenced collecting tax upon finishing gave talk on local govt.
1330 Inspected houses and aid post then returned to boat.
1445 Departed for Kwaiawatta island.
1515 Arrived there, went ashore and another very steep climb to reach village.
1600 Commenced collecting tax and gave talk on local govt.
1815 Returned to boat.
1900 Departed for Gawa.
1945 Arrived Gawa, overnight there.

Wednesday 29/7/70

0400 Departed for Iwa island.
0745 Arrived Iwa went ashore and climbed to village.
0915 Inspected village and water supply, all in good condition, a predominance of young people in evidence.
1000 Collected tax, 70% of taxpayers unable pay.

2

PATROL DIARY

Wednesday 29/7/70
1400 Returned to boat.
1415 Departed for Kitava island
1730 ~~Guasopa~~ Arrived at end of plantation went ashore with Mr. Readon and looked over "King Cameron's" house and outbuildings.
Overnight at Kitava island.

Thursday 30/7/70
0300 Departed for Losuia as boat out of water and all but diselaine, oil & grease.
0800 Arrived Boli point went ashore in dinghy, walked to station met ADC and arranged for supplies for boat.
1100 Went to Kiriwina council chambers discussion on inter council matters with adviser.
1200 Lunch.
1330 Went to airstrip met pilot coming from Guasopa, returned to sub-district office, various discussions with ADC.
1530 Went to Kiriwina cricket match
Overnight Losuia.

Friday 31/7/70
0130 Returned to Yellangille and left for Iwa island.
0830 Arrived Iwa in heavy seas, off-loaded passengers.
1000 Departed for Madau island
0100 Arrived there
Overnight Madau island.

Saturday 1/8/70
0530 Departed for Kulumadau
0900 Arrived there went to the store bought rations unloaded packing cases.
1200 Departed for Guasopa
1500 Met by CRA, proceeded to station by outboards.
Patrol Stood Down

Monday 17/8/70
0600 Preparation to continue patrol.
0730 Departed for Wabunnu village, a good walk on old american road.
0935 Arrived there, spoke with SIL missionaries resident in this village.
1030 Collected tax, talk on local govt. No councillor this ward and no nominations for by-election.
1230 Lunch
1345 Paid carriers walked to Tobu plantation, discussion with owner on his development bank loan.
1500 Departed for Unamatana village
1600 Arrived there, paid carriers.
Overnight at Unamatana village.

Tuesday 18/8/70
Collected tax gave talk on local govt.
0800 Inspected plantations with agric. assistant and nearby gardens.
1030 Departed for Mapas island on canoe
1500 Arrived there unloaded canoe.
Overnight Mapas island.

PATROL DIARY

Wednesday 19/8/70 0700 Heard two disputes concerning stolen items. Collected tax and inspected water supply, very bad. 1030 Departed for Madau island per canoe 1700 Arrived Madau rest house, spent rest of night fishing. Overnight Madau village.

Thursday 20/8/70 0700 Commenced collecting tax, heard long dispute over Kula trade item. Gave talk on local government. 1200 Departed for Muneveio, track follows beach and is reasonable. 1500 Held tax collection 1700 Inspected many plantations best seen yet, but pests ruining young coconuts, so shotgun shells distributed to owners of guns to rid menace. Overnight Muneveio village.

Friday 21/8/70 0700 Walked to village water supply, in shocking condition it is sited in the middle of a swamp. Inspected houses which were reasonable. 0800 Walked to Madau village 1100 Arrived there, took large canoe to Boagis village. 1600 Arrived village, collected tax at once, only women present, men left a month ago to collect food at Kaurai. Overnight Boagis village.

Saturday 22/8/70 0700 Inspected water supply Boagis village also bad, council well materials on hand. 0800 Departed for Woodlark island and Kauwai village. 1630 Arrived there after spending all day in pouring rain. 1730 Collected tax from Kauwai and Korobadua villages, short talk on local government. Overnight at Kauwai village.

Sunday 23/8/70 1330 Departed for Kulumadau walking. Patrol gear sent on canoe, track lead through mangrove swamps and out into Dwana Dwana and Loani plantations both very old now. 1730 Arrived Neate's place Overnight Kulumadau.

Monday 24/8/70 0730 Departed in landrover to wharf. Despatched carriers to Dikoias village went in Mr. Neate's outboard to Kropan 0845 Collected tax and inspected houses only four hamlets. Returned to Kulumadau. 1115 Departed for Dikoias village. 1245 Arrived had lunch. 1330 Collected tax, gave talk on local government and dilapidated condition of the village. 1730 Met CRA field assistant. Overnight at Dikoias Village.

PATROL DIARY

25/8/70 Tuesday

0700 Inspected village aid-post and people instructed repair walls.
0930 Departed for Kaurai village.
1300 Arrived there, very good walking track, had lunch.
1400 Collected tax
2000 Talk on local government and political education talk given as well.
Overnight Kaurai

Wednesday 26/8/70

0700 Walked to canoe landing point, in landlocked lagoon.
0830 Went down lagoon and across sand bank to the open sea, seas very rough and we had to turn back.
1200 Arrived back at resthouse.
1320 Walked to Kaurai water supply, it was a mile away in a sunkendepression of 40ft vertical sides and a river gushing out at the bottom.
1600 Met Boagis men working in gardens and collected their tax.
Overnight at Kaurai Village.

Thursday 27/8/70

0600 Departed with carriers for Ungonam Village, walked for eleven hours but could only make beginning of Sinkurai basin, as hampered by rough track.
1700 Made camp for the night.

Friday 28/8/70

0500 Departed for Ungonam walking through three feet thick mud.
0900 Arrived at bank of Sinkurai river met men making sago, used their canoes for transport.
1500 Arrived Ungonam.
Overnight there.

Saturday 29/8/70

0830 Collected tax Ungonam and Kavatana villages gave political education talk
1400 Departed in canoe for Sinamata village.
1615 Arrived there.
Overnight Sinamata village.

Sunday 30/8/70

0700 Collected tax and thence inspected water supply also situated a long way from the village.
1200 Walked to Guasopa.
Overnight there.

Monday 31/8/70

0930 Collected tax Guasopa, Waiavat and Bomseu villages
1100 Gave political education talk
1330 Reconciled balance of tax collection with tax books, all balanced.
1830 Patrol stood down.

END OF PATROL.

9.

A. INTRODUCTION.

The Woodlark census division covers an area of approximately three thousand five hundred square miles taking in land and sea. The Guasopa station, coordinates four degrees thirteen minutes south and one hundred and fifty two degrees fifty seven minutes east, is situated on the southern tip of Woodlark island, which is the largest island amongst four other groups of smaller islands scattered all over the census division.

2. The topography of all these island groups is widely diversified for example, the Laughlan Islands at the farther most point of the census division consists of a horse shoe shaped group of seven islands, perfectly flat completely covered in coconuts, at high tide the highest point of land above sea level is only four feet, this is on the largest island, Budibudi, which is only four hundred yards long. There are one hundred and twenty people living there. At the exact opposite end of the division Iwa island has over one hundred foot high cliffs all around it only two miles in diameter it dips sharply in the center and is similar to a saucer shape. There is very little arable land and the island is mostly covered in bush.

3. Returning to Woodlark island the center of these two groups of islands. This island is the same as Iwa in that it is uplifted coral but different because it has a volcanic area across the southern center of the island. This has caused small wavy hills the highest of which rises thirteen hundred feet. On top of this hill called Suloga Peak is most unusual vegetation, by way of a moss forest and this area is also prone to a high rainfall of over four hundred inches per year and even to frosts in the morning. The rocks in this area are not standing straight but tilted at an angle of fifteen degrees to the vertical all leaning in the one direction. It was in this area that two copper mines were opened but eventually closed because of high costs and low quantities of the metal, even though it is refuted to have been of a high grade. At the moment CRA are presently cutting lines and taking samples of rock like others before them looking for the copper. The sloping slant of the rocks in this area indicates that north eastern end of Woodlark island is rising and the southern coast is sinking.

4. Woodlark island is completely covered in large forests and bush. There are many sections of good eucalyptist timber and the more valuable ebony tree. But, mostly these areas of timber are inaccessible, due to Mangrove swamps along most of the southern coastline and the lack of any good roads, or roads of any sort.

5. The area is also affected by two distinct climate conditions. The first of these being the south east winds which blow hard all the time from June until November. Secondly the north west winds which last from January until May. These two seasons affect greatly the lives and habits of all the people. As the only means of travel for ninety per-cent of the people is by sailing canoe, the winds also dictate movements of a person from place to place and how long they may stay in any one place. The people of the census division are by nature an out going people and have obviously adapted to these conditions.

6. Approximately fifty percent of the census division live on Woodlark island but no accurate figure is available for the last census was in 1965. Because of a gold rush in the late nineteenth century, many crown leases are held on Woodlark island. These take in eighty percent of the land on the island. There is now a shortage of land to grow coconut plantations on

for the villages and numerous requests were made to the patrol, to have the land returned to them, as the present leasees are making no use of their leases.

POLITICAL.

7. At the beginning of this patrol, the writer was able to attend a council meeting. The councillors nearing the end of their term of office, before new elections, showed they had a fair understanding of all the council procedures. But, in the discussion of problems affecting the whole council area, they also showed they understood the problems of their own wards only and could not conceive ideas outside their ward areas, relying on the adviser to show them these problems. The councillors gave the impression that they were afraid to speak out or voice any opposition to proposed motions.

8. In consideration of the above the patrol concentrated on local government propaganda rather than political education. It was endeavoured to conduct an understanding of the council as a body incorporating all constituents, for the aim of completing projects unattainable to a village group on their own but by binding these groups together able to provide services to individual groups in the way of water supplies and education, ecetera. At the southern end of Woodlark this idea seemed to reach across to the people. For, while the patrol was at Mafau island away from these six villages, they all assembled at Guasopa station and under the guidance of the headteacher of the Guasopa primary school, cleared a large area of land and levelled it, in preparation for the planned school class rooms to be built by the council this year. This was most pleasing to see and is the first time over two hundred people have ever come together for such a reason. It is to be hoped this motivation continues.

9. When speaking to the people of local government most allowed that they were all for the council and its objectives, but what they did fail to see was how they could be apart of the council. It appears too that each councillor definitely talks to the people of his ward on return from a council meeting. This was brought out when the people asked their knowledge of council projects. Most complained that projects had been promised by the council before but nothing had been done. Though this didn't seem to concern anyone greatly they were sceptical of the ability of the council in some cases. It also appears that the people do not have their views brought out at council meetings by the councillor, but then again this did not concern too many people.

10. The council in the mind of each village was just the councillor. As councillor the person elected was in some cases e.g. councillor Kokovana of Guasopa, only superficial leaders of the community. Yet it was left solely up to these men to deal with a patrol when it entered a village such as arranging carriers and food for the patrol. It was left up to the councillor to put forward any complaints that might have arisen in the village and this naturally prejudiced their position as a politician. On this patrol it was only the village constable at Manievo village who still seemed to retain any authority in the village. An example of a councillor being a politician was brought out at Unama, when a complaint was laid against a man not present by a village man. The complaint was over some stolen items and the person laying the complaint called on the councillor in front of all villages present to verify his argument which the councillor did, but later in the afternoon

at Mapas village, in the same ward, the same councillor agreed, when I was questioning the accused that he now wished to change statements he made at Unamatana village. It was later determined that the accused had been telling the truth and the councillor did right in changing his mind. I think this shows a definite need for village constables who can report a matter with an independent view, and without having to worry about feelings they may have. This is not so with the councillor, who is voted into his position.

11. It also became evident to the patrol that a pre-election patrol would definitely be needed if only to prevent the election of such unenergetic councillors as Kokovana of Guasopa. It was noted that a definite need exists to explain the duties of a councillor and his position.

12. Some villages for example Wabununu and Iwa are still apprehensive towards local government. These two villages are picked upon because it is more obvious in them than others. The councillors living in both of these villages both recently died. In Wabununu village, nominations for a new councillor were asked for but a superstitious impression of the position being bad luck held all from giving even one nomination. Two Europeans Mr and Mrs. Lithgow who have been residing in the village for seven years working for the SIL mission, assured the patrol that it was the influence of the women, who had worked magic to prevent the men in the village from nominating that lent suspicion towards the position of councillor. At Iwa over a hundred miles away the same thing has occurred, no nominations were received and again the work of the women is suspected, despite some men saying they needed a councillor. There is no village constable in either of these villages.

13. The patrol spoke to three influential men in the area regarding the part played by the women in village politics. The three men were Wanea an aidpost orderly at Guasopa, Tagalana ex president of the council previously from Dikoias, now living at Muhieveo, and Hepai, an ex DPA clerk, now owns plantation near Wabununu village. They all said that the women held the balance of power by being able to work magic powers which were all unavoidable when used. This is particularly so in Dikoias village where Tagalana used to live. He told the patrol that when he was president the women so envied his being so and holding a position of power, that towards the end of his term as councillor he had only just managed to leave the village in time, otherwise these powers would have killed him. This jealousy of power was also brought out again in Dikoias village when the patrol visited. The women's club there once reported to be very strong with over four hundred members was in dispute and wished to disband. They called upon the patrol to distribute the club's money. Fortunately or unfortunately, the patrol working on a tight schedule did not have time to resolve this problem. It would be better if a welfare patrol were to settle this affair, as it is partly their lack of patrolling in the area, that has played a part in the club disbanding. Though the women wield powerful influence, they do so in the background and it would be unusual to see any of them elected as councillors.

14. The council has now been established for three years and its balance at the bank is three times its recurrent revenue. Although economically, the council is hardly a viable entity, the fact that it has only managed to complete a small number of its projects is disappointing to the people and makes it hard for the councillor of a village to justify his election when projects promised do not eventuate. This council through its low income faces nearly unsurmountable problems in completing its works program. This is because it has no transport and relies on the government trawler to provide all means of movement and this

is not very reliable. Another problem the council has not been able to overcome is the difficulty in finding anyone to contract a project out to or to find a carpenter to work for the council. Both these problems look as though they will however be overcome in the near future as tentative arrangements have been made to employ a carpenter and if this follows through, the council should achieve its current works programme.

15. Political education talks were given in the villages at the Southern end of Woodlark island, this being done as the patrol found itself ahead of schedule. The people listened to the talks about the House of Assembly and its functions without offering any suggestions, comments or queries and although they knew who the member for the electorate was, it could only be gauged from their lack of response that they were not interested or their understanding was very limited. It would be more thorough if a patrol with only the object of political education were mounted, and one could gain a better insight into the knowledge of the people. Such a patrol should take visual aids such as films and posters and visit each village to be a success.

ECONOMIC.

16. The main industry in the census division is the production of copra. At the present time this is on the decrease and will become more evident in later years unless the outer island villages heed the encouragement given to them during the patrol to plant more coconuts. The agriculture officer Mr. Readon who accompanied the boat section of the patrol urged the councillors at the council meeting to take the planting of coconuts up as a catch cry amongst the people. He pointed out that many of the plantations on the outer islands are now becoming old and unless new plantations were planted there would be a lack of coconuts for food as well as copra.

17. The outer islands especially the Laughlan Islands produce nearly all the copra for the area. Only ten years ago these islands small as they are were producing eighty bags of copra a month. Production has now fallen away because of the lack of trading. While the patrol was at Dudibadi twenty six bags of copra were bought. The main copra producers are now on Madau island, which Mr. D. Neate from Kulunadau visits without fail every two weeks. Some copra is also made at the Gasopa end and is bought by Mr. Neate when he visits every three weeks. Other islands such as Janaba, thirty bags of copra were bought there while on patrol by the agriculture officer, also, Gawa and Iwa islands all heavily populated for their size. It has now been arranged that the field assistant for DASF, will buy copra from all the outer islands when the government trawler comes out to do the Woodlark service. If this service is regular then production of copra for the area might increase. There is no private enterprise service to these islands at the present time, and has not been for sometime. The Iwa people, in the middle of nowhere are especially in need of this service. In the whole census division there were very few tax defaulters except for Iwa village where only twenty five percent of the people were able to pay. This points out Iwa's need even more.

18. The village economy is based on one of the villages on Woodlark island growing an abundance of staple diet foods such as yams, taro, bananas, and making sago; then giving this excess to outer island people who have no fertile ground to speak of, or wish to grow crops. This exchange usually takes place between the months of September and December, when the outer island people

cross to Woodlark island in their canoes and stay until the winds change again. The outer island people help to make new gardens which will not come into bearing until after they have left and in exchange are given amount of what the gardens would produce. Still the people of Woodlark do not receive a payment in kind for feeding and looking after these nomads. Instead their payment is made by having the KULA items which they own transported to all islands, and especially to Makima island. The people of Makima people also provide means of transport for the Woodlark people who have only small canoes and not the big sea going canoes. An example of this yearly migration could have been seen two days after the completion of the patrol, when four big Laughlan island canoes arrived at Waivata village near Quasopa approximately sixty in number this represented fifty percent of their number. Another example could have been seen at Soagis village on Madau island where there were only women and children plus two old men in the village. The rest of the male population had gone to Kaurai on Woodlark and were encountered working in the gardens there. Altogether there was thirty six men in three big canoes and two small ones. The patrol was told that these emigrants were far from prone to hard work and sat around more often than not making sails for their canoes while the resident villagers did the work.

19. As far as secondary industry goes, there is only a cottage industry making carvings in the census division. The carving industry is a regular money earner for the people of Dikoiias village and Madau island, as Mr. Heate at Kulunadau has placed orders in Port Moresby for the carvings and buys from these two groups regularly. It is not an expanding industry but does provide a good income for all the carvengers. The carvings unlike the ones made in Kiriwina are all of striped ebony and exclusive because of this.

20. Recently, the council sent a shipment of striped and black ebony with the view to establishing a regular order with this council. But I think that if the council should do this it would ruin the prices now received for ebony carvings by the aforementioned groups, if the wood starved Kiriwina carvers were to turn their hand to carving the prized ebony timber and flood the market with these carvings. I think the Woodlark people should retain something individual of themselves and the Woodlark island area, with this in mind it is not certain that more ebony will be sent to the Kiriwina council, unless it is the black ebony only. At any rate it is doubtful whether the sale of timber to the Kiriwina council will work as that council cannot pay the Woodlark people until all the timber sent is sold and this depends a great deal on the carving moods of the Kiriwina carvers, thus great periods of time are apt to pass before the supplier receives payment. This is not always acceptable as the people think they are being had.

21. On a recent discussions with the ADC Losuia, he proposed that a land shortage now becoming apparent on Kiriwina island, be overcome by establishing a Woodlark Development Society. One can only but agree with this suggestion which is as follows briefly outlined. Firstly, the society to be established would be a joint co-operation effort between the two councils of the sub-district, but the society would not be at all related to either council. The society will be the plan of the people who will be responsible for it, management would initially be worked by the two councils with members of the society. The case for the establishment of the society is that at present Kiriwina island which is only half the size of Woodlark island

has a population of fifteen thousand people approximately, this compares with Woodlark which has a population of only one thousand people. The Kiriwina people are now finding it difficult to find enough land to grow their gardens upon let alone grow coconut plantations for more income from the production of copra. If then, on Woodlark island, which is eighty percent covered by old leases, these old leases or some of them in an appropriate area could be reclaimed and leased to the society, a large coconut plantation could be established. As these leases are many of them fifty years old and no improvements have been carried out on them it is envisaged that the society should not incur much difficulty in obtaining the leases it wanted. It is also envisaged if the society is to be of any great use it will have to be on a large scale to be a success. The society should need forty thousand acres of land in leases and of this build a plantation of ten thousand acres. It will be up to the Murua council to decide where the best soil and place for the society to establish this plantation. Then, once the society was able to obtain land it would ask for shares in its development from every person on Kiriwina, Iwa, Gawa, Laughlans and Woodlark island payable for five years. The shares would be given a number and a minimum price, but depending on what the councils decided, any number could possibly be any individual, if this was so it would create an incentive for people to do better especially once the society started to make profits and paid dividends. The aim of the society would be to clear and plant a coconut plantation of ten thousand acres, and in so doing this labour would be drawn from Kiriwina in the hundreds of labourers at any one time. Also to aid in the clearing heavy plant machinery would be required and to this end Mr. Neate at Kulunadau has only last week purchased a TD 9 bulldozer and guaranteed his willingness to hire this machine out on rural development projects. Labour brought from Kiriwina would have to be done by using the Administration's trawler service to the Woodlarks. On this, the society would have to lean heavily until it could afford to buy its own boat.

22. Such a society if established would firstly give a much needed injection of more cash into the low cash economy of the area. Secondly, provide a means by which all Kiriwians and Woodlark people could find more money, this being done by paying all labourers working for the society. Thirdly, create a venue for crowded out Kiriwians in the future to settle permanently, by sub leasing parts of the plantation. Fourthly, instil incentive into the Woodlark people to motivate themselves. Fifthly, give all members of the society something which they can say they own part thereof.

23. The society to work will have to be the idea of the people and it will become what they make of it themselves. As initial decisions will be made at the council level, it is expected that some of these decisions will come at the next meeting of the Murua council, a patrol will follow this meeting and bring in the opinions of each person. This matter has been discussed with some councillors already and they have all appeared in favour of it. Once these decisions have been reached a report by representatives from the council will be made to the Kiriwina council for their decision. It is to be hoped that such a scheme does in fact eventuate, as its effects will be far reaching and for the better.

24. Other industries likely to be of benefit to the people of the census division is the collecting of Trochus Shell and the fishing industry. With regard to the trochus shell industry the agricultural officer Mr. Readon has agreed to buy the shell at four and half cents a pound for the first three grades of the shell and half a cent a pound for the fourth class of shell. As this shell abounds on the reefs around Woodlark it is to be

hope that the people around Guasopa especially take advantage of this. At the present time indications are good as tractor loads of shell are coming to the field assistants house who is authorized to buy the shell.

25. The reefs around the islands abound with millions of fish but a fishing industry could not to my mind be established as the population is just too scattered and at any rate there are not enough people to catch the amount of fish such an industry would require to set up. There are periods during the year when everyone in the whole village goes to work in the gardens and at such times the industry if established, would be brought to a complete standstill. One way it could possibly work is if the council were to buy a boat for fishing which could then make quick disposal of the catch to Samarai. This would be hampered during the south east season when the seas are despicable. But during this time of the year the council could make use of the boat for other purposes.

26. One industry that could as well only operate for half a year at a time, the crayfishing industry, I consider more feasible than a fishing industry. The reefs also abound in crayfish and these are just as easily caught as fish, yet there are bigger prices per pound paid if the markets could be found and a freezer put on Guasopa station, the crayfish could be flown to the markets. Thus reaching the consumer more than reasonably fresh.

27. A tertiary industry that would have every chance of success is the tourist industry. Guasopa station is by far the best spot on the whole of Woodlark island as far as climate, conditions generally and scenery are involved. It has some roads good boating venues and as just as much as the hotel on Kiriwina has to offer except of course the name of the Trobriands. To establish the industry a hotel would have to be built at Guasopa and it is debateable how much good the tourist industry would do the island, and how much income would be brought into the area.

SOCIAL .

28. Womens clubs in the whole of Woodlark census division number only one. This club is established at Guasopa and has a membership of approximately seventy women. This club was last visited by a welfare patrol in July of this year by two welfare officers. They gave a two weeks instruction course. This is due to be followed up this month by a two day patrol. This club was being run well and carrying out its functions when the previous OIC's wife was the president, but is becoming lax now. The only other club was at Dikoiias but the women there have decided they cannot agree and are disbanding. This could spread to the Guasopa club and will have an effect on other clubs if and when they are established. If welfare are able to maintain regular patrols to the Guasopa club it also stands a chance of being a successful club. With a fortnightly service by plane here this should not prove impossible.

29. The united church seems well established throughout the area on a village level. It has a representative in each village but there are no schools at all and most of the interest by village people is confined to Sunday only. The only other mission is the SIL group at Wabununa village and the influence of Mr. and Mrs. Lithgow is confined nearly solely to this village. They give lessons in the Muyuw language and English language.

30. There is only one aidpost of European materials and

that is situated at Iwa. All other centers of population are covered by aidpost orderlies or aidpost assistant orderlies. This year the council, for the first time, will pay the assistant aidpost orderlies. The aidposts are serviced every two months by a PHD trawler which brings medical supplies and usually the doctor accompanies the boat on its tour of the islands from Losuia. The council also plans to build two new European materials aidposts. One will be built at Guasopa and one in the Laughlan islands. This should improve the conditions and efficiency of the department of health in the area. All aidposts in the area were inspected during the course of the patrol and most were of a reasonable village standard and all had adequate supplies of drugs and dressings.

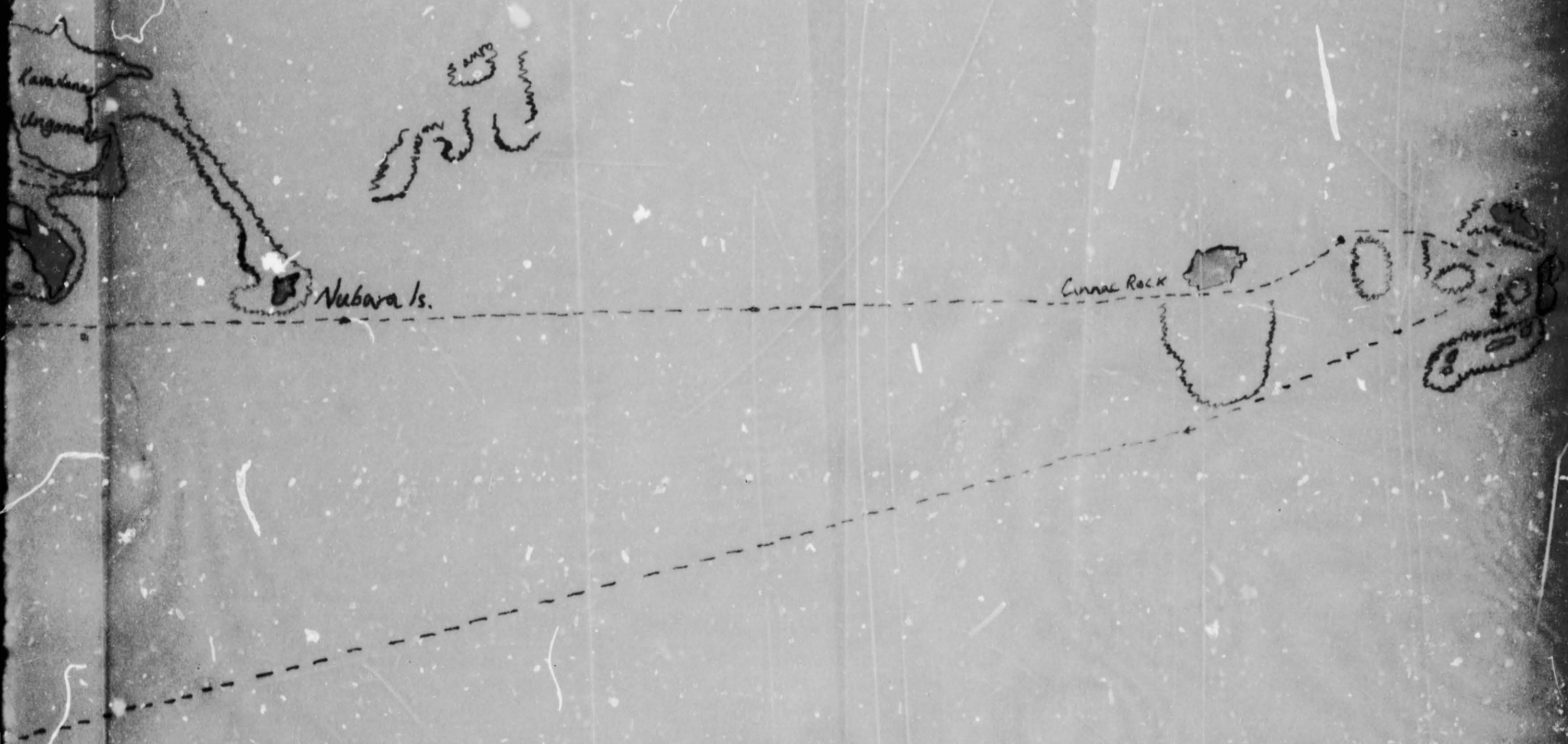
31. There are many children within the council area who do not even know what a school is. This is especially prevalent on Gawa and Iwa islands where there are over two hundred and fifty children of school age running around the village. The same situation exists on all the other islands and at the northern end of Woodlark island. The council plans this year to extend the present school at Guasopa by building four new classrooms, this will bring the school up to standard six level next year and increase the numbers from one hundred and thirty to nearly two hundred. What is urgently needed though is a school at Kulumadau of at least four classrooms to start giving a basic education to some of the children from the islands, Dikoiias and Kaurai villages. Until this is done the area will always be educationally speaking a long way behind.

32. Very few problems were presented to the patrol, but it does appear that CRA geologists and field assistants who have just completed looking for Bauxite on the whole of Woodlark island will leave behind them the makings of a cargo cult. This is especially prevalent amongst Dikoiias and Kaurai people. While working in the area CRA paid high prices for the employment of labourers. They were over generous in giving out of rations and careless with their own equipment. Many of the people at Dikoiias who have now left the village will return in the near future to exploit their finds. With this in mind the people are all taking a holiday awaiting the return of the please at all costs CRA. It would be I think of great benefit to all concerned if CRA issued a statement to the council that no quantities of commercial Bauxite exist. This would convince the people and they would start working properly again, instead of waiting six months to see if CRA return.

SUMMARY.

31. The patrol achieved all of its aims. It was the first patrol to spend a day night in every village and the first to cross the Laifwai basin, walking from Kaurai to Ungonam village. It was my initial patrol in this area and I was impressed at all times by the obliging attitude of the people, by the remoteness of the area and by the difficulty to achieve anything at speed of any sort. It is a pity the patrol did not have a camera as photos would have given more substance to the report. Any deficiencies in this report, it is hoped will be made up for in future patrols.

(G.W. Taylor)
PATROL OFFICER



KEYS

- Native Lands
- Native Reserve
- Alienated Lands
- ⚓ ANCHORAGE
- - - - PATROL ROUTE
- SCALE 4 MILES = 1 inch



Caneta Is.

Alcester Is.

AETIANDU LHI

Iwa Is.
TO LOSUA

M

Kwaiwata Is.

Gawa Is.

Elanaba Is.

Egum Is.

