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OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: Southern H/lands

STATION: MAGARIMA

VOLUME No: 1

ACCESSION No: 496.

1967 - 1968

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PORT MORESBY - 1992

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORT OF: MAGARIMA

ACC. NO: 496

VOL. NO: 1 1967 - 1968

NUMBERS OF REPORTS: 2

REPORT NO.	FOLIO	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL	AREA PATROLLED	MAPS/PHOTOS	PERIOD OF PATROL
1-1967/68	1-10	W. R. PETERSON	P.O. PORTION OF MAGARIMA CDIVISION	MAP	8/1/68 - 20/1/68
2-1967/68	1-11	"	" PORTION OF MAGARIMA \$ UPPER WAGE CD	MAP	17/2/68 - 15/3/68



MAGARIMA

1967 - 1968

Report Nos 1 & 2





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Southern Highlands Report No. Margarima No 1. of 1967/68

Patrol Conducted by Mr. William R. Paterson Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled Portion of Margarima Census Division.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

Natives 4

Duration From 8 / 1 / 19 68 to 20 / 1 / 19 68

Number of Days 13

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No.

Last Patrol to Area by District Services No / 19 67

Medical ?? / 19

Map Reference Sketch Map Attached.

Objects of Patrol 1. Bridge Construction, & 2. Road Regrading on Margarima Kandep Road. 3. Routine Administration.

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 ...



67-15-35

67. 15. 35  
⑨  
1st July, 1968

The District Commissioner  
Southern Highlands District  
MUSI

PATROL REPORT - MARGARIMA NO. 1 of 1967/68

Receipt of the above report and your 67-3-13 dated  
5th June, 1968 are acknowledged with thanks.

2. Mr Paterson's concise report indicates a satisfactory  
situation in the Margarima area. It is pleasing to note that  
Margarima - Kondop road link has been completed and that plans  
for further improvements are well in hand.

(T.W. HLLIS)  
Director.

c.c. Mr W.R Paterson, P.O.  
MARGARIMA Patrol Post  
Nipa Sub-District  
SOUTHERN HIGHLAND DISTRICT





67. 15. 25

Telephone  
Telegrams  
Our Reference 67-3-13  
If calling ask for  
Mr.

Department of District Administration,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MIENDI.

5th June, 1968.



The Director,  
Department of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU.

Magarima Patrol No 1 of 1967/68  
Part Magarima Census Division  
Mr. W.R. Paterson, Patrol Officer.

Attached please find:-

- (1) Original of Report,
- (2) Copy of memorandum 67-2-3 dated 13th February, 1968.
- (3) Map of area patrolled.

2. This has been another worthwhile patrol to extend the Magarima road to link with Kandep. Within the District itself the road is invaluable in that it will be an essential link with Magarima when the pyrethrum plantings commence later this year. Funds will be allocated from Roads and Bridges Maintenance funds when they become available in 1968/69 so that road surfacing may be continued on this road.

3. Since this report was submitted the completion of the Magarima-Kandep road has been achieved and is now trafficable to light vehicles. Only by Mr. Paterson's keenness and energy was this possible and full credit is due to him for achieving his aim prior to departing from this District on leave and subsequent transfer.

4. Other aspects of the report have been adequately covered by the Assistant District Commissioner, Nipa. This report is the first one with a Magarima number.

*E. J. Emanuel*  
(E. J. Emanuel)  
s/District Commissioner.



67-2-3.

Sub-District Office,  
NIPA,  
S.H.D.

13th February, 1968.

The District Commissioner,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MBDL.

COMMENTS - MARGARINA PATROL REPORT No. 1 - 1967/68.

Please find attached copies of Margarina Patrol Report No. 1 of 1967/68 to a part of the Margarina Census Division. The Patrol was conducted by Mr. W.M. Paterson P.O. and its objectives were road construction and routine administration.

OUTLINE OF POLITICAL SITUATION.

The attitude of these people towards their road is encouraging. A great deal of work, some 15 miles of initial bench cut, has been completed over the past two years with very little supervision.

AGRICULTURE.

Paragraph. 23. The large scale pyrethrum planting programme to be commenced by the Department of Agriculture during July/August of this year should provide just the boost that this crop needs in the area.

A great deal of further work will be required on the Margarina Kandep road, particularly in the form of surfacing the unstable patches, before the great increase in traffic entailed by the pyrethrum project, will be able to pass over it without difficulty.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paragraph. 25. Work has now started on the remaining half mile of the initial bench cut.

Due to the sparsity of population and the large stretches of unstable land which the road traverses fairly large amounts of money will be required before the road can be brought up to a good standard. Without these funds it is difficult to envisage an all-weather road being completed within 5 years.

Mr. Paterson has completed another valuable patrol. Claim for camping allowance is attached.

*A.F. McNeill*

(A.F. McNeill)

Assistant District Commissioner.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

MARGARIMA Patrol Post,  
NIPA Sub-District,  
Southern Highlands District.  
PAPUA.  
25th January, 1968.

The Assistant District Commissioner,  
NIPA Sub District.  
Southern Highlands District.  
PAPUA.

MARGARIMA PATROL REPORT No. 1. of 1967/68

Patrol Conducted by:

Mr. William R. Paterson,  
Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled:

Portion of Margarima Census  
Division.

Personnel Accompanying the  
Patrol:

Interpreter HAPEI.

R.P. & N.G.C. Const KOMBA.  
" APA

C.I.B. Warder JOSEPH MONEO.

Duration of the Patrol:

8-1-68 to 20-1-68,  
13 days.

Last Patrol to the area:

November, 1967.

Objects of the Patrol:

1. Construction of bridges over Honge and Kurukuru creeks and other small streams in area.
2. Regrading of sections of road on the Kandep-Margarima Road in the Yenagari area.
3. Routine Administration.

Map Reference:

Sketch Map Attached.



Introduction:

- 1. The initial bench cut of the Margarima Kandep Road has been nearly completed since October 1967. Although the bench cut has been finished it was not possible for vehicles to travel to Yenagari village which is the last Rest House on the road travelling from Margarima. Main obstacle on the road was the Honge creek. There was also a considerable amount of road grading to be done on both sides of the creek. On the far side of Yenagari the Kurukuru creek prevented traffic from passing that point. Apart from these two major bridges there were also numerous other smaller water courses that required bridging.
- 2. The main object of the patrol was the construction of the two bridges and other smaller bridges so that the road would at least be open to light vehicular traffic. This will allow for further supervision along the length of the road to be done by vehicle.
- 3. It is understood that the road will be required for the pyrethrum expansion programme in July August of this year.

Patrol Diary:

- 4. Monday 8th January 1968.  
After final Patrol preparations moved patrol equipment to Yenagari by car and carriers. Distributed road tools to assembled local people and discussed distribution of work. Set up camp. Supervised road work. Slept at Yenagari.
- 5. Tuesday 9th January  
Supervised road work and bridge construction over Honge creek. Slept at Yenagari.
- 6. Wednesday 10th January  
Supervised road work and bridge construction over Honge creek. Slept at Yenagari.
- 7. Thursday 11th January  
Morning on bridge and road work. Afternoon had motor bike carried across Honge creek and returned to station where heard courts and complaints in Local Court and checked on Station work. Returned to Yenagari 1800. Slept at Yenagari.
- 8. Friday 12th January  
Supervised construction of bridges over Honge and Kurukuru creeks. Slept at Yenagari.
- 9. Saturday 13th January  
Worked with prisoners on road work cutting road across rock face. Slept at Yenagari.
- 10. Sunday 14th January  
The day observed.
- 11. Monday 15th January  
Travelled by motor bike to BIAKO to check on road routes over unfinished section on Margarima-Kandep border, (Kama Creek). Returned to Yenagari 1300 and continued with bridge work. Slept at Yenagari.
- 12. Tuesday 16th January  
Supervised construction of Bridges over Honge and Kurukuru creeks. Slept at Yenagari.



## 13. Wednesday 17th January

During morning supervised road and bridge work, afternoon spent hearing complaints in Local Court. Slept at Yenagari.

## 14. Thursday 18th January

By motor bike to Biako, inspected minor bridge works enroute. Previously arranged to meet OIC Kandep at Biako but returned Yenagari 1300 when OIC not arrived. Continued work on Bridge across Kutugu creek. Slept at Yenagari.

## 15. Friday 19th January.

Bridge work completed across Honge creek. Work continued on bridge across Kurukuru creek. Spoke with various groups concerning continuation of present road building programme.

## 16. Saturday 20th January.

Cleaned up camp area and returned to station by vehicle. Patrol finishes

...END OF DIARY...

Reception of Patrol:

17. The people of the area had been advised of the Patrol's visit one week prior to the arrival of the Patrol in the area. A large crowd of road workers met the patrol on arrival at Yenagari. This number was doubled by the time the patrol had been in the area for two days. Though a few people were at first reluctant to start work after the Christmas and New Year break the majority soon showed that they were anxious to see the work completed.

Village Officials:

18. The patrol was working mainly with the people of Panduaga 1 and 2 villages, and the people of Wirimbi, Tundaka, Ariaka, Yenagari and Ugu villages. The first 5 villages listed have just recently been brought into the Margarima area and the Council system. As this was the first opportunity that I have had for a close working relationship with these Councillors it provided an ideal opportunity to get to know them better.

Outline of Political Situation:

19. Yenagari village and the villages further north have always been 'over the range', a little bit far removed for close regular contact, the road to Yenagari will do much to alleviate this feeling. The virtual movement of the Margarima Station into the area also did a lot to boost morale.

20. The people to the north of Yenagari are anxious to build a road into their own area. There is no point in building this road though until the Margarima-Kandep road is of a satisfactory standard as the proposed road will be a branch off the Kandep Road. These people will also be required to work on the Kandep road to bring it up to a satisfactory standard.

21. With elections only a month off several candidates were through the area talking to voters, they received a mixed response and it appears that voting will largely follow language lines. There are two Candidates from the Council area, one of these is of Huri descent the other is more bilingual with ties towards Nipa. Four of the seven Nipa Electorate Candidates have been through the area to date.



#### Agriculture:

22. Pyrethrum has been planted in the villages of Yenagari and Ugu, they are now picking and selling their crop. Only a very small amount of pyrethrum has been planted in the area further north. This pyrethrum is not ready for picking. The Kandep road will make these areas more easily accessible.

23. In July August of this year it is planned to conduct a pyrethrum planting programme in the Margarima area. It is probable that the Kandep Margarima Road will be required on this occasion for the movement of vehicles and personnel from Western Highlands to planting areas around Margarima. The road will be through well before that date.

#### Complaints and Courts:

24. A number of Complaints and Courts were brought down from the northern areas, many of these were of a minor nature and were settled 'out of court'.

#### Roads and Bridges:

25. Road and Bridge work was the main purpose of the Patrol. The Horge and Kurukuru creeks both required bridges with spans of 40 feet. The difficulty in constructing the bridges was not in the length of span but in the building of buttresses and the construction of the approaches to the bridges. The bridge was to be built on unstable soil the other adjacent to a rock face. The construction of these bridges and other minor bridges means that the road is now usable to within half a mile of the border on the Kama Creek. Villagers are at present improving drainage and gradients along the length of this road. When this work of improving is completed the men will move to head of the road to finish the last  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the road border. There is a similar distance of road to be completed on the Kandep side of the border. A portion of the road on the Kandep side has to be cut through timber.

26. The road on the South side of Yenagari passes through particularly unstable soil. At the present time it is usable with wet or dry weather but with increased traffic on the section it is going to be a problem section. Work is continuing to improve the drainage and strengthen the surface. Fortunately there is good stone outcrops in the area but a considerable amount of work will be required to put sufficient stone onto the road surface to make it all weather with regular use.

27. Fortunately the weather remained dry for all but two days while the Patrol was at Yenagari, the dry weather enabled a full days work to be done and was of great assistance in the road building. A team of 50 prisoners were used on the road works at Yenagari under Police and Warden supervision. The prisoners with station reserve of hammers crowbars and picks were put to work on a rock face and completed in 2 weeks a job that would take the average village group with limited equipment a period of 6 weeks to complete.

28. Work is continuing on the Nipa Margarima road with road surfacing and the removal of un-necessary corners. Weather over the last week has made road work difficult with over 5" of rain in 6 days.

29. Work has started afresh on the Tari Road after the work spell I would estimate that 1 mile of road has been cut in the last 3 weeks. The various sections of road are as yet not all joined. The road is being cut through easy road building country and worthwhile funds are available for payment to road workers.



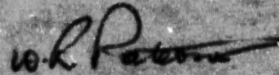
Personnel:

30. All patrol personnel conducted themselves well, there were no complaints. Entries have been made in the respective Records of Service.

Conclusion:

31. The length of usable road in the area is steadily increasing. In some sections it is becoming obvious that something better than hand labour is required for the purpose of road surfacing and a Tractor with Trailer would be most useful in this regard. It would be of particular use on the station where the nearest gravel is 2 miles away. The people are still keen to build roads as they realize that if their area is to progress at all they must have roads first. A group of Councillors visited the Lalagam area in late December to see large scale Pyrethrum plantings and were most impressed by the road system.

This report was completed on the 27th of January, 1968.



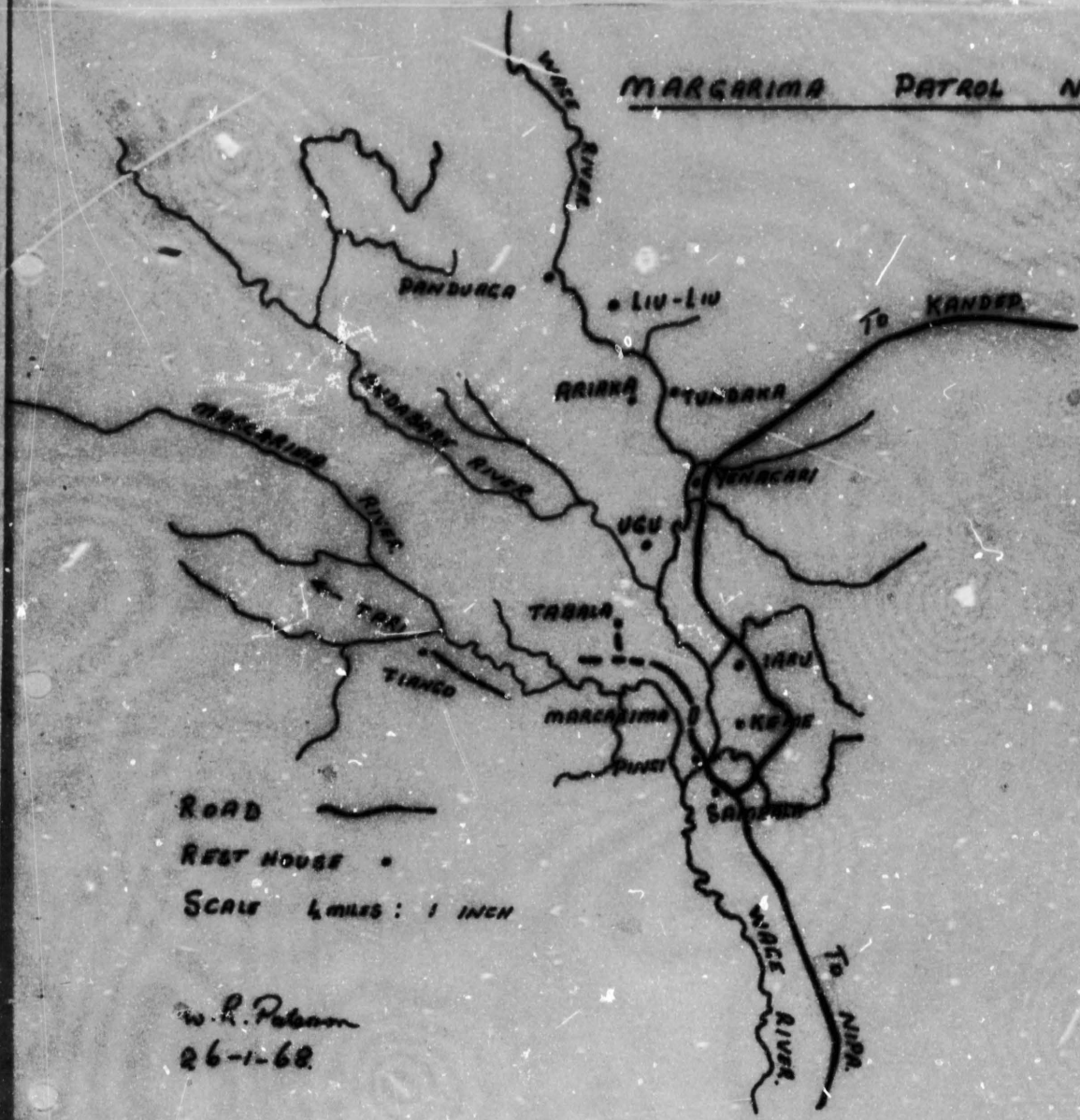
W.R. Peterson

Patrol Officer.



MARGARIMA PATROL No 1 of 1967/68

①



ROAD  
REST HOUSE •  
SCALE Kilms : 1 INCH

W.R. Polson  
26-1-68





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of **Southern Highlands** Report No. **Margarina No. 2 . of 1967/68**

Patrol Conducted by **Mr. William R. Paterson**

Area Patrolled **Portions of Margarina & Upper Wage Census Divisions**

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans **One**

Natives **Four**

Duration—From **17/ 2 /1968** to **15/ 3 /1968** (exc 18/2/68)

Number of Days **27**

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? **No**

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services **Jan /19 68 (Part Only)**

**Nov. 1968 (Whole)**

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

Map Reference **Sketch Map Attached.**

Objects of Patrol **Conduct House of Assembly Elections for Margarina & Upper Wage Census Divisions. Routine Administration.**

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.F.D.P. Trust Fund .....

.....

.....

.....



67-15-36

1st July, 1968

The District Commissioner  
Southern Highlands District  
MENDI

PATROL REPORT - MARGARIMA NO.2 of 19/7/68

Receipt of the above report and your 67-3-13, dated 5th June, 1968, are acknowledged with thanks.

2. A good report by Mr Paterson which indicates satisfactory progress is being made in both the Margarima and Upper Wage areas.

(T.W. ELLIS)  
Director.

c.c. Mr W.F. Paterson  
C/- District Office  
DARU  
Western District.





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67. 15. 36

18

Telephone  
Telegrams  
Oct. Reference 67-3-13  
If calling ask for  
vir

Department of District Administration,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

5th June, 1968



The Director,  
Department of District Administration,  
KONEDOBU.

Magarima Patrol No 2 of 1967/68  
Mr. W.R. Paterson, Patrol Officer.

Attached please find:-

- (a) Original of report;
- (b) Copy of memorandum 67-2-3 of 20th April, 1968 from Assistant District Commissioner, Nipa.
- (c) Map of area patrolled.

2. The patrol, mainly mounted for the purpose of the House of Assembly elections, still contains valuable information on other aspects of Administration.

3. My own experience of Tegi is that he will not neglect the Huri people in preference to his own from further south of Magarima. In fact, Mr. Tegi will support any move the Administration makes to complete the Tari-Magarima road and he is to be commended for this attitude.

4. Recommendations have been made by the District Co-ordinating Committee to have monies made available from the Rural Development fund for the continued construction of the Tari-Magarima road. The first two priorities recommended are for \$6,000.00 to be made available to both Tari and Magarima Councils in 1968/69. A \$12,000.00 allocation will do much towards completing the construction of the remaining sections of road located east of the Doma Peaks.

5. Another worthwhile patrol conducted by Mr. Paterson; his last before proceeding on recreational leave.

*E. J. Emanuel*

(E. J. Emanuel)  
a/District Commissioner.



(7)

67-2-3

Sub-District Office,  
NIPA.  
Southern Highlands District.

20th. April 1968.

The District Commissioner,  
Southern Highlands District.  
MENDI.

MARGARIMA PATROL NUMBER TWO OF 1967/68.

Enclosed herewith please find the above numbered Patrol Report plus attached sketch map.

It is certain that the Margarima Huris' will never be wholly satisfied until they have one of their own men elected to the House of Assembly; and equally certain, due population distribution, that they will never achieve this while a part of the Nipa Open Electorate.

The elected member - YEGI, has already made several visits to Marg and is recognised by the Huris as their member; his acceptance by them is another matter. Tegi's present advantage is that he is not a Nandi.

The growing road network in the Margarima area is a direct result of Mr. Paterson's interest and ability among the Huris' who have had the assistance of his enthusiasm for the past four years. Comments on the building of the Tari Road can certainly be understood and with the export pyrethrum industry in the area, difficult to see how this Tari road will be completed within the next two years without outside labour assistance. A Cadet Patrol Officer from Nipa will be loaned to Margarima for several months from May this year to assist with road development. Nipa labour will also be made available should the Officer-in-Charge Margarima deem necessary.

It is pleasing that the Kandep Road will be open to light traffic May thus providing an alternative route to Mount Hagen via Liagam. The acquisition of a four wheel drive vehicle to Margarima is both warranted and necessary.

Mr. Paterson's transfer to the Western District is regretted and keenly felt by the people of Margarima. He has had the advantage, however of having worked among a people who are eager to help themselves along their development 'track' and who have responded to his guidance in a manner such as few officers experience.

This report, as with the officer reporting, is both objective, succinct and commendable.

For your information, please.

*John S. Hicks*  
John S. Hicks

a/Assistant District Commissioner.

c.c. Officer-in-Charge,  
MARGARIMA.



(6)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

**MARGARIMA Patrol Post,  
NIPA Sub District,  
Southern Highlands District.  
PAPUA.**

**8th April, 1968.**

**The Assistant District Commissioner,  
NIPA Sub District,  
Southern Highlands District.  
PAPUA.**

**MARGARIMA PATROL REPORT No. 2.**

**of 1967/68**

**Patrol Conducted by:**

**Mr. William R. Paterson,  
Patrol Officer.**

**Area Patrolled:**

**Portions of Margarima and  
Upper Wage Census Divisions.**

**Personnel Accompanying the  
Patrol:**

**Assistant Presiding Officer,  
J.R. Paterson. (Mrs.)**

**Interpreters, Lagari  
Mada.**

**Poll Clerk.  
Mr R. Agi. (Ag Ast DASF)  
R.P.&N.G.C. Const TIBUARI.**

**Duration of the Patrol:**

**17th Feb. to 15th March, 1968.**

**Last Patrol to the area:**

**Part only January, 68.  
Whole area November, 67.**

**Objects of the Patrol:**

**Conduct House of Assembly  
Elections for Margarima and  
Upper Wage Census Divisions,  
(Nipa Electoral team No.5)**

**Routine Administration  
as required.**

**Map Reference:**

**Sketch Map Attached.**



Introduction:

1. The first and main object of the Patrol was to conduct House of Assembly Elections through the Margarima Council area which is within the Nipa Open Electorate, Southern Highlands Regional Electorate. Seven Candidates contested the seat for the Open Electorate, the Regional seat was returned to the Sitting Member unopposed. 2
2. Two of the seven Candidates for the Open Electorate were from the Margarima Council Area, of the two one was a popular choice while the other was put forward by his own particular village and had very little following from further out.
3. One of the Nipa Candidates (Tegi) is reasonably well known within the area and was given some second and third preferences. The lower 3 villages of the Upper Wage C.D. have affiliations with the Apostolic Mission at Nipa and they largely voted for the Candidate (Wemp) who is associated with the Apostolic Mission. The Candidate Wemp also originates from their general area. The other Candidates are virtually unknown.

Patrol Diary:

4. Saturday 17th February, 1968.  
After final setting up of Polling Booth commenced taking votes with arrival of Voters at Council Chambers at approx 9am. Active voting ceased at around 3.30pm.
5. Monday 19th February.  
Conducted Elections in Council Chambers at Margarima, most votes taken between 8.30 am and 2.30 pm.
6. Tuesday 20th February.  
Conducted Elections in Council Chambers at Margarima, active voting between 9 am and 3pm.
7. Wednesday 21st February.  
Moved Electoral equipment and Patrol requirements to Humaidia where set up Booth 9 am. Active voting to 4pm. Slept at Humaidia.
8. Thursday 22nd February,  
Conducted elections at Humaidia, majority of voters voted between 9am and 2 pm. Slept at Humaidia.
9. Friday 23rd February.  
Conducted elections at Humaidia, majority of voters voted by 12 mid day. Slept at Humaidia.
10. Saturday 24th February.  
Conducted elections at Humaidia. Majority of voters voted by 1pm. At close of Polling for day returned to Station with all equipment.
11. Sunday 25th February.  
Moved Patrol and Election equipment and personnel to Yenagari, two trips by car. Set up camp in preparation for Polling. Slept at Yenagari.
12. Monday 26th February.  
Conducted Elections at Yenagari, active voting finished at 2 pm. Slept at Yenagari.



- 11
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13. Tuesday 27th February.  
Conducted Elections at Yenagari, active voting finished by 12 mid day. Slept at Yenagari.
  14. Wednesday 28th February.  
Conducted Elections at Yenagari, active polling finished by 1 pm. Slept at Yenagari.
  15. Thursday 29th February.  
Patrol departed Yenagari 0730 for Panduaga arriving 1050. Remainder of day preparing for polling and setting up camp. Slept at Panduaga.
  16. Friday 1st March.  
Conducted Elections at Panduaga. Active voting over by 1.30 pm. General discussion with groups during afternoon. Slept at Panduaga.
  17. Saturday 2nd March.  
Conducted elections at Panduaga, active voting over by 1pm. Slept at Panduaga.
  18. Sunday 3rd March.  
The day observed.
  19. Monday 4th March.  
Conducted elections at Panduaga, active voting over by 1 pm, occasional votes taken during afternoon. Slept at Panduaga.
  20. Tuesday 5th March.  
Patrol departed Panduaga 0645 for Yenagari arriving 0950. Moved patrol equipment and personnel by car to Wenja, two trips finishing at 1.45 pm. Set up camp for polling. Slept at Wenja.
  21. Wednesday 6th March.  
Conducted Elections at Wenja, active voting finished by 2pm. Slept at Wenja.
  22. Thursday 7th March.  
Conducted Elections at Wenja, active voting over by 1.30 pm. Heard disputes, occasional votes received. Slept at Wenja.
  23. Friday 8th March.  
Conducted Elections at Wenja, active voting over by 1pm. Afternoon discussions, occasional vote received. Slept at Wenja.
  24. Saturday 9th March.  
Conducted Elections at Wenja, active voting over by 12 mid day. Occasional vote taken during afternoon. Slept at Wenja.
  25. Sunday 10th March.  
Commencing 7am moved Patrol equipment and personnel to Weiya, two loads by car. 8.45 am with carriers crossed Wage River to Ombal arriving 10.05, set up camp in preparation for Polling. Slept at Ombal.
  26. Monday 11th March.  
Conducted Elections at Ombal, active voting over by 3pm. Slept at Ombal.



27. Tuesday 12th March.

Conducted Elections at Ombal, active voting over by 1pm, occasional vote taken during afternoon. Slept at Ombal.

28. Wednesday 13th March.

Conducted Elections at Ombal, active voting over by 10.50. During afternoon checked election figures, took occasional vote. Slept at Ombal.

29. Thursday 14th March.

Conducted Elections at Ombal, active voting over by 12 mid day. Afternoon checked election figures, slept at Ombal.

30. Friday 15th March.

Conducted Elections at Ombal, active voting over by 11 am. Final check of election figures. At close of polling for day walked to Weiya, travelled by car to Margarima Station with Election equipment and personnel, thence to Nipa with ballot boxes. End of Patrol.

DIARY ENDS.

Reception of Patrol:

31. The patrol was well received, adequate supplies of fresh food for patrol personnel and where required for carriers was available for purchase although there still exists a food shortage in some areas.

Village Officials:

32. The village officials were not required to play a very active part in the patrol or the polling but were available when required to assist in locating peoples corraet 'Government Name'.

Outline of Political Situation:

33. The main candidate from the Margarima area was MOGERA who has been employed as Interpreter Patrol with the Administration first at Nipa then at Margarima. Moger is also a Local Government Councillor and was nominated largely by the Council which expressed the popular opinion. Moger is not a true 'Huri' but is of mixed descent and speaks the Huri and Nipa languages. The other candidate from the Margarima area was MAWI from the Upper Wage C.D. Ombal village. Mawi is also a Councillor and has seen service as a Policeman. Mawi was a candidate put forward largely by his own local group, he scored very few 1st preferences but was given most of the 2nd preferences on Moger's vote. The second preference was probably given to him in recognition of the fact that he was from the Margarima Council area. Teji, Nipa Council President, who was the successful Candidate was given a few 2nd preferences and quite a few 3rd preferences.

34. There had been rumours that the true 'Huris' from the western side of the Wage River were considering putting up a candidate. Popular choice was the first Council President Andaija. It appears that Andaije who is not a pidgin speaker declined to accept the nomination and preferred to back the popular candidate. Another possible Candidate was Harut the present Council President but he openly declared that he did not wish to split the votes.



35. It is still too early to judge the reaction on the results of the Election in which Tegi has been declared the winner and Megera was placed second. Although the result has been made known there has been very little local reaction, possibly many expected this result as the Nipa speaking group comprises a much larger group than the Margarima or Huri speaking group. Provided that Tegi makes regular visits to the people I think that he will be accepted as their representative. He will certainly be more acceptable than a Mendi man which was the previous position when the whole area was placed in the Mendi Open Electorate.

36. With the introduction of more cash into the area the people are becoming more cash conscious. Trade stores are also playing a part in bringing about a general awakening to the value of money. With the greater realization of the value of money has come a greater demand for money. Price of labour and materials have increased, this will have to be considered when estimating for further new works.

37. Agriculture:

The native food situation is still not good. New gardens were planted 5 & 6 months previously and the situation should soon improve. Pandanus nuts which are now ripening are providing a much sort after change in diet.

38. The one cash crop in the area of any significance is Pyrethrum. Production is increasing, DASF is currently purchasing around 1500 lbs weight of flower per month. At the present time DASF is conducting a campaign to improve the quality of gardens, one aim being to ensure that gardens are in good condition to enable them to supply a maximum quantity of good splits for the expansion programme in August.

Forests:

39. A forestry Officer recently visited the area looking for stands of good commercial timber. One good stand was found out from Wenja village, the stand has been marked on the Patrol Map. The Catholic and Methodist Missions are both considering establishing saw mills. The Councils plans for a saw mill have been shelved.

Complaints & Courts:

40. A number of complaints were brought to the notice of the Patrol, the majority of these arose out of disputes over ownership of Pandanus trees. The pandanus is now in season. No complaints of a serious nature were brought to the attention of the patrol.

Health:

41. The United Church (previously Methodist Mission) is opening a 'Bush Hospital' at Panduaga north of Margarima. The 'Hospital' will be staffed in the first instance by a Medical Assistant from the B.S.I.F. Native Material buildings are nearing completion and the Medical Assistant will be moving into the area on about the 16th of April. 3,000 people live within 3 hours walking of Panduaga, they are presently served by an Administration Aid Post at Liu-liu which is situated 1½ hours walk from Panduaga. This Aid Post is administered from Xandep. Serious cases from the area have previously been carried into Margarima.

42. A new Aid Post has recently been built at Tiango west of Margarima. Buildings have been completed but gardens have not been completed, an A.P.O. is expected to move to Tiango on 18th April by which time gardens are expected to be completed.



Roads & Bridges:

43. The most important road in the area is the Nipa-Margarima link. Grades are being evened out and corners removed. One aim is to have the road in as good as possible condition for the pyrethrum expansion programme in August of this year. The section of road around Woiya is at present the most difficult to negotiate, this is being improved.

44. The original bench cut on the Margarima Kandep road is very near to completion with less than 1/4 mile remaining to be cut. This last 1/4 mile is largely through timber country and difficult grades are being encountered. A bridge will then have to be built over the Kama creek. The route should be open at least to motor bikes by the end of this month. A lot of stone will be required on some stretches of the road to stabilise the surface. The road will be open for the pyrethrum expansion programme in August.

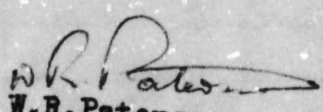
45. Six miles of road have been built towards Tari since the beginning of this year, four miles of this road is trafficable. The road should be completed through to Tiango by August. A large bridge will have to be built over the Margarima River to complete this link. Funds will be required in 1968/69 to continue the road through to the Tari Gap. The Tari Road has caused more controversy in the area than any other single event or project in the history of Margarima. Unfortunately the people do not see the road as being of very high priority, as far as they can see the Tari Road only leads back to the bush. They would prefer to build their own internal roads first and improve links to other centres. This is of-course a selfish attitude but one that can be understood. They do not appear to look forward to the prospect of closer ties with Tari, although they speak the one common language. Further funds will be necessary in 1968/69 if the work is to continue without major labour problems. Those villages west of the Wage River and generally north of the junction of the Margarima and Wage Rivers are presently employed on the road. Other villages are working on the Nipa and Kandep Roads which must also be improved and brought up to standard, particularly, for the pyrethrum expansion programme.

46. The Catholic Mission at Margarima is waiting on the arrival of a Tractor-trailer unit. The United Church is considering basing a 4 wheel drive vehicle in the area. DASF has a 4 wheel drive vehicle continually operating in the area on pyrethrum purchase and extension. There is a need for EDA to be allocated a vehicle preferably 4 wheel drive to enable road works to be properly supervised. Without this vehicle the situation will arise where the roads are continually in use but adequate supervision of maintenance work is not possible.

Conclusion:

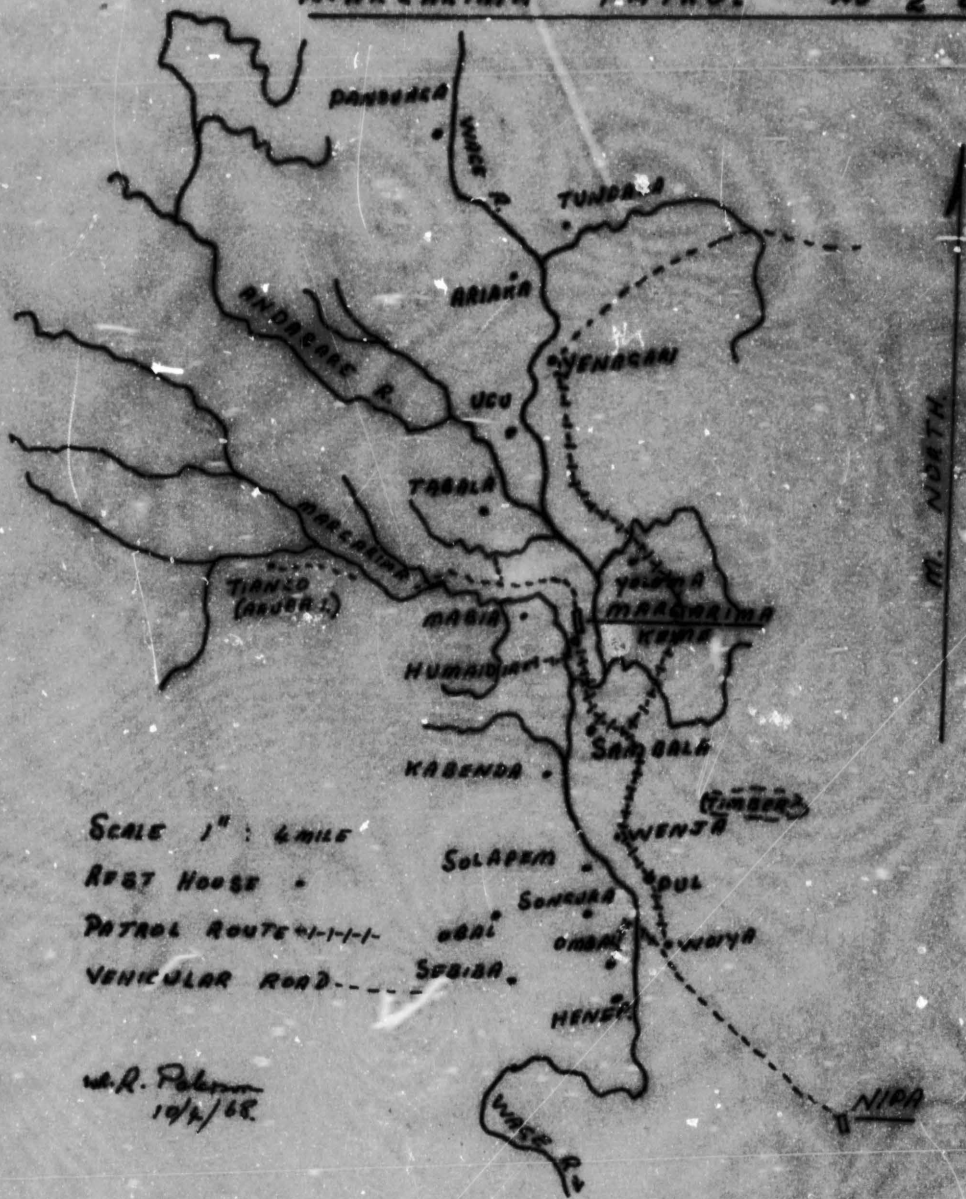
47. An active member in the House of Assembly who is familiar with the problems of an area must have a beneficial effect on the future progress of the area. Tegi has made several visits to this area and it is hoped that he will be able to spend longer periods of time here in future. If he can do this he should be accepted by the people as their representative.

This report was completed on 10th April, 1968.

  
W.R. Paterson  
Patrol Officer.



MARCARIMA PATROL No 2 of 1967/68



Scale 1" : 4 MILES  
A 57 HOUSE  
PATROL ROUTE - - - - -  
VEHICULAR ROAD - - - - -

W.R. Polson  
10/2/68