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STATION: Pindiu
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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

PINDIU PATROL REPORT NO. 8 of 1969/70

FINSCHHAFEN SUB DISTRICT

MOROBE DISTRICT

COUNCIL AREA: PINDIU LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

CONDUCTED BY: P.D. OATES

ASSISTANT PATROL OFFICER

AREA PATROLLED: WAGAZARING

PERSONELL ACCOMPANING THE PATROL: NIL

DURATION OF PATROL: 19.1.70 to 23.1.70 = 5 days
 26.1.70 to 30.1.70 = 5 days
 Total 10 days

DATE AND DURATION OF LAST D.D.A. PATROL TO AREA:

OBJECTS OF THE PATROL: Construction of the Gamaheng Road.

Popula

MIGRAT

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67-2-10

Division of District Administration,
Morobe District,
LAE

18th December, 1970

Departmental Head,
Division of District Administration,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOBU

PATROL REPORT - PINDIU NO. 8/69-70

I attach the original and one copy of a Special Report on a patrol to part of the Pindiu Local Government Council area, adjacent to Pindiu Station, conducted by Mr. P.D. Oates, Assistant Patrol Officer.

Late submission of this Report is regretted. The Assistant District Commissioner at Finschhafen Sub-District office advises that the report was inadvertently filed at that office.

Mr. Oates has done a useful piece of work on road extension but I do not agree with him that there is a need at Pindiu for public transport as yet seeing that the road mileage available, at this stage, is approximately 6 miles. The Council have available a tractor and trailer and on occasions do assist the local people with the carriage of crops.

I agree with Mr. Oates that the Department of Agriculture has been concentrating on the production of coffee in the Pindiu area but they are also experimenting with vanilla and, I understand, pepper.

No comments were received from the Assistant District Commissioner at Finschhafen on this report. He has been instructed that this is to be done in future on all reports regardless of the delay in submission.

H.P.S.

(H. P. SEALE)
District Commissioner

Attachs.

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PATROL DIARY

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Monday 19th January, 1970.

Left Pindiu 0800 and slept at Wagazaring. Supervised construction of the Gamaheng Road.

Tuesday 20th January, 1970

Supervised construction work. Overnight at Wagazaring.

Wednesday 21st January, 1970.

"

Thursday 22nd January, 1970.

"

Friday 23rd January, 1970.

"

Weekend spent at Pindiu

Monday 26th January, 1970.

Left Pindiu 0800 and supervised construction work on the Gamaheng Road. Overnight at Gamaheng.

Tuesday 27th January, 1970.

Supervised construction work.

Wednesday 28th January, 1970

"

Thursday 29th January, 1970

"

Friday 30th January, 1970.

"

Left Gamaheng 1600 hours. Arrived Pindiu 1715 hours.

END OF PATROL

Introduction

The object of this patrol was to supervise the construction of the section of road between WAGAZARING Hospital and GAMAHANG village.

General administration and Political Education were also carried out on this patrol.

Communications

The finishing of this road is an important step forward for this area. However the full importance of having a road will not be felt until there is something using it other than the station motor bike. More will be said about this further on in the report.

Rest Houses

The rest house at Gamaheng is only just enough to accommodate two officers. While at the rest house the village people brought fresh vegetables and water.

Carriers

No difficulty was obtained in finding carriers for this patrol.

Opening of the Road

The District Commissioner was expected to open the new road and a large singsing was planned by the people. Unfortunately however, on the day planned, the plane carrying Mr Seale was unable to land at Pindiu due to low cloud and the local M.H.A. Mek Singilong acted in his stead, opening the road and talking to the people about the benefits of the road.

Construction Report

This road was finished after a concerted effort of two weeks in which all the councillors near the road joined forces with the purpose of finishing it.

A concrete culvert and a wooden bridge were needed to complete the road plus numerous small culverts. Despite these precautions against excessive water the road will need constant maintenance to ensure its servicability after rain.

The road had already been completed as far as the hospital at Wagazaring and now continues on for about three miles to Gamaheng.

Gamaheng is situated on top of an old W.W.II airstrip site.

The geology of the area that the road cuts through is mostly lateritic subsoil which is easily eroded after light rain. Only in a few places is there any rock which could be used for surfacing. Therefore, after heavy rain

a lot of the road would be impassable to all ordinary traffic. If, however sufficient transport could be organised at a future date to transport enough surfacing material to cover the entire road it would be suitable for all traffic in all but the worst weather.

Situation Report

Political

Local Government Councillors

Of the following councillors that turned up here is my appreciation of them:

Councillor Amoa - This man seems to have the most understanding of what the benefits would be of his work. He seems to have influence with his ward and people which elevates him from most of his fellow councillors. This was noticeable when he was helping direct the work.

Councillor Motine - A reasonably clear thinker on some subjects, however he spends most of his time at the hospital at Wagazaring looking after the Council's interests there, and does not have much time to supervise his ward when they are working.

Councillor Noiyoung - An ex Luluai who is a keen worker but is getting too old to effectively martial his ward. He quite often falls asleep at Council meetings.

Councillors Lonca and Mesonga both absented themselves from work. The former claiming that his house had been burnt and had to repair it and the latter claiming that he still had injuries left over from a car accident that happened two months before.

Social

Population

As in all reports on Hube in this section it is explained that most of the eligible male workers of Hube have migrated to the towns and most of the people who turn up for work are women. This also causes social problems within this area because of the Mission's ban on polygamy which is practical by some who are brave enough to go against the Mission and who are hence denounced by the same. Some social tensions of this sort have been caused, especially around the Mission hospital where it was reported to me that a child was refused treatment because his mother was the second wife of a man who defied the Mission. However the witness to this refused to testify to this and it was told in confidence to me. The hospital has recently been taken over by a new male nurse and I have hopes that he might be of a different type.

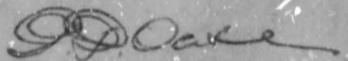
Economic

The opening of the new road has meant little to the people as yet and will continue to do so until some form of transport uses it.

I'm sure the key to opening up the area is for the Council to invest in some form of transport, public or otherwise, to service the population.

Economic opportunities are fairly bleak however some do exist in the sale of fresh vegetables and coffee in Pindiu. Also, scope for commercial pig raising do have possibilities if encouraged.

Unfortunately, several attempts to diversify the economy by the Agricultural Department have ended in failures and the Department is concentrating only on coffee.



P.D. Oates,
ASSISTANT PATROL OFFICER



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

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FINSCHHAFEN SUB DISTRICT

MOROBE DISTRICT

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DATE AND DURATION OF LAST D.D.A. PATROL TO AREA:

OBJECTS OF THE PATROL: Construction of the Gamaheng Road.

67-6-125

Division of District Administration,

KONEDOBU, DAPUA

28th January, 1971.

The District Commissioner,
Morobe District,
LAE.

PINDIU PATROL NO. 9 OF 1969/1970

Your reference is 67-2-10 of 18th December,
1970.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Special
Report by Mr. P.D. Oates, Assistant Patrol Officer
of part of the HUBE Census Division.

A worthwhile few days spent supervising road
work.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Departmental head.

c.c.
Mr. P.D. Oates,
Patrol Post,
PINDIU, Morobe District

67-6-125

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference
If calling ask for



In Reply
Please Quote
No. 67-2-10

Department of the Administrator,
Division of District Administration,
Morobe District,
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END OF PATROL

Construction Report

This road was finished after a concerted effort of the army in which all the battalions near the road joined forces with the purpose of finishing it.

A concrete culvert and a wooden bridge were needed to complete the road past the small culverts. Despite these precautions and of excessive water the road will need constant maintenance to insure its serviceability all year.

The road had already been completed as far as the hospital at Wagazaring and now continues on for about three miles to Gamaheng.

Gamaheng is situated on top of an old w.v.v. II airstrip area.

The ecology of the area where the road cuts through is mostly lateritic soil which is usually eroded after light rain. Only in a few places there are rocks which could be used for paving. Therefore, after heavy rain

1.

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