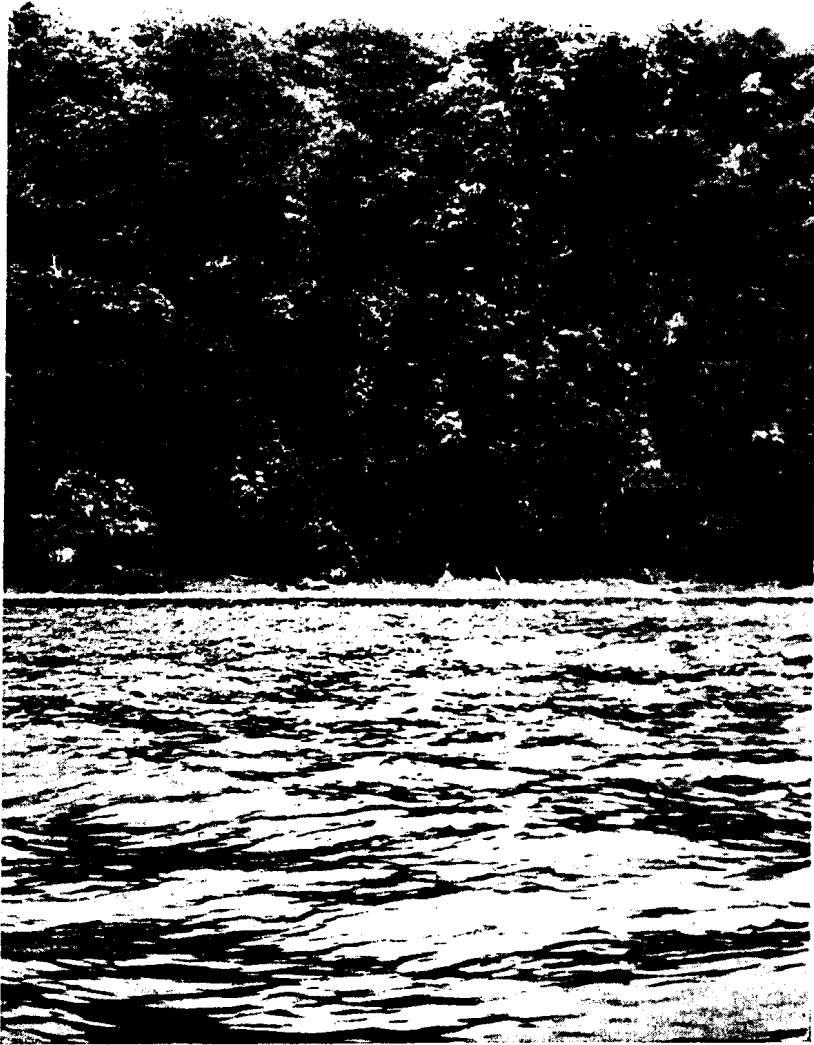


Search for New Guinea's Boundaries

From Torres Strait to the Pacific

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The Wutung obelisk seen from the Pacific Ocean. Here the Irian boundary supposedly begins, but where it goes remains unknown. (Netherlands Topographical Service, Delft.)

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY PRESS
CANBERRA

First published 1966

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Set in 10 point Linotype Times Roman, 2 point leaded,
and printed on English Finish Printing Double Royal 60
by Hogbin, Poole (Printers) Pty Ltd, Redfern, N.S.W.

Registered in Australia for
transmission by post as a book

Preface

The paucity of published material on the borders of New Guinea and the international significance of the Irian boundary led me to bring together the information I had gathered over the past few years. Ideally, a book of this kind should cover the subject in its total historical and geographical context. The aim of this work is more modest: it intends merely to throw some light on the birth and development of New Guinea's boundaries. With this purpose in mind, after an introductory chapter attention is given to the historical events leading up to the partition of New Guinea among three European powers. In subsequent chapters the development of the boundaries between the various parts of the island is discussed. It is realized that this approach may tend to convey the impression that each particular border is in some way unique. This, however, is not intended and it is hoped that the reader will recognize some of the common underlying themes and problems which are given attention in the introductory and concluding chapters.

It was intended originally to present in a brief appendix those documents which define the borders. It soon appeared desirable to include also the unpublished records of more recent border conferences and relevant correspondence leading up to the actual treaties, exchange of notes, Orders in Council, or (as the case might be) lack of action. In light of this expansion and the fact that the documents may not hold the same interest for the average reader as for the student, they appear in a separate sister volume (*Documents and Correspondence on New Guinea's Boundaries*). Cross-references are made to these documents (abbreviated *D. & C.*) in several places.

Permission to consult and publish post-1914 material was granted by the Departments of External Affairs and Territories in Canberra and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior at The Hague. The reports of West New Guinea officials (*Memories van Overgave*) were consulted in Hollandia (now Sukarnapura) in 1962 and 1963. Citations from sources not in English are given in translated form. As titles of officials and designations of administrative divisions are not always comparable these have been left in the original. Brief descriptions of their meaning are given in Appendix I.

Although my debt is to many, I would like to single out for particular acknowledgment Mr H. J. Gibbney, formerly with the Commonwealth Archives Office in Canberra, Dr J. Woltring and Miss L. J. Ruys of the Archive Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague, Mr B. P. Lambert, Director of National Mapping (Canberra), and

Dr J. Cumpston, Historian in the External Affairs Department who patiently assisted in many ways. Thanks are also due to Mr J. N. Jennings and Dr H. C. Brookfield of the Department of Geography of the Australian National University for valuable comments on the original manuscript and to Mrs C. Richmond, former Research Assistant in the Department of Pacific History, whose assistance was available during the early stages of the project. The cartographers in the Department of Geography cheerfully responded to what may have seemed like an unending stream of requests by producing maps which greatly contribute to whatever merit this study may have. Miss I. M. Goodin and Mrs. J. Briggs bore the brunt of the typing, Miss M. Anderson compiled the index, while the final product profited from the care of the staff of the Australian National University Press. The editors of the *Australian Journal of Politics and History* and the *Australian Outlook* granted permission for use of material published in 1964 and 1964-5 respectively. Naturally, I alone am responsible for the data presented.

PAUL W. VAN DER VEUR

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January 1966

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The Wutung obelisk seen from the Pacific Ocean

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Abbreviations

<i>A.D.E.A.</i>	<i>Australia, Department of External Affairs</i>
<i>A.J.I.L.</i>	<i>The American Journal of International Law</i>
<i>A.P.C.A.</i>	<i>The Acts of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia</i>
<i>A.R.B.N.G.</i>	<i>Annual Report on British New Guinea</i>
<i>A.R.T.N.G.</i>	<i>Annual Report of the Territory of New Guinea</i>
<i>A.R.T.P.</i>	<i>Annual Report of the Territory of Papua</i>
<i>B.T.L.V.N.I.</i>	<i>Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde van Nederlandsch-Indië</i>
<i>B.Y.B.I.L.</i>	<i>The British Year Book of International Law</i>
<i>C.A.G.</i>	<i>Commonwealth of Australia Gazette</i>
<i>C.A.O.</i>	<i>Commonwealth Archives Office (Canberra)</i>
<i>C.P.D.</i>	<i>Commonwealth [of Australia] Parliamentary Debates</i>
<i>C.P.P.</i>	<i>Commonwealth [of Australia] Parliamentary Papers</i>
<i>C.S.R.</i>	<i>Commonwealth [of Australia] Statutory Rules</i>
<i>G.B.B.F.S.P.</i>	<i>Great Britain [Foreign Office], British and Foreign State Papers</i>
<i>G.B.S.P.</i>	<i>Great Britain [House of Commons], Sessional Papers</i>
<i>G.B.S.R.O.</i>	<i>Great Britain, Statutory Rules and Orders</i>
<i>G.J.</i>	<i>The Geographical Journal</i>
<i>H.A.D.</i>	<i>Territory of Papua and New Guinea, House of Assembly Debates</i>
<i>H.C.T.</i>	<i>Hertslet's Commercial Treaties</i>
<i>L.N.P.M.C.</i>	<i>League of Nations, Permanent Mandates Commission</i>
<i>L.N.T.S.</i>	<i>League of Nations Treaty Series</i>
<i>N.B.H.S.G.</i>	<i>Netherlands, Bijlagen tot de Handelingen van de Staten-Generaal</i>
<i>N.H.S.G.</i>	<i>Netherlands, Handelingen Staten-Generaal</i>
<i>N.K.V.</i>	<i>Netherlands, Koloniaal Verslag (Verslag van het Beheer en den Staat der Oost-Indische Bezittingen, and similar titles, before 1866)</i>
<i>N.K.W.</i>	<i>Nachrichten über Kaiser Wilhelms-Land und den Bismarck-Archipel</i>
<i>N.L.E.A.</i>	<i>Netherlands, London Embassy Archives</i>
<i>N.M.Bi.Z.A.</i>	<i>Netherlands, Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken, Archief</i>
<i>N.M.B.Z.A.</i>	<i>Netherlands, Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, Archief</i>
<i>N.N.G.M.O.</i>	<i>Netherlands New Guinea, Memories van Overgave [Reports by West New Guinea officials on handing over to their successors]</i>
<i>P.I.M.</i>	<i>Pacific Islands Monthly</i>