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OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

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STATION: LUMI

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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AGW/W

Duffield



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Sepik Report No. LUM Wedvats 1-50/51

Patrol Conducted by P.E. Frenberg PO

Area Patrolled N.E. Wapen sub-division

Patrol Accompanied by—Europeans.....

Natives..... 5

Duration—From 16/1/50 to 30/1/50

Number of Days..... 14

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....

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

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

Map Reference.....

Objects of Patrol.....

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ 19

District Officer

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

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

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

REPORT OF A PATROL TO : North-East Wapei Sub-division -
Aitape Sub-district.

CONTINENT OF NEW GUINEA : Mr. P. E. Pierberg, Patrol Officer.

AREA PATROLLED : That area NORTH and EAST of Lumi
Patrol Post and within the boundaries
of the North-East Wapei Sub-division.

OBJECTS OF PATROL : (1) Annual Census revision.
(2) Investigation of Additional War
Damage Compensation Claims.
(3) General Administration.

DURATION OF PATROL : From 16th August 1950 To 29th August
1950 (inclusive) - 14 days.

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING : 4 Members R. G. P. F.
1 M. M. C.

MAP REFERENCE : Aitape Sheet 2078 - 4 miles = 1 inch.
Strat. series. NEI Grid.

INTRODUCTION.

The Sub-division patrolled, though the smallest in actual area, is the most thickly populated portion of the Wapei. The census sub-divisions within the Wapei have only recently been defined, and the prime reasons for marking the present boundary were, firstly, that the 41 villages which comprise the sub-division are, with the exception of two villages, all in the one linguistic group, while by using the existing roads, they can all be visited comfortably in one patrol. The two villages mentioned as being outside the linguistic group (WULUKOM, Map ref. (Q)2 7508 and PIM (Q)2 7108) are connected by road and by normal trade and social relationship with the other 39 villages and cannot be conveniently patrolled except by being placed in the same sub-division.

The N.E. Sub-division can roughly be divided into semi-sophisticated villages mainly situated in the western portion, and only partially controlled villages mainly to the east as far as SIKEL and south to WULUKOM. All villages with the exception of some half dozen were visited and census figures compiled in July 1949, while four were last patrolled in 1948 and two had not been visited since before the war, probably in 1939 or 1940. A big percentage of the villages in the area are visited regularly between patrols, and on this occasion it was not considered necessary for the patrol to spend more than an hour or two in each; while in the more remote villages it was not considered advisable to hold up urgent garden work for longer than absolutely necessary. At this time of the year there is a great deal of agricultural activity in preparing of new gardens before the beginning of the wet season, expected in a week or two. However, no village is greater than 3 days' walk from Lumi and can be visited at odd times for a day or two between patrols. I propose doing this when the people will have more leisure and are likely to stay in the villages for a few days at a time.

PATROL DIARY.

August 16th. - LUMI to OPEI. Village inspected and census revised. To FLORENE and RAUNTEI. Inspections and census revision. To SIBOTEI.

August 17th. - SIBOTEI to WAGGITEI - village inspected and census revised. To SIGAINI and RAUNTEI. Inspections and census. To NIGAITI - heavy rain prevented further work.

PATROL DIARY - Contd.

- August 18th. - Inspection and census of MWAUFTEI and WILBERTSEI villages. To GARBOTSEI for census check returning to MWAUFTEI. Visited La Verna Mission Station.
- August 19th. - To TLOOTSEI, to WOOTSEI, to HAPSEI-IN. Census figures revised and villages inspected.
- August 20th. - To YANOU, to ASSENI, to LILAL. Inspections and census revision. Complaints heard.
- August 21st. - To WUBLAGIL, SOLOKU and MURUN villages - census checks and villages inspected. Complaints heard.
- August 22nd. - To SIKEL, YEMLU and LAINDIM No. 1, the latter not visited since 1946. New book compiled and issued. Patrol camped.
- August 23rd. - To LAINDIM No. 2. No patrol since (probably) 1939 or 40. No village book. New book compiled and issued. To MURU and MAMBEL villages.
- August 24th. - To PINON, YIKIL and YILI villages. Inspected PND Aid Post at YILI. Villages inspected and census conducted.
- August 25th. - To PIN, LALI and WULUKUM villages for inspections and census checks. Returned to Yili.
- August 26th. - To TANGSI, MABUL and LINGI villages - closely grouped but have separate books. To SAINDUI. Census revised.
- August 27th. - To WILUM and KFOCAM - also one group. Inspections and census revised. Nearly 600 people in this group.
- August 28th. - To KARASEI, KUNHASEI and WABUSEI villages. Populations small. Inspections and census checks.
- August 29th. - To WRITSEI village via SEAF hamlet. Census revised and inspections carried out. To LUMI PATROL POST.

PATROL SUMMARY1. CENSUS - (a) The Census

With the exception of those villages not visited since 1939 or 1940, all villages were in possession of the new type village book issued last year. Although only 12 months old most of these were found to be in a delapidated condition. No doubt the poor quality of the books is to a great extent responsible, but officials were admonished and instructed to take a greater pride in the care of their village records.

As is usual among these people, some difficulty was experienced in obtaining a full attendance and in arranging family groups. Children are exchanged and passed around in a most bewildering manner and few women appear to be able to keep a check on the number and disposal of their offspring from year to year. This constant adoption and passing back of children makes the accurate compilation of family groups a particularly difficult task and it is likely that every patrol officer considers the colleague before him a fool and an incompetent idiot. I sometimes suspect that the native, compelled to answer baffling questions concerning his progeny, and on whom the finer points of census are completely lost, is often of a similar opinion, though no doubt for other reasons.

It is perfectly obvious from a comparison of age group totals that a large percentage of females between 10 and 16 years are not attending census checks. I say "obvious" because although there is no appreciable difference between the number of male and female 10ths or the number of male and female 20ths there is 100% difference in the totals of the 10-16 age groups (m 615, f 399). Confronted with the undeniable fact, the village officials and people refuse to accept the white man's logic, and blandly assert that the village

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Para 2

1(a) Contd.

women have a peculiar and inexplicable habit of only producing male infants. Among more sophisticated people it would possibly be reasonable to take action under the Regulations but such action can scarcely be considered here for several years. The necessity and meaning of the annual census checks were explained, though I do not delude myself into thinking they were absorbed much less believed. It is only natural for these people to keep a guarded eye on eligible females and not until complete confidence in our intentions has been established can we expect a full attendance.

A pleasing feature, indicating a strengthening of this very desirable confidence, is shown in the number of "New Names" recorded. Unfortunately the census chart does not allow a column for these figures, but in order that figures could be reconciled they have been shown in the "Inward Migrations" column. Over 190 "New Names" were recorded and undoubtedly there are more to come. I feel sure that by adopting a reasonable attitude towards the problem and by refraining from any show of annoyance when new names appear that the time when the entire village will present itself can be greatly advanced. It seems that some officers in the past have registered anger and have remonstrated with parents and officials for not having presented the people to former patrols, and this has only produced a fear of bringing forward new names.

It is estimated that the census of the sub-division is 88% accurate, i.e. that there are in the region of 750 persons unrecorded. It is possible however that I may be over-estimating this number by a small margin. The sub-division shows an increase of births over deaths of 106 or 1.77% which would appear satisfactory. The number of pregnancies is low but undoubtedly many are not declared, while the least number of deaths has occurred in the 5-8 age group and the most in the over 15 followed by the 0-1 month group. Only two women are reported to have died in child-birth but this information would only cover deaths directly attributable to the birth and not those from later complications.

(b) LABOUR - Recruiting Etc.

The sub-division as a whole has not been over-recruited but several individual villages have been practically debilitated of the able-bodied males and a total of sixteen (16) villages have more than a third of the 16-30 (m) age group absent. A list of all villages in the sub-division is being drawn up for forwarding to the District Officer with the recommendation that they be made the subject of declarations under Section 11(3) of the M.L.A. Only by this means can recruiting be controlled, as controlled it must be if the disruption of village life is to be prevented.

(c) WAR DAMAGE COMPENSATION.

Investigation of claims was carried out in the greater part of this area in 1949 but a number of new claims from repatriated labourers were investigated and recorded on this patrol. Payment of all claims is to be made in the near future and War Damage for the sub-division should then be finalised.

3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(a) Native Affairs.

As previously mentioned this sub-division is the most heavily populated of the five comprising the Special Division. The average village population is slightly more than 145 persons while several villages contain well over 200 and two have a population of nearly 350. The people have had more contact with Administration patrols, Missions and recruiters than those in other areas but are still far from sophisticated and are apt to disappear into bush retreats at the approach of a patrol. There was no large-scale exodus on this occasion, however, and though

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3. (a) Land.

shy and somewhat nervous they re-act favourably to gentle methods.

Inter-village disputes are not infrequent and it is only the presence of the post at Land which prevents an occasional fracas. There is some evidence to support the view that the larger villages are not above an occasional attempt at gentle extortion at the expense of their smaller neighbours, a situation somewhat reminiscent of the American "protection racket". As yet no serious case has been brought to my notice, but a general warning was issued that such a state of affairs will no longer be tolerated. Several disputes involving pigs, dogs, land, bride-price adjustment and non-payment of debts were successfully arbitrated, but there were no complaints necessitating police action.

The over-recruitment of many of the smaller villages makes it rather difficult to obtain sufficient portage in some cases. I managed to avoid the difficulty to a great extent by cutting patrol stoves to an absolute minimum, but this re-acts in reducing the length of time one can spend on patrol. The native is particularly adverse to carrying beyond the nearest settlement, and, in fact, shows a marked reluctance to carry at all. The only real inducement to do so lies in the obvious fact that without portage the patrol would have to remain in the village and the lesser of the two evils is usually accepted.

Little interest is shown in outside events, and though many natives visit the coast at Aitape and work for a time on Mission plantations, there is little trading activity. Infrequent contact with the more eastern villages has made the Administration still something of an unknown quantity there and patrols are apt to be looked upon merely as police parties concerned only with maintaining law and order and punishing the transgressor. Only regular patrolling for many years can offset this unfortunate idea. Generally one can only arrive at the opinion that the North-east sub-division in no way differs from its western counterpart in administrative problems.

(b) AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK.

There is no shortage of basic food other than the normal seasonal decrease in production. At this time of the year taro and sugo are the main items of diet and it will be several months before yams are harvested. Sweet potato appears to be a secondary item of diet but the usual fruits - bananas, papaya and pineapples - and items such as breadfruit and sugar cane are fairly plentiful. Most villages have coconut palms and a few onions, tomatoes and beans are seen occasionally, while with some little trouble a few small fish may be trapped in the larger streams. Wild pigs are numerous but not exploited as much as they should be. The effort involved and lack of suitable dogs is given as the reason for this.

The soil throughout the area is rather "stony" - good dark loam in some places varying with a heavy clay composition and stony outcrops. Hill rice could possibly be cultivated with success but I am not inclined to risk my meagre supply of seed unless reasonably sure that it will not go to waste through lack of interest.

Spontaneous is in very short supply. Like all other villages seen in the area pigs are few and of a poor type, and fowls, few in number, are often the size of well-developed pigeon. There is an urgent need for the introduction of new livestock into this area, and a request is being forwarded to the Agricultural Department for assistance in obtaining a well-bred boar and some "day-old chicks".

(c) MEDICAL - HEALTH & HYGIENE

No Medical Assistant accompanied the patrol, therefore a separate Medical Report appears as an Appendix (A) to this report.

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(d) EDUCATION

There are no Government schools established in the area patrolled. The B. C. Mission, (Franciscan Order) has a station between the villages of WABUTY and HIBAUTY known as La Vera (they call it) (S)E (S)E and the priest resident there conducts a school with comparable success. Attendance is, however, rather irregular except for those villages in the immediate vicinity, and at the best this lone effort can only scratch the surface. Throughout the sub-division with a population of at least 8000 miners of school age there are 2 students absent attending mission educational establishments, and not one Government school student. Those attending La Vera do so on a day basis although some occasionally board for a few days at a time.

(e) ROADS & BRIDGES

The roads between YIM and LUNI and HIBAUTY and LUNI are in good condition, suitable in fact for education, and in the dry season, light vehicular traffic. Horses could be used to advantage in this area. The eastern portion of the sub-division however is more rugged country and roads deteriorate badly and are of an scarcely discernible path. Some of the mountain paths, broken by landslides and earth quakes are distinctly dangerous and in many places a carelessly placed foot could end in tragedy. Some improvement could be made with the aid of picks and shovels and some considerable effort, but to make this effort really worth while organization and supervision would be necessary, and I am unable at the present time to supply the tools. A realistic attitude towards the problem of mountain road maintenance must be taken and the people were informed that their obligations under the Ordinance extended to what could be done with a reasonable expenditure of time and labour. They were warned, however, that roads must be made safe and detours built in the event of break-downs and slides.

(f) VILLAGE OFFICIALS

With few exceptions maintain the low standard predominant throughout the Wapei. This is not necessarily through any fault of their own but is a perfectly natural outcome of the practice of appointing officials and leaving them to their own devices devoid of any training and supervision and often advice. Unfortunately measure of sort on a one-man station of this size leaves no spare moments, but I still have hopes of being able, in time, to hold short courses of instruction for all officials. An amusing sidelight on the series, troubles and risks connected with the holding of office was presented at the village of WIGOTI, where no-one will accept the position of Luni, the last five having died in office soon after receiving the "hat". An unfortunate connection between their deaths and the official position has been firmly established in the native mind.

(g) VILLAGE COUNCILS

There are no councils established in the sub-division, and it will be many years before their installation will be practicable.

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Page 2

ANTHROPOLOGICAL Customs and Marriage Customs of the North-East Vanoi

In recording the following observations I lay no claim to accuracy, and stress the fact that the information was obtained by conversation with a very limited number of natives and a very small cross-section of the population. Anthropological data, like any other scientific observations, can be of little real value unless checked and re-checked a number of times, and it is obviously impossible for a patrolling officer to give sufficient time to the task in order to meet these qualifications.

Usually the somewhat intricate system of "sister exchange", although not unknown in the area, is not in great favour, and the much less complicated system of bride purchases is the accepted method of obtaining a wife. Marriages are often tentatively arranged by parents some years before the principals attain the marriageable age, but such arrangements are in no way binding, and are, in fact often abandoned by mutual consent. However, marriages between minors is common, and a young man usually enters into negotiations between the age of puberty and twenty years. He may take a bride from his own village or clan or from some other village or clan within his linguistic area but very seldom from a foreign area. Unless the marriage has been previously arranged the young man normally makes his choice from the eligible females of his acquaintance, and, through his parents or guardians, makes his proposal. If accepted there is then a somewhat lengthy period of family conferences and haggling over the bride price, and when this has been arrived at to the satisfaction of all, - a difficult process - the young woman becomes a member of the household of the prospective bridegroom's parents to undergo a period of trial. It would appear that the female is not always the passive member, and negotiations for a partner are sometimes initiated by her.

The trial period varies in length from 3 to 6 months, but may be longer depending upon the age of the parties. During this time there is limited contact between the betrothed couple, the girl being under the constant and critical observation of her intended in-laws, and fully occupied in carrying out household chores and garden labour under supervision. It is not unusual for the young man to go away to work during this period, but if he stays he usually resides in the single-men's quarters provided in the village or with relatives. Sexual intercourse may or may not occur between the two during the trial period, depending to a great extent on the opportunities available and the natures of the individuals concerned. The moral issues do not appear to enter into the matter to any degree. If at any time during this period the male's parents decide the girl is not a fit person for their son to marry, because of laziness or stupidity in performing her duties or unwillingness to submit to discipline or any other reason, they may send her back to her family and negotiations are abandoned, while a change of heart or mind by either party is sufficient to bring an end to the engagement. Eventually a decision is made, and if favourable to the match, there only remains the handing over of the bride price and the marriage ceremony.

The latter usually consists of a feast attended by friends and relatives of both families, the number being dictated by the means at the disposal of the bride's parents, who must provide the wherewithal. During the festivities the bride cooks and presents to the bridegroom some articles of food, of which he partakes in the view of all present. This ritual act of cooking, offering, accepting and eating symbolises the acceptance of the girl as the man's "cook", and they are accordingly adjudged to be man and wife from that moment.

Polygamy, and the custom of a man taking in marriage his deceased brother's widow, is practised widely in the area, and the rather inconspicuous sight (to European eyes) of a youth in his teens having as a wife a middle-aged or even aged woman often presents itself.

P. H. ...

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APPENDIX 'A'

MEDICAL REPORT - NORTH-EAST WAPSI - TO ACCOMPANY P.R. WEL 1-50/51

All natives contacted on the patrol were medically examined, rather cursorily if must be admitted. As each family group was checked off the census rolls, the natives comprising it were passed on to the M.M.O. who examined each person for sores, injuries or other outward signs of disability. As a medical patrol had visited the majority of villages in the sub-division earlier in the month, only relatively few were found to be in need of treatment. Some 80 persons suffering from minor sores and ulcers were sent to nearby Aid Posts for treatment, while sixteen were considered to be in need of more expert treatment and were sent to Lami Native Hospital.

Each village has its Medical Aid Post, but they are with the exception of one or two who have received training at Lami, and one ex-NTE student, sadly lacking in even rudimentary knowledge. There are 4 Aid Posts functioning in this area, and these were found to be in excellent order and well maintained by the staff, who however, complained that the service they provide is not being used or appreciated. Despite the fact that the placing of these Posts makes it unnecessary for anyone to travel for longer than a day to receive treatment few avail themselves of it voluntarily, and when sent by patrol or officials take the first opportunity to return home, seldom waiting for the formality of a discharge. However the staff were encouraged to persevere. The Posts have only recently been opened, and it is too early to take a pessimistic view of their value. As yet the over-suspicious native is looking for the ulterior motive. General health in the area appears to be above average.

The patrol was accompanied by WEL 17 M.M.O. MIYONI. This member also accompanied me on the West Wapsi patrol in May - June, and continued to maintain the high standard he then set. He is conscientious, had a hard worker and has more than average knowledge. On this occasion the patrol was operating in his native area and his local knowledge was also of considerable assistance.

P. R. WEL 1-50/51
.....
(P. R. FISHER)

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APPENDIX 'B'

REPORT ON K. G. P. PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL (K. G. P. 1-50/11)

The following members of the K. G. P. accompanied the patrol :

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------|--|
| Reg. No. 3439 Const. | BEJLERT | - Continues to do good work and is rapidly becoming a valuable member as he gains in field experience. |
| " " 3477 Const. | SEED | - Acted as Senior Constable on this patrol. A cheerful and efficient worker whose high credits do not detract from his ability to maintain discipline. |
| " " 3618 " | KOKOU | - A young and keen constable who is proving his worth among semi-controlled natives. |
| " " 3601 " | HIMALKONDI | - First patrol in the Wapoi. A young constable not lacking in intelligence. Rather shy at first and needs more experience to gain confidence. A good type. |

All the abovesamed members carried out their duties efficiently and their bearing and discipline was good at all times.

A. R. Stenberg
..... P. O.
(A. R. STENBERG)
Asst. Sub-Inspector,

L14



Duplicate

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Sepik Report No. ~~1234~~ 2-50/51

Patrol Conducted by P. F. [unclear] P.O.

Area Patrolled S. E. Wapik

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans -

Natives 5

Duration—From 9/12/1950 to 15/12/1950

Number of Days 10

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?

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

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

Map Reference

Objects of Patrol

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ /19

.....
District Commissioner

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

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

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

.....
.....
.....

Lumi Patrol Post.
Sepik District.
20th March 1951.

The Director.
Dept District Services & N.A.
Port Moresby.

THROUGH : District Commissioner.
MBWAK

PATROL REPORT - WKL 2 of 1950/51

I am in receipt of a copy of your memo DS 30-11-134, being comments on a Patrol Report submitted by me recently, and wish to register a protest at the inaccuracies, and thereby unjustified, criticism contained therein.

2. It is noted that the memo was not signed personally by the Director, and from its content I am led to believe that he, in fact, did not originate it.
3. An adequate answer to the comment contained in para.1 has already been supplied by the D.C. Wessak in his memo of the 12th March 1951. With regard to the comment made in para.2, the criticism would be justifiable were the quoted extract from my report an accurate one. A perusal of my introductory remarks in the report will show that at no time did I state : " It is doubtful whether South Wapei to the Sepik can ever be successfully controlled..... and would serve no useful purpose." Such an interpretation could only have been made by a rapid scanning of the text and a difficulty in the interpretation of correct English. My statement was as follows : " It is doubtful whether South Wapei to the Sepik can ever be successfully controlled from Lumi Base, by the present staff at least. The distance to be travelled, coupled with the paucity of population, would mean that any influence would be only of a very fleeting nature and could serve no useful purpose." If it is found possible to successfully control the area from Lumi in the present staff then it will be controlled. I have both the ability and experience to carry out the possible.
4. Concerning the comment on my remarks on Census difficulties an obvious and normal interpretation would seem to be that I was analysing the reasons for the lack of understanding on the part of the natives, and was, in fact, admitting that although I was aware that the fault largely lies with the attitude of patrolling officers I was not proof against shows of impatience. My comment : " They are to be deprecated " should rule out any possibility of my admission being thought a boast.
5. During the seven years I have been a Patrol Officer, I have been, on numerous occasions, commended on my sympathetic attitude towards unsophisticated people. I am more than willing to accept criticism from my superiors in status and experience, especially from my District Commissioner or Director, and have until now found such criticism both accurate and helpful. In this instance I consider it to be neither and wholly unjustified, and I further consider it to be my right to record my resentment.

F. E. Fienberg
(F. E. FIENBERG) P.O.
Officer-in-Charge.

ula

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

In Reply
Please Quote

DS. 30-11-134

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

MEMORANDUM FOR—

5th March, 1951.

District Commissioner,
Sepik District,
WERNAE.

PATROL REPORT - WKL. 2 of 1950/51

One comment is that the original report was not forwarded, only several smudged copies which are rather difficult to decipher.

In the introductory remarks Mr. Fienberg says "It is doubtful whether South Wapoi to the Sepik can ever be successfully controlled.....and would serve no useful purpose". The object of the Administration is to eventually bring all parts of the Territory under control.

Under the heading "Census" the patrolling Officer says "In all honesty.....not infrequent shows of impatience". With people such as this one should never show signs of impatience or, for that matter, with any others.

With regard to War Damage, please see DS. Circular Memorandum on War Damage issued on the 21st November 1950 and circular Instruction 124A of the same date.

Items of Interest to other Departments have been passed to those concerned.

WKL.2/50-51
12th March, 1951.

Minute to: O.I.C. LUMI.

[Signature]
A.I. F. Champion)
ACTING DIRECTOR.

For your information.

[Signature]
(J.R. HIGBY)

Acting District Commissioner.

Comments obviously written by a clerk or other unskilled with little experience & less intelligence. R. Denton.

*Remorse!
No Fienberg said
nothing of the kind.*

*Obviously correct!
and a nice sentiment.
But why do you think
it was mentioned??*

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

WK.L.2/50-51

Sepik District,
District Office,
W.E.W.A.K.

12th March, 1951.

Director of District Services
and Native Affairs,
PORT Moresby.

PATROL REPORT - LUMI NO.2

Your memo 30-11-134 of 5th instant refers.

Regarding your first para, the reason for the amended copies is that Mr. Fienberg cannot be supplied with an office typewriter. The only one available for issue to him is a rather ancient portable, which can only take two copies at a time. An office machine has now been supplied to him - a new one was received three days ago, which enabled this to be done. More typewriters are still required, Green River has none, Telefomin and Vanimo have only portables, and several typewriters in this District sadly need overhaul by a mechanic. However, this cannot be done until replacements ordered on our last three Half-Yearly requisitions are received.

Mr. Fienberg stated that he doubted whether the South Wapei could be "successfully controlled from Lumi base, by the present staff at least". He obviously did not mean that they could not be controlled.

A copy of your memo has been sent to Mr. Fienberg and his attention is drawn to para 4.



(J.R. RIGBY)

Acting District Commissioner.

Copy for:
O.I.C. LUMI.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA & NEW GUINEA

File # WKL 30-3

Lumi Patrol Post.
Sepik District.
2nd January 1960 1957

District Officer.

WEWAK

PATROL REPORT No. WKL 2/50-51

For-warded here-with are 4 copies of the a/m Report,
together with 2 PR Covers and Sketch Map. For distribution please.

It would be appreciated if a copy of D.D.S. comments
on reports could be furnished for this station's files.

P. E. Flenberg
(P. E. FLENBERG.)
Patrol Officer i/c.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA & NEW GUINEAPATROL REPORT - No. WML 2/20-51

REPORT OF A PATROL TO : South-East Wapei Sub-division -
Aitape Sub-District, Sepik.

OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL : Mr. R. E. Fionberg, Patrol Officer.

AREA PATROLLED : That area South and East of
Lumi Patrol Post and within the
boundaries of the South-east
Wapei Sub-division.

OBJECTS OF PATROL : (1) Annual Census revision
(2) Investigation of War
Damage & Compensation Claims
(3) General Administration.

DURATION OF PATROL : From 9th Dec 1950 to 18th Dec 50
(inclusive) - 10 days.

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING : 4 Members N.G.P.F.
1 N.G.C. (P.R.D.)

MAP REFERENCE : AITAPE Sheet 2078 - 4 miles - 1in.
Strat. Series, W.M. Grid.

INTRODUCTION

This patrol was the first to the area since census sub-divisions have been defined, and it soon became apparent that the formation of two distinct sub-divisions, i.e. South-East Wapei and South Wapei, where formerly only one existed, was a wise decision. The most southerly village visited, SULAHA, is as far as administration influence can reasonably be expected to extend for some time, until at least the areas closer to Lumi Patrol Post have been fully brought under control. It is doubtful whether South Wapei to the Sepik can ever be successfully controlled from Lumi base, by the present staff at least. The distance to be travelled, coupled with the paucity of population, would mean that any influence would be only of a very fleeting nature and could serve no useful purpose. The boundary of the 3rd Sub-division as first outlined has been slightly altered since the area has been patrolled and the villages of MUELO and MUELO have now been included in the South Wapei. This now makes it possible to complete the sub-division in one circuit.

PATROL DIARY

- December 9th - Lumi to MUELO. Village inspected and census checked. War D. Claims investigated. To OREBI - census revised and War D. claims recorded. To TOLWEI.
- December 10th - Census of village revised and War Damage claims investigated. To MUELO - village inspected and census checked.
- December 11th - To YUPABI - Patrol stores left here and patrol visited - MUELO. Census checked and claims recorded returned to YUPABI. Village inspected, census revised and War Damage claims investigated.

PATROL DIARY - Contd.

- December 12th - To WARIN - river in flood. Patrol delayed for over an hour ferrying stores. Village deserted. Patrol camped. Tultul contacted during evening.
- December 13th - Village lined about 9 a.m. Good attendance with 14 new names and no absentees. Medical inspection and investigation of W.D.C. claims. To BULAWA. Three hours walking time and no road. Village inspected. Conditions very poor. Census revised. Number of absentees and two new names.
- December 14th - To GALGATU - no roads and travelling difficult. Village inspected and census revised. To GUTAIYA, (Kannum group). Census revised. To KAMNUM.
- December 15th - Inspected KAMNUM and WIUP villages, census checked and war damage claims investigated. To TUBUM, returning via PARISKO. Initial census conducted here and village book issued.
- December 16th - To SBINAM - village inspected and census revised. To TALBIPI - 5 new names. Village inspected and patrol camped.
- December 17th - To WABUF - census revised and village inspected. To KLELBUF - census revised, village inspected and war damage claims recorded. Returned to Lumi for visit of A.D.D.S.
- December 18th - p.m. - Visited MAUI village and Lew village site inspected. Census revised. Returned to Lumi Post.

PATROL SUMMARY1. CENSUS - (a) The Census

The area was last visited by F. O. Gilbert in mid-1949 during a patrol in which he included most of the South Sub-division villages but did not visit a number of groups now included in the present sub-division. A comparison of census figures is therefore of no practical value. Patrolling would be easier later in the year, preferably during the drier months, and on this occasion the patrol was fortunate in having a few days of fine weather. Nevertheless, rivers were flooded and dangerous to negotiate and the rather long, and often trackless distances between the remoter villages consisted of mud, slush and water.

There are 19 villages within the Sub-division with an average population of 94.36, but there are only 7 villages with populations over 100 and there are five villages containing less than 45 persons. HOWEVER it is considered that a number, especially female adults and children are not attending census checks. On this occasion 29 new names were recorded.

All villages with the exception of PARISKO (see below) had been issued with new type village books during the 1949 census and one or two officials were able to produce much battered books issued prior to that date. The village of PARISKO (map ref (Q) Z 4709) was visited for the first time and an initial census recorded. These people are the remnants remaining of the populations of NAMGETI, TOMBOROM and PARISKO, the two former villages being now deserted, their populations reduced to a mere handful by disease - probably dysentery - and general degeneration. Only 32 persons were sighted here, and it is likely that a number did not report, as even taking

1(a) The Census - Contd.

into account the serious decline in population reported, such a number would appear to be fantastically small for the combined totals of three formerly independent groups. It was noted also that none of the people inspected required medical attention, which would suggest that those unfit did not appear. A further check of this group will be made in three months time. It is pointed out that the combination into one group at PARISKO was carried out by the natives of their own accord and had occurred before the visit of the patrol.

As in other sub-divisions a study of the census figures makes it rather obvious that females, especially in the 10-16 years age group, are not attending census checks. There is no difference between the number of male and female births in this case, and actually less female deaths than male, yet in the age group mentioned, 54 more males were seen than females (164 to 110). In the 16-45 age group also, males are in excess by nearly 90 and a grand total check shows 132 more adult males than females. These statistics are, of course, taken only from figures over a period of 18 months, but must be considered a fair and reasonable indication of the general population trends over a number of years.

It is not unusual for these people to hide the presence of eligible females, and in an area where officials wield little, if any, real influence and have a scant measure of control and patrols are viewed with a great deal of suspicion by the population in general, it cannot be expected that a complete and wholly accurate census can be made. The present task, as I see it, is to gain the complete confidence of the natives, and this can be accomplished to a great extent by a reasonable attitude and a strict control over the behaviour and activities of all members of the patrol. The recording of a number of new names on this occasion, and the very small number of absentees, shows, I think, that progress in this direction can be made, even though slowly, by following a strict code of behaviour towards unsophisticated and timid groups. Without wishing to appear over-presumptuous, I consider the question to be asked is not "what is wrong with the natives' attitude towards the patrol and the census?" but rather "what is wrong with the patrol's attitude towards the natives?" In all honesty (lest I be accused of being pretentious) I must plead guilty to not infrequent shows of impatience. They are to be deprecated.

The sub-division shows a natural increase of 66 or 3.68%. The number of pregnancies (46) is only 11.91% of the total number of women of child bearing age, but this figure cannot be considered very accurate, the source of information being highly unreliable. The least number of deaths has occurred in the 9-13 age group, and the greatest number in the "over 13" followed by the 0-1 year group. This shows a distinct difference to the situation in other sub-divisions, and the reasons are obscure. Only one woman is reported to have died in child birth, a figure which must be accepted with reserve and its accuracy viewed with considerable suspicion.

(b) LABOUR - RECRUITING Etc.

The sub-division as a whole has not been over-recruited, but several individual villages have more than a desirable number absent. With delays in mails etc, it is quite impracticable to attempt to open and close villages to recruiting by means of notices in the Gazette, and as the Native Labour Ordinance 1950 does not provide for the declaration of maximum numbers there is no longer any workable control over the possible wholesale exodus of able-bodied males from the villages.

It is not my prerogative to criticise the official policy towards this aspect of native administration, but I feel I must risk censure in setting down my opinion that this is a particularly unfortunate omission from the new Ordinance. It is, or at least I have attempted to make it common knowledge that the Wapei area of the Aitape Sub-district has long been a happy hunting ground

(Contd) ground for seekers of labour, and it is undeniable that in the past their activities have been largely unchecked, and have resulted in the breakdown of normal village life and considerable discontent. During the last ten months I have carried out a local policy directed towards the mutual benefit of employers and natives alike, and find room to congratulate myself on having attained a fair degree of success. To carry out this policy it has been necessary not only to declare maximum numbers under Section 11(3) of the N.L.O. 1946, but to impose on myself no little extra labour in maintaining an up-to-date record of absentees and in supplying recruiters with figures and lists of villages from which they might obtain labour. I re-iterate that this policy has been successful and not only have I received no word of complaint or criticism from recruiters and employers but in fact the system has been praised by all those who have co-operated, and has resulted in a more friendly feeling between village natives, employees and recruiters and a satisfactory supply of labour without over-recruitment.

The problem now for the Field Staff officer in such an area as this is how to satisfactorily explain his inability to prevent an employers' agent from recruiting every able-bodied male in the village. Closing the village would seem rather akin to shutting the stable door....

No complaints relative to recruiting were received during the patrol.

2. WAR DAMAGE COMPENSATION

A number of War Damage Compensation Claims were investigated and recorded during the course of the patrol, the majority being lodged by natives who were absent under indenture at the time of the previous patrol to the area. Most claims were moderate and those under the £5 limit will be paid when they have been approved and funds made available. Claims totalling more than the maximum allowed to be paid in cash will present something of a problem; and it is likely that many natives will have to undergo up to two weeks walk and more in order to withdraw money from the nearest Savings Bank branch at Aitape. There are no banking facilities at Lumi, and with the present staff the additional work of a branch could not possibly be coped with. After payment of the claims investigated on this patrol War Damage for the sub-division should be 95% complete.

3. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

(a) Native Affairs.

The South-East Sub-division is the least populated of the five comprising the Wapei, with the possible exception of the South Wapei Sub-division, the population of which cannot accurately be estimated at this juncture. The area has had very limited patrolling in the past and though it is not known how many times it was visited prior to 1949 it seems almost certain that very few, if any, villages were visited before the war except by recruiters.

The people are completely unsophisticated and live under the most primitive conditions of housing and sanitation. There appears to be but little inter-village friction and no complaints were brought to the patrol's attention, though these people, unused as they are to our conception of justice and arbitration, no doubt prefer to settle their disputes in their own way. Little interest is evident in events outside their own immediate vicinity, and despite the fact that many of the men have at some time worked in other areas there seems to be no attempt made by them to improve or in any way alter village conditions.

Travelling conditions are not good and with such small village populations it is well for a patrol to travel with the very minimum in stores and personnel. There was no show of hostility towards the patrol, nor can it be said there were manifestations of joy. Rather was the general attitude completely negative.

5. (b) AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK.

The gardens sighted were not extensive and the main items of diet are sago and taro at this time of the year. Sweet potato becomes the basic food (with sago) in season, but there is a great reliance placed on the latter and there is little variation in diet. Even fruits such as pawpaws and bananas are not particularly plentiful, and unlike other areas, one does not see large numbers of breadfruit trees in the vicinity of villages. The soil throughout the area appears to be quite suitable for agricultural purposes though possibly inclined to retain too much moisture at this time of the year. It cannot be deduced, however, that this contributes to any great extent to the seeming lack of agricultural enthusiasm.

Surprisingly enough, a relatively large number of pigs and fowls were observed in most villages, some of which appeared to be of reasonably good stock. This is so unusual in the Wapei as to be an outstanding feature. It cannot be said that there is a surplus or even a sufficiency of livestock, but this sub-division or some obscure reason, appears to be much better stocked than any other yet seen. Small fish are occasionally obtainable in the larger streams and these are caught with hand nets. Unfortunately this source of valuable food is not exploited as much as it should be.

(c) MEDICAL - HEALTH & HYGIENE.

As no Medical Assistant accompanied the patrol a separate Medical Report appears as Appendix "A" to this report.

(d) EDUCATION.

There are no schools, either Mission or Administration controlled, established within the sub-division, and of the seven students attending the Vanimo (Aitape Sub-district) Mission School five are from one village. A few children from the villages of MAUI, WABUI and KLELBUF attend the school run by the Franciscan Mission at LUMI on a day basis, but their attendance is very irregular and no enthusiasm is apparent.

(e) ROADS & BRIDGES.

Except for a few miles of reasonably good tracks in the vicinity of those villages closest to Lumi Patrol Post, roads do not exist in the sub-division. There are, of course, native paths seldom used and scarcely discernible, and during the wet season of the year by reason of mud, water and storm-broken trees, particularly arduous to negotiate. There is insufficient labour available in most villages to cope with the situation, but officials were instructed to make an effort to at least clear the paths of fallen logs and boulders and if possible, to cut a central path sufficient to allow the passage of a single file. Little can be expected, however, and uncomfortable travelling conditions must be anticipated indefinitely.

(f) VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

Conform to the general low standard throughout the Wapei, again I hasten to add, through no fault of their own. The selection of the most unlikely types would seem to have taken up a great deal of the time of my earlier colleagues, and some of the chosen are such ludicrous selections as to make one hesitate to believe they could have in fact ever been appointed, and strongly suspect some system of "stand-ins". With one or two exceptions, no village official appears to have even limited control and it is difficult to determine just who, if there is anyone, can speak with authority. Nothing can be done about this state of affairs until a more intimate knowledge of the social structure of the area has been gained, and the Administration's influence more keenly felt.

APPENDIX "A"MEDICAL REPORT - SOUTH-EAST WAPEI - AITAPE SUB-DISTRICT

The health of the population in the sub-division is not good, but as no medical patrol has visited all villages, a worse state of health could have been anticipated. By far the greater number of persons requiring medical aid were suffering from tropical ulcers and skin diseases, but it is likely that the incidence of malaria is also high.

As each family group was checked off the census roll the people comprising it were passed on to the N.M.C. who examined each native with some care. Sores and other external injuries were immediately treated and bandaged and those requiring hospitalisation were then despatched to Lumi native hospital in charge of the village M.T.T. or other official. Seventy persons were sent to hospital in this way, comprising 3.9% of the total sub-division population.

Several villages have no M.T.T. and those officials previously appointed are mainly incapable of doing any effective work through lack of knowledge and equipment. The E.M.A. in charge of the Lumi hospital has been advised of the position, and a medical patrol is soon to visit the sub-division.

The patrol was accompanied by WKL 35 N.M.C. LOWATEI who carried out his duties efficiently and tactfully.

P. E. FIENBERG
P. E. FIENBERG,
Patrol Officer.

Copy to : EMA s/c Lumi Native Hospital.

APPENDIX "B"REPORT ON N. G. P. F. PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL.

The following members of the N. G. P. F. accompanied the patrol :

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Reg. No. 4181 | Cpl. BINGKUNG | - This NCO again proved his efficiency and capability in handling semi-controlled natives. A valuable member. |
| " " | 6474 Const SEKO | - Cheerful and hard-working in carrying out all duties given him. |
| " " | 6519 " KOLOU | - Has become a valuable and trustworthy member as he gains in patrol experience. Shows tact in the handling of unsophisticated people. |
| " " | 6804 " MORME | - First patrol in this area. A courageous and efficient constable but lacks patience and tact. A hard worker who requires strict control. |

All the above members carried out their duties efficiently and their bearing and discipline was good at all times.

187

 P. C. PIENBERG,
 Patrol Officer &
 Asst Sub-Inspector Police.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Duplicate

PATROL REPORT

District of *Sepik* Report No. *Wewak 3 - 59/51*

Patrol Conducted by *P.F. Fealag PO*

Area Patrolled *West Wapoi sub division*

Patrol Accompanied by—Europeans.....

Natives..... *2*

Duration—From *17/1/51* to *29/1/51*

Number of Days..... *11*

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....

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

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

Map Reference.....

Objects of Patrol.....

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ 19

.....
District Officer

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

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

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

TERRITORY OF PAFUA AND NEW GUINEA.

Copy.

DS.30-11-141.
Dept. of District Services
and Native Affairs,
PORT MORESEY.

12th. September, 1951.

Commissioner
WEWAK.

PATROL REPORT WKLNO.3. 1950/51.

The receipt of the report is acknowledged.

I have noted the remarks regarding village officials.

In connection with the Leper Settlement, application should be made by you for the necessary funds for this work.

Items of interest to other Departments have been passed to those concerned.

.....
(J.H. HONES)
Director.

P.H.D. 18/4/11.

The Director of District Services
& Native Affairs,
PORT MORESEY.

25th. September, 1951.

LEPER SETTLEMENT - LUMI.

Patrol report WKL. 3/50-51 by P.O. P.E. Fienberg of Lumi refers.

The assistance and understanding of Mr. Fienberg in the establishment of the Leper Settlement is greatly appreciated.

It must be understood, however, that whilst a village status has been given to the settlement, to a degree it remains an institution of P.H.D. housing an infectious disease which can be brought under the control of the Suppression of Leprosy Ordinance which may require (if later applied) the ordering in and out of the settlement certain patients, e.g. the cured or arrested cases to make room for others.

This comment should not discourage Mr. Fienberg from pursuing fully his policy.

.....
J. T. GUNTHER.
Director of Public Health.

District Commissioner,
WEWAK.

DS. 30-11-141.

Referred, please.

2/10/51

J. H. JONES
DIRECTOR. DDS & NA.

File

minute to Officer in Charge, or your information. WKL 3/50-51

Acting District Commissioner.

W. RIGBY

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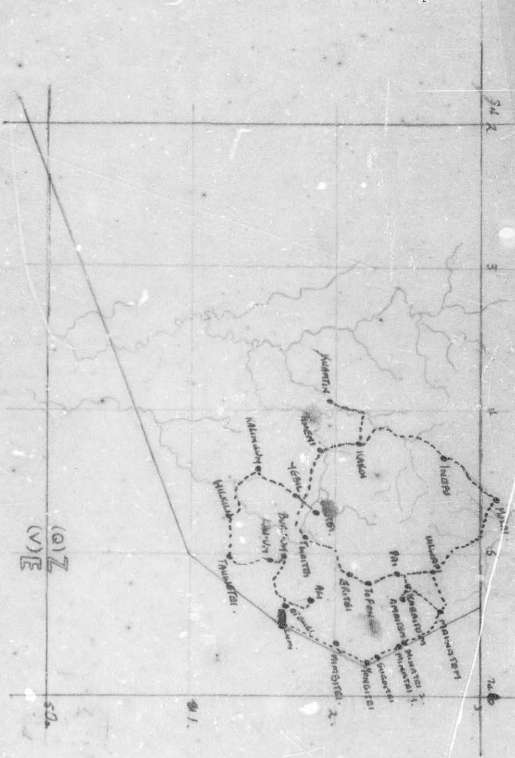
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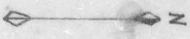
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SACRA MIA, WEST WARRAI SUB-DIVISION - PR. MKL 3/30-ST.



(O) Z
(V) E



REPORT OF A PATROL TO

PATROL REPORT No. 3113/50-51

REPORT OF A PATROL TO : WEST WAPAI Sub-Division. Aitape Sub-District. Sepik District.

OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL : Mr. F. E. Fionberg, Patrol Officer.

AREA PATROLLED : That area WEST, SW and NW of IREU Patrol Post and within the boundaries of the WEST WAPAI Sub-Division.

OBJECT OF PATROL : (1) Annual Census revision.
(2) General Administration.

DURATION OF PATROL : From 19th June 1951 to 29th June 51 (inclusive) - 11 days.

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING : 3 Members U.S.P.F.
1 P.S.O. (P.S.O.)

MAP REFERENCE : Aitape Sheet 2078 - 4 miles to I in Strat. Series. W.S.I. Grid.

INTERESTING.

The last patrol to the West-Wapai Sub-division was carried out by me in May-June 1950 and the previous patrol by Mr Gilbert PC in May-June 1949. By covering the area again this year in the same month it has been possible to collect statistics of interest and to make an accurate assessment of what has been accomplished in general administrative progress over a three year period. It is my desire that each sub-division be visited annually in the same month as the previous year, but to do this on a "one man" station requires some "juggling" of station activities, and the programme is liable to upset by unforeseen circumstances such as sickness, visits to District H... for Supreme Court sittings and the like. However, every effort will be made to keep to an annual revision of census figures, and if a cadet becomes available for posting here, inspection patrols can be carried out in between census checks.

The villages of WAPAI (Map Ref 404 463) and IREU (C.M. 8423) have been included in this year's census, I having been deterred since my last visit that these people are of the same language group as the Kariotas and Iai villages. WAPAI and IREU were previously included in the Aitape District, the village of IAI (C.M. 8418) was also missed in the 1949 and 1950 census takings owing to the fact that the people were then scattered. During the last twelve months, however, they have settled in a permanent village again.

An over-all improvement in attitude and general conditions over the last year was noted, and this is particularly encouraging as the West-Wapai sub-division has had little European contact as yet and is the most sparsely populated of the sub-divisions.

MONDAY 17th June.

Departed Lusi 0800 hrs for NINGIETI. Villages inspected. Census revised and health checked. To YONGIETI and SONGIETI villages. Inspected housing etc. Census revised. Medical inspection.

Tuesday 20th June.

To NINATSI No. 1 and No. 2. Road good and villages clean. Census figures revised and medical inspection carried out. To MALIATSI. Census of ULLIETI village checked here also, but village will be visited tomorrow. To KANITSI via ANAIKI hamlet. Village in excellent condition. Large and extensive gardens. Census checked and revised.

Wednesday 21st June.

To PAI. Inspected Aid Post and Karaiton-Pai rice and vegetable gardens en route. Census and medical check of Pai. To ISPOWU. Village in poor shape. Census revised. To MOKAI. Inspected Ulwadi on route. About 4 hours walk mostly in river. No road. Heavy rain. Village only recently re-built and in fair condition. Last patrol 1948.

Thursday 22nd June.

Census of MOKAI village revised and a new village book compiled and issued. Health checked and number ordered to hospital. To INEPU. Road bad. Twelfth visit by DE since 1922. Village a shambles. Nearly 50 persons in need of medical attention. Census revised and new book compiled. Very absentees. To KAKOI.

Friday 23rd June.

Census of KAKOI revised. KIRIETI village lined and census checked. To TIBUETI and SWAKU, the latter a hamlet. Census revised and medical inspection. To YAKI. Village inspected and census revised. Visited hamlet of MUKIETI and returned to Lusi.

Saturday 24th June.

To TUKIETI and SHITAI villages. Villages inspected and health checked. Census revised. 33 new names at TUKIETI. Rested for remainder of the day.

Sunday 25th June.

Returned to LUSI. Chest cases and inspection of Aid Post.

Monday 26th June.

To KANIGUW. Village inspected and census revised. Medical check carried out. To ULLIETI. Road bad. Census revised and village examined. Number to hospital.

Tuesday 27th June.

To TANGIETI. Village inspected and census and health checked. No absentees. Number to hospital. To KAKU-UM. Census checked and revised.

Wednesday 28th June.

To WAKU. Village inspected and census and health checked. To JIJI village. No record of previous census. Village now settled in permanent place. New book compiled and issued and health checked.

Friday 29th June.

To KUMI and MUKI villages. Health inspection. Census revised. Returned to Station.

.....

PATROL SUMMARY.

1. CENSUS

(a) The Census With the exception of three villages, MOHAI, INDHU and ALI, referred to in my introductory remarks, all villages in the sub-division had been visited by me in May-June 1950, and less difficulty was experienced on this occasion in getting the people to assemble in family groups. Approximately 50 New Names were recorded, these being shown in the figures as "Inward Migrations", and it is likely that there are now few people whose names are not recorded. There is no longer the considerable discrepancy noted in the totals of males and females of the 10-16 age group recorded in 1948 and 1950, and in one village alone 13 "new names" - all female - were entered.

Most villages show a natural increase. Four villages show more deaths than births and four have remained static. The village of AMAIEM is noteworthy in that there have been no births, no deaths, no marriages and no pregnancies since the 1949 census. It would seem a most uninteresting community in which to live, and one in which idle gossip and scandal would be seldom heard. The total of pregnancies is less than 10% of the total of women of child-bearing age, but I consider that another 5% at least are not declared. Only one woman is reported to have died in childbirth, a figure which may be viewed with a great deal of suspicion, as might also the total of children (4) in the 0-1 month age group which have died.

The greatest number of deaths occurred in the "over 13" age group, followed by the 0-1 year group and the least number in the 9-13 age group. From a statistical viewpoint there is an unfortunate gap in unreported pregnancies and deaths of new-born infants which will only be closed as the native gains greater confidence and is prepared to give complete information. The total censused population of the West-Cape sub-division has increased by 500 over the last year including a natural increase of 400.

(b) Labour - Recruitment etc.

At the time of the previous census it was found that several villages had been over recruited and declarations, authorized by the R.L.O. (1946) were immediately made and enforced. By the end of 1950 the village labour position had greatly improved and village conditions accordingly. However, since the 1950 Ordinance makes no provision for the declaration of surplus numbers, many villages have again become dangerously low in able-bodied manpower. The following villages have been recommended for closure under the provisions of Sect. 101 of the Ordinance:

	No. Absent	Labour Potential Males 16-45
SUGGITHI	0	18
HEMACHI No.1	16	40
HAIMATHI	12	18
VIDHAI	6	11
AMAIEM	1	4
PAI	10	23
TOROSCU	7	9
TRAIKI	12	25
MILKILI	11	30
THE-LEI	21	23
ROSE-UN	16	21
ALI	14	27
LEKI	9	19

(b) Labour - Recruiting etc. (Contd.)

In recommending the closure of these villages to further recruiting, I have fully considered the freedom of the individual, but take the view that, just as in our own society, a man who leaves his wife and family for an extended period without making adequate provision for their maintenance and protection is, in the eyes of the law, guilty of desertion, so is the native who enters into an Agreement and leaves his family to fend for themselves, often to suffer privations and indignities. The basic socialists of a native community breaks down when a handful of old men have thrust upon their shoulders the whole burden of village upkeep and food supply.

The omission from the 1952 Ordinance of a Section authorising District Commissioners to declare the surplus number of natives to be recruited or otherwise removed from any village or area must be deplored by every official in close contact with native village life.

2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.(a) Native Affairs.

As previously mentioned in my Patrol Report No. 15-49/50, the natives of this area show an outstanding lack of interest in any scheme for the promotion of their welfare. With the practically non-existent resources I have at my disposal these schemes are, at the best, few and sketchy, but some effort has been made on my part to introduce the cultivation of rice and European vegetables and extend medical facilities and inter-area trading. Mostly the seed has fallen on barren ground. With regard to rice cultivation, only two villages have shown interest and these two villages, in combination, have cleared a large area of ground and have planted some 3 acres of rice.

There were two Medical Aid Posts established in the area during the year, but the staff reports constant opposition and little co-operation. Even those people resident in the villages where these Posts have been built are unable to raise sufficient interest in their own welfare to attend for treatment. Short of visiting each individual house, medical aid could not be brought much closer than it is now.

Trade with coastal areas has not increased over the last twelve months, and the entire economic life of the area revolves round the flow of unskilled labour to outside Districts and the sale of a minute quantity of foodstuffs to the administration post at Iml and Mission settlements.

No complaints between villages or village natives, other than the eternal marriage problems, were brought to the patrol's attention, though one man was convicted under Regulation 83(c) of the M.A.A. on the complaint of an M.W.F. and another under Regulation 117. Six persons were also convicted under Regulations 113 and 115, as a result of the patrol's presence for census taking, but the sub-division would appear to be generally law-abiding. Lack of opportunity has no doubt a great deal to do with this satisfactory position. However, an intangible but nevertheless real improvement in general attitude towards the patrol was felt rather than perceived and a genuine effort has been made in most cases to improve roads and housing as ordered on my last visit. The situation is by no means hopeless, but a great deal of frustration and mental depression will be experienced before any tangible results are obtained. An indication of the ground to be covered and a typical example of the rapid degeneration of which these people are capable is provided by the village of IREB. This village was last visited in 1948 (see my introductory remarks, page 1) but since the date of the first patrol (28) in 1929 it has been patrolled on 11 occasions; my visit making the twelfth. One medical patrol also visited prior to the war. Thirteen patrols in 22 years may be little about which to boast, but it is more than the majority of

2. (a) Native Affairs - Sund.

of/ Aitape hinterland villages have seen. Despite this, (and here one is almost tempted to suggest "or because of it,") INEPU was the worst village in all respects seen during the patrol. A relatively large population with less than 18% of the males in the 16-45 age group absent, the village can only be described as a shambles. Nearly 50 persons were found to be suffering from a particularly virulent type of scabies and other chronic skin complaints, ulcers and sores. Scarcely a house was found fit for human habitation. It would seem incredible that such a state of affairs existed at the time of the last patrol without some action being taken, so one can only conclude that the brief passage of three years has seen the decline. Orders have been given for improvements and a programme of work drawn up. A check will shortly be made to see that it is being carried out.

(b) War Damage Compensation.

No further War Damage Compensation claims were submitted. A number of claims investigated during the 1950 patrol have yet to be paid.

(c) AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK.

The basic food of the area is made up of taro, sago, sweet potato and fruits. Small quantities of sugar cane, bread-fruit and fish are also available, and a few beans, tomatoes and spring onions are sometimes grown in or near the village. The food supply appears to be adequate in quantity if not in quality, but the lack of manpower will undoubtedly be felt when new gardens have to be prepared.

The villages of KASHIPI and PAI have combined their meagre labour strength and have cleared a large area of good land for rice and vegetable cultivation. They have already harvested an excellent crop of the former which produced good results, and have in the region of 2000 cabbages at various stages of growth, plus onions, beans, tomatoes and a few potatoes. Their efforts are deserving of praise and I am extending every assistance possible. Unfortunately the project requires technical assistance and advice which I am not competent to give, and I have accordingly requested the D.A.G. Messak to send an Agricultural officer to visit the area and provide the necessary teaching. It is not proposed that the natives should produce rice and vegetables as a cash crop. The distance to markets is too great, and in any case the villagers themselves should be able to consume all they can produce for some time. It is hoped that the shortage of good quality seed rice and vegetable seed will be alleviated after the proposed visit by a member of the Dept of A.S.S.P.

There has been little noticeable increase in the numbers of livestock since my last visit. Pigs and fowls are in short supply, and there seems to be no immediate prospect of altering this position. A few hundred day-old chicks of a good breed would find a ready market and would provide a means of useful investment for the idle ponds hidden away in village trade boxes.

(d) MEDICAL - HEALTH AND FITNESS.

As no Medical Assistant accompanied the patrol a separate medical report is attached hereto as Appendix "A".

2.(a) EDUCATION.

There are no Government Schools established in the area patrolled and only one Mission school - at KARAIMIM - is concerned rather with the spiritual than the temporal or academic. Throughout the entire sub-division, with a population of over 1100 children there are only two attending a Government School (Borua) and 5 absent at Mission educational centres.

Parents evince little interest in the subject of an education for their children, and with no hope of absorption in local industry their reluctance is understandable.

(c) ROADS AND BRIDGES.

A distinct improvement in the condition of roads was noted since my last visit. In the majority of cases a definite effort has been made to put the roads in at least passable order. Some of the longer stretches have not been maintained but their improvement cannot be insisted on without imposing hardship on the people as a whole. The mountainous nature of the country and the shortage of labour and tools makes it unlikely that they will ever be more than crude tracks. Where it was considered that portions of road could be maintained with normal and fair effort orders were made under the Ordinance.

No track in the area is suitable for vehicular traffic and only short stretches would allow the passage of a horse or other pack animal.

(c) VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

During the last 12 months every opportunity has been taken to acquaint village officials with their functions and powers. Unfortunately these opportunities have been too infrequent. One cannot carry out the multifarious tasks of a station of this nature and its run the full-time School of Civic Management which would be necessary to show any real results. However, a slight but definite improvement was noted. I can only reiterate the remarks contained in my previous report for the area: "While a village official remains an unpaid Civil Servant and the whipping boy of visiting officials and village natives alike, one cannot expect to have the natural leaders come forward to accept office, or, for that matter, even the intelligent."

(b) MISSION.

There are no Mission stations established in the West Wapei, and little Mission influence has been extended to the area, apart from one or two villages around Karaiton. Whatever Christian teaching may have found its way into the villages has come through the Catholic Mission stations at Luni and Mivuntel.

(d) LEPER SETTLEMENT.

At the beginning of 1951 a leper settlement was built near the Luni station and is now occupied by a total of natives, both local and coastal. It is understood that more are to arrive in the near future. The settlement at present consists of 12 houses erected by local villages but paid for out of Administration funds, and authority is being requested for the erection of three more houses and two administrative buildings. The leper patients seem to have settled in well. They have planted a good sized garden area and are being rationed until this garden is in production.

I have discussed the future of the settlement with the local S.A.D. representative, and I intend giving it the same status as an ordinary village. I consider it

(j) WATER SUPPLY - Contd.

it/

imperative that in order to keep the patients contented and aid any possible recovery they should maintain their self-respect and independence and not be allowed develop an inferiority complex. I feel that they should not be regarded - except from a medical viewpoint - as patients in a hospital but as a normal village community.

To this end I propose having them elect a Taluk and a Taluk will be recommended for appointment. A village book will be compiled and issued and in all respects the settlement will become an ordinary native village. It will be known, locally at least, as LUNEP and will be included in future census takings.

(k) CONCLUSION.

It is felt that without undue optimism, some little progress in all departments, with the exception of health, has been accomplished over the last twelve months, and a reasonable degree of control has now been established over the West-hospital sub-division.

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(P. S. PUNEBAG)
Patrol Officer.

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APPENDIX "B"

REPORT ON N.C.P.F. PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING PATROL

The following members of the Luni Detachment of the N.C.P.F. accompanied the patrol :

- Reg. No. 6668 Const. BENNET - Has become a valuable member as he has gained in experience. Intelligent and reliable.
- Reg. No. 6474 " GERS - Continues to do good work. Cheerful and reliable with unsophisticated natives.
- Reg. No. 6604 " MORNE - An intelligent and hard working constable, but quick tempered and inclined to antagonize natives. Requires strict control.

All the above mentioned members carried out their duties efficiently and their bearing and discipline was good at all times.

(P. S. FERNBERG.) PC
Asst. Sub-Inspector.

