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LONG ISLAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA — EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND RECORDED CONTACTS TO THE END OF THE PACIFIC WAR

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SUMMARY

William Dampier sailed past and named Long Island in 1700. His description of the island as green and well-vegetated indicates that the last major eruption of Long Island did not occur in the period 1670-1700. Dumont D'Urville sailed past in 1827 and from his description and those of others who came after him it appears that the eruption must have occurred before 1670 or in the interval 1700-1800.

Dampier in 1700 described a boat coming off from the shore of Crown Island and the Morrells in 1830 describe people and huts on the shore of Long Island, but the first reliable description of villages and the first contact with the people date from the visits of Finsch in 1884-5. Thereafter periodic brief contacts continued, at irregular intervals, up to the 1930's. Members of the German Südsee Expedition visited the village of Soraga in 1909 and collected names which provide a useful fixed point in the genealogies of the islanders. During the 1930's the ornithologist, William Coultas, spent several months on the island and there were periodic visits by Europeans interested in starting coconut plantations. World War II brought the islanders their most extensive contacts with the outside world as the island was first visited by a few small parties of Japanese and then in late 1943 it was occupied by an Allied force.

HISTORY OF EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND CONTACTS

Records of knowledge about, or contact with, Long Island are important for the following reasons: they allow us to say with certainty that the last devastating eruption of Long did not occur during certain intervals and tell us something about the state of the vegetation on the island at certain dates; they allow us to say when people were first reliably described as living on the island and the names collected by the German expedition of 1909 provide a fixed point for dating the genealogies of the local people; and, we can gain some idea of the degree of outside contact experienced by the people and of the state of their culture at different dates. There are relatively few records of contacts before 1900, which has made it possible to present those which do exist essentially in full. Only in connection with contacts during World War II was more detail available than could be presented here.

Asian traders may have reached Long Island before the first Europeans but there is no definite record of this. A Malay *kris*, now lost, was found buried in association with a skull on Long Island and has been identified at the British Museum as dating from the 16th century (R. Caesar, pers. comm.), but its significance in terms of the history of the island is unknown since it could have been in use for a long period after its manufacture and it might have reached the island as a trade article. The possibility of early Asian imports to the north coast of New Guinea, either by visitors or via Melanesian canoe trading systems, has been discussed by Hughes (1977: 10-18). Also, Malays and Javanese were employed in considerable numbers in the Madang area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century by the Germans (Hughes, 1977: 38).

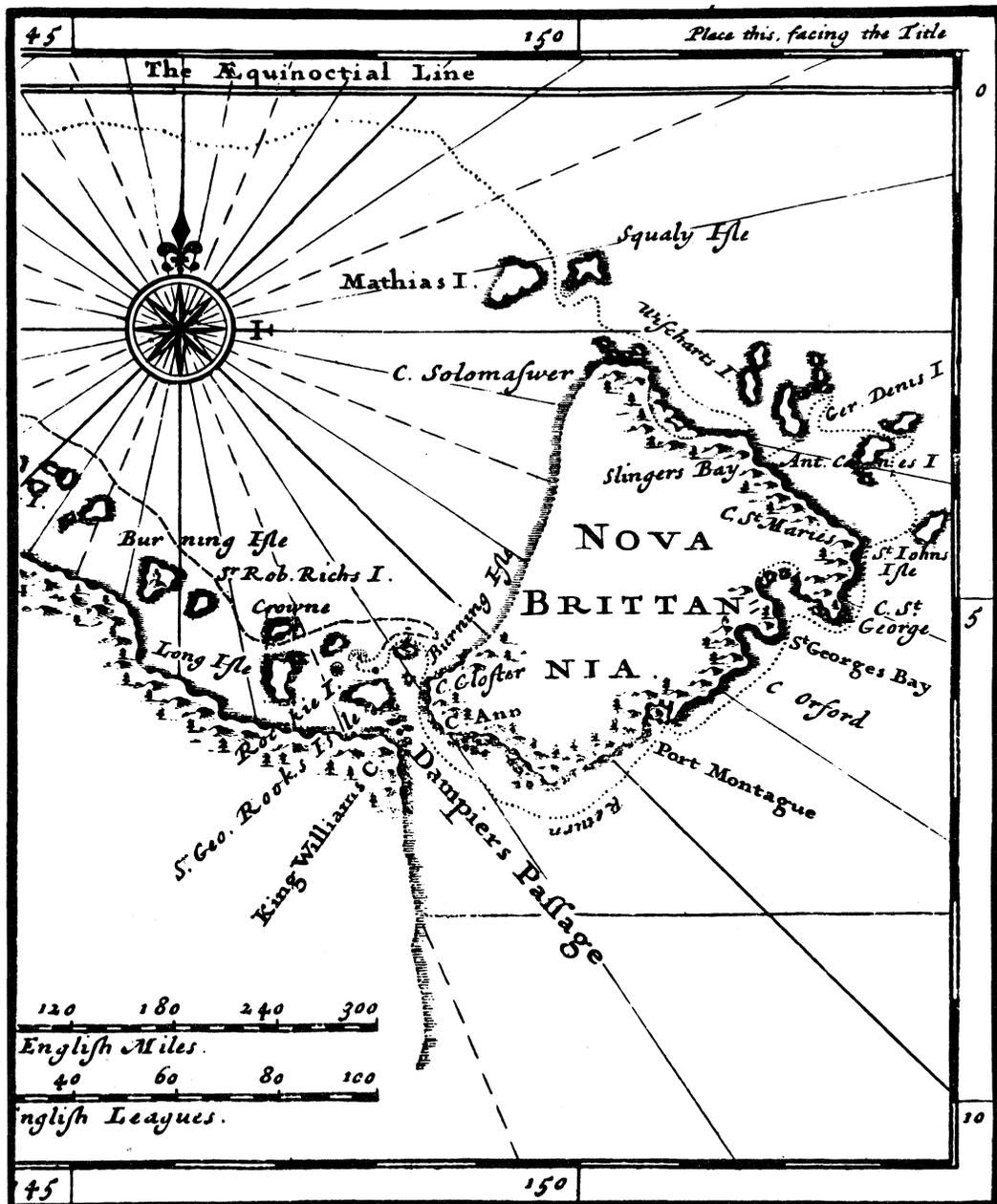


Figure 1. Portion of chart labelled "A View of the Course of Capt. Wil. Dampier's Voyage from Timor Round Nova Britannia & c." p. 208 ff. in Dampier, William. 1729. *A Voyage to New Holland*. J. A. Williamson (ed). The Argonaut Press. 1939.

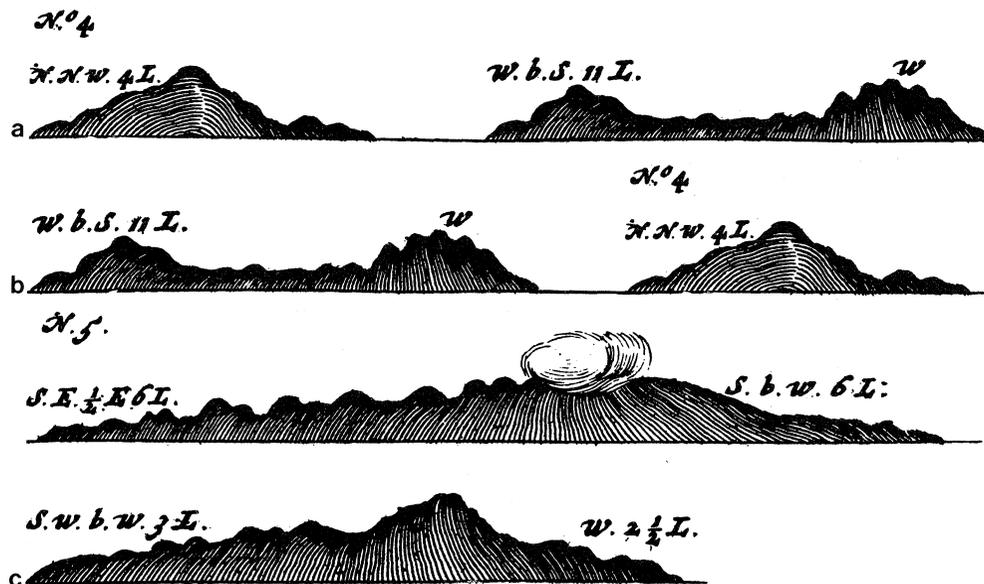


Figure 2. A. Table 13 No. 4 as figured in Dampier, showing Long Island and Tolokiwa Island. b. Table 13 No. 4 redrawn according to the coordinates. c. Table 13 No. 5 of Dampier. According to Cooke's analysis these are Long Island and Crown Island.

Ynigo Ortiz de Retes may have seen Long Island in 1545 (Wichman 1909: 26) but the first well documented sighting by a European was by Abel Tasman in 1643 (Wichman 1909: 93). Tasman, however, mistook Long Island for a part of the mainland (Reche 1918).

In March 1700 William Dampier sailed past Long Island and named it. He describes these events as follows (1729, 1939 edition: 218-219):

The 31st in the Forenoon we shot in between 2 Islands, lying about 4 Leagues asunder; with Intention to pass between them. The Southermost is a Long Island, with a high Hill at each End; this I named Long Island. The Northermost is a round high Island towering up with several Heads or Tops, something resembling a Crown; this I named Crown-Isle, from its Form. Both these Islands appear'd very pleasant, having Spots of green Savannahs mixt among the Wood-land: The Trees appeared very green and flourishing, and some of them looked white and full of Blossoms. We past close by Crown-Isle; saw many Coco-nut-Trees on the Bays and the Sides of the Hills; and one Boat was coming off from the shore, but return'd again. We saw no Smoaks on either of the Islands, neither did we see any Plantations; and it is probable they are not very well peopled. We saw many Shoals near Crown-Island, and Riffs of Rocks running off from the Points, a Mile or more into the Sea. My Boat was once over-board, with Design to have sent her ashore; but having little Wind, and seeing some Shoals, I hoisted her in again, and stood off out of Danger.

A map of Dampier's cruise in the area northeast of New Guinea is given in Figure 1. Dampier made profile drawings of the islands which he encountered during his travels along the north coast of New Guinea and these are presented as Tables 13 and 14 in his book. However, they are unlabelled and are not incorporated into the text, so the reader must decipher them as best he can. According to Williamson (editorial notes on page. VIII of the 1939 edition of Dampier, 1792) lack of close correlation between the illustrations and the text is due 'to the fact that Dampier was at sea when

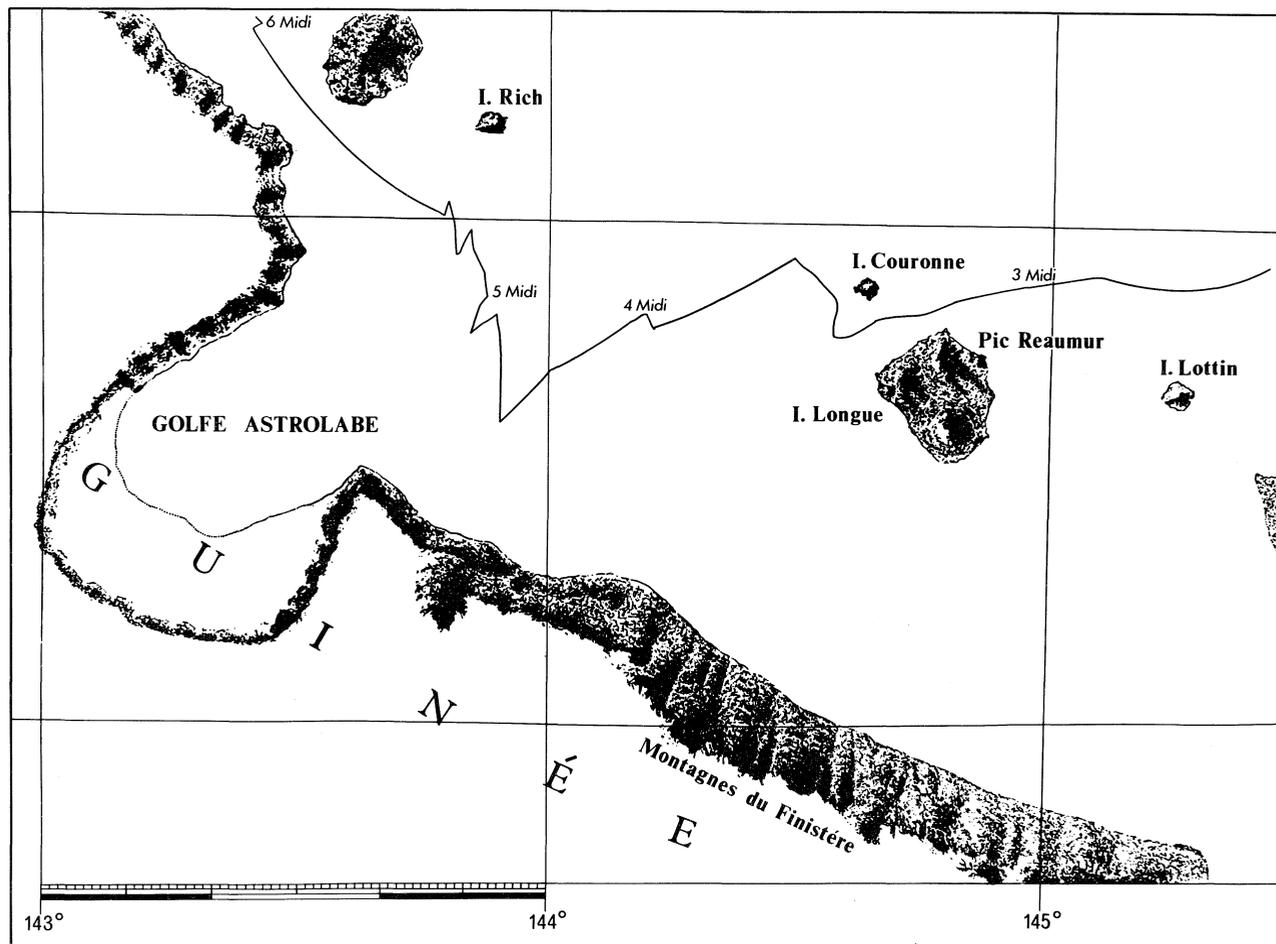


Figure 3. Portion of 'Carte Générale de la Côte Méridionale de la Nouvelle Bretagne' redrawn from Dumont D'Urville, J.S.C. 1833. Voyage de découvertes de l'Astrolabe exécuté par ordre du Roi, pendant les années 1826-1827-1828-1829. Atlas Hydrographique. Paris.

the second part of his book was printed and was dead when the second edition appeared in 1729'. Following Reche's (1914) careful analysis, which assumes that the profiles are sequential, Long and Crown must be found in Table 13 #4 or #5. Examination of #4 shows that the bearings given are not consistent with the way the islands are drawn. If the figure is redrawn according to the bearings it is consistent with the islands being Long and Tolokiwa (R. J. S. Cooke, pers. comm.). Cooke further found that Dampier's Table 13#5 shows Long and Crown islands. The island profiles are shown in Figure 2.

The next explorer to give any details about Long Island was J. S. C. Dumont D'Urville, who sailed past in August, 1827 and named the two peaks. The northern peak he called Réaumur, after the physicist R. A. F. de Réaumur, and the southern peak he called Cerisy, after the naval architect Lefébure de Cerisy (Wichman, 1909: 327). A redrawn version of Dumont D'Urville's map of Long Island is shown in Figure 3. Although his track between Long and Crown Islands was in general similar to Dampier's (compare Fig. 1 with Fig. 3), his description of Long Island is quite different (1832: 543-544):

At one o'clock, we were already beneath the steep and rugged flanks of Mt. Reaumur, which also appeared to have been a volcano, and we followed, at a distance of less than two miles, the deserted beaches of Long Island.

This island was quite incorrectly named by Dampier, probably because of the first view of the island which that navigator saw, because it has a rather round shape and its circumference is not less than forty miles. The ground in the vicinity of the shore appeared more arid than all the other islands and we saw neither coconut trees nor any trace of inhabitants.

Crown Island, which is no more than seven miles to the NW of Long Island, is a plateau four or five miles in circumference and of great height. The ground, although rugged, showed no sign of the sharp ridges which caused Dampier to give it the name Crown Island. Perhaps because the irregularities had been effaced by the growth of forest with the passage of time, perhaps because that navigator, having passed closer to the island than me, was in a better position to see these things. There was no sign of smoke nor inhabitants; the sea was so calm that it is probable we would have seen a few canoes, had the island been inhabited.

The next description, from the year 1830, is in the accounts of Benjamin (1832) and Abby Jane Morrell (1833), each of whom wrote a book about their cruise aboard the schooner 'Antarctic'. The narratives are essentially the same, so only Benjamin's, which contains slightly more detail, will be quoted here (1832: 459):

I have introduced the foregoing particulars in this place, because the reader is now to be informed, that on the 12th of November, at five, P.M., the Antarctic was on her way to this coast, from Dampier's Island [this must refer to Umboi judging by the direction Morrell was sailing, although most charts at this time applied the name Dampier's Island to the island now called Karkar — R. J. S. Cooke, pers. comm.] sailing at the rate of thirteen miles an hour, on a sea which was smooth as a mill-pond, rendered so by the current that set through the strait towards the north-west, at the rate of four miles an hour. At six, P.M., we were within one mile of the north shore of Long Island, which is about the same size as the one we had just left, Dampier's Island, but not so much elevated. We saw a few scattering huts along the banks of the seacoast, and a number of natives about them, who made signals for the vessel to stop. But the wind coming off from the land in strong gusts, and wishing to get clear of the island before dark, we continued our course to the westward, until we had cleared the western end of Long Island; when we immediately hauled in to the south, for the north-east of New-Guinea, or the island of Papua.

I feel it a duty in this place to put mariners on their guard, by stating that there are many dangerous coral reefs around the two last-mentioned islands; some of which

extend several miles into the sea.

These observations seem straightforward, but may not be dependable since other portions of his account are patent fabrications.

Judging from the accounts of Wichman (1909, 1910, 1912) many other sailors must have sighted Long Island between 1800-1900. Among them was Robert L. Hunter, who sailed past Long Island in 1840 and commented that the whalers called it Crown Island (Wichman 1910: 50). Francis John King, who passed near Long Island in 1842, made the following comments (1844: 12):

Antediluvian Island — 6th, made a round island about two miles in circumference, surrounded by a reef which stretched to the south-east, towards Long Island, on which the Lady Blackwood struck, in 1840, making a passage between the two islands. This island I called Antediluvian Island, and is uninhabited; by good observations is in lat. 5° 45' south, long. 146° 50' east. The abovenamed islands and reefs are not layed in Horsburgh's, Norie's, or any charts on board the Waterwitch, or any I have hitherto seen.

I have checked the coordinates given by King for other localities and found them to be generally quite accurate, with errors of only a few minutes to N and S, so there was no systematic error in his readings. I have been unable to locate the charts mentioned by King, but since Long and Crown Islands were both named by Dampier on the same day it seems unlikely that the charts would show one without the other. Nevertheless, it seems most likely that King's Antediluvian Island is Crown Island, since transposition of 5° 15' and 5° 45' is an easily explicable mistake, and everything else seems to fit. Another possibility, which appears less likely, is that King meant 4° 45' S, in which case he might have been referring to an island where Hankow Reef now is.

There were Marist missionaries on Umboi in 1848-1849 and missionaries from the Institute for Foreign Missions of Milan were there from 1852-55 (Wiltgen 1969: 329; however, it appears from Reina 1858, that they were still there in 1857), but Rev. R. M. Wiltgen (pers. comm.) has found no mention of contact with the people of Long Island during his extensive researches on the history of these missions.

In 1884 Dr Otto Finsch travelled extensively along the northeast coast of New Guinea. Two portions of his report relevant to Long and Crown Islands are given below (1885a: 4; 1885b: 5 respectively).

On Oct. 10 we travelled along the north coast of Crown Island, which has the form of a conspicuous, thickly wooded mountain approx. 1500' high; neither coconut palms nor traces of people were to be seen. Long Island and Dampier Island [Karkar I.], as well as Rich Island we saw from afar. All are thickly wooded. Here there are reefs everywhere, so that sailors must be very careful.

On the 29th [November, 1884] we travelled along the SE coast of Long Island as Dampier Strait is very dangerous because of many reefs and we had realised for a long time that one could put little or no trust in the charts. Long Island is mostly thickly wooded or covered with scrub and has no coconut palms or people; or at least it is very thinly peopled, for we saw only 2 or 3 small settlements in inaccessible bays whose inhabitants came offshore in a canoe and were difficult to persuade to come closer. The island has no harbours and hardly any anchorages.

In 1885 Finsch paid a more extended visit to Long Island (1888: 188-189):

Then we steamed northwards to Long Island, along the eastern side of which we passed. It seemed to be of a similar character to Dampier [Karkar I.] being entirely volcanic with several extinct volcanoes of which three forward projecting cones lay before us next to Coriz Peak. The latter may be 4,000 ft high and is thickly wooded as are the other peaks. Opposite Coriz Peak on the northeast side lies the somewhat

lower Mt Reamure, but Findlay (Pacific Directory, pg 931) errs when he says that the two peaks are separated by a deep valley. [I have been unable to sort out which name Finsch is associating with which peak. This is also the earliest mention I have found of Coriz Peak. D'Urville showed three peaks on the island but did not name the third.] The whole island is mostly mountainous, with very little flat land and only moderate ravines or valleys passing through it. The coast appears as unpromising as the land itself, which should, however, be easier to cultivate than Dampier I. [Karkar I.] since it doesn't have such thick virgin growth but shows more undergrowth-covered areas. The shore was mostly a not very high, steep rocky cliff, which sometimes became lower and formed shallow bays, which however would scarcely be useable as harbours, at least not on the east coast which we were steaming along. Plantations were nowhere recognisable, but in the second bay I noticed a yellow tree and some coconut palms, the only ones which we saw on the entire island. And — "there are the black customers already!" said the steersman. In fact, a sailing canoe with eight passengers came slowly out of the bay, but still no closer. Then the lungs of the black from Mioko again had work in a way that was familiar to them from their travels aboard labour recruiters, "Good ship that fellow, plenty to eat, plenty of tobacco, plenty of women, plenty of laplaps, the captain is very good, come quickly, quickly!" Only this time the "we buy people" was omitted for the Samoa certainly had nothing to do with that. That of course, made no impression on the Long Islanders for they understood of this speech as much as we did of theirs: nothing; and with that we got along perfectly well, as the canoe finally slowly moved towards us. The people, who were by the way true Papuans and exactly like the inhabitants of the mainland of New Guinea, were not greedy and were willing to barter. But they had nothing much, only things such as are found in Astrolabe Bay, e.g. woven armbands, breast decorations and the same kinds of bows and arrows. When they had sold almost everything [they had with them] they gave the prow of their canoe and cut away even the painted sideboard. Among these [parts of the canoe] were quite noteworthy little items, for example from the tip of the mast a triangle with crudely carved birds, a strange frame on the outrigger and so on; all objects which now may be seen in the Museum für Völkerkunde in Berlin, which previously probably did not possess any pieces from Long Island. As provisions only some old coconuts and leaf tobacco were brought. The people did not appear to be familiar with trade tobacco, in contrast to glass beads and iron, which here was greeted with the cry "gari". In the excitement of trading the newly acquired knife of one of the men fell into the water. Then one could see a grieved black, since for such a child of nature this is scarcely something to laugh about. Now I like to see happy people, so I gave the man another knife, and one could again rejoice in a happy black face. Probably today I am still favorably remembered; for the blacks remember good as well as bad, and probably tales are still told of the strange ship without sails and the white man with the red beard. He must have been rich! Yes, I have not lacked knives since my boyhood, least of all on the Samoa, which carried many gross.

In 1885 Captain Cyprian Bridge, of H.M.S. 'Dart', landed on the south point of Long Island and declared it a British protectorate. His description of the event is as follows (1885: 2003-2005):

14. Dull weather and heavy rains, during which dangers could not be discerned till close to, prevailed on January 16th, on which day the "Dart" reached Long Island. After examining the eastern and south-western shores without being able to discover any natives, I directed Lieutenant and Commander Moore to return to the southern point at which I landed, and having on a bluff some 40 feet high above the sea set up a flag-staff, hoisted the British flag and read the Proclamation. A copy of the Proclamation was nailed to the flag-staff.

Bridge was accompanied by the missionary James Chalmers, whose account is slightly more detailed (1887: 222-223):

By 7.30 we were in the open, in a deluge of rain, steaming to Long Island. This is another of those at one time active, living volcanoes, now dead, living only in newer life and truer beauty. From the base of the highest peak — 1,500 feet — a long low

ridge runs, which, when some distance off, gives the appearance of a very long island. We sailed well round it, but could see no appearance of living beings, neither house nor plantation. We could not land on the north west side, so decided to hoist the flag on the high south side on a prominent place. We landed, and ascended an embankment of volcanic earth, about forty feet above sea-level, and there dug a small hole, close by a stump. The pole was raised and fastened to the stump, and again Captain Bridge performed the ceremony. The opportunity was favourable to address the officers and men, and in kind and well-chosen words he told them how pleased he was with the manner in which the work had been done, and what satisfaction he would have in reporting to the proper quarter respecting Captain Moore, his officers, and men.

There must have been at least one unrecorded visit to Long Island sometime before 1900 as shown by the following quote (PNG Govt. — Patrol Report — Anonymous — Saidor 4 of 1951/52):

People very natural and eager to please and most hospitable to the patrol. Apparently this has not always been the case, because the O.I.C. was presented with a piece of grapeshot that had fallen from a dead tree — possibly the mark of a visiting ship early in the last century.

On February 9, 1900, Governor Rudolf von Bennigsen and a plantation owner named Boag passed near Long Island aboard the 'Johann Albrecht' but did not anchor. However, two men in 'fighting regalia' came alongside in a canoe and received many gifts and the promise that the Germans would soon return. Bennigsen (1900, 324) described the island as apparently fruitful and well-wooded and as being only thinly populated by a tribe of people who appeared to be related to Papuans.

Dr. G. Friederici passed Long Island in 1909 and reported only that 'Long Island has high, no longer active volcanoes at the north and south ends' (Sapper 1910: 256).

Also in 1909 the Südsee-Expedition der Hamburgischen Wissenschaftlichen Stiftung stopped briefly at Long Island, and the reports of this expedition provide several good accounts of conditions at that time. The first of these is by Otto Reche (1954: 89-90; translation by V. B. Meyer-Rochow):

On the 7th of May 1909 early in the morning we were awakened by a very strong thunderstorm. "Peiho" is going to Long Island which is not long at all but does look rather long if you approach it from the east. Approaching the island the captain reported from the bridge that the inhabitants of the village being approached were standing on the shore ready to fight, which is why we left the valuable instruments and trade articles safe on board. However, when Hellwig, Reche, Muller and Vogel came ashore to the village of Sora, they were met, to their great surprise, with complete, almost cultivated, friendliness and in particular — this had never happened to us before — mainly by a woman about 40 years old who immediately approached us with her elastic and energetic walk smiling in a friendly manner and asking us our desires and begging us to come closer. Although for a native woman 40 years old, she was no longer young, and although she had very gray hair, she was of a youthful liveliness and had a vivid energetic character. She was to be seen everywhere around, seemed to lead the rest, helped wherever she could and in general seemed to play the important role in the village and seemed to be at least one of the responsible important townspeople. Mrs Tagere (as she was called) was an exceptional personality of almost European character of whom we had never seen the like anywhere else on our expedition. We were told that she was a widow and that she was looking after the orphans in the village (this could have been a misunderstanding for in the little village not many orphans could have existed). Anyhow she was the soul of the village and all our success in this settlement we owe to her. What we had never heard anywhere else before was that she could even laugh with a high-pitched voice. She seemed to look after conduct and education in the village.

Even the young people were faultlessly polite. They picked up every little stone which

was lying in our path so that we wouldn't hit it and if we happened to throw something carelessly away while eating, e.g. a banana peel, then they would pick it up and dig it into the soil for in this region there is a general belief that with these discards black magic can be made and they wanted to save us from this. As a matter of fact the people were much more polite than we were and, by the way, Chief Aijile [original German spelling] did not neglect his duties either. He invited us to sit down in the shade of his house and in return for our presents of tobacco gave each of us a cane of sugar and some taro. He was a strong personality. The people were of the same type as those found on Lottin and equally light-skinned.

There is another reason from which one could deduce that those people were on a considerably higher mental and emotional level than most of the natives here. The dogs and pigs were exceptionally tame and friendly which we took to mean that they were usually not treated in a cruel manner as is usually the rule with kanakas. Here it seems that one normally has a sort of psychological relation to animals and does not treat them as lifeless things. With all this helpfulness and friendliness of the natives Reche could finally do some anthropological work. However, he measured only one man but took several photographs, among them some of our friend Mrs Tagere. Skulls were nowhere to be seen and could not be purchased.

Remarkable were three incurably ill people which we found in one house. They were as thin as skeletons and could move forward only in a sitting position. They did this crawling, pulling with their hands and thus slowly moved themselves forward. One man and 2 women suffered from this disease the nature of which Fulleborn also could not determine since he had not seen it. He had remained aboard the ship to work through the results of the cruise. Similar cases we had seen rarely in other villages of West New Britain.

At first only few people were to be seen in the village but they soon came closer, particularly after the chief had ordered them to come. The village had five houses on stilts and two houses flat on the ground which were of the type we had seen the last few days. Hellwig could record all five names of the villages on the island and the names of the house owners in the largest village Ow [original German spelling]. Muller was able to record a small vocabulary. Our trade ended with us buying a pig, which was longed-for fresh meat for the "Peiho". The relatively large island appears to consist without exception of older and younger volcanic stones and ashes. When we left our gay friend waved goodbye for a long time to which we had to reply in a similar vigorous manner. When "Peiho" sailed we couldn't see any of the other villages described to us. "Peiho" went on toward the Siassi group to go to Tuam.

A second account by G. Thilenius provides considerable overlap with that of Reche but, as there are some differences, the Thilenius account is also presented in full (1927: 151-153, translation by V. B. Meyer-Rochow):

7 May, 1 o'clock, strong thunderstorm, "Peiho" approaching Long Island which when approached from Tupinier nicely fits its name — a long coast flanked symmetrically by 2 cones. Hellwig, Muller, Reche and Vogel land at 9 o'clock on the part of the shore which appears to be inhabited after a long boat trip. The captain had reported from the bridge that the natives were in fighting regalia so all of the more important scientific instruments and articles of trade were left aboard and weapons were substituted. The gentlemen therefore were happily surprised when they were met in a friendly manner by the natives. Particularly noteworthy was the fact that a woman about 40 years old not only led the greeting ceremony but also all the discussions. In general she appeared to be the soul of the village community with her energetic walk and equally energetic voice. Mrs Tagere invited us to go to the village where her commanding voice and her peculiar manners along with her youthful liveliness and gay laughter were always a source of happiness. The name of the village was Sora and consisted of 5 houses on poles and two houses flat on the ground all of which were similar to those we had seen during the past few days. In addition there was a good stable with a high fence for one pregnant sow. Of the two houses on the ground one was inhabited by men, the other by 2 incurably ill people who could only move forward by crawling along and pushing forward with their skeleton-like legs and pulling forward their body

with their hands while supporting themselves with their hands. Altogether there were 3 of these ill people, one man and two women. We had seen similar cases in several villages in Western Neu Pommern [New Britain], Fulleborn presumes neuritic reasons. There was also one completely mentally retarded boy with an abnormal head formation and bent legs who we found squatting under a house. In general the population (which consisted of 5 men and 11 women and girls), which was of the New Guinea type, had remarkably good figures. The chief, Aijile, himself was a remarkable personality and invited us to sit in the shade of his house and he politely supplied each of the whites with one taro and one sugar cane in return for our presents of tabacco. He also called the hidden women and children who rapidly lost their shyness and became confident so that Reche was able to do some anthropological work. In the meantime Tagere critically was examining all trade items of Hellwig. Without her consent no piece was allowed to change its owner. Muller, as soon as he could work with Sagails, recorded a small vocabulary while Vogel was drawing. Hellwig investigated the names of 5 more villages on the island and recorded the names of 19 house owners in the largest village of "Ow". The tameness of pigs as well as dogs on Long Island is remarkable. It is, as in the western parts of Neu Pommern, the consequence of a mild treatment in contrast to the very brutal treatment in the eastern parts.

After Reche had taken some probes of the volcanic stones near the village as well as sand and pebbles from the shore the whole expedition went aboard again and we had to reply for a long time to the energetic goodbye waving of our never tiring Tagere. After one o'clock in the afternoon we were back on board where Fulleborn, writing his expedition report, in addition was observing the cloud formation on top of the 2 mountain peaks of the island. The clouds were covering the peaks ring-like as we had observed on Tupinier and Lottin Islands, the latter of which we had climbed and found ourselves in heavy rain while at the same time the sea was in brightest sunshine. While Duncker's boat went out for two hours to fish, the whole expedition tried in vain to find any signs of any of the named villages on the west side of the island. "Peiho" then set its course SE at 5 o'clock to steer toward Tuam of the Siassi group.

Hans Vogel-Hamburg (1911) of this same expedition attended a large singsing at the village of Sikawa, which was on Sio Island on the Rai Coast. Also in attendance were 'magnificently decorated inhabitants of Long Island, whose villages have unfortunately remained hidden from us' (1911: 256).

G. Evans (1940: 44) landed on Long Island in 1925 and described it as 'so far as we could judge . . . uninhabited.' However, this statement was based on a stay of only three days, with mobility apparently limited by bad weather.

The first published mention of Lake Wisdom appears to be that in the *Official Handbook of the Territory of New Guinea* (Australian Prime Minister's Dept. 1937: 96) which contains the following quote:

A party landed on Long Island in February, 1928, and after climbing the steep sides of a mountain to a height of some 1,500 feet, looked down on the waters of a lake, about 4 miles by 5, about 1,000 feet below them. The shore natives, numbering approximately 300, are immigrants from Siassi Islands: they declare that the heights are inhabited by natives whom they have never seen, but whom they blame for the disappearance of their women from time to time. The name Lake Wisdom was given to the lake. It is interesting to note that in 1921 the island was reported as uninhabited.

The lake was named after Brigadier General E. A. Wisdom who was Administrator of the Territory of New Guinea from 1921-1933.

William Coultas (1933-35) of the Whitney South Sea Expedition collected birds on Long Island in November-December, 1933, and his unpublished journal provides a wealth of information about many aspects of Long Island life. The Coultas party was only the third to live on the island, the previous two parties consisting of Australian government patrol officers (see below). Only information relating to previous contacts with the outside world will be dealt with here. These are summarized by Coultas as

follows (265-266):

Owing to its isolated position and lack of facilities for ships, Long Island is probably the largest island in the Mandated Territory without a white trader or planter. Not even the mission societies have penetrated here. The two-hundred odd natives are visited by the Patrol Officer of Madang District twice per year and reasonably often by a Japanese or Chinese fisherman. Less often by recruiters in need of fresh food for their crews. A few boys, who have been returned from working on plantations, speak fairly good [pidgin?] English and are only too willing to act as interpreters. A ship is, naturally, the cause of much excitement . . .

A German visit, of which I have been unable to find any other record, is described as follows (275):

The old men called our attention to the place where the German steamship had anchored when the boys were taken away to Madang. Only one of these boys returned — a really fine old kanaka who spoke both [pidgin?] English and Malay and acted in our behalf many times.

Those who left the island as labourers and later returned must have had a great effect on their society both in terms of their ideas and experiences and the material things which they would have brought back. Two such men, Sili (Father: Goreke) and Bara (F: Dagas), were still living on the island in the 1970's and information obtained from them is presented in Ball and Hughes (1982).

Coultas climbed to the crater rim above Lake Wisdom, but due to the steep inside walls of the crater he decided, as had a patrol officer and a doctor before him (Coultas, 269-270), not to attempt to descend to the lake.

No pre-war patrol reports have been located. However, the following information was published by Carey (1938):

Mr Nurton, Patrol Officer, who visited the island in 1932, estimated from native lore that the catastrophic explosion which formed the caldera occurred about 300 years ago. The rain of ash and debris destroyed all life on the island as well as on Crown Island 12 to 15 miles to the north-west, and deaths occurred in the Siassi Group over 60 miles away. The present inhabitants are descendants of Siassi Islanders who colonized the island three generations ago.

No European missionaries have lived on Long Island but, starting in 1925, Sio evangelists lived there (T. Harding, pers. comm.). In the late 1930's or early 1940's there were two native mission helpers, working from Umboi for the Australian Lutheran Mission (Allied Geographical Section 1943a).

Also during the 1930's, L. J. Bell started a plantation at Bokbok on the west coast (Allied Geographical Section 1943a; Nauna of Matapun, pers. comm.). Bell recruited labourers (including Sili [F: Goreke], Bara [F: Dagas] and Botsai [F: not recorded]) set up a plantation, and got trees planted but he spent little time on the island. His boat was the 'Bulolo'. The plantation was deserted after 2-3 years due to the start of World War II. Franz Moeder (pers. comm.) also started a plantation in the late 1930's which was abandoned with the start of the war. According to Moeder, trochus and bêche-de-mer fisherman used to visit Long Island fairly frequently during the 1930's when there were several Japanese-controlled companies operating out of Manus. Also, sometime during the 1930's a Japanese aboard the 'Sanksi' brought in Manus swimmers to fish for turtles and took hundreds for oil (Moeder and the people of Kaut, pers. comm.).

The first visit to Long Island by a geologist was apparently that of N. H. Fisher in 1939. He reported (1939) that there was no trace of active volcanism nor was there an island in Lake Wisdom.

During 1942 the coast watchers (Allied Intelligence Bureau) were the only Allied Forces in the area of Vitiaz Strait. L. J. Bell at least once used Long Island as a place of refuge while serving as a coast watcher in 1942 (Feldt 1946:178).

In early 1943 there was considerable air and naval activity in the Vitiaz Strait area. On February 28, 1943 a convoy of eight ships escorted by eight destroyers left Rabaul carrying 6000-7000 men who were intended to strengthen the Japanese force at Lae. This convey was almost completely destroyed by Allied air power. Following this demonstration of Allied air superiority the Japanese were forced to rely on submarines and small craft which moved only at night to supply their forces in the Lae area (Gill 1968: 272).

I have not found any published accounts of the Japanese having garrisoned Long Island, but it was important as a staging point for barge movements between Rabaul and Wewak (US Army, Office of the Chief Engineer GHQ, 1959: 181). However, Angus (F:Botsai) of Matapun states that the Japanese camped at a deep cove south of Matapun for perhaps a year before American planes strafed the camp and killed some of the Japanese; after this the survivors left. In this connection it is interesting to note that aerial photos taken of Long Island on September 28, 1943 (mission 270 Z 28 September, 1943 Film 8551 frames #3 and #5, Film 8534 frame #37) show what appears to be a barge near shore near the present site of Matapun.

As the war turned against the Japanese during the last half of 1943 the Allies moved gradually northward. In preparation for an Allied attack on Cape Gloucester, a party of three Europeans of the Allied Intelligence Bureau and four nationals was landed from a PT boat on the northwest shore of Long Island on October 6, 1943. Their mission was to get information as to any force on the island and establish an air-watching post to report air attacks from Madang. At the time of their arrival there were at least two parties of Japanese on the island, but within a few days both groups had left. The coast watchers then moved to the outskirts of the nearest village (presumably Malala) and from here aircraft were reported while patrols circled the beaches of the island. By late November it had been established that the island was free of Japanese and a signal to that effect was sent to headquarters. The party remained on Long Island for another month, reporting aircraft and submarines, until Allied forces arrived (Feldt 1946: 333-4). Near midnight on December 23 the commander of the force that was to occupy the island and two scouts were landed on Long Island from a PT boat. The commander remained on the island only long enough to be informed that there were no Japanese there and then returned to Finschhafen. The scouts remained on the island to carry out further reconnaissance and to display range lights on the night of the landing to guide in the landing craft.

The occupying force, consisting of 150 men from the 592nd Engineer Brigade, 2 amphibian scouts and 33 men of the 338th Australian Radar Station, left Finschhafen during the afternoon and evening of December 25 aboard 5 LCM's, 3 LCVP's and 3 PT boats and the first men from the PT boats were ashore by 0200 on December 26. The landing craft had to alter their landing site to a beach south of Cape Reaumur due to heavy surf and did not make it ashore until 1300. The radar was set up within a few days and camps and trails were established and improved. However, the monsoon season arrived with heavy rains at the end of December and by January 1 these had put the radar out of commission. The Japanese failed to attack Long Island and most of January was spent patrolling the island and getting the radar into operation. Later a large radar screen was established on the slopes of Mt. Reaumur above Poin Kiau at the northern tip of the island. Heavy rains caused occasional flash floods, one of which collapsed a river bank on which a bulldozer was parked. The strength of the current was such that the bulldozer was swept down the river and out to sea. In early February an airstrip 50 feet wide and 1500 feet long was constructed just west of Poin

Kiau for use by light observation aircraft (US Army, Office of the Chief Engineer GHQ, 1959; Angus [F: Botsai], pers. comm.). In mid-February the amphibian engineers were removed from Long Island and replaced by an infantry unit. Later in the war Allied flying boats landed on Lake Wisdom from time to time (John McAlpine, pers. comm.). Sometime during the war a PT boat apparently went aground near Kaut (pers. comm. from the people of Kaut).

A trawler which first came to Long Island as an Australian or American military vessel, the 'Nania', was taken over by the Australian administration following the war and began making regular trips to Long Island in 1946-47 under the name 'Koro'. From this time contact with the outside world became both more regular and more frequent and, since the changes occurring during this postwar period are well remembered by many people alive today, a more coherent account can be presented than for the prewar period. Information on postwar European contact is therefore included in the following paper (Ball and Hughes 1982).

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