



(LAS 7367)

GUITAR SONGS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Blasius To Una Turtavu

Blasius To Una Turtavu was born on February 2nd, 1925 at Papatatawa village in the Kokopo, sub-province of East New Britain. Only two months after he was born, his mother died, and his father, a Catholic Priest, took him to Vunapope Convent. So Blasius was brought up by the Sisters. In 1933, they sent him to Milmila Catholic Mission in the Duke of York Islands, and he attended primary school there until 1938. Then he returned to Vunapope and lived with his father until 1941. He was in Vunapope when the Japanese Army invaded New Britain, and in 1942, he was unwillingly recruited by the Japanese as an interpreter. During this time, he had to teach Japanese soldiers Melanesian Pidgin and Kuanua (the Tolai language), and he learned some Japanese which he still recalls today. Towards the end of the war, suspected of sympathy towards the allied American and Australian Armies, he was jailed and condemned to death by the Japanese, but was eventually freed by an American pilot. Blasius was very happy when the war ended, and after a few months as a patient, because of an injured leg, he started working at the Nonga military hospital and became a doctor's driver in 1947. Since then he has always retained the same occupation and is today working with the Department of Transport in Rabaul.

On this recording he is backed by three of his sons, Hironimus, Antonius and Ludovicus.

This recording attempts to show the different faces of Blasius To Una Turtavu's creativity through the 28 years of his musical life. Humorous and satirical songs in Pidgin, like FOPELA LEK (Track Four) or KUNAI DUMDUM (Track 10) ballads in his own Kuanua tongue like IAU ABUL RAMALMAL (Track 11) or AMARI NA RAVIAN

(Track 9) and in English like LONELY EVENING (Track 14). Blasius To Una might make you feel sad, but in the next song, he will cheer you up and really make you laugh. At fifty three, Blasius is still full of energy, and very much in love with music. Maybe that is what makes it very difficult not to fall in love with the man and his guitar.

- Frederic Duvelle
Port Moresby

Track 1: O PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius to Una

2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una

Ukulele: Hironimus to Una

Translation:

O Papua New Guinea, I am proud of you
You are my homeland I cannot leave you
The trees scattered everywhere, the houses and their flowers
Make my homeland look like paradise.

New Britain, my home, my island
All over your land, people live happily
There isn't a day when I feel hungry
Because I can find food everywhere.

O my island with a beautiful harbour
Surrounded by mountains to keep its waters calm
Two big rocks standing in the sea
Look like two guards watching over Rabaul Harbour.

O my country, you are still young
All over the world, people are interested in you
Because you are a rich country and a Christian country too.
From all over the world people want to come and help you.

Track 2: AMARI NA RAVIAN

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una

2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una

Translation:

On a pleasant afternoon
I was sitting down in Chinatown
The rays of the setting sun in the sky
Moved my heart when I looked up.

I stayed, watching the sun go down

Until I couldn't see it anymore
And when a small cloud hid the last glimpse of light
I felt sad and started crying.

When I think back on my friend who died
I wish I could see his face again
The tears from my eyes fall drop by drop
Sorry my friend, why did you have to leave me?

I wish I could see my friend again
On this afternoon,
I am sitting here lonely and I wish I could hear
The voice of my friend come out of a pakupak bird in the bush.

Track 3: BLACK SUBMARINE

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una

2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una

Ukelele: Hironimus To una and Ludovicus To Una

Translation:

Thousands of men – women - children
All gathered at the Government wharf for five days
To see what?
Only a log that drifted here on Sunday
Which was tied on the wharf
But inside this log, there are human beings.
They call this log a Submarine.

O Black Submarine, brother of the fishes
Everyday and night you are with the fishes
During all your life you never see the sun and the moon
Nor do you fear the rain or the winds.

I am not really sure about you, are you young or old?
There is an inscription on your side which explains
O Black Submarine brother of the fishes
Everyday and night you are with the fishes.

You were in the Baltic in 1850
And in the Arimea in 1855
And then you went to China in 1860
You must be the oldest submarine.

I am not really sure about you, are you young or old?
There is an inscription on your side which explains

O Black Submarine, brother of the fishes
Everyday and night you are with the fishes.

O.H.M.S. Odin, you went to Mesopotamia
From 1914 until 1917

You know how to defeat your enemies
When you battle you fight like a shark.

I am not really sure about you, are you young old?
There is an inscription on your side which explains
O Black Submarine, brother of the fishes
Everyday and night you are with the fishes.

Track 4: FOPELA LEK

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una

2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una

Ukulele: Hironimus and Ludovicus To Una

Translation:

I want to go and get myself four legs
So I can move quickly
I am sick and tired of walking
And spoiling my legs on the road
I want to fly, for a change.

‘Good morning sir’

‘Good morning my friend, what do you want?’

‘I want to buy a car; how many models have you got here?’

‘Come and see’

I have got Bedford, Landrover, Volkswagen,
Austin, Morris, Former, Holden and International,
and many more coming with the next ship.

I am very happy with my new car, it helps me in my work.
After three weeks, I was really surprised
My new car does not look good any more
Its front is turned, looking sideways towards the bush.

‘Good day sir’

‘Good day my friend, Ah, now you are back
again; what can I do for you?’

‘Have these new cars arrived yet?’

‘What? You have already damaged the other car? Okay follow me.’

I have got Datsun, Toyota, Toyopet, Daihatsu,
Nissan, Willys, Ford, Dodge and many others,
you can choose whichever one you want.

When all my friends came with me, I was drunk,
my head was spinning and I could not talk
I did not care any more about driving 30 miles per
hour, I preferred to drive a hundred or two hundred miles per hour.
And it resulted in an accident.

‘Hey! My friend’
‘Good night my friend’
‘What do you think you are doing’
‘Ah I came with Mr. Spirit and Mr. Gin and Mr.
Rhum, and they did not help me on the road’
‘Okay my friend, wait a minute’

That drunkard jumped and ran away through the
coconut trees into the bush as if he was not drunk
any more, fearing that the other man would hit him.

At another accident spot people are waiting for the police, and the police arrive
A drunkard pretends to be sober
And walks straight in front of the policeman to trick him.

‘Well, well, well my friend, what’s the trouble?’
‘Have you got your license?’
‘Yes Sir, here it is’
‘Who were you with’
‘Only by myself’
‘All right, wait a minute. Aha Mr. Brandy and
Mr. Rhum, very well.’
‘Okay tomorrow come and see me at the station - understood?’
‘Yes Sir’

Then went to court, paid 10 dollars, 15 dollars, 20 dollars fines until he had no more
money left.

Track 5: AURA TURAGAN I NODUP

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una

2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una

Translation:

St. Peter and St. Paul you are our patrons

You watch over the village which has been put
under your protection
And you strengthen us so we can be like you.
O Saints, this place has been chosen for you
You will protect the village of Nodup against its enemies
And help us with your prayers.
A long time ago, Father Lanuzelle came to Nodup,
It was his first stop in the Pacific Islands.
And he chose St. Peter as the patron of Nodup
St. Peter and St. Paul, you pray for this village, put
under your protection.
You ask for God's blessing upon us, your people,
And you will accompany us to the final judgment.

Track 6: NAI RA KINADIK

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una

2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una

Translation:

Mary, Mother of Sorrow, I pity you
You helped your son in his sufferings
Until he died on the cross, you never abandoned him
And you stood in sorrow until he was buried.

You remembered the words of Simeon
Which said about your son Jesus
That a knife will pierce your heart, and now you have felt it
Your heart was so much in pain that you wanted to die with your son.

You struggled to save your son from King Herod
And now you are struggling to save us from Satan
So you must ask Jesus to save the world
Otherwise Satan will destroy us.

Track 7: IAU VAROGOP NAT NA PUSI

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una

2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una

Translation:

I was strolling down on the beach one night
Darkness covered me and there was a lot of rain
I was trying very hard to go home
But I found shelter in a little cave like a small pussycat.

There is no light to show me the way
So I shall wait for the rain to go, in this little cave
If I had gone on I would probably have found misfortune
But I found shelter in this little cave like a small mouse.
Poor me, sitting alone on that night
Because there was no light to show me the road
And I was afraid of landslides on the way that might bring misfortune;
Then I wondered what to do;
And when I thought of the One above
The Light of the World
I asked him to have mercy on me and shine light on my path.
As I waited,
I was surprised the rain had suddenly stopped.
The moon shone quickly
And I became conscious of the clear light of the moon
Which took me all the way to my house.

God, you are strong and you look after all your creations
And you listen to those who ask for your help
You are worthy of praises because you are big and strong
You did not reject a sinner's request for mercy.

Track 8: BUN BILONG TOLAI

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una

2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una

Ukulele: Hironimus To Una

Translation:

Hey! What is the backbone of the Tolai?
O Chinese taro, you are strong and you uphold the region of Rabaul
O Chinese taro you are the backbone of the Tolai
No one can say they are not upheld by Chinese taro
Everyone is strong only because of you Chinese
taro, O Chinese taro.

O beloved Chinese taro
If I go away somewhere far from you
I cry and long to be back with you always
Because you are my backbone, O Chinese taro.

O Chinese taro, my mouth does not like rice
O Chinese taro, you are the heart of the Tolai
In every prison camp and hospital
All around, everyone likes you because you
strengthen the stomach - O Chinese taro.

O beloved Chinese taro
It is the best food in my area and I like it so much
And so I must die near the Chinese taro
Because it is my backbone - O Chinese taro.

Hum Hum Hum
I will never leave you until the day I die, O Chinese taro.

O Chinese taro
I go to the garden all the time to harvest you and I plant you
There is no other food I like as much as you
Chinese taro
Because you are my backbone, O Chinese taro.

Track 9: LUCY YU NO KEN LUSIM PROMIS

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una
2nd guitar: Herman Taman
Ukulele: Antonius To Una

Translation:
Early on Saturday morning as I was walking in town
Between the Rabaul Metal Industry and the Copra Marketing Board
I came across Lucy, standing on the roadside
And she said good morning to me with a smile
Oh yes, with a smile, everything is always welcome.

When I saw her smile at me, then I said hello to her
And she replied good morning darling
I was so moved by the word darling
Because no one yet ever called me darling
Hey! Do you think you are a child, so no one
can say this to you? Ha! Ha! ha!

Now she moved closer to me
And we started walking together
Putting words together, here is a strong promise
Oh dear Lucy, I am falling in love with you
That's it! There it goes!

Lucy's mother did not approve, so what's going to happen
The strong promise may be forgotten now. She said you can't move an iron house with a
cement floor
O please Lucy don't break the promise
Hey! What's happening, is the string broken?

People came and took Lucy back to her village
My darling why did you leave me here alone?
I will never forget you because you are my only love

O please Lucy, I might go and hang myself
Oh Lucy I am going to die now.

Track 10: KUNAI DUMDUM

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una

2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una

Ukulele: Hironimus to Una

Translation:

A long time ago, some men were recruited
To be trained as policemen
Both the police officer and the sergeant were
working very hard
To teach them how to drill.

Squad! Attention! Right turn! Mark time
Left left, left left, quick! March!
Left right, left right, left right
Hey have a look sergeant, are they men
marching or wallabies jumping around?
Come on sergeant lead the way so that these
men can watch you and follow.

Yes Officer.

A lot of sweat was wasted, marching under the hot sun
But no one yet know how to march correctly
This was something new, so it had to take the
men a while to learn it
They had never seen something like that before
Come on sergeant some of them have nearly got it
Let's hope the others can follow.

Squad! Attention! Left turn! Mark time
Left left, left left, quick! March!
Left right, left right, left right
Legs up, remember, come on
Oh my mouth's hurting because I am shouting too much
What is the matter with you all, what kind of men are you?
Are you some kind of devils?

A lot of sweat was wasted, marching under the sun
But no one yet knew how to march correctly.

What are we going to do with these men
They are just jumping around like wallabies
Have you got any idea?
Oh, forget it, let's not be lazy and keep on trying.

Hey sergeant, I have got an idea
How do you call this grass?
This grass? Oh, we call it kunai
It cuts and scratches and bruises
That's kunai.
And this other grass here, how do you call it?
The kids collect them and suck them
That's dumdum.

Okay sergeant get these two grasses, and tie
them up on these men's legs
Tie the kunai on the left leg and the dumdum
on the right one
And tell them all to lift kunai first and then dumdum.

Okay sergeant get these two grasses, and tie
them up on these men's legs
Tie the kunai on the left leg and the dumdum on the right one
And tell them all to lift kunai first and then dumdum.

Yes Officer

Squad! Attention! About turn! Mark Time!
Left, left, left, left, quick! March!

Kunai dumdum, kunai dumdum, kunai dumdum
Kunai dumdum, kunai dumdum, kunai dumdum
That's the boy, that's the idea
Come on sergeant, keep it up.

Kunai dumdum, kunai dumdum, you are very clever
You taught these crazy men
Kuna dumdum, kunai dumdum, how can I say?
A very big thank you for you, kunai dumdum.

Track 11: IAU ABUL RAMALMAL
Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una

2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una
Ukulele: Hironimus To Una

Translation:

Brother, I was not worried
When you came to me with your anger
To make me lose my temper like a scabied dog
No you can never force my inner convictions.

A Hurricane rose from the sea
And threw you up into the air
Evil spirits carried you like a flying leaf
And you sold yourself here at Ramalmal.

Friend, why didn't you ask me first
About the thing I spoiled in you house
 Hey! Don't you know I come from where the sun sets?
 Hey don't you know I come from Ramalmal?
What sort of things did you come to do to me with your anger
And why did you sell yourself here at Ramalmal.

You did not like to send a message
So that I could have waited for you at home.
You thought your strength could overpower me
It's impossible! Get yourself a plane ticket and go home.

Track 12: MI A SKULBOI

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una
2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una
Ukulele: Hironimus To Una

Translation:

I am a true school boy, every morning I must go
So I can learn everything at our school
Six o'clock I must wake up, seven o'clock it is time to go
At eight o'clock I am already standing in the line.

La idi aida iri dio
Left right, left right, left right, idi ai dada
Left right, left right, left right, step by step
Inside our classrooms now.

Here on the blackboard, the teacher has written
ABC up above, and Arithmetic below
I must try my best to learn, who is going to be the best?

All boys and girls the time to compete has now come

La idi aida

It is nearly ten o'clock and I'd like to go and play
Baseball, softball and cricket, football rugby and other games
I must learn to play them all so I can be a champion
To make my school win all the time.

La idi aida

Now, it is twelve o'clock, and it is time to go for lunch
I sit down and start eating with my book still in my hand
I read while having my lunch so I can learn quicker
And be ready to learn some new things

La idi aida

It is nearly three o'clock, and that is when we finish school
I must go very fast and tell mother and father
I want to see them as soon as possible so I can tell them
About everything I have learned today at school.

La idi aida
.....
.....

We are going back to our villages now.

Track 13: THE LONELY EVENING

Vocals and Guitar: Blasisus To Una

Original – English Text

Translation:

One day I was sitting alone beside a stream
Under a big tree near the river of Vudal
I heard from the tree tops the music of the birds
They were happy and singing in the lovely evening.

When the sun has sunk down with beautiful flaming rays
I looked up at the mountain peaks covered with white clouds
Oh dear my poor heart was beating very fast
And with the tears from my eyes fall drop by drop.

So lonely now but still among the woods
When I walked along the river bank until dawn

Then I looked around me and found I was alone
Until night fell and still I found no way for home.

Track 14: IAU LUS MAN TAKADO

Vocals and Guitar: Blasius To Una

2nd Guitar: Antonius To Una

Ukulele: Hironimus To Una

Translation:

When I was young I was a hard worker
I liked to travel around
I never liked working in the village
Because in the village I would not get any money.

My elders would work
And me, Mr. Bigman, I would be lazing around
The time for me to dig the earth has not come yet
I must still run around, following my own wish.

When I'll have finished following my own wish
I shall come home and ask for my land
And my elders will say to me
Where are you from? We do not know you.

So now, what can I do, miserable fellow?
My name is not in my elders' book
My elders have rejected me
Because I did not listen to their words.

If I had listened to my elders
Today I would be happy and prosperous
I would sit and feel sorry for others.
But me, poor fellow,
I have inherited nothing
I am miserable, I am a real loser.

Track Lengths:

1. O Papua New Guinea 2:24
2. Amari Na Ravian 2:16
3. Black Submarine 5:27
4. Fopela Lek 4:15
5. Aura Turagan I Nodup 2:16
6. Nai Ra Kinadik 2:34
7. Lau Varogop Nat Na Pusi 3:50
8. Bun Bilong Tolai 3:10

9. Lucy Yu No Ken Lusim Promis 3:52
10. Kunai Dumdum 3:58
11. Iau Abul Ramalmal 2:16
12. Mi A Skulboi 3:06
13. The Lonely Evening 1:58
14. Iau Lus Man Takado 3:43



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