
On Gold

a quiet whisper ... up on the Bulolo old Shark-eye's getting gold

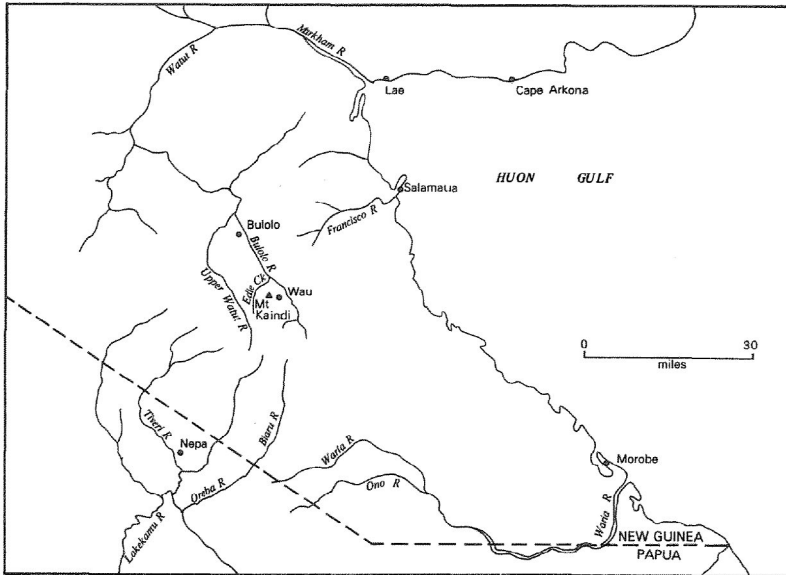
In 1909 most miners in the Northern Division thought that the government prospecting expedition should use the rivers of the eastern Gulf to enter the ranges from the south; and Matt Crowe had agreed with them. But had the land north of the eighth parallel not been part of the German Empire the miners might have suggested going beyond the Waria and trying the rivers flowing into the Huon Gulf. Before Crowe asked him to join the government expedition, Frank Pryke had wondered whether or not it would be worthwhile turning 'square-head' and prospecting in German territory.

By the end of 1909 the Australian miners knew that the land to their north carried signs of gold; but they also knew that defining and working a field in that country would be difficult and dangerous. In August 1909 two German prospectors, Wilhelm Dammköhler and Rudolph Oldörp, went up the broad flat valley of the Markham and then turned south to follow the Watut. Dammköhler, who had spent many years prospecting, trading, farming and pearling in Australia and New Guinea, was well known in Papua. Not long after Dammköhler and Oldörp had sent their carriers back to their villages on the coast a shower of arrows ripped into the camp on the Watut and thirty yelling warriors rushed forward. Within a few minutes many of the warriors were shot dead and the prospectors were slashed and spiked with arrows. Dammköhler bled to death. Oldörp built a raft and drifted for five days to the Markham mouth. While recovering at the Lutheran mission station at Cape Arkona he chose to be remembered by writing in the guestbook a verse from Psalm 104:

O Lord, how manifold are thy works!
In wisdom has thou made them all:
The earth is full of thy riches.

Having found a few grains of gold and much quartz, Oldörp was determined to go back up the Watut. But on his return to the Markham mouth in 1910 a sudden storm caught his schooner, and he was drowned.

Map 15 Morobe Goldfield



Arthur Darling had also looked north. Late in 1909 he recruited carriers from the Northern Division and went up the Markham and the Watut. Sick with fever and short of food he too was attacked and wounded. His labourers carried him back to the river and they rafted down to where they had left a whaleboat; but it was gone. They went on to the Markham mouth where Darling was nursed at the mission station. Picked up by Les Joubert, Darling rested at Buna before joining the rush to the Lakekamu. Darling said that he had found gold not far across the ranges from the Lakekamu field; but he did not have a chance to build up a reserve of cash to allow him to lead another prospecting expedition. Never having fully recovered from lack of food, exposure and spear wounds, he died early in 1911. 'Buna' Darling was born in Canada, and grew up and worked in Queensland before going to British New Guinea in about 1900. He was forty-two when he died.

In 1912 when gold was becoming hard to find on the Lakekamu Matt Crowe, William (Sharkey) Park, James Preston and Edward Auerbach tried the Markham again. They confirmed that the villagers were determined to contest the right of any foreigners to enter their lands, but they were unable to add to the elusive stories of being close to payable gold. In 1940 Teddy Auerbach wrote that sometime before 1914 Jimmy Preston went back and found gold on Koranga Creek.

Although there is no evidence to prove Auerbach's claim it could be true. Auerbach is reasonably accurate when he writes of other incidents, and Preston made an official request to prospect in German New Guinea in 1913. If Preston did find gold he had good reason to keep the discovery quiet: he did not want other diggers crowding into the area before he could select and begin work on the richest ground, his request to enter the area had been refused, and German syndicates claimed the sole right to prospect in the area between the Waria and the Ramu. Whether or not Darling or Preston had made a strike, the stories of gold on the upper Watut were made a little easier to believe by the German New Guinea Annual Report for 1912-13 which assumed that the ranges running north-west from Papua released gold into the streams draining into the Huon Gulf.

Table 14
Principal goldmining laws
New Guinea

The Mining Ordinance 1922

came into force on 1 January 1923. It set the fee for a miner's right at one pound a year, but generally the legislation was similar to that in force in Queensland and Papua. The disputes among the early white miners on Edie Creek arose because the ordinance seemed to allow individual alluvial miners to hold large areas of rich ground under dredging or sluicing leases. Such leases were normally granted only to those about to install machinery for large-scale operations.

The Mining Ordinance 1928

repealed the ordinance of 1922 which had been amended every year since its introduction. The 1928 ordinance was also amended frequently; by 1940 the basic ordinance was known as the Mining Ordinance 1928-40. The provisions of the Papuan ordinance of 1907 to protect and give rights to 'native' landowners and miners were included in the 1922 and 1928 ordinances.

The people who confronted the prospectors once they left the coast were the Laewomba, a strong community expanding their territory down the Markham Valley and driving out the previous inhabitants. On the coast scattered groups, fearing another raid on their homes and gardens, had neither the power nor confidence to fight the foreigners. Like the Sudest in 1888 they looked to the foreigners for protection. They welcomed the Lutheran missionaries who established a station at Cape Arkona in 1906 and they assisted the private and government expeditions which passed through their lands to fight the Laewomba. In 1921 when late German New Guinea became the Australian Mandated Territory of New Guinea and Australian civilians took over its administration from Australian soldiers, the Laewomba of the Markham Valley met government officers and missionaries in peace, but higher up the Watut and the Bulolo the villagers still felt able and obliged to

attack foreigners. The new government in Rabaul passed a mining ordinance, similar to the Queensland and Papuan legislation, to come into effect in 1923: the country north of the eighth parallel was then Australian and open to Australian prospectors.

Two were already there; and on gold. Sharkeye Park and Jack Nettleton found gold on Koranga Creek in 1922. Park, born in England, had, like Crowe, mined in Western Australia and the Yukon before going to the Northern Division and the Lakekamu. Perhaps he had used information obtained from Darling or Preston, but it is more likely that he wanted to go beyond the country he had seen ten years before and prospect the general area said to be gold-bearing. In addition to the knowledge built up by the miners, Park could use a map published in 1915 by the missionary Georg Pilhofer of his journey from the upper Waria to the Bulolo and the Markham, and he had talked with George Ellis, who had taken a government patrol into the Bulolo Valley early in 1922. Nettleton, a member of the Australian Expeditionary Force which captured German New Guinea in 1914, returned as a member of the administering force, and stayed on after his discharge to open a trade store east of the Markham on the Huon Gulf. He left the store to team with Park on his successful prospecting trip of 1922.

Table 15
Morobe Goldfield
Men employed in mining

	<i>Year</i>	<i>European</i>	<i>New Guinean</i>
November	1926	219	1324
June	1932	419	3271
June	1938	700	6218

Park and Nettleton worked on Koranga for a year before outsiders knew of the strike. Then there was no rush. The extent and richness of the gold-bearing country were unknown, and Koranga was difficult to work. By the time a miner and his labourers reached the mining area their stores were almost exhausted, little food was available locally, and unless a miner made his own arrangements he could not obtain stores at the beach. It was like MacLaughlins Creek in the 1890s without the Beda gardens. In 1925 only five men attended the Christmas dinner provided for all the diggers by Doris and Charles Booth at their claim on the Bulolo. Three did not go: Park was sick and Arthur Chisholm and William Royal were too poor. Yet during the year there had been rumours that some of the Koranga and Bulolo miners were making a lot of money: according to one report in the *Papuan Courier*, two experienced miners thought it possible to win up to 80 ounces a day on

Koranga. It was true that Park and Nettleton were having trouble finding enough containers for all their gold; but that was certainly not a problem for all the diggers on the field.

Table 16
Morobe goldfield
production
(ounces)

1923/24	6617
1924/25	7417
1925/26	10,067
1926/27	84,768
1927/28	113,874
1928/29	87,542
1929/30	42,819
1930/31	57,874
1931/32	108,647
1932/33	196,823
1933/34	257,511*
1934/35	298,634
1935/36	300,735
1936/37	359,917
1937/38	403,652
1938/39	229,212
1939/40	271,574

* Until 1933/34 the figures are for the gold exported from the Territory; after that year they are estimates for the production on Morobe.

In January 1926 Bill Royal and one labourer spent five days cutting a track through heavy timber and scaling cliff faces to get to Upper, or Top, Edie Creek. Rising high on Mount Kaindi, Upper Edie plunged over a massive rock bar to cascade into Lower Edie. In only 4 miles from Upper Edie to the Bulolo the creek fell 4000 feet. Upper Edie was over 7000 feet above sea level. Moss covered tree trunks, roots and rotting logs; each night it rained; and often during the day the clouds piled up against the mountains, covering the mining area in more rain or dense fog. Royal and his partner, Chisholm, were in debt and almost out of stores; but in Upper Edie Royal found that he could wash up to 7 pennyweights in a dish. He left to report his strike and register claims: he had found Papua New Guinea's richest alluvial field. Upper Edie, slowed by the rock bar, had been dropping gold in 'free-wash' which was up to 8 feet deep along several miles of the main creek and its short tributaries. Where successful miners on Papuan fields took 300 ounces in a year, enough to pay their expenses and give them a spell in Samarai and Australia, on Edie they washed-up thousands of ounces and hoped to join the carefree rich, a goal as elusive as the big strike. On Papuan

fields nuggets were rare; on Edie the labourers picking out stones from the head of the sluice often cried, 'Golston i stap'. They recognised the nuggets (or 'specimens') by their weight rather than by their colour.

Boats began calling at Salamaua, the *saksak* (sago leaf) town on the narrow spit jutting into Huon Gulf. It grew quickly as a port and the beginning of the track into Edie. By September 1926 there were ninety miners and 540 labourers on the goldfield, by October there were 158 miners and 790 labourers and by November there were 219 miners and 1324 labourers. Joe Sloane and Dick Glasson took 240 ounces in one day from a 15-inch box on Midas Creek. During 1927 the miners declared over 110,000 ounces at Edie and Salamaua.

Among the first to arrive at Edie were some of the men who had battled around the Papuan fields for more than twenty years: Frank Pryke, Les Joubert, Charles Ericksen, Dave Davies, Andy Gillespie, and Ned Ryan. Gordon Robertson, Peter 'Bourke' (Bjorquist), George Arnold and Joe Sloane were already on Bulolo when Royal climbed to Upper Edie. Lucky Joe Sloane became one of the 'Big Six', the group who first pegged much of Upper Edie. John Henry Sloane, a Queenslander, went to south-eastern New Guinea with James Hurley's prospecting expedition of 1894. When news of Lobb and Ede's strike on Woodlark reached north Queensland he went back to mine on the islands and then shifted to the Gira. After going to South Africa too late to fight the Boers he returned to follow the diggers to the Yodda, the Waria, the Lakekamu and then back to the Gira to mine osmiridium when it suddenly and briefly increased in value at the end of World War I. Before he went to look at Sharkeye Park's prospect he was already known as Lucky Joe. He had been wounded on the Yodda, shot men on the Aikora, and took a woman from the Waria.

Table 17
Sepik Goldfield

From 1936/37 to 1939/40 over 6000 ounces were taken each year from the Sepik, the second most productive field in the Mandated Territory. In the year of greatest production, 1937/38, the alluvial miners obtained 11,012 ounces. In the next year there were thirty white miners and over 500 labourers working gold on the Sepik.

Young men fresh from Australia and proud of their physical strength rested exhausted on Komiatum Hill, the first tough climb out of Salamaua, and wondered how the old diggers, many still suffering from over-indulgence at the store, completed the six-day walk into Edie. It was, Frank Pryke said, the worst track he had seen used to supply a goldfield; and at the end of it Edie was 'cold and wet — a miserable kind of place'. Matt Crowe was not there: he had died in Samarai in

1925. Having spent his Lakekamu gold he chased pennyweights at Keveri and on the Awala River, one of the tributaries of the Musa. He had lived long enough to hear the talk of the gold on Koranga, but not long enough to take a share in the 'big one'. Frank Rochfort, who had instructed the Royal Commissioners in 1906 on the proper way to handle a team, stayed on the Murua Field. Andy Doyle had retired to a shack on the Laloki. His visitors listened to stories of old goldfields and watched his chickens hop on his knee and hat, roost in the rafters, and drop dung indiscriminately. Billy Ivory had died in the Northern Division with a blessed candle in his hand. Among his effects were a prayer book, rosary beads, a crucifix, three packs of cards and two loaded dice. Sir Hubert Murray thought that a theologian would say that he had faith but lacked obedience. Sharkeye Park did not shift onto Upper Edie. After four years' mining on lower creeks he sold his leases and left New Guinea in 1926 with a 'healthy five figure fortune'. White men had been searching constantly for gold in New Guinea for fifty years and mining it for thirty-eight. Sharkeye was the first alluvial digger to get rich. He married in Sydney and retired to Vancouver, Canada, where he died in 1940.

The Gosiagos were not there. The law compelled miners to recruit their labour from the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. The new labourers came from the Markham, the Huon Peninsula and the Waria, but as the field developed more and more men came from the Sepik. By 1940 over 3500 Sepik men were working in the Morobe District.

Table 18
Indentured labourers employed in mining
New Guinea

<i>30 June</i>	<i>Employed in mining</i>	<i>Total number of indentured labourers</i>
1931	1900	27,765
1933	3875	28,242
1936	6816	36,927
1939	7162	41,849

In 1931 nearly two-thirds of all indentured labourers worked on plantations; later in the 1930s about half of all indentured labourers worked on plantations.

Papua

Each year from 1888 to 1920 an average of about 1000 Papuans signed-on to work for miners. In 1900 over half of all indentured labourers worked for miners; in 1920 about one-tenth worked for miners.

Early miners were desperate for labourers. One man wrote to his sister in Cairns, 'we have just got to get those coons or come home'. A miner needed twenty-four labourers to work a claim efficiently; eight men to sluice and sixteen to lump stores from Salamaua. The carriers could complete a round trip in three weeks. By the end of 1926 recruiters, who had been charging £5 to £7 for a 'three year boy', were asking £20 for a man willing to sign-on for one year, and there were stories of miners paying £30 and offering more. The labourers benefited little from their scarcity. Most of them were paid 10s. a month while the standard wage for a plantation worker remained at 6s. Recruiters travelled frequently through the known and populous areas of the Morobe District, but after the early recruits had talked about the hardships of life at 'Kaindi' men were reluctant to sign-on. The recruiters became more aggressive: they 'pulled boys' with lies and threats. Some government officers needing carriers to take supplies to the new station on the field were also guilty of abuses. The people of Binamarien, a 'Gazup' village near the head of the Markham, were unlucky. The *luluai* (government-appointed headman) of a neighbouring village said that raiders from Binamarien had killed some of his people. A government party arrested twenty-six 'Gazup' men and brought them back to Salamaua. They admitted taking part in the raid, explaining that it was in retaliation for a previous attack on them. Those 'Gazup' prisoners passed fit were made carry packs to Wau; some died on the track and some in the Salamaua hospital. Twelve men survived to return to Binamarien. Shortly after their arrival, they were attacked and another man was killed. The Binamarien men, from a Tairora-speaking village within the Gadsup area east of Kainantu, were among the first Highlanders to go to *nambis* (the beach) and work for white men. Batong of Gensiko village on the Huon Peninsula went to work as a carrier because he believed that once his name was written down he had no choice: how could he '*sakim tok bilong Mast a Pits*' (contradict the Australian police officer)? Umauna of Uluo volunteered. The government officer obtaining men to carry to Wau told Raikupa that he must go, but he had two wives and three children to look after so Umauna, a single man, took his place. Endong, a senior man of Koromanau, went unwillingly. His *luluai* was punched about the head and threatened with gaol, and others who protested were abused and slapped. The men of Koromanau were not asked whether they wanted to go, and they saw that resistance was futile and dangerous.

The actions of the *kampani masta* (private recruiters) were rarely subjected to the same scrutiny as those of government officers, but there were many stories of recruits being tricked or intimidated. Most private recruiters were probably guilty of crimes that could have earned them spells in Townsville's Stuart Creek gaol. They excused their behaviour

by saying that the 'coons' treated one another a lot worse in the bush, that the returned labourer was a bigger, fitter and more knowledgeable man, and that without labourers there would be no economic development. Errol Flynn wrote that he obtained recruits by deceit; but he was as skilful at misleading readers as he was at creating an illusion on film. It is uncertain how he came by the men who worked for him at Edie in 1933. Bumbu of Busama village north of Salamaua on the Huon Gulf was given his *luluai's* cap in 1926. He increased his wealth and power by supplying recruiters with men. By 1940 he was a village despot, exploiting the villagers and hoodwinking the Australian government officers.



Miners' camp near the junction of Edie and Merri Creeks, 'one of the picked spots'. Late 1920s

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK PRYKE



Frank Pryke's hut on Edie Creek

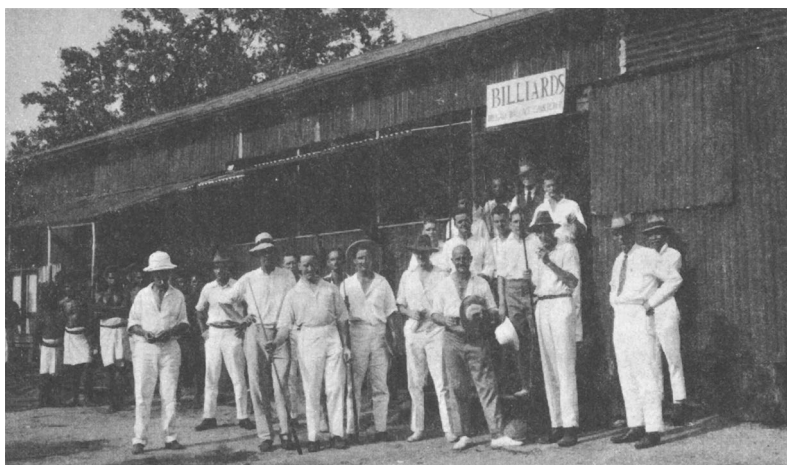
PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK PRYKE

Bishop Mambu of the Lutheran church was fifteen in 1938 when a *kampani* and one of Mambu's *wantoks* came to Bukaua village on the Huon Gulf. Mambu had spent some time at the village and mission

station schools, but there was no place for him at the training school for mission teachers. He offered to go away with the recruiter who then gave him a pound and quietened his mother's protests with sweet talk. Flown to Wau, he was told to work in the hotel, but the lawlessness of the men of the town frightened him. Although his *masta* told him that he was too young to work as a miner on the Watut, he asked to be allowed to go. His *masta* warned him, '*sapos yu no wok strong long karim ston bai mi paitim yu*'. Mambu agreed that if he did not work hard he would be beaten. On the Watut he carried stones, dammed creeks, dug races, directed the hoses while sluicing, and amalgamated gold. He worked alongside men from the Markham, the Sepik, Bougainville and New Britain. They settled disputes in games of football: a practice he called *pilai kik*. He learnt of a sharp division between *masta* and *boi*:

Mipela i no save bung wantaim ol wait skin na sindaun na tok tok wantaim na kaikai wantaim, nogat. Masta bilong mi ino save mekim planti tok gris wantaim mi, nogat. Olsem mi no pilim wait skin i no sindaun klostu long mi na toktok wantaim mi, nogat. Olsem birua. Ol i bosim Nu Gini bilong wok tasol, i no gat skul i tok long wok. Lainim long han wantaim pait tasol.

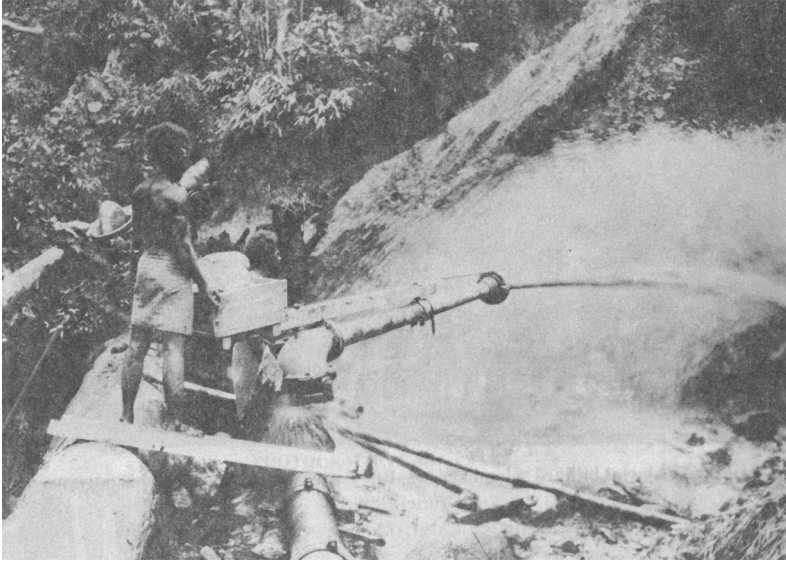
Mambu knew no times of friendly talk between himself and his *masta*. He was given food, a bush house to sleep in, instructions and a cuff when he was slow to act or learn.



Salamaua's jovial billiard saloon keeper, Bill Cameron
with a few of his patrons. June 1929

PHOTOGRAPH: H.L. DOWNING

Some areas suffered from heavy recruiting. F.B. (Monty) Phillips who conducted an inquiry into recruiting in 1927 said that some accessible



Labourers sluicing with a monitor on Koranga Creek

PHOTOGRAPH: FROM THE ALBUM 'ON SILVER WINGS TO THE GOLDFIELDS
OF NEW GUINEA'. NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA



Labourers carrying ore to the tram-line that serves the crusher, 1938, Kupei.
Bougainville, now the site of a giant copper mine

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY MRS M. SCOTT

villages had lost nearly all their able-bodied men. At Sialum village on the north coast of the Huon Peninsula fifty-three adult males were away. This left eight fit adult men in a village of 149 females of all ages, eight old men and eighty-six male children. Other villages, Phillips reported, had suffered in the same way. The District Officer at Salamaua estimated that by February 1927 over 3000 New Guineans were employed in connection with mining, and that the government needed about 450 men to build roads and supply its staff and hospital on the field. Many groups from villages and labouring camps dressed and danced at the 1927 goldfields Christmas *singsing*.

Much that the young men from Australia found strange, violent and appalling was familiar to the old diggers. The people of Kaisenik village on the upper Bulolo killed some carriers, and government officers, miners and labourers combined to shoot some of them. Few New Guineans lived near Edie Creek, but once the miners moved further west and south they entered the country of the Anga peoples, the Kukukuku, with whom they traded and fought. A dysentery epidemic broke out at the end of 1926 and nineteen carriers died on the Gadugadu track between Salamaua and Edie. Others died on Edie, but generally the death and desertion rates were much lower than on the Gira and Lakekamu. One digger arrived at Salamaua with a team of mules, and turned them loose rather than carry them to Edie.

Sharkey Park, staying at Petty's Hotel in Sydney, read lurid accounts of Kaisenik cannibals, kanakas and raids; and he wrote to the Minister. He said that he knew all the villagers well, they could not muster nearly as many fighting men as the reports claimed, and that before the violence they had suffered greatly from miners and carriers who damaged their gardens and stole their property.

Sir George Pearce as Minister for Home and Territories in the Australian Government received the first official reports of the find at Edie. In 1926 Pearce had been Minister for five years and he served another five years before 1940. In the 1890s Pearce had briefly given away his trade as a carpenter to look for gold at Kurnalpi in Western Australia. The Aborigines killed two prospectors in the Kurnalpi area, and Pearce himself used his revolver twice against Aborigines. He fired at unseen men who threw a spear into his camp at night, and he shot to frighten a man who he thought was about to steal from his tent. Pearce was not excited by the stories of gold and violence in New Guinea. He and other Ministers were mainly concerned with warning diggers of the hardships that they faced in New Guinea and denying reports that labourers were recruited by force and treated cruelly by employers.

In April 1927 Pard Mustar made the first flight from Lae to 'the Wau'. Soon more freight was being flown from Lae than from any other airport in the world. Miners paid £35 for themselves and 1s. a pound

for their stores and 'boys' for a flight to Wau. By the end of 1927 more planes were operating and the rates fell. The pilots flew up the Markham, turned south along the Wampit to its headwaters, crossed into the Watut Valley and from there on a good day they could see the patch of kunai grass at the head of the Bulolo and other goldfield landmarks. They landed uphill on the sloping Wau strip. The flight took fifty minutes.

Putting the alluvial of Upper Edie through the boxes was only the beginning of the development of the Morobe goldfield. Morobe followed the pattern dreamt about by those optimistic diggers on every Papuan field who planned companies to exploit lodes and dredge. Companies worked rich reefs and Bulolo Gold Dredging flew in giant dredges piece by piece, assembled them at Bulwa, and set them churning in the broad valley of the Bulolo. In 1934 the Morobe Goldfield produced over one million pounds worth of gold, and in 1940 it returned three million.

The alluvial miners moved on. They worked gold on the upper Ramu, the Sepik and Bougainville. They prospected across the central highlands to the border with Dutch New Guinea and found a little gold. Local communities evaded them, worked for them, traded with them, fought them, and slept with them. Their behaviour towards the miners was influenced by their previous meetings with foreigners, their beliefs about how men ought to behave towards outsiders, their relationships with other New Guineans of the area who could be seen as possible enemies or allies of the miners, and accident.

Table 19
Gold exports Papua

From 1895/96 until 1915/16 gold was the most valuable export from the Territory of Papua; but the total value of all exports was low.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Gold exports £ A 000</i>	<i>Total exports £ A 000</i>
1900/01	33	50
1905/06	58	80
1910/11	67	117
1915/16	43	125

From 1916/17 until 1937/38 copra and dessicated coconut were more important than gold. In 1938/39 gold was again the most valuable export, and the next year rubber exceeded the value of both gold and copra products.

1920/21	11	172
1930/31	23	274
1940/41	133	493

MURDER STALKS AT NOON

Gold and Death in the Kukukukus' Land

By Allan W. Dawes

Yet another prospector has been murdered by natives in the hinterland of New Guinea.

Recent years have taken their toll of adventurous Australians whom the lure of gold and the love of living dangerously have beckoned into the jungles of the Dark Island.

Simple Law of Jungle Vengeance

AUSTRALIA, true to the spirit of its mandate to develop this territory to the moral and material advantage of the backward races whose heritage it is, has done much for the

wounding a white officer and eight native police. The remaining police drove off the marauders, carried the wounded many miles on litters, and then were taken to

NEW GUINEA GOLD

With Experience, Equipment, and Physical Fitness, the

NEW GUINEA GOLD AND EXPLORATION CO.'S

Expedition is Well Endowed. Write or call immediately for Prospectus.

Saddington & Dixon,

Company Managers,
Yarella Chambers, 109 Pitt Street, Sydney.

IN QUEST OF FORTUNE

A Brave Band Sets Out From Sydney *Truth 16/10/19*

WITH HOPE THEY'RE NORTHWARD BOUND *in. laide*

(From "Truth's" Sydney Representative)

ON the buoyant wave of optimism a 45 foot motor cruiser sailed through the Sydney Heads last Saturday—it was bound for New Guinea and the gold which intrigues adventurers on to romance and fortune.

KILLED BY CANNIBALS

Prospectors Lose Lives in Search for Gold



Gold-diggers.

THREE KILLED ONE WOUNDED, ONE MISSING

NO GOLD NEAR BEACH

Don't Rush to New Guinea Field

CERTAIN DEATH TO MANY

A warning that any attempt to reach the reported newly-discovered rich goldfields at Edie Creek in New Guinea will mean almost certain death to any but the most experienced men is contained in a letter received today by the secretary of the Home and Territories Department (Mr. J. G. McLaren) from the Administrator of the Territory (General Wisdom).

GOLD MADNESS

GRIPS

NEW GUINEA

"BIGGEST FIND YET"

£20 A DAY REPORTED

FURTHER NEWS of the gold rush to Bulolo River and Edie Creek was brought to Sydney by the steamer Mataram, which arrived today. Among her passengers were many residents of New Guinea and Papua, who have come here for money, tents, stores and equipment, before going to the goldfields.

EDIE CREEK

GLOWING ACCOUNTS.

New Guinea Gold.

Passengers who arrived by the Mataram yesterday spoke in glowing terms of the Edie Creek goldfield, New Guinea.

Several residents of New Guinea and Papua, among whom was Mr. C. J. Levien, one of the first men to visit the goldfield, have come to Sydney for funds and equipment. One passenger stated that doctors, dentists, plantation overseers, and men in the Government service were giving up their positions

Australian newspaper reports of the Morobe gold strikes

PHOTOGRAPH: NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Jack O'Neill, who prospected and mined on Morobe, the Waria and the eastern Highlands in the 1930s, set down his memories of the miners' relationships with New Guineans:

We white men treated our boys as inferiors; some with tolerance, some with unadmitted affection, some few with hatred bred of fear, but it was impossible to harbour such attitudes towards these wild free people [of the Dunantina valley on the eastern edge of the Highlands], They were just men; most very likable, a few nasty bastards; just like our own kind. A few were very real friends. While prospecting the Agutina creek one day I sat down on the bank for a smoke. An oldish looking man sat down beside me and produced his pipe also. I gave him a light and then presented him with the few remaining matches in the box. These he accepted, but immediately dipped into his string bag and gave me two cucumbers in return. That is the attitude we found; I hope it has not been destroyed. Often while travelling, a string of men would come streaming down a mountain spur and run up and greet us. Invariably they would produce cucumbers — just like our "Apple" cucumbers — and hand them around. These were most welcome on a dry track between rivers; never did think much of cucumbers as a food, but these proved a wonderful thirst quencher, and were always cool. Looking back, I fear we gave these people much less than they gave us; the civilisation we imposed on them was just another Trojan Horse.

Table 20
Gold exports
New Guinea

<i>Year</i>	<i>Gold exports</i> <i>£ A 000</i>	<i>Total exports</i> <i>£ A 000</i>
1923/24	17	719
1925/26	25	1105
1927/28	256	1471
1929/30	96	997
1931/32	399	1109
1933/34	1368	1766
1935/36	1704	2573
1937/38	2029	2980
1939/40	3022	3674

In 1922/23 copra made up 98 per cent of all exports from the Territory of New Guinea; in 1939/40 gold made up more than 80 per cent of all exports.

Some communities certainly suffered from the coming of the miners. Some Muruans must have lamented their presence, and so must some villagers on the Yodda, Gira and Waria (although in the Northern Division the miners came as a battering ram rather than as a Trojan Horse). The Keveri Valley, once the home of a 'friendly lot of coloured men' is now almost deserted, but perhaps the people would have left had the miners never worked the rocky creeks below their garden lands. But not all communities suffered. The Misima shared a small island with alluvial miners and reefers; their numbers have increased and they still own their own land. They are freer and better fed than most people in the world. Most southern Kukukuku hamlets survived the mining on the Lakekamu. Apart from losing arrows and taking steel they chose to have nothing to do with the foreigners: they did not fall for the Trojan Horse trick.

The search for gold brought many strangers face to face. It was the reason why many Australians went to Papua New Guinea, and until the invasion by the Japanese in 1942 it was the main reason why most of them went beyond the beaches. To say that the encounters were exciting, complex, varied and dynamic is to say the expected; but the drama, complexity, variety and events which flowed from the meetings have rarely been shown in detail. Only a close examination can trace the shifts between exploitation, interdependence and manipulation. The Orokaiva lined up behind their shields and charged the rifles of the government officers, police and miners. Yet they did not blindly fight the foreigners; they strove to divert them and exploit their power, they sought to select from the new order and not be overwhelmed by it. Nor did the meetings absorb all the energy of the communities which faced the men who came to mine and govern. A Binandere clansman in 1897 may not have thought that the most important fight he was involved in was the clash with the foreigners. In fact his decision to fight, evade or compromise with the foreigners was largely determined by his relations with other Binandere clans and neighbouring peoples. The most fundamental change experienced by the Beda was their shift from being a Koiari to a Fuyuge people; a process which seems to have gone on during the most varied and violent of encounters with foreigners. All communities had many meetings with different sorts of strangers. Miners, planters, missionaries and government officers of course wanted different things from Papua New Guinea and its peoples. But the most numerous outsiders encountered by nearly all Papua New Guinea communities have been other Papua New Guineans. Perhaps the most important effect of the goldmining industry on the history of Papua New Guinea is that it caused thousands of Papua New Guineans to travel beyond the lands that they had known.



This book is a study of meetings between peoples. Those meetings were important in the history of the people of Papua New Guinea. It does not say that the people have a history only when they have been in contact with foreigners. On the contrary, while concentrating on one encounter, the writer has tried to show that Papua New Guineans have had many meetings, and the meetings have changed them, but not blotted out their past.

Expressing his readiness to become a resident of German New Guinea, Frank Pryke actually wrote '□Head' in a letter to Dan Pryke, 9 February 1909.

Dammköhler and Oldörp 1909 and Oldörp 1909 wrote of their prospecting expeditions. Flierl 1932, Healy 1965 and 1967, Holtzknecht 1973-4, Parr 1974, Souter 1964, and Willis 1972 and 1973a refer to the two German prospectors.

Arthur Darling's last trip is omitted from some accounts or wrongly dated. Two accounts which at least fix the date are Murray's diary, 28 December 1909, 6 April and 15 June 1910, and Holtzknecht 1973-4 who used the mission records. Murray said that Darling claimed to have found gold. Auerbach wrote about his expedition of 1912 and Preston's later trip in *Pacific Islands Monthly*, March, June and July 1940.

The early history of the peoples of the Markham Valley is taken from Willis 1972 and Holtzknecht 1973-4. McElhanon 1970 and Hooley and McElhanon 1970 provide a guide to research into languages in the area and map the distribution of languages.

There are many accounts of the early strikes on Koranga and Edie; few of them agree: Clune 1951, Demaitre 1936, Idriess 1933, Rhys 1942, and Taylour and Morley 1933. Healy 1967 and Parr 1974 have examined this literature. Booth 1929, Leahy and Crane 1937, and Struben 1961 have published accounts of their experiences on the Morobe goldfield.

The story of Royal's find is based on his evidence given to the Royal Commission, 'Report of the Royal Commission on the Edie Creek (New Guinea) Leases', 1927, Transcript of Evidence.

The biographical notes on Sloane are from Clune 1951 and *Pacific Islands Monthly*, April 1946, pp. 48-9. Sloane sailed for South Africa with the 7th Australian Commonwealth Horse in 1902 and arrived after peace was declared (P. Murray 1911). Matt Crowe's death is recorded in *Papuan Courier*, 14 August 1925. Frank Pryke made his comments on the track and Edie to the Royal Commission of 1927.

Although many outstation records from the Mandated Territory were destroyed during World War II some, sent to Canberra, survived. The most important mining records are in the Australian Archives, series A 518, and include: 'New Guinea Mining, Wardens' Reports, 1927-41', AA 834/2, parts 1-6; 'New Guinea, Discoveries of Gold, 1927-34', F 834/2 (also refers to fields outside the Morobe District); 'Morobe Goldfields, Press Cuttings', AB 834/2, parts 1 and 2; 'Commission of Inquiry re Recruiting in Morobe District New Guinea 1927' (by F.B. Phillips), AD 840/1/3. Two other useful files are 'W.M. Park Re Treatment of Natives 1927', CRS A1 27/2571; and 'Salamaua 1927' (Kaisenik attack), CRS A1 27/728. The cases of recruiting in the Markham Valley and Huon Peninsula are from Phillips's report. Surviving Patrol Reports are listed in *Pambu*, No. 35, April-June 1974. Flynn 1960 wrote about his experiences in New Guinea. Moore 1975 checked his accuracy.

ON GOLD

The history of the later development of Bulolo has been written by Healy 1967.

The work of the alluvial miners away from Edie is recorded in *Annual Reports*, Beazley, Fox, Leahy and Crane 1937, Radford 1972, Tudor 1966, Willis 1969a and 1969b, and Fulton.

The quotation from O'Neill is from his manuscript, *A Prospector's Diary: New Guinea 1931-1937*.

Some of the activity on Edie and Bulolo was recorded on film (see list in bibliography).

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