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PATROL REPORTS

District : Western
Station : Lake Murray
Volume : 16
ISBN NO : 9980-910-84-4
Accession NO : 496
Period : 1967-1968

Filmed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea
Port Moresby 1995

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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ORIGINAL



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. 01/1967/68

Patrol Conducted by C. G. YOUNG

Area Patrolled WEST FURRY AND MIDDLE FLEX CENSUS DIVISIONS

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans H. WASH C.P.O.

Natives 10 BALIDARA AG. 101

Duration—From 26/11/1967 to 13/12/1967

Number of Days 17

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services/...../19.....

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

Map Reference MAP ATTACHED

Objects of Patrol CONDUCT PATROL PURSUANT TO SECTION 10(1)(a), P.D.A.

Director of District Administration,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

10/12/1968

H. Bensted
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: 67-3-19

Dept. of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, Papua.

May 10th, 1968.

District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

PATROL NO. LAKE MURRAY 1-67/68

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of ~~Memorandum~~
* ~~of Patrol~~/Patrol Report covering patrol by H.J. NASH C.P.O.
to LAKE MURRAY & MIDDLE FLY Census Divisions.

T.W. Ellis
(T.W. ELLIS)
Director

* Delete as necessary.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67.3.19
17

Telegrams DISADM

Telephone 67-6-1

Our Reference.....

If calling ask for RAC.bd

Mr.....



Department of District Administration,

Western District,
DARU.

22nd April, 1968

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

LAKE MURRAY PATROL 1/67-68

Please find herewith original of the above report, submitted by Mr. H.J. NASH, Cadet Patrol Officer, following the initial L.G.C. election patrol conducted by Mr. C.G. YOUNG, and by Mr. NASH. Also appended is covering memorandum 67-1-2 of 4th April, 1968 from the Assistant District Commissioner, MOREHEAD.

2. The report shows a determined effort by Mr. NASH to comment fully on the situation in the area and he is to be commended for his industry. However, poor presentation at times mars the report, even though one must note the difficulties MOREHEAD is having with typewriters, as described by the Assistant District Commissioner. Compliance with standing instructions has not been strict, particularly in reference to headings, numbering of pages and paragraphs, and the report is not signed. Comments on patrol personnel should be presented in the form of an appendix, and not in the body of the report.

3. The elections, as carried out by this Patrol, mark the first stage in the development of Local Government in this area. The Lake Murray Council held its inaugural meeting last week, when the 12 new Councillors were formally presented with their badges in the usual ceremony. While some see local government as a political counterweight to the economic dominance of the Lake Murray Buyers' Society, there is in this attitude the threat that the two bodies will work in competition, rather than in association, with each other. This will be avoided, and all officers concerned are instructed to work together to achieve a co-ordinated approach to our aims of developing the area socially, politically and economically.

4. The new Council, which covers an area with a population of only 3,128, will have problems. Chief amongst these will be that of communications as the Council area is vast. On the other hand, per capita income is quite high and would compare favourably with most newly-constituted Councils. This situation could well change in the next 3 - 5 years, as the economy is based almost solely on the sale of crocodile skins, supply of which is dwindling fast due to the overkill practised over the past ten years. I don't know enough about crocodile farming to say whether or not it is a solution but I would be of the opinion that the knowledge that a number of immature reptiles were swimming around in a pond would prove too much of a temptation to the average indigene for him to allow them to reach maturity. However, the breeding, and later release into streams, of young crocs as a D.A.S.F. project, might well succeed.

5. Rubber planting is gaining impetus. A competent Assistant Agriculture Officer, Mr. Gabriel NICHOLAS, with a team of assistants, has overseen the planting of 80 acres of rubber blocks, and there are now a further 60,000 seedlings in the various nurseries. All rubber plants have

57-6-1

22nd April, 1968

16

grown very well, and rubber blocks have been very well maintained. The Buyers' Society is to be commended on its assistance to the scheme, assistance which shows foresight in the development of a second string to the economy's bow.

6. Additional forms of revenue, such as fishing and timber, will I am afraid be only small contributions, unless strictly organised by expatriate interests. The Unevangelized Fields Mission sawmill at PANGOA produces some very good quality timber, but its output is small, and there seems little scope for development in this field, unless the Council and Society move together to assist. The system of waterways is such, however, that one of the major problems normally associated with a timber venture is to a certain extent minimized. Lake barramundi could provide a good source of income provided careful attention is paid to product quality, and this in turn means that only those with transport or easy access to Lake Murray Station will benefit.

7. With the recent increases in Mission staff, particularly that of the Monfort Catholic Mission, social work in the fields of education and health is showing an upturn. Such work is likely to be augmented by the Lake Murray Council, which I expect to channel much of its expenditure into these two fields.

8. A pleasing feature of the election results is that all of the 12 Councillors are reasonably young, and so receptive in their ideas. Many new Councils face an initial handicap in that their members are somewhat mindbound in their traditional beliefs, and see their duties as Councillors merely as an extension of their Village Constable role, with voting powers. It remains to be seen, of course, how the new Councillors will perform, but I am hopeful that they will develop a progressive and far-sighted approach, while bearing in mind that the relative affluence of the Lake Murray people has brought little improvement in their villages and housing, as described at para 2, page 5 of the report.

9. In conclusion, it can be said that Mr. NASH has made a very reasonable effort in compiling this report, which would have been improved considerably by more attention to standing instructions and to typing.

F.A. Bensted
(F.A. Bensted)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams. DISADM.

Telephone 67-6-1

Our Reference.....

If calling ask for RAC. Ed

Mr.....

Department of District Administration,

Western District,
DARU.

22nd April, 1968

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KORORUA.

LAKE MURRAY PATROL 1/67-68

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22nd April, 1968

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M Bensted
(P.A. Bensted) MB
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

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Telephone
Telegrams
Our Reference 67-1-2
If calling ask for
Mr.

Department of District Administration,

Morehead

4th April, 1968

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

Lake Murray Patrol Report No I of 1967/68
Lake Murray & Middle Fly Census Divisions
by Mr. Cadet Patrol Officer H. Nash.

The above report is forwarded in duplicate please. Mr. Nash's
Claim for Camping Allowance is attached, certified by me, for your
approval please.

The patrol was one to carry out the initial elections for the recently
proposed Lake Murray Council. Mr. Nash was instructed to present the pat
rol leaving Mr. Young, OIC Lake Murray Patrol Post, free to do the
documentation & reporting on the council elections.

To me, on reading this and Morehead report No. 2 of the same year,
Mr. Nash's work has improved very much indeed. I have questioned him
at length of this report and I now consider him quite able to conduct
useful routine patrols anywhere in this sub-district.

Mr. Young is absent on Leave Without Pay so I am forwarding the
report direct to you. The report calls for comment on matters of routine
detail in a few instances however these can be dealt with elsewhere. I
am doing a fairly lengthy covering letter to Morehead report no. 2 and
prefer to concentrate on that. Part of our typewriters are undergoing
cleaning & minor repairs, etc in DARU with the visiting contract mechanic.
We are using this machine in shifts and at the moment it is evening and
flying insects are everywhere. In all these circumstances please do not
be concerned by my lack of specific comment.

(E.D. When)
Assistant District Commissioner.

cc OIC, Patrol Post, LAKE MURRAY.

Mr. Nash, MOREHEAD.





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

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Telegrams.....
Telephone.....
If a line ask for.....
Mr.....

Department of District Administration.

MOREHEAD,
1st FEBRUARY, 1968.

LAKE MURRAY PATROL REPORT NO 1/67/8

LAKE MURRAY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL ELECTION PATROL 1967.

INTRODUCTION.

The Lake Murray and the Middle Fly census divisions are guarded in the West by the Irian Border, on the East by the Strickland river, on the North by the Nomad Sub District boundary and in the South by Everill Junction.

Around west of the Fly river and around the Strickland river are vast swamps created by the two rivers but mainly by the Fly river passing through the region. Agriculturally wise this country is pretty useless for it supports only crocodiles and fish. This region is however dotted with numerous hard ridges which rise above the high water mark in the wet season. These ridges then are the village sites for the small population in the area.

Between Lake Murray and the Fly river there is high ground which stays above the high water mark in the wet season and which is covered by dense rain forest. At the moment a road has been started by the locals at each end of this ground, the plan being to connect the Middle Fly region to the Government Station at Lake Murray.

There are three local languages spoken in the area these being KUNI, BAGUA and JIMAKANI the latter two being similar to each other. The villages of USAKOF BOJIMALAVE TAGUM MIPAN BOSET TINUNGA AIAMBAK AEMWA speak the KUNI language, while the villages of NIWA ASCATETUMA WENAVENAV KAVIANNUNGA KONOVAL BOIKIATA speak the BAGUA JIMAKANI language.

The purpose of this patrol was to conduct the first Local Government Council elections for the newly formed Council at Lake Murray, to elect councillors from the two census divisions, which were sub divided up into wards.

DIARY.

SUNDAY 26th NOVEMBER.

Left the station at 1000hrs in Hercules dinghy with Mercury 35 H.P. on the back. The journey took an hour longer than usual because dinghy very heavily loaded with patrol gear and six personnel. Arrived at the Mipan track at 1200hrs after half an hours journey by canoe and began the walk to MIPAN village. After a five hour walk arrived at canoe place and continued the rest of the journey by canoe. Arrived at the village at 1830hrs.

MONDAY 27th NOVEMBER.

0800hrs began the elections at MIPAN with talks on the voting procedure and took nominations from the three villages in the ward Mipan Manda and Kuem. Elections voting began at 0930hrs finishing at 1630hrs. A Mipan man Onakai and the Kuem V.C were elected as number one and two councillors of the ward respectively.

DIARY Cont.

TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER.

Departed Mipan for BOSET village per Miwa. A very slow journey down the Fly river, arrived at the passage to Wan lagoon at 1700 hrs. The water from the lagoon was running through the passage at speed of about ten knots making it a difficult and sometimes dangerous journey up to the lagoon. Fallen trees came hurtling down the passage and barely missed the work boat at times. However after three-quarters of an hour battling reached the lagoon. Had to be guided through to the village by the locals as the lagoon was very shallow in places and the Miwa ran a ground several times. Arrived BOSET village 1830 hrs.

WEDNESDAY 29th NOVEMBER.

0800 hrs commenced with usual talks on voting procedure and called for nominations. Voting started 0900 hrs and counting completed 1600 hrs. Leo Heni's name was elected councillor by first count. Pototia, interpreter was interviewed as a replacement for the one who was sick.

THURSDAY 30th NOVEMBER.

Departed for AIAMBAK village at 0900 hrs arriving at the village at 1530 hrs. Lot of rubbish lying around the village and rest house roof had a hole in it. Several men were detailed to fix the roof while the women cleaned up the rubbish. Apparently this was the result of a party the night before.

FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER.

0830 hrs talks on voting procedure given and nominations taken and voting commenced. Finished counting at 1745 hrs. Aiambak V.C. Amatu was elected as the councillor. Delays were caused by many people giving different names to what was in the tax census roll.

SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER.

Departed for KAVIANANGA village at 0900 hrs arriving at oil camp site at 1500 hrs. Lagoon too shallow for the work boat so went into the village by canoe. One man was apprehended for stealing and sent back to the station C.I. Konoval and Boikava people had already arrived at KAVIANANGA for Monday's election.

SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER.

OBSERVED.

MONDAY 4th DECEMBER.

0800 hrs voting procedure talks given and nominations taken. Polling started 0900 hrs and at 1530 hrs counting completed. Buyers Society clerk Uli received majority of votes but failed to receive 50% of first preference votes for win on first count. After second and third counts however he had still not received the three votes he needed for a win. His opponents were receiving most of the 2nd and 3rd preference votes but they were still a fair way behind him but he had still not received the required

DIARY Cont.

MONDAY 4th DECEMBER.

number of votes. On counting the fourth preference votes however he received his three votes. His nearest opponent Mumboi from BOLI MAVA village became the second councillor. Because the large size of this ward two councillors were to represent the ward in the council. Preferential system explained as people were a bit confused by the counting.

TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER.

Departed Kavimanga for MIMA VERAVENA villages at 0430 hrs. Started early as there would be strong current against us in the Sriciland river. A long slow trip, arrived MIMA village 2000 hrs.

WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER.

Talks on voting procedure given and nominations taken, voting commenced 0900 hrs and counting completed 1500 hrs. A retired policeman Airo from VERAVENA and a man called Iba from ASOATUENA were the two councillors elected for this ward. (In wards with large populations two councillors were elected to represent their respective ward.)

THURSDAY 7th DECEMBER.

Departed for Pangoa Mission Station at 0900 hrs for next election. 1100 hrs arrived at the mission. DIMI and Tagum people were coming in for Friday's election.

FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER.

Everyone had arrived the previous day so began election with the usual talks on voting procedure and took nominations. Counting completed at 1930 hrs. Aselsi a mission teacher was elected the ward councillor on first count. Delays caused by people giving their different names again.

SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER.

Departed for Government station at 0930 hrs arrived at 1030 hrs. Remained on the station for the weekend.

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER.

OBSERVED.

DIARY Cont.

MONDAY 11th DECEMBER.

0930 hrs departed for BUSEKI village in Hercules dinghy and arrived at the village at 1000 hrs. KAGIPOPO and UOCBIA people had arrived for the election. Usual voting procedure talks given and nominations taken. Counting completed at 1530 hrs. BUSEKI councillor KOUK elected ward councillor on first count.

TUESDAY 12th DECEMBER.

Departed for AWA village 1015 hrs and arrived 1030 hrs. NAGO people had arrived for election. Talks given and nominations taken. Counting finished 1430 hrs. An ex T.G. G. Bainbe was elected councillor for the ward on first count.

WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER.

Council election for POIMBALAVU USAKOF ward to held on the station 0930 hrs voting talks given and nominations taken. K. Goip an D.M.B.S committee member elected on first count.

END OF PATROL.

A. STANDARD OF LIVING.

Thanks largely to the sale of crocodile skins the people of the Lake Murray sub district are a good deal better off than most of the other indigenes in the district. Some villagers have enough money to be able to afford an outboard motor.

Unfortunately however the housing and village standards of these people have not improved with their monetary position. Most houses are fair only constructed from material of the sago tree and seem to have an air of impermanence about them for the people don't seem to take any pride in the construction of and the appearances of their dwellings. One notable exception would be BUSLII village in the Lake Murray area.

Rice tinned meat and fish sugar flour biscuits are all very popular foodstuffs purchased by the people to supplement their staple which is sago. All these foods are of course purchased at one or the other of the Buyer's Society stores, either the branch stores or the main store at the Government station. The presence of the Lake Murray Buyer's Society in the area had and still has a great deal to do with the rise in the standard of living of the people of the two regions, over the past couple of years from about 1964 onwards especially. Nowadays most men and women are reasonably dressed and the children have something decent to wear most of the time. Reddies steel cooking utensils mosquito nets shotguns and even guitars and violas are all common articles to be seen in the average village throughout the area, most of which have come through the Buyer's Society.

B. LAND CUSTOM AND USE.

Throughout the Middle Fly and Lake Murray regions swamps and sago grounds assume great importance and are of great value to their owners. The sago grounds are valuable because of the food aspect and the swamps because they contain crocodiles the hides of which bring in money and some affluence for the owner and his family. Most of the disputes which attention is brought to arise out of ownership of swamps and sago plots between various individuals in the village and sometimes between villages and different clans. It might be a case of poaching or a dispute over the position of boundaries. Inheritance in the area is patrilineal although the women apparently gain some land through usufructory rights, usually this is the garden land the swamps and sago grounds are solely the man's property. Apparently if a woman dies her land is distributed evenly amongst her husband and children. If she marries into another clan her land is held in her name, for she will not receive any land through a different clan to her own.

With the coming of the maturing of the rubber in the rubber-establishment schemes, the ordinary land that the rubber has planted could assume a good deal of importance especially if the produce brings in money for the owners, and this could make garden land etc valuable more so than the swamps as the crocodile population is dwindling.

C. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

The most common form of travel throughout the waterways of the area is obviously by boat, all the villages in the area being accessible from the water. The two mission stations and the Government station are also easily accessible by water although the dry season seems to limit any big boats coming into the Government and the U.F.M. station both of which are well up the Lake. The alternative is Sverill Junction at OBO where really big boats can tie up all year round, the disadvantage being its distance from the station. Generally though boats of up to 10 to 11 feet could get right up into the Lake in the Dry unless there was an extreme drought.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS Cont.

There are three airstrips in the sub district, one in the Lake Murray area and two in the Middle Fly region. Pangoa airstrip on Lake Murray was built by the Unevangelized Field Mission with Administration help. Pangoa was a category C strip 2100' x 150' and was purchased by the Administration in 1965. In 1967 the Commonwealth Department of Works using heavy plant machinery lengthened the strip an 600' and widened it a further 50' on each side. All this was apparently for the purposes of defence in the future. At the moment however the surface soil is loose for the grass that was planted is taking a while to grow. Meanwhile any heavy rain on the strip tends to make it a bit greasy thereby restricting the heavier type of aircraft it was originally planned to take.

The second airstrip is situated in the Middle Fly area at the Montfort Catholic Mission station at BOSSE. This strip is a category D one 1800' x 150' which runs down hill. The strip has proved useful in the past. Recently a Government Stock Inspector was able to get into the area for a visit and out again without undue delay.

The other airstrip in the Middle Fly region is the one at GBO down at Everill Junction which was constructed by the United Geophysical Oil Company in 1967 for their supply purposes while working in the area. This is an 1800' X 150' category D airstrip. This strip has been useful in the past and it could certainly be of assistance to the Administration in the of the region. The Buyer's Society which has a bulk store down there and wants to keep the strip in good condition.

Roads are not a strongpoint in the area but this due mainly to the low swampy terrain of both regions. If roads were to be constructed they would have to be built along the ridges dotting the area. These ridges are not always continuous and probably swamp would have to be negotiated at some stage or other. The locals are however being encouraged by the Buyer's Society and the Administration to push through a road from just north of the Government station across the swamps through to MIPAN village in the Middle Fly area. Work on this project has been started but progress has been slow. The MIPAN track connects the two census divisions but this is subject inundation in the wet season as it runs through dry swamps in the dry season. The only other road is the track running from the BUSENI village rubber blocks to the station which was built for the purpose of moving the rubber produce to the station and thence to be shipped out.

D. EDUCATION.

Of the three schools in the area, two are mission, the other being the Administration Primary T school at the station. The Unevangelized Field mission school is run by a European teaching staff assisted trained locals. Classes are taken up to standard 5 and are in English. Recently two new European missionaries arrived who will also teach at the school.

The other mission school is the Montfort Catholic mission school at BOSSE in the Middle Fly region. Classes at this school also reach standard 5 and English is taught. Two sisters are in charge assisted by trained locals. The mission also has preparatory schools in the following villages; UEM, MIPAN and AINEANS villages.

D. EDUCATION.

The third school in the area is the Administration Primary school situated on the Government station. In 1967 it did have two European school teachers. Classes reach standard 5. Preparatory school class has been cut out as from 1967.

Unofficially then the area is divided into three zones each school drawing its pupils from the zone close to the school. For instance the Administration usually draws its pupils from the villages close to the station; Buseki Nawa Nago Usakof. Further down the lake the Unevangelized Field Mission draws its pupils from Dira Tagum Vena Vena Niwa Asoatutuma which are all in close proximity to the school. A few of the Middle Fly villages do however send their pupils to the this mission school, Kaviananga Komovai Bokmava. The Catholic Mission being situated in the centre of the Middle Fly area draws its pupils from the villages in that region. Consequently all the school age children in these areas have an excellent opportunity to attend and receive an education, for no matter where their villages are situated any one of the three primary schools is accessible from the farthest village.

The installation of radio receivers in the villages will also help to widen the views of the population and educate them in certain points especially the younger people. Radio Daru is very popular in all the villages.

E. HEALTH.

Health and medical services in the areas are provided mainly by the missions at Pangos and Boset. The Catholic mission has a very good health dispensary at Boset in charge of which is a trained nursing sister. This small aid post covers the Middle Fly area. The nursing sister had just returned from a routine health patrol to the region villages where she had given B.C.G injections. The dispensary is well stocked and is a permanent material building.

The Unevangelized Fields Mission at Pangos also has a good dispensary with a qualified nursing sister in charge. At present the mission has completed building a new dispensary using wholly local timber. Any fairly serious cases and births are brought down here from the Government station as the Administration aid post is not "much chop" and is likely to fall down in the next strong wind. The aid post is a very rickety bush material building where the floor is non-existent in places and doesn't inspire any confidence into the sick local who is fortunate enough to be admitted into its interior.

The two missions fortunately offset the poor efforts of the Health Dept in the area however and it is due to them that the health of the locals is good.

F. AGRICULTURE.

At present the Department of Agriculture has an Assistant Agricultural officer stationed at Lake Murray who is actively promoting the establishment of rubber schemes mainly in the lake villages; BUSEKI MACHIKO NAGO TAGUM ASOATUTUMA. So far this scheme has not been started in the Middle Fly area although the agricultural assistant accompanied us and gave talks on rubber. Few rubber nursery beds have been started in USAKOF village again in the lake area together with the other above mentioned villages. There are 8 beds in all 70000, using seeds purchased by the Lake Murray Buyers Society. In May the number of miniature rubber trees in the sub district had reached a total 7095 and there was a total of 54,223 nursery seedlings in the area also.

F. AGRICULTURE.

The Lake Murray Buyers Society under the management of Mr W. Dutton is also actively promoting the establishment of the rubber in the area. In BUSEKI village three quarters of the rubber seeds distributed in the village were purchased by the Buyers Society, the rest by D.A.S.F. In the village of UGEBIA all the seeds distributed in the village were purchased by the Society, and in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture has also distributed seeds in the villages of MAGIPOPO and NAGO.

Below is a summary of the rubber programme 1967/68.

village	area planted		area cleaned		marked but not -leared	
	acres	stamps	acres	stamps	village blocks	seeds reqd (acres)
	66					
BUSEKI	15%	3,113	17	3,400	33	6,600
UGEBIA	9	1,800	10	2,000	56	11,200
MAGIPOPO	6	1,240	8	1,000	19	3,800
NAGO	4%	942	15	1,000	58%	11,700
ASOAPUTUIA	nil	nil	5	3,000	45	4,000
TAGUM	nil	nil	nil	nil	60	12,000

There are now 323% acres to be planted; i.e. total of number of acres under area cleaned plus total of acreage of village blocks.

As well as actively assisting D.A.S.F. in the promotion of the rubber schemes in the sub district the Buyers Society with the help of the Unevangelized Field Mission is encouraging the locals in the commencement of a fishing industry. This idea could prove to become a good source of income for the people as there are large quantities of good quality barramundi fish to be found in the lake. Two members of the Unevangelized Field Mission have apparently found a small market for barramundi fish in the highlands. A big 1600 lbs capacity freezer has been purchased by the Lake Murray Buyers Society for this fishing scheme, and when the freezer is filled with enough fish it is to be back loaded onto mission flights and sent to the highlands. As yet this scheme is still in its infancy but a small amount of fish is being brought in by the locals.

G. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Over the years the sale of crocodiles skins has been the only reliable source of income for the people of Lake Murray and the Middle Fly areas. At present the sale of skins is still a money earner for the local but the crocodile population is dwindling and crocodiles will not be killed in the big numbers they were a couple of years ago although the locals are not very well aware of this. This is the reason for the recent diversification of the economy by the Buyers Society the missions and the administration. With the development of both the rubber scheme and the fishing industry and perhaps timber in the near future another source of income for the locals can be found. Fortunately for the locals the D.A.S.F. is lending its resources for the economy diversification for it well knows it is the economy of the area and cannot rely upon the sale crocodile skins to support it in the future. Consequently if the new industries fail the Society's economic future and the political and economic -al futuer for the people of the area will be potentially bleak indeed.

(4)

G. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Cont.

Finally with the establishment of the Lake Murray Local Government Council in November 1967, the economy of the sub district will need to be secure, for the Council to function effectively, as the Council tax will have to be fairly high because of the small size of the population; (3000).

H. LAW AND JUSTICE.

The people of the sub district are law abiding and generally heed the word of the Village Councillor and respect his position. A petty theft was brought to my attention and the man responsible was convicted and despatched to the Corrective Institution at the station. Otherwise only a few minor disputes cropped which came to nothing.

What does constitute a continual problem however are the border crossings. These are always cropping up. Due to the loyalty of the V.C.'s though the Government Officer is usually informed of the latest crossings and the person pointed out so there is no great problem in that regard.

I. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND ATTITUDE TO THEM.

Through out the patrol I think that a good deal of the voters confused the Council elections with the House of Assembly elections. Generally the attitude of the older voters anyway was one of curiosity mixed some confusion. The younger more educated voters were more often than not excited, showed no hesitation in voting and seemed to understand what was going on about them.

Mostly the successful candidates in these elections were the young fairly well educated people. Only a few V.C.'s tried for election to the Council, and only two were successful; they were the Enam V.C. who is a young man and also understands Pidgin and the Aiambak V.C. who is also a fairly young man.

I think that it is pretty evident that these young men are being obliged to take over the leadership reins in the Council as their fathers are reluctant to. This is because the older order of men confused sometimes by the elections and having only a very vague idea of what the Council does are probably realizing that it would be better to let the younger educated men run the Council. I think this shows the increasing confidence the older men are putting in the educated young men in the village.

(3)

ANTHROPOLOGY.BACKGROUND TO LAND OWNERSHIP IN MIDDLE FL.

Once there were two ancestors of GUMAKANI group, MOTEA and BAISA. MOTEA was living in the bush at a place called WANGA WANGA and BAISA was residing at what is now BOIKMAVA. WANGA WANGA is now TINUNGA AIAMBAK ground on the Fly river. BAISA decided to visit MOTEA at WANGA WANGA and did so. When he arrived he found that MOTEA had three sons called DAMESA ZAMOE and MESE who were also living at WANGA WANGA. BAISA liking the place decided to stay and asked MOTEA'S permission and he readily agreed stating that the ground did not belong to him anyway and so, BAISA stayed. After a while however BAISA fought with MOTEA and his three sons killing MOTEA and one of his sons. The other two sons fled into the bush, one to place afterwards called WAMAK and the other to a place called INGIS afterwards. BAISA then claimed this land for himself. Today only a few of his descendants are alive in AIAMBAK village.

The land at KOMOVAI village is claimed today by these descendants at AIAMBAK but this is disputed by the old men of KOMOVAI village who are descendants of a group called JIMAKANIS and BAGUAS although BAGUA was not used by the old men telling the story. Apparently the JIMAKANIS fought the GUMAKANIS at KOMOVAI and drove them into the bush. The majority of this group were killed, the rest fleeing to a place near where TINUNGA and AIAMBAK are today. This land is still disputed today.

After being driven out of WANGA WANGA MOTEA'S two sons lived in the bush for a while before parting. Apparently they both gathered some followers according to the story and set up villages in the bush. Then one day a mysterious gentleman appeared out of the bush and entered one the son's villages (the story doesn't state which son) and asked the people who they were. They were nonplussed as they did not know their name, however the mysterious gentleman known as GIMAI according to the story named them WAMAK or ROSET. He departed from the village and came upon the other son's village and encountered the same situation, so GIMAI named these people INGIS or NIPAN and disappeared into the bush. When the story goes as he was walking through the bush he came upon another group which he apparently named KUMI.

Now living in the bush in an area known as KABA in the story four JIMAKANI ancestors decided to search the bush to find some good land and they journeyed to the vicinity of what is now KOMOVAI village. The four men were SAIBA, AKAIBA, IRANA and NATE. IRANA climbed a tree and sighted what looked like some suitable ground in the middle of a swamp. The four men then made their way to this place which was situated in the middle of a lagoon called ~~land~~. Not knowing whether the land was owned or not the four men returned back along the Fly river to try and find the owner. Eventually they came upon the remnants of the GUMAKANIS at WANGA WANGA or TINUNGA AIAMBAK and mentioned this land to them. They knew nothing about the land however, and so the four men decided to claim the land, which is now KAVIANANGA.

The JIMAKANI-BAGUA group are the people who own the KAVIANANGA BOIKMAVA KOMOVAI LAND, while the TINUNGA AIAMBAK NIPAN LAND is owned by the KUMI group. In reality the JIMAKANI-BAGUA, KUMI groups can be lumped together under term BUKIS.

Meanwhile the surviving descendants of the GUMAKANI group still claim the land at KOMOVAI today JIMAKANI-BAGUA property.

THE POLICE.CONST. WAISIME. 1137

An experienced and loyal policeman who did everything that was asked of him, his only disadvantages being that he cannot speak Police Motu and he cannot swim. His knowledge of the area was an asset to the patrol.

CONST. WOLLA 0191

A young but promising policeman who was a bit unsure of himself during the patrol but was always keen in the execution of his duties.

CRPL. KIMAI. 2012

Very experienced policeman, but he is getting too old and unfit for patrol work. Had a troublesome foot which bothered him on the patrol. Was not much help to the patrol.

INTERPRETER.SEKOARE AUPA.

A reliable interpreter who speaks most of the area's dialects and whose knowledge of the area and its people were invaluable to the patrol.

CONCLUSIONS.

The initial elections for the Lake Murray Council were impartially conducted.

More effort put into the area by the Health Department; a patrol into the Middle Fly region in the future and a permanent aid post erected on LM Govt station. The L.M.B.S has stated in the past that it would be willing to subsidize the building of a new one (\$1000.00 subsidy).

Construction of a pontoon between the mainland and the station so that quick access can be made to the rubber blocks, and completion of the WIAGASI road would improve the road situation in the area.

CENSUS.

About 45 PARE people have migrated out of the villages of MAGIBOO and UPOBIA.

The population in both census divisions has increased a bit. As is shown on the census sheets the Lake Murray CD is slightly larger than Middle Fly.

END OF REPORT.

WEST IRI



—	: Road/Track
•	: Village site
+	: 1 km. coordinate
I	: Measure

Project No 1/1987/65

W. J. ...

IRIAN



NEW GUINEA 57847 1:50,000



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. 3-67/68
 Patrol Conducted by C.E. YOUNG, P/O
 Area Patrolled MIDDLE FLY & LAKE MURRAY CENSUS DIV'S.
 Patrol Accompanied by Europeans H. NASH, C.P.O.
 Natives 3 RPNGC, 1 interpreter + 1 personal servant
 Duration—From 26/11/1967 to 13/12/1968

Number of Days 17

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services —/7/1967

Medical —/19

Map Reference N.I.

Objects of Patrol INITIAL ELECTIONS LAKE MURRAY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Director of District Administration,
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 AND NEW GUINEA

Ref: **67-3-7**

Dept. of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, Papua.

18th March, 19 68

District Commissioner,
Western District,
DAKU.

PATROL NO. LAKE MURRAY 3 OF 1967/68

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Memorandum
of Patrol/Patrol Report covering patrol by C. G. Young
to Middle Fly and Lake Murray..... Census Divisions.

T.W. Ellis
(T.W. ELLIS)
Director *HS*

* Delete as necessary.

67. 3. 7
(11)



41-60-2

6th February 1968.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU, Papua.

LAKE MURRAY PATROL REPORT 3/67-68.

Your reference is 41-6-2 of 26th January.

2. Thank you for the copies of Mr. Young's report and your comments to the Director.
3. Good dividends are obviously paid by the use of the Administration Broadcasting Station. Perhaps occasionally a meeting could be put on tape or a resume of the minutes be provided to the Station. This medium is a wonderful asset which can build-up and maintain interest in Council affairs.
4. Understanding of election procedures and of preferential voting does not come easily to people completely ignorant of such concepts. But, the election education programme, the election itself, the House of Assembly Elections and subsequent Council elections will eventually educate the voters in democratic practices.
5. Provided the identity of the voter remains anonymous, I see nothing wrong in using actual informal ballot papers to stress details of mistakes made by voters.
6. I believe, His Honour, The Administrator, has decreed that the Village Constable system will not be re-introduced into Council areas.
7. It is good to know that Mr. Young recognises the need to compartmentalize activities. Although the Local Government Ordinance gives authority to Councils to enter business ventures, such activities are not recommended where adequate, alternate facilities exist.
8. There is no need to await the publication of the Declaration of Poll in the Local Government Gazette before holding the inaugural meeting of the Council. The Returning Officer's Declaration is sufficient evidence that the Council is properly constituted. However, the Adviser should nominate to me a suitable date and place in order that I may issue the necessary notice in accordance with Section 31(1) Local Government Ordinance. This can be done by telegram.
9. It would be appreciated if you would have two legible copies of forms 9, 10, and 11, the completed bit and biographical details of candidates sent to me as soon as possible.
10. Please convey to Mr. Young my congratulations and thank him for a well written informative and constructively critical report. I wish him every success as Adviser to the Lake Murray Council and assure him of every possible assistance from this office.

J.F. HAYES.

REGIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICER.

c.c. The Commissioner for Local Government,
Department of District Administration, KONEDOBUBU.
Acopy of the report is attached.
Statistical returns will be forwarded when they come to hand.

J. F. Hayes
J.F. HAYES.

(10)



63-3-7

25th February, 1968

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

LAKE MURRAY PATROL REPORT NO. 3 OF 1967/68

Receipt of the above mentioned report of Mr. G. G. Young's patrol to the Middle Fly and Lake Murray Census Divisions together with your comments is acknowledged with thanks.

2. The purposes of the patrol, the initial elections for the formation of the Lake Murray Local Government Council, were adequately carried out and reported upon. It is noted that two copies of the report are being forwarded through the Regional Local Government Officer to the Commissioner for Local Government.
3. A brief biographical summary on the successful candidates could be prepared by Mr. Young and forwarded as a separate memorandum to the Regional Local Government Officer.
4. The report itself was informative and well presented.

(T. V. ELLIS)
Director.

Handwritten signature



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67 3 7
9

Telegram: DISADM

Telephone

Our Reference RAG.nb

If calling ask for

Mr. 67-6-1

41-6-2



Department of District Administration,

Western District,
DARU.

26th January, 1968

The Director
Department of District Administration
KONEDOBU

LAKE MURRAY PATROL REPORT 3/67-68

Please find original of the above report, submitted by Mr. C.G. Young, Patrol Officer.

2. This is solely a report on the initial elections for the Lake Murray Local Government Council which was proclaimed some months ago. As such, two copies of this will be forwarded via the Regional Local Government Officer, to the Commissioner for Local Government, as is required by Sec.37 (b) of the Chief Electoral Officer's "Directions for the Conduct of Elections for Local Government Councils".

3. The conduct of the pre-election campaign and the elections themselves seems to have been very good, and I have no criticism of the procedures followed. I support Mr. Young's action in calling voters' names from the roll, when it became apparent to him, and to the people, that otherwise delays in taking the poll might disrupt the whole timetable.

4. My only comment on the report, apart from the above, is that an appendix giving brief biographical details of the successful candidates should have been included (Sec.37b (viii)).

5. It would have been preferable to have patrol report and election report as two separate files, but this is not crucial. The main thing is that this report is a detailed and informative one, which it is hoped will presage excellent co-operation between Mr. Young and his new Council.

I. A. Bensted

(I. A. BENSTED)

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

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LAKE MURRAY PATROL No. 2 - 67/68

AREA PATROLLED : LAKE MURRAY AND MIDDLE FLY CENSUS DIVISIONS.

OFFICER CONDUCTING : C.G. YOUNG, P/O.

ACCOMPANIED BY : H. WASH, C.P.O.
SEKOARE/AUTA - Interpreter.
S/C. KIMAI - R.P.N.G.C.
Const. WAISIME - R.P.N.G.C.
Const. WOMEI - R.P.N.G.C.
PERSONAL SERVANT

DURATION : 26/11/67 to 13/12/67 - 17 days.

PREVIOUS PATROLS : D.D.A. - Electoral Education and Census In JULY 1967.

MAP REFERENCE : III.

OBJECTS OF PATROL : Conduct initial elections for formation of Lake Murray Local Government Council.



.....
C.G. YOUNG,
PATROL OFFICER

DIARY

1969

- November, 26th. Departed Lake Murray Station with Census team walking overland to Mipan Village. Arrived Mipan 8 p.m. and slept.
- NOVEMBER, 27th. Electoral education talk. Accepting of nominations then votes taken. Two Councillors KIWEPI of Kuan Village and ONOKAI of Mipan elected. Slept Mipan.
- November, 28th. Departed Mipan for down river trip to BOSET. Slept BOSET.
- November, 29th. Electoral talk given, nominations accepted and votes taken. Councillor LEO elected. Slept Boset.
- November, 30th. Departed Boset going down Fly River to Aiambak. Arrived Aiambak late and slept.
- December, 1st. Electoral talk given, nominations accepted and then votes taken. Councillor ANATO elected. Slept AIAMBAK.
- December, 2nd. Departed Aiambak down Fly for Kaviananga arriving late. Slept Kaviananga.
- December, 3rd. Sunday morning observed. Afternoon gave Electoral education talk.
- December, 4th. Nominations accepted and then votes taken. Councillors ULISINI and WEMPOI elected. Slept Kaviananga.
- December, 5th. Travelling up river to Miwa Village. Arrived 9 p.m. and slept.
- December, 6th. Electoral talk given, nominations accepted and votes taken. Councillors AIRA and TOPA elected. Slept Miwa.
- December, 7th. Departed Miwa for Pangea, arrived and slept.
- December, 8th. Electoral talk given, nominations accepted. Votes taken and ASELAJ elected. Slept Pangea.
- December, 9th. Travelling back to Station where slept.
- December, 10th. Sunday observed.
- December, 11th. To Bosoki by outboard. Talk given and nominations accepted. Votes taken and KIWOK elected. Returned Govt. Station.
- December, 12th. To Aewa where talk given, nominations accepted and then votes taken. One GOR elected. Returned to Govt. Station.
- December, 13th. Hsokof, Boimbalavu villagers to Station for poll. Electoral talk given, nominations accepted. One KOMANU elected.

End of Patrol

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INTRODUCTION

This Report is concerned wholly with matters pertaining to the Council Elections and is set out on the lines as advised in the Administration Handbook "Conduct of Local Government Council Elections".

C.P.O. Nash from Marakood accompanied the patrol specifically to assist the writer in the conduct of the poll, this he did under instruction and his presence enabled the election to run smoothly and keep to its time-table. The Administration Broadcasting Station in Doru was used effectively to broadcast to the people the date of the poll at each centre; this also enabled the patrol to progress at a planned pace with the minimum of inconvenience to those villagers who had to travel by canoe to polling centres. In future this medium will be utilized to broadcast dates for Council meetings, Council patrol visits and any other Council matters that concern the people.

I refer you now to the body of the Report as set out under the various headings.

TYPE AND DURATION OF PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

This was carried out by the relieving O.I.C. Mr. A.D.G. Wells, in July in a combined patrol of the Fly River and Lake Murray Census Divisions. Previously, in June, in a patrol of the Fly River area the writer had included a short talk on Councils in the Patrol itinerary.

The local people are politically unsophisticated and apart from vague recollections of the 1964 House of Assembly elections, the democratic system of voting was unknown to them. Hence the education campaign filled a need though its effectiveness was limited by the people's ability to absorb a relatively new and foreign concept. If after this campaign any one local had been asked to explain unaided the mechanics of the preferential system and the method of actually/the vote, in all probability he would have been unable to do so.

/taking

An intensive review of procedure was carried out immediately prior to the commencement of the poll at each centre coupled with a practical demonstration. This working demonstration proved very effective and at the start of the poll the people had a fair idea of how to vote and the more sophisticated the basics of the preferential system. The degree of retention at this date, some 5 weeks later, should be sufficient to exclude the need for an Electoral Education campaign for the forthcoming House of Assembly elections - for this reason at least the Council elections could not have been done at a better time.

MANNER OF ELECTIONS

Polling took place at 9 centres - one centre for each of the 9 Wards that embrace 21 villages, 2 Mission Stations and the area Patrol Post. No great difficulties were encountered by people from non-polling centres travelling to their Ward centre and consequently nearly all participated.

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MANNER OF ELECTIONS (Cont.)

With most of the population illiterate, personal written votes accounted for only 10% of the total cast and even of this number some 18% (1.8% of total) did not have enough education to correctly fill in the vote paper and their votes were rejected as informal at the count. These informal votes were cast despite a special talk on how to fill in a vote paper directed to those who were literate, just prior to the poll. After the effort put into explanation of procedure, I was somewhat disappointed with this result.

The actual poll was conducted as follows. At each polling centre a temporary fully enclosed structure, divided into two rooms was constructed at each centre to house the Election officers and assistants when conducting the poll. One room was used for the checking off of names on the prepared rolls and the other served for the actual voting. The ballot box was placed outside of the structure in full view of the people, having first been shown as empty and locked immediately after, in their presence. A barrier was placed at a distance of 20 yards around the structure to keep people out of earshot of whispered votes.

ASKING

The electoral roll had been compiled by extracting the names from the 1967 House of Assembly Roll which in turn had been extracted from the Census Registers. Persons of 18, 19 and 20 years were extracted from the Census Registers and then added to these lists. At the first 3 polling centres the people were asked to present themselves to the Roll officer in any order, this being the most democratic way to conduct an election. Mindful of the local custom (common to most parts of the Territory) of changing names every few years, this was done with not a little apprehension. Fears were confirmed and it took upwards of 10 minutes to locate a person's name on the roll, a process involving his second village name, his Mission name and if that was unsuccessful then his father's census name, village name, Mission name etc. By using this system at these first three polling centres the proceedings took from daylight to dusk to complete. This proved inconvenient for both the electoral team and the people, they having to wait long hours to vote and longer still to be present at the count while team officers grew more exasperated. At the next (4th) polling centre this state of affairs was made known to the people and they wholeheartedly agreed that the best solution all round was for one of the team to call names off from the roll. This way they were able to recognize and remember their "Census" names though even still there was some chattering. This change resulted in polling time being out almost in half and was adopted (with explanations) at the remaining centres, at the same time some "Census" names were altered in favour of the persons more recent name and this modernizing of the rolls should enable future teams to revert to the "come as you please" system.

At the close of the poll, all the people were asked to congregate and watch the count with the candidates in strategic positions enabling them to closely observe the proceedings. The votes were first counted and checked against the number of names ticked on the rolls and then against the sex tally sheet. After this check the informal votes were sorted out and rejected. Though the procedure is somewhat irregular, the informal votes were then exhibited publicly and the reasons for their rejection explained one by one. This was done as a vote-education measure, these people as I said before having only voted once before at the 1964 House of Assembly Elections.

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MAJORITY OF ELECTIONS (Cont.)

This measure should result in a reduction in the number of informal votes at future elections - I think the irregularity of the procedure was out-weighed by the benefit to be derived therefrom. The count was then made, each step being explained to the candidates and the people. Particulars were entered on the Statistical sheets as the count proceeded. On the winner/s being publicly declared there was a round of acclamation and handshakes all round.

The Lake Murray area comprises 24 villages, 2 Mission Stations and 1 Government Station as mentioned earlier. These were grouped into 9 Wards, 3 of which have 2 Councillors each and the other 6 having 1 each this giving a total of 12 Councillors. The result of this is that 9 villages have no resident Councillor and I determine that this will result in a laxity in village care and law and order in those villages. I have already heard rumours of dissatisfaction at the impending retirement of the Village Constables when the Council is officially opened. I am unsure but think that at last year's (1967) annual meeting of delegates representing all Papuan Councils, a motion was passed strongly requesting the Administration to consider the re-introduction of the Village Constable system in Council areas. Most certainly the Member for Central Special, Mr. Chatterton, made the very same request in the House (June 1967) on behalf of his constituents to which the then Director of District Administration, Mr. J.K. McCarthy, replied that the need was recognized and that he was consulting with the Police Commissioner on that same subject. I have not seen nor heard any official statement on the outcome of the consultations and assume that the matter is still under discussion. I personally am in favour of the re-introduction of Village Constables in Council areas and on the basis of local rumour expect a lively debate on the subject at the Council's inaugural meeting.

The people of Lake Murray would be one of the more prosperous groups of the Territory. Organised large scale crocodile shooting has proved an extremely lucrative venture and has boosted the capital of the local buyers' Society to unprecedented heights. The previous O.I.C. of Lake Murray resigned in February last year to take up the position as Manager of the Society. His aim has been diversification, being mindful that the crocodile population is becoming less each month. In partnership with the Merkehead and Xiunga Buyers' Societies, it has purchased a 50' steel work vessel built under contract at Ballina, N.S.W., Slipway. The future for the Society with new markets in the Highlands for local fish opening up, seems brighter than ever. Consequently I predict a reasonably high tax rate will be levied by the Council so that the smallness in population will be compensated for by the high rate. Through participation in the Society's economic ventures and seeing the financial results of those ventures, the people are familiar with transactions for sizable amounts and are not overawed when confronted by such. The initial tax income for the Council should be near \$5,000 besides which there is a \$400 Grant-in-aid held in a suspense account pending formation of the Council. This will be sufficient for the Council to get one or two projects started - considering the existence of a successful and efficient Society, the Council will only need concern itself with public services and leave economic ventures and the promotion of economic ventures to the Society.

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FEMALE PARTICIPATION AND INTEREST

As was expected, females tended to regard the Council (and consequently the elections) as something to only interest and be controlled by the men. They showed little interest in the proceedings and I assume will show as much interest in the doings of the Council. However I would consider this attitude on the female's part as normal, not withstanding the questionable generalization, quote, "women voters continue to show great interest in local elections", to be found on page 27 of the Administration's "Territory of Papua Report 1965-66".

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Females in this region traditionally play a passive role in society; being foragers, the females are relied on for gardening duties and hence their usefulness is held in low regard unlike say Highland women, who, because of their gardening duties and ability, are the mainstay of village society, indeed existence.

In an effort to show the women that they are as much part of the Council as men are, when conducting a trial run through of voting procedure a female was included in the group of demonstration candidates. Needless to say when the time came no females nominated. Possibly the Council can be instrumental in ~~the~~ lifting the local women their traditionally subservient role and induce them to play a more active part in community and village affairs.

INCIDENTS

There were no incidents to mar the smooth and orderly progress of the patrol. Assistance was given to the patrol where man-power was needed and the people conducted themselves in an orderly fashion at the polls.

ABSENTEEISM

At all polling centres, all people over the required age limit participated in the election, there being no person deliberately abstaining from voting.

There were a number unavoidably absent, being hospital in-patients, at work outside of the Ward area, in ~~the~~ prison etc. Where people of a village had to travel to another village to vote, there were some absentees due to inability to travel because of old age or physical disability. Consequently voter participation was extremely satisfactory even though statistics (Form 10) show a percentage of absentees. This is misleading - the roll being compiled from the '66 Census registers and since then there have been deaths and sizable numbers of village to village migrations which threw the absentee figure out of true perspective. When the new rolls are prepared with confirmed migrations amended in the relevant Ward rolls, the absentee figure will be a true one.

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GRATIONS

ANALYSIS OF STATISTICS

Because of the irregularities in the rolls, an analysis on the written figures would be misleading. On the written figures male voters stand at 69% these enrolled whereas it would actually be in the vicinity of 85-90%. Females stand at 76% but actually would be closer to 90-95%.

The number of males who voted was 629 and females 737. Of the some 150 who made written votes, 28 were informal. This figure is high and as I said before, disappointing considering that repeated talks had been given on procedure. One can only put it down to their being confused by the seemingly (to them) complexity of it all.

SUMMARY

I reiterate that election attendance was extremely satisfactory. This being a multi-racial Council, the Europeans stationed at Beset Catholic Mission, Pangos U.F.M. Mission and Lake Murray Government Station, providing they had the necessary residency qualifications, were eligible to vote. It was pleasing to note that all eligible Europeans did actually vote though none nominated for a position. The contents of Local Government Circular 9 of 1/11/67 stating that Canadian citizens did not endanger their citizenship rights by voting in a Territory election, was made known to the French-Canadian Missionaires at Beset. There are no other foreign nationals in the area.

An analysis of the 12 elected Councillors reveals that 4 are under the age of 30 (3 with schooling) and the other 8 are older men of traditional leadership. Categorizing them occupation wise we find:-

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 2 Village Constables | 1 Ex-Policeman |
| 1 Ex-Village Constable | 1 Ex-Marine Buson |
| 1 Village Constable's son | 1 Pastor |
| 2 Village Councillors | 1 Ex-Paster's Assistant |
| 1 Ex-Chairman Buyers Society | 1 Private Storekeeper (Ex-electrician) |

All are naturally men of some standing in the Community and are quite pro-Administration though have ideas of their own. With such a crew the Council should function well and bring forward some sound suggestions for area improvement. It is also intended that the Councillors should freely discuss Territory political movements and some political education talks will be arranged to foster a political awareness amongst the Councillors who can then pass it on to their constituents. To date this has been lacking and the Council should prove an excellent vehicle to disseminate to the people the political happenings in their country. It is also intended to have a selection of guest speakers attend meetings and give an educative talk on their particular field of activity. This might prove difficult in practice as Lake Murray being so isolated, but sincere efforts will be made to achieve this end. Such talks should greatly widen the Councillors' sphere of understanding of Administrative efforts and services and also of private business practices if we can find a suitable person engaged in private enterprise.

As previously mentioned the local people are quite financial (mainly due to past Patrol Officers' efforts in supervising the Buyer's Society) and have a limited knowledge

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SUMMARY (Cont.)

of economics. This knowledge will better enable them to understand the financial workings of the Council, so often a drawback in a newly formed Council.

At the writing of this report a Council education meeting has been called for January 15th. to last for two days. At this meeting the various Council procedures will be explained and discussed by the writer. Due to my inexperience in Council work, most of the points will be straight out of the book and past Circulars which have now been re-filed and the readings indexed for easy reference. The Advisor to The Kiwai Council A.D.C. Sage has intimated that he will be available to assist in the writing up of the initial financial estimates when they come due. He already has given time to the writer in explaining the basics of Council procedures and financial records.

CONCLUSION

The people are presently quite interested in their Council and its formation has been in the making for the past three years. For the majority it is mostly a status symbol acquisition but given time these people will realize that a Council can bring them benefits, both material and political.

The Declaration of Poll (Form 8) was despatched to the Chief Electoral Officer some weeks ago and the contents should appear in the Government Gazette within the next few weeks. When it does, the inaugural meeting will be organized and it is hoped that the District Commissioner can attend to officially open the Council and at the same time perform the sad duty of formally retiring that stalwart band, the Village Constables.

C.G. YOUNG,
PATROL OFFICER

la
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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT



District of WESTERN Report No. 5-67/68

Patrol Conducted by C. G. YOUNG, P.O.

Area Patrolled UBUA area (Middle Strickland River)

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans No.

Natives 2 R.P.N.G.C., 1 Medic, 2 Interpreters, 1 Skipper & Camp cook.

Duration—From 1/5/1968 to 14/5/1968

Number of Days 14

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No— Medical Orderley only.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services XXXXX/19XX Nil

Medical XXXXX/19XX Nil

Map Reference Army Fournil RAGGI and LAKE MURRAY.

Objects of Patrol Initial Contact— Establish friendly relations.

Director of District Administration,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

20/6/1968

J. Holmes
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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67-16-31

26th July, 1968.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DAFU.

PATROL REPORT, LAKE MURRAY NO. 5 OF 1967/68

Receipt of the above report and your 67-6-1 dated 27th June, 1968, are acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. C.G. Young has carried out his patrol duties in a commendably competent manner and compiled an interesting report.

As the Assistant District Commissioner Morehead has pointed out, it is not advisable to attempt to persuade the people to change their customary type dwellings at this stage.

This report was the subject of Administration Press Statement No. 72, released on 25th July, 1968.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Director

c.c. Mr. C.G. Young, P.O.,
Patrol Post,
LAKE MURRAY
Western District.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Administration
Press Statement
No. 78

Port Moresby.
July 25, 1968.

FEW REMAIN UNCONTACTED

The Director of District Administration, Mr. T.W. Ellis, today announced that an Administration patrol had made contact with one of the few remaining groups of Papuans and New Guineans not yet brought under Administration control.

The people live in the Ubuu area of the Middle Strickland River.

Mr. Ellis said the Administration knew of the existence of a few other uncontacted groups of people. However their numbers were hard to estimate.

He said the people in the Ubuu area were contacted by a patrol from the Lake Murray Station in the Western District.

The patrol visited two villages, Goyobom and Asaribi, situated in the junction of the Strickland and Tomu Rivers.

The officer leading the patrol, Mr. C.C. Young, was told that these people had moved from further north, past the Tomu River, because they were being continually attacked by the Miria people. Since their migration they had been free from attack.

In his report, Mr. Young said that the people of the first village, Goyobom, were friendly, and made immediate offers of food for the patrol.

He said they lived in a communal long-house. The men wore a woven tulip bark loincloth in front, and half grass skirt at the rear with strings of red seeds draped around the neck and shoulder, bark vests belted around the middle for protection against arrows, necklaces of small white cowrie shells and headbands of the same shells. They carried black palm bows and arrows with a variety of tips, including some tipped with cassowary bone.

Their hair was shaven some 1½ inches back from the forehead, and the remaining hair was rolled into greased and separate braided plaits, pushed back over the head, and hanging down to a length of 3 inches.

The women wore plain grass skirts. Mr. Young said that informal discussions were held with the people and they were treated for minor ailments, before the patrol moved further east to Asaribi Village.

On approaching the village's single communal house, there was no one to be seen, but from inside came sounds of confusion, shouting and running.

The house, of approximately 130 ft long and 50 ft wide stood on posts some 15 ft off the ground.

"As we approached the rear corner of the house, at a strategic distance, the interpreter informed me that they were shouting to barricade the doors.

"At about halfway along the side of the house, a shout louder than the rest, made by an old man, who more in confusion and fright than hostility, exhorted his fellow villagers to shoot at the other skin first."

Mr. Young says that to be on the safe side the carriers, not yet in the village confines, were halted, and the patrol proper swung out in an arc to a distance of some 100 ft from the

house to get around to the front at a respectable distance.

On the verandah were seated some 30 men, sitting quietly looking down at the patrol, a few smoking bamboo pipes.

"None of them wanted to come down, and as it would have been unwise for us to ascend the knotted tree trunk stairs, a complete impasse resulted.

"After some 15 minutes the carriers were brought around to the front, and they were used also to explain that the patrol was friendly and only wished to meet and talk with them".

A request for water was made, and after 15 minutes of discussion, a young man appeared with a bucket. Twice he got halfway down the stairs but was overcome by fright, but on the third attempt he reached the ground and first contact was made.

"Thereafter they came down one by one, at first, then in a flood to shake hands, exchange smiles, and compare clothing."

Food was brought to the patrol and salt given in exchange.

A meeting was arranged for the following morning, and a count of heads showed that there were about 190 people from Asaribi, and another 30 from two villages to the north east, on the Tomu River.

Talks were given on the Administration's role and the medical orderly treated the people for minor ailments. A display of firepower was given, and the patrol inspected the long house and gardens.

Patrol members bartered half their clothing for bows and arrows, bone knives, bark arrow vests, and string bags.

The patrol was told the story of a young man being killed in an attack by the Miria people on a bush camp in either December 1967, or January this year.

Mr. Young said that the young man's father, who was a witness to the killing, said the body was carried off by the Mirias, presumably back to their village.

He said that considering all things, he could only assume, as the father did, that the body was carried off to be eaten.

Describing the people's agriculture and stock, Mr. Young said that the main staples were cooking bananas and sago. Small gardens of taro were worked, and sugar cane, sweet bananas, cucumbers and papaya were seen.

There seemed to be no shortage of supplies. He said the people also hunted wallaby, cassowary, possum and birds. A few pigs and dogs were their only domestic animals.

People of both villages were in poor condition as far as health was concerned, he said. Because they lived in musty, smoky communal houses, all suffered from bronchial trouble and were continually coughing.

Skin diseases affected almost everyone, and the main cause of death seemed to be malaria.

Mr. Young said that another patrol was planned to visit the other two villages in the area, Sagribi and Suban, and then to go on to the Miria area, and ensure that tribal fighting ceased, if it had not already done so.

G.B.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-16-21 (17)

Telephone
Telegrams
Our Reference RAC.pb
If calling ask for 67-6-1
Mr.



Department of District Administration,
Western District,
DARU.
27th June, 1968

The Director,
Department of District Administration
KOROBOBU.

LAKE MURRAY PATROL 5/67-68

Please find herewith report of the above, submitted by Mr. C.G. Young, Patrol Officer, following his 14 day patrol of the middle Strickland River area.

2. It has been known for many years that there was a small uncontacted population group in the Strickland/Tomu Junction area, and this patrol was in the nature of a preliminary survey of this area, preparatory to aerial survey and a joint NOMAD/LAKE MURRAY patrol. The survey was made in early June, and Mr. YOUNG left LAKE MURRAY on 19th June to link up with a NOMAD Patrol at the junction of the two rivers. Mr. YOUNG will then proceed with Mr. J. PARAS-WELLS, acting Assistant District Commissioner, right through to NOMAD. Their reports will be awaited with interest.

3. This report calls for little extra comment. Mr. YOUNG has been quite busily occupied with activities of the recently proclaimed LAKE MURRAY Council, and this new patrol effort is no doubt welcome to him. This report clearly indicates that the Patrol was competently carried out, and that the contacts made with the GCIYOBOM and ASARIBI ~~have~~ been fruitful.

4. The map, employing as it does coloured ink, is not strictly in accord with instructions, but a further one will be required after the current patrol, and this map will no doubt be the one for which prints will be required.

5. In conclusion, then, a competent effort from Mr. YOUNG.

I. A. Holmes
(I. A. HOLMES) *MS*
ACTING DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

11

DRA

67-1-2

Morehead, via DARU,
Western District.

15th June, 1968.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

Lake Murray Patrol No. 5 of 1967/1968.

The above report is forwarded in triplicate please as is Mr. Young's claim for Camping Allowance, certified by me.

Any positioning of villages by Mr. Young must at this stage be approximate. From the village directory map they however would seem to be within the jurisdiction of the NOMAD Sub-District.

In so far as the follow up patrol mentioned by Mr. Young in his report is concerned, I have told him that he is to act under the orders of Mr. Wells once he joins the NOMAD patrol and also to proceed right through to NOMAD station as this will make it clear to all concerned that the authority of the Administration does not rest only on its resources at NOMAD. We can at this stage lend some support to NOMAD in its efforts at pacification before the affairs of the Lake Murray Council become too involved. I too can only welcome the forging of friendly links between the Morehead and NOMAD sub-districts.

There is only one specific comment that I would like to make on the report. In page 8 paragraph one Mr. Young suggests that it would be as well if the population built individual family homes instead of a communal long house. I think that I would prefer if the population were not hurried in this matter. If at their new village site they do this and someone dies from perfectly natural causes then most certainly somebody else will suggest that the cause is because they changed their type of dwellings. As it is the community will probably shift from this site to that over a period and the effort of building individual houses might place rather a strain on their available man power if the effort has to be repeated too often.

(E.D. Wron)

Assistant District Commissioner.

cc

OIS,
Patrol Post,
Lake Murray.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

(10)

Patrol Report No. 5 Lake Murray (67/68)

AREA PATROLLED UBUA AREA, Middle Strickland River

OBJECTS OF PATROL INITIAL CONTACT- ESTABLISH FRIENDLY RELATIONS

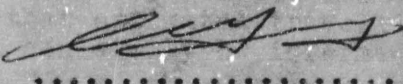
OFFICER CONDUCTING C.G. YOUNG, Patrol Officer.

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING

S/C. INGITA 301 R.P.N.G.C.
Const. WOMI 2012 R.P.N.G.C.
Interpreter SEKOURÉ
Interpreter DAMARO
Medical Orderley KAMON
Boat Skipper GIRIBA
Camp Cook GABALI

PATROL DURATION 1/5 to 14/5/68 - 14 days.

MAP REFERENCE ARMY JOURNAL OF RAGGI and LAKE MURRAY.



.....
C.G. YOUNG,
Patrol Officer.

INTRODUCTION

The migration of a group of Nomad people and the subsequent establishing of themselves in an area North-East of Lake Murray Station on the eastern bank of the Strickland River, was first brought to my notice in mid 1967. The reports were very vague however and no one knew their exact whereabouts until a Miwa (lower Lake village) crocodile hunting party contacted them in the course of shooting on the Strickland River.

One of the Miwas remained in their village for some months and learned the basics of their language. He then returned to Miwa accompanied by a handful of these people and it was here that I met them whilst conducting the House of Assembly elections. I persuaded three of them in company with the Miwa man to act as interpreter, to come to the Station and work as casual labourers. This was done purely so that they would have first hand knowledge of the role of the Administration and thereby could act as useful intermediaries when an Administration patrol contacted their kin. Special instructions were given to station staff to treat the three with civility and kindness and where the opportunity arose, to explain the various functions of the Administration and their particular role (be it policeman, medical orderley, storeman etc.) within its framework. This worked quite well and at the end of two months they became quite blasé about travelling on motor vessels, standing near a revving motor mower etc.

Following the inaugural meeting of the Lake Murray Local Government Council and the subsequent reams of correspondence attended to as a result of that meeting, a patrol to visit these migrated and as yet totally uncontacted people was planned. The three were unable to compute distances in terms of boat hours which meant that estimated travelling times to the villages by the patrol could only be informed guesses.

With station commitments finalised, the patrol was able to get under way on the 1st. of May, travelling for the first part by the Lake Murray Government vessel M.V. "MIWA". Police, an Aid Post Orderley with medical kit, two interpreters, camp cook and boat skipper comprised the patrol's complement for its duration. Points regarding the patrol's conduct and aims were first discussed with the Assistant District Commissioner Mr. E.D. Wren and he, having done extensive initial contact patrols in earlier years (including one through the Nomad area north of where this patrol was to go), was able to pass on his field knowledge and experience.

I refer you now to the body of the report encompassing all activities of the 13 day patrol.

DIARY

Wednesday, 1st. May

0430 departed Lake Murray Station per M.V. "MIWA". Travelled to Southern end of Lake then south down the Herbert River. At junction turned north travelling up the Strickland. At 1700 tied up and made camp in area known as WIAWIA.

DIARY (Cont.)MAY

Thursday, 2nd.

0630 left WIAWIA continuing up the Strick land. At 1630 tied up and made camp on banks again, in area known as LAIKI.

Friday, 3rd.

0700 departed LAIKI. At 1500 current extremely swift and making headway at about 1 knot. At 1930 reached mouth of DUPOTUTA Creek where disembarked and followed track some 20 minutes until came to village GOIYOBOM which was deserted. Slept barracks GOIYOBOM.

Saturday, 4th.

At GOIYOBOM awaiting return villagers.

Sunday, 5th.

Some villagers arrive about 0930. More arrive in afternoon. Friendly and assist with food. Slept GOIYOBOM.

Monday, 6th.

Held meeting with approx. 50 villagers—more still coming. Gave talks on Admin. and dispensed medicines. Established friendly relations esp. with brother of headman KASINGOREI. Slept GOIYOBOM.

Tuesday, 7th.

With local carrier line departed village at 0800 arriving at camp site at 1600 where made camp. Actual walking time—6 hrs. Slept Camp-site.

Wednesday, 8th.

Departed campsite at 0800 and walked until arrived second village ASARIBI. After uncertain reception overtures made and accepted. Camped 200 yds. from village ~~at~~ and posted guards throughout night.

Thursday, 9th.

At ASARIBI. Meeting held. Firearms display. Slept ASARIBI.

Friday, 10th.

At ASARIBI consolidating relations. Slept ASARIBI.

Saturday, 11th.

With new carrier line departed village for campsite. Arrived 1730 and slept.

Sunday, 12th.

Broke camp and at 0830 departed for GOIYOBOM village where arrived at 1430. Population in this village now about 80 with still some absent. Slept GOIYOBOM. ||

Monday, 13th.

Departed GOIYOBOM travelling all day all night non-stop.

Tuesday, 14th.

Arrived Station 0820. Patrol stood down.

END OF PATROL

NATIVES AFFAIRS

Boat travel up the Strickland, being against the current, is a slow business and when past the AIEHA River & junction on the third day, the "MIWA" was doing an estimated speed of two knots. This speed was reduced even further in the last ten miles where the river narrowed. Logs and sandbars constituted a continual hazard and it was necessary to have a person stationed in the bow with a sounding pole to avoid grounding ourselves. It was impossible to avoid all the logs but though we hit quite a few no actual damage to the boat was done.

On the evening of the third day after some 30 hours on the water, we reached the mouth of DUPOTUTA Creek (situated some 18 miles from the junction of the TOMU River with the Strickland), a waterway varying between 20 to 50 feet in width that drains the immediate inland area of undulating hills of its rainfall. With the three guides the patrol followed a track 20 minutes east until we arrived at the first village of GOIYOBOM. The village, consisting of a communal long house and a barracks that had been built recently in anticipation of our arrival, was found to be deserted. Fire ashes and weed growth showed that the village had not been lived in for a period of weeks. After spending the night in the barracks the three guides were despatched to a sago patch which was considered by them as a likely place for the people to be. They returned in the late afternoon having found no trace of the absent inhabitants.

The next morning at around 0930 the first of the villagers arrived of their own accord. It was later found that they had been camped down the Strickland and on hearing our boat engine they had assumed that it was the Government patrol and had set out en masse for their village, taking two days for the forward group to arrive. The people were friendly and immediately made offers of food to the patrol and then set to cleaning their neglected village area.

They were dressed in their traditional manner, men wearing a woven Tulip bark loincloth in front and a half-grass skirt at the rear, strings of red seeds draped around neck and shoulders (forming a cross not unlike an 18th. century English soldier) wore, 8" wide bark vests belted around their middle for protection against arrows, necklaces of small white cowrie shells and head bands of the same item and carrying black palm bows and arrows with a variety of tips - the most lethal looking being those tipped with barbed cassowary bone. Their hair was shaven some 1½ inches back from the forehead and the remaining hair rolled into greased and separate braided plaits, pushed back over the head and hanging down to a length of 3 inches, this being similar to the female coiffure of early dynastic Egypt. The women wore the usual plain grass skirt and nothing else. Late afternoon saw the arrival of another section of this group the total number now being approximately 50 and nearly all men.

/what

? Population
Goys Bom

The next morning informal discussions with the people were held and the reason for our presence explained. The brother, KASINGOREI, of the traditional leader replied on behalf of his people assuring the patrol that we were welcome and having heard of us only, were now happy to see and meet us in the flesh. He also explained that when they lived in the north past the Tomu River they were continually being attacked

NATIVE AFFAIRS (Cont.)

by the further north MIRIA group but now since their migration to this area they were free from attacks. Like other primitive people I have met and talked with, there were certain topics they avoided and, if pressed for an answer, lied unconvincingly. After discussing the subjects I wanted to my closing remarks were that they should carry on as they were but that all murders must be reported as soon as possible.

With our scratch medical kit the Medical Orderley treated the people for minor ailments, sores, cuts, burns etc., these being considerable as the people don't appear to wash very often. Almost to a man they had a bronchial trouble of some sort and could barely talk for 5 minutes without coughing. No doubt this is a result of living in a "long house" with its ever present fire-smoke and air of dust and ash. The Lake Murray Interpreter, SEKOURE, who as a young lad accompanied Mr. Iven Champion on his pre-war patrol of the Tomu River area, was able to establish that these were not the group that Champion had contacted and had so much trouble with, but that the group he had contacted were most probably the MIRIAS.

For this village I have used the spelling GOIYOBOM instead of the correct phonetic spelling of GOI'IOBOM as I consider apostrophied village names as unsightly and unwieldy.

With 21 of the men as carriers the patrol moved in an almost direct easterly direction, following an overgrown pad that necessitated a person going ahead to clear away overhanging scrub, walking until 1630 when camp was made. The next day the trek was resumed until at 1400 we arrived at a road side lean-to which contained a few sick males and females from the village ahead (some also from the hamlet DEME), it being more or less a quarantine station. The patrol proceeded on until we were nearing the village approaches. A halt was made and a policeman and the two interpreters accompanied myself at the head of the patrol. The track led to the rear of the single communal house and on our approach no one could be seen but from the interior of the house came sounds of confusion - much shouting and running of feet. The house was approximately 130 feet long, 50 feet wide and stood on posts some 15 feet off the ground. As we approached the rear corner of the house (at a strategic distance) the interpreter informed me that they were shouting to barricade the doors. At about half-way along the side of the house a shout louder than the rest made by an old man who, more in confusion and fright than hostility, exhorted his fellow villagers to shoot at "the other skin first".

To be on the safe side the carriers (not yet in the village confines) were halted and the patrol proper swung out in an arc to a distance of some 100 feet from the house to get around to the front of the house at a respectable distance. On the verandah were seated some 30 men, sitting quietly looking down at us and a few smoking bamboo pipes. None of them wanted to come down and as it would have been unwise for us to ascend the knotted tree trunk stairs, a complete impasse resulted. After some 15 minutes the carriers were brought around to the front and they were used also to explain to them that the patrol was friendly and only wished to meet and talk with them. They still remained silent making no response to our

NATIVE AFFAIRS (Cont.)

overtures. A request for water was made and after 15 minutes of discussion amongst themselves a young man appeared at the head of the stairs with, of all things, a battered yellow plastic bucket of water in his hands (must have been bartered from a contacted Nomad village). Twice he got halfway down the stairs when fright overcame courage and he turned and sprinted back up. On his third attempt though he reached the ground and thus our first personal contact was made. Thereafter they came down one by one at first then in a flood to shake hands, exchange smiles, compare clothing etc.

Our camp was made some 100 yards from the village on the same narrow ridge with some of the villagers assisting in setting it up. Food was brought to the patrol and salt was given in exchange. Throughout the night 2 guards were posted, changing every three hours with a double guard from 4.30 a.m. on.

In the morning a meeting with all the villagers was arranged and for the first time the women and children showed themselves to attend the meeting. A rough count of heads was made and they numbered approximately 220 in all, 190 being from this village ASARIBI and 30 odd coming from two villages situated north-east on the Tomu River. The dress of these was the same as the GOIYOBOMS and the languages are only slightly dissimilar with the GOIYOBOM dialect being a more slowly spoken version. Talks on the Administration's role were given and after the Medical Orderly again treated for minor ills. In the afternoon a display of firepower was given which had the desired impressive effect. The rest of the afternoon was spent inspecting their long house and gardens and later in the evening patrol members bartered half their clothing and bedding for the excellent bows and arrows that these people make. Bone knives, bark arrow vests, seed necklaces and string bags were also bartered swiftly as the people were more than anxious to acquire some item of clothing (one appearing later with a T-shirt used as a pair of trousers with legs put through the sleeves).

The story, related by the father who witnessed the event, of a young man who was killed in an attack by the MIRIAS on a bush camp, by arrows, was dated to have taken place in either December '67 or January '68. The body was then partly stripped by the attackers, the throat slit and the body disembowelled whereafter it was carried off by the MIRIAS presumably back to their village. Considering all things I can only assume (as the father does) that the body was carried off to be eaten- cannibalism, I believe, is not uncommon amongst the Nomads even now.

The mentioned 30 odd villagers from the north-east are also a migratory group getting away from the northern tribes, they establishing themselves in two villages WAGRIBI and BUBUA. Without any mention or persuasion on my part, the people of this village, ASARIBI, wish to move down and combine with the GOIYOBOMS in establishing a new village down river from the present GOIYOBOM site. This would be much better for them and they will be advised to build separate family dwellings if they do make the move. The two villages of BUBUA and WAGRIBI, however, wish to remain in their present hilly area

NATIVE AFFAIRS (Cont.)

and not move down with the others. It was carefully explained to them that this was a matter purely for them to decide upon as it was not Administration policy to force people to move their villages. This allayed fears I think they held and contributed further to friendly relations with this group who up till now had remained more or less on the sidelines. An estimate of their population is difficult but would be in the vicinity of 100 to 150 from what I could make out of the interpretations. Rather than re-create a feeling of tension amongst this group, I decided against my planned visit to their villages even though they were (according to all) only $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 days walk away respectively. A combined patrol with the Nomad patrol officer is planned for mid-June to visit these two villages (and others beyond them) so that their position and future administration can be sorted out jointly.

Carriers for the return journey to the Strickland were recruited to take over the loads of the GOIYOBOMS. The people were willing but due to their diet of bananas and sage they are not physically robust and consequently proved poor carriers - I believe the situation is the same throughout the Nomad area. This is in contrast to the Olsobip people who, being taro eaters, were able to carry loads for days on end as when I used a standing carrier line of 65 who carried for 98 hours in 13 days to the Star Mountains and back. Also because of diet and insanitary environment they are hardly ever without some ailment or infection (see HEALTH).

Although I attempted to collect some anthropological information, because of interpretation difficulties and the people's unwillingness to discuss a lot of traditional things, I gave up and discarded what little I had gathered as it most probably contained inaccuracies. Following are notes on AGRICULTURE, VILLAGES AND HOUSING and HEALTH and finally a summary.

AGRICULTURE & STOCK

Main staples are the cooking banana and sage. Banana gardens were found to be quite extensive and it seems to be their primary staple.

Small gardens of taro are worked and the usual sugar cane, sweet banana, cucumbers and papaw are present. From somewhere they have obtained pumpkin seed and clumps of vines were found in both villages. Although their diet of banana and sage is a poor one there seems to be no shortage of supplies.

They hunt the usual game, pig, wallaby, cassowary, possum and birds if they are lucky enough with their crude weapons. These are their only source of meat supply as fish in quantity aren't to be found in the small, disconnected and sometimes dry creeks that meander through the depressions.

The only domestic animals were pigs and dogs, the pigs being few were consequently well looked after - the dogs being many scrounge what they can though I must say that some of them did look fed.

HEALTH

People of both villages were in poor condition health wise.

As mentioned earlier, because of their living in musty, smoky communal houses where every breath drags some impurity into the lungs, all suffer from bronchial trouble and are continually coughing to such an extent that it becomes annoying when one is trying to talk with them.

Skin diseases and infections affect almost everyone - children suffer badly from scabies and the ulcerous results of burns and cuts. Unfortunately, I was unable to procure supplies of procaine penicillin in time for the patrol so the Medical Orderly could only give treatment consisting of emulsions and ointments covered with a dressing. Because of our short stay we were unable to give prolonged treatment and I suspect that our medical efforts produced few results. The next patrol to this area planned for mid-June will have a full medical kit at the disposal of the Medic, the supplies already having been procured from the Medasst at Morehead specifically for this purpose.

Through questioning the main cause of death seems to be malaria and other complications brought on by malaria - dysentery has also been a killer. Cases of corneal scarring of eye tissue was seen as were current cases of eye infections. No cases of T.B. or Hansens Disease were seen though one case of advanced yaws was. No doubt there were other cases in minor stages that I in my amateur diagnoses couldn't detect.

I do not know of any existing plans but no doubt at some time P.H.D. will be conducting Triple Antigen and Yaws inoculation patrols in the Olsebip and Nomad areas. When this patrol does the Nomad area, requests should be made for it to inoculate these UBUA people at the same time.

The bringing of the benefits of Western medicine to these people will of course be one of the major gifts we can give to these people. Most certainly they need such assistance.

VILLAGES AND HOUSING

Housing consists of all the people living in a communal house of some 120' x 50' in size.

The standard "long house" type of women and children walled off on both sides and the men and boys living in the central section, is that used by these people incorporating a possible variance (to what I've seen elsewhere) in the sizeable verandah set at the rear or front.

The front and rear entrances are small, about 4' high and 1½' wide, and the ladder reaching to these entrances consists of an unfastened single notched log; both structural items being defensive measures. Of necessity, defence measures were foremost in the builders' minds when these long houses are built hence the above two items, the horizontal racks of arrows (to be coulted in 10's not ones) directly above the entrances, the loopholes, absence of windows etc.

VILLAGES AND HOUSING (Cont.)

If the two villages do combine and re-establish themselves on a new site down river on the banks of the Strickland, then they will be persuaded to construct separate family dwellings. This should alter their current unhealthy existence considerably. To assist them in the construction of suitable housing a number of station labourers will be made available to show them the most efficient method of building such separate houses.

CONCLUSION

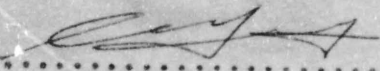
The move by these people from an area where they lived in continual fear of attack to an area where they are relatively safe, has meant a big change in their lives.

The murder of the young man as related under NATIVE AFFAIRS was said to be the last killing in the area. This man's death is made even more tragic by the fact that he had assisted in the building of the Government barracks at GOIYOBOM in anticipation of a Government patrol but unfortunately he never lived to see it arrive. Where he was killed was over a days walk from ASARIBI and according to the people there has been no actual raid on the villages themselves or in the immediate area surrounding them. Mr. A. DO. Daras-Wells and I plan to visit the two villages of WAGRIBI and BUBUA and then travel on to the MIRIA area (I think KELLY has patrolled parts if not all of it) and ensure that tribal fighting ceases if it has not already done so.

Provided these people of GOIYOBOM and ASARIBI make the afore mentioned move they should be able to derive an initial income from crocodile skins. This part of the Strickland has seen few shooters and the crocodiles should be in reasonable supply though not as plentiful as in the Lake Murray region as the area is devoid of swamps and their connecting waterways which are the preferred haunts of the saurian.

The object of this patrol, as it will be for the forthcoming patrol and the succeeding couple after that, was to bring law and order to these people- when the day comes that these people voluntarily discard their arrow-proof vests then we can say that the basics of law and order have been established. Another benefit we can immediately give to the people is that of medicine and I reiterate that it is badly needed and will be received as a most welcome gift.

The patrol can be considered a success as all objects were achieved. My and Mr. Daras-Wells report on the conclusion of the forthcoming patrol should throw mere light onto the population and its distribution east and north of the two villages that this patrol contacted.


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C.G. YOUNG,
PATROL OFFICER

