

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES  
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# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: Southern H/lands

STATION: Mendi

VOLUME No: 9

ACCESSION No: 496.

1956 - 1957

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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REPORTS OF P.C.O. - WAHIA.

PATROL REPORT OF: MENDI ACC. No: 496.

Volume No: .. 9..... 1956/57... Number of Reports: .. 3.....

REPORT No:	FOLIO	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL	AREA PATROLLED	MAPS/PTS	PERIOD OF PATROL	FICH No:
1 OF 1956/57	1-14	G. SMITH -	NIBBI RIVER		3/12/56 - 21/12/56	
2 " 1956/57	1-18	A. M. KEOGH - P.O.	MENDI - TAMBUK MOTOR ROAD	map	2/5/57 - 10/6/57	

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PATROL REPORTS SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS DISTRICT 1956/57

MENDI

IALIBU

<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled.</u>
Men 1-56/57	G.Smith	Nembi River
" 2-56/57	A.M.Keogh	Mendi - Tambul motor road.
Ialib 1-56/57	G.R.Keenan	Kewa and Wiru Census Divisions

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS DISTRICT

MENDI SUB-DISTRICT

PATROL REPORTS: 1956/57

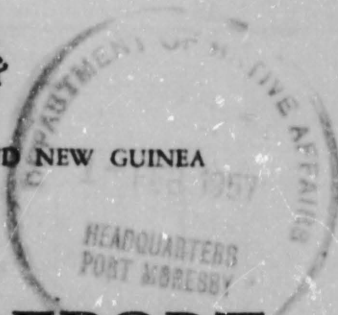
IALABU PATROL POST

PATROL REPORTS: 1956/57

*Arvedo*  
3 NA  
PM



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



# PATROL REPORT

District of SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS Report No. MENDI. 1/56-57

Patrol Conducted by Gordon Smith, Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled The NEMBI River.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans 2.

Natives 10 and Carriers Various.

Duration—From 13/12/1956 to 21/12/1956

Number of Days 9.

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? Yes.

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

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

Map Reference Refer. Sketch Map of area patrolled

Objects of Patrol (1) Inquiry into the cause of reported fighting in the Nembi valley.  
2. Native Administration.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES  
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

29/1/1957

*[Signature]*

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 .... £.....

.....  
.....  
.....

NA 30-18-49

27th February, 1957.

District Officer,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI

MENDI P/R No. 1 of 1956-57

Receipt of the above Patrol Report is  
acknowledged.

By itself it does not call for comment.

MA

*AAH*  
(A.A. Roberts)

DIRECTOR *JM*

30/18/49 ✓

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

DJC/NM

File No. 30/1 - 585.

District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENBI.

22nd January, 1957.

The Assistant District Officer,  
MENBI.

Patrol Report Mendi 1/56-57.

Receipt of the above Patrol Report  
acknowledged.

An extended patrol to the Nembu is  
scheduled to go out in the near future to attempt  
to solve this vexing position. It is hoped that  
during the next financial year a patrol post will  
be set up in this area. This will of course depend  
on staff being available.



*[Signature]*  
(D.J. Giancy)

Acting District Commissioner.

Minute to:

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

Please find enclosed the above Patrol Report and  
Contingencies for Camping Allowance for Messers Smith and  
Hogg. This is the first positive move we have made into  
this area to stamp out the fighting. I expect that we  
should have the Nembu reasonably quiet and orderly by the  
end of 1957, especially if we can obtain more staff in the  
near future.

*[Signature]*  
(D.J. Giancy)

Acting District Commissioner.



Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

GS:MG.

PATROL REPORT MENDI NO. 1956/57. File No: 30/1 -

REPORT OF A PATROL TO THE  
NEMBI RIVER VALLEY.

PATROL CONDUCTED BY:- Gordon Smith, Patrol Officer.

AREA PATROLLED:- Upper NEMBI River.

DURATION OF PATROL:- From the 13th December, 1956,  
to the 21st December, 1956.

PATROL ACCOMPANIED BY:-

Mr. G.J. Hogg. Cadet Patrol Officer.

Mr. J. Stevens. Cadet Field Medical Assistant.

Reg. No.	2091	Cpl.	BATANU.
"	"	7838	Const. KOMBOI.
"	"	8351	" MAVE.
"	"	9028	" UNAMBI.
"	"	9146	" PELIKA.
"	"	8894	" SANI.
"	"	8188	" WAMBIA.
"	"	9437	" OGUMAGAI.
"	"	6103	" VI.
"	"	6400	" WAINO.

OBJECTS OF PATROL.

1. INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE OF REPORTED FIGHTING IN THE  
NEMBI VALLEY.

2. NATIVE ADMINISTRATION IN OTHER AREAS.

MAP REFERENCE:

SEE SKETCH MAP OF AREA PATROLLED.

...

...

INTRODUCTION.

During the past year reports have been received at the District Office MENDI, of tribal fighting in the NEMBI valley. These reports at first did not appear too serious and by reason of the everpresent staff shortages no visit was made to the groups engaged in tribal fighting until mid-December when a patrol left to investigate the reports.

From reports received the fighting was centered around the ceremonial ground at MAP HABUL and it was understood that the aggressors were of the SEMIN clan and were assisted by the POMBORALMONK, KEBIRA, HARAP, TARAP and several other clans or Sub-clans.

The SEMIN parish was alleged to be fighting all the people of the area save to the North. Accepting these reports as fact the patrol moved to the north of the Mendi station to the Rest House at HUM and thence to MAP KEBOL in the LAI valley across the NEMBI River moving into the fight area from the North. It was discovered too late that the SEMIN and allied clans had an escape route to the South where they have trading relations and friends. This resulted in the patrol moving steadily in from the north while the SEMIN and allied clans moved to the South equally steadily taking with them the greater part of their possessions including pigs. Attempts to contact them met with no success.

The object of the patrol was to ascertain the cause of the fighting if at all possible and to try to arrange a cessation of hostilities neither of these were possible but some contact was made with the natives who had complained of the deprecation caused by natives of the SEMIN group. These people took advantage of the fact that the SEMIN had left their homes and engaged on a spree of house burning and banana cutting. On the first day of these pay backs several natives were apprehended and again on the following day when the burning ceased. The patrol moved through the surrounding groups and into the POUE valley and was unsuccessful in contacting any of the SEMIN people, although on the last day in the area a large herd of tethered pigs were seen though no natives were sighted, but heard shouting on the nearby ridges.

...

...

The terrain is not conducive to the apprehension of natives since it consists of steep limestone ridges in the main cleared at the summit where the guards are stationed. These natives give warning of the approach of a party and the area becomes de-peopled until such time as the patrol moves out of the area when they return to watch again from the tops of the nearby hills. No attacks were made on the patrol although guards were continually maintained.

To the South East of the Ceremonial ground at MAP HABUL about five square miles of country is completely devastated allegedly by the SEMIN and allied clans. The original settlers of this ground have fled to the North and some were contacted as the patrol moved into the SEMIN group, these were the people who made the raids on the SEMIN clan houses and gardens. Their reasons for so doing were quite understandable when one considers the amount of devastation conducted by the SEMIN people and their scorched earth policy.

#### PATROL DIARY.

13th December, 1956.

From MENDI to WAHGIA by Land Rover. Departed MENDI at 10.00. and arrived WAHGIA at 10.20. Moved on to MAP across the MENDI River in flood. A very difficult crossing experienced, however all crossed safely though some of the cargo was dampened. Arrived at MAP at noon and moved on to Tulum passing through SUABI, WAMBIPI over a good road which is in process of being made suitable for motor transport. Arrived at TULUM at 1.45, p.m. and then moved on to HUM where camp established at the HUM Rest House, 6,100 ft.

Natives visited camp bringing native foods and firewood for the carrier line and police.

Overnight at HUM.

14th December, 1956.

Left HUM at 7.00 a.m. for MAP KEBOL in the LAI valley. Arrived at the lookout site at 9.00 a.m. 6,900ft. Moved on to the LAI river and crossed this at 9.35. Bridge in poor condition so crossing completed in one hour. On to MAP KEBOL where party welcomed by a dance by natives preparing for an important dance at HUM.

Arrived MAP KEBOL at 10.50. Rested and then moved on towards the LAI - NEMBI divid. Heavy rain prevented further movement so party made camp at SONDUPA at 2.30.p.m.

Guards posted. Overnight at SODUPA.

15th December, 1956.

From SONDUPA Camp site at 7.00.a.m. to SUMBI dance ground thence generally westwards to the Nembi River which was crossed at the NEMBIRO crossing a well made cane bridge. Thence up a sharp spur to AREP ceremonial ground and thence to KOARI. Roads throughout this area very poor and wet. Walking in consistent rains. On to KEBILA dance ground where camp established at 2.15. This camp site is reported to be only a few hours walk away from the centre of the fighting area, and these natives are engaged to some degree in assisting the nearer groups to the SEMIN clan against the SEMIN and associated clans. Talks with the local leaders, who advise that seven natives of the groups opposing the SEMIN have died but no pay backs have as yet been made.

Overnight at KEBILA. Guards posted.

16th December, 1956.

Left KEBILA at 7.50.a.m. following rising of heavy mist, and moved on to EBIL ceremonial ground. Thence SARANDA, where party arrived at 9.30.a.m. On to KO and thence to where party arrived at 2.30.p.m. A small party of natives MAP HABUL,

danced in the traditional 'no fight' manner carrying their unstrung bows and arrows. These natives were disarmed together with the band which eventually came into the camp following the arrival of the party. Several natives of the SEMIN group came into the camp during the late afternoon but since it was hoped to assemble the greater part of the group on the following day none of the natives were held, but they were told to come to the camp the next day.

Further talks with the natives of the KEBILA group.

Overnight MAP HABUL.

17th December, 1956.

Natives from the North West and the South on marauding sprees, burning houses and despoiling gardens owned by the SEMIN

group. Patrol went out to intercept marauders and some were intercepted. Later marauding parties seen to the south and again patrols went out and seven natives were intercepted. These were natives who had been ousted from their gardens and homes by the SEMIN group. The leaders of the parties taken were held at the camp while the remainder released. Heavy rain in afternoon and no more raiding parties sighted.

Overnight at MAP HEBUL. Guards posted.

18th December, 1956.

Party remained at MAP HEBUL while carriers were sent out to collect timber and grass for the construction of a Rest House with police escort. No marauding parties sighted during the day, however several fires noticed during the evening, on the nearby hills.

Overnight at MAP HEBUL. Guards posted.

19th December, 1956.

Seventeen natives apprehended for burning houses property of the SEMIN people escaped from the camp. Attempts to recover the natives failed before dawn. Party then moved off to the POUE creek where the SEMIN were alleged to have been hiding. Immediately patrol crossed the divide it was sighted by the natives who retired to the far side of the POUE creek and began to move up the IBHUE - WAGE divide. These natives were not followed and intercepted but other natives of the group were taken back to the camp. Moved from the site at ENSUMP Ceremonial ground south towards KOMBE where several pigs were tied up, but once again no natives. The party then moved northwards to SOP where the patrol rested. Thence walked over an easy down grade to the camp site at MAP HEBUL where party arrived at 13.10. From talks with the three natives brought in from the IBHUE creek it appears the natives living there are at present at peace with the SEMIN and PUMBERALMONK group and that a few of the natives of that group are at present living among the TEMBIL.

Overnight at MAP HEBUL. Guards posted.

20th December, 1956.

Following complete lack of success with the contacting the SEMIN people. Decided to leave the NEMBI River and go into the Lai today. Left MAP HEBUL at 7.00.a.m. Passing through devastated garden and ceremonial sites, and then down to the NEMBI River where

party arrived at 12.00.a.m. From the River,

~~20th December, 1956. Continued.~~

generally southwards and then Eastwards to the ceremonial ground at AUARUNDA 5.400 ft. where party arrived at 3.00.p.m.

Natives visited the camp bringing natives foods and firewood.  
Overnight at AUARUNDA. Guards posted.

21st December, 1956.

From AUARUNDA to MENDI. Party left AUARUNDA at 7.15.a.m. climbed over the LAI-Mendi divide and moved down to the LAI river. This was crossed at 9.20 by a good, cane suspension bridge. Thence moved generally westwards across kunai spurs towards the Mendi River valley. Passed IAGEN at 12.10.p.m. and moved northwestwards to the Mendi River. Across this and up to the MENDI-IALIBU ROAD. Thence to the MENDI station where party arrived in heavy rain at 3.05.p.m.

Reported to the District Commissioner.

END OF PATROL DIARY.

#### NATIVE AFFAIRS.

As far as can be ascertained the area visited has been the scene of sporadic fighting for several months. The devastated area to the south of the SEMIN group dance ground at MAP HABUL shows that this has not been used by the owners for at least six months, judging by the state of the new gardens and the amount of weeds arising from the burnt out house sites.

The SEMIN and allied clans are situated in a very pleasant position for the conduct of raids on the enemy parishes. Their territory is mainly of limestone hills, which provides for good observation both prior to attacking and also for the observation of the attacking parties.

The associated clans of the SEMIN parishes are the POMBO-RALMONK FROM KOMANAP, the KEBIRA from KANKAL, the TARAP from TULUIMP, the HARAP from UEPMAL, the HIP, from TOBUPE, the MAROP from ENEPMONK. These people have been consistently attacking the groups INJIPMONK, NONDIP, HIBOL, MUNDIA, KUNJOP, HEGAI, MONDO, NAWE, KONGU,

SARUP, KOMBILA, WABUGA, SONERIP, SUEPORA, SUMA, TCHIL, SHAROVOL, TUMBERA, KAL, WALHINDAKAP, LUIMHAGOPKAP, PUNJIPKARILKAP, KEINTHI-PKAP, HULHOMDOKAP, PUGUMPOGU, ELTAMBILKAP, OGAL, PAROPKAP, TOBUAHIP,. By reason of their strategical position they have to date been able to carryout their attacks with no losses while the other groups have lost seven natives.

The origin of the feud is difficult to ascertain. It appears that the cause lies in the killing of an important leader of the INJIPMONK clan by poison by some member of the SEMIN clan. The reason for this murder was not ascertained since none of the SEMIN people were held for questioning. It is more than likely that the food situation was so good that the Injipmonk and the associated clans decided, on the death of one of their leaders, to attack the SEMIN. However they lived to rue the day of this decision because the SEMIN proved to be too inaccessible for them and the INJIPMONK were thoroughly beaten, reporting to the District Office of the vicious attacks made by the SEMIN against their enemies.

Although none of the SEMIN were apprehended reports since received indicate that the fighting has finished, possibly until such time as the SEMIN people repair the damage done by the marauding parties. The SEMIN appear to bear no animosity towards the other peoples of the group since some have been taken and questioned by the SEMIN, but have not been killed which is an indication that they have decided to leave matters as they were before the patrol and to cease fighting.

However it is imperative that a patrol visit the area in the near future to followup the present reported developments and to establish if possible good relations with both groups participating in the earlier fighting with the object of reaching a settlement suitable to both groups.

#### NATIVE AGRICULTURE.

The basic food of the people of the area patrolled is essentially sweetpotato which is supplimented by banana pit-pit native beans etc. as in the MENDI and LAI river valleys. Pigs are of great importance to these people and are well looked after some attaining a very large size. They are used for trading and also

is an ordinary article of diet. No European vegetables were seen.

Judging from the large garden areas the population of the area is substantial but of course no positive assessment may be made at the present time of the potential for agricultural development by Europeans, though the soil appears fertile and the garden blocks are small indicating that small land areas may support a large populations.

#### HEALTH.

The health of the natives seen on the patrol has been covered in the report submitted by Cadet Field Medical Assistant John Stevens. The general state of health appears to be good and few sores were seen although it must be appreciated that very few natives were sighted in the SEMIN group.

Natives of the Lower NEMBI near PABARONGA showed great interest in the medical side of the patrol and many small sores were treated. The natives women also brought their children in for treatment but they were not interested in continuing the treatment at MENDI Native Hospital. It would seem that a Medical patrol of some few weeks would be of use in the PABARONGA area and would positively impress the natives of administration interest in the improvement of their welfare.

#### GENERAL.

Whether or not the patrol had any positive and lasting effect on the natives currently engaged in fighting will not be appreciated until a followup patrol is made to the fight area. As previously mentioned the present state is quiet and the Rest House which was constructed is still in existence. This seems a portent for the good and it is to be hoped that a move may be made in the near future to establish a semi-permanent camp in this area, staff allowing, so that positive administration and development may be effected rather than the sporadic patrol to which the area is at present subject.

The followup patrol should move in from the South on the to ensure that the SEMIN people are contacted and not permitted to escape once again to their trading relations. There is no known escape route to the North, West or East.

*9-20-54*  
(GORDON SMITH)  
PATROL OFFICER.



Register

APPENDIX "A".

REPORT ON MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE CONSTABULARY ACCOMPANYING  
PATROL TO THE NEMBI VALLEY.

DURATION. 13th December, 1956 to the 21st December, 1956.

The patrol consisted of ten members of the native constabulary who for the most part worked reasonably well. Three natives were to some degree useless. These were OGUMAGAI Reg. No. 9437 who is inexperienced and lazy.

ii. UNAMBI Reg. No. 9028 an old policeman who failed in his duty with regard to guarding prisoners, and allowed them to escape. Court action has since been taken against him.

iii MAVB. Reg. No. 8351, an experienced patrol constable who failed in his duty and allowed prisoners to escape. Action has since been taken against him.

The remainder of the party worked reasonably and of these Reg, No. 8894 SANI was the most outstanding, combining efficiency with a keen interest in the activities of the patrol.

*Gordon Smith.*



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of Southern Highlands Report No. 2 of 1956/57

Patrol Conducted by P. C. Keogh, Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled Okende - Tambul Motor Road

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans 1 Pol

Natives Police - 7 Interpreters - 2

Duration—From 2/5/1957 to 10/6/1957

Number of Days 40

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? 1 Pol

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 12-11-1955

Medical 1/6/1954

Map Reference Southern Highlands District Map - Scale 4 miles: 1 inch

Objects of Patrol: 1. Road construction and maintenance on Okende -  
Ok Hagen motor road 2. Police Administration

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES  
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

27/6/1957

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 .... £.....

.....  
.....  
.....

HA.30-18-61

Department of Native Affairs,  
Fort Moresby

8th July, 1957

The District Officer,  
MENDI

PATROL REPORT NO. 2 - MENDI 1956/57

I feel that the presence of an officer in this area and the concentrated effort on road making being made, has had a most beneficial effect on the native people.

The difficulties in obtaining labour to work in areas where acute discomfort is experienced are appreciated.

On Page 12 Para 2, comment is made of cases being brought before the Officer in which neither party was particularly interested in the outcome, but came mainly for the airing of views and a congenial social outing. This attitude I feel, stems from a desire by the people to make social contact with our officer. It is a simple means of them getting to know that officer.

The patrol is most informative and on reading the diary, I can appreciate Mr. Keogh's frustrations when the tractor breaks down or machinery becomes immobilised through begging.

C. G. R.

(C. A. Roberts)  
Director

S/A  
C/W  
a/7

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

30/1/61 ✓

RRC:VHG.



File No. 30/1 - 207.

District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

28th June, 1957.


Assistant District Officer,  
MENDI.

P/E. Mendi 2/1956-57  
Mr. A.M. Keogh.

Receipt of the report is acknowledged and I congratulate Mr. Keogh on a well presented account of his activities and on the work he accomplished under such unpleasant working conditions.

2. The task is obviously proceeding satisfactorily save for the shortage of labour and I would like you to investigate this aspect and endeavour, by liaison with W.H.D. officers, to improve the daily attendance.
3. Mr. Keogh reports difficulty in obtaining sufficient native foods and this must be aggravated by the severe frosts reported to have effected this area during the last week, you are required to examine this position very carefully and with priority.
4. I have discussed this project with Mr. Keogh and yourself and have decided to withdraw Mr. Keogh from full time duty on the road and have him at Mendi for Administrative duties with regular visits to the roadwork.


Minute to -  
The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

  
(Robt.R. Cole)  
District Commissioner.

For information, please.

Two copies of the Report with camping allowance claim herewith.

I consider it very necessary to relieve Mr. Keogh of full-time road work although early completion of the project is most desirable.

 You may not that Mr. Keogh and also Mr. Love (the Mendi Roadmaster) are working on the road in Western Highlands for the Southern Highland section is completed but I am forced to withdraw Mr. Keogh for more essential duties.

  
(Robt.R. Cole)  
District Commissioner.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

RRC:VHG.

File No. 30/1 - 2067.

District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

28th June, 1957.

Assistant District Officer,  
MENDI.

P/R. Mendi 2/1956-57  
Mr. A.M. Keogh.

Receipt of the report is acknowledged and I congratulate Mr. Keogh on a well presented account of his activities and on the work he accomplished under such unpleasant working conditions.

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Minute to -  
The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

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District Commissioner.

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(Robt.R. Cole)  
District Commissioner.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

File No. 30/1 - 129.

Sub-District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

June 10, 1957.

Mendi Patrol Report No. 2 of 1956/57.

The report of a patrol along the Mendi-Nimarep-Tambul sectors of the Mendi-Mount Hagen motor transport road route.

Patrol Conducted By: A.M. Keogh, Patrol Officer.

Personell Accompanying:

Reg. No. 7838	Const. KOMBOI
" 9686	Const. KOMBIAN
" 8504	Const. TOROBARI
" 8612	Const. WARGLNE
" 9511	Const. KARUA
" 8188	Const. WAMBIAN
" 9829	Const. HOMI

Duration of Patrol: May 2, 1957 - June 10, 1957  
(uncompleted) no. of days - 40.

Area Patrolled: Mendi - Dimifa  
Dimifa - Komia  
Komia - Nimarep  
Nimarep - Tambul.

Objects of Patrol:

- (1) Road surveying and construction in the Nimarep - Tambul sector.
- (2) Road improvement, maintenance and repair in the Mendi-Nimarep sector.
- (3) Routine native administration.

### Introduction

This report is intended primarily, as a description of the activities of a patrol which has been operating between Mendi Government Station in the Southern Highlands District, and Tambul Base Camp in the Western Highlands District, during the past six weeks, and which, (working in conjunction with a Western Highlands District patrol), has as its primary object, the completion of the Mendi-Mount Hagen motor transport road.

With this end in view, the patrol has been engaged in the repair, maintenance and improvement of the motor road which has already been completed between Mendi and the Territorial border, and has also commenced road construction further to the north-east of the border, so as to eventually link up with the section of road which is being constructed in a south-westerly direction from Tambul Base Camp, by the Mount Hagen patrol. The present construction work is being carried out in the heavily-timbered areas on the northern slopes of Mount Giluwe, at altitudes between seven thousand and nine and a half thousand feet.

Completion of this road will bring Mendi Headquarters and the northern half of the Mendi Sub-District, within the framework of the main Lae - Central Highlands road system.

As far as is known at present, the patrol will remain in the area until the road is completed, with this report being a summary of progress made, and impressions gained, during the first six weeks in the area.

General native administration work is being carried out in conjunction with the road construction programme.

...

Diary

- May 2 Patrol left Mendi at 11 am and reached Dimifa Rest House at 1.45 pm. Road work was inspected en route and headmen were given instructions regarding necessary repairs.
- May 3 Repair work was commenced on the Dimifa-Korn, and Dimifa-Inepe sections of the road - some natives carting river stone for surfacing, others eradicating soft patches of road.
- Native disputes heard and settled.
- May 4 Repair work continued. Native disputes heard. Tractor badly bogged.
- May 5 Sunday observed.
- May 6 Cartage of surfacing materials and digging out of soft patches in road, continued. Tractor bogged for three hours.
- May 7 Commenced surfacing road with heavy stone to a depth of 9-12 inches, in places where soft ground has been removed.
- Tractor bogged again. Native affairs.
- May 8 Yesterday's surfacing work continued.
- May 9 Work again concentrated on the removal of muddy patches, and their replacement with stone.
- Native affairs. Medical treatments.
- May 10 Commenced work on eliminating and resurfacing a 50-60 yard soft patch of road which has broken out near Dimifa ceremonial ground.
- May 11 Continued work at ceremonial ground. Commenced hearing of a local land dispute.
- May 12 Sunday observed.
- May 13 All local natives and patrol personnel working on road near the timber camp which has been badly cut about by repeated bogging of tractor, due to overloading in wet weather.
- Mr. Cox, E.M.A., and Messrs. Shanahan and Hannan, P.W.D., arrived by motor-bike and tractors from Mendi, at 11 am. Mr. Cox



inspected the medical aid post at Egari. Mr. Hannan drove the tractor and trailer to Komia to await the arrival of the truck chassis from Mount Hagen. Mr. Shanahan tested the new timber jinker.

Heavy rain prevented the party returning to Mendi until late afternoon.

May 14

Continued road repairs near the timber camp. Many natives working on clearing badly blocked side drains.

May 15

Repair and surfacing work again. Mr. D. Love, P.W.D. arrived from Mount Hagen via Tambul and Komia, at 11 am, bringing the new truck chassis with him. He went down to Mendi and returned by tractor in the afternoon. The writer, police and patrol cargo, then went up to Komia rest house with him.

Patrol visited by Pastor T. Grieve, S.D.A., Tari, who is visiting the area with a view to placing catechists among the Komia-Egari groups.

May 16

Most natives working on road surfacing - others working on cleaning of Rest House area and construction of new latrine and rubbish pits.

Native disputes heard. Over 30 medical treatments given.

Mr. Love returned to Mendi.

May 17

Yesterday's work continued. Several broken bridges were repaired.

More native disputes were heard and medical treatments given.

May 18

Road surfacing and repairs continued. Carried out repairs on rest house and police barracks.

May 19

Sunday observed.

May 20

Most natives carrying stone for road surfacing. Others were sent up to Pimarsp to cut bark sheeting for the construction of native quarters in Mendi. Approximately 100 rolls of sheeting were obtained.

Commenced cultivation of rest house gardens.

May 21

Commenced the hearing of the Pila-Woievi land dispute. Runner sent to Mendi to ascertain whether any previous settlement has been reached.

Road and garden work continued.

- May 22 Work the same as for yesterday. Rain throughout most of the day. Pila-Wolavi land dispute settled.
- May 23 Road surfacing continued. Self and police marked sections most in need of cambering between Komia and Klareg. Native disputes heard and settled.
- May 24 Yesterday's work continued. More native disputes heard and settled.
- May 25 No natives working. Self and police working on improvement to rest house and police barracks. Medical treatments given.
- May 26 Sunday observed.
- May 27 Most of the patrol gear sent up to Nimarep with three policemen, so that a camp can be made ready for the arrival of the rest of the patrol tomorrow. Natives engaged in the usual road work.
- May 28 Writer and remainder of patrol moved up to Nimarep. Walking time - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Altitude - 9,300 feet. Remainder of the day spent in making the camp habitable.
- May 29 Self and police spent the day in the bush to the east of the camp searching for a centrally-situated rest house site. A site was selected 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 hours walk from the present camp. Commenced felling timber for extension of road. Work hindered by rain. No food. Rice issued.
- May 30 Continued felling timber and pegging out road route. No food. Rice issued.
- May 31 Yesterday's work continued. Small amount of food purchased. Rice issued.
- June 1 Left Nimarep at 8.15 am for Tambul Base Camp, W.H.D. Possible road routes noted. Arrived Tambul at 1.30 pm. Patrol met by Mr. D. Permizel, P.O., O.I.C., Tambul Base Camp.
- Walking Times:-
- |                             |   |                        |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| NIMAREP to end of M.T. road | - | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Hour.  |
| " MINIBIN Creek             | - | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Hours. |
| " ANDE Ceremonial Ground    | - | 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ Hours. |
| " MAGI Ceremonial Ground    | - | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ Hours. |
| " TAMBUL Base Camp          | - | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Hours. |
- No native foods available. Rice issued.

- June 2 Sunday. Patrol remained at Tambul. Discussions with Mr. Permizel concerning road and allocation of native labour.  
No food available. Rice issued.
- June 3 Patrol left Tambul to return to Nimarep. Camp made at ANDE Ceremonial Ground. Possible road site planned en route. Small amount of native foods purchased. Heavy rains.
- June 4 Patrol returned to Nimarep. Marked out new rest house site at MINIBIN River. By previous arrangement the patrol was met here by patrol police and Birep and Komia natives. Felling of timber, and erection of temporary shelters for the native workers was commenced.  
Also continued felling timber on the new road site.  
Some food purchased. Some rice issued. Heavy rains hindered afternoon work.
- June 5 Continued felling timber on rest house site, and road site.  
Mist and rain throughout the day. Food scarce. Some rice issued.
- June 6 Continued yesterday's work. Patrol visited by Fr. Gregory, Cap. O.F.M., who is temporarily stationed at Komia.
- June 7 Fr. Gregory returned to Komia. Continued road construction and felling of timber in the morning. All natives were sent to their homes in the afternoon.  
Rain and mist throughout the day.
- June 8 Writer and police continued pegging out road route.  
Lutheran Mission pastor from KIRIBI Mission, W.H.D., arrived from Tambul at 10.30 am. He intends visiting the Birep and Kandarip Groups, and will then visit the Lutheran Mission at Wapenamunda.
- June 9 Sunday observed. Mist and rain throughout the day.
- June 10 Mist and rain. No natives in for work until late afternoon.

Conclusion of diary.

### Road Report

The primary purposes of the patrol described in this report, were road construction, maintenance and improvement, and the road section of the report is thus outlined first, and in somewhat more detail than is usual.

The road which is to be discussed is a part of that which will eventually connect Mendi and Mount Hagen, the headquarters stations of the Southern and Western Highlands Districts, and will thus bring a considerable part of the Mendi Sub-District within the network of the main highlands road system. To this end, road construction work is being carried out by patrols from both districts, with the object of the road sectors of each patrol eventually linking up somewhere in the vicinity of Tambul Base Camp in the Western Highlands. When this is accomplished, the road between Mendi and Mount Hagen will be open to motor traffic and will be the first completed step in the road plan which will eventually connect the main Southern Highlands outstations to Mendi, and thence to Mount Hagen and the other highlands districts.

The present patrol has been in the area for a period of six weeks, so far, with the first part of the patrol being occupied in maintenance and repair work on the existing 25-27 miles of road between Mendi and the Territorial Border, and the last two weeks being used in the surveying and construction of a further section of road in the area between the border and Tambul Base Camp. From the Western Highlands District, Mr. D. Fermizel, Patrol Officer, and Mr. D. Love, P.W.D., are also engaged in road construction and are operating from Tambul Base Camp.

At the present time the two road-heads are separated by only six air-miles, but here it must be remembered that, although the distance is not great, the intervening country is rough and virtually unpopulated and the weather conditions are usually bad in the seven, to nine and a half thousand feet, altitude levels through which the road must be built. Most of the area is heavily timbered and the soil heavy and water-logged, so that, in general, conditions for speedy road construction are not good. However a sustained effort on both sectors of the road should be sufficient to have it open for light traffic in two to three months.

A description of the various sections of road between each rest house or camp is given below. This should give some idea of the present conditions of the road and the amount of work still to be done.

#### 1. Mendi-Dimifa Section

This section of road has been in regular use by tractor, motor-bikes and Land Rover for the past two years and is approximately seven miles in length and rises through an altitude of almost two thousand feet between Mendi Station and Dimifa Rest House.

Parts of this road are unavoidably steep, and are subject to scouring and water-logging in wet weather, and, during the present patrol, particular attention was given to the repair and maintenance of these trouble spots. The patrol spent fifteen days working on this section, with efforts being mainly concentrated on cambering and drainage, and the eradication of water-logged patches and their replacement with heavy river rubble. Here, as is the case in all sections of the road, the cartage of surfacing materials, is an extremely slow and time-wasting process, when done by hand, and it is suggested that, in future, a tractor or light truck might be used to advantage on this essential work. Should this suggestion be adopted, it is stressed that continual and careful European supervision would be necessary to ensure that the work is carried out correctly, otherwise considerable damage might be done to the road surface by unsupervised native drivers.

With regular weekly maintenance, this section of road is quite adequate for the uses to which it is being put - i.e. regular use by four wheel drive vehicles and motor bikes. When the labour position permits, re-grading of some of the steeper sections of the road will be desirable, but this work is by no means urgent.

## 2. Dimifa-Komia Section

This section of road is approximately eight to nine miles in length and passes through comparatively gently undulating swamp and grasslands on the northern slopes of Mount Giluwe. This road is quite suitable for regular use by tractor and trailer and four wheel drive vehicles and does not present any serious obstacles against being developed into a good all-weather road. The only reason that the potential of this section of road has not been fully developed, is that the natives of the area are needed for more urgent work on the new sections of road near the Territorial border.

There are eight small bridges to be crossed in this area, and these will be renewed when the labour position permits and when traffic warrants it. They are adequate for present use.

Three to four miles of this road were surfaced with heavy and medium-sized river rubble during the present patrol and this work will be continued whenever possible. Again, the use of a tractor or truck for the work, would be invaluable and would enable this section of road to be quickly brought up to a good working standard.

Additional cambering and drainage work will also be necessary, but is not urgent for the present.

## 3. Komia-Nimarep Section

This section of road was initially constructed in late 1955 and it is in this part that problems of construction and labour potential first become difficult. This part of the road is approximately eight to ten miles in length, and for the greater part of its length, passes through heavily-timbered and unpopulated country, rising from a height of approximately seven thousand feet at Komia Rest House, to nine thousand three hundred feet at Nimarep. Nimarep is situated either on, or very near to, the Territorial border.

This road was roughly completed by November 1955, and has since been used by both tractor and Land Rover, when necessary. No maintenance or improvement work has been carried out on this road since it was first built, mainly because of shortage of European staff, and the fact that the area through which it passes, is virtually unpopulated.

However, the original road has withstood erosion quite well and although occasional regrading and additional cambering and drainage will be necessary to enable it to be used regularly, there are no further serious constructional problems in this section.

No surfacing has yet been attempted here and since surfacing materials will have to be carried for distances of up to four miles, the use of a tractor or truck will be essential.

#### 4. Nimarepe-Minibel Creek

This road has been constructed for a distance of roughly two and a half miles past Nimarepe camp and it is in this area that construction work is being carried out at present.

A camp is being set up in the bush at Minibel Creek, and the patrol personnel and native workers will be operating from this camp from now on. The nearest Southern Highlands natives live between four and five hours walk from this camp and it is thus necessary to provide shelter and some food for the native workers on the days that they spend in the area.

The camp has been built at this point, because the nearest concentrations of population in both the Southern Highlands and the Western Highlands are roughly equidistant from it, and it would therefore be practicable to supervise the work of labour lines from both districts, at this point. With a Southern Highlands labour line working from MINIBEL to the south-west, and a Western Highlands line working to the north-east, the present rate of progress could be speeded up considerably.

By any standards, the working conditions are unpleasant and tedious in this area and there is no doubt that these have an adverse effect on the working efficiency of the native labourers, who, understandably enough, are sometimes difficult in their attitude towards working up here. However, the cold and unpleasant conditions of the area, are, in themselves, an endowment towards fast work and sustained effort, since the desire to complete work in this area is quite unanimous. As soon as is practicable, (probably in six to eight weeks time), it is intended that another camp be built at a lower altitude on the edge of the cane-grass country towards Tambul.

#### Conclusions

1. With the present amount of native labour available, the stocks of road-building implements held by the patrol, are adequate.

2. Surfacing with river rubble is desirable, if not absolutely essential in all sections of the road. European supervised use of a tractor or truck could be carried out to advantage in this work.

3. Bridge construction presents no serious problems in any sections of the road discussed here. Log and plank bridges can be constructed over any of the water-courses seen during the patrol.

4. Approximately six air miles of timber country and one air mile of grasslands now separate the two road heads. The actual length of road still to be constructed is estimated at nine to twelve miles.

5. The time for completion of the remaining section of road will depend on continued European supervision, and the availability of native labour. Under present conditions and at the present rate of progress, the road should be usable for light traffic in ten to fourteen weeks.

*Handwritten notes:*  
The road  
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which were of a most trivial nature and... the case, and... the final decision... views... However, was not discouraged since it is definitely preferable to the... methods of... which were still common in the area... shows a healthy trend in the Government, as a mediating agency.

Where unrest does occur in this area, it is almost invariably caused by disputes over land tenure, even though most of the disputes have been settled and placed on record by previous patrols and all parties to the various arguments are fully aware of that fact. It is... that most of these disputes have been placed on record since it is... obvious that the natives will continue raising them again and again for many years to come.

During the present patrol, only one land dispute which had not previously been settled, was raised. This dispute was between the people of the... and... WOLAVI groups, and concerned a small area of ground... situated on the northern bank of the upper... After discussion with the parties concerned, an agreement was reached and the details of the agreement were entered in the land disputes register at... .

Actual crime appears to be almost non-existent in the area and native affairs work is confined mainly to discussion and arbitration rather than actual... It is possible that some crime has... the patrol, and the continual supervision of... of the local population, and it is not likely... the natives could be... .

A number of Village Constables and... were appointed in the area in 1954 and 1955 and for the... part, they are showing a reasonable degree of... and... in their work. For the present, it is felt that the number of officials in the area is... for local needs, and further appointments at this... stage to cause confusion amongst the natives and... of authority amongst the officials.

As was mentioned in the previous section of this report, the section of road now being built... through an unpopulated area, where it is not possible for the... to return even at night, where the... and heavy and where the climate is unusually cold...

Native Affairs

The groups discussed in this report are amongst the longest-contacted in the Mendi Sub-District, and have been found both on this patrol and on previous ones, to be a comparatively placid and co-operative people, particularly when it is remembered that each patrol to the area during the past two years has been concerned with road-construction as well as normal administration and has brought with it a good deal of work for the natives concerned.

During the present patrol the natives have generally been quite amenable to suggestion as regards road work duties and have also readily abided by any decisions given in regard to the numerous minor disputes which were settled by the patrol. The people of the area are particularly enthusiastic litigants and particularly in its early stages, the patrol was inundated with disputes, many of which were of a most trivial nature and as is often the case, neither party was particularly interested in the final decision but care mainly for the airing of views and a congenial social outing. This attitude, however, was not discouraged since it is definitely preferable to the summary and impetuous local methods of settling disputes which were still common in the area two or three years ago and shows a healthy trust in the Government, as a mediating agency.

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Even means  
people dispute  
the*

Where unrest does occur in this area, it is almost invariably caused by disputes over land tenure, even though most of the disputes have been settled and placed on record by previous patrols and all parties to the various arguments are fully aware of that fact. It is fortunate that most of these disputes have been placed on record since it is quite obvious that the natives will continue raising them again and again for many years to come.

During the present patrol, only one land dispute which had not previously been settled, was raised. This dispute was between the people of the WELAL-PILA and PALIME-WOIAVI groups, and concerned a small area of ground known as PILA, situated on the northern banks of the upper Mendi River. After discussions with the parties concerned, an agreement was reached and the details of the agreement were entered in the land disputes register at Mendi.

Actual crime appears to be almost non-existent in the area and native affairs work is confined mainly to discussion and arbitration rather than actual court work. It is possible that some crimes may be hidden from the patrol, but the continual supervision of a large percentage of the local population, and it is not likely that any serious matters could be concealed.

A number of Village Constables and Councillors were appointed in the area in 1954 and 1955 and for the most part, they are showing a reasonable degree of efficiency and enthusiasm in their work. For the present, it is felt that the number of officials in the area is sufficient for local needs, and further appointments at this stage might only serve to cause confusion amongst the natives and a division of authority amongst the officials.

As was mentioned in the previous section of this report, the section of road now being built passes through an unpopulated area, where it is not possible for the natives to return home at night, where the work is slow and heavy and where the climate is unusually cold and wet.



These factors combine to cause a certain amount of dissatisfaction among the natives, and the evasion of work whenever it is possible. For these reasons the work periods for each group are being made longer and more frequent here, then would be the case in normal country, since it is obviously better to finish the task quickly even at the risk of some hardship to the natives, rather than work for normal periods and have the job drag on interminably.

The present period of the year is a good one from the point of view of obtaining road labour in this area, since it is a slack period as far as garden work is concerned, and few sing sings or pig-killings are held. From previous experience it has been noted that the period from August to December is a more difficult one, since the pandanus fruit begins to ripen at about that time, and various native festivities are held, which cause a certain amount of disruption to normal life. A lessening of food supplies also becomes apparent during those months, and, in all probability, efforts on the road will have to be slackened to enable the natives to carry out more garden work.

At the present time, local food supplies are more than sufficient for local needs, but the people, (never noted for being over-hospitable), are becoming increasingly miserly in regard to the supplying of food for patrol needs, particularly for prolonged patrols of the present type. Efforts have been continually made to purchase supplies of food so that there is always a reserve on hand for issue to native workers when they are working in the unpopulated areas, but, even though it is obvious that the food is being bought from the natives for their own consumption, supplies are rarely adequate to our needs, and supplementary rations must often be obtained from the government store at Mendi. This unfortunate attitude is probably due to competitive inflation of prices in other areas, and the desire for money, which, unavoidably, is rapidly displacing trade goods as a medium of exchange.

#### Medical and Health

As is always the case in this area, the people presented themselves in large numbers for medical treatment, and an appreciable amount of time was spent each day in the treatment of minor ailments. The treatments given were mainly for colds, cuts, burns, sores, scabies, and stomach disorders.

A medical aid post has been set up at Egari Rest House under N.M.C. NENE. Little was seen of him during the patrol, since the aid post is not situated on the main road, and the medical orderly appears to confine his activities mainly to the Egari area.

It is suggested that, when staff is available, a medical aid post should be set up at a central point on the main road, since the volume of native traffic passing along the road is considerable, and the building of an aid post at some point on it, would be logical. A suggestion to this effect will be made to the Medical Assistant-in-charge, Mendi.

#### Agriculture and Livestock

As has already been mentioned earlier in this report, local food supplies at the present time, are quite sufficient for native needs.

Native foods grown in the area are of only fair quality, both in regard to size and productivity.

Small potatoes of the European type, cabbage, tomatoes, and onions, are grown in the area, but again the quality of these is below average.

Native pigs are kept for ceremonial purposes and bride-purchase, but do not form a part of the normal diet. There are no fowls in the area.

#### Forestry and Re-Afforestation

Soil erosion presents few problems in the area under discussion, since even the steepest slopes are covered with timber, kunai, or cane-grass, all of which are good soil-binders.

Good stands of both hardwood and softwood timbers are to be found at a short distance from the road all along its route, and, in the Komia-Tambul section of the road, some very large areas of fine timber are to be seen, and no doubt, these will have commercial possibilities in years to come.

#### Village Officials

The village officials so far appointed in the area, have proved themselves helpful to the patrol, and have a fair degree of influence among the people.

The present number of officials appears to be sufficient for present needs, and no further appointments are recommended in this report.

#### Rest Houses

Rest houses and police barracks are situated at Dimifa, Inepe, Klareg, Komia, Egari, Himarep, and Birep. A rest house, police barracks, and labour quarters are in the process of being built at the MINIBEL Creek where the main road construction work is centred.

It is intended to construct more rest houses and labour quarters at short intervals in the unpopulated areas on the side of Mount Giluwe, so that these can be used by the present construction party, and can also be used by later maintenance patrols.

#### Map

A rough sketch map on the scale of four miles to one inch, is attached to this report. Since the report has been written while the patrol is still in the field, ordinary writing ink was used on the sketch map, and the map from which the tracing was taken has no accurate detail as far as this particular area is concerned.

Attempts will be made to compile a more accurate and detailed map of the area, when the next report is submitted from here.

*A.M. Keogh*  
A.M. Keogh,  
Patrol Officer,  
Mendi. S.H.D.

tion Register

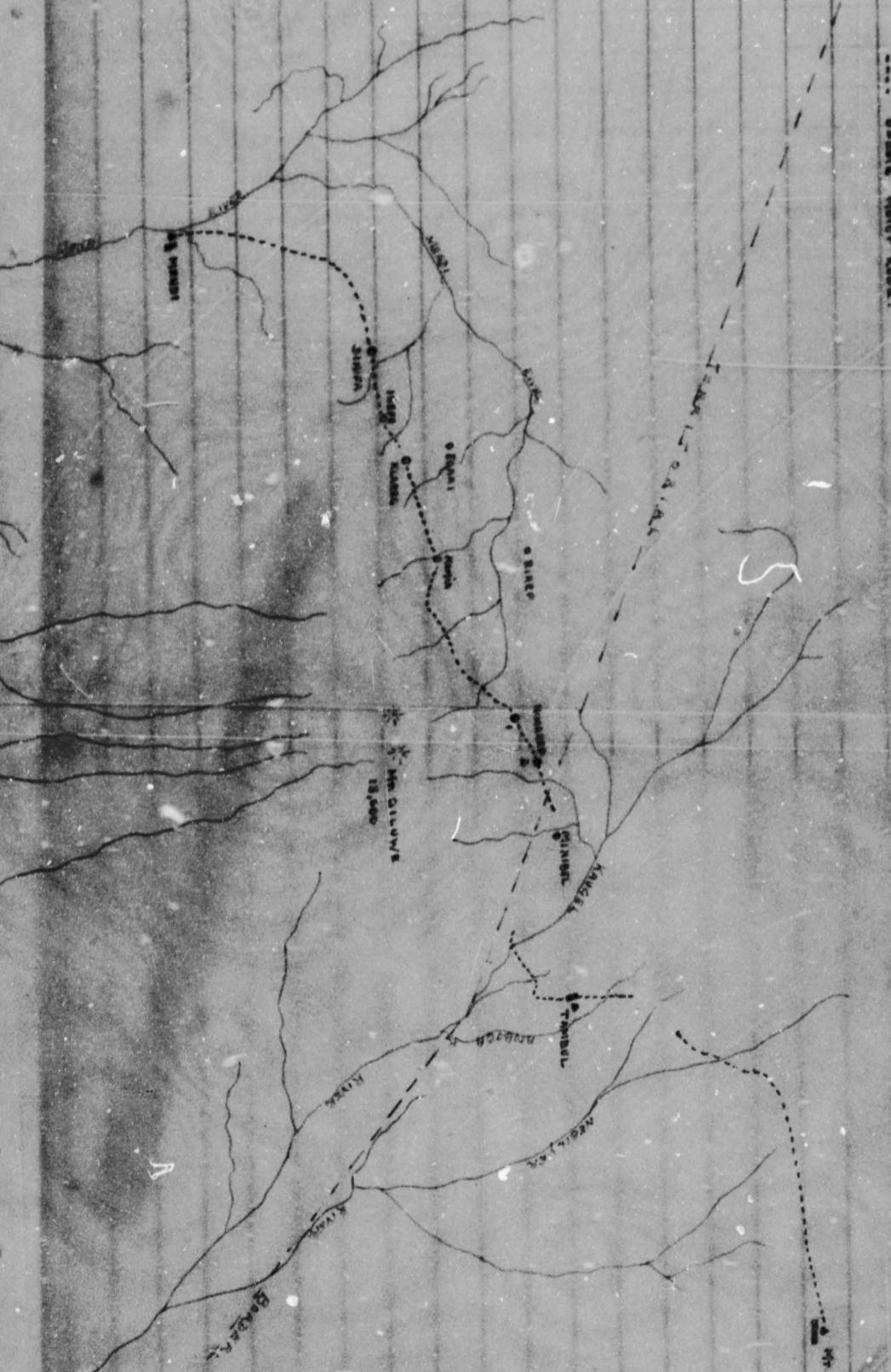
1950

Dist	Precinct	Census Tract	LABOR POTENTIAL				FEMALE		Average Size of Family	TOTAL (Excluding Absentees)				TOTAL LABOR FORCE
			Males		Females		Pregnant	18-44		Child		Adult		
			F	M	F	M	10-14	15-17		M	F	M	F	

MENDI PATROL REPORT

No. of cases / sq. mile

Scale - 1/4 inch = 1 mile  
 o Bear Woods  
 ---- usable water track



Mr. [Name]  
 11, 1950