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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: MILNE BAY

STATION: CAMERON

VOLUME No: 2

ACCESSION No: 496.

1965 - 1966

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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Cameron and Baniara

PATROL REPORT OF: Cameron, Daniava

ACCESSION No. 496

VOL. No: 2 : 1965-1966 NUMBER OF REPORTS: 4

712 pages

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MILNE BAY DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1965/1966

CAMERON

<u>Report No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
1 - 1965/1966	P.W. Harrison	Nrth E. Coast Census Div. Garuwai & Topura Villages
6 - 1965/1966	P.M. Jones	Nrth E. Coast Census Div.
9 - 1965/1966	E.J. Mitchell	Buhutu Census Div.

BANIARA

2 - 1965/1966	J.J. Soroda	Cape Vogel Council Area
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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of.....**Milne Bay**..... Report No.....**1 of 1965/66**.....
Patrol Conducted by.....**Peter W. Harrison, Cadet Patrol Officer.**.....
Area Patrolled.....**North East Coast Census Division, Garuwai and Topura Villages.**.....
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....**Yes. 28/10/65 to 30/10/65**.....
Natives.....**One, Interpreter.**.....
Duration--From.....**28 / 10 / 19 65**.....to.....**4 / 10 / 19 65**.....
Number of Days.....**8 days**.....
Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....**nil**.....
Last Patrol to Area by--District Services.....**11 8 / 19 65**.....
Medical**?**...../19.....
Map Reference.....**Milnech - Gebue. Fournil - Samarai.**.....
Objects of Patrol.....**1. Annual Audit of Maramatana Council. 2.**.....
3. Attend General Meeting of the Maramatana Local Government Council......
3. Investigate Food Shortage Problem......
Director of 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 £.....

67-4-5

25th February, 1966.

District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SANARAI.

CAMERON PATROL REPORT NO. 1/1965-66:

Receipt is acknowledged with thanks of a Patrol Report by Mr. Harrison, covered by your memorandum 67-1-7 of 21st January, 1966.

2. Your comments and those of Mr. Wiltshire have been noted.

3. Mr. Harrison has finished a useful patrol and submitted a brief report on drought conditions in the Taupota village area.

(J.K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR.

XXXX Discom.

67-1-7.



District Office,
SAMARAI,
Milne Bay District.

21st January, 1966.

The Assistant District Commissioner,
CAMERON PLATEAU,
Milne Bay District.

PATR L REPORT MILNE BAY NC1 OF 1965/66.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the above-mentioned report with thanks together with your covering memorandum dated 17th November, 1965 reference 67-1-1.
2. Mr. Harrison is to be commended on the manner in which he has made his assessment of the food shortage problem in the LAVORA, TOPURA, WAMAWAMANA and TAUPOTA Village areas.
3. The problem of the food shortages has received attention since this report was submitted. With the recent rains the villagers will have had some chance to recoup their losses and recommence gardening activities on a ~~large~~ ^{NORMA} scale.
4. Camping Allowance claim is being proceeded.
5. For your information, please.

E. J. Emanuel
(E.J. EMANUEL)
a/District Commissioner.

c.c. Director,
D.D.A. Konedobu.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

For your records and information, please.

E. J. Emanuel
(E.J. EMANUEL)
a/District Commissioner.

67-1-1

J.W./H.G.

Sub-District Office,
Milne Bay District,
CAMERON PLATEAU.

17th November, 1965.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
S A M A R A I.

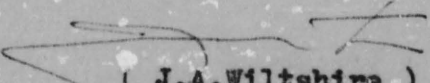
CAMERON PATROL No.1-1965/66.

Attached in duplicate is the report of a short patrol to the Western Section of the N. E. Coast Census Division.

2. Mr. Harrison was originally to accompany Mr. Peterson, Finance Officer on an Audit of the Maramatana Council and then attend the monthly meeting of that Council. However, whilst in that area reports of a food shortage in villages to the west were received and Mr. Harrison was instructed to proceed to the area to ascertain if in fact the situation was serious.

3. Following Mr. Harrison's observations, Mr. Single D. O. and Mr. Cheong, Agricultural Officer have proceeded to the villages affected to carry out further investigations. You will be kept informed of the situation.

4. Claims for Camping Allowance are attached.


(J.A. Wiltshire)
Assistant District Commissioner.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Reference 67 - 1 - 1

Sub-District Office,
CAMERON PLATEAU.
Milne Bay District.

8th November, 1965.

NORTH EAST COAST PATROL - No.1 of 1965/66.

Preamble:

1. Station - Cameron Plateau,
Sub-District - Milne Bay,
District - Milne Bay.
2. Patrol Conducted by:
P.W.Harrison, Cadet Patrol Officer.
3. Area Patrolled:
North East Coast, Garuwal and Topura
Villages.
4. Personnel Accompanying Patrol:
Mr. R.Peterson, Local Government Auditor.
(for period from 28/10/65 to 31/10/65)
Timothy Iatamro, Patrol Interpreter.
5. Duration of Patrol:
28th October, 1965 to 4th November, 1965.
6. Objects of Patrol:
(a) Annual Audit of Maramatana Council.
(b) Attend General Meeting of Maramatana
Council.
(c) Investigate Food shortage problem
of the Villages of Lavara, Topura,
Wamawamara and Taupota No.1+2.
7. Map Reference:
Milinch - Gehua
Fourmil - Samakui

Introduction:

1. The patrol had a threefold purpose; to accompany Mr. R. Peterson, Local Government Council Auditor, on his audit of the Maramatana Local Government Council; to attend the Councils General Meeting; and to investigate the food shortage problem in the villages between Taupota and Cape Frere.

Diary:

28-10-65 Departed Rabe wharf at approximately 09.00 hours and proceeded to the Maramatana Local Government Councils Headquarters at Garuwal, per M.V. "Tava", arriving at 16.45 hours.

29-10-65 At Garuwal Council House with Mr. R. Peterson, checking all councils finance books in auditing process.

30-10-65 At Garuwal Council House, finalizing audit; compiling and bringing up to date the inventory of the councils assets and inventory of furniture etc. After completion of audit Mr. Peterson and self had short discussion on the council in general and the audit, some instructions were given to the councils clerk. 11.00 hrs. Mr Peterson departed on foot to Cameron Plateau. Afternoon spent stocktaking in council store in preparation to compile council stock cards.

31-10-65 Observed.

1-11-65 The council meeting proposed for this day was adjourned until the 2nd. November to enable councillors from distant villages to arrive. All councillors were present in the late afternoon. The writer spent most of the day in the Council Clerks office aiding clerk with the compilation of the councils monthly statement and having short discussions with the councillors as they arrived at the council chambers.

2-11-65 Attended the Maramatana Local Government Council Meeting. See minutes of council meeting for details.

3-11-65 Departed Garuwal, 06.30, in locally owned small boat and proceeded to Topura Village arriving at 10.00 hours. Interviewed the Mission Aid Post Nurse to ascertain what effect the drought has had on the general health of the people. Proceeded to the nearest garden, 1 1/2 hours walk away and inspected them. Discussed with Councillor Gibson and the Village Constable, Nicolas, the food situation. Departed Topura 13.45 for Garuwal arriving just after 18.00 hours.

4-11-65 Departed Garuwal at 09.30 for Watunou, via Awaiama, Iapoa No2 and Huhuma Villages. Arrived Watunou at approx. 16.45. Landrover arrived at 18.00 hours and transferred patrol to Cameron Plateau.

End Of Patrol.

REPORT: FOOD SHORTAGE, NORTH EAST COAST.

1. For the past month numerous reports have come to hand that in some villages in the North East Coast Census Division have a serious food shortage problem. This has occurred because of the lack of adequate rain to the area. The matter was brought up and discussed at the Marakana Local Government Council Meetings, firstly on the 1st. of October, 1965 and again on the 2nd. of November, 1965. Action has been taken by this office in the form of an investigation of the situation at Topura village - the most stricken village in the area.

Geography:

2. The area affected by the drought is that west of Garuwa Council Chambers, from the Taupota villages to Cape Freme, in the North East Coast Census Division.

3. Rainfall. This area receives most of its rain from the N.W. Monsoonal season and therefore has approximately three months of actual rain and nine months with virtually very little. There has been a small amount of rain in the area, this fell in September but had little effect on the gardens.

4. Topography. Because of the short rainy season large areas of grassland occur - this covers the small coastal plain and the adjacent mountain slopes for quite a distance inland. This land is not suitable for cultivation of subsistence cropping, this is carried out in the small creek and river valleys close to water.

The Food Situation as it is at Present.

5. Taupota No 1 and 2 Villages: These villages have enough food in their gardens etc. to last them another two or three months.

6. Wanawana Villages: Similar in conditions to Taupota village; the food supply from their gardens will most probably last for another month or two.

7. Topura, Iapra No 1 and Iavora Villages: are at present completely out of food supplied from their gardens. Their main source of food is collected from the bush, this consists mainly of wild yams, but this source is quickly dwindling.

8. Gardens: The gardens of the Topura village people were inspected and the following was found:-

(a) That the gardens which should be supplying the staple foods at the present time are finished.

(b) The gardens that were planted two or three months ago have perished through lack of water. The produce from these gardens would have been ready for consumption within two or three months.

(c) The new gardens that are at present being made will not be ready for at least six months. They are being sited near springs and dry water courses, therefore the size of the garden is very much limited.

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- 4 -

9. Diet: The peoples regular diet has been seriously effected; their usual two meals per day (morning and evening) has been reduced to one evening meal. Even then, there is apparently not enough food to go around. The main food consumed at this meal consisted mainly of wild yams (collected daily) some fish, mangoes, breadfruit and bananas.

10. The people have a small number of pigs and poultry in the village, but, as yet none have been killed.

11. Health: The nurse at the Topura Mission Aid Post was interviewed regarding any illness that had occurred in the past few months. Up to date nothing has been reported. It was noticed that the children in the village are becoming very much thinner than they usually are.

12. Effect on Schooling: The children from all six villages go to mission school, either at Taupota, Apia or Paganu Missions. Ordinarily they board at these schools for the week and return home at weekends to collect their weekly food supplies. The missions do not supply food to the boarders. At present the children are not attending their schools as they are helping their parents to search for food, also, there is not enough food on hand for the weeks supply needed by the school children.

13. These people are not wealthy compared with other villagers of the sub-district. They do not have any vacant trees and therefore have not the necessary cash to buy food. In any case there is only one trade store in the area, this being at Taupota Mission. Up until last week, this trade store was virtually out of stock. The people that do have a little money are purchasing rice etc. from the store.

14. Population Affected:

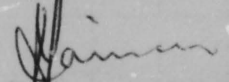
Population in the Village:

Taupota No. 1	= 195
Taupota No. 2	= 173
Paganu	= 212
Topura	= 261
Lapoa No. 1	= 32
Lapoa	= 198

Total Population Affected = 1129.

Conclusions:

15. This is a very serious problem to which immediate action should be taken, especially in those villages that are virtually without food. The people have appealed to both the Administration and their Local Government Council for some aid and assistance. They have made every effort on their part to overcome this very serious situation.


(Peter W. Harrison.)
Cadet Patrol Officer.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of MILNE BAY Report No. CAMERON PLATEAU REPORT No. 6-65/66

Patrol Conducted by P. M. JONES Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled North East Coast Census Division (Maramatana Council)

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

1 Interpreter

Natives 1 R.P. & N.G.C.

Duration—From 10/1/1966 to 19/1/1966

Number of Days 10 days

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services December 19 65

Medical ??? /19

Map Reference Gehua Milinch

Objects of Patrol To attend Maramatana council annual general meetings,
and tasks as per patrol instructions. (attached)

Director of 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

67-4-13

23rd March, 1966.

District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SANARAI.

MILNE BAY PATROL REPORT NO. 6/1965-66:

Thank you for your memorandum 67-1-7 of 2nd March 1966, together with Mr. Jones' Patrol Report.

2. Your comments and those of Mr. Wiltshire have been noted.
3. Mr. Jones seems to have spent ten useful days in the field familiarising himself with the people of the Maramatana Council area, and has submitted a brief report.
4. A short patrol and an informative report.

(J.K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR.

67. 4. 134

67-1-1
JW/OS



Sub-District Office,
CAMERON PLATEAU,
Milne Bay District.

24th February, 1966.

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SAMARAI.

MILNE BAY PATROL 6 of 1965/66.


Attached are two complete copies of the report on the above mentioned patrol to the Maramatana council area of this Sub-District. Claims for Camping Out Allowance are also attached.

2. The patrol occupied ten days and was designed as a familiarisation tour for the patrolling officer of some parts of the council area in which, it is intended, he shall be working as Council Advisor for the next eighteen months.

3. The expected food shortage in villages to the West seems to have fortunately been avoided because of the timely arrival of seasonal rains and the quick growing food stuffs introduced by the Department of Agriculture. I think we should now commence planning against this threat recurring and I shall be making submissions to you at a later date on this matter.

4. As can be seen from the patrol instructions attached to the report, Mr. Jones' main patrolling objects were concerning council activities and in his reports he covers these adequately and adds some interesting views of the population and villages he encountered on his trip. The patrol has obviously achieved the objective of introducing Mr. Jones to the area.

5. For the short time Mr. Jones was in the area, Mr. Jones has compiled an informative report and has fully carried out his patrol instructions.


J. A. Wiltshire.
Assistant District Commissioner.

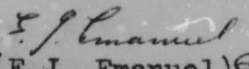
67-1-7

Department of District Administration,
SAMARAI MILNE BAY DISTRICT.
2nd March, 1966.

Minute to:-
Director,
→ Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

For your records, please.

I look forward to some continuity of Administration in the area with Mr. Jones devoting as much time as possible to Maramatana Council development.


(E.J. Emanuel)
a/District Commissioner.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference.....

If calling ask for

Mr.....

Sub-District Office,
CAMERON PLATEAU
Milne Bay District.

9th January, 1966

Mr. P.M. Jones,
Patrol Officer,
CAMERON PLATEAU.

INSTRUCTIONS - PATROL No. 6 of 1965/66

As discussed previously, please be prepared to commence a short patrol to the N.E. Coast Census Division, on the 10th January, 1966.

2. The objects of your patrol will be:-

- (1) To attend the annual taxpayers meeting at WAGAHUHU on the 11th January,
- (2) To attend the annual taxpayers meeting at AWAIAMA on the 14th January,
- (3) Attend the regular meeting of the Maramatana Council at Garuai on the 17th January, and
- (4) Proceed to WAMAWAMANA and look into the shortage of food in the area.

3. I suggest you first proceed to WAGAHUHU to be there by the 11th January, and then move to Garuai to meet with Mr. Gall, Senior Local Government Officer. Then proceed to AWAIAMA to attend the meeting on the 14th. Then return to GARUAI to attend the Council meeting on the 17th January. If it is possible you could visit Wamawamana between the 14th and 17th, however if you find there is too much to do at Garuai, leave Wamawamana until after the Council meeting on the 17th. In any case I require ^{you} to be back at Cameron Plateau by the 22nd January.

4. Constable Hove and Interpreter Timothy are to accompany you.

5. Before leaving please check to see if there are any outstanding N.M.T.A. Payments and C.S.B. Pass books held at the Treasury office for the areas you will be visiting.

6. Also read file No. 6-4-1 which deals with the food shortage on the N.E. Coast. I want you to ascertain whether the village has sufficient food on hand at the present time, and if not what form and how much relief will be required from the Council's relief fund.

7. I shall brief you on Council matters before you depart.

8. Please call at all Mission stations and plantations on your route and endeavour to assist them where necessary.

9. At the Council meeting would you, in consultation with members of the Council draw up an itinerary of the Council area for the general elections which will commence on Monday the 7th February 1966.

10. Mr. Gall, Senior Local Government Officer will be visiting Garuai for two days as from the 12th January. Would you please endeavour to be at Garuai at this period to assist him and also to heed his suggestions and information which he will offer.

11. Please exercise your Court powers where necessary and give every support to the Council where needed.

12. This will only be a brief visit to the area you are to work in during the future. I advise you to proceed slowly and gain an appreciation of the general area and more particularly of the Council and its members. If you are put in a position whereby the newness of the area makes you hesitate to make any decision or offer any information then do not do so - remember you can always check later and then offer your advice without losing your dignity to the people concerned.

(J.A.Wiltshire)
Assistant District Commissioner.

4, 6
CAMERON PLATEAU PATROL REPORT No. 6 - 65/66.

PATROL DIARY

MONDAY 10TH JANUARY

Departed Cameron Plateau 0900 by Landrover and arrived Leihudi rest house 1145, then departed Lelehudi 1200 and arrived Wagahuhu 1330, by foot. Attended Maramatana council annual general meeting 1430 to 1730. Discussions with council President and councillors on various matters. Received one complaint re claim for maintenance from a Wagahuhu female. Overnight at Wagahuhu.

TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY

At Wagahuhu until 1200 then departed for Guga and Huhuna after despatching gear by native owned cutter. Arrived Huhuna 1700 and gear arrived 1900. Overnight at Huhuna.

WEDNESDAY 12TH JANUARY

Departed Huhuna 0900 and arrived Iapoa 2 1030 and after some difficulty in obtaining carriers departed Iapoa 2 1200 and arrived Awaiaama 1300 and Garuai 1400. Discussion with Mr. Gall SLGO, council President and council Clerk in afternoon. Visited Mr. Angelo at Punipuni in the evening and overnight there.

THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY

At the Maramatana Council Chambers, Garuai, all day.

FRIDAY 14TH JANUARY

Departed Garuai 0900 and arrived Awaiaama 1000. Attended Maramatana council annual general meeting at Awaiaama. Departed Awaiaama 1630 and arrived ~~Awaiaama~~ 1730.

SATURDAY 15TH JANUARY

Departed Garuai 0730 and arrived Taupota 0900 for radio conversation with ADC, Camaron Plateau. Departed Taupota 1115 and arrived Wamawamana 1245 - people all absent in gardens. Spoke to Local Government Councillor and Village Constable on food shortage situation. Overnight at Wamawamana.

SUNDAY 16TH JANUARY

Discussions with various Wamawamana people on food shortage situation. Findings as per patrol report. Departed Wamawamana 1430 and arrived Taupota 1600. Spoke to Doreen F/A of Taupota re alleged poisoning of her three year old female child at ~~taupota~~ and the resulting death about one week ago. Overnight at Taupota.

MONDAY 17TH JANUARY

Departed Taupota 0800 and arrived Garuwai 0945. At council chambers and attending council meeting until 1400. Spoke to other persons in regard of the matter of the alleged poisoning, and then attended council meeting 1545 to 1635. Overnight at Garuai

TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY

Departed Garuai 0720 and arrived Taupota 0845 for radio conversation with Cameron Plateau concerning the alleged poisoning of Doreen's child, but an attempt to contact Samarai and Camaron Plateau was not successful. Returned to Garuai by 1030. Remainder of morning at Council

2.

chambers attending to various matters. Departed Garuai 1215 and after changing carriers at Awaiama arrived Iapoa 2 1430. After once again experiencing difficulties in obtaining carriers here, in spite of 24 hours notice, departed Iapoa 2 1620 and arrived Huhuna 1720. Overnight at Huhuna.

WEDNESDAY 19TH JANUARY

Departed Huhuna 0800 and arrived Watunou at the vehicular road 1040. Proceeded to Cameron Plateau by Landrover and arrived 1230. Discussion with ADC on matters arising from patrol in afternoon.

--- END OF PATROL ---



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference.....

If calling ask for

Mr.....

Sub District Office,
CAMERON PLATEAU,
Milne Bay District.

20th January, 1966.

CAMERON PLATEAU PATROL REPORT No. 6 - 65/66.

INTRODUCTION.

- (1) The principal purpose of this patrol was to attend the annual general meetings of the Maramatana Local Government Council, as they were held, and to be on hand to handle any matters which arose concerning Administration or Council policy.
- (2) The regular meeting of the Maramatana Council, held on Monday 17th January, 1966, was also attended.
- (3) As per the patrol instructions, a visit was paid to Wamawamana village to ascertain whether the village has sufficient food on hand at the present time, due to the recent dry period.
- (4) Routine Administration matters as came to the attention of the patrol were also attended to.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS.

- (5) Annual general meetings were held at Wagahuhu on Monday 10th January, and at Awaiama on Friday 14th January. Attendances were not as high as could be expected, but a reasonable number of people attended each meeting and it is felt that an ample percentage of the population of the council area now have an enlightened view of the councils activities over the past year.
- (6) Many questions were asked by the village people at each meeting, and after the Presidents address, questions and discussion usually lasted for a further two or three hours. Questions and discussion at both meetings centred largely around the need for an Education Department school on the north east coast, purchase of a council owned boat, and the need for an aid post to be situated between East Cape and Huhuna was raised. The possibility of combining Taupota 1 and Taupota 2 into one ward was also raised, and this will probably be discussed by the council at a future date. Minor matters were raised at the meetings for discussion, concerning the Taupota Scout Troop, Works Managers leave, and others.
- (7) The matter most discussed at both meetings was the need for a council owned boat, and the general feeling seemed to be that the sooner a boat is purchased, the better, due to a lack of adequate shipping services along the north east coast. The position regarding the council boat fund was explained by the President, and the Vice President explained that expenditure of such a large amount of capital should not be undertaken foolishly. The people of this area appear to believe that the acquisition of a boat by the council is the end of all their problems, and not what would be only the beginning.
- (8) The question of an Administration school on the north east coast, a matter which has been raised a number of times previously, was once again brought up for discussion. At both meetings there was much bitterness expressed by the people on the subject. Councillor Wencelaus of Taupota re-iterated all that has

gone before on this subject, and explained that it is Administration policy at this stage to consolidate existing schools rather than open up new ones. It is interesting to note that both the Anglican Mission Schools at Taupota and Awaiaama are anything but fully attended. This information was received from the Missionary in Charge of the Taupota Anglican Mission station, and from the Teacher in Charge at the Awaiaama Anglican Mission school.

(9) The need for an aid post to be positioned between East Cape and Huhuna, preferably at Wagahuhu, was brought up by a number of people at the Wagahuhu meeting and some discussion was held on the matter. The President and one or two councillors explained to the meeting that an aid post could not be established without the authority of the District Medical Officer, that staff shortage was a problem with Public Health Department, and further that with aid posts at East Cape and Huhuna, the population of the area did not warrant further coverage.

(10) Other questions asked, and matters raised by people attending the meetings were dealt with satisfactorily by the Council President, Executive Committee, and other Councillors who attended.

AGRICULTURE.

(11) During the course of the patrol the village of Wamawamana was visited in order to further investigate the current situation in respect of the food shortage caused by the recent dry period.

(12) Discussions were held with various persons during the time of the visit to the village, and the general concensus of opinion of all people spoken to was that sufficient food will be on hand to last until the new plantings are ready for harvest in two or three months time. Sweet potato will be the first crop ready for harvest.

(13) The Wamawamana Local Government Councillor, Abraham, stated that sufficient food is on hand, mainly in the form of breadfruit, coconuts, bananas, pineapple and a small quantity of sweet potato that has been grown. Some mangos are still obtainable in the hills, together with pawpaw and other foods. The Topura Local Government Councillor, Gibson, Stated that the new gardens were coming along satisfactorily, that rain had fallen and that some small creeks had begun to flow for the first time in some months. According to information received from the Anglican Mission at Taupota, about 1½ hours walk east of Wamawamana, approximately 10 inches of rain has fallen since christmas.

(14) A query was received from the Wamawamana people about the fate of the corn seed which is being supplied by D.A.S.F. for planting in the area as a supplementary food crop. This corn seed was at the council chambers, Garuai, awaiting transhipment to the villages in the west part of the census division - Wamawamana in particular.

(15) The Maramatana Council Executive Committee is shortly to conduct an inspection patrol of the area, and will further investigate the situation.

CARRIERS AND CANCES.

(16) No difficulty was encountered in obtaining carriers

during the course of the patrol, except at Iapoa 2 where a wait of about two hours was experienced on both the outward and inward journeys. This is in spite of the fact that the village had 14 hours notice of the patrol's arrival in the first instance and 24 hours notice in the second instance.

(17) Difficulty in obtaining carriers is apparently not an endemic problem of the area, and measures were taken to prevent any further instances arising, in that it was carefully explained to the Village Constable that Administration Officers do not patrol purely to create work for themselves, and that a greater degree of co-operation in the provision of carriers would be expected in future.

CONCLUSION.

(18) The President, the members of the council executive committee, and the council clerk, all of whom attended the annual general meetings are to be commended on the job they did. The meetings were wholly conducted by them, and all questions that arose were dealt with adequately. I was called upon only once to give advice on a matter concerning proclamation of wards.

(19) Although this council (Maramatana Local Government Council) has completed little in the way of capital works, in consideration of the fact that it was inaugurated in early 1963, the impression gained after attending the annual general meetings, and spending a short time in the area was that it is an able administering body and an effective council. Lack of adequate supervision of the council in the past due to staff and transport difficulties has been a problem, and it is hoped this can be overcome in the future.

.....
P.M. JONES
(Patrol Officer).

3/

Sub District Office,
Cameron Plateau,
Milne Bay District.

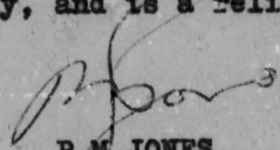
20th January, 1966.

CAMERON PLATEAU PATROL No. 6 - 65/66.

REPORT ON MEMBERS OF R.P. & N.G.C. ACCOMPANYING PATROL.

No. 7985 CONST. HOVE JAWAI.

This Constable has been posted to the Milne Bay Sub District since early 1961, and knows the area well. Performs his duties satisfactorily, and is a reliable member.


P.M. JONES
(Patrol Officer)

NORTH EAST COAST CENSUS DIVISION



----- PATROL ROUTE
wavy lines = rivers & lakes

DANAN
DANAN
DANAN

CAMERON PLATEAU PATROL P.O. 6-65/66.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of MILNE BAY Report No. Cameron 1965/66
Patrol Conducted by E.J. Mitchell
Area Patrolled Buhutu Census Division
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans --
Natives Two
Duration—From 27/9/1965 to 22/4/1966
Number of Days 97
Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No
Last Patrol to Area by—District Services / / 1965
Medical / / 19
Map Reference Sagara River Timber Area, Forestry No. 427
Objects of Patrol Recording of Landmers, Breakup of Purchase price
Drawing up of Agency Agreements.

Director of 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 ...
.
.
.

14

67-4-17

13th October, 1966.

District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SANARAI.

GAMERON PATROL REPORT NO. 9/1965-66:

Receipt of Mr. Mitchell's patrol report covered by your memorandum 67-1-7 of 12th August, 1966 and Mr. Wiltshire's memorandum 67-1-1 of 29th June, 1966, is acknowledged with thanks.

2. Mr. Mitchell appears to have been on this patrol for over three months, trying to determine the owners who were to share \$60,000 for their timber rights in the Buhuta valley. Apparently the task was gigantic and Mr. Mitchell had to hand over to Mr. Harrison owing to his transfer to Wewak.

3. I agree with Mr. Wiltshire that for a patrol lasting so many days in the field, it is a pity that Mr. Mitchell did not record in greater detail his activities and observations of the area.

(J.K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR.

67.4.17 (13)



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams..... DISCOM
Our Reference..... 67-1-7
If calling ask for..... C.V. Single/bs.
Mr.....



Department of District Administration,
Milne Bay District,
SAMABAI.

12th August, 1966.

Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

PATROL REPORT - CAMERON 9 - 65/66
MR. E.J. MITCHELL.

Attached please find original and one copy of the above mentioned report.

2. The patrol was a special one and this partly explains the brevity of comment on matters unrelated to the actual timber purchases. I am however in agreement with the Assistant District Commissioner, Cameron, that more and better comments under subject headings would have improved the report.

3. As to the purchase of the Buhutu timber rights the up-to-date situation is set out in the Assistant District Commissioner, Cameron's memorandum 33-2-11 dated 25th July 1966, and transmitted to you by my minute 33-1-6 of 28th July, 1966.

Att.

J. Preston White
(J. Preston White)
District Commissioner.

67-1-1

JAW/PT

Sub-District Office,
CAMERON PLATEAU,
Milne Bay District.

29th of June, 1966

The District Commissioner,
Milne Bay District,
SANARAI.

MILNE BAY PATROL
NO. 9 OF 1965/66

Attached are three copies of a patrol to the Buhutu Census Division conducted by Mr. B. J. R. Mitchell, Patrol Officer who has since been transferred to the Sepik District.

2. The report covers a period of 97 days which represent 4 visits to the Buhutu Timber purchase area to ascertain the landowning bodies, to dissect the \$60,000 purchase price amongst the land owning groups and to compile Agency Agreements. Very little field work was carried out save for that associated with the purchase and although the report is considered to be very brief for such a long period in the field, it must be pointed out that most of Mr. Mitchell's work was recorded in note form which was later handed to his successor, Mr. P. Harrison P.O. in the briefing period from 19-22 April 1966.

3. Mr. Mitchell had the unenviable task of having to enter an area with a degenerated ^{social} system and ascertain the land owning and timber owning groups of 144,000 acres of land. At first it was discovered that no such groups did in fact exist and it appeared as though the payments for rights would be made on an individual basis to both male and female, and so began a most laborious period when village areas were divided into individual blocks. This was made doubly difficult as it was found that practically each village had claims within other village boundaries and the hitherto clear delineation of such areas became very obscure and it was realised that if continued, the investigation would take a great deal longer than expected.

4. This was the major problem to appear and the people of the area numbering only 2,720 overall began to be apprehensive of the purchase as it was being delayed. As far as the people were concerned the situation was clear-cut, they wanted to sell their timber rights and wanted payment as soon as possible. About this time it was suggested that the village be regarded as a land owning group and that the village boundaries could be used for the dissection of the \$60,000 purchase price and that the village nominate agents to receive the payment. This was put to the people of each village who agreed and they then appointed their own agents, at the ratio of approximately 1 agent for 25-30 people. Mr. Mitchell was just commencing this revised method when he has relieved by Mr. Harrison P.O.

5. The history of this purchase is well known to you and most of Mr. Mitchell's comments on pages 1 and 2 have been covered in previous correspondence.

6. I concur with the comments under "village officials" with the exception of the statement that backwardness can be attributed to the refusal of the Councillors to band together. In Council meetings they do indeed organise themselves into a group and I suggest that the backwardness of the area could be attributed to the small scattered villages the people live in and the lack of contact the area has received from Administration Departments who are situated some distance away on the opposite side of the Bay. The area does not readily lend itself to development because of poor communications which I hope will improve with the development of a large timber base in the area. The plan for road development in the area has already been drawn up and the proposed overseas wharf and facilities at the end of the road network, coupled with the distribution of \$60,000 amongst the population, will no longer allow these people to be backward.

7. The airstrip mentioned under the heading AIRFIELDS has been subject of previous correspondence and Patrol Reports (See No. 4-64/65). This matter will be taken up again under separate correspondence.

8. For a patrol lasting 97 days I would have expected a more comprehensive report from Mr. Mitchell with greater detail of his activities and observations made of the area. The report was completed just prior to his transfer to Wewak and time did not permit for the report to be re-done before his departure.

9. Claims for camping allowance are attached.


(J. A. Wiltshire)
Assistant District Commissioner

17-9-65 Departed for the "Mangrove" with Mr. C. V. ... and proceeded to Pulling Harbour via ... G.I.C. ... joined the patrol. ... at top of Pulling Harbour ... the morning of Tuesday 21/9/65.

21-9-65 Moved inland into the ... and Mr. Reid arrived ... up ... and Mr. Single arranged ... following day to discuss work ... plantation ... for airstrip, north of ...

Sub District Office,
Cameron Plateau,
Milne Bay District.

16th May 1966.

22-9-65 Meeting with people of ... and discussed ... with them work of patrol. Also arranged for meeting of all councillors within the Valley for following day.

23-9-65 Large gathering of people from various villages in ... of patrol and attempted to ... of the area.

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Milne Bay Sub District,
CAMERON PLATEAU.

Mr. Single discussed various topics with village people ... Mr. Reid prepared to move to ... Carriers dispatched to ... Mr. Single ...

PATROL No.9 OF CAMERON PROGRAM 1965/66

Area Patrolled: Buhutu Census Division.
Conducted By: E.J. Mitchell.
Accompanied By: 1 R.P.N.G.C. member.
Interpreter.

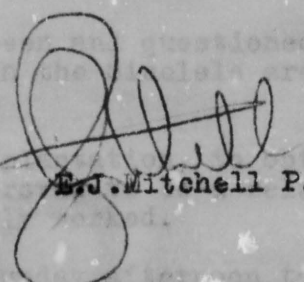
27-9-65 People of Siasia gathered ... each individual ... any land owned ...

Duration: 17-9-65 to 22-4-66
No. of Days: 97 (93 camping days)
Last D.D.A. Patrol: 1965 (March)
Objects of Patrol : Listing of Landowners.
Breakup of Purchase Price
Drawing up of Agency Agreement.

Map Reference: Sagarai River Timber Area, Forestry No.427. Found that no one person had sole claim to any single piece of land, and that most people had claim to, at least, two pieces.

4-10-65 People from Siasia ... questioned regarding location and ownership of land in the ... south of Siasia.

14-10-65 Walked to the Sagarai ... an idea of the timber in this area. It was a very level area with much good timber, easily ...



E.J. Mitchell P.O.

3-10-65 Returned to Siasia ... to discover a letter from A.D.C. Cameron Plateau relating to A.S.O.P.A. exams.

4-10-65 Proceeded to Sagarai to speak with A.D.C. Cameron with regard to examinations. It was agreed that I should return to Cameron Plateau.

5-10-65 Draw up list of land owners from Siasia. Bulk of land appeared to belong to one group of people headed by the councillor's father.

6-10-65 Rain all day and visiting land blocks pointless, so draw up list of absentees from both Siasia and Sinalale. The people were of the opinion that it would be better if the money for these absentees was held in the village and given them on their return.

(11)

17-9-65 Departed Rabe per "Managuna" with Mr. C. V. Single and proceeded to Mullins Harbour via Samarai, where Mr. G. Reid, O.I.C. Suau joined the patrol. Finally landed at IARO IARO, at top of Mullins Harbour on the morning of Tuesday 21/9/65.

21-9-65 Moved Iaro Iaro to Siasiada, 0900 - 1030 Mr. Single and Mr. Reid arrived approximately 1130 hrs with carriers. Set up camp and Mr. Single arranged to see assembled people on following day to discuss work of patrol. With Mr. Docherty, plantation manager, Sagarai estate, visited possible site for airstrip, north of Siasiada.

22-9-65 Meeting with people of Siasiada village, and discussed with them work of patrol. Also arranged for meeting of all councillors within the Valley for following day.

23-9-65 Large gathering of people from various villages in valley. Mr. Single explained aims of patrol and attempted to examine the inheritance system of the area.

24-9-65 Mr. Single discussed various topics with village people and Local Government Councillor. He and Mr. Reid prepared to move to Tomono and thence to Samarai. Carriers despatched to Iaro Iaro with patrol gear to be loaded onto 'Yelingili'. Mr. Single and Mr. Reid departed Siasiada 1430 hrs for Tomono.

25-9-65 Day spent at Sagarai plantation with manager, Mr. Docherty, discussing local conditions and people.

26-9-65 Returned to Siasiada Sunday afternoon.

27-9-65 People of Siasiada gathered and seen. Each individual asked to name any land owned and where he received it from. An idea of the location was attempted - in relation to the rest house. This work could not be completed on this day, and took up most of 28th.

28-9-65 After late start due to rain, saw remainder of Siasiada landowners.

29-9-65 Walked through forest above rest house, to the east, to obtain an idea of the terrain and a view of the valley itself.

30-9-65 Prepared a list of landowners from Siasiada. Found that no one person had sole claim to any single piece of land, and that most people had claim to, at least, two pieces.

1-10-65 People from Sinelele seen and questioned regarding location and ownership of land in the Sinelele area, to the south of Siasiada.

2-10-65 Walked to the Sagarai plantation, to obtain an idea of the timber in this area. It proved to be a relatively level area with much good timber, easily worked.

3-10-65 Returned to Siasiada Sunday afternoon to discover a letter from A.D.C. Cameron Plateau relating to A.S.O.P.A. exams.

4-10-65 Proceeded to Sagarai to speak with A.D.C. Cameron with regard to examinations. It was agreed that I should return to Cameron Plateau.

5-10-65 Drew up list of land owners from Sinelele. Bulk of land appeared to belong to the group of people headed by the councillor's father.

6-10-65 Rain all day made visiting land blocks pointless, so drew up list of absentees from both Siasiada and Sinelele. The people were of the opinion that it would be better if the money for these absentees was held in the village and given them on their return.

(12)

Arrangements were made for early departure for Cameron Plateau on the following day.

7-10-65 Departed Siasiada 0715 hrs for Naura, which was reached 1345 hrs. Following month was spent at Cameron Plateau and Port Moresby, the latter place being visited for dental treatment.

11-11-65 Departed Cameron Plateau per 'Alotau' for Kilakilana, and departed Kilakilana for Sagarai 1030 hrs. Arrived Sagarai late afternoon, followed some time later by cargo. Slept Sagarai.

12-11-65 Departed Sagarai Friday morning, arriving Siasiada early afternoon. People working on plantation at Tomono, so further investigation of location of land blocks postponed until their return on Saturday.

13-11-65 Walked up the Siasiada Creek towards the hills, to the north east of the rest house.

14-11-65 Day observed. Due to the strong influence of the Kwatto Mission, and to a lesser extent, the Catholic, working with the people was avoided on Sunday.

15-11-65 Gathered people to discuss method of payment. Advised them that Mr. Single favoured individual payments, but pointed out to them the arguments against this method. Gathered the older people and discussed the land boundaries of individual plots of land to south east and east of rest house.

16-11-65 With councillor and several village men, visited the largest land plot, "Guyube", which has the largest number of claimants.

17-11-65 Visited Sagarai plantation and attempted to contact Suau patrol post to obtain census books of Boroai and Kwaioa. However the patrol Officer was absent and I was unable to pass the request.

18-11-65 Visited Daulobo's land which is a large tract due east of rest house; also saw several small areas owned by Sabeta and by Ialube.

19-11-65 Discussed land boundaries with older villagers; was able to establish some idea of boundaries to northeast of rest house, and also along the western side of the tract within the Siasiada area.

20-11-65 Walked to the border with Ipouli accompanied by the Local Government Councillor and several of the villagers. Due to the more open nature of the country, it was possible to see the various pieces of land and their boundaries without actually visiting them.

21-11-65 Day observed.

22-11-65 Walked east of rest house to the border with Sinelele, and then struck east through the bush. This section included land plots belonging to Waiba, Abinioa and Tagoia.

23-11-65 Drew up list of land areas and attempted to grade and evaluate them.

24-11-65 Visited land below rest house, west of rest house. This land is flat and the timber easily accessible.

25-11-65 Visited to north west of rest house, along the Tomono plantation border. This land is virtually useless, being almost totally of kunai grass.

26-11-65 Walked to Sinelele and, with the assembled village, obtained the location of the land plots within the Sinelele area, on which Forests had valued at £600. This work was completed the following day.

27-11-65 Returned to Sinelele to complete the gathering of the locations of the land tracts within Sinelele.

28-11-65 Day observed. Visited Sagarai plantation.

29-11-65 Attempted to fix values on land plots. Arranged carriers for movement to Ipouli on following day.

30-11-65 After many delays due to non appearance of carriers, moved Siasiada to Ipouli. Spent afternoon setting up camp, and discussed local conditions with Local Government councillor and several villagers. Gathered that the village is sorely troubled by the depredations of wild cattle in their gardens. It was agreed that watch would be kept on their movements and a hunt organised if they strayed into Ipouli area.

1-12-65 With assembled people, recorded individual claims of Ipouli people and the approximate location in relation to rest house.

This recording was completed on the following day.

2-12-65 Completed recording of individual land claims and then walked below village to obtain some idea of the land in this direction.

3-12-65 With older people of village, obtained some idea of location of land plots to the south of the rest house. In the afternoon, walked along the Ipouli - Siasiada track and some of these plots were pointed out.

Proceeded to Siasiada about 1600 hrs and gave out prizes at Siasiada Government school break-up.

4-12-65 Proceeded to Sagarai, after returning to Ipouli Saturday morning.

5-12-65 Day observed. Spent at Sagarai.

6-12-65 The remainder of the plots of land within Ipouli were charted and some idea of their size obtained from the people who were not as well organised as the Siasiada villagers.

7-12-65 Some people from Binabina hole appeared, and it was decided that the patrol should stop there. Binabina hole is within the Ipouli area as marked by Forests. Walked some way into hills to the east and south east of rest house.

8-12-65 Land below the rest house, due west, was visited. Several herd of wild cattle shot.

9-12-65 and 10-12-65 Saw the completion of the money break up for Siasiada and Sinelele, and late 10-12, returned to Siasiada.

11-12-65 Late Saturday afternoon the Siasiada people assembled and discussed the land prices. They decided that the actual break-up was agreeable to them, but the actual amounts were insufficient. I agreed, but pointed out that the money offered them had been broken up and the total of the amounts added up to this figure. The people, after discussion, agreed that it was either accept the price offered or receive nothing.

12-12-65 Observed. The Siasiada councillor mentioned in general conversation, that the people believed that a road from the other side of the Pini ridge would be some compensation for the small money price offered for the timber.

13-12-65 Walked to Sinelele and explained the break-up of money for the Sinelele area. The views of the people here were the same as those at Siasiada.

14-12-65 After rain fell, returned to Ipouli on Tuesday afternoon.

(8)

15-12-65 Proceeded to Samarai and succeeded in contacting Suau patrol post and arranging delivery of Suau census book.

16-12-65 The land to the east of the rest house was seen and the boundaries pointed out. The most valuable timber areas are in very rugged country around Mt. Gilumia.

17-12-65 Drew up lists of land owners from Ipouli. Arranged carriers for following day.

18-12-65 Moved from Ipouli to Binabina hole, and in the early afternoon, began interviewing villagers as to land claims. However heavy rain stopped this and the meeting was arranged to continue on Sunday, the following day.

19-12-65 Working between showers, and finally in the rest house, the people were seen. Also worked out a plan of the location of the land plots in the area.

20-12-65 It was possible to see all land pieces and have their boundaries pointed out. As with Ipouli, the areas of most valuable timber were in the most inaccessible areas of the mountains.

21-12-65 Worked on the break up of the amount set by Forestry.

22-12-65 Ipouli and Binabina hole people seen and the break-up discussed. They, like the Siasia and Sinelele people felt that the money was not enough.

23-12-65 People from Poipoialualua were seen and their individual claims recorded. Carriers were arranged for the following day.

24-12-65 Moved from Binabina hole to Gelemalaia and set up camp, temporarily, in the vacant mission house.

25-12-65 Christmas day. Day observed.

26-12-65 Sunday. Day observed.

27-12-65 Departed Gelemalaia for Kilakilana and Cameron Plateau 0800. Arrived Cameron 1900 hrs.

28-12-65 Until 2-1-66, spent at Cameron Plateau.

3-1-66 Departed Cameron Plateau per "Alotau", 0700 hrs, and arrived Gelemalaia 1100. Cargo arrived approx. 1400 hrs. Heavy rain fell in the afternoon.

4-1-66 Compiled a list of the land claimants from Poipoialualua. Very heavy rain fell.

5-1-66 The Gelemalaia village assembled and commenced interviewing the land claimants. However this work was interrupted by rain which set in, early in the morning.

6-1-66 Continued with the work of recording the claims of the Gelemalaia people. The rains returned in mid morning and this work, again was interrupted.

7-1-66 Completed the recording of the claims of the Gelemalaia people late in the afternoon, when the weather cleared.

8-1-66 The people from Watubo village recorded their land claims, and it was noticed, even at this early stage of the investigation, that their relation system appeared very complicated.

9-1-66 Sunday. Day observed.

10-1-66 With Assembled people, attempted to map the location of the land plots previously recorded.

⑦

11-1-66 Walked to Poipoialualua and obtained some idea of the location of the land plots claimed in this area.

12-1-66 The people from Gardualai walked down to Gelemalaia and their claims were recorded. With these people and the Gelemalaia villagers, the land plots along the Mila tract as far as the Gulele creek were charted.

13-1-66 The land along the Mila tract, which had been discussed the previous day, was visited. This area, as far as the Gulele creek, contains very good timber and is very easy country to work in.

14-1-66 A trip to Tolutoluwaga was cancelled after spending some considerable time trying to master a very small native canoe.

The land between Gelemalaia and Poipoialualua was charted with the help of the people from Gelemalaia, in the afternoon, and the following morning.

15-1-66 Completed the mapping of the land pieces between Gelemalaia and Poipoialualua.

Walked to Sagarai plantation in the afternoon.

16-1-66 Sunday. Day observed. Day spent at Sagarai.

17-1-66 Contracted Cameron Plateau by radio from Sagarai plantation, and spoke with A.D.C. Returned to Gelemalaia on Monday afternoon.

18-1-66 Walked to Tolutoluwaga to view the land claimed by Petelo and Bulili. It was observed that it would be possible to use the Sagarai river for the movement of logs to a central point, at perhaps, gelemalaia.

19-1-66 The land between the Mila road and the ridge behind this road was drawn in. This involved the people of Gardualai and Gelemalaia. Although this land looks rich in good timber, the terrain is very rough and difficult.

20-1-66 A meeting with the people from Poma Poma was postponed until the following day owing to rain. The land areas from the various parts of Gelemalaia and Gardualai which had been discussed were listed with the claimants.

21-1-66 The people from Poma Poma were seen and their claims recorded. The area behind the ridge, above Gelemalaia, was broken up into the land areas mentioned by the people from Poma Poma and Gelemalaia. This meeting was continued on the following day.

22-1-66 The land picture of the Gelemalaia area was resolved. It was decided to include Poma Poma with Gelemalaia, as the division made by Department of Forests had proved to be unrealistic.

23-1-66 Sunday. Day observed.

24-1-66 Walked to top of range above Gelemalaia, from which Cameron was plainly visible. The land behind this range still inside the survey area, should be very difficult to work in, and remove timber from. The timber appeared to be good.

25-1-66 The area between Gelemalaia and Gardualai was seen. This area is largely old gardens and virtually valueless as regards timber.

26-1-66 The land towards Mass's was seen. Like the land about Gardualai, this land is also the site for old gardens.

27-1-66 Departed Gelemalaia for Cameron Plateau, 0800, being met by the A.D.C., aboard the 'Alotau' just off Kilakilana.

19-4-66 Departed Cameron Plateau for Kilakilana and Gelemalaia, accompanied by Mr. P. W. Harrison. Arrived Gelemalaia 1530 hrs. Slept Gelemalaia.

20-4-66 Commenced explaining to Mr. Harrison the duties and aims of the patrol. Slept Gelemalaia.

21-4-66 Handed over patrol to Mr. Harrison and packed my patrol equipment. Arranged carriers for the return trip to Kilakilana. Slept Gelemalaia.

22-4-66 Departed Gelemalaia 0800 for Kilakilana. Arrived Cameron Plateau 1430 hrs.

(5)

The Buhutu Timber investigation patrol commenced in late September, at Siasiada, at the southern end of the Buhutu valley. Accompanied by the Assistant District Commissioner Cameron Plateau, Mr. Single, and Mr. Reid, Officer in-Charge, Suva patrol post, the patrol moved to Iaro Iaro, at the top of Mullins Harbour, per administration trawler, "Managuna". From here, the party moved to Siasiada by foot; Siasiada was to become the base for that area, and for Sinelele, to the south.

Mr. Single and Mr. Reid stayed three days at Siasiada, during which time Mr. Single explained the aims of the patrol to the people. These aims were:

1. Investigation and recording of land ownership within the survey area.
2. Drawing up and signing of Agency Agreement for the payment of the \$60,000 for the timber.

Investigation methods were developed by trial and error, and some duplicating and time wasting. The eventual system used was in three parts:

1. After sufficient notice had been given, the people in the area concerned were asked to appear as if for census. Working from the census book, all the people were asked the location and name of the land which they claimed, and how this claim had been established. This information was recorded.

Response was always one hundred percent to these enquiries, and the information was readily volunteered.

2. When the names of the land plots were obtained, their relative locations were charted with the help of the older people of the village. Once charted, these plots were visited, their sizes compared and their relative values estimated.

3. The third step was the breaking up of the amounts allocated by the Department of Forests for each area. The divisions worked out were usually on a village or rest house basis. In only one case were these divisions found to be impractical.

The original method of payment, decided by Mr. Single was by payment of the individual. However as the investigation proceeded, it was clear that this would be impractical and unworkable. Whereas land boundaries were very clearly defined, they were not boundaries about small, single owned, plots, but about large areas, of several hundred acres claimed by as many as fourteen people. These pieces of land were seldom used for gardening purposes, and thus the need did not arise for sub-dividing the areas between the claimants. It was known that so many people owned a certain area but just which part belonged to one individual was not known.

Perhaps these areas belonged to the clans before they left their original homes, to the east of the Buhutu valley, and scattered, and these claimants are the result of these scatterings. Relationship was not able to be found between many of the claimants. In all cases it was able to nominate one person who would act as agent for his particular piece of land.

It was noticed that absence did lessen the claim held, to a piece of land. If agents were appointed to receive the money, the share given the absentees would be less than if the money were shared on equal basis, and would be fairer to the people in the village - more in keeping with their own system.

Due to the break-down in the clan system, there was no definite patri or matri linial system of inheritance. However

matriliniage did predominate, especially in the southern part of the valley, where the influence of the Suau people, with this will defined matrilineal inheritance is strong.

In all cases the people accepted the money offered, although much discussion accompanied the meetings when the amounts were made known. The people declared that the individual amounts were inadequate. It was explained that \$60,000 was the price offered by the administration for the valley and that the money offered was that percentage of the price represented by their land.

I believe that the money was accepted so that the benefits which will accompany the timber companies - roads employment and the clearing of land and planting of cash crops - will be theirs. Mr. Single pointed out to the people that their timber was of little use to them, and that if the only benefits were the road and cleared land, the loss would be worthwhile.

The soil in the valley is very good and while the people are not inclined to work, I believe they will make money from cash crops once the opening of a road assures them of markets. The people in the valley were the most co-operative I have met in my short stay in the sub-district. They are not as sophisticated as others in the Sub-District, as the isolated nature of the valley has sheltered them from civilisation. They were always helpful and provided any assistance asked.

Reception of the patrol was always very enthusiastic, and in keeping with the friendly nature of the people.

The valley is within the Milne Bay Local Government Council area. To date, inclusion in this Council has benefited the area to the extent of a aid post at Ipouli and a school at Siasia, which, I believe, was constructed by the council. The government school and aid post are the only facilities of their type in the area.

Communication with Cameron Plateau is by foot, and Samarai is reached by a ten hours boat trip.

The investigation has not been completed. It is anticipated that Mr. Harrison, who has taken over the patrol, will be in the area for a further month.

Village Officials: This area is within the Milne Bay Local Government Council. On the whole the councillors are a shy lot, although individually they are strong characters. Much of the backwardness of the area can be put down to the refusal of these councillors to organise themselves into a compact group.

Due to the isolated nature of the valley, political development is nil. The most forward thinking men are the councillors who see something of the outside world every six ~~months~~ ^{weeks} or so.

Agriculture & Livestock: Whilst in the area, a draught gripped the valley, as was the case elsewhere in the sub-district. During September, October and into November, food, sweet potato, bananas and other tubers which make up the staple diet, was very scarce. The people resorted to foraging in the bush, and to the manufacturing of sago. However the area was not badly affected and the situation was nowhere near as bad as elsewhere in the sub-district.

Cash crops are produced in the area, but the amount of coffee and copra produced are negligible compared with what could be made. The soil is very good and appears to support almost any type of growth. The climate of the region is coastal, perhaps ~~being some 10 or 15~~ ^{being some 10 or 15} degrees cooler. Rainfall appears heavier than the annual 110 inches which falls at Cameron Plateau.

Wild cattle are very common in the centre of the valley. Unfortunately the people are not interested in the hunting and ~~killing of the herd for~~

killing of the herd for food, although were very keen to carry and cook it when beasts were shot by the patrol. The wild cattle were in excellent condition and were really large beasts.

Commerce: There are two trade stores in the area, both on the Sagarai plantation and run by the wife of the manager.

Shipping is restricted too. The Sagarai plantation has a small boat call every two weeks, to collect produce. Native produce is exported by this service.

Airfields: No airfields exist within the census division, although an excellent site is located just north of the Siasiada village. This site is a possible category "C" airstrip. With very little effort, this area could be opened to aircraft. The manager of Sagarai plantation has said that he will attempt to obtain a lease over the site -- which is administration land -- and clear the area himself.

Complaints: Several complaints were received and were settled by arbitration. No crimes were received, and indeed, in twelve months at Cameron Plateau, I have never heard of a crime in the Buhutu.

Rest Houses: These were few and not constructed in the most advantageous position. It was suggested that a rest house be constructed at Ipouli and one also, at Paipaialalua, instead of the house at Binabinahcle, which is in very bad condition. There is no rest house at Gelemalaia and the people were urged to build one here; an old school dormitory was occupied by the patrol whilst at Gelemalaia.

Health: Although only one aid post exists in the census division, general health was reasonable. At Gelemalaia, it was noticed that skin diseases were common, and seemed to indicate, perhaps, a lack of vitamin "C".

Education: The only government school in the census division is at Siasiada. It is of high standard, although the teacher who built it to this high standard has recently been transferred.

Both Catholic and Kwatto missions run a school each. The Kwatto mission have a school at Gelemalaia, whilst the Catholic mission school is at Ipouli. It seemed that the school at Ipouli was better run than the one at Gelemalaia.

Roads & Bridges: No vehicular roads exist in the division outside of Sagarai plantation. However the walking tracks are well kept and could easily be made into a motor cycle track. The proposed road into the division is, reportedly, to be let for tender at the end of 1967. This road will do much for the economic advancement of the area.

Conclusion: It is hoped that the purchase price can be increased beyond the \$60,000 offered for the area, as this seems very low for such a large area.

The area has been neglected for years, but this purchase should do much towards stimulating economic and social life in the census division. It will do much to halt the rapidly increasing decline in population, brought about by natural decrease and the drift of young people to the larger centres.


(E. J. R. Mitchell.)
Patrol Officer.

APPENDIX 1.


Report, Conduct of R.F.N.G.C. Cameron Patrol No. 9, 1965/66.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No. of Days.</u>
8130	Batawi Dabau	118

Comments: Proved to be an excellent policeman, able to think and act for himself. Very experienced and capable; however must be watched.

8005	Mimigina Madawina	43 days
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Comments: Good, steady policeman. Needs more experience in bush work.


(E. J. R. Mitchell)
Patrol Officer.