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***PATROL REPORTS***

DISTRICT: MADANG

STATION: SIMBAI, 1963 - 1964

Original documents bound with reports  
for: Madang, volume 21.

# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORTS MADANG DISTRICT

1963/64

MADANG, BOGIA, AIOME & SIMBAI

<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
<u>MADANG</u>		
1-63/64	I. J. Smitmanis	Vua Census Division
14-63/64	A. E. Cooke	Parts Naho-Rawa and Dumpu- Kaigulan Census Divisions
<u>BOGIA</u>		
5-63/64	J. R. Edwards	Part Tangu, Josephataal, Siluwa and Uramin Census Divisions
10-63/64	G. E. McGrath	Tangu, Josephataal, Mugumat- Yakiba census Divisions
<u>AIOME</u>		
1-63/64	A. E. Cooke	Aiome-Angsaus-Anor and Angsau- Kumaran Census Divisions
3-63/64	A. E. Cooke	Rao-Breri Census Division
<u>SIMBAI</u>		
1-63/64	M. L. Mackellar	Biripien Valley



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of Madang Report No. Simbai 1 ~~Madang~~ - 1963/64

Patrol Conducted by M.L. Mackellar Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled Biripien Valley, Simbai Administrative Area.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil.

Natives 7 Police 1 Medical Orderly.

Duration—From 5/8/1963 to 18/8/1963

Number of Days 14

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 10/11/1961

Medical Nil.

Map Reference Maps attached.

Objects of Patrol To investigate reports of tribal fighting.

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 ... ..



KIC:jm

Sub-District Office,  
MADANG.

67-3-8

22nd November, 1963.

The District Officer,  
Madang

SIMBAI PATROL No. 1 63/64

D.N.A. memo 67-7-1 of 30/10/63 at folio 54/55 refers.

Attached please find Mr. Mackellar's explanation of the number of carriers. I was present when the carriers were loaded, and they would have carried an average load of 30lbs each excepting the ones with the light loads such as lamps etc. Also a considerable amount of tentage was carried.

I don't quite know <sup>what</sup> ~~that~~ Mr. Mackellar means by being remotely controlled from Madang. He was under instructions to visit the area, and report by radio the position. He was then given further instructions and these were carried out. At any rate I don't see what bearing this has on the number of carriers used..

The follow up patrol mentioned in my 67-4-1 of 24/9/63 is scheduled to take place in early December.

*Klo*  
( K.I. CHESTER )  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER

67-3-8

The Assistant District Officer  
MADANG

Department of Native Affairs,  
MADANG.  
11th November, 1963

SUBJECT: SIMBAI PATROL No.1-63/64  
REFERENCE: DIRECTOR'S 67-7-1 of 30/10/63

In connection with the number of carriers used by the patrol, your attention is invited to the following extract from the Patrol Report.

"Roads From SALEMP, the beginnings of a graded foot track proceed down to the river marked on the map and ceases there. From here, the hike across the range to the BIRIPIEN Valley could only be described as a nightmare. Steep climbing through trackless, dripping moss forest at heights above 7,000 feet is purgatory to say the least.

While at BIRIPIEN carriers and Police formed a passably graded track back to SALEMP.

Tracks in the Biripien Valley would be difficult to negotiate even for a Mountain Goat. They are only a foot wide. They would be death traps in an ambush."

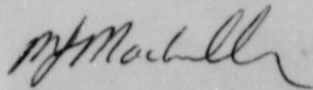
EXPLANATIONS:

1. Not all carriers carried.  
It was necessary to employ extra personnel to cut tracks wide enough for the carrier line to pass.
2. The tracks were so steep that the carriers had a "climbing load" to bear over and above the cargo they were actually carrying. Thus the payload per unit man was less than normal, and more carriers than normal were necessary to carry the normal cargo of an ordinary Patrol.
3. Those of the more influential carriers, with land rights and exchange partners in the Biripien Valley and who thus had unrestricted rights of thoroughfare were used as scouts. Their task was to precede the patrol and reassure the people through whose land the patrol was passing that the patrol was friendly. When the patrol was established on the rest house site and the carrier line was building the houses and widening existing tracks these scouts arranged for building materials and food and acted as interpreters. Countless administrative tasks fell on them as the rights of thoroughfare conferred upon them were denied to us.
4. Ordered into an area which was extremely primitive and in a state of unrest, the patrol was not permitted



to maneuver at its discretion but was remotely controlled from Madang, 100 miles away. It was highly probable that a misdirected order could have involved the patrol in serious difficulties. This should be sufficient reason to suppose that all steps taken on the spot to ensure the safety of the Patrol were necessary, even to the size of the carrier line.

Mr. Mackellar's report indicates that the population is greater than was previously thought. He also states - "Parties from the valley and on the other side of the mountain ranges there are reported to be large pockets of population which have never been seen since war". This matter should be looked at as soon as possible and you should ensure that the proposed patrol before the end of this year does in fact take place.



(M. L. MACKELLAR)  
PATROL OFFICER

(J. K. McCarry)  
OFFICER

and the prime objective was to move through the country and gather as much information as possible. It is noted that while Mr. Johnston managed very well with 40 carriers on a long patrol into little known country, Mr. Muckellar took 80 carriers on a patrol of shorter distance and duration where mobility was the necessary factor. What was the reason for this please?

Mr. Muckellar's report indicates that the population is greater than was previously thought. He also states - "Further down the valley and on the other side of the mountain ranges there are reported to be large pockets of population which have never before seen a white man". This matter should be looked at as soon as possible and you should ensure that the proposed patrol before the end of this year does in fact take place.

Madang District,  
M.A.B.A.S.

GENERAL PATROL NO. 1-21/54

The report of the above patrol is acknowledged and has been read along with those of the initial Johnston and Johnson visits to the same region in October 1953 and January 1954. Having considered these reports and all (J.K. McCarthy) letters I am satisfied that the course of action DIRECTOR. after consultation with the District Commissioner was appropriate.

I understand that agreement has been reached by yourself and the District Officer, Western Highlands District about the administration of the primitive and rugged country along the District border in the region of Sibal and Jini River (Sibilaga) and there is no doubt that the SIBILAG VALLEY is the agreed responsibility of SIBILAG. Your 1-1-1 of 17th July 1954 refers. As the District Boundary Committee will be giving further consideration to this part of the Territory in the near future I would like firm recommendations from you about the dividing line between the two Districts. At present 13,500 people are administered from SIBILAG and 23,000 from JINI RIVER. Accessibility to established posts should be the important consideration.

In his report of February 1953 Mr. Johnston stated that another patrol to the SIBILAG VALLEY was planned for approximately six months time, that is, about August 1953 but apparently nothing had been done by August 1953 when the report of a hillbill returned SIBILAG. Considering Territory wide policy to bring all of the people under effective control by the end of 1953 if possible, the establishment of the SIBILAG Patrol Post basically for this purpose and the general responsibility of the Officer in Charge of that station, it seems that the planned patrol should not have been delayed as long as it was. An explanation is required please.

Mr. Muckellar appears to have carried out his instructions satisfactorily and he has certainly written an informative, interesting and well illustrated report. He was fortunate to be able to make such good contact with the people in so short a time through his carriers. He exploited his opportunities appropriately and appears to have handled the whole matter in a very satisfactory manner. His report is perhaps missing a little of a certain amount of oblique self-praise. The two patrols that preceded his were of an exploratory nature, whereas the objective of his had through carriers in all probability, perhaps with different

67-7-1

30th October, 1963.

The District Officer,  
Madang District,  
MADANG.

SIMBAI PATROL NO. 1-63/64:

The report of the above patrol is acknowledged and has been read along with those of the initial O'Farrell and Johnston visits to the same region in October 1960 and January 1962. Having considered these reports and all of the relevant factors I am satisfied that the course of action undertaken after consultation with the District Commissioner was appropriate.

I understand that agreement has been reached by yourself and the District Officer, Western Highlands District about the administration of the primitive and rugged country along the District border in the region of Simbai and Jimi River (Tabibuga) and there is no doubt that the BIRIPIEN VALLEY is the agreed responsibility of SIMBAI. Your 1-3-1 of 17th July 1962 refers. As the District Boundaries Committee will be giving further consideration to this part of the Territory in the near future I would like firm recommendations from you about the dividing line between the two Districts. At present 13,500 people are administered from SIMBAI and 23,000 from JIMI RIVER. Accessibility to established posts should be the important consideration.

In his report of February 1962 Mr. Johnston stated that another patrol to the BIRIPIEN VALLEY area was planned for approximately six months time, that is, about August 1962 but apparently nothing had been done by August 1963 when the report of a killing reached SIMBAI. Considering Territory wide policy to bring all of the people under effective control by the end of 1963 if possible, the establishment of the SIMBAI Patrol Post basically for this purpose, and the general responsibilities of the Officer in Charge of that station, it seems that the planned patrol should not have been delayed as long as it was. An explanation is required please.

Mr. Mackellar appears to have carried out his instructions satisfactorily and he has certainly written an interesting, informative and well illustrated report. He was fortunate to be able to make such good contact with the people in so short a time through his carriers. He exploited his opportunities appropriately and appears to have handled the whole matter in a very satisfactory manner. His report is perhaps marred a little by a certain amount of oblique self-praise. The two patrols that preceded his were of an exploratory nature, without the contacts he had through carriers in all probability, purposes were different

67. 7. 1



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

AKJ; jm

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference 67-3-8

If calling ask for

Mr.



Department of Native Affairs,  
MADANG

2nd October, 1963.

The Director,  
Department of Native Affairs,  
KONEDOBU

SIMBAI PATROL No. 1 - 1963/64  
BIRIPIEN VALLEY

Attached is the report on the abovenamed patrol with comments by the Assistant District Officer.

In this matter I have gone along with the policy of the Assistant District Officer which was approved by the District Commissioner though I must say that if the Administration intervenes I prefer legal processes to be followed.

It is to be noted that there was only one attacker on the patrol and I thought this did not warrant special reporting. Also, the Luluai who had his hat shot off is the only one in the area.

*Sm  
Cosa*

Mr. Mackellar appears to have acted with discretion.

(A.K. JACKSON)  
DISTRICT OFFICER.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

KIC; jm

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference 67-4-1

If calling ask for

Mr. ....

Sub-District Office,  
MADANG.

24th September, 1963.

The District Office,  
MADANG

PATROL No. 1 - 1963/64  
BIRIPIEN VALLEY - SIMBAI AREA

Attached hereto please find patrol report submitted by Mr. Mackellar, P.O., upon his return from investigating reports of tribal fighting in the SIMBAI Area.

Briefly the circumstances leading to the patrol were these. I received a radio call from the Officer in Charge SIMBAI advising that he had received a report that tribal fighting was taking place in a rather unknown area some 22 miles N.N.W. of SIMBAI. At least one man was reported dead. After discussions with both you and the District Commissioner I proceeded to SIMBAI on Monday morning 5/8/63 taking some extra police and Mr. Mackellar. I interviewed a native informant at SIMBAI and received very vague reports of a fight having taken place at an area known as BIRIPIEN, whose exact location was unknown.

Mr. P.O. Mackellar was then given instructions to proceed to the area where it was thought the fight had taken place, and to report by radio, the native situation and the circumstances surrounding the fight. This he did on the 12th August, advising that interpretation was so impossible that he recommended that criminal proceedings should not be taken. At a conference with the District Commissioner I was instructed that a peace settlement should be attempted in view of the lack of Administration control in the area, and the absence of reliable interpretation.

This instruction was radioed to the patrol which acted accordingly. The outcome of the patrol was entirely satisfactory, followed up by a well written report.

However I cannot agree with Mr. Mackellar's statements on Page 1 and 2 under the heading Background Native Unrest, Biriapien Valley, and would prefer them to be disregarded. After a mass escape from SIMBAI gaol, A.D.O. Keenan led a patrol to the KAIRONK area to apprehend three of the escapees after two patrols had been unsuccessful. Direct action was warranted as the escapees were from the KAIRONK area which is under Government control, and an example had to be made. I think Mr. Mackellar has perhaps over dramatised the incident.

A follow up patrol into the area in approximately 3 months time is intended, when it is hoped government influence will be further extended.

*K.I. Chester*  
(K.I. CHESTER)  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference 67-4-1

If calling ask for

Mr. ....

Sub-District Office,  
MADANG.

7th August, 1963.

Patrol Officer Mackellar,  
SIMBAI Patrol Post

PATROL INSTRUCTIONS

As previously discussed with you, please prepare for a patrol to the BIRIPIEN area at the headwaters of the WULUM River, to investigate reports of fighting in which it is alleged that one man has been killed and four others wounded.

Reports from the area are quite vague, but it appears that after the death of a woman, a house was burnt, and this subsequently led to the fight, which apparently lasted four days.

The area where this is alleged to have taken place has been visited by patrols only twice, and is very primitive. Upon arrival at BIRIPIEN commence your investigation into the fight and when complete radio me a comprehensive report of the native situation, and the circumstances surrounding the fight. Further instruction will be radioed you upon receipt of this report.

At this stage I do not want you to make any attempts at apprehension of the people involved. The decision as to whether arrests are to be made, will depend on the information contained in your initial report, and you will be advised of this by radio.

Maintain regular radio schedules with the P.O. SIMBAI

Remember that Govt. influence in this area is slight. Keep a tight rein on your police and carriers, and take all precautions for the safety of your patrol.

*K.I. Chester*  
(K.I. Chester)  
ASST. DISTRICT OFFICER



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference.....

If calling ask for

Mr.....

Sub-District Office  
Madang.

2nd. September 1963.

PATROL REPORT

District of Madang

Patrol No. 1 - 1963/64.

Patrol conducted by:

M.L.Mackellar,  
Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled :

BIRIPIEN Valley in the  
Simbai Administrative Area.

Last Patrol to Area by DNA

O'Farrel - October 1960  
Johnston - November 1961

These are the only previous patrols  
to this area.

by PHD

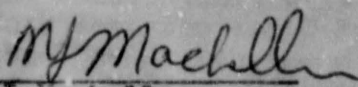
Nil.

Maps

1. Kaironk - Biripien valleys
2. Field sketch of Biripien valley

Objects of Patrol :

To investigate tribal fighting.

  
M.L.Mackellar,  
Patrol Officer.

DIARY

- 5.8.63. Organising patrol gear in morning, and despatching 3 police to SIMBAI. Departed Madang 1100 with A.D.O. Chester for Simbai. Spent afternoon discussing tribal fighting with P.O.I.C.
- 6.8.63. Departed SIMBAI in Anglican Mission Cessna (chartered) with P.O. Carter and A.D.O. Chester for survey to troubled area. Took notes in flight and spent the afternoon at the station drawing a map from these notes.
- 7.8.63 Received Patrol instructions this morning. Carriers departed 0900. I departed 1100 on back of P.O. Carter's motorbike. Walked from end of motor road to SEREMP arriving there 1630. This is the last central point of Administrative control from the Madang side of the Bismarck-Schraders. Locals reported a sing-sing nearby tonight and Patrol interpreter instructed to attend sing-sing and to keep his ear open for gossip about the recent murder, and tribal fighting.
- 8.8.63. Interpreter returned 0900 with information that BIRIPIEN people did not attend sing-sing. Waited all day for information about situation in BIRIPIEN Valley but none forthcoming.
- 9.8.63 Departed SEREM 0930 proceeded down 2000 ft. and up 4000 ft. the worst walk I have done for years, through trackless moss forest. Arrived BIRIPIEN 1700 exhausted. Patrol attacked on arrival by the owners of the garden land through which we passed but no damage done. Murderer and deceased's relatives all greeted the patrol warmly and all shared our campfire. All fighting appears to have ceased and both parties now on friendly terms again. Guards mounted at night but there was no trouble.
- 10.8.63. (Saturday) Murderer and Deceased's relatives again came into camp today, but the persons who started the fighting did not. If they do not come today, propose moving further down the valley closer to their land. Established good radio contact with SIMBAI this afternoon but telegram report to A.D.O. already forwarded by police runner this morning.
- 11.8.63. (Sunday) Departed Campsite 0930 and arrived central ridge 1200. This is the site on which Johnston and O'Farrell previously camped. It is centrally located and would be good site for base camp and rest house. I propose building here if we stay any length of time. It takes us 3 hours to build a canvas camp. Considerably more people arrived with food today, women and children too, and nobody armed.
- 12.8.63. Word received today from A.D.O. not to prosecute murderers but to settle matters civilly - a very wise decision. Conducted investigation into fighting today. The fighting parties are here but those who started the trouble, i.e., the arsonists are not. They are singsinging somewhere. Rumour today is keep out of native gardens and off native land except that on which we are camped as this appears to have been ceded to the Administration.
- 13.8.63. Police barracks under construction the last 2 days were finished today. Work started on Rest House. This will be the 3rd rest house on this site. Both Johnston and O'Farrell built here. Both houses destroyed by locals when the officers left. Went for a stroll today along the ridge. Natives began calling to each other from surrounding ridges. Interpreter said they were considerably upset we had left the rest house site. Locals become most agitated if we wander through their land. They don't mind the carriers so much, it is me and the police they object to. Good radio contact with Simbai again this afternoon.

*12 days from  
Rimbai Port.*



- 14.8.63 Fight starter appeared in camp today. He is a very handsome young buck, very self assured and scornful, a permanent sneer on his face. In our society he would be a lout, teddy boy or bodgee. Fortunately he is not the leader of his clan. Both leaders immediately started negotiating a settlement with Patrol presiding at meeting. Deceased belonged to Fightstarter's clan. A price for compensation for death of deceased was agreed but there was difficulty on supply of one item. Meeting adjourned while killer clan tries to find this item. Radio conversation this afternoon with A.D.O. at Simbai. Patrol advised it may return as soon as settlement is finalised. Patrol also instructed to pay for materials used in construction of rest house and other buildings.
- 15.8.63. Negotiation continue spasmodically through the day, still deadlocked over one item, plumes. Complainant insisting on 4, Defendant willing to pay, but could only produce one. Rest house finished today and moved in. This site now more or less complete and resembles KAIRONK Valley central rest houses, except that it has earthen floor and sod fireplace.
- 16.8.63. Settlement reached today, Complainant agreeing to accept items other than plumes. Elaborate ceremony conducted at which compensation was paid and pig slaughtered and eaten. Patrol was invited to take part in feast as a reward for having settled dispute. Patrol reciprocated by inviting all parties to accompany patrol back to Simbai for friendly visit. All parties agree. Patrol pays for materials used in construction of rest house and out buildings - one tomahawk, to be returned if the rest house is burned.
- 17.8.63. Departed BIRIPIEN 0830 and arrived SALEMP 1700. The track (Saturday) was 100% better than when we first crossed but it is still a ghastly journey.
- 18.8.63 Departed SALEMP 0830 and arrived SIMBAI Patrol Post 1630.

PATROL ENDS.

MISCELLANEOUS

Population

No attempt was made to count or census the population in the BIRIPIEN Valley, owing to the unsettled atmosphere. These people have never been censused before. The census records cease at SALEMP, in the KAIRONK Valley which is the fringe of the normal sphere of Government control.

The field sketch of the BIRIPIEN Valley shows that most of the mountain slopes are under cultivation so intense that there is no primary growth whatever, except for the moss forest which grows above the line of human habitation. The people even have to grow their own firewood, hence the groves of Casurinas. It can be assumed from this that the valley must support a considerable population.

Further down the valley, and on the other side of the mountain ranges there are reported to be other large pockets of population which have never before seen a white man.

During the aerial survey, large population concentrations were seen in that valley which runs more or less parallel to the Biripien and which lies to the east of it.

Roads

The motor road from Simbai stops at Wamuk Rest House. It is suitable for 4 wheel drive vehicles although the only vehicles at Simbai are two privately owned motorbikes, the property of Patrol Officer Carter.

After Wamuk, a foot track continues to Salemp. This track is well graded and could be widened to take motor traffic without much trouble.

From Salemp, the beginnings of a graded foot track proceeds down to the river marked on the map and ceases there. From here, the hike across the range to the Biripien valley could only be described as a nightmare. Steep climbing through trackless, dripping moss forest at heights above 7,000 feet is purgatory to say the least.

While at Biripien, carriers and police formed a passably graded track back to Salemp. If it is ever intended to build a road into the Biripien Valley then I suggest it follow our return track.

Tracks in the Biripien Valley would be difficult to negotiate even for a mountain goat. They are only a foot wide through the high grass and they wind so much it is impossible to see past the third man in front. They would be death traps in an ambush.

Geographical

The Biripien looks like a typical highland thickly populated valley. The rest house is about 6000 feet above sea level and the surrounding mountain ridges are considerably higher than that. At night the valley is completely fogged in and when the wind blows it is bitterly cold.

The land looks to have been too overworked to be very fertile although secondary growth covers the slopes where there are no gardens.

Food supplies were at all times abundant. The Patrol had 80 carriers and all were able to be fed by the local people without apparent hardship.

Kaukau appears to be the main food crop although pit pit and a few miserable bananas were often seen.

uncontacted  
people? x

why!  
1 P.O.  
7 Police  
1 N.M.D.  
about 1000  
about 1000

### Health

The health of the Biripien people appeared to be excellent. No skin diseases were seen - no scabies or tinea like coastal natives, and the only apparent ailments these people suffer are puncture wounds to the lower legs from the uncut tracks. These apparently heal without ulcerating. The infant mortality rate may be high and it is probable that those who cannot stand the harsh climate die off at an early age.

It was indeed strange that although these people were virtually uncontacted, they showed no reluctance to medical treatment and those few seen by the patrol to have minor ailments agreed to be treated by the Medical Orderly.

### Anthropological

The Biripien people speak a language which is understood by the Salemp people of the Lower Kaironk Valley. The Salemp and Biripien people intermarry and some Salemp gardens were found in the Biripien Valley. The Biripien have no European artifacts whatever except axes, which have been obtained by trading.

It is said that steel axes have preceded the white men into those areas which are still uncontacted.

The following is an extract from a paper by R.N.H. Balmer, Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, entitled;

"Preliminary Ethnographic Notes on the KARAM People of the Upper Kaironk Valley"

? / As the Karam people are not otherwise noticeably different from the Biripien people, the following extract may be taken to apply equally to the Biripien people.

### Warfare

'Warfare' is perhaps a misleading term for the small scale ambushes and homicidal fighting which seem to have been endemic among the Karam until very recently.

The weapons used were palmwood spears, usually only six feet long or less, and thus shorter than those used in most of the Highlands, long palmwood bows and palmwood-tipped arrows, and heavy roughly rectangular wooden shields.

The immediate causes of lethal fighting were very frequently allegations of sorcery or witchcraft, though I was also told of instances of abduction of women and of trouble over pigs damaging gardens being casus belli. However it would seem that most often a 'material' source of dispute of this kind would quickly develop into one involving allegations of sorcery as well.

A powerful man who had a relative killed, either with weapons, or, putatively, with sorcery, frequently assembled a considerable quantity of wealth - axes and shell ornaments - and offered these to any kinsman or even unrelated mercenary who would kill a man in return.

I am not clear if the whole local kin groups of the victim and his slayer are involved in subsequent vengeance, or only their immediate families, but I think it is the former, with presumably the exclusion of such members as are closely relative by kinship or affinity to the other side.

It seems that though the local kin group or territorial group

provided the basic fighting unit, any large gathering of fighting men would be assembled from far and wide by the powerful men of the local group summoning as many of their bilateral kin and affines as they could influence in this way. Mr. O'Farrell confirms me in this impression by a story he has told me of the miscellaneous local origins of a group interviewed on a battlefield immediately after a battle.

Fighting is by no means always between non-kin. In fact many of the stories I have been told are of wars between factions led by distant cousins, though these were of different local kin groups.

NATIVE UNREST - BIRIPIEN VALLEY

Introduction

Acting upon instructions received while at SIMBAI Patrol Post I led a patrol to the above valley to investigate reports of tribal fighting in which one native was killed and several others injured.

The Patrol departed SIMBAI on 7/8/63 and camped that night and the next at SALEMP in the KAIRONK valley. SALEMP is the last post of Administrative control nearest the BIRIPIEN valley. Beyond SALEMP the people are uncensused and have never before recognised Government control; nor has the Administration ever exercised any control over them before.

On 9/8/63 the patrol entered the BIRIPIEN Valley after a fantastically rugged journey across the range from SALEMP. It took 9 hours to cross the range. As there was no road, the patrol was forced to hack its way through trackless, dripping moss forest to a height of 7000 feet.

*Attacked by how many? No arrows discharged*

Descending through swirling mists the Patrol arrived on the valley floor and was promptly attacked. Harrowing moments followed but no one was hurt and the police did not return fire. Some irate carriers who had been narrowly missed by arrows broke from the carrier line and caught the attacker who had fired on them. Police arrested the attacker and that same afternoon he was brought before the court and charged.

*with what with what?*

There was no rest houses in the valley of course. Camp was pitched in an old garden site, cleared for defence purposes and a perimeter established. Guards were posted, but no local natives came near the camp until the carriers, some of whom were related to BIRIPIEN people asked if they could contact their relatives. An hour after they left the campsite they returned accompanied by the murderer, the deceaseds relatives, and numerous other natives who had taken part in the fighting, including the one and only Luluai in the valley.

*Did they use relatives?*

Strange as it may seem, all subsequent contact with the locals was made through the carriers, and the ordinary administrative jobs to be done were all done by carriers and not police; for although the local natives suffered the carriers to wander through their land, they objected strongly to the Police or myself doing so and until the rest house was built an obviously hostile attitude was shown towards us.

Background

*Not unusual or surprising in such places*

This hostile attitude is easily understood when it is considered what little and unpalatable glimpses of the Administration the people have had. There have been only two patrols to the valley before. Each presumably uninvited, built a rest house. When each patrol departed, each rest house and its accompanying outbuildings were burned. In a land where fighting is common it is not hard to understand that a large armed uninvited body of men can only be regarded as unfriendly, and it is a simple matter of self defence to destroy any vestage of its tenure.

In December 1962 after a jail break at SIMBAI, a large patrol led by A.D.O. Keenan sought and did after a strenuous chase recapture three escaped prisoners. These prisoners were from the lower KAIRONK Valley, an area sharing common language, marriage and ceremonial ties with the BIRIPIEN Valley. One prisoner, finding the chase too close for him in the KAIRONK valley, fled across the range into the BIRIPIEN Valley to take refuge with his relatives there.

The BIRIPIEN valley is wholly beyond normal administrative control. That Patrol could have considered the escapee to have been granted assylum in an area beyond its jurisdiction, and therefore exempt from any process of our law. A warrant for his arrest would be valid indefinitely and could have been executed if and when the escapee ever returned to the sphere of SIMBAI'S normal administrative control. The Patrol however chose a more direct method and the prisoner was pursued relentlessly.

Because the search area was so wide it would not have been possible for the Assistant District Officer to accompany each search party. Native Police squads therefore combed the area unaccompanied by the restraining influence of an officer. In hot pursuit, they followed the fleeing prisoner to the BIRIPIEN Valley. Eventually he was run to earth there, after a succession of swift night manoeuvres, surprise raids on garden hamlets, and lightning searches of dwelling houses.

Can one imagine with what apprehension the BIRIPIEN natives looked down from their mountain crags and hill gardens to watch the witch hunt below them - for this was their first glimpse of the Pax Australiana.

Contact

There are no villages anywhere in the SIMBAI Administrative area. The people live in small hamlets scattered over the hillsides. Patrols contact the people by moving from one central rest house to another. These settlements are like small Patrol posts complete with rest house, police barracks, carrier houses, cargo sheds etc, and set apart from any native habitation they sit as sentinels on strategically placed ridges, in magnificent mountain surroundings, connected by good "government" roads. There is always one in sight and they are strung along the valleys like castles on the Rhine. They are recognised as the symbols of Administration, and when the Government meets the people, it meets them there. The ridges on which they are built and the connecting roads have been willingly ceded by the people to the Administration for this particular purpose and in the normal course of events, even in the more settled areas, the Administration is considered to have exceeded its mandate if a patrol unless invited, deliberately strays from the central sites or the connecting roads.

If this attitude is such in the settled areas, how much more is it so in the BIRIPIEN Valley? For this reason, this Patrol although originally ordered to roam through the valley, considered it Administrative suicide to do so and thus didn't. The order was wisely rescinded later.

When it became known that the Patrol intended to restrict its movements to a central rest house site and not wander through gardens and hamlets like previous patrols a more friendly attitude was shown by the people to the patrol personnel. Building materials were made available for a rest house and out houses, food was brought in a constant stream, women and children wandered freely around the camp without fear, and the men came unarmed.

It was in this more congenial atmosphere that inquiries were made into the tribal fighting. When it was further made known by the patrol that it was intended to settle the unrest not by criminal prosecutions but by native customary exchange and payment of compensation, both sides which took part in the fighting willingly entered into the negotiations, for without doubt a mediating third party was all they needed, as both sides were automatically predisposed to a peaceful settlement as they were connected by marriage and descent ties, and continued hostility would obviously have been intolerable.

*Actually  
was  
friendly  
(though  
his comes)  
to be  
able to  
control  
the  
hostile  
concern  
is ready.  
Also his purpose  
was different from  
the earlier information  
patrols.*

### Cause of Fighting

TAUNDAI - GOLO of BIRIPIEN (IEN Group) and his wife TAMBASI about two months ago in company went to SALEMP. While they were away, a woman named GUMANK died. Her relatives accused TAMBASI of sorcery. TAMBASI and GUMANK were cousins. There appeared to be no rational reason why TAMBASI was so accused. RUFU and AIAFI (IEN Group) sister and husband of GUMANK respectively paid a visit to TAUNDAI and TAMBASI'S house to discuss the cause of GUMANK'S death and finding them absent, burnt the house.

On TAUNDAI'S return, he saw the remains of his house, inquired who had burned it, and having been informed by witnesses went in company with BINGAN and FLO his nephews and burned RUFU'S house, in payback. RUFU was not in his house at the time but nearby in another house mourning the death of GUMANK. On seeing his house afire RUFU left the morning house with MUNUM his brother to investigate. They saw TAUNDAI and his nephews and gave chase immediately, shooting arrows. TAUNDAI'S side returned the fire but no damage was done. Then various natives attracted by the disturbance joined in on one side or the other and HANGARAMBO (MANAUMP Group) on TAUNDAI'S side shot ANGANI (IEN Group) who had joined RUFU'S. ANGANI collapsed and died and the fighting then ceased for the day. Both sides then helped to carry him away and mourned his death. Next morning however it was realised that fortunes were still out of balance, RUFU and AIAFI now having not one death to account for, but two. Fighting was renewed with considerable reinforcements on both sides, with considerably more earnestness but with considerably less accuracy. One or two warriors received minor arrow wounds and the Luluai had his hat shot off; remarkably light casualties considering that the battle ebbed and flowed up and down the kunai ridge on which the rest house now stands, and lasted all day.

Evening fell and the battle, now in its second day, came to a halt. The warriors retired to their camp fires, each side mingling freely and in a friendly manner with the other, for, believe it or not, every warrior was related one to another by near or distant marriage or descent lines as the whole valley is endogamous.

An uneasy truce followed. Fighting it was decided, was pointless and in any case it was time to plant the gardens. With fortunes still uneven, each warrior repaired to his garden nervously wondering when he may be called upon to even the score, and this was how the people were found - in a jumpy state of nerve jangling armed neutrality.

### The Settlement

As the fighting had stopped it only remained for a respectable and honourable settlement to be arranged in order to restore peace to the valley. Considering the primitive state of Political development in the valley and the people's nebulous relation to the Administration I formed the opinion that it would be an absurd administrative blunder to rejuvenate tribal friction by dragging everything through the Supreme Court, prodding old memories and old hatreds into life again when everyone was doing his best to forget them.

I have read the District Officer's memo No. 37-1-1 of 25th July, 1963, concerning the administration of justice in primitive areas and the complete incapability of our system of Law without justice in solving purely tribal matters. I agree with it. In this case, a prosecution dragged first through the lower court and then through the Supreme Court, months later, with primitive witnesses plucked from the stone age and deposited in modern surroundings and with the evidence being garbled through four languages, could have resulted in nothing short of a monumental farce.

This which was purely a native problem quite incompatible with our legal system could only have been settled by native customary methods and the Patrol was instructed to do so. The case was therefore presented as a civil claim in the Court for Native Affairs. Depositions are attached.

Consolidation of Government Influence

There is no doubt that the Administration gained considerable prestige from the Patrol's ability to settle the unrest by negotiations. When peace had been secured a feast was held and members of the patrol were invited to attend. In return, leaders of both parties were invited to visit SIMBAI station and they accepted. To show that friendship has further been established between the BIRIPIEN people and the Administration, the leaders affirmed that this time they would not burn the rest house. This promise was strengthened by a gift of 2 spades and one tomahawk, and on leaving the valley, the Patrol took a risk like Lot's wife and looked back - the rest house was intact.

The Future

Now that the Administration has entered into Exchange Relationships with the Biripien people, I believe that a definite lasting friendship has been established. It is impossible by native custom for exchange relationships to exist between enemies, and I believe that this Patrol showed to these primitive people that there is another more friendly side of the Administration than the one to which they were used. The test will be how long the rest house stands.

The Biripien Valley is in the Western Highlands District. It would be helpful to the Officer in Charge, Simbai if some decision is reached on future jurisdiction in this area. It could be that future administrative activities are more likely to be concentrated on the more advanced parts of the territory where political development is proceeding more rapidly and that primitive backwaters like the Biripien Valley may be administratively ignored. I feel that it would be a pity to begin to administer this area now, only to abandon it later. It would be far better not to interfere at all. Perhaps a policy decision on the Administration's future relationship with these remaining uncontacted areas could be obtained.

X  
2 days walk from  
Simbai. Hunter show  
Jim's & the manager's  
for B.R. Piert - the patrol  
man Simbai.

M. L. Mackellar  
(M. L. MACKELLAR)  
Patrol Officer



BIRIPIEN VALLEY

Glow from Manam  
Volcano seen on  
clear night.

Rafa's house  
burnt here

Taundai's house  
burnt here.  
Moss forest

Deceased buried  
here

Ramu Valley

Gardens  
& Hamlets

Hamlets

Old gardens.

old garden

Casuarinas

Casuarinas

Casuarinas

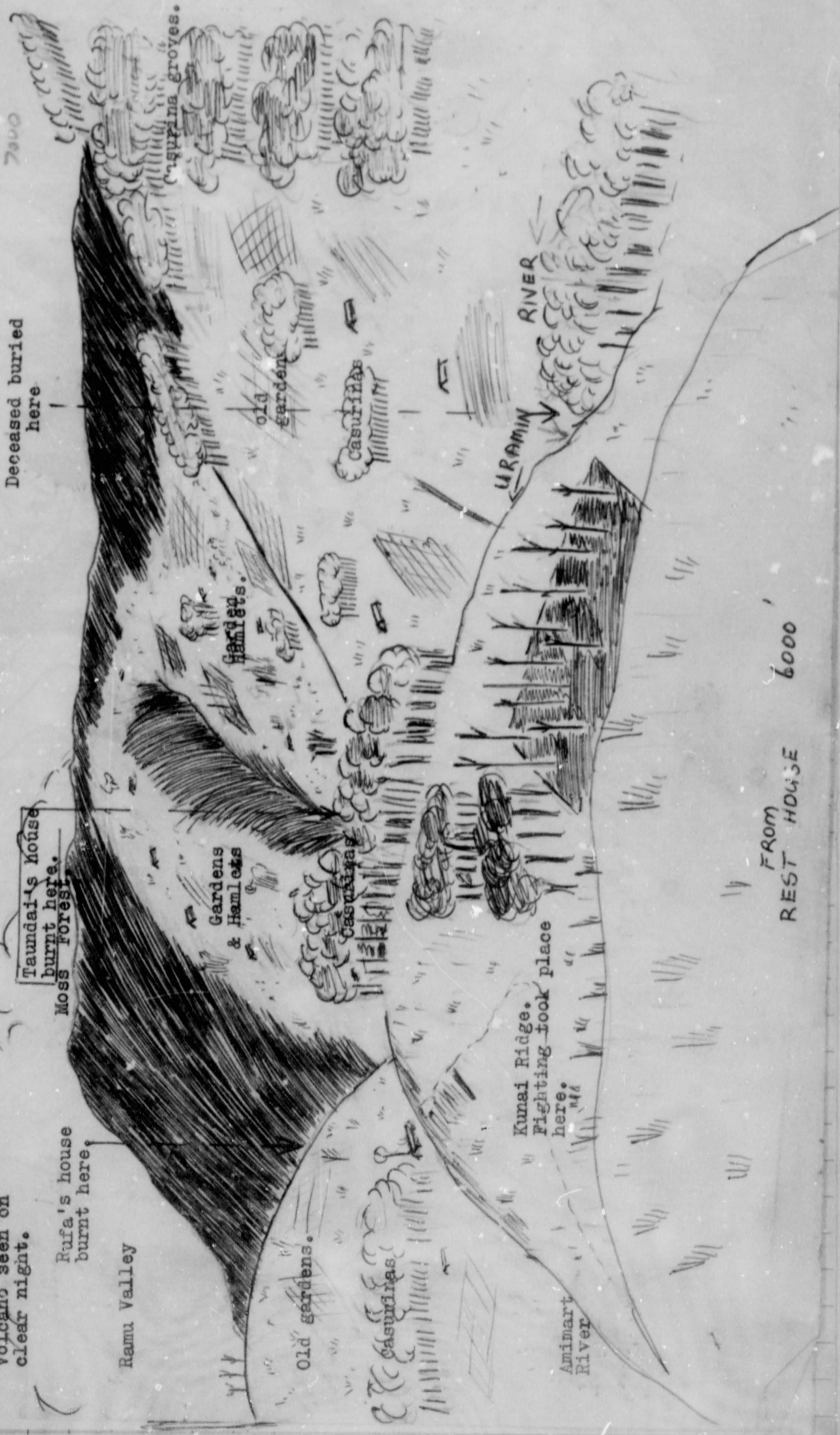
Kunai Ridge.  
Fighting took place  
here.

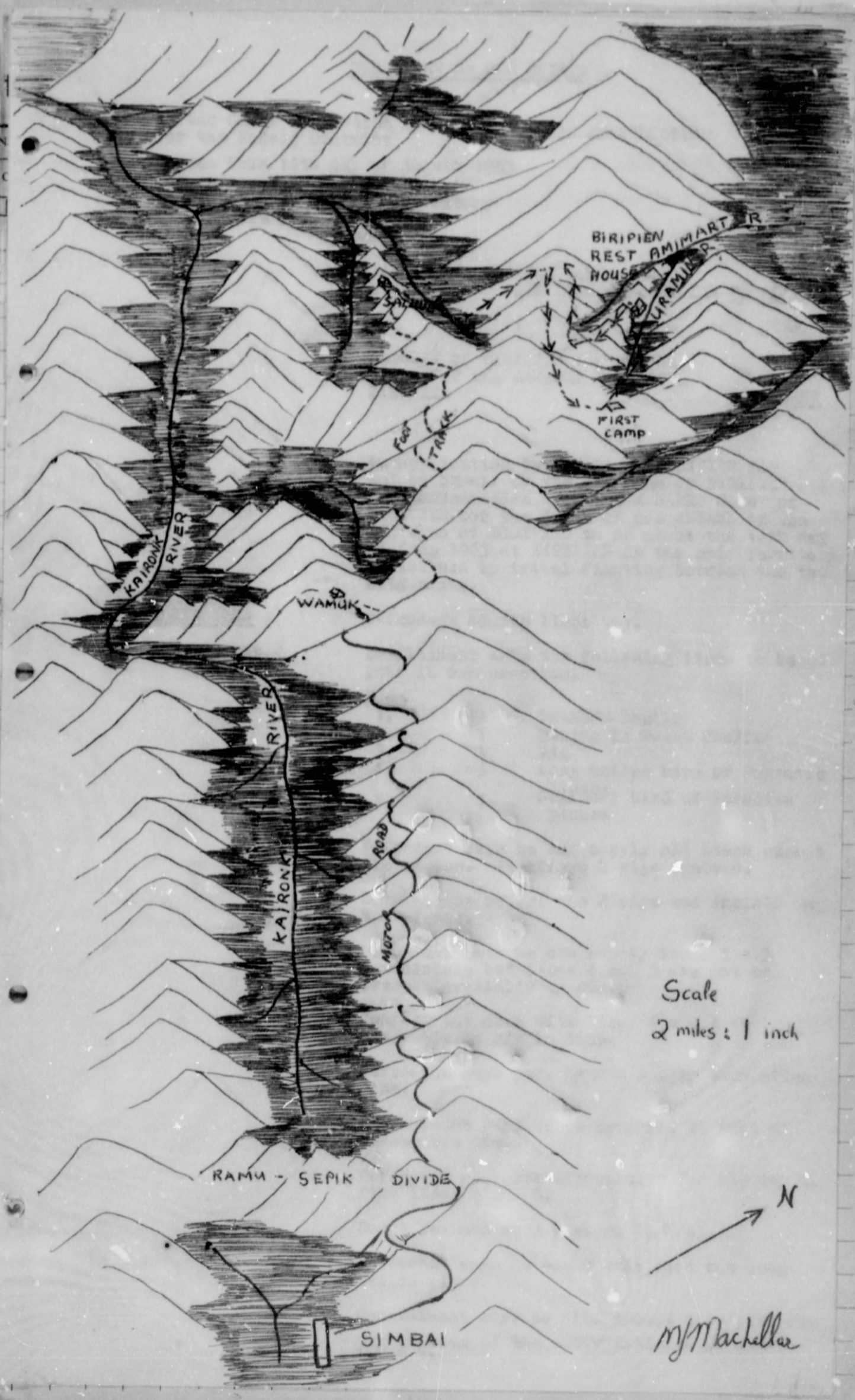
Aminart  
River

URAMIN

RIVER

FROM  
REST HOUSE  
6000





Scale  
2 miles = 1 inch



M/Machellor

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA

In the Court for Native Affairs )  
For the Madang District )

CIVIL JURISDICTION

Held on this 14th Day of August 1963

Before me, M.L. MacKellar *MCNA*

At BIRIPEN in the said Territory

In the case of:

LANINA of BIRIPEN for and on  
behalf of the IEN Clan of BIRIPEN COMPLAINANT

v

DADAGAN of BIRIPEN for and on  
behalf of the MANAUMP Clan of  
BIRIPEN DEFENDANT

CAUSE

An application by LANINA of BIRIPEN for and on behalf of the IEN Clan of BIRIPEN for Compensation from the MANAUMP Clan of BIRIPEN for the death of one ANGANI of the IEN Clan of BIRIPEN on or about the 14th day of June 1963 at BIRIPEN in the said Territory occasioned by tribal fighting between the two said clans.

ADMISSIONS

Defendant admits liability.

SUBMISSIONS

Complainant asks the following items to be paid in Compensation.

Item

- |    |   |                                     |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | 5 | TRAMBUM Shells                      |
| 2. | 1 | String in Tambu Shells              |
| 3. | 1 | Fig                                 |
| 4. | 3 | Long tailed bird of Paradise        |
| 5. | 1 | Ordinary bird of Paradise<br>plumes |

Defendant says he can supply all items except the plumes. He offers 2 pigs instead.

Complainant rejects the 2 pigs and insists on the plumes.

Defendant says he can supply items 1 - 3 immediately but items 4 and 5 are not at present available to him.

Complainant asks will items 4 and 5 be available to him in time.

Defendant says yes, he can supply them given time.

Complainant says he is prepared to wait a reasonable time.

Defendant requests adjournment for one day to find items 4 and 5.

Court resumed at 3 p.m. on 15/8/63.

Defendant says he could only find one long tailed plume.

Complainant says he will accept this plus one pig in lieu of the other articles in items 4 and 5.

Defendant agrees to pay one pig and one long tailed plume in lieu of items 4 and 5.

Court adjourned until 3 p.m. on 16/8/63.

Court resumed at 3 p.m. on 16/8/63

Defendant says he now has before the court the following items.

<u>Item</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	5	Trabus Shells
2.	1	String of Tambu Shells
3.	2	Pigs
4.	2	Long tailed plumes.
5.	1	Cockatoo plume
6.	1	Cuscus skin.

and he offers these in full settlement.

Complainant accepts the above items in full settlement and because the total is in excess of his original demand, offers to slaughter on pig for a feast at which both parties should eat.

Defendant accepts invitation.

DECISION

The court orders that DADAGAN of BIRIPIEN shall pay to IANIMA of BIRIPIEN forthwith five Trabus Shells, one string of Tambu Shells, two long tailed plumes, one Cockatoo plume, one cuscus skin and two pigs. The Court further orders that IANIMA shall forthwith in the presence of this court ceremonially slaughter one pig and shall share the meat equally between the defendant and the complainant clans.

Given under my hand at BIRIPIEN in the said Territory this 16th day of August, 1963.

*M. H. Mackellar*

M. H. MACKELLAR  
Member of the Court  
for Native Affairs.