

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: CHIMBU

STATION: Kundiawa

VOLUME No: 2

ACCESSION No: 496.

1946 - 1947

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

Sole Custodian: National Archives of Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

Digitized version made available by



Copyright: Government of Papua New Guinea. This digital version made under a license granted by the National Archives and Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea.

Use: This digital copy of the work is intended to support research, teaching, and private study.

Constraints: This work is protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) and the laws of Papua New Guinea. Use of this work beyond that allowed by "fair use" requires written permission of the National Archives of Papua New Guinea. Responsibility for obtaining permissions and any use and distribution of this work rests exclusively with the user and not the UC San Diego Library.

Note on digitized version: A microfiche copy of these reports is held at the University of California, San Diego (Mandeville Special Collections Library, MSS 0215). The digitized version presented here reflects the quality and contents of the microfiche. Problems which have been identified include misfiled reports, out-of-order pages, illegible text; these problems have been rectified whenever possible. The original reports are in the National Archives of Papua New Guinea (Accession no. 496).

3

VOL. No: 22: 1946-1947

NUMBER OF REPORTS:

[illegible]

CHIMBU PROVINCE.

KUNDIAWA.
GEMBOGL

1946-47

1046/47

H. WEST.

LIPPER CHIMBU.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT

District of Chimbu Report No. - 46/47
Patrol Conducted by H. West P.O.
Area Patrolled upper Chimbu
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans 1
Natives 5
Duration - From 21.8.1947 to 7.1.8.1947
Number of Days 17
Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No.
Last Patrol to Area by - District Services May 1947
Medical ... 1 / 19

Map Reference
Objects of Patrol General Administration.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ 19 .

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-NEW GUINEA.

Sub-District Office,
KUNDIAWA.

28th August, 1947.

The District Officer,
Central Highlands District,
GOROKA.

PATROL REPORT.

by

P/O H.W. West

to

UPPER CHIMBU, IWAM and RAMU RIVER AREAS.

PURPOSE. General Administration.

DURATION. Iwam-Ramu - 17 days.

ACCOMPANIED BY.

Cpl. SAU	-	No. 4217
Const. TIKABU	-	No. 259
Const. KERIPI	-	No. 236
Const. MIKURURI	-	No. 263
Const. TINAKAUGI	-	No. 5219B

LAST D.S. PATROL. Mr J.A. Costelloe, A.D.O. (Part) - May, 1947

LAST MEDICAL PATROL. No records.

REF. MAP. No 1634 - Ramu - 4 miles series.

DIARY.

- 5 .8.47. From GEMBOGL Police Post (W9758) through WAIMANBUNAU (W9861) to BONONI (W0 0667) - 5½ hours. Excellent road over IWAM Pass. Walked through dense cloud for two hours.
- 6 .8.47. To NUMBUTARA - 2 hours easy walking. Visited new mission school one hour from post during afternoon. "Haus Kwanandi" built during visit and "sing sing" held at night.
- 7 .8.47. Through BUNDIKARA (W0 0768) along badly graded road for three hours to BUNDI (W0 0971). Visited Father Jischke at Bundi mission during afternoon.
- 8 .8.47. Inspected Bundi area a.m. To DAGAMBARA (W0 1169) 1½ hours p.m. Bad road. Rest house and village area neglected. Little interest in patrol.
- 9 .8.47. Difficult walking along overgrown track through BOMNAKISI (BIUM) to BAKATARA (W0 1466) - 3 hours. No rest house. Both "ghost" villages. People assembled and addressed concerning necessity for roads etc; and lack of community spirit.
- 10.8.47. Descended steeply for one hour to IAKORA (W0 1969) at junction of U-A and TEI rivers; then 5 hours difficult walking and climbing along hunting trails to hill village of KAU KAUNDUM (W0 0366). No rest house. About 50 of this scattered group contacted and addressed.

- 11.8.47. Descended very steeply for three hours through dense bush to KAUSI No 1 (WO 2369) - site of former Lutheran Mission. Rest house poor. Village has virtually been abandoned. About 50 KAUSI and WAU natives from surrounding areas visited patrol.
- 12.8.47. KAUSI to old FAITA - almost eight hours through jungle along floor of Ramu Valley. Hunting tracks only.
- 13.8.47. Remained at old KAITA (WO 1682) resting and to contact natives from KAUSI No 11 who maintain ferry service across Ramu.
- 14.8.47. One hours climb to new FAITA about 1500ft above floor of River valley. Cold wet day. War Damage claims paid.
- 15.8.47. 5 1/2 hours to Bundi. A good deal of hard climbing. Track fair.
- 16.8.47. At BUNDI - Father Jischke called. Const MIKUKURI sent to supervise road work BIUM area.
- 17.8.47. Through MENDI (WO 0773) - now deserted - to EMIGARI (WO 0774) - 4 1/2 hours. Roads and rest house area well cared for and an enthusiastic welcome by large crowd of people. "Hais Kwanandi" completed during day and sing sing held all night.
- 18.8.47. Well graded road to BOGAI (WO 2676). Spirit of people and officials reflected in excellent roads, rest house etc. Moved to GUIEBE Mission (~~XXXXXX~~) (WO 0578) during afternoon - 2 hours - camped.
- 19.8.47. 3 1/2 hours to GEGERU (WO 0373). Patrol welcomed by large crowd. Surrounding hamlets visited during afternoon. Singing all night.
- 20.8.47. To IANDARA - 2 hours. A number of complaints adjusted. Through KARISOGA (WO 0468) to BONONI during afternoon - 4 hrs.
- 21.8.47. 3 1/2 hours to WAIMANBUNAU area. Returned to GEMBOGL Police Post late p.m.

GENERAL NATIVE SITUATION.

Iwam embraces the mountainous basins of the BAIA, IMBRUM and TOIO Rivers, which rise in the eastern extremes of the Bismarch ranges, opposite the headwaters of the CHIMBU River and flow in a north-east direction to the Ramu.

The area was patrolled regularly from Madang prior to the war and Catholic Mission stations were established at Bundi and Guiebe. It was the scene of much activity during 1942-44, but has received little attention in the meantime; particularly the more remote sections. This reflects itself in an unsatisfactory state of affairs in the area east of BUNDI where the people seem to regard themselves as having been ~~long~~ forgotten by the government. Tracks, rest houses, housing, hygiene and sanitation have long been neglected and the people have scattered in small groups over a wide area of bush. There has been little social life and leadership seems to be lacking. Little interest was demonstrated in the patrol. Although gardens are sufficient pigs are scarce and there were few signs of native wealth.

By contrast the more densely populated area above BUNDI showed every sign of civic pride and a highly developed social life, and the patrol was everywhere enthusiastically welcomed by large crowds of prosperous people. There seemed to be some doubt as to the attitude to dances such as "ambai kwanandi", but when I waited in one village until a dance house was constructed and a "sing sing" held, new dance houses were built in the vicinity of each rest house and singing carried on

throughout the night of the patrol's VISIT. The Iwam people, apart from those along the lower waterways, have much in common with the Chimbis. A group of INAU (Upper Chimbu) refugees settled in the IANDARA - MENDI area at least sixty years ago, and have possibly had a considerable influence on social development. The INAU people still speak their own language amongst themselves.

Very few complaints-and none of them serious-were brought to my notice, and the communities seem to live harmoniously.

The KAUSI and WAU people, isolated on the floor of the Ramu valley and numbering probably no more than one hundred in all, were a sorry spectacle. General health is very bad and they fittingly refer ~~themselves~~ to themselves as the last of ~~their~~ their tribe. They are a semi-nomadic people who say that they have wandered about from place to place in an endeavour to arrest the high death rate. They do little cultivating and live largely by hunting and gathering. When a patrol officer from ~~Ram~~ Madang was in Ramu recently the KAUSI and WAU natives presented themselves for census with the INOMBA groups across the River. It is their intention to combine with these groups and the move was encouraged. Their chances of surviving will be greater if they form part of a larger community and they can be more conveniently administered from the Madang District. Such an arrangement would also eliminate the eight hours arduous carry between KAUSI and FAITA, necessary when patrols from Chimbu visit the group.

The FAITA people have responded well to the encouragement given by Mr Costelloe on his recent visit, and an ex-FIB soldier has done a great deal towards the rehabilitation of his people. A new village is being constructed about 1500ft above the floor of the valley. War Damage Claims amounting to £65 were finalised.

The natives (SAUSI No 11) who maintain the ferry service across the Ramu were hunting in the FAITA area and visited the patrol. Like the Faifa people they have a much brighter outlook on life than the natives a days walk further up the valley.

The Luluai of FAITA reported that he had been advised that a patrol from Madang would visit the village shortly and carry out a census. The FAITAS are, linguistically and otherwise, a "river" people, and it seems advisable that patrols from both Chimbu and Madang District should visit the village, thus completing the shortest and most convenient link to the coast.

The native situation in Upper Chimbu is satisfactory. There have been a few brawls with sticks arising out of matrimonial irregularities and damage caused to garden by pigs, but all have been ~~settled~~ promptly reported to me and settled by arbitration.

I continue to be besieged by youths seeking work- usually wishing to proceed to the KAINANTU area - but unfortunately in most cases such has to be reluctantly rebuffed.

MISSIONS AND NATIVE EDUCATION.

Bundi and Toromanbunau Catholic Mission stations are again functioning. Guiebe is being abandoned, but I understand, a new site is contemplated nearby. A house is being built on land adjacent to the GOGAME rest house and it is intended to maintain a permanent station there with a European in charge. I have not been approached concerning the sale of land but the natives say they are willing to alienate it.

There are at present three Catholic Missionaries in the GEMBOGL police post district and relations with them have been harmonious.

There has been much activity since first of July and many schools have been opened. The teachers received a smattering of training (as ordinary school pupils) before the war and are most unsuitable with their present knowledge to carry out instructional work. The plan is to give them one weeks training each month or so under the Missionary-in-charge and for the remainder of the month they will impart the knowledge thus gained to the pupils of the village schools.