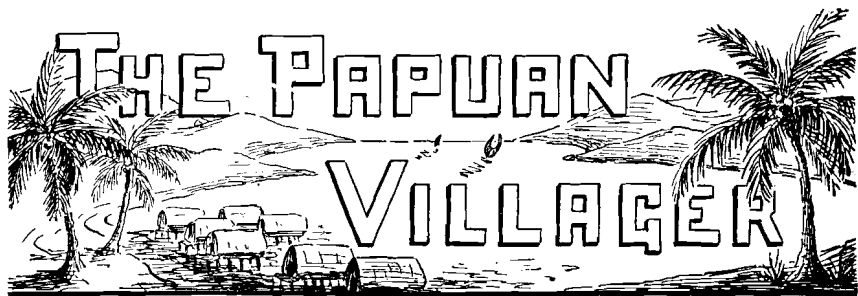


# THE PAPUAN VILLAGER



Vol. 12, No. 11

November, 1940

Edited by F. E. WILLIAMS, Government Anthropologist

Published by the Government Printer, Port Moresby, Papua

Price: Two Pence

1s. per annum in Papua  
2s. per annum, post free  
elsewhere



A Hill Village

GIBSON PHOTO

## Healthy Villages

### The Medical Department

The Government tries to help and look after the Papuans in many ways; and the most important thing of all is to keep them healthy. This is the special work of the Medical Department. Part of the money spent by the Medical Department comes from Native Taxation. So you Papuans are doing something for yourselves. You are helping to pay for your own doctors.

The Medical Department has Doctors and European Medical Assistants, and Native Assistants (the boys who have been trained in Sydney and who now walk about the villages or work in the hospitals). And it has hospitals for natives at Port Moresby, and Samarai, and Misima.

### The Missions

Besides the Government Medical Department the Missions also do a lot of work in native health. They also have their doctors and hospitals in different parts of the territory.

This is what the Europeans are doing to cure the natives of their sicknesses and make them healthy.

### Look After Your Own Village

But while it is a good thing to be cured of sickness, it is far better not to get sick at all. And this is where you must look after yourselves.

If you keep your own village in good condition you will keep the sickness away. (It is like a war. If you make your village a strong place the enemy cannot get into it. Thus the Germans, who are a very bad disease, cannot get into England.)

### Good Houses

The first thing is to have good houses. They should be clean and dry. If the rain comes through your roof your house is not a healthy house. The thing to do is to mend it and make it "waterproof." And your house should have sunlight and fresh air. Do not build a new house too close to an old one, for the sunlight and the fresh air will then be shut out. Disease lies in wait for you in dark, still, "stuffy" places. If you are a good carpenter put one or two windows in the walls of your house, and keep them open during part of each day.

### A Clean Village

And it is very important to keep your village clean. Bury your rubbish or burn it. For rubbish is food for flies, and flies carry disease on their little feet and on the tips of their noses. They fly from the rubbish to your food, just as you are going to put it into your mouth, and then the disease germs go down into your inside and you get sick. This is how people get "dysentery." It is a great killer of men and women.

### Mosquitoes

Another thing we have to think about in Papua is Fever. If you read Mr. Bitmead's articles you will see that malarial fever is carried by the mosquito. He is a worse enemy to us than the fly, so you must keep him out. The mosquito is like an enemy aeroplane. The British keep on smashing the places in Germany where they build aeroplanes. You should smash up the places where the mosquito aeroplanes come from. Fill in the waterholes, keep the drains open, burn the empty coconut shells

where the water lies. If the mosquitoes find no still water near your village they will go elsewhere and bite somebody else.

There are other ways of keeping your village healthy. But these are enough to think about this time.

### The Last of the "Papuan Chief"

Our old friend the *Papuan Chief* is gone. She has been sold to the Japanese. We are not sure what they will do with her—make her into a luxury liner, or use her for "scrap iron," but we know that every Papuan feels that a good old friend has gone.

For 15 years the *Papuan Chief* was the only boat of any size that ran along the coast. She carried stores and mail to all the places along the beach, and the cry of "Sail-oh!" went up a thousand times for her red funnel and black smoke. She was not beautiful but the sight of her made the day brighter and many of us were

sad when we saw her departing for the last time from the Port Moresby wharf. "Good old *Papua Chiefy*," we said as she went sailing out of the harbour.

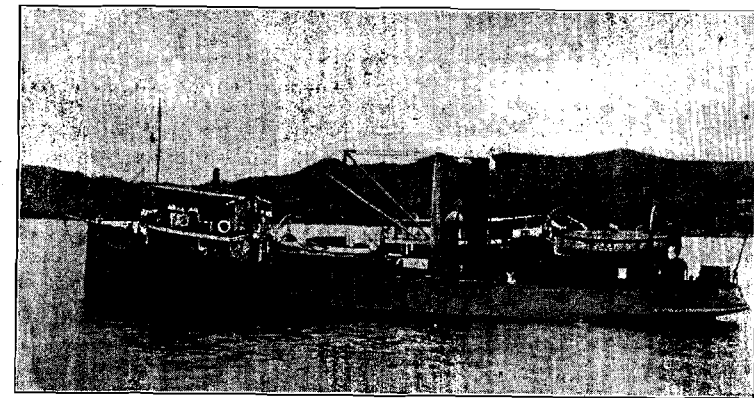
### The Bombing of London

London you know is the capital of England. That means that it is the most important town.

Hitler knows this and he has sent his bomber and fighting planes in hundreds to try and drive the people away and stop all the men and women from working. But the Londoners have decided that they will not be frightened by Hitler's bombs. They have stayed at their posts. Some of them have not even gone down to the underground shelters when the planes come overhead. They just turn over and snore!

### A Crippled-Children's Hospital

One story I have heard is about how the children have laughed at Hitler's idea about frightening them.



The "Papuan Chief"

There was a hospital for crippled children (that means they had twisted legs and arms and could not walk properly) in England. This hospital was near the French Coast and the bombers came overhead and bombed the hospital. All hospitals have big red crosses on their roofs, but the German pilots have taken no notice of these signs, so this hospital was bombed.

These little children could not run to safety because they were crippled. Instead of crying or being frightened they sang as they waited to be carried to safety. This singing of the little children is worse for Hitler than the guns that are being fired. For when he torpedoed a ship in the dark night on the wide Atlantic Ocean far from land, then too the children sang. It cannot be a cheering sound to our enemies to know that the children are soldiers as well as the men and women. Those boys and girls are winning the war just as much as the airmen and soldiers and sailors.

—Contributed.

### Feeding Your Pig on Copra

White men are always making tests to try and find out new things.

One test made not long ago was the feeding of a pig on copra. The pig was not given any other food at all, but just the copra meat. Then one day he was killed. Half of him was eaten in Australia and the other half was put on the ice and sent from Australia to New Zealand. He was very good to eat.

If you can't sell copra in Papua you can always feed your pig on it.

### Our New Ally

We now have a new Ally, that is another country fighting on our side. Italy has attacked Greece, and Greece has fought back. This shows that the Greeks are a brave people, for Italy is a much bigger country and she has a much bigger army.

Britain is helping Greece with her Air Force and her Fleet. The battle has only begun, but so far the Greeks have been punishing the Italians. Our Air Force has bombed their warships and cruisers in their harbours. They would not come out to fight, so they were bombed and sunk in the harbour where they were hiding.

Long ago the Greeks were one of the finest peoples that the world has ever seen. They are living up to their name now. They have decided to fight for freedom and be on our side.

### More About Mosquitoes

#### Eggs

The female *Anopheles* Mosquito lays her eggs on top of the water. These eggs are brownish in colour, and float on the water, which may be fresh or salt, clean or dirty. The water may be a big lake, or it may be a few inches in a coconut husk that has been left lying about. However, the water must be still, for otherwise the mosquito cannot rest on its surface to lay her eggs. For this reason fast streams do not breed mosquitoes.

The eggs hatch in about 16 hours after being laid, sometimes sooner. The female must have a meal of blood before she can lay her eggs. Hence it is usually the female that is found in our houses. The males live largely on fruit.

### Larvae

Larvae are insects in their first stages after coming out from the eggs. They are like small worms. When the time comes the mosquito larvae work their way out of the eggs through the lower side, and then begin their lives as "wrigglers." They often come to the top of the water to breathe. When disturbed the wrigglers dart to the bottom of the water to hide under some object. This stage of the mosquito lasts from ten to twelve days. We may add that at this stage the mosquito larvae run the risk of being eaten by the dragon-fly larvae. (Later on the fully-grown mosquito runs the risk of being eaten by the real dragon-fly. So remember not to kill any dragon-flies when you see them, because they too fight against the mosquito pest.)

### Pupae

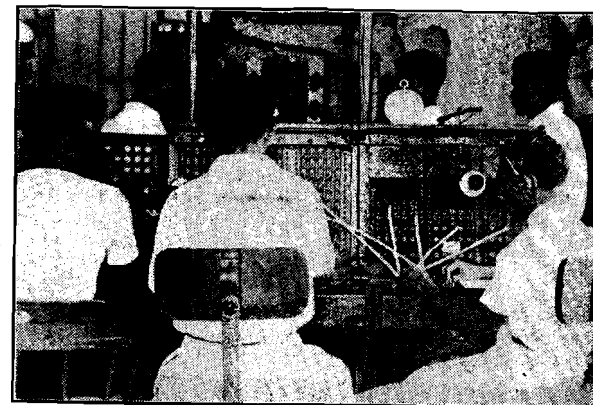
When the wriggling stage is ended the larva becomes a pupa. This is a resting stage. The word "pupa" means an insect enclosed in a case while it is growing its wings. The

pupa is lighter than water, so it lies easily on the surface. During this stage of two or three days the pupa does not eat. When the adult mosquito is ready to come out the skin of the case splits open and the mosquito slowly escapes. It may take several minutes for the mosquito to get out of the old skin and for its wings to dry and harden. During this time the mosquito stands on the floating pupa skin, as if it were a tiny canoe. If the water is rough the canoe is upset and the mosquito is drowned. This is another reason why mosquitoes do not breed in running water.

We do not know how long the adult mosquito lives, but we know that in confinement they soon die. How far the mosquito can fly is another difficult question. They can surely go a mile or two, if helped by the wind. Because they are such delicate creatures they rarely try to fly in a strong breeze.

### An Experiment in School Hours

Look for a pool of water and if there are any wrigglers and eggs in it take



Telephone Boys at the Old Switch, Port Moresby  
(There is now a new switch, much bigger) GIBSON PHOTO

some of the water (with the wrigglers and eggs in it) and make this little experiment.

Put the water in a bowl and over this bowl put a covering of gauze or fine mosquito-netting. You can now see what happens to the mosquito. The eggs will change into larvæ, the larvæ will change into the pupa stage and last of all you will see the full-grown mosquito trying to escape through the gauze covering. I can tell you this is an interesting experiment.

Some time ago another man and I went looking for breeding places of mosquitoes round Port Moresby. A little way past Hanuabada we came across some pools of water with thousands of wrigglers and pupæ in them. We collected some of these in bottles and took them back to the Native Hospital. Here we watched the changes taking place. You can do this too and I am sure your teacher will be only too pleased to help you.

—H. F. BITMEAD.



## Native Contributions

### Competition

#### Healthy Villages

By a healthy people we mean a village with clean and strong people.

In order to be healthy the people need to be very clean and to wash themselves often. Because when the dirt shuts the pores of the skin the perspiration cannot come out, and then we become sick.

If the people want to continue to have good health they must also keep their clothes clean and wash them when they are dirty—that is if they wear clothes.

But these things alone will not enable them to be really healthy. The villagers need a variety of good foods such as taro, sweet pota-

toes, manioc, sugar-cane, rice, and so on. If we always eat the same kind of food we soon get sick of it.

Our bodies also need another kind of food which is called meat—the flesh of animals. We also need salt if we do not live near the coast.

#### The Care of the Sick

Another important thing in helping to keep people healthy is the care of the sick. In the villages near Port Moresby sick people are taken to the Native Hospital, and in some villages the Missions have built a hospital especially to look after their people.

Native Medical Assistants also visit the villages and give medicines to those who need them, but mostly the sick are cared for by their own friends and in their own village.

These village people should try to be clean; they should wash every day and burn any dirty rags which may be covered with germs. Or if it is a bad coughing sickness, the sick person should keep a special tin near him to spit into and not on the ground. They should be careful about this so as not to spread the germs.

#### Houses

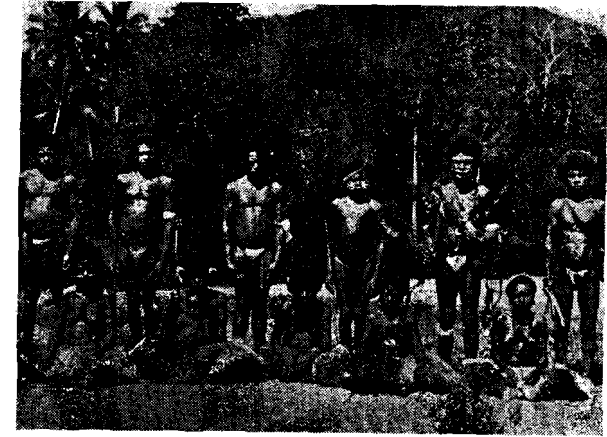
The people ought to take great interest in the building of their homes. If the people are healthy they will be able to build strong houses. If a house is old the village policeman should take the responsibility of making the man take away his old house and build a new one. The people should also sweep their houses every morning.

#### Cleanliness of the Village

Another thing for villagers to do to be healthy is to take the trouble to clean their village every morning and let the grass grow in the village. The bare ground is not good because when the wind blows through the village it blows dust and dirt on their food.

But when the grass is allowed to grow, the people must keep this cut short. Then they should gather the rubbish lying round and throw it far away. The people should also fill the waterholes which will be made by pigs, because water will lie in these and breed mosquitoes. We all know a mosquito brings the germ of malarial fever.

I have written about the most important things I know of that make our villages healthy. Readers of our paper *The Papuan Villager*



Men and Women from Somewhere in the Eastern Division

will be proud of and interested in our villages and they should do all they can to become a clean, happy and healthy people.

[By Charlie Maimo, Catholic Mission, Bomana. This wins the 5s. prize in the Competition.]



## Cleanliness

To be healthy we must first be clean. We must have—

- Clean Bodies,
- Clean Houses,
- Clean Villages.

#### Clean Bodies—

Before I come to school I go to the creek or I swim in the sea. My body needs food to eat and water to drink and sleep at night. Good pure blood keeps me strong. I also need plenty of fresh air. Work is good for my body and football and cricket too.

#### Clean Houses—

My mother keeps my house clean. She sweeps it and makes a fire to keep mosquitoes and flies away. Flies are very bad insects. Flies carry germs from one person to another and make people sick. This is why we come to the hospital when we have a sore on our bodies. We have it covered with a clean dressing and a handage.

#### Clean Villages—

The village women sweep the village clean. My father cut down some of the trees to let the good sunshine into our village. My mother burns the rubbish or throws it into the bush.

We must not have sick or dirty animals in the village.

If Papuan people knew more about hygiene or cleanliness they would be more healthy.

[By Beokolana, Anglican Mission, Sefoa, Cape Nelson, N.E.D.]

(In writing to the Editor Beokolana says, "I am a schoolboy at Sefoa. I am 14 years old. I passed the Government Examination, Standard IV, this year. I like to read *The Papuan Villager* very much.")



## A Drowning Accident at Orokolo

Dear Editor,

An Orokolo native, Miae Malahu by name, asked a little while ago why the British and Germans were fighting. The Resident Magistrate, Gulf Division, explained this to him in the meantime, but the boy met his death soon afterwards.

The occasion was this. He was one of a crew which was taking out the L.M.S. whaleboat—18 ft. long—at Orokolo. They took the whaleboat through the surf to meet the *Lakatoi*. A huge treacherous sea sent the

bow of the whaleboat right up in the air, so that for a moment it stood right on end and then toppled over backwards and capsized. Everyone on board was beneath it. That is everyone except the poor boy Miae Malahu who had sprung overboard as the boat stood up. It is thought he was struck by the boat as it hit the water wrong side up. His body was found afterwards.

The Rev. S. H. Dewdney of Orokolo was on board and also a prisoner beneath the boat. He would have been drowned if a boy named Kavara of Vailala had not dived for him and brought him to the surface. This made Mr. Dewdney ill for some time afterwards.

The crew turned the whaleboat right side up in the surf and pulled out to the *Lakatot*. This was brave and hardy of them.

[By Dago Morea, native clerk, Kerema.]

(Mr. Vivian's answer to Miae Malahu's question appears in the September issue, p. 68.—Ed.)

### A Shark Bites a Man

One Friday night a man went with his little brother to find fish. He took his spear and fish-line too. The little brother carried the paddle and they went down the bank of the river.

Then his little brother said, "Where is our canoe? You stop here and I will seek our canoe." He found it. After that the man fished in the creek near Kerema Station. He put a small fish on his line and threw it out into the water. A big shark came to eat the little fish (the bait). The shark began to eat and then pulled away. But the man pulled the line and drew the shark near the canoe.

He looked and saw the fish. He said to his brother, "Give me my spear." He gave it to him. Then he threw the spear and caught the shark.

The shark was not afraid. That man jumped down into the water and the shark bit his hand with his mouth.

"Ah my brother, this shark annoys my hand," he said.

The little brother said, "I will take the axe and chop off the shark's head."

"No, I can pull it out myself," said the big brother. When he pulled, the skin was left in the shark's mouth.

That man's name was Laurabada. Saturday morning they came to Kerema to our Native Hospital. His relations went back to their village.

End of my story.

[By Karava Marase, carpenter at Kerema.]

### "P. V." War Fund

#### Subscriptions this month

	£	s.	d.
Previous amount	...	5	17 6
Toloa Enosa, Aird Hill	...	0	10 0
Araha Lanama, Kwato (2nd gift)	0	1	0
Tuamingi Auvita, Iokea (4th gift)	0	2	0
Pipi Auvita, Iokea (4th gift)	...	0	1 0
Meara Laho, Iokea (4th gift)	...	0	1 0
Toru Laho, Iokea (4th gift)	...	0	1 0
Kake Laho, Iokea (4th gift)	...	0	1 0
Kake Meara, Iokea (4th gift)	...	0	1 0
Lari Malaifeope, Iokea (3rd gift)	0	1	0
Susuve Kake, Iokea	...	0	1 0
F. E. Williams	...	2	2 0

£8 19 6

### "Papuan Villager" War Gifts

Send your shilling to the Government Printer.

Read your name and address in next month's paper.

Ask your friends to help win the war.

Come and See—

Mr. WYATT'S  
new Hunter Street  
STORE

It is here that the  
Village People  
can Buy Every-  
thing they need

Printed and published for the Department of the Government Secretary by WALTER ALFRED BOCK, Government Printer, Port Moresby.—10157/12.40.