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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of **WESTERN HIGHLANDS** Report No. **1/65-67**

Patrol Conducted by **HOWIE B IRWIN**

Area Patrolled **PORTION OF THE SOUTHERN RANGES**

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans **A.C.A. AIRPORT ENGINEER**

Natives **6 MEMBERS OF THE P.P.A.N.G.C.**

Duration—From **6 7** /19**65** **8 8** /19**66**

Number of Days **26**

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? **NO**

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services **7 6** /19**64**

Medical **7 6** /19**64**

Map Reference **FOUNTAIN OF BASS**

Objects of Patrol **PURCHASE KAKAMBA HIGHWAY LEASE / AIRSHIP SURVEY  
MURDER INVESTIGATIONS**

Director of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

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 .....



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

Mount Hagen Sub-District,  
Western Highlands District,  
MOUNT HAGEN.

6th September, 1966

File:

The District Commissioner,  
Western Highlands District,  
Mount Hagen.

JIMI RIVER PATROL NO. 1 OF 1966/67.

Enclosed please find Mr. Brown's report together with a  
Labid Investigation Report of the TSENGAPI airfield site.

2. The alleged murderers have been brought back to Tabibuga  
Patrol and have not been committed for trial. They belong  
to the HAK group which previously has had little or no  
Administrative contact.

3. May the District Medical Officer be approached in regard to  
the Mission's request for a medical orderly. I feel that the  
request is very reasonable.

4. Mr. Brown conducted the patrol with his usual thoroughness  
and has submitted a concise and informative report.

Forwarded please.

*C. G. Little*  
(C. G. LITTLE)

Assistant District Commissioner



RSB:JV

PHD564

MOUNT HAGEN. F.H.D.

20th September, 1966.

The Director,  
Department of District Administration,  
KORORORU.

JIKI PATROL REPORT No. 1/1966-67 - PORTION OF BURRAEDER  
BARRE - MR. V.D. BROWN, A.D.O.

Above-mentioned report with covering memorandum by the Assistant District Commissioner, Mount Hagen attached, refers.

The character of this patrol was altered from routine to a murder patrol some days out from Tahibaga when the Officer-in-Charge was informed by accompanying Nosovene Missionaries of a double murder which had occurred some time previously. They had knowledge of it for some time but neglected to advise Mr. Brown. The Deputy District Commissioner took one Constable from Mount Hagen and obtained a further two from the Officer-in-Charge, Skabai, to bring the Police strength up to a reasonable figure.

With the few police available, no knowledge of the area, Mr. Brown did excellently to apprehend the murderers and bring them back to Tahibaga. As already stated by the Assistant District Commissioner the people concerned are very primitive and have little or no Administration contact in the past. Compensation has been paid and the murderers will be kept at Tahibaga, working and learning pidgin english and the ways of the Administration before being taken back by a subsequent patrol.

After Christmas and an expected increase in Field Staff a second officer will be posted to Tahibaga to permit the Officer-in-Charge to make a major patrol through the whole of this seldom covered area. This, in conjunction with a permanent Mission Station in the area, should quickly bring the area under reasonable control.

A good patrol conducted under adverse conditions.

*T. V. Brown*  
(T. V. BROWN)  
District Commissioner

c.c. The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Mount Hagen.



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67-14-5.

13th October, 1966.

The District Commissioner,  
Western Highlands District,  
KORORUA.

JUNE RIVER FISHING REPORT NO. 1 OF 1966/1967.

Receipt is acknowledged of the above-mentioned  
patrol report by Mr. E.D. Brown and your covering  
recommendation and that of the Assistant District Commissioner,  
Mr. Hogan.

2. This patrol was the subject of Administrative  
Breach Advice No. 700 and Mr. Brown should be censured  
for his offence. The patrol accomplished its  
objective.

3. It is hoped that arrangements can be made for  
an Aid Post Officer to go into the area as requested.

(J. K. McCarthy)  
~~ASST. DIST. COMMISSIONER~~



FERRITORY of PAPUA and NEW GUINEA

JC/AGA  
Administration  
Press Advice  
No. 768.

Port Moresby,  
October 11, 1966.

LAW AND ORDER REACH PRIMITIVES.

A group of primitive clans in the Schrader Ranges bordering the Madang District, some 50 air miles north of Mt. Hagen, have had their first association with government law.

They are Hales and Tsengapi people who live in dense bush in the much crevassed, precipitous valleys near the upper reaches of the Arami River.

Assistant District Officer Morris Brown, from Tabibuga Patrol Post, gave the people their first concept of law and order when he apprehended three Hales men alleged to have murdered two Tsengapi women.

Mr. Brown recently undertook a 23 hour walk in four days over very difficult terrain to apprehend the men and take them to the patrol post at Tabibuga.

In his report to District Administration headquarters this week Mr. Brown said the apprehension of the alleged murderers had aided to government prestige in the area. The Tsengapi people appeared very pleased to find that the Administration was prepared to take so much trouble to introduce a form of government which would free them from the constant fear of their neighbours.

Western Highlands District Commissioner Mr. T.W. Ellis, commended Mr. Brown's action.

He said the Hales people were very primitive and probably had never been contacted by patrolling officers. Their timid, shy nature made them a most difficult group to contact.

The three Hales men would be kept at Tabibuga to learn pidgin English and the Administration's role in the Territory before being returned to their villages by a subsequent patrol.

Mr. Ellis said the men were from an area remote from Administration influence and were not conversant with the law as practised in more advanced parts of the Territory.



67.14.5



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegram

Our Reference 22564

If calling out for

to



Department of District Administration,

Mount Hagen, N.E.D.

20th September, 1966.

The Director,  
Department of District Administration,  
KORORUA.

JIMI PATROL REPORT No. 1/1966 PORTION OF SCHAEFER  
RANGES - MR. M.D. BROWN

Abovementioned report with covering memorandum by the Assistant District Commissioner, Mount Hagen attached, refers.

The character of this patrol was altered from routine to a murder patrol some days out from Rabibuga when the Officer-in-Charge was informed by accompanying Masareke Missionaries of a double murder which had occurred some time previously. They had knowledge of it for some time but neglected to advise Mr. Brown. The Deputy District Commissioner took one Constable from Mount Hagen and obtained a further two from the Officer-in-Charge, Simbai, to bring the Police strength up to a reasonable figure.

With the few police available, no knowledge of the area, Mr. Brown did excellently to apprehend the murderers and bring them back to Rabibuga. As already stated by the Assistant District Commissioner the people concerned are very primitive and have little or no administration contact in the past. Compensation has been paid and the murderers will be kept at Rabibuga, working and learning pidgin English and the ways of the administration before being taken back by a subsequent patrol.

After Christmas and an expected increase in Field Staff a second officer will be posted to Rabibuga to permit the Officer-in-Charge to make a major patrol through the whole of this seldom covered area. This, in conjunction with a permanent Mission Station in the area, should quickly bring the area under reasonable control.

A good patrol conducted under adverse conditions.

*T.N. Ellis*

(T.N. ELLIS)

District Commissioner

c.c. The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Mount Hagen.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND AIR SERVICE :

RAJAHMUNDRAM :

RAJAHMUNDRAM / 02/07 / 1966 / RAJAHMUNDRAM PATROL SECTION  
RAJAHMUNDRAM DIVISION :

THURSDAY 20th JULY 1966 :

Reported Rajahmundry Patrol Post by R.A.F. Ganga at 0800 hours and proceeded to SINDRI Patrol Post. Inspected local carriers and had short discussion with C.I.O. SINDRI who was making ready to depart on patrol. D.G.A. Airport Inspector JACK ABRAHAM arrived from RAJAHMUNDRAM by H.A.F. at 0900 hours. Patrol departed SINDRI at 1100 hours and proceeded by graded track down the SINDRI valley to SALUNI. Arrived SALUNI at 1730 hours and made camp in rest house. This walk could be done quicker but such trouble encountered changing carriers en route. Advised by RAJAHMUNDRAM DIVISION OF two murders in the THURGAPI area.

THURSDAY 21st JULY 1966 :

Advised A.D.C. Sub District Office Mt Nagar of reported murders by mission radio and requested that 4 RAJAHMUNDRAM police be sent to THURGAPI. Departed camp at 0630, and proceeded over rough native track down the RAJAHMUNDRAM valley. At 1030 hours started long steep ascent up the north east side of the WILKIN CR. Approximately 1300 hours, helicopter dropped two constables bringing the total strength to four. Patrol proceeded until 1400 hours and then made camp in bush at the headwaters of WILKIN CR.

THURSDAY 21st JULY 1966 :

Reported camp at 0730 hours and walked for 45 minutes to the top of the KIRISSI/ARANI divide and then descended to the north along a well marked track to THURGAPI. Arrived THURGAPI at 1730 hours. Commenced investigations of alleged murders. People most hesitant to give any information. Finally got an account of the murders from the small 9 year old son of one of the murdered women. Assisted with survey of circuitry until 1800 hours. Departed camp at 2000 hours with four police and walked to the area from whence the murders are alleged to have come. With the aid of a guide, approached and surrounded the house occupied by the murderers at 0600 and apprehended one of them. One other managed to break away and fled into the bush. Patrol returned to camp and arrived at 1005 hours.

FRIDAY 22nd JULY 1966

After arriving back at camp at 1005 the patrol slept until 1230 hours. Helicopter arrived with A.D.C. Mt Nagar and ROY SINGH from RAJAHMUNDRAM.



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AND  
D.C.A. inspector returned with helicopter ~~HEER~~ A.D.C. to MT HAGUN.

Three TSENGAPI men of influence were then sent to WAIHEK area to talk the other people named in the murders into giving themselves up to patrol. Discussed and explained proposed land purchase with TSENGAPI people who visited the camp with food supplies. Camped TSENGAPI.

20th JULY, 1966 WEDNESDAY:

at 0730 hours, started cutting land boundaries for HALAKHE NISHION HANER at TSENGAPI. Guns were willingly helped. Work completed by 1400 hours. Some time spent during day in discussion with visitors from local area pe visiting TSENGAPI. Also received news of a dance ceremony to be conducted at WANDANK OK on Monday. Decided to attend as it offered an opportunity to talk to the people re the construction of the airstrip and cessation of hostilities. Camped at TSENGAPI.

21st JULY 1966 THURSDAY:

Worked on details of land purchase in the a.m. Attempted to contact the HALEM group 2 hours walk from TSENGAPI in the afternoon. This group has so far avoided all patrols to the area. Efforts in vain. Camped TSENGAPI.

1st AUGUST, 1966 FRIDAY:

Reported TSENGAPI at 0800 hours and proceeded to WANDANK OK over precipitous native track. After travelling down the east bank of the OK for three hours it was possible to observe the specially prepared area for the dance ceremony. Through binoculars it was quite plain that the ceremony was not to take place that day. Sent three KOREN carriers to a nearby house. The carriers later returned with a number of people who had been at the dance. However, the people had learnt of our intended visit and rushed the dance to its conclusion and once again taken to the bush. Camped in bush at the headwaters of WANDANK OK.

2nd AUGUST 1966 SATURDAY:

Departed camp at 0730 hours and returned to TSENGAPI. 5 hours steep walk. Any patrol wishing to proceed from TSENGAPI down WANDANK OK, should use a track on the west side of the stream which leads down to the junction of WANDANK OK and the ARMY RIVER.

Completed the survey of the mission lease in the afternoon, and did a check plot of same. Sent word for all owners of the land to be purchased to present themselves in the morning. Camped TSENGAPI.

3rd AUGUST, 1966 SUNDAY:



Good turn up of course. Completed investigation of mission last. Gave lengthy detailed explanation of the procedure and what it meant. People quite willing to sell. At 1400 hours messengers sent to SAHNE to bring in alleged murderers arrived with the balance of men named in connection with the murders. Spent balance of day and evening obtaining the final details.

**19. APRIL 1964. THURSDAY :**

SAHNE people arrived with 2 small pigs and one GUM shell to pay compensation for the two dead women. Balance of day spent attempting to talk to these people. Conversation most difficult as these people speak a different language from the THURATI people and no really suitable interpreter was available. It was necessary to turn the talk first into the SAHNE language and thence into the language of the THURATI people. A most lengthy and unsatisfactory arrangement. Camped THURATI.

**20. APRIL 1964. FRIDAY :**

Reported THURATI at 0730 hours leaving 107 messengers and one woman at the THURATI base camp. Patrol then proceeded to SAHNE base house. 9 hours walk from THURATI. Base camp in SAHNE base house.

**21. APRIL 1964. SATURDAY :**

Reported SAHNE base house at 0800 hours and proceeded by guided track to THURATI Patrol Post. 7 1/2 hours walk. 0,1,6 & 1,1,1 about on patrol.

**22. APRIL 1964. SUNDAY :**

Landling aircraft at THURATI patrol Post.

**23. APRIL 1964. MONDAY :**

Arrived by H.A.F. CHURATI of SAHNE patrol Post.

**END OF REPORT :**



MINISTRY OF PATNA AND THE SIKHIA :

(5)

PATROL REPORT NO 1 of 1961/62 :

REMARKS CONCERNING POSITION OF THE KURUKA GROUPS  
REMARKS:

INTRODUCTION:

The patrol covered the upper reaches of the ARANI RIVER in the SIKHIA HILLS and a portion of the WARDAK OH area which is formed by a tributary of the ARANI RIVER.

This area is made up of broken precipitous valleys covered in dense bush and secondary growth. The population is small and scattered over a wide area. The people have to date had very little contact with the Administration and their timid shy nature makes them a most difficult people to establish contact with.

The prime object of this patrol was to survey a proposed mission lease for the KATHARU MISSION and to survey an airstrip site on the mission lease. The initial patrol only intended to stay in the area long enough to accomplish these sites, and was not equipped to remain in the area for any length of time. The report of murders (see Appendix A) made it necessary to remain in the area longer than intended and additional supplies were brought in from ST HILLS.

GENERAL SITUATION :

In general the situation in this area has not changed in the least from that reported on in 1961. The people still remain difficult to establish contact with and to date only approximately 50% of the estimated population has been contacted by Administration patrols. The people are very timid and appear not to want Administration control in the area.

To date, THIRU have been provisionally appointed for the groups contacted and rest houses established at THIRU, SIKHIA and WARDAK OH. These have not been well maintained and there has only been a token effort made at constructing walking tracks in the area.

Indications are, that at the time of the patrol, the area was in a state of turmoil. The people were even more difficult to contact than normal. It is felt, that some other happening apart from the reported murders had disrupted the



normal living habits of the people.

During visits off the beaten track north and west of TENGWAPI, it was noticed that the people were not sleeping in their houses and hadn't been doing so for some time. Rather than expose themselves by sleeping at home the people had been sleeping without cover in the bush and shifting their camps at intervals. All these camps were located well away from the main tracks and ideally located for defence purposes. All fighting shields and weapons had been taken from the houses and livestock removed to the bush. It is highly possible that some other incident apart from the two murders reported had occurred and was kept from the patrols notice.

The activities of the patrol were concentrated mainly in the TENGWAPI area which has been regularly visited by members of the HAKAHENE mission and all Administration patrols to the main ARANI valley. Here, the people are more co-operative and of open friendly disposition. These people supplied food to the patrol and offered carriers on more than one occasion. The FOND and HUNDEAL groups of TENGWAPI have some contact with the people in the KAIRUK valley and are a little more appreciative of the work that can be done by the Administration and missions.

Groups to the north and west of TENGWAPI speak another language and appear to associate more with the people living on the EAST fall of the SCHIADENE RANGE. Their neighbours in the HAWANE DISTRICT have not had a great deal of contact with the Administration and small isolated groups in this region still remain uncontacted.

In view of the isolation of this area, the sparse population and the shortage of field staff much of the pacification and contact work in this area will have to be done by the European HAKAHENE missionary when he moves into the area permanently. Communications in this area will be greatly facilitated by the construction of a light aircraft strip at TENGWAPI.

#### VILLAGE OFFICIALS :

The village officials provisionally elected in 1964 have had little effect on the area. Tbibuga Patrol Post is 9 days walk and four language groups away from the Upper ARANI. Any word of mouth message has little chance of reaching the C.I.C. TAKIENGA and the village Officials will not make the long walk through what they consider hostile groups.

At the present stage of development the Village officials are ineffectual without the immediate backing of the C.I.C. Tbibuga and distance renders this impossible.



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**MISSIONS:**

The SALAMBA MISSION BASE is the only mission to show any interest in this difficult area. This mission has already made moves to establish a station at TENGAPI. Work has been done on the local language and work started on the TENGAPI airstrip. The head of the mission has advised that a resident missionary will commence living permanently at TENGAPI some time in September of this year.

The mission intends to establish a school and health facilities (see appendix B) in the area as soon as possible after the airstrip is completed.

With the adequate funds this mission has at its disposal, it should be able to rapidly make some impression on the area.

**AIRSTRIP:**

The airstrip at TENGAPI has now been surveyed to R.C.A. specifications for a commercial Category B aircraft. The strip site is however far from being an ideal one and much work will be required before completion. The sparse population will add to construction difficulties.

**ANTHROPOLOGICAL:**

In the course of investigations into two alleged murders the people stated that nearly all deaths are attributed to either sorcery or evil spirits. When the relatives of a deceased suspect a *sangghawan* is responsible for the death they place sharpened sticks on trails leading to and around the platform on which the dead body is placed. After a period of time, they start to watch for a person with a cut on his foot. If this person can be reasonably suspected he/her is killed by the deceased persons relations.

Also, if a dog or a pig approaches the platform where the body is being kept the relatives of the deceased will follow the animal until it reaches its owners home. The unfortunate owner may then be found guilty of being a *sangghawan* and killed.

**CONCLUSION:**

It is felt that the arrests made on the occasion of this patrol may add a little to the prestige of the Administration in this area and help to reduce the homicide rate. The Tengapi people appeared to be quite pleased to find that the Administration was prepared to go to some trouble



to bring law and order to the area.

Future development in this area will depend to a large extent on the completion of the TSINGAPI airstrip and the establishment of the SASANEN mission in the area.

END OF PAGE. SECRET





TSINGAPI MURDERS

A report of two murders committed one and a half hours walk from the northern end of the TSINGAPI airstrip site were reported to the patrol by the NABARINE WISSIOM. In the course of the patrol an investigation was carried out and arrests made.

Difficulty was encountered in getting a clear picture of what actually happened and the motives behind the murders. Thorough investigation was badly hampered by the lack of adequate interpreters and the nature of the motives involved.

The details obtained after two days of investigation are as follows:--

An aged woman LAIBATH of WAIK died of some illness approximately three months ago. Her son KAIKUK, was much grieved by her death and claimed that she had been killed by sorcery. He mentioned this at a pig killing shortly after his mother's death and was told by a man LAIBATH that a widow living near him was a sorceress and that she had most certainly killed his mother. He named a woman PAIKUK who had recently he claimed killed a two of his pigs that had entered her garden.

KAIKUK claimed that on his return home, he noticed that the eyes and nose of his mother's corpse had been eaten and remembering what LAIBATH had said thought that a SAIGUKA or an evil spirit used by a sorcerer, had eaten of his mother's corpse. KAIKUK then called his two friends ALBOK and TAREY INGIN and told them that he had decided to kill the sorceress PAIKUK. The following day the three men caught PAIKUK and her daughter TEPHUR in their garden and killed them with axes and spears. A third woman MURKINTINE was also in the garden but managed to escape and was able later to identify the murderers.

Interpretation was extremely difficult and it was almost impossible to get a clear picture of what actually took place. The people from the WAIK area do not speak the same language as the TSINGAPI people and none of the group speak pigia. It was therefore necessary to speak to a Ebon pigia speaker from the KAIRUK VALLEY who had then interpreted into the TSINGAPI language and from there to the language of the accused men.

The accused men are from outside the area where the Administration has made partial contact and claim, not to be conversant with the law. Also, they felt quite justified in their action of removing a sorceress from their society.



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APPENDIX "e"

MEMORANDUM :

The Nazarene Mission will be moving into this area within the next month to start work on the TSENGA-I airstrip. While this work is in progress, they are anxious to start work in the field of Public Health by establishing an Aid Post.

Rev W White has requested that we supply an Aid Post Orderly until such time as the mission can supply its own. All supplies for the Aid Post can be sent in with the mission supplies free of charge and the orderly will be rationed and fed by the Mission free of charge.

It is felt that this arrangement would be of great assistance under the existing circumstances. The difficulties of supplying an Aid Post in this area has prevented the Administration from putting health facilities at the disposal of the people. This situation can now be overcome with the co-operation of the mission. In view of the health problem in this area it is to be hoped, that some suitable arrangement can be agreed to by the Department of Public Health and the Nazarene Mission.

  
Morris D Brown

ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER :



**MAPS**

Enclosed herewith is a sketch map of the **CHERLTON HILLS** area patrolled from **CANTONIA PATROL POST**. This one is a poor substitute for the map furnished with the 1964 patrol report. However, this map was lost before copies were made.

It would be appreciated if copies of this map, could be made and at least 5 furnished to this office.



**ARMED AND DANGEROUS OFFICER**