

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: EAST SEPIK

STATION: AMBUNTI

VOLUME No: 14

ACCESSION No: 496

1967 - 1968

Filmed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea,
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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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97-68/69

PATROL REPORTS EAST SEPIK DISTRICT 1967-68

AMBUNTI

<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
3-67-68	P.N. Colton	April River
8-67-68	K.P. Wearne	Yesan & Upper Sepik C.D., part only Numau-Ablatak, Main River & Chambri C.D.
14-67-68	R.K. Treutlein	Parts Rocky Peak C.D. Green Rover Admin. area



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of EAST SEPIK Report No. 3 of 1967/68

Patrol Conducted by P.N. COLTON Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled April River area

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Mr. J. BAIN - Geologist

Natives 6 R.P. & N.G.C. 21 carriers, two interpreters

Duration—From 3./8./1967 to 16./8./1967

Number of Days thirteen - 12 nights camped out

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services initial patrol

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

Map Reference

Objects of Patrol Contact people in immediate vicinity of BMR camp

Director of District Administration,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

31/11/67

E. J. Hecks
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 £.....

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ge Pop

Over 13		Females in Child Birth	M
M	F		

67-8-6

7

11th March, 1968

The District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
WEWAK.

AMBUNTI PATROL REPORT NO. 3 OF 1967/68

Receipt is acknowledged of the report by Mr. P. N. Colton of his patrol to the April and Itifa Rivers.

2. Your correspondence with the A.D.J., Ambunti is noted. This patrol was the subject of Administration Press Advice No. 4 of 5th January 1968.

3. It is pleasing to read of the good and friendly contact made with the Paka people and to find the leader Meriauwei so helpful to the patrol.

4. A successful patrol which augurs well for future contact in the area.

(T. W. ELLIS)
Director.

67. 8. 6

~~67. 16. 8~~

(6)



67-1-12

East Sepik District,
WEWAK.

6th November, 1967.

Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
AMBUNTI.

PATROL REPORTS NO.s 2, 3 & 4 OF 1967/68. - Ambunti

Receipt is acknowledged of the above reports submitted by Mr. Treutlein and Mr. Colton.

The delay in replying is regretted but was unavoidable, due to the absence of the District Commissioner on inspections and Mr. Hasting's has been ill and off duty for some weeks.

Reference Report No.3 (P.N. Colton. P.O.) the patrol diary of 9th August, 1967 mentions 'one carrier who expired en route' - could this be clarified, please.

On page 3 reference is made to the standard of patrol gear - the separate correspondence has not arrived at this office.

Every effort should be made to encourage some of the FAKA group to visit the Ambunti Station.

Reference Memorandum of Patrol No.4.

Handings by helicopter parties in remote areas without at least an interpreter is somewhat foolish.

Memorandum 74-1-1 (Jet Boots) is being studied at this District Headquarter, and you be advised in due course.

E.G. Hicks
E.G. HICKS
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

For your information and records, please.
E.G. Hicks
District Commissioner.

KONEDOBU.

(5)

PATROL DIARY

3rd August, 1967 - Thursday: Departed AMBUNTI 0800 per M.V. SAPHIRE - motor canoe pulled behind. Arrived SWAGUP R.H. 1700. Rations issued to carriers - O/N SWAGUP R.H.

4th August, 1967 - Friday: Departed SWAGUP R.H. 0700 - canoe despatched to SIO to pick up interpreter WAPI - Const. KOWAN accompanied canoe. Self and remainder of party entered mouth of the APRIL River at 1135 and arrived at BITARA 1830. Canoe had already returned from SIO - was informed by the Constable that WAPI was unavailable. KUBAI'U of BIAGA engaged as an interpreter. Camp set up and rations issued - O/N BITARA under canvass.

5th August, 1967 - Saturday: SAPHIRE despatched AMBUNTI via the WOGAMUS River. Self, three carriers, three police plus most of the patrol equipment departed BITARA 0730 in light rain for Bureau of Mineral Resources Camp at the junction of the SITIFA and APRIL Rivers. Heavy rain experienced for about 90 minutes. Stopped en route at various BEGAPUYI hamlets to inform all and sundry of patrol's arrival in the area. Arrived B.M.R. Camp 1430. Camp set up - rations issued. O/N B.M.R. Camp under canvass.

6th August, 1967 - Sunday: Canoe despatched to BITARA to pick up remainder of party. Some BEGAPUKIS' arrived and discussions had with them re the possible whereabouts of MERIAUWEI. Three BEGAPUKI men asked whether or not they could accompany the patrol - this was agreed to providing they carried and supplied their own food. Some sago purchased with salt. Rations issued in evening. O/N BMR Camp under canvass.

7th August, 1967 - Monday: Self by foot to nearby BEGAPUKI hamlet and discussions held re possible reconciliation between them and the GHOM people. Returned to BMR camp and canoe arrived back at 1535 with remainder of party. Rations and patrol gear broken up into loads - some of the rations will be left at the camp and sent for if required. Rations issued to carriers. O/N BMR Camp under canvass.

8th August, 1967 - Tuesday: Broke camp and carriers plus five police departed at 0700 for the NIBA Creek. Self by jet boat up to the headwaters of the April River - returned mid-day and picked up Sgt. WAPI and Mr. J. BAIN, Geologist, and proceeded to NIBA Creek. Arrived there at 1510 - carriers and police arrived and were constructing a bridge across the creek. Camp set up - carriers issued with rations. O/N NIBA Creek under canvass.

9th August, 1967 - Wednesday: Broke camp and departed 0730 - followed APRIL River for approximately two hours - thence long gradual climb in north westerly direction for three hours - thence along ridge top for an hour when a PAKA man met who agreed to guide us to MERIAUWEI. Steep descent down mountainside thence half an hour walk to a new garden site in which MERIAUWEI plus another four men, two women and two children were living in a small garden house. A friendly but nervous welcome - MERIAUWEI agreed to bring food for the patrol but asked that the patrol stay the next day so that he could gather it. This was agreed to and camp set up - carriers treated with small scratches etc incl. one carrier who had expired en route. Sister of MERIAUWEI prevailed upon to receive treatment for a sore. O/N IAUSIBI under canvass.

10th August, 1967 - Thursday: At IAUSIBI - MERIAUWEI off to get foodstuffs. One youth left at camp and he was questioned re whereabouts of any other people. He was most reluctant to give any information without MERIAUWEI'S approval but finally told of another PAKA group a days walk away - said he would see MERIAUWEI about guiding the patrol there. Carriers set to cleaning up camp site. Meriauwei returned in early afternoon with food and same purchased. Finally agreed to guide the patrol to the other PAKA group. Woman again treated for her sore and a present of a bush knife given to MERIAUWEI and the youth both of whom by this stage appear quite at ease. O/N IAUSIBI under canvass.

PATROL DIARY CONT'D:11th August, 1967 - Friday:

Broke camp and departed IAUSIBI 0740 in light rain - MERIAUWEI acting as guide. Walked in North-westerly direction down to the headwaters of RENUFA Creek after 2½ hours walk. This followed for 40 minutes, thence steep climb up garden covered mountainside to a house - no-one present and MERIAUWEI ~~xxxx~~ despatched to find the people. Camp set up near-by on the edge of the garden, at 1545. Later on in the afternoon MERIAUWEI returned with a party of five males, three females and two children. All made welcome and presents of salt given them. I was informed that there were more people on the way. People told that any foodstuffs brought to the patrol would be purchased. They agreed to bring some next day. O/N PASENBINI under canvass.

12th August, 1967 - Saturday:

At PASENBINI - people arrived in the morning and food purchased - mainly taro. Census taken and 25 names recorded - whole procedure enjoyed by all. Explanatory talks given ~~xxxxxxx~~ re myself and the Administration - also re the B.M.R. party. Some bush knives given as presents. Very friendly relations established and some of the men offered to help carry our gear on the morrow. Still reluctant to give any information re any other groups ~~xxxxxxx~~ who maybe in the area. O/N PASENBINI under canvass.

13th August, 1967 - Sunday:

Broke camp and departed PASENBINI 0730 - MERIAUWEI finally agreed to accompany the patrol to AMBUNTI. Followed native pad down hillside and arrived at the junction of the TOWEI and MIWI creeks. Several BEGAPUKI men there and camp set up. PAKA men who had assisted in carrying gear paid off in salt and beads - their own choice. Discussion with BEGAPUKI men re a possible reconciliation with the GHON people - this was not met with great enthusiasm. O/N under canvass.

14th August, 1967 - Monday:

Broke camp and departed 0715 and followed the TOWEI Creek to the APRIL River for 4 hours thence 45 mins walk upstream to hamlet of BEGAPUKI situated on the bank of the APRIL River. Self, policeman, interpreter and MERIAUWEI by motor canoe for 2½ hours upstream to BMR Camp, leaving the Sgt and remainder of party to set up camp and wait return of canoe to ferry them to BIAGA on the WOGAMUS. AMBUNTI contacted through the BMR radio and informed of my movements and requested transport to go to BIAGA to pick patrol party. O/N BMR camp under canvass.

15th August, 1967 - Tuesday:

Canoe despatched to pick up main party and ferry them to BIAGA at 0700. Self, policeman, interpreter and MERIAUWEI departed by jet boat for Ambunti arriving 4½ hours later - M.V. SAPHIRE passed en route and Captain informed of main party's whereabouts. O/N AMBUNTI.

16th August, 1967 - Wednesday:

Main party arrived back at AMBUNTI at 1730 - gear stored and Patrol stood down.

END OF PATROL

INTRODUCTION:

3

This was in the nature of a special patrol in that its main objective was to contact the people in the immediate vicinity of the Bureau of Mineral Resources Camp and to ensure that no hindrance was given them and that the people themselves did not become frightened or worried by the Bureau's activities.

The Bureau has made a base camp at the junction of the SITIFA and APRIL Rivers from which small parties, usually consisting of one geologist and five carriers, are sent on field trips of up to seven days duration along the APRIL and SITIFA Rivers and their tributaries. At present the Bureau is placing these parties by jet boat and I am informed that a helicopter will be used at a later stage.

It will be noticed from the Diary that a fairly large percentage of the patrols' time was spent in travelling before work could commence on its main objective. This was unavoidable.

The country the patrol walked through was quite rugged and was covered with rain forest. The patrol had to cut its own track for much of the way and even when native tracks were followed these had to be widened to allow free passage of the two man loads. At times I would estimate that the patrol was at heights of over 3000 feet ASL.

A member of the Bureau's party, Mr. J. BAIN, Geologist, accompanied the patrol on the request of Mr. D. DOW, the leader of the party, who thought it would be a good idea to have a representative on the patrol.

The standard of equipment used by this patrol left much to be desired but this will be taken up in separate correspondence.

NATIVE SITUATION:

A total of twenty - nine names were recorded - of these four were not sighted. A total of 13 male adults, 5 female adults and seven children were seen. Of these only seven claimed that they had been seen by a previous patrol.

At first, the people were nervous and a little frightened but this soon disappeared after much handshaking and handing out of presents of salt and beads. These people had an over supply of taro and this was used as a means of exchange. To my surprise the demand for decorations was in excess to the demand for salt. I noticed that the people were conspicuous with their lack of much traditional decoration. The main decoration being a pigs' tusk through the nose and ~~as~~ birds' claws protruding through the end of the nose. Both ears were pierced from which hung a bamboo whistle. The above decorations were common to both men and women. To cover their genitals the men wore a small shell whilst the women wore a short grass skirt. The men do not cover their rears.

This group calls themselves the PAKA people and are nomadic in their habits. This was evidenced by the fact that SAMABU mentioned in AMBUNTI Patrol No. 1 of 1965/66, is now only an overgrown garden site.

led to some
The leader of the group contacted was MERIAUWEI and after an initial period of nervousness and suspicion proved helpful to the patrol. I managed to persuade him to accompany the patrol to AMBUNTI. After a tour of the station MERIAUWEI was completely won over and he agreed to guide any further patrols up to the headwaters of the APRIL and LEONARD SCHULTZ Rivers. He also informed me that another PAKA group was living on the headwaters of the APRIL River. He also said that he would bring the people I had contacted closer to the April River and build a 'village'. Only time will tell if these promises will be kept or not.

The PAKA group contacted had been fully aware of the Bureau of Mineral Resources activities and had in fact been keeping it under surveillance but were too frightened to make any contact. After an explanatory talk however this group said that they would construct a raft and float down to the Bureau's camp and bring them food to buy.

During the course of this patrol I also took the opportunity of sounding out the BEGAPUKI people re a meeting with the GHOM people to try and straighten out their differences. This suggestion was met with coolness but nevertheless I feel the attempt should be made. This meeting of course would have to be arranged under the supervision of an officer of our Department and I feel a great deal of diplomacy will be required if any any effective settlement is to be reached.

R.P.&N.G.C.

Six police accompanied the patrol and they performed their duties satisfactorily. Entries have been made in their Duplicate Record of Service and the Commissioner of Police informed.

CONCLUSION:

I consider that the patrol was successfully in that good contact was established. I ~~would~~ strongly recommend that MERIAUWEI accompany any patrol that is intending to move into the APRIL and LEONARD SHULTZ general area. I feel he will prove most useful and should be able to save much 'blind' walking.

I do not feel that the Bureau of Mineral Resources should have any more qualms whilst working in the APRIL River area.

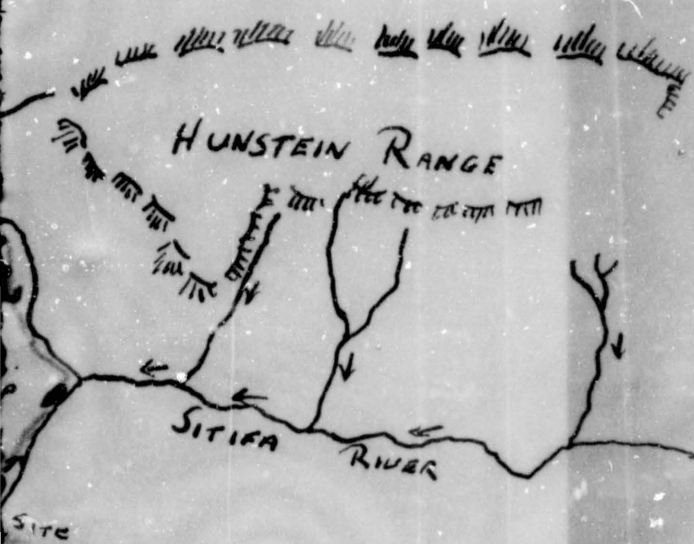
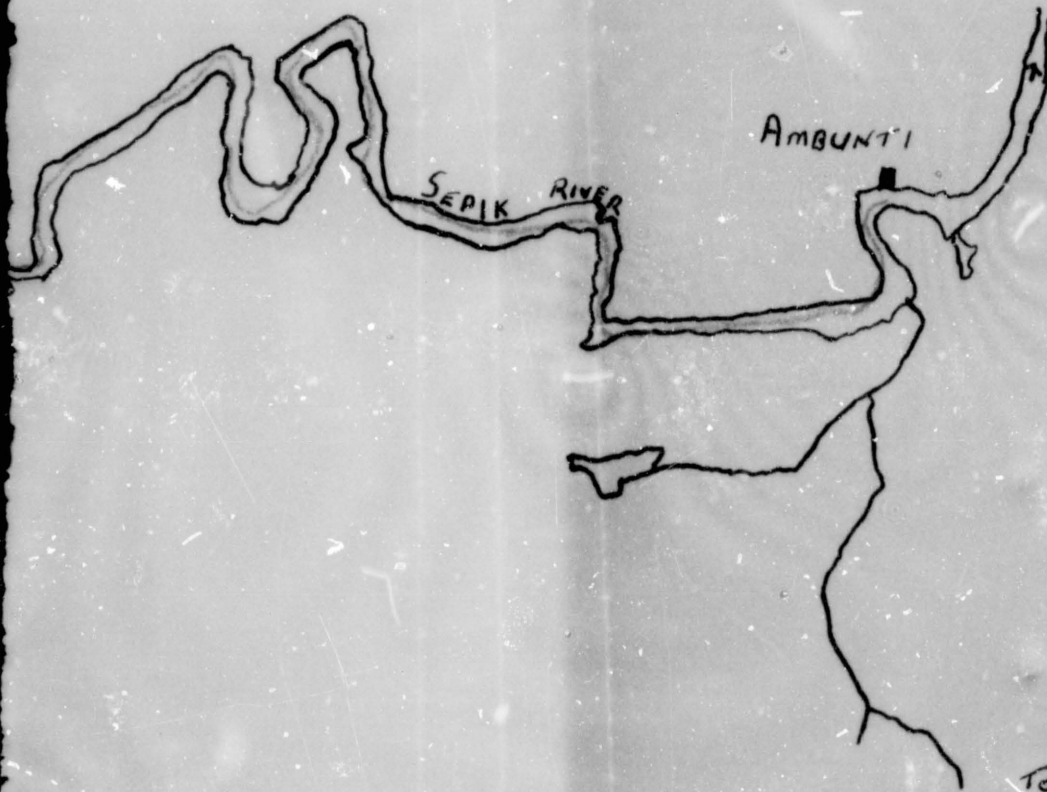
The PAKA people contacted were questioned re other groups as mentioned in AMBUNTI Patrol No. 1 of 1965/66 but they claimed no knowledge. This could well be so as place names rather than group names were recorded. As mentioned earlier these people are nomadic and it is quite likely that they would not know place names but only group names of the people living a fair distance from them.

For your information, please.

P.N. COLTON

(Patrol Officer)





TO ACCOMPANY AMBUNTI PATROL
No. 3 of 1968/68.

RIVER FLOW DIRECTION: →

PATROL ROUTE: —



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

ORIGINAL

PATROL REPORT

District of East Sepik Report No. AMBUNTI 8 of 1967/68
 Patrol Conducted by K.P. Wearne Cadet Patrol Officer
 Area Patrolled Yessan & Upper Sepik C/D, particularly Numau-Ablatak, Main River, and Chambri C/D.
 Patrol Accompanied by Europeans R.K. Treutlein 2 days; J. Summers 1 day. P. Wearne 12 days.
 Natives Members RP&NGC, Three, 1 for 3, 2, & 1 days.

Duration—From 20/11/1967 to 5/12/1967

Number of Days 14 days (3 ~~nights~~ nights camped out)

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services Various dates for each C/D but all patrolled during past 12 months.

Medical/19.....

Map Reference ~~Ambunti~~ Ambunti Journal

Objects of Patrol Conduct the initial elections for the Ambunti Local Government Council.

Director of District Administration,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

12/1/1968

E. J. Hiebs
District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation £.....

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund £.....

Amount paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund £.....

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Ref: 67-3-12

Dept. of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, PAPUA.

4th March, 1968.

District Commissioner,
Wahne District,

PATROL NO. AMBUNTI 8 of 1967/68

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of:-

- * Memorandum of Patrol No.
- * Patrol Report No.

covering patrol by... K. P. Neame C.P.O.

T. W. Ellis
 (T. W. Ellis)
 (J. K. McCarthy)
 DIRECTOR.

* Delete as necessary.

TERRITORY OF PAFUA AND NEW GUINEA

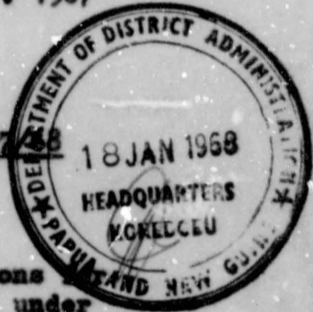
67. 8. 12 1

Dept. of District Administration
Sub-District Offices
AMBUNTI
East Sepik District.

21st. December. 1967

The Assistant District Commissioner,
AMBUNTI.

Subject : Ambunti report no 8 of 1967
Election report.



Attached is my report on the initial elections of the Ambunti L.G.C. The report has not been made out under the headings in a formal report as per your verbal instructions.

For your information, please.

(K.P. Wearne.)

Gadet Patrol Officer

MINUTE TO/

District Commissioner,
WEWAK

File 67-1-12
Sub-district Office,
AMBUNTI

9th January, 1968.

Attached please find the above patrol report. The business of the patrol was routine and the brevity and format of the report was in accordance with my directions to Mr Wearne. In my opinion routine matters such as this should be covered by a Memorandum of Patrol, even though the officer conducting is a Gadet Patrol Officer.

For your information, please.

Assistant District Commissioner

DISTRICT OFFICE
WEWAK

12/1/68

(67-1-12) 1/1

DIRECTOR
DEPT. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION
WONKDOBUBU

For your records, please

E. J. Hecks
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

6 7

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

Introduction :

As the object of the patrol was a specific one; to carry out the Ambunti local government elections; and the greater part of the patrol consisted of day trips, I have not made comments under the various headings as in a formal patrol report.

The patrol consisted of 5 patrol days and 8 field days, and covered the Yessan and Upper Sepik Census Divisions, and part only of the Numau/Ablatak Zem, Main River, and Chambri Census Divisions. All the villages except two in which elections were held are accessible by water transport most of the year. Transport used was mainly the Caribbean speedboat, with the Tradewind for the Amagu river, and a small canoe for the Yerakai trip.

Patrol Diary :

20.11.67 :

- 0800-0830 ; Prepared papers etc for election and travelled to Malu villages via speedboat. Treutlein accompanying.
- 0830-1015 ; Talk given to village and candidates nominated, all ballot papers stamped prior to voting.
- 1015-1300 ; Polling carried out for Malu ward.
- 1300-1330 ; Ballot papers counted and people told of provisional winner.
- 1330-1415 ; Gear packed into speedboat and travelled to Ambunti.
- 1415-1500 ; All papers and stamps prepared for the 21st.

21.11.67 :

- 0800-0840 ; Down river to Avatip village in company with Mr Treutlein and constable Bausambi.
- 0840-1030 ; Talk given to village re election and candidates nominated, all ballot papers stamped.
- 1030-1430 ; Polling carried out Avatip ward.
- 1430-1515 ; Ballot papers counted and checked and provisional winner announced.
- 1515-1600 ; Gear into speedboat and returned to Ambunti.

22.11.67 :

- 0800-1015 ; Travelled down to Lavongai, picking up Mr Summers (head teacher) at Avatip, 45 minute walk across excellent track to the Yau'umbak lagoon, then 15 minutes in pull canoe to the village.
- 1015-1115 ; Talk given to village re election and candidates nominated, ballot papers stamped.
- 1115-1300 ; Polling carried out for the Yau'umbak ward, Mr Summers acting as poll clerk.
- 1300-1340 ; Ballot papers counted and checked and provisional winner announced. Talks with some village men re taxes.
- 1340-1620 ; Travelled back to Ambunti via Avatip.

23.11.67 :

- 0800-1200 ; Travelled downriver to Avatip then up the Amagu (Screw) river to Gumainjui (Kaiuk) village. River is falling rapidly and is treacherous in places. Walked for 15 minutes to reach village after limit of navigation reached.
- 1200-1330 ; Talk given to the members of three villages who comprise this ward; Yamanumbu, Gumainjui, and Ambuken. Candidates nominated and ballot papers stamped.
- 1330-1545 ; Polling carried out Ambuken ward. Mrs Wearne poll clerk.
- 1545-1620 ; Ballot papers counted and checked and provisional winner announced. Talks re meetings and tax with him.
- 1620-1900 ; Departed Gumainjui for Avatip, slowed down by damaged propeller, arrived after dark. Overnight Avatip.

24.11.67 :

- 0745-0900 ; Travelled to Ambunti in speedboat, continuous trouble with fouled carburettor.
- 0900-1000 ; Talks with ADC re progress of elections to date.
- 1000-1330 ; Rested at house.
- 1330-1600 ; In office sorting electoral material, filing minor correspondence, and preparing papers for the 25th.

25.11.67 :

- 0800-0845 ; Travelled to Yambon village up river from Ambunti.
- 0845-1030 ; Talk given to village re election, taxes, the first meeting ~~xxx~~ etc, candidates nominated, ballot papers stamped.
- 1030-1215 ; Polling carried out Yambon ward. Mrs Wearne poll clerk.
- 1215-1330 ; To Ambunti.

26.11.67 :

- Sunday. At Ambunti, prepared for 3 day trip to Yerakai.

27.11.67 :

- 0000-1130 ; Departed Ambunti in new canoe, travelled up the Yerakai channel to the lagoon. Water extremely low, met by some men from Yerakai to row our canoe across the lagoon which is too shallow for motor use.
- 1130-1230 ; Camp set up and talks with Luluai and other men re the elections in the afternoon. Candidates nominated.
- 1230-1330 ; Lunch. Talk given re taxes, meetings, elections etc.
- 1330-1540 ; Polling carried out Yerakai ward. Mrs Wearne poll clerk.
- 1540-1650 ; Ballot papers counted and checked, provisional winner announced. Talks with men re canoes for DDA and the crocodile skin industry. One complaint settled. Overnight Yerakai.

28.11.67 :

- 0800-1200 ; Walked from Yerakai to Garamambu, track dry at present. Latter half of track belonging to Garamambu excellent.
- 1200-1300 ; Lunch and rested.
- 1300-1430 ; Talk given re election, taxes, meetings, and old village officials, candidates nominated, ballot papers stamped.
- 1430-1615 ; Polling carried out Garamambu ward. Mrs Wearne poll clerk.
- 1615-1640 ; Ballot papers counted and checked, provisional winner announced. Talks with new councillor and other men re tax. Overnight Garamambu.

29.11.67 :

- 0830-1215 ; Walked from Garamambu to Yerakai.
- 1215-1320 ; Loaded canoe. Talks with some men re canoe for DDA again.
- 1320-1430 ; Rowed to channel where the motor could be used, down channel until patrol met one A.Karmel with a broken starter rope on his 20HP Merc. Repaired this.
- 1430-1540 ; Continued on to Ambunti. Cargo sent to office and house. Police constable Gigio stood down.

30/11.67 :

- 0800-1100 ; Visited Yessan, Maio, and Brugnawi in speedboat for the Ambunti L.G.C. elections, but these people had not been informed last week and were not all available. Told that the elections would be held on the 1/12 at Brugnawi, and 5/12 at Yessan and Maio.
- 1100-1200 ; Returned to Ambunti.
- 1330-1600 ; Diary up to date, election figures, and patrol report for Sepik Plains C/D.

1.12.67 :

- 0800-0900 ; To Brugnawi by speedboat.
- 0900-1015 ; Talks given re election, taxes, meetings, etc. Candidates nominated, ballot papers stamped.
- 1015-1230 ; Polling carried out Brugnawi ward. Mrs Wearne poll clerk.
- 1230-1310 ; Ballot papers counted and checked, provisional winner announced.
- 1310-1350 ; Talks with some men re a complaint against Yambon.
- 1350-1450 ; To Ambunti.

2.12.67 :

- 0800-1200 ; Ambunti roll of electors compiled and Polling commenced.

3.12.67 :

- Sunday, at Ambunti.

4.12.67 :

- 0800-1200 ; Ambunti ward polling continued.
- 1330-1600 ; Ambunti ward polling continued.
- 1600-1700 ; Ballot papers counted and checked, provisional winner announced.

5.12.67 :

- 0800-0915 ; To Yessan by speedboat with const. Gandi.
- 0915-1000 ; Waited for all Yessan and Maio people to gather.
- 1000-1115 ; Talks given re election, taxes, meetings, etc. Candidates nominated and Gandi began stamping ballot papers.
- 1115-1440 ; Polling carried out Yessan/Maio ward.
- 1440-1530 ; Ballot papers counted and checked and provisional winner announced.
- 1530-1600 ; Talks with some men re a complaint against Inioik men.
- 1600-1700 ; To Ambunti.
Election patrol completed.

Conduct of the Elections :

The elections held were the first for the Ambunti Local Government Council and only the second in the area; the other being the 1964 House of Assembly elections. Elections were held for 10 wards, comprised of 13 villages. There were 3 candidates at 7 wards, 4 at one, and 2 at one other.

At most wards nearly all the people had decided which candidate they would elect and clear majorities were shown in all wards except one. The exception was at Yambon where the Tultul won from the Luluai by 6 votes. The Tultul had obviously mounted a campaign some time previously and this had the desired effect. On two occasions people from one village voted for a candidate from another, and although in both cases there were ties between each village, it shows that some people were thinking in wider terms than just their own village. Also noted were frequent cases of wives voting differently to their husbands; a sign that they understood the secret ballot! The women voters also had a habit of voting in mass for one candidate, shown at the Ambunti, Yambon, Brugnowi, and Garamambu wards.

The turnout for polling was excellent, only in isolated cases did any person abstain from voting without offering a reason (such as caring for a sick person, being aged); and indeed the amount of interest shown indicates how these people are willing to try almost anything to better their economic position. All places had some males and females who needed interpreter assistance for voting. They were predominantly elderly persons.

The only incident occurred at Yerakai. Yerakai is now split into two separate villages, about 10 minutes walk from each other, one being all the Seventh Day Adventist adherents, the other comprised of the ~~remained~~ remainder. The SDA hamlet has the larger population and put up one candidate, whereas the other hamlet nominated two candidates. As to be expected the candidate from the SDA hamlet won. After the announcement a gentleman from the Yerakai itself (not the SDA one), jumped up and complained bitterly about his place losing, that they would now see the rest house built at the SDA hamlet and would be ignored by the council. After he had calmed down a little and everything had been explained to him in great detail by myself and constable Gigio (who comes from Yerakai), he still was not completely satisfied. A little later he asked whether he could vote at Garamambu the following day, and after another round of detailed explanations he was at last satisfied that there was nothing further he could do until the next elections in 12 months time.

Apart from this no other incidents or trouble was encountered during the elections, all places being well behaved and orderly. Nearly all places expressed satisfaction at the results of the elections and seemed pleased that the voting had given the result they had anticipated. Altogether the elections in the 10 wards this patrol covered were a success and served to gain the interest and attention of the people.



(K.P. Wearne.)

Cadet Patrol Officer.

Register

Appendix A :

List of New Councillors for the Ambunti Local Government Council.

<u>Ward.</u>	<u>Councillor.</u>
Ambuken Gumainjui Yamanumbu	Samago-Far'um. (from Ambuken)
Avatip	Tamsin-Jambundu.
Yau'umbak	Kapamau-Kondeimeli.
Malu	Marambang-Kapapami.
Ambunti	Kontrak-Nagwan.
Yambon	Garu-Jam. (ex Tultul)
Brugnowi	Kain-Agindimi.
Maio	Leimo-Wango. (from Maio)
Yessar	(ex Lului of Maio)
Yerakai	Wani-Wamuken.
Garamambu	Loman-Taui.

666

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Ref: 67-8-34

Department of District
Administration,

KONEDOBU. Papua.

October 4th, 1968.

The District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
WEYAK.

PATROL NO. ANWUTI NO. 14 OF 1967/68.

Your reference 67-1-12 dated 10th September, 1968.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of

* Special/~~Report~~ Report by
.. R.K. TREUTLEIN A.D.O. to ..
.. ROCKY PEAK Census Division.

You should write direct to the Director, Department of Information and Extension Services concerning transistor radios for distribution.

The reopening of the May River Patrol Post should see a continuing improvement in the overall situation.

(W.R. DISON)
~~Director~~
/Director

cc. Mr. R.K. Treutlein,
May River Patrol Post,
East Sepik District.

* Delete as necessary.

COPY

~~67.8.34.~~
67.8.34.
(22)

Reference: 67-12
R.K.T.



Department of District Administration,
Sub-District Office,
AMBUNTI, E.S.D.

23rd August, 1968

The Assistant District Commissioner,
AMBUNTI.

AMBUNTI PATROL REPORT NO. 14 OF 1967/68

Submitted herewith is the above Patrol Report to cover my activities in the May River area, investigating the Wobaru Murders and the two other reports of violence received by me during the patrol.

Late submission of the report is due to the interpretation difficulties experienced when the 10 defendants arrived from Green River without an interpreter. I wanted to be able to include some concrete facts concerning the Wobaru murders and could not do so until an interpreter had been secured from May River.

The use of quarto paper in part of this report is due to the present shortage of foolscap here in the office.

(R.K. Treutlein)
Assistant District Officer

7

57-1-12

R.K.T.

Sub-District Office
AMBUNTI E.S.D.

23rd August 1968

The Assistant District Commissioner
AMBUNTI

AMBUNTI PATROL REPORT NO 14 of 1967/68.

Submitted herewith is the above Patrol Report to cover my activities in the May River area, investigating the Woberu Murders and the two other reports of violence received by me during the patrol.

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The use of quartopaper in part of this report is due to the present shortage of foolscap here in the office.

R.K. Treutlein
(R.K. Treutlein)

Assistant District Officer

67.8.34

20

62-1-12



District Office,
WEWAK.
East Sepik District

10th September, 1968

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

AMBUNTI PATROL REPORT NO.14
1967/68

Receipt is acknowledged of the above mentioned report submitted by Mr. R.K. Treutlein, Assistant District Commissioner.

The claim for Camping Allowance is quite correct and will be processed in the normal manner.

It is noted that Mr. Tomlinson will be proceeding to May River Station on a permanent basis on the conclusion of the current Supreme Court Sittings.

Would you please request Mr. Tomlinson to make a survey of the villages in the May River area where there are fluent-pidgin-English speakers and where transistor radios could be best utilized in the interests of the Administration and the people.

Enquiries will be made with the District Commissioner, West Sepik, re the expansion at Yellow River and you will be advised in due course.

E. G. Hicks
E.G. HICKS
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

c.c. Director,
Department of District Administration,
KOMEDOBU, PAFUA



It is considered essential that a special allocation of transistor radios be made for distribution to selected villages in the May River area.

For your information and records, please.

E. G. Hicks
E.G. HICKS
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

67-1-13

19.
AMBUNTI,
East Sepik District.

27th August, 1968.

District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
WEWAK.

AMBUNTI PATROL NO. 14-1967/68

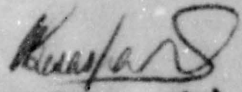
Attached are three copies of report of patrol conducted by Mr. R.K. Treutlein in the May River area. Interim reports have been forwarded previously.

Claim for camping allowance also covers time spent at May River Patrol Post as the station is unmanned. Please advise whether this is correct.

The patrol's main purpose was to investigate allegations of incidents in the May River area and this was achieved. Mr. Tomlinson has taken over May River and will be proceeding there on a permanent basis shortly after the coming Supreme Court sittings.

I have no comments to add to the report apart from the fact that Mr. Tomlinson will follow up the Mauki Iteli incident by a census of Iteli and an interview with the original informant.

For your information please.


(B.A. Boasparis)
Assistant District Commissioner

(18)

Patrol Report :: Ambunti No 14 of 1967/68

Subdistrict :: Ambunti
District :: East Sepik

Council Status :: Non Council Area

Patrol Conducted by :: R.K. Treutlein
Designation :: Assistant District Officer

Area Patrolled :: Parts of Rocky Peak Census Division
Green River Administrative Area
Parts of : Upper May, Waniap May
and Central May Census Divisions.
May River Administrative Area.

Personnel accompanying :: 3 Police Constables for part of
patrol, 6 Police Constables for
remainder.
1 Native Hospital Orderly
1 Outboard Motor Driver

Duration of Patrol :: Departed 24/6/68 returned Ambunti
11/7/68
Departed Ambunti 16/7/68 returned
Ambunti 24/7/68
Total Number of days: 27

Date and duration last
DDA Patrols to the area :: May River Patrol No 5 1967/68
14 patrol days and 5 field days
Ambunti Patrol No 12 of 1967/68
28 days
Both patrols were for the 1968 House
of assembly elections. The latter
patrol spent 5 actual days in the
area, the rest were spent in the
Ambunti patrol Area.

Objects of patrol :: The investigation of a report of
murder in the Ananari area, and
investigation of other reports of
trouble.

Total Population of area
patrolled :: Not known, no census as yet for some
of the groups, others belong to Green
River. No census conducted.

Map Reference :: Patrol Map attached.

Village Population Reg. :: Not attached.

(17)

INTRODUCTION

This patrol was mounted for the purpose of investigating a report of a murder which had been committed in the WOBARU area of the May River Patrol Post Administration area. During the investigation, two other reports of trouble in the May River area were also investigated.

23-6-68 Friday

Patrol Diary

24/6/68 Monday

0800 departed for Ambunti per speedboat with all cargo. Arrived at 1100. Set up camp. Searched for evidence in the area of the crime. Other two bodies of Wobaru and one Aluan found. All bodies positive.

1000 departed Ambunti per speedboat for May River. Refueling stop at Kubkain. Arrived May River at 1600, after 5 1/2 hours actual running time. Discussions with Police regarding the Wobaru murders. Questioned witnesses to get preliminary outline of story. Preparations to depart for Wagu on Sepik River (in Green R area) tomorrow. Overnight at May River Station.

25/6/68 Tuesday

0800 departed for Wagu. A boring trip, this part of the Sepik is practically without population. 1600 pulled in at Palawai track to let of Luluai of Wobaru who will get remaining witnesses and other interested parties together and we will pick them up further upriver tomorrow. Continued on to Tipas hamlet, on island in Sepik, arriving at 1730. Made camp and overnight. Met recently repatriated long-term Prisoner who tried to tell me that he had spent 4 years in durance vile for nothing. His own confession made to me at Lumi had been instrumental in getting him and six others convicted for murder. He was somewhat non-plussed when I identified myself.

26/6/68 Wednesday

0800 departed for Wagu. No sign of Wobarus at appointed meeting place. Continued onwards arriving Wagu at 1200. Canoe sent back to pick up lagging Wobarus. Made camp. Enquiries revealed that Wagu people knew of Killing. Had been told about it by party of Ananaries. Talk sent out for a witness, Akou, to come in. Discussions with Wagus re the Ananary area, tracks and likely whereabouts of them. Made plans for tomorrows attempt at apprehension. Overnight at Wagu.

27/6/68 Thursday

0700 departed for Ananari. Advance, and forward advance scouts out well ahead (people from Wagu, who are well known to Ananaries), to prevent main party blundering into any possible Guards. Reached first garden house of Ananari group at 1000. Found deserted. At 1100 advance scouts reported bodies in next House. Approached cautiously, but found area deserted. Found two bodies in house, which were tentatively identified as those of Izamo (male) and Sanio (Female) two of the people killed by the Ananaries. No sign of the others. As main garden hamlet very nearby made cursory examination only and then continued to main hamlet of Ananari. Approached cautiously but place again found deserted. Signs indicated that people had left 3 to 4 days ago. Found track leading up Yenabi creek, towards the main Ranges, which had been used by a party of people about the same length of time ago. Followed same. Finally reached the conclusion that Ananari people had definitely fled to a settlement of uncontacted people in the foothills of the main Ranges.

28/6/68 Friday

29/6/68 Saturday

16

27-6-68 (cont)

As my party was not equipped for an overnight stay in the bush, decided to turn back to Wagu at 1530. Followed different track, down Yenabi Creek, arriving at upriver hamlet of Wagu at 1800. Canoe picked up party at 1830. Overnight at Wagu Resthouse.

28-6-68 Friday

0800 departed for Ananary Garden Hamlet with all cargo. Arrived 1130. Set up camp. Commenced investigating scene of the crime. Other two bodies, of Negiam and old Aiyam found. All bodies positively identified by Aiyam, wife of deceased Negiam, who was a survivor of the killing. Took photographs of bodies, removed and bundled up the numerous arrows found in the two men. With Hospital orderly Pius Tawoon inspected bodies for signs of other wounds. Several bone fragments and one shoulderblade taken from skeletal remains of Negiam, whose body was located in the bush at the edge of the garden clearing. Old Aiyam who was also in the open had no signs on her skeletal remains, presume she died as a result of some other wound. Two bodies in the house only partly decomposed and mummified, probable axe wounds on Imamo, and found tomakawk under body. Three arrows through Sanio. Interrogated Aiyam Jnr at the scene of the crime. Made sketches of the house and surroundings. Engaged on this all day. Overnight at Garden Hamlet. Bodies not buried, as Wobarus did not want them buried, but preferred to leave them where they are. Intend to take Ananaries here, when they are apprehended, and elicit statements on the spot, if possible and if they are willing.

Decided against going inland tomorrow to try and apprehend them in their mountain hide-out, as I only have three police with me and this makes the party too small and too tempting a target for an ambush.

29/6/68 Saturday

1000 departed for Wagu, with all cargo. Arrived 1230. Afternoon spent interviewing the man Akou, who had talked to a party of three Ananaries after the murder, when they visited the upper hamlet of Wagu to enquire if the "Kiaps" were taking an interest in the murder, and also to boast of what they had done. Overnight at Wagu.

30/6/68 Sunday

0800 departed for May River, a long boring and seemingly interminable 100 miles away. Arrived at dusk. Overnight at May River station.

1/7/68 Monday

At May River. Conversation with ADC Ambunti to report on situation so far. General Office matters, Police and station pays. Arrangements made for Yamili, Imamo's wife, the only other eyewitness to the murder, to come to May River. She was not with the party at Panewai, as she has a painful knee condition. After 4 pm tried to contact Green River on Border Sched, but unsuccessful as Sched now at midday. Contacted Ananab by chance and explained situation re Wobaru murders which had been committed in their area. Will talk to Green River tomorrow. Overnight at May River station.

2/7/68 Tuesday

At May River. Party of finish time Workers brought in by employees of Anakar Carmel Ambunti. Including two from the Arai area upriver. They were going to be just dropped here to find their own

(15)

2/7/68 (Cont)

way back home. Convinced motordriver that they should at least be taken to Arai and lent him my driver as a guide. Canoe departed at 1000. Rest of day spent in office on general work. Conversation with Green River at 1300. Explained position re Ananari to him and suggested a possible joint patrol to apprehend the criminals. Tentative date set for 4 weeks from today when Green River will be patrolling near this area. General Office work and repairs to battery charger for rest of day. Canoe returned from Arai at 1700. My driver reports a rumour in the area to the effect that some Naukwi men have killed someone from Itelinu, further inland. Overnight at May River.

3/7/68 Wednesday

0800 by speedboat to Arai, accompanied by Corporal Gigio, to check up on rumour. Tultul of Arai confirmed the rumour, apparently three Naukwi (on Left May R.) men killed a man his wife and child, all from Itelinu. The killing was apparently over a land dispute. The story had come to Arai at third hand, from a man, Lupaiia who had allegedly been told by the miscreants themselves. Made arrangements for carriers to stand by on the day after tomorrow. Returned to May River. Overnight at May River.

4/7/68 Thursday

Canoe with 5 extra Police arrived late morning. Briefed them on the situation and told them to prepare for patrol tomorrow. Typed up report of Ananari killing, and report of allegations of trouble at Naukwi and at Wannum. Prepared to depart tomorrow morning.

5/7/68 Friday

0800 canoe despatched back to Ambunti. 0830 departed for Naukwi area, with 6 Police. Heavy rain last night had brought rivers up and was able to reach Waterbung Patrol Camp on the Left May River with no trouble. Set up camp. Canoe sent back to get carriers from Arai. Returned late afternoon. Set up 510 set for Sked with Ambunti and May River at 1630, but no luck. Nothing at all heard on 5050, though other frequencies booming in. Overnight at Waterbung Camp. River dropping fast.

6/7/68 Saturday

Upstream by canoe, though river very low and going slow. Finally tied up canoe at old Patrol Camp and continued on foot. Called at small garden hamlet of Naukwi to get Lupaiia, and an interpreter. Did not interrogate Lupaiia as wanted to avoid possibility of three men getting wind of Patrol's purpose and departing for parts unknown. Reached main house of N Naukwi at 1000. Most of people in bush. People called in, and all finally at House at 1200. Three alleged murderers pointed out by Arai tultul. Arrested same. No trouble making arrest in fact too easy. When confronted with accusation they vehemently denied all knowledge. Called for Lupaiia to get whole story. He had run away into the bush when the three were arrested. Possibly he thought that he was also implicated and was afraid of consequences. Unable to find him in bush. Explained to people that he would have nothing to fear, that I only wanted to hear his

(14)

6/7/68 (Cont)

story. Asked them to try and bring him in. Explained to three arrested men, that if investigation proved them innocent of any crime, they would be released, but meanwhile they would have to accompany patrol. Had planned to continue to Itelinu tomorrow, but now informed Corporal Gigio that meeting with Itelinus must be first arranged via the Luluai of Agrame, otherwise they will go bush. He is adamant that this is the only way. As he is only one of us familiar with this area, will have to follow advice. Returned to Waterbung Camp in late afternoon. Again tried to contact Ambunti on 510, but again no luck. Overnight.

7/7/68 Sunday

0800 departed for May River. Left May R. very low and progress difficult due to numerous snags and logs across the river. Carriers followed canoe on bank, assisting were necessary. Took 3 hours to get into May River. Carriers paid off at Arai. Continued on to May River, arriving 1500. Arranged for Gigio to go to Agrame via Waniap to arrange meeting with Itelinus. 3 detainees taken out of handcuffs and placed in Lock-up. Do not intend to take statements until I have some supporting evidence. Overnight at May River.

8/7/68 Monday

Corp. Gigio despatched to Agrame, also Const. Heny to check on rumour of killing in Waniap area. General Office work, more repairs to battery charger, at present averaging 50% downtime. Afternoon had conversation with District Commissioner and DDC, regarding the situation here. Convinced DC that I have to visit Itelieu, because meeting being set up now. He wanted me to cease further investigations until he had discussed affairs with ADC Ambunti. Overnight at May River.

9/7/68 Tuesday

General Office work, battery charger downtime now 99%, needs complete overhaul. Afternoon Corporal Gigio returned to report nothing known of any murder at Agrame, despite very recent visits by Itelinu people. Luluai of Agrame is proceeding to Itelinu to arrange meeting and find out more. Constable Heny reports Waniap murder rumour based on Marital Tiff in Waniap, wife got slapped not killed, all quiet now. Hoping for rain so I can get to Waniap to check on report of trouble there.

10/7/68 Wednesday

In Office all day. Conversation with ADC Ambunti. He requests my presence at Ambunti for discussions with DC on the 13th. As Naukwi matters pending report from Agrame Luluai, of arrangements for meeting, and unable reach Waniap due low water and low stocks prevent going there the long way round, will depart tomorrow for Ambunti. Overnight at May River.

11/7/68 Thursday

0800 to Ambunti per speedboat, refueled at Kubkain, arrived Ambunti 1400. Actual running time 5 1/2 hours. Reported to ADC.

(13)

12/7/68 Friday At Ambunti. Repairing U/S Outboard motors all day, as situation difficult due my long absence.

13/7/68 Saturday Observed. District Commissioner arrived with Transport Committee at Bunchtime. After lunch, discussed May River affairs and go-ahead on further investigations

14/7/68 Sunday Observed at Ambunti.

15/7/68 Monday At Ambunti. Completed motor repairs and prepared to depart for May River tomorrow.

16/7/68 Tuesday 0700 departed Ambunti per MV Sapphire, towing canoe and carrying court witnesses for return to May River. On river all day. Tied up at Yambunaba at dusk and spent the night aboard the boat.

17/7/68 Wednesday 0600 loaded up canoe, found impossible to take court witnesses, as load too big. Left them on boat to go back to Ambunti. 0700 cast off and proceeded upriver by canoe, Sapphire returning Ambunti. Arrived May River at dusk. No news from Agrame yet. Overnight at May River.

18/7/68 Thursday In office all day. Despatched Constables Anje and Gandhi to Agrame to check up on latest developments. They are to try and bring back some pidgin speaking Itelinus. Overnight at May River. Heavy rain during night.

19/7/68 Friday May River up, due rain. Decided to try to get to Waniam via Wani Creek shortcut. Just able to squeeze through, on falling tide. At Waniam found that tale of impending trouble among groups behind Waniam was exaggerated version of an argument which developed during a singing, and which was resolved before the singing finished. Everybody quite happy now and nobody particularly apprehensive. Returned to May River, first down Saniap Creek to the Sepik, then upriver to the May and then up the May to May River station. Overnight at May River.

20/7/68 Saturday To Waniam to pickup two Constables. Two pidgin speaking Itelinus accompanying Police. They have no knowledge whatsoever of any of their number having been killed. They say that all people are presently in their village and none are unaccounted for. It appears that rumour of murder was just another one of those things. Returned to May River, and informed three detainees of the happy news that they would be going back home.

21/7/68 Sunday Heavy Rain, and River up. 0600 departed for Waterbung Camp, with three Naukwi men. Was able to proceed all the way up to Lupaias hamlet of Naukwi. Lupaias present on our arrival, but again went bush the moment he saw us. Sent people after him, even the three ex detainees, but he would not come out. It now appears that he made the whole story up and is a

82/7/13

82/7/14

82/7/15

82/7/16

82/7/17

82/7/18

(12)

21/7/68 (cont)

afraid of the consequences. Left word that he can forget his fears, he will not get into trouble. Next Patrol to the area should have a word with this man to impress upon him the inconvenience and trouble caused the Administration by his loose talk.

SITUATION REPORT

Political

The patrol did a ... the villages visited ... pertinent to ...
22/7/68 Monday

Gave three Naukiwi men several presents of trade goods etc to compensate them for their incarceration. They parted from the patrol on the best of terms, but were happy to be home. Returned down Left May River, and was able to get out into the May River without any trouble at all. Called at Arai to tell the people of the outcome of my investigations. Returned to May River at Dusk. Overnight May River.

Economic

Economically ... crocodile skins and ... is practically ... There is no ...
23/7/68 Tuesday

At May River, cleaned up some outstanding matters, paid police and station staff. Conversation with ADC Ambunti, to report on matters and advise of my departure for Ambunti tomorrow. Built triple canoe to carry patrol party and Wobara witnesses to Ambunti. Overnight at May River.

24/7/68 Wednesday
in the ...
cently by Mr L. ...
but he unfortunately ...
at were very poor. ...
doing some prospecting ...
collected a small ...
rewarded with ...
-some, no matter how ...

Departed May River at 0700, bound for Ambunti. Stops at Iemombui, Inioh, Tauri to deliver mail. Reached Oum at 1800. Made camp and Overnight.

0600 departed Oum for Ambunti. Arrived Ambunti at 1800 after a long hot day. Police stood down, witnesses bedded down. Reported to ADC.

END OF PATROL

In the higher reaches of ... found, and the copal gum ...
-vide some income for the ...
per pound at Ambunti, and ...
should bring 50 a pound ...
collect, as the tapping ...
be exploited as a small ...
this area. People near ...
to collect it and were able ...
ago.

Social

There is no School operated ... Area. The Seventh Day ...
opposite the May River ...
quite small, but will ...

Health in the area is ...
an ... staffed by an ...
difficult cases are ...
Mr. B. Lundstrom of ...
of laws cases in the ...
but it appears that an ...

8

11

SITUATION REPORT

Political

The patrol did not have the intimate longterm contact with the villages visited to form an opinion, or to glean any facts pertinent to the political development picture.

Economic

Economically May River is a depressed area. Aside from crocodile skins and the sale of labour to Plantations there is practically no source of income available at present. There is no cashcropping at present, and any that develops will require considerable assistance from the Administration in the form of free transportation to Ambunti, of any produce. This should not be too difficult, as the Workboat goes to May River quite regularly and could carry back produce.

A hopeful sign is the discovery of gold, in small quantities in the May River Mountains. These finds were investigated recently by Mr L. Schmidt Senior Mining Assistant (Native Mining) but he unfortunately found that most of the sites he looked at were very poor. Nonetheless, the Tultul of Pekwe has been doing some prospecting on his own accord and has already collected a small amount. It may be that his efforts will be rewarded with reasonable strike. At any rate, any amount of income, no matter how small will be welcome in this area.

In the higher reaches of the May River Kauri pines are found, and the copal gum which can be won from them could provide some income for the Mianmin people. This gum brings 5c per pound at Ambunti, and with free transport from May River should bring 5c a pound there also. It is reasonably easy to collect, as the tapping methods are very elementary and should be exploited as a small scale form of economic development in this area. People near Ambunti, at Wagu have been shown how to collect it and were able to bring in 1000lbs of it a few months ago.

Social

There is no School operated by the Administration in this area. The Seventh Day Adventist Mission, however, opened a school opposite the May River Station recently. This school is still quite small, but will doubtlessly be expanded as required.

Health in the area is probably quite reasonable. There is an Aidpost, staffed by an Aidpost Orderly at May River, and difficult cases are evacuated to Ambunti. Mr. D. Lundstrom of SDA Ambunti reports that he saw a number of Yaws cases in the Kauivia, Wobaru Tigi area. He treated these, but it appears that an antiyaws campaign may be necessary.

Mr Landstrom told me at May River that he intended to report the Yaws cases to the medical Authorities, and I presume that he has allready done so.

The purpose of this patrol was the investigation of the Wobaru Murders, and these are covered elsewhere in this Patrol Report. In addition to the "obaru murders, a number of other reports of violence were investigated. All of them proved to be innocuous or based on exaggerated rumours. It is perhaps significant that the actual proven case of trouble occurred in uncontacted and unpatrolled country, on the outskirts of the May River area, while the false alarms occurred within the May River area. It is my opinion, based of discussions with people during previous 'housekeeping' trips to May River, and during this patrol, that these false alarms are simply a symptom of the anxiety the people feel at the fact that they do not have an officer of this Department permanently posted there at present.

As far as social development is concerned the May River area consists of three zones which tend to shade into each other. The most highly developed zone (for this area!!) lies in the vicinity of May River station, and generally along the May River up to perhaps Burumai, along the "aniap Creek, to Waniap and along the Saniap Creek to Wanium. These people consider themselves reasonably sophisticated and law abiding citizens. They have given up the Law of the Bow and arrow and consider themselves to be under the "Shield of the Law", as administered by this Department. Furtherout are the people who are collectively known as the "Biruas". These include the contacted and patrolled groups along the eastern side of the Sawtooth Range, from Wobaru in the North West to Naukwi and Itelinu and Didipas and Miarmin in the South West, and to the east of the May River, those villages which are situated to the South East of Wanium (Samo, Inagri, Amu, Yei). The people of the inner zone consider these "Biruas" as probably reasonably friendly, but still not quite civilized and therefore dangerous. They would not like to meet a "Birua" alone on a dark night. Further out still, are the uncontacted, or practically uncontacted and unpatrolled "Wild men" of the bush. The people of the inner zone consider them to be dangerous and to be avoided at all cost. Those of the "Birua" zone treat them with care and respect, although they have social relations with some of them. The fact that they are dangerous was proven by the Wobaru murders, the Ananaries are "Wild Men".

As a result of this zonal development, the people of the inner zone feel themselves to be hemmed in by danger on all sides. Their only salvation is the Patrol Officer At May River and the Law he represents and administers. When the last Officer departed on leave and was not replaced immediately they felt themselves without protection and at the mercy of any Birua or Wild Man who happened along. There was considerable anxiety and the people were afraid that they would be left to their own devices. I was approached on a number of occasions by Village Officials and others worriedly enquiring when they were going to get another Officer at May River. I did my best to alleviate their fears, but this is not possible on short trips to the station once

END

The Wobaru Murders

The Facts as known todate.

-3-

every month. This climate of anxiety and apprehension is a perfect breeding ground for rumours and exaggerated rumours based on rumours. Everyone of the three unfounded reports of trouble came from the inner zone, and were directed at people from the Birua zone.

The only answer to this problem, as far as I can see is to post an officer to May river, or at the very least institute an intensive patrol program for this area, from Ambunti/. Either way, an officer will have to be tied up for some considerable time on the May River Administrative matters. The swift way in which the Wobaru murders and the other reports were investigated may have done something towards alleviating the people's fears and assuring them that they have not been forgotten.

Two Missions are presently active in the Area. The Seventh Day Adventist Mission, controlled from Ambunti and the Assembly of God Mission which presently operates from their station near Pagwi. The Catholic Mission (Order of Friars Minor) is also starting to extend from Nuku into this area. At present the SDA Missions appears to be the strongest. Mr Lundstrom SDA Ambunti informs me that the people of the Kauvia and Wobaru area are building an airstrip for his Mission. At last report the clearing work was progressing well. This strip may be useful in the future in administrative work in this area.

Miscellaneous

The patrol slept at a hamlet of Tipas, situated on an island in the Sepik River. I have visited Tipas village in the past from Lumi, and it was then situated about two miles inland from the Sepik, in the Lumi Subdistrict. The hamlet I sleep at is of quite considerable size and probably houses most of the people in this village. The people informed me that they were in the process of leaving their old village, as the new site is more convenient to the commerce of the area (Trading canoes). This new site for the village places them technically in the Ambunti Subdistrict. There has in the past been much moving around by these people, and groups of Tipas people have been variously written into and out of the Lumi and Ambunti population Registers. It appears that another such operation may be necessary again in the near future.

While at Tipas I was told by the Tultul that Lumi was constructing a station at the Yellow River Mission Airstrip. He talked of a gaol, Police Accommodation and a residence for a Patrol officer. Todate nothing has been heard at this office from Lumi regarding any such expansion of their Administrative efforts in this area. It may be administratively convenient and desirable to transfer part of the May River area into the Lumi Subdistrict if a Patrol Post or Base Camp is indeed being set up.

END

8

The Wobaru Murders

The Facts as known to date.

The Ananari people were apparently once part of the Agrame group in the May River area. A long time ago they broke away from Agrame and went to live in the area which they presently occupy. They have affiliations with at least one other group, the Yinibi people who live further up in the foothills of the West Range.

The Wobaru and Ananari people have been visiting each other for quite some time now, and it appears that they have been on quite friendly terms in the recent past.

It appears that on or about the 5th of June 1968 a party of Wobaru people, including among others the deceased Negiam and the Witness Imo were at Ananari. Imo remained behind when the others left, he has been quite friendly with the Ananaries and knows their area quite well. The Ananari man Imari (alias "Eye no good") asked Imo to take a message to Negiam, asking him to come over with the rest of his family to get some native tobacco. (There is some discrepancy here between the defendants' statements and Imo's evidence, as they say that Negiam and his family came without being asked). Imo says that he took this message to the bush house Aulabo, where Negiam was. He claims that he could see nothing about the Ananaries behaviour to make him suspect foul play.

The party at Aulabo consisted of Aiyam(Snr), here two sons Negiam and Imamo, their wives: Aiyam (Jnr) and Yamili and Yamili's daughter Sanio and small child Sisili. These seven people on receiving the message from Imo travelled rather slowly, because Yamili has a bad knee, to Ananari. On the way they shot a wallaby and cooked it. They arrived at the small Ananari garden house just before dark. They were invited into the house.

The men, with Sanio following her father, went up the men's ladder at one side of the house, while the women went up the ladder at the other side. The men and women sat down in separate sections of the house, as per custom. Walls made it impossible for the women to see the men. Small talk was exchanged and smokes were lit. Imamo called out for the cooked wallaby and divided it. Then he called for some hotwater sago, from his wife. He came to the door of the room in which she was sitting. Imari was at that door.

As Imamo came through the door, Yamili saw Imari strike him down with an axe. An old man, also named Imari, and another man Yalio then stabbed him with bone daggers. At this point Yamili and the other women fled from the house. On the way Aiyam (Jnr) was struck a blow from the blunt end of an axe, inflicting a painful bruise, which was still in evidence three or four weeks later. The women fled away from the house. Aiyam (Jnr) and Yamili made good their escape, but Aiyam (Snr) was killed outside the house. Meanwhile, in the house the attacks on the men were continuing. After being struck with an axe and stabbed with daggers, Imamo was shot many times with arrows, by at least 10 people. 56 arrows were later recovered from his remains. Almost simultaneously with

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the attack on Imamo, two men attacked Negiam from behind and struck him down with axeblows. Negiam fell, but was able to rise again and to escape from the house. He was chased across the garden clearing and brought down with arrows in the bush, at the edge of the clearing. Again about 10 men shot him full of arrows, and 38 arrows were recovered from the body. The young girl Sanio was attacked by either two, or four men, who variously stabbed her with arrows and bone daggers. (there is some conflict between statements on this point at present). The old woman Aiyam (Snr) was attacked and stabbed in the neck by one man, Imo Alias Sapua/ Imamo, and she died near the house.

The two women, Aiyam (Jnr) and Yamili managed to escape and hid in the bush. Aiyam(Jnr) went into hiding quite close to the spot where her husband died. She claims to have heard what sounded like deathrattles, after the commotion died down. Both women continued their flight home to Wobaru at first light in the morning.

Quite a large group of men are involved in this killing. The names of 19 men have been mentioned in statements from the detainees. These people come from Ananari, Yinibi and other neighbouring groups. At present 6 men are in custody here at Ambunti. These six were arrested with 5 others, who are not implicated, by a patrol from Green River. The remaining 13 alleged wrongdoers are still at large in their home area, which is located in Green River Patrol Area.

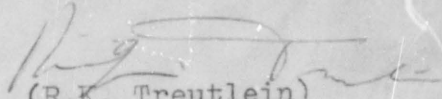
The motive for the killing is still in doubt. One detainee stated that it was a pay-back killing for sorcery worked by the two men and the old woman. Others deny this and state that they killed these people purely on the spur of the moment. There is also some conflict between the evidence of the Wobaru man Imo, who tells of a message to the deceased, asking them to come to Ananari. All the detainees so far interviewed deny that any such message was sent.

The Police investigation was hampered initially, in the interviewing of the detainees, as an interpreter had to be specially brought down from May River. It is now proceeding and three detainees have yet to be interviewed.

The investigation is somewhat complicated by the small number of names used by these people. as a result some of the detainees have the same names as witnesses, or as the deceased etc. This is causing some confusion at present but will be ironed out.

The remaining wrongdoers will eventually have to be brought to justice. This is going to be rather difficult, as they have had little or no contact with the Administration in their villages, although some of them have been away to the plantations. They also live in scattered groups and will have to be picked up piecemeal.

16.59


(R.K. Treutlein)
Assistant District Officer



(Copy)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA (6)

Telegrams...
Our Reference...
If calling ask for...
Mr. R.K.T.

Department of District Administration,
Sub-District Office
AMBUNTI E.S.S.

25th July 1968

The Assistant District Commissioner
AMBUNTI

MAY RIVER INCIDENTS

Refer also previous correspondence under this file dated 4th of July and 16th July (Interim Reports).

This report covers three incidents, viz the quadruple murder of Wobarus, committed by several men from Ananari, which is situated to the South of Wagu village in the Rocky Peak Census Division of the Green River Area (this matter is still under investigation)

- 2. Allegations of impending violence in the back of the Womium area. (This matter has now been cleared up)
- 3. Allegations of triple murder against three Naukwimen, now cleared up and found to be false.

....

The Ananari Incident

This matter was first reported by Lumi, as rumour which reached the Yellow River (Eduwaki) Mission Station to the effect that men from Wobaru had killed an old woman from Burumai in the May River Area. This report was received, at Ambunti on the 18th of June 1968. On the 19th of June Constable Heny, who knows how to operate Out-station Wireless sets was sent to May River to check on the rumour. Constable Heny reported on the 21st of June that there apparently been a killing, but that it involved Wobaru and Ananari and not Burumai, and that Wobarus had been the victims. He reported that he had witnesses to the matter on the station. On this day Mr L. Schmidt, Mining Assistant (Native Mining) also wrote a letter to Ambunti, detailing the same facts as Constable Heny had reported. This letter arrived at Ambunti on the 24th of June. I departed Ambunti on the 24th of June by speedboat and arrived at May River that afternoon. After interviewing the witnesses it became apparent that a party of seven Wobarus, consisting of an old Woman, Aiyam, her two sons Negiam and Imamo, their wives, Aiyam and Yamili and Yamili's children, a girl Sanio and a baby Sisili, had visited the Ananari people, had been attacked by them and that only the two wives and the baby had been able to escape. The two men, & the old woman had been killed, while the fate of the girl was in doubt. This information came from one of the surviving women, Aiyam. I was informed that the other woman as well as other witnesses were all at Panewai and also that Ananari could easily be reached from Wagu which is situated on the Sepik River near the Ambunti - Ananab Subdistrict Boundary. I decided to go the Wagu, and then inland to continue the investigation and departed from May River on the 25th of June, arriving at Wagu late on the 26th of June.

The Wagu people were aware of the killing and had in fact been told about it by three Ananari men who had visited a hamlet of Wagu and openly boasted of their deed on the 24th of June. On the 28th of June I departed for the Ananari hamlet, which is situated about two hours walk inland from Wagu. All precautions were taken to avoid the possibility of an armed clash.

(5)

The first small garden house of the Ananari people was found to be deserted. The second one also, although it was discovered that this house held the bodies of one of the two dead men and of the young girl. One of the survivors of the incident was with my party and she confirmed that this was the scene of the crime. Two other bodies, that of the other man and of the old woman were not in evidence (these were later found nearby). As the main garden hamlet was nearby, I decided to push on in the hope of capturing the men responsible. Unfortunately they had decamped some two or three days before. We followed one of the trails they used and found that it wound up towards the headwaters of Zenak creek, and I was assured that they had gone to join a group of people living up there. Not being equipped for an overnight stay in the bush, I then turned the party around and returned to Wagu, by a different road. On the following day I shifted camp to the main garden hamlet, and carried out a close investigation of the scene of the crime. The bodies of the other two were quickly found, and I took a statement from one of the female survivors on the spot. The other woman was unfortunately unable to travel as she suffers from a chronic knee complaint. I took photographs of the bodies and then inspected them as well as I and the Hospital Orderly could, for signs of violence. It began to appear that the men had first been axed and then riddled with arrows. The old woman showed no obvious signs of violence on her skeletal remains and I was unable to form an opinion on the cause of her death. The young girl had had three arrows shot through her and probably died as a result. On the next day, after completing investigations at the scene of the crime I returned to Wagu and on the following day continued on to May River.

On the following day I advised the ADC Ambunti of the facts as far as they were known to me. I also talked to Anemah on the radio in the afternoon and advised the ADC there, and arranged to speak to Green River during the bordersked ex kxz fx concerning a possible joint patrol to apprehend the 10 Ananaries allegedly involved, in their mountain hideout. The OJC Green River suggested that this would be possible in 4 to 6 weeks time, ie about mid August. On the 4th of July I forwarded a report to the ADC Ambunti which went into some detail about this incident, and also mentioned the mooted joint patrol.

I did not attempt at this time to go and try to capture them myself, as I only had three Police, which I considered insufficient to enter previously uncontacted areas to apprehend people who had already boasted that they would attack any patrol sent to catch them. I received 5 additional Police on the 4th of July, but by then the joint patrol had been decided on in principle and other matters had come up for investigation (see below), so I took no further action at that time. On the 11th of July I took the opportunity to send a witness from Wagu home on a convenient Trading canoe, intending to pick him up again at the time of the joint patrol. Unbeknownst to me, Green River was mounting a patrol at that time, to go in and capture the Ananaries, and I did not find out about this in time to advise him on this action.

11 Ananari men, described by the OJC Green River as coming from Yinibi village, May River, were captured by the patrol. They were taken to Vanimo, and on the 24th of July they were brought before a Magistrate and charged (on with a holding charge) with the murder of the old woman, Aiyam and remanded until the 8th of August. Ten of them arrived today (the 25th of July) at Ambunti. The eleventh has been sent to Newak hospital for correction of a hernia condition. I intend to commence taking any statements which they might wish to make from the defendants tomorrow.

I have also made arrangements with the OJC Green River to have one Wagu Witness sent to Ambunti.

This investigation is still proceeding. To date I have statements from:

- 1: A man Iao who carried the invitation for the visit to the

victims. He appears innocent of any criminal intent.

- 2: The Woman Aijun (Jur) wife of Negiam, one of the deceased, who gives an eyewitness account of the actual affray. Her evidence is rather poor in most respects as she saw no actual violence done to anyone.
- 3: The Woman Yamli, wife of the deceased Imano, who was also an eyewitness to the killing, she actually saw her husband struck down.
- 4: The man AKOU from Wagu, with whom a party of three Aunari men, consisting of Imari, Suwan and Inowa, spoke about the killing. His evidence could be valuable, as it amounts to a voluntary confession.

The case as it stands is rather weak, and will depend for strength on any confessions or statements the defendants may wish to make.

The Waniu Affair

On the 3rd of July Mr Lundstrom of the SDA Mission Ambunti reported to me at May River, that the Waniu people were fearing trouble from the villagers located in the hills to the southeast of Waniu. There had allegedly been talk of getting out weapons and having a fight. Mr Lundstrom was unable to furnish further particulars at that time. As I had the Waukwi matter to look into and considered that somewhat more important, an actual triple murder having been alleged, I decided to leave the matter in abeyance for the moment, especially as the low state of the May River made it extremely difficult to reach Waniu without travelling a considerable distance (a round trip of some 120 miles). On the eleventh of July, after I had returned temporarily to Ambunti to discuss these various incidents, the May River rose and the opportunity presented itself for the Police to go to Waniu to find out what it was all about. Unfortunately they were unable to get there as the water dropped again too quickly. They did manage to get two men from nearby whose story suggested that there was no basis for alarm. After my return from Ambunti, on the 19th of July I was able to get to Waniu and I found that the earlier report had indeed been true and that no state of impending hostilities was in existence. The rumour arose as follows:

The people of Sami organised a singing, which was attended by people from Inagri and Amu, neighbouring villages. During the proceeding a man from Inagri clumsily upset a platform on which food had been laid out by the Samis, for the feast. The Samis became a little upset about this waste of good food, which they had taken considerable pains to prepare. An argument ensued and continued for some little time. During this argument statements like: "We Inagris are all big strapping fellows, and given the opportunity could kill all of you Samis without even trying, but we won't because the Government has forbidden that sort of thing", and vice-versa were bandied about. There was also some rattling of spears and other such actions. After a while calmer heads triumphed and the argument died down. Eventually everyone shook hands and in the morning the various parties parted, the best of friends. The story of this affair reached Waniu, apparently somewhat embellished, and gave rise to the rumour heard by Mr Lundstrom. My information came from the Laluel and Tultul of Waniu who had actually been at the singing and saw what went on. They are not in the least apprehensive about any trouble broying in the area, though they are somewhat upset at the fact that talk of violence was in fact bandied about. I don't think that anyone will take this and consider the matter closed.

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The Naukwi Affair

This matter was first reported by the May River motor driver who had heard it from the Luluai of Arai. Not trusting his report too much I proceeded to Arai by speedboat on the 2nd of July and confirmed the rumour myself.

According to the rumour, three men from Naukwi, which is situated on the Left May River, had killed a man, his wife and child, all from Itelimu. The murder had apparently occurred at the boundary of Naukwi and Itelimu land near a small lagoon and was apparently caused by a dispute over land, the Itelimu man having allegedly made a garden on Naukwi land. It was reported that this story was told to one Lupaia, by the three men who have some ties with him. He then told an old man who lives in the bush between Naukwi and Arai and he told the Arais.

On the 5th of July I departed May River for the Waterbung Patrol Camp on the Left May River, arriving late that afternoon. Next morning I took a party of Police to Naukwi, to arrest the three men. I also expected to be able to talk to Lupaia. The arrests were made without incident, and entirely too easily for my liking. I consider it most unusual for three men guilty of murder to just quietly walk into the place from the bush when there is a large party of Police openly waiting there. When told what they were being arrested for they appeared to be flabbergasted and vigorously denied all knowledge. I then tried to find Lupaia and was unable to do so. Apparently he thought the he was in some sort of trouble and took to the bush.

As my next move I intended to go to Itelimu, which is situated several hours walk farther up the river. However I was informed by Corporal Gigio (the only one of us with a detailed knowledge of the area), that a meeting with the Itelinus would have to be arranged first through a go-between (the Luluai of Agrame), as the Itelinus are still quite "wild" and would disappear into the bush at the patrols approach, and quite possibly might even attack it. Gigio had neglected to tell me this before our departure from May River, because he was afraid of being branded a "ninny". Unfortunately contacting the Luluai of Agrame would involve returning to May River. I thought it best to follow his advice, as he knows the area was quite adamant about it. In consequence I returned to May River on the 7th of July and despatched Gigio to Agrame on the 8th. He returned on the 9th. According to Gigio's report, nothing was known at Agrame about any Itelimu people having been killed, despite the fact that a number of Itelimu people had been to Agrame recently. Gigio had arranged for the Luluai of Agrame to go to Itelimu and check up on the matter, and then come to May River to report.

At this point, I returned to Ambunti, for discussions with the District Commissioner, concerning these various incidents. On my return to May River, there had been no news from Agrame, so I despatched two Constables to Agrame to find out what was going on. They returned with two men from Itelimu, both Pidgin speakers. Both men assured me that nothing was known at Itelimu about any of their number having been killed. All the Itelimu people were at that time at the main haulet, and none were unaccounted for.

Being unable to find anything but third hand hearsay evidence against the three men, and no evidence at all that any crime had been committed, I released the three men and took them back home to Naukwi on the 21st of July. While at Naukwi, I again tried to see Lupaia. While he was present when we first arrived, he immediately took to the bush again and would not come out under any circumstance. I don't know what story he told in the first place, but I think that he is afraid of the consequences it had and thinks that he himself might end up in court over it. I do not think it necessary to take such action against him, but it would be beneficial if the next fullscale patrol into the area interviewed this man and pointed out the trouble he caused to his own people, and to the Administration.

The three men who had been arrested were given a number of small gifts to compensate them for their enforced stay at May River. While they were very happy to be home, they did not appear to be very upset about the whole affair, and parted from the patrol on a friendly basis, promising to visit the station in a couple of months time.

Conclusion

With reference to the last Paragraph of the previous letter "Reports of Violence - May River Area" File 37-1-7 of 4th July 1968.

I have now changed my thinking somewhat. I still feel that there is an considerable apprehension in the villages which have had considerable contact. These are chiefly the villages along the May River, on the Saniap Creek and on the Waniap Creek and its headwaters. They feel themselves hemmed in by the relatively wilder people (their term) from further out and are afraid of them. Under these conditions, the slightest whisper of any trouble gets blown up into a fullscale murder or war between groups. One example of this occurred at Waniap. A man slapped his wife's face for some misdemeanour, another man said that with all this trouble going around he was going around he was going to carry his weapons everytime he went into the bush, the result was that I received a report of a murder at Waniap. This one was very quickly checked out and found to be innocuous. The Waniap affair arose similarly. There appears to be even less basis for the allegations against the three Naukwi men. Much of the present anxiety was doubtlessly caused by Ananari killings, although there was concern being shown even before that matter became known. I still consider it desirable to have an officer at May River on a more or less permanent basis, but I feel that the need is no longer quite as urgent as when I wrote the abovementioned letter.

Signed: R.H. Deatlein
Assistant District Officer



May River

Map to accompany

Ambunti Patrolreport No:14-67/68

Scale: 1" - 4m.