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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MOROBE

STATION: Mumeng

VOLUME No: 14

ACCESSION No: 496.

1969 - 1970

ISBN: 9980 - 910 - 45 - 3

Filed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea,
PORT MORESBY .. 1991

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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Patrol reports of Mumeng, Morobe Province

Volume no. 14: 1969/70

Number of reports: 1

Report no. 3 - 1969/70, L.C. Hicks, Part Mid-Watut Census Division, 19.3.70 -
24.4.70

67-6-127

PATROL REPORT NO 3-69-70

— BY —

MR. L. C. HICKS

MUMENG.

MOROBE DISTRICT.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of MORobe Report No. MUNENG NO.3 - 1969/70
Sub-District: MUNENG L.C. Hicks - Patrol Officer

Patrol Conducted by.....
Area Patrolled Part MID-WATUT CENSUS DIVISION

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans..... NO

Natives..... Const. GUBIA R.P.N.G.C.

Duration—From 19/3/1970 to 24/4/1970 (Broken Periods)

Number of Days..... 3 1/2 Days (30 nights)

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?..... NO

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services..... 12/19/69

Medical/...../19.....

Map Reference..... Fe 11 MARKHAM

Objects of Patrol..... (1) Census Revision (2) Political Education (3) Routine Administration

(4) Area Study (5) Survey Sambio/Piu Road (6) Check L.T.T.W.N. and Shotgun licences

Population of Area Patrolled:..... 3452 (1969)

Director of District Administration,
PORT MORESBY.

No Area Study

Forwarded, please.

/ / 19

District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation £.....

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund £.....

Amount paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund

WJ:KP

67-6-127

Division of District Administration,

KONEDOBU, PAPUA.

8th March, 1971.

The District Commissioner,
Morobe District.

LAL.

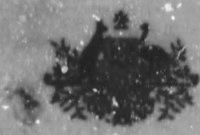
MUMENG PATROL REPORT NO. 3-69/70.

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of Mumeng Patrol Report No. 3-69/70 which was submitted under duress by Mr. L. Hicks to cover his patrol to portion of the Mid Watut Census Division.

I agree with your comments and those of the Assistant District Commissioner, at Kumang. Mr. Hicks apparently has great difficulty in organising his time and sorting out his priorities. This fact has been recorded in previous correspondence and noted on his personal file.

Considerable sustained effort and application to the task of producing a completed record of duties undertaken will be necessary before it will be possible to eradicate the reputation of inefficiency he has created.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Secretary.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-6-127

14



Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference
If calling ask for
Mr.

In Reply
Please Quote
No. 67-2-4

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Department of the Administrator,
Division of District Administration,
Morobe District,
LAE.

13th January, 1971

Departmental Head,
Division of District Administration,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOBUE.

MUMENG PATROL REPORT NO. 3/1970-71 ^{6/70}

Attached are two copies of the above Report together with comments from the Assistant District Commissioner, Mumeng.

The late submission of the Report renders it valueless and further indicates Mr. Hicks' ~~inexperience and~~ laxity. I have no further comments to add to the Assistant District Commissioner's comments.

B. Bunting
(B. BUNTING)
a/District Commissioner

13

67-2-1

ABC/gk

Sub-District Office,
MUMEN G.

4th January, 1971.

The District Commissioner,
Division of District Administration,
Morobe District,
L.A.E.

MUMEN G. PATROL REPORT NO. 3 OF 1969/70.

I forward herewith original and two copies of the above report on a patrol to the Middle Watut Census Division by Mr. L.C. Hicks, P.O. and map of area patrolled plus copies of Village Population Register.

My comments are as follows:

1. The extreme lateness of the report calls for no comment other than to point out that information in the report has been outdated by my own and Mr. Hitzke's patrol, conducted in September 1970, report on which was forwarded under cover of my 57-2-1 of 20th October 1970.
2. Mr. Hicks's covering letter refers. Whilst sympathising with Mr. Hicks' problems in attempting to carry out his patrol instructions to the letter, I feel that he could have achieved a great deal more than he apparently did. The patrol instructions were unrealistic, I feel, and the tasks laid down would best have been tackled by way of separate patrols. As an illustration, Mr. Hitzke has for the past two months been undertaking location and survey of road route from Sambia to Takak and the job is about two thirds completed. Obviously, Mr. Hicks would have been hard put to locate and survey a road route from Sambia to Piu in the course of conducting a routine administration patrol. He should therefore have completed his administrative tasks and then devoted himself to the road survey. He made no real attempt to do this according to his diary and no physical evidence has been found subsequently to indicate that he did in fact peg out any part of the road route.
3. I find it difficult to believe that the native situation at the time of Mr. Hicks's visit was so tense that Area Study research was rendered impossible. Mr. Hitzke and I had no trouble in researching the necessary information in September. I therefore do not understand why Mr. Hicks made not attempt to compile an Area Study as per instruction.
4. I am also at a loss to understand why Mr. Hicks did not visit all villages in the area and revise the census as per instructions. Census figures submitted are therefore of no use; they would, in any case, be outdated by Mr. Hitzke's figures.
5. The Situation Report consists largely of vague generalisations and is overloaded with much verbiage. As Mr. Hicks points out in paragraph (i) of his letter, it is rather difficult to compile a report of a patrol after a lapse of nine months and with incomplete notes. Perhaps Mr. Hicks now appreciates the importance of prompt submission of patrol reports.

Claim for camping allowance is attached. Please forward copy of map for my records.

A.E. Cooke,
s/Assistant District Commissioner.

c.c. Mr. L.C. Hicks,
GARAINA.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telephone

Telegrams.....

Our Reference.....

If calling ask for

Mr. LCH

C/-

Department of District Administration,
Division of District Administration,
Patrol Post,
GARATNA,
Morohe District.

27th December 1970

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
MUMENG.

Dear Sir,

OUTSTANDING PATROL REPORT - MUMENG NO.3 of 1969/70

Your 67-2-1 of 2nd July 1970 refers.

I will not attempt to justify or excuse the late submission of this report as the reasons I have been told are not unique and I am given to the understanding that they form no legitimate excuse. Hence I will only attempt to explain the brevity of the attached report and some of the more important reasons why all the patrol instructions were carried out.

- BREVITY:
- i. The difficulty experienced at this stage with attempting to compile a report with incomplete notes, and unable to refer to respective files as well as a dimming of the memory contributed to this situation.
 - ii. In addition and of more importance, I personally consider with the benefit of hindsight, that the two most important objects of the patrol were the points as raised in paras. 3 and 5 as well as the concluding paragraph.
 - iii. I have no idea of the present situation but the atmosphere and attitude of the villages and people I visited and spoke too indicated a far from desirable situation. In particular SAMBKO Village bears particular note and it was only with extreme difficulty and a great amount of time (See Patrol Diary) that I was able to reach any sort of rapport with those people. I had no wish to cause any unnecessary suspicion of which there was much or annoy a people most obviously upset, by asking questions of a personal or annoyingly routine nature in order to compile various sections of a new Area Study. Under the circumstances, neither could I completely rely on any information as being completely truthful.
 - iv. In addition this was for me a familiarization with an area and a people very different from what I had been used to previously and it was more necessary that the people had a chance to sum me up just as I had to have a chance to gain their trust and make my own appraisals. How successful the patrol was in human contact I have no idea due to the shortness of my stay at Mumeng. I can only leave that question with yourself.
 - v. I sincerely believe that the situation improved as much as it could with such a difficult group, and I'm only sorry that the lateness of this report and a number of minor matters arising from Patrol which were not attended to before my departure, may have annoyed or inconvenienced one or two individuals in the area.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telephone
Telegrams
Our Reference
If calling ask for
Mr. LCH

C/- Department of District Administration,
Division of District Administration,
Patrol Post,
GARAINA,
Morobe District.

27th December 1970

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Sub-District Office,
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 - iii. I have no idea of the present situation but the atmosphere and attitude of the villages and people I visited and spoke too indicated a far from desirable situation. In particular SAKO Village bears particular note and it was only with extreme difficulty and a great amount of time (See Patrol Diary) that I was able to reach any sort of rapport with these people. I had no wish to cause any unnecessary suspicion of which there was much or annoy a people most obviously upset, by asking questions of a personal or annoyingly routine nature in order to compile various sections of a new Area Study. Under the circumstances, neither could I completely rely on any information as being completely truthful.
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2. With regard to Para.1 of the Patrol Instructions, please find attached copies of the village population register for those villages visited. As the whole Census Division was not completed these copies are for attaching to the office-files only. I found from the figures that Mr. R. Richardson had made no outstanding errors as far as I could see and complaints that he refused to record marriages I can understand after striking the same problem he must have struck. ie. the large number of 'marked' marriages which the village Councillor or parents insist I record but which I also refuse to do until the two people concerned are actually married and living together. I understand that this was the same problem Mr. Richardson struck but he may have lost his patience because there are numerous occurrences and perhaps this was the reason in this instance for complaints being brought to the former Actg./Assistant District Commissioner, Mr. P.R. K...

3. I consider that it would have been impossible under the circumstances to do an Area Study let alone redo one. Refer iii and iv on Page 1. To do an Area Study properly one needs time, patience and the confidence or respect or trust of the people, something which cannot be gained after being in the area completely knew for about 2-3 weeks.

4. With regard to para.3 of Instructions, I attempted this but for the most part initially I did most of the talking and though many must have been interested because often I was asked to keep talking until after midnight, there was little reaction in the way of any significant questions to help me to estimate the impact I had.

5. For anyone who has been in the area, as you know, to give an instruction to survey and peg the road from Sambio to Piu, would be a full-time task on its own of some duration considering the terrain. As it was I found my hands full both literally and figuratively with trying to initiate new work on the Sambio Road which had ground to a halt without hardly starting. It was found that despite the fact that "The people are willing to work"...the task proved extremely difficult. Perhaps it would have been better to say that their spirits were willing but with the exception of a few stalwarts, their flesh was remarkably weak. I personally spent day after day on that rock-face under the same conditions and I will admit that the work was far from easy but it was satisfying to see what a man could do if he was enthusiastic about it. It was a great pity that enthusiasm was a rare commodity amongst the Mid-Watuts although most noticeably the SAMBIO's who stand to benefit directly and much sooner from this road than any of the villages down the Valley.

6. A cursory check of unlicensed weapons or trade-stores failed to bring to light any cases requiring action as suggested by the A.D.C.

7. I might add that the Assistant District Commissioner was unable to carry out visits as he proposed in his final paragraph but most disputes or quarrels were settled without recourse to Court Action.

8. My apologies to yourself for any inconvenience caused. It would be appreciated if you could onward this with your comments, please. A sketch of the Patrol's route and Claim for Camping Allowance is attached. In addition four copies of village population register are attached.

Leslie C. Hicks
.....
Leslie C. Hicks
Patrol Officer

c.c. The District Commissioner, LAE

c.c. The Assistant District Commissioner, LAE

67-2-1

Sub-District Office,
MUMENG.

26th February, 1970.

Mr. L. Hicks,
Patrol Officer,
MUMENG.

PATROL INSTRUCTIONS - MUMENG PATROL NO. 3 OF 1969/70.
MIDDLE WATUT CENSUS DIVISION.

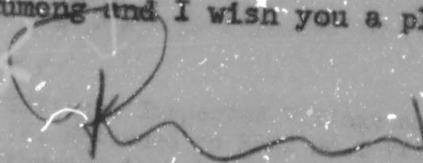
As you know Mr. Richardson has just completed a patrol through this area. Unfortunately I am not at all happy with the resulting native situation and his reporting of the patrol and the area study.

Please be ready to depart for the middle watut census division on the 5th March, 1970 where you will attend to the following.

1. Revise the census again and ensure that the books are up to date. eg. all newly wed people are to be recorded together.
2. Redo the area study.
3. Spend at least two nights in each rest house and most important utilise evening with the people.
4. Conduct Political Education Lectures at each rest house and give me an assessment of the understanding of each groups. Particularly note the womens participation.
5. Survey and peg the road from Sambio to Piu. This is most important! The area has long been neglected and this road must go through. The people are willing to work. See me prior to departing and I will give you two maps of area surveys conducted previously. When pegging the route, divide the road into 1000 yard sections - clearly marking the boundaries. The people will be deployed on these 1000 yd sections and will be paid when each section has been completed.
6. Check Mr. Richardson's patrol report and locate any men with unlicensed weapons and trade stores. Send the offenders to me.
7. Conduct Routine Administration as required.

This patrol I stress is a vital one, I propose visiting you in the area from time to time to handle courts and assist you wherever necessary. The people are upset at the moment and I want you to do all you can to gain their confidence and trust. See Sgt. CAILOT for patrol police.

Welcome to Mumeng and I wish you a pleasant Patrol.


P.R. KERR.
a/Assistant District Commissioner.

MUMENG PATROL NO. 3 - 1969/70

(9)

PATROL DIARY

Period: 19th March 1970 to 24th April 1970

PART MID - WATUP CENSUS DIVISION

Villages Visited

Villages Not Visited

- * Dangkal
- * Galawo
- * Kapin No.1
- * Kapin No.2
- * Sambio
- * Taiak

- Biamena
- * Dambi
- Gurapu
- Gumots
- Piu

* Villages Censused

Thursday - 19th March 1970

Deparated MUMENG Sub-District Office per Administration Toyota. Arrived SAMBIO Village after crossing Snake River and unloaded patrol gear. Atmosphere in village definitely un-cooperative. After talking to Councillor situation was to change slightly in morning.

OVERNIGHT SAMBIO VILLAGE

Friday - 20th March 1970

Deparated for TAIK Village with carriers from Sambio. Carriers change at TAIK/SAMBIO boundary. Arrived TAIK and inspected village. Talks on village hygiene, co-operation with Councillors and Administration, as well as general discussion.

OVERNIGHT TAIK VILLAGE

Saturday - 21st March 1970

Deparated for GALAWO Village with Taiak Village carriers. Arrived and inspected village. Also inspected small amount a couple of hours to the South of the central village. Discussions at night with interested villagers.

OVERNIGHT GALAWO VILLAGE

Sunday - 22nd March 1970

Deparated for KAPIN NO.1 Village. Arrived and inspected village. Discussions with villagers present.

OVERNIGHT KAPIN NO.1 VILLAGE

Monday - 23rd March 1970

Walked to KAPIN NO.2 Village. Inspected Village and had discussions with people. Returned to KAPIN NO.1 Village. Received word late afternoon that I was required to go to Lae for explanatory instruction over new Validity Ordinance for Local Government Council Tax Rules.

OVERNIGHT KAPIN NO.1 VILLAGE

Tuesday - 24th March 1970

OVERNIGHT KAPIN NO.1 VILLAGE

PATROL DIARY - MUMENG PR NO.7 of 1969/70

- Tuesday - 24th March 1970
 Departed TAIK and GALAWO Villages. Carried out
 Departed KAPIN NO.1 Village for Mumeng. Arrived via
 KAPIN NO.2/SAMBIO track, the cargo having been despatched
 via the usual track following the Watut River to SAMBIO.
 Arrived Mumeng at 1600 HRS.
- Monday -
OVERNIGHT MUMENG STATION
- Wednesday - 25th March 1970
 At Mumeng
 and talks with villagers.
- Thursday - 26th March 1970
 To Iae and returned afternoon.
- Friday - 27th March 1970
 Departed Mumeng for SAMBIO Village. Census carried out.
 Inspected progress of Sambio road. Inspected all hamlets,
 including 'Old SAMBIO'.
- Wednesday -
OVERNIGHT SAMBIO VILLAGE
- Saturday - 28th March 1970
 Supervised road-work on Sambio Road and finding a route across the
 Sambio Creek below village.
- Thursday - 29th April 1970
OVERNIGHT SAMBIO VILLAGE
- Sunday -
 Observed at SAMBIO Village. Talks in afternoon with
 interested villagers.
- Friday -
OVERNIGHT SAMBIO VILLAGE
- Monday - 30th March 1970
 Continued on surveying and road-construction. Only small
 number of volunteers.
- Saturday - 31st April 1970
OVERNIGHT SAMBIO VILLAGE
- Tuesday - 31/3/70
 Decided to walk to TAIK and GALAWO Villages to find out
 why a lack of volunteers, considering previously there was
 so much verbal support from villages further down the Watut
 Valley. After having talks in respective villages,
 promises were received that volunteers would be arriving
 on the road in a day or so.
- Monday -
OVERNIGHT SAMBIO VILLAGE
- Wednesday - 1/4/70
 Continued work on road. No sign of promised workers
 from Taiak and Galawo Villages.
- Monday - 2/4/70
OVERNIGHT SAMBIO VILLAGE
- Thursday - 2/4/70
 Surveying of parts of road in morning. Remainder of day
 walked to 'Old Sambio' and spoke to a few of the Elders
 of the village.
- Monday -
OVERNIGHT SAMBIO VILLAGE
- Friday - 3/4/70
 Departed for Taiak Village. Arrived and conducted Census.
 Talks with villagers and inspected village again.
- Thursday -
OVERNIGHT TAIK VILLAGE
- Saturday - 4/4/70
 Spent in talks and completion of census.
OVERNIGHT TAIK VILLAGE

- Sunday - 5th April 1970
 Departed TAJAK and arrived GALAWO Village. Carried out
 Census and inspected village.
OVERNIGHT GALAWO VILLAGE to check on progress with
- Monday - 6th April 1970
 Completed Census and talks with villagers.
OVERNIGHT GALAWO VILLAGE
- Tuesday - 7th April 1970
 Visited Hamlet a couple of hours to the South of main
 village of Galawo.
OVERNIGHT GALAWO VILLAGE
- Wednesday - 8th April 1970
 Departed GALAWO Village and arrived KAPIN NO.1 Village.
 Census and talks with villagers.
OVERNIGHT KAPIN NO.1 VILLAGE
- Thursday - 9th April 1970
 Walked to KAPIN NO.2 Village and conducted census. Inspection
 of village and talks with villagers.
OVERNIGHT KAPIN NO.2 VILLAGE
- Friday - Departed for KAPIN NO.1 Village. Further talks with villagers
 and inspection of village and surrounds.
OVERNIGHT KAPIN NO.1 VILLAGE
- Saturday - 11th April 1970
 Census conducted and inspection of village of DANGAL after
 walking from KAPIN NO.1 Village. Census also completed for
 DAMBI Village.
OVERNIGHT DANGAL VILLAGE
- Sunday - 12th April 1970
 Observed at DANGAL Village. Talks in evening with villagers.
OVERNIGHT DANGAL VILLAGE
- Monday - 13th April 1970
 Inspected DAMBI Village and further discussions with
 Villagers.
OVERNIGHT DANGAL VILLAGE
- Tuesday - Received written advice to return and check on progress of
 SAMBIO Road. Returned to SAMBIO Village.
OVERNIGHT SAMBIO VILLAGE
- Wednesday - Returned Mumeng
OVERNIGHT MUMENG STATION

Thursday - 16th April 1970
At Mumeng

Friday - 17th April 1970

Returned Sambio Village to check on progress with Road construction.

OVERNIGHT SAMBIO VILLAGE

Saturday, 18th April - Friday 24th April

Engaged in construction of road and ~~organizing~~ encouraging volunteer road workers to work. Camped at SAMBIO Village for entire time. Returned to Mumeng on 24th April 1970.

(5)

MUMENG PATROL

NO. 3 - 1969/70

Situation Report (Cont.)

7. I also gained the impression that Councillors from the area are **SITUATION - REPORT**

POLITICAL

1. Of the thirty (30) wards comprising the administrative area of the Mumeng Local Government Council, five (5) complete wards and part of another (SAMBIO/PELEWA Ward) go to make up an area recognized by the Administration as the MID-WATUT CENSUS DIVISION:

SAMBIO, Pelewa
TALAK/GALAWO
KAPIN NO.1/KAPIN NO.2
GUMOTS
DAMBI/MANGAL
PTU/GACAPU/BIAMENA

2. There are eleven (11) Villages in this Census Division which are divided into six (6) wards as shown in para.1, with the exception of PELEWA Village which is part of the MUMENG CENSUS DIVISION. The number of Councillors representing this area of approximately 182 sq. miles with a total population of 3152 (Census figures December 1969) is equivalent to the number of Wards i.e. six (6).

3. It is interesting to note that despite their minority this area provides verbal rhetoric and influence at Council meetings which is significant considering the high absentee rate in the area.

4. The present Member of the House of Assembly for the MUMENG Open Electorate is Mr. Mangobing Eakun of SAMBIO Village. In addition, the former Councillor for SAMBIO (Sam-Gaitaing) was a considerable influence on the atmosphere of Council Meetings, as will the new Councillor most probably although in a milder sense. The new Council President is also a Councillor from the DAMBI/MANGAL Ward within this Census Division - MANGUYONG/TUKOR of DAMBI Village - a somewhat self-opinionated individual although there is no disputing his ability and out-spokenness often to the embarrassment of Councillors and Advisor alike. The representatives from the KAPIN NO.1/KAPIN NO.2 and TALAK/GALAWO Wards are also intelligent and forthright individuals, despite any minor individual faults. Only in the far corner of the Census Division does the quality seem to drop, understandably when one considers the relative isolation and resignation to the situation which are characteristics.

5. Within this framework, the Local Lutheran Mission wields a significant influence especially within the middle-aged group of village leaders. It would be assumed that at present much of the respect and knowledge of this group is entrusted to the Mission, the Administration being necessary but not essential in the organization and running of their social and in part their economic and political progress. Probably not a desirable attitude ultimately but it is wondered whether at present they are assuming an exaggerated confidence in an institution which after all should be concerned primarily with spiritual enlightenment and involvement in individual human problems.

6. The Administration is perhaps to blame for the undue emphasis which is placed on the Mission in the politico-economic structure of the area. The people have learnt more to place their trust and guidance in respect of certain matters more appropriate to the Administration, with the Mission over past years.

Situation Report (Cont.)

7. I also gained the impression that Councillors from the area in their responsibilities as they understand them. Admittedly, the majority are not traditionally the most important men in their villages but, they are for the majority full of drive (as much as can be expected) and a willingness to learn and absorb and in the process change. This eagerness to learn and adopt new ideas of course could be prompted by necessity. Much of their tradition and way of life has been destroyed, misplaced or willingly forgotten. Many have seen as few other areas in the past had the opportunity to see, the industry and gold-fever of the European at a pitch the equal of anywhere else in the world, and they are at the same time frustrated with their inability it seems to them to achieve an equivalent degree of determination as well as angry that this change has come about with so little regard initially for themselves as human beings from these strangers with their superior skills and knowledge but not so superior a society.

8. I feel that this is especially true in the Wau-Bulolo Valley where the European in the past was here in force and not so much concerned with the native peoples as with the wealth that could be won from the Valley and surrounding hills....And what is now important, these same native people are very much aware of that realization, a happening which many probably feel they have been cheated in that they have had so little part in the whole event. This often finds expression in many discussions on various subjects..this deep-down frustration by people from the area. They are in a dilemma in that the Administration has done and professes to have done even more for their advancement, a fact they find difficult to discount and which serves to blunt their arguments about their exploitation to their loss.

9. They want the responsibility and knowledge to make the fullest use of their land, etc. but they are continually being hampered in their efforts either by their own as yet only half-formed ideas; lack of suitable experienced Administration Officers in various fields that can afford the time that is necessary but cannot be spared due to pressures from other quarters; various of their own people who are content to drift along under the guidance of others but who have no original or contributory thoughts for the benefit of all. Consequently, many feel that the difficulty lies not wholly in their shortcomings or inability to grasp all the details, but in the fact that the European in the Valley has already taken or is taking anything of value the area has to offer (In many cases, a situation that is not far from the truth) so their attention is drawn to such as Mr. M. Leahy's establishment or Mr. Ireland's property, etc. as examples of this belief.

10. For a successful transition it is essential that the local people are given the knowledge to assume control rather than the mere desire to take control. Perhaps they realize only too full the enormous profits already reaped from the area without much significant change to the lives of the average villager and perhaps are afraid that by the time it is their turn to assume the Organization and Administration of their lives, not much will be left. They have the continual scene in front of them of the vast mullock heaps of the Bulolo Valleyand now the European is talking of leaving....perhaps because there is nothing more left of any significance to take, they ask....so what will be left for them but a mere fraction of the prosperity that has gone elsewhere.

11. Political awareness in the area could be said to be good as those who seem disinterested will probably be never interested. The high absentee rate of course means that many are away in the towns where much more is learnt from the concentration of news media and open discussion. In addition the unique circumstances of the history and background of the valley and the fact that they have a Member of the House of Assembly from their area as well as their close contact with Lee, all go to make some very politically interested individuals.

ECONOMIC:

12. The first economic exploitation of the area which coincided with the first white penetration of the area was the search for gold subsequent to C. J. Levien's realization in the early 1930's of the alluvial gold deposits in the Bulolo Valley. A small amount of alluvial gold is still being won from the area by local villagers who have learnt their skills at Bulolo and Wau.

13. However, taken generally economic activity of any great significance is almost non-existent. As yet there is no road into the area although currently there are efforts in that direction (Refer Miscellaneous) and though the tracks in many places are of a good standard it is the topography of the country with hardly a flat area of any decent size available, that precludes normal economic developments such as coffee, cattle, etc. Sambio and Taiak Villages are perhaps the most fortunate in this regard in having a few acres of reasonably flat land which has not been bought previously by Messrs. F.A. & A.P. Ireland, the only non-indigenous enterprise in the area patrolled.

14. SAMBIO Village in the past has attempted cattle projects but due to their stubborn and often intolerant attitude and one-mindedness the Department Of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries had no choice other than to wipe their hands of the matter despite the hard work they had already put in to helping the Sambio's. Now it seems, SAMBIO Village on the instigation of their M.H.A. have decided to try the cattle business again. On their own initiative they have bought cattle and had them transported to Sambio but working outside of the Department has it's problems, such as adequate fencing, stock-men, feeding, etc. and it will be necessary to wait awhile before any guess as to the success or not of the venture could be offered.

15. Coffee forms the other prime money-earner for those who stay in the villagers. In fact when the time comes for work to be done on tracks maintenance, cleaning up the village, etc. the excuse always is that everyone is too busy in their coffee gardens but this excuse often wears thin after a full year of such entreaties.

16. There are ample quantities of citrus fruits and locally grown vegetables for village consumption and sale on market days. However, in regard to introduced food-crops, there are no significant plantings to be of a significant commercial value nor to make much impact on their traditional diet.

SOCIAL:

17. The only established services in the area by the Administration are the Aid Posts at TAIK and DANGAL Villages i.e. in the area covered by this patrol. Education mainly in the form of Yabin Language Primary Schools is supplied by the Lutheran Mission at Galawo. In addition there are a number of Bible schools in the various villages. However most of those children attending school go to the Primary School (Administration) at BANGALUM or they go to the Administration Primary School at Mureng itself.

18. Most Councillors realize that their holding their position is dependant on the popular support of the people. Happily in the area this does not have the effect of completely negating the purpose of a Councillor as most have a embryonic sense of duty which is beginning to over-rule their own parochial desires but nevertheless, understandably most Councillors are extremely reluctant to initiate court proceedings against their fellows and much prefer to throw 'the ball into the kiap's lap' while he is patrolling so the latter bears the brunt of any ill-feeling by the defendant towards the cause of his appearance on a charge.

MISCELLANEOUS:

19. Any evaluation of an individual's average income as required

in Section (M) (j) of an Area Study as laid out in the Departmental Standing Instructions, is severely hampered if not made impossible by the understandable suspicion with which any enquiries of such a reasonably sophisticated group as to their incomes and finances, engenders. Consequently, after a few trial situations were attempted, the whole aim was dropped, keeping in mind the final paragraph of the Patrol Instructions.

20. As can be seen from the Patrol Diary, much of the time in the field was actually spent at Sambio or more particularly on the road-works which ~~was~~ hope to open up the Valley to vehicle without having to rely on the seasonal crossing (ford) across the Snake River. Considerable time was spent in gaining the confidence of the people in particular SAMBIO Village and encouraging voluntary participation by personal example i.e. with pick, shovel and crow-bar. I was joined on a few isolated occasions by the Member of the House of Assembly who also attempted by example to goad his fellow villagers into a more willing and enthusiastic participation in their task. The work was hard with many places composed of stone and rock that had to be gouged away with a crow-bar, a bit at a time always with the risk that the unstable areas would all come down.

21. The aim of course was that the people should first show some willingness to work themselves before the prospect of Machinery or monetary assistance could be considered. Instructions to survey and peg the road from Sambio to Pin is a major undertaking on its own, without attempting to incorporate it into other work.

22. In my mind the two main objects of the patrol were to stimulate interest and voluntary work on the Sambio Road and at the same time try to restore or shore-up the people's trust in the Administration which was at a low ebb. I earnestly believe that progress was made in both these objects and that any others ~~was~~ assume secondary importance. I only regret that perhaps by the lateness in submitting this report may have contributed to decreasing the effect of these two objects.

Leslie C. Hicks
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Leslie C. Hicks
Patrol Officer

MUMENG
S.D.O.

MID-WATUT
CENSUS DIVISION



MUMENG
PATROL NO. 3 - 69/70
(SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE)

ROUTE OF PATROL: 



MUMENG
PATROL NO. 3 - 69/70
(SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE)

ROUTE OF PATROL: