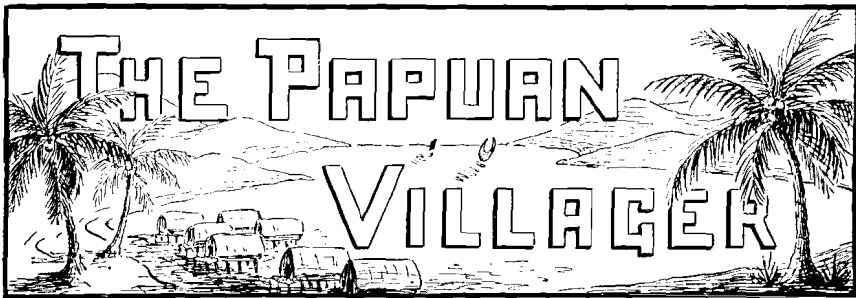


THE PAPUAN VILLAGER



Vol. 7, No. 3]
 March, 1935]

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

Boe Vagi's Uniform

In an earlier number of the *Villager* we told you about hoisting the flag at Port Moresby fifty years ago; about the fifty chiefs who went on board the *Nelson*; and about Boe Vagi the biggest chief of all.

The Silver-topped Stick

We also told you about the black stick with the silver top that Commodore Erskine gave to Boe Vagi.

Now if you went to the house of Motu Nonuka in Hannabada he would perhaps show you that stick; for he is the grandson of Boe Vagi, and the stick now belongs to him.



Motu Nonuka wearing the uniform and holding the stick of his grandfather, Boe Vagi.

Four other sticks just like it were given to big "chiefs" in other parts of Papua (for the Commodore hoisted the flag in a number of different places). The sixth stick he gave to "Tamate," or Chalmers, the famous Papuan Missionary.

The Flag

But Motu Nonuka could show you some other very interesting things. He has an old tattered blue flag with a white square in the corner.

This white square is nearly all torn to pieces. But you can see on it some streaks of paint. It is all that is left of a picture of a Bird of Paradise. For this is the flag that Commodore

Erskine gave to Boe Vagi to fly in front of his house because he was the big "chief."

The Naval Uniform and the Cocked Hat

There are still some other things to see in Motu Nonuka's house. In a brown paper parcel he has a big blue coat with gold buttons and gold tassels on the shoulders. It was the dress coat of a British Naval Officer, and Boe Vagi used to wear it when he walked about the village. We do not know that Commodore Erskine gave it to him; but there is no doubt that he wore it as chief, together with a pair of long blue trousers. And, best of all, he had a naval officer's cocked hat. Motu Nonuka keeps it now in a rusty old tin box.

Boe Vagi had no son, and when he died there was no one to take the place of the big chief. He was buried in his trousers, so that was the end of them. As for his hat and coat, they were looked after by Gabadi Boe, his daughter.

How Boe Vagi's Daughter wore the Uniform

Nobody used to wear them after Boe Vagi was gone—except just once, when Gabadi Boe put them on herself. She had married a man called Nonuka; and Nonuka got into trouble. He had damaged some gardens by lighting a fire, so he was put in jail. Now Gabadi Boe thought it very hard that the husband of the daughter of the big chief should be in jail. What was she to do? She put on the naval officer's coat and the cocked hat, and I suppose she carried the walking stick too; and she went through the village and all the way to the Magistrate's office. Then she walked in and asked that her husband be set free.

The Magistrate must have been astonished. But he must have thought a lot of Gabadi Boe; for, we are told, he let her husband out of jail straight away.

No doubt people laughed to see a Motuan woman wearing a British officer's uniform and hat, but Gabadi Boe didn't care. At any rate she got what she wanted. It was really a rather brave thing to do.

Nobody wears the uniform any longer; but Motu Nonuka was willing to put it on for a photograph. Then he wrapped it up again, this time with a lot of moth balls. We hope it will last another fifty years.



Competition

There will be a prize of 5s. for the best article written by a native about

The Cuscus

We do not want an old-time story about the Cuscus. Write what you yourself know about it; what you have seen it do; where it lives; what it eats; how it looks after its children, and so on

Send your articles to the Editor before the end of March. The winning article will be published in April

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Big Cricket

Cricket in the West Indies

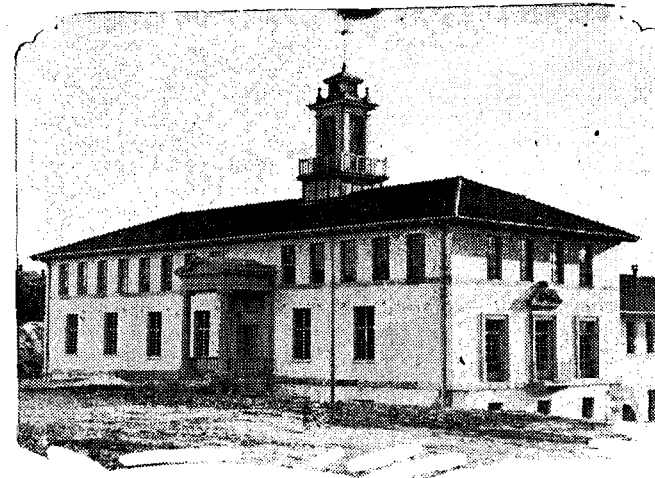
An English team is playing in the West Indies. As you know, the West Indies team is mostly made up of dark men. But they know a lot about cricket, as they showed in

Australia a few years ago. Every cricketer in Australia knows of Constantine.

The first test match in the West Indies was over very quickly. There was rain and a very bad wicket.

West Indies (1st Innings), 102; England (1st Innings), 7 for 81 (declared); West Indies (2nd Innings), 6 for 51 (declared); England (2nd Innings), 6 for 75.

speeches, and said what a great day it was when they began a mail service between Australia and England. Then the Prince handed the mail-bag to the pilot to put in his plane; and when all was ready, he took a pair of golden scissors and cut a ribbon attached to one of the wings. Then the plane was let loose; the propeller started; and off went the letters to England.



The School of Tropical Medicine, Sydney University, where the Papuan Students are working

This sort of scoring sounds like school-boys' cricket. But it must have been great fun to see that match.

The second test resulted in a win for West Indies. The third was a draw.

The Air Mail from Australia to England

One of the things Prince Henry did in Australia was to start the new air mail to England. Two big planes, the *Diana* and the *Hippomenes*, were all ready to start, and the letters for England were done up in a bag. The Prime Minister and the Postmaster-General and the Prince all made

Travelling by boat the mail would reach England in about 5 weeks. By plane it will get there in only one week. So when people posted letters on 10th December in Australia they knew that they would reach England in plenty of time for Christmas. That is why the Prince said that Captain Brain, the pilot, was "kindly doing duty for us as Father Christmas."

Aeroplanes in Papua

The Governor Flies to the Lakekamu

"Guinea Airways" is the name of a big company in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. It is their business to carry people and cargo to

and from the goldfields; and their planes fly across to Port Moresby to meet each boat as it comes from Sydney.

A few weeks ago one of their big planes took the Governor and the Government Secretary and some other people from Port Moresby for a trip. It was a big three-engined Ford airliner. Mr. Denny, the pilot started from the aerodrome at 10 o'clock and took them north-west as far as the "Bulldog" landing on the Lakekamu River; and he came home over the old oil-field at Popo and Yule Island.

When the plane landed again at 12.45 p.m. it had flown about 300 miles.

Lord Sempill in Papua

Lord Sempill, an Englishman, who knows a lot about aeroplanes, has been paying a visit to New Guinea and Papua. He has seen the work of Guinea Airways, and thinks that this company is one of the best of its kind in the world.

He flew across the sea to our island; and when he had finished his work he flew back again. He crossed the sea from Port Moresby to Cairns (500 miles) in 6½ hours, with the wind against him most of the way.

Someday we hope we shall have aeroplanes flying very often between Papua and Australia.

Snake Stories

The Black Snake and the Tiger Snake

In the London Zoo an Australian black snake and a tiger snake were in the same box.

They got on very well until their dinner time came. Then the keeper put in four dead rats, two for each.

The black snake was very hungry. He ate two rats while the tiger snake was eating one. Then he began on the last rat, which really belonged to the tiger snake. But the tiger snake wanted it, so they both took hold and began a tug-of-war, both eating the rat at the same time. Their jaws got nearer. Then the black snake opened his mouth very wide and took in the head of the tiger snake; and then ate him up altogether. So that black snake ate four rats and a tiger snake for his dinner.

Fishing for Snakes

A woman in Australia not long ago caught a black snake with fish and line. She had seen a five-foot snake under her house several times, and she was afraid she might get bitten one day.

So she decided to fish for it. She used a dead frog for bait, with a good big hook inside it. Then she waited. By and by she felt a tug on the line. The snake had swallowed the frog—and the hook. She pulled the line in and the snake was soon killed.

The Memorial at Dobu

In 1891 the first party of missionaries sent by the Methodist Church in Australia to Papua landed at Dobu Island. With them were several Fijian, Tongan, Rotuman and Samoan Missionaries.

Three weeks after that first landing the wife of Nehemiah, a Fijian teacher, fell ill and died. The place for her burial was chosen on the top of a hill near the station overlooking the straits to the West.

Since that time many missionaries have come from the South Sea

Islands, and their work among the people of Papua has been very successful.

In addition to teaching and helping them they have brought to Papua several kinds of food hitherto unknown—sweet potatoes, different kinds of bananas, tapioca, pumpkin and other foods. Mat-making and basket-making have been taught to hundreds of Papuan women by the women of the South Sea Islands; while better methods of house-building and gardening have been taught by the men.



Memorial to South Sea Teachers of Methodist Mission at Dobu
Photograph by courtesy of Miss M. H. Hodge, Dobu

The Papuans owe a great debt to these people. It was therefore fitting that a fine Memorial should be built on the place of the first burial ground at Dobu, a Memorial chiefly to the people of the South Sea Islands, but also to all who had died in Papua.

The Memorial is made of reinforced concrete and was built by a student from Salamo, Makeli Kunuwai. It

was designed by the Reverend M. K. Gilmour.

It stands 10½ feet high. The printing is carved into the monument. On one side are the names, "Samoa Tonga"; on another, "Dimudimu"; on another, "Fiji Rotuma"; and on the fourth, "Papua."

It was fitting that a Papuan should build this Memorial chiefly to the memory of those of whom the late Dr. Bromilow wrote, "I can choose from my staff of South Sea teachers a number of names worthy of a place in the Church's Calendar of Saints."

—M.H., Salamo.

American Visitors

On 11th March, Port Moresby had a visit from the *Franconia*. She is a great big white boat with a red funnel and she looked very fine at anchor in the harbour. All the day launches were going backwards and forwards taking visitors ashore.

As usual there was a dance on the Parade Ground and the natives dressed up in their feathers. This is why visitors like to come to Port Moresby; they can see the native people in their dancing dress.

Strange Ideas about Papua

Some of the visitors do not know much about us in this country. They are sometimes surprised to find that the white people here speak English. I don't know what language they expect us to speak.

Cannibals

Some of them also think that all the natives a few miles away from Port Moresby are cannibals. They believed that the Koiari had just last week eaten two missionaries.

Visitors from these boats often come up to the Museum where the Editor has his office. One man was looking at a dancing mask from the Gulf of Papua and said it was just like Woodrow Wilson, who used to be President of the United States. And it really was rather like him.

Chewing Beetles

One lady was looking at some human jaws from the Fly River. The jaws had very beautiful teeth and she asked if all natives had teeth as good as that. Unfortunately they haven't, and the Editor showed her a betel-mortar from the Trobriands which is used by people who have not got good teeth. As you may know an old man who has lost his teeth sometimes has to crush his betel-nut in a "mortar" before he can chew it. The American lady was very surprised. "What! she said, "Do they really eat live beetles?"

DISTRICT NEWS

(From our own Correspondents)

(BANIARA - Correspondent, M. D. Barton)

New Year's Day on the Government Station

On 31st December, V.Cs. Gaba and Nam came with their people, and they danced all night.

The next day we had sports: tug-of-war, wheelbarrow race, three-legged race, sack race, running race and greasy pole.

The inland people started to climb the greasy pole. They fell off one after another. At last a Pumani man got to the top.

Pumani beat Gana in the tug-of-war, 10 men on each side. The winners got two sticks each.

Six men raced in the sack race and three men won. The first got 3 sticks, the second 2 sticks, and the third 1 stick.

Then the Mukawa and Menapi boys played a football match. The Menapi team were only small boys, about 12 to 20 years old. Mukawa team were big men, about 20 to 30 years old. Mukawa put one goal. But the

Menapi boys were very smart and brave. They played the football match very well.

Well, cheerio! Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to all you readers.

Native Contributions

The Dogura Team at Fife Bay

Dogura brought their team to Isulelei in the first month of this year under the Reverend John Bodger to play Isulelei boys at cricket and football. They first visited Samarai where they played matches with the white men and native boys, and also with Kwato Mission Station. Our launch went to fetch them from Samarai and they got here on 18th January. Next day, Saturday, we had an all day cricket match, which Isulelei won by 60 runs. We played another game on Monday. This too was won by Isulelei by 41 runs. On the day our visitors arrived we had a good game of football; but perhaps because they were tired, the Dogura boys lost this game by 6 goals to 1.

We were very glad to see the Dogura boys come to play matches with us, and we hope by and by to go across to Dogura and have a few games on their ground.

[By S. Lamcka, Native Hospital, Fife Bay.]

Hoisting the Flag at Port Moresby Fifty Years Ago

The Story as Told by Igo Gau

Boe Vagi—Appointed as Chief

Boe Vagi was the chief of Poreporena but he had no uniform and stick. After this the Missionary Dr. Lawes, of Poreporena, sent a message over inviting the chiefs between Hula and Manumann and notifying them that they must all be assembled at Poreporena Village in ample time before the Commodore arrived from South by the warship. This Commodore was sent by Her Majesty the Queen.

Warship in Port Moresby Harbour

After her anchoring, a whaleboat was sent down to shore with a number of soldiers and sailors. They came ashore with uniforms, etc., went up to the Mission Station for the purposes of getting the flag ready for flying. Then the native chiefs from various parts and Chief Boe Vagi, accompanied by Dr. Lawes, went

to the warship by the same whaleboat. All those chiefs were dressed in native-fashion, except Chief Boe Vagi, who wore a shirt and a *siki*.

Boe Vagi and Others Visited Commodore

When Boe Vagi was at the warship the Commodore gave him the uniform and the stick which Her Majesty the Queen sent for him. After this the cannons were fired and the flag at the Mission Station was also flying. The meaning of the cannons which they fired, saluting the Chief Boe Vagi.

The Chief Returned from Ship

The villagers were all amazed when they saw Boe Vagi on his return from the ship; because they had seen him wearing a shirt and a *siki* when he went to the ship, but he came home wearing the uniform, and a stick in his hand.

Crackers, etc., on that Night

In this occasion Dr. Lawes told the villagers that they should not be afraid, but to watch and they can see some amazing things, viz:—flashing lights, crackers, sky-rockets, etc. The light that flashed towards them and the sounds they would hear could do no harm; so they were not to move from their villages. If this had not been told I should say the villagers would have rushed to and fro.

Some Koiari were afraid and ran away as fast as they could, hiding themselves in the bush for good as they heard the sounds of the crackers, and saw the far-distant lights like torches or lamps flashed down from the ship. They thought it might kill them.

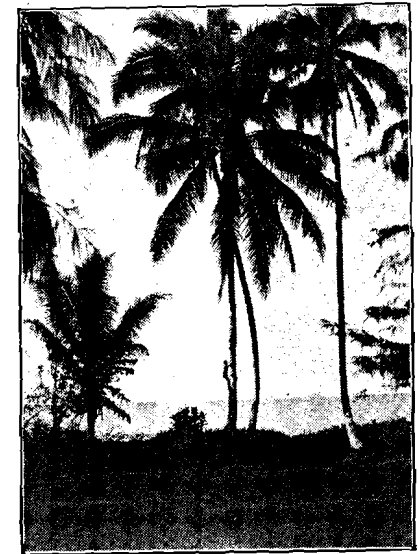
The teller of the story says that he was 14 to 15 years of age when this great thing was done by the Commodore. He does not give the Commodore or the ship's name, but he heard that he (Commodore) is the Commodore from British.

[Told by Igo Gau to Dago Morea, clerk to Government Anthropologist. 2s. 6d. to the teller, and 2s. 6d. to the writer.]

Another Old Man's Memories: Taubada Ova

I remember that a big news was received in Papua from *Hanna korikori*, that is Australia or England, that some warships would be visiting us. I did not know the reason of their coming to Papua, so I went away on

hunting purposes with my fellow-hunters, and we spent a few days in the bush. The warships arrived after a few days while I was absent from the village, and I heard the big cannon fired while I was hunting. That was on the morning when the flag was hoisted up. Myself and the others then returned to the village in the afternoon and saw the flag flown at the front of Boe Vagi's house. On my arrival there was lots of news about the appointment of Boe Vagi as Chief of Poreporena, and also he was given a uniform, walking-stick, and hat, by Gamadoa (i.e.,



Climbing a Coconut Palm, Auma, Gulf Division

Commodore), a big man who sent here for appointing someone as Chief.

Later in the evening I went and saw the flag flying. The flag was ensigned with Bird of Paradise, and some other colours. It was a beautiful flag. Under the flag there was a big crowd gathered who talked amongst themselves about obeying Boe Vagi's order and respecting him when he walked about. I was only a young man in that time.

[Told by Taubada Ova to Igo Gau, clerk, Native Affairs Department.]

Cricket

Samarai v. Poreporena

The third season of cricket and football matches between Port Moresby and Samarai natives was played at Samarai Oval in December. The team was transported by the Government vessel, *Laurabada* and returned by the *Macdhui* after spending three days in Samarai. The game was not much good on account of rain and early returning of *Macdhui*.

Football Match

It was decided to play the cricket on Tuesday afternoon, the 4th, but the rain kept on from early in the morning till afternoon, so the cricket match could not be played on that afternoon. At about 4.30 p.m. football match began and Samarai won an easy victory, 5 goals to nil. Many people both Europeans and natives were present. The game was carried right to the end in good sportsmanship; no harm in the game. The weather was fine on that afternoon.

Next morning the weather still remained fine. The cricket match started at 10 a.m. Port Moresby won the toss and sent in Samarai to bat first. Samarai opened badly. Port bowlers were good on the first chance. Samarai, 5 wickets down for 50 runs. In that minute the Poreporena team looked uncomfortable when they saw a very black cloud covering along the East. Before long the sprinkling rain started. The rain fell bigger and bigger and got all the bowlers in trouble. They could not bowl fast or break, but still carried the game on. At lunch adjournment Samarai were 6 wickets down for 60.

The heavy rain then began. We all went in and waited until at 3.30 it drifted away. The pitch was full of water, and near the stumps it was all soft and slippery. All the water was swept off the pitch, and sand was required by the bowlers to put round. Then we continued the match.

The pair kept up their wickets well but scored slowly. The bowlers were still in trouble. However, Samarai were all out in that afternoon for a total of 216 runs.

Poreporena batted for their first innings. They looked unfit to reach the score. At the call of the time they were 3 wickets down

for 42. Next day the *Macdhui* was alongside the wharf and was to leave for Port at 1 o'clock. The match had to be finished before she left, otherwise it would be a draw. But Samarai showed their top form. They won easily. Port Moresby all out for 98.

Samarai gave their farewell dinner at 12 noon, and then the team left in the *Macdhui*. Poreporena Cricket Club are expecting to call Samarai back sometime in September or October this year.

The results of the Cricket Match hereunder:—

SAMARAI (1st INNINGS).		
Nuaraba, c. Rea, b. Hila Tutuhi	...	14
Banaba, b. Hila Tutuhi	...	0
John Guise, run out	...	40
Jack Agonia, c. Mavara, b. Rima	...	0
Mazepa Bacca, b. Hila Tutuhi	...	3
Reggie Guise, l. b. w., b. Hila Tutuhi	...	1
Roy Namuri, b. Toka Gaudi	...	47
Situ Solomon stp. Mavara, b. Hitolo	...	42
Sikini, c. Mavara, b. Toka Gaudi	...	32
Popoka, b. Hila Tutuhi	...	18
Tom English, not out	...	10
Sundries	...	9
Total...	...	216

Bowling: Rima Rakatani, 1 for 23; Hila Tutuhi, 5 for 36; Hitolo Hekure, 1 for 47; Rea Mea, 0 for 35; Toka Gaudi, 2 for 28; Virobo Tamasi, 0 for 8; Vaburi Gavera, 0 for 32; Lawrence Taunao, 0 for 10.

POREPORENA (1st INNINGS).		
Mea Hila, c. Reggie, b. John Guise...	...	15
Hila Tutuhi, b. John Guise	...	12
Rima Rakatani, c. and b. Sikini	...	3
Rea Mea, c. and b. Sikini	...	21
Toka Gaudi, b. Sikini	...	0
Vaburi Gavera, b. Jack Agonia	...	9
Heagi Gavera, c. Sikini, b. Jack Agonia	...	0
Hitolo Hekure, c. Banaba, b. Sikini	...	4
Mavara Hekure, c. Jack Agonia, b. Roy Namuri	...	2
Virobo Tamasi, c. Sikini, b. Roy Namuri	...	17
Lawrence Taunao, not out	...	1
Sundries	...	14
Total...	...	98

Bowling: Jack Agonia, 2 for 15; John Guise, 2 for 36; Roy Namuri, 2 for 12; Sikini, 4 for 21.

[By Rea Mea, member of the Poreporena team.]

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