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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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Duplicate

See Outline



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of *Sepik* Report No. *aitape 10 48/49*

Patrol Conducted by *E.B. Gilbert* *PO*

Area Patrolled *Western part of Sepik area*

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....

Natives..... *2*

Duration—From *2/6/1949* to *17/6/1949*

Number of Days..... *16*

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	£.....
.....
.....
.....

pula

7

Minute for -
 Officer-in-Charge,
LUMI.

Copy for your information.

Copy of District Services Circular Instruction is forwarded for your information. Please submit by return mail two extra copies of your report together with a sketch map of the area patrolled, showing any alterations to the existing Strat Map. As you have pointed out in your report, there has only been one patrol of the area since the war and consequently we have not had any chance of correcting the maps.

It is desired that all Patrol Reports be submitted as soon as possible after the completion of a patrol.

Many factors have to be taken into consideration when recommending the closing or recruiting of any villages or areas. One should first consider the freedom of the individual, which is the base of our democratic society. In your memo of 27th July you recommended, inter alia, the closing of MIMBITSI village, and your patrol Report shows no absentees under indenture.

At the end of every month, it is desired that you submit a recommendation limiting the number of men that may be recruited from any of the villages in the Wapi area that you consider should be limited.

The report will show the numbers absent and the numbers remaining in the village. It is suggested that one of the village officials could visit LUMI each month with his village book and advise you of which natives have left and who returned home during the period.

Thoroughly check your census figures against your recommendations for closure. WILLILI village, according to your report, has none absent, and 44 adult males and 29 adult females left in the village. On the face of things, it appears absurd to recommend closure.

H. R. Niall
 (H. R. NIALL) *niall*
 Actg. District Officer.

REPORT OF PATROL - NEW GUINEA

Land Patrol Post,
Alupe sub - District,
Sepik District.

16th June, 1946.

LAND PATROL AREA OF 1944/45

Report on patrol to the western portion of the Wagi area in the Alupe sub district.

OFFICER COMMANDING LAND PATROL OFFICER MR. G. R. GIBBERT.

AREA UNROLLED Western portion of the Wagi area.

OBJECTS of Patrol Revision of census.

Assessment of War Damage.

General Administrative Duties.

PERIOD of Patrol From 2nd June to 17th June 1946 (Last)

PERSONNEL ACCOMMODATING 3 Members of the M. G. P.

In conducting this patrol was conducted primarily with the intention of familiarizing the writer with the Wagi area and with the inhabitants of this portion of the Sepik District. Where possible a revision of census was carried out and villages not possessing village books were censused.

War Damage Investigation was also conducted.

Prior to this patrol there had been patrols in 1934, 1940, 1945 and 1946. The two latter covered only portions of the area and to say the least were patrols purely for the gathering of census figures and paying out wages due as a result of war contracts. Little of an administrative nature was attempted or an administrative nature having little for the welfare of the masses. Examination will follow in the text of this report.

WAGI

Patrol Left Land Patrol Post (Q)Z 5615 at 0800 hrs, arrived MIRAEI (Q)Z 5630 at 0830 hrs. Village inspected, census conducted and War Damage Investigation carried out. Departed MIRAEI 1210 hrs arrived YOMIRI (Q)Z 5638 at 1300 hrs. Censused and War Damage Investigation. Left at 1300 hrs arrived SHOOTER (Q)Z 5735 at 1650. Census and War Damage Assessment. Camped.

Patrol Departed at 0800 hrs arrived MIRAEI (Q)Z 5735 at 0835 hrs. Village censused and War Damage Investigation carried out. From MIRAEI to MIRAEI (Q)Z 5438 - 9 hrs walking. Census and War Damage Investigation conducted. Camped.

Patrol Left 0800 hrs arrived KARATEE (Q)Z 5838 at 0940 hrs. Census conducted and War Damage Investig. Light carried out. ALITEE and WILVAT hamlets of KARATEE also censused. Departed 1435 hrs arrived PII village (Q)Z 5135 at 1500 hrs. Census and War Damage Investigation. Camped.

Patrol Left 0910 hrs arrived TORORU (Q)Z 5835 at 0950 hrs. Census and War Damage. Departed 1210 arrived BAREE (Q)Z 5030 at 1500 hrs. Census conducted and War Damage Investigation carried out. Camped.

Diary (cont.)

6-6-49 Left URITEI at 0700 hrs arrived TRAITAI (Q)Z 4918 at 0850 hrs. Censused and War Damage assessment. Left 1035 arrived YEBIL (Q)Z 4317 1130 hrs. Census conducted. Departed 1350 arrived UBUTAI (Q)Z 5615 1415 hrs. Village censused and inspected. Left 1450 hrs arrived TIRINI (Q)Z 4319 at 1720. Censused and camped.

7-6-49 Departed TIRINI 0730 hrs arrived KAROI 0905 hrs. Map ref (Q)Z 5621. Village censused also hamlet of KUANTIK. Left 1200 hrs arrived KALINUM (Q)Z 4315 at 1510 hrs. Village censused, War Damage Assessment. Camped.

8-6-49 Struck camp 0745 arrived WILKILI (Q)Z 4618 at 0945 hrs. Censused village and departed at 1120 hrs. Reached TAPTEI (Q)Z 4815 at 1235 hrs. Census and War Damage. Departed 1350 hrs reached LAU-UN (Q)Z 5015 1610 hrs. Census conducted and War Damage Investigations carried out. Camped.

9-6-49 To BURU-UN (Q)Z 5016 - 15 mins walk. Census conducted. Thence Lumi Patrol Post 2 hrs 5 minutes.

10-6-49 To LUHI village (Q)Z 5616 censused thence MAU-I (Q)Z 5614 WABUF (Q)Z 5613. All censused including hamlet of LUMI, OTENGI and KLIKABUH hamlet of WABUF. Camped WABUF.

11-6-49 Left WABUF at 0850 proceeded TALEIPI (Q)Z 5318 and village censused. 75 minutes travelling. Departed 1150 proceeded WAMNUN (Q)Z 4906 via TAPTEI arriving at 1545 hrs. Village censused as also hamlet of WIUP (Q)Z 4908. War Damage Investigation carried out. Camped.

12-6-49 Left 0830 hrs arrived GUTAIYA (Q)Z 5005, a hamlet of WAMNUN. Censused and village inspected. Left 1105 hrs proceeded TUDUN (Q)Z 4908 and thence GALATY (Q)Z 5002. Villages censused.

13-6-49 Struck camp 0910 proceeded BULWA (V)Z 5596. 2 hrs 35 mins walk. Census conducted and patrol camped.

14-6-49 Left 0800 hrs arrived WARIN (Q)Z 5102 at 1205 hrs. People not present so patrol camped.

15-6-49 Census of WARIN taken and patrol left at 1005 hrs arriving TUPBI (Q)Z 5907 at 1155 hrs. Census conducted as also of WETILI (Q)Z 5708. Left 1450 hrs arrived TERALI 1540 hrs. Map ref. (Q)Z 5608. Heavy rain suspended further work. Patrol camped.

16-6-49 Censused TERALI and left at 1150 arriving TELOTEI village (Q)Z 5613 at 1245 hrs. Village censused and inspection made. War Damage Claims investigated. To URITEI (Q)Z 5613 and thence SEINAM village (Q)Z 5611. SEINAM censused and Claims for War Damage investigated. Patrol camped.

17-6-49 Left 0800, returned URITEI and village censused. Patrol proceeded KILION village (Q)Z 5714 where censused conducted and claims for War Damage recorded. Left 1225 arrived Lumi Patrol Post at 1315 hrs.

NATIVE AFFAIRS

There were no complaints made during the whole course of the patrol. This is no indication as to the attitude of the natives nor is this an indication as to the degree of influence of government policy and control in the area.

Throughout the area, there is a policy of laissez-faire which the inhabitants are carrying out to a degree, in that the filth and squalor of pre administration era still prevails. Helpful to this policy is the attitude of apathy for which these Wapi people are well known and consequently, it is not difficult to visualize the backwardness of this large group in a modern and progressive world. Unfortunately this so called backwardness, or more appropriately put, this lack of opportunity to progress, is in being in an area rich in its potentialities.

This situation is not universal for there are many of an industrious type among those who have brought to their villages ideas of progress from outside areas such as Rabaul and Manus. The absence of a leader and the fact that the administrative headquarters of the area is a long way distant has precluded an organized attempt to stir the majority of the Wapi people out of their apathy onto the road of mental, physical and economic progress.

Prior to the war the administration confined its activities in the area to patrolling and for a short time during the war and shortly after, an officer was stationed at Lumi, but these again activities were restricted to the extent of a census check and the issuing of instructions pertaining to village cleanliness and roads maintenance. No supervision of the allotted tasks was possible owing to the officer's recall to another area and so it rested in the hands of village officials as to whether these instructions were carried out - a three to four year lapse in time hardly justifies an inspection to ascertain as to whether previous instructions have been carried out.

The above preamble is purely an attempt to illustrate the absolute necessity for the establishment, permanently, of an officer of the Field Staff in the area. Without an officer to guide and assist these people to higher cultural levels the population will always remain, to the outside world, a source of unskilled labour with little hope of advancement with the time.

Essentially these people are a peace loving type and in days gone by inter tribal fighting and squabbles were very rare. At times there were differences between villages but the nature of such differences were minor ones and were generally settled without much ado.

Effects of the war still linger but as these people were spared as a whole from that dreadful period there is no bitterness remaining as a result of that period. Allusions are made to the affair but invariably within the hearing of the officer with the intent of informing him that there is the matter of War Damage Compensation to be adjusted.

A Wapi people, they do not readily give information as to their customs and social life and it is the opinion of the writer that it will be some time before any conclusive anthropological data can be obtained.

There is little social life among these natives but occasionally villages get together in a 'sing sing' which sometimes lasts for days. This is known as the Fish singing and will be gone into in further detail under the appropriate heading.

NATIVE AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK

Throughout the area patrolled there is an abundant supply of all types of native vegetables and a small quantity of a southern nature such as cabbage, lettuce, tomatoes, carrots and onions.

Native methods of agriculture in the area are very primitive they, the natives, not having any idea of crop rotation, manuring, conservation of soil and the benefits of preserving the vitality of the soil.

To make a growing portion of bush is selected, partially cleared, the rubbish removed and the crop planted. When this crop is harvested a new area is selected for the next crop and the same process is adopted. The old area is allowed to lie fallow until there are no new portions of ground to cultivate and only then does it receive attention.

The soil in the area patrolled varies from a light sandy type ideal for root crops to a heavy clayey type which unless given particular attention is hardly suitable for any type of crop whatsoever.

Considering the altitude of this portion of the district and the ideal climate for all the year round cultivation, it has often occurred to the writer that the establishment of an experimental and demonstration farm by the Dept. of Agriculture in the area is long overdue. The Wapi people are essentially agriculturists, in fact their whole lives are made up of planting and harvesting crops but in such a primitive way that full scale production is impossible, but if, by example, our superior methods of agriculture were introduced to the area then I feel sure that this at least could be considered a step towards the progress already mentioned in this report.

An experimental station on a small scale is being developed by the writer in an attempt to illustrate to these people the benefits of a little knowledge of the complexities of the soil. Literature on the subject of manuring to augment the writer's small knowledge and supplies of corn, peanut, tomato, cabbage and onion seed would be much appreciated if the Dept. of Agriculture has such seed in stock.

Livestock is both scarce and of an inferior type.

Pigs are of a scrawny, long snouted type, obviously full of disease and serving little purpose than furnishing a meagre ration of meat to the owners at festival times. If a southern boar and sow could be sent to this post then I feel sure that with selective breeding this present poor stock could be improved. This also applies to poultry.

MEDICAL & HEALTH

As no medical assistant accompanied the patrol a special report is being submitted.

EDUCATION

There is no representative of the Dept. of Education in the area and there are no students at Government schools.

In this direction much has been done by the mission in the area. There is a regular programme of schooling for the young people in the Lumi area whilst outstations cope with the education of those belonging to outlying areas.

Teaching by the Missionaries here is not confined to spiritual education and besides reading and writing a lot

Education (cont.)

of effort is being put into teaching the students the benefits of personal hygiene and general cleanliness.

The members of the Franciscan Mission are to be commended for the sterling character of their work in the area.

ROADS & BRIDGES

Roads throughout the area are , through lack of supervision, in a very bad state. In some places there is no evidence of there having been any attempt to comply with the Roads Maintenance Ordinance because there exists only traces of a native pad.

Nearer the Patrol Post some attempt had been made to construct roads but lack of implements with which to do the work prevented any first class walking tracks.

In this matter there is the need for the strictest supervision and this can only be carried out by constant patrolling and if orders to maintain roads are not carried out then only prosecution will convince the people of their responsibility regarding roads and their maintenance.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

In all villages there are officials. There were eight luisais and eleven tultuls appointed on probation during this patrol. Little is known of the ability of most of the officials and only constant dealings with them will give any indication as to whether confirmation of appointment is warranted.

As a result of enquiries, both from native sources and from the missionaries stationed in the Wapi area, it was found that, prior to the introduction of village officials by the administration, there were no real chieftains but there were a few old men who by experience came to be looked upon as authorities on certain matters.

With the advent of civil administration an entirely new form of authority was put before the people. In some cases persons with a sense of responsibility took to the position with the intention of carrying out the policy of the government and made quite a show of it but as the years have progressed the sons and grandsons of the original officials have succeeded to the position without the faintest idea as to their duties. This was especially so during the war years.

In order to preserve this system of inheritance of office it is intended to start a school for village officials in the area. The curriculum will consist of instruction in the powers and duties of the various officials and a practical demonstration in the ways of administering a village with the accent on village cleanliness and hygiene.

The introduction of village councils in the area is as yet out of the question and will remain so for many years to come.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL

As has been mentioned no conclusive anthropological data has yet been obtained.

Marriage is on a system of brideprice but although a young girl may be bought from another village it does not necessarily mean that the marriage is consummated.

The girl is bought and then taken by her relatives to the house of the parents of her intended husband where she is put

Anthropological (cont.)

to work at the womanly tasks of harvesting sage , looking after the pigs etc. This is done under the supervision of the intended bride-grooms parents and if the girl shows that she is capable of carrying out the duties of a wife then it only rests upon the son's approval. During this time there is little contact between the intended couple and it is rare that intercourse takes place before marriage.

If the girl should not like the man for whom she is intended then there is nothing to stop her from returning to her village after a period and then naturally bride price is returned.

Sister exchange although not indigenous to the area sometimes takes place.

The only universal 'singing' throughout the area is referred to as the Fish Singing. This festival happens at indefinite periods during the year and is primarily intended as a get together for a good time.

The origin of the festival is that as all sickness comes from the water this sickness must have been put there by fish which are the only living things in the water and so to eradicate this sickness the fish must be pacified.

Figures representing a fish are constructed with bark and leaves and are held by the menfolk of the village who dance up and down around and around whilst the women wave pieces of bush or the leaves of a tree over the fish in order to placate it. The climax of the ceremony is reached when the fish is speared by the males of another village and with a renewed frenzied frenzy of singing and dancing so the festival ends.

The belief that the adoration of the fish will banish sickness is gradually dying out but in the back of the native mind there still remains a little of this belief , more so in the less sophisticated areas than in the areas close to the mission and government stations.

WAR DAMAGE COMPENSATION

This area was little affected by the war and the great majority of claims so far registered are those by people who were away at work at the outbreak of hostilities and were trapped by the enemy invasion.

Jap foraging parties diminished the quantity of pigs and poultry in the area but not to any great extent.

Investigation of claims for compensation is being combined with the collecting of census and during this patrol the writer has at times been obliged to work well into the night in order to finalise claims which have been recorded during the day.

In the western portion of the Wapi area the only outstanding claims are those which are liable to be submitted by natives still absent outside the district.

MISSIONS

The Franciscan Mission is the only mission in the area. The headquarters for this area is at Lumi and an outstation is operating at MAIWATER which is in charge of a native mission teacher. Father James C'Neare is at the head of this order whilst Father Perer is operating in the Eastern portion of the Wapi sub division.

Missions (cont)

Activities of the mission are still as has been in the past restricted by the lack of staff but the progress that has been made in the two years that they have been established here is an example which should be heeded and the Administration when setting up a hospital and Patrol Post should bring into consideration the fact that for the influence of the Mission in the area the task would be a most difficult one.

Speaking plainly the Mission and the personnel attached thereto have acted as a pro tem administration in the absence of officials of the government and their organisation and work are open only to praise.

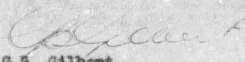
VITAL STATISTICS

The western portion of the Wapi area is , as compared with the eastern area, sparsely populated .

Absentees are mostly employees of W. R. Carpenters Ltd outside the district and owing to lack of supervision of recruiting in the area a few villages have been recruited to a stage where there is a likelihood of a complete disruption of village organisation. As regards the matter of recruiting in the Wapi area I am not in favour of labour being recruited in this area and then signed on at other headquarters because of the possibility of labour being withdrawn from a village already recruited to its limit. The average recruiter is not in the country for the good of his health and the matter of overrecruiting a village would leave him with no qualms.

Considering the fact that many of the absentees now at various stations outside the district are due for repatriation with in the near future I should think it unwise to close villages to recruiting because of the willingness of the inhabitants to offer themselves for work and the length of time it takes to reopen a village once it is closed by government gazette. A far better plan I should venture to say would be for the official stationed in the area to close villages at his discretion and reopen them to recruiting when he thinks fit. A strict supervision of recruiting would be necessary to carry out this plan and the necessary supervision is only attainable by signing recruits on at this office.

Census figures are attached hereto.


G. E. Gilbert
Patrol Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA - NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT ATTACHE No

1946/49

MEDICAL & HEALTH

The last medical patrol through this area was in early 1946 but prior to this there had been a hospital established by members of Angau primarily for the purpose of cleaning up an outbreak of dysentery which accounted for many lives during its course.

Since then the inhabitants of this area have received only the treatment that the missionaries in the area have been able to provide. Lack of supplies and facilities with which to treat sick have prevented any large scale attempts on the Missionaries part to eradicate sickness in the area.

Dr. H. Tindale of the Franciscan Mission spent some time in the area recently making a medical survey, treating the sick and instructing the Friars stationed in the area in various medical subjects.

As a result of his survey he considered that the establishment of a large native hospital, in the vicinity of four hundred beds, would be the only satisfactory method of coping with the large numbers of people in need of medical attention. Dr. Tindale discussed the matter with the District Medical Officer and as a result of the discussion a native aid post is to be established at Lumi Petrol Post.

This aid post is to be staffed by native medical orderlies and will be able to cope with about twenty patients whilst it is presumed that N. A. B. injections will be given to outpatients.

The attempt on the District Medical Officer's part to attend to the health of the natives of this area is laudable considering the fact that he is hampered by insufficient supplies and shortage of staff but as a gesture on the part of the Dept. of Public Health, considering the fact that an experienced medical practitioner has made a survey into the requirements for the treatment of the natives of the area and found that only a permanent hospital would suffice to carry out the work on hand, it seems a poor substitute.

Surely the large population in the area (an estimated sixteen thousand) would warrant the establishment of a hospital capable of coping with the work in hand. The work in hand would consist of treating the hundreds suffering from sloughing ulcers that were seen on this patrol.

Besides the large numbers of ulcers there are also many cases of frambosia to be dealt with whilst the effects of the dysentery epidemic of 1946 are still lingering. RMX

Several cases of pneumonia were sighted during the patrol and treatment administered as best as possible under the circumstances.

There are twenty medical tultuls in the area patrolled none of whom have any supplies and who have forgotten the little knowledge they may have at one time possessed on medical matters.

Medical & Health (cont.)

When a hospital or aid post is established it will be one of the first tasks to restore to the village medical personnel the knowledge that will enable them to carry out their duties efficiently.

The task that lies before the Dept. of Public Health in this area is enormous and to delay that task any further will make it even more difficult than it is now.

In the meantime the work of caring for the people in need of medical attention rests upon the mission and when possible upon the writer but as the task is a full time job for a medical assistant the results required are not always attained owing the fact that normal duties of both the missionaries and myself prevent our giving the task the constant care that is needed.




G. B. Gilbert,
Patrol Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA - NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT ATTACH No 1946/48

REPORT ON POLICE

- Reg. No. 3494 L/Orl AINO An outstanding H. C. O., experienced in patrol work and an excellent leader. Consideration of promotion should be given.
- Reg. No. 5665 Const MAIYAU A good steady and tolerant policeman and ideal for handling bush natives.
- Reg. No. 5328 Const WOISAU An experienced and capable constable. Lacks personality for command. Suitable for work in new areas.


G. B. Gilbert,
Police Officer.