

#### 4. Tulagi

Tulagi, a small island off the coast of Gela Sule Island in the Gela Group in modern-day Central Province, was the administrative headquarters of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate from 1897 until 1942. The Second World War in the Pacific erased its 45-year history. Five km long and 0.8 km wide, it contains only 320 hectares, with a central ridge. It is easy to walk around Tulagi in two hours. Tulagi was typical of other nineteenth century Pacific towns, which were designed around safe, large harbours, long before aircraft were used for transport. Tulagi was always the poor cousin of other Pacific towns, with only basic services available; no newspaper and not enough students for a primary school.

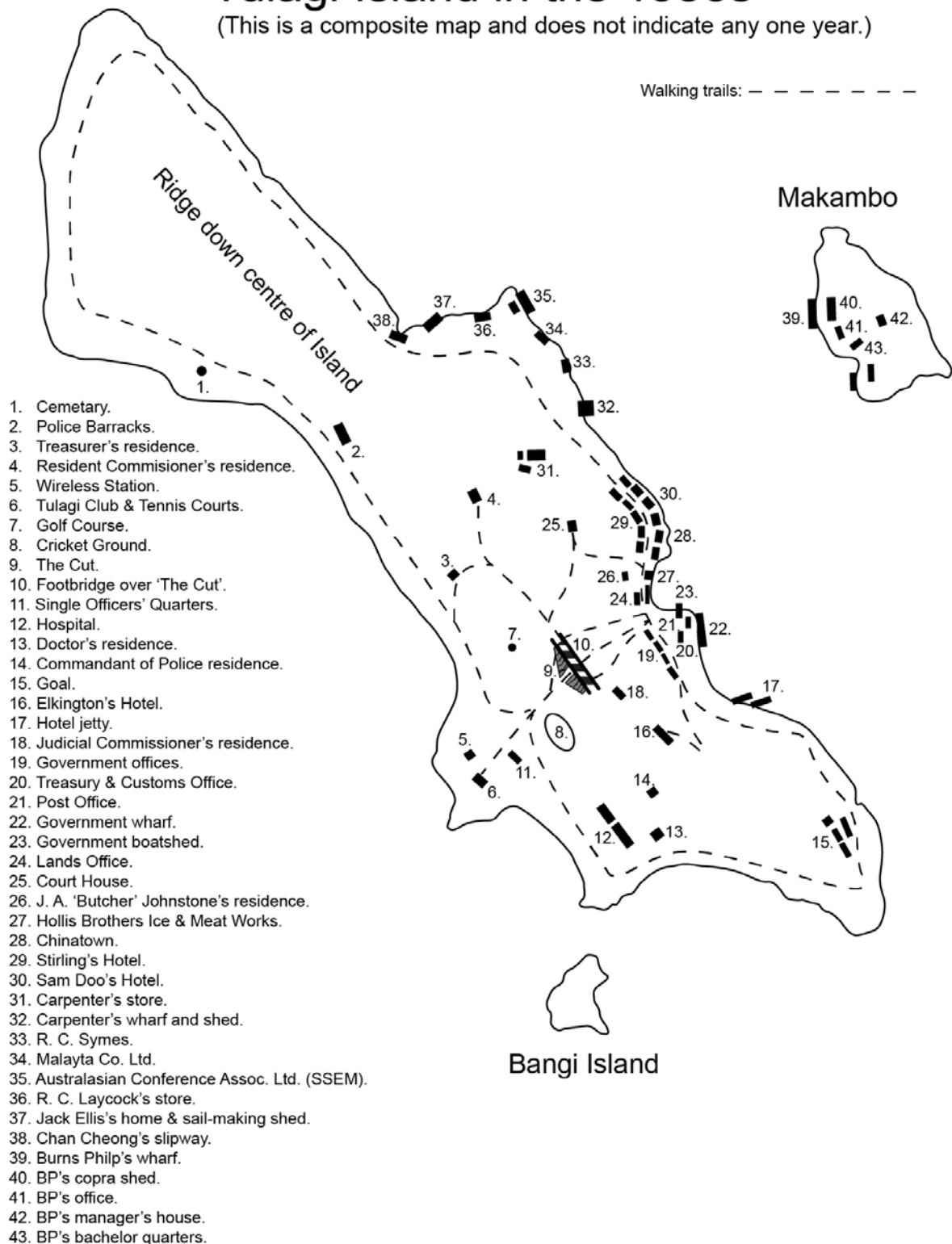
Tulagi was also part of a commercial enclave. The largest companies were Levers Pacific Plantations Ltd. and Burns Philp and Co., which had their bases on Gavutu and Makambo, small islands across the harbour. Other commercial companies operated from buildings on Tulagi and there was also a large Chinatown on the island. The entire settlement never had more than 200 permanent residents, half of whom were Chinese. Villagers from the Gela Group visited constantly, trading produce, there were also police and prisoners, and other Solomon Islanders visited as labourers being signed on and off for plantations, or to use the hospital. However, it was primarily a European and Chinese town.



4.1. The Lands Department building is in the left foreground, with the Resident Commissioner's home highest on the ridge. (Clive Moore Collection)

# Tulagi Island in the 1930s

(This is a composite map and does not indicate any one year.)

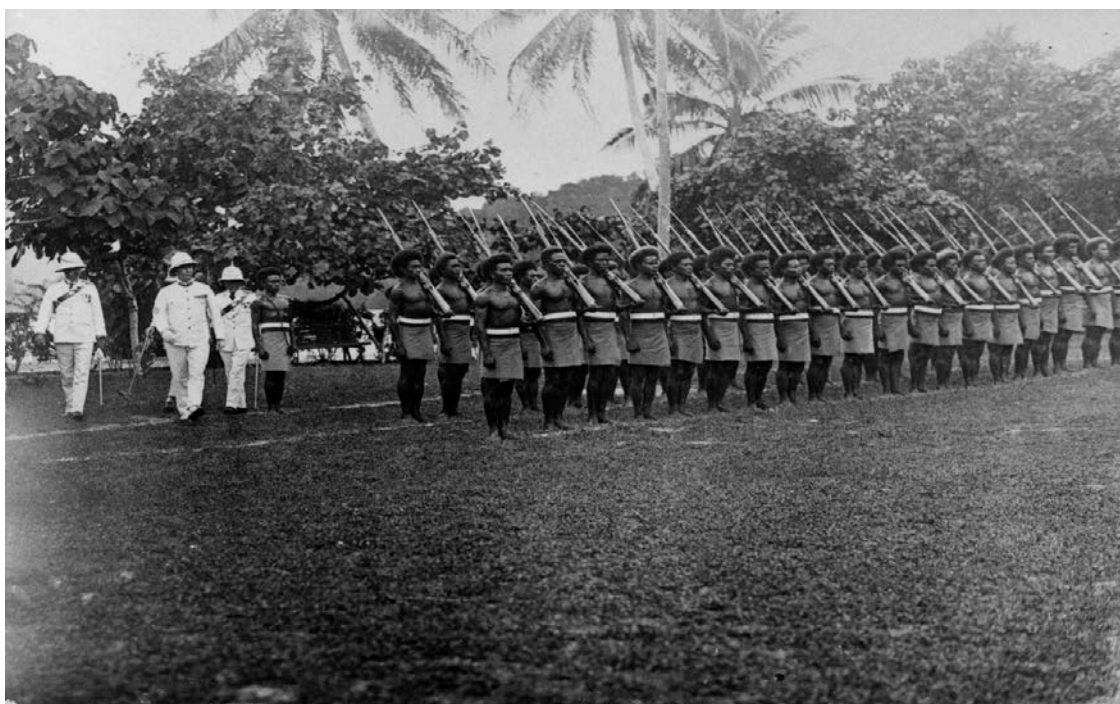


4.2. Tulagi Island in the 1930s. (Cartography by Vincent Verheyen)





4.3. The Treasurer's home, Tulagi, 1927. (*Walkabout*, 1 Oct 1927)



4.4. High Commissioner Sir Eyre Hutson inspecting the Armed Constabulary, Tulagi, 1927. (UQ FML, Alexander Wilson Collection)



4.5. The Tulagi Club, constructed in 1927. (Australian National University Archives)



4.6. Chinatown, with Burns Philp's Makambo Island in the background. (Clive Moore Collection)





4.7. There was a branch of the Guomintang (Kuomintang, the Chinese Nationalist Party) on Tulagi onwards from 1923. The building was constructed in 1927. (Queensland Museum)



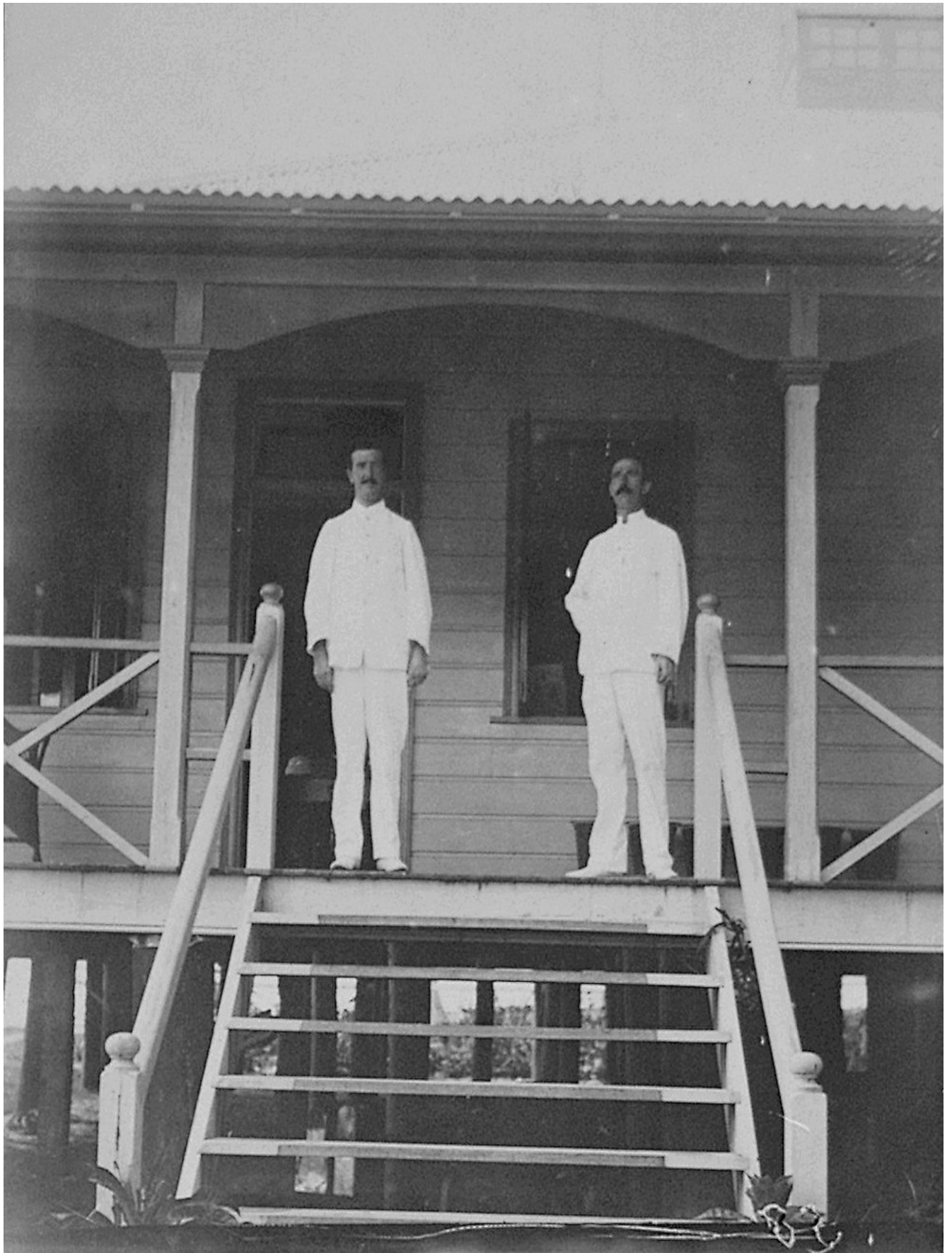
4.8. The second government Residency, Tulagi, 1910s. (Solomon Islands National Archives)



4.9. New Staff cottage at Burns Philp and Co.'s Makambo Island. (Australian National University Archives)



4.10. Levers Pacific Plantations Ltd. headquarters, Gavutu Island, 1914. (British Museum, Thomas Edge-Partington Collection)



4.11. Employees at Levers Pacific Plantations Ltd.'s Gavutu Island. (Solomon Islands National Archives)



4.12. Prisoners building roads on Tulagi. (British Museum, Robert Lever Collection)



4.13. Solomon Islanders in canoes opposite Gavutu. . (Solomon Islands National Archives)