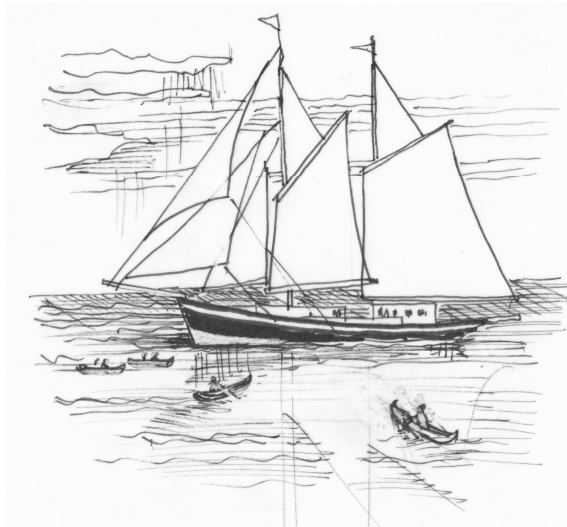


William Bromilow of Dobu, Papua New Guinea



The people of Dobu stood on the sandy shore of their island, talking excitedly among themselves as they watched a large, three-masted schooner anchor off-shore. Some, more daring and curious, took to their canoes and paddled at a safe distance, but close enough to watch all the strange activity on the large ship that had unexpectedly appeared.

“Who are these people?”

“Why are they coming on to our island?”

“What are all these things they bring with them?”

Dobu is a small, ‘inactive’ volcanic island east of the Papua New Guinea mainland. The only experience the Dobuan people had with Europeans was an occasional visit from the government administrator or his deputy in their steamship. Now they were witnessing a totally new event, the arrival of a large party of missionaries whose call was to teach the Christian message of salvation to the people of these islands.

The party was led by Dr. William Bromilow from Australia, accompanied by four other men who would be stationed on other islands in the vicinity. There were also twenty-two South Sea Islanders from Tonga, Fiji and Samoa with wives of a number of them.

“We’ve never seen so many white people before,” remarked the Dobuans. “What are they doing here in our place?”

“See how they cover their bodies with all that stuff. It must be hard for them to move with all that on them.” The Dobuans were fascinated with the European clothing!

“Look at the things they are bringing ashore. What will they do with them?”