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***PATROL REPORTS***

DISTRICT: WEST SEPIK

STATION: VANIMO, 1961 - 1962

Original documents bound with reports  
for: East Sepik District, Maprik, volume  
13.

# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORTS SEP W DISTRICT 1961/62.

MAPRIK & MAY RIVER SUB DISTRICTS.

<u>REPORT NO.</u>	<u>PATROL CONDUCTED BY</u>	<u>AREA PATROLLED</u>
MAPRIK 2 61/62	J.C. Corrigan P.O. 2	Sepik Plains C.D.
MAPRIK 10 61/62	J.A. Wiltshire P.O. 2	Wora C.D.
<del>MAY RIVER I 61/62</del>	B.A. Downes P.O.	May River Local C.D. <i>Class A</i>
VANIMO 2 61/62	R.L. O'CONNELL	IMBIC + BEMBI C.D.'s



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

# PATROL REPORT

District of Sepik Report No. Vanimo No. 2 of 1961/62

Patrol Conducted by Robert L. O'Connell Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled IMBIO and IEMLI Census Divisions

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans all

Natives five

Duration - From 17/10/1961 to 6/11/1961

Number of Days 26 days

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No.

Last Patrol to Area by - District Services Sept 19 60

Medical August 19 61

Map Reference Army series journal and District Map

Objects of Patrol 1. Census revision

2. Routine Administration

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES  
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,  
PORT MORSBY.

Forwarded, please.

11/12/1961

Chaxey a. D.  
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 ... .. £.....

# Village Pop

Year.....1961.....

VILLAGE	DATE OF CENSUS	BIRTHS		DEATHS															
				0-1 Mth.		0-1 Year		1-4		5-8		9-13		Over 13		Female in Child Birth	M		
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				
IMBIO																			
IMBIO No.1.	13/10/61	9	1					1	1							4	1		
IMBIO No.3.	14/10	1	4													4	1		
SAMARARU	14/10	1						1											1
IMBRINIS	15/10	1	2									1				3	3		1
TOTAL		12	7					2	1			1				11	5		2
<u>BEMBI</u>																			
SUMUMINI	16/10	5														1			
KILIFAS	18/10	1	5														1		10
FUGUMUI	18/10	2	1																1
FUGARI	19/10		3							1						2			
FAS No.2.	20/10	2	3													3	2		
TAMINA No.1.	20/10		1											1					
WUTAI	23/10	1	2					1									1		
AIMINA No.2x	24/10	4										1				1	1		1
FAS No.3.	24/10		2					1						1		1	1		
TAMINA No.2.	24/10	1	1					1	1					1					
EKAS	25/10	1	3																
FINAMOI	26/10	1						1							1	1			
WATAPE	28/10	2	6												2	2			3
SIMOG	29/10	3	6												1	1	1		1
YO	2/11							1											3
		23	33					5	2	1					3	12	7		19

Pop

Females in Child Birth	M

1  
1  
2  
10  
1  
1  
3  
1  
3  
19

57-8-15

22nd February, 1962.

District Officer,  
Sepik District,  
WEWAK.

VANIMO PATROL NO. 2 OF 1961/62.

Receipt is acknowledged of the above report forwarded under cover of your 67-3-8 of the 14th December, 1961.

2. The report indicates that the patrol was conducted satisfactorily.

3. With reference to village housing, instructions should not be given when it seems already obvious to the officer that the instructions will not be heeded. An instruction given in these circumstances can only tend to cheapen the authority with which the officer speaks.

4. It is good to see that the people themselves are placing restraints on the numbers going out to work and that there is a ready return home on expiration of the agreement.

5. I presume you have already taken up the matter of MOPARA and YO villages (mentioned in Village Administration) so that visits from the right quarter may be made.

6. What possible use would be made of the airstrip site near WUTAI? If it has no real potential, I suggest the idea be squashed once and for all. It would be quite meaningless to allow the people (and there does not appear to be a great many of them) to expend labour on a project that may well have no real future value.

7. Would you tell Mr. O'Connell that a note of scale and north point is both useful and essential on a patrol sketch.

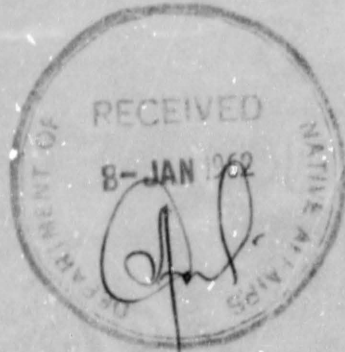
8. A useful patrol by Mr. O'Connell.

J.K.M.  
(J.K. McCarthy)  
DIRECTOR



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67.8.15 ✓



*In Reply  
Please Quote*

No. 67-3-8/1015

District Office,  
Sepik District,  
WERAK.

14th December, 1961

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
KONEDOBU.

VANIMO PATROL REPORT NO. 2-61/62

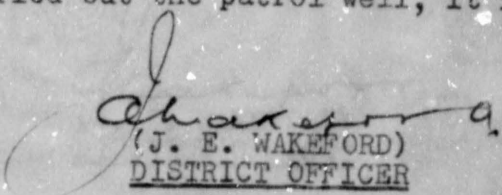
Attached is a patrol report submitted by Mr. O'Connell  
Patrol Officer.

The patrol covered the inland Vanimo area. These  
people haven't changed very much over the years, except that  
they now are living in houses on the ground, previously the  
houses were built in trees.

Mr. O'Connell mentions the migrations. This has  
been going on for many years and the people are filtering down  
towards the coast.

I am taking it up with the Education Officer about  
a school, although supply is going to be a tremendous task.  
I think we shall have to do something, the Mission there are  
a hopeless lot.

Mr. O'Connell carried out the patrol well, it is  
most difficult country.

  
(J. E. WAKEFORD)  
DISTRICT OFFICER

Encl.



67-3-8/1015

District Office,  
Sepik District,  
WENAK.

14th December, 1961

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
KONEDOBU.

VANIMO PATROL REPORT NO. 2-61/62

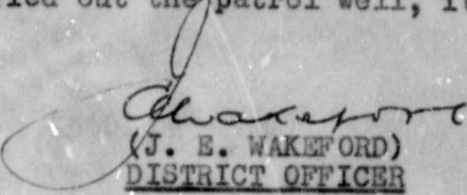
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(J. E. WAKEFORD)  
DISTRICT OFFICER

Encl.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

Vanimo Pa trol Post,  
Aitape Sub-District,  
Sepik Dis trict.

9th. November, 1961.

The Distric t Officer,  
Sepik District,  
Wewak.

Patrol Report Van. No. 2 of 1961/62.

IMBIO and BEMBI Census Divisions.

Preamble:

Report on a routine patrol to the Imbio and Bembí Ce nsus Divisions of the Vanimo Patrol Post area of the Aitape Sub-District of the Sepik District.

Objects of Patrol:

- (1) Census revision
- (2) Routine Adminis tration.

Personel of Patrol:

Mr. Robert L.O'Connell Patrol Officer

7828	Const 1/c	SUKIMBAL
6449	Const.	AWASE
9211	Const.	YONGIMA
10900	T/Const.	MIRGAM

Part-two Aid Post Orderlies.

Period of Pa trol:

12th. October 1961 to 6th. November 1961.  
26 days duration.

Last Medical Patrol:

August 1961.

Last Native Affairs Patrol:

September 1960.

Results of Patrol:

All objects attained. See herein.

Introduction:

The patrol visited that portion of the Sub-District known as the Imbio and Bembi Census Divisions. The Imbio Group are settled at the Northern base of the Bewani Mountains while the Bembi group are around the Southern base and stretching out towards the Sepik Plains.

These people are essentially bush dwellers of small groups which make the building and maintaining of roads almost an impossibility. Most of the walking done by the patrol was along river beds; but where tracks had been made, they were cleared and fairly dry.

Patrolling through this area would be almost an impossibility during the Northwest season. Flooded rivers would greatly restrict patrol movements.

Diary:

Thursday 12/10/61.

Departed station per Government landrover to the Waterstone River, hence walking to Ningera. Good walking track. Walking time 2 hours 50 minutes. Camped night.

Friday 13/10/61.

Departed early morning and crossed the Pual River thence by a well cut track through rain forests to Imbio No.1. Walking time 4 hours 45 minutes. Camped night.

Saturday 14/10/61.

Lined and census revised. Moved to Imbio No.3, after waiting for the river to subside. Lined and census revision of both Imbio No.3 and Samararu. The patrol was unable to visit Samararu as the river was in flood. Returned Imbio No.1 in the late afternoon. Walking time 2 hours. Camped night.

Sunday 15/10/61.

Moved on to Imbrinzi along a fairly well cut track. Lined and census revisited. Walking time 2 hours 25 minutes. Camped night.

Monday 16/10/61.

To Sumumini along both river beds and tracks. The Sumumini section of the track was well cut and a pleasant walk. Lined and revision of census. Walking time 3 hours 20 minutes. Camped night.

Tuesday 17/10/61.

Departed early morning and followed river bed for several hours then a stiff climb over the Bewani Mountains, then by river bed and poor track to Kilifas. Walking time 6 hours 45 minutes. Camped night.

Wednesday 18/10/61.

Lined and revised the census for Kilifas village. Proceeded downstream along river bed to Fugumui village. Lined and revised the census. Walking time 1 hour. Camped night.

Thursday 19/10/61.

Departed Fugumui early morning, following river bed upstream thence over a small mountain and down a river bed to Fugari village. Lined and revised the census. Walking time 3 hours 35 minutes. Camped night.

Friday 20/10/61.

Downstream along river bed to Fas. No.2 village. Lined and revised the census for Fas No.2 and Tamina No.1 villages. Tamina No.1. was not visited as all were at Fas No.2. Returned Fugari late afternoon. Walking time 1 hour. Camped night.

- Saturday 21/10/61. The patrol returned to Fugumui by the same route as was used on Thursday the 19th. October, 1961. Walking time 3 hours 30 minutes. Camped night.
- Sunday 22/10/61. Departed early morning and followed river bed downstream for several hours. Then along small creeks and over low hillocks to Finamoi village. Walking time 8 hours 25 minutes. The village was deserted but as the patrol was returning through this village it was decided to move on the next day. Camped night.
- Monday 23/10/61. Proceeded along a good track to Wutai village. Lined and revised the census. Walking time 3 hours 35 minutes. Camped night.
- Tuesday 24/10/61. Departed early morning following river bed upstream and partly along a track to Aimina village. The people of Fas No.3 and Tamina No. 2 had already assembled here so the census revision for the three villages was carried out at Aimina. Walking time 1 hour 25 minutes. Camped night.
- Wednesday 25/10/61. Returned downstream passed Wutai to Ekas village, following the river bed for most of the walk. The Mofar people were assembled at Ekas so a census revision was made and the figures will be forwarded to Amanab Patrol Post which now administers this village. Census revision of Ekas village. Walking time 2 hours 5 minutes. Camped night.
- Thursday 26/10/61. Returned upstream to Wutai village and then by route used on the 23rd. October 1961, the patrol returned to Finamoi village. Census revision. Walking time 4 hours 10 minutes. Camped night.
- Friday 27/10/61. Departed early morning for Itomi, along a very good walking track. This village is administered from Amanab Patrol Post but as heavy rain was falling it was decided to remain overnight. Walking time 4 hours 50 minutes. Camped night.
- Saturday 28/10/61. Proceeded through rain forest along an imaginary track and then along a riverbed and finally for a few miles along a good walking track to Watape village. Census revised. Walking time 3 hours 55 minutes. Camped night.
- Sunday 29/10/61. Along a riverbed and then through a sago swamp to Simog village, which has moved an hour's walk to the west. Census revision. Walking time 2 hours 25 minutes. Camped night.
- Monday 30/10/61. Returned along same track as used the day before to Watape village where the patrol remained overnight. During the day the "House Tambaram" was inspected and all appears to be in order. Camped night.
- Tuesday 31/10/61. Following upstream then over a low mountain to Kilifas village. Walking time 4 hours 50 minutes. Camped night.
- Wednesday 1/11/61. Returned over the Bewani range by the same track as used on the 17th. October 1961. Walking time 7 hours 5 minutes. The last hour in heavy rain. Camped night.

Thursday 2/11/61.

Departed early morning and proceeded along a poor sago track and then over a medium size mountain to Yo village. Census revised. Several Mumaru people met the patrol and after discussions it was decided that it would be better for a patrol from the Aitape end to visit their village. See "village administration". Walking time 2 hours 25 minutes. Camped night.

Friday 3/11/61.

Returned to Sunauni by the same track as used the day before and then by the route used on the 16th. October 1961 to Imbrinis. Walking time 6 hours 15 minutes. Camped night.

Saturday 4/11/61.

Along a good walking track to Ossima via Omula village. Carried out survey work on the mission lease and mission special lease (airstrip). See Vanimo land file. Walking time 2 hours 50 minutes. Camped night.

Sunday 5/11/61.

At Ossima carrying out investigations into rights and ownership for the two leases. Camped night.

Monday 6/11/61.

Departed early morning and proceeded over a reasonable track to Krisa village. The patrol spelled and then moved on to the coast via a wet track with many leeches. The last hour of this walk was done in heavy rain. The patrol was met at Waterstone River by the Government landrover. Walking time 6 hours 50 minutes.

### end of diary ###

Native Affairs:

The position here is as good as can be expected. Almost all of these people live in bush dwellings and only appear in their villages when there is word of an impending patrol. It is significant to note that during the patrol it was seen in the comments page of the village books that the last medical patrol was fortunate to see more than five or ten people in each village.

With this tendency to live in the bush the Village officials have little or no say except when a patrol is approaching when all combine to clean up the villages and surroundings.

At the present stage there is little that can be done to improve the position particularly as there is very few chances of economic development. The transport problem alone is enough to deter the most enthusiastic.

Efforts were made to encourage the people to build better houses as their present houses are little more than humpies. But the groups are too small and too widely scattered to have much effect.

Health and Hygiene: With the recent passing through of a medical patrol and the knowledge of an approaching Native Affairs patrol, the seriously ill had either been treated or evacuated to the aid posts at Imbrinis or Kilifas or the hospitals at Vanimo and Amanab.

Many minor sores etc., were treated in the village by the Aid Post orderly who accompanied the patrol through his area.

The village surrounds do not lend themselves to hygienic living, but again the fact that the villages are rarely used give the people little opportunity to maintain a clean village. Instructions were given for an improvement all round in the present village setup.

Education: The education facilities throughout the area are at present absolutely nil, but the Catholic Mission at Vanimo are in the process of establishing a station at Ossima, to the west, and the resident priests will frequently visit the area and undoubtedly establish mission teachers in many of the villages.

Census: A census revision was carried while the patrol was in the field and it is noted that there is a steady increase in population, mainly from births exceeding deaths.

An examination of the enclosed Village Population Register shows an extraordinary number of migration. This is not a new movement but seems to have been going on for many years. I would imagine that permanent villages and economic development will deter this movement, but at the present time they move from garden site to garden site and use whichever village that can accommodate them without involving them in too much work or walking.

Village Officials: As mentioned in "Native Affairs" the village officials have little or no say except when a patrol is approaching the area. Little can be done to improve the position as the Village Officials themselves are bush dwellers and rarely stay in the villages for very long period.

Taking this into consideration they still leave a lot to be desired, but very few suitable replacements were noticed during the census check.

Native Labour: This is their only source of income and is fully used by the people. The voluntarily limit of one third is being maintained also it was noted that there is a constant changing of labour, with those recruited returning to their village when their time has expired.

Land Matters: A mission lease and a special Mission lease (airstrip) surveys and investigations were carried out while the patrol was in the field. All relevant correspondence is filed on Vanimo Land files.

*cannot construct*  
Rest Houses: Mostly not up to standard, but were better than was expected. Instructions were given for the rebuilding of two before the next patrol and many repairs were to be carried out in the near future.

*Many good ones with that type of house that were built out*  
Villages: Most of the villages visited were comprised almost entirely of a humpy type of house with the ground as the floor. Where reasonable houses had been built, they were of a large one room design and used by many families for the "Kiap's" visit.

Instructions were given for the construction of a better more permanent type of house but there is little possibility

ity of many being built before the next patrol.

It is obvious that communications between the villages are not the best. On arrival at Finamoi village, it was found that word of the patrol had not reached there. Obviously, as the village was absolutely deserted, not even the proverbial old man and his dog to greet us.

Roads and Bridges:

The roads or rather tracks used by the patrol were a ~~xxxx~~ varied lot, ranging from very good walking tracks to almost impossible sago swamp tracks with many riverbeds to ruin boots. Where you have a village of 60 people maintaining 20 miles of tracks it is obvious that little can be done to improve the position unless the people willing combined into larger villages nearer the coast.

Bridges in the area are non-existent and unlikely to be built.

Airstrip:

One airstrip, the mission strip at Ossima, is under construction and is likely to remain the only strip for many years.

There is a possible, small aircraft, strip near Wutai village. This site has come under discussion by several officers in the past. The people wish to build an airstrip and have been attempting to do so for the last four years, although every officer through the area during that time has attempted to quash the idea.

Native Agriculture and Livestock:

These people are essentially sago eaters and add very little to their diet. Sweet potato, taro, banana and other tropical fruits are sometimes grown. Poultry seems a rare commodity to these people, with pigs appearing only occasionally. The surrounding bush abounds in wild game so little effort is put into rearing their own.

Village Administration:

The Mofar group of people had already lined at Ekas village for census taking. The village book shows that this group was transferred to the Amanab Patrol Post area in 1959 and consequently bypassed by the 1960 Vanimo patrol to the area. No census revision was made for 1960 so this was done and the figures will be forwarded to the O-I-C Amanab.

While the patrol was at Yo village several Mumaru people approached the patrol and requested a visit from a patrol. Discussion disclosed that the village was a good two days walk through uninhabited country from Yo village, yet only one day from the last Aitape village. The people were advised that a request would be made to the A.D.O. Aitape for a patrol to visit their area in the near future.

Police:

Two members of the Vanimo detachment and two from the Aitape detachment accompanied the patrol. All members performed their duties as required. The patrol was a rugged one and two members suffered from bruised feet.

A separate report on each member has been forwarded to the Commissioner.

Conclusion:

The patrol was of a routine nature with no untoward incidents occurring. All objects of the patrol were attained.

*Robert L. O'Connell*  
(Robert L. O'Connell)  
Patrol Officer.

*of Vanimo*  
*but action!*



MAP TO ACCOMPANY VANIMO PATROL REPORT 2-11/62

IMBIO AND BEMB GENUINE DIVISIONS.

----- PATROL ROUTE



# ion Register

Area Patrolled...IMBIO and BEMBI

NS Out	ABSENT FROM VILLAGE AT WORK								STUDENTS				LABOUR POTENTIAL				FEMALES		Average Size of Family	TOTALS (Excluding Absentee)				GRAND TOTAL
	Inside District		Outside District		Govt.		Mission		Males		Females		Pregnant	Number of Child bearing AGE	Child		Adults							
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	10-16	16-45	10-16			16-45	M	F	M	F					
																			M + F					
	3	6	3							7	32	10	28	2	29	2.1	31	31	37	32	140			
	1			3						10	26	8	30	1	31	2.0	24	27	27	35	116			
		1		2	1					-	9	1	7	-	7	2.4	4	3	14	10	35			
		1		4						10	35	7	31	2	32	1.9	30	28	34	34	131			
	4	8	3	9	1					27	102	26	96	5	99		89	89	112	111	422			
	8	1		4						13	35	6	38	4	40	2.0	38	21	36	43	143			
	2			5						14	32	6	23	4	26	2.3	35	28	30	29	127			
	2	3		5						13	27	5	14	1	17	2.2	25	16	22	15	66			
	2	9		2						7	31	4	20	2	21	2.0	14	17	20	21	83			
	3			3						9	40	12	27	3	27	1.1	23	20	37	30	117			
		2		7						12	27	3	15	1	17	2.3	22	12	22	19	84			
				4						6	24	1	18	-	18	1.1	12	6	24	18	64			
	2	2	1	5						4	21	2	16	-	16	1.8	15		17	18	66			
		3	3	9						5	25	3	12	1	12	1.5	11	11	18	13	68			
	3	12		3						14	33	5	19	-	20	2.2	21	17	24	19	99			
										1	17	3	10		10	.7	4	6	19	12	41			
	2			6						2	18	1	11	2	11	1.5	7	6	13	13	45			
	1	2		5						12	50	2	34	2	35	1.8	27	32	51	40	157			
	1	1		6						8	40	4	25	-	26	1.9	31	23	40	36	137			
	1	4		2						2	18	4	14	3	15	2.2	10	12	14	14	56			
	27	43	6	66				1		122	458	61	296	24	311		295	235	387	340	1,373			