

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES  
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: EAST SEPIK

STATION: MAY RIVER

VOLUME No: 6

ACCESSION No: 496.

1970 - 1971

Filmed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea,  
PORT MORESBY - 1989-1990

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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204-886-7172

EAST SEPIK DISTRICT

PATROL REPORTS

1970-1971

MAY RIVER

<u>Report No.</u>	<u>Officer conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
1-70-71	J.F.WHITE	Waniap Census Division.
2-70-71	J.E.WHITE	Central May Census
2-70-71 (B)	J.E.WHITE	Central May Census Division.
3-70-71	J.E.WHITE	SePik May Census Division.
4-70-71	J.E.WHITE	Abei May Census Division
5-70-71	J.E.WHITE	Part Arai -May Census Division.
6-70-71	J.E.WHITE	Arai May Census Division(Part Abei May Census Division



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of EAST SEPIK Report No. 1 of 1970/71 - MAY RIVER

Patrol Conducted by J.E. WHITE Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled Waniap Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

Natives 2 R.P.N.G.C. and 1 Medical Orderly.

Duration—From 3/8/1970 to 12/8/1970

Number of Days 10 days

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? Nil

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 12/1969 7 Days

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

Map Reference May River Patrol No. 5 of 1969/70

Objects of Patrol Census Revision; Area study and Situation Report and General Administration. Total Population of Area Patrolled- 677

Director of District Administration,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

241 91 1970.

*E. G. Hils*  
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	....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....

*Area Study Filed*

67-8-8 2  
GFB:KP

67-8-8

Division of District Administration,

KORORUPTI, PAPUA.

15th October 1970

24th September, 1970.

The District Commissioner,  
East Sepik District,  
WAMIAK.

MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 1/70-71

Your reference 67-1-13 of 24th September, 1970.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Annual Census, Area Study and Situation Report by Mr. J. L. White, Patrol Officer, of WAMIAK MAY Census Division.

I note the covering comments. Mr. White has conducted a very useful patrol, and the well presented, informative report is a creditable piece of work.

The Departmental Head, (T.W. ELLIS)  
Department of District Administration, Departmental Head.

For your information and records please.

(E. G. HICKS)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

67-8-8. 17.

67-1-13



Division of District  
Administration,  
District Office,  
East Sepik District

24th September, 1970.

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

MAY RIVER PATROL REPORT NO. 1 OF 1970/71  
WANIAP MAN CENSUS DIVISION

Thank you for the above report submitted by  
Mr. J. E. White, together with your covering memorandum 67-1-13  
of 16th September 1970.

I have no comments to add to those already made by  
yourself. The patrol report itself is excellent in context and  
presentation.

Paragraph 3 of your memorandum is noted.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

→ c.c. to The Departmental Head,  
Department of the Administrator,  
KONEDOBU.

For your information and records please.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

67-1-13

MAY RIVER No. 1 of 1970-71

16

AMBUNTI Division of District Administration  
Sub District Office  
AMBUNTI  
EAST SEPIK District

16th September 1970

The District Commissioner  
East Sepik District  
WEWAK

May River Patrol Report No 1/1970-71  
WANIAP MAY CENSUS DIVISION

1. Attached please find four copies of the above mentioned report plus relevant camping allowance claims and patrol map. Would you arrange for sun prints of the map to be made and attached to each copy of the report please. Two prints would also be appreciated at this office please.

2. The report is concise and self explanatory. The report is too brief with regard to heading M. Economy. I cannot see how 'Not Applicable' can adequately describe the economy of a division with 74 labourers absent outside the district and an airstrip within it's boundaries. There may also be some exploitation of crocodiles in the rivers of the area, or the sale of artefacts.

3. My confidential patrol instruction dated 7th August (Information on Navigability of rivers) would have reached May River after the departure of the patrol. OIC May River will be requested to forward this information in respect of all rivers he has visited within the May River area at his earliest convenience.

4. The lack of an appendix noting comments on Patrol Police will leave future Officers at a loss to know who has experience where and who is reliable. Separate RS1s have no doubt been sent to the Commissioner and OIC Police Wewak, amending records of service.

5. The report is an excellent document as far as it goes.

L.W. Bragge

a/Assistant District Commissioner

C.C. O.I.C.

MAY RIVER

Please comply with para 3 above. This information is extremely important. The information provided should closely follow the proforma. I have found it necessary to complete one proforma for outboard driven craft and another for workboats, as the information for each is different for any one river.

In future Area Studies please document fully each aspect and sub head of the Economy heading with the view to obtaining an accurate per capita figure no matter how low it may be. This is the only accurate source of information we have from which to compile the annual report.

L.W. Bragge a/ADC



18

REPORT NO. MAY RIVER No. 1 OF 1970/71

SUB-DISTRICT AMBUNTI

DISTRICT EAST SEPIK

COUNCIL/NON COUNCIL AREA NON COUNCIL AREA

PATROL CONDUCTED BY JOHN EDWARD WHITE

DESIGNATION PATROL OFFICER

AREA PATROLLED WANLAP MAY CENSUS DIVISION

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING 2 members R.P.N.G.C.  
PATROL 1 medical orderly

DURATION OF PATROL 3/8/70 to 12/8/70. 10 days.

DATE AND DURATION OF LAST DECEMBER 1969. 7 days.  
DDA PATROL TO AREA

OBJECTS OF PATROL  
1. Census revision.  
2. Area Study and Situation Report.  
3. General Administration.

TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA 677  
PATROLLED

MAP REFERENCE MAY RIVER PATROL No. 5 of 1969/70

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER ENCLOSED  
ENCLOSED/ NOT ENCLOSED

17

PATROL DIARY

3/8/70. Monday. Radio conversation. Preparations to depart patrol.

Departed 1.00 PM by outboard motor.  
Accompanied by two police and medical orderly.  
Arrived Waniap village 2.45 PM.  
Met village officials - camped.

4/8/70. Tuesday. Census conducted at Waniap.  
General discussions on economic development and political education. Medical treatment given by medical orderly.

Departed Waniap 12.20 PM by outboard motor. Proceeded up Waniap creek to highest navigable point arriving 2.00 PM.

Proceeded overland by foot arriving Boropa 3.00 PM. Camped.

5/8/70. Wednesday. Census conducted at Boropa. Talks on political education, economic development. Complaint of unlawfully striking heard - to be investigated at Tigi village. Medical treatment given.

Departed Boropa 12.30 PM

Arrived Ama 2.30 PM

On arrival visited private airstrip and met SDA mission aircraft. Observed new windsock being installed and operation of new grasscutter.

Camped.

6/8/70. Thursday. Census conducted at Ama for villages of Kauvia and Wobaru. Also talks on political education, economic development. Medical treatment given. Housing inspection conducted. One civil complaint heard.

7/8/70. Friday. Departed Ama 8.55 AM

Arrived Ienewe 12.00 PM

Some renovations made to resthouse in afternoon. Waiting for some people to arrive.

Camped.

Saturday.

8/8/70. Friday. Census conducted at Ienewe. Talks on political education, economic development. Medical treatment given.

Departed Ienewe 10.30 AM

Arrived Agrame/ Uwau new camp 12.30 PM

Inspected new camp. New resthouse.

Camped.

9/8/70. Sunday. Observed at Agrame/ Uwau.

PATROL DIARY (CONT)

10/8/70. Monday. Census revised at Agrame for Agrame and Uwau villages. Talks on political education, economic development. Medical treatment given.  
Departed Agrame 10.30 AM  
Arrived Tigi 12.30 PM  
Waiting for people to arrive. Camped.

11/8/70. Tuesday. Census revised at Tigi. Talks on political education, economic development. Medical treatment given.

Local court held - unlawfully striking from Boropa village. Accused given four months I.H.L. Housing inspection conducted.

12/8/70. Wednesday. Departed Tigi 8.00 AM. Proceeded along Tigi creek until 11.30 AM. Met outboard motor and proceeded to Waniap village arriving 12.00 PM. Paid off carriers and returned May River station arriving 2.00 PM.

END OF PATROL DIARY

SITUATION REPORTINTRODUCTION

1. This patrol, was mounted from 3rd August 1970 to 12th August 1970. The objects of the patrol were to revise the census, prepare a situation report and area study and carry out routine general administrative matters.

2. The objects were achieved with little difficulty although there are problems here in compiling an accurate census. The people here are very nomadic and there were some absentees from the census who were wandering around in the immediate area.

3. Patrolling in the area presents few problems especially in a dry period. The terrain is only slightly undulating and the tracks appear to dodge most of the sago swamps.

4. The carriers used for the patrol came from Waniap village. It is suggested that future patrols recruit from areas possibly in the May River station area. The Waniap carriers had many shortcomings including the fact that some tension exists between them and the rest of the census division which are different linguistic groups.

POLITICAL

1. The area operates administratively through the village official system. This system has been operating in the area since the first village officials were appointed in 1965. The luluais in all villages visited appear to carry reasonable authority. However this appears limited to their own village as none could be said to carry any influence as a whole through the census division and in some areas would be little known. Some luluais proved ineffectual and themselves are basically superstitious and highly exciteable. This applies especially to officials of Tigi, Agrame and Uwau villages.

2. The attitude of these people towards the Administration and the mission is one of quiet acceptance as long as they can see these two institutions providing them with the basic services of health and law and order. However it will be a long time before they realise that there are other benefits to be gained by working in liason with the Administration by settling down and exploiting what economic potential exists in the area and sending their children off to school. These people as a whole are very primitive basically and traditional ties and superstitions govern their way of life. They are highly exciteable and are not particularly interested in seeing changes to this pattern taking place. An example of this was in one instance where a man was sentenced to four months I.H.L. for unlawfully striking with an axe.

POLITICAL (CONT)

Like most people he related the death of his mother to sorcery and wanted to pay for this.

3. Repetitive political education talks were held in the villages but only Waniap village could be classed as having any real comprehension. However all villages do know the MHA Open member Nauwi and some realise he is there to assist them in making economic improvements. However how all this ties in with the present system of government is beyond comprehension.

4. People from most villages visit Wanamoi and Aumi villages on the May River to have sing-sings. However little is exchanged between the groups so that this communication could hardly be called a trade route. There is very little contact with people further down on the Sepik river because of distance to be travelled and lack of confidence.

5. It should be noted that there is a 31% male adult absentee rate due entirely to recruitment to New Britain plantations. This is the only source of revenue that comes back into the area although most of it is spent on the journey home.

5. What European clothing there is in the area is due mainly to this recruitment and not to any established trade routes. Traditional dress however is still very prevalent in the area. Sheath gourds being worn by men with gire gire shell decoration around the neck. The women mostly wear grass skirts with also the gire gire shell decoration.

ECONOMIC

1. There is sound economic potential in this area for the commencement of cash cropping.

2. It is believed the soil especially in the Ama, Ienewe, Kauvia and Uwau areas would be suitable for coffee growing.

3. Apart from being able to grow coffee there is tremendous marketing prospects. At Ama there is a private airstrip which at present is used by the Seventh Day Adventist mission about once a month. The strip is at present 1500' in length with the possibility of extension to 3000'. The mission were installing a windsock at the eastern end on the patrol's arrival and have also supplied a grass mower to ensure regular cutting.

4. It is obvious that if coffee was developed in this area a trade store-buying centre would be established at the strip and coffee flown out to the coast.

5. However a key to the attitude of people to this is at Ienewe village where a man has been given training as a Farmer Trainee at Maprik. He obviously returned to the village with the intention

ECONOMIC (CONT)

of doing nothing with the knowledge he has gained and that is exactly what happened. He had a holiday at Maprik at the Government's expense. He was given a dressing down by the patrol and told to get on with the job.

6. A name has been taken at Ama from a man from Kauvia village to be onforwarded to DASF Bainyik in the hope that arrangements can be made for him to attend a Farmer Trainee Course. It is hoped the results are better and the man shows some initiative. It is realised that blame cannot be levied on one man but the people have to co-operate with him to establish any cash cropping. It should be remembered that the people are unsophisticated and highly exciteable but surely some start has to be made.

7. Efforts were made to interest the people in introducing some new food crops in the area. It would be good to see pineapples and sweet potatoes tried in the area. It was observed that coconut trees have been newly planted in some villages. It is hoped they are successful. It is obvious efforts have been made previously to establish pineapples and sweet potato but the people have never followed the matter up and established permanent gardens.

SOCIAL

1. Housing in the area is of a suprisingly good standard. Some constructions appear new. However little cleanliness is observed inside and many houses are overcrowded at times which is not good health-wise.

2. Kauvia and Wobaru groups have now settled together at Ama near the site of the present airstrip. It is obvious more migration will take place to and around this site during the next few years. This will surely be the case if any economic development takes place. At the moment the Seventh Day Adventist mission visits Ama by aircraft at least once a month and is active here with medical treatment and the proposed establishment of a school. This is no doubt influencing the present migration trend to the site.

3. Apparently this mission also had a school previously at Waniap village but gave it up because of poor attendance by students who were happier out in the bush.

4. Health in the area is poor. Cases of yaws exist in many villages. All people have grille and many have tropical ulcers. Bronchitis and pneumonia and of course malaria cause many deaths in the area especially among young children and older people. It should be noted that the census figures show only twenty males and twenty one females in the 46 years and over age group which shows life expectancy on the average is about forty years.

SOCIAL (CONT)

5. Some people are never really observed by patrols because they have gone bush at the time of census and many unknown deaths obviously occur because they never see a medical orderly. They relate the cause of death to their superstitious beliefs.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nil.

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Amount Returned to Store



H. Q.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of EAST SEPIK (ABUNTI) Report No. MAY RIVER NO 2 of 1970-71

Patrol Conducted by JOHN EDWARD WHITE

Area Patrolled CENTRAL MAY CENSUS DIVISION  
ABU

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans

Natives 2 MEMBERS R.P.N.G.C.

Duration—From 24/8/1970 to 2/9/1970

Number of Days 10 DAYS

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? 1 MEDICAL ORDERLY

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 1/1/1970

Medical / / 19

Map Reference C NON COUNCIL AREA

Objects of Patrol CENSUS REVISION - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
AREA STUDY - SITUATION REPORT

Director of District Administration,  
PORT MORESBY.

*[Signature]*

Forwarded, please.

B1 10/1970

*[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 .....  
.....  
.....

*[Handwritten notes: Area Study, Filed]*



REPORT No. MAY RIVER No. 2 of 1970/71

SUB-DISTRICT AMBUNTI

DISTRICT EAST SEPIK

COUNCIL/NON COUNCIL AREA NON COUNCIL AREA

PATROL CONDUCTED BY JOHN EDWARD WHITE

DESIGNATION PATROL OFFICER

AREA PATROLLED CENTRAL MAY CENSUS DIVISION

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL 2 members R.P.N.G.C.  
1 MEDICAL ORDERLY

DURATION OF PATROL 24.8.70 to 2.9.70 10 days.

DATE AND DURATION OF LAST JANUARY 1970. 3 days.  
DDA PATROL TO AREA

OBJECTS OF PATROL  
1. Census revision.  
2. Area study and situation report.  
3. General administration.

TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA 1015  
PATROLLED

MAP REFERENCE May River Patrol No. 6 of 1969/70.

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER ENCLOSED  
ENCLOSED/ NOT ENCLOSED

67-1-13

Ambunti.

20th October 1970.

Division of District  
Administration,  
Sub District office,  
Ambunti,  
East Sepik District.

20th October 1970

Officer in Charge,  
Patrol Post,

District Commissioner,  
East Sepik District,  
Wewak.

With regard to para 3 and 5 a patrol  
report is not a separate report is initiated,  
separate copies

May River Patrol No. 2/1970-71

Central May Division.

to compile a Sub District Index and report on Navigable  
1. Attached are four copies of the above report plus  
relevent camping allowance claim and patrol map. Would  
you have sun print copies made of the map and attach a  
copy to each copy of the report and return three copies  
to Ambunti please.

My Comments are:

2. This report reached my desk on 17th October, over  
six weeks after the end of the patrol. Mr. White has  
been advised to submit a written explanation for the  
lateness of this submission, the time allowable in this  
district for completing a report being four days.

Situstio Report:

3. Political - A separate submission from May River  
will recommend the appointment of Luluai AROKATNO of  
Samo.

4. The District Court at Ambunti committed the murder  
case for trial. In the accessory after the fact to murder  
case it was found that there was insufficient to commit  
the Tultul of INAGRI for trial and the accused has been  
released.

Area Study:

5. Leadership. Para 1. A separate submission an  
appointments and dismissal will be provided by the Officer  
In Charge, May River.

General Comments:

6. This well written and informative report points a  
clear picture of these pathetic swamp people. The economy  
of the area as described is all but non existant and  
possibilities of expanding it are almost nil. This would  
be the most depressing area of the Sub District to patrol as  
the officer is aware there is nothing of note that can be  
done to better the lot of these people.

For your information please.

L. W. Bragge,

Assistant District Commissioner.

C.C. C.I.C. May River

67-1-13

Ambunti.

20th October 1970.

c.c. Officer In Charge,  
Patrol Post,  
May River.

Please comply with paras 2 and 3.

With regard to para 3 and 5 a patrol report is not a document upon which action is initiated, separate correspondence is required.

Thank you for Appendix A. It is intended to compile a Sub District index and report on Navigable Rivers. To assist in this would you follow the proforma exactly in future reports please so we can have a uniform presentation throughout the index and report.

*Chryse*  
L. W. Brage,

Assistant District Commissioner.

PATROL DIARYMonday 24th August 1970.

Departed May River station by outboard motor 11.00 AM.

Arrived Auni village 1.00 PM

Prepared campsite. talks given in afternoon on political education.

Tuesday 25th August 1970.

Census revised at Auni. Housing inspection conducted and medical treatment given.

Departed Auni by outboard motor and arrived Iabrem 10.30 AM

Obtained paddle canoes from local people and proceeded up Samo creek. Constantly held up by snags. Arrived Samo village 3.00 PM. Campsite prepared.

Wednesday 26th August 1970.

Census revised at Samo. People in poor health. Medical treatment given. Talks given on hygiene. Inspected the one large house and condemned it to be rebuilt.

Departed Samo 11.00 AM

Proceeded through heavy swampland crossing and re-crossing headwaters of Samo creek. Arrived Inagri 12.40 PM. Campsite prepared.

Thursday 27th August 1970.

Informed of murder in village. Investigation carried out. Body dug up and pictures taken of cracked skull. Statements taken from witnesses. Two arrests made. Murder charge and Accessory after the facts charge. To accompany patrol to May River patrol post.

Census revised. Medical treatment given People in poor health.

Departed Inagri 1.00 PM

Arrived Amu 3.00 PM after proceeding through heavy sago swamps after leaving the headwaters of the Samo creek.

Campsite prepared.

Friday 28th August 1970.

Census revised at Amu. Medical treatment given.

Departed Amu 10.00 AM and moved towards Saniap river. Proceeded through flooded sago swamps near river and reached paddle canoes brought by Waniam people about 11.30 AM.

Proceeded by paddle canoe to Yei hamlet arriving 3.00 PM.

Campsite prepared.

Saturday 29th August 1970.

People from Yei hamlet gone off on hunting expedition. People sent out previous afternoon to locate them unsuccessful. Old hamlets searched to no avail. Reported to have moved further south and will probably return in a couple of months time.

Departed Yei 12.00 PM by paddle canoe and proceeded down Saniap creek arriving Waniam 2.00 PM. Met village officials - camped.

PATROL DIARY (CONTINUED)Sunday 30th August 1970.

Observed at Waniam.

Arrival of outboard motor canoe from May river in afternoon.

Monday 31st August 1970.

Census revised at Waniam. Medical treatment given and talks on political education. Shotgun permits inspected. Also trade store licences.

Departed Waniam 11.00 AM by outboard motor.

Arrived Ibu village 12.00 PM

Census revised. Talks on political education. Housing inspection. Medical treatment given.

Departed Ibu 2.00 PM

Proceeded up Painu creek to May river and on to May River patrol post arriving 4.00 PM.

Tuesday 1st September 1970.

Visited Wanamoi and Pekwe villages close to May River station. Census revised. Housing inspections conducted. Two civil complaints heard. Talks on education in relation to Pekwe SDA mission school. Census also conducted at Pekwe for Abagsiau.

Wednesday 2nd September 1970.

Visited Iabrem, Painu and Aumi villages close to May River station. Housing inspections conducted and census revised. Local Court conducted - shotgun complaint.

END OF PATROL DIARY

SITUATION REPORTINTRODUCTION

1. The area patrolled lies directly south of May River station. It also includes ~~some~~ villages on the May river in close proximity to the station.

2. The area patrolled to the south of the station consists of sago swamps and there is no relief from this. The small hamlets of one or two houses being built on small hills which can be observed from time to time.

3. The villages on May river included in this census division and those on Saniap creek are more readily contacted and appear more settled. They are more aware politically than the people to the south who are nomadic with no change from traditional ties.

4. The objects of the patrol were achieved. The census was conducted without real incident. The usual inspections were made of houses, shotgun permits. A police investigation was carried out at Inagri and a woman was charged with murder after it became clear that a case could be established against her.

5. It should be remembered by future patrols to recruit carriers close to the station on a casual basis. It is impossible to recruit from hamlets south of the station up the Samo creek. These hamlets have little population and the people there are primitive and nomadic.

6. The patrol received good co-operation from the Waniam people who travelled up river by paddle canoe for many miles against a strong current to meet the patrol near Amu hamlet. Their assistance was invaluable.

POLITICAL

1. This area suffers because it consists of three separate language groups. The people in the May river and Saniap river sections have no contact at all with the Samo creek people. They are regarded as traditional enemies and most times the Samo people travel further to the south on hunting expeditions. The Samo creek people consisting of the hamlets of Samo and Inagri as well as Amu and Yei hamlets further to the east are a very harsh people who roam about completely oblivious to the outside world. In fact they are so basically wild and out of touch that no one from these individual hamlets could possibly hold the office of village official. This patrol recommends that a man called Arokaino/ Saniga originally from Inagri who has spent five years or more in Kavieng be made luluai over the three hamlets of Samo, Inagri and Amu. The previous tul tuls will have to be revoked. One of them is on an Accessory After The Fact To Murder charge relating to the above mentioned murder. He tried to conceal the incident from the patrol.

An attempt was made on the May river villages and Saniap river villages to further political education by general reading from two books distributed by Political

POLITICAL (CONT)

Education Officer, Wewak, entitled 'Lokol Gavman' and 'Matias i Tok Tok Long Gavman'. The pictures in the books were a novelty to the people who showed some interest even if only from a curiosity angle. It leaves them bored and restless. Their attention seemed to last longer with the displaying of these books.

3. It is believed that people in the May river and Saniap river villages of Waniam and Ibu are interested in local government. From my observations they would appear ready to contribute a tax rate of \$0.50 to \$1.00. It is realised by them that the only possible way that departmental representatives will visit May river to discuss possible avenues of economic development with them is through Council meetings. They also realise that any capital projects or expansion of facilities such as health will only be had at Council level.

ECONOMIC

1. The only income obtained commercially is through the very limited sale of crocodile skins by Pekwe and Wanamoi villages. Also Waniam village sells some artifact-shields for a nominal amount to an Angoram trader.

2. The area has no agricultural potential. There is no relief throughout the area from the expanse of sago swamps.

3. It is unfortunate that International Nickel have apparently abandoned exploratory work in the area. It would have at least provided a limited source of local employment for a time even if no progress was visualised towards possible mining operations. It could have also limited the increasing number of adult male absentees from the area by providing some local attraction for the time being. The present adult male absentee rate is 32% and undoubtedly rising.

4. It is my belief that there are only two ways in which the Administration can help these people on economic lines. That is either to introduce local government which could be the necessary instrument to produce some thought towards projects. The other alternative is a re-settlement scheme although I could not imagine these people forsaking their area even if it consists only of useless swamps.

SOCIAL

1. I have never observed previously hamlets in such a depressing state as Inagri and Samo hamlets. Nearly every child under the age of five years was suffering from yaws and in some cases malnutrition. The yaws were observed as large sores surrounding the mouth. Most of the children had

SOCIAL (CONT)

not been washed for many days and the smell was vile when they had collected together for the census.

2. One of the other problems here was the dead were buried in shallow graves about two feet below the surface. The smell from these was beyond description. The graves were usually in close proximity to the houses and there was no escape from the smell because of the scarce alternative land available to make camp and conduct a census.

3. As mentioned earlier a woman from Inagri had been arrested by the patrol on a charge of murder. She was charged with murdering her five year-old daughter with a bush knife. The crack in the skull measured all of twelve inches. This is not the first instance of people from these two hamlets murdering their children. I refer you to May River Patrol Report No.6 of 1968/69. The only reason the matter was uncovered in this instance was because the patrol was passing through the area. Obviously many such murders have been hidden from the Administration.

4. Although I am not familiar with the Child Welfare Ordinance or its interpretations surely something could be done to have these children adopted out of these two hamlets for their own health and safety. The people professing to be the parents of these children are very harsh and unjust as can be seen by the poor health and history of murders.

5. I have yet to witness children living in such poverty with such a limited chance of real survival. I have taken colour slides of some of the cases of yaws observed which can be made available to Dept. Of Public Health.

6. Housing inspections at Wanium and Ibu led to the condemning of some houses to be replaced in one months' time. However constructions here are basically sound and these two hamlets appear to have settled down in normal village pattern. Both are quite sizeable villages.

7. Conditions of villages on May river were reasonable. The people appear to pay some attention to replacing poor housing frequently.

8. A small seventh day adventist mission school has commenced at Pekwe village near May River station. However as with other futile attempts to commence schools in the May River area it has had little co-operation from parents who will not insist on children attending school. This has led to irregular attendance with people providing all the excuses in the world. I have simply told these people that "education is not compulsory as such. However it can be recommended that the school be removed to Ambunti to people who appreciate the advantages of education. That if they wish to remain backward and not be prepared to help themselves that is up to them. That in comparison other areas



SOCIAL (CONT)

are leaving them behind both socially and economically and after eventual Independence if they still hold the same attitude towards life they will probably be ~~left~~ <sup>left</sup> ~~up~~ <sup>up</sup> ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> these other areas. This will place them at a big disadvantage".

MISCELLANEOUS

Nil.

---

1. Stream Name Saniap river.

Extent Of Navigable Section -  
Navigable by outboard motor as far as Wanium village. A distance of twenty miles from mouth at Sepik river.

Length of section- The river would be at least 60 miles in length to the headwaters. However as stated it is navigable by outboard motor for only 20 miles. The river would not be classed as navigable to river trucks or workboats.

Water Depth In Channel -

High 10' to 12'

Low As low as 1'6" in places.

Maximum current m.p.h.-

High - 4 to 5 m.p.h.

Low - 1 m.p.h.

Tidal Range - Not applicable

Restrictions to Navigation in section -  
Severe restrictions at low tide past Ibu village which is 15 miles from mouth. This is because of low water depth and increased impediment and snags on some occasions. Some minor whirlpools exist that have to be watched by outboard motor operators. The mouth of the river is narrow. No alternative channel exists and it must be approached with care at low tide.

Landing Places In Section- No actual jetties exist. Wanium and Ibu villages make reasonable landing places although the rapid rise and fall of current and water level means precaution necessary in securing craft overnight.

General. - Connects with Sepik river. However the river has no commercial value at the moment and is only used by Administration patrols.

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REPORT ON MEMBERS OF ROYAL PAPUA AND NEW  
GUINEA CONSTABULARY

Name.	Rank.	Conduct	Remarks
Sipup <del>xxxxxx</del>	1161 Const 1/c <del>1223</del>	Excellent	Very Reliable
Jinde	Const. 2234	Poor	Irresponsible. Unreliable.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
.....  
John E. White  
Patrol Officer



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of ES-D. AMBUNT Report No. No 2 MAY RIVER - 1970-71

Patrol Conducted by JOHN EDWARD WHITE

Area Patrolled CENTRAL MAY CENSUS DIVISION

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans 1

Neties 2 MEMBERS R.R.N.G.C.

Duration—From 24/8/1970 to 2/9/1970

Number of Days 10 DAYS

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? 1 MEDICAL ORDERLY

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 1/1/1970

Medical 1/...../19.....

Map Reference (NON COUNCIL AREA)

Objects of Patrol CENSUS REVISION - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
AREA STUDY - SITUATION

Director of District Administration,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

261101 1970

E. J. Healy  
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 .... \$.....

Area Study filed

HRD/sj

67-1-12  
Division of District Administration,

KONEDOBU Papua

12th November, 1970

The District Commissioner,  
East Sopi District,  
WEWAK.

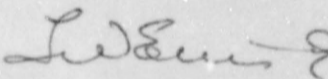
MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 2. 1970/71

Your reference 67-1-2 of 26th October, 1970.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Annual Census Area Study and Situation Report by Mr. J.E. White Patrol Officer of the Central May Census Division.

This is a valuable patrol report documenting local problems and attitudes adequately. Your comments and those of the Assistant District Commissioner adequately cover the points of interest raised in the report.

The census figures will be further commented on under separate memorandum.

  
(T.W. ELLIS)  
Departmental Head

REPORT No.

MAY RIVER No. 2 of 1970/71

SUB-DISTRICT

AMBUNTI

DISTRICT

EAST SEPIK

COUNCIL/NON COUNCIL AREA

NON COUNCIL AREA

PATROL CONDUCTED BY

JOHN EDWARD WHITE

DESIGNATION

PATROL OFFICER

AREA PATROLLED

CENTRAL MAY CENSUS DIVISION

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL

2 members R.P.H.G.C.  
1 MEDICAL ORDERLY

DURATION OF PATROL

24.8.70 to 2.9.70 10 days.

DATE AND DURATION OF LAST DDA PATROL TO AREA

JANUARY 1970. 3 days.

OBJECTS OF PATROL

- 1. Census revision.
- 2. Area study and situation report.
- 3. General administration.

TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA PATROLLED

1015

MAP REFERENCE

May River Patrol No. 5 of 1960/70.

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER ENCLOSED/ NOT ENCLOSED

ENCLOSED

67-8-19.

(19)

67-1-12



Department of District  
Administration,  
District Office,  
WEHAK, East Sepik District.  
26th October, 1970.

~~The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
AMBUNALI.~~

MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 2 OF 1970/71  
CENTRAL MAY DIVISION

Thank you for the above report submitted by  
Mr. J. E. White, Patrol Officer.

Your comments adequately cover the report  
which is most informative and very well presented.

I am sure Mr. White will have a reasonable  
explanation for the late submission of this report.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

→ c.c. to The Departmental Head,  
Department of the Administrator,  
KONEDOBU.

For your information and records please.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

67-1-13

Ambunti.

20th October 1970.

Sub District  
Administration,  
Sub District Office,  
Ambunti,  
East Sepik District.

20th October 1970

c.c. Officer In Charge,  
Patrol Post,  
May River.

District Commissioner,  
East Sepik District,  
Wewak.

report is set a May River Patrol No. 2/1970-71  
separate correspondence  
Central May Division.

1. Attached are four copies of the above report plus relevant camping allowance claim and patrol map. Would you have sun print copies made of the map and attach a copy to each copy of the report and return three copies to Ambunti please.

My Comments are:

2. This report reached my desk on 17th October, over six weeks after the end of the patrol. Mr. White has been advised to submit a written explanation for the lateness of this submission, the time allowable in this district for completing a report being four days.

Situation Report:

3. Political - A separate submission from May River will recommend the appointment of Luluai AMOKAINO of Samo.

4. The District Court at Ambunti committed the murder case for trial. In the accessory after the fact to murder case it was found that there was insufficient to commit the Tultul of INAGRI for trial and the accused has been released.


Area Study:

5. Leadership. Para 1. A separate submission on appointments and dismissal will be provided by the Officer In Charge, May River.

General Comments:

6. This well written and informative report points a clear picture of these pathetic swamp people. The economy of the area as described is all but non-existent and possibilities of expanding it are almost nil. This would be the most depressing area of the Sub District to patrol as the officer is aware there is nothing of note that can be done to better the lot of these people.

For your information please.

  
L. W. Bragge,

Assistant District Commissioner.

c.c. C.I.C. May River





(76)

PATROL DIARYMonday 24th August 1970.

Departed May River station by outboard motor 11.30 AM.  
 Arrived Auni village 1.00 PM  
 Prepared campsite. Talks given in afternoon on political education.

Tuesday 25th August 1970.

Census revised at Auni. Housing inspection conducted and medical treatment given.  
 Departed Auni by outboard motor and arrived Iabrem 10.30 AM  
 Obtained paddle canoes from local people and proceeded up Samo creek. Constantly held up by snags.  
 Arrived Samo village 3.00 PM. Campsite prepared.

Wednesday 26th August 1970.

Census revised at Samo. People in poor health. Medical treatment given. Talks given on hygiene. Inspected the one large house and condemned it to be rebuilt.  
 Departed Samo 11.00 AM  
 Proceeded through heavy swampland crossing and re-crossing headwaters of Samo creek. Arrived Inagri 12.40 PM. Campsite prepared.

Thursday 27th August 1970.

Informed of murder in village. Investigation carried out. Body dug up and pictures taken of cracked skull. Statements taken from witnesses. Two arrests made. Murder charge and Accessory after the facts charge. To accompany patrol to May River patrol post.  
 Census revised. Medical treatment given People in poor health.  
 Departed Inagri 1.00 PM  
 Arrived Amu 3.00 PM after proceeding through heavy sago swamps after leaving the headwaters of the Samo creek.  
 Campsite prepared.

Friday 28th August 1970.

Census revised at Amu. Medical treatment given.  
 Departed Amu 10.00 AM and moved towards Saniap river. Proceeded through flooded sago swamps near river and reached paddle canoes brought by Wanium people about 11.30 AM.  
 Proceeded by paddle canoe to Yei hamlet arriving 3.00 PM.  
 Campsite prepared.

Saturday 29th August 1970.

People from Yei hamlet gone off on hunting expedition. People sent out previous afternoon to locate them unsuccessful. Old hamlets searched to no avail. Reported to have moved further south and will probably return in a couple of months time.  
 Departed Yei 12.00 PM by paddle canoe and proceeded down Saniap creek arriving Wanium 2.00 PM. Met village officials - camped.

(15)

PATROL DIARY (CONTINUED)Sunday 30th August 1970.

Observed at Waniam.

Arrival of outboard motor canoe from May River in afternoon.

Monday 31st August 1970.

Census revised at Waniam. Medical treatment given and talks on political education. Shotgun permits inspected. Also trade store licences.

Departed Waniam 11.00 AM by outboard motor.

Arrived Ibu village 12.00 PM

Census revised. Talks on political education. Housing inspection. Medical treatment given.

Departed Ibu 2.00 PM

Proceeded up Painu creek to May river and on to May River patrol post arriving 4.00 PM.

Tuesday 1st September 1970.

Visited Wanamoi and Pekwe villages close to May River station. Census revised. Housing inspections conducted. Two civil complaints heard. Talks on education in relation to Pekwe SDA mission school. Census also conducted at Pekwe for Abagaisu.

Wednesday 2nd September 1970.

Visited Iabrem, Painu and Aumi villages close to May River station. Housing inspections conducted and census revised. Local Court conducted - shotgun complaint.

END OF PATROL DIARY

(14)

SITUATION REPORTINTRODUCTION

1. The area patrolled lies directly south of May River station. It also includes those villages on the May river in close proximity to the station.

2. The area patrolled to the south of the station consists of sago swamps and there is no relief from this. The small hamlets of one or two houses being built on small hills which can be observed from time to time.

3. The villages on May river included in this census division and those on Saniap creek are more readily contacted and appear more settled. They are more aware politically than the people to the south who are nomadic with no change from traditional ties.

4. The objects of the patrol were achieved. The census was conducted without real incident. The usual inspections were made of houses, shotgun permits. A police investigation was carried out at Inagri and a woman was charged with murder after it became clear that a case could be established against her.

5. It should be remembered by future patrols to recruit carriers close to the station on a casual basis. It is impossible to recruit from hamlets south of the station up the Samo creek. These hamlets have little population and the people there are primitive and nomadic.

6. The patrol received good co-operation from the Waniam people who travelled up river by paddle canoe for many miles against a strong current to meet the patrol near Amu hamlet. Their assistance was invaluable.

POLITICAL

1. This area suffers because it consists of three separate language groups. The people in the May river and Saniap river sections have no contact at all with the Samo creek people. They are regarded as traditional enemies and most times the Samo people travel further to the south on hunting expeditions. The Samo creek people consisting of the hamlets of Samo and Inagri as well as Amu and Yei hamlets further to the east are a very harsh people who roam about completely oblivious to the outside world. In fact they are so basically wild and out of touch that no one from these individual hamlets could possibly hold the office of village official. This patrol recommends that a man called Arokaino/ Saniga originally from Inagri who has spent five years or more in Kavieng be made luluai over the three hamlets of Samo, Inagri and Amu. The previous tul tuls will have to be revoked. One of them is on an Accessory After The Fact To Murder charge relating to the above mentioned murder. He tried to conceal the incident from the patrol.

An attempt was made on the May river villages and Saniap river villages to further political education by general reading from two books distributed by Political

(13)

POLITICAL (CONT)

Education Officer, Wewak, entitled 'Lokol Gavman' and 'Matias i Tok Tok Long Gavman'. The pictures in the books were a novelty to the people and showed some interest even if only from a curiosity angle. It was a change from the usual speech which usually leaves them bored and restless. Their attention seemed to last longer with the displaying of these books.

3. It is believed that people in the May river and Saniap river villages of Waniam and Ibu are interested in local government. From my observations they would appear ready to contribute a tax rate of \$0.50 to \$1.00. It is realised by them that the only possible way that departmental representatives will visit May river to discuss possible avenues of economic development with them is through Council meetings. They also realise that any capital projects or expansion of facilities such as health will only be had at Council level.

ECONOMIC

1. The only income obtained commercially is through the very limited sale of crocodile skins by Pekwe and Wanamoi villages. Also Waniam village sells some artifact-shields for a nominal amount to an Angoram trader.

2. The area has no agricultural potential. There is no relief throughout the area from the expanse of sago swamps.

3. It is unfortunate that International Nickel have apparently abandoned exploratory work in the area. It would have at least provided a limited source of local employment for a time even if no progress was visualised towards possible mining operations. It could have also limited the increasing number of adult male absentees from the area by providing some local attraction for the time being. The present adult male absentee rate is 32% and undoubtedly rising.

4. It is my belief that there are only two ways in which the Administration can help these people on economic lines. That is either to introduce local government which could be the necessary instrument to produce some thought towards projects. The other alternative is a re-settlement scheme although I could not imagine these people forsaking their area even if it consists only of useless swamps.

SOCIAL

1. I have never observed previously hamlets in such a depressing state as Inagri and Samo hamlets. Nearly every child under the age of five years was suffering from yaws and in some cases malnutrition. The yaws were observed as large sores surrounding the mouth. Most of the children had

SOCIAL (CONT)

not been washed for many days and the smell was vile when they had collected together for the census.

2. One of the other problems here was the dead were buried in shallow graves about two feet below the surface. The smell from these was beyond description. The graves were usually in close proximity to the houses and there was no escape from the smell because of the scarce alternative land available to make camp and conduct a census.

3. As mentioned earlier a woman from Inagri had been arrested by the patrol on a charge of murder. She was charged with murdering her five year-old daughter with a bush knife. The crack in the skull measured all of twelve inches. This is not the first instance of people from these two hamlets murdering their children. I refer you to May River Patrol Report No.6 of 1968/69. The only reason the matter was uncovered in this instance was because the patrol was passing through the area. Obviously many such murders have been hidden from the Administration.

4. Although I am not familiar with the Child Welfare Ordinance or its interpretations surely something could be done to have these children adopted out of these two hamlets for their own health and safety. The people professing to be the parents of these children are very harsh and unjust as can be seen by the poor health and history of murders.

5. I have yet to witness children living in such poverty with such a limited chance of real survival. I have taken colour slides of some of the cases of yaws observed which can be made available to Dept. Of Public Health.

6. Housing inspections at Wanium and Ibu led to the condemning of some houses to be replaced in one months' time. However constructions here are basically sound and these two hamlets appear to have settled down in normal village pattern. Both are quite sizeable villages.

7. Conditions of villages on May river were reasonable. The people appear to pay some attention to replacing poor housing frequently.

8. A small seventh day adventist mission school has commenced at Pekwe village near May River station. However as with other futile attempts to commence schools in the May River area it has had little co-operation from parents who will not insist on children attending school. This has led to irregular attendance with people providing all the excuses in the world. I have simply told these people that " education is not compulsory as such. However it can be recommended that the school be removed to Ambunti to people who appreciate the advantages of education. That if they wish to remain backward and not be prepared to help themselves that is up to them. That in comparison other areas

ilat

(11)

GRATION

SOCIAL (CONT)

are leaving them behind both socially and economically and after eventual Independence if they still hold the same attitude towards life they will probably be frowned upon by these other areas. This will place them at a big disadvantage.

MISCELLANEOUS

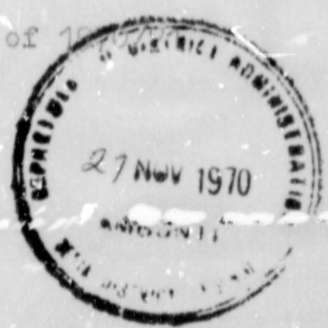
Nil.

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Amount Returned to Store

REPORT NO. MAY RIVER No. 3 of 1970

H.Q.



SUB-DISTRICT ANSONIA

DISTRICT EAST SEPIK

COUNCIL/NONCOUNCIL AREA NON COUNCIL AREA

PATROL CONDUCTED BY JOHN EDWARD WHITE

DESIGNATION PATROL OFFICER

AREA PATROLLED SEPIK MAY CE/SUB DIVISION

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL 2 members RRMGC, 1 medical orderly

DURATION OF PATROL Broken Period 21/9/70 to 1/10/70 and 6/10/70 to 8/10/70 14 days.

DATE AND DURATION OF LAST DDA PATROL TO AREA February 1970. 5 days

OBJECTS OF PATROL 1. Census revision. 2. Situation report and Area Study 3. Land Investigation.- Paupe village. 4. General Administration.

TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA PATROLLED 851

MAP REFERENCE May River Patrol No. 10 of 1969/70

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER ENCLOSED/ NOT ENCLOSED ENCLOSED

Area sketch filed.



67-8-25

Division of District Administration,

KONEDOBU.      PAPUA.

25th January, 1971.

The District Commissioner,  
East Sepik District,  
WEWAK.

PATROL NO. MAY RIVER 3 OF 1970/71.

Your reference is 67-1-13 of 7th December, 1970.

2. I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Annual Census, Area Study and Situation Report by Mr. J.E. White, Patrol Officer, of Sepik May Census Division.

3. Thank you for detailing the circumstances of the confrontation at Panawai Village. Mr. White may learn from this experience that it is dangerous to act with too much self-assurance when patrolling in remote areas without a police escort. I have no doubt that Mr. Assistant District Commissioner Bragge will competently retrieve the situation when he visits Panawai after the cooling down period.

4. Your and the Assistant District Commissioner's comments adequately cover the report; however, please recommend or otherwise comment on the patrolling officer's submission that Panawai be transferred into the Waniap May Census Division.

(T.W. ELLIS)  
Departmental Head.

c.c.  
Mr. J.E. White,  
Patrol Officer,  
c/- May River Patrol Post,  
VIA AMBUNTI.  
East Sepik District.

67-8-25

(16)



67-1-8

Division of District  
Administration,  
District Office,  
Honiara, East Sepik District.

7th December, 1970.

~~The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
AMBERIA.~~

MAY RIVER PATROL REPORT NO. 5 OF 1970/71

Thank you for the above report together with your covering memorandum.

The report is neat in presentation and most informative.

With reference to the incident reported by Mr. White on page 2 in diary entry Wednesday 7th October 1970 and elaborated upon on page 6, and covered to this office in confidential memorandum dated 17th October 1970, it is agreed that a return patrol should be made, but not before the expiration of five to six weeks to allow tempers or any other form of hostility to cool down. Mr. White should never have been in a position, without police, where his bluff was called and he was unable to do anything constructive as a consequence. No doubt he has learned an object lesson from this experience.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

→ c.c. to The Departmental Head,  
Department of the Administrator,  
KONEDOBU.

The background of the above incident referred to is that Mr. White visited Panawai Village without police and attempted to enforce a decision previously given by Mr. Pennefather that certain dilapidated houses had to be demolished; Mr. Pennefather's instruction had not been complied with and Mr. White then gave an ultimatum to the group to have the buildings demolished within three hours. This was not carried out by the people. During the night approximately one dozen men gathered outside the rest house and the tultul of the village informed Mr. White that the prisoners (Mr. White had convicted under the N.A.R.'s for not complying with his order to demolish the houses) would not be leaving the village with the patrol. Mr. White wisely did not press the matter. On his departure next day no assistance was given to him to move patrol gear to the water transportation. Mr. White states that he sensed the atmosphere as being "very hostile" and he was expecting trouble.

Mr. White has been verbally censured over the incident and the situation is, at the moment, that Mr. Bragge and Mr. White, with half a dozen police, will visit Panawai early in the new year to discuss the situation with village elders and attempt to take into custody the 4 men who were lawfully convicted. I will keep you advised on this matter.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

67-1-13

District Commissioner Administration  
Sub District Office  
AMBUNTI  
East Sepik District

30th November 1970

The District Commissioner  
East Sepik District  
WENAK

May River Patrol Report No 3/1970-71  
Sepik May Census Division

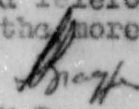
1. Attached please find: 4 copies of the above report  
1 copy of patrol map  
relevant camping allowance claim
2. Would you arrange to have a sun print of the map attached to each copy of the report please and three copies sent to Ambunti
3. My Comments are:  
Diary  
My confidential deals with the incident at Panawai (confid. of 17th Oct 1970). A follow up visit by myself, Mr White and half a dozen police will take place within one week.
4. The problem of outboard motors has been long recognised. At the present time Ambunti does not have a single functioning motor.

Situation Report

5. Para 5 of Political - separate correspondence attached.
6. Para 6 and 7 Economic and Political development ideally should go hand in hand. Problems are foreseen for the Pauye Taiwari and Iniek people. The most favourable aspect of these people in this regard is that there are not very many of them.

Area Study

7. The area study is self explanatory. Village Population Registers will be forwarded under separate correspondence. The report is another concise well written document from Mr White.
8. The eastern sector of this division could come into contact with a major mining operation in Carpentaria Explorations holding in the Frieda River. The overall effect on these primitive sago eaters of the rivers and swamps will be difficult to tell or forecast.
9. Economically they must benefit, but the fact that the Mining Co already have started turning away from the Sepik plains people and towards the highland Telefomin people as a source of labour, is indicative that the more energetic highlanders will benefit far more.

  
L.W. Bragge  
Assistant District Commissioner

(15)

PATROL DIARYMonday 21st September 1970.

Preparations depart Sepik May patrol. Departed Mowí River patrol post 4.00 PM by outboard motor accompanied two police and medical orderly.

Arrived Iemombui 2.30 PM.  
Met village officials - camped.

Tuesday 22nd September 1970.

Census revised at Iemombui. Inspection shotgun permits. Talks on local government, economic development. Medical treatment given.

Departed Iemombui 10.30 AM. Headed up Sepik river for Panewai village. Outboard motor breakdown 12.30 PM. Drifted back downriver to Iemombui arriving 4.00 PM.  
Camped.

Wednesday 23rd September 1970.

Able to obtain local Archimedes motor. Departed Iemombui 9.00 AM  
Arrived Mowí 10.00 AM  
Census revised at Mowí. Talks on local government, economic development. Medical treatment given.  
Camped.

Thursday 24th September 1970.

Departed Mowí 9.00 AM  
Arrived Iniock 11.00 AM  
Census revised. Medical treatment given. Lengtay talks on possible economic development, local government. Inspection, housing. Shotgun permits.

Friday 25th September 1970.

Departed Iniock 8.00 AM  
Proceeded by outboard motor into Freida river and then up a creek to Auom village. Going hard due to low level of lake.  
Arrived Auom 11.30 AM.  
Census revised. Talks on political education, local government. Also talks on economic development. Medical treatment given. Housing inspection. One local court case held.  
Camped.

Saturday 26th September 1970.

Departed Auom 8.00 AM  
Proceeded back to Iniock arriving 10.30 AM.  
Camped.

Sunday 27th September 1970.

Departed by local outboard motor by double canoe from Iniock 9.00 AM. Proceeded up Freida river towards Paupe - motor breakdown 11.00 AM. Returned mouth of Freida river and proceeded very slowly to Mowí village arriving 5.00 PM.  
Camped.

PATROL DIARY (CONT)Monday 28th September 1970.

Obtained another local outboard motor and proceeded by double canoe from Kowi 8.00 AM. Arrived mouth of Freida river 10.00 AM. Outboard motor breakdown - repairs. Departed again 1.15 PM and proceeded up Freida river towards Paupe village. Many breakdowns against heavy current. Finally arrived 10.30 PM. Proceeded slowly at night - many snags. Camped.

Tuesday 29th September 1970.

At Paupe - census revised. Talks on economic development - local government. Inspection housing, shotguns.

Land investigation - application bulk storage and trade store site by Las Komani - chain and compass survey completed.

Wednesday 30th September 1970.

Departed Paupe 8.00 AM by local outboard motor. Proceeded down Freida river arriving Sepik river 1.00 PM.

Proceeded up to Mowi village arriving 4.00 PM. Progress very slow - motor in poor condition. Camped.

Thursday 1st October 1970.

Departed Mowi 8.00 AM  
Proceeded to mouth of May River and then up May River to May River station arriving 2.00 PM.  
Unpacking cargo - met Medical Assistant Ambunti and held discussions.

Tuesday 6th October 1970.

Departed May river by local outboard motor to complete Sepik May census patrol.

Proceeded down May river to Sepik river arriving 10.30 PM. Proceeded up Sepik river until 6.00 PM. Arrived at bush house and camped.

Wednesday 7th October 1970.

Proceeded up river for one hour arriving near Panewai village. Walked for ten minutes to edge of lake. Proceeded by paddle canoe to Panewai village some twenty minutes across lake.

Census conducted. Medical treatment given. Talks on local government, economic development. People ordered to pull down five houses found in shocking condition. People refused. Local court held in afternoon. Four men convicted.

Thursday 8th October 1970.

Four convicted men refused to return May River. People refused paddle canoes or carry cargo. No police escort at village so could not enforce decision. To return May River to obtain police.

Departed Panewai 6.00 AM  
Returned Sepik river 7.20 AM  
Departed for May River station arriving 2.00 PM.

END OF PATROL DIARY

(13)

SITUATION REPORTINTRODUCTION

1. The patrol was mounted over a two-week period during September/October. The purposes of the patrol were annual census revision, situation report and area study and a chain and compass land investigation survey carried out at Paupe village. Also general administrative services such as local court hearings were to be conducted as required.

2. The area patrolled has unfortunate disadvantages. The census division has no unification because of the great distances travelled between the various villages. In fact to give some idea it would be about 150 miles from Panewai to Paupe village and it could be said that these two villages would have no knowledge of one another.

3. The villages as a whole are settled under Administration influence. However they are obviously unsettled for economic reasons as can be readily seen during visits to these villages. Apart from casual employment at Carpentaria Explorations they have no real activity to occupy them such as cash cropping.

4. The patrol suffered because of continual breakdowns of outboard motors. In one incident the patrol personnel were endangered in the headwaters of the Freida river at night against a heavy current because of these breakdowns.

5. Because of the great distances to be travelled in this census division it is suggested that future patrols carry a spare motor. It is further suggested that local motors should not be used except in an emergency. They are unreliable and often break down many miles from communication.

6. The objects of the patrol were achieved. An unfortunate incident that will require a separate patrol to Panewai will be dealt with under SOCIAL in the situation report.

POLITICAL

1. The area exists under the village official system. The difficulty here is that no individuals including luluais and tul tuls have a great influence over the people. It is traditional that they just will not be subject to much authority.

2. The people here appear to be in what could be called a transition period. They are now living reasonably peacefully under the luluai system but are restless for more activity on economic lines. They appeared during the patrol to show sustained interest towards local government. They now believe local government may be the necessary level to enthuse some economic development.

3. During political discussions in villages an effort was made to discover how aware people were towards the national political scene. All villages have serviceable radios and must absorb some of the repetitive discussions held on Radio Wewak.

POLITICAL (CONT)

However although they have some knowledge of the House of Assembly and functions of members they ~~show~~ show little interest in political parties.

4. As stated they are interested in the introduction of local government and how it can effect their normal pattern of life. This is absorbing most of their "political" interest at the moment.

5. It is believed there is a need for a revision of census division boundaries in the area. Panewai village should be included in the Waniap May census division. Panewai is four hours walk from Ama which includes the villages of Kauvia and Wobaru. The area between Ama and Panewai has obvious potential for cash cropping. With the development of the airstrip at Ama Panewai people are showing interest in this area. In the Sepik May census division they are about 70 miles from the nearest village Iemombui. It takes 10 hours by outboard motor from Iemombui to reach Panewai. It would appear more feasible to reach this village as part of the Waniap May patrol.

6. As stated earlier people here appear to be going through a transition period. The most prominent example would be Paupe village on the Freida river. They have some ties with the Taiwari people on the Leonard Schultz river although they claim these are not traditional. Taiwari is a backward area which has seen only two or three regular patrols. On the other hand they are witnessing some large scale economic development in their area through Carpentaria Explorations. Paupe is the off-loading point for Carpentaria supplies arriving from Ambunti. During the patrol's visit a bulldozer transported by barge arrived from Wewak. The equipment owned by Mr Frank Martin was en route to an airstrip site that is undergoing construction. The airstrip site would border the Telefomin sub-district.

7. It is hard to gauge at the moment the effect this development is having on these people. They are basically superstitious people whose life is governed by the spirit world. While at the village an old man died and the luluai came and asked me if I would go to Wanium village and ask the people if they were the ones who sent the evil spirit that killed him. They were convinced of this. At the same time on the opposite bank of the river stood a bulldozer representing development in the modern world. It is hoped that cult movements will not develop. The situation will have to be watched.

ECONOMIC

1. Panewai village is the only area where cash cropping potential exists. The people here were told that a Farmer Trainee is resident at Ienewe and they should ask him to visit their village. Reference my patrol No. 1 of 1970/71 on this matter. The farmer trainee has not been active and the people have shown little enthusiasm.

2. As discussed with the people in most

ECONOMIC (CONT)

villages local government could help provide them with answers to what possibilities exist in an area so severely limited economically. The villages of Iniek, Mowi and Iemombui are situated on the Sepik river and they are not far from any other villages.

3. At the moment Iniek, Mowi, Auom and Iemombui villages earn a limited income from crocodile skins. However the income is irregular and most people are inactive in this field.

4. The main source of income comes from wage labour. The census division has a 37% adult male absentee rate which is employed as casual labour either on New Britain plantations or with Carpentaria Explorations on the Freida river.

5. Unless local government can enthrone some economic development into this depressed area it is anticipated the absentee rate will increase. It is unfortunate but unless an area can provide local attraction a high absentee rate will always be the case. At least absentees are not of a nature of permanent migrations. After serving a two-year period on plantations they return to the villages. Very few at the moment have taken up permanent residence in the towns.

6. Villages such as Mowi and Auom have trade stores operating. However as with many village trade stores have little in stock on most occasions. It appears that most people on the river still purchase most goods either at May River Las Kompani store or from visits by Sepik River Safaris who sell trade store items on their houseboat.

7. I believe it would be beneficial if Dept. Of Trade and Industry could conduct a course for trade store operators at Ambunti. It is certainly needed here as operators have little idea of the mechanics of store management.

SOCIAL

1. The traditional way of life has basically been uninterrupted. Much of their way of life is governed by superstition and the belief in the 'masalai' in various forms is prevalent. The women carry out their daily tasks of fishing in paddle canoes and gathering sago. The men are sometimes occupied with hunting trips or visiting other villages for social reasons.

2. There has been little mission activity in the area. The Assemblies of God mission has made infrequent visits along the river and has established a small school at Auom village.

3. It is amazing how aware the people are in some directions. This is especially so with education. The people realise that the small school at Auom is nominal only regards being a facility for formal education. In fact they actually frown upon it. They have reached a stage in this direction where they wish their children to have the opportunity of a proper primary school education.

4. The patrol was accompanied by the tul tul from Pekwe near May River station. He stressed the importance of education and asked that the various groups combine to assist the Seventh Day Adventist mission



(10)

SOCIAL (CONT)

establish native material dormitories at Penwe. This may encourage parents to send children to the school if they realise some accommodation exists.

5. The patrol was accompanied by the medical orderly from May River station. The usual complaints were treated - these villages on the Sepik river always suffer from large sores especially as observed with young children. They use the Sepik river for washing and it seems infections stem from this.

6. The only local court conducted was at Auom village where three men were convicted and fined for failing to line for the census. No criminal offences were reported by Sepik river villages. At Paupe village a complaint of assault involving Taiwari village on the Leonard Schultz river was reported. Taiwari village is administered from Ambunti and the matter has been passed on accordingly by letter.

7. As mentioned earlier an unfortunate incident occurred at Panewai. It involved peoples' refusal to destroy houses condemned by the patrol. The houses were condemned under the Native Administration Regulations. Court action had to be taken against those refusing the order. Correspondence on this matter has been forwarded to District Commissioner, Wewak.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nil.

*John E. White*  
.....  
John E. White  
Patrol Officer

REPORT No.

MAY RIVER No. 4 of 1970/71

(17)

SUB-DISTRICT

AMBUNTI

DISTRICT

EAST SYIK

COUNCIL/NON COUNCIL AREA

NON COUNCIL AREA

PATROL CONDUCTED BY

JOHN EDWARD WHITE

DESIGNATION

PATROL OFFICER

AREA PATROLLED

ABEI MAY CENSUS DIVISION

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING  
PATROL

4 members of R.P.N.G.C.  
1 medical orderly  
1 outboard motor operator

DURATION OF PATROL

Broken Periods  
26/10/70 to 29/10/70  
and  
31/10/70 to 11/11/70  
16 days

DATE AND DURATION OF LAST  
DDA PATROL TO AREA

January 1970. 6 days.

OBJECTS OF PATROL

1. Census Revision.
2. Publication Prospecting Authority.
3. Area Study and Situation Report.
4. Investigate possible abduction of  
~~women~~ women Usalimin.area.

TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA PATROLLED

556

MAP REFERENCE

May River Patrol Report No.2 of 1969/70.

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER ENCLOSED/NOT ENCLOSED

ENCLOSED

*John Edward White*

67-8-26

Division of District Administration,

KONERObu.

PAPUA.

25th January, 1971.

The District Commissioner,  
East Sepik District,  
WEWAK.

PATROL MAY RIVER NO. 4 OF 1970/71.

Your reference is 67-1-13 of 7th December, 1970.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Annual Census, Area Study and Situation Report by Mr. J.E. White, Patrol Officer, of Abel May Census Division.

Both your and the Assistant District Commissioner's remarks adequately cover this report.

The enmity existing between the apparently aggressive Mianmin Group and the Burumai Group will require watching, and every effort should be made to extend Administration influence in this area by regular patrolling, and by enlarging the villagers' contacts with May River Station.

(T.W. ELLIS)  
Departmental Head.

c.c.  
Mr. J.E. White,  
Patrol Officer,  
c/- Patrol Post,  
MAY RIVER, VIA AMBUNTI.  
East Sepik District.

67-8-26

(19)

67-1-13



Division of District  
Administration,  
District Office,  
MEKAM, East Sepik District.

7th December, 1970.

~~The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
ABUNU.~~

MAY RIVER WROL REPORT NO. 4 OF 1970/71

Thank you for the above report and your covering memorandum 67-1-13 of 30th November 1970. This report is concise and most informative and it would appear that Mr. White is getting some valuable experience in the May River area.

With regard to the incident at Usalimin, I am not as yet in receipt of your correspondence. However this incident, together with the one that occurred at Panawai vide Patrol Report No. 3 from Mr. White, seems to indicate that you should make it quite clear to him the need to use the utmost patience and caution in attempting to arrest people in these remote areas, more particularly so when he has only a limited number of police. However, before assessing the situation further I will await your correspondence on the matter.

As regards Mr. Cameron's economic/commercial activities in the area, please keep this office fully advised on any proposed activities of Mr. Cameron which would include natives contributing money to any of Mr. Cameron's numerous schemes; however, at the same time it is refreshing to see a European taking an interest in motivating economic activity in the area.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

→ c.c. to The Departmental Head,  
Department of the Administrator,  
KONEDOBU.

For your information and records please.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

67-1-13

(A)

Division of District Administration  
Sub District Office  
AMBUNTI  
East Sepik District

30th November 1970

The District Commissioner  
East Sepik District  
WEWAK

May River Patrol No 4/1970-71 ABEI May

1. Attached please find: 4 copies of the above report  
1 copy patrol map  
No copy camping allowance received
2. Would you arrange for sun print copies to be attached to the several copies of the report and three copies returned to AMBUNTI Please.

3. My comments are as follows:

Situation report

The incident at Usalimin will be discussed in separate correspondence.

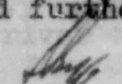
4. Area Study

Possibilities of expanding the economy.

The crop sought is Copal gum. Mr Cameron of Wewak has formed what is known as May River Development Company, and it is his stated aim to exploit copal gum throughout the mountainous area in the south of the May River administrative area. If this eventuates, the foundations of the local economy could be completed. Mr Camerons motives are considered suspect however as stated in previous confidential correspondence.

5. My approach towards these primitive Mianmin people would not be initially to impose cash cropping (which without adequate base training in work methods, value of money and a wider taste of civilisation would be doomed to failure,) but to increase contact with them, gain their respect and then bring them down to work on the May River airstrip job on a voluntary basis, with the Administration providing food. In this way they will obtain pride in achievement and will identify themselves with May River station.

6. The fact is that these people are primitives and should be treated as such. In 1966/67 when patrolling the Mianmin groups immediately south of this division the people expressed willingness to work on airstrip construction jobs, and assisted the patrol on two airstrip surveys in their area. Before they will work however they will have to be "won over" to the Administration, and when brought in to May River, they will have to be cared for and made a "fuss" over so than ordinary labourers. This will be discussed further with OIC May River next week at May River.

  
L.W. Bragge  
Assistant District Commissioner

(16)

PATROL DIARYMonday 26th October 1970.

Preparations to depart Mianmin patrol.  
 Departed May River by outboard motor  
 double canoe with patrol personnel and some permanent  
 carriers.

Proceeded up river to Burumai village  
 arriving 3.30 PM.

Camp prepared. Attempted radio conversation  
 Ambunti - failed.

Camped.

Tuesday 27th October 1970.

Census revised at Burumai for Burumai  
 and Unani villages. Talks on prospecting authority,  
 political education. Medical treatment given.

Radio conversation Wewak.

Wednesday 28th October 1970.

Radio conversation with Ambunti.

Informed witnesses required for Supreme  
 Court hearing at Ambunti.

Dispatched outboard motor canoe to Mianmin  
 village to collect witnesses. On return further dispatched  
 to Arai village to collect further witnesses.

Thursday 29th October 1970.

Departed for May River witnesses for  
 Supreme Court hearing.

Arrived May River 11.00 AM. Radio  
 conversation with Ambunti.

Arranged transport for witnesses to  
 Ambunti.

At May River.

Saturday 31st October 1970.

Continuation of patrol - departed  
 May River 8.45 AM.

Arrived Burumai 12.15 PM. Obtained rations  
 stored in resthouse previous Thursday.

Departed Burumai 12.30 PM

Arrived Yuwaitri 1.30 PM after proceeding  
 up river by outboard motor.

Campsite prepared.

Sunday 1st November 1970.

At Yuwaitri.

Census revised for Yuwaitri and Aimi  
 hamlets. Talks on prospecting authority. Medical treatment  
 given. Some discussion on political education.

Monday 2nd November 1970.

Departed Yuwaitri by double canoe 8.00 AM.

Proceeded up river towards Tumauwi  
 village. At 10.30 AM held up by heavy current. On one  
 bend nearly capsized. Regired down river to wait for  
 current from heavy rain to subside. Towards Tumauwi  
 patrol strikes headwaters rapids.

At 3.00 PM proceeded slowly up river  
 arriving Tumauwi 4.00 PM.

Camped.

(15)

PATROL DIARY (CONTINUED)Tuesday 3rd November 1970.

Census revised for people at Tamauwi. Talks on prospecting authority. Some minor civil complaints settled. Medical treatment given. Departed Tamauwi village 11.00 AM. Proceeded up river against heavy current. Progress slow. Arrived Mianmin village 3.00 PM. Camped.

Wednesday 4th November 1970.

At Mianmin. Census revised. Talks on prospecting authority. Medical treatment given. Some civil matters heard and discussed.

Thursday 5th November 1970.

Departed Mianmin village 9.00 AM and proceeded up river by double canoe. Carriers and most patrol personnel walking. Proceeded in heavy current. On some occasions the canoe had to be pushed and pulled through rapids.

Arrived Usalimin 12.00 PM. Camp prepared. Initial census for the group conducted in afternoon. Medical treatment given. Talks on prospecting authority. Investigation into complaint about two women abducted from Tafiawi village in Green River administrative area. Women located and interviewed. Also two accused interviewed. No charges made because as yet lack of evidence.

Friday 6th November 1970.

One of the suspected men and one of the women absconded during the night. Other people involved to accompany patrol.

Departed by foot from ~~Mianmin~~ Usalimin 9.00 AM. Proceeded west through swamp arriving Muni river 10.30 AM.

Proceeded up Muni river turning south. Crossed the Muni river about 1.00 PM. Followed a tributary of the Muni due south for 1 hour.

At 2.00 PM made camp on hill overlooking Muni river area.

Saturday 7th November 1970.

Broke camp at 8.30 AM and followed tributary of Muni river till 10.00 AM.

Then re-crossed it and turned in an easterly direction.

Crossed several small creeks in headwaters of the Muni river and proceeded south-east.

At 1.00 PM came to new large garden area of Fiyarimin ~~of the~~ people. Observed some four new housing constructions.

Made camp here in excellent position next to fresh water stream.

At 4.00 PM some Fiyarimin people came to the camp and brief discussions were made and trade goods distributed.

PATROL DIARY (CONTINUED)Sunday 8th November 1970.

Observed at Fiyarimin.

Monday 9th November 1970.

Initial census conducted at Fiyarimin. Medical treatment given. Talks on prospecting authority and law and order. Trade goods including salt, paint and matches distributed.

At 10.00 AM broke camp and returned in direction of Muni river to previous camp overlooking Muni river area. Arrived 2.00 PM. Camp prepared.

Tuesday 10th November 1970.

During night another suspect escaped - regarding abducted women. The woman he abducted from Green River still held by patrol.

Broke camp and departed 9.00 AM. Heavy rain in morning delayed departure. At 10.00 AM forded Muni river which was flooded. Some difficulty encountered.

Arrived back at Usalimin village 3.00 PM. On arrival an arrest made regarding abduction of women. Also a small child also brought from Green River area taken by patrol. One small child already accompanying patrol. People on opposite bank of river became very excited at this and began brandishing bows and arrows. Other men on opposite bank were seen carrying spears. At night efforts made to cool tempers. Some four village elders kept away from the patrol during patrol's attempt at night to hold talks. At night police and myself on guard against possible attack.

Wednesday 11th November 1970.

At 9.00 AM broke camp and proceeded back to Mianmin village. Accompanied by the one woman and two children.

At Mianmin one of the escapees followed the patrol and gave himself up.

Departed Mianmin and returned to May River station arriving 7.00 PM.

END OF PATROL DIARY



SITUATION REPORT

(13)

INTRODUCTION

1. The area was patrolled during October/November period for purposes of census revision, publication prospecting authority No. 197 and to complete an area situation report. Also to investigate rumours that two women from Tafiawi village in the Green River administrative area had been abducted by Mianmin men.

2. An initial census was completed for Usalimin and Fiyarimin groups. The Fiyarimin group were contacted by Mr M.E. Tomlinson's patrol no.2 of 1969/70. Publication was given to Propecting Authority No. 197 as applied for by Eastern Pacific Mines P/L. There appear to be no objections to the Company carrying out exploratory work in the area. Investigations are still being carried out into the alleged abduction of two women from Tafiawi. One woman and two children along with two accused men have been brought to May River station.

3. An incident that occurred at Usalimin village will require some comment under the following heading POLITICAL. At one stage the patrol could very easily have been attacked when a man from Usalimin became excited and tried to stir others.

4. It is advised that future patrols to this area do not attempt to proceed by outboard motor past Mianmin village. It is advised that patrols commence walking from this point. It is further suggested that future patrols recruit about half their carrier line from Mianmin men. These are excellent carriers and are skilled at crossing flooded rivers which are prevalent here. The rest of the carriers could be made up from villages close to May River station.

5. The Mianmin group which includes the villages of Tumaui, Mianmin, Usalimin and Fiyarimin are unsophisticated socially. However they are certainly a group that would take advantage of any economic potential once they were settled under Administration influence. It is unfortunate that they are so far distant from any communication. The Burumai people are part of the linguistic group that extends to the Sepik river and have nothing really in common with the Mianmins. The Yuwaitri, Unani and Aimi people form another small linguistic group who appear despondent and keep to themselves most of the time.

POLITICAL

1. To explain the above incident at Usalimin I will list events as they occurred beginning on 5th November.

2. On this date the patrol arrived at Usalimin village during the afternoon and the people were gathered together. The provisional luluai named Mekilim/Fagana was asked about the abduction and he claimed he knew nothing about it. The patrol then read out the names of three women from Tafiawi and two men from Usalimin who were supposed to have abducted them. One of the two men was located. The people were asked where the other man was and they said he was in a house away from the village. The provisional luluai Mekilim was instructed to accompany two police to locate him. He refused saying it was too far and his legs were not strong enough for much walking. Another man accompanied the two police and they returned twenty minutes later with the man and two women and a small child. The two women were from Green River Tafiawi village and the child was also from Green River.

POLITICAL (CONTINUED)

They were verbally interviewed at night (no written statements taken) and told me they were not abducted and a bride price was paid for them. One of the women claimed also she was the natural mother of the child. They claimed they were married to the same man and he died. They had no one to look after the child and the woman's permission to go to Usalimin. At this stage I informed the women and the men involved that they would have to come to May River station with the patrol to have their story verified by Green River station.

3. During the night one of the women and one of the accused men absconded. The remaining man, woman and child involved accompanied the patrol to Fiyarimin village. During the return leg of the journey to Usalimin on the night of the 9th November the other man escaped the patrol.

4. The patrol returned to Usalimin on the afternoon of the 10th November. When the other man had escaped and the woman was left by herself with the patrol she changed her story and now claimed that she was taken against her will. The patrol also learnt at this stage that there was another child involved and he was being kept by the provisional luluai Mekilim. Mekilim had not mentioned him previously and had not brought him to the census.

5. Although no written statements had been taken it was obvious the man Mekilim had attempted to conceal the affair and coupled with the two men escaping the patrol I was gravely suspicious.

6. I arrested the man Mekilim on the afternoon of the 10th and he was placed in handcuffs. A man from Mianmin named Kimon who is quite influential among his people was dispatched to the other side of the river to collect the child who was being held by Mekilim. On his return he was standing on the bank of the river when a man suddenly appeared brandishing bow and arrows. He challenged the patrol to come across the other side and fight him and told Kimon he would fight him and kill him if he took the child away. Kimon then started to paddle across the river with the child. The man ran behind some bushes at the edge of the river and it was thought may fire some arrows at Kimon but nothing eventuated. A few minutes after this several men appeared on the opposite bank of the river with spears and bows and arrows. They claimed they were returning from a hunting trip but it looked doubtful.

7. The man who had been brandishing the bow and arrows came to the side of the river and said to send a policeman across to buy taro. The request was refused and I asked them to send the taro across to our camp and I would buy it. They promptly did this. I then asked that the people across the river come to the camp at night to discuss law and order so that they could be shown why the women and children and the men involved must return to May River station.

8. Some of the men came across the river and talks were held. They appeared quite happy with the situation. It was observed however that two or three of the elders has not come across to the meeting including the man who had ~~not~~ brandished the bow and arrows. One of my police also claimed that he saw some men earlier on the opposite bank of the river moving off down river.

9. The people on the same side of the river as the patrol came to the camp with all their spears and bows and arrows and claimed they had no wish to fight the patrol. This move on their part seemed legitimate. I was still wary of certain people on the opposite bank and during the night myself and the four police remained armed

POLITICAL (CONTINUED)

and ready against possible attack.

10. Nothing eventuated during the night. In the ~~night~~ morning the man who had behaved threateningly with the bow and arrows named Kololu/ Amanen came across the river. He was told he had broken the law and would have to accompany the patrol to May River. He agreed to this. The patrol departed with an old man on the opposite bank continually yelling to the patrol. He was more or less telling the patrol to look after his brother Mekilim and if we didn't he would take action.

11. The patrol returned downriver to Mianmin where one of the men who had escaped earlier came to the patrol and gave himself up. He stated the only reason he gave himself up was because the patrol still held the woman who was to be his wife. The patrol then proceeded to May River station.

12. The area is administered under the village official system. All luluais seem to hold at least some influence over their respective groups. More so probably than other villages in the May River administrative area. The Mianmins respect the Government's law and order but being unsophisticated are easily excited.

13. The Mianmins and Burumai group are traditional enemies. The Yuwaitri/ Aimi group are the weaker group in this census division and many from this group have been captured by Mianmins. Some men from Mianmin can tell stories about former times when they were captured as young children and raised by the Mianmins. It seems to be a strong tradition of the Mianmin group to capture people from weaker groups after a skirmish and bring to their camp to live.

14. The other strong enemy of the Mianmin group is the Sori people in the Arai census division. In the past there has been much tribal fighting between the groups.

15. One interesting fact about the Mianmins also is that they seem to be able to converse language-wise with the people of the Idam area of the Green River administrative area. It appears to be more developed than a trade language. There appears to be a small amount of inter-marriage between the groups. The relationship has probably developed from hunting expeditions. The Mianmins have obviously been hunting on land belonging to the Idam group further to the north.

16. The Mianmins still maintain close ties with their own linguistic group in the Telefomin sub-district mainly Kusaremin and Mawaimin villages on the Fiak river. It is believed that some still walk through to Telefomin station on occasions.

17. The Fiyarimin people were asked previously to move further down the Muri river towards Usalimin to make them easier to administer. They have failed to do this as the land further to the south seems more fertile. If they do not move then it will mean as with this patrol that a two-day walk is required to find the group.

18. There seemed little point in expanding talks on the House Of Assembly. Most concentration was on the role of village officials and maintaining law and order. Most people have some comprehension of this and these talks should be consolidated by future patrols.

ECONOMIC

1. This area is depressed from an economic viewpoint. No cash crops exist although potential does exist for this in the Mianmin area. Much arable land exists in this area but unfortunately the difficulties of being too distant by river from any communication.

2. It is indeed unfortunate that International Nickel have given up exploratory work in the area. Many men from Mianmin village were employed by the Company and now they are idle.

3. The patrol publicised prospecting authority No. 197 by Eastern Pacific Mines P/L. The area under the authority takes in land owned probably jointly by Burumai and Mianmin groups. The area lies adjacent to the present Suwana land under dispute by these two groups. When the Company commences exploratory work it will have to be careful on recruitment of casual labour. Men from both these villages will have to be employed if possible to prevent further grievances.

4. People from all villages were informed of the prospecting authority. Explanations were made of proposed activities and the reasons why Company employees would be coming on to their land. Possible benefits such as regular employment and training for young men as well as education were explained if minerals were found and the Company considered the situation feasible to carry out mining operations. The people made no objections to the prospecting authority and in fact welcomed it as a possible way of providing economic improvement.

5. At the time of the patrol 15 men were absent working on New Britain plantations. 3 men were employed by Carpentaria Explorations Ltd at Freida river. Apart from this the only money coming into the census division is a nominal from sale of crocodile skins by Burumai people.

SOCIAL

1. The patrol was accompanied by a medical orderly from Ambunti. Medical treatment was given to all villages visited. Health in the area is generally quite good. The usual minor ailments were treated.

2. It is believed housing standards in this census division are superior to that of some of the more sophisticated areas close to May River station. This is especially so at Mianmin village which is quite picturesque.

3. Efforts were made to try to interest Mianmin people to send a few of their children to the SDA mission school at Pekwe when school recommences next year. The people were informed that native material dormitories were being constructed by the Pekwe people. However it is doubtful whether any children will attend.

4. The diet of the Mianmin people is taro, bananas, paw paw and fresh meat when available. Burumai people are mainly sago-eaters. The sago swamps cut out towards the May River headwaters and so ~~large~~ taro takes over as the staple diet grown in abundance on fertile land.

(9)

SOCIAL (CONTINUED)

5. As far as Mianmin village the people appear to favour European clothing as finance becomes available to purchase. Further into the headwaters the villages of Usalimin and Fiyarimin still have the traditional dress of penis gourds for men and grass skirts. The men have very little decoration.

6. No mission has ever operated in the area. It appears that this situation will not change in the foreseeable future. It is a pity because around Mianmin village the area is very picturesque and the land fertile. It would be an excellent site for a mission station.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nil.

END OF SITUATION REPORT

PATROL REPORT NO. 5. 70/71

BY

=

J. B. WHITE

MAY RIVER

EAST SEPIC DISTRICT

HNC:KP

67-16-39

Division of District Administration,

KONELOBU, PAPUA.

4th March, 1971.

The District Commissioner,  
East Sepik District,  
WEWAK.

MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 5/70-71.

Your reference 67-1-13 of 16th February, 1971.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Annual Census and Situation Report by Mr. J.E. White, Assistant District Officer to part ARAI-MAY Census Division.

Mr. White's report amply covers the patrol activities which were made more difficult than usual because of the wet season.

The position regarding the securing of carriers is not restricted to the area patrolled but appears to be spreading throughout the Territory.

I agree with your proposal in bringing village officials and village elders to observe the AMBUNTI Local Government Council in action and to attend simple lectures on Political Education. It is a worthwhile move to try and make these people aware of the activities around them.

C.C. The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
WEWAK.

(T.W. ELLIS)  
Secretary.

cc:

Mr. J.E. White,  
Assistant District Officer,  
MAY RIVER Patrol Post,  
East Sepik District.

67-16-39.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

9

67-1-13

Department of the Administrator,  
Division of District Administration,  
District Office,  
WEWAK, East Sepik District.



16th February 1971

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

MAY RIVER PATROL REPORT NO. 5 OF 1970/71

Receipt is acknowledged of the abovementioned report together with your covering memorandum 67-1-13 of the 5th February, 1971.

It would be appreciated if you could take some steps to have some of the village officials and village elders from this area visit Ambunti for a period of approximately two weeks to observe the functioning of the Ambunti Local Government Council, and also to have a simple series of lectures on Political Education arranged for them. In this latter respect, I am sure that Mr. Blackburn, the Political Education Officer, would visit Ambunti to carry out the necessary lectures.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
District Commissioner.

c.c. The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
→ KONEDOBU.

For your information and records please.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
District Commissioner.



67-1-13

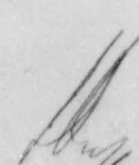
8  
Division of District  
Administration,  
Sub District Office,  
AMBUNTI  
East Sepik District.

5th February 1971

District Commissioner,  
East Sepik District,  
Wewak.

May River Patrol Report No. 4/1970-71

1. Attached please find four copies of the above report, covering part of the ARAI MAY Division, together with relevant camping allowance claims and patrol map.
2. The V.P.R.'s for the part division have been returned to the Officer In Charge, May River in accordance with para 12 page 23 of the standing instructions.
3. The patrol covers some of what must be the Territory's most pathetic people - economically destitute and politically apathetic. The reports is depressing reading, and it can be seen that the patrolling officer has subconsciously asked himself the questions "Is it worth the effort."
4. For your information and onforwarding please.

  
L. W. Brage,

Assistant District Commissioner.

c.c. Officer In Charge,  
Patrol Post,  
May River.

13th January 1971

Departed 12.00 PM for patrol Arai May census division accompanied by 4 police and medical orderly. Travelled by double canoe 7.5 km up river up the May river to Arai village arriving 7.00 PM.  
Camped.

14th January 1971

At Arai.  
Census revised.  
Talks on political education, economic development. Inspection shotgun permits. Housing inspection conducted.  
Camped.

15th January 1971

Departed Arai 8.00 AM by double canoe. Proceeded up Arai river for three hours arriving at campsite for Nimo hamlet.  
Prepared camp. Met local village officials. Waiting for Nimo and Wasuai groups to arrive for census.  
Camped.

16th January 1971

Census revised at Nimo for Nimo and Wasuai groups. Medical treatment given. Talks on political education.  
Departed by double canoe proceeding up Arai river arriving Watabung ( Junction Arai and Iriawi rivers) 11.00 AM  
Proceeded overland by foot through sago swamps for three hours arriving at camp of Didipas group 2.00 PM.  
Prepared campsite. Camped.

17th January 1971

Census revised at Didipas. Talks on political education. Medical treatment given.  
Departed Didipas 10.30 AM  
Proceeded back to Watabung arriving 2.00 PM. Sent canoe back to Nimo to collect rest of cargo. On return proceeded up river to Augot (Sari) arriving 3.00 PM.  
Campsite prepared.

18th January 1971

Rested at Augot.

19th January 1971

Census revised at Augot. Medical treatment given. Attempted talks at Augot but people became excited when a small pig attempted to run away. They all ran off including the so-called luluai to find it. Most did not return.

Carriers from Arai said they did not wish to carry cargo any further and were paid off. Local people would not carry cargo claiming they were not energetic enough. Camped again to decide what to do.

20th January 1971

Heavy overnight rain. Arai river rose over its banks. Camp flooded and sago swamps badly flooded making walking impossible. For this reason and lack of carriers decided to terminate patrol and return to May River station.

Departed 9.00 AM. Attempted to proceed by motor double canoe downriver. Canoe caught in current and many times caught by overhanging branches. Proceeded slowly and arrived at mouth 2.00 PM. Proceeded to May River station arriving 3.30 PM.

END OF PATROL DIARY

5

5  
/

INTRODUCTION

1. It was originally intended that this patrol be mounted to fully patrol this census division and so complete census revision for 1970/71 in May River administrative area. However only the lower section of the census division was completed. A further patrol to the upper section to revise the census of the two groups Neukwi and Itelinu and possibly proceed west to do an initial census of three groups Sori, Meseito and Umirita will have to be mounted in March or April.

2. The patrol did not proceed into the upper section for three reasons.

a. The patrol was using a 9.5 h.p. evinrude motor which proved inadequate trying to push a double canoe loaded with cargo.

b. The carriers used from Arai village were paid off at Augot. They said they did not want to proceed further. An attempt was made to employ carriers locally but the people refused saying "mi no enap long karryim cargo" which can be interpreted several ways. My interpretation was that they were too lazy.

c. The wet season was in full swing and the Arai river rose over its banks flooding sago swamps making walking through them difficult and campsites were washed out.

3. The patrol in March or April to be of ten days' duration will have to employ carriers from Ambunti station. May River people are poor carriers and there is always the fear as happened with previous patrols where some walking was involved that they will run off leaving the patrol stranded.

4. The patrol was not wasted in that at least the census for half the division was completed which means that the patrol in March or April will be of a much shorter duration and can proceed directly into the upper section. This will mean less rations will be required to be carried.

POLITICAL

1. The area is administered under the village official system. This has proved somewhat disheartening as the people have no comprehension of what the system means.

2. Apart from Arai village which is part of the Iwam language group the other villages visited Didipas, Nimo, Wasuai and Augot have been little influenced by Administration patrols. They have received regular patrols over the last five years but have as yet made no effort to bring their troubles to the Administration. Augot village the furthestest visited would be no more than 1½ days travelling time from May River station by paddle canoe including the walk to Arai village.

3. As a matter of fact it could be stated that people here are not interested in Administration patrols even though it is realised they are unsophisticated. During the visits to Didipas and Augot there were many absentees from census. At Augot village as talks commenced the people in attendance suddenly ran off to chase a pig that was running away. Most did not return. In these circumstances I simply collected my books and retired to the resthouse. It is disheartening to say the least when after walking through sago swamps for hours to Didipas

POLITICAL (CONT)

you census half the group in attendance, try to hold talks which nobody is listening to and then have to turn around and retrace your steps through the swamps the next morning after achieving nothing.

Hamlets such as Didipas and Augot have no permanent houses but appear mainly to wander about living under wicki constructed shelters.

It is impossible to hold talks on political education even though this was attempted. I see no future for these people who appear content to live in misery.

ECONOMIC

1. The people in the area are sago-eaters with no variation in diet.

2. No suitable land is available in this section that could be used for cash cropping. Rice growing could be attempted but it is difficult to see Rural Development Officers being able to impart much technical knowledge on these people who are not interested in cash cropping. People here are primitive and excitable and are content to follow a traditional way of life.

3. There are about twenty men working on New Britain plantations and this would be the only source of revenue that the area would gain. Most of this would be spent before workers return to their area.

4. It is difficult to be able to assess any future for these people who are content to remain sago-eaters living in filth and poverty with their life ruled by tradition.

5. Up to last year International Nickel were active in the immediate area to the north at Itelinu carrying out exploratory work under prospecting authority. However they had to employ a casual line from Mianmin area because local people from this Arai area were not interested in gaining employment. If they pass up opportunities such as this I doubt whether they could ever be interested in cash cropping. International Nickel have now left the May River area and it appears will not return.

SOCIAL

1. The people appear to appreciate health facilities provided by patrols. Many sores, cuts and scratches were treated. Cases of malaria were also treated. However people in this area never bring their sick to May River station for treatment and this causes many unnecessary deaths.

2. The people have some understanding that the Administration exists to prevent killings. However there is little knowledge of the law apart from this.

3. Itelinu in the upper part of this census division are the traditional enemies of this group and although tribal fighting has ceased people here have reservations about making visits. In fact their life appears confined to their own area with little outside interest.

3/

SOCIAL (CONT)

It is a pity these people will not carry charge for patrols. By doing this they would be on a more friendly basis. It appears the only direct way to improve relations as the area has no economy to help bring unification.

4. The area has no schools or missions. Recently the SDA mission school at Pekwe near May River station became registered with the Administration. It is hoped that Arai village may send children this year to attend school. It was encouraged during the patrol. However apart from Arai the other villages visited will not send children.

5. As far as is known no mission activity is planned for the area.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nil.


*John E. White*  
.....  
John E. White  
Assistant District Officer

REPORT ON MEMBERS OF ROYAL PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA  
CONSTABULARY

21

MAY RIVER PATROL No. 5 of 1970/71

Name.	Conduct	Remarks
Const. Togowi Reg. No. 2360	Good.	Immature.
Const. Pote Reg.No. 2030	Good.	Willing worker
Const. 1/c Sipup Reg. No. 1161	Very Good	Good leadership qualities
Const. 1/c Bunima 1283	Very Good	Reasonable bush worker

  
.....  
John E. White  
Assistant District Officer



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

H.Q

# PATROL REPORT

District of EAST SEPIK Report No. MAY RIVER NO.6 - 1970/71

Patrol Conducted by MR. J. E WHITE

Area Patrolled ARAI MAY CENSUS DIVISION - PART ABEI MAY CENSUS DIVISION

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans ---

Natives 4 R.P.N.C.C.

Duration—From 22/2/1971 to 4/3/1971

Number of Days 24

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? 1 Medical Orderly

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services Nov/1970

Medical Nov/1970

Map Reference May River Patrol No. 10

Objects of Patrol Census Revision Arai May. Area Study of Arai May Census Division. Situation Report. Investigate feasibility of patrol route from Arai May Census Division into Abai May Census Division.

Director of District Administration,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

30/3/1971.

E. L. Hills  
District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation .... \$.....

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund .... \$.....

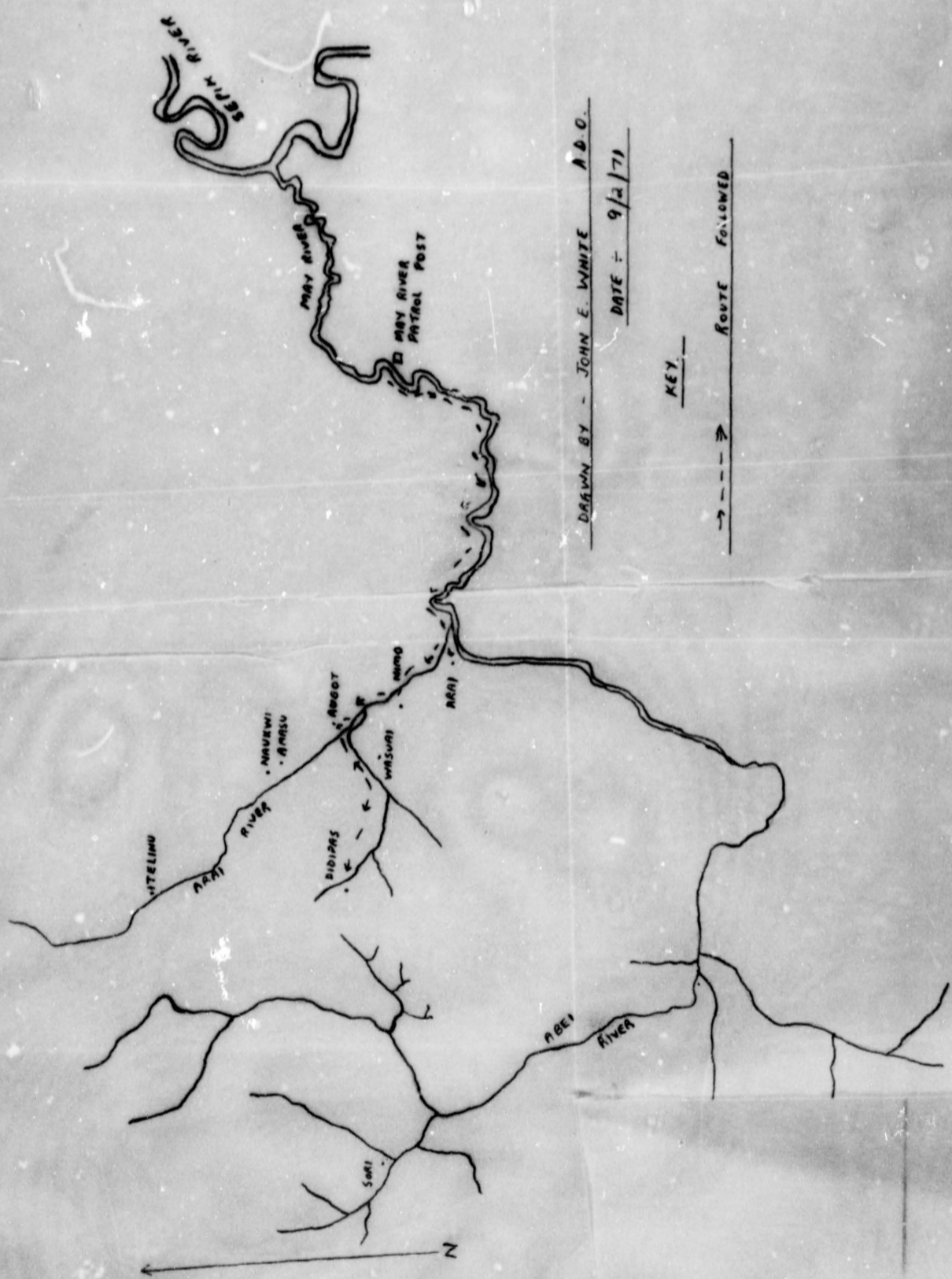
Amount paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund .... \$.....

Amount 14.00  
copy filed.



ARAI MAY CENSUS DIVISION

MAY RIVER PATROL No. 5 of 1970/71



DRAWN BY - JOHN E. WHITE A.D.O.

DATE - 9/2/71

KEY

→ --- → ROUTE FOLLOWED



H.Q

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of EAST SEPIK Report No. MAY RJVER NO.6 - 1970/71

Patrol Conducted by MR. J. E WHITE

Area Patrolled ARAI MAY CENSUS DIVISION - PART ABEI MAY CENSUS DIVISION

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans ---

Natives 4 R.P.N.G.C.

Duration—From 22/2/1971 to 4/3/1971

Number of Days 24

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? 1 Medical Orderly

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services Noy /1970

Medical Noy /1970

Map Reference May River Patrol No. 10

Objects of Patrol Census Revision Arai May. Area Study of Arai May Census Division. Situation Report. Investigate feasibility of patrol route from Arai May Census Division into Abei May Census Division.

Director of District Administration,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

30/3/1971.

*E. G. Hicks*  
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 ... ..

*Amount skulls  
copy filed.*

Popula

MIGRATION	In	
	M	F
Females in Child Birth		

67-8-4619



67-1-13

Division of District  
Administration,  
District Office,  
NEWAK, East Sepik District.

30th March, 1971.

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

MAY RIVER PATROL REPORT NO. 6 OF 1970/71

Thank you for the above report together with your covering memorandum 67-1-13 of 25th March 1971.

On the front piece of Mr. White's report I do not quite understand his map reference, being 'May River Patrol No. 10 of 1970/71'. Should this not read - '1969/70'.

Would you please make some effort to requisition for the blue patrol report covers for Patrol Posts in your Sub-District. In this particular instance the proper covers have been typed at this District Headquarters.

It is quite obvious that there is little to be gained by such arduous walking into the white Scarp area to reach a scattered group of 70 people who never appear to be there when a patrol arrives. I would like your ideas on how this problem can be overcome and your recommendations as regards future contact. I know it is extremely difficult to encourage several of the menfolk to come into Ambunti for a week's visit and also the associated difficulties of transporting them back to their home area. However, with progress being made in other parts of the District, these people should not be left in primitive seclusion; therefore I would like you to have further discussions with Mr. White on how this problem may be overcome. I agree with Mr. White that any attempts to re-settle these people would be unsuccessful.

In your discussions with Mr. White I would like you to also take cognizance of the problem outlined in paragraph 2 of your covering memorandum.

I consider that Mr. White has again conducted a very good patrol and has submitted an intelligent and interesting report.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

c.c. to The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
KONEDOBU.

Mr. White has again carried out an excellent piece of work and is to be commended for the patrolling and general interest he has shown in the May River area.

For your information and records please.

*E. G. Hicks*  
(E. G. HICKS)  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

67-1-13

SUB-DISTRICT

AMBUNTI

Division of District Administration  
Sub District Office

AMBUNTI

East Sepik District

25th March 1971

COUNCIL/ NON COUNCIL AREA

NON COUNCIL AREA

The District Commissioner  
East Sepik District  
WEWAK

JOHN EDWARD WHITE

DESIGNATION

May River Patrol Report No 6/1970-71

1. Attached please find four copies of the above report together with the relevant camping allowance claim and one copy of the patrol map. Would you have sun print copies of the map attached to each copy of the report and two copies returned to Ambunti please.

My Comments are:

Paras 4 to 9 and para 15 of the Situation Report show that a walking patrol of the area can be undertaken, and equally possible is the fact that this patrol could be conducted from Ama. Mr White indicates that it was a difficult trip and it would be still easier to do it with the assistance of an outboard motor. This is conceded, but in the often occurring case of no motor being available, the officer if at Ama could go on patrol where as at May River he could not.

Para 13 of the Situation report (Economy) and para 4 on Page 9 give an excellent indication of the strength of traditional forces in this area. One is left with the knowledge that the Administration is present but on the sidelines. If the people of this area decide to break the law, their consideration of Administration intervention weighed at all, would take an insignificant place next to traditional consideration of traditional reprisals. The truth of this is seen in the fact that of 22 Supreme Court cases in this sub district over recent years approximately 70% come from May River which contains about 1/7th of the Sub District population.

2. route (day) patrol report again paints a dismal picture of the people and the area. It is depressing for Administration Officers to read such reports as it leads to the question "Well what can we do for these people?" and further leads to the usual answer "Nothing".

3. ~~xxxx~~Appendix B. Separate ESIs have been forwarded to ~~page~~ these ~~marks~~ recorded in the Records of Service of these members.

4. This report covers an excellent piece of bush work by Mr White. The report achieves it's purpose by illustrating in a concise manner the depressing picture the Abei and Arai May Divisions have to show.

*[Signature]*  
L. Bragge  
Assistant District Commissioner

(1)

REPORT No. MAY RIVER PATROL No. 6 of 1970/71

SUB-DISTRICT AMBUNTI

DISTRICT EAST SEPTK

COUNCIL/ NON COUNCIL AREA NON COUNCIL AREA

PATROL CONDUCTED BY JOHN EDWARD WHITE

DESIGNATION ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER

AREA PATROLLED ARAI MAY CENSUS DIVISION AND PART ABEI MAY CENSUS DIVISION

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL 4 members of R.P.N.G.C. 1 medical orderly

DURATION OF PATROL 22/2/71 to 4/3/71. 11 days.

DATE AND DURATION OF LAST DDA PATROL TO AREA ARAI MAY January 1971. 8 days ABEI MAY November 1970. 16 days.

OBJECTS OF PATROL census division. 1. Census revision Arai May division. 2. Area Study Arai May census division. 3. Situation report.

4. Investigate feasibility of patrol route from Arai May census division into Abei May census division.

TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA PATROLLED Arai May 649 Abei May 350

MAP REFERENCE May River Patrol No. 10 of 1970/71

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER ENCLOSED. ENCLOSED/ NOT ENCLOSED

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MICRO

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M F

PATROL DIARYMonday 22nd February 1971.

Departed 10.00 AM by outboard motor for patrol Arai May. Accompanied by 4 police, medical orderly.

Proceeded up the May river to the mouth of the Arai river. Proceeded up Arai river to Nimo village arriving 2.00 PM.

Camped.

Tuesday 23rd February 1971.

Departed by foot 8.20 AM and continued up Arai river to Augot arriving 11.00 AM.

Continued on up the Arai river on a swampy track moving towards the headwaters. Arrived Naukwi-Amasu 1.30 PM.

Campsite prepared.

Wednesday 24th February 1971.

Census revised at Naukwi-Amasu. Medical treatment given. Talks on general administration.

Departed 9.00 AM and proceeded up Arai river arriving Itelinu 11.00 AM.

Campsite prepared. Waiting for people to arrive for census taking.

Camped.

Thursday 25th February 1971.

Census revised at Itelinu. Medical treatment given. Talks on general administration.

Broke camp at 10.00 and proceeded west into the western range on route white scarp area in headwaters of the Abei river.

Patrol climbed steeply up the range until about 2.30 PM and then decided to make camp.

Camp prepared.

Friday 26th February 1971.

Broke camp 8.00 AM and continued up range arriving at the top about 9.00 AM overlooking headwaters of Abei river. Proceeded down the range and across many small creeks to the Abei river 11.00 AM.

Proceeded down river until 11.30 AM to old campsite of International Nickel. Met some people from Umirita hamlet.

Conducted census. Initial census for this group. Medical treatment given. General administrative talks given.

Campsite prepared.

Saturday 27th February 1971.

Broke camp 8.30 AM. Heavy rain overnight delayed start as river level had risen. Proceeded with some difficulty due to state of river and continued until 12.30 PM when decided to make camp.

Myself and two police and a medical orderly proceeded on for 1½ hours into the Bogope river area to Sori village.

Census revised. This was an initial census. Medical treatment given. Talks on general administration.

Departed again at 3.30 PM and returned camp on Abei river arriving 5.00 PM.

Camped.

(15)

PATROL DIARY (CONTINUED)Sunday 28th February 1971.

Broke camp at 10.00 AM. Delayed by overnight rain again flooding river.

Proceeded down Abei river to its junction with the Bogope river arriving 7.00 PM. Heavy going to this stage. No track. Cutting way over small hills and crossing heavy current in river several times.

Proceeded on past junction down river to 3.00 PM.

Camped.

Monday 1st March 1971.

Broke camp and proceeded down river at 8.30 AM.

At 1.30 PM reached Fona river and its junction with the Abei. Had observed hunting activities of the Mianmins to this stage.

After reaching Fona river found a Mianmin man who agreed to guide the patrol to Usalimin.

Proceeded over rough track to Usalimin village arriving 5.00 PM after very hard, monotonous walking.

Camped.

Tuesday 2nd March 1971.

In the morning held talks with village leaders on general administrative matters.

Departed Usalimin village 11.00 AM and followed the river over defined track to Mianmin village arriving 3.15 PM.

Camped.

Wednesday 3rd March 1971.

Resting at Mianmin waiting for outboard motor canoes to arrive.

Canoes arrived 2.00 PM.

Thursday ~~3rd~~ 4th March 1971.

Departed Mianmin 6.30 AM by outboard motor and proceeded down May river to the station arriving 12.00 PM. Problems on route due to many snags. Canoe hit a large snag at one stage and very nearly capsized.

On arrival at station spent afternoon unpacking cargo.

END OF PATROL DIARY

SITUATION REPORTINTRODUCTION

1. This patrol was conducted in relation to Patrol No. 5 of 1970/71 to complete the Arai May census revision. The bottom section of the census division was completed during Patrol No. 5 in January.

2. The census revision for the five census divisions of the May River administrative area have now been completed for 1970/71.

3. Apart from revising the census and conducting routine administrative work the patrol walked from the Arai river across the western range into the headwaters of the Abei river and down the Abei river into the Mianmin area to survey the feasibility of such a patrol route for future patrols.

4. The census was revised without incident. Medical treatment was given in all villages and talks were held mainly in relation to encouraging formation of proper villages and maintenance of law and order.

5. The patrol walked many miles over rough country in a short space of time. This was because the sparse population provided no local food and the permanent carrier line had to be fed on Government rations. With only a certain amount of rations that can be carried a patrol in this area must be very careful to calculate the number of days before rations will be exhausted. Native food is scarce until you reach the Mianmin area at Usalimin village.

6. The objects of the patrol were completed and the patrol successful. However as is known the people in the Arai May census division are very primitive and timid. The headwaters of the Abei river known as the White Scarp area contains about 70 people most of whom are never found. They are very nomadic people in this census division and will not form themselves into a village pattern. Until they do they have no future.

POLITICAL

1. The area is supposed to be administered under the village official system. At the moment in the Arai and White Scarp areas there is no comprehension of the system.

2. During the past eight months that I have been at May River none of these villages have ever reported incidents and for that matter none of these villages have ever visited the station.

3. The people were encouraged to make periodic visits to the station. However I doubt whether this will eventuate. It is intended to bring village officials from this area to Ambunti for some 'education' in the village official system and to let them observe local government by attending a Council meeting. This may be beneficial to some extent.

4. In relation to my recent submission for the May River patrol post to be transferred to Ama it was decided that the patrol walk from the White Scarp area at Sori down the Abei river into the Mianmin area



POLITICAL (CONTINUED)

and so link up with the Abei May census division. The feasibility of the route would decide whether future patrols could possibly patrol the Arai and Abei census divisions jointly and save valuable time for census revision during a fiscal year.

5. It was found that the walk from near Sori in the White Scarp area to Usalimin village is about 13 hours walking over two days. The route is all the more arduous because in some places the track is not defined. The section from Sori to the junction of the Bogope river is the most difficult. After this with a good guide you can follow a hunting track used by Mianmins as far as the Fona river. From the Fona river to Usalimin the walk is about three hours over a rough track but at least you see regular signs of habitation in large garden areas.

6. The two biggest problems with this route if walking from the Arai river is the very limited local food for a carrier line and the problem of finding a good guide.

7. The Sori people have little knowledge of the track to Mianmin area because they fear the Mianmins and keep away from where the Mianmins are usually hunting.

8. If a patrol was mounted through the White Scarp area to the Abei May census division the patrol would need to be re-supplied by the time it reached the Abei May census division.

9. At this stage I must consider the route as not feasible. It would still seem easier to visit the Abei May by outboard motor to Mianmin and patrol from there.

10. As regards the Arai May census division I see little point in future patrols walking to the White Scarp area to see 70 people most of whom are never there.

11. Either this group will have to walk out to Itelinu to see patrols or be re-settled somewhere on the Arai river. It is pointless to see a patrol walk for a week in and out of the White Scarp area to visit 70 people most of whom won't be seen.

12. The Arai May division presents a problem in that the widely scattered groups especially in the White Scarp area live in fear of the Mianmins. When the patrol reached Sori village it was greeted by a group of men with drawn bows and arrows dancing back and forth on the edge of the creek.

13. They thought the native guides walking in front of me were Mianmins coming to abduct their women. We ran towards them waving and shouting and after much patting on the back they settled down and appeared happy again.

14. There is always a threat of a tribal war between the Mianmins and Sori group which is one argument for patrols to continue visiting the White Scarp area. Constant patrols to Mianmin area however is the only way this can be solved. I also believe the Sori people should be re-settled somewhere else but I doubt whether they would agree to this and would probably only wander back again.

15. To support my argument on the feasibility or otherwise of this patrol route the walking times after leaving Itelinu on the Arai river are:-

Itelinu to White Scarp (headwaters Abei river)

about 8 hours over the western range over two days. The range has a poor track and is a steep climb especially for the suspect May River carriers.

POLITICAL (CONTINUED)

The 8 hours brings you to an old International Nickel camp.

International Nickel Camp to Sori area

5 hours walk criss-crossing the Abei river which can be difficult if flooded.

Sori to Usalimin

13 hours solid walking over two days with no signs of habitation in between. The walking in some places is not over defined tracks. Most difficult if Abei river floods after heavy rain.

16. It should be remembered that all this area as listed has very little local food. No gardens were observed on route until you reach the Mianmin area near Usalimin.

ECONOMIC

1. The area has no economy and the way things are going probably never will have.

2. The people of course are very primitive. The people in the Arai division are timid and content to avoid the Administration.

3. Some people from Didipas helped May River station carriers during the patrol for a certain period which suggests a few may be willing to work.

4. However from my observations during May River Patrol No 5 and this current patrol people in the division show little enthusiasm to help themselves.

5. It is a pity the Mianmins of the Abei May census division are at such a disadvantage communication-wise. These people are hard workers by tradition. Many large taro and banana gardens were observed by the patrol. These people also spend most of their time hunting in the bush and are very skilful at this. They are very energetic people in comparison with people from the Arai division.

6. Many arable tracts of land were observed. Anything could be grown in the soil both in the Arai and Abei divisions. It is a pity these groups are so isolated. However Arai people will have to show more enthusiasm towards the Administration before they can be helped on economic lines. The Mianmins although energetic still need to be closely watched. They find it hard to observe the laws and are always it seems to be tempted to start a fight with another group and abduct 'foreign' women.

7. The people from the Abei and Arai areas are taro eaters. They also eat bananas and small amounts of fish. The lower parts of the Arai area especially Naukwi-Amasu, Didipas, and Augot are more sago eaters due to the swampy conditions. The swamps more or less cut out above Naukwi and so the diet changes although some sago trees were also observed at Itelinu.

8. There are about 35 absentees from the Arai division on New Britain plantations for the usual two year period. Unfortunately after they return it is noticed the period of employment has not influenced any change in their village way of life. They simply return and commence the old routine where they left off.

SOCIAL

1. The Arai division contains the one language group apart from Arai village which is on the May river and is part of the Iwam group.

2. Slight variations probably occur in dialect between Itelinu and the villages lower down the Arai river and also with villages in the White Scarp area. However basically they seem to be able to converse with one another with no difficulty.

3. The Arai division especially the White Scarp area, Itelinu, Augot, Didipas have little European clothing. Penis gourds were observed among men. The penis gourds appear to follow a fashion in that very long ones are worn when they are in their houses. However when they go hunting or are walking in the bush they change to short ones which won't get caught on branches in the undergrowth.

4. The women wear a very poor quality grass skirt. Very little cloth was observed.

5. Decoration usually consists of cane bands around waist and arms and in some cases gire gire shell. Trade store beads are also worn in some villages.

6. I saw little in the way of developing trade routes in the area. People in various hamlets appear to keep mainly to themselves. Especially in the White Scarp area and the upper Arai hamlets of Itelinu and Naukwi-Amasu.

7. Villages in the lower Arai mainly Didipas and Nimo do have contact with Arai on the May river. However I have not observed any Nimo people in the environs of the station which means they do not venture far in Arai canoes.

8. The people live in poor quality pandanus-leaf houses. They usually sleep in community dwellings which means simply they all sleep in the one house. The circumstances are shocking in some cases. At Augot the house was a shocker. Containing diseased dogs and pigs. The house was a filthy hovel and because of this many children were ill or covered in ulcers.

9. The general health in the area varied. Itelinu and Augot people are in poor health. Many very large ulcers were treated as well as general illnesses. The people were filthy. It is a long time since some have had a wash.

10. Over in the White Scarp area the health standards were higher. The people obviously wash regularly in the clean running water.

11. No mission exists in the area and probably there will never be a mission here.

12. Encouragement was given to sending children to school in other centres but I cannot see parents agreeing to this or the idea being successful for a long time. The area has no schools and it was emphasised to the people that if they wish their children to attend school the children will have to leave their area.

13. The people in the Arai division are primitive and timid and their life is governed by tradition and superstition. I see little in the future to alter this situation. They appear happy to live this way. The only alteration can come if a Council was started with village near the May River station and this Council

SOCIAL (CONTINUED)

made progress. If this progress was observed by these people they then may start to question their own pitiful way of life.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nil.

END OF SITUATION REPORT

AREA STUDY - ARAI MAY CENSUS DIVISIONIntroduction

1. This census division contrasts in topography because the lower part of the Arai river consists of swamps and is occasionally crossed by small hills. However the upper part of the Arai including Naukwi-Amasu, Itelinu and stretching across to the White Scarp area the terrain is mountainous with swift flowing streams.

2. The area is very isolated. The White Scarp area would be 50 miles from May River station and on top of this another 160 river miles to the nearest sub-district office at Ambunti. The Arai river villages would be at least 40 miles from May River this varying of course the lower villages being closer.

3. The census division has varying degrees of contact with the Administration. The people in the White Scarp area were contacted by M.E. Tomlinson's patrol in 1969. The lower Arai villages appear to have been contacted by G.J. McIntyre in 1962 while Itelinu was contacted by A.C. Plummer in 1965.

4. The people appear to be quite nonchalant in attitude towards the Administration. They do not have any dislikes but on the other hand are not enthusiastic.

Population Distribution And Trends

1. Village population register forms are attached.

2. This is the first occasion in which this census division has been censused as such.

3. Previously some of these villages were censused amongst Mianmin villages when the area was only one division known as Upper May. Apart from this, this patrol completed an initial census of Sori and Umirita villages in the White Scarp area. Two very small hamlets of Weili and Meseito in the Umirita area have been censused as part of Umirita. This should be noted by future patrols.

4. As two years have passed since some of these villages were censused and as some of these villages were having an initial census conducted no attempt was made to calculate annual birth and death rates. Also as this is the first occasion in which the census has been revised as the Arai May census division it would have been confusing to balance against previous figures because it would be difficult to extract and explain these figures previously censused amongst the Mianmin group two years ago.

5. Some poor walking tracks exist on the Arai river although these change frequently because of constant flooding. No real defined tracks exist in the White Scarp area and local guides are required here.

Social Groupings

1. The census division has basically the one language group apart from Arai village. Arai village is part of the Iwam language group on the May river.

(8)

Social Groupings (Continued)

2. However although basically the same language group the social groups are not entirely based on this. The White Scarp group are probably a social group by themselves. Also Itelinu would be a separate group to the other Arai river villages. Didipas, Naukwi-Amasu, Augot, Nimo I believe would be a social group in themselves. Therefore it could be said that the division has four social groupings based mainly on isolation between each group and minor differences in the basic language.

3. Between the social groups there is reasonable harmony. There could be some tension between Itelinu and Naukwi-Amasu groups over social problems e.g. marriage. However I doubt whether these groups would ever start fighting. The advantage in this division is that even if tension exists the groups are scattered with only relatively small populations.

4. As mentioned in the situation report the White Scarp area especially Sori village is always in danger of attack from the Mianmins. The Mianmins have a woman shortage and apart from this are very "energetic" and hunt on Sori land. They are always tempted to abduct Sori women and the weaker group can do little about it.

Leadership

1. There are no changes in leadership pattern from traditional times. No individuals have arisen that have influence over more than one group. Certain individuals have influence over their own small scattered group but these individuals seldom venture their ideas on other groups.

2. No village officials have been appointed in the White Scarp area. These could be appointed provisionally by the next patrol but at the moment no individuals appear likely prospects. Possibly Sori village could have a luluai appointed.

3. Herewith is a list of village officials appointed for this census division.

Name.	Village.	Comments.
Sesiap/ Soriniga	Arai (luluai)	Born 1938. Married with two children.
Kwainus/ Naini	Arai (tul tul)	Born 1935 Married with three children.
Hanuwi/ Wisei	Nimo (luluai)	Born 1915 Married with five children.
Makiosa/ Iabisi	Wasuai (tul tul)	Born 1920 Married with two wives and four children.
Liari/ Nakiamama	Naukwi (tul tul)	Single. Born 1944.
Mamo/ Wamuo	Amasu (tul tul)	Born 1924. Married with three wives and six children.
Aminakasa/ Amitasi	Didipas (luluai)	Born 1920. <del>Born</del> Married with three children.

Leadership (Continued)

Name.	Village.	Date of Birth	In	
			M	F
Pakinamo/ Wakowi.	Augot ( <del>Wakowi</del> )	Born 1940.		
		Married with		
		one child.		

4. It is interesting to see a young man Liari of Naukwi being appointed tul tul. He speaks some pidgin and accompanied the patrol to its completion. Appears a potential leader and could exert some influence on his area.

Land Tenure And Use

1. Little is known about land tenure in this area. It appears that ownership comes through patrilineal lines. The women do not appear to hold much authority.

2. However it is difficult to judge the extent of individual holdings. The people here are nomadic and tend to wander around together. Everything appears communal in a sense and they appear to hunt and gather without much consideration of individual ownership.

3. Land is probably owned on an involved communal basis and individual rights could be hard to establish.

Literacy

1. The area has no schools. Nobody in this census division is even semi-literate.

2. Some children from Arai village on the May river are attending the SDA mission school at Pekwe near May River station this year. However although encouraged it seems the census division as a whole will show little interest in sending children to school in the foreseeable future.

3. Apparently radio receivers were distributed in this area at one stage. None of these are now serviceable. There is one serviceable radio at Naukwi brought back by plantation workers. However this has infrequent use because batteries cannot be obtained.

Standard Of Living

1. Standard of housing in the area is poor. The people are listless regards constructing decent houses. Most of the time they live together in one or two large houses instead of constructing houses for each family. Because they tend to be nomadic sometimes they more or less "sleep under the trees". These large houses where everybody including the dogs and pigs seem to sleep are usually poor in construction and most need replacing.

2. No sanitation exists. This is a very poor situation indeed and is one of the reasons for the poor health in some villages.

3. European clothing is observed to a certain extent in the lower Arai villages usually brought back by returning plantation workers. However

Standard Of Living (Continued)

in the top Arai village of Itelinu and the White Scarp area there is no European clothing to be found.

4. The area has a diet of taro supplemented with fish and bananas and what game is caught on hunting expeditions. The lower Arai villages do have sago also in their diet but this is limited further up the river as the swamps cut out.

Missions

1. No missions have visited the area apart from Arai village on the May river which is part of the Iwam language group. The SDA mission have visited Arai village but have no intentions of proceeding up the Arai river. No mission has been up the Arai river.

2. In a situation such as this it is hard to gauge what reaction the people would have towards the mission. However I cannot see any mission visiting this area in the foreseeable future.

Non-Indigenes

1. There are no establishments in this area.

2. International Nickel were carrying out exploratory work up to about May 1970 but have now left the area.

3. However even when International Nickel were here the people in the Arai division were not interested in employment. The Company had to employ Mianmins from the Abai division while operating here.

4. If they pass up opportunities of an income such as this their attitude could only be classed as pathetic.

Communications

Roads - Not applicable.

Sea - Not applicable.

Air- Not applicable.

Rivers - See attached appendix.

Technical And Clerical Skills

1. Nobody from this division falls into this category.

The Stage Of Political Development

1. The area is administered under the village official system. The people have little comprehension of the system or what role it is supposed to play in enforcing law and order. The village officials cannot really grasp a knowledge of their own powers under the existing Native Administration Regulations until they make frequent visits to the May River station to report their troubles and observe court procedure.

2. The people have a respect for the



(6)

The Stage Of Political Development (Continued)

Administration but have no knowledge of the machinery of the central government. This is expected as they have had no experience in dealing with officers of various departments.

3. It is realised at this stage that apart from killings and possible major assaults no other offences are reported to the Administration. They obviously still try to handle the troubles themselves or try to forget about them.

4. On the subject of political education and the national parliament there is no knowledge of this. There is also no knowledge of local government. Most discussions here are concentrated on promoting the village official system and encouraging formation of villages so that the area can be properly administered.

5. As mentioned in the situation report there is tension between the Mianmins and the Sori group. There will need to be regular patrols to Usalimin village in the Mianmin group if the tension is to be eased. These are traditional rival groups. However the Mianmins are a group feared by most villages that have knowledge of them.

6. It is difficult to assess a future for these people because of their isolation and their own lack of enthusiasm towards Administration patrols. One of the problems is that they will not visit May River station. If they did they would become more familiar with what is expected of them and gain more confidence in themselves.

The Economy Of The Area

1. This division has no economy.

2. The only money that comes into the area is from returning plantation workers but most of this is spent before they ever reach the May River area.

3. At the present time there are 35 absentees in this capacity. They receive on the average \$70 cash in the hand when they are repatriated after a two year period. 35 people at \$70 each means \$2450.00. However very little of this money would return to the area.

4. The area has no source for wage labour and there is no cash cropping whereby ready cash could be obtained.

5. There are no savings bank passbooks in the area.

Possibilities Of Expanding The Economy

1. There are large tracts of arable land in the division both near the Arai river and in the White Scarp area.

2. However due to the isolation of the area and the negative attitude of the people little headway can be made to commencing a cash economy.

3. The situation would be improved if people from Nimo and Augot could use paddle canoes. They could then paddle produce down the Arai river and then down the May river to the station with the

(K)

Possibilities Of Expanding The Economy (Continued)

current which would not be over difficult.

4. However the area has no canoes and the people are not skilled in this.

5. It is hard to gauge a future for these people. Possibly a Rural Development Officer may be able to enthruse some interest. However due to DASF staff shortages I cannot see an officer from that department patrolling this area in the foreseeable future.

6. In any case if any projects were commenced they would have to be regularly supervised which would require the posting of a Rural Development Assistant to the May River area. This has been asked for previously with negative results due to DASF staff shortages.

Attitude Towards Local Government

1. There is no comprehension of local government in this division.

Attitude Towards Central Government

1. The people have little comprehension of central government because the only departmental officers they see are DDA officers. They do not make visits to other areas where they can witness the functions of the central government.

Accommodation, Services, Facilities

Not applicable here.

.....  
John E. White  
Assistant District Officer

Popua  
MIGRATION  
In  
M F  
in Child Birth

RIVERS

APPENDIX 'A'

ARAI RIVER

3

Extent Of Navigable Section

This river can only be used by power canoe. The river is navigable to power canoe for twelve miles to Nimo village. After Nimo the river is navigable to paddle canoe only. Navigable to paddle Nimo to Augot a distance of five miles.

Length Of Section

Mouth to Nimo 12 miles. Nimo to Augot 5 miles.

Water Depth In Channel

High water 10 feet.

Low water + 1 foot to three feet

Maximum current- Estimate Of Current Sppeeds

High water 10 m.p.h.

Low water 2 m.p.h.

Tidal Range

Not applicable

Restrictions To Navigation In Section

(a) The river is inundated with various snags and floating logs. The positions of these change every time it rains.

(b) There is some impediment at times at the mouth. The mouth would have an estimated depth of 3 feet at low water and up to 15 feet at high water.

(c) No alternative channels exist and local knowledge is not required to effect entry.

(d) There is no surf at the entrance.

(e) The river has no rapids or waterfalls in the navigable section.

(f) There are no tidal bores.

(g) There are no whirlpools of note on the navigable section.

(h) There are channel restrictions that could limit the entry of very long canoes.

Landing Places In Section

There are no jetties in this section. There are no real sites suitable for river bank landings. When overnight stops are made careful observation is needed if the river starts to rise or you could lose your craft.

General

The river connects with the May River at its mouth. The river gives access by power canoe to Government officers from May River station to visit villages on the Arai river. It is therefore a direct link with May River station. It is not being used in any commercial enterprise.

Report On Members Of Royal Papua And  
New Guinea Constabulary

Name.	Conduct	Remarks
Constable 1/c/ Sipup Reg. No. 1161	Very Good.	Good bush worker
Constable 1/c Bunima 1283	Very Good	Energetic worker
Constable Pote 2030	Very Good	Good Initiative
Constable Togowi 2360	Fair	Very Immature

.....  
John E. White  
Assistant District Officer