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## Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORT OF: BALIMO . WESTERN. ACC. NO: 496

VOL. NO: 4 1958 - 1959 NUMBERS OF REPORTS: 1

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

Patro, Conducted b	I.D.Gibbina C.P.O.
Area Patrolled	BAMU DELTA, GAMA RIVER AND DIBIRI PASSAGE.
Patrol Accompanied	by EuropeansNIL
	Natives Police and Medical Orderly.
Duration—From.7	/10 /19.58 to 21 / 11/58
	Number of Days. 44
Did Medical Assists	nt Accompany 7
Last Patrol to Area b	y-District Services/19.56
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Map Reference	Medical//1856 Avstralasian Betroleum Company Survey Map. (Copy attack (1) Jeksus revision (2) Tax collection (3) Medical ion (4) Education survey (5) Construction of Aid Post.  Affairs,  Forwarded, please.

31-4-54

PONE DEJ

The District Officer, Western District, DARU.

M MOTO

1st September, 1927

### BALING PATROL REPORT 1 -1958/91

Receipt is noknewhedged.

The Report discloses a not very encouraging outlook for the people consused by the patrol.

It would seek that resultingent is the owly answer to the probles. However, you are no doubt source of all the difficulties especially in convincing a last kive, living in the most inhospitable termin, it is noted you have saked the advice of the district Commissions of the future welfare of these recode. He is undoubtedly is a far better position to judge the possibilities than this Headquarters.

A lucid, and interesting Report, although not very encouraging from the Administrative angle.

I would be interested to see a copy of the District Commissioner's reply to you concerning thes people. Two copies of the map will be forwarded when available.

(Millioneta)

39484 TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEY District Office, Mester District, 6. March, 1959. The Director, Department of Detive Mairs, FORT MANUEL. BALLING PATROL REFERT, 1/58-59 - PAIG BRUTA, COME SIVER, SIBIRI PASSAGE - I.B. GIFBING Reference: Ar. Rieckhaus report to the Director of Agriculture, to fits parted and his report is well set out. This was is a most "degreesed" one and it would appear that the only frumment solition is that if re-settlement, in "icul" though such a move may be. Both Mr. Eleckhem's and Mr. Gibbin's reports was sorry reading and would indicate that the only other way is which economic development could the place would be in the unrestricted sale of labour, with a consequent breaking up of village life and an ultimate dylar bit of the properties. Some small production of come could passibly be smeouraged but this, icoording to kr. Kleckhem, is strictly lasted and would, no doubt, be partially at the expense of their food consumption which is low enough at the present time. Some immediate reliaf could be given in the field of education and particularly, health. In suropean Medical Assistant had beed to be posted at the proposed Mislams Pattol Post, whereat some medical buildings, from the A.F.G. foreau comp, are at present being constructed. Constant medical attention is necessary in an area such as this and particularly so in view of the fact that these people are alter to travel any distance for medical attention. ration educational facilities are negligible and administ-history of sale of labour and pany of it's people dommand good positions with instralation fitteleum Jonany. Remeation would not be amiss in this area and it is hoped that the proposed school does, in fact, become a reality. At least one and, preferably, two Wative Agricultural Assistants could wall be posted to the area in order to protes the cleaning of the neglected coconut groves and one planting of an inortased variety of subsistence crops.

# TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA. 711e: 30-1/15. Sub-District Office, BALUNO, W.D. 14th. January, 1959. DARU.

BALINO PATROL No.1 - 58/59. I.D. GIBBINS, C.P.O.

Two copies of the above are enclosed for perusal and

Mr. Gibbins has submitted a good report and has apparahally conducted his patrol with diligence. He has done three tax-census divisions during the one patrol because they were all very everque for a D.N.A. loit. The middle Barm and Wawoi division will be patrolled early in February.

The comments on dysentry/are/intresting although somewhat disturbing. With twelve here invalation in most villages it is searcely surprising that diventry takes much a tell. idequate and safe scattation is the obvious answer to this, but the problems of providing this are formidable. I cause think of a simple, cheap answer.

I agree with Mr. Sibbins' remarks on sub-normality. It is most abvious. The results of a neurological survey would be interesting.

When one surveys the economic potential of the Remu area, one cannot but be pessenistic. Considered with geographical topographical and sociological evalutions in general, it is hard to force any fusure for these people not involving some sort of resettlement. Even the Ramu River Mission with over 20 years experience of the Ramu, can see no future.

The slackened interest of the people in the Mission, would appear to be due in part to a slackened coale of activities on the part of the Mission itself. Nevertholess, it seems that the Bame native has little time for Christianity, preferring his spiritual well-being (or otherwise) to be in the hands of the numerous sorcerers.

I agree with Mr. Gibbins recomendation referring to the Villages GARO and ARAGI.

please. If the Lap is to be printed, rould I have two copies

(Robert Cleland) 0.1.C.

#### TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

Sub-District Office BALIMO. 19th December, 1958.

The Assistant District Officer, Balino, WESTERN DISTRICT.

#### BALIMO PATROL REPORT No. 1. 1958-59.

Officer Conducting the Patrol :-

Area Patrolled :-

Personell Accompanying :-

Duration :-

I.D. Gibbins. Cadet Patrol Officer.

Bamu Delta, Dibiri Passage and

Game River.

Reg. No. 7148 Constable Kaide. Reg. No. 9971 " Suwimalen.

N.M.O. Taipe.

Out. Tuesday 7th, October.

In. Friday 21st, November.

Total Days on Patrol - 44.

#### Objects of Patrol.

- (1) To make a complete census revision of the areas visited.
- (2) To collect the ten shillings head tax imposed on the Bamm Delta and Dibiri Tax Census Divisions for 1958.
- (3) To supervise the construction of a permanent Aid Post in the Bamu Delta.
- (4) To see that a thorough medical inspection was carried out of all natives in conjunction with the census checks.
- (5) To do a preliminary education survey of the areas visited and to select a suitable site for a proposed new school, in the Bamu Delta.

1200 | 計200 ~

#### INTRODUCTION.

During the patrol many stories were heard regarding the origin of the present Bamu and Gama River villages and the following short compilation of these is thought to be of interest.

Originally there was only one village in the Bamu Delta - situated on Dibiri Creek about thirty minutes inland by cance from the present village of Ramic on the North Bank. From here sprang the present villages of Torobina, Aniada I, Bamio, Upati. Bunigi, Darave, Sibara, Pirupiru No. 1 and 2. As can be seen from the map, these new villages have remained in close proximity to one another and much social intercourse and intermarriage still takes place between them.

The villages of Sogeri, Mirua, Wakau, Sisiame, Oropai and Bina all originated from a village called Mabe - near the present site of the Bawu River Mission station on the middle Famm. During the 18th Century, continual friction and fighting came to a head and caused the old village to split - a large faction going down river to bettle on Aramie Island near Guio Greek (see hap). This new village evidently remained intact for some fifty to a hundred years before domestic disputes and fighting between clans caused it to break up, one clan remaining at Guio (Sisiame) while the other two - Oropai and Bina - settled at seperate sites on Uapunba Island. These three villages have since divided again - one section breaking away from Oropai and forming Wario village while the divisions of Sisiame and Bina have simply been maned 1. and 2.

The people of Maipani and Tirere villages on Dibiri Island migrated from Warada Island possibly about 1800 when Dibiri Island was still in the process of formation. Although some intermarriage has taken place between these people and those of the lower Damu, the former resent being included in the Bamu Census Division - they being a Warada-Kiwai speaking group looking or their neighbours as inferior types.

Similarly on the Gama River the population was once congregated in two large villages - one at Boll's Point called Generowa and the other at the present site of Gimereme village - called Giboro. A bad sysentery outbreak in Generowa resulting in mar deaths caused most of the survivors to leave and settle in the Gama River and these people formed the present villages of Airua, Birori, Namaete, Magewi, Giwaretore and Maisavi. The upper Gama Villages of Ukusi and Koparami are breakaways from the old Giboro village.

The 'bush people' living on the North Baig' Fly, namely the villages of Damera, Wariobodoro, Kenami, Mugu, Pagana and Domori are the descendants of two clans which migrated from Giboro down the Gama River and across the Bamu Belta about a century ago. They have since intermingled with the nearby Gogodera and Kiwai villages.

DIARY.

#### Tuesday 7th October, 1958.

Travelling by single hulled cances the patrol departed BALIMO 1042 hrs accompanied by Mr.E.M.A.Petras and MR.E.O.White. Passing Kara and Kebane villages en route, the patrol reached Kenewa village at 1840 hrs and alept.

#### Wednesday 8th October.

Left Kenewa 0815 hrs and arrived Kurea village I245hrs, passing Waia, Saiwasi and Garu villages. Lined people of Kurea village for medical inspection by Mr. Petras. Slept.

#### Thursday 9th October.

Departed Kurea 0800hrs and after IOmins, walk reached the Bamu River. Proceeded upriver to Bamu River Mission arriving 0830hrs. Hired three outrigger canoes and paddlers from nearby Iowa village and left on falling tide. Mrss. Petras and White returned to Balimo. Reached Sogeri village 1420 hrs. Census revised, tax collected and village medically inspected by accompanying N.M.O.

#### Friday 10th October.

Inspected Sogeri gardens in a.m. In afternoon carried out census, tax collection and medical inspection at Mirus - IO mins. downstream by cance from Sogeri. Slept.

#### Saturday 11th October.

Arriwing Wakau village 1315 hrs. Slept.

Sunday 12th October.

Observed at Wakau.

#### Monday 13th October.

Census, tax collection and medical inspection at Wakau.

Departed 1930 hrs arriving Sisiame No.2 1330hrs. Inspected proposed site for new Aid Post nearby then crossed river to look at another possible site. Returned and slept at Sisiame.

#### Tuesday 14th October.

Inspected Sislame No.2 village then supervised repairing of houses, draining ground and building pig fence. Held meeting in efternoon with V.C's of Oropai, Koavisi, Bina, Terers and Pirupiru as regards provision of timber for N.M.O's house at Aba Aid Post site. Also informed them of intended route of patrol. Slept Sisiame.

DIARY (Cont.)

Wednesday 15th October.

Census revised, tax collected and medical inspection carried out at Sisiame No.2. Construction of Aid Post and N.B.O. house begun at old Aba Police Baseadjacent to Sisiame. Slept Sisiame.

Thursday 16th Cctober.

By cance to Sisiame No.I - 30 mins. Village censused, people medically inspected and tax collected. Slept.

#### Friday 17th October.

Departed Sisiame No.I 0730 hrs ,arriving Oropai village 0900hrs. Census revised, tax collected and people medically inspected. In p.m. inspected site of proposed new Sisiame No.I village at Guio Creek. Slept Oropai.

#### Saturday 18th October.

Left Sisiame 0850hrs, arriving Bina No.2 1300hrs. Census, tax collection and medical inspection carried out. Slept.

#### Sunday 19th October.

Observed at Bina No.2.

#### Monday 20th October.

By cance to Nabio Island - 45mins. Uensus, tax collection and medical inspection. at Bina No.I. In p.m. walked to Wario village - 30mins. and carried out census revision, tax collection and medical inspection. Slept Wario.

#### Tuesday 21st October.

Waited till I000hrs for rough sea to abate then crossed to Dibiri Island, arriving Majpani I200hrs. Census, tax collection and medical inspection in afternoon. Slept Maipani.

#### Wednesday 22nd Actober.

Inspected Maipani school (B.R.M.) while waiting for low tide. Departed IOOChrs, walking along beach and arriving Terere village I230hrs. Census, tax collection and medical inspection carried out.

Slept.

#### Thursday 23rd October.

Inspected Seventh Day Adventist School, new housing scheme and copra dryers. Further medical treatment administered by N.M.O. Departed I236hrs by motumetu cance and arrived Aba Police Post I600hrs.

Slept.

#### DIARY, (Cont.)

#### Friday 24th October.

Supervised building of new Aid Post using timber from ex A.P.C. camp at Komewu.

#### Saturday 25th October.

Further supervision of Aid Post, Began construction of wharf. Slept Aba.

#### Sunday 26th October

Observed at Aba.

#### Monday 27th October.

Left Aba OBOChrs, arriving Keavisi IOOOhrs. Census, tax collection and medical inspection. One case of assault sent to Balimo. Slept.

#### Tuesday 28th October.

Departed KV visi 0800hrs, arriving Amagoa village 0900hrs. Census revised, tax col scted and people medically inspected. Four cases of Tuberculosis sent to Balimo Hospital. Slept Amagoa.

#### Wednesday 29th October.

By came to Btere village - I hour. Census, medical inspection and tax collection. One case of assault sent to Balimo for trial.

In p.m. by came to Asaramio - 1 40'Ar. Census, tax collection and medical inspection carried out. Slept Asaramio.

#### Thursday 30th October.

By cance to Tapapi -  $I_2^1$  hours against tide. Census revised, tax collected and people medically inspected. Slept Tapapi.

#### Friday 31st October.

Proceeded to Rimeramic village - I hour with tide by came. Census, tax collection and medical inspection. Slept.

#### Saturday Ist October.

Departed Bimaramio 0700hrs by cance. Travelling all day and night.

#### Sunday 2nd October.

Arrived Balimo Station 0300hrs. Spent day at Balimo in discussion with 0.1.C.

#### Monday 3rd October.

Departed Balimo Station by cance 0900hrs, Arrived Kerewa 1700hrs. Slept .

DIARY. (Cont.)

#### Tuesday &th November.

Left Kenews 0800hrs, travelled all day and arrived Arikinapi village 2000hrs. Slept.

#### Wednesday 5th November.

Census, medical inspection and tax collection at irikinapi. Departed 1130ars, arriwing Sisiame No.2 1700ars. Slept.

#### Thursday 6th November.

Supervision of work on Aid Fost and wharf in a.m. Departed I200hrs and arrived Aniadai @500hrs.Census,tax and medical inspection carried out.Left I700hrs and arrived Bamio Id30hrs. Slept.

#### Friday 7th November.

Census, tax collection and medical inspection at Bamic in a.m.
Departed 1300hrs for Upati - | Lour by cance. Census, tax and med. inspect
Slept Upati.

#### Saturday 8th November.

By cance along Dibiri Greek to Bunigi village - one hour. Census, med. inspection and tax collection carried out then on to Darave - half an hourby cance. Census, tax and med. inspection.

Slept Darave.

#### Sunday 9th November.

Observed at Darave.

#### Monday Ioth Hovember.

Left Derave 0600hrs, arriving Sibara 0830hrs. Census revision, tax collection and redical inspection. Two minor disputes settled. In p.m. to Pirrpiru No.I - 30min. by cance. Census, tax collection and med.inspection. Slept.

#### Tuesday IIth November.

By cance to Pirupiru No.2 - one hour. Prediminary investigation of two cases of assault - both sent for trial to Balimo. Consus, Cax collection and medical inspection carried out. Slept. Bednesday 12th November.

M.V. Jade'srrived 0930hrs \_Mr.F.O. Cleiand aboard. Joined the 'Jade' which departed 1660hrs travelling up the Game River and arriving at Ukus: village 2330hrs. No rest house here so returned to Koparami village and slept - 30mins downstream.

Thursday 13th November.

Census revision and medical inspection of Vkusi and Koparami villages at Koparami. Slept. Mr. Cleland departed on 'Jade' for North Bank Fly 0600Mrs.

DIARY (Cont).

#### Friday 14th November.

WILL | 1 7 1 1 1 1 1 1

Departed Koparami C500hrs by cance with tide, arriving Gimereme O800hrs. Census and medical inspection carried out. Slept.

#### Saturday 15th Movember.

Left Gimereme 0630hrs by cance with tide, arriving a junction of Wabi and Gama Rivers 0715hrs. Proceeded against tide up Wabi River and reached Binori village 0945hrs, passing Abrua village on route. Census revised and people medically inspected. Slept Binori. Sunday 16th November.

Observed at Binori.

#### Monday 17th November.

Departed Binori 063Chrs, arriving Airia village C73Chrs. Census and medical inspection at Airua.Left 093Chrs and arrived Namaite 105Chrs.Census and medical inspection carried out then on to Magive village in afternoon. Census and medical inspection at Magive Slept Magive.

#### Tuesday 18th November.

Left Magive 0800hrs by cance to Giwaretore - 30 mins. Census revised and people medically inspected. One case of assault investigated. In afternoon continued down river to Maisavi - one hour. Slept Maisavi.

#### Wednesday 19th November.

Census and medical inspection carried out at Maisavi. One case of assault and one of adultery investigated - both wases sent for trial at Balimo. M.V. 'Urangah' arrived 1100hrs. Loaded 'Urangah' with mangrove poles for Aba Aid Post then boarded it and proceeded on to Ibuo village arriving 1300hrs. Census and medical inspection then departed 1600hrs, arriving Torobina 1900hrs. Slept.

#### Thursday 20th November.

Census revision, tax collection and medical inspection at Torobina. Inspected B.R.M. school. Left 1100hrs by 'Urangah'to Aba Aid Post - mangrove poles unlowled then continued on to Kurea arriving 1900hrs. Slept.

#### Friday 21st November.

Departed Kures 0530hrs by 'Urangah' to Balimo Station arriving 1500hrs. End of retrol.

END OF DIARY.

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#### NATIVE AFFAIRS.

The last patrol to visit the three census divisions namely Bamu Delta, Dibiri and Gama River was that made by Mr. A.D.O. Wakeford in 1956. Since then the three areas have been closed to secruiting and this, together with the fact that all A.P.O. labourers have returned to their villages, has had the desired effect of stabilizing village life. However there returned men are a far from happy lot for, having seen the outside world, they realize it has been their misfortune to be born in what must surely be one of the most God-forsaken areas of the Territory. Want gross misdeeds they have committed to be compelled to stay here by the government is beyond their comprehension for they clearly lock on the ceasing of recruitment as a form of punishment - of a most severe kind.

Having had much time to pender on ways and means of escaping from their dreary home life, no fewer than forty recruits volunteered for service in the R.P.&N.G.C. during this patrol. The idea of resettlement was mentioned many times by the author with a view to ascertaining their trends of thought on the subject. However, the village elders who still hold much sway were, as might be expected strongly against the idea.

Despite the lapse in patrolling, these areas are proving much more law abiding than in past years and relatively few complaints were brought before the patrol for magisterial attention. On the other hand, the absence of a thorough medical patrol to the Dibiri and Bamu Divisions for about four years could be clearly seen by the numerous cases of yaws treated on this patrol. The census figures tell the story of dysentery outbreaks which go unchecked each year and serve to prevent the population from increasing.— that of 1957 was responsible for 70% of deaths in the Bamu Delta.

#### LAW AND ORDER.

The author has no court powers and therefore only investigated complaints before sedding the parties concerned to the A.D.O. Balimo for hearing in the C.N.M. Of these sent the following number of cases received sentences.

Admiltery - 2 Assault - 5

The moral standards of the Bamu, Dibiri and Gama River as is well known, are low, and consequently adultery is still rife in these areas. However, it would appear that only if the fun is not shared on both sides is a case brought before an officer.

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#### HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

#### Gama River.

The health in this area was surprisingly good, due mainly to a recent patrol by an E.M.A. from Kikori in February of this year. Apart from four tropical ulcers, little medical attention was needed. Each village had well constructed latrines emptying into the river and all appeared to be used.

#### Bamu Delta.

Here the position was the reverse. It is estimated that dysentery accounted for 70% of deaths in this area last year. In a population of only 2,996 there were 160 deaths - 172 of which are believed to have been caused by dysentery. After having spent six weeks in the sea of mid and filth and seen the conditions under which these people live, the author found it easy to understand why outbreaks of this disease take such a heavy toll of lives.

As stated previously, a thorough medical patrol had not been carried out in the Bamu for over three years - the two patrols made by a medical officer in 1955 and 1956 being unsuccessful as most of the populace 'went bush' and very few were examined. During this patrol the following number of cases were reacted successfully by the accompanying N.M.O. in conjunction with the census checks - at which there was a 100% artendance in every case.

Yaws - 110
Tropical Ulser - 39
Scables - 34
Granuloma - 4
Dysentery - 5
Boils - 32
Pneumonia - 3
Saptic Sores - 130
Tinea - 67
Common Cold - 3

All cases requiring prolonged treatment were 5 t to the Aba Aid Post, while the granuloma patients were dispate. Co Balimo hospital.

#### Dibiri Passage.

The state of health here was similar to that in the Bamu with dysentery again being responsible for the majority of deaths. Of a total of 54 deaths, 34 were alleged to have been caused by dysentery. Tuberculosis would also seem to be rife here and eight patients with obvious T.B. glands were sent to Balimo hospital. These 'bush' people appear to be afflicted with some mental disease - the author gaining the impression that at least 50% of the population are mentally deficient.

#### HEALTH AND HYGIENE (Cont.)

#### Dibiri Passage (conto

The following number of casec were treated during the patrol - use again being made of the Aba Aid Post to send patients requiring further penicillin injections etc.

Yaws	-	25
Tropical Ulcer	-	6
Boils		5
Septic Sores		30
Tinea		38

#### Health in Goneral.

Apart from the appalling conditions under which these people live, their lethargy and apparent low standard of intelligence could possibly be attributed to the enormous quantities of sage which, by necessity and custom, they consume. The following percentages, representing the average diet of this area, are approximations arrived at after much questioning and personal study.

Sago		70%
Wild pig	-	16%
Crabs, prawns and fish	-	8%
Pumpkin	-	5%
Coconut		3%
Native cebbage	-	2%
Sweet potato, yams		2%

The following items are also eaten occassionally: sago grubs, birds, flying fox, marsupials, bananas, sugar cane, native asparagus, pineapples and wild fruits.

Wild pigs abound in these sage swamps due to (1) small population (2) few shotguns (3) abundance of food in the form of sage. As a result of this pig is killed and eaten almost every other day - all the meat being shared on a village communal basis.

Sago forms the basis and is often the only item of every meal, always being eaten in a hard dry form. The common method of cooking is to wrap it in a sago or biri leaf which is doubled over and tied in a cylindrical fashion about 12 - 15 inches long and two inches diameter. It is then roastel over hot coals for about fifteen minutes. Coconut is eaten in small quantities, both green and dry but always in its raw state - never cooked or mixed with sago. The poor type of cooking banana grown here is generally consumed by boiling in its skin and eating it with meat.

#### ABA AID POST.

The site of the new aid post it where the old Aba Police Base Camp once stood, and is separate. from the village of Sisiame No.2 by Aba Creek - hence the name by which it is known throughout the Bamu.

ARA AID POST (Cont).

Construction of the Aid Post was begun during the writers magaza sojourn in the area and consists of

(a) a large kipa type house for a mirried medical orderly

(b) a permanent building constructed of timber from Komewu xx.A.P.C.

camp and measuring 20 x 16 feet.

(c) two 25 x 15 feet native material barracks for accommodation of patients receiving treatment.

At the time of departure of the patrol, the N.M.O.'s house is built and the other buildings nearing completion.

The two medical orderlies staffing this post a edoing a most efficient service and are to be commended. As result of the patrol all the people in the areas visited now knot of the Aid Post and its functions and are patronising it fully. On one visit the author found forty patients from as far as the Gama River) camped there and receiving treatments for yaws, tropical ulcers and dysentery.

#### HOUSING.

#### Gama River.

The slow mode of travelling on this patrol gree these people ample time to hear of its presence in the Bamm and set about rebuilding houses. As aresult the housing was of an exceptionally high standard, most rest houses having been rebuilt on a lian the author had carried out at Wakau village - early in the Bi wa patrol. The traditional long house or Mubu' is still used in most of these villages - one of the main reasons for the construction of same appearing to be the alleviation of the mosquito menace which, during much of the year is practically unbearable. Smoke from the numerous cooking first acts as an admirable mosquito repellant. An ther important factor in favour of this type of dwelling is the dire need for a large community hall where social intercourse tin take place regardless of the perpetual quagmire conditions existing outside. Furthermore the children can play in her under eservation or their parents and thus avoid the risk of drowning or of it octing pneumonia during the numerous wet periods and high tides.

The housing here left much to be desired, althout the return of the menfolk from A.P.C. had made them at least litible - which is evidentally a better state to n previous officers and seen them. However the village pigs make a permanent morast in the ground under and around the dwellings and with few exceptions they are a sordid sight.

#### Dibiri Passage.

The housing here was similar if not worse than that of their neighbours in the Bamu, but having once seen these mis rable dull witted people one does not expect any better. 1 min 12/2 1

Whe presence of sorcery in the Barm and Dibiri Rivers was brought to light by the authors interest in two carved wooden crosodiles - one of which was found in Mirua village and the other at Berio. After much questioning it was revealed that the images was made for use in 'sibora' or crocodile Borcery which is evidently still practised, though surreptitiously, in these areas. While the author was supervising construction at the Aba Aid Port, a man from a Dibiri village whose legs had been mauled by a crocodile was brought in for treatment. Though his wounds were not serious, the patient was in a very depressed state being lirmly convinced he was the victim of 'sibora' sorcery.

This type of sorcery is allegenly practised in the following manner. A wooden carving of crocodile - about two feet in length - is first made by the sorcerer who then obtains some mid from the footprint of his intended victim. This he takes to his house splaces it in a begand allows it to dry. Then when the time for disposal of the victim is eminent the mid in placed in the courth of the carving which is placed in the water and secured to the bank by a short line tied to its tail. The name of the victim is then uttered several times and the crocodile pointed in the directive where he is likely to enter the water. It is left floating here for five to six days. Crocodile fatalities are numerous enough here for at least one victim to be taken by chance and so boos; the prestige of that particular sorcerer who quickly makes his success widely known.

#### CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

Of the three census divisions visited, a decrease in the total population was recorded in each case. As stated previously, this is a direct result of the dysentery outbreaks which occur mainly during the 'wet'season each year.

Bamu Dalta.

	Cotal	population	1956 (corrected)		2.208.
	н	и	1958	***	2,896.
		Decrease	in population	-	12.
	Total	no. of deat	ths	-	165.
E	stames	ed no. deal	as from dysentery		115.
Dibiri	Passa	21.			
	Totol	population	1956 (corrected)	-	797.

Decrease in population - 18.

Total mo. of deaths - 55.

Estimated no. deaths from it ricry - 30.

Gram River.

Two villages, namely Binori and Airua were not censused in 1956 and helps the grand total for this division has been ammended

#### CENSUS AND STATISTICS (Cont).

using their 1955 totals in order to give a clear picture of the population trend.

Total population 1956 (corrected) - 433.
" 1958 - 431.
Decrease in population - 2
Total no. deaths 31.

#### ANTHROPOLOGY.

The peoples of the Bamu , Bibiri, and Gama Kivers being descendants of nomadic tribes have no history of land tenure. We individual land ownership exists - all land being vested in the community, with each village having its recognised sago grounds. When the father of a family dies, his pigs are all killed and eaten by the whole village at a funeral feast and hencethere is little if anything to be inherited by his son.

Singesings in there areas are more pantomine in nature than those of the cosstal tribes and no drassing up occurs. They resemble somewhat the corrobores of the Australian aboriginal in so much as they sing and dance the actions of, for exemple, catching a big fish, killing a pig or telling the story of a long cance journey made by some forebears. The dance is generally accompanied by someone parading a carved wooden object to help illustrate the story. For example, during one sone and dance describing the journey of a mar and woman by a e from Wabade Island up the Dibiri and Aramia Rivers, a small those about five feet long and containing the wooden statues of a male and female is carried up and down in front of the dancers. In another, a wooden narving of a large fish - six feet in length - is pulled round on a trolley during the song and dance describing its catching.

The buying and selling of children in the Cana River referred to in Mr.A.D.O. Wakefords report is actually an old marriage custom of this area, as well as the Bamm. When a girl reaches the age of two she is betrothed to a boy whose parents onen make regular gifts of food to the girl's family until she reaches the age of about thirteen. A payment is then made by the boy or his parents (depending on his age ) to the girl's parents and the marriage is consumsted for the first time. Occassionally consumation takes place at an earlier age though the boy will rarely admit to sleeping with his girl bride - well knowing the attitude of the Government.

#### TAX.

The tax patrol of the Bamm Delta and Dibiri census divisions was just in time to catch the last of the rapidly fiminishing A.F.C. psyrolls. With few exceptions all those eligible

TAX (Cont).

paid. The total amounts collected were :

BANU DELTA - £218 - 10 - 0

DIBIRI PASSAGE - £ 53 - 10 - 0

TOTAL - £272 - 0 - 0

Unless these two divicions are re-opened to limited recruiting the people will find difficulty in paying future taxes as the economic potential of the area is practically nil.

#### ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF THE BAMU, DIBIRI AND GAMA RIVER.

Owing to the extremely limited acreage of arable land in these divisions there is little foreseeable economic potential offering. The only two cash crops here are (a) sage - which after a three day journey can be sold in small quantities to the Government store at Balimo (b) copma - the sale of which is made difficult by the absence of transport to Daru for long periods of time and the limited quantities which can be produced in most villages. The exceptions to this are the rillages of Maipani and Tirere which between them are capable of producing about twelve tons of copra per year. These villages, situated on Dibiri Islam, are a Kiwai speaking people whose initiative places them on a scale far above the rest of the Bamu. They have already arranged through the Kiwai Local Government Council - in which they wish to be included - to have not air dryers constructed in their village and have begun replanting of coconuts to a large scale.

The new Tirere village composed of twenty large kipa type houses with added wooden floors, was built under supervision of ex A.F.C. carpenters and could be held as an example to any village in Papua.

#### MISSION INFLUENCE.

The once strong influence of the Bamu River Mission in the Delta area would now appear to have dwindled to insignificance. Only one B.R.M. school at Torobina is still functioning, with an irregular attendance of twenty pupils, in charge of a native teacher. Both English and the local varnacular are taught here.

The influx of Seventh Day Adventist mative teachers from Xerema which arrived in the Bamm Delta in 1955 and the corresponding evangelistic campaign waged by them has produced no results All S.D.A. activity in the area. Is now confined to a school and chur h at Tirere, which village they probably realise is the most pleasant, progressive and finitful in the area. Teaching at the school is done by a native teacher in th Kiwai vernacular. At Oropai and Firepiru villages, the patrol was shown two empty houses which are occupied by native teachers for shore intervals during the year-However, these natives appear to do little else than equat in the village until recalled to Ogabaro for further training.

#### EDUCATION . SURVEY .

During the patrol a preliminary education survey, as requested by Mr.E.O. White, was undertaken with the following objects in view:

- (1) to ascertain the attitude of village elders to the construction of a village higher school in the Bamma
- (2) to select a suitable site for the proposed school central to the population
- (3) to assess the total number of boys and girls in the 4-12 age group in th Bamu Delta.

The village councillors and eliers were wholeheartedly in favour of a school in their area and promised their full support and co-operation if one was built.

Regarding a slitable site - the best position would be on ground adjacent to the Aba aid Post near the village of Sisiame No.2. This is quite central to the population, particularly those villages which sent papils to Balimo School this year and who would obviously form the nucleus of the proposed new school. The following are the numbers of children in the 4 - 12 age group.

RLS

	diagram of culturen	in the 4 -
VILLAGE	No. of BOYS	
SOGERI	17	9
MIRUA	6	17
WAKAU	19	4
SISIAME No.1	18	15
SISIAME No.2	15	12
OROPAI	6	11
BINA No.1	16	12
BINA No.2	24	14
WARIO	16	8
MAIPANI	37	26
TIRERE	40	42
ANIADAI	8	5
BAMIO	11 9	11
UPATI	11	11
BUNIGI	32	21
DARAVE	5	10
SIBARA	12	5
PIRUPIRU No.1	21	16
PIRUPIRU No. 2	7 13	22
TOROBINA	23	30
GRAND TO	PAL 349	

a copy of this information has been given the Education Officer at Balimo.

I reiterate the remarks of previous officers in stating that the areas visite, on this patrol must surely be amongst the poorest in the Territory, as regards both the terrain and the inhabitants. The slow mode of travel and the rather lengthy duration of the patrol allowed the athor to experience the feeling of depression induced by the continual presence of mid, slush and flies in which these people ske out their existance. It can be easily understood why every able bodied man volunteered for recruitment before these areas were closed.

It is obvious that the only means available for the majority of these people to earn an income is by the sale of their labour and therain, I think, lies the only solution to an otherwise impossible proclem in an impossible area. With many of the former labour pools of the Territory 'drying up' as the cash ropping gains momentum, the plantations of the Papuan coust can always be assured of a constant supply of labour from this area. However, strict supervision will have to be maintained to an sure that certain unscrupalous recruiters do not over recruit the only too willing population and once again wreak havee in village life.

The former East Aramia Census Division comprising the villages of Kebani, Kenewa, Wair, Saiwasi, Garu and Aragi has now been included - with the exception of Garu and Aragi - in the Gogadala Local Government Council. It is therefore suggested that in future Garu and Aragi be included in the Dibiri Census Division as both these villages were originally from that area.

END OF REPORC.

(I.D.Gibbins) C.P.O.

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