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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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[Volume 12]

PATROL REPORT OF: KIUNGA - WESTERN ACC. NO: 496

VOL. NO: 12 13 1963-1964 NUMBERS OF REPORTS: 2

[12]

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PATROL REPORTS WESTERN DISTRICT 1963/64

KUINGA & LAKE MURRAY

<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
12-63/64	I. M. Douglas	Ningerum and Ok-Tedi
14-63/64	P. W. J. McKenzie	South Awin Census Division
<u>LAKE MURRAY</u>		
1-63/64	R. W. McLellan	Lake Murray and Middle Fly C/Ds
2-63/64	I. A. Holmes	Border patrol - Middle Fly C/D
3-63/64	F. J. L. Hayes	Lake Murray Census Division



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. KIUNGA 12/63-64

Patrol Conducted by I. M. DOUGLAS, P.O.

Area Patrolled WINGEREM and OK - TEDI — KIUNGA S/D.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans NIN

Natives 8 RAINGC — INTERPRETER — SERVANT

Duration—From 11/11/1963 to 20/12/1963

Number of Days 39/21

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services May/1963

Medical April/1963

Map Reference MAP ATTACHED

Objects of Patrol SEE INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

25 / 5 / 19 64

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 £.....

67-3-17

24th July, 1964.

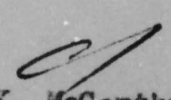
District Officer,
Western District,
DARU.

KIUNGA PATROL 12-63/64.

Reference your 67-5-1 of 25th May, 1964
and the above patrol report.

This was a very good report by Mr. Douglas concerning a valuable patrol. The report has had considerable use here and in the Administrator's Department and it appears that in the course of moving it around for study, we have forgotten to acknowledge receipt. For this I apologise to those concerned.

Development of the primitive area covered by this patrol will not be easy, but no doubt when the new post at AETO is fully operational, ways and means can be found.


J. K. McCarthy,
DIRECTOR.

District Office,
DARU, Western District (18)

May 25th, 1964.

File: 67-5-1

67-3-17

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

PATROL KIUNGA 12/63 - NINGERUM and OKTEDI
CENSUS DIVISION

Attached is a report by Mr. I.M. DOUGLAS, Patrol Officer, of his 39-day patrol of the northern border sector last December, allegations of the Indonesian detention of an Australian village official.

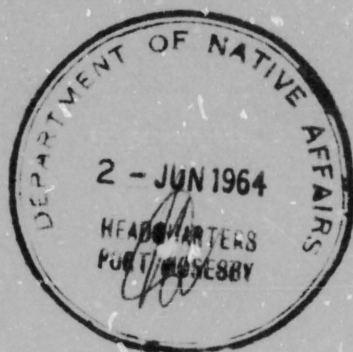
2. As Mr. DOUGLAS says, although a wild-goose chase, as a "flag waving" effort and a mild counter-show of administrative interest (rather than force) it was not a waste of time. Now, with our new NINGERUM post, we shall achieve this permanently and less expensively.

3. Page 3 is interesting as displaying a completely fair and sensible approach on the part of the Indonesian Papuan Officer wrongly maligned. The main villages mentioned were visited by helicopter last February; there is nothing to distinguish them beyond our plastic flags and the large Indonesian flag flying at KOROMKIN - a village 2-3 times the size of any of the others. Although I see no point in early administrative charge it would be interesting to know the final situation of OPKA and INGEMBIT; our last notification (verbal) was that the star-fix placed them in Papua, but was subsequently doubted by the senior Surveyor.

4. Whatever the people may say there is undoubtedly considerable inter-village movement, doubtless temporarily suspended with strong denials of its existence whenever either Administration has a patrol in the area.

5. Track data has been included on local maps and in other J.I.B. reporting.

6. A good patrol.



I. A. Holmes
(I. A. Holmes)
DISTRICT OFFICER

la

MIGRA

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-1-1

District Office,
DARU,
Western District.

11th. November, 1963



Mr. I. Douglas,
Patrol Officer,
DARU.

Subject: NINEREM PATROL

Dear Ian,

As previously discussed with you, you will proceed from Daru to Kiunga per Stol Cesna on 12th. instant to undertake a special patrol along the Northern section of the West New Guinea border with particular emphasis in the BANEKIM, DETAU, TARAKBITS area. You are now fully au fait with the matters on confidential file (cp) in respect of recent events in this area.

The objects of your patrol will be as follows:

- (1) A general showing of the flag in the border area. Contact should be made with as many as possible of the border Ningerem people and they be informed that they cross the international border at their own risk. I realize that the border is nebulous, and would emphasize the restriction of travel westward into any area now under Indonesian control.
- (2) Endeavour to ascertain as accurately as possible the tracks across the border and to whence they lead. This information will be valuable in movement control should cholera break out in the adjacent areas in West Irian.
- (3) Reiterate electoral procedures for the forthcoming elections. Emphasize that the result of the elections will not alter present administrative arrangements. There is a reputed tendency for many natives to believe that the House of Assembly elections will see the evacuation of Europeans and the up-grading of native staff to existing positions automatically.

(4) General Administration.

You should take a detachment of eight police including an N.C.O. These will be mainly drawn from Kiunga, but arrangements have been made for two constables in Daru detachment to go forward with you to Kiunga - an additional constable is to proceed from Lake Murray, and the senior constable of Morehead, presently at Kiunga, is available.

On your return to Kiunga please notify me and your evacuation to Daru will be arranged; together with the members of your police who have been detached.

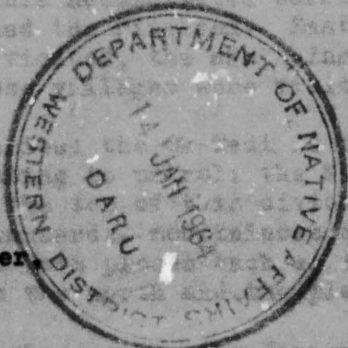
I hope you have a successful and not too unpleasant patrol.

Yours Faithfully,

(A. T. Carey)
a/DISTRICT OFFICER

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

(B)



District Office,
DARU,
Western District,
Papua.

31st. December, 1963

The District Officer,
Western District,
District Office,
DARU.

Patrol KIV 18/63-64

Subject: Special Patrol - NINGEREM

Officer conducting patrol - I. M. Douglas, P.O.

Area patrolled - Ningerem and South Ok-Tedi census divisions,
Kiunga Sub-District.

Objects of patrol - As per attached instructions.

Duration of patrol - 11/11/1963 to 20/12/1963
39/21 days

Personnel accompanying patrol - Europeans..... Nil
Natives..... 8 R.P. & N.G.C.
1 Interpreter
Personal Servant

(Signature)
(I. M. Douglas)
Patrol Officer.

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of the patrol was to cover the border population west and north of Kiunga. This necessitated working in two census divisions, the South Ok-Tedi and the Ningerem. Eastern villages in these two divisions were not visited, the aim being solely to cover the border people; some of these villages were visited twice.

The terrain varies: the Ok-Tedi is flat, subject to flooding and generally uninteresting to patrol; the Ningerem is hilly in the lower parts, but towards the top of this division one gets into what is, by Western District standards, mountainous country. KAIUMGUIN is about 2500 feet high, and from places such as this excellent views can be had of the mountains to the north and the plains to the south.

In the past twelve months the Ningerem has had two census patrols, the Star Mountains patrol, followed by a stores supply patrol, and one medical patrol.

The patrol was received for the most part with disinterest. The attendances at the villages were mostly poor, often only 50% or so. These people are, of course, traditional bush dwellers, with gardens many hours distant from their villages, and since the patrol was not taking a census many did not bother to turn up.

All villages visited were addressed, and two main points were emphasized. The main object of the patrol was of course the border, and it was explained to the people that they should restrict their movement across the border as much as possible. It was pointed out that in the event of any unpleasantness occurring as a result of someone crossing the border unauthorised, it was unlikely that the Australian Government would be in any position to offer positive help, whereas while they remain on the Australian side they enjoy the protection offered by the Australian Government. The patrol was careful not to give the impression that the Indonesian Government was unfriendly towards Australia, but it did try to give the impression that the people would be well advised to remain on their own ground on this side. This seemed to be understood, and 99% of the time the people denied having crossed over the line since the change of Government. This seems satisfactory.

The second point emphasized was to do with electoral education. The Ok-Tedi were patrolled earlier in the year by an Officer giving special lectures on the subject, however, the Ningerem people were not so patrolled, and have gained their knowledge second hand, or on the odd visit to Kiunga. It was made clear that the coming elections were for a Council in Port Moresby only, and that the elected member for the Fly River electorate would not be taking over as A.D.O. Kiunga. Mostly the people appreciated this, and many times they commented to the effect, "No, we want you to stay as our Government". In one instance I was gripped on the arm by the village constable and told that we must never leave his people. This burst of enthusiasm didn't stop all the able bodied men of the village deserting during the night to avoid carrying the next day, however. At KUNGEMBIT the people seemed to be under the impression that the elections may be for a new regime at Kiunga - they weren't too sure. By the time the patrol left the village they were all clear on the point, however.

The main reason for the patrol going into the field was to investigate a report that one of our village constables had been forceably removed from his village and interned at Mindiptana for a three week period. I will deal with this in the narrative later, suffice to say here that the story was a fabrication of lies with virtually no basis in fact, and really the patrol can, in some ways, be considered as a monumental wild goose chase.

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DIARY

Monday 11th. November, 1963

Patrol instructions received - day spent preparing for patrol.

Tuesday 12th.

Stol Cesna into Daru but unable to proceed to Kiunga due to pilot being out of hours.

Remainder of this week spent in Daru for the above reason.

Sunday 17th.

Proceeded to air strip for early take off for Kiunga, however, Kiunga strip closed, so Cesna proceeded back to Moresby.

Next four days spent in Daru.

Thursday 21st.

12.15pm departed Daru per T.A.A. Catalina for D'Albertis Junction, arriving 2.00pm. 3.15pm departed up river per power canoe, arriving at Kiunga 5.30pm.

Friday 22nd.

At Kiunga preparing for patrol.

Saturday 23rd.

At Kiunga preparing for patrol.

Sunday 24th.

7.40am departed Kiunga per power canoe, heading down the Fly, entering the mouth of the Alice River at 10.30am. Up the Alice to arrive at Atkamba U.F.M. Mission at 12.30pm. Lunch at Atkamba. 1.30 pushed on up stream to arrive at KONKONDA at 2.45pm. Moved into the rest house. Assembled village addressed. At KONKONDA.

Monday 25th.

7.20am moved on up stream, still by canoe, to MARAPKA No.2 - canoe unloaded and despatched back to Kiunga. Carriers from KONKONDA, BONGABON and MARAPKA No.2 assembled and gear loaded up. 9.10am departed for OT arriving 12.15pm. Heavy rain commenced simultaneously with our arrival. Assembled village addressed in pm - at OT.

Tuesday 26th.

7.40 departed for Kweman, arriving 9.00am. Assembled village addressed. Proceeded onto TIMIN in 1 1/2 hours - moved into the rest house. Assembled village addressed in pm. At TIMIN.

Wednesday 27th.

7.40 departed for WORAN arriving 9.00am. Assembled village addressed. 10.00am departed for KOMOKPIN, arriving 1.00pm. Assembled village addressed. 1.40pm departed for KUNDUBIRAN arriving 2.30pm. Moved into the rest house. Assembled village addressed in pm. At KUNDUBIRAN.

Thursday 28th.

7.40am departed for AMBAGA No.2 arriving 9.40am. Assembled village addressed. Thence to KUNGEMBIT in 1 1/2 hours - village addressed. Thence to Kumgin in 1 hour, arriving 1.40pm. Heavy rain in pm. Village addressed. At KUMGIN.

Friday 29th.

7.30 departed KUMGIN for GARANDIMOK, arriving 9.45am. Assembled village addressed. 10.30am departed for the hamlet of AWATITS in the Ningerem. Arrived 12.00 noon - people addressed. 12.45 departed for TARAKBITS, arriving 3.45pm. Mr. Bartley of U.M.M. Atkamba in residence here, building an air strip. Assembled village addressed in pm. At TARAKBITS.

Saturday 30th.

7.30 departed for DETAU arriving 8.45am. Moved into the tiny rest house. Addressed village in pm - at DETAU.

Sunday 1st. December, 1963

7.40 departed for BANEKIM arriving 9.00am. This is not really a

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Monday 2nd.

7.30am departed for OGUN, arriving 9.30 - another semi-completed village. Moved into the rest house. Village addressed in pm. At OGUN.

Tuesday 3rd.

7.30am departed OGUN for IRIMKWI, arriving 9.20am. Patched up the rest house and moved in. Village addressed in pm - wild electrical storm at night. At IRIMKWI.

Wednesday 4th.

Carrier troubles, due to some desertions last night - 7.40am departed for AMARE, arriving 11.15am (1½ hours to cross the Ok-Tarim). Assembled village addressed. 12.15pm departed for SAVERON arriving 1.15pm. People addressed. Thence 2.00pm onto SAWANAM arriving 3.55pm. Village addressed. At SAWANAM.

Thursday 5th.

Woken at 1.00am to the sound of high winds removing the rest house roof - fortunately no rain fell. 7.40am departed for KAIUMGUIN ARRIVING (.@)am. Assembled village addressed then moved onto KUMGUIT in 2.20 hours, arriving 12.50pm. Moved into the rest house. People addressed. Rain at night. At KUMGUIT.

Friday 6th.

7.35 departed for DERRONGO arriving 10.45am. Assembled village addressed thence onto BANKIM in 1.30 hours. Village addressed in pm - At BANKIM.

Saturday 7th.

Heavy rain and high winds all morning, easing off about 1.00pm. 7.35 departed for BUTIPKAWOK arriving 8.50am. Assembled village addressed. 9.30am departed for BWAKIM arriving 12.45. Moved into the rest house. Assembled village addressed in pm. At BWAKIM.

Sunday 8th.

7.45 departed for HUKIM in light rain, arriving 8.25. Village addressed. Thence onto MINIBON in 40 minutes, where people addressed. Thence onto BIKIM in 30 minutes, arriving 11.00am. Moved into the rest house. Village addressed in pm. At BIKIM.

Monday 9th.

Departed for TENGKIM 7.30am, arriving 8.10am. Village addressed, thence onto WOMBON in 50 minutes - village addressed, thence onto TIKAM in 40 minutes, where village addressed. Moved into the rest house. At TIKAM.

Tuesday 10th.

7.30am departed for GARANDIMOK arriving at the Ok-Birim at 8.45 and completing the crossing in 30 minutes to arrive at GARANDIMOK at 9.20am. Proceeded onto KUNGEMBIT in 1.50 hours arriving 11.20am. Moved into the rest house. At KUNGEMBIT.

Wednesday 11th.

7.30am departed for KOMOKPIN via AMBAGA No.2 and KUNDUBIRAN, arriving 12.15pm. At KOMOKPIN.

Thursday 12th.

7.30am departed for KWEMAN via WORAN and TIMIN, arriving 1.15pm. At KWEMAN.

Friday 13th.

7.40am departed for MARAPKA No.2 via OT, arriving 12.15pm. in heavy rain. At MARAPKA.

Saturday 14th.

7.30am departed for BONGABON arriving 9.00am. Assembled village addressed. Thence onto the Atkamba Mission in 45 minutes for morning tea and onto ARAN No.2 where people addressed. Thence 2 hours to ARAN No.1 arriving 1.15pm. Moved into the rest house. People addressed. Canoe and outboard arrived ex Kiunga 4.00pm. At ARAN No.1

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NARRATIVE

BORDER AFFAIRS

As stated, the patrol went into the field primarily to investigate the claim that the probationary village constable of BANEKIM village had been arrested by an Indonesian patrol. This claim was made by two natives of BANEKIM to the Sub District Office at Kiunga. It was further claimed that the Indonesian patrol had stated that various newly formed villages on the Australian side would be evacuated by Indonesian authorities and destroyed.

As background it should be said that in the days of the Dutch Administration, a number of villages in the immediate vicinity of the border were settled at KOROMKIN and were administered by the Dutch. The people had no choice in this matter. This state of affairs continued for some ten years or more, so far as can be gathered. On the take over by Indonesia, the KOROMKIN people, no doubt tired of having other groups living on their land, asked them to move back to their traditional land. Hence we have the new villages of BANEKIM, OGUN, DETAU, TARAKBITS and one or two others which are still moving about, such as BCROMKIN.

Now it seems that about the 17th. of October an Indonesian patrol arrived at KOROMKIN. As far as can be ascertained it was led by a Papuan Patrol Officer and was accompanied by two police. It arrived about the middle of the day, and the brother of the so-called Village Constable of BANEKIM was at KOROMKIN when it arrived. The two villages are only about half a mile apart. The V.C.'s brother returned to BANEKIM and suggested that he and the V.C. should go back together and "have a look at the patrol". This they did. There was no suggestion that the Papuan P.O. so much as asked for our V.C., let alone arrested him. On arrival at KOROMKIN our V.C. was told that the patrol's aim was to settle the matter of the movement of the old KOROMKIN people, and asked the V.C. would he come to INGEMBIT next day where a meeting of all village leaders of the area was to be held. The V.C. agreed, and spent that first night at KOROMKIN, proceeding to INGEMBIT the next day.

The conference was held, the upshot being that since the BANEKIM had left KOROMKIN ground and moved back to its own, it may as well complete the move, even though they had moved across the border to the Australian side. In all, the Papuan P.O. seems to have acted in a most decent manner. After one night at INGEMBIT the BANEKIM V.C. walked home, having been away two nights.

On his return he heard that some of his village people had gone to Kiunga, and was told of the story that they intended telling the Sub District Office. When I asked him why he hadn't gone to Kiunga to straighten out the story, he explained that it was too far and he couldn't be bothered.

It may be that the men who went to Kiunga were genuinely concerned for the welfare of the V.C., but the story they told must have been fabricated by themselves, as they left for Kiunga the day after the V.C. went to KOROMKIN. This could be taken as a pointer to a feeling of general uneasiness in the area, but after having been up there I would not agree that the area in general is unduly concerned about border affairs. It seems to me like a first class example of how village talk based on a rumour can build an insignificant happening into an affair of serious proportions. It must also be remembered that in fact the village has no Village Constable, just a self appointed village leader; that no Australian Patrol up until this one has ever visited these people; and finally that the Ningerem's have a reputation as being amongst the best liars in the area (a Missionary I spoke to who has some seven years experience of the area said that if a Ningerem ever spoke the truth it was a slip of the tongue).

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The villages of OPKA and INGEMBIT were always administered by the Dutch, although it was far from certain that they were on the Dutch side. A survey team operating in the area late last year is reported to have been of the opinion that OPKA was definitely Australian, and that the border actually passed through INGEMBIT. In any case, although both places are shown on Western District maps as being on our side, the Indonesian Administration is in fact administering these two villages. The people in the Australian villages in the area, KUNGIN and KUNGEMBIT etc. are in no way worried about this, but they did report to me, after being asked, that since the Dutch departure two patrols have visited OPKA, and that in the opinion of the KUNGEMBIT people these were army patrols. They described the patrol as consisting of ten ordinary army types and an officer. Uniforms were described as green, with long trousers, webbing belts, etc. boots gaiters, and "an army type hat not a police type beret". Some of the members of this patrol were described as typical Papuan types, others as being somewhat different, the main difference being that their hair was wavy, not curly. This of course does not necessarily mean the men were other than Papuans. It is not uncommon to see members of our own police force who have wavy hair. Also the uniform as described is exactly similar to the uniform as worn by Dutch police, and it seems to me that these two patrols could easily have been routine affairs, and not necessarily army patrols. Even if they were army patrols this is of no real significance, as apparently they in no manner violated law and order in the area. However, it does show that the new administration is showing an interest in the area, perhaps a bigger interest than the Dutch, who freely admitted only going to that area occasionally as it had no potential.

In general I do not believe that the villages on our side are worried about affairs across the border, and I do not believe that the current situation could be described as a feeling of general uneasiness. There is no doubt that our villages are well aware of the change in Government, and they are also aware that the Australian Government wishes then to restrict their movements across the border, but I could see no sign that might indicate the people are really worried.

One of the patrol's aims was to ascertain what tracks cross the border and to where they lead. For numerous reasons this is not easy. Firstly these people have always enjoyed free access to their linguistic brothers on the other side, and hence there are no doubt literally dozens of minor tracks leading from villages and garden houses to villages and garden houses on the other side. Secondly the people now realize that the Australian Government wishes them to restrict their movements, so they deny the presence of tracks, and if they have to admit to knowing of tracks they deny using them. However, some information was gleaned, and enumerated below is the relevant information;

In the lower Ok-Tedi both Aran villages have tracks leading across to villages of the same linguistic group on the other side.

From TIMIN a road runs to JAT

From WORAN a road runs to JAT

From KUNGEMBIT a road runs to OPKA

From KUNGIN a road runs to OPKA

From KUNGIN a road runs to INGEMBIT

From a point three quarters of a mile south of TARAKBITS on the AWATITS road a road runs to KABOMDAN

From TARAKBITS a road runs to KABOMDAN

From DETAU a road runs to KABOMDAN

From DETAU a road runs to KOROMKIN

From BANEKIM a road runs to KOROMKIN

From a little south of OGUN a road runs to KOROMKIN

From IRIMKWI a road runs to DETAU No.2

Villages north of IRIMKWI and to the east pass through Australian villages first and then use the above roads.

No doubt there are many other minor bush pads crossing back and forth which were not revealed, and to block all these in the case of a cholera outbreak would be virtually impossible, especially as anyone determined to cross could circle around the guard and pick up the track

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a little further down. However, guards strategically placed could probably restrict movement to a very large extent. IRIMKWI, TARAKBITS, KUMGIN and ARAN would seem to be likely places, and TIMIN also depending on what is happening at JAT - this village is reported to have disbanded, the people moving to other villages and back into the bush.

NATIVE AFFAIRS

As there have been two full scale census patrols to the Ningerem and one to the Ok-Tedi in the last twelve months, I will not comment in detail. In any case the patrol only covered those villages near the border so the writer is not qualified to sum up the general situation throughout the two divisions.

The Kiunga people as a whole are rather lazy, slow moving and not much interested in development, though when they leave their home areas to work, they often prove to be good labourers, especially the Ningerem people. No doubt this lackadaisical attitude has its origins in the rather forbidding environment in which these people unfortunately find themselves. A vast plain covered by jungle and intermittent swamps five hundred miles up the Fly River could hardly be classed as an area conducive to swift economic development. However, the remoteness of the area does not necessarily mean that villages must be of a poor standard, that roads must go uncut, bridges unmade etc.

In the two census divisions covered by this patrol villages are not good. Houses are small, haphazardly placed about the village area, and usually in a state of disrepair. Latrines do exist in some villages, but show little sign of use. Roads, however, are mostly fair, though some bridges are not the best. To get these people to improve their villages is no easy job. Traditionally they are bush dwellers, living in hamlets spotted about the bush, and the village system was introduced to ease administration.

The people are more interested in the traditional way of life than in bettering themselves. November is the time for pig feasting in the area, and nearly all activity is centered around this. When we remember that these people were supposed to have been worried about the border situation, a fair indication of their interest can be gained from the fact that I am sure the patrol was considered a nuisance as it disrupted the feasting preparations. Despite the fact that the whole aim of the patrol was to check on the people's welfare, they were not unhappy to see us gone. Carriers deserting, poor attendances at the villages etc. are fair indicators of this attitude.

This is not to say that the attitude of the area is a potentially unhealthy one, or that the thinking of the people needs to be drastically re-orientated along pro-administration lines. The people are pro-administration, there is no doubt about that. It is just that they take the administration for granted. This of course, is not entirely a bad thing - it proves they have faith in us. But it also makes the job of working and patrolling among these people somewhat discouraging.

Agriculture and Livestock

Gardens in the area appear to be producing well. The patrol had no difficulty purchasing food for carriers who had to work for two or more days. The staple diet is sago and bananas, and while the former is not as plentiful as in some areas, there is no real shortage. Root crops supplement the above, and are reasonably plentiful.

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Those villages which have recently set up on the Australian side appear to be having no difficulty food-wise. Quite possibly they are still using their old gardens, as they have not shifted very far, BANEKIM for example, being only half a mile or so from KOROMKIN.

There is not much live stock in the area. Pigs are not over plentiful, and are eaten when raised to maturity. There are a few fowls, but not many. There is some game in the bush, and small amounts of fish and prawns in the streams, but basically these people are vegetarians.

Education

No Government schools operate closer to the area than Lake Murray. However, there are Mission schools at Kiunga, Rumginae and Atkamba, and these, combined with two or three village schools do provide education facilities for those who want it. The village schools are of doubtful educational value, but the Kiunga Mission school, at least, provides a real education, given by trained Mission Sisters and lay teachers.

Perhaps 10% of children of school going age, attend some school or another.

Roads and Bridges

As stated, roads are fair. Some attempt has been made at cutting and clearing in the lower regions, and to the north where one gets into the mountains, the tracks follow ridges and spurs, and are remarkable good, though on occasions one finds oneself on a track some three feet wide with a five hundred foot drop on either side, such as the climb out of the O-Tarim to AMARE.

Bridges leave something to be desired in most cases. Since 1956 patrols have been leaving instructions for a bridge or decent canoe to be built for the Tarim crossing, yet this patrol had to cross by raft, as all others have had to do before it. "After the pig feasting" was the answer this time..... Mostly one or two saplings lashed together are provided. These prove tricky in boots and once or twice police and carriers skidded off into the creek bed as well.

Missions

There are two Missions operating in the area. The Unevangelized Field Mission (U.F.M.) is the longest established, though they appear to lack the drive and facilities of the more recently arrived Montfort Catholic Mission. The former has a station at Atkamba in the Ok-Tedi, and is currently building an air strip at TARAKBITS. In due course this may be manned by a European Missionary. However, with only one pick and some twenty labour engaged on the project I feel it will be some time before the people of TARAKBITS see their first cesna. There is another U.F.M. strip at TAMARO in the lower Ningerem, and the station here is manned by a native pastor. The Montforts are trying to gain influence in the area, and seem to be succeeding to a certain extent. They have native pastors and village schools in one or two villages, and intend opening a station at Garandimok, where they have constructed an air strip. This station would be staffed by a Father and possibly Sisters as well. It was here that they wrote off their Cesna 185 some months ago while attempting to land. It is to be hoped that they improve the strip before commencing regular operations.

3

CONCLUSION

Although the patrol may have been a wild goose chase, it should not be assumed that it was a waste of time. Practically every village in the proximity of the border which is administered from the Sub District Office at Kiunga was visited. On paper, the patrol was a strong one - a Senior Corporal, six Constables and a Bugler, and the six o'clock flag ceremony each afternoon left an impression on the people. This, in response to a complaint of violation of law and order by an Indonesian patrol, must have left a favourable impression on the minds of the people.

As a 'flag-waving' effort I feel the patrol was worth while. However, there are, of course, more economical ways of achieving this end than mounting a patrol out of Daru, some 300 air miles from the Ningerem as it is.

Specific requests for information made to the writer by Army Intelligence Officers in Daru prior to departure have been dealt with by separate confidential memorandum to the District Officer.

Single

(Y)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

District Office,
DARU,
Western District.

31st. December, 1963

The District Officer,
Western District,
District Office-
DARU.



Army Intelligence Report

You will recall a meeting in your office on the afternoon of 11th. November, 1963 when a Major, a Captain and a Sergeant of the Intelligence branch requested that various information be gleaned during a coming patrol to the border villages of the Kiunga Sub District. Unfortunately I was unable to discover little of interest, however set out below is what was learned:-

Is there a bridge over the river near Mindiptana? - Those people asked were unable to help.

Is there any tribal trouble over land tenure across the border? - People asked report that there is not. It should be noted that in those cases where various groups were settled in one village under the Dutch administration, the resettled people are now moving back to their traditional lands, sometimes on the Australian side of the border. This is a natural result of the lifting of the Dutch demand for composite villages, and in my opinion could not be classed as "land tenure trouble".

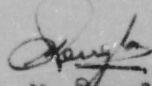
Are any Papuans from the Australian side working as interpreters for the Indonesian administration? No.

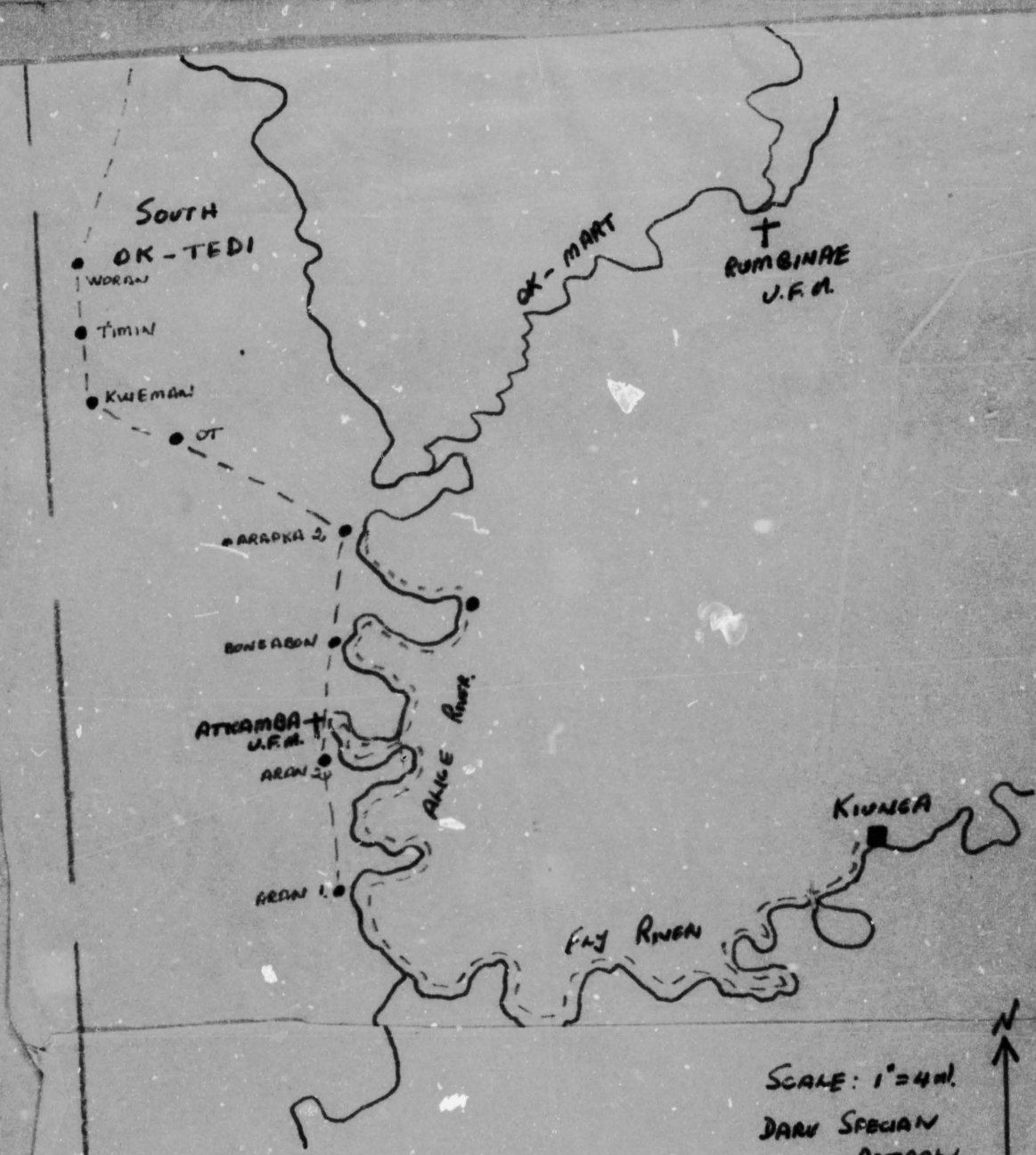
Are civilians being used in the area for local administration, or army personnel only? - Papuan patrol officers appear to be responsible for local administration. These were probably being trained by the Dutch like our Assistant Patrol Officers. It is difficult for the people to accurately differentiate between army and police personnel as the police uniforms under the Dutch were somewhat similar to the P.I.R. uniform, and vastly different to the R.P. & N.G.G. uniform. However, it does appear that army patrols have also shown some interest in the area since the 30th. May, 1963.

Navigability of rivers adjacent to Mindiptana? - Nothing could be found out about this.

I realize that this is not much help, but forward it in the hope that it may contain something of interest.

For your information please.


(I. E. Douglas)
Patrol Officer.



SCALE: 1"=4mi.
DARU SPECIAL
PATRON
KIUNGA 12-63/64

[Signature]

NEW GUINEA

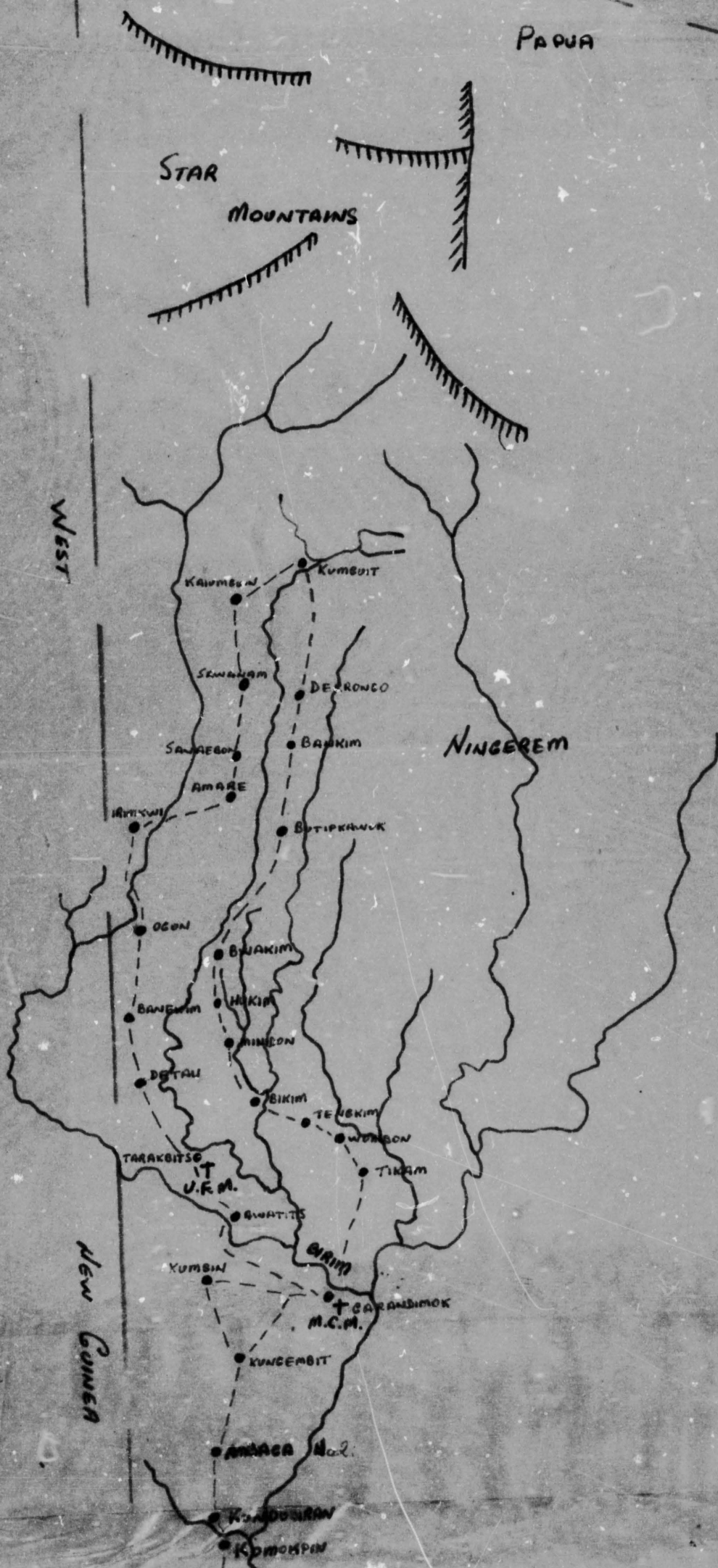
PAPUA

STAR
MOUNTAINS

West

NINGEREM

New Guinea



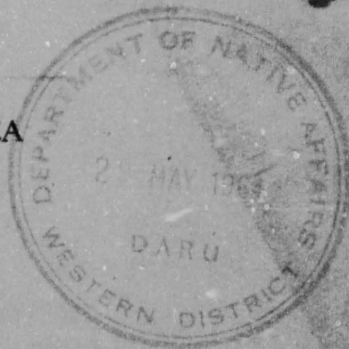
①

Area Patrolled.....

[illegible]



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. 14-63/64 KIUNGA
Patrol Conducted by P. W. J. MCKENZIE C.P.O.
Area Patrolled SOUTH AWIN CENSUS DIVISION
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans NIL
Natives FIVE
Duration—From 10/4/1964 to 1/5/1964
Number of Days 22
Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO
Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 5/1963
Medical 5/1963
Map Reference SOUTH AWIN FOURMIL
Objects of Patrol CENSUS REVISION ? GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, FOLLOW UP ON HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, LAND INVESTIGATION

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

26/8/1964

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

la
MIGRATI
F
Dept. of Native Affairs,
Konedobu. Papua.

67-3-22

9th September, 1964.

District Officer,
Western District,
DARU.

PATROL REPORT NO. 14-63/64 - KIUNGA

Receipt of the abovementioned report is
acknowledged with thanks.


The content of the report is adequately
covered by the comment from the Assistant District
Officer.

I am very favourably impressed with the
written instructions given Mr. McKenzie.

It is gratifying to have reported that
there were no cargo cult rumours arising from the
Electoral Campaigns.

I am pleased that follow-up political
education is being provided.

A good report.


J. K. McCarthy,
DIRECTOR.

67. B. 22 (10)



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams IAH'CR

Telephone 67-5-1

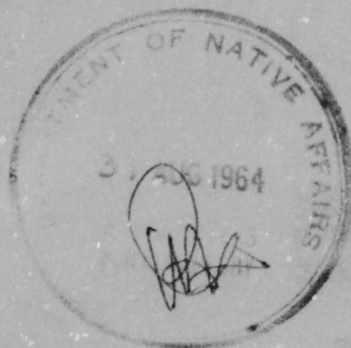
Our Reference.....

If calling ask for

Mr.....

District Office,
Western District,
DARU.

August 26th, 1964.



The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

PATROL KIUNGA 14-63/64 - SOUTH AWIN CENSUS DIVISION

... Attached is a report of a 22-day patrol by Mr. F.W.J. MCKENZIE, Cadet Patrol Officer, belatedly submitted from A.S.O.P.A. The covering memo 67-1-2 of 28th May, 1964, by Assistant District Officer KIUNGA Sub-District, adequately covers it and I have nothing to add, except to bring to the officer's attention some aspects regarding report presentation.

2. A satisfactory patrol.

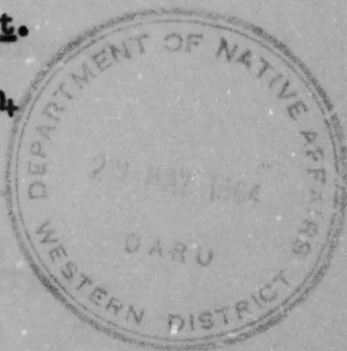
(I. A. Holmes)
DISTRICT OFFICER

7

Sub-district Office,
KIUNGA,
Western District.

67-1-2

28th May, 1964



The District Officer,
Western District,
D A R U.

PATROL 14-63/64 - SOUTH AWIN CENSUS DIVISION.

Attached please find three copies of the report of the above patrol by Mr. P.W.J. McKenzie, Cadet Patrol Officer. Copies of the patrol instructions are attached to each copy of the report.

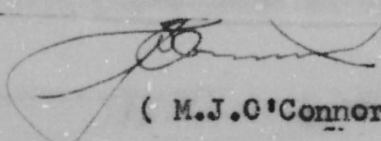
It is gratifying to note the failure of the "rumours" etc. in this Division. I have personal knowledge of the fact that they were spread through the South Avin, so it seems evident that the promises have been rejected.

The overall picture is one which is typical of the Kiunga Sub-district. I have written at length on this subject in my 67-1-2 of 10th April, 1964. The situation remains unchanged and Mr. McKenzie's remarks on Agriculture, particularly the last two paragraphs, are relevant.

I have suggested to the pitsaw team at BRIOMPENE that they move their base of operations to Kiunga. Between the Administration and the Mission, they could earn a good income merely by cutting and trimming logs for use at the Mission sawmill or for station purposes.

The standard of training of Mission medical personnel is extremely rudimentary, of the standard of the New Guinea medical tultul. The E.M.A., Kiunga, has, I believe, taken this matter up with the Missions.

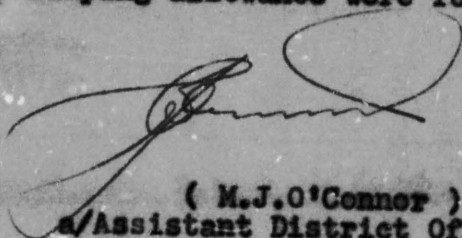
The report of the land investigation at DRIMGAS was not adequate, nor was it submitted in accordance


(M.J.O'Connor)

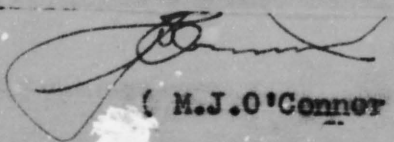
2.

with the latest instructions. The investigation will be repeated shortly.

Claims for camping allowance were forwarded previously.



(M.J.O'Connor)
Assistant District Officer.



(M.J.O'Connor)

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Sub-district Office,
KIUNGA,
Western District.

3rd April, 1964

Mr. P. W. J. McKenzie,
Cadet Patrol Officer,
KIUNGA.

Instructions - Patrol 14-63/64.

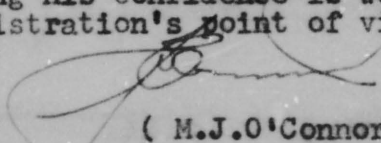
Please prepare to depart on a routine patrol of the South Awin Census Division as soon after 6th April as is convenient.

One N.C.O. and two Constables should be sufficient for the patrol. I suggest you take married men as many of the single police will be moving shortly to Olsohip and Ningerum. However, Constable RAPOLA, the bugler, will be available. Interpreter SIMIK should accompany the patrol. I leave it to your own inclinations whether or not to take a Medical Orderly.

Please note carefully the following objects of the patrol:

- (1) Revision of the census for the whole census division;
- (2) Payment to date and regularisation of appointment of all Village Constables;
- (3) Thorough village inspections. Please initiate prosecutions in any villages which do not attain a satisfactory standard.
- (4) Payment of all outstanding N.M.T.A.s.
- (5) A thorough investigation into all aspects of 'cargo cult' type rumours arising from Jacob Wambon's electoral campaign. Please report fully on your findings.
- (6) Note any reaction to the recent House of Assembly elections.
- (7) Investigate all local disputes, arbitrating if possible. Otherwise, they should be referred to Kiunga for Court hearing.
- (8) Investigation and survey of the U.F.M. application for an airstrip lease at DRINGAS. The relevant papers are attached.

Before leaving, read over the relevant patrol reports. These will give much useful information. Do not hesitate to discuss any points that may arise. There is no time limit on the patrol and if you wish to spend time gathering information for your Anthropology assignments, by all means do so. The Awin is by nature a reserved and timid individual and time spent gaining his confidence is well spent from the Administration's point of view.


(M.J.O'Connor)

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IGRAT

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KIUNGA PATROL REPORT No 14 - 63/64

PATROLLING OFFICER : P.W.J.MCKENZIE C.P.O.

ACCOMPANYING PERSONNEL :

R.P.N.G.C. :- CONST. 1ST CLASS AGURUNTA
CONST. OVUGA
CONST. RAPOLA

P.H.D. :- NATIVE MEDICAL ORDERLEY, UNAM

D.N.A. :- INTERPRETER , SIMIK

PATROL DIARY

10.4.64 Depart KIUNGA for TUPENSOMRAE - 4hrs - all at DRINGAS .
To DRINGAS - 40 min.
11.4.64 Census revision both villages . Land investigation .
12.4.64 Sunday - To TMINGONDOK - 30min.
13.4.64 Census revision - To GIPONAI - 45min .
14.4.64 Census revision - To GUERETMIN - 30min .
15.4.64 Census revision - Walk to GREDEMASUK - 5hours .
16.4.64 Census revision - " " TMINSURE - 1hour .
17.4.64 Census revision - To WISUAMENGRE - 2½ hours .
18.4.64 Census revision etc. Raining heavily .
19.4.64 To GRUPESOMAE - 1 hour . Sunday .
20.4.64 Census revision etc. - To GRIENGAS - 1½ hours .
21.4.64 Census revision etc. - To SOMAIDEMASUK - 1 hour .
22.4.64 Census revision etc. - To ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ GATUMSAN - 1 hour .
23.4.64 Census revision etc. - To BRIOMPENE - ½ hour . Census
24.4.64 revision etc. To RALENGRE - Census revision .
25.4.64 Visit U.F.M. station Runginee - To MIASOMAE - 3hours .
26.4.64 Sunday .
27.4.64 Census revision of MIASOMAE & GRE - To SIKUNAI - 4 hours .
Census revision etc .
28.4.64 To KONKONDA - 5 hours - Census revision etc.
29.4.64 To KIUNGA - 6 hours .
30.4.64 To MEPU - 20 min . Census revision etc . Return KIUNGA .
31.4.64 To WADIMRAE - 1 hour - census revision , To TUENDEMASUK -
1 hour 20 min - Census revision etc. Return KIUNGA - 2 hours.

INTRODUCTION :-

The South Awin Census Division surrounding the Sub-district Headquarters of Kiunga is almost covered entirely with heavy rain forest. The terrain is of a sharply undulating nature, and has numerous small creeks criss crossing it which eventually link up with the larger drainage system of the Fly and Alice.

Rainfall was encountered during the last week of the patrol causing some local flooding on the tracks, especially in the vicinity of RALENGRE & BRIOMPENE. Most tracks were wet and slippery, and leeches were in evidence throughout the entire area.

The patrol was made welcome in all villages, and ample quantities of fresh food were put before the patrol in return for trade goods. Game is plentiful in the area, and patrol personnel and carriers were well supplied in fresh meat.

CENSUS :-

Census revision was carried out in all villages in the division with little difficulty arising. All people in the area are familiar with the procedure for census taking, and were found to be most co-operative in this respect. Two instances were recorded of deliberate absenteeism, and both cases were referred to the O.I.C. Kiunga.

A total of 67 births have been recorded since the last census taking in 1963, as against a recording of 38 deaths, giving a natural increase in population of 25 for the year.

Of the 67 births, 3 died within the first month, and a further 12 died during the year. Hence the Neo-Natal Mortality Rate is 4.5%, and for the year 77.3% of children born are still living.

There were 20 migrations within the division, 34 migrations in from other divisions, and 12 migrations out of the division, giving an additional population increase of 22, and thus an overall increase of 47 for the year.

1964 Census figures are contained in the Village Population Register attached herewith.

POLITICAL :-

As per instructions investigations were carried out to ascertain whether or not "cargo cult" type rumours arising from electoral campaigns were in evidence in the area. A nil return is tendered on this aspect, as either they did not reach the area, or they had little effect.

Results of the elections were given, and discussions were held in the form of village meetings on aspects of the House of Assembly. It appears that the matter of the House of Assembly is still very vague in the minds of these people. Talks based on similar lines to the pre election educational programme were given in an endeavour to clarify the general understanding.

VILLAGES & OFFICIALS

The housing standard through the area is average, and compares quite favourably with the coastal region of this district.

In most villages the general cleanliness left a lot to be desired. In several villages extra latrines were ordered to be built, all being promptly completed under the supervision of the village officials.

The number of dogs and pigs roaming about the villages does not improve the general hygiene standard.

All village constables were paid up to the present date.

Two recommendations for appointment of new village constables have been made and are attached here with. They are for MIASOMAE and GATUMBA, who at present have no village constables.

Generally the village officials were very cooperative, and in most instances appear to be doing a reasonable job.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

A native medical orderley from the Kiunga Hospital accompanied the patrol. He carried out medical inspections at all villages, and rendered treatment where necessary. Skin diseases made up the majority of ailments together with tropical ulcers. Quite a number of adults were suffering from large abscesses under the arm pits and this matter has been referred to the E.M.A. Kiunga.

A more detailed report on treatments given can be obtained from the N.M.O.s register of patients.

Food supplies in the area appear to be plentiful and are of quite a good standard. They include; sago, bananas, taro, breadfruit, okari nut, and sweet potatoes, in that order of importance. In the protein category, cassowary, pigeons, cuscus and fish, appear to be plentiful.

As mentioned previously additional latrines were ordered to be constructed, and the importance of using them was stressed.

Water supplies in all parts of the division are adequate.

AGRICULTURE

Cultivation does not rate as highly in the pattern of existence of these people as it does in other areas. The reason being the abundance of natural sago swamps in the area, which forms the basis of their diet. However, bananas, taro, sweet potato, pumpkin, and pineapples are cultivated to supplement the sago diet.

These besides being supplements to the subsistence diet also provide some form of cash income, being marketed at administration and mission stations in the area.

Coconuts are growing in limited numbers in most villages, but are not in sufficient numbers to think in terms of copra production.

Experimental coffee plots at Eriompene and Sikunai do not appear to be thriving.

14. (3)

RAT

LIVESTOCK

By far the most important livestock in the lives of these people, as in all parts of the territory, are their pigs. Great care is taken of young pigs, with a view to spoiling them so that they remain in the vicinity of the villages when they become of any size.

Most families have four or five pigs, which are kept for feasting on special occasions, such as deaths, or their periodic reciprocal "at homes".

Pigs are always tended by the women and they are taken into the houses at night, in fact they are treated as though they are part of the family, receiving almost as much attention as the village children.

All villages have assorted collections of poultry, most being small and obviously inbred. Fowls are used to supplement the diet and the eggs are not often eaten, the people preferring to allow them to hatch.

As is common throughout the territory dogs are in force, having almost equal status with the pigs.

FORESTS

At present the only potential use for forest resources is of a local nature, i.e. in the general village buildings, and in administration and mission expansion.

A village pit saw team is in operation at Briompene, selling timber to the nearby mission station of Runginae.

The topography and climate, plus the distances involved in transporting timber, makes any large scale exploitation of timber resources impossible.

EDUCATION AND MISSIONS

All education in the area is in the hands of the missions, both the M.C.M. and the U.F.M. having schools under the supervision of trained native teachers. Approximately 80 children from the division attend the schools as well as many others from outside areas.

The missions also contribute valuable service to the social development of the area having several aid posts and trained orderleys working in the villages.

It is noted that where school teachers or aid post orderleys were resident in a village, the general standard of health and hygiene was markedly improved beyond the average standard of the division.

LAND

As per instructions a land investigation was carried out on the airstrip site for the U.F.M. mission at Drimgas.

Land investigation report is attached herewith.

ROADS

Generally the tracks in the division are rough, and because of the topography and climate little can be done to improve them, other than keeping vegetation clear, a job which all villages appear to be doing satisfactorily. Masses of tree roots make going difficult in a lot of the sections, but by the same token afford sound footing in the muddy sections.

Roads between Ralengre and Briompene, Konkonda and Kiunga, and Kiunga to Tuindemasuk were slightly flooded in sections. Log bridges are the common means of crossing the numerous small creeks draining the area.

OTHER

An earth tremor was recorded on the 24th of April at approximately 1500 hrs at Briompene village - lasting approx. 2 minutes.

What appeared to be a satellite was sighted from Miasomae on the night of the 26th of April at approx. 1900 hrs, moving north to south at a great height, and taking 20 minutes to move from one horizon to the other.

SHOTGUNS

S.A.P.s were checked, and many requests for new permits were received. The only one being recommended is that of the village constable at Wisuamengre, who is a young man of more than average standing in the division. There are no other shotguns in the village.

KIUNGA PATROL REPORT No 14 -63/64

APPENDIX "A"

R.P.N.G.C. ACCOMPANYING PATROL

- 6131 CONSTABLE FIRST CLASS AGORANTA .
A tireless worker - of great assistance in all phases
of patrol work .
- 7779 CONSTABLE OVUGA MAREKO
A solid worker - First class patrol policeman .
- 10988 CONSTABLE 3rd Year Trainee RAPOLA NAYIA
Very efficient and keen - a promising young
policeman .

G. V. J. M. M. M. C.P.O.



KIUNGA PATROL NO. 14-63/64

PATROL ROUTE