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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: SUAUA, 1965-1966

Original documents bound with reports
for: Misima, volume 15.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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MILNE BAY DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1965/1966

MISIMA

<u>Report No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
8 - 196 5 /1965	S. Avosa	Calvados Chain Census Div.

SUAU

1 - 1965/1966	G.J. Reid	Suau Census Div.
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SAMARAI

4 - 196 5 /1966	C.V. Single	Samarai Local Is. Census Div.
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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



PATROL REPORT

District of Milne Bay Report No. 1-65/66

Patrol Conducted by G.J. REID, Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled Suau Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

Natives 5

Duration—From 19/7/1965 to 30/8/1965

Number of Days 31

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 8/1964

Medical/...../1964

Map Reference 4 Mile Series

Objects of Patrol Annual Census, Inspection Council Projects,

Council Election Propoganda, General Administration

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

5/2 /1966

E. J. Emanuel
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 £.....

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

Department of District Administration,
Samarai Sub-District,
SAMARAI.

67-1-3

15th October, 1965

District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SAMARAI.

SUAN PATROL No. 1 OF 1965/66

I attach three copies of a Report covering the above patrol submitted by Mr. G. Reid, Patrol Officer.

2. The delay of six weeks between the completion of the patrol and the submission of this Report appears unreasonably, although I am informed that in the interim Mr. Reid has completed another patrol.

3. Some comments follow:

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

(a) It is pleasing to note the continuing pro-Administration attitude of these people.

(b) A brick-making machine has since been purchased, and two men are in Port Moresby being trained in brick making and laying. Estimated brick costs are £14 - £15 per 1,000. In this regard I would recommend that:

(i) Accurate records of the costs involved be kept, including wages, materials (if any), depreciation and so forth, over a trial period, to determine the exact production costs;

(ii) Bricks should be sold to Council constituents at cost price, as a service;

(iii) Bricks should be sold to other buyers with an on-cost, and dealt with in accordance with Local Government Financial Memorandum No. 3 of 8th June, 1965.

Council approval and appropriate resolutions will be needed in due course.

POLITICAL SITUATION.

The Councillor referred to in the last paragraph of this section is believed to be an active supporter of a well known political figure representing this area.

AGRICULTURE.

It is perhaps unfortunate that coffee plantings were encouraged at this stage, however, the fact remains that the plantings have taken place, and the problem of carriage remains. The Council will have to become more aware as time goes on that greater proportions of finances will have to be channelled into projects to assist in the economic development of the area, particularly if any of the absentees (see later under CENSUS) are to be persuaded to return. Thus a store shed may eventually be provided at Gadaisu for coffee, and the Council boat (when purchased) could have regular pick-up dates. Seven hours maximum carry is not extra-ordinary by Territory standards.

EDUCATION.

The problem of child labour will be taken up with the Pastor if similar reports continue.

2.

CENSUS and CONCLUSION.

Until some means is found of raising the economic climate of the area - by Council activity or otherwise - the problem of absentees will remain. Nothing can be gained by attempting to force a stop to the drift to the towns. The answer must rest in the hands of those remaining.

APPENDIX "A"

Unsigned. I presume that Form R.S. 1's have been submitted in respect of these Members.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Report is well presented and marred only by several spelling errors. Numbering of paragraphs would assist comment. I am returning Mr. Reid's claim for Camping Allowance for an amendment of the number of days claimed, as there is a variance with his Field Officer's Journal.

4.

For your action please.



(G. Alder)
Assistant District Commissioner

c.c. Mr. G. Reid
Patrol Post
SWAU.

67-4-10

18th March, 1966.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SARAHAI.

SIAM PATROL REPORT NO 1/1965-66

Thank you for your memorandum 67-1-1 of 21st
January, 1966 and the patrol report by Mr. Reid.

2. Your comments and those of Mr. Alder have been
noted.

3. Mr. Reid seems to have spent a month in the field
quite usefully and has submitted an interesting and informa-
tive report. He will do well to heed Mr. Alder's closing
remarks.

4. It is a pity that the transport position was not
gone into carefully before the Ipulsi and surrounding people
began to plant coffee.

(J. K. MCCARTHY)
DIRECTOR.

67-4-10²⁷

XXXX Disoca.
67-1-1.



District Office,
SAMARAI,
Milne Bay District.

21st January, 1966.

~~The Assistant District Commissioner,
SAMARAI,
Milne Bay District.~~

Patrol Report SUAU No.1 of 1965/66.

1. Receipt is acknowledged with thanks of the abovementioned report together with your covering memorandum 67-1-3 of 15th October, 1965.
2. I would imagine that by now the complaints (Report Para.4 Page 2) against the inactivity of the Council Executive have been resolved. The recent council election would give dissatisfied groups the opportunity of acting upon their grievances. Action should be taken to follow up on this matter.
3. Your further advice is awaited as to the nature and extent of the land dispute referred to in the report (para.3 page 3). Please ensure that this dispute is fully documented by a future patrol to the area.
4. Claim for camping allowance is being proceeded.
5. For your information, please.

E. J. Emanuel
(E.J. EMANUEL)
a/District Commissioner.

c.c. Director,
D.D.A. Konedobu.

The Director,
Dept. of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

Copy of relevant paper for your information,
please.

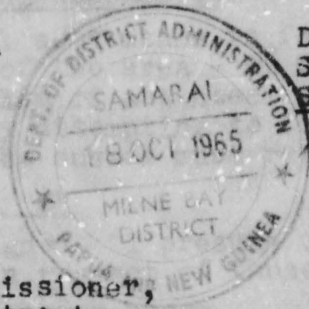
E. J. Emanuel
(E.J. EMANUEL)
a/District Commissioner.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

2

Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference 67-1-3
If calling ask for
Mr.



Department of District Administration,
Samarai Sub-District,
SAMARAI.

and Detala, 1965

District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SAMARAI.

SUAU PATROL No. 1 OF 1965/66

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EDUCATION.

The problem of child labour will be taken up with the Pastor if similar reports continue.

2DC 105 5/11/66

CENSUS and CONCLUSION.

I concur. Until some means is found of raising the economic climate of the area - by Council activity or otherwise - the problem of absentees will remain. Nothing can be gained by attempting to force a stop to the drift to the towns. The answer must rest in the hands of those remaining.

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The Report is well presented and marred only by several spelling errors. Numbering of paragraphs would assist comment. I am returning Mr. Reid's claim for Camping Allowance for an amendment of the number of days claimed, as there is a variance with his Field Officer's Journal.

4. For your action please.

(O. Alder)

Assistant District Commissioner

c.c. Mr. G. Reid
Patrol Post
SUAU.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Patrol Post,
SUAN, Fife Bay,
Milne Bay District

4th October, 1965

Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
SAMARAI

SUAU PATROL REPORT No. L of 1965/66

Patrol Conducted by: G.J.REID, Patrol Officer.
Area Patrolled: SUAU Census Division.
Personnel Accompanying: 2 R.P. & N.G.C. Members
1 Interpreter
2 Agricultural Field assistants
(part)
Duration of Patrol: 19/7/65 to 30/8/65
Number of days: 31 days
Last Patrol of Area: August, 1964
Objects of Patrol: Annual Census, Inspection of
Local Government projects, Council
Election propoganda, General
Administration.
Map Reference: Fourmil series of Abau.
Contingencies for camping allowance are attached.

G.J. Reid
.....
(G.J.Reid)
Patrol Officer

INTRODUCTION

The patrol was carried out in the Suau Census Division of the Samarai Sub-District. The Census division is located along the South-East Coast of Papua between the Villages of ILDILO and GADAISU.

The main objects of the patrol were, the annual Census and propaganda for the Suau Local Government Council elections to be held in November of this year. The patrol afforded me with the opportunity to inspect all Council projects. A full report on the Council projects is attached as appendix "B" to this report.

All Villages and hamlets in the area were visited and the patrol stayed overnight in all but two villages.

NATIVE AFFAIRS

(a) Reception of the Patrol.

The patrol was greeted with a general show of enthusiasm in all Villages, and Rest Houses had been gaily decorated for the occasion. Every help was given to the Patrol personnel throughout the patrol.

No difficulty was experienced in obtaining ~~in~~ ~~obtaining~~ transport, whether it be in the form of carriers or canoes.

(b) Villages

The standard of housing in all Villages was satisfactory and in some cases excellent. Houses are generally large and roomy and in a number of cases have large verandas. Tables and chairs are also evident in a number of Villages.

Iron roofing for houses is becoming more and more popular throughout the area and the majority of Villages have at least one or two iron roof houses providing water catchment areas for the people.

A request was made to me to help in the purchase of \$400 worth of corrugated iron for housing at SAVAIA Village. The ~~people~~ people wished to use the iron for walls as well as roofing. As the Village is situated on the water front, I advised against this purchase as the iron would probably rust away after two or three years. The people were informed of the possibility of purchasing cement bricks from the Council if they wished to improve their present houses. As the Village has a trained bricklayer they will be able to construct low cost brick houses and so save considerable time and money in maintenance. Great interest was shown in this proposal by the people and it is hoped to implement it in the not to distant future.

The considerable improvement in the standard of housing is a direct result of the enforcement of the Council Housing rule by Councillors. Trees and flowers planted during the last patrol have improved the Village environments and this together with the improved housing presents an overall satisfactory picture of the standard of Villages in the Area.

(c) Commercial Activity

Co-operative Societies throughout the area remain very popular with the people and all appear to be in sound ~~financial~~ financial position.

Commercial Activity(Cont.)

The advent of a second fishing boat at KONEMA has increased activity in the prawning industry and catches up to 7,000 lbs are now being made. The industry, which is owned and operated by Europeans, could help to increase the income of the local Villagers by offering employment and buying seafoods, particularly mud crabs, from them.

Numerous trading licenses are held by Papuans throughout the area. The majority of these stores are just holding their own against competition from European owned stores and Co-operatives.

POLITICAL SITUATION

The peoples interest in the Suau Local Government Council has not greatly increased over the past year due mainly to the lackadaisical attitude of the ~~present~~ present Councillors. Attendance at meetings have been poor and one Councillor has already been dismissed for failure to attend meetings.

The Council Executive Committee has failed badly in its job and has not visited Council projects for over 8 months. Constant efforts have been made to induce them to proceed on patrol but all these efforts have failed. It was pleasing to note that the people were also realising that the Councillors were failing in their work and numerous questions were asked about the work of Councillors. It is expected that some changes will be made during the Council Elections to be held in November.

Election propoganda was given at all Villages and the people were informed as to the duties of Local Government Councillors and as to their responsibility to elect representatives who will work hard for their Village. Generally the people have a understanding as to what is required of a Councillor, and as mentioned above some changes appear likely following a certain amount of discontent with their present Councillors.

Reports of political meetings were received at Konemaiava. It appears that a Councillor has been haranguing the people on independence. The matter is being watched with interest but at the moment the meetings appear to be quite harmless and are perhaps doing some good as far as Political Development goes.

AGRICULTURE

The main economic crop in the Suau area is Copra. Production over the last 12 months, and in the last 6 months particularly, has increased considerably due to the high prices being received by the producer.

The establishment of an extension station at Fife Bay by the Department of Agriculture has greatly increased activity in the field of agricultural extension throughout the area. The Department's Field Workers, together with the Councils agricultural Assistants, have been on constant patrol for the last six months helping the people with new plantings and improving smoke houses. The Field Workers are to be congratulated for their enthusiasm and hard work. Their work has revived interest in the Village Agricultural Committees which consequently has resulted in more work being carried out on village coconut plantations, the majority of which were found to be clean and tidy.

AGRICULTURE(Cont.)

Coffee is also grown in the area at IPULAI, VIO, WADADA, and KONDU and KWAIOA area. The last four mentioned villages are in the sad position of having good Coffee gardens but no means of transporting their Coffee to the Coast for shipment to market. Vio is at least 7 hours walk ~~far~~ from GADAIKU, the nearest shipping point. It is almost impossible to carry the Coffee out with carriers and so it is now rotting in the Village. This position shows lack of foresight and planning by some departments in encouraging plantings in these areas. There is a possibility that KWAIOA will be able to transport their Coffee out through the BUHUTU area if the development of the Sagarai timber lease comes up to expectations. Before increased planting is encouraged by the Department, the problems of transportation must be seriously looked at to ascertain if increased planting would be economical. From my study of the area and the problems involved I would not recommend further planting in the Vio, Kondu and Wadada areas and would await the Buhutu development before advising increased planting in the Kwaioa area.

Although the position is grim in the inland areas, Coffee at IPULAI appears to be a economic proposition. The people are at present saving money to purchase a Coffee pulping machine and all augurs well for the future.

LAND

Three land investigations were carried out by the Patrol, at ILOILO, NAVABU and KONEMAIABA. In each case the Suau Local Government Council has applied for a lease ~~far~~ of land for Aid Post sites in the three villages. It had been hoped to complete two other land investigations during the Patrol, one at BOROAI and the other at SIBALAI, however the owners of the Boroai land were away in Port Moresby and insufficient time resulted in the Sibalai investigation being left uncompleted.

Three land Disputes were brought to the notice of the patrol, two of these were of a minor nature and a settlement, amicable to both sides, was achieved. The third dispute was left in abeyance awaiting the return of one of the disputing party from Port Moresby. This dispute, on initial inquiries, appears to be a major one which will have to go before the Land Commissioner.

Two applications were made under the Lands Title Conversion Ordinance. One of these was investigated and the application submitted. The second application, made by a resident of SUABINA Village will be investigated upon the receipt of a further supply of application forms.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

The medical situation throughout the area is good, and the people are served by 5 Aid posts. These are situated at Navabu, Boroai, Konemaiaba, Iloilo and Suau Island. Four of the Aid Posts have been Council projects and the Fifth, at Suau Island, a Government run Aid Post.

The London Missionary Society runs a Hospital at Fife Bay in charge of a nursing Sister. The Sister and Nurses attached to the Hospital carry out monthly infant Welfare patrols throughout the area.

The Manager of Gadabu Plantation is now in receipt of a drug subsidy from the Administration and the people of the area can now receive medical treatment without having to undergo the long walk to Konemaiaba.

EDUCATION

There are four Government Schools in the area at Gadaisu, Konemaiava, Fife Bay and Sibalai these together with the five recognized Mission give a good coverage of the area. 116 children were recorded as attending Government Schools and 251 attending Mission Schools. These figures result in approximately 37% of children between the ages of 5 and 15 attending school.

The practice of Mission Teachers using small children for heavy manual labour after school hours has caused some resentment amongst the people of Savaii Village. Teachers have been warned that the practice of using 5 and 6 year olds for carrying heavy bags of copra will not be tolerated in the future. The Mission have the belief that the Children must pay for their education, but the carrying of Copra by young children over long distances is not, in my opinion, a very satisfactory way of levelling payment.

MISSIONS

The London Missionary Society or Papua Ekialasia, is the main Mission in the area and its influence is very strong. It has its Headquarters at Fife Bay, where a theological school is situated. The staff consists of 4 Europeans and 3 natives. The majority of Villages have representatives from the Mission, usually in the form of Pastors.

There are two other Missions represented in the area, they are the Kwato Mission at Boroai and the Anglican Mission at Kwaioa. These influences do not extend beyond these Villages.

The London Mission Society remains very pro-Administration and every help was given the patrol by its representatives.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The condition of roads throughout the area were found to be satisfactory.

The only vehicular road in the area is from Gadaisu Plantation to Laimodo Village, a distance of approximately 2 miles. Proposals have been put forward to extend this road to Mariawatte Plantation. The feasibility of the scheme, along the present proposed route, is questionable. Whilst in the area the people pointed out that the construction of bridges over the Suabina and Laimodo Rivers would be beyond the capacity of hand labour. A second route was examined approximately 2 miles inland from the coast, here the rivers are fordable and this would appear to be the most satisfactory solution.

AIRFIELDS

The question of the Kwaioa Airfield was discussed with the people and the results of these discussions will be forwarded under separate memorandum.

Interest is again being shown in the Suabina/Mariawatte strip but whether work will commence in the near future is hard to say. The Catalina now calls regularly at BONABONA to service the new prawning industry.

CENSUS

The Annual Census was conducted in all Villages by the patrol, and attendances were good. The complete Census figures for the area are attached to this report.

CENSUS (Cont.)

The total population of the area is 5,048 which shows an increase of 29 over last years figures. The number of births totaled 143 whilst 114 deaths were recorded. The increase in births over last year can be attributed to the work of the infant welfare staff. The increase in the death rate from 1.3 to 2.5 per 100 can be partly attributed to the unnatural cold weather experienced this year, which has contributed to the death of a large number of old people.

There still remains a large number of people away at work outside the area, the total this year being 655, although a decrease over last years figure, this causes a considerable social problem when young married women are deserted in the Villages and little or no support is being received by them from their husbands, the majority of who are employed in Port Moresby.

LAW and JUSTICE

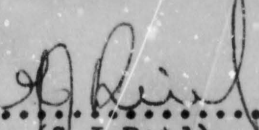
The Court for Native Matters was convened once during the patrol and a conviction was made under section 101 (a) of the Native Regulations. Various minor complaints were delt with by the patrol and all settled out of court.

Generally the people of the area are law abiding and the majority of offences are of a minor nature.

CONCLUSION

The Suau^{Area} has an economical potential which is not being fully exploited at the moment. The last year has shown an increase in new plantings and in production and it is hoped that this will continue in the future. This avenue of income could be further exploited if the drift of young men into the towns could be stopped.

The Council has let the people down due to the Councillors not carrying out their duties. It is hoped that this position will improve after the elections in November when it is expected that some of the older Councillors will loose their seats.


 (G. J. Reid)
Patrol Officer

APPENDIX "A"

Report on Members of the Royal Papuan and New Guinea Constabulary

Reg. No. 7740 Constable 1st Class AWADU

A sound level headed Policeman who conducted himself in a most satisfactory manner.

Reg. No. 10314 Constable BORUGAWA

A good bushman and a real trier whose conduct was excellent throughout the patrol.

.....
(C.J. Reid)
Officer R.P. & N.G.C.

11

APPENDIX "B"

REPORT ON BUAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL PROJECTS

(a) BONARUA WATER TANK.

This project is now fully completed and the people receiving full benefit from it.

(b) ILOILO AID POST

Project now completed. People have shown considerable pride in the Aid Post and have planted flower gardens and lawn around the outside.

(c) SIBALAI SCHOOL

At the time of inspection only minor work remained to be carried out on the Office. Once again the people have shown considerable interest in the project and have worked extremely hard on the clearing and construction of a playing area for the children. Work was due to commence on two dormitories a week after the patrol left the area.

(d) NAVABU AID POST

This building still requires the water tank to be connected and guttering to be completed.

(e) COUNCIL HOUSE - ISUDAU

Walls only to be constructed. The Council brick machine arrived recently and it is hoped to have the walls completed within two months.

(f) AID POST - KONEMAIABA

Requires tank to be connected and guttering to be completed. A small amount of cement work has to be carried out on the floor.

(g) AID POST - BOROAI

Once again the Tank to be connected and guttering to be completed. This is by far the cleanest Aid Post in the area and the surrounding area has been graveled and flowers planted.