

# THE PAPUAN VILLAGER

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One of the Old Men's Houses of Orokolo

## Old Days at Orokolo

When the Editor was first at Orokolo, 16 years ago, there were seven big men's houses or *eravo*. Now, it seems, there are none.

The big *eravo* were used for the big *hevehe* masks. They were their dwelling houses. They had to be tall, for the *hevehe* were tall; and they had a very high door in the front wall for the *hevehe* to pass in and out.

### "Hevehe" in the "Eravo"

Year after year the *hevehe* stayed in the *eravo*, shut up inside. No women ever saw them. Yet the women knew that they were there, and they were waiting for them to come out.

Then at last, when all was ready, the door would be opened. It was opened at earliest dawn, and the first of the tall *hevehe* stood, framed in the black doorway, and looked down at the people. It was tall and slender and graceful; painted in soft colours, and trimmed with feathers. It was a very beautiful thing to see in the half-light of daybreak.

### Dance of the "Hevehe"

The *hevehe* held a drum in its hand. It came down the gangway, and danced off, through the village and out on to the broad cool beach, dancing to the beat of its own drum.

After it came all the other *hevehe* which had been hiding in the *eravo*, more than 100 of them, all painted and be-feathered, and some as tall as 15 feet. It was a very wonderful sight.

As each *hevehe* set foot on the ground a band of women, mothers, wives and sisters, rushed to meet it, and gathered round and danced off with it to the sound of its drum-beat. It was a joyful day for them after years of waiting.

For a whole month the *hevehe* would dance, morning and afternoon, coming and going from the *eravo* to the beach. The girls and women always danced with them. They never seemed to grow tired; and as they danced they always laughed or smiled.

### The End of the Dancing

At the end of the month the dancing

came to a close. The *hevehe* gave up their drums and went back into the *eravo*. The women would weep because their friends were leaving them and their dancing time was over. And they would gather round to try to stop the last of the *hevehe* from going up into the *eravo*. They formed a ring round them to hold them in. But the *hevehe* broke through the ring and went up, and the door was closed behind them; and that was the last the women saw of them.

Yet in the old days they knew that the *hevehe* would come again. There would be more years of working and waiting; the *eravo* would be full once more—a new *eravo* and new *hevehe*—and the great ceremony would happen again.

But now it seems that the big men's houses are done with, and the ceremony too. It does not seem at all likely that Orokololo will ever again see the tall *hevehe* dancing on the beach.

## WARS and WARS

### Russia and Finland

Another nation is at war. Finland (the country at the north end of the Baltic Sea) has been attacked by Russia.

Russia is a very big nation, and nearly all the world is very wild with her because she has attacked a small nation. They think she is a big bully, and they will help Finland in various ways to fight against her.

### Three Big Wars

There are three big wars going on at this moment:—

- (1) Britain and France against Germany.
- (2) China against Japan.
- (3) Finland against Russia.

We are in the first of these wars only. But you never know. We may get mixed up in the others, for, as we said some time ago, a number of dogs in a fight do not mind who they snap at.

### Fighting Amid the Snow and Ice

Finland is a very cold country. It is winter there now, and the ground is covered with snow and the water with ice. Some of you know what ice is like; but in this country you have never seen snow. It is soft and white, and it covers the ground and all the trees and houses, sometimes several feet thick. The people have to wear very warm clothes because it is so cold.

The Finns are used to this cold; and perhaps the snow and ice helps them to hold the Russians back. They are big strong men and they will fight very bravely to defend their homeland. It is not yet the Finnish finish.



### A Big Policeman and a Big Fish

On this page we give you a picture of a Gilbert Island fisherman. The Gilbert Islands are in the Pacific, north-east from here. The fisherman is a Government Policeman, named Tato.

He caught the fish from his canoe after a hard fight. It weighed 78 lb. Guess what the policeman weighed?



### The Red Indians

The Red Indians are dark-skinned men who live in America and Canada. They were there before the white men came. They are called "red" because their skins are reddish coloured.

They were great fighters and hunters and clever people.

Now, like the Papuans, they learn white men's ways. They go to school and learn to read and write. That is a very good thing. But they forgot some of their good old customs and they also forgot how to make some of their beautiful carvings. At least they did not keep up their best work.

Now the Canadian Government has asked them to make again their "totem poles" and other carvings. A totem pole is like a *dubu* post that stands high in the air and is carved with the different signs of the man who put it up. Sometimes a big bird with outspread wings sits on top looking at all the world; and sometimes it is a face; and there are lots of other designs.



A Big Fish and a Big Policeman  
Block by courtesy of *The Pacific Islands Monthly*

These people were good carvers and they let it all go. But we hope Papuans will not have to be asked by the Government to keep up their fine things. Just keep on making them, and all people, white or black, who understand these things will admire them.



A Man with Six Toes

Block by courtesy of *The Pacific Islands Monthly*

## A Man with Six Toes

Sometimes human beings are born with a finger or a toe too many. On this page we give you a picture of one of your own people with an extra toe on each foot, twelve altogether instead of ten. He belongs to the Chirima Valley in the Northern Division.

We do not suppose these extra toes make any difference to him at all. But some Papuan natives use their fingers and toes to count with. If this fellow is one of those, they must be a nuisance to him, for he would always be getting his sums wrong.



## Competition Results

The Editor cannot profess to feel very encouraged by the result of the last Competition. Readers of *The Papuan Villager* were asked to write about a Brave Deed—any story of bravery they knew of—and they had several months in which to think about it. Only three people sent in articles.

Two of these were acceptable, and they are both published. The third began, "Dear Readers of *The Papuan Villager*, I shall enjoy to tell you all about my own brave deed." It was a good story, but hardly permissible in the context. It will earn a modest shilling later on.

The Editor (who hardly expects these phrases to be understood by the ordinary Papuan reader) would appreciate it if Mission teachers who may use the *Villager* would take some notice of the competitions and induce their pupils to write essays on the subjects given. It would do the pupils no harm and it would do something to help this paper.

## Metals and Minerals

### Copper

Probably the most useful metal, after iron, is copper. Many articles made of this metal are of everyday use while copper wire is now used in great quantities. The mines have all but been exhausted until a few years ago were being worked at Bootless Inlet not very far from Port Moresby.

Brass is another alloy of copper, and you know how widely brass is used. Brass door-handles, kettles, hooks, candle sticks and many other things are articles of common use. The United States is the chief producer of copper, supplying nearly half of the world's requirements. Other important countries are Chile, Canada, the Congo basin, Japan, Spain and Mexico.

Moreover, copper forms with tin the beautiful alloy called bronze. Our pennies and half-pennies are of bronze, in which there is a little tin to much copper. Bronze is used extensively for ornaments, while artists like to make statues from it.

### Tin

Tin is another metal in everyday use, in the form of tin mugs, and tin cans for preserved meats, jams, and other goods. Of course, they are not made from pure tin, but from what is called "tin-plate," which is really sheet-iron, thinly covered by tin.

Most of the world's tin supply is obtained from South-Eastern Asia. The greatest producers are the Malay States, where it is dredged out of the sands and muds from the river beds. Other tin producing countries include Bolivia, the East Indies, and Siam. Find all these countries on your map.

### Lead

This metal is generally found with silver, and is used in lead piping, paints, and in other manufactured

*"The Papuan Villager"*  
*Wishes its Readers*  
*A Merry Christmas*  
*and*  
*A Happy New Year*

goods. The United States is the chief source of supply; other producers being Mexico, Australia, and Canada.

### Aluminium

This is a metal requiring very cheap power for its production. Its use is increasing, particularly on account of its lightness. Besides cooking utensils, it is being widely used in the bodies of racing cars and aeroplanes. The United States is the chief producer of aluminium.

### Diamonds

The mining of this precious mineral is almost wholly confined to one continent—Africa. Its value depends on its hardness, beauty and rarity. It has been found necessary to exercise careful control over its production. Just as a Papuan likes to wear coloured beads round his neck as an ornament the white people like to

wear diamonds, but of course not all white people are rich enough to possess diamonds. Diamonds are also used in drills, and for glass cutting. The world's supply is obtained from the Congo basin and the Union of South Africa.

—H. Bitmead.

## Aeroplanes of the Future

Some men who know all about engines and flying were having a meeting in England this year. One of them said what he thought the biggest flying machine of the future would be like. It would be a flying boat and weigh 250 tons (a very big flying boat nowadays weighs about 20 tons); it would have 12 engines; and it would carry 200 passengers.

## Tree Climbing

Papuans can say they are good tree climbers. They can go up a coconut tree in no time and get the nuts and down again even quicker than they went up.

But here is a new way that is used in New Zealand. There are some very large trees called *kaori* pines and they have thick, very thick, bark. It would not be like climbing the smooth stem of a coconut tree. These men use boots—not just ordinary boots, but boots with spikes in them. The soles of these boots are made of wood and they have curved steel nails screwed into them.

In their hands the climbers carry steel bars with spikes on them to help them get a grip. They run up the tree and use both foot and hand-spikes in climbing.

They want the gum that is found in these trees. It is used for making a shiny paint called varnish. A lot of money is made every year out of this paint.

To come down from this great tree, that is without branches for 50 feet up, the climber has a seat and rope and "pulley." He puts the rope over a limb of the tree and gently lets himself down.

## Native Contributions

### An Old Man's Brave Deed

Dear Readers,

There was one brave thing which an old man did. His name was Pala Vavine.

You remember the year 1930. There was a strong and bad wind which came by the south-east. But I want to tell you about the brave thing that Pala Vavine did.

Did you know Mr. Wyborn of Rigo? In those days he was living at Hula. And he had a big double canoe which he kept for his cargoes and copra. (That double canoe came from Kokibagu on the Kemp Welch River.)

Mr. Wyborn told old Pala Vavine to look after it. So he looked after it until that wind came.

The wind was very big, and big waves came along the shore, and it was so rough. Then the rope was broken and the double canoe drifted away about a mile.

Old Pala Vavine called to the young people of the village. But no one came. So he himself swam out to his canoe.

When he got on the canoe he had a little bit rest. Then he started to paddle towards the little village near Hula named Alewai, and there he had another rest. Then he started again towards where the canoe had drifted.

Mr. Wyborn heard his canoe had drifted away. But Pala Vavine brought it back. And Mr. Wyborn was very pleased and gave him many presents. This is the end of my story.

We think Pala Vavine was more than 70 years old. But he saved a canoe. Also he was a Church member. Mr. and Mrs. Wyborn and Mr. and Mrs. Rev. Short all liked him so much when he was alive.

This was the same wind that wrecked the *Vaiviri*. Also at the same time Pala Vavine's eldest son was drowned when his canoe was smashed at the Wolverine Passage.

This story was told me by another of his sons, named Pala Palavavine.

[By Kila Launch, c/o. Mr. A. Wyborn, Rigo. This story wins the 5s. prize.]

## COMPETITION

Write an article about White Men's Wars. What do you think of them? Articles must reach the Editor by the 29th February, 1940

### Christmas Games

#### 1.—Shops

All sit in a circle. One child goes into the middle. He points to another child and calls the name of a shop, such as "Draper," "Butcher," and then counts up to ten. The child pointed to must answer with the name of something sold in that shop before ten is reached. If he cannot, he loses a "life." The one with the least lives lost at the end of the game wins. If he answers with a thing that is not sold in that particular shop, he also loses a life. Each article must be named only once.

#### 2.—Tea Tray

This is a Japanese game. It teaches you to notice and remember what you see. A tray is put on the table, full of all sorts of articles, large and small; it doesn't matter what. It is left there for, say, half a minute by the clock, while everyone has a good look at it. Then it is removed, and the company have to write down, each on a separate paper, as many of the objects on the tray as can be remembered. The one who has the longest list receives a prize.

#### 3.—Three Blind Mice

In "Blind Man's Buff" only one person is blind-folded. He has to catch the others. In "Three Blind Mice" it is just the opposite. All have bandaged eyes except one, whom they try to seize. But of course they generally catch each other, so it gets most exciting.

#### 4.—Musical Books

Each player has a book balanced on his head, as he walks round to music. Whenever the music stops he must get down on one knee. Should the book fall, the player goes out of the game, and the last to remain in is the winner. (Use your special drums.)

With joyous Christmas,

Your Xmas Game-mate.

[By O. H. Jeremia, c/o. L.M.S., Katatai, W.D.]



### The Wreck of the "Vaiviri"

It will be remembered that a few years ago there was a brave deed done by two Papuans when the auxiliary ketch *Vaiviri* was wrecked.

When the vessel was sailing for Kerema, Mr. F. J. Berge and his family were travelling with her. When she was nearing Kerema she met with a great disaster. Her steering-chain broke and it became difficult to manage her voyage safely.

This happened at or near the Cupola. At that time the storm was very great and, I am told, was blowing indifferently from each direction. The vessel capsized and sank at short notice. Therefore everyone on board her rushed to and fro and swam toward the shore for their lives.

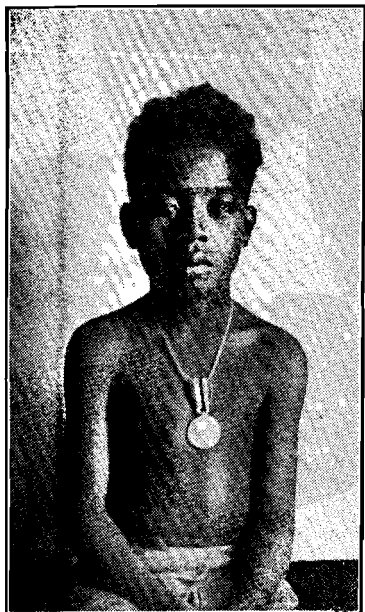
Unfortunately some of them were drowned, including Mr. Berge, his two daughters, and a Papuan ship's engineer and a cook, both of them well known to the writer. Mr. Berge was for a number of years Resident Magistrate for the South-Eastern Division.

But a European, Mrs. Berge, was saved from being drowned by two Papuans, namely Igua Kevau (the captain) and Gari Dai (the seaman). These Papuans did a good turn in saving the life of a European lady. I think without their help she would have been drowned.

Under the circumstances everyone, both in Papua and beyond, showed their goodwill towards the two life-savers by subscribing to a fund for them. Also by other means, either

by Government or the ship's agent (as I am not aware of this I cannot express an opinion) they were recommended for Life-Saving Medals. At the time they were also granted Special Arms Permits. They did a brave deed but once, and they received more than they expected to have.

Unfortunately Igua Kevau, the captain, passed away before his medal was presented to him. But I believe His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor showed it to him before he passed away. It was then presented to his son.



The late Igua Kevau's Medal worn by his son

Fortunately Igua received the other things, and seaman Gari received all his, namely the gun permit and the money raised by the subscribers in the Commonwealth Savings Bank book under his name.

Gari is still alive. He was at one time employed as a seaman on the Government vessel *m.v. Laurabada*.

I hope all Papuans, both those employed on vessels and those travelling on same, will bear this in mind and try to save someone, if possible. The writer is a Papuan, so this also applies to him.

[By Morea, G.S.D., Port Moresby.]

### Namo Lasi

Once upon a time there was a man called Namolasi who owed the Chief a hundred pounds.

One day the Chief of the village went to find Namolasi. He asked Rea where Namolasi was. So Rea called him and told him that the Chief wanted him.

Namolasi went near the Chief, who told him to pay the hundred pounds he owed. "If not you will be in prison, and your wife Mea and the children will work in the gardens and clean the castles."

He told the Chief to wait awhile; he would pay the one hundred pounds. So the Chief gave him another chance.

Then Namolasi went out on the road and met Lohia, who owed him two pounds. He went straight up and took hold of his neck. He said, "You must pay me the two pounds now."

And Lohia said, "I have no money at present. I will not give you any more change."

Namolasi said three times, "You pay me!" But Lohia had none.

Namolasi brought Lohia to the prison and put him in for two months.

But someone told the Chief that Namolasi had put Lohia in gaol for not paying him two pounds. And the Chief said, "I gave Namolasi a chance. Why did he not give poor Lohia a chance? He owed one hundred pounds, and the poor man owed only two pounds."

So the Chief put Namolasi in gaol. After all, Namolasi, his wife Mea and their children were in prison for ever.

Do unto others as you would have them do to you.

[By Mary L. Boga, Saint Michael's School, Hanuabada.]