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# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: Southern H/lands

STATION: Mendi

VOLUME No: 7

ACCESSION No: 496.

1955 - 1956

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORT OF: MENDI ACC. No: 496.

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1-1955/56	1-15	A.M. KEOGH - P.O	UPPER MENDI VALLEY		6/7/55 - 17/8/55	
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3-1955/56	1-12	D.J. CLANCY	TALIBU-ERAVE-MENDI-SAMBERIGI		29/9/55 - 26/10/55	
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5-1955/56	1-8	G.D. OAKES - C.P.O	MENDI - TALIBU LINE OF COMMUNICATION. SLOPES OF MT. GILUWE BETWEEN TALIBU & MENDI		10/9/55 - 3/10/55	
6-1955/56		D.J.J. PICKRELL	DIMIFA AREA		5/10/55 - 15/10/55	
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9-1955/56	1-9	M.E.J. GRANT - P.O	MENDI VALLEY	map	26/3/56 - 4/4/56	
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11-1955/56	1-8	J.J. PICKRELL CPO	LAI, NEMBI & UPPER MENDI VALLEY		28/5/56 - 3/6/56	

PATROL REPORTS SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS DISTRICT 1955/56

MENDI

<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled.</u>
1-55/56	A.M.Keogh	Upper Mendi Valley
2-55/56	D.J.Clancy	Upper Mendi, Lai and Nembi Valleys
3-55/56	D.J.Clancy	Ialibu-Brave-Mendi-Samberigi
4-55/56	A.M.Keogh	Upper Mendi Valley
5-55/56	G.D.Oakes	Mendi-Ialibu line of communication. Slopes of Mt.Gilwe bet.Ialibu-Mendi
6-55/56	J.J.Pickrell	Dimifa Area
7-55/56	R.M.Claridge	Tagenda area
8-55/56	R.M.Claridge	Tagenda and Yaria areas
9-55/56	N.J.Grant	Mendi Valley
10-55/56	N.J.Grant	Between Mendi and Tari incl.Nembi Valley and parts of Lai,Wage and Margarema Rivers's watersheds.
11-55/56	J.J.Pickrell	Lai,Nembi and Upper Mendi Valleys

MENDI

1 of 55/56

A.M. KEOGH P.O.

**TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.**

It has been stated on the jacket of this report that the primary purpose of the present patrol was to clear the road between Mendi and Mt. Hagen. The road was closed by the eruption of Mt. Hagen. The patrol was organized to improve the existing sections of the road and to survey the remaining sections of the road. The patrol was organized to survey the remaining sections of the road, and only during the last week of the patrol was the patrol able to commence work on the road through the forest areas on the Mt. Hagen side. The patrol party was not able to do a great deal of work on the Mt. Hagen side, and the main efforts during the patrol were concentrated on the Mendi side. The patrol was organized to survey the remaining sections of the road, and only during the last week of the patrol was the patrol able to commence work on the road through the forest areas on the Mt. Hagen side. The patrol party was not able to do a great deal of work on the Mt. Hagen side, and the main efforts during the patrol were concentrated on the Mendi side.

District Headquarters,  
Mendi,  
N.M.D.

August 19, 1955.

**Mendi Patrol Report No. I. of 1955/56.**

A report of the activities of a road-building and general administration patrol which is at present operating in the Upper Mendi Valley, with the object of completing the motor road between Mendi and Tambul Mission in the Mt. Hagen Sub-District.

Officer Conducting Patrol:

A. M. Keogh, Patrol Officer.

Accompanied By:

Reg. No. 1955, 1/Cpl. Tamatai	
" 3300, Const. Omlorori	
" 7108, " Ita	
" 7116, " Kwanga	
" 7629, " Numbo	
" 7917, " Andambo	
" 8705, " Kauba	
" 9146, " Felika	
" 9159, " Orat	
" 9183, " Libaka	
" 9279, " Sagano	

Area Patrolled:

The Upper Mendi Valley in the vicinity of the Mendi-Mt. Hagen road link.

Duration of Patrol:

July 6, 1955 to August 17, 1955.  
No. of days - 43.

Objects of Patrol:

1. The survey and selection of a route to connect the Mendi and Mt. Hagen road links.
2. Improvement and maintenance of existing road between Mendi and Monda.
3. Routine native administration.

Introduction.

As has been stated on the jacket of this report, the primary purpose of the present patrol, was to find the most suitable route across the northern slopes of Mt. Gilman to connect the existing portions of the Nandi - Mt. Hagen. The secondary aim of the patrol was to improve the existing sections of the road, and indeed, it was found necessary to spend the major part of the six-week period in the latter work, and only during the last week of the time covered in the present report was the patrol able to commence work on the new sections of road through the forest areas on Mt. Gilman. However, the patrol party has now moved on to a central point in the timbered areas, and our main efforts during the next few months will be concentrated on clearing the connecting section between the existing Nandi and Mt. Hagen roads, with a small section of the patrol mammals being continuously employed on the re-grading and clearing of the old road back towards Nandi.

The patrol has been supplied with a motor-bike, which not only greatly increases the mobility of the writer and enables much more regular and efficient supervision of labour, but also enables the writer to gain a proper perspective in regard to the value of the work completed. A section of road which appears excellent when covered on foot, may be just the reverse when traversed on a motor-bike.

The fact that the writer has been continually on the move back and forth along the road and that the whole patrol party has moved from rest house to rest house at fairly regular intervals during the period, has been an aid to general native administration, and appears to have been a popular move with the local natives who are now able to have their differences and problems settled on the spot.

Diary entries and medical records follow in the lower half of the page, but the text is extremely faint and illegible due to the quality of the scan. The entries appear to be dated from July 1940 onwards.

**Diary.**

- July 6th.** Police and carriers sent from Mendi to Dimifa Rest House in the morning. Writer followed by motor-bike in the afternoon.
- Word sent out for all Dimifa headmen to assemble at Dimifa tomorrow.
- July 7th.** Discussed road work with local headmen, and then put the assembled natives to work on the road and bridge immediately on either side of the rest house.
- Settled some minor disputes, and gave medical treatment to those needing it.
- July 8th.** Continued with the road and bridge work. Medical treatment given.
- July 9th.** Writer to Enape Rest House and back to Korn Ceremonial Ground on road inspection. Police and local natives continued with road and bridge work.
- July 10th.** Sunday observed.
- July 11th.** Police and local natives on road and bridge work. Writer pegged out new grades on two of the very bad patches of the Dimifa - Mendi section. Natives commenced work on these two patches.
- Disputes heard and medical treatments given in the afternoon.
- July 12th.** Patrol left for Konia Rest House, passing through Enape and Klareg Rest House in route.
- Afternoon spent in discussions with officials. Medical treatment given.
- July 13th.** All Konia natives assembled, and work commenced on the road and bridges on either side of the rest house.
- Disputes heard, Medical treatments given.
- July 14th.** Continued work as yesterday. Writer to Klareg Rest House on road inspection. Road work discussed with the officials and natives assembled there. Numerous essential improvements pointed out to them.
- July 15th.** Road work continued. Writer inspected road to the timber-line on the Hagen side of Konia. Road unfit for use by motor-bike, and finishes altogether 30 minutes walk from Konia. The first of the bad grades was re-routed, and work commenced on cutting it down.
- July 16th.** Continued work in the morning. Writer to Mendi for discussions with the A.D.O. in the afternoon.
- July 17th.** Sunday. Remained at Mendi.
- July 18th.** From Mendi to Konia, via Dimifa, Enape, and Klareg Rest House. Road work inspected and instructions given in all sections of the road.
- July 19th.** Continued road and bridge work on both sides of Konia.
- Three natives disputes heard and settled. Medical treatments given.
- July 20th.** Writer to Klareg and Enape Rest House to inspect work allotted on Monday, and also mark out other essential work.



- July 21st. Road work continued on both sides of Komia commencing clearing the route for the road on the very steep and awkward grade immediately behind the rest house, in the morning. Route pegged out, and cutting commenced in the afternoon.
- July 22nd. All police and labour working on the new cutting. Writer to Klareg in the afternoon to inspect bridge-work allotted two days ago.  
Medical treatments given in the evening.
- July 23rd. No natives working today, but a large number came in to dispute the ownership of some wild pandanus palms. After much discussion it was found that the matter had been settled by Mr. Sheekey, A.D.O. some years ago.  
Medical treatments given.
- July 24th. Sunday observed.
- July 25th. Natives working on all sections of the road. Writer to Klareg and Inepe to inspect work.  
A number of natives, including several women and children came in for medical treatments during the day.
- July 25th. A good crowd in for work again. The majority of them were put to work on the cutting behind the rest house, which is proving to be a bigger task than was first anticipated.  
Prepared patrol gear to leave for Dimifa tomorrow.
- July 26th. Patrol left for Dimifa in the morning. In the afternoon the writer rode down towards Mendi to inspect work on the very bad grades which exist in that section. Work found to be progressing very slowly owing to lack of co-operation from the locals.  
Word sent out for local headmen to assemble at Dimifa tomorrow.
- July 28th. A big crowd of natives assembled for work. Both natives and headmen were again addressed on the subject of road-work, and the reasons for the working of the road.  
Work was continued on the first two bad grades from the rest house which was re-routed and pegged some weeks ago. A new route to lessen the next bad grade was also selected.
- July 29th. Continued work on the two new grades, and also commenced making temporary repairs to the culverts and bridges of the area, all of which are in bad condition.  
Road very greasy after last night's rain.
- July 30th. Work continued as for yesterday. Visited THEBA pitsaw camp in company with Mr. J. Shanahan, Works Branch, Mendi. Trees were selected and marked for cutting by the pitsaw teams.
- July 31st. Sunday observed.
- August 1st. Natives working on all sections of the road. Writer to Inepe in the morning to inspect work there. To Mendi in the afternoon, road work being inspected en-route.
- August 2nd. Returned from Mendi to Dimifa. The patrol moved from Dimifa to Klareg Rest House in the afternoon.

**Diary.**

**August 3.**

A good line of natives in for work. Work was commenced on trying to improve the long, steep slope which descends from the rest house to the Klareg swamps.

Afternoon spent in discussions with officials, settlement of disputes, and giving of medical treatments.

**August 4.**

Work continued as for yesterday. Writer inspected road as far west as Kemia, and marked out necessary improvements.

Land dispute heard, but no settlement possible until old reports are obtained from Mendi.

**August 5**

Continued work on the grade below the rest house. Supervised minor bridge repairs, and also carried out minor repairs on the very dilapidated rest house and police barracks.

**August 6.**

Continued work as for yesterday. Writer to Enape, Dimifa and Korn to inspect work in these sections, and also mark work for next week.

**August 7.**

Sunday.

**August 8.**

Patrol moved from Klareg to Kemia. A good line of natives in for work at Kemia. Work concentrated on a bad grade at the west of the rest house.

A large crowd of natives assembled to discuss ownership of a patch of pandanus near Kemia. The decision of Mr. Ford's patrol was again explained to them at great length.

**August 9.**

Patrol left Kemia for Nimrep and possibly Tansul. Patrol passed along a partly-made road for 25 minutes, and then passed through dense forest for the next 2 1/2 hours, until the Nimrep plateau was reached. Camp was made at Nimrep.

A small line of Birep natives were waiting at Nimrep to commence road work

**August 10.**

Writer and police commenced pegging the route back towards Kemia. 1900 yards was pegged out during the morning. This covered a direct distance of only 900 yards owing to difficult terrain.

Birep natives commenced cutting the new road. Police constable sent to Kemia to buy food.

**August 11.**

Continued yesterday's work. Policeman back from Kemia with a small amount of food, more spades, and a small number of Kemia natives for road work.

**August 12.**

Another small line of Kemia natives arrived for work. Almost 700 yards of new road out at end of day.

Writer inspected route to Kaguba Creek, (towards Territory border), in afternoon.

**August 13.**

Work continued as for yesterday. I/Cpl and four police sent out to Kemia, Klareg, Egari, and Birep to inform all natives that they would be needed for road work on Monday.

**August 14.**

Sunday observed.

**August 15.**

A good line of natives arrived in for work at various times during the day.

Tough rock formations encountered in gorge of Nimrep Creek. Heavy rain from 3pm on.

**Diary.**

**August 16.** Continued cutting across grasslands and clearing of bush. Work hindered by rain and cold from Han on. Writer and police continued marking route ahead of work parties.

**August 17.** Writer left Hinarep en route to Hamli.

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<b>Length of patrol</b>	<b>45 days</b>
<b>Actual number of field days</b>	<b>40 days</b>

### Native Situation.

The areas discussed in this report are among the longest-contacted in the Mendi Sub-District, and the general native attitude towards the Administration here, is very satisfactory at the present time, and provides a refreshing change from that of the inhabitants of the less-contacted areas. At the same time, of course, it demonstrates what can be expected in those areas, in a relatively short time, when an equivalent amount of patrolling has been carried out in all parts of the Sub-District.

Throughout the area, the natives have now formed the habit of bringing their disputes in to the patrol, or to Mendi, for settlement, and many of them will also assist in bringing in natives who may be wanted for questioning. This last statement only applies, of course, when the natives brought in are traditional enemies of their captors, but even this speaks well for the standard of control which exists here.

Up to the present time, four Village Constables, and a larger number of Village Councillors have been appointed in the area. The Village Constables each have considerable influence in their own groups, and each also shows a satisfactory degree of keenness and efficiency in his work. With regard to the Village Councillors, the standard is not as high, and in the main, they are still rather diffident and unsure of themselves in their attitude towards their duties. Attempts were made during the patrol, to increase the self-confidence of these men, and also increase their prestige with the local natives. The protracted period of road-work in the coming months, during which time the councillors will be continually in demand for supervising labour attendance, and minor works, should do a good deal towards increasing their prestige and efficiency.

Disputes between individual natives, but more often between groups who have always been traditional enemies, are still very common, but such disputes are always brought to the patrol for settlement, and occupied a considerable amount of time during the present patrol. This state of affairs has been aggravated by reason of the fact that the wild pandanus palms on the slopes of Mt. Giluwe are now in fruit, while the cultivated palms in the lower areas will be bearing fruit within the coming month. As is the case in other Highland areas, this invariably results in the re-opening of all the old land disputes, and any moral scruples that the people may have, are thrown completely overboard as the various groups vie with one another in their efforts to gain a few extra pandanus palms.

Fortunately all such matters which have been raised to the patrol so far, were found to have been brought up before, and un-  
animously settled by no less than three previous patrols. In consequence, although the discussions were long and heated when first brought up to the present patrol, the various disputes were able to be quickly settled, once the relevant patrol reports were obtained from Mendi, and the exact boundaries as laid down by them, could be reiterated for the fourth time, and the chief litigants confronted with their more obvious lies. It is certain that there will be further matters concerning land and usufructory rights brought forward during the coming month as further fruit ripens, and those which may not have been settled by previous patrols, will be investigated, and the decision drawn up under the provisions of the N. R. O., so as to prevent further discussion.

Apart from these disagreements over the ownership of ground and pandanus palms, and disputes over small debts and family quarrels, the people generally, appear to be very quiet and law-abiding. However, it is quite true that a small percentage of minor crimes may still be hidden from the patrol, particularly amongst those groups which live long distances from the road. Police have been stationed at five different rest houses, supervising road work, and maintaining food supplies during the patrol, and I am sure that, had any serious matters occurred, they would inevitably come to their notice, and then been reported to me.

### Native Situation.

In addition to the harvesting of the pandanus nuts there are numerous minor pig-killings and singsings being held among the Upper Mendi Valley groups at the present time. Natives from the Tambul area in the Mt. Hagen Sub-District are joining in these festivities, and small groups are continually passing back and forth across the border, between Tambul and Komia. The main ceremonies are usually held at the weekends, and, so far, have not interfered with road work to any great extent.

In this part of the Sub-District, (as is the case in other parts of the Sub-District also), the natives are often difficult in their attitude towards supplying food for patrols. During the patrol, investigations have shown that food is plentiful in all parts of the area, but evence supplies are often brought in to the patrol only after considerable discussion, and even then it is sometimes necessary to fall back on emergency supplies. While the presence of a large patrol in the area for a period of several months, could possibly cause a serious drain on local food resources, the native members of the present party are continually moving from rest house to rest house, and rarely, if ever, would there be more than eight members of the patrol assembled at a given point at any one time. The supplying of native foods to such a small party could hardly be any burden to these comparatively large communities.

In the long, heavily-timbered, and unpopulated stretch of country between Komia and Tambul Mission, in which the patrol is now working, the headmen of the various groups have been informed that each member of a working party should bring with him sufficient food to last him for two days, at the end of which time, in the normal course of events, he would return to his home until the following week. Even under this arrangement, it is quite common to find groups coming from several hours walk away without bringing any food with them. Fortunately, the patrol has had a small reserve of sweet potato continually on hand at Nimarep, by sending runners back to the populated areas each day to buy new supplies, but, for the large work parties which will have to be operating from Nimarep during the coming months, it will not be possible to carry on this system indefinitely, and the local groups will have to ~~be~~ be more co-operative in this regard, if the road-building schedule is to be maintained.

### Medical and Health.

A pleasing feature of the native attitude shown towards the patrol in all parts of the area, was the fact that numerous men, women, and children voluntarily presented themselves for medical treatment each day, and showed a faith in European medicine, which is not often seen.

No serious cases of illness were seen during the patrol, and the treatments given were mainly for colds, cuts, burns, sores, scabies, and stomach disorders.

A few cases of primary yaws have been seen during the patrol, mainly in the Komia area. Stocks of penicillin have been made available by the Medical Officer, Mendi, for the treatment of these.

The area is one in which the establishment of a small Medical Aid Post could probably be of much benefit to the natives themselves, and also in the propagation of medical and hygiene ideas generally, throughout the Upper Mendi Valley, when trained native medical staff is available.

### Agriculture and Livestock.

As has already been mentioned in an earlier section of this report, discussions with reliable local headmen, and reports from police stationed amongst the various groups, have shown that local food supplies at the present time are quite sufficient for the needs of the natives themselves, and also for purchase by patrols.

Native foodstuffs seen in the area are of average Highland quality.

Small quantities of European potatoes and cabbage are grown by most groups, and these also are of fair quality.

### Village Officials.

Four Village Constables have been appointed in the area. These are at Komia, Egari, and Klareg. The influence, efficiency, and enthusiasm of each of these men is of a very satisfactory standard, and each has been of considerable assistance to the patrol, particularly in recruiting natives for road work, and in naming absentees.

In the Dimifa and Inepe areas, no Village Constables have yet been appointed. It is hoped that, during the remainder of the period that road work is in progress in these areas, suitable candidates for the position may be found, and recommendations for their appointment submitted.

As has been stated earlier, the councillors of the area generally, have not as yet gained any great degree of experience or efficiency, although some of them show a good deal of promise. The fact that the patrol will be often calling on these men for various tasks during the coming months should do much towards improving the standard.

### Forestry and Re-Afforestation.

Throughout the time of the patrol, and for the rest of the time it will be in the field, the party has been, and will be, operating on the lower and middle slopes of Mt. Giluwe.

In the 13-15 mile section between Mendi and Komia Rest House the motor road passes mainly through grasslands immediately below the timber line, and well above the swamplands which surround the north-western side of the mountain. In the long, unpopulated stretch between Komia and Tambul Mission, the route of the road ascends into dense timber country, and passes through fairly small and widely-scattered patches of grassland.

In no part of the areas visited does soil erosion present any problems, since even the steepest slopes are covered either with timber, or kumai and cane-grass, all of which are good soil binders.

Native gardens are, for the most part, built on the grass slopes immediately below the timber line, and above the swamplands. In the Klareg and Komia areas the natives have commenced draining the fringes of the swamps, and planting gardens on the re-claimed areas. The idea is a good one, since the swamps are easily accessible to the main populated areas, and provide good garden areas when drained.

Good stands of both hardwood and softwood timbers are to be found at a short distance from the road all along its route. Particularly in the Komia-Tambul sector of the road, some very large areas of timber are to be seen, with large pines of the Bulolo type being prevalent in many parts.

### Rest Houses.

Four rest houses were seen and used during the patrol. They were at Dimifa, Enepc, Klareg, and Konia.

In each case the rest houses and police barracks were not in good repair, and of poor design and construction. The most that can be said is that they are a start towards the erection of reasonable rest houses and police quarters in the area.

Owing to the fact that all available labour must necessarily be concentrated on road work at the present time, and in the coming months, it will not be possible to build new rest houses at each centre for the present, although, if work on the road progresses sufficiently quickly, a start will later be made on the construction of a reasonable road camp at Konia.

Between Konia and Tambul there are no native rest houses, and virtually no population. At the base camp at Konia, the patrol members are using tents, while the native working parties are quartered in hurriedly-constructed grass shacks. Since the bulk of the work will be done from here during the next two months, and the place is very cold, being at an altitude of well over eight thousand feet, it will be necessary to build something warmer and more permanent for the police and native workers. Work will be commenced on this during the month.

### Roads and Bridges.

During the first thirty days of the patrol, work was concentrated exclusively on the improvement and maintenance of the existing twelve to fifteen miles of road between Nendi and Konia Rest House, with particular attention being paid to the re-routing of the road on the worst of the steep grades which existed. The bulk of this work was necessary in the long, steep, 1000 feet descent from Dimifa to Nendi, since this section of the road is in regular use by the station tractor and trailer for carting pit-sawn timber. Three of the steepest grades were re-routed and eradicated, and this work will be continued from trouble point to trouble point whenever possible during the remainder of the patrol.

Work commenced in each sector of the road during the first month, was as follows:

#### Nendi-Dimifa (5 miles).

- (I) Rough repairing of bridges.
- (II) Re-routing of road on the steeper grades.
- (III) Clearing of timber from the road side to allow quicker drying in wet weather.

#### Dimifa-Enepc (2 miles).

- (I) Rough repairing of bridges.
- (II) Deepening of cuttings through small ridges.

#### Enepc-Klareg (2 miles).

- (I) Rough repairing of bridges.
- (II) Re-routing of road on the steeper grades.
- (III) Deepening of cuttings through small ridges.

#### Klareg-Konia (2 miles).

- (I) Rough repairing of bridges

Roads and Bridges.

(II) Re-routing of road on steeper grades.

(III) Deepening of cuttings through the ridges.

No widespread attempt has yet been made at cambering or proper draining of the road in any of these four sectors, although this work will be very important, since surfacing materials are not available in any part of the area.

As to the bridges and culverts in these four sectors, (there approximately 36 of them), they are adequate for careful use by the motor-bike, and by a tractor on steep, as far as Komia Rest House, but, for regular use and complete safety, these will, almost without exception, have to be reconstructed.

However, for the present, regrading of the worst climbs on the road, is the most important work, and cambering, draining, and the reconstruction of bridges, cannot be commenced until this work is completed.

In the heavily-timbered sections from Komia on to the Territorial Border, and thence to Tambul Mission in the Hagen Sub-District, work was commenced a fortnight ago, with the patrol operating from a small, grass plateau known as Nimarep, and situated approximately mid-way between Komia and the Papua-New Guinea border. Almost all of this sector is still to be surveyed and cleared. It is heavily-timbered and almost unpopulated.

On the map, the direct distance from Komia to the Border, is approximately eight miles, and from the Border to Tambul Mission, another six miles. Expanding these distances to allow for grading of the road around the side of Mt. Giluwe, this means that, at a conservative estimate, the actual length of the road from Komia to the Border will be 12-14 miles, and from the Border to Tambul Mission 8-10 miles, making a total of between 20 and 24 miles to be cleared, and new road constructed before the Hendi-Mt. Hager road can be used.

At the present time, the patrol is concentrating on cutting the road back from Nimarep to Komia, (miles direct, and probably 6 miles on the road). All of this with the exception of possibly 1½ miles, is heavily-timbered. This sector of the road is being completed first so that native workers can reach Nimarep more easily, food supplies can be brought in more regularly for the workers, and also so that the motor-bike can be brought up to enable more constant supervision of the work.

A matter for consideration concerning this long section between Komia and Tambul, is the fact that almost the whole of the area through which the road will pass, is unpopulated. At Nimarep, the nearest population centres are 2½-3 hours walk away, with some being as far as 5 hours away. These distances, will of course, increase as the road goes further away from Komia. This difficulty will have to be solved by providing rough, but adequate, labour quarters, where native workers can sleep wherever the work is. With regard to the supply of food to the working parties at Nimarep, police are being sent out regularly to buy food from the populated areas, and all groups have been told that each man coming into work should bring sufficient food for two days with him, with the patrol supplying whatever additional food we may have been able to obtain. As yet, the natives have been rather slow to co-operate with this scheme, and it was found necessary during the time the patrol was at Nimarep to issue all available native foods and also give small rice issues to the working parties. However, once the various groups settle down to the idea of working at Nimarep, and can realise that it is no great hardship that they should have to supply and eat their own food, rather than have everything supplied to them, this difficulty should soon solve itself.



REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR

**Map Reference-**

**Upper Mendi Valley Map - Scale 1:150,000. A rough sketch map has been made out, and is attached to this report.**

District Officer,  
Northern Highlands District,  
1951.

.....  
**Patrol Officer,  
Mendi Sub-District,  
S.H.D.**

The following is a report on the work of a patrol officer in the Mendi Sub-District during the period from 1st January to 31st December 1951.

The work of the patrol officer is to maintain law and order in the district and to report to the District Officer on the progress of his work.

The following are the main items of work done during the year:

1. The work of the patrol officer is to maintain law and order in the district and to report to the District Officer on the progress of his work.
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9. The work of the patrol officer is to maintain law and order in the district and to report to the District Officer on the progress of his work.
10. The work of the patrol officer is to maintain law and order in the district and to report to the District Officer on the progress of his work.

Provided the District Officer is satisfied with the work done during the year, the District Officer may recommend the patrol officer for promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

The work of the patrol officer is to maintain law and order in the district and to report to the District Officer on the progress of his work.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

File No. 30/1 - 258.

District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

30th August, 1955.

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

Patrol Report Mendi No. 1-1955/56

..... Mr. A. M. Keogh - P. O.

Forwarded, in triplicate, is a report of a patrol operating in the Upper Mendi Valley area.

2. The main object of the patrol is to supervise construction of the proposed vehicular road between Mendi and the Kaugel Valley or Territorial border.

3. Satisfactory progress has been made in this first six weeks for attention was given to improving the bridges and steep grades on the portion of road previously completed to Komia.

4. Attention can be, and now is, being given to the new section between Komia and Tambul. Unfortunately this section of the road is unpopulated but with cooperation of the District Commissioner of Western Highlands we will organise the fairly heavy Kaugel Valley population to assist us and so relieve the upper Mendi Valley people from long ~~stretches~~ <sup>stretches</sup> from their homes.

Mr. Keogh can supervise construction of the road over the Territorial border and to Tambul station itself.

5. Unfortunately we have not been able to wait for delivery of the Teles-Chain Saw to assist us in clearing the heavy timber between Komia and Tambul. This unit was ordered last February but no satisfaction can be given regarding a delivery date so waiting for it's assistance may delay our District progress for years.

Road and air Communications are very poor to the Southern Highlands and both must be improved as a priority if District development is required.

6. Every effort, in our power, is being made to improve our aerodromes and link the stations by road.

7. The advantage of having a motor cycle attached to this type of patrol will be appreciated. Unquestionably ten times as much work is being achieved by having such supervision which mobility alone provides.

More Motor Cycles are required for this type of work.

7. Associated with supervising road construction Mr. Keogh has managed to spend considerable time on native administration and his regular movement amongst the people, and living in the area, is a move-  
which I would like to extend to other areas. Unfortunately we cannot find sufficient experienced men to concentrate on such work.

8. Provided Mr. Keogh can be kept on this work I consider we should have the vehicular road through, passed the territorial boundary, to Tambul Station by the end of this year.

9. Mr. Keogh's Camping allowance claim is lodged herewith for approval please.

  
(R. R. Cole).  
District Commissioner.

2 OF 55/56

D.J. CLANCY

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

Sub-District Office,  
Southern Highlands District  
**MENDI.**

26th August, 1955.

The patrol left the station at 12.30 hours after people had come in to carry out gear to their villages.

Walked along road for 70 minutes until the first band of heavy forested ground was reached.

**The District Commissioner,**  
**Southern Highlands District,**  
**MENDI.**

Mendi Patrol Report No. 2 of 55/56.

Report of a Patrol to the Upper Mendi, Lai & Nambi Valleys.

STRA... ..

**OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL:** D.J. CLANCY, Assistant District Off.  
... ..

**AREA PATROL:** Upper Mendi, Lai & Nambi Valleys.

- OBJECTS OF PATROL:**
- (1) Routine Native Affairs.
  - (2) Consolidation of Administration influence.

**DURATION OF PATROL:** 26th July to 16th August.  
March and April of 1954.

Left Mendi at 12.30 after the local people had come in to carry out gear to their villages. ... ..

... ..

..... (26th JULY, 1955.).....

The patrol left the station at 1245 hours after the Maiv people had come in to carry our gear to their village.

Walked along made road for 70 minutes until the Rest House at Maiv Ceremonial ground was reached.

It was here that the Anthropologist Mr. D'arcy Ryan and his wife lived while carrying out his investigations into the social structure of the Mendi, last year. On arrival at maiv I sent word out to the Megi people to come down I see me but only four turned up. Willgo for a walk there tomorrow.

MAIV.....

27th JULY, 1955.

Departed at 7. 30 am after the for had cleared and made our way up to AURUMAS HAMLET (6100) where lives T/ JUNA who acted as a sort of interpreter cum intermediary in the early days of Mendi.

Very few people were seen and it was quite obvious that the cane grass hide outs were occupied.

At 10. a.m. We came to Megia where V/C KONIA was waiting for us with about thirty men and a few women. Continued to walk around the garden areas. By now every one seems to be getting over their nervousness and quite a few people were seen working in their gardens. The gardens scen are very small and not very impressive. Continued on to Puinj and then went back to maiv where a group of Maiv people were waiting to see me.

At 3 p.m. Sisters Priest and Mohring paid me a visit on their return from Suebi.

Heavy rain in afternoon.

Maiv.

28th JULY, 1955.

Left Maiv at 0800 after the local people had come in to carry our cargo. Passed through Suebi ten minutes after leaving Maiv.

Walked along a fairly good road which is a considerable improvement on the road to maiv from the station. At 9 10 am we arrived at the TURUM Rest House to find about fifty Turum men and Women were awaiting us.

Turum is sited on a narrow ridge overlooking the whole valley and from here a 360o View of the whole area can be had. The Population here seems to be considerably bigger than down to the South.

Constable Mariongun who is assisting the people at Um with their road construction was waiting for us at Turum as also was Village constable AI-REP.

29th JULY, 1955.

Police and carriers were sent off to Um while I returned with Mariongun and other police to inspect an alternative route for the road.

Arrived in camp at 11. 20 a.m.

During the afternoon Corporal Batanu paraded one of the Highland Police recently arrived from Mendi suffering from probable Gonorrhoea. Sent him back to the station for treatment Bought a pig for a mother-of-Pearl Shell.

We carried food from Turum and had no need to buy any here. Normally . would not bother to do so as it smacks nother of miserliness but food is short in the grea.

.....(OVER).....

.....(2).....

.....30th JULY, 1955.

Broke camp at 6. 40 and after travelling along the main road for a short distance we climbed over the Mendi-Lai Range. The highest part in the pass was 7530 feet.

At 9. 30 a.m. the Lai people took over our cargo from the UK people and carried it for us. We crossed the Lai by the EGASORO bridge and arrived at Maiv dancing ground at 10. 15 a.m. There were about 200 people waiting to greet us and abundant food brought in by the women.

V/C TUVU of KLAVES was also waiting for us.

He is over here on a visit.. Assisted by his Oratory I gave the local people a lecture.

Maiv.

31st JULY, 1955.

Broke camp at 7. 30 a.m. when locals arrived to help us with our cargo. Three constables were left, behind to look after the base camp and the remainder I took with me. Waded, during the morning in a W.N.W. direction. Camp was made at noon at TUIBE after we changed carriers three times. On the road.

We have now left the Lai Valley behind and tomorrow we will cross over the range in front of us. This looks huggy country-lime stone hills and mudstone in the creek bottoms.

Heavy rain during afternoon  
Tuibe 6200'

1st AUGUST, 1955.

Left Tuibe at 7. 10 a.m. and dropped down to the tuibe ck then UP again on the other side, and over into a wide sparsely populated valley here we changed our carriers for the second time this morning and headed over a high spur (7500') and went down to a small creek and climbed slowly up to a group of gardens and made camp at Marinche. There seems to be very little in front of us and I cannot see any point in continuing along this route so I will go back tomorrow to the Lai Valley.  
Marinche 7300.

2nd AUGUST, 1955.

Broke camp at 6. 15 a.m. and returned as far as TUIBE along our track and then branched away to the North East towards the Lai. Passed through some very thinly populated country and made camp at Saren at noon.

During afternoon constable arrived from Mendi accompanied by a Native Medical Orderly. During the morning we met a Tari native who told us he comes from Haibuga marsh. He had come through this far to trade Tigaso oil for salt.

Heavy rain during afternoon  
Saren.

3rd AUGUST, 1955.

Left Saren at 6. 35 a.m. and returned along tracks to Maiv base camp where everything was found to be in order.

To usual we found no difficulty in obtaining carriers and four times along the road we were able to make complete changes.

4th 5th and 6th AUGUST, 1955.

On the 4th of August, 1955 the party rested and on the 5th and 6th we were unable to move as the unfortunate native medical Orderly had a very badly inflamed leg and soever than cause him any permanent damage we remained at maiv.

7th and 8th AUGUST, 1955.

Moved on to Kong where we spent the night apparently my turn to be ill as I was taken ill on the track and was forced to remain in bed on 8th.

..... (OVER) .....

..... (3) .....

9th AUGUST, 1955.

Moved off in heavy fog and proceeded down the valley along reasonably good roads through garden lands. The valley here is very attractive and heavily populated.

Camp was made at Komp.

I was told that a hit and run attempt at Killing had been made at Megi in the Mendi Valley.

10th AUGUST, 1955.

Start was delayed while we waited for carriers to come in moved off finally through fog.

Crossed the Lai river by the Kambuto bridge twelve minutes after leaving camp and continued down the left bank of the river along good tracks. We arrived at Pinj at 10. 33 a.m. These people have built the first rest house to be erected in the Lai Valley.

11th AUGUST, 1955.

Departed at 0727 in fog and descended down to the Lai River which we crossed by the KOILEBERU BRIDGE. After crossing the Lai we continued over lightly country making good time over good tracks. Changed carriers at Sebisona and continued on to Escampe where camp was made. Below Escampe the Lai flows through a gorge on its way to help form the Erave River.

Escampe

12th AUGUST, 1955.

Departed from Escampe and crossed over into the Indu Valley. This valley is lightly wooded and supports a small scattered population. We then crossed a second small route and descended by good tracks into the lower hembu valley and made camp at Wara muchu Dancing Ground about two miles past PABARONGA which has now been deserted.

The people in this area are still not finished with their fighting if one may judge from their strangely barricaded villages.

The people here are very friendly but I doubt very much if it would be expedient or wise to try and use village-to-village carriers past this spot so I will have a look around the area tomorrow.

13th AUGUST, 1955.

Left camp and went over to the hembu and returned to camp at 1530. Had talks with locals.

14th AUGUST, 1955.

The people were a bit slow in coming in but by 8. 30 a.m. we were able to move off. Descended steeply into the Lai where we had to repair the wotted ETAMBU bridge before we could cross in safety. Climbed out of the valley and arrived at Megi at noon. The people were very timid at first but by three pm about a hundred had come in.

15th AUGUST, 1955.

Moved off at 7. 00 am and made our way by good tracks through lightly populated grassed country.

Passed through IORI gardens at 9. 45 am. and at 10. 45 am we come on to the Yagen rest house.

Very few people around and I was told that most of the men were in at Mendi station collecting pay for timber they had carried in. The country over which we travelled comprised rolling grass covered plains.

They are quite attractive but the ground appears poor and the gardens seen were any thing but impressive.

16th AUGUST, 1955.

Departed from Yagen at 0630 returned to the station arriving at 1030 after an easy stroll all good tracks and a made road.

Reported to the District Commissioner on arrival.

.....over

Objects of Patrol:

- (1) Routine native affairs.
- (2) Consolidation of Administration influence.

Introductory Remarks.

The patrol was one of a routine nature and was intended that it should move slowly through the upper Mendi and in the Lae valley and attempt to contact as many people as possible.

It was also intended that I should escort the Assistant District Airport Inspector Mr. Gill of Madang to the Nambi Valley to inspect the Wipa airstrip site and at the same time to cast around for any alternative sites that may have been offering in the vicinity. Unfortunately this plan fell through as Mr. Gill was suddenly transferred to take up a new position in Port Moresby.

Area Traversed:

The patrol travelled up the Mendi valley by way of the made road and the crossed over the Mendi-Lai divide into the delightful Lai valley. We then made our way to the north west away from the Lai valley for two days. This country was sparsely populated and I doubt if there would have been more than 400 to 600 people in the area through which we passed. As the thin vein of population was petering out and there did not appear to be any thing of interest in this direction we retraced our steps to our base camp at Maiv in the Lai valley via Saren. Leaving Maiv we went down the valley passing through Komp, Pinj, and Escampe and thence to the lower Nambi Valley a beautiful valley that gives, I think a false impression of a heavier population than is really there.

From the Nambi the patrol returned to the station via Megia and Yagen through country that gives the impression that it is poor and is quite content to stay that way.

Roads and Bridges:

Every where we went the walking was easy over good native roads. While these people are not engaged in fighting they travel within a limited area from community to community and their roads are kept well cleared. When they are at war either active or latent the roads are allowed to become over grown and travel is more difficult. The road from Mendi Station to Um which is intended eventually to go through to Tari needs quite a deal of work and regrading to be carried out on it if it is to be able to take vehicular traffic. It is intend as soon as possible to regrade it. Putting a road in the Lai Valley does not present many problems but the way over the divide is going to present some difficulties. The range which is a limestone formation rises 1500' above the floors of the two valleys.

Agriculture and Food:

The staple food of the area seen is sweet potato and in general the potato purchased was of a very poor quality. It would scarcely have qualified as peg food in the Tari Valley area let alone enjoy consideration as food fit for human consumption. However our party was not very large and we had very little trouble in

.....over

.....over



purchasing enough for our needs.

There seems to be a general shortage of food in the sub-district. The scarcity does not by any means approach famine proportions but it is sufficiently acute to be of some embarrassment when a community is faced with a large party of visitors. I am still unsure of the reasons for this widespread scarcity which some locals tell me is a phenomenon that comes round every five years or so. Others explanations are (a) Insufficient work done in the gardens by the men (The men of course say the boot is on the other foot and should be worn that way) (b) Frosts - I have not seen any frosts in the past year (c) poor ground and poor types of tubers.

There may be an element of truth in each of the reasons submitted but. I am inclined to think that an insufficient ingredient of hard work is the main cause of the food shortages in the area.

The types of food seen on the trip were pit-pit, sugar cane, taro, (especially in the Lai Valley) bananas and pandanus nut in that order.

I do not think there is any shortage of land in the area but I do not think there could be any large scale alienization of land to the crown without embarrassing the people. Of course if their land utilization methods were improved they would need less space since much waste land and effort could be saved. Burning and over cultivation are two of the chief evils which have to be stamped out.

A thought which has often occurred to me is that primitives must take a cynical view of our proffered advice for to them we are merely wondering around in an aimless sort of fashion and even on the station they know quite well we do not grow enough to feed ourselves.

#### Animal Husbandry:

The only animals kept for food are pigs and those seen were not a specially beautiful creature being a typical bony razorback.

The pig is not eaten only to satisfy a physical desire but is kept for ceremonial reasons and also as offerings to supernatural beings. A typical example is the cooking of pigs and then the smearing of stones in which reside (or which represents) Timba the supreme spirit of evil.

#### Population:

The upper Mendi Valley from Maiv to Um and including the Megia-Pinj group to the East and the Wambini Olea Ondababi to the west would probably have a populations of 2000 while the Lai valley from Jaren to Escampe would probably amount to about 3000.

The lower Mendi is a much more difficult area to estimate but would probably amount to a figure some where between 2000 and 3,000. These figures of course are only very approximate.

I doubt if the area from Megia-Yaria to the station would account for more than 1500 to 2000 people.

#### Native Attitudes:

Throughout our trip the people were co-operation and helpful. We generally had between fifty and a hundred people at our camps. The women were shy but it was from them that on almost every occasion we bought our food.

Never at any stage was there any sign of hostility towards us and with the exception of Pabaronga we always had an abundance of carriers who were only too willing to carry for us within their boundaries.

At only one place did we strike any signs of timidity and

.....over

This is a small buckwater of people about one hours walk from the station which has somehow not received the same attention as the rest of the valley. This will be rectified.

Language:

The language spoken in the Mendi-Lai and lower Nembi vary only in regard to dialect and then only slightly.

Trade and Trade Items:

The main trade route in the area came from Hagen via the northern slopes of Mt. Giluwe, from Webag via Mt. Haddon, from the Chimbu via Ialibu and from the Samberigi through the Kagua valley and from Kutubu via the Wage and Nembi Valleys. Another source may come from the Tari area via Magarima. We met one man in the Hairarea who told us he came from the Haibuga Marsh to the east of Tari station. This man, incidentally had crammed his hair into a hair net as is worn in this sub-district.

The medium of trade is salt in exchange for Tigasso oil. Main items of trade used for buying food were salt, paint (preferably cowrie and tambu shell. Mirrors and small items of steel were also very popular while for buying pigs the M.O.P shell and tomahawks were used.

Most men seen carried steel axes or knives and the only stone axes seen were carried by small boys and old men neither of whom would have much use or understanding of the newcomer.

Carriers:

The only carriers taken on the trip were six Kamberi natives from the stations's environs and at Um three young lads were added to the line for experience. For the rest of our cargo the people from the area in which we were at the time travelling carried for us. They were quite willing to do so and were of great assistance to us. They are not good carriers but their numbers compensated for this. The Mendi carriers carried our trade items.

Native Affairs:

The Mendi has fallen away from his former aggressiveness and fighting has apparently been stopped. The only annoying fly in the milk is a person or persons who for the last nine months has been taking snapshots at local dignitaries under cloak of darkness and to date two bits (one fatal) and several near misses have been recorded. All efforts to catch this character have so far been in vein. It is no use trying to trace out the archer by running down the line of enemies and finding a common enemy for every Mendi seems to have so many enemies who would be willing to kill him that this method gives us almost as many suspects as obviously innocent people. Then again the hiring substitute avengers is not unknown here.

Leaderships:

To the best of my knowledge there was no concept of leadership in this area until the advent of the administration. Some men achieved a state of eminence by virtue of bravery at war, deligice in communal work, generosity the wealth of their gardens but even then they were leaders only in so far as they were men of influence in their own spheres.

Conclusion:

The patrol carried out its objectives. It proceeded slowly through the area and as many people as possible were contacted.

Organized fighting in the Mendi and Lai valleys is now, at an end. The power of the law is now much respected and apart quarrels and fighting between individuals, violence and killings in these two valleys is now finished.

D. J. Clancy  
Assistant District Officer.

REPORT ON R.P. and N.G.C. - PERSONNEL.

The whole of the detachment used on the trip performed very well but it would be most unfair for comparison to be made between the senior members and the younger lads who have had only a few months service. For this reason I will divide them into two sections.

- (1) 2091 Corporal Batanu. A good disciplinarian keen energetic and an asset to any patrol.
- (2) 2123 Constable Isiri. Keen conscientious. Isiri has spent his entire career as a bush patrolling policeman and is a very good man with primitive people.
- (3) 7568 Constable Pokino. Keen hard working lad who lacks only in personal discipline.
- (4) 7834 Constable Suri. A former Native Medical Orderly. Conduct and ability above the average also carries out R.A.P. duties on patrol. This man should make a good N.C.O.
- (5) 8130 Constable Batawi. Keen, hardworking and tireless. A very good policeman. Was an N.C.O. in the P.I.B during last war.
- (6) 8480 Constable Warepi. Conduct and ability. By far the best of the Highland police. Equally good out station and bush work.
- (7) 8504 Constable Torabari. Returned to station early in patrol with Gonorrhoea contracted in Port Moresby.
- (8) 8612 Constable Wargine. Also sent back with Gonorrhoea contracted in Port Moresby.
- (9) Constable Teins. Worked well. First patrol lacks experience.
- (10) 8227 Constable Knopera. First patrol; energetic.
- (11) 7866 Constable Maliogun. Good man. Keen and energetic Sepik.
- (12) 8603 Constable Tahul. First patrol tries hard and will improve with experience.

*D. J. Clancy*  
(D. J. CLANCY)  
Assistant District Officer.

3 OF 55/56

D.J. CLANCY

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

RRC/VHG

File No: 30/1 - 781.

District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

9th January, 1956.

PATROL CONDUCTED BY  
Assistant District Officer,  
Sub/District Office,  
MENDI.

Mendi P/R. 3/55-56

Receipt of your patrol report and map is acknowledged but I fail to appreciate why such a short report of nine pages should take over two months to write. Please ensure your reports are submitted with two weeks of completing a patrol in future.

2. The patrol was valuable in that it moved over possible road extension areas and maintained contact with people who should receive our closer attention when experienced is available.

3. Unfortunately the experience gained by Mr. McGrath on the AMSERIGI leg of your patrol will be lost to us for he has now transferred from the Department.

(Robt. H. Cole)  
District Commissioner.

MINUTE to :-

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

Report submitted in duplicate with a patrol map.

With the posting of Mr. Corrigan as Officer-in-Charge, Erave, patrolling will be brought up to date. As inexperienced officers have been the only ones available for Ialibu and Erave, both areas have been poorly patrolled for years.

Mr. McGrath's camping allowance claim is attached but Mr. Clancy's claim is not to hand and he is on leave in Australia.

(Robt. H. Cole)  
District Commissioner.

DISTRICT OF: SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS      REPORT NO. MENDI 3/55-56

PATROL CONDUCTED BY:

D.J. CLANCY A.B.O.

AREA PATROLLED: IALIBU - BRAVE - SAMBERIGI - MENDI

PATROL ACCOMPANIED BY EUROPEANS: Mr. McGrath accompanied patrol to Samberigi

NATIVES: Various

Duration - 29/9/55      to 26/10/55      No. of days      29

DID MEDICAL ASSISTANT ACCOMPANY?

NO

LAST PATROL TO AREA

P.R. Mendi 9 of 1954-55  
P.R. Ialibu 4 of 1954/55  
P.R. Brave 3 of 1954/55

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

R E P O R T.

OBJECTS OF PATROL:

The patrol had as its objects the following:-

- (1) Inspection of Ialibu Patrol Post.
- (2) Inspection of road work in the vicinity of the Ialibu Patrol Post and roadwork in the Wiri-Taru area.
- (3) Inspection of possible routes from Ialibu to Erave and from Erave to Mendi.
- (4) Carry out a routine patrol of the Samberigi-Simberige area.
- (5) Carry out a routine patrol of the area between Ialibu-Erave-Mendi.
- (6) Repatriate the Imu people whose sentence of imprisonment at Erave, had Expired.

INTRODUCTION:

The greater part of the area patrolled was in the Restricted Areas of the Southern Highlands District.

The area between Mendi and Erave had in the past been heavily engaged in fighting but action taken in the past year has caused a much more tranquil state of affairs to emerge out of the chaotic conditions that had for so long prevailed there.

NATIVE AFFAIRS:

Wiri Taru: This area which lies to the South of Ialibu Patrol Post has only recently received any direct attention although people from this area have been constant visitors to the Patrol Post. They are particularly important to us in so far as they live on the borders of the heavily populated Poru Plateau where we hope to penetrate in an administrative as opposed to a purely exploratory capacity next year. The Wiri-Taru are a very co-operative people and they have pitched in with a will and are doing a very good job on the roads. So far they have built two very good rest camps and have completed about half a mile of road.

The people in the area from the Wiri-Taru country as far as the Sugu river have promised to assist us when we push the road through towards Erave.

There is at the moment no organized fighting in the Wiri-Taru although, of course, there are latent hatreds and fears that need to be carefully watched in case a good sound excuse comes to hand.

SAMBERIGI-SIMBERIGI.

There is here a very different problem. These people have been receiving attention from patrols for many years. These patrols came into the area and generally spent about 6 weeks to two months carrying out local patrols. In the immediate post war era owing to staff shortages patrolling has been only sporadic and has usually been sent up from Kikori to clean up reported fighting.

(OVER).....

There exists a mutual deep rooted hatred towards each other in the hearts of the Samberigi and the Simberigi. This hatred and distrust of each other is so deep seated that they can scarcely speak of each other without rancour entering into the conversation.

The attitude towards the patrol was hard to define - they were friendly but in general disinterested in the Samberigi area. This clearly springs from lack of patrolling to the area. The Simberigi are more unsophisticated than the Samberigi. They were more frightened than the former but with more attention this can be easily rectified.

At present there is no communications between the two areas to get from Sen to Ianguri it took us 8 hours of hacking through bush, kanai and cane grass to accomplish a journey that I previously did in about three hours.

When these people travel to Kikori which they do quite often when seeking employment they use different routes so as to have nothing to do with each other. Such a state of affairs is the more accentuated when it is realized that the greater majority of the younger men have been out to work and speak fluent Motu and wear laplaps singlets, hats etc..

#### GORU and SUGU VALLEY:

The people in this area were friendly but rather indifferent towards us this is, of course, only to be expected as we have, apart from fairly irregular patrolling done very little in this area but have expended our energies more to the North. If the time should come when the staff position is such that I can put in either a full time or part time patrol post in the Kagua River Valley area this area will be brought under control readily enough.

#### SUGU River to ANGNURU River:

Fighting still continues in this area between the Tagenda - Imi people and although the Tagerepa - Imberop feud seems have by its very fury burnt itself out even with the reaction taken earlier this year by a combined patrol of Mendi-Ialibu and Erave officers and police.

#### AGRICULTURE and FOOD.

Throughout the duration of the patrol we felt the results of the current food shortage that has cursed us for the past four or five months. The shortage is not severe enough to rejoice in the name of famine but the arrival of a group of thirty or forty healthy uninhibited appetites for an overnight stay was enough to cause even the stoutest heart to miss a beat. Where the people could you assisted us and where they could not we used our own supplies. I do not think we caused their food supplies any damage.

There are signs that the shortage will soon be over. Most gardens seen were almost ready for cropping.

The gardening of the Samberigi, Simberigi, Sugu, Kagua and Tagenda people differ in some respects to that of the Ialibu-Mendi-Lai-Nembi people. Instead of the circular garden plots favoured by the people to the North the southerners favour raised rectangular beds about 20 feet x 8 feet. The tendrils planted seem to be less deer's planted than is customary among the Mendi.

The staple diet of the Ialibu, Wiri-Taru, Sugu, Kagua and Tagenda groups is sweet potato assisted by banana, sugar and small greens and pandanus nuts. The Simberigi and Samberigi differ with this list only in so far as sago is an important staple especially in times of shortage such as they are suffering now.



HEALTH:

Generally the people seen were of good physique and appeared to be in the best of health although the Samberigi claimed that their older people were dying without cause or rather the cause was said to be Timoko, a particularly nasty spirit who seems to be a spirit of fertility. - Should he be angry as he is reported to be at the present time he causes gardens to become infertile and causes the death of any who particularly incur his wrath. The only way to placate this being who was the creator of Mugurupu, Hambahari, Angoro, the original men. He fashioned these men out of stone and then designed and created all the necessities for their creature wants. These three forebears of the human race sacrificed to Timoko to show their gratitude to him and from that day on it has been the duty of the descendants of these three men to give regular sacrifices to thank Timoko for creating the human race and for allowing it to continue to exist. Should the sacrifices be neglected Timoko becomes angry and sends death and crop failures to bring his creatures to heel. He seems to bear a close resemblance to the Old Testament Creator.

ROADS and BRIDGES.

About one hundred men were working on the road section near the Officer-in-Charge, Ialibu, has made the initial step towards putting the road through from Ialibu to Erave.

THURSDAY. The road will not present any major problems until it reaches the limestone country in the vicinity of the Erave River. Here the going will be difficult and furthermore the population in this area is only small. However, despite the difficulties that will be met are far from being insuperable.

Very much the same applies to the proposed route from Erave to Mendi with the added difficulty of crossing the Angguru River. Of the two routes I am inclined to favor the Ialibu-Wiri-Taru-Erave route.

REPATRIATION of UMI MEN.

One of the objects of the patrol was to repatriate the Umi men who had been serving a sentence in the Erave gaol for behaving in a riotous manner.

These men were left at their own homes and as we left them they invited us to return in a month or two so they could kill some pigs for us and enter into a pact of friendship.

The top. The oil sets on the top and is then collected by skimming. There is another escape a short distance away but I did not bother to look at this. This oil is said to be particularly valuable for killing head lice and is used throughout the islands. It is not considered to be as valuable as the vegetable oil known in Ialibu as Tiganu.

.....

After crossing the Ialibu River bridge we climbed sharply over a ridge and loaded for Karuvogi where we camped.

There were about 250 people at Karuvogi in the afternoon and abundant food was prepared. The people have agreed to help us push the road through their territory when we reach this area.

FRIDAY, 1st OCTOBER, 1943.

Broke camp at 5.30 a.m. and travelled S.W. through limestone country. We were practically invisible for the first hour because of heavy fog which was particularly thick in the valleys.

*ryb Lawrence*

PATROL DIARY:

SUNDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER, 1955.

Flew from Mendi to Ialibu by Norseman aircraft to carry out an inspection of the Ialibu Station and to settle some business associated with the area.

WEDNESDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER, 1955.

Departed Ialibu at 0700 hours and dived immediately into the bush through which we travelled along a small track over level country. This is a very nice stand of timber and would, if there were means of getting it out from Ialibu, be sufficient to supply enough timber for all the Highlands' needs.

After four hours walking we broke out of bush into grassed valley country and walked along a partly constructed road for thirty minutes until we arrived at Mondanda Rest house where Mr. Harris, the Officer-in-Charge of Ialibu, was awaiting me.

About one hundred men were working on the road section near Mondanda.

THURSDAY, 29th SEPTEMBER, 1955.

Left Mondanda and headed South-East for Iogeri where the road work and the new Rest house were inspected.

There is a heavy population in this area and over to the South-East a few miles away could be seen the edge of the Poru country into which we wish to move in the near future.

Re-arranged patrol stores during the afternoon, for the trip to Erave.

FRIDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER, 1955.

Left Iogeri at 6.47 a.m. and travelled over wide native tracks to the Iaro River which we crossed by a good bridge at 8.50 a.m.

On the way down to the bridge we called in to have a look at an oil seepage on the river flats. The seepage hole has been scraped out and a covering platform has been built over the top. The oil sets on the top and is then collected by skimming. There was another seepage a short distance away but I did not bother to look at this. This oil is said to be particularly valuable for killing head lice and is traded throughout the highlands. It is not considered to be as valuable as the vegetable oil known in Kutubu as Tigasso.

After crossing the Iaro River bridge we climbed abruptly over a ridge and headed for Karuwegi where we camped for the night.

There were about 250 people in at the camp during the afternoon and abundant food was purchased with ease. The people have agreed to help us push the road through their territory when we reach this area.

SATURDAY, 1st OCTOBER, 1955.

Broke camp at 6.20 a.m. and travelled S.S.E. over undulating country. We were practically travelling blind for the first hour because of heavy fog which was particularly thick in the valleys.

(OVER) .....

At 7.30 a.m. we entered bush and travelled easily over a good wide track. The headwaters of the Sugu River which was here a pleasant little stream was crossed at 8.55 a.m.

We broke out of bush at 9.40 a.m. when we left the hills and descended into the Angoremi Kadiki Valley the home of the Tingi-Parl people. This valley has about 1500 people living in it and they have steadfastly refused to have anything to do with patrols that have penetrated into their pinnacle strewn valley. They are as shy as nightjars.

Camp was erected at Runudebe and we tried to entice the locals in. They do not seem to have changed much since I last saw them in 1950. Standing on limestone pinnacles, surrounding our camp, they hurled thunderbolts of invective at us, but they had finally met their match in old Tema, the head man of Gmai. I took old Tema on this trip as it stands to reason that one who can rise to a state of eminence among the Gmai, and who can outshout an Gmai in their highly developed art, must be an outstanding performer. By 3.30 a.m., the locals had had enough, and about fifty men came in to see the visiting celebrity, and with them came food as the price of admission. They have promised to meet us in the morning and assist us with our cargo as far as Batare.

Had talks during the afternoon, and we both agreed that our grandfathers did not fight each other, and therefore nor should we quarrel and in any event no good could come from fighting. They, too, obviously do not subscribe the Heraclitean obiter that greater death wins greater destiny - at least not in practise.

#### SUNDAY, 2nd OCTOBER, 1955

Broke camp at 6.15 a.m. and moved off to the West passing through tree covered limestone pinnacle country along a good native pad. Broke out of the timber at 9.00 a.m. and spelled for a short time at Walu while two ducks were obtained from nearby swamps. There were hundreds of them but they were very flighty.

Continued on after the spell through timber until we arrived at Batare where a small Rest House has been built.

Purchasing of food was very difficult and we had to supplement the gleanings with rice.

#### MONDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 1955

Broke camp at 6.00 a.m. and headed off through mist over tracks and waded Fore Creek at 6.30 a.m.

At 9.00 a.m. we arrived at the Brace River and here we had to spend 3 hours repairing the rotted bridge.

Crossed the river and climbed the limestone range into the Fore Valley and on arrival at 1.15 p.m. I reported to the Officer-in-Charge, Mr. W.A. McGrath at Brave Patrol Post.

TUESDAY, 4th OCTOBER, 1955, to THURSDAY, 6th OCTOBER, 1955

Remained at Erave preparing for a trip to the Samberigi-Sinberigi areas.

FRIDAY, 7th OCTOBER, 1955

The patrol left the station at 7.00 a.m. with Mr. McGrath and headed off to the South. The track was reasonable although not well cared for. No people were seen on the way until we reached Kei at 10.30 a.m. and met Iung, a former station interpreter. He told us he would get his people in tomorrow for a census check.

Leaving Kei we continued on till we reached the Sambarigi hamlet of Sawmilli at 1 p.m. This village gets its name I understand from Romilly Sawmill in the Gulf Division when a large group of the people worked during the war.

The Chinbu carriers I picked up at Ialibu cracked up today and despite the fact they were all lightly laden we had to help carry their loads.

Heavy rain fell in the afternoon but we were able to buy sufficient food. Sawmilli village has outlived its usefulness and is being allowed to fade away.

SATURDAY, 8th OCTOBER, 1955

Heavy rain fell until 10.00 a.m. after which we did a census check. A few people were missing and I arranged for them to report to me at my next stopping place.

The people have agreed to build a rest house for us and Policemen were left behind to show them how to do it.

SUNDAY, 9th OCTOBER, 1955.

Moved off across the valley towards Ian, a collection of small hamlets littered on a long spur running down from Mount Murray.

On the way we were waylaid by the Masiki who asked us to stay the night. As this was a very pleasant little spot we stayed with them and during the afternoon did a census check.

Food was plentiful and purchased easily.

MONDAY, 10th OCTOBER, 1955.

Moved off at 6.00 a.m. and arrived at Ian an hour later. Most of the people were still away at distant sago swamp collecting food for the fertility rites which are due to start about Christmas time. It would take weeks to get them back home. Had talks during the afternoon with village headmen.

TUESDAY, 11th OCTOBER, 1955.

Departed at 6.20 a.m. after waiting for guides. No one was particularly keen on coming with us as there exists between these people and the Simberigi an enormous degree of hatred and fear.

We cut our way almost every yard of the way and at 2.20 p.m. an exhausted band of carriers arrived at Ianguri a dirty collection of women's houses lined down the side of a new long-house.

I understand that the roads between Ianguri and Ian were allowed to become overgrown on orders from Kikori a few years ago. In view of the circumstances I think this is a very good idea and the green curtain should remain until regular patrolling can take place in the area. The hatred these people have for each other has to be felt to be believed and this in spite of the fact that most of the young men have been out to the coast and there is scarcely a young man who does not speak fluent Motu.

These people too are preparing for their fertility rites.

WEDNESDAY, 12th OCTOBER, 1955.

Departed 6 a.m. and headed off down the valley passing through a succession of tired down-at-heel hamlets. The people were timid and a bit standoffish. Passed through Ware at 7 a.m. after very easy walking and then climbed over a small range and came onto the now almost deserted gardens of Simberigi at 10.30 hrs. As this is the last population we will encounter before reaching Koi'ari I decided to camp here.

During the afternoon the Ianguri Village Constable brought in two escaped prisoners who had fled from the Erave gaol some time ago.

Food was very scarce here but we did manage to get sufficient for our needs the majority of food purchased consisted of Banana and was poor in quality.

THURSDAY, 13th OCTOBER, 1955.

Broke camp at 6 a.m. and descended into a very attractive but sterile kunai covered valley until we passed into forest two hours later. On the way we saw quite a lot of very nice pine. One stand in particular is situated about two miles from the station and this stand alone would more than satisfy Erave's needs for many years to come.

We arrived at the small hamlet of Koi'ari at 11.15. Mr. McGrath has given a good deal of attention to this hamlet and it shows a lot more life than the rest of this depressing area.

The patrol arrived at the station 35 minutes after leaving

Koiari at 2 p.m I spoke with the District Commissioner by radio and as a result of this conversation I resolved to head back home.

FRIDAY 14th OCTOBER, 1952

Prepared my cargo for the trip home. At 6 p.m. a wind with a velocity of about 50 m.p.h. blew up and wrecked my camp.

SATURDAY 15th OCTOBER, 1952

Left Erave and passed by the mission station and then down to and over the Erave river by a recently repaired bridge. Crossed the river at 8.20 a.m. and then climbed the limestone ranges on the other side. The going was quite easy but for some reason the repatriates slowed down immediately we crossed the river. It may be that a mental reaction or an anti-climax set in when they finally realized they were at last homeward bound. In any event they slowed the patrol down considerably.

The country is inhospitable to a degree, it is uninhabited and useless for anything but scenery.

Intermittent rain fell during the day. We arrived at Goru outskirts at 2 p.m. and then crossed over to the central group, arriving there at 2.30 a.m.

As the last tent went up at 3 p.m., torrential rain fell on us and continued all afternoon. It was too wet to expect food to be brought in so rice was issued to the police and carriers.

The repatriates are related to these people, and four of the repatriates told me they would remain here with friends for a time. This suited me as these four men were making hard work of the road and they are a worry.

TUESDAY 16th OCTOBER 1952

Departed at 6 a.m. and headed away to the N.W. along the valley on a good road. Of the four men who had intended remaining three changed their minds and came with us.

We crossed a small range at 10.30 a.m. and entered the Sugu Valley, a very attractive and densely populated place, but we were forced to move away from the centre of population to find a house to house our carriers and repatriates.

Made camp at Toromobi, a filthy longhouse on the northern banks of the Sugu. The people are away at a dance at the bottom of the valley, and for this reason food was scarce and rice was issued. These people too are friends of the repatriates and tearful re-unions were the order of the day.

To-day's track would be unsuitable for road-making, as the going would be far too rough and the limestone too plentiful.

MONDAY 17th OCTOBER 1952

Left Toromobi at 6 a.m. and proceeded along a good track through timber covered limestone country. The repatriates were in better fettle and they showed much higher spirits. Very heavy mountain mists lying in the valleys and on scaling ridges the surrounding peaks jutted above the mist like islands rising from a heavenly sea of white foam.

Broke out of forest at 9.30 a.m. when we crossed the divide and found ourselves overlooking a very pretty valley (or rather a basin) The Kagua Valley lies away from us to the north about two or three miles. Away to the north could be seen the unmistakable peak of Haddon Taiku, Giluwe and Pumi, also rose up to beckon us.

home.

Descended into the valley, and leaving the Uni repatriates on their doorstep, we headed off on our own. Groups of twenty to thirty people, men, women and children, clustered along our track, all were extremely friendly, and invited us to make camp at Iawari Dance Ground, which has become something of a traditional camping ground over the years. Made camp at 11.30, and a large crowd of people came in.

Heard that the Taginda from the Ang-gura River are fighting.

It would not be difficult to put an airstrip in this valley, and roadmaking would be play.

TUESDAY, 18th OCTOBER, 1955

Broke camp at 6 a.m., and moved up through the Tangarap country. Our reception was not of the best standard but no effort was made to bar our way. These people are an isolated pocket of resistance. They are not numerous, but I may prove troublesome later on when we come in here to demand law and order. The fighting seems to be over now, but the devastation that either side wreaked on each other's land and houses, was pitiful to see. They will see many hungry days in the future. This senseless despoiling of gardens and trees is hard to understand, and harder still to stomach.

Crossed the Kagua just above its junction with the Ang-gura River, then climbed a steep range for two hours, and descended to the Ang-gura River, crossed by a good bridge, and made camp on the bank. The people on the slopes of the range to the south of the Ang-gura, the Taginda, have recently been involved in a fierce intra-group warfare, and apparently thought I was coming from the South to interfere in their fighting. A couple of times on the way down we were greeted with war cries.

At 5 p.m., Mr. Claridge, Patrol Officer, came in to tell me that he was camped a short distance up-stream. He was investigating the recent outbreak of fighting between the Taginda and Iai groups.

WEDNESDAY 19th OCTOBER, 1955

Departed 6 a.m. and arrived at the Station at 10.30. a.m. Reported to the District Commissioner.

MONDAY 24th, 25th, 26th OCTOBER, 1955

These three days I spent going to Moranda to investigate the death of Hen of Moranda. This incident is referred to in Patrol Report "Men No. 7" of 1955.

*W. J. Blain*

4 of 55/56

A.M. KEOGH



Territory of Papua and New Guinea.  
RRG/vHG

File No: 30/1 - 770.

District Headquarters,  
District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

December 29, 1955.  
5th January, 1956.

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
PORT NORESBY.

MENDI PATROL REPORT NO. 4 BY 1955/56.  
P/R. Mendi No. 4 of 1955/56 - Mr. A.N. Keogh.

Report in duplicate submitted herewith and the delay in submission is occasioned by the need for Mr. Keogh to concentrate on his studies just prior to the No. 3 Internal Examination, Highlands District.

2. The report details work undertaken on supervising the construction of a vehicular road from Mendi to the Territorial Border towards Mount Hagen which is now complete and Mr. Keogh is complimented on a good job well done.

Personnel The difficulties experienced in organizing labour, food and shelter in this area, which rises to 9,300 feet, is appreciated and called for the attention of an experienced officer.

3. It was intended that Mr. Keogh continue with supervising the road to Tambul in the Kaugel Valley but shortage of staff necessitates him being transferred to Ialibu to relieve the two officers proceeding on leave this month without replacements.

It is unfortunate that we cannot proceed with our road work as planned for a road-link with Hagen is of paramount importance to Mendi.

Area Patrolled: Mr. Keogh's camping allowance claim is attached for consideration, please.

The Upper Mendi Valley in the vicinity of the Hagen road link.

Duration of Patrol:

European - 29/12/55-11/1/56  
Police - 29/12/55-21/1/56

Objects of Patrol:

1. The survey and location of a road to connect the St. Hagen road link.
2. The (Capt. R. Cole) and wife and of District Commissioner.
3. Routine consolidation and administration.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

District Headquarters,  
Mendi,  
Southern Highlands District.

December 29, 1955.

MENDI PATROL REPORT NO. 4 OF 1955/56.

A report of the activities of a road-building, and general administrative patrol which has been operating in the Upper Mendi Valley, with the object of completing the motor transport road between Mendi Government Station, and Tumbul Mission in the Western Highlands District.

Officer Conducting Patrol:

A. H. Keogh, Patrol Officer.

Personnel Accompanying:

Reg. No.	Rank	Name
3500	L/Opt	Tanatal
7105	Const.	Ordirari
7105	"	Ita
7116	"	Kwanga
7089	"	Kambo
7017	"	Andambo
8705	"	Kambo
9146	"	Felika
9159	"	Orat
9155	"	Libaka
9279	"	Sagano

Area Patrolled:

The Upper Mendi Valley in the vicinity of the Mendi - Mt. Hagen road link.

Duration of Patrol:

European - 29/8/55-11/11/55  
Police - 29/8/55-24/12/55

Objects of Patrol:

1. The survey and selection of a route to connect the Mendi and Mt. Hagen road links.
2. The improvement and maintenance of the existing road between Mendi and Kokia Rest House.
3. Routine consolidation and administration.

INTRODUCTION.

This patrol was a continuation of that described in Mendi Patrol Report No.1 of 1955/56. Again, the primary objects of the patrol, were to survey and construct a link between the Mendi and Mt. Hagen sectors of the main highland road system, and, in addition, to maintain and improve those unconnected sectors of the road which had already been partially constructed.

Throughout the patrol, general administrative and consolidatory work was carried out in the normal manner. During this particular part of the work, when the natives were working in a high altitude area, and at long distances from their own garden plots, the degree of co-operation was, for the most part, surprisingly good. Most of the four-month period of the present section of the patrol was spent on the northern slopes of Mt. Gisuwe, in the heavily-timbered and unpopulated country through which that particular part of the road must pass.

At the time of completion of the patrol - November 10 - the road was open for motor-cycle traffic to the Territorial boundary. The erection of five bridges in the new sectors of the road, will make the road passable for jeeps and Land Rovers to the boundary. For regular use, and for a definite margin of safety in the future, it will be necessary to reconstruct most of the bridges and culverts which have previously been built in the fifteen-mile section between Mendi, and Kamia Rest House. The number of such bridges and culverts is approximately 35. None of these could be more than twenty feet in length, and, under European supervision, once actual road construction has been completed, all of them could be constructed within ten days.

In addition to bridge work, a good deal of embanking and surfacing will also be necessary in the future so that the road may be usable after prolonged wet weather, but, essentially, the road is usable at the present time.

It is regretted that this report is so late in being submitted, but the writer was engaged in final studies for the Local Examination during the latter half of November, and, after the examinations, was on patrol until Christmas.

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DIARY.

- August 29. Stores and patrol gear forwarded from Mendite Dimifa Rest House in the morning. Writer followed by motor-cycle at midday. Patrol remained at Dimifa over night. Some minor disputes were heard, and further road work was marked out.
- August 30. Patrol moved on to Inope Rest House in the morning. Road tasks were allotted to the assembled headmen, and the party then moved to Kemia.
- August 31. Writer remained at Kemia, while the bulk of the police party were sent on to the base camp at Hmarap. Minor disputes were heard during the day, and word was sent out to the natives of surrounding areas to attend for road work tomorrow.
- September 1. Moved up to the camp at Hmarap, the motor-cycle being carried on a pole for approximately 12 hours through the timber, which still remains to be cut.
- September 2. A good number of natives having arrived in for work during yesterday, work was resumed on timber-felling, and earth-moving work. Self and police occupied in marking out of road route, and supervision of work.
- September 3. Work continued as for yesterday. Natives returned to their homes in the afternoon.
- September 4. Sunday observed.
- September 5. Natives very slow in returning to work, and not much work could be done during the day. Police and self occupied in marking of route.
- September 6. Continued with felling of timber. Weather very cold and wet throughout the day.
- September 7. Natives continued tree-felling. Writer occupied in re-marking the route in the very steep, and awkward, gorge of the Kumbene Creek.
- September 8. Yesterdays work continued.
- September 9. Natives commenced re-cutting of the road in Kumbene Creek. They were sent back to their homes in the afternoon.
- September 10. Writer went down to Mendi for discussions with the A.D.C. The camp was left in the charge of L/Cpl Tamutai, since it was anticipated that the writer would probably be absent for some weeks.
- October 4. Writer left Mendi at midday, and returned to Kemia Rest House. Road tasks were allotted to the natives, en route.

**DIARY.**

- October 5. Remained at Kania. Most of the day was spent in the settlement of minor disputes, discussions with officials, and the giving of minor medical treatments.
- October 6. Moved from Kania, back up to the camp at Hmarap. Timber-felling and earth-moving work was supervised.
- October 7. Yesterday's work was continued. The natives were allowed to return to their homes in the afternoon.
- October 8. Writer to the Ando Creek inspecting road.
- October 9. Sunday observed.
- October 10. Few natives back for work until late afternoon. Writer and police occupied in the marking of the road route for most of the day.
- October 11. Timber-felling and earth-work continued.
- October 12. Yesterday's work continued.
- October 13. Work continued.
- October 14. Self and some of the police commenced work on the construction of bridges over the water-courses between Hmarap, and the Territorial border. The natives, and the rest of the police continued timber-felling, on the steep slopes down towards Kania.
- October 15. Worked on bridges and timber-felling. Natives returned to their homes in the afternoon.
- October 16. Sunday observed.
- October 17. Few natives in for work until late afternoon. Writer and police continued bridge work.
- October 18. Work continued as for yesterday.
- October 19. As yesterday.
- October 20. All natives and police working on timber felling. One native sustained a broken leg during the afternoon. His leg was splinted, and he was sent to Hendi under escort immediately.
- October 21. Writer and all police supervising timber-felling. The fact that only about 400 yards of timber now separates the two sections of road, seems to have caused an excess of enthusiasm, and the natives are using even less commonsense than usual in felling the trees.

- October 22.           Writer left for Mendi for discussions with the A.D.O.
- October 23.           Remained at Mendi.
- October 24.           Returned to Nimarep. Road tasks were allotted at the various rest houses along the road, although only the Dimifa and Inape natives are not, at present, working at Nimarep.
- October 25.           Timber-felling was continued throughout the day.
- October 26           Work continued.
- October 27.           The last of the timber separating the two sections of road, was removed during the day. Bridge work was recommenced.
- October 28.           Continued moving of earth on the newly-cleared area. Bridge work continued.
- October 29.           Natives returned to their homes. Writer and police worked on bridges in the morning.
- October 30.           Sunday observed.
- October 31.           Mr. M. MacKellar, P.O., Mt. Hagen arrived from Tambul Mission for discussions concerning the road still to be constructed between Nimarep and Tambul.  
It was possible to ride the motor-cycle from Nimarep down to Konia Rest House, for the first time during the day.
- November 1.           Mr. MacKellar and self inspected sections of road completed so far. Natives and police continued work on improving the newly-constructed sections.
- November 2.           Mr. MacKellar departed for Tambul. Road and bridge work again.
- November 3.           Work commenced on a construction of a rest house and police barracks where the road finishes, approximately 2 miles past Nimarep. This point lies either on or very near to the Territorial border. However in the eyes of the natives, the border lies on the Korndo Creek approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile further on, and the Mendi natives can continue working on to this point.
- November 4.           Writer and some of the police party moved back down to Konia Rest House to carry out road maintenance in that area, and also check on the condition of the road further back towards Mendi.
- November 5           Road maintenance and an inspection visit to Klareg and Inape Rest Houses.
- November 6.           Sunday observed.
- November 7.           No natives arrived for work. CRM was carried out and 44 natives were sentenced under the NRO.

**DIARY.**

**November 8.**

Road maintenance continued by the very few available natives who came in for work.

Some maintenance was carried out on the rest house and police barracks at Kamia.

**November 9.**

Writer returned to Kamarep to inspect work on the new rest house, and also check on road work, and the next bridge work to be commenced.

**November 10.**

Work was the same as yesterday's.

**November 11.**

Writer to Mendi for discussions with A.D.O. Owing to various circumstances - chief of which - was the imminence of the local examination, the writer has since been unable to return.

However, a capable staff of police, continued with the work until Christmas, and the road is reported to have reached the Kornd Creek.

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NATIVE SITUATION.

Native affairs work was carried out chiefly in those communities, on, or near to, the main road route, but since most of the natives of the more outlying areas of the Upper Mandi Valley have also been assisting in road work over the past five months, the patrol came into close and regular contact with a fairly wide cross-section from most of the Upper Mandi communities.

The native situation continues to be quiet, and very satisfactory from an administrative point of view. Once the pandanus season ended in September, disputes were few, and easily settled, and a concerted effort on road construction could then be commenced.

At times there was some natural reluctance on the part of the people, to carry out road work in this area, where conditions were always difficult and unpleasant for them. Most of the work was carried out at altitudes, near to, or over 9,000 feet, and the weather was usually very cold and wet. Considering this, and the fact that the area is well out of the population belt, and the timber unusually dense, the tractability of the natives was very satisfactory.

Village officials of the area assisted the patrol with a good deal of reliability and efficiency, considering their lack of experience.

Again, it was noted that the incidence of crime is very low in most parts of the area, and on only one occasion during the patrol was it found necessary to carry out Courts for Native Matters. It is quite possible that a small percentage of minor crimes may still be hidden from the patrol, particularly by those groups who live some distance from the main road, and who have close affiliations with the little-contacted groups on the Wabag border, but, in general, disputes are quickly reported by village officials, or by the natives themselves.

Food shortages continue to be a problem in all parts of the area, and it is difficult to do anything about the matter, since the people are obviously disinterested in gardening work and have poor agricultural techniques. The process of changing this state of affairs will be a lengthy one, and little could be done about it during the present patrol, since the main pre-occupation was with road work, and, in addition the party was based outside the populated areas for most of the time. If normal administrative patrols in the future could select some of the young pidgin-speakers of the area for training as agricultural assistants, this might serve to improve the standard of living, although, even then, the general weight of native opinion would probably be directed against any change in the traditional forms of agriculture, and such a project would have to be under strict and continual European supervision for some appreciable time if any definite improvement was to be expected.



### MEDICAL AND HEALTH.

No unusual health trends were noted during the patrol, and colds and influenza were the main troubles seen.

A large number of cuts, bruises, and abrasions resulted during timber-felling operations, but the patrol was fortunate in that only one accident of any proportions occurred during that time. The native concerned suffered a broken leg, but is now recovering satisfactorily.

Wherever necessary, minor medical treatments were given by the writer during the patrol. The area is one in which the establishment of at least one Medical Aid Post would be of benefit, since, even though the people are co-operative in many ways, they are still reluctant to go as far as Mendi for medical treatment.

### AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK.

As has already been mentioned in an earlier section of this report, food is not plentiful in the Upper Mendi at the present time. The position is, that while the natives normally are reasonably well supplied with food, they have no surplus for supplying the needs of short-term patrols at the moment, let alone the needs of a road-building party, when a large number of men are present in an unpopulated area, for a long period.

Care was taken that no appreciable depredations into local food supplies, were made, by the patrol, and, wherever necessary, labour parties were assisted with government rations, or with native foodstuffs purchased from more outlying areas.

Small quantities of European vegetables - notably cabbage, potato, carrot, and lettuce - are grown in the vicinity of Komia Rest House. Most were of good quality, and had been planted by patrolling police constables; quantities grown are extremely small, but do serve to demonstrate the fact that the soil is not essentially unproductive, and that good vegetables can be grown in the area.

The only form of livestock in the Upper Mendi Valley, is the pig; these are kept for ceremonial purposes mainly, are extremely difficult to purchase, and a definite and persistent menace to newly-constructed road surface.

### REST HOUSES.

Rough rest houses are to be found at Inepe, Dimifa, Klareg, and Komia, along the main road. During early November a further rest house and police barracks was constructed in the Mimarep grass-land plateau, where the road reaches its highest point. The altitude there is 9,300 feet, and while it is a long way from any population centre, the rough station which has been built could form a geographically central road maintenance centre for the future.

Each of the rest houses mentioned is a mere makeshift until road labour can be spared to allow more permanent and liveable structures to be constructed. The only advantages of the present ones is that they are slightly warmer than a tent, and also form a permanent assembly point.

**ROADS AND BRIDGES.**

At the completion of the patrol, the position in regard to the motor transport road, was as follows:-

- (1) The road was usable for motor-cycles to a point either on, or near, the Territorial boundary. This lies approximately 25 miles from Hendi.
- (2) The main aim during the patrol was to cut away the timber and lay the ground open to the sun and wind, at least as far as the border, and as far past it as possible.
- (3) Construction of four small bridges, will make the road usable for Land Rovers.
- (4) Further grading, cambering, and surfacing, work is necessary in all sections of the road, but essentially, it is usable, for motor-cycles and light four-wheel drive traffic.
- (5) Reconstruction of nearly all bridges between Hendi and the end of the road is necessary when the road comes into regular use, but all of the watercourses concerned are only small, and this work could be easily and quickly completed, now that the main task of timber-clearing has been accomplished.
- (6) A distance of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  air miles still remains to be constructed between the end of the road, and Tumbal Mission. This is approximately half bush country, and half kunai country from the little that I have seen of it. One advantage concerning this section, is the fact that labour will be very much more plentiful on the Mt. Hagen fall of the Giluwe slopes than it was on the Hendi side, and the connecting link could probably be quickly built, if a concerted effort on the part of the Tumbal natives is summoned up.
- (7) The obtaining of surfacing materials presents some problems along all sectors of the road, but with the very scant labour potential which exists in these areas, surfacing will have to be a gradual process.
- (8) Whenever possible, maintenance and improvement was carried out on the previously-constructed 15 miles of road between Hendi and Komia Rest House. The fact that all available labour was being used in timber-felling in the higher areas for most days of each week, prevented the patrol from doing anything more than carry out essential improvements in this sector, where the road was already usable.

*A.M. Keogh*  
.....  
Patrol Officer,  
Hendi, S.H.D.

Report on R.P.M.C.C. Personnel.

Reg. No. 1856, L/Cpl Tamutai

Did excellent work throughout the patrol. Has a very good knowledge of road-building procedure now, and handles natives well.

Was very trustworthy at all times, and certainly merits a higher rank than he holds.

Reg. No. 3300, Const. Gndirari

A conscientious worker.

Reg. No. 7108, Const. Ita

A quiet and efficient worker.

Reg. No. 7116, Const. Kwangu

Also worked well and obediently.

Reg. No. 7620, Const. Numbo

Has a good knowledge of natives and general bush work.

Reg. No. 7917, Const. Andumbo

Has a reasonable knowledge of road-work, but needs a period of station work.

Reg. No. 8705, Const. Kauba

A good worker, but also needs a spell of station discipline.

Reg. No. 9148, Const. Pelika

Worked very well, and reliably, particularly considering his short service.

Reg. No. 9159, Const. Orat

Worked hard but needs a good deal of supervision at present.

Reg. No. 9155, Const. Libaka

Was found to be very reliable, and very obedient.

Reg. No. 9279, Const. Saguno

Not impressive, and needs to be kept under a good deal of supervision.

5 of 55/56

G.D. DAKES C.P.O.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

Sub-District Office,  
Mendi,  
Southern Highlands Dist.

1955.

20th September.

3rd October, 1955.

The patrol departed from Mendi at 10.45am. We went down the Mendi Valley, at first along a hilly road for about three quarters of an hour and then along native tracks. We passed through **The Assistant District Officer, Mendi**, across the ASGA River Bridge at 1.30pm, **Mendi** IREI Dance Ground at 4pm, arriving at IREI Dance Ground at 7.45pm, where we made camp. While resting at IREI, we went west about to the OMY Village Constable that we could be camping there tonight. Consequently, **Patrol Report No. 5 of 1955/56**, the tents had been put and some native women had brought in a little food, which was compared with **A report of a patrol to Ialibu and the slopes of Mt. Giluwe of the Mendi Sub-District.**

Being in shortage of food some rice was loaned to the patrol and  
**Patrol Conducted by :** George D. Oakes, Cadet Patrol Officer.

**Area patrolled :**  
(1) Mendi-Ialibu line of communication.  
(2) Slopes of Mt. Giluwe between Ialibu and Mendi.

Walking time 7 hours.

**Map Reference :** Southern Highlands District Map - 1953.  
Scale - 4 miles : 1 inch.

The patrol was composed of 11 men. The **Patrol Report No. 5 of 1955/56** was prepared and across the ASGA River, 10 hours and 30 minutes was spent on the road. Necessary supplies were made to the patrol. **Patrol Report No. 5 of 1955/56** was found with unaccounted items left in Mendi. We found the river very high. We decided to return and camp at this stage heavy rain was falling. We finally left Mendi at 4.45pm, where I reported to **Patrol Officer.**

Interpreter - NAREA.

Walking time - 10 hours.  
**Duration of Patrol :** 10/9/55 to 11/9/55  
25/9/55 to 3/10/55 - 7 days.

**Last patrol to area :** Mendi-Ialibu line of communication - August 1955  
Slopes of Mt. Giluwe between Ialibu and Mendi - nil.

20th September.

**Objects of Patrol :**  
(1) To check on Ialibu radio equipment.  
(2) To investigate the possibilities of constructing a road over the slopes of Mt. Giluwe from Ialibu to Mendi.  
The length of the airstrip is 1/2 mile which will eventually link IALIBU with Mt. Giluwe - for approximately 15 miles. At this point we left the road and followed a native track leading towards IREI Dance Ground. At 2.10pm, we crossed the ASGA River by a suspension bridge. The track was constructed over steep ridges, except in places. At 4pm the ASGA River was crossed by means of a native suspension bridge. IREI Dance Ground was reached at 4.30pm. Everything was found in order. Supplies of native foods had been purchased by the Sergeant.

Discussions were held with the natives who had gathered on the best route over the slopes of Mt. Giluwe to IREI.

A little rain fell in the afternoon.

Walking time - 3 1/2 hours.

DIARY.Saturday, 10th September.

The patrol departed from Mendi at 10.45am. We proceeded south down the Mendi Valley, at first along a hilly road for about three quarters of an hour and then along native tracks. We passed through OI'IAREB Dance Ground at 12.15pm, across the ANGA River Gorge at 1.30pm, through INBI Dance Ground at 4pm, arriving at ONAI Dance Ground at 5.45pm, where we made camp. While resting at INBI, we sent word ahead to the ONAI Village Constable that we would be camping there to-night. Consequently, when we arrived the poles for the tents had been cut and some native women had brought in a little food, which was purchased with face paint.

Owing to shortage of food some rice was issued to the police and carriers.

No rain fell.

Walking time 7 hours.

Sunday, 11th September.

The patrol broke camp at 6.45am. The Mendi-Ialibu Supply Route was again followed leading us through the ANISA and KUMBENE Dance Grounds and across the ANG-GURA, IGRO and IARO Rivers to IALIBU. Nearly an hour was spent on the banks of the ANG-GURA River while necessary repairs were made to the native suspension bridge. The IGRO River was forded with comparative ease but on reaching the IARO River ford, we found the river was higher than usual and fairly fast flowing. So we decided to detour and cross across by the suspension bridge. At this stage heavy rain was falling. We finally reached IALIBU Patrol Post at 4.45pm, where I reported to the Officer-in-charge, Mr. J. Harris, Patrol Officer.

Walking time - 10 hours.

Monday 12th September to Wednesday 28th September.

At Ialibu Patrol Post.

Thursday, 29th September.

The carriers with two police were sent off in the morning to establish camp at KUMBENE Dance Ground. The writer with remaining police left IALIBU Patrol Post at 1.15pm and after proceeding along the length of the airstrip we followed the newly constructed road - which will eventually link IALIBU with MT. HAGEN - for approximately 1 1/2 miles. At this point we left the road and followed a native track leading towards KENDAK Dance Ground. At 2.10pm, we crossed the IARO River by a suspension bridge. The track then traversed small undulating ridges, swampy in places. At 4pm the IGRO River was crossed by means of a native suspension bridge. KUMBENE Dance Ground was reached at 4.30pm. Everything was found in order. Sufficient supplies of native foods had been purchased by the Sergeant. D

Discussions were held with the headmen who had gathered on the best route over the elpees of Mt. Giluwe to DIMIPA.

A little rain fell in the afternoon.

Walking time - 3 1/2 hours.

Friday, 30th September.

We broke camp at KUMBENE at 7.15am. After retracing yesterday's route for a few hundred yards, we began climbing fairly steeply over a ridge of the KUMBENE Range. On reaching the top, we had a good view of the area towards the IORO River. This was reasonably level and a road could be constructed over it. We then descended on to this level, slightly swampy ground and headed off in a north westerly direction. At 8am, we passed through KENDENBINI Hamlet and entered cane grass country. At 8.5am, we left the cane grass and garden areas and began moving through timbered country. At 9.20am, the LINUNGEI Creek was crossed by a log bridge. At 9.50am, we came out onto a large patch of swampy kumai grass. The track up to this stage had been moving over almost level country.

For the next half hour, we moved over undulating country covered by cane grass and some garden lands. At 10.05am, the ANGUGUBA Creek was crossed by stepping stones. A road bridge could be built over this creek. After three quarters of an hour walk through level timbered country, we descended to a small creek which was followed downstream for a few hundred yards, until the track climbed sharply from the creek bed, crossed a ridge, and then descended fairly steeply towards the ANO-GUBA River which we crossed by means of a suspension bridge. The track then climbed steeply from the river for several minutes. It then resumed traversing level timbered country. At 12 noon, after crossing several small creeks, we arrived on level ground, swampy in patches, covered with cane grass and native gardens.

At 1.20pm, we started descending very steeply down the INI River gorge. The river was crossed at the bottom by means of a suspension bridge. We reached PIARI Dance Ground at 1.45pm. We crossed through steeply undulating country.

Sufficient native food was purchased from the local natives.

No rain fell.

Walking time - 6½ hours.

Saturday, 1st October.

We left PIARI at 6.45am moving in a northerly direction across cane grass and garden lands. Shortly after crossing a low ridge, we entered level timbered country. At 7.35am, we descended about 100ft. and crossed the INI River by a log bridge. The track then led over slightly undulating timbered ground until the garden grounds of ENGELA were reached. During this section the INI River was again crossed by a log bridge approximately 40ft. long. Here, the INI River was flowing through a gorge nearly 80ft. deep under the bridge. The gardens at ENGELA are situated on a series of ridges.

After leaving ENGELA, the track descends to cross a creek then climbs up to a level timbered ridge which is followed in a north westerly direction towards the SABB Garden Lands. These were reached at 11.45am, after a two hour journey from ENGELA. At SABB enquiries were made to find out if a track led on towards DIMIPA. The answer was in the negative. So we began to break bush and construct our own track. The going became rougher so we climbed the ridge whose slopes we were following. From the top we could see a series of ranges heading in a North-East - South-West direction. We descended half way down the ridge we were on, until we came to a level area of ground, suitable for a camp site. As rain was threatening we made camp.

Rice issued to police and carriers.

Heavy rain during late afternoon and evening.

Walking time - 6½ hours.

Sunday, 2nd October.

The patrol broke camp at 7am. We continued to descend down the ridge we were camped on until the creek at the bottom was reached. The patrol then crossed the second ridge and climbed to the top of the third one. Here we came upon a well used native pad, which was followed in a northerly direction, along ridge tops for 2 hours, until the track descended towards the ANGA River Valley.

Camp was made in bush at 1pm, as rain was threatening. Rice issued to police and carriers. Rain fell at night. The road would lead northwards crossing the IONG River by a log bridge near KENDAMIRI Maniat before entering this section some swampy patches would be crossed.

Monday, 3rd October.

We broke camp at 7.15am and continued following the track we were on yesterday. At 8am, we discovered a large grove of small pandanus trees, following which a creek was forded. At 9am, we came out onto some garden lands in the ANGA River Valley. The patrol then followed a well used track leading northwards. This track was followed level rising ground covered with timber. At 11.15am, after fording a creek the track turned and began leading us in a north-westerly direction in the direction of DINIFA. The track also began to ascend more steeply. After crossing four small creeks - presumably headwaters of the ANGA River - we reached the top of the ridge at 12.45pm. After half an hour's walk, descending fairly steeply we forded the MANGANI Creek. During the next two hours before reaching DINIFA, we traversed numerous pandanus groves and crossed a number of creeks flowing through steeply undulating country.

At 4.30pm, the patrol left DINIFA following the road and arrived at MENDI at 6.30pm. The writer reported to the District Commissioner, in the vicinity of MENDI. Further investigation is required to determine whether this section has any difficult parts. A log road would be constructed over the IMIR River here as the river's gorge is only 40 feet wide at the top. The route from the IMI River to MENDI would be over slightly undulating ground.

END OF DIARY.

Over this section, the road would pass through grass and some grass country for about ten miles and through forest for about eight miles. Approximately, eight large bridges would be required.

MENDI & ANGA RIVER HEADWATERS - Detailed section would be required around MENDI as this place is situated on ground which descends fairly steeply to the ANGA River, which containing a creek the route again enters broken ground. From there to DINIFA it traverses almost level country, though it would be possible for a road to be constructed from there to DINIFA. The bridge over the ANGA River would require close examination.

Except for about half a mile in which the route passes through grass and garden lands, the whole of this section is through forest. The length of the section through forest would be in the vicinity of eleven miles.



Roads and Bridges.

alternatives - The route here could follow the  
 a small It appears possible that a vehicular road could be  
 (constructed from IALIBU to MENDI via the slopes of MT. GILUWE  
 but further investigations of certain sections would be needed  
 first.

Of these alternatives, I think the better: IALIBU - ENGELE Section. - There would be no difficulty  
 in constructing a road across the IALIBU Basin. It could branch  
 off the IALIBU-NAGEN Road about two miles from IALIBU and then  
 follow a ridge towards KENDAKI and the IARO River. The latter  
 could be crossed by a log bridge. The road could then, generally,  
 follow the native pad from KENDAKI to KUBENGE. Near the IARO River  
 the road would head northwards crossing the IARO River by a log  
 bridge north of the KUBENGE Range. The road would then move in a  
 north-west direction passing near KENDENBINI Hamlet before entering  
 the timber country. In this section some swampy patches would be  
 crossed. The timber could be used for milling. There is some very  
 good timber, in quantity and quality, along the ridges on  
 the eastern side of the range.

After passing through level or slightly undulating timbered  
 country it would cross the LINUNGI and ANSUGURA Creeks. Near the  
 ANSUGURA River a little difficulty may arise in crossing a small  
 creek and a ridge which descends fairly steeply to the ANSUGURA  
 River. Careful grading of the road would overcome this difficulty.  
 About half a mile upstream from the native suspension bridge over  
 the ANSUGURA River, there is a small island. I think a vehicular  
 road could cross this river by two log bridges using this island  
 otherwise the river in this area appears to be too wide for the  
 construction of a log bridge but could be crossed by a steel hawser  
 bridge.

In constructing a road between the ANSUGURA and INI Rivers, as this area is almost level and appears  
 that this There should be no difficulty in constructing a road between  
 all the ANSUGURA and INI Rivers, as this area is almost level and appears  
 of practically free of creeks. It is impossible to cross the INI River  
 in the vicinity of PIARI. I think the road could follow a native  
 pad which exists to the north of PIARI and cross the INI River  
 in the vicinity of ENGELE. Further investigation would be required  
 to establish whether this section has any difficult parts. A log bridge  
 could be constructed over the INI River here as the river's gorge  
 is only 40 feet wide at the top. The route from the INI River to  
 ENGELE would be over slightly undulating ground.

George B. Baker.

Over this section, the road would pass through grass and  
 cane grass country for about ten miles and through forest for about  
 eight miles. Approximately, eight large bridges would be required.

ENGELE - ANGA River Section. - Careful grading would be  
 required around ENGELE as this place is situated on grassland  
 which descends fairly steeply to the INI River. After crossing a  
 creek the route again enters timber country. From here to SABB  
 it traverses almost level country. I think it would be possible  
 for a road to be constructed from SABB over a low range and then  
 down a creek valley to the ANGA River Valley. This section would  
 require closer examination.

Except for about half a mile at ENGELE where the route passes  
 through grass and garden lands, the whole of this section is  
 through forest. The length of the section through forest would be  
 in the vicinity of eight miles.

ANGA River - HENDI Section. - The route here could follow two alternatives - (1) Go in a northerly direction through forest, over a small range then cross over numerous ridges and creeks to DIMIPA (route followed by writer) (2) Cross the YOYO Range and follow a creek valley to the south of GLANYS KNOB into HENDI.

Of these alternatives, I think the second one would be the better if a satisfactory route over the range can be found. The first alternative is suitable except that a lot of grading would be required to cross the numerous creeks situated between DIMIPA and the small range referred to. Both these routes pass mainly through forest. Rough approximations of the distances in each case would be twelve miles for the first alternative and ten miles for the second.

Timber resources on the route. - As already mentioned the road would traverse mainly forest country. Practically along the whole route the timber could be used for milling. There is some very good milling timber, in quantity and quality, along the ridges on the eastern side of the ANGA River, good worker but lacks discipline.

Supply of native labour to construct road. - Except in the vicinity of the IALIBU Basin, there are almost no natives living along the route the road would take. If the road was constructed, the labour would have to come from the people living along the present HENDI - IALIBU line of communication and from the DIMIPA - KONIA Groups living in the Upper Nandi Valley, but efficient and a hard worker.

Conclusion.

As can be seen from the above a lot of work would be entailed in constructing a road following the route mentioned. I would suggest that this route be used only as a last resort after examination of all possible routes between HENDI and IALIBU on the southern side of MT. SIEUVE.

*George D. Oakes*

George D. Oakes,  
Cadet Patrol Officer.  
George D. Oakes,  
Cadet Patrol Officer.

APPENDIX 'A'.

PATROL REPORT MENDI NO. 5 OF 1955/56.

Report on members of the Royal Fijian and New Guinea Constabulary  
accompanying the patrol.

Reg. No.	1402	Sgt.	KEFE	Carried out his duties extremely well. Was very helpful to the younger policeman on this patrol.
" "	6738	Const.	MASARU	A good worker but lacks discipline.
" "	8227	"	KOUPERA	A good worker who is keen to learn. Needs experience.
" "	8504	"	TORABARI	A good worker but lacks experience.
" "	8705	"	KAUBA	Quiet, but efficient and a hard worker.
" "	8608	"	MAWEI	Another good worker but needs experience.
" "	9081	"	AWA-ALI	A quiet worker in need of experience.

*7 of 55/56*  
*R.M. CLARIDGE*

*George J. Oakes*  
George J. Oakes.  
Cadet Patrol Officer.

7 OF 55/56

R.M. CLARIDGE

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

RNC.vHG

File No. 30/1 - 545.

District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

16th November, 1955.

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

P/R. Mendi 5 - 1955/56  
Mr. R.M. Claridge.

Patrol Report, in duplicate, and relative map are forwarded herewith.

2. This report records another of the unpredictable incidents which have occurred in the District since its establishment.

My only explanation for such incidents is the infrequency of consistent patrolling by experienced officers and this occasioned by the shortage of such officers to carry out this important work. In such new areas as the Southern Highlands it is essential to consolidate our influence in areas contacted before moving to uncontacted areas.

3. The MAI area, in which this incident occurred, is only five hours walk from Mendi Station, it has been frequently visited by passing patrols and they should fully appreciate the prohibitions on fighting.

4. Mr. Claridge was instructed to investigate and stop native unrest in the area. This fighting was caused by the ANDESAMAI-MORANDA natives killing two of the KAMBEMAI-IBI natives because they suspected them of killing, by sorcery, two of their own group. Retaliation, under these circumstances, was considered justified and general fighting broke out after calling in neighbouring groups to assist.

Intervention by the patrol was unwelcomed and the ANDESAMAI-MORANDA group finally attacked.

5. The evidence shows that there was a deliberate attempt made by the attackers to kill the patrol leader and no doubt they were urged and persisted in their endeavours by the apparent belief that firearms make a loud noise only and are not capable of serious damage. This is an accepted belief amongst natives in the District because very few fatalities have resulted from the rifle.

6. As soon as an experienced officer is available he will be sent to the area to consolidate.

7. Camping Allowance Claims are attached.

*Robt. R. Cole*  
(Robt. R. Cole)  
District Commissioner.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

MEMORANDUM :

PATROL REPORT NO. 7 OF 1955/56. MENDI, SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS DISTRICT.

of serious unrest in the TAGENGA area. Firstly, two natives were reported to have been murdered at IRI and secondly, as a result of these murders, tribal fighting had commenced involving groups from IRI and MAX and the WAGGE from TAGENGA and MOKARA. The patrol remained in the area for two weeks.

REPORT OF PATROL TO : TAGENGA Area.

PATROL CONDUCTED BY : R. M. CLARIDGE, Patrol Officer.

ACCOMPANIED BY : DR. L. E. PETRAUSKAS and G.P.O. J. J. PICKRELL. (last week only).

OBJECTS OF PATROL : 1) Investigate reports of native murders in the area.  
2) Stop Tribal fighting in the area.

DURATION OF PATROL : 17th October, 1955 to 31st October, 1955. Fifteen (15) days.

NATIVE PERSONNEL : 1) R.F. & N.G.C. Nine (9) for the first week. Nineteen (19) for the second week.

2) Carriers, Average 35.  
3) Two Native Medical Orderlies.  
4) One Native Interpreter.

MAP REFERENCE : See sketch map attached.

LAST PATROL TO AREA : Mr. A. M. KEOGH, Patrol Officer. MAY, 1956.

Summary: 17th October.

Left TITANA at 08:00hrs with nine police and twenty carriers. A few headmen from Mendii and TITANA also accompanied. Followed along the banks of the ALMA River in a southerly direction. At 07:00hrs we branched off to the South-East and gradually dropped down towards the MOKARA River. At 05:00hrs we saw two groups of armed men but they made no contact with us. We were then surrounded by a group of about 100 armed warriors but only one was killed. We retreated into the bush. Finally crossed the bridge over the MOKARA River at 07:00hrs - several carriers had just been recruited. On our arrival at the bridge a group of armed men and were lined the opposite bank. They fired and our carriers were shot at. We then moved the carriers to the opposite bank.

At 08:00hrs we were surrounded by a group of about 100 armed warriors but only one was killed. We retreated into the bush. Finally crossed the bridge over the MOKARA River at 07:00hrs - several carriers had just been recruited. On our arrival at the bridge a group of armed men and were lined the opposite bank. They fired and our carriers were shot at. We then moved the carriers to the opposite bank.

INTRODUCTION :

This was special patrol to investigate reports of serious unrest in the TAGENDA area. Firstly, two natives were reported to have been murdered at IBI and secondly, as a result of these murders, tribal fighting had commenced involving groups from IBI and MAI and the people from TAGENDA and MORANDA. The patrol remained in the area for two weeks. During this time we were attacked and one native from MORANDA was killed ( see special report attached ).

Dr. L. Petrauskas and CPO J. Pickrell joined the patrol on the 22nd October, 1955. Mr. D.J. Clancy visited the patrol in his capacity of Coroner, on the 22nd - 23rd October, 1955.

The patrol remained in the one area all the time. A satisfactory conclusion to the patrol was not reached and an immediate follow up patrol is highly desirable.

PATROL DIARY :

Monday, 17th October, 1955.

Departed Mendi Government Station at 0845hrs and arrived TUTAMA Rest House at 1205hrs. Made camp.

Recalled the two constables who were out on road work and advised them that they would accompany the patrol tomorrow. Talked with local natives about the affair at TAGENDA and found out where the fighting groups were situated. Also heard that armed guards have been placed on the road leading to the area.

Very little food available; had to issue rice and meat to the police. Light showers at night. Rest house in good condition.

Tuesday 18th October.

Left TUTAMA at 0600hrs with nine police and twenty carriers. A few Headmen from Mendi and TUTAMA also came along. Followed along the banks of the ANGA River in a Southerly direction. At 0750hrs we branched off to the South-East and gradually dropped down towards the ANGURA River. At 0800hrs we saw two armed men watching our approach but they made off before we could get near them. Continued descending gradually through scattered gardens and surprised a group of about a dozen warriors but once again they scattered into the bush. Finally reached the bridge over the Angura River at 0815hrs - several makeshift huts had just been evacuated. On our arrival at the bridge a group of armed men who were lining the opposite bank ran away. Myself and four constables went over first to guard the crossing for the carriers.

At 0845hrs two unarmed men came up to us. I spoke to them and advised them of our intentions in the area and they replied that all the men had evacuated their women and children and were themselves camped in the bush. All the carriers over by 0915hrs. Followed the river upstream for about five minutes then ascended through pitpit and old gardens to TAGENDA C.G. at 0935hrs and made camp.

Tuesday, 18th October (Cont.)

Whilst erecting the tents, SSMaj. DUBA caught one armed man watching the camp from the nearby bush and several others were disturbed but got away. About 30 men visited the camp during the day but most of them came from a small hamlet further up the Angura River. We learnt much from these people. They gave us the names of groups participating in the fighting and also the names of the murderers - these names agreed with the information already gathered elsewhere.

One large pig was sent in by one of the wanted men as a gift to the court - a Bailer shell and a Mother of Pearl shell were sent back to him. Soon after mid-day the natives started gathering on the ridges and shouted threats to us - they kept telling us to return to Mendi or else they would fight us. Through V.C PABI of Mendi I told them to come down to our camp and talk the matter over. Nothing happened.

No women or children seen today and all the houses seen have been unoccupied for some time.

No native foods purchased so rice and meat issued to the patrol. At 1600hrs I heard that A.D.O. Clancy had made camp at the bridge so with 4 constables I went down and returned again after dark. Guards posted around the camp at night. Altitude 5150' A.S.L..

Wednesday 19th October.

A few old men came in with sugar cane at 1000hrs. These men came from the IABI area to the north. They went away as soon as we had bought their food. No other natives visited the camp today although the neighboring ridges echoed with threats of a pending battle with us. Kept guards posted day and night. At night we could see bright torch sticks moving across to the other side of the river and the carriers said that it was the women being evacuated from the bush camps.

Rice and meat issued to the patrol. Rain at night.

Thursday 20th October.

Decided to move to a safer spot so broke camp at 0630hrs. The carriers under escort moved on ahead while I remained behind with five police to guard the rear. Five armed natives who were trailing our party were surprised and apprehended on the way. Camp was made at MORANDA at 0830hrs. Remained in camp all day. Seven natives were caught watching the camp from the bush; they were taken into custody - one of these men was a native implicated in the IBI murders. The perimeter of the camp was cleared of all undergrowth to an area I considered safe in case of an attack.

Questioned the men caught today and verified names etc of the wanted men. I was told they would not give themselves up as they feared they would be gaoled. Learnt that they were camped near the river so will go down there tomorrow and try and contact them.

No food purchased so issued rice and meat. Heavy rain during the afternoon and evening. Police guards posted and changed every two hours.



Friday 21st October.

Left camp at 0530hrs in an endeavour to contact the people. At 0755hrs we were confronted with a group of about 30 armed men. They were a typical fighting unit armed with bows and arrows and fighting shields. The two men suspected of the murders which have given rise to this outbreak of fighting were recognized as being members of this party. They were pointed out to me by the TUTAMA Headman, WORIA, who was accompanying the patrol. The names of these two men are BUSU and NEMA of Wanda. I called out to these two men who were about 50 yards away from us to surrender to me for questioning. They replied they would not do so and if I attempted to take them they would attack us. I again insisted to the group that I was not here for fighting but only desired to halt the fighting and to question these two men. Some of the party started to move above us and general shouting broke out - they burst into their warcries at the same time. They were receiving instructions from another party located in the limestone cliffs immediately above us. We ourselves moved to a higher position to prevent being placed in a lower and untenable position. I again called out that we were not to be attacked and if they persisted in this riotous manner I would put them in gaol. They did persist and it looked likely that fighting would break out. Corporal AKURU pointed out that we were in a bad spot in that we were in range of falling rocks if the top group decided to push any onto us. We moved a short distance, about a hundred yards to be out of range. Immediately after warning them again that they must not molest us and I saw that this warning went unheeded I fired a warning shot over their heads to let them be under no false apprehension that we were unarmed.

Shortly after this we entered bush to go down to the river and as we were making our way along the track, Cpl. AKURU who was about 10 feet in front of me, doubled back and said we were being attacked. I heard the bow strings snapping and I saw one arrow fly above him. I immediately dived behind a tree and cocked my rifle. I gestured to the party behind me to go to the ground which they did. As I dived behind the tree an arrow struck it. Within seconds a second volley of arrows flew over our heads and natives were heard moving on our flanks attempting to surround us. I told the police to cock their rifles but not to fire as yet. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a native with a drawn bow and arrow. The arrow was pointed at either V.C. KARA or myself. I swung and fired a snap shot at his arm and he dived back into the bush. This man had been standing about 15 to 20 feet to my right. At the time I did not know that the native had been hit. After this shot the attackers dropped to the ground and quietness fell. I ordered my party to remain on the ground and not to fire without orders. We waited so for about five minutes then edged our way slowly forward. We could here movement around us but could see nothing. After waiting a short time we scouted around and V.C. KARA quietly called us over to him and showed us NEMA, the man we had been trying to contact. He was dead and had died from a gunshot wound which had gone through his left upper arm, through and shattering his shield and thence through his body emerging above the right hip. We retreated as soon as I considered it safe and carried the body with us. At 0815hrs we came onto a garden site and could hear the native still following us through the bush. I called on them again to come out into the open and talk with us but no reply was heard. The body was heavy and hampering our retreat so we left it in the garden for his kinsmen to collect.

Friday 31st October. (Cont).

We returned to camp and notified the Assistant District Officer by runner of what had transpired. At 1000hrs we heard some carriers coming out from Mendi - they were singing as they walked. Sent four constables down to the bridge to escort them up.

Remained in camp for the rest of the day. Released one of the men apprehended near the camp yesterday and sent him with a message to the attacking party to come to the camp and discuss the situation peacefully. He returned about two hours later and told us that NEMA had been buried but did not see any natives. He also said that he had heard the men shouting out to people further South that I had been shot.

Kept guards posted day and night. No rain.

Saturday 22nd October.

Remained in camp all day. No contact with the natives. The interpreter kept shouting out that we were remaining in the area until they came in for discussions.

Mr. Clancy, A.D.O., Dr. Petrauskas and Mr. Pickrell arrived at Moranda camp at 1630hrs with extra police and rations.

Discussions at night. Sentries posted.

Sunday 23rd October.

All Europeans and ten police went and inspected the scene of the ambush and also viewed the body of NEMA - it had been laid under an overhanging rock and covered with kumai. While we were here a native sang out to us from the rock cliffs above. He told us that the people would not come down until the Government left for Mendi. We tried to induce them to come and talk but to no avail.

Returned to camp at 1100hrs. During the Afternoon Mr. Clancy took evidence for the inquiry. Rain late afternoon and night. Rice and meat issued.

Monday 24th October.

A.D.O. Clancy departed for Mendi at 0750hrs with police escort - the police returned when the party had reached TUTAMA.

A few old men came in today and at 1000hrs Headman BUSU came in and gave himself up - he was a member of the raiding party to IBI when two men were killed. He said his people would not come back to their houses while we remained in the area. The native Nema, who was shot, was BUSU's brother. He said he would come back to Mendi with us but none of the other natives would do so. I admired his courage in coming in but had to detain him for further questioning. The natives reappeared on the ridges during the day but our efforts to get them to come to us were fruitless. Later on another pig was sent in with four nondescripts in an endeavour to settle for the attack on the patrol. This was refused but later purchased for 2 M.O.P. shells. Remained in camp. A little food purchased. Rain late afternoon.

Tuesday 25th October.

Remained in camp all day. Six old men brought in some sugar cane which was purchased with paint. Endeavoured to use these men as envoys but fear their presence in camp only to ascertain our intentions and strength.

A police runner arrived ex Mendi at 1500hrs. Heavy rain from 1600hrs onwards. Rice and meat issued.

Wednesday 26th October.

Left camp at 0700hrs to visit IBI and MAI villages. So far nothing has been seen of these people and I want to get any witnesses that were present at the murders. Climbed steeply to the crest of a nearby ridge at 0740hrs. A native saw us coming and immediately shouted to his fellows to run. We sang out that we only wished to see them about the two men who were reported to have been murdered at IBI. However nothing could hold them and soon we could hear shouting from both IBI and MAI. Went to IBI ceremonial ground at 0815hrs and inspected the house reported to have been burnt down by the Tagenda raiding party. A new grave was also seen adjacent to the remains of the house. V.C. KARA said that a man named KANGERUGI had been arrested and then burnt in this house. Noted that none of the houses (except one house-man) had been used for several days or even longer - evidently all the aged and women had been evacuated when fighting broke out between the two groups.

Went over to the nearby village of MAI but did not see anyone. This ceremonial ground is surrounded by five sets of tall palisades - some of them had recently been repaired. Walked through this area and returned to camp at 1415hrs. Only a couple of natives visited the camp today. Rain from 1330hrs until late at night. Rice and meat issued.

Thursday 27th October.

Remained in camp. No natives in. Commenced building a permanent rest house at Moranda for use on future patrols - site allocated by Headman BUSU. Finished the wall framework today; found it very slow without nails but still managed to make a sound job.

A police runner in from Mendi at 1630hrs. Rain again during the afternoon.

Friday 28th October.

Remained in camp. Only a few regular old men in but still none of the fighting types. No women or children seen. Continued work on the building. Wall and roof framework now complete. Heavy rain stopped work during the afternoon.

Saturday 29th October.

Continued on the house. Put battens on the roof and started tying the grass on. Shouted threats recommenced today. The natives told us that if we did not leave the YARIA's would come and help them drive us out. Advised them that we were remaining for discussions.

Constable MONDO returned Mendi at 0630hrs this morning. Rain during the afternoon and night. Rice and meat issued.

Sunday 30th October.

Remained in camp again today. Started work on the rest house at 0600hrs. At 1000hrs about 150 men and women from FIGA (Tengerepa Group) came in with grass. These people are friends of the Mendi's and live to the north of here on the Angura River. They came in to help with the building.

Completed the job at 1700hrs. Paid the visitors for their assistance. Still no natives from this area in but they kept up the shouting all day.

Due back at Mendi tomorrow so packed all the gear ready for an early start. Instructed two old men to watch the rest house and see that it is not burnt down after we leave. They said they would do this as they are tired of all the fighting.

Monday 31st October.

Broke camp at 0800hrs and descended steeply to the Angura River. The policemen that I had sent down earlier this morning had just about completed a new log bridge - the old one had been washed away in the heavy rains. All cargo across by 0815hrs and reached TUTAMA Village at 0930hrs. At a suitable spot along the road I allowed the policemen to fire five rounds each at a target for practice.

Moved on at 1000hrs and reached Mendi at 1300hrs. Reported to the Assistant District Officer.

END OF DIARY.

NATIVE AFFAIRS:

As mentioned in the Introduction, the purpose of this patrol was to carry out an investigation of two suspected murders and a serious outbreak of tribal fighting in the TAGENDA area.

The situation found on my arrival in the area was:

- (a) Two male adult natives from MORANDA had died of suspected sorcery about a month ago. They were natives BORO and TAGE.
- (b) As a result of these deaths a group of Moranda natives (ANDESAMAI Group) went to IBI and killed two men of the KAMBERAI Group. They were KANBERUGU and NERI who were blamed for the deaths of BORO and TAGE because of their repute as competent sorcerers. KANBERUGU was shot with an arrow then placed in his house and the lot burnt down. I do not know if the man was dead or alive when placed in the house as several different versions have been given to me. The other man NERI was shot, but he escaped to a village in another area where he subsequently died from his wounds.
- (c) As a result of the above the two groups prepared for battle bringing in outside groups to assist. On my arrival, the women, children and pigs were in the process of moving from Tagenda to the YARIA area. The natives from IAGO on the Eastern banks of the Angura River, and at this stage,

NATIVE AFFAIRS. (CONT).

taken up arms and joined the Tagenda people. Their main task was to guard the eastern area from possible enemies coming in from that direction.

Day to day activities have been fully outlined in the diary. From the outset the patrol endeavoured to peacefully discuss the situation with the natives. We told them that I would witness payment for the four deaths if the two groups assembled before me. The groups involved - Andesamai and Kambamai - are the main sections of the larger group of MAI and it was thought that payment of compensation was the best method of solving the trouble in the eyes of the multitude. On numerous occasions we sent the visitors to the camp back with this talk. However, they would not listen to this; instead they continued to hurl abuse at the patrol and eventually attacked us (see special report attached). At the time of the attack we were endeavouring to apprehend five natives - OGE, OBARO, NEMA, KILIBIA and BUSU - for questioning about the two IBI murders. During the course of the patrol OGE, OBARO and BUSU were taken into custody and NEMA shot. KILIBIA is still at large

Native Headman BUSU, who later gave himself up to the patrol, stated that two natives led the attack on us. They were NEMA and POGUTA of the ANDESAMAI Group. They preferred to do this rather than be gaoled for tribal fighting. This may be so in relation to the actual attack but BUSU was commanding the large group that confronted us prior to the ambush and it was he who dispersed his forces and acted as spokesman for the group. BUSU was wearing the mark of a BossBoy given to him three years ago and he certainly knew of the laws relating to fighting and killing. This area is only five hours walk from Mendi and has had numerous patrols in and around it - especially at YARIA which is on the other side of the river.

As mentioned in the diary, we made no contact with the natives prior to leaving the area. I think this was due to one of two reasons :-

- a) They prefer to settle accounts in their own way, i.e. with arms and the inevitable payback.
- b) Their fears of the normal penal consequences associated with fighting.

From this it can be seen that the present native situation in the area is far from good and consequently requires an extended patrol to the area to regain contact and effective control. The time of two weeks allowed for this patrol was not long enough as it requires exceptional patience for a task such as this there fore the next patrol should remain in the field for at least one - two months.

The present situation is that both groups are still encamped in bush dwellings. Whether the death of one of their number has any quietening effect remains to be seen. They did not show it up until the time I left the area.

Carriers

Local men were recruited from the KAMBIRI group and although there was very little carrying done they acquitted themselves well whilst in foreign territory. They also built the rest house at MORANDA. Two Village Constables and four Councillors from the Mendi area also accompanied the patrol. They were used as spokesmen and proved to be very helpful with their local knowledge.

APPENDIX "A".

REPORT NATIVE AFFAIRS: THE NATIVE CONSULATORY ACCOMPANYING THE PATROL

Demonstration of Firearms

Reg. No. 1085. DUBA

The tree pigs bought during the patrol were publically shot with the service rifle. Precautions were taken to ensure that the people understood what was about to happen and afterwards the spent bullet was dug from the ground and shown to them.

Reg. No. 5193. GORST.

On two occasions we were told by the hostile party that our rifles only made a loud noise and to date they had not seen a man hit by one. This may have some bearing on their complete indifference to the patrol.

Trade: 8894. SANI

Very little food was bought during the patrol. Not only because of the lack of vendors but also due to the short supply throughout the Wendi Valley and this area. Paint salt and shell trade was used with success here.

CONCLUSION: 8901. TERISA

Comments under the normal headings have been omitted from this report due to the special nature of it.

The unfortunate but unavoidable death of one village native is regretted by myself and by the patrol as a whole.

Reg. No. 7898. POKING Last week only.

Mr. Pickrell C.P.O. joined the patrol for the last week and showed himself to be a dilligent and keen worker. The experiences gained on this short trip by him will prove beneficial on later patrols.

Reg. No. 8111. LAGASA

Reg. No. 8608. KAWET

Reg. No. 9081. AWA'ALI

The whole detachment deserves credit for the exemplary manner in which members served their duties. The P.C.O.'s especially proved their worth in the degree of control and coolness in exceptional circumstances. L/Cpl. PERONG who was only recently promoted, maintained his high standard of efficiency.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
R. M. Claridge, P.O.


*[Handwritten signature]*  
R. M. Claridge  
10111st, U.S.A. Army

APPENDIX "A".

REPORT ON MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE CONSTABULARY ACCOMPANYING THE PATROL

Reg. No. 1093.	S/Maj.	DUBA	
Reg. No. 2269.	Cpl.	AKURU	
Reg. No. 7000.	l/Cpl.	PERORO	Complete
Reg. No. 6103.	Const.	VI	
Reg. No. 7838.	"	KOMBOI	Patrol.
Reg. No. 8504.	"	TORAEABI	
Reg. No. 8394.	"	SANI	
Reg. No. 9100.	"	NAWE	
Reg. No. 9171.	"	NAROKAI	
<hr/>			
Reg. No. 3080.	l/Cpl.	TERIEA	
Reg. No. 2862.	Const.	DABARU	
Reg. No. 4118.	"	TANGORO	
Reg. No. 6400.	"	WAINO	
Reg. No. 7568.	"	POKINO	Last week only.
Reg. No. 7866.	"	MALIONGUN	
Reg. No. 3480.	"	WAROPI	
Reg. No. 8511.	"	LAGASA	
Reg. No. 8608.	"	MAWEI	
Reg. No. 9081.	"	AWA'ALI	

The whole detachment deserves praise for the exemplary manner in which members carried out their duties. The N.C.O's especially proved their worthiness by the degree of control and coolness in exceptional circumstances. l/Cpl. PERORO who was only recently promoted, maintained his high standard of efficiency.

  
 R. M. Claridge.  
 (Officer, R.P. & N.G.C.)

APPENDIX "B".

APPENDIX "B" (Cont).

REPORT ON THE DEATH OF NEMA:

(Extract from patrol Diary). 21st October, 1955.

Left camp at 0530hrs in an endeavour to contact the people. At 0735hrs we were confronted by a group of about 30 armed men. They were a typical fighting unit armed with bows and arrows and fighting shields. The two men suspected of the murders that have given rise to this outbreak of fighting were recognized as being members of this party. They were pointed out to me by the Tutana Headman, WOHIA, who was accompanying the patrol. The names of these two men are BUSU and NEMA of MORANDA. I called out to these two men who were about 50 yards away from us to surrender to me for questioning. They replied they would not do so and if I attempted to take them they would attack us. I again insisted to the group that I was not here for fighting but only desired to halt the fighting and to question these two men. Some of the party started to move above us and general shouting broke out - they burst into their war cries at the same time. They were receiving instructions from another party located in the limestone cliffs immediately above us. We ourselves moved to a higher position to prevent being placed in a lower and untenable position. I again called out that we were not to be attacked and if they persisted in this riotous manner I would put them in gaol. They did persist and it looked likely that fighting would break out. Cpl. AKURU pointed out that we were in a bad spot in that we were in range of falling rocks if the top group decided to push any onto us. We moved a short distance, about a hundred yards to be out of range. Immediately after warning them again that they must not molest us and I saw that this warning went unheeded I fired a warning shot over their heads to let them be under no false apprehension that we were unarmed.

Shortly after this we entered bush to go down to the river and as we were making our way along the track, Cpl AKURU, who was about ten feet ahead of me, doubled back and said we were being attacked. I heard the bow strings snapping and I saw one arrow fly above him. I immediately dived behind a tree and cocked my rifle. I gestured to the party behind me to go to the ground which they did. As I dived behind the tree an arrow struck it. Within seconds a second volley of arrows flew over our heads and natives were heard moving on our flanks attempting to surround us. I told the police to cock their rifles but not to fire as yet. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a native with a drawn bow and arrow. The arrow was pointed at either V.C.KARA or myself. I swung and fired a snapshot at his arm and he dived back into the bush. This man had been standing about 15 to 20 feet to my right. At the time I did not know that the native had been hit. After this shot the attackers dropped to the ground and quietness fell. I ordered my party to remain on the ground and not to fire without orders. We waited so for about five minutes then edged out way slowly forward. We could hear movement around us but could see nothing. After waiting a short time we scouted around and V.C.KARA quietly called us over and showed us NEMA, the man we had been trying to contact. He was dead and had died from a gunshot wound which had gone through his left upper arm, through and shattering his shield and thence through his body emerging above the right hip. We retreated as soon as I considered it safe and carried the body with us. At 0815hrs we came onto a garden site and could hear the natives still following us through the bush. I called on them again to come out into the open and talk with us but no reply was received. The body was heavy and hampering our retreat so we left it in the garden for his kinsmen to collect.



APPENDIX "B" (Cont).

In the actual ambush I do not know for sure how many men were in the aggressor party but both AKURU and myself are of the opinion that about 10-12 men were in front of us and an unknown number were pressing in on each flank. The entire attack from the moment of the first arrow to the end of the skirmish took approximately thirty seconds.

At the time when we were returning we could hear the people on the hilltops shouting out to their friends that I had been killed. At the time of the attack I could not extricate my group without danger to my men and we had to remain still and quiet. At no time did I show any aggression and repeatedly insisted to the people that I was interested only in stopping the fight and interviewing the alleged murderers.

The only shots fired were both fired by myself and one of these was a warning shot and the second was fired out of dire necessity when our lives were in immediate danger. If I had not fired, I or V.O. KARA would have been wounded or killed. NEMA could hardly of missed at such short range.

The patrol retreated as soon as was practicable so as to avoid further conflict and possible bloodshed.



R. M. Claridge, P.O.

Mendi 8 of 55/56

R. M. CLARIDGE

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

R&C.VHG

File No: 30/1 - 826.

District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

19th January, 1956.

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

Mendi P/R. 8 - 1955/56.

Report in duplicate for your information, please.

2. It is obvious this area needs a slow moving patrol with unlimited time and an experienced officer and then I consider we may make headway with these people. They have given trouble for years and there must be a showdown soon.
3. When I get an officer he will be given this patrol as a priority.
4. Camping allowance claims are attached.

  
(Robert R. Cole)  
District Commissioner.

Two parties with all their belongings moved to Yavia and some near the bridge at the same time. The area around Mendi and MARIWA has been quiet since that time.

A few natives were seen during the night near the heavy ridges but they would not answer our calls.

Constable WILSON was in at MARIWA from Mendi. Miss and Mrs. James were seen at night.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT NO. 2 OF 1955/56. WENDI, SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS DISTRICT.

This patrol was of a special nature to investigate further outbreaks of tribal fighting in the TAGENDA and YARIA areas. Since the last patrol in this area in late October, the Tagenda and Yaria areas were reported to be quiet by the WENDI group of I.M.I. The only trouble reported was that the Government would not permit the WENDI group to be allowed to return to their homes.

REPORT OF PATROL TO : TAGENDA and YARIA Areas.

PATROL OFFICER : R. M. CLARIDGE, Patrol Officer.

ACCOMPANIED BY : A. M. KEOGH, Patrol Officer.

OBJECTS OF PATROL : Investigate reports of further fighting in the area.

DURATION OF PATROL : 14th December, 1955 to 23rd December, 1955. Ten (10) days.

NATIVE PERSONNEL : 1) R.P. & N.G.C. - 18 Members.

2) Native Carriers - average 50.

3) Two Medical Orderlies.

4) Two Interpreters.

MAP REFERENCE : See sketch map attached.

LAST PATROL TO AREA : 1) TAGENDA - R. M. Claridge, P.O.

2) YARIA - A. M. Keogh, P.O.

Although the patrol was successful in the investigation of the Tagenda and Yaria areas, the WENDI group was not seen. The patrol was successful in the investigation of the Tagenda and Yaria areas, but the WENDI group was not seen. The patrol was successful in the investigation of the Tagenda and Yaria areas, but the WENDI group was not seen.

Appointed that the line patrol was being out that above the Tagenda Government ground. Patrol guards around the camp. This continued throughout the night.

Thursday, 15th December

Inspected the area to the north of our camp. The area was quiet all day. Inspected that the Tagenda people had moved into Yaria and were now the cause of the trouble. During the afternoon we visited the area around WENDI and TAGENDA but were unable to contact the people.

A few natives were seen during the day. The Tagenda people were seen during the day but they could not be contacted.

Wendy's WENDI was in at 10.00 PM. Wendy's WENDI was in at 10.00 PM. Wendy's WENDI was in at 10.00 PM.

### INTRODUCTION:

This patrol was of a special nature to investigate further outbreaks of tribal fighting in the TAGANDA and YARIA areas. Since the last patrol to this area last October, the Taganda and Yaria people have been making organised raids on the ONAREB group of IABI. The only reason given for these attacks was that the Iabi natives had previously reported hostilities at Taganda to the authorities at Mendi - see Mendi P/R No.7 of 1955/56.

The patrol remained in the area for ten days and it was made plain that the Government would not permit fighting to continue. After investigations 44 offenders were arrested and charged with Riotous behaviour.

It remains to be seen whether this patrol will have the desired effect on these people. However, I think that until an officer can be spared for a prolonged stay under more friendly conditions, we cannot completely win them over.

### PATROL DIARY:

Wednesday 14th December, 1955.

Departed Mendi at 0830hrs with 50 carriers and 18 policemen. Moved direct to TUTAMA at 1200hrs. Told natives following the patrol to remain here and we moved on alone. Descended through IAGO grounds at 1345hrs. When the people here saw us coming they crossed over the Angura River towards Taganda. We quickly followed them down but arrived at the river just after they had cut the bridge. Police scouts caught two armed men hiding along the river bank. Heavy rain commenced. Constructed a log bridge and had all the cargo over by 1530hrs. Ascended to Moranda Rest House at 1615hrs and made camp.

Although the capping had blown off the ridge of the roof, the rest house had not been interfered with since my last visit. No native foods available so rice and meat issued to the patrol.

Ascertained that the Iago natives were hiding out just above the Taganda Ceremonial Ground. Posted guards around the camp. Rain continued throughout the night.

Thursday, 15th December.

Inspected hamlets to the north of our camp; very few natives seen all day. Learnt that the Mai people had evacuated to Yaria and some over the Range to the west. During the afternoon we visited the area around PUTI and WAGUMA but were unable to contact the people.

A few natives were seen during the day lining the nearby ridges but they would not answer our calls.

Constable WAROPI came in at 1600hrs from Mendi. Rice and meat issued again today. Rain at night.

Friday 16th December.

Mr. Keogh and myself examined the country to the south of our camp. We came back along the banks of the Mendi River without seeing any natives. During the afternoon several armed men were surprised at Tagenda and apprehended. One old woman was found sitting down near the river; she complained that she had been left behind in the rush when her people crossed the river yesterday.

Returned to camp and issued rice and meat.

Saturday 17th December.

Departed Moranda rest house at 1630hrs and descended in a southerly direction to the Mendi River. Spent three hours trying to build a bridge but could not make it due to the strong current. Moved upstream until we passed the junction of the Mendi and Angura Rivers. We then bridged each river in turn and finally had all cargo over the Mendi at 1515hrs. Ascended steeply through kunai and gardens to the Yaria grounds. The natives who had been watching our progress during the day, disappeared when we reached the crest of the ridge. Walked generally S. E. and reached MARI G.G. at 1610hrs where we made camp.

No natives came in to the camp but we found fresh tracks along the pads leading to Yaria and also along the slopes of the Mendi Gorge.

Heavy rain late afternoon and night. Rice and meat issued and guards posted.

Sunday 18th December.

Examined the lower Mendi River area - on both sides of the River. All native s seen made off on our approach. Later in the afternoon we contacted the Yaria group but their spokesman threatened us with attack if we entered their grounds. Returned to camp at 1650hrs.

Rations issued. Rain at night.

Monday 19th December.

Mr. Keogh, myself and 12 policemen left camp at 0700hrs and went to confront the Yaria's. Once again they threatened us so we moved in on them. When we reached the main ceremonial ground the natives rapidly departed into the bush to the south. The patrol followed and apprehended the headman who had made the threats and some of his henchmen. When it came to the point, these men had no desire to fight in the open but I think they would be treacherous in close country. Their only comments to us embodied a desire for us to leave them alone to carry on their own affairs.

We tried to gather the people together and even though some appeared anxious to come in, the persuasive powers of their leaders were too strong so they all remained in the bush nearby.

Returned to MARU at 1625hrs.

Tuesday 30th December.

Moved our camp from MARU to YARIA - 1 1/2 hours walk away. Remained in camp today whilst the Yaria Headman sent out to his people to come in. Some people desired to do so but the majority decision held away again and the people remained in the bush.

Investigated the surrounding country in the afternoon. On the way back to camp two armed men were surprised regarding the road - these men were arrested after a fierce struggle and taken back to camp with us.

Wednesday 31st December.

Altogether 44 men have now been arrested for fighting including the leaders from Tagenda and Yaria. This should deter the remainder of these people from further hostilities so decided to move over to Yagen tomorrow. The Yagen's have lost several men at the hands of the Tagenda and Yaria lines.

Remained in camp today and endeavoured to contact the people but no luck with them. Questioned all the men held in custody about the fighting.

Still no native feeds available and rations had to be issued.

Thursday 31st December.

Left Yaria at 0800hrs and proceeded to Yagen Rest House. Met odd groups of men along the road as stopped and talked with them. Finally made camp at 1130hrs.

Quite a large gathering of natives came during the afternoon; the women brought a little food. Discussed the recent fighting with these people and told them not to antagonise their neighbours to the south and to report any further threats of fighting in the area. Also discussed plans for the Xmas singing to be held at Mendi with local headmen.

Heavy rain again at night. Rice and meat issued to the carriers.

Friday 23rd December.

Departed Yagen at 0800hrs and walked to Mendi, arriving there at 1100hrs. Reported to the District Commissioner.

END OF DIARY.

NATIVE AFFAIRS:

As mentioned in the introduction this patrol moved out to investigate further outbreaks of fighting in the Tagenda area. In late November complaints were received from Iabi that the Tagenda people, with the assistance of the Yarias were making raids on their hamlets. The complaints continued to come in and on December 14th the patrol went to the area to arrest the offenders and to endeavour to encourage these natives to live peacefully. However, the rugged nature of the terrain gave the natives ample scope to elude us and consequently very few people were seen.

NATIVE AFFAIRS (Cont).

Evidently the results of the previous patrol have shown these people that it does not pay to hinder Government parties. Whereas before, the natives continually hurled abuse and threats and finally did attack, on this occasion the area was vacated by the people when we arrived. The Yaria natives did threaten to attack but fortunately they declined to remain when we drew close to them.

Except for the Yaria territory on the lower Mendi River, the area containing TAGENDA, MORANDA, IAGO and MAI presented a picture of desolation. The gardens have been completely mutilated and neglected and only a few new patches have been replanted on old garden sites. The normal hamlet dwellings have also been left and in some cases are now in a bad state of dilapidation. On the other hand dozens of small bush huts have been built at strategic points along the river. As we found, the natives escape across the river when any danger threatens. When we attempted to approach them they made off and prevented immediate pursuit by cutting the bridges after them.

The purpose of the patrol was not only to arrest the natives causing the disturbances but also to try and instil some degree of control in the area. Efforts in the latter direction met with very little success or response. We were tersely advised to return to Mendi and mind our own business. These people have affiliations with the FARO River and YARIA people and consequently have very strong allies, which no doubt accounts for their aloofness and complete indifference to law and order.

During this patrol 44 men were arrested and charged with riotous behaviour. The leaders from most lines were included in this number and it is hoped that we may be able to teach them something about law and order at Mendi.

The only reason for the fighting is that the Iabi's had previously reported the Tagenda unrest to Mendi. The raids recently carried out by the Tagenda and Yaria people were to serve the Iabi natives as a sharp reminder that they do not hold with outside interference in local affairs. However, I explained that any natives desiring peaceful living and practicing same, would receive protection from those natives wishing to molest them.

Whether this patrol has managed to stop the fighting remains to be seen but at least the natives now realise that the Government will not countenance further disturbances. Bonds of friendship were not established although the attitude towards the patrol shows that the work of pacification is having some effect. Until the staff position allows an officer to make an extended stay in the area I suggest that regular short visits be made as required by circumstances.

Village Officials.

No Officials have been appointed in this area as yet. The Headman of the Tagenda group who is at present serving a gaol sentence at Mendi (See Mendi P/R. No. 7 of 55/56) would make a capable Village Constable and this possibility will not be over-looked. I think the appointment of officials in the main centres of the area would have beneficial results.

*Edwards*



APPENDIX "A"

REPORT ON MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE CONSTABULARY ACCOMPANYING THE PATROL.

Reg. No.	1093.	S/Maj.	DUBA
"	"	1856.	L/Cpl. TAMUTAI
"	"	2142.	" KENAVO
"	"	3695.	" NIRIBO
"	"	6032.	" DIULO
"	"	4113.	Const. TANBORO
"	"	6400.	" WAINO
"	"	7105.	" ITA
"	"	2862.	" BABARU
"	"	7832.	" KOMBOI
"	"	7563.	" POKINO
"	"	9159.	" GRAT
"	"	7866.	" MALIONGUN
"	"	9160.	" HAWE
"	"	8894.	" SANI
"	"	8805.	" AGAI
"	"	9031.	" AWA'ALI
"	"	8608.	" HAWEL.

All members carried out their duties well and their records have been noted accordingly. L/Cpl. KENAVO, who was on his first patrol in the Southern Highlands proved to be very efficient and courteous and showed abounding energy in his work. L/Cpl. TAMUTAI is also a great asset to any patrol as his wide bush experience and temperament greatly assist the younger members of the force.

  
R. E. Claridge.

(Officer, R.P. & N.G.C.).

MENDI

9 of 55/56

N. J. GRANT

File No: 30/1 - 1177.

District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
**MENDI.**

28th April, 1956.

Assistant District Officer,  
**MENDI.**

P/R. Mendi 9 of 1955/56.

Receipt is acknowledged of the report.

2. Apart from recording or revising the census Mr. Grant's patrol was a valuable contribution to our consolidation programme.
3. This being the one and only Division under census in your Sub-District and only the second time the group has been required to assemble for census I consider the people responded very well. You should however, carefully explain the purpose of such a patrol and educate them to appreciate the importance of personal appearance.

One valuable aspect of such a patrol, that of a complete medical coverage, is lost if people absent themselves.

4. The Metikibu Group, not being of the Kambiri Census Division, should be deleted from these figures and submitted for interest only.

5. The people's indifferent attitude towards grass extension will need your attention and I suggest you work through village officials in your endeavours.

Encouragement should also be given to the growing of cash crops.

MINUTE to :-

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
**PORT MORESBY.**

  
(Robt.R. Cole)  
Acting District Commissioner.

Two copies of the report with camping allowance claim forwarded herewith.

  
(Robt.R. Cole)  
Acting District Commissioner.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Sub-district Headquarters,  
Mendi,  
Southern Highlands.  
5th April, 1956.

The District Commissioner,  
Southern Highlands,  
Mendi.

MENDI PATROL REPORT No. 9 55/56

AREA PATROLLED:- Mendi Valley.

PATROL CONDUCTED BY:- N.J. Grant P.O.

PATROL ACCOMPANIED BY:-

Europeans	...	Nil
Natives	...	No 6032 L/Cpl Diulo
		No 9826 Const. Weini
		No 2862 " Barbara
		No 7838 " Kombei
		ESR628 " "
		No 3351 " Mavo
		No 9081 " Awa'Ali
		N.M.O. Fini
		N.M.O. Guali
		Interpreters Kae and Puni.

DURATION:- 26th March, 1956 to 4th April, 1956.  
(10 days)

LAST PATROL TO AREA:- October - November, 1954.

OBJECTS OF PATROL :-

1. Revision of Census.
2. Consolidation of Admin. Influence.
3. Training of Police and Carriers for extended Patrols.
4. Investigate Abunta - Wayleta Dispute.

.....

INTRODUCTION :-

This was a routine census and medical inspection patrol. The initial census had been carried out late 1954 and it was hoped to correct duplication and add names of any absentees from the previous census.

An opportunity was taken to do an initial census of the recently returned Metikibu group who inhabit the South Eastern portion of the Maudi valley.

.....

DIARY :-

Monday, 26th March, 1956.

Walked from Mendi to Teta (35 mins.) where camp was made on dancing ground. In afternoon, inspected garden areas and houses. Purchased adequate food and one pig. Heavy rain in late afternoon.

Tuesday, 27th March, 1956.

Censused Teta. Walked short distance to camp site at Umbini where food and one pig purchased. One dispute settled by arbitration. Rained from 2.30 to 3pm.

Wednesday, 28th.

After inspecting a good census line at Umbini, proceeded (10 mins.) to Rongo. When camp was made, a few disputes were settled and food purchased. Began to rain at 2.15 pm.

Thursday, 29th.

Rongo census completed by 10am so patrol moved to Kambagibu (25 minutes). Here native vegetables and one pig purchased. Rain fell from 12.30 till 2pm.

Friday, 30th.

After census of Moisa and Kambagibu completed, patrol made camp at Wa (20 mins.). Native food in good supply was again brought to the patrol. At 11.30 am rain (which continued until 3.30 pm) began.

Saturday, 31st.

Census of Wa and Kiberu having been completed, patrol set off for Iami at 11a. At 1.15 pm, camp was made on the main dancing ground and native food purchased. It began to rain at 4.30 pm.

Sunday, 1st April, 1956.

Observed. Police inspection, visiting surrounding native gardens and discussions with Metikibu headmen occupied the day. Rain began at 1pm and continued intermittently throughout the afternoon.

Monday, 2nd.

Iami census was taken during the morning and patrol proceeded to Lumbi (1 1/2 hrs). Camp made, food and one pig purchased. Rain started to fall at 8.15 pm.

Tuesday, 3rd.

Initial census of the Metikibu group (Lumbi, Wasenda and Amanki) conducted. Afternoon spent settling disputes and in discussions with the Ebunta peoples.

DIARY (Cont.) :-

Wednesday, 4th March, 1956.

Patrol party left Lumbi at 8 am and proceeding part of the way by the Ialabu - Mendi road, reached Mendi at 10.30 am.

.....;

NATIVE AFFAIRS :-

Before the Administration came to Mendi, the Kambiri group had fought and vanquished the Metikibu group (Lumbi, Wasenda and Amagki) and all these peoples had left their garden areas and were living with friends mostly at Timber, Wokio and Onie. Now that tribal fighting has ceased in these areas, most of the Metikibu group have returned to their land and others are gradually coming back.

When the initial census of this valley was taken late 1954, only a few had again taken up residence here.

Now although all have not returned, the number had increased to such an extent as to make it practicable to do a census.

It was heartening to see so many of these village groups bring their disputes to the patrol as it indicated their confidence in the Administration. Most of these disputes were trivial and it only remained to bring the parties concerned together under the eye of this officer before the troubles were rectified.

Our contact with the Ebunta people reputedly a wild group living in the hills to the east of Lumbi and who had been engaged in a pig stealing - pandanus palm stealing and fighting contest with Wayleta was most cordial. Three of the principals in this dispute voluntarily accompanied the patrol to Mendi where the incident was settled in the Court for Native Matters.

.....

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK :-

Sweet potato is the staple food of this locality and allowing for the fact that the soil is rather of poor quality, the quantity of food grown is not over sufficient.

Reasons have been advanced that the people are too lazy and spend too much time in the preparation for and execution of their ceremonies. These together with bad spacing of their crops are probably correct.

At this time, however, the amount of food available is quite sufficient as adequate and more supplies of vegetables were brought to the patrol.

The variety is good (sweet potato, sugar cane, edible pit pit, bananas, tomatoes, beans, native and english cabbage, corn and english potatoes), but not much of the imported vegetables is grown or eaten by the people themselves. Their main diet seems to be sweet potato, sugar cane and pit pit with the other items grown in small quantities for sale.

The type of pig present is very good and the supply seemingly inexhaustible.

In the villages (?) closer to Mendi, there are a few fowls though so far their number is small.

Game is very scarce though ~~EXHAUSTED~~ an occasional o'possum, bird or catsowary is caught.

.....

ROADS AND BRIDGES :-

Roads and bridges on this patrol were very good until one gets approx. half an hour to the south of Wa.

From this point to Iami, there is no made road.

To get to Lumbi, one has forty minutes of log walking through swampy ground until the Lalabu road is reached.

This road is still under construction with the local people working on it. When completed, it will also provide access to the southern portion of this patrol area from Mendi.

.....

CENSUS :-

The names of 1639 are now recorded in the census of the Kambiri group where each village was lined and statistics checked. Here there were 74 births against 31 deaths and a very satisfactory turn up of named individuals was noticed.

No large increase in figures was recorded in any Kambiri village group excepting Iami where about 100 new names were added to our records.

The following figures represent the percentage of people actually seen by the patrol.

At Tata	... 60%
At Umbini	... 87%
At Rengo	... 82%
At Kambagihu	... 84%
At Moisa	... 87%
At Wa	... 79%
At Kibera	... 89%
At Iami	... 92%

Of the Metikibu group, 222 names were recorded, but these figures are by no means complete. At the next revision of census here, the small hamlet of Ebunta could be included.

.....

HEADMEN :-

The headmen in this area are all pro-government and showed every desire to co-operate with the patrol.

Their authority over their peoples, however, is not very great as is instanced by the poor response to our directions re increasing their garden areas.

Much time was spent in discussions with them and all agreed that what we are trying to do to help them to help themselves will undoubtedly be to their benefit.

They promised to try and convince their people of this fact. I feel, however, that the problem can be overcome only by time and constant patrols.

They seem to have almost a "Don't care" attitude to whether their gardens are sufficient. They maintain that their forefathers had gardens no bigger; if they do run out of food their neighbour may have a little to spare or they could forage around the bush for enough to eat till their next garden was ready. They prefer this course to getting to work and clearing and planting new gardens.

.....

HEALTH :-

The health of this area was found to be quite good though the usual cases of coughs, boils, diarrhoea and a few of scabies were treated. As each person was lined, he was medically examined also and necessary treatment given.

There have recently been a number of cases of measles reporting to Mendi, but no sign of this complaint was found by the patrol.

.....

CONCLUSION :-

This was a pleasant patrol as far as walking and the attention given the party by the native people was concerned. All the assembly<sup>are</sup> are within easy walking distance of each other, while at all points we were offered vegetables, pigs, firewood and tent posts.

The carriers (locals) leave a lot to be desired, but it is marvellous what a little training and taking a pride in their work will do.

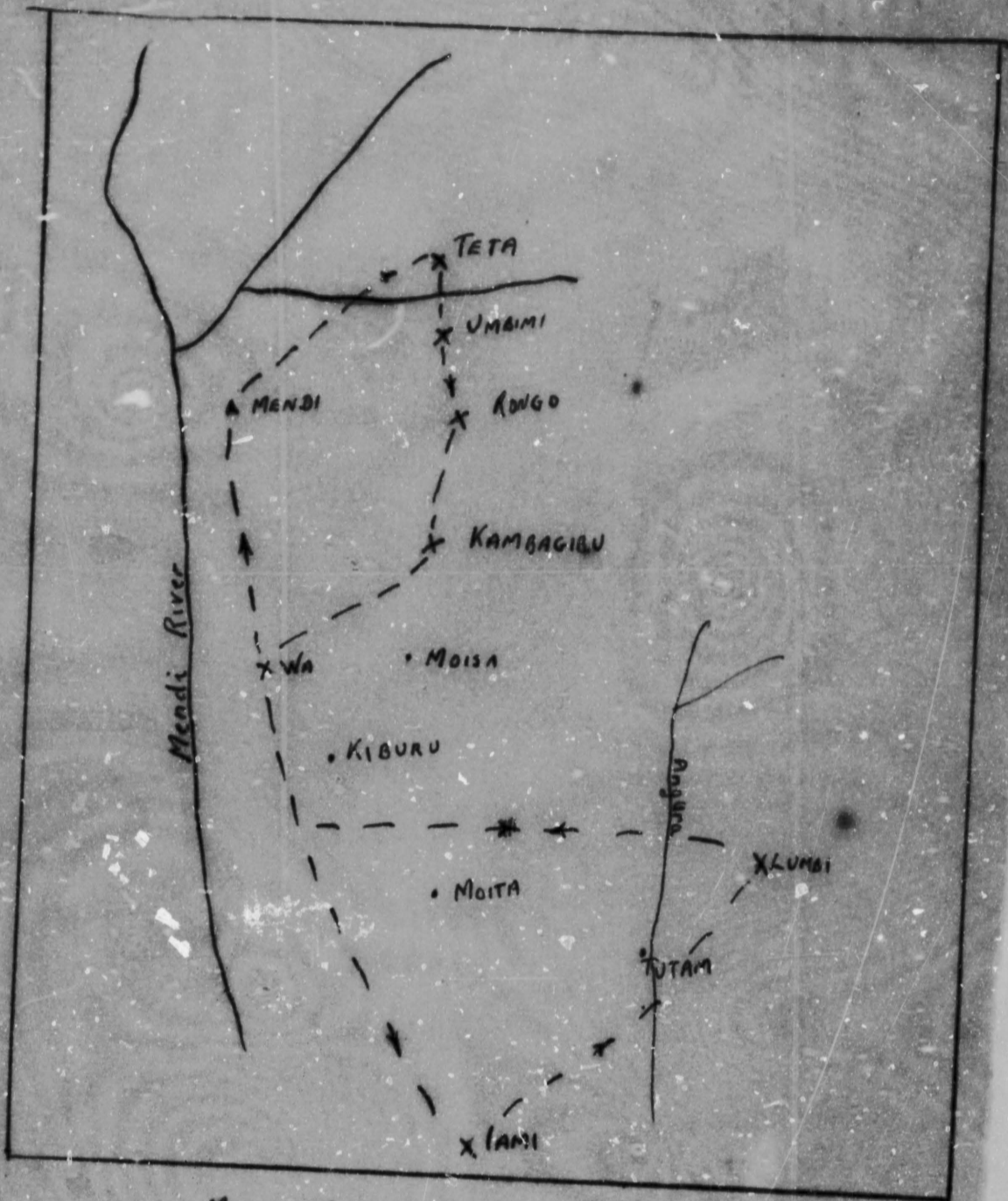
This patrol division then is progressing satisfactorily although further attention must be given to ensure the garden areas are increased to such an extent that with careful planning this "time belong hungry) becomes a thing of the past.

.....

*A. J. Grant*

A. J. Grant Patrol Officer.





MENDI PATROL No 9 55/56

MENDI VALLEY

Scale. 1 inch to 1 mile.

PATROL ROUTE . . . - - - -

CAMP SITES . . . X

# VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER

KAMBIRI GROUP

Year 1956

Govt. Print.—3559, 751.

VILLAGE	DATE OF CENSUS	BIRTHS		DEATHS										MIGRATIONS				ABSENT FROM VILLAGE AT WORK				LABOUR POTENTIAL				FEMALES		TOTALS (Excluding Absentee)				GRAND TOTAL																			
				0-1 Mth.		0-1 Year		1-4		5-8		9-13		Over 13		Females in Child Birth		In		Out		Inside District		Outside District		Govt.		Mission		Males			Females		Pregnant Number of Child-bearing age	Average Size of Family	Child		Adults												
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F			M	F													
		10-16	16-45	10-16	16-45	Pregnant	Number of Child-bearing age	Average Size of Family	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M		F	M	F	M	F														
TETA	27.3.56	6	8			1								2	15	16	17	20	1			3											7	8	6	6	6	70	41	46	95	89	275								
UMBIMI	28.3.56	11	7	1		1	2	1						4	1	26	37	12	20	6				1										10	60	9	85	3	82	42	58	74	97	278							
RONGO	29.3.56	4	3					1						1	2	2	2	1				2											7	26	9	37	4	35	29	37	28	40	137								
KAMBAGU	30.3.56	3	2					1							5	5	6	8	2				1										7	36	8	39	1	37	29	29	41	46	149								
MUSA	30.3.56	3	2					1		1				1	2	6	10																	3	40	7	25	3	25	22	20	45	34	121							
WA	31.3.56	3						1					1	1	9	9	8	12	1	1	2							1					2	47	8	48		48	32	29	54	58	178								
KIBURU	31.3.56	1	4					1					1		2	8	3	5					1										13	34	13	41		45	26	25	43	52	147								
IAMI	24.5.56	10	7					1						2	2	43	47	9	17	2														20	87	10	87	2	87	82	73	101	96	354							
<b>TOTAL</b>		41	33	1		1	4	2	4	1				2	8	8	108	134	59	93	12	1	7							4	1				69	411	70	426	26	429	303	318	481	512	1639						
<b>METIKIBU GROUP</b>																																																			
LUMOI	3.6.56																																1						16	64	6	54	1	54	51	29	80	61	222		

MENDI

10 of 55/56

N. J. GRANT

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

File No:- 30/1 - 1241

District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

8th. May, 1956.

Assistant District Officer,  
MENDI.

P/R. Mendi 10 of 1955/56

Mr. R.J. Grant.

Apart from the point that this is the first patrol to actually link the two stations of Mendi and Tari, Mr. Grant has gathered some valuable information to assist us in our road development programme.

I am very grateful to Mr. Mitchell for his assistance to the patrol and am confident that his experience must have greatly facilitated Mr. Grant's work.

This report confirms our suggestion of requiring a road to the KUVIVI Flats area and from there to the various valley systems but I am still not satisfied that the Waga Project is practicable as Mr. Grant suggests a patrol to investigate will be required before we commence any work in this direction. //

The Native Affairs situation is as I expected and Mr. Grant was wise in not attempting to interfere in the inter-tribal fighting.

A valuable patrol and I compliment Mr. Grant on his work.

Minute to:-

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

*Robert R. Cole*  
(Robert R. Cole)  
Acting District Commissioner.

Two copies of the report and the Camping Allowance Claim herewith. The patrol Map is being forwarded separately and it would be appreciated if six copies could be sunprinted and returned.

*Robert R. Cole*  
(Robert R. Cole)  
Acting District Commissioner.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

File 30/1,  
Sub-district Hqs.,  
Tari.  
30th April, 1956.

Background information is given in the report of the District Commissioner, Southern Highlands, Nandi, dated 10th April, 1956, and in the report of the District Commissioner, Tari, dated 27th April, 1956.

The District Commissioner,  
Southern Highlands,  
Nandi.

MEMPHIS PATROL REPORT No 10 1955/56.

AREA PATROLED :- The area lying between Nandi and Tari, including Nandi valley and parts of Lai, Wage and Margareta watersheds.

PATROL CONDUCTED BY :- N. J. Grant, Patrol Officer.

PATROL ACCOMPANIED BY :-

- Members R.P. & N.O.C. :-
- Fr. A. Michallos
- No 3221 Sgt. Nambaya
- No 3655 Lt. Col. Niribe
- No 8130 Const. Patavi - Dabau
- No 5705 Const. Kambi No 2
- No 9191 Const. Nareksi
- No 7234 Const. Suro
- No 8826 Const. Weini
- Interpreter :- Han
- N.O.C. :- Nampua

DURATION :- 10th April, 1956 to 24th April, 1956.  
( 15 days )

LAST PATROL TO AREA :- Part Mr. Free, 1955  
Part Messrs. O'Malley and Hides 1937  
Part Mr. I. Champion 1937/38.

MAP :- Based on that used by Mr. Champion.

- OBJECTS OF PATROL :-
1. Examine possibilities for constructing a Nandi - Tari motor road.
  2. Observe the extent of population on route covered.

.....

INTRODUCTION

Because much importance is placed on the type of country traversed with respect to watercourses, heights of mountains and valleys and walking times, this diary will be comprehensive and contain more detail than is usual.

In the later section of this report, much of the detail, for clarity, will be recorded again under Roads heading.

When an area is to be brought under control, road work could be an important factor as it tends to hasten the abandonment of many useless practices and certainly has a civilising effect on those areas through which it passes.

After the road is built, most of the men can understand and speak a little Motu or Pidgin English, know how to work a little, have accepted the Govt. with its authority and, in the road, have a constant reminder of the Govt. These advantages are in addition to the more obvious.

In suggesting possible junctions with roads to other centres, I have tried to place these junctions at spots where airstrip sites may be available. All strip sites have been reported upon in previous reports.

At this stage, I would express my appreciation and obligation to Fr. Michellod who accompanied this patrol and who was of great assistance in matters respecting roads.

This officer's road building and surveying experience up to this time had been rather limited so that Fr. Michellod's knowledge and advice were both necessary and helpful.

Please note in this report the abbreviation, c/g stands for Ceremonial Ground.

.....

DIARY :-

Tuesday, 10th April, 1956.

Departed Mendri Govt. station (5440 ft) at 8 am and walked S. S. W. towards One and Yagen. Crossed bridge over Mendri river (5120 ft.) and climbed to Catholic Mission station of Ulabin (5410 ft.). Passed Boli, the dancing ground of One at 10.15 am. and down to Togi creek (5410 ft.) before proceeding to Yagen from where we climbed to the gap to Lai valley (6490 ft.) at 11.30 am. Went down to junction of Niba and Nekoriba rivers (6040 ft.) before climbing to Pumi c/g (6380 ft.) where camp made. Had to urge the people on before sufficient food was brought.

Road is possible over this route as from Togi creek to the gap the elevation of 1080 ft. is partly in grass, but mostly through bush.

No rain.

.....

DIARY :- (Cont.)

Wednesday, 11th April, 1956.

Left Punis c/g at 7.10 am after sending patrol ahead to make camp at Paburonga c/g.

Fr. Michellod and self proceeded Onta (5670 ft.) towards Yagen. This second possibility much better than via the gap above Punis as the road, Onta, Yagen, Onta, avoids the limestone range.

Thence proceeded through Kunai to Yomanda (5310 ft.) and down to Lai bridge (4590 ft.) at 9.50 am., rejoining patrol en route. As suspension bridge in bad condition, repairs effected and patrol across by 10.30 am.

Crossed Indoo river, but because of limestone cliffs, found road route impossible except by proceeding E.W. on the right bank of the Indoo river to Kumbia Hamlet. Then cross Indoo river below Enga (5100 ft.) before climbing to gap on Pun mountain mount in (Gap at 6410 ft.). The road could then proceed to Pambal c/g before going down right bank of Nar creek where it could turn west up the Nambi valley.

Patrol had reached Paburonga c/g at 12.45 pm while road investigating party arrived at 3.30 pm. Sufficient food purchased.

Rain at night.

At 6 am, patrol left and walked through c/gs Bilibur (4720 ft.) to Del (4770 ft.) at 8.40 am. From here, with local guides, inspected a possible bridge site (4360 ft. at 9.35 am) over Nambi river and towards Sage valley. Thence climbed to Aleben plateau (4870 ft.) before proceeding west up the Nambi valley. Crossed Nambi river at 11.30 am and passed through Seleone c/g to arrive at Umin c/g (4610 ft.) at 12.15 pm. Camp made here where sufficient food purchased.

Rain at night.

At 6 am, patrol left and walked through c/gs Bilibur (4720 ft.) to Del (4770 ft.) at 8.40 am. From here, with local guides, inspected a possible bridge site (4360 ft. at 9.35 am) over Nambi river and towards Sage valley. Thence climbed to Aleben plateau (4870 ft.) before proceeding west up the Nambi valley. Crossed Nambi river at 11.30 am and passed through Seleone c/g to arrive at Umin c/g (4610 ft.) at 12.15 pm. Camp made here where sufficient food purchased.

Friday, 13th April.

Breaking camp at 7.30 am, we passed through grass country, abandoned gardens and over two small creeks. 10 am

Umbele c/g was reached at 8.45 am while we recrossed Nambi river (4590 ft.) at 10.10 am over a casuarina tree.

Passed through c/gs, Kole (10.15 am), Chix (10.20 am) and Wejo (5140 ft.) at 12.30 am.

Camp was made at Hela c/g (5080 ft.) at 12.30 pm.

Adequate food brought forward.

Rain began at 4pm and continued throughout night.

Saturday, 14th April.

After leaving camp site at 7 am, we reached Arl river (5010 ft.) half an hour later. Climbed to a little gap, Minja Shinsho (5360 ft.) where extensive view of Nambi valley obtained.

From this point, the road route, looking S.W., runs approx. 123 degrees and, looking N.W., approx. 310 degrees.

Passed dancing grounds of Pobel, Helle (5540 ft.), Seb (5300 ft.), Hanal (5450 ft.) and Nembere (10.45 am).

Again crossed Nambi river (5000 ft.) over a suspension bridge at 10.55 am and climbed through Ush to Sumbal hill.

On the opposite N.W. valley side was the Nipe airstrip(?) site.

Camp made at Aleb c/g (5690 ft.) at 11.45 am.

Three pigs and much food purchased.

Rain at 1.30 pm and at night.

DIARY (Cont.) :-

Sunday, 15th April, 1956.

Rest day for carriers at Aleb c/g.  
 Fr. Michelled and self etc left camp site at 8.30 am,  
 crossed Nembi river and climbed to Toga c/g (5820ft.) At  
 9.20 am passed bush area of Seliba where observed escaping  
 gas which burnt when a match was applied. Reached  
 Agenda c/g (5260 ft.) at 9.45 am. Passed Harisho c/g  
 (6560ft.) and climbed to top of Toncen range at 11.15 am.  
 The gap over this range for road to go to Tai N  
 valley was at 7020 ft.  
 Left to return to camp site at 11.30 am. Through  
 Agenda c/g at 12.30 pm; at camp site at 1.30 pm.  
 Bought additional food, received many offers of pigs  
 and found headman, Hamerbery, particularly helpful.  
 Rain began at 12.30 pm, stopped at 4.30 pm and  
 continued again at night.

.....

Monday, 16th April.

Away at 7am. Crossed three creeks, Muga, Tee (5100 ft.)  
 and Nja. Passed through Wur and Jonnla (5800 ft.) c/gs.  
 First road turn off to Margarema River passed at  
 9.30 am. Arrived Poiya c/g (5910 ft.) at 10 am and passed  
 through "a no man's land fight area". Second  
 turn off to Margarema noticed at 10.30 am. Crossed  
 gap between Nembi and Wage river basins (6000 ft.).  
 Passed through territory of Mandoo clan and three  
 c/gs Abakor, Yar (6100 ft.) at 11.15 am and Tilvi (5840 ft.)  
 at 11.25 am. Crossed Kivi and Longada (6360 ft.)  
 creeks. After fording Nogle creek, climbed to Ungubi  
 c/g (6360 ft.) at noon. Here camp made.  
 People very ~~xxxxx~~ unco-operative and demanded  
 M.C.P. shell and tomahawks for vegetables. As only  
 small quantity bought for salt, face paint and cowrie shell,  
 rice issued to carriers.  
 Rain commenced at 1.30 pm and continued that night.

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Tuesday, 17th April.

Broke camp at 6.30 am with local guides en route  
 Margarema river. Arrived Wage river at 7.10 am  
 but as suspension bridge had to be re-inforced, it was  
 9.10 am before patrol was over and away.  
 Climbed to c/gs of Felpea, Homla and Mulmilama  
 (6060 ft.) at 10.10. am. Then descended to Kene  
 valley the inhabitants of which speak the Huri language.  
 Arrived Kymale c/g at 5920 ft. Proceeded  
 up valley crossing Pug creek at 11 pm and shortly after-  
 wards Tang creek. Then crossed Hari (mountain)  
 Kumuk and reached Imis c/g (6850 ft.) on top of it.  
 The climb up had been very steep. Went  
 down the other side to c/g of Kunes (6280 ft.) where  
 camp made at 2pm. An extensive view of surrounding  
 country is to be had from the top of Kumak mountain.  
 Payment in knives, tomahawks and M.C.P. shell was  
 asked for the small quantity of food brought though large  
 gardens had been seen as we came through. Police  
 and carriers selected small quantities of sweet potato  
 from several gardens under the direction of the garden  
 owners. Payment was made in cowrie shell and  
 salt.

No rain.

.....



DIARY (Cont.) :-

Wednesday, 18th April, 1956.

After leaving camp site at 6.30 am, patrol proceeded towards Margarema while Fr. Michelled and self passed through Wilma c/g at 6.45am (5960 ft.) and inspected bridge over Wage river (5700 ft.).

Passed through c/gs Yay, Pullim (patrol was awaiting here) Pal (6460 ft.) Bangura (8.45 am), Tilbanama (6650') Shelban and arrived Para c/g (6300ft.) at 9.45 am.

Crossed Waradoba creek (11.20 am) at its junction with the Wage (6300 ft.). Climbed to c/gs of Rowad-ahamuga at 11.45 am (6710 ft.) and Poreberamuga at noon.

Came up to Margarema river (6390 ft.) just above its junction with the Wage and followed along its right bank until at 1.5 pm the river came out of the ground from under Kun mountain. Was able to go around it here and climbed to Warbima c/g (6960 ft.) where patrol made camp (2.15 pm).

Headman, Botogo, helpful, but despite his exhortations and a reasonable garden area insufficient food brought.

Rain began falling at 5 pm.

Thursday, 19th.

Departed Warbima c/g at 6 am with head man acting as guide.

Fr. Michelled and self detoured to inspect bridge over Wage river at Kylongaa (6330 ft.). Suggested bridge site is at Makungas Tardarbi above Kylongaa.

Re-joining patrol carriers, we proceeded across Margarema strip site with road heading N.W. 290 degrees.

Passed through Tagenda bush area and crossed Balongee creek (7160 ft.) at 2.55 pm.

Arrived Hugerac c/g at 3.35 pm (7350 ft.) and climbed to gap over Kugulac Mountain (8010 ft.).

Crossed Hibercha creek and climbed Hibercha mountain (7970 ft.).

After crossing Kelemi creek a tributary of the Margarema, climbed to Para c/g (7700 ft.) where camp made at 12.30 pm.

Little food available, but some supplied to patrol. Showers began at 1.30 pm and continued throughout afternoon.

Friday, 20th.

Broke camp at 6 am. On top of Tambibalu mountain at 6.50 am. Crossed Debibi creek (7410 ft.) just above where it joins the Margarema river between 8.40am and 8 am.

At Humeridee c/g at 8.10 am. Crossed Kambiarga creek (7600 ft.) at 8.45 am when general line of road was E.S.E. 110 degrees and W.N.W. 270 degrees.

Left Kambiarga grassland at 10.15 am and entered bush area where road route could follow to the right of the present track and between track and Nongo creek (Nongo Spur is at 8090 ft.).

Entered grassland of Nongo at 11.15 pm (8080 ft.). Then walked through small bush area (10 mins.) to come out onto kunai again at

Arwea grassland (8340 ft.) with Angomalo Kangomalo creek in the middle of it.

DIARY (Cont.):

Friday, 20th April, 1956 (Cont.)

Thence patrol walked 20 minutes through bush and arrived and arrived at Liepuga grasslands. Crossed headwater of Margarema river which comes from Ambua mountain (11,160 ft.) at 1.10 pm. After crossing Lie creek at 1.20 pm, camp site (8590 ft.) in Liepuga grasslands was reached at 1.30 pm. Showers had begun at 1.15 pm.

Saturday, 21st April.

Away at 6 am. Crossed Nunimaninoga creek at 6.30 am and entered Ibiwali bush. Crossed Bilo creek to arrive at Ibiwali's highest point (8640 ft.) at 6.45 am. Came out into Kunai again at 6.50 am. Was across Ibiwali creek at 7.10 am and climbed to Nemo spur (8640 ft.) at 7.30 am. Down and across Tenslear creek at 7.55 am to reach Tembe spur (8710 ft.) at 8 am. This spur separates basins of Hago and Tegari rivers. After crossing Wada creek at 8.10 am, climbed to Wawa spur (8610 ft.) at 8.20 am. Entered bush area at 8.20 am and went down to Wabi creek (8400 ft.). Crossed at junction of Hallenda and Talow creeks (7820 ft.) at 9.55 am and was across Kemo creek (7740 ft.) at 10 am. Rested at A.D.O. Murdoch's Campbell camp site (7760 ft.). From Campbell, road can no longer use spur as it is too steep. Went down just above Telubi creek at 11 am (7640 ft.) to cross this creek at 11.30 am (7350 ft.) before climbing to Bali spur (7540 ft.). Descended steep grade to Bali creek and met rock on track at 7260 ft. Had first view of Tari valley, Goyt. station and airstrip at 12.30 pm when pit pit ground (6600 ft.) was reached. Descended to Hala (5760 ft.) at 1.30 pm. Here camp made and food purchased. Showers, beginning at 2.30 pm, continued till 4.30 pm and cease again at night.

Sunday, 22nd April.

Left camp site at 8.10 am. Crossed Huria and Toma rivers at 9.5 am and 10.10 am respectively. Arrived Arua river (12.10 am) which was followed until rest house of Arua was reached at 12.40 pm. Camp made here and much food brought. Settled one dispute by arbitration.

Monday, 23rd April

At 6.50 am, patrol set out and reached constructed road at 8.5 am and camp site at 8.15 am about one mile the Nandi of the Tebi bridge. Rest of day spent surveying and pegging road. Rain late afternoon and night.

Tuesday, 24th April, 1956.

Patrol proceeded to Tari.

NATIVE AFFAIRS I:-

Under this heading, the intention is to discuss each group of people and its attitude to the patrol in the order these groups were met when the patrol left Mendi.

After leaving Paburonga and before the Aleten plateau is reached, one meets those people whose land is centred around the Del c/g. Now from Mendi to this point (only a day's walk from the station) everything is going along as it should.

Once Del c/g was reached, however, the patrol noticed series of barricaded fences guarding the road to the Nambi valley and it was learnt that for some time now these people and the inhabitants of the Soloon c/g had been enemies and as a result quite a large tract of good garden land between the two territories was lying idle.

Our relation with both these groups were most friendly, but it was always the other side that was to blame when questioned about the dispute.

Neither of the sides appeared unduly concerned about the state of affairs which are really a "We don't trust our neighbours" attitude.

From here, right up the Nambi valley to Mala c/g the population is not very dense and spasmodic fighting occurs. From this point, the population becomes thicker, larger garden areas are noticed and the number of people, both men and women, who stood waving to the patrol greatly increased. This area includes the upper Nambi valley and towards Nipa.

An opportunity was taken to visit the middle portion of the Wage valley in the vicinity of Ungubi c/g where the people who had been visited before were most unco-operative. The Wage valley people, on the whole, showed little interest in and almost no desire to help the patrol at all.

Very few women and children were noticed. As the patrol passed through, men could be heard shouting to the women and children to hide and not to stay watching the patrol. These women we did meet were most friendly and were not afraid to stop and chat with us.

Around Margarema, inter-tribal fighting still occurs and although the population here is not dense, there are quite a few people.

A short detour into the Kene valley brought us the information that there is a large pocket of population approx. two days walk to the N.W. of this little valley.

Margarema seems to be the dividing line between the Mendi "We might bring you food if we like, but you are a decided nuisance" attitude to that found on the Tari side where the people were very helpful.

Of course it must be remembered that the Mendi side is not over fertile and much energy must be expended to cultivate their gardens whereas with the Tari, it is easy to be happy and congenial when one has plenty to eat and things are going well.

However, once we left Margarema strip site and passed through Parmu c/g where gardens are not sufficient for the whole year and where some of the people are accustomed to go to the Tari side during the time when food is short, we were astonished to find the people, including women and children, so generous. At Parmu we camped where Messrs Hides and O'Malley had slept during their 1935 patrol. Had we been advised properly, the patrol could have camped at Humeridee c/g (2 hrs. further) where the population is more and although food is in short supply, sufficient could and I have no doubt would have been brought for the patrol's needs.

NATIVE AFFAIRS (Cont.) :-

From this point then, where the route rises to 8,700 ft., the population is almost nil until one descends the Bali spur and comes out into the Tari valley near Hale.

The Tari people were most friendly and one dispute was brought to this officer to be settled.

ROADS :-

The present native track is now not a good walking road as much of the area traversed is through semi-swamp land and for hour after a hour the patrol had to pick its way through shin deep mud.

All the rivers met were crossed either over reinforced suspension bridges (few looked strongly built) or over giant logs which we had railed with rope and cane.

The motor road through much of this country could follow round the contours of the valley sides and thus adequate drainage would be assured.

Below, I shall detail three possible road routes in order of suitability as I see them.

The lower Lai River is a large, swift flowing river and its crossing in No 2 choice may present some difficulties which can be avoided in No 1 choice where the upper Lai is bridged.

On the Tari side of the ranges, it must be remembered that heavy rain which usually falls on the ranges during the afternoon causes the Arua and Horia rivers to rise very suddenly.

On Sunday, 22nd April, 1956, one woman was marooned on a small strip of land in the middle of the Arua river and had to be rescued by the patrol. Of course, all this surplus water runs away very quickly.

No 1. Mendi - Tari via Lai Valley.

The distance covered by this road is approx. 110 miles.

From Mendi (5440 ft.), road could go S.E. to cross the bridge over the Mendi river at 5120 ft. before proceeding to the Catholic mission station of Ulabin (5410 ft.) where it goes to Tegi creek near Baki c/g (5410 ft.); then turns at the bottom of Gene limestone range at Onta (5610 ft.) before climbing to Pumi c/g (6360 ft.). It proceeds up Lai valley, crosses upper Lai at 6,300 ft., climbs to Tondon spur (7020 ft.), descends to Agena c/g (6250 ft.) and thence to headwaters of Nembu river (5450 ft.) where it climbs to Aleb c/g (5690 ft.). From here, road goes towards Nipa and thence to Poiya c/g (5910 ft.) where road turns off at second Margarema turn off thirty minutes to the north of Poiya.

Coming up from this turn off, it is better to keep the road on the left bank of the Wage river as from Peja c/g to the junction of the Waradoha river with the Wage river is limestone right to the water's edge.

Hence the road could proceed Poiya, Puli, Yangulaga and Yalibamay to Tardabi bridge across the Wage and thence up the left bank of the Margarema river to Kun mountain. After Kun mountain, road crosses to Margarema's right bank until just before its junction with the Debibi creek when it crosses the Margarema (7410 ft.) and climbs towards Kambiarga grassland (7500 ft.) on the right bank of the Kambiarga creek; direction W.N.W. 270 degrees; till the top of Kambiarga grassland (about 3 miles). It then climbs through bush (about 2 miles) to Nongo grassland (8080 ft.) before crossing a small bush area (400 yds.) to Avea grassland (8340 ft.). After crossing the Angomalo Kangomalo creek, it goes through 800 yds. of bush to the grasslands of Liepugna (8500 ft.).

ROADS (Cont.) :-

Here it crosses the headwaters of the Margarema river and Lic creek and goes towards gap at foot of Mt. Ho.

From the Liepuga grassland, roughly, the road follows the present track till the Kame creek (7740 ft.) is crossed and the road follows down the right bank of this creek to cross the spur on Tambale and crosses the present track below Tambale (Note, the track from Tambale down to Talubi creek is too steep except by using a zig zag route.). From here it goes across the Telubi creek above the present track crossing place and continues with the same grade (4 to 5 degrees) on the right bank of the Telubi creek to reach Bali spur. After crossing Bali spur, the road takes the left side and follows the spur as far as possible towards Hale. Thence across the Tobi valley to join the present pegged Tari - Mendi road.

The junction of this road and any towards Wagbag could be either the Nipa (light planes only (?)) or Margarema strip sites.

No 2. Via Nambi Valley

A road from Mendi to Tari is a definite possibility. From Onta c/g, the road descends to cross the Lai bridge (4590 ft.) below Yumanda c/g, climbs the right bank of the Indoo River to Puntia hamlet, then crosses the Indoo below Suga c/g at 5100 ft. before climbing to the gap on Fun Mountain (Gap at 5410 ft.). Then proceeds to Fambal c/g (5050 ft.) where it goes down the right bank of the Far creek till the Aleban (4510 ft.) and thence west following the Nambi valley to Hala c/g (5060 ft.).

After crossing the Ar river and climbing to Minja Shinaho gap (5560 ft.), it proceeds towards Hala c/g (5540 ft.) and then crosses the plateau towards Nipa to join the road Mendi - Tari via Lai valley.

Junction of this road with that to Erave could be near the Aleban or Kuvivi plateau.

No 3. Via Wage Valley

From Aleban plateau (4570 ft.), the road descends to Nambi river to cross at 4360 ft. at a bridge site just above the Kuvivi plateau. A bridge, both approaches accessible, of only 60ft. would be necessary here.

To examine the road from this point over the range dividing the Nambi and Wage basins to the Upper Wage, another patrol would be necessary.

Towards the top of the Wage valley, however, the road could stretch from Ungumbi c/g (6360 ft.) to Poiya c/g through Yar c/g (6360 ft.) to join the main Mendi - Tari road.

The road junction towards Wagbag here could be at Margarema strip sites also.

.....

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK :-

Right through this area, sweet potato is the main item in the local diet. This is supplemented mainly with edible pit pit, native cabbage and sugar cane though tomatoes, english potatoes at Park. c/g, corn, english cabbage and a little taro were noticed.

Game is not plentiful though a number of domestic pigs were seen.

When, at some future date, the road is to be taken from Margarema to the Bali spur on the Tari side of the ranges, it will be necessary to plant gardens on the route as the population from Margarema to Hale is not large or the ground fertile enough to support the road gang over this area. There is, however, suitable garden land at these higher altitudes.

.....

HEALTH 1-

The duties of the N.M.O. accompanying this patrol were mainly to care for the health and injuries of the patrol personnel. Opportunity was taken, however, to observe the general health of the areas visited and to give attention where necessary. No doubt all the more serious cases were not seen by the patrol.

The health of the area seemed quite good and at some points in the upper Nembu valley, treatment of large sores and ulcers was actually requested.

The diet of the area seemed adequate if not particularly varied. No cases of malnutrition were noticed though the usual number of sores, cuts and ulcers were treated.

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CONCLUSION 1-

A road then from Hendi to Tari is a definite possibility and will not present as many difficulties as were at first thought.

Possibly, the hardest portions will be at the beginning crossing into and out of the Lai valley and towards the end when the road comes down from the Bali spur to the Tari valley.

Bridging of the rivers Lai, Nembu, Margarema, Buria and Arun will present problems, but these are not insuperable.

11 of 55/56

S. S. PICKRELL

*N. J. Grant*

N. J. Grant  
Patrol Officer.

MENDI

11 of 55/56

J. S. PICKRELL

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

File No: 30/1 - 1349.

District Office,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

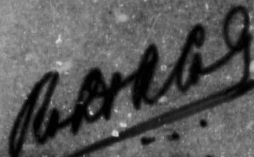
12th June, 1956.

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
PORT Moresby.

Mendi P/A. 11-55/56 - Mr. J. J. Pickrell.

Report in duplicate for your information, please.

2. Comments by the Assistant District Officer adequately covers the report and I am confident Mr. Pickrell did gain valuable experience over the short trip.
3. Camping allowance claim is attached.



(Robert E. Cole)  
Acting District Commissioner.



Territory of Papua and New Guinea

File: 30/1 - 293  
Sub-District Office,  
MENDI

8th June, 1956

District Commissioner,  
MENDI

MENSI PATROL REPORT NO. 11 of 53/56

J.J. PICKROLL, JPO

..... Herewith for your information is four (4) copies of the above Report with attachments.

1. This Patrol, as the narrative will illustrate, was purely of a routine nature, but reflects credit upon the young Officer who conducted it. It served the dual purpose of providing Mr. Sinclair with Escort as far as the Hambi Valley and it gave Mr. Pickroll the opportunity of gaining valuable experience under an experienced Field Officer.
2. The comments made under NATIVE AFFAIRS in the Summary are gratifying considering sporadic contact with this section of the S/District but it seems that influence is percolating to the fringes of the region.

The fact that food was provided to the party by warring factions is just another example, I submit, of native hospitality shown to travellers. It was in keeping with my instructions to Mr. Pickroll that no action was taken to effect arrests.

ATTN P/R

*W.B. Clancy*  
(D.J. CLANCY)  
Assistant District Officer

**TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.**

**Patrol Report No. 11 of 1955/56, Wendi, Southern Highlands District.**

**REPORT OF PATROL TO :** NEMBI Valley.

**PATROL CONDUCTED BY :** J.S. PITCHKILL, Cadet Patrol Officer.

**ACCOMPANIED BY :** J.P. SINGLAIR, s/Asst. District Officer.

**OBJECTS OF PATROL :** Escort Mr. SINGLAIR to the NEMBI Valley where Mr. P.M. Moloney, Asst. District Officer would escort Mr. SINGLAIR on to LAKE KUTUBU.

**DURATION OF PATROL :** 28th. May, 1956 to 3rd. June, 1956 - Six Days.

**NATIVE PERSONNEL :**  
I) S.P. & N.O.C. Night Members.  
II) Carriers Thirty.  
III) Interpreters One.  
IV) DUNA People Three.  
V) SERICELAND River people Two.

**MAP REFERENCE :** Sketch Map Attached.

**LAST PATROL TO AREA :** N.S. Grant, Patrol Officer, April, 1956.

PATROL DIARY.  
1956

- 28th. May : Departed MENDI 09.30 hrs and climbed till 12.00 hrs rested for a few minutes then descended rapidly for half an hour and then continued down to PINJ. Made Camp at the rest house at 13.05 hrs and sweet potato was bought quite abundantly. Slight rain from 14.00 hrs.
- 29th. May : Departed PINJ 07.45 hrs climbed down hill continuously until 09.15 hrs. When a halt was made at MAKURIA ceremonial ground to allow all carriers to catch up. Continued on to the LAI River which took half an hour to cross due to the poor condition of the rope bridge. Continued on till rain threatened and a hasty camp was made at MUNGEBE at 12.00 hrs at 6,500 ft. Sufficient native food was purchased. Rain through the afternoon and night. Guards posted.
- 30th. May : Departed MUNGEBE 0800 hrs and after  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hours walk through pit-pit and kunai grass entered forest area eventually emerging at the top of the SUMBI ridge where a rest was taken at ELEMA. Commenced again at 10.00 hrs and after another patch of thick forest emerged at EGENDA. Rested here and then continued down crossing the NEMBI River at 13.00 hrs. Climbed steeply to AREF overlooking the NEMBI Valley and as there was no news of Mr. MOLONEY, Camp was made for the night at 13.30 hrs. Settled down well, the people being very friendly supplying ample sweet potato as well as two pigs which were purchased without any trouble at all. No rain during the night. Guards posted.
- 31st. May : Departed AREF 08.00 hrs and crossed the NEMBI Valley and walked down through forest to the KUTUBU Road, camp was made at PO'ILA to await MR. MOLONEY from KUTUBU. About 13.30 a commotion was heard down the Kutubu road and it was thought to be MR. MOLONEY arriving but turned out to be only a skirmish between two groups of people. Good food was purchased during the afternoon before heavy rain set in. Guards posted.
- 1st. June : Mr. MOLONEY arrived in at 08.30 and the day was spent straightening up patrol cargo and mail. Guards posted.
- 2nd. June : Departed PO'ILA at 07.00 for MENDI and Mr. MOLONEY and Mr. SINCLAIR left for KUTUBU. Passed through AREF at 0900 hrs and crossed the NEMBI at 09.10 hrs and kept going until a rest was taken at 09.55 hrs at EGENDA. Departed 10.30 hrs and after one hour entered the forest again, emerged 12.15 hrs and 20 minutes later rested at ELEMA. Commenced again at 13.00 hrs and after a slow period due to one of the Police Constables being ill we arrived at TIMBAL at 15.15 hrs where camp was made. One pig was purchased as well as sufficient sweet potato for the carriers. Nil rain fell even though the whole day had been overcast and threatening. Guards posted.
- 3rd. June : Departed TIMBAL 07.00 hrs and moved down and crossed the LAI River by means of a stout bush rope bridge at 08.45 hrs. Climbed the range between the MENDI and the LAI Valleys reaching the summit at 7,000 ft. at

10.00 hrs. Climbed down to UM where a rest was taken at 11.00 hrs. Weather was still fine so continued on to MAP arriving in at 13.00 hrs. Rested at MAP with Anthropologist Mr. D'ARCY RYAN and set off for MENDI at 14.00 hrs. Arrived at the District Office at 15.45. Rice was issued to the Police and Carriers and the Carriers paid off the following morning.

END of DIARY.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Little can be said on this subject as the main object of the Patrol was that of being an escort however at all places where camps were made the people seemed very friendly and pleased to see the patrol even at PO'ILA where fighting was going on and native food was scarcer than elsewhere.

AGRICULTURE.

In the populated areas gardens were very numerous and appeared well looked after, the LAI Valley was a net work of well worked gardens and the NEMBI Valley had large expanses of Kau-Kau patches and small amounts of TARO were growing well in the LAI Valley and quite an amount was purchased at TIMBAL. Pigs appeared quite plentiful in the NEMBI Valley and no trouble was had in purchasing them for one Mother-of-Pearl Shell, however in the LAI Valley the people did not like parting with them.

CARRIERS.

Thirty carriers were taken from MENDI all worked well, they accompanied the Patrol for the full trip and a few extras joined the patrol on the way. A couple of NEMBI men returned to look over the District Station. All were paid in steel trade.

ROADS and BRIDGES.

The main route taken was along bush tracks with the bridges made of bush vine rope. However the road down from UM in the MENDI Valley has the possibility of being made suitable for vehicles if regraded in parts and bridges put down.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

The Village Constable from PINJ and KOMP accompanied the patrol all the way through and undoubtedly helped the patrol as well as influencing for the better the peoples through whose lands the patrol passed.

MEDICINE and HEALTH.

No Medical Orderly accompanied the patrol but the general health of the people appeared very sound in accordance to the apparent plentiful supply of food.

PATROL WEEKLY REPORT NO. 21 OF 1953/54

**MISSIONS.**

The Capuchin Mission at PINE appeared to be expanding well and quite a number of Mission children ran out to greet the patrol on our arrival. A Papuan Teacher was present and the Capuchin Fathers make regular visit to the station from their main station at MENDI.

- No 1001 Const. BAYANG : A commanding N.C.O. quiet nature, worked well and carried out his duties of supervising and police efficiently.
- No 1012 S/Cpl. KENAVA : Able assisted Cpl BAYANG in the discharge of his duties in a reliable and conscientious manner.
- No 7779 Const. OYUWA : Worked with initiative and helped wherever possible without being asked.
- No 8882 Const. BARAKI : Hindered with malaria in the circumstances. *J.J. Pickroll*  
Cadet Patrol Officer.
- No 8400 Const. MAINO : Did not impress but carried out duties required of him.
- No 9301 Const. ASA'ALI : A comparative newcomer to patrol work, worked well and appeared happy at his work.
- No 8526 Const. KENI : Worked well, got out of his way to please.
- No 9073 Const. ANUWI : His first patrol, even so did not appear to be over used with the fact, was smart and worked well, with more experience should develop into a good policeman.

*J.J. Pickroll*  
J.J. PICKROLL  
Cadet Patrol Officer

APPENDIX "A"

PATROL REPORT NUMBER NO. 31 OF 1955/56

Report on members of the Royal Papuan and New Guinea Constabulary  
accompanying the patrol.

- No 2091 Cpl BATAHU : A commanding N.C.O, quiet nature, worked well and carried out his duties of organizing his police efficiently.
- No 2142 L/cpl KENAVA : Ably assisted Cpl BATAHU in the discharge of his duties in a reliable and conscientious manner.
- No 7779 Const. OVUGA : Worked with initiative and helped wherever possible without being told.
- No 2862 Const. BABAHU : Hindered with Malaria, did well under the circumstances.
- No 5400 Const. WAINO : Did not impress but carried out duties required of him.
- No 9081 Const. ANA'ALI : A comparative newcomer to patrol work. Worked well and appeared happy at his work.
- No 8826 Const. WEINI : Worked well, goes out of his way to please.
- No 9475 Const. MAURI : His first patrol, even so did not appear to be over awed with the fact, was smart and worked well, with more experience should develop into a good policeman.

*J. J. Pickrell*  
J.J. PICKRELL.

Cadet Patrol Officer