BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT

BY

HER MAJESTY'S ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT,

The first official comments on

the Maisin

1890-1900

Women and children at Uiaku

Photographed by Percy J. Money shortly after 1900

The Maisin in the first Annual Reports

When the Europeans colonised New Guinea, and the British set out to 'discover' their claim, this was a slow process. For the north-east coast, this was carried out most of all by Governor William MacGregor, who reported what he found in the Annual Reports. Soon other colonial officers visited this coastline and some also made inland expeditions.

Fifteen years earlier, the first European to sail by, and to name Collingwood Bay, was Captain John Moresby in his ship "The Basilisk". On May 2nd, 1874, they stopped for a night by the group of small islands by Cape Vogel and then they anchored for two days at the head of the bay to get ashore and collect wood. This would have been by Baiawa or Kewansesap. While the ship was anchored, some of the crew travelled a few miles close to the coast in their small steam boat:

> "These Collingwood Bay people gazed at us with such a blank astonishment, and held such consultation about us amongst themselves, that we were persuaded that they, in common with their neighbours on this coast, had never seen white men before. The steam pinnace, whilst surveying at the head of the bay, was chased by a large number of canoes holding thirty or forty men each; but the officer in command did not think it prudent to allow them to come at all near, and may therefore have been mistaken in supposing their intentions to be hostile."
>
> (Capt. John Moresby in New Guinea and the D'Entrecasteaux Islands, 1876)

Moresby named the most important landscape features after a great sea battle in Europe which the British had won, and in which his father had taken part. This was called the Battle of Trafalgar, and it was led by Admiral Nelson in his big ship 'Victory'. The second in command at Trafalgar was Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood, so this is how the bay got its name.

The excerpts from the Annual Reports on the following pages will show that between 1890 and 1900 there were only a few government visits, and many of these were very short. They also show that MacGregor and his staff called all the Collingwood Bay groups from Airara to Wanigela Maisin, so it took some time before they realised the complexity and mix of groups in the area. MacGregor's belief that the Maisin had taken part in a serious raid on the Lower Musa in 1895 also show how misconceptions and misunderstandings were common.

After 1895, when gold had been found on the Mambare, the arrival of miners in the Binandere and Orokaiva districts led to many serious clashes with deaths on both sides. Government activity was then concentrated on this part of the northern coast, and Collingwood Bay and Cape Nelson was mostly by-passed for some years. The establishment of the Anglican Mission at Wanigela, and finally the opening of Cape Nelson Station changed this, and a new era of contact began.

The written documents of the Government, as well as those of the Mission, are valuable supplements to the local history of Collingwood Bay and the Maisin. It must be remembered that these were observations from a European perspective, by men who were mostly ignorant of local traditions and relations. It is also important to recognise that the government officers and the missionaries had very different agendas, which can be seen very clearly in how they reported on the people they met.

These excerpts from reports have been put together by Jan Hasselberg, 2017

July 27th 1890 – Governor MacGregor along with Reverend Albert Maclaren on the 'Merrie England"

The first mention of the Maisin is when they visited the Mukawa area of Cape Vogel.

(Annual Report of 1890-1891, p. 11-14)

5. Soon after we anchored near the little island of Kairaga a whaleboat with three natives of Killerton came out to us from a small fishing station on the beach, tenanted by some men employed there in the trepang fishery by a Samarai trader. The principal person, a Europeanised Polynesian, we did not see as he had gone to Morata to purchase food. This industry, however, will not be of much permanent importance, as it will soon be exhausted. We saw a band of from sixty to seventy men collecting the slug on one reef. Two or three small native canoes came alongside the steamer, but the natives were at first very shy. We induced some of them, however, to accompany us to the several villages round the bay. The first village visited was called by the natives Ataiyo. It, like the others, is built on the beach, and on an old site, with cocoanut, mango, and other trees growing between the houses. When we landed the people did not run away, but spears were put in convenient places, at the doors and on the verandahs of houses, while a considerable number of men carried iron-headed adzes on their shoulders. Women kept a little in the background, but did not leave the village. Unfortunately it was a very difficult matter to hold oral communication with them, as they understood only a few words here and there of the Awaiama dialect, the most northerly one of which we had any knowledge; and the Killerton boys fishing there had not learned the local tongue. The chief, who gave me his name as Noe, but who it appears is also known as Paisa, did not appear at first, but he soon came up to us when they were made to understand that he was to receive a new shirt as a present. From that time he and all his people were unrestrainedly friendly. They brought us some cocoanuts; they are beginning to learn the use of tobacco, but at that time they were not very desirous of obtaining it. In this village there are thirty or forty houses. They are built on piles, not over water, are small, oblong, with side walls about three feet high, but the space between the floor of the house and the ground is generally closed in roughly with cocoanut leaves. The roofs are so low that few of them can be dry. From this point along the whole of the north-east coast the houses are of the same kind—that is to say, comparatively inferior, but that may be due to the want of iron tools. The space between the houses is always kept clean. They cook in wide-mouthed clay pots profusely ornamented. They plant chiefly, as far as was seen, bananas and sweet potatoes. No breadfruit-trees were noticed. The small villages of Inageto and Ogerema were also called at, but they have no great importance in the community. At the village of Ginada, about ten houses, the people received us kindly. A man named Iteriga was put forward as chief. They were very quiet people but not sullen, and none carried arms. There are a considerable number of cocoanut-trees at intervals from this village to Kibirisi Point. After visiting the village of Kitora, which is about the same size as that of Ginada, we walked along the beach to the most important community in or near the bay, who occupy two contiguous villages, Tarapui and Yarogu; the common name is Kápikápi. There are about thirty houses. The chief is Ipóte or Ipoteto, and is by far the most important man in this district. We saw him at the village of Ataiyo, and he was informed that a visit would be paid to Kápikápi, but he evidently did not expect that we should be able to reach it so soon as we did, and, consequently, he was not there to receive us. His people were very friendly, not carrying arms nor sending away their women or children. Opposite Kápikápi there is a small island, a few acres in area, of coral formation, covered by trees, which is also subject to Ipóte, and is called by the natives Ikara, or Ipoteto Ikara. We found there about sixty to eighty natives—men, women, and children. There are there two masses of coral rock about fifty to eighty feet high, with perpendicular or overhanging sides, and a more or less flat top. On each of these are built about a dozen small but dry houses, which appear to serve as a refuge for the whole tribe in times of necessity. They ascend to them by wooden ladders which can be pulled up. A stock of spears is stowed away among the houses. It seems that the whole of the people visited here are one tribe or confederation of septs, and that hostile incursions are made on them from Morata on the one hand, and from Collingwood Bay on the other, by a people which the Kápikápi men call Maisina, and of whom they are greatly afraid. The son of Ipóte was at Ikara Island, and he received a present for his father. Having established friendly terms with these people, we went along the coast by boat as far as the village of Mukawa, which is built near the sea in a grove of cocoanuts, about a mile and a-half beyond Kibirisi Point. This village is also, as far as could be judged then, subject to Ipóte. It contains about a score of inferior houses, the occupants of which were timid but friendly. They seem to be very poor; in fact, all the people seen in this district wore very few ornaments, and seemed to possess but little of the usual native property. These expressed themselves as greatly fearing the Maisina tribe. The whole community appears to require protection, although they are by no means few in numbers.

6. From Cape Kibirisi to a mile or two past Mukawa there are a number of grass-covered plateaux, separated by narrow, deep gullies, and coming right down to the sea. These do not present rocky cliffs towards the sea, although they are very steep, and rise very suddenly to about 100 feet. The Rev. A. Maclaren proposes to establish a mission station on one of these in the vicinity of Mukawa. There are several small villages on the beach, and some on the higher ground beyond Mukawa. This place would seem to be in every way a very suitable site for a mission station. These people are now, as shown above, being brought into contact with Europeans for the first time. It is not probable that they will at any time cause serious trouble of any kind. They are poor, and require support against their neighbours, and will, on this account, be all the more prepared to welcome a mission station and Europeans among them.

7. After leaving the Mukawa district, we found that the coast was uninhabited as far as opposite the Sydney Islands. The low hilly undulating coral formation is continued, at least twenty miles broad, between the sea and the great mountain range; but the hills become higher and more rocky until they reach an altitude of 800 to 1,000 feet opposite the Sydney Islands. These latter are only a few acres in extent each, of coral a few feet above sea-level, covered by trees and are uninhabited. The coast line there, and for the next half score of miles, appears to be formed mainly by a succession of coral and mangrove-covered islands, separated from each other by narrow sinuous channels. On one of these, on what will probably be found on survey to be a fine little harbour, I visited a trepang fishing station, quite recently opened, and the most northerly on the coast. There were four small boats then engaged in this work, the largest one in charge of a European. On this island, and on all the others as far as I could see, there is no permanent native occupation. The amount of trepang obtained was not great. A tribe of natives live inland several miles from the sea, quiet, inoffensive people, who bring sweet potatoes and bananas for sale. Anchorage for large vessels seemed to be obtainable at many places along the coast here. The low, hilly country is occupied here and there, as indicated by cleared ground; and plantations were visible on the distant spurs of the great main range of mountains. At the spot marked on the Admiralty chart as Fir-tree Point, the steamer was watered, anchored about two or three hundred yards from a creek, at the mouth of which good fresh water was procured. About ten miles beyond this an opening in the mangrove forest on the coast seemed to point to the presence there of a river of considerable size, but it was found on examination to be a salt-water lagoon, the entrance to which probably contains too many coral reefs for it to be useful as a harbour even for small craft. Two large native canoes were seen at the head of this lagoon, but the occupants fled to the forest on catching a glimpse of us. A small present was put in the nearest canoe, which a native came and took possession of before we had left the lagoon. About two miles beyond it the steamer anchored in Phillips Harbour, which has apparently much to recommend it as an anchorage. It was so named in honour of the chief engineer of the "Merrie England."

8. From Phillips Harbour the head of Collingwood Bay was examined. On the evening of the 29th we went in the whaleboat to a spot at the head of the bay whence smoke was seen to arise near some very tall trees, and which had the appearance of being a village site. As we got up near this place a large number of natives were seen on the beach running about among the houses and cocoanuts in a state of great excitement. No women or children were visible, but the men did not appear to be armed, and some of them came to the water's edge and made signals to us to land, several of them wading into the water to meet us, while others walked up cocoanut trees and began to throw down nuts, evidently meant for us. As we landed one man came forward holding in his right hand by the hind legs a large yellow and white full-grown dingo. In a moment he swung it round his head and dashed it on the ground two or three times. The first blow seemed to break its neck. It was then laid down flat on the ground in front of us, and the great majority of the sixty or eighty men present retired back from the beach among the houses and trees behind. The man that took the lead in inviting us ashore received a piece of red cloth and a plane iron; but it was not without some difficulty that he was induced to come near enough a white man to take hold of these things. They wished that we should exchange presents by laying them on the ground, so that we and they should not come into immediate contact. We succeeded, however, in inducing perhaps about half-a-score of them to approach and shake hands. Our visit was only a short one, as night was near, and they expressed satisfaction at the intimation that we would return next day.

9. On the 30th an inspection of the coast was begun at Phillips Harbour by boat, which was continued some miles beyond Keppel Point. Besides a coloured boat's crew there was with me the Rev. A. Maclaren. The first village visited was a small one of seven or eight houses, only about 300 yards from our anchorage. The occupants were shy and avoided our people the previous evening, but some presents were left for them, and this morning they were joined by some natives from the villages on the other side of the bay, who doubtless informed them of our harmless intercourse with the people there. Some thirty or forty men met us as we landed, not carrying arms, but their spears were hid in the grass near. Besides these they use the stone club, to which they attach such very great value that they could not be induced so sell a single specimen ; and for defensive purposes they employ a wooden shield covered by plaited cane, and shaped like a small gothic window, about two and a-half feet long and a foot broad at the lower end. Their women and children were not then in the village, but they were brought back during the day, and some of the men went on board the steamer in the afternoon. Although they were at first very timid, they were friendly when they saw that no harm was intended them. With this, and with the other villages in the head of Collingwood Bay, which collectively constitute the "Maisina" tribe of the Kapi Kapi people, we had but scant success in holding oral communication, as this language did not appear to have much in common with the dialects of Murua and Awaiama. It was therefore plain that the utmost that could be done during this visit would be to convince the natives that we were friendly towards them, and to draw them into communication and show them that Europeans could supply them with articles useful in everyday life. A number of natives passed round by the beach and reached the second village almost as soon as we did. The male inhabitants came unarmed to meet us as we approached the beach in front of their village, and invited us to land ; but they were unwilling that we should enter the village, which was hidden from view from the water by a thick intervening belt of trees. About thirty men were present, but neither women nor children. One man was induced to come with me into the village, and as we entered it we saw several men carrying away bundles of spears from the houses, which they deposited in the scrub not far away. In the village were some pigs and quantities of taro and sugar-cane. The form of salutation known to these people seems to be to touch the nose and the navel. They have a few cocoanut trees in the village, and they brought us some nuts. The chief, whose name is Ainao, a man of about 55, blind of an eye, was very friendly, and so were all his people. They eat the betel-nut, but they possess none of the dexterity in carving limespoons, &c., so conspicuous in the Trobriand group. They do not tattoo, but suffer from *Tinea desquamans*. They seem to cut off the eyebrows instead of pulling them out, and many wear beards. No case of leprosy was noticed, but there were traces of elephantiasis. Many of them wear the hair in long matted ringlets. All wear a sihi of native cloth, apparently made from the bark of the bread-fruit tree, tied round the loins and passed between the legs. They wear armlets plaited from small ferns, and narrow shell rings with earrings of turtle or cocoanut shell, and strings of white cowries, large and small. The village consisted of a number of separate houses for family use, apparently each large enough for only one ; but there is a large club-house for the accommodation of the males of the community. The houses are very inferior. The large club-house is only a roofed shed, with a sleeping platform six or eight feet high, running from end to end of the building. A peculiarity of the houses here, which was observed in general use on this coast as far as the boundary, is that on one side there is a veranda formed by carrying the roof of the house down in the same plane until it is about three feet from the ground. A platform is built under this, on which the occupants seat themselves, and lay past temporarily such things as fishing-nets, spears, and the wide-mouthed clay-pots in which they cook. Their spears are made of palm-wood, and they seem to have no ebony.

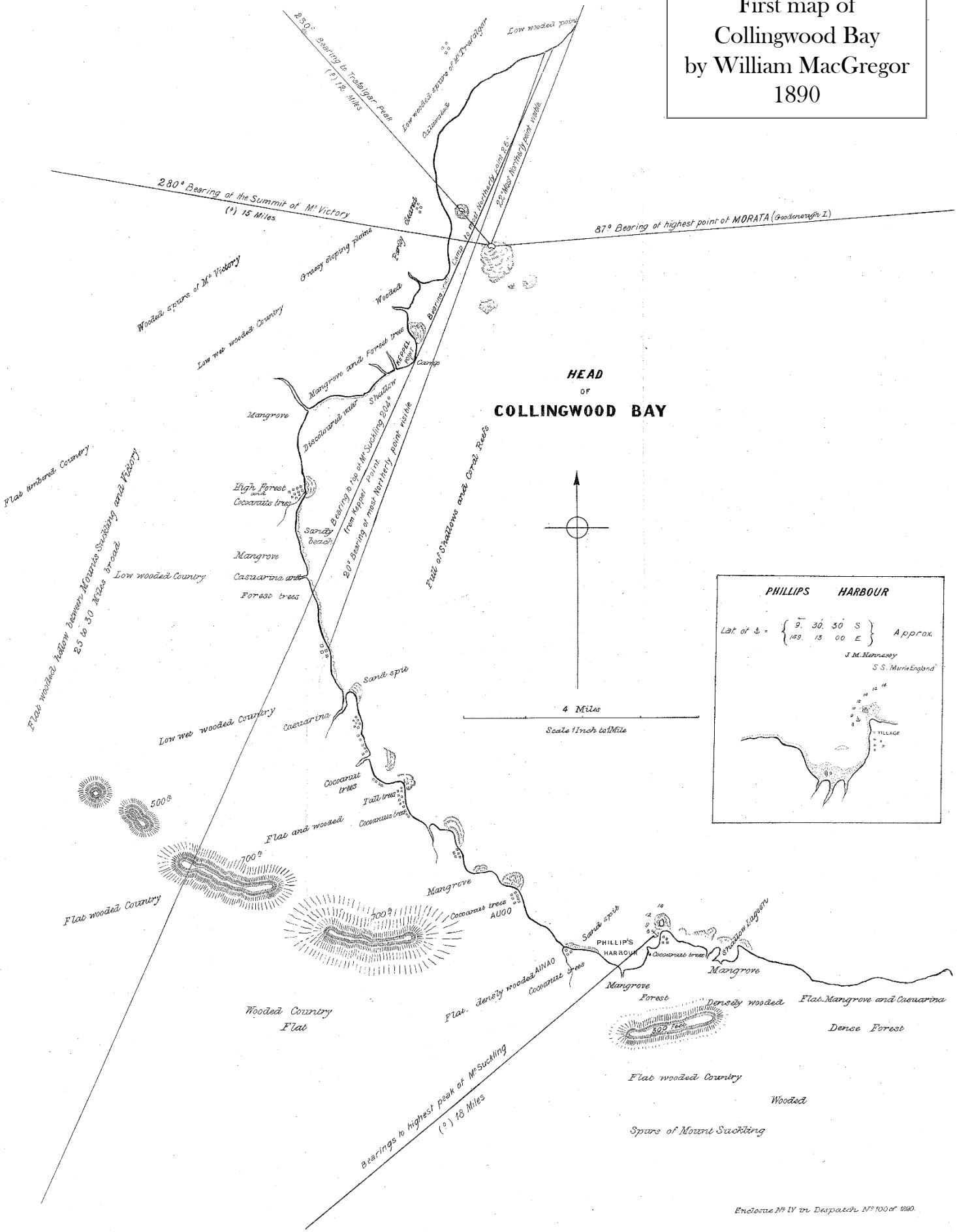
10. The next village visited appears to be called Augo. Some of our former friends got there before us, and we were received in a very kind manner. The chief kept out of sight at first, but soon appeared, and was very friendly. They did not carry arms. The thoughtless lighting of a match dispersed the whole assembly in such a state of consternation that they ran against each other, and several were knocked over; one ran on to a house-post with such blind force that he fell sprawling on the ground. But after a few minutes they were nearly all got back, and one native purchased a box of matches as soon as he understood what they were. We were well received at the large village we visited the previous evening. The chief and several of his people waded out to meet us, and no arms were visible. This community occupies a group of small collections of houses, probably about forty altogether, extending for half-a-mile along the coast. The tall old cocoanut and other great trees about furnish evidence that this is not a modern village site. There must have been more than a hundred able-bodied men present. Though friendly and unarmed they were very shy, and it was not possible to detain any given man near us more than a few minutes. They resembled the people met with in the smaller villages in everything save that they possessed a great many more ornaments and had about half-a-score of large canoes. These were all drawn up high and dry on the beach. They are made of a single tree, about thirty-five to forty feet long, about two and a-half feet in width, and sharp at each end. They are provided with a very small outrigger, which is at an unusually great distance from the canoe: and on the cross sticks joining the canoe to the outrigger there is a platform about twelve feet square. No women or children were seen. The men were greatly afraid, and fled precipitately on seeing a looking-glass, but their confidence was soon restored. They did not understand the use of iron, and had no wish to obtain any; but some was left with them and they were shown how to employ it. Of tobacco they were, of course, quite ignorant, and we found that the pieces of bamboo they carried were used exclusively as nose flutes, and not as pipes. A large number of them ran away when a pocket compass was used to take some angles, but they finally ventured to examine it. We parted on very friendly terms, after they had made what appeared to be earnest inquiry as to whether we had come down from the clouds.

11. The next village visited is a large one on a new site near the sea, about a mile further up the coast. The occupants were as friendly and less boisterous than the stronger community that are their neighbours on the south side. The village consists of about a score of houses only a few months old, on a level sandy site, surrounded by casuarina trees. The chief, Dibiki, a quiet respectable looking man of about fifty, and his son received us very kindly. They are well provided with canoes, and can turn out at least forty or fifty fighting men. The reason for their building a village on an entirely new site we could not discover. At this place I was not presented with a dog, but with a bundle of taro plants instead. They seemed to be poor in property and ornaments, and are probably refugees. From near this village a large native settlement could be seen near the bight of the bay, some four or five miles distant, and our course was directed thither. But a violent squall meeting us caused a landing to be made at a native house near the beach, rather less than half way to the northern village. On approaching this house, which was one of the usual type, built on very slender posts and with a veranda on the weather side, some noise was made to attract the attention of the inmates. A young man promptly appeared at the door of the house and began to shout out "Wele, wele." It was evident that our approach in the heavy wind and rain had been unnoticed, and the state of alarm of the inmates was extremely great when they looked down and saw a white face looking up at them. The young man who first appeared seemed to be the owner of the house, and his weapons were on the platform on the veranda, quite beyond his reach. After some hesitation he descended the ladder that lead up to the house, and although in a frightful state of alarm, was induced to accept a piece of scarlet cloth and some other trifle. There followed him a boy of about twelve, then a woman carrying a young child astride on her thigh, and clothed in a short petticoat of native cloth, descended, and in spite of every endeavour to get them to remain, all ran away in the rain to some houses at a little distance from us. They alarmed the inmates there, and all fled to the bush. In a short time, however, some of them appeared again at a little distance, no doubt greatly influenced by the small present given to the first man; and after some trouble friendly relations were established with the whole tribe, forty or fifty of which visited us. Of iron and tobacco they were entirely ignorant. Here, for the first time in the Possession we found people using stone adzes of a stone resembling jade in colour. Whether it is real nephrite or not cannot at present be said, but samples have been submitted to Mr. Jack for examination. This mineral takes a very keen edge, and is so tough that the thin edge does not chip or splinter. They would not exchange these jade adzes for steel. They seemed to be the only kind of adze used in the head of Collingwood Bay, and in the lower half of Holmcote Bay, when they begin to be mixed with adzes of basalt.

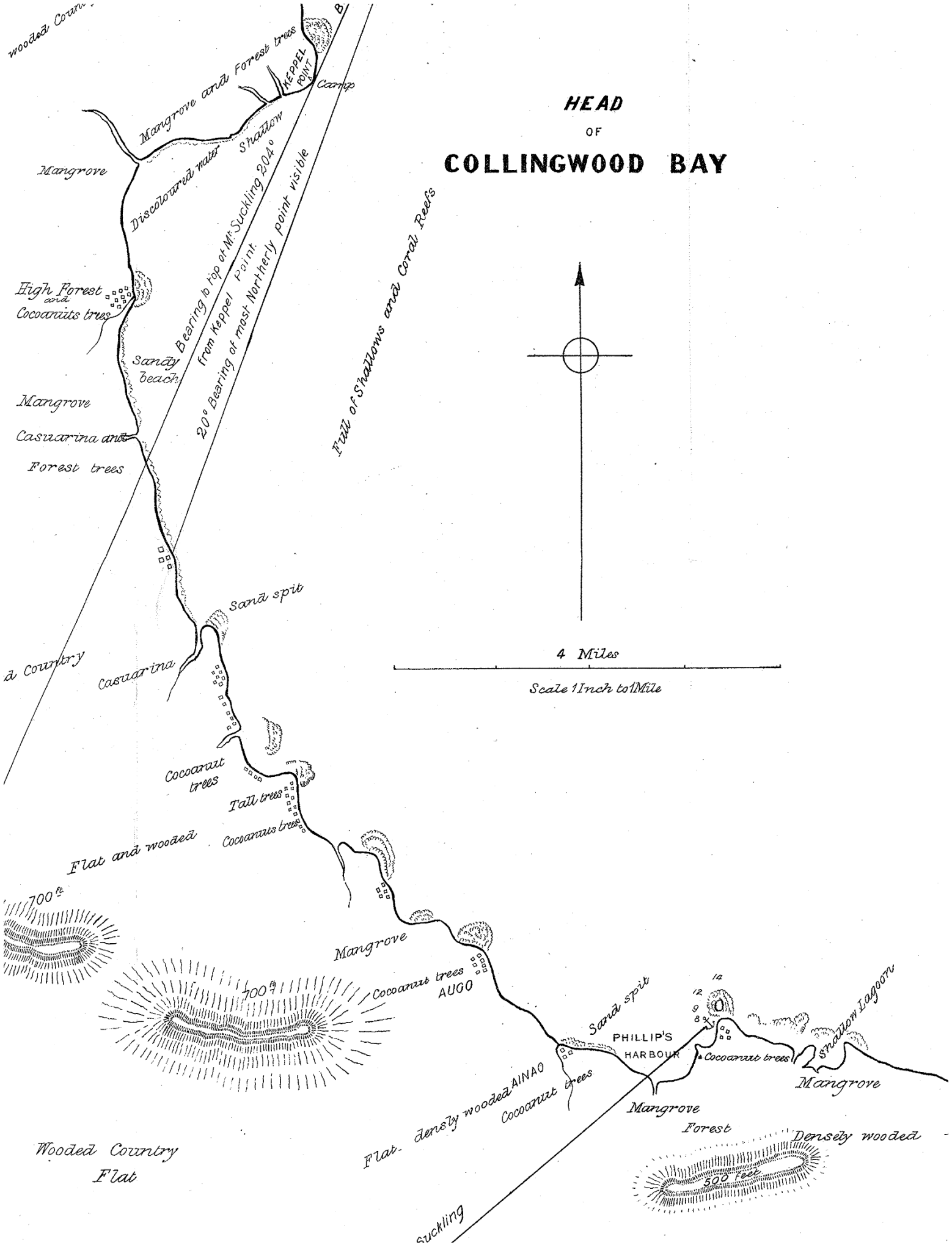
12. The large village in the bight of the bay was reached about 3 p.m. The inhabitants were of their own accord coming to meet us unarmed, but a native came all the way along the beach from the village last visited, and reaching the spot almost at the same time as we did, introduced us to this people. This is the largest single village on the bay, containing probably 400 or 500 people. The site is evidently a very old one, and contains many cocoanut and other cultivated trees. The houses are arranged in small groups, which are at some distance from each other. They seemed to desire that we should spend the night there. Like their neighbours they did not know the use of iron or of tobacco, but they willingly exchanged their jade-stone adzes for a few small beads. A few women were seen, clad in short petticoats of native cloth. Here I was closely interrogated as to whether I had descended from the clouds. One man had a few small red beads in his nose, probably procured in the course of trade from those that had come into contact with the men fishing at the Sydney Islands. These people were wealthy in ornaments of the ordinary kind, headdresses of shells and feathers, earrings of shells and turtleshell, armlets of cocoanuts, strings of dogs' teeth and of small white cowrie shells. They do not tattoo, but wear a sihi of coloured native cloth. They bury their dead in the village, and plant about the graves different kinds of dracænas and crotons. The houses are similar to those already described. Probably nearly 100 men escorted us to the beach in a very friendly manner, but all were suddenly dispersed through one of our party proceeding to light his pipe with a match. As we were leaving a dog was produced, to be killed for presentation to us, but we were able to prevent this and to save the dog's life. Some pieces of hoop-iron were given to them, but what they desired was small beads. The chief, who is a very intelligent man, treated us in the kindest manner. Unfortunately we could hold but little communication with them, save by signs. He pointed northward along the coast, and intimated that when we met people there we should touch the nose and navel. This was understood at the time to refer to the villages further along the coast, but about two miles beyond this we met a canoe with fourteen or fifteen men, to which, no doubt, the chief referred, although that could not be made comprehensible at the time. The clamour of the natives in all these villages was so great that to obtain rest during the night it was deemed necessary to camp at some distance from any village, and we accordingly slept ashore on what appears to be the Keppel Point of the charts. A few miles of flat country lie there, between the sea and Mounts Victory and Trafalgar, much of it only a foot or two above high water mark, all covered by wood, partly mangrove and partly forest trees. The head of the bay is full of coral patches and shoals; but there is no barrier reef, and generally no shore reef. The fisheries here are therefore not likely to be of much value. Two creeks opened into the bay, south of Keppel Point, of sufficient size to discolour the water for several miles, but they only drain the southern slopes of Mounts Victory and Trafalgar.

13. From near Keppel Point we were able to make out the volcanic nature of Mount Victory. This mountain is very steep and rugged, presenting towards the top great masses of bare rock. Its altitude is probably from 3,500 to 4,000 feet. Its sides were scored and marked by brown lines from near the summit to its base; these at first looked as if caused by lava running down the mountain, but the closest inspection could detect no presence of lava, so that it was concluded that these lines had been caused by recent great earthslips. Some of the fishermen occupied near the Sydney Islands spoke of a smart shock of earthquake that had been felt about three weeks before in Collingwood Bay, so well marked that one man was thrown off a campstool on the ground. A shock was felt on the mainland about the same time, as far as Port Moresby. In all probability there is a close connection between these phenomena and the great earthslips on Mount Victory. The summit of the mountain was not visible from near Keppel Point, on account of a dense cloud which rested on it when the tops of Mount Suckling, 11,000 feet, and Mount Trafalgar, 4,000 feet, were quite unclouded. A column of steam could, however, be seen rising out of a ridge not far from the top of Mount Victory, and a few days later we had an opportunity in the early morning of seeing numerous columns of steam rising, some from the very tops of the two crests of Mount Victory, others from spots a considerable distance from the highest points, issuing from crevices and hollows all round the two peaks. By 7 or 8 o'clock this steam always formed a dense cumulus over and about the top of the mountain, which looked like a thundercloud, and completely hid it from view. On Mount Victory vegetation is very scant, a species of pine being most conspicuous. Mount Trafalgar, on the contrary, is covered over the summit with dense forest. Flame was not at any time seen by us on Mount Victory, nor could we obtain from the natives any information regarding it. A traverse of the coast line in the head of Collingwood Bay is attached as Enclosure No. 4. (*Vide* Map Appendix.)

First map of
Collingwood Bay
by William MacGregor
1890



Enclosure No IV in Despatch No 100 of 1890.


HEAD
OF
COLLINGWOOD BAY
wooded Country
Mangrove and Forest trees
KEPPEL POINT
Camp
B
Mangrove
Discoloured water
Shallow
Bearing to top of Mt Suckling 204°
from Keppel Point.
20° Bearing of most Northerly point visible
Full of Shallows and Coral Reefs
High Forest and Cocoanuts trees
Sandy beach
Mangrove
Casuarina and Forest trees
Sand spit
Casuarina
Cocoanut trees
Tall trees
Cocoanuts trees
Flat and wooded
700 ft
Mangrove
Cocoanut trees
AUGO
Sand spit
PHILLIP'S HARBOUR
Cocoanut trees
Shallow Lagoon
Mangrove
Mangrove
Forest
Densely wooded
500 feet
Flat
densely wooded
AINAO
Cocoanut trees
Wooded Country
Flat
4 Miles
Scale 1 Inch to 1 Mile

July 14th 1891 – Inland expedition from Sinapa towards Mount Suckling
by Magistrate Morton, Mr Guise and Mr Maitland

Between the 17th and 20th the expedition stayed around Sinapa. Mention of villages Yaumobi, and Awaki (Uiaku?), and of chiefs Bogege and Kitori
(Annual Report of 1891-1892, p. 11-14)

DESPATCH ENCLOSING MR. MORETON'S REPORT ON EXPEDITION CONDUCTED BY HIM FROM PHILLIPS HARBOUR, IN COLLINGWOOD BAY, TOWARDS MOUNT SUCKLING.

No. 58.] Government House,
Port Moresby, 16th August, 1891.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose herewith a report by Mr. Moreton on the expedition conducted by him from Phillips Harbour, in Collingwood Bay, towards Mount Suckling, whilst I was making an administrative inspection of part of the coast of Moratau, Kiriwina, etc. The party was managed and conducted with prudence, and all collision with the savage tribes of the district avoided.

2. One of the principal objects I had in view was to ascertain whether the slopes of that great mountain range were likely to be of any use for the cultivation of the vine or for similar industries, at different altitudes. Mr. Moreton says there is some rich soil on the mountain spurs, and there seems to be much variation in the quality of the land. They met with no mountain villages. The rainfall seems to be heavy. The spurs of the Main Range approach to within some six or eight miles of the sea, in a straight line, leaving no place for the so-called Hornby Range of the charts, which clearly does not exist. The highest point reached was about 8,000 feet, when further progress was barred by an inaccessible precipice, the existence of which could not be foreseen. The geological features will in due course be reported on by Mr. Maitland, and the scientific collections will be submitted to authorities in Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne for examination.

3. It may be mentioned that the glasses stolen from Mr. Maitland were restored before the steamer left Phillips Harbour. The natives of that locality were friendly, but Mr. Hely, who was sent, while I was otherwise employed, to visit some of the villages inspected by me last year in the head of the bay, reports them as not to be trusted and as dangerous for a small visiting party, and ready to commit murder for plunder. While the steamer was taking in water at Fir-tree Point, I went some two or three miles up the river there and opened friendly relations with two large tribes in that locality. This part of the coast looks very uninviting from the sea, but it is in reality very rich, fine alluvial soil. The natives met us unarmed, and brought food down for sale. The sketch map* enclosed will show the position of the district, and the route followed by Mr. Moreton and his party. The Tauputa carriers were all landed from the steamer at their own home in good health and spirits. One of them offered himself as a member of the armed constabulary, and was duly enrolled.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

His Excellency Sir Henry W. Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Brisbane.

[*Enclosure in Despatch No.* 58.]

S.S. "Merrie England,"
4th, August 1891.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that, after parting with you on 14th July, we proceeded to Tauputa, where Mr. Hely arranged with Abrahama, a leading man of Tauputa, for carriers to take us—Mr. Maitland, Mr. Guise, and self—to Mount Suckling. On the 15th July, we shipped 41 carriers, and Tauputa left at 10 a.m., arriving at Yasaasa in the afternoon.

16*th July, Thursday.*—We left Yasaasa at 7 a.m., and arrived the same afternoon at the "Merrie England" old anchorage, in Phillips Harbour. Mr. Hely, myself, and others went ashore, and made fairly good friends with the few natives about. Some came on board, but, unluckily, the third lot, not understanding the fooling of certain boat-boys, slid off the boat lying alongside the steamer, and swam ashore. This started those natives on the beach who had come down in a friendly way or out of curiosity. Some ultimately came back, but were timid. Mr. Guise slept ashore with the Tauputa boys.

17*th July, Friday.*—Mr. Maitland and self landed with the remainder of the boys, and at 8 a.m. we started for a village called Yaumobi, about one mile westerly, carrying rations and camp gear in relays. Some six natives appeared on the sandspit ahead, so I went on and made friends until the carriers arrived. I then, accompanied by a Tauputa boy and a couple of natives, proceeded to Yaumobi, and waited there until Mr. Guise and Mr. Maitland came. The first relays arrived soon after, when Mr. Guise immediately went back to bring up the rest, Mr. Maitland remaining on the veranda of a house with me and eight or ten natives that I had already around; a few came down to the other side of the creek that divides the village, but would not cross. A short time after all our gear arrived, having been mostly carried through deepish water. The natives then began to carry off their effects, spears, &c., across the creek, but they and others came back afterwards, bringing bundles of spears. Mr. Maitland remained sitting on the veranda whilst I went back to the carriers. After a while Mr. Maitland joined us, reporting that the natives had come up shaking their spears at him. I could not find out, on account of bad interpretation, who was the chief; but at last dropped on the biggest and sulkiest-looking man, who kept passing by without looking at one—Bogegi, by name. I therefore called him up and gave him a shirt. After some ten minutes' conversation through Ginger and a Tauputa boy, in which I explained our intention of going up Big Mountain, and had agreed with him that he should get some of his boys to give a hand for a couple of days, he went amongst the natives, who had then appeared fairly thick, and got those who would to come and sit down round about.

I estimated them at the time at about one-third; another third sat down further off; and the rest, whom I found in the majority, kept aloof, some with spears in their hands. I was suddenly astonished by hearing shouting, and looking up found the whole place disturbed, some of those who would not come near brandishing their spears, one in particular—who seemed to be the leader; the others rushing off to get theirs; and on our side some running forward with whatever they could lay their hands on. Bogegi and self got between them, and the former quietened the people on his side. After it was all settled Bogegi and an oldish man, called Kaupori, to whom I then gave a shirt, as he had stood up for us, asked us in a very friendly manner not to go that way through their village, but to go back to the old camp No. 1, and make slight detour. We immediately complied with this, as we saw we could not get through as peacefully as we could wish, and any disturbance would cause endless trouble to ourselves, at any rate. We started to get everything carried back; had some trouble, as part of the Tauputa boys, seeing the natives in the bush lining the beach, would not move; but at last got everything back to No. 1, Bogegi and a few natives helping towards the end. After arriving, as there was no time to shift camp, and not knowing how far we were from water, we arranged with Bogegi to bring a couple of buckets of water, which turned out to be very salt. In the meantime we sent several parties out in search of water, whilst Mr. Maitland, three boys, and myself started to cut a track southerly, so as to get out of the mangrove swamp country as quickly as possible, as also to keep clear from coast villages until our return. If it had not been for Bogegi, there would have been great trouble. I found afterwards that the men who started the disturbance did not belong to Yaumobi, but to other villages along the coast.

18*th July, Saturday.*—Mr. Maitland started first thing in the morning with some boys to continue the track and try and get water, which he did some two miles from No. 1 Camp. Mr. Guise was laid up with fever. Ginger and self remained, intending to go back to the village of Yaumobi and make further friendly advances to the natives. As we were starting we saw in the distance a crowd of natives come out of the mangrove swamp from the direction of the village. I waited till I could see whether they had spears, and, finding they had only one, went to meet them; met them at some distance from the camp. In front there were two young men, who greeted me with the cry of "Waru;" some fifty yards behind I saw a highly-ornamented chief, carrying a spear decked out with streamers, with a club-bearer and some seventy or eighty natives behind. I wanted to go and meet him, but was signed to wait till he came up; he then handed his spear to another and came forward. Having a blue handkerchief, I put it around his neck, and he presented me with his neck ornament of seeds. We then walked to camp together. His name is Kitori, chief, from what I could make out, of Awaki and head of the tribe living about Phillips Harbour. He is a fine-looking man and quite young, was accompanied by his father, which I suppose means uncle, two brothers, and some seventy or eighty men. There were a great many more lining the mangroves along the beach. These I found afterwards had their spears with them. Taking them altogether, there must have been at least 150 men, and all fine big men, the Tauputa carriers looking like pigmies alongside. They stayed for over two hours, and then went off. I accompanied them a short distance, until an oldish man close by looked up at me and gave a quiet wave to go back. As I was walking back with some five or six Yaumobi natives, there was a cry that Mr. Maitland's field-glasses had been stolen. I then called out to the natives, and they all started to run, except the boys with me. These promised to get the glasses back, but, of course, there was no sign of them before we left. In the afternoon Mr. Maitland, self, and some boys took part of the heavier packages across the mangrove swamp and planted them until next day. Camp No. 1.

19*th July, Sunday.*—Messrs. Maitland and Guise started with the carriers, and as there was something left I remained with Ginger to look after it. Later; Bogegi, Kaupori, and some six or seven natives turned up, and I induced them to carry the little that remained, but am sorry to say there was some filching on the way, not found out till after. About two miles from the beach we had another mangrove swamp to go through. Not knowing its extent, and heavy wet setting in, we deemed it advisable to camp. Later Mr. Maitland and self started; on following a native track, we found the mangrove swamp only about three-quarters of a mile in extent, but bad. We came on a fine creek, No. 1, about one mile from camp; still followed the native track, which landed us in the middle of a sago swamp, and then died out. We then determined to follow up Creek No. 1. So long as it was anywhere near our course, it was running there about north. We then returned to Camp No. 2.

20*th July, Monday.*—We planted sixteen bags of rice and other articles at this camp for our return, in case of having to wait for the steamer. Started at 7·30 a.m., but had to leave Creek No. 1 we saw yesterday very shortly, it taking us too much east of south. We had at first for a short distance the usual New Guinea forest country to go through, with undergrowth taking three boys to clear; after that dense sago swamps and very thick scrubs of lawyer vines, heavy cutting. We were very glad to hear the trickle of running water, and came on a fair-sized creek, No. 2—native name, Dori—running north-north-east. We camped, although early in the afternoon, the carriers being a bit fagged on account of the bogginess of the country passed through. I went on and cut a track south west for some distance, and back to Camp No. 3. Travelled about three and a-half miles. Aneroid, 30·4; thermometer, 73; boiling point, 211 degrees; above sea level, 83 feet.

21*st July, Tuesday.*—Started at 8 a.m; Mr. Maitland and self going on with three boys, cutting track; Mr. Guise remaining to push on the carriers. We got about two miles, and found it so bad from sago swamps and lawyer-vine scrubs that it was impossible to go on that course. Sent a boy up a tree, who reported the same country everywhere; we then determined to retrace our steps, cut into No. 2 Creek, and follow it up. This was no sooner settled when we heard that some coast natives had followed us up, and reported that we could never get through that way, but to follow the creek, which they said would take us to the foot of the mountain. We started up the creek wading, and managed some three and a-half miles generally in a south-west direction, the creek turning after we got up a bit. After travelling about one mile and a-half up the creek it became perfectly dry, the bed sometimes spreading over a wide space. We began to fear getting water, but luckily at 4 p.m. came on a pool, and camped. Camp No. 4: Above sea level, 160 feet.

22*nd July, Wednesday.*—Mr. Maitland and self went a bit to the west of the camp and found open country of two or three square miles in extent, and were able to take the bearings (A) of most of the hills round. We continued up the creek, still dry, generally in a south-west direction, but in a short distance found it running strong again. Mr. Guise's boys and Ginger got two gowra pigeons, with the white tips to the crest, about one mile from camp, also some other birds during the day. At about four and a-half miles the creek branched, and we took the one we thought the main branch; but, seeing it was taking us back north we returned and tried the right-hand branch. Finding no water above the junction, we considered it advisable to camp rather than try the bed of such a dry-looking creek so late in the day. Camp No. 5: Boiling point thermometer, 210 degrees; altitude per aneroid, 510 feet; altitude per boiling point, 649.

23*rd July, Thursday.*—Left camp 8·30 a.m., and followed up the right hand-branch south-south-west perfectly dry for four miles; and we congratulated ourselves in not having gone on yesterday afternoon, as we should have had a dry camp. We carried on to the head of the creek, and then struck out a bit to the right, and came on a fine creek, No. 3, with good water. Gave the carriers a feed and spell, and followed south-west for about two miles. This creek, like the others, although running strong in parts became quite dry, and we considered ourselves in luck, getting a small pool at two miles of running water. During the day one of the boys picked up an old stone club-head on the side of Creek No. 2. Mr. Guise's boys got a white cuscus, some Raggianas, &c.

Camp No. 6.—Aneroid, 29·05; thermometer, 69 degrees; boiling point thermometer, 208 degrees 5 minutes; altitude per aneroid, 1,485 feet; altitude per boiling point, 1,605 feet.

24*th July, Friday.*—Left camp 8·30 a.m.; carried on till 12 o'clock, following up the same creek as yesterday. General course south-south-west, quite dry; found a small hole at 12 o'clock and spelled, three and a-half miles; a rough road over boulders; had some clearing here and there with a gradual ascent from Camp No. 6. Here we heard the fall of water about north-west; continued on west-south-west and came on a steep gorge where we could hear the water, but it was invisible. The ascent then began to be a bit steeper in places, and in about a mile we found we could go no further on that track. Blocked in every direction, rain coming on, and the carriers, as usual, fagged, we descended to a ledge and camped. The creek, or as it might be well called a mountain torrent, was running east-north-east in a succession of rapids and small falls, with a big rush of water. The country passed through was the usual light forest, with a fair amount of undergrowth, taking two men to run the track until we started a sharp ascent, where it became much denser. Travelled some four and a-half miles, and ascended 950 feet from Camp No. 6. Mr. Maitland and self went up a hill to have a look round, but were unable to identify anything for mist. Camp No. 7: aneroid, 27·97; thermometer, 77 degrees; altitude per aneroid, 2,548.

25*th July, Saturday.*—Started at 9 a.m., after having great trouble to shift the carriers, most refusing to move. After a time we got everything off, and had to retrace our steps until we could face the spur. Having ascended some 1,400 feet, they again knocked up; so had to leave some rice to be fetched in the morning. They began to complain about the want of water, which was got for them by digging a hole in a dry gutter—too lazy to do it themselves. Gave them a spell, and continued our course, generally south-west, up the spur we started on in the morning. We had not ascended more than 400 feet before a thunderstorm came on. We immediately spread a fly and filled all the buckets, &c., we had.

Here we had to camp, although we were hoping to get up the 5,000 feet. There is not the slightest doubt now but what we are on one of the main spurs. The boys shot a cuscus of a grayish colour with a black mark from the nose along the back, white tipped ears, and white tip to tail. Unluckily, whilst we were busy catching water some of the carriers ate it. They are as useless a lot as one could wish to have. The scrub-itch has been very bad, and leeches numerous. Camp No. 8. Aneroid, 26·38; thermometer, 68 degrees; altitude per aneroid, 4,350 feet.

26*th July, Sunday.*—Rained all night. After some difficulty sent some boys back for some of the rice left yesterday, and some to get water. Couldn't start the carriers till the sun was well up; everything soaking wet. Mr. Maitland, self, and boy went ahead clearing; fairly thick and progress slow. A little after 2 p.m. it started to drizzle, and word was passed that the carriers had fixed their camp and wouldn't move. I went down and found that they had carefully got under shelter themselves, leaving their packs outside. We therefore thought it but fair to cut the flies down on top of them to cover the rations. It began to rain very heavily, so we stretched a fly for water and were forced to camp. Camp No. 9. Aneroid, 25·27; thermometer, 61 degrees; altitude aneroid, 5,651 feet.

27*th July, Monday.*—Early morning; could see a portion of the country below us, and some of the hills, but it soon started to rain, and rained heavily all day. Not a move to be got out of the carriers, but Mr. Maitland went with three boys and cleared a track up to 6,250 feet along a narrow ridge, and returned

28*th July, Tuesday.*—Some trouble in getting the carriers to move this morning. Took twenty-one boys on, leaving the sick and useless at No. 9 Camp. The clearing became very heavy, over rotten ground and logs; did but a mile, and ascended 1,300 feet. Just got up our camp in time for the rain, which seems to be very regular at 2 p.m. since passing 4,000 feet. Camp No. 10. Aneroid, 25·28; thermometer, 63 degrees; boiling point, 199·8; altitude per aneroid, 6,903 feet; altitude boiling point, 6,875 feet

29*th July, Wednesday.*—Rained all night. Mr. Maitland went ahead with three cutters. Mr. Guise and self remained to push on the carriers. Left with them at 10 a.m., and caught up to Mr. Maitland at 7,730 feet, and found we were stopped and unable to get further. The spur became very narrow—room for one only—and ended in a 100-feet drop, with some 300 feet on the left, and very steep and impracticable on the right. At the end, which was all moss-covered and very shaky, three or four could sit down in a line. There was not much to be seen owing to clouds, but the sun was most comforting. It was a great disappointment being unable to go on, as everything was beginning to be interesting, and the only proposal then to be entertained was to return to Camp No. 10 and eke out a day or so collecting, there being no time to get on to another spur, it being necessary to return beyond No. 7 before we could cross to one, and time limited. Even if we could have got down that 100 feet, the continuation of the spur was very rugged and steep, and led to another spur running almost at right angles to our previous course, but afterwards trending towards Mount Suckling. Camp No. 10. Total height reached, 7,733 feet.

30*th July, Thursday.*—Mr. Maitland and self started at daybreak to go to the end of our track, so as to have a view before the mist should rise. It was well worth the trouble, as we got a grand view. Took the principal bearings and a few outlines (B1x B2 and B3) of the mountains. We saw through a blue haze at a great distance, and bearing 304 degrees, a big mountain, which we suppose to be part of the Owen Stanley Range. It was seen through a gap in the Hydrographer's Range. What seemed to be the highest peak from the ship has to give way to the single peak, which must be at least 500 feet higher. It appeared to be some five miles away; the top, as seen by the naked eye, being bare of trees. We came to the conclusion that the best way to arrive at the summit, with good collecting ground, would be to take either of the long spurs leading from the ends of the range, which runs somewhere about south-east and north-west. If time was no object, the east end would be preferable, starting from about Fir-tree Point, where a fair-sized creek enters the sea, which could be followed to the foot of a good leading spur. Opposite to where we were stopped we could see pine trees, not in any great quantities, and not of any great size—perhaps 1 foot to 1 foot 3 inches in diameter, but nice straight sticks.

To our left, bearing 115 degrees, and ten or twelve miles distant, was a mountain which we took to be Mount Dayman, and which, if so, is much nearer the north-east coast than marked in existing charts. The country between it and the coast appeared flat, with open patches here and there. To the south-west of Mount Dayman there was another peak, bearing 128 degrees 30 minutes. From this summit there extended towards us a sloping tract of almost timberless country, the surface of which appeared to be very rough. Some small watercourses were noticed, which are tributaries of Fir-tree Creek. This range is separated from the Suckling Range by a low divide.

The bearing of Mount Victory was also obtainable—352 degrees 30 minutes. The country between it and the Suckling Range is comparatively flat and clear of timber, except in belts, which appear to run towards Mount Victory.

For the last few days the travelling has been over a mass of rotten fallen trees and roots, with a layer of moss-covered decayed vegetable matter, making the foothold very uncertain.

31*st July*, *Friday*.—Rained all night. Left No. 10 Camp on our return to the coast, where we arrived on the morning of 3rd August.

From the base of the mountain to the highest point reached no other rocks but quartz schists and quartzites were seen, with the exception of a few pieces of black graphitic schist. No other rocks were seen in the beds of the creeks crossed. Mr. Maitland made a collection of rocks, illustrating the geological features of the country passed through, which will be properly dealt with in his report.

Mr. Guise got some forty birds, a list of which he will send in. The plants met with were, until we reached an altitude of 6,560 feet, uninteresting. A few have been brought down.

At No. 4 Camp we began to doubt the existence of the Hornby Range as shown on the chart, and further on we were perfectly satisfied as to its non-existence. My idea is that the hills formed along the spurs leading to Mount Suckling Range, and some five miles from the summit, have been named the Hornby Range under the impression that they were a distinct line of hills, which might be so taken to be from the coast by a casual observer; but that fallacy may be dispelled.

By the coast natives we were told that there were three villages underneath the range, named Doridorina, Wagbela (chief, Oro), and Baruri (chief, Boki). We did not see them, although Ginger reported seeing a clump of cocoanut trees from the top of a tree bearing about north-west between Nos. 6 and No. 7 Camps.

On 3rd August I should have mentioned having seen on our return trip the place where the coast natives had had fires something over half a mile from our No. 3 forward Camp. They must have, from their subsequent movements, been watching our Camp No. 3 on the night of 20th July.

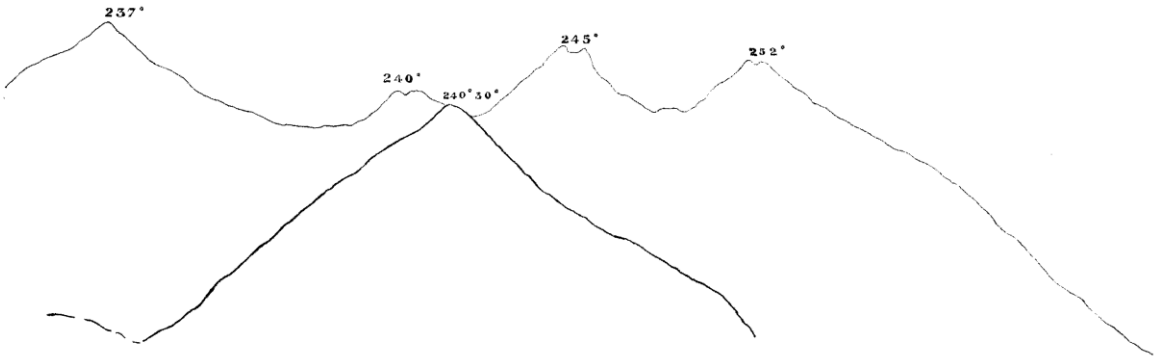
In conclusion, I must express our regret that we had not a little more time at our disposal.

I have, &c.,

M. H. MORETON.

Mt Suckling Range

as seen from Camp N° 4.



(Enclosure to Despatch No 58 of 1891)

Route Survey

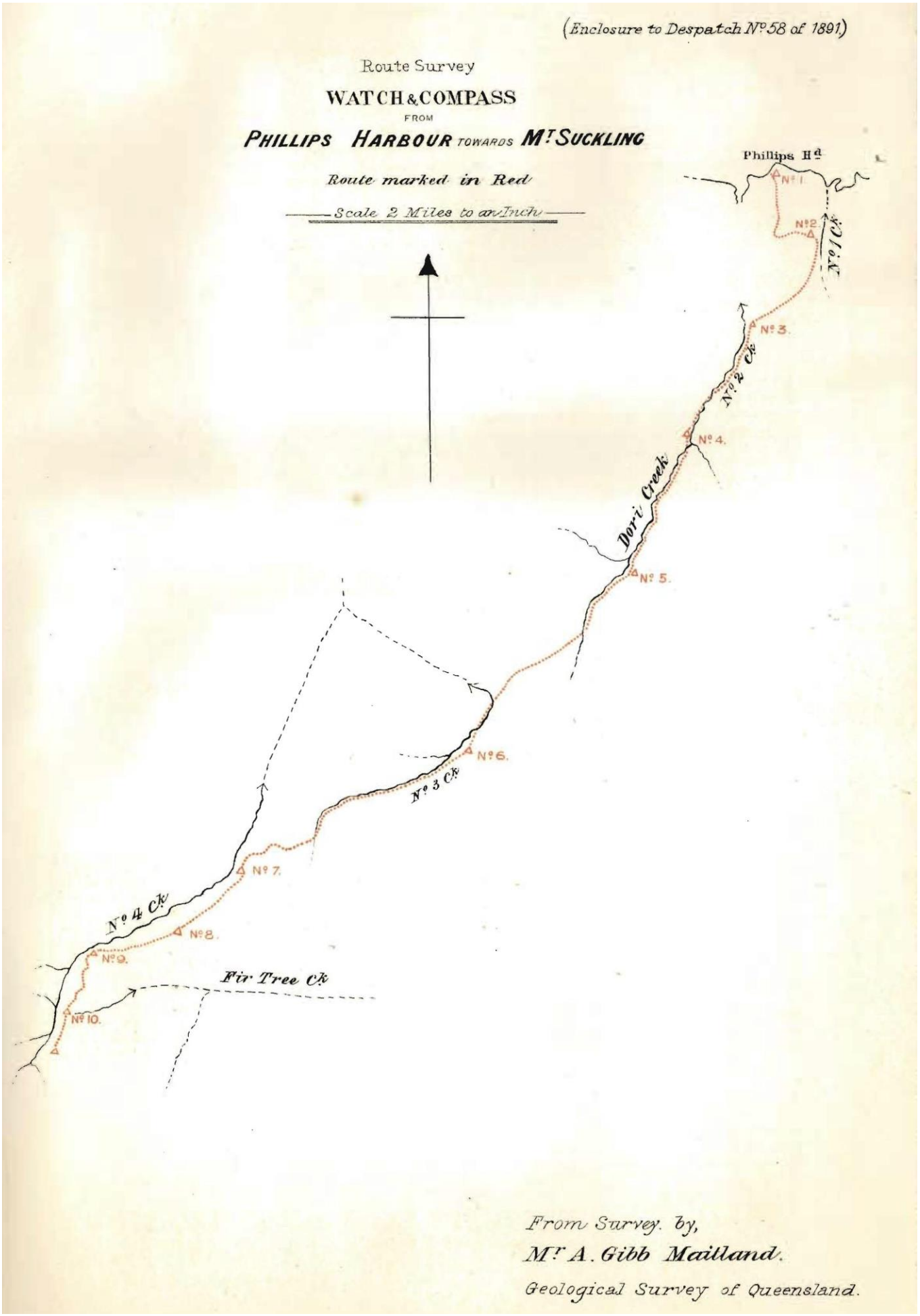
WATCH & COMPASS

FROM

PHILLIPS HARBOUR TOWARDS MT SUCKLING

Route marked in Red

Scale 2 Miles to an Inch



From Survey by,

Mr A. Gibb Maitland.

Geological Survey of Queensland.

Oct 5th 1893 – Short stop by Governor MacGregor, Mr Armit and Rev. Copeland King

Mention of Maisin settlement at Kierra (= Uwe)

(Annual Report of 1893-1894, p. 7-8)

On the wooded spurs of Mount Trafalgar that wall in these deep narrow fiords there are many native habitations and great numbers of gardens. This district, on the south side of Mount Trafalgar and Cape Nelson, is apparently the richest for native agriculture on this part of the coast. Several canoes came out to us, and we met not a few natives, all of whom were very friendly and wished to trade. In a bay at the foot of Mount Trafalgar we landed to interview a large number of natives we saw on the beach there. They had built temporary houses, and had a number of large canoes. They said they belonged to Maisina, in the head of Collingwood Bay, and had come to visit Kaierra, the coast district south-west of Hardy Island. They were very friendly, and keen traders. Like most of the tribes in this part of the country they usually make their ornaments of Job's tears. Of these this particular tribe had necklaces and earrings with long graceful pendants, that recall to mind similar Indian jewellery made of silver. They had stone clubs, of the disc form, with axes of jade. Two of them had some red cloth, and spoke a few words of the Kappi Kappi tongue, and insisted on shaking hands. Three or four small coast villages, some of which were visited, were passed before we reached the first Maisina village in the head of Collingwood Bay. The inhabitants were all peaceful and friendly, selling us some food or anything else they had.

Early in the afternoon we came in sight of Makimaki, the first of the Maisina villages on the north. This large old place I had visited before, nearly two years ago. As I had the launch at my first visit, and approached now in a rowing boat only, the launch having been left behind, they did not recognise me, and did not seem quite at ease as we neared them. A body of men were posted on the south side of the creek, feathered, painted, and armed to the teeth with spears, shields, stone clubs, and mouth-pieces made of boars' tusks and red seeds. When they understood that we were friends, the armed band melted and disappeared as quietly and as quickly as if it had been of snow. A large body of natives, unarmed, met us at the mouth of the creek. To one man who seemed of superior intelligence I gave a shirt, and took particular notice of him. It turned out afterwards that the selection was a happy one, for it appears he is the principal chief of the whole of Maisina. He conducted me to the village, which they were not quite willing that we should visit, and he supervised things generally. He evidently was afraid his people would steal and get into trouble. When I bought anything he took possession of it, and put it at once into the trade bag. This put me more carefully on my guard against pilfering, but my eye was taken for a moment from one of the Job's tears earrings with pendants which I had purchased. I laid it on my knee as I sat until I took out a few beads to pay for something else offered, and in the twinkling of an eye it was gone. I looked for it and found it in the ear of the chief himself, in the ear that was farthest from me as he sat near me. Another man had abstracted it and put it in his ear. Probably the chief would have kept it had I not noticed it, but I quietly took it out of his ear and put it in the bag, no one taking any notice of this.

From Makimaki we went to the largest village in the district, that of Viaku. I had on two previous occasions been to this place and had always found the people friendly; but Mr. Hely reported that at a subsequent visit by him a man was noticed to get behind him with hostile intentions. As the people are very numerous I was prepared for some disturbance there, but I was agreeably surprised at being met in the most friendly manner by a great unarmed crowd. These people are the most lively and the most spirited on the coast. They are also the most wealthy, possessing great store of stone clubs, jade axes, and other property. They have now discovered the full value of iron, and are extremely keen on buying it in any form. Never have I seen natives so eager to purchase plane-irons. They fought and struggled with each other for the possession of a stone club or jade axe with which to buy a plane-iron; and they fought and scrambled over the plane-iron when it was given to them. Even the women could not keep out of it. Towards us they were perfectly friendly in every way.

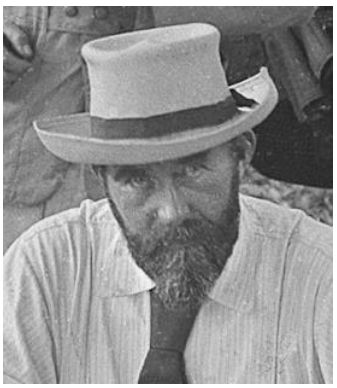
As I was anxious that Mr. King should make the acquaintance of this great tribe, the most powerful and the most enterprising in the whole of his district, I sent Mr. Armit and him in the boat and launch to visit them next morning. They were received similarly, and there was still the same unquenchable thirst for iron. They were welcomed by the chief to whom I had given the shirt at Makimaki. Mr. Armit says that he has great influence and authority at Viaku, and that he was very kind and hospitable there. By these people iron will no doubt soon find its way to the inland tribes.

The steamer anchored in Phillips Harbour. The position of the little island forming its eastern boundary was found to be latitude 9 degrees 29 minutes 45 seconds south, bearing 323 degrees to the top of Mount Victory. Many natives, who are now quite well acquainted with us, visited the steamer from all the villages near, bringing food, pigs, weapons and utensils for sale. They understand there a good deal of the language of Kappi Kappi (Cape Vogel). I have been under the impression hitherto that the Government would probably be challenged by Maisina to fight for supremacy, but it seems now as if that powerful community already admitted their inferiority and accepted the Government authority. But of course the first real test will be when some native has to be arrested there.

This practically concluded my visit to the north-east coast. Labour and exposure were freely incurred in trying to bring this important coast line better within our knowledge. This will be clearly shown when I state the fact that I observed more than 250 stars with the theodolite for geographical purposes, while Captain Jones observed nearly two score stars with the sextant, chiefly for longitude. The traverse of the coast line has now been completed from Fir Tree Point to the boundary. I am inclined to think it will show that the great north-east coast is the most interesting and by no means the least valuable of the districts of the Possession. The police, with the Commandant and Stipendiary Magistrate of the district, were left at Paiwa when I proceeded further north that they might make certain inquiries and arrests. The police effected very little, and, it is to be feared, somewhat lessened their prestige by letting a prisoner they had captured make good his escape. This is, perhaps, partly owing to the Commandant having been incapacitated for work for two or three months past. Still, the visit of the magistrate and police must have done good at some places.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.



William MacGregor:

"I am inclined to think it will show that the great north-east coast is the most interesting and by no means the least valuable of the districts of the possession."

Feb 25th 1894 – Short stop by Governor MacGregor, Mr Armit and Mr Guise, with another short stop at Sinapa on April 14th

Mention of Maisin attack on a village by Mobiri Creek near Kewansesap.

(Guise and Armit's report from their expedition from Kewansesap to a high point near Mt Dayman is not included here)

(Annual Report of 1893-1894, p. 30 and 37)

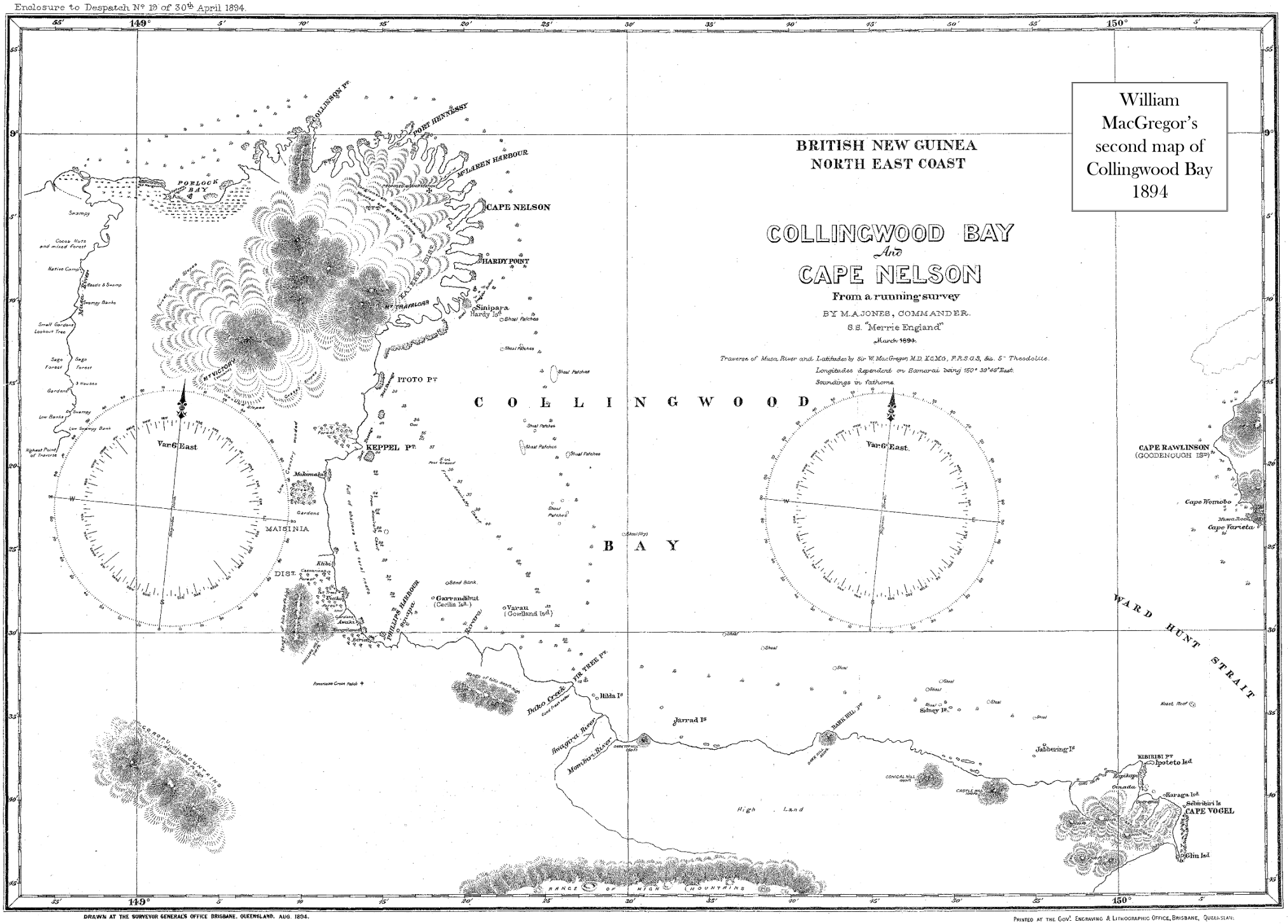
4. All the land we crossed between Pibubu and the Kwagira was deep alluvial forest land, but more or less wet or swampy at several places. The men are decidedly smaller than Gulf men, but larger than eastern island men as a rule. They are of a brown colour. They wear the hair in tags or ringlets, but a part over the forehead is cut short or shaved off; they have whiskers round the cheek and under the chin, but all hair except the eyelashes is removed from the face. They do not tattoo, but have raised cicatricial marks over the deltoid. The legs are very scraggy. They wear a perineal band of mulberry cloth painted black, brown, and yellow, and girdles of matwork about an inch and a-half broad, plaited without an end. They are made to fit so tightly that it is difficult to get them over the hips. Some have shell necklaces and pendants, but the most common ornament is an armlet consisting of a complete section cut out of the shell of the cocoanut. They complained of the hostile disposition of the Maisina tribe, and showed me the remains of a small village on the Mobiri burned by that sept in one of their incursions a year or two ago.

On the 14th the steamer towed the boats to Phillips Harbour, and a party was sent to visit Maisina and to warn them to not interfere with their neighbours in future. It appears that they repudiated the idea of making war on others, but the warning does not seem to have made a deep impression on some of them, as one man stole something from the boat and shook his spear at a constable that went after him. The men of the constabulary have been so frequently admonished to not use their weapons except in case of urgent necessity that this bravo thief was suffered to escape, which very probably would not have been the case had I been there myself. It would have been profitable to Maisina to witness the example then that will surely have to be put before them sooner or later. We were visited at Phillips Harbour by the chief and people of probably all the villages of that neighbourhood. Some very remarkable pottery was obtained at Maisina for the public collection. The pieces are bowl-shaped and have on the outside raised designs, as if a small cord had been half inserted into the clay and left there. This raised form of design is the only example I have seen of relief ornamentation in Papuan pottery.

20. As there had been no dengue fever on the steamer after the 1st April the vessel was well cleansed and fumigated on the 13th and 14th, and was admitted to pratique on the 15th.

Maisin dancers at a Cape Nelson singsing - Photographed by Guy O. Manning 1905

Enclosure to Despatch N° 18 of 30th April 1894.



William MacGregor's second map of Collingwood Bay 1894

DRAWN AT THE SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND, AUG. 1894.

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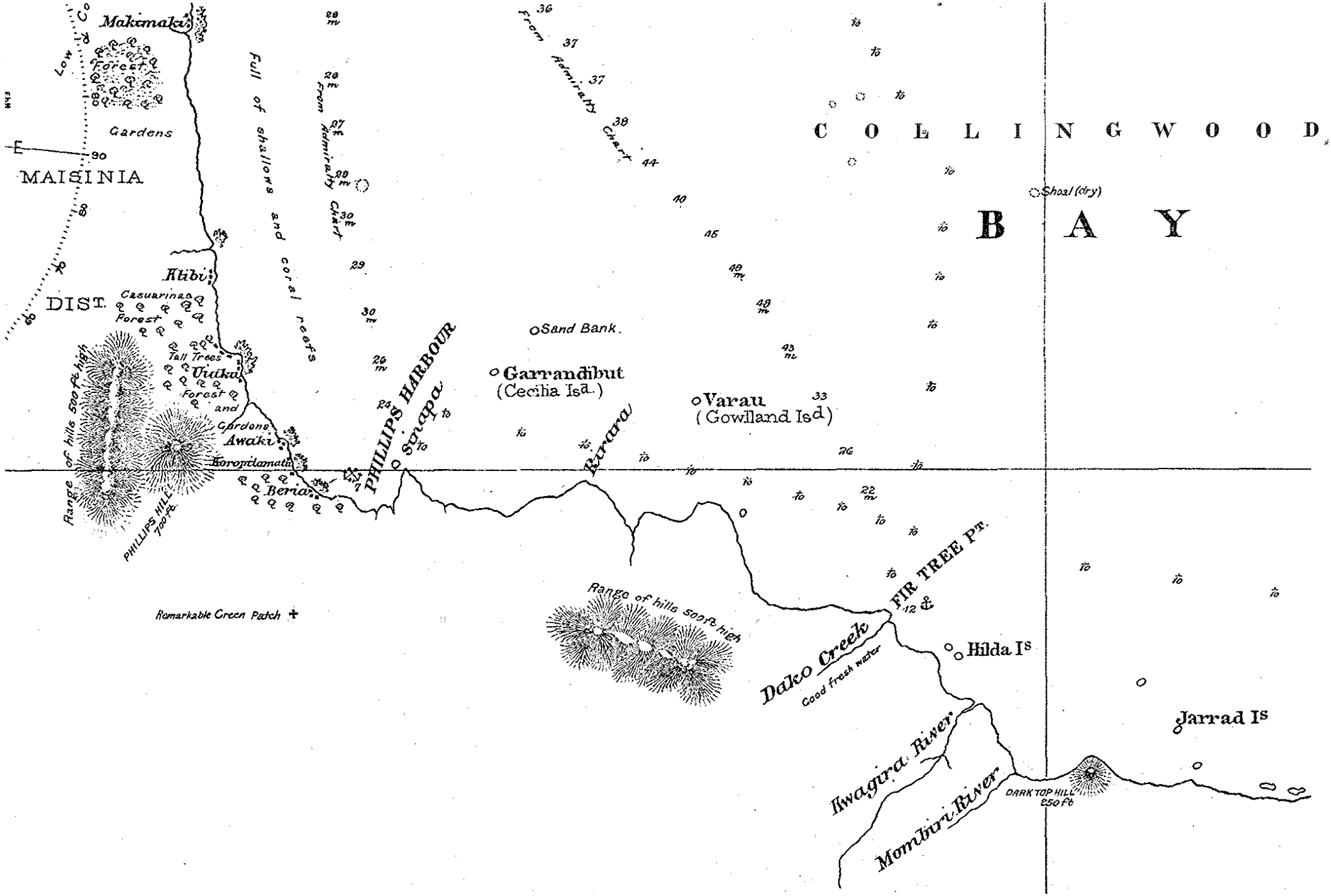
COLLINGWOOD
BAY
MAISINIA
DIST.
Makimaki
Low Co
Forest
Gardens
Full of shallows and coral reefs
From Admiralty Chart
Khibi
Casuarinas Forest
Tall Trees
Vuuka
Forest and Gardens
Awaki
Koropdamata
Beria
Range of hills 500 ft high
PHILLIPS HILL 700 ft
PHILLIPS HARBOUR
Siapa
Sand Bank.
Garrandibut
(Cecilia Isd.)
Varau
(Gowland Isd)
Birara
Remarkable Green Patch
Range of hills 500 ft high
FIR TREE Pt.
Dako Creek
Good fresh water
Hilda Is
Jarrad Is
Iwagira River
Momburi River
DARK TOP HILL 650 ft
Shoal (dry)

Oct 25th 1895 – Governor MacGregor at Musa with Mr Green and some miners, stopping shortly at Sinapa on Oct. 26th, and again on April 5th

When MacGregor by chance encountered an Okeina group who had raided the Baruga village of Endari on the Musa, he mistakenly thought that Collingwood Bay warriors had taken part, and he pursued his suspicion by questioning the Maisin and, som months later, chief Bogege. Bogege's pointing to the Korafe clans show that he had no real knowledge of the incident either.

(Annual Report of 1895-1896, p. 28 and 51)

A speedy visit to the Mambare River was so urgently necessary that it was quite impossible to give any further attention then to these Musa invaders. It was decided to restore the wounded man to his tribe. This was done on the 25th October. Under his directions we entered the harbour of Porlock Bay, and ascended the creek that opens into its upper end, for about a mile; we then turned to the left and found that his tribe, the Mapuya, live on Mount Trafalgar. Some of his countrymen were on watch on the heights, and at first all retired and kept out of sight, but after some trouble we got into communication with them, and finally induced some of them to come and take over the wounded man. They were very desirous of establishing peace and friendship, although, no doubt, those we met had been participants in the raid on the Musa. They manifested wonderful self-possession, and seemed not to entertain any suspicion of treachery on our part after they once approached us. No attempt was made to arrest any of them, in consideration of the circumstances under which they met us. No very precise information could be obtained from the wounded man as to who were in that expedition, but it was totally clear that it comprised the Trafalgar tribes, and at least part of Makimaki, in Collingwood Bay. On the 26th October a hurried visit was therefore made to Collingwood Bay. It was found that certain natives of Maisina have built half a dozen houses on the island of Sinapa, in Phillip's Harbour, probably induced to do so as being convenient for trading with any vessel calling there. They were not afraid or mistrustful, and were, of course, quite friendly. We left one boat with the magistrate and commandant at Maisina while I proceeded in the other boat to Makimaki. They found the Maisina people friendly, and not nearly so boisterous, presuming, and unruly as formerly was the case. They did not carry arms. At Makimaki, a great part of the men on seeing our approach seated themselves quietly on the sandy beach to wait for us. None of them had arms near them. We could hold only very limited colloquial communication with these people. The chief denied clearly and distinctly that they had been up the Musa, but he seemed embarrassed and disturbed by the question. It was also noticed that stone clubs were not, as used to be the case, offered for sale, and they did not seem to be rich in stone adzes. Several of them were in mourning, and they were making some new canoes, considerations that in the aggregate would seem to point to their participation in the late expedition. It will be necessary to arrest and punish the leaders in that raid; but this will require that one live in Collingwood Bay and on Trafalgar for two or three weeks first, in order to learn who they were. This had to be deferred for the present.

in order to obtain a better knowledge of the neighbourhood, and to gather what information he might obtain with respect to the tribes that had taken part in the man-hunting expedition on the Musa River, reported in my despatch No. 60 of 31st October, 1895. It appears that the formerly very aggressive tribe of Maisina was not concerned in it. According to the chief Bogege, the villages implicated are:— Tarama, Kopori, Tupi, Amiowani, Topari, Babine, Kabun, Rerioa, Kwavi. Yagerua, Toavare, Rerete, Maipuia, Orea, and Kaiuoni. Naturally some time and patience will be required to find and visit these villages. The principal chief of the district came to see me on the morning of the 7th. He is a man of some ability and authority, and, being unusually covetous, he can probably soon be made useful by paying him a small salary.

May 6th 1898 – Governor MacGregor, with guests Lord Lamington and Sir H.M. Nelson (the Governor and Premier of Queensland) stopped at Sinapa for one day

This coincided with the establishment of the mission in Collingwood Bay, which is described in the mission reports, and also by John Barker.

(Annual Report of 1897-1898, p. 43)

8. It was found at Phillip's Harbour that the materials for a new mission house, imported from Australia, had a few days previously been landed at that place. The natives had been friendly, but only a small portion of ground had been cleared—not enough to show whether a good and suitable site was obtainable on the point for a permanent establishment. Some of the principal villages in the bay were visited. The most influential chief of the district paid me a visit, and acted as guide to the party that visited the other villages. This man is too far removed from supervision to be appointed a policeman; but he is useful in a semi-official capacity. If he only becomes as zealous as an officer as he is now covetous, he will be a valuable servant of the Administration.

Drying nets by the beach at Uiaku

Photographed by Percy J. Money shortly after 1900

Jan 11th 1899 – Acting Administator Winter, along with Resident magistrate Moreton, the Government Surveyor Stuart-Russell and the Commendant of the Armed Native Constabulary, Butterworth – visit to Collingwood Bay and patrol to interior.

The expedition followed the report on the death of chief Wanigela. Since no 'Doriri' tribesmen were encountered it is mostly an expedition report describing the landscape.

(Annual Report of 1898-1899, p. 3)

6. After leaving the Opi we went to Philip's Harbour in Collingwood Bay. Your Excellency will remember the village of Maisina in that bay, the one we visited on the 6th of May last just at dusk. A few months ago Wanigela, the chief of Maisina, and fifteen men of the village, whilst working in their gardens, were killed by a war party from some inland tribe. According to the Collingwood Bay people, this tribe or collection of tribes are known as the Dori, and live on the Musa River, some distance from its mouth. From the direction they pointed to, it seemed to me that the river in question might be the main eastern affluent of the Musa. These same people are alleged to have completely destroyed several of the bay villages in detail at different times. Apparently the inhabitants of the sea coast have never ventured to retaliate by invading the enemies' country. The Collingwood Bay people in general, and the Maisina people in particular, have up to the present shown a disposition to distrust and to be unfriendly to Europeans. There have been exceptions to this, the most notable one being that of the late chief Wanigela. They are still great thieves. I think that this unsatisfactory spirit has been due, partly to some confidence in their own numbers and partly to fear and mistrust. As yet there are really no competent interpreters for this district, and it is difficult, therefore, to make them understand us. Although I doubted whether the Maisina people really knew where their enemies' villages were, and even if they did whether, with the limited time at our disposal, we could get to them, it seemed to me desirable to take a trip inland. The fact that we were not afraid to meet the tribes they feared, would impress them, as would also the fact that we could travel about inland. Natives of new districts apparently have an idea that we are afraid to go far from our vessels. Our taking up the matter might induce them to believe that the Government was a friendly power, and also might enable them to realise more completely than they have yet done that their independence is at an end.

In company with Mr. Moreton, Mr. Russell, and Captain Butterworth, I started from Maisina on the morning of the 12th January. Although the Maisina people and some of their near neighbours had expressed their readiness to come with us, we had some difficulty in getting any of them to do so. Finally we procured a few guides and a dozen carriers. We had taken the precaution to enlist a certain number of carriers from places near Samarai, who had been brought to Philip's Harbour in the Government ketch. As the day wore on it became evident that the Maisini people were getting more and more reluctant to come with us. Our best interpreter, who kept close to them, overheard them expressing doubts as to what our intentions towards them were. They appeared to be doubtful about procuring food if we did not come across any villages. They did not like the rice we had given them at midday. We were not very much surprised, therefore, when they all deserted us in a body that night.

We had neither the time nor a sufficient stock of food to permit us to go back and make a fresh and more satisfactory start. I had sent the steamer on to Samarai, as there were a number of miners on board of her from the Mambare. The lack of guides and the having to leave stores behind us at the first camp, through the loss of the Maisina carriers, apparently put an end to the chance of reaching the Dori villages. I determined, however, to take a look at the country. If we should come across any villages we could get food for the men, and would thus be able to prolong our stay. We went on for a couple of days, travelling by compass bearings. Our course was nearly in the alleged direction of the Dori villages, but to avoid possible swamps we kept more towards the hills. Practically we skirted the Garopo (Mount Suckling) Range. We never got out of dense forest. We saw no natives, nor anything to indicate that the country between our track and the summit of the range was inhabited. For the first few miles after leaving Maisina our path was through a very miry, swampy, jungle. Then we passed over a grassy flat into a valley between two small villages. A rapid stream ran through this valley, and its channel became our road for some little distance. This stream seems to lose itself in the swamps between Maisina and Philip's Harbour. After we left this river we entered and continued to be in pure forest country; that is to say, country thickly covered with arboreal vegetation that consisted almost entirely of tall trees and saplings of such trees. There was no grass in this forest. It began to rain every afternoon between three and four, and continued raining long after dark. The sun's rays rarely reached the sheeted, sodden ground. I came to a spot where one of the men had shot at

a bird at least ten minutes after the shot had been fired, but the smoke and the odour from the exploded powder were as distinct as if the gun had only just been discharged. Our progress on the third day was much obstructed by fallen trees. Judging by the look of the fallen timber, most of the trees had probably been blown down in the late gale. On our return journey the track that we had cleared enabled us to reach our camping-places at an early hour. This gave time for some of the men to go in search of game. They shot nine rock or forest wallah on the first afternoon and eight on the next, which shows that this animal must be fairly plentiful in this forest, although when on the march we saw but one. It differs altogether in colour, and slightly in form, from the wallah of the grass lands. Some wild pigs and a few goura pigeons were also shot. The soil for the first few miles after leaving the coast swamps seemed to be good, but after that it became poor and stony. Judging from the rocks, the country looked as if it might be worth prospecting for gold.

The most noteworthy natural objects in the country were what I believe to be the outlets through which the storm waters of the more lofty portions of the Garopo Range find their way to the sea. There were two distinct classes of water channels traversing the country. The first was the ordinary mountain streamlet or brook of clear water, running at the bottom of the tortuous little hollows formed by the undulations of the land. These streams apparently take their rise in the foothills of the great range and are not subject to very heavy flooding. The other class of water channel was quite different. These channels were torrent beds. Only one had a deep, narrow channel; and only the two widest had any running water in them when we passed by. The smaller of the two broadest channels had a stream of very muddy water running along each side of it, apparently fed from different sources. The largest one of all was most striking. You emerged from dense forest into a stony, sandy waste, covered with boulders, and sparsely strewn with logs and driftwood. That portion of it which we could see up and down had a straight course, and was about a mile long by 300 yards wide. This species of avenue was fringed on each side by rows of dead or dying trees. Through it ran two streams in shallow channels. The western stream was the larger of the two. It was about thirty feet wide, and apparently nowhere more than two or three feet deep. Where I crossed it it was not more than eighteen inches deep, but if it had not been for the assistance of some of the constabulary I should have been swept off my feet. The water was the colour of liquid mortar, and it seemed to be charged with as much earthy matter as it could hold in suspense. When this rapid stream of watery sludge encountered an obstructing ledge of rock it boiled and surged and rolled over it in a whirling mass of muddy froth. This outlet cut through the dense forest must, I think, be of recent formation, and the beginning of it at least must, it seems to me, have been caused by a large body of water travelling with great velocity. Besides the rows of withered trees at the sides, a few tall trees in a similar state were dotted about near the centre of the clearing. These trees, from their shape, had evidently grown to their existing height hemmed in by other trees, and not in free space. The course of that portion of the avenue that we could see was along the highest part of a very low, slightly sloping undulation. The land fell away from each side of the avenue, though at a very gentle slope. The exposed roots of the trees in the waste showed that the surface of the soil had been torn away, and that it was not a case of a hollow having been filled up. Nothing but a great mass of water, moving very rapidly, could, I think, have kept such a course for such a distance. Landslips are common in the lofty Garopo Range. A landslip blocking up the mouth of one of the great gorges would easily account for the accumulation and the sudden breaking out of a very large body of water. So far as I could judge, from a subsequent view of the mountains from the deck of the steamer, one of the deepest gorges in the Garopo Range debouches close to the head of this remarkable water channel.

We were a little curious about the reception we should get at Maisina on our return. I gave instructions that we should be quite friendly, and treat their deserting us as of little consequence. They had evidently thought out what they would do. There were only a few men in the village when we arrived. They received us politely, and were assiduous in bringing firewood, cocoanuts, and water. They also, later on, brought us several pigs, but these we paid for. They were apparently on the alert, and ready for a bolt into the bush if need be. I therefore spoke to some of them, telling them exactly what we were going to do that day and the next. Presently a rather anxious-faced man, who seemed to have a little authority, came and asked me if it was true that we Europeans were going off to the steamer at Philip's Harbour, but were going to leave the police and carriers at Maisina. I replied in the affirmative. He said that this was good, and added that they would not steal anything from our party. The sergeant told us afterwards, that although everything had gone on smoothly, none of the natives stayed in the village that night. We saw nothing of our deserters. One result of our visit was the restoring to the mission, by the bay people, of a number of stolen knives and tomahawks. The restoration was always accompanied by the request that the mission would say nothing to the Government about the theft.

On the following day I visited the new station of the Anglician Mission at Wanigela. The mission have abandoned the idea of having a station on the point at Philip's Harbour. Most of the people at Wanigela had gone fishing or run away, but the chief, who has been made a village constable, was there. He looked a good man for the post, and he has behaved well towards the mission.

May 11th 1899 – The new Governor, Sir George le Hunte, with his secretary Captain Barton

First official comment on Wanigela mission station. Mention of clan leader Waikassa

(Annual Report of 1898-1899, p. 15)

COLLINGWOOD BAY.

47. On the 9th, at 6 am., we sailed for Collingwood Bay. Taking the steam launch with two boats in tow we left the steamer off Hardy Point in order to make the inside tour of the bay, while the steamer went the outer course to Phillips Harbour. We landed at a large house on the beach to the north of Itoto Point (to the north of Keppel Point), where we saw some natives, but they all disappeared, and as we had no time to spare we left a piece of red calico and some tobacco tied on a spear for them, and went on. After some difficulty in finding a passage through the reef, which runs a long way out from the point, we arrived at Wanigela, the Anglican Mission Station, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Abbott, with Mr. Dakres as his assistant. We saw the lads, and their dining-room and chapel adjoining it. All the houses are built of native material, and a low fence surrounds the whole. We were fortunate in finding a large number of the Karikari tribe, from the villages on the coast to the immediate north of Wanigela, who had come to pay their first visit to the mission station. Many of them were in mourning, and Mr. Abbott informed me that there had just been a severe epidemic of dysentery, which had come along the coast, he believed, from the eastward. They were very shy of us, and when I attempted to approach them alone they all retreated except one old man. Taking his hand in mine I followed them, and he called out to them to come back, and we went on to a large house by a creek, where I soon got on friendly terms with them, and they brought me their chief Diu, an intelligent-looking man. I took his hand, and we walked back together to the station, followed by his men. I made them understand how we had visited one of their places on our way and left the red cloth and tobacco there for the people, who had run away from us. I gave the chief a good present, and we left them well pleased. Captain Barton took a photograph of some of them, and of the mission lads. Mr. Abbott has twenty-five boys ; they all looked well and happy, and with his humorous energy he will, I believe, do a great deal of excellent work here.

MAISENA.

48. We then went on in the boats to Maisena, a large village, the centre of a powerful community. Mr. Abbott accompanied us. These people were until recently very much opposed to the mission, but are now most friendly to it; and Mr. Abbott is inclined to shift his headquartes to this place. I doubt, however, if it is as healthy a position as Wanigela. The houses here are large and well built, and there were seven or eight in high trees. These have been built as places of refuge since the affray with the Dori tribes, which invaded them in August last. The mountaineers came to raid the Maisena gardens in the same way as the latter had for generations raided their neighbours for miles along the coast. The Maisena went to protect their gardens and were worsted by their enemies who killed 18 of them, including their chief, a man of power and influence. His son, a youth of inferior physique, was presented to me, and I made him a present on account of the help his father had given to Europeans whenever they came to Maisena. The people of the village were very willing to barter their weapons and ornaments for trade. Their pottery was large, well moulded and ornamented, and had an approach to glazing on it Many of their feather ornaments were very pretty. They use tortoiseshell combs. Their spears are particularly well made—long, light, and tapering to a very fine point at the shaft. The shape of the canoe was quite different from that of the Ope ones, being square and ornamented instead of the long curved sharp-pointed end of the latter. One is probably better suited to river than to sea navigation.

Mr. Abbott was anxious that I should appoint a leading man, Waikassa, as village constable here, and I was willing to do so ; and sent to the boat for the blue " sulu," red sash, and belt, which is the village police uniform. Unfortunately the individual had run away, being under the impression that he was going to be recruited as an armed native constable and be taken away. The investiture had therefore to be postponed to a future time, and his uniform having been shown to the people was returned to the boat. He was probably not congratulated on his bravery when he returned to them. The women and children all left the village as we approached and did not reappear.

PHILLIPS HARBOUR.

49. We then proceeded to Phillips Harbour, a few miles further on, and at the south end of the bay, where the "Merrie England" was lying at anchor. There is a picturesque abandoned group of houses on very high piles on a small island off the point close to the ship. An amusing incident occurred on the way. A pig which we had bought at Maisena managed to jump overboard with the intention of gaining the shore, some three-quarters of a mile away. He swam gallantly, but we pursued him in the launch and recaptured him; he fought desperately for liberty and life. The view of the mountains from here is very fine. Immediately above towers Mount Gorupu, which is called part of Mount Suckling on the Great Main Range. It is, however, so far to the north of the main trend of the Range that its actual connection with the latter is a matter of speculation at present. On the other side, some twenty miles away to the north, the two high mountains Victory and Trafalgar raise their picturesque outlines 4,000 feet above the plains behind Cape Nelson.

Group of people at Yuayu village

Photographed by Percy J. Money shortly after 1900

On the 1st of January 1900 – the first day of the new century – Governor Le Hunte were inspecting the fjords around Tufi. There he met with Korafe chiefs, and he decided where the Government station should be located. Cape Nelson Station was opened on April 8th the same year. After this there were station reports adding much information on the government activities and the observations of its officers.