

# PELSAERT ISLAND

A Photographic Record  
Compiled by



Myra Stanbury



Compiler's Note

In October 1979, the Department of Maritime Archaeology of the Western Australian Museum, undertook a six week expedition to Pelsaert Island in the Pelsaert Group of the Houtman Abrolhos. The expedition was funded by the Australian Research Grants Council and the Western Australian Museum and marked the final phase of a four year research project aimed at investigating the archaeological and historical circumstances of the loss of the V.O.C. ship Zeewijk in 1727.

The survivors of the Zeewijk are known to have visited Pelsaert Island, but evidence of these visits is scarce. With the aim of investigating the possible causes of contamination of the archaeological evidence, a field survey of the southern part of Pelsaert Island was carried out, special attention being given to the guano mining activities of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

This photographic record has been compiled as an adjunct to the written report of the survey. The photographs have been collected from archival, private and museum collections and serve to illustrate the changing nature of the guano industry and early settlement on Pelsaert Island. More specifically, they allow the structures and equipment still present on the island today to be positively identified and their origin and function ascertained.

It is hoped that as new sources of photographic evidence come to light, they may be added to this collection in order to provide a comprehensive picture of early industrial activity in Western Australia.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the following persons who have either provided personal photographs or allowed their private collections to be copied for the purpose of this research: Mr. & Mrs. Keith Barker, Mosman Park, W.A.; Mrs. A. Carroll, Kalaroo, W.A.; Mr. Reg Lambert, ex-photographer, Como, W.A.; and, Mr. Roy Nevile, former engineer and Plant Manager for B.P.C. on Pelsaert Island, Croyden, Victoria.

Your contributions are much appreciated and have helped to fill in many gaps in this research project.

My thanks also go to the Battye Library of Western Australian History for making available copies of archival photographs held in their collection; to Patrick Baker, Brian Richards, Scott Sledge and Warren Robinson of the Department of Maritime Archaeology for assistance with copying and for use of photographs taken by them in this work; and, to Jon Carpenter of the Department of Conservation and Restoration for the cover photograph.

Finally, I would like to convey my thanks to Alex Harris of the Western Australian Newspapers who publicised this project and to Sue Cox who typed the texts.

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August, 1980.



West coast of Pelsaert Island

Battye Library 1277B/21

MA 10<sup>JP</sup>95/14





*Pelsaert Island Station - houses & look out.*

W. Saville-Kent Collection. Taken during a visit to Pelsaert Island  
in July and August 1894.

Battye Library MA 671/11

Messrs. Broadhurst and McNeil moved their plant from Rat Island to Pelsaert Island in  
1890. They built a shed to hold 4000 tons of guano, a jarrah jetty 110 yards long, houses,  
offices and two miles of tramway.  
The houses were strongly constructed of timber and galvanized iron, providing accommodation  
for forty men.



*Pilsant Island station and jetty.*

1786B/6

W. Saville-Kent Collection, 1894

Battye Library 1786B/6

MA 10~~55~~<sup>38</sup>/33

A tramway runs from the guano field to the end of the jetty. Trucks drawn by horses conveyed the guano to the end of the jetty where it was taken by lighters to larger vessels anchored in deep water.





Supposed spot of "Batavia" disaster 1629

Supposed spot of "Batavia" disaster 1629.

W. Saville-Kent Collection, 1894

Battye Library 1786B/6

JG  
MA 1055/33

Northern guano field (left) and point of future rocky groyne (right).



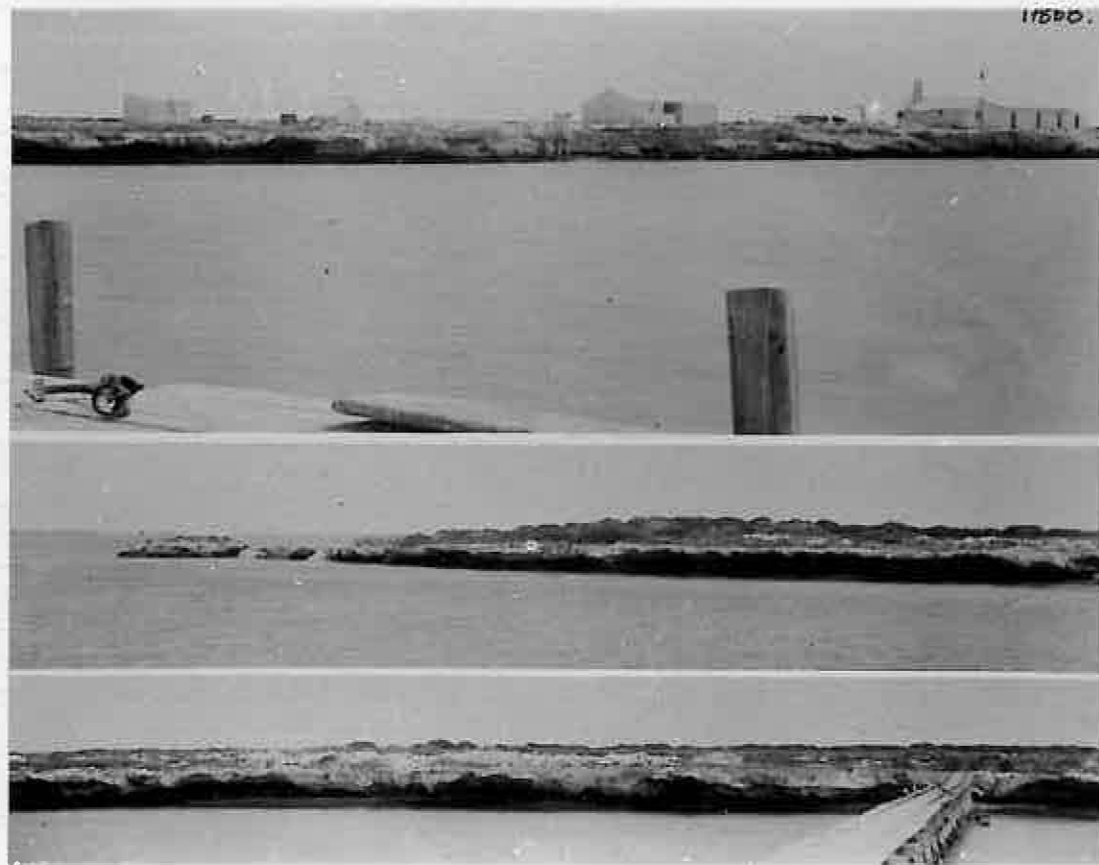
Gun Island station and jetty, 1894

W. Saville-Kent Collection

Battye Library 1786B/1

38  
MA 1055/32





Gun Island station and jetty, 1894

W. Saville-Kent Collection

Battye Library 1786B/17,18 & 19

38  
MA 1055/43



The Nautilus at anchor at Rat Island, 1894

W. Saville-Kent Collection

Battye Library 1786B/20

38  
MA 1055/1

Unlike the jetties at Pelsaert Island and Gun Island which were built of jarrah, the jetty at Rat Island was entirely constructed of stone. Tram lines were laid to the end of each.





Loading guano, Raine Island, Queensland

The Concordia: lies at anchor at the outer buoy, and the  
Government steamer Albatross at the inner one.

Battye Library 1786B/50

38  
MA 1055/2

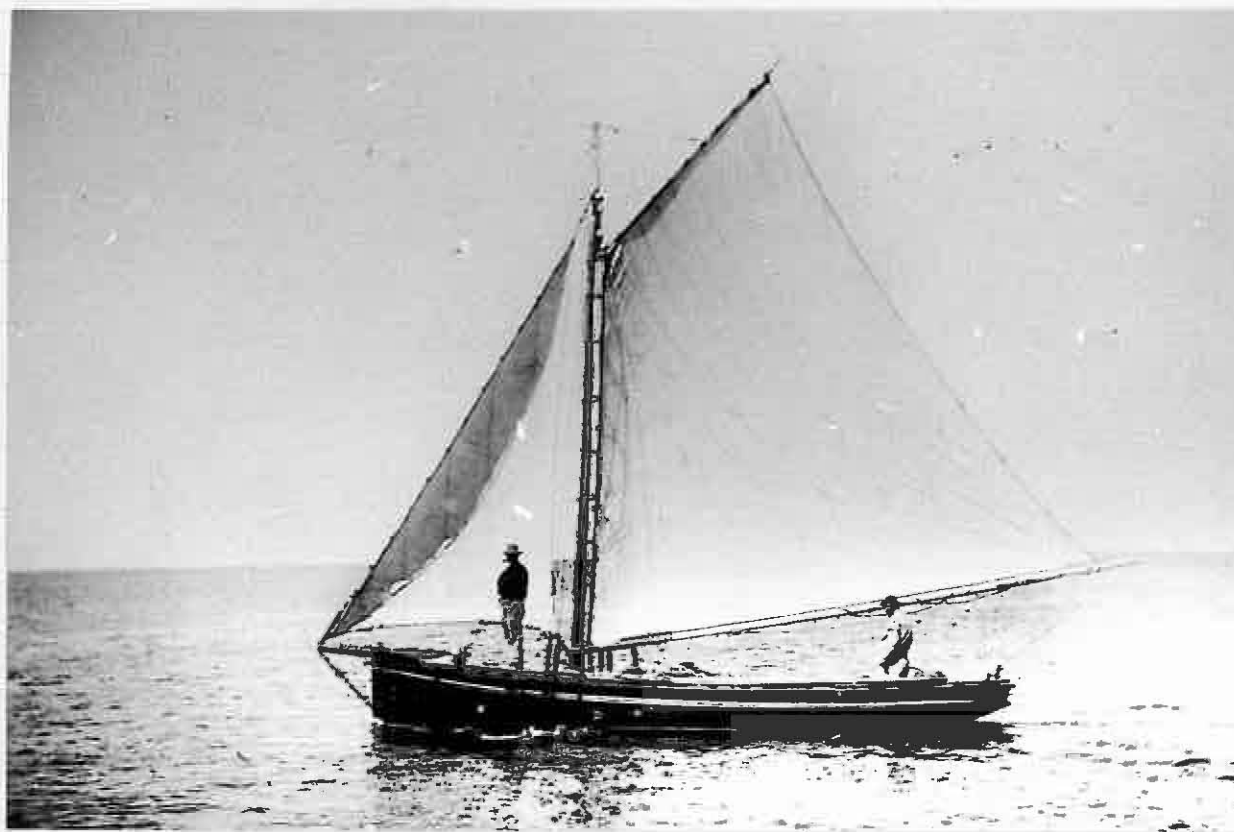


The Nautilus at anchor at the Guano settlement on Rat Island

Battye Library 1786B/37

MA 1927/28





The Nautilus under sail

Battye Library

MA 1707/31



At work on Rat Island, 1894

W.Saville-Kent Collection

Battye Library 1786B/8 *MA 1038/*

The collection of guano was relatively simple work. After the stunted scrub had been removed, the guano was shovelled together into piles. Hoes were used to scrape deposits from pockets and hollows in the rocks and these were then swept clean with stiff brooms. The dried guano was then thrown over screens to free it from roots and stones and the fine material then loaded into baskets for transport.



At work, Rat Island, 1894

W. Saville-Kent Collection

Battye Library 1786B/9

MA 10<sup>38</sup>~~45~~/35



*Employees on Rat Island*

Employees on Rat Island, September 1894.

W. Saville-Kent Collection

Battye Library 1786B/16

38  
MA 10~~55~~/41

Although the work was easy and not unpleasant, Europeans did not care for it and never stayed long at the islands. To keep the concern going, Broadhurst & McNeil were compelled to employ Malays under contract for two years.





Surface of Rat Island - guano workings, 1894

W. Saville-Kent Collection

Battye Library 1786B/21

MA 1055/44



Old guano workings.

Battye Library 1277B/17

MA 1055/13



Minino guano deposits on Gun Island ? c.a. 1902

?R. Helms Collection

Battye Library 1133B/75





Digging guano, probably Gun Island c.a. 1902

R. Helms Collection or O. Lipfert

Battye Library 1133B/76

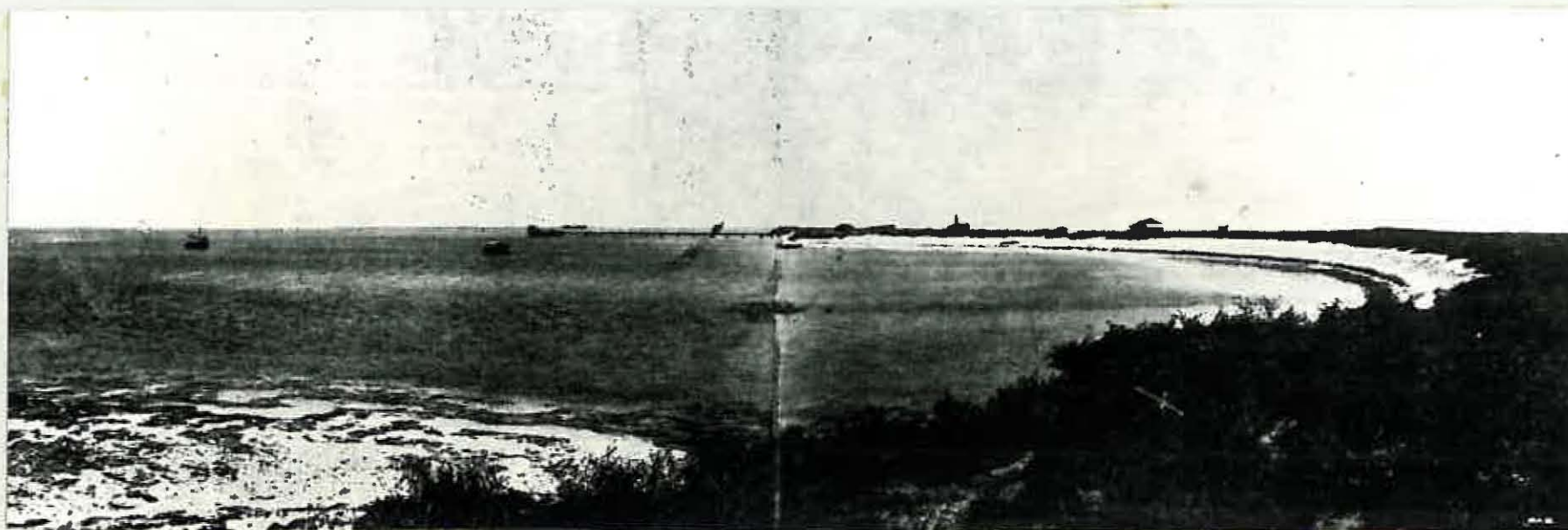




Bagging guano, probably Gun Island

Battye Library, 1133B/76





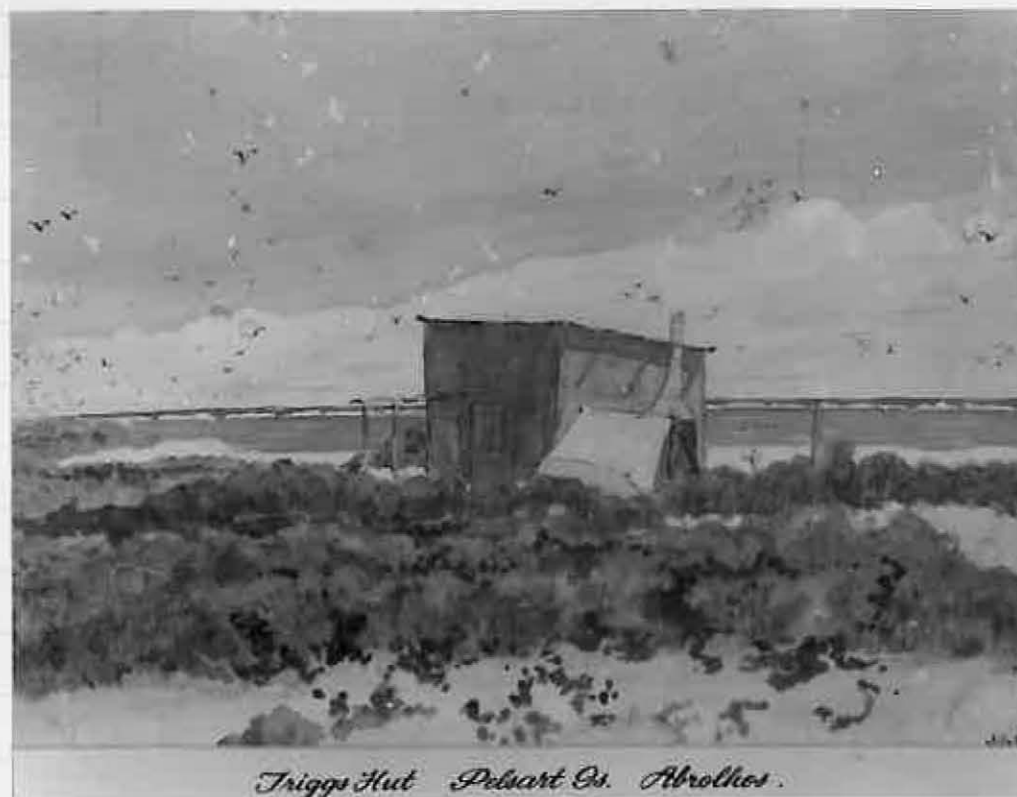
The Guano Settlement, Pelsaert Island 1908

Western Mail 15/2/1908 p.27

Battye Library

In 1904, following a Government prohibition on the export of guano, Florance Broadhurst forfeited his lease to mine guano in the Abrolhos Islands.

The concession was taken up by Messrs Fallowfield & Co. of Geraldton who continued to use Pelsaert Island as a base.



*Trigg's Hut Pelsaert Is. Abrolhos.*  
Watercolour painting by Joe Kenny owned  
by Keith Barker. MA1315/6



Trigg's Hut, Pelsaert Island 1933  
Barker Collection MA1315/17

In November 1929, the Abrolhos Islands were gazetted as a Permanent "A" Class Reserve and a board appointed to control the Reserve for the purpose of "Public Recreation and Tourist Resort".

Walter Trigg, the Geraldton Manager for Winter Brant and Co. (the largest firm in the State dealing with deep sea fishing) was elected as Secretary to the Abrolhos Island Board. In February 1931, he requested permission to erect a 'little shelter and tanks to conserve water during the coming winter' on Pelsaert Island (L & S File).

His corrugated iron hut stood 'lonely and gaunt.....like a monolith on a parched flat' (Uren, 1940:68-69) on the Southern end of the island. During the 1930's and early 1940's it provided a refuge for visiting fishermen and holidaymakers. Boasting a water tank, a stove, and six bunks, it furnished more comfort than could be obtained elsewhere on the islands.



Pelsaert Island 1933. Back Row - left to right :

Bill Burton, Charlie Clark, Doug Edgar, Frank Burton,  
Swank Jenour, "Mac" Cuming

Front Row - Left to right :

"Pom" Marsh, Tom Barker, Nick (Cook), Dr. Joe Kenny, Keith Barker.

Barker Collection

MA 1315/21

One group of people who made use of Triggs hut for holiday purposes was Tom Barker and his "gang". Tom always had a keen eye for out of the way places and excelled at organizing such expeditions.

Bill Broadhurst, whose father worked the guano deposits on the island, was also a member of the group. Having access to literature collected by his family about the Dutch shipwrecks in the Abrolhos Islands, he stimulated a sense of adventure within the group and a keen desire to closely search the ground around them for any signs of remains.





Nick was given "time-off" to accompany the Barker expedition to Pelsaert Island in 1934. Life on the island called for many adaptations, like the old kerosene tin converted into a bucket and used as a washing-up receptacle. Such tins were slow to rust and therefore very useful in salt water situations.

Nick the Cook, Pelsaert Island 1934

Barker Collection MA 1315/19



The Water Witch, 1933

Barker Collection MA 1315/12

Transport to and from Pelsaert Island was provided by Frank Burton's fishing lugger the Water Witch. A large ice box amidships provided storage for perishable and non-perishable provisions. The yacht Lily owned by Bill Burton (Frank's son) was used as a tender.



Charlie Clark, Keith Barker, and Tom Barker admire their catch. Pelsaert Island 1934.

In the background the Water Witch and the yacht Lily. Barker Collection MA 1315/23



The Waterwitch c. June 1929

Battye Library MA 1327/11

B 633





Unloading stores at Pelsaert Island, c.a. 1934 + 'Lily'.

Battye Library MA <sup>1707</sup>~~1207~~/30

12778/16





The Guano Patch, Pelsaert Island, 1933

Barker Collection. MA 1315/20



Days were spent exploring the various islands of the Pelsaert Group, studying the abundant birdlife, fishing and walking on the reef.

Instant Fish Lunch, Pelsaert Island 1934

Barker Collection MA 1315/13



A boiler from the S.S. Windsor, Pelsaert Reef 1934

Barker Collection MA 1315/18



Wreckage of the S.S. Windsor, Pelsaert Reef 1934

Barker Collection MA 1315/14

The S.S. Windsor, a British built iron steamer of 1853 tons, was wrecked on the southern part of the Pelsaert Reef in February 1908. She was carrying a cargo of local sandalwood from Fremantle to Hong Kong. Three of the crew lost their lives and two employees from the guano settlement on Pelsaert Island were lost in an attempt to reach the wrecked vessel.



Aerial photograph of the southern part of Pelsaert Island, showing B.P.C. settlement, December 1943.

N.B. At the time of this photograph, neither the wooden loading wharf at the end of the causeway  
or the wooden loading facilities at the landward end had been built.



In 1943 when the British Phosphate Commission arrived on Pelsaert Island, the only building in existence was Triggs Hut. This was fitted out with a range and work-benches and used as a kitchen.

A bunk-house for the workmen, (who numbered between 12 to 28 during the period of operation) the messroom, and office/store, were completed by about September 1943.

British Phosphate Commission settlement,  
Pelsaert Island 1943 - 45.

Office, store and laboratory in foreground, messroom with corrugated iron cook-house (Triggs Hut) and foreman's tent in background. Men's bunkhouse behind the messroom.

Nevile Collection MA 1325/23; 1326/15





Lean-to on south side of bunk-house used as tractor and truck repair shop. Ablution block in left background. Pelsaert Island 1943-5

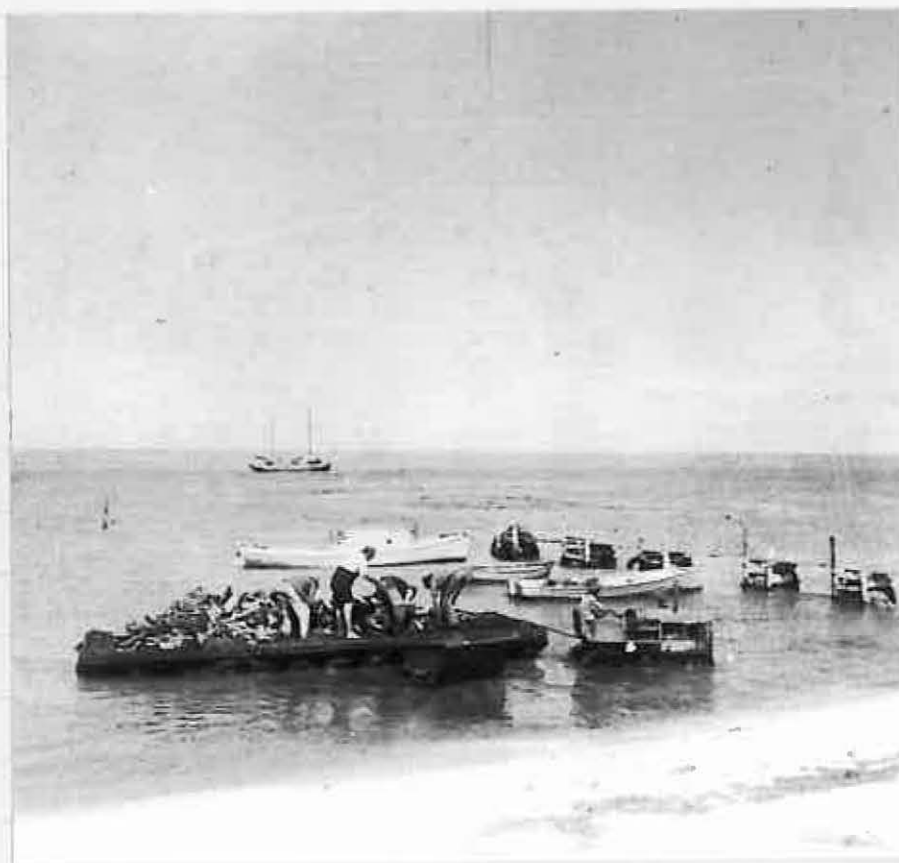
Nevile Collection MA 1325/16



Fuel and grease store. Pelsaert Island 1943-5

Nevile Collection MA 1325/17

The buildings were constructed of timber and corrugated iron, fine shell grit being used for the floors in the quarters and tents. Concrete foundations were laid at the end of the bunk-house, messroom, and office, to hold water containers. These can be seen on Pelsaert Island today.



Discharging firewood at the settlement.

Pelsaert Island

Nevile Collection MA 1325/22



Rail tip-truck from old guano workings

being hauled by tractor

Nevile Collection MA 1325/20

A rocky groyne to the south of the B.P.C. settlement was extended to give sufficient water at high tide to permit unloading from the ketch (in L.H. photo), of building materials, stores, two trucks, and two tractors (No.2 Caterpillar) brought over from Geraldton.

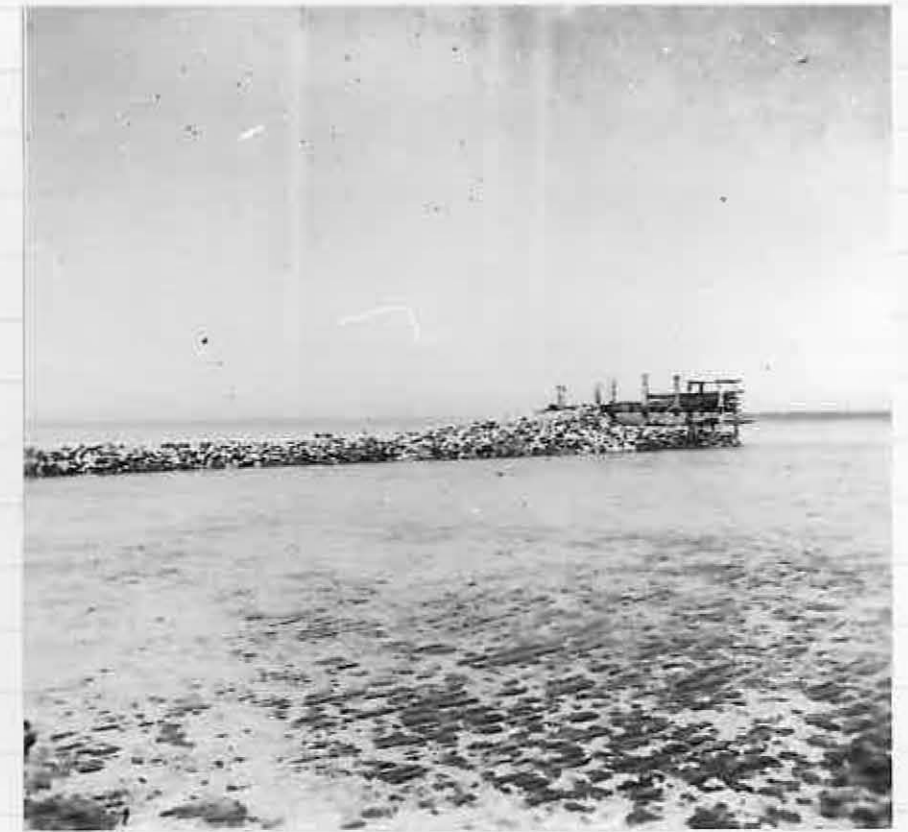
A small wooden jetty was erected at the settlement for mooring dinghies and the launches used to tow the punts. Assorted iron wheels were brought from Geraldton to mark a passage into the bay and act as moorings for the small craft.

A few rail-tip trucks or hopper cars remained on the island when B.P.C. arrived. These were 'reconditioned' and used for light haulage behind a caterpillar tractor.



Remains of jetty piles, probably built prior  
to 1900. Pelsaert Island, 1943-5

Nevile Collection MA 1325/12



Loading jetty built by British Phosphate Commission  
1943-44

Nevile Collection MA 1325/25

All that remained of the old guano jetty built by Broadhurst and McNeil were the wooden jetty piles.  
Consequently, a new loading jetty was built by B.P.C. to the north of the settlement.

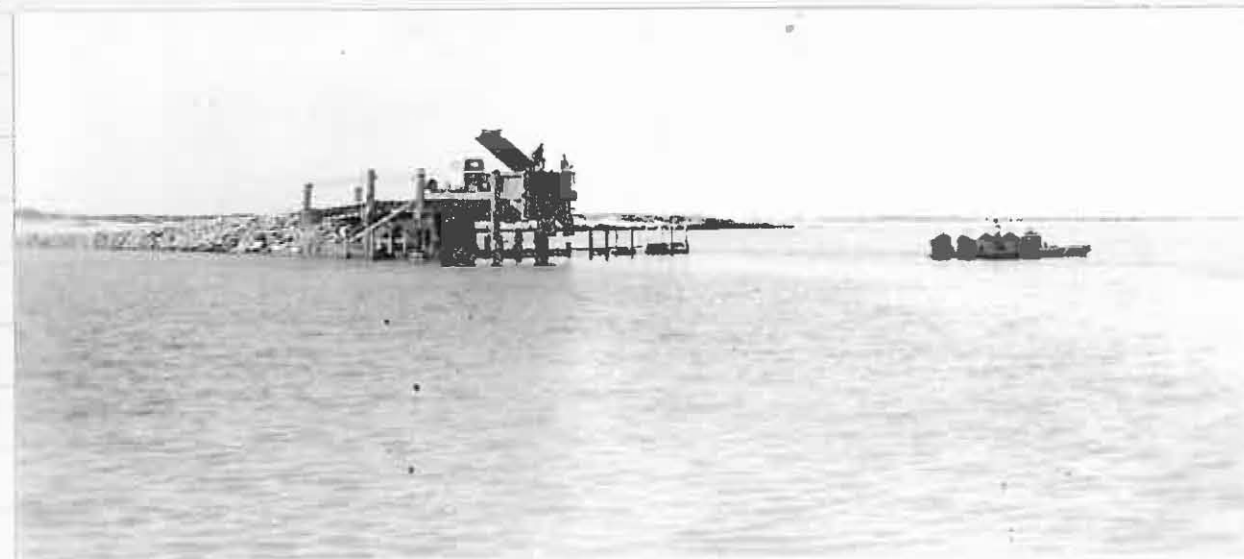
Limestone rock from the southern end of the island was used to build a causeway at the end of which  
was a wooden loading wharf.



The loading wharf was built with piles,  
timber and chutes recovered from the concrete  
mixing plant used on the construction of the  
first Geraldton Harbour concrete wharf in the  
1930's.

Loading guano into hoppers on punts. Pelsaert Island 1943-5

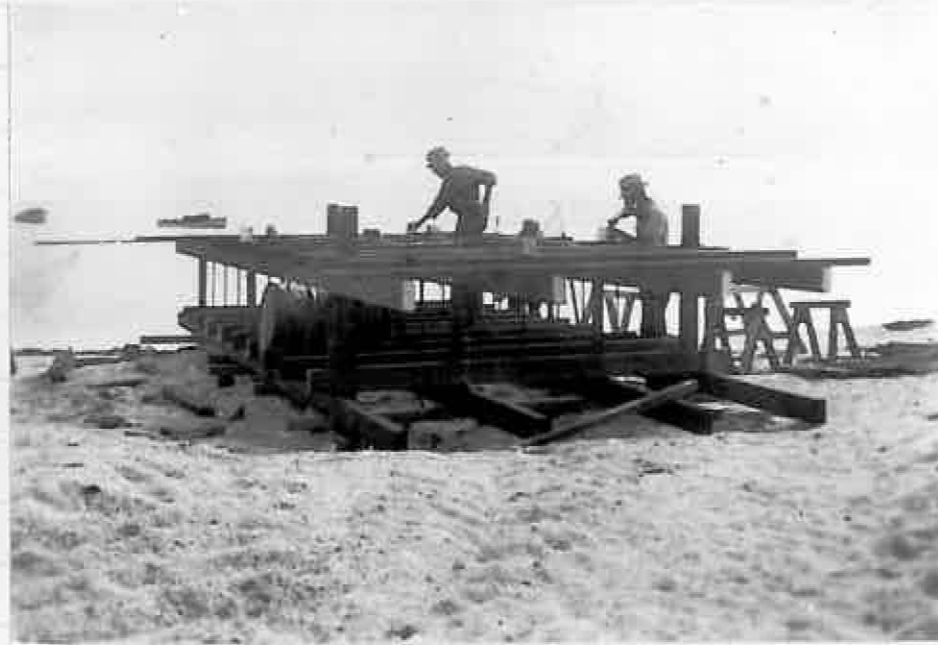
Nevile Collection MA 1325/33



Loaded punt being towed to S.S. Narabeen

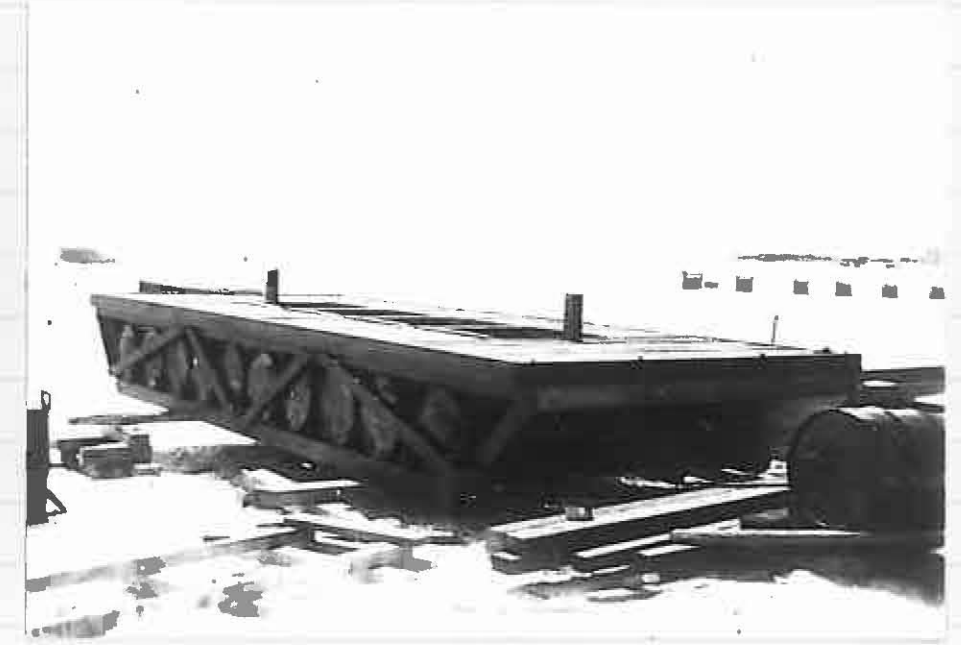
Nevile Collection MA 1325/26





Constructing punts or barges - Pelsaert Island  
1943 - 1945

Nevile Collection MA 1325/31; 1326/32



Completed punt or barge

Nevile Collection MA 1325/14; 1326/33



Preparing punt for loading

Nevile Collection MA 1325/17; 1326/35

The punts or barges were constructed on Pelsaert Island from materials brought from Geraldton. The timber framework was made of jarrah and empty 44 gallon fuel drums provided floatation. Four square compartments in the centre of the punt held the large steel hoppers used to convey the guano to the carrier ship the S.S. Narabeen



Caterpillar tractor and wheeled  
scoop bogged in guano. Pelsaert

Island 1943-45

Nevile Collection MA 1325/10

Escaping from bog in guano deposit

Nevile Collection MA 1325/8





The northern guano field of Pelsaert Island, 1943-5

Nevile Collection MA 1325/30; 1326/20

The wheeled scoop drawn by a No.2 size caterpillar tractor delivered material from selected areas to a large steel bin with elevator and rotating trommel screen.

The oversize rocks - mostly limestone - were discarded, and the trucks then loaded from the bins. Phosphate was transported along a roadway on the east side of the island to stockpiling areas at the end of the loading jetty.





Discharging guano and rock phosphate from scoop into  
bucket elevator.

Nevile Collection MA 1306/4-6

The steel bin, originally on four iron wheels, was brought over from Geraldton by B.P.C.  
It had been used as a portable rock screening plant with a rotating trommel screen and  
bucket elevator driven by a single cylinder kerosene farm-type combustion engine.

The apparatus was used on Pelsaert Island in an attempt to improve the grade of  
phosphate by discarding the very fine material and mixing it with high grade rock.



Hand-bagging and loading into truck of rock phosphate -

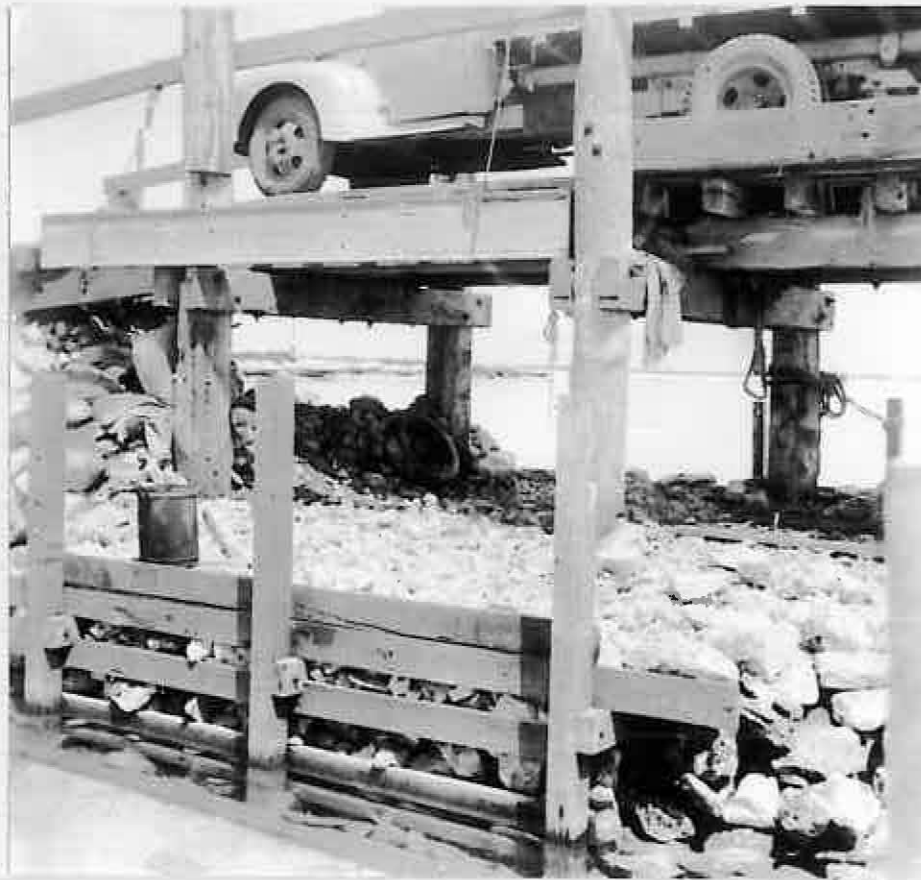
Pelsaert Island 1943-5

Nevile Collection MA 1326/3



Bags of rock phosphate being loaded onto punts via a chute  
on the north side of the loading wharf. Pelsaert Island, 1943-45





Details of loading wharf. The chute for loading  
bagged phosphate is tied up when not in use.  
Pelsaert Island, 1943-45

Nevile Collection MA 1325/19



Unloading loose guano.

Nevile Collection MA 1326/8

*MA 1325 changed to 1305*



Guano stockpile near loading wharf Pelsaert Island  
1943-45

Nevile Collection MA 1326/9



View of storage dump from jetty

Pelsaert Island 1943-45

Nevile Collection MA 1326/12



The wooden structure at the landward end of the jetty was used to load the tip trucks from the stockpile built between ship loadings. A caterpillar tractor drawing scoops, supplied phosphate from the stockpile to the chute openings.

Trucks were backed along the jetty and tipped into a small hopper at the end. The metal chutes in the seaward face of the hopper loaded the tubs on the punts.

Loading the motor truck with guano from stockpile for delivery to the jetty.

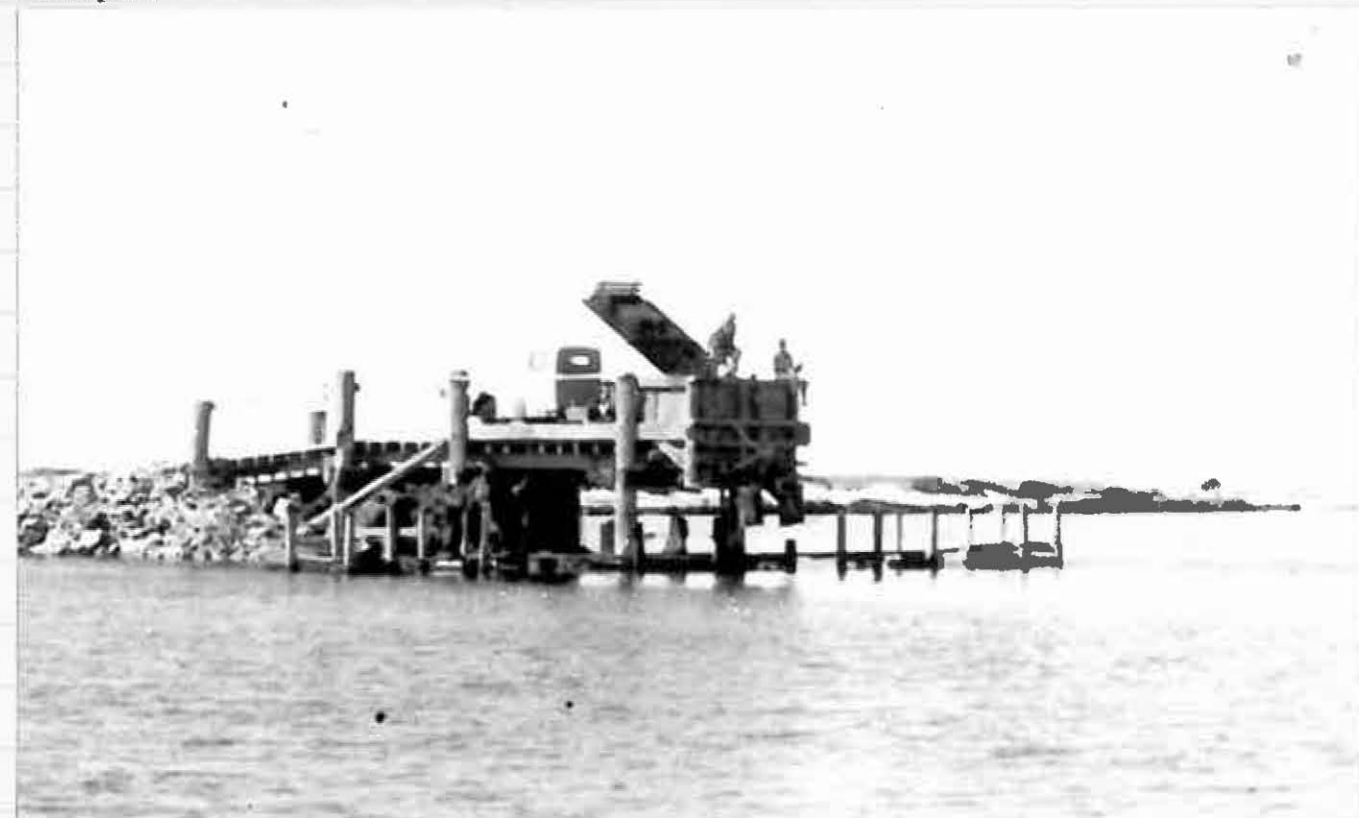
Nevile Collection

MA 1326/7

Loading guano into hopper at end of wharf.

Nevile Collection

MA 1326/20







Loading loose guano into the SS Narabeen  
for shipment to Geraldton

Nevile Collection MA 1325/15

Mr. Noel Batchelor of Riverton, whose father worked on the SS Narabeen as ship's engineer, recalled that the 'heavy brown dirt' was held down in the hold of the vessel by its dampness. On arrival at Geraldton the guano was unloaded into rail trucks on the wharf, most of the work being done manually.

The SS Narabeen was a small wooden steamship ex the Melbourne - King Island run, and was chartered to transport about 100 tons of low grade phosphate and about 17 tons of high grade rock phosphate each voyage to the Geraldton works of Cuming Smith and Mount Lyell (now C.S.B.P.)



Noddy Terns (*Anous stolidus*)

on Pelsaert Island

Nevile Collection MA 1325/1

Mined area on Southern part of

Pelsaert Island 1943 - now a salt lake.

Nevile Collection MA 1325/3

The noddy tern usually builds its nest on the top of low bushes. However, where the shrubs have been removed from large tracts for the collection of guano, the birds have failed to desert their habitual nesting places. Instead, they lay their eggs on the ground which is not their habit to do.





Red tailed tropic birds nesting on  
beach above high water mark - Pelsaert  
Island, 1943-45

Nevile Collection MA 1325/6 & 7







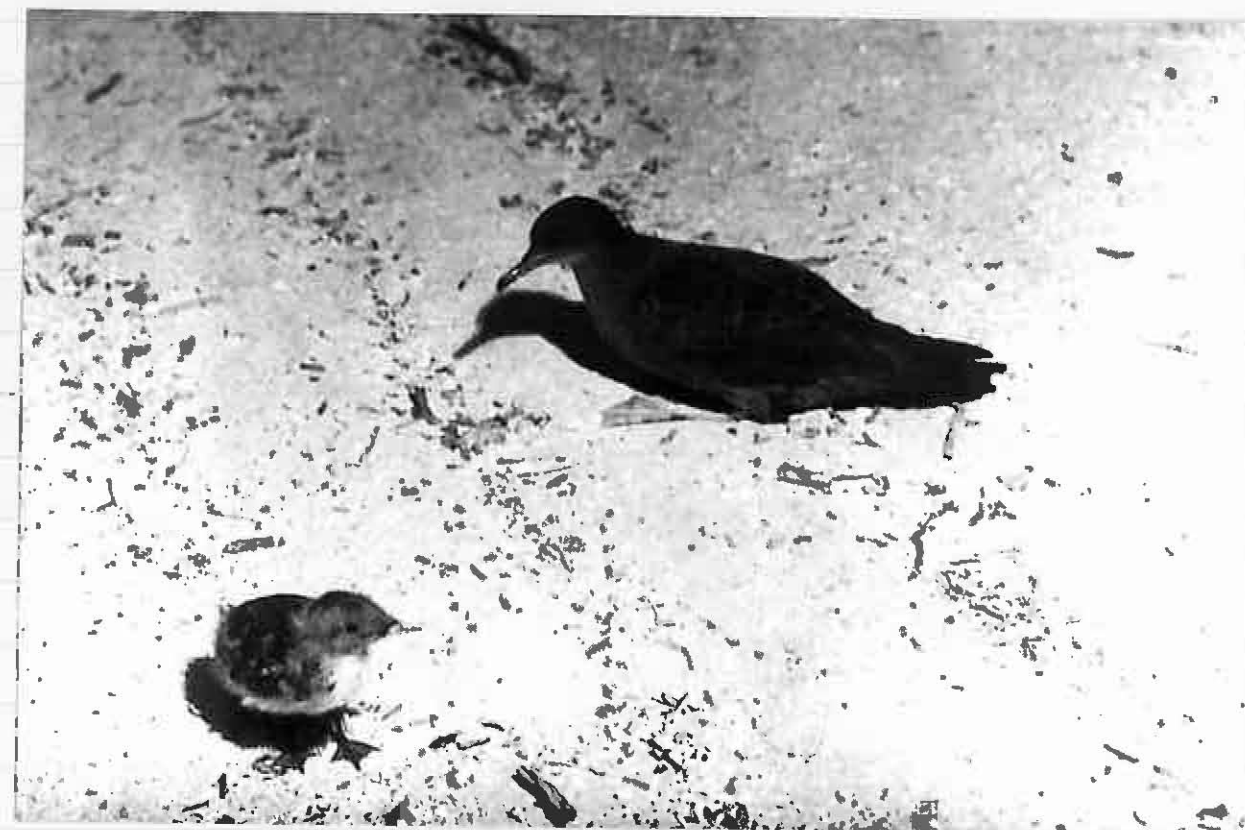
Mutton Bird, Pelsaert Island 1943

Nevile Collection MA 1325/4

Mutton Bird and chick, taken at night.

Nevile Collection MA 1325/5

The terns and mutton birds on Pelsaert Island have come to an amicable arrangement with regard to nesting habitats. In the low scrub that covers much of the island the noddy terns build their nests on top of the bushes, the sooty terns scrape themselves a nest in the ground underneath, whilst the mutton birds burrow a nest under the ground.





Boat jetty at Dusk - with towing launch at its mooring.  
Pelsaert Island, 1943-45

Nevile Collection      MA 1325/9



Following the cessation of mining activities by the British Phosphate Commission in 1946, an attempt was made to develop Pelsaert Island as a tourist resort. Two ex R.A.A.F. Officers of Geraldton, Messrs. Gaze and Fox, proposed to operate a hostel in the vacated Phosphate Commission buildings and engage in passenger traffic thereto.

Since the B.P.C. buildings had been sold to the State Government for £150 in May 1946, Gaze and Fox were charged a rental for their License to Occupy and appointed as unpaid agents to look after the buildings by the Abrolhos Islands Board.

Mr. & Mrs. "Dal" Gaze, Pelsaert Island 1949

Carroll Collection

MA 1315/34



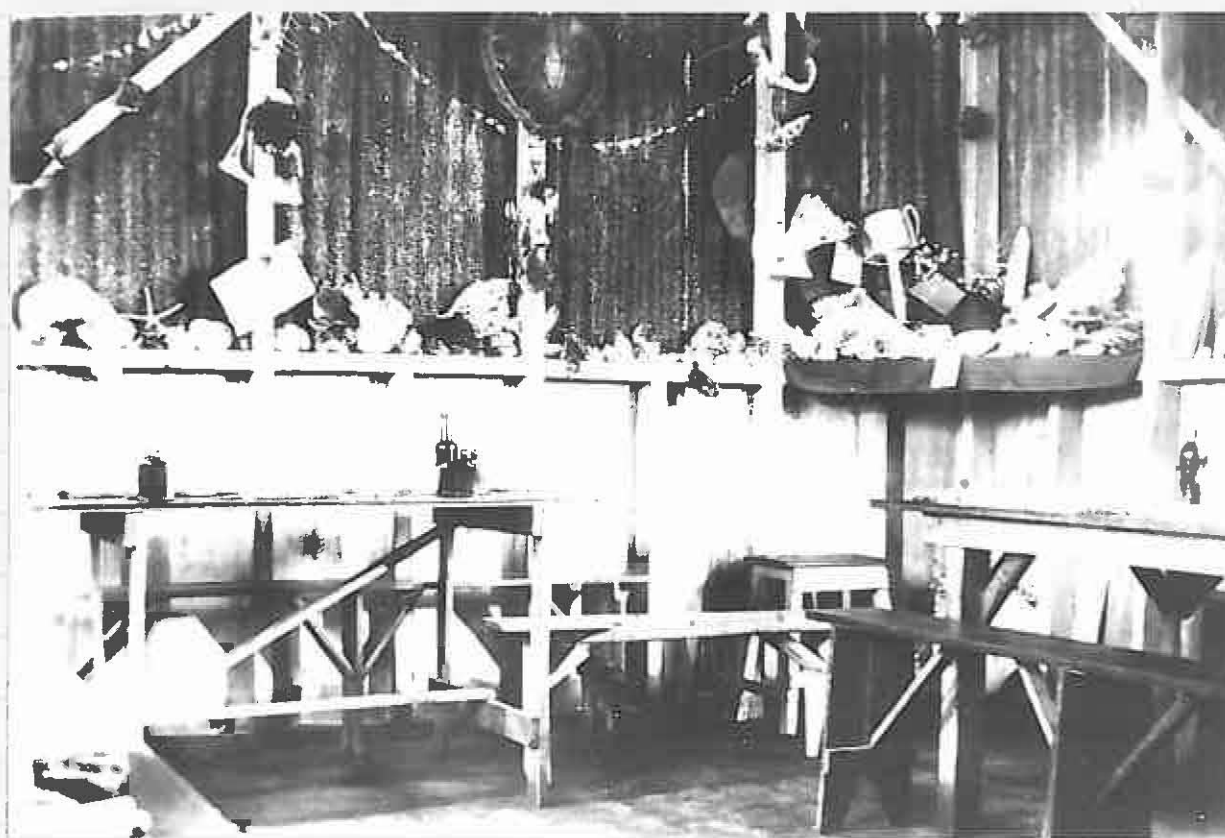
Holidaymakers on Pelsaert Island c.a. 1946

Lambert Collection MA1315/9

The holiday accommodation on Pelasert Island was far from luxurious. When vacated by B.P.C. the buildings were already in a dilapidated state and Gaze and Fox were faced with continuous repairs, improvements and additions before any number of people could be accommodated.

In June 1948, the Abrolhos Island Board proposed spending £450 on the provision of six sleeping cabins with water catchment tanks; alterations to the kitchen and recreation room; suitable landing facilities; and water conservation - to include catchment roofs and tanks as well as a condensing unit.





The dining-room - Pelsaert Island 1949

Carroll Collection MA1315/29

By 1950, there was sleeping accommodation for 38 people: 24 in two-berth wooden cabins with asbestos roofing and the remainder in 3-4 berth cabins. Meals were taken in a communal dining-room, the food being considered of 'good quality, wholesome and plentiful' (Report by the Resident Magistrate of Geraldton, 1950). A freezing plant kept meat and food fresh.

However, despite the cleanliness of the accommodation, many tourists complained about the 'crude facilities', in particular the lack of fresh water.

Water supply for drinking and washing was only available from roof catchments and since the annual average rainfall in the area was generally low, an adequate supply of fresh water was a real problem.



The first vessel acquired by Gaze and Fox was named the Suda Bay - after a place [redacted] where they had served together during World War II. This was later replaced by a 65ft ketch, the Batavia Road.

In order to assist the tourist venture, the State Government, in conjunction with the Tourist Bureau, secured this vessel from the Department of the Army. It was purchased by Gaze and Fox and outfitted by them as a passenger-carrier, plying between Geraldton and Pelsaert Island.



The Batavia Road leaving Geraldton for Pelsaert Island.

Lambert Collection



Noddy terns - Pelsaert Island  
c.a. 1946

Lambert Collection



Northern guano field, Pelsaert Island c.a. 1946  
Note steel bin in top left hand corner

Lambert Collection



Remains of wooden platform, Pelsaert Island c.a. 1946.  
(possibly loading ramp on northern guano field)



View of Pelsaert Reef from the Holiday Camp c.a. 1946.  
In the background is the rocky groyne extended by  
B.P.C. and in the foreground the small boats jetty,  
also built by B.P.C.

Lambert Collection



Reg Lambert (extreme right) and company, admire  
their days catch.

Lambert Collection.





Holiday camp jetty and rocky groyne, Pelsaert Island 1949

Carroll Collection

MA 1315/36



Remains of B.P.C. punt on the beach and  
possible boat cradle for slipping small craft.  
Pelsaert Island, 1949

Carroll Collection

MA 1315/27



Whilst holidaying on Pelsaert Island in February 1949, a Dutch onion bottle was found on the north-eastern part of the island by Messrs. Finlay Beaton, an engineer from Kalgoorlie, and Ron Smith, a printer from Fremantle.

The bottle was given to Mrs. Cecilie Cook who is seen holding it in these photographs, taken outside the holiday accommodation on Pelsaert Island.

Carroll Collection.

MA 1315/30 & 32





Pelsaert Island lighthouse during the final phase of construction,  
1974.

Photo by Scott Sledge W.A. Museum

MA 325/8



Timber and corrugated iron "cookhouse" with  
stone slab floor. West of old settlement  
area, Pelsaert Island, 1974

Photo by Scott Sledge, W.A. Museum MA 325/13



Old "cookhouse" or "smoke-house" and timber stand

Photo by Scott Sledge, W.A. Museum MA 325/15

Although the exact function and origin of this structure  
is not presently known, the early photographs of the holiday  
camp (Lambert) suggest it is a surviving relic of this  
settlement.





Remains of chain and sprocket bucket  
elevator in shell gully to south of  
settlement area, Pelsaert Island, 1974

Photo by Scott Sledge

W.A. Museum

MA 325/23

An old Metters iron stove  
originally brought to the  
island by Mr. Roy Nevile  
of B.P.C. lies alongside  
the cookhouse structure.  
1974

Photo by Scott Sledge

W.A. Museum

MA 325/16







Wooden loading bay and old guano stockpile  
at landward end of causeway, Pelsaert  
Island 1974.

Photo by Scott Sledge

W.A. Museum MA 323/3



Royal Australian Navy  
camp and wooden loading  
bay, Pelsaert Island 1974

Photo by Scott Sledge

W.A. Museum MA324A/26



Remains of tip-truck loading facilities at old stockpile area.

Pelsaert Island 1976.

Photo by Pat Baker,

W.A. Museum MA 524/5





Side-tipping rail trucks on northern  
guano field, Pelsaert Island 1976

Photo by Pat Baker

W.A. Museum

MA 524/25 & 26







Remains of steel bin on northern guano field,  
Pelsaert Island 1976

Photo by Pat Baker

W.A. Museum, MA 524/16 & 19





Noddy turns (*Anous Stolidus*) nesting on  
northern guano field, Pelsaert Island,  
October 1979

Photo by Myra Stanbury

W.A. Museum

MA 1000/8

Newly hatched noddy chick, Pelsaert  
Island October 1979.

Photo by Myra Stanbury

W.A. Museum, MA 1000/10

Rather than desert their habitual nesting  
place, the birds now build their nests  
on the ground rather than on the tops  
of low bushes which is their usual  
custom





Seaward view of phosphate loading jetty,  
Pelsaert Island October 1979.

The truck loading structure and old stockpile  
mound can be seen to the right and to the  
left, the W.A. Museum campsite

Photo by Brian Richards

W.A. Museum MA 962/35

View of phosphate loading jetty and  
causeway from the southern side,  
Pelsaert Island, October 1979.

Photo by Brian Richards

W.A. Museum MA 962/36







Remains of jetty at old settlement site,  
Pelsaert Island, 1979

Photo by Warren Robinson

W.A. Museum MA 1001/17

This jetty was originally constructed by the British Phosphate Commission during their occupation of the island in 1943-45. It was later used by the holiday camp developers and local fishermen. In the background are the remains of the jetty built by the 19th century guano diggers.



Jetty remains, Pelsaert Island 1979

Photo by Warren Robinson, MA 1001/18





Remains of wooden punt or barge, Pelsaert Island 1979

Photo by Warren Robinson

W.A. Museum MA 1001/6



Remains of steel bin on northern guano field,  
Pelsaert Island, October 1979.

Photo by Myra Stanbury

W.A. Museum

MA 1000/17 & 23





Remains of reduction gear of bucket elevator from  
steel guano bin, Pelsaert Island, October 1979

Photo by Myra Stanbury

W.A. Museum MA 1000/18



Buckets and rubber conveyor belt from elevator  
Pelsaert Island, October 1979

Photo by Myra Stanbury

W.A. Museum MA 1000/20



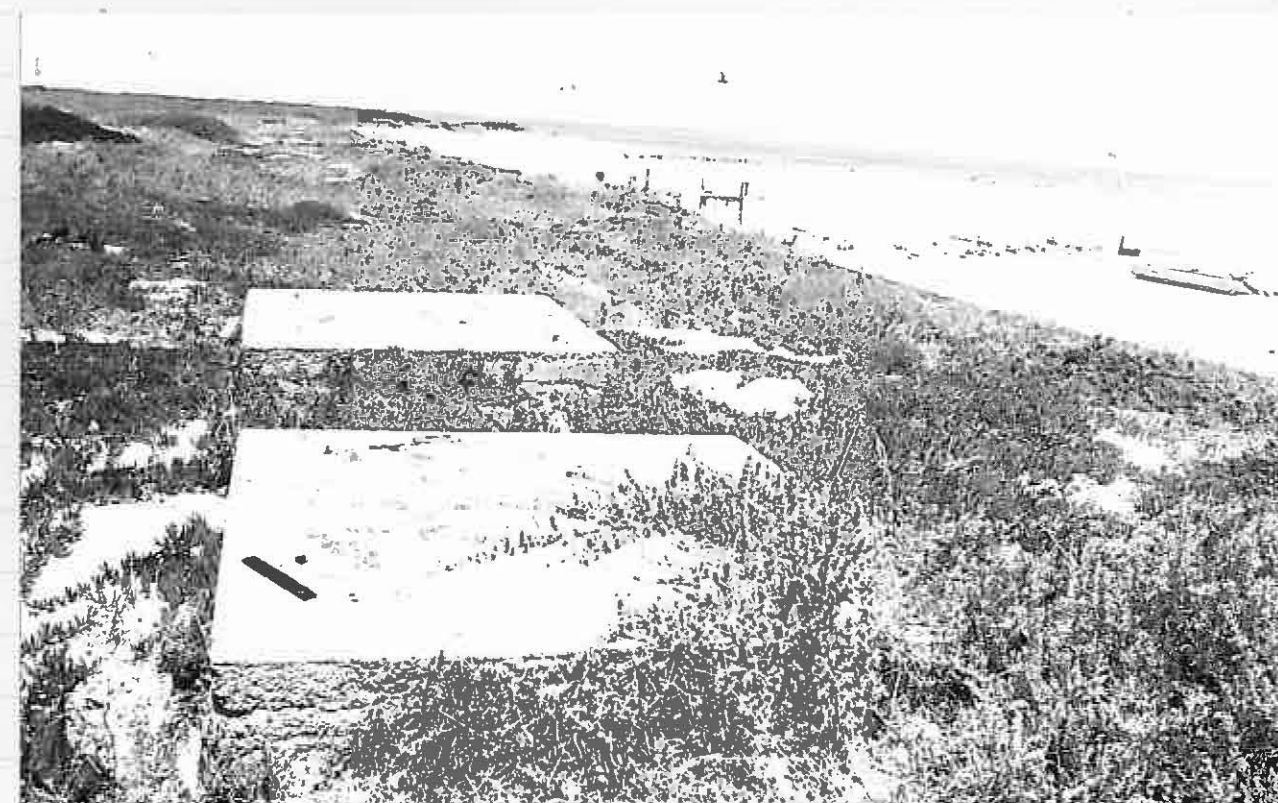


Remains of freezer and water condensing  
plant at settlement site, Pelsaert  
Island, 1974

Photo by Scott Sledge, W.A. Museum

MA 323/13

Following a severe storm in the mid 1960's, the buildings on Pelsaert Island were reduced to a heap of rubble. Corrugated iron sheets, timber, and other debris have now been partially obscured or buried beneath shell-sand, low scrub and other vegetation. But, for some time to come, the concrete slabs will bear witness to the early settlement on the island.



Concrete slabs that once held water containers identify the  
site of the old phosphate and holiday camp settlement. Pelsaert  
Island 1979

Photo by Warren Robinson W.A. Museum

MA 1001/21



Wooden guano sled, Sweet Island,  
Pelsaert Group, October 1979

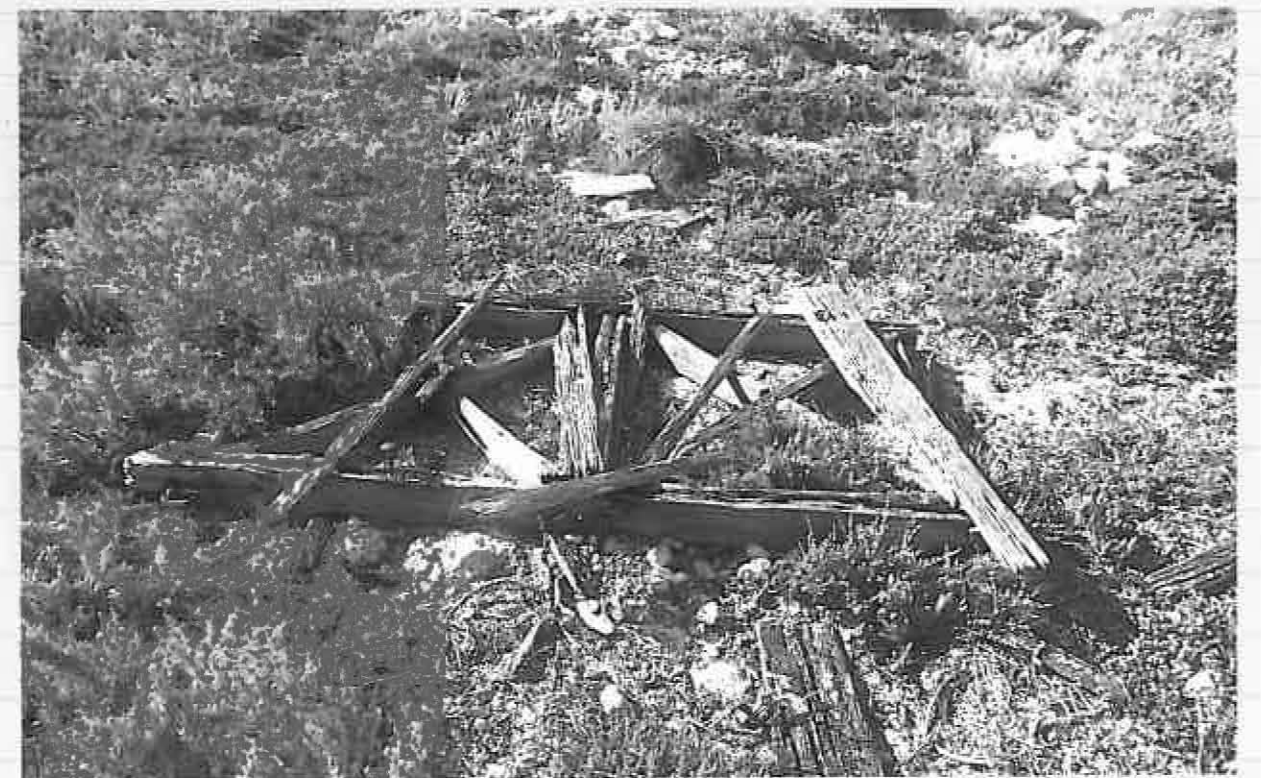
Photo by Pat Baker

W.A. Museum, MA 999/12

Wooden guano sled, Sweet Island,  
Pelsaert Group October 1979

Photo by : Pat Baker

W.A. Museum MA 999/14





The aftermath of guano mining.  
Discarded limestone rock on Sweet  
Island, Pelsaert Group October 1979

Photo by: ~~Pat Baker~~ Brian Richards.

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1027/1

Stone jetty on Sweet Island

October 1979

Photo by: Pat Baker

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