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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN HIGHLANDS Report No. LAIAGAM No 1 of 1955-56

Patrol Conducted by W. M. J. HUNTER PATROL OFFICER

Area Patrolled A PORTION OF THE KUNDIP & YUMBI AREAS

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans NIL

Natives 7 MEMBERS R.P. & N.G.C.

Duration - From 7/1/1955 to 11/11/1955

Number of Days 14

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO

Last Patrol to Area by - District Services 1/19 NOT KNOWN

Medical ... 1/19 NOT KNOWN

Map Reference NONE AVAILABLE SKETCH MAP ONLY

Objects of Patrol TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF FIGHTING GOING ON IN TWO PLACES

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
FORT 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 £.....

.....
.....
.....

XX NA. 30-17-3

13th. April, 1956

The District Commissioner,
Mount Hagen.

Patrol Report LAIAGAN No. 1 & 2 of 1955/56.

I have just been checking your 30/1-400 of 20th. October, together with these Reports.

According to the Police Establishment, the authorised strength for 1955/56 for the Western Highlands is 152. As from the 1st. July this will be raised to 182, and you will be able to allocate them, as circumstances demand, anywhere within your District. I suggest that you write now to the Commissioner of Police, asking that you be allocated the number necessary to bring your Detachments to Establishment strength. As you know, the numbers being trained are limited and you may be able to reserve your requirements by early action.

It is regretted that we can send you no more staff at the moment, but as you are doubtless aware, we already have a large number of posts without any officer there at all.

A. A. Roberts
(A.A. Roberts)
Director.

(P/A)
16/4/56

30/1/55 ✓



30/1 - 400

District Office,
MOUNT HAGEN.
Western Highlands.

20th October, 1955.

The Director,
Dept. of Native Affairs,
FORT MORESBY.

LAIAGAM PATROL POST REPORT No.1 of 1955-56.

Mr. Hunter appears to have carried out a successful patrol which must be followed up. I think however, that this should not be immediate as the people should be given a chance to settle down first.

2. Fighting has never been stopped in the KANDIP area and the areas west of Wabaga. To my knowledge the people of the KANDIP, between Laiagam and in the direction running parallel to Wapenamanda, have repeatedly requested that a Patrol Post be set up in their area. I think they would like to have an excuse to stop fighting, or at least most would.

3. I have told the people that this can only be done when staff is available. A road to that portion of the KANDIP (not visited by Mr. Hunter) is under way via Kepilum, which is at the head of the Lagaip Valley.

4. I agree with the remarks of Mr. Robb, that more police are required in the area. This area surrounding Laiagam must be patrolled even if the Porgera area is neglected, any trouble there is certain to bring the people in the immediate vicinity of the station into the unrest. In turn the people of the Lai Valley will be influenced, as the whole population is of one language group and have trade and other connections.

5. The importance of Laiagam as a base cannot be too greatly stressed and it is essential to have at least two officers in the area at all times to enable one to be constantly on patrol.

6. The completion of the Local Examinations in December will permit staff to carry out more field work.

J. R. White
(J. R. WHITE)
Act. DISTRICT OFFICER.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

File: 30/1 - 137.

Sub-District Office,
Western Highlands District,
WABAG.

11th. October, 1955.

Memorandum to -

The District Commissioner,
Western Highlands District,
M T. H A G E N .

Subject: Laiagam Patrol Report - No: 1 of 1955-56.

1. Herewith enclosed please find copies of the above Patrol Report, together with Sketch Maps, for on-forwarding to the Director.
2. The delay in the submission of this report is regretted; it was due to the fact that, in the first instance, a Special Report was submitted and, as this was not considered sufficient for the patrol in question, a Patrol Report was requested: Unfortunately Mr. Hunter was again out on patrol and thus the delay.
3. This was Mr. Hunter's first patrol, and it would appear that he has done quite well, especially in view of the nature of the country traversed and the un-cooperative habits of these people whilst engaged in inter-tribe warfare. It is no doubt desirable that an experienced officer should have accompanied Mr. Hunter during his first few patrols however this was not possible, due to the concentration of the available officers upon their studies; however Mr. Hunter was advised not to become too deeply involved in any matter beyond his present scope and it would appear that he has followed this advice.
4. At the present time there is a great deal of fighting going on in the areas surrounding Laiagam and it is to be hoped that the constant patrolling upon which Mr. Hunter is at present engaged, together with the onset of the 'wet' season, will help to lessen this fighting. Whilst it is easy to say that areas such as the Wage, Kundip and Porgera should be strictly left alone, until such time as the staff position improves, it is nevertheless true that constant and unchecked fighting in these areas is a direct incentive to the peoples of areas adjacent to the station to indulge in fighting. It is considered therefore that patrolling, such as is at present being carried out, is of benefit to the entire area, and that, with the frequent and unexpected appearance of such patrols, the peoples concerned will be far less inclined to fight.
5. With the advent of Mr. Hunter to Laiagam and his heavy programme of patrolling, it becomes obvious that the native constabulary strength at Laiagam is insufficient for the needs. A minimum of ten police is desirable on patrols in this area, and this leaves only six men for the staffing of Laiagam itself and for the rest of the area - a totally inadequate force. Unfortunately, it is not possible to re-inforce Laiagam, except

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under D.P.

in an emergency, from the other stations as, with the exception now of Kumpian, they too are under-staffed. It would be greatly appreciated if additional police strength could be made available to the Sub-District, say at least seven more men for Laigan and four each for Wabag and Wapenamanda.

6. Certain suggestions have been made to Mr. Hunter, in connection with his preparation and presentation of his Patrol Reports, for example, the use of *patrol* and other terms being not desirable. As regards the Patrol Maps, had time permitted, Mr. Hunter would have been requested to have shown the grid lines, however this would hold up the submission of these reports for some time (Mr. Hunter being absent on patrol) and it was thought better to send them as they are. It has been pointed out to Mr. Hunter that, should a map of the area for some reason not be available at Laigan, then such is easily procured from Wabag; this also applying to information regarding previous patrols to the area.

7. It is the intention of the writer to accompany Mr. Hunter on a patrol or two, that is at such time as the staff position at Wabag permits of such.

Francis P. G. [Signature]

Assistant District Officer.

Territory Of Papua and New Guinea

District Of : Western Highlands - Wabag Sub-District

Report No. : 1 of 1955- 1956.

Patrol Conducted By: Mr.W.M.J.Hunter,Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled : A portion of the Kundip and Yumbis areas.

Patrol Accompanied By: Europeans - Nil.

Natives - 7 Members R.P.&.N.G.C.

45 Carriers.

Duration: 29th July 1955 to the 11th August 1955.

Number of Days: 14.

Did Medical Assistant
Accompany: No.

Last Patrol To The Area
By D.D.S.N.A.: No Record at Laiagam.

Medical: No Record at Laiagam.

Map Reference: None at Laiagam. Sketch Map Only.

Objects Of Patrol: 1. To Investigate Reports of Fighting going on in two places.

Diary

Friday 29th. July : Departed Laiagam at 0815. Stopped for a half hour at the Apostolic Mission, (Reverend Reah), then proceeded up a good, then an indifferent, then a bad track for three and a half hours, arriving at the top of the range immediately South of the Laiagam Patrol Post at 1230. Then downhill for three hours until cultivated ground reached at 1530. Headman for this area guided the patrol to where fighting was in progress. Large Pit-Pit fire roaring below on hill-slope. Below this a large group of natives were fighting. 50 - 60 men from a clan BIP were attempting to come up to where the patrol was and carry on into the valley beyond. This plan was being opposed by a few men from a clan MUENE. Arrows were being exchanged and several men were engaged in close combat. On the patrol's arrival the men of Muene broke off the fight and returned to the patrol. Bip clan men were invited to come up and discuss their problems. For over an hour they tried to make up their minds to attack, finally deciding to return to their homes, shouting threats as they did so. During this time 2 Bip men were able to infiltrate the Muene lines and set fire to one house which was completely destroyed. Camp was made on top of the hill and a night-guard set.

Saturday 30th. July. At Muene Camp site. Natives assembled and an inquiry into the fight made. A sufficiency of food for patrol members brought in. A Night-guard set.

Sunday 31st July. Left Muene at 0715 for Bip Ceramonal Ground. Patrol very compact and proceeded with caution. Rumours that Bip clan members had rallied from 'a the airts'. Arrived at Ceremonial Ground at 0930 and found the place deserted. Made camp to the left and approximately 200 ft. above the Ceremonial Ground. A few old men and women brought in a little food. They were well paid and told to go and inform their clan that the patrol requested the presence of all those involved in the fight against the Muene. Nothing eventuated from this. Night-guard set.

Monday 1st August Waiting for Bip clan to appear. The old men and women contacted yesterday have also disappeared. Two Bip natives arrested as they came to get food from their gardens. A Night-guard set.

Tuesday 2nd August. Waiting for Bip clan to appear. There is no sign that they are going to do so. Three natives apprehended in gardens. A Night-guard set.

Wednesday 3rd. August. Left Bip Ceremonial Ground at 0730 for Kungalin. Through rain-forest for two and a half hours reaching cultivated areas at 1000. Several natives taken by surprise attempted to run away and were apprehended. Arrived camping site at 1030, Men from this area had only ceased fighting the previous day. Another section of the Bip clan being involved. Many natives have run away. Food brought in.

Thursday 4th. August. At Kungalin waiting for the natives to appear. From reports received from the few inhabitants remaining it appears that all those involved in the fighting have no intention of coming to the patrol. Food brought in.

Friday 5th. August. Prisoners caught at Bip Ceremonial Ground area. No indications that natives intend to return.

Saturday 6th August. To Paianka leaving Kungalin at 0730 arriving 0830. Natives found to have flown. Food brought in by a clan who live quite near this area.

Sunday 7th August. Police succeed in apprehending 15 natives of the Paianka branch of the Bip Clan. Two policemen returned from Laiagam with some stores.

Diary Continued

Monday 8th August. To Yumbis. Camp remaining at Paianka. Men from this area having taken part in the recent fighting found to have gone. Returned to camp.

Tuesday 9th August. Departed Paianka for Kundarep at 0745 arriving at camp site at 0930. Food brought in and three natives involved in a small local dispute arrested.

Wednesday 10th August. At Kundarep. Police succeed in apprehending three natives from Kungalin involved in the fighting. Plenty food brought in.

Thursday 11th August. Departed Kundarep at 0730. Climbed for two hours through rain-forest, over a large kunai flat, climbed through a small area of bush and emerged on top of the range overlooking the Iagaip valley at 1130. Arrived at Laiagam at 1315.

Native Situation

The situation at present existing in the area is described in few words. Fighting was going on prior to the patrol's visit, fighting ceased during the patrol's visit, fighting might break out at any time. In my estimation, however, the people in the BIP and PAIANKA districts have had enough fighting and the patrol's success in arresting quite a number of the participants will have a salutary effect on them.

There people have had frequent visits from administration officials and understand that fighting is frowned upon. Evidence of this - the flight of those involved in the fighting, the remaining of those not involved. Previous visits to places where fighting had been taking place resulted in jail for the offenders. Early this year, however, a junior officer travelled to Paianka to investigate fighting and under the illusion that the people were very primitive, treated them to an exhibition of rifle-shooting and trips to Laiagam and Wabag. The result - exactly opposite to that intended, and an indirect cause of this present outbreak. The direct cause of the fighting in both areas is the pandanus fruit, the ownership of which is questioned with arms. Usually clan fights clan, occasionally inter ? clan friction develops. When family groups take different sides in these disputes over the fruit it will be realised that although the subject of dissension appears trivial to European eyes, to the natives concerned it is extremely important.

Native Situation Continued

A brief description of the causes and results of the two fights follows.

In the fight between the BIP and MUENE clans the story is that a man PERAKI from the Muene went to get Karuka (Pandanus Fruit) in the bush. The fruit was on his land although his gardens were at another place. When he arrived at his ground he found two men from the Bip clan trespassing. Their names -TAM and AIN. A woman IENKIWAI was with them. Immediately Tam fired an arrow at Peraki who dodged. The missile hit the woman in the neck. All returned to their homes. The Bip clan massed and moved on the Muene. For four days fighting took place. One man KORE was killed. He was of the Muene and three others from this clan received lesser injuries. The Bip clan suffered two slightly injured.

In the fight between the BIP clan (Paianka) and the Kungalin clan the story is that a native HASU from Kungalin went to get Karuka in the bush. Whilst on top of the pandanus tree which he had chosen a man from Paianka WANGA shot him dead with an arrow. When the Kungalin clan went to bring in Hasu's remains further arrows were fired at them. In this exchange two Kungalin men were killed. Their names -MARA and ANGUPA. IAPE and TCHIMBE from Paianka were severely wounded. The patrol arriving in the area cut short the fighting.

All severely wounded men and the woman IENKIWAI were reported to have had their chests cut open by relations. This unfortunate native custom cannot but have an aggravating effect on the injured party

A man PERAP of Bip clan has admitted to the shooting of Kore.

All other natives responsible for the killings escaped the patrol. Their names are known in three instances and another patrol to the area will be made shortly in an attempt to arrest them.

Agriculture What looked to be fertile soil is arranged in circular mounds, six feet in diameter and two to three feet above the ground surface. On low-lying ground ditches are dug all round the garden areas. Bushes are also planted around these areas. Kaukau and English Potatoes are the main crops produced. Sugarcane, cabbages and

Native Agriculture Continued

peas were brought to the patrol. There were no indications of food shortage in the area although on three occasions frost was seen. In some gardens leaves of the Sweet-potatoe were blackened by this. It does not auger well for the future. The English potato plant is unaffected by frost. The natives are not blind and I am informed that more and more potatoes are being planted. Some gardens exist in the rain-forest, the majority on hillsides just below and in some cases encroaching upon the timber line. New gardens are being prepared at this time. Fruit of the pandanus tree is ripening now and shortly a general exodus shall take place to where groves of this tree exist. If in close proximity then no move is made.

Pigs are plentiful. Few birds were seen. Other forms of wild life are practically non-existent.

Carriers: 45 carriers were obtained from Laiagam clans and they proved satisfactory. They were paid in trade goods for their services. Large knives, small knives and mirrors.

OFFICIALS. Luluai Kosiri accompanied the patrol. He proved very helpful as did his headmen whom we met close to Muene. Other headmen in this area were helpful with regards wood and food, not helpful with regards information re the whereabouts of their clans. To be expected perhaps. It is pointed out here that headmen from Bip and Paianka ran away from the patrol. No one was appointed to take their place as there was no one to appoint.

Missions None in the area visited.

Airfields No suitable sites seen on this patrol.

RestHouses None in the area. Tents used throughout.

Roads and Terrain :- A brief description of the roads traversed and the country crossed is given below.

Laiagam to Muene. Uphill through Lunai the track good then bad as it disappears into the forest. Mud and treeroots for 4 hours then gardens and houses re-appear. Good track

Roads and Terrain Continued : Laiagam to Muene -to Muene through kunai.

Distance walked 10 miles approx. Time taken 7 hours.

Muene to Bip Ceremonial Ground. Through kunai, swamp and over several small hills. Entered a small area of forest, emerging into some kunai, then the ground reached.

Distance walked 4 miles approx. Time taken 2 hours.

Bip to Kungalin. Retraced steps for half a mile then into rainforest for two and a half hours. Through gardens for half an hour. Mud and treeroots all the way.

Distance walked 6 miles approx. Time taken 3 hours.

Kungalin to Paianka. A short walk through forest and kunai. The track fair although slippery

Distance walked 4 miles. Time taken 1 hour.

Paianka to Yumbis. A fair track through the kunai. When it enters the forest it deteriorates. Over slippery tree-trunks and roots. Out of the forest Yumbis immediately below.

Distance walked 6 miles. Time taken 2½ hours.

Paianka to Kundarep. A fair track though slippery. Swampy in places. No forest.


Distance walked 5 miles. Time taken 1½ hours.

Kundarep to Laiagam. Up through rainforest for an hour and a half. Across a large kunai plain. Through forest again and emerged at the top of the range overlooking the Lagaip valley, a steep and dry and powdery track descended until the Muriraga-Laiagam road Reached. Good road to the station.

Distance walked 9 miles approx. Time taken 5½ hours.

Health. A medical kit was taken with the patrol. No qualified person accompanied the patrol. Superficial injuries were treated. The outward health of the inhabitants appears to be good. There are no Medical Aid Posts in the area visited.

Appendix 'A' Report On Members Of R.P.&N.G.C.



 W.M.J. Hunter, P.O.

Appendix 'A'.

Patrol Report No.1 of 1955-1956.

Laiagam Patrol Post.

Report on Members of The R.P.&.N.G.C. Accompanying the Patrol

No. 3380 L/Cpl. Naeopa.	A good Policeman and impressed with his work. Corporal in the making.
No. 8282 Const. Mosinkave.	Did work well. Reliable
No. 6844 Const. Samuel.	Did work well. Reliable.
No. 9167 Const. Samu.	Did work. Inclined to laze if given the chance.
No. 8264 Const. Opave.	Did work well. A cheerful policeman.
No. 8260 Const Tangu.	Did work well. A cheerful policeman.
No. 8247 Const Yangori.	Did work well, Reliable.

Records of Service of above policemen have been marked with the above comments.

W.M.J. Hunter

.....
W.M.J. Hunter. R.P.&.N.G.C.
Laiagam Patrol Post.

143° 20'



SCALE: TWO MILES TO THE INCH APPROX.

LAAGAM PATROL ROUTE NO 1
1955-1956

SKETCH MAP: MUENE; TANANKA
AND YAMOS AREAS.

LEGEND

- HILLS OR RANGES
- SWAMP
- POPULATION
- CAMPS
- ROUTE TAKEN.

W.M.J. HUNTER P.O.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN HIGHLANDS Report No. 2 of 1955-56. LAIAGAM.

Patrol Conducted by W. M. J. HUNTER, PATROL OFFICER.

Area Patrolled KUNDIP, WAGE, YUMBIS AND MURIRAGA AREAS.

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans NO.

Natives 7 MEMBER, R.P.O.N. 6.C.

Duration—From 27/8/1955 to 16/9/1955

Number of Days 21

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 1/8/1955 No. of 1955-56.

Medical ... 1/19 NOT KNOWN

Map Reference SKETCH MAP ONLY

Objects of Patrol 1. CAPTURE ESCAPED PRISONERS. 2. RE-VISIT.

AREA PATROLLED IN AUGUST. 3 INVESTIGATE UNREST AT MURIRAGA.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ 19

.....
District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation ... £.....

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund £.....

Amount Paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund £.....

.....
.....
.....

30/17/4 ✓

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

30/1 - 404

District Office,
MOUNT HAGEN.
Western Highlands.

19th October, 1955.



The Director,
Dept. of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

LAIAGAM PATROL REPORT No. 2 of 1955-56.

The above report is a continuation of Patrol Report No. 2. Mr. Hunter is a young officer which was doubtless the cause of his error in the matter of officials and his facetious remarks regarding roads. I shall point out to him that clan leaders (boss boys) are not appointed by the Administration but gain their power through fighting powers, and that much discretion and patience must be exercised with them.

2. The country is rough and the population somewhat boisterous and very difficult to manage, I think Mr. Hunter has done well.

*No further action
12/4
PTA
13/4*

J.R. White

(J.R. WHITE)
Act. DISTRICT OFFICER.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

File: 30/1 - 138.

Sub-District Office,
Western Highlands District,
WARAG.

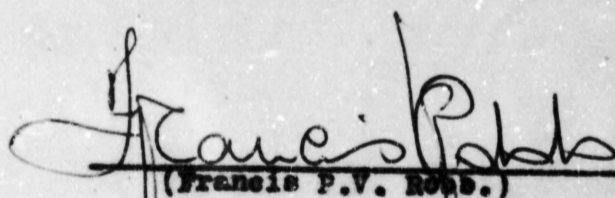
11th. October, 1955.

Memorandum to -

The District Commissioner,
Western Highlands District,
M.T. HAGEN.

Subject: Laigom Patrol Report - No: 2 of 1955-56.

1. Herewith enclosed please find patrol reports and maps for on-forwarding to the Director.
2. This patrol was, in the main, a follow-up of that undertaken in Mr. Hunter's last patrol however, as will be seen, additional territory was covered. In these areas the people tend to retire to the bush when their fighting is interrupted by the arrival of a patrol; thus a stay of short duration only is possible, unless the patrol is carrying large stocks of food, and this makes the apprehension of wrong-doers and the contacting of the men concerned in the fighting a difficult matter, even could the time be spared for such.
3. Problems encountered in this area are dealt with in my memo, 30/1 - 137 of even date, accompanying Laigom Patrol Report No: 1 of 1955-56, and need no repetition. The relevant regulations, applying to the creation and dismissal of village officials, have been brought to Mr. Hunter's notice.
4. It would appear that Mr. Hunter conducted this patrol in a creditable manner and will rapidly gain experience and knowledge of this area.


(Francis P.V. Robb.)

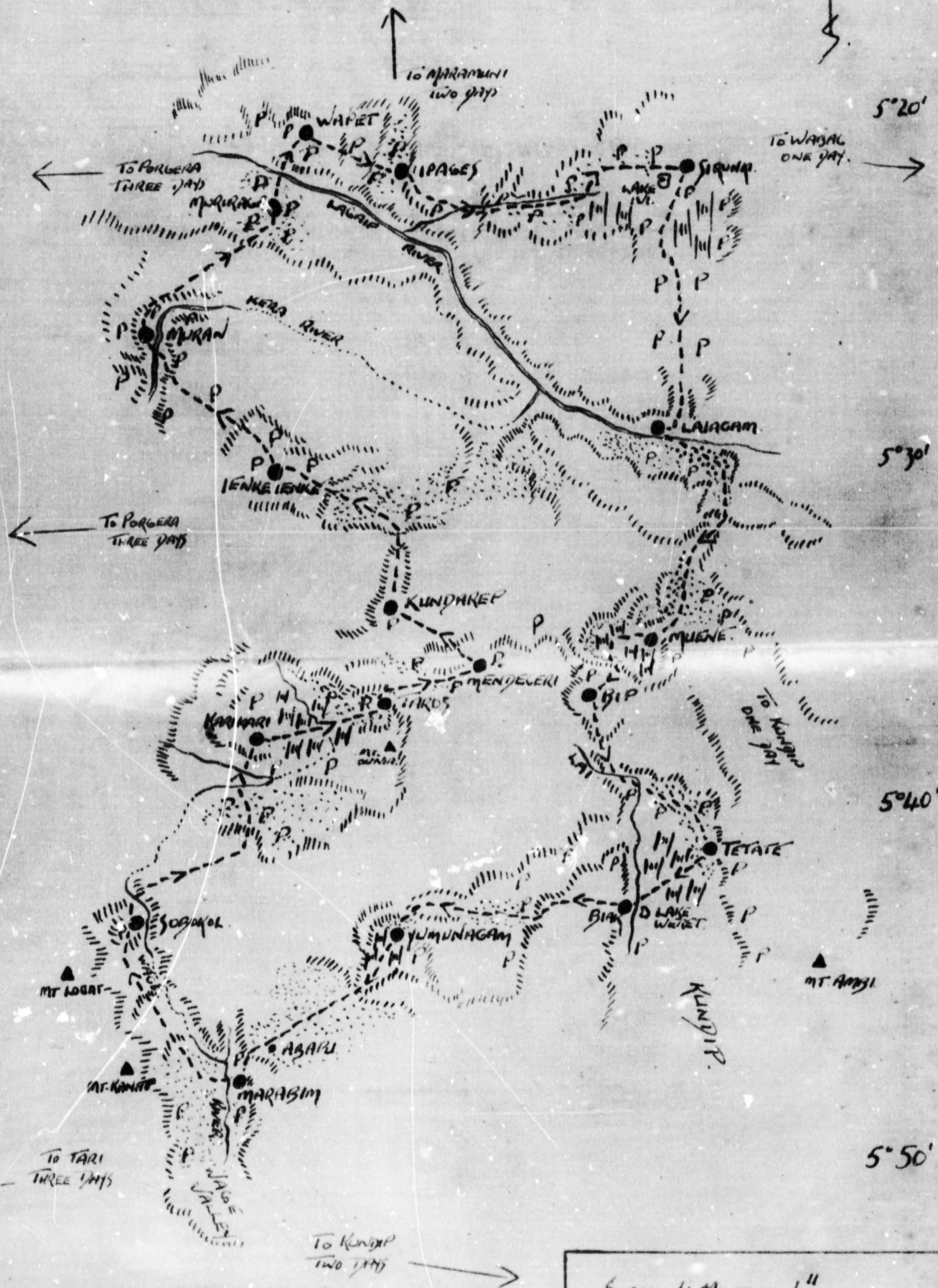
a/Assistant District Officer.)

PATROL REPORT MAP
 LAIAGAM NO. 2 OF 1955-56

117°00'

117°10'

117°20'



SCALE 4 MILES = 1"

SKETCH MAP - KUNDIP; WAGE
 YUMBIS AND MURIRAGA AREAS.

LEGEND

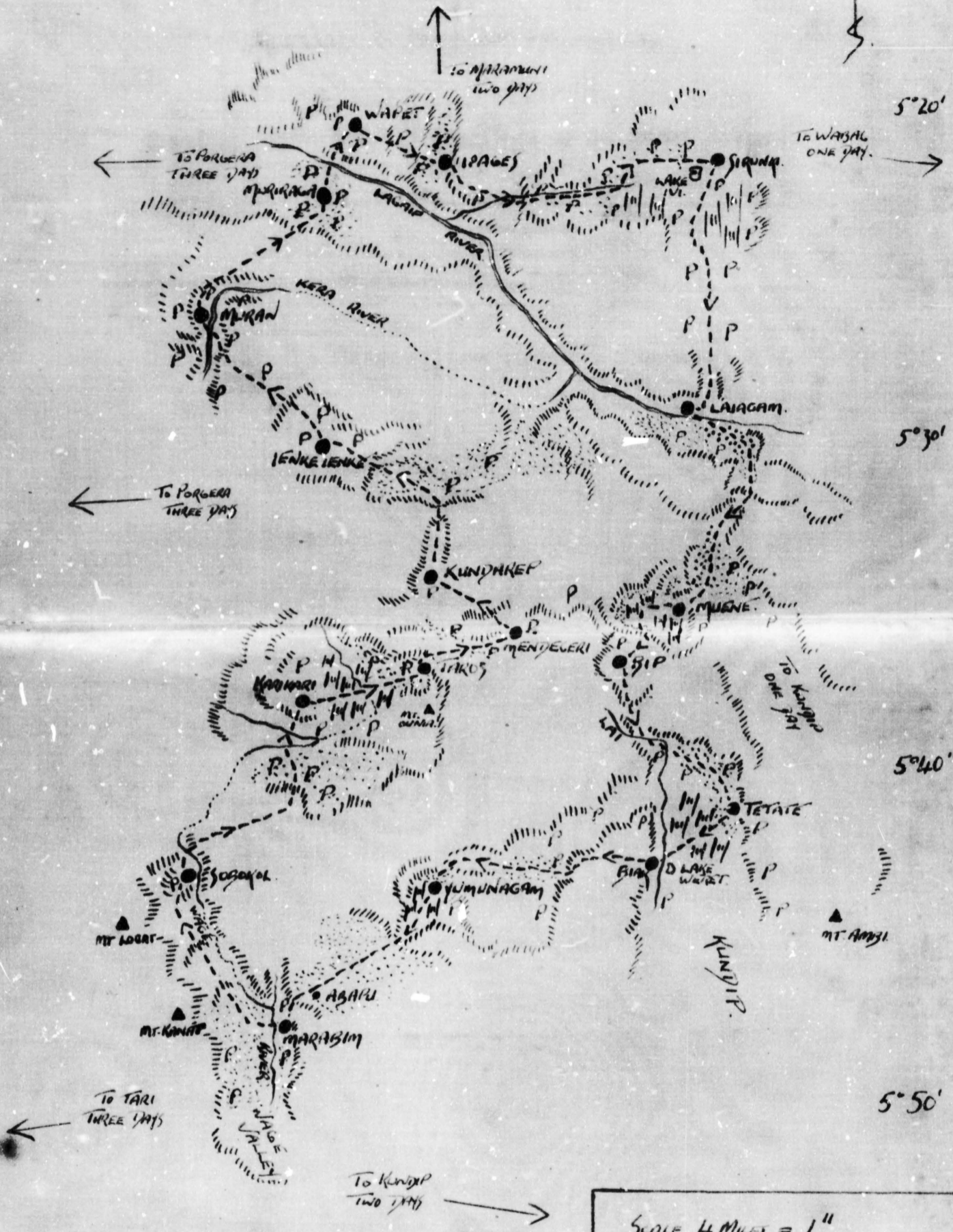
- = HILLS AND RANGES
- = SWAMP
- = POPULATION
- = CAMPS
- = APPROX POSITION RIVER
- = ROUTE TAKEN.

W.M.J. HUNTER P.O.
 AUGUST-SEPTEMBER
 1955

143°00'

143°10'

143°20'



5°20'

5°30'

5°40'

5°50'

SCALE 4 MILES = 1"

SKETCH MAP - KUNDIP; WAGE YUMBIS AND MURIRAGA AREAS.

LEGEND

- = HILLS AND RANGES
- = SWAMP
- = POPULATION
- = CAMPS
- = APPROX POSITION RIVER.
- = ROUTE TAKEN.

W.M.J. HUNTER, P.O.
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER
1955.

Territory Of Papua And New Guinea.

District Of :- Western Highlands - Wabag Sub-District

Report No.:- 2 of 1955-1956

Patrol Conducted By :- Mr.W.M.J.Hunter, Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled :- Kundip, Wage, Yumbis and Muriraga areas of the Laigam Patrol Post District.

Patrol Accompanied By:-
Europeans - Nil.
Natives - 7 Members R.P.&.N.G.C.
50 Carriers.

Duration :- 27th.August 1955 to the 16th September 1955.

Number of Days :- 21.

Did Medical Assistant Accompany :- No

Last Patrol To Area By D.N.A. :- No.1 of 1955-56 to Kundip and Yumbis Areas.

Medical :- Not Known.

Map Reference. Sketch Map Only

Objects Of Patrol.

- 1/ Capture Escaped prisoners.
2. Visit again the areas where fighting had recently taken place and attempt to apprehend those natives responsible for killings and woundings.
3. Investigate reports of unrest in the Muriraga area.

Introduction.

It was not intended on this patrol to visit the Wage Valley. The patrol set out to re-visit the scenes of recent fighting in order to show the inhabitants that the administration frowns upon this type of disorder and that offenders will be punished. When at the beginning of the Kundip region, however, two escaped prisoners were caught. Two more eluded the patrol and rumour had it that there was every chance that the men would go to the Wage for refuge.

Accordingly the patrol followed. From the Wage the track went to the Yumbis area, (Karikari and Taros) and thence onto the Base-Camps at Ienke'Ienke, Muriraga and Sirunki. A quiet, uneventful, interesting and occasionally arduous trip.

Diary

Saturday 27th. August. Departed Laiagam at 0715. Up and over the range immediately South of the station. Camping site reached at 1345. Houses had been already built for police and carriers. Heavy rain and thunder in the afternoon, did not prevent a sufficiency of food being brought in.

Sunday 28th. August. Left Muene at 0715 intending to go to the Big Ceremonial Ground and make camp. Arrived there at 0900 and found natives gone. Headed South therefore through rain-forest and emerged in a garden area at the head of the Kundip region. Large area of undulating and what later proved to be swampy country seen to the South-East. Camped at Tetate opposite a small valley, going in a South-West direction, which leads to the Wage Valley. Rain and Thunder in the afternoon. Food brought in enough.

Monday 29th. August. At Tetate. Looking for escaped prisoners. Word received that one policeman had been threatened by natives. Hurried to place and found natives had gone. Inhabitants told that the patrol would visit them on the morrow and would they please attend. Enough food bought at Tetate.

Tuesday 30th. August. Left Tetate at 0710. Through swamp to Biak the Ceremonial Ground of natives who had raised the argument yesterday. The majority had turned up and were severely chastised by words re the exhibition. An old man was found to have panicked at a strange line of men in the swamp and had raised the call to arms. No action was taken against this man. Heavy rain in the afternoon. A quantity of sugar-cane and Sweet-Potatoes bought.

Wednesday 31st August. Left Biak at 0710. Over range to the West and descended to valley seen before at Tetate. Crossed over and climbed a small hill and came to a small valley going in a South-West direction. Houses clustered at the head of this valley. Camped at Yumunagam at 1130. A hail shower in the afternoon. Some pellets $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. Enough food bought.

Thursday 1st September Headed down valley at 0655. Climbed for an hour then across a kunai and scattered bush plateau, descending into the Wage valley at 1115. The majority of the population found to have gone into the bush to eat

Diary Continued.

Thursday 1st September -- karuka. No indications that natives likely to appear.

Two men came in the afternoon to gather a little food to take back to the bush. Asked about escaped prisoners and denied all knowledge of same. Rice and meat issued to carriers. Thunder and rain in the afternoon.

Friday 2nd. September. Left Marabim at 0655. Across the Wage valley and climbed in a

West by North-West direction through bush for three hours. Arrived in a circular garden area at 1045 and camped. Natives gone into deep bush for Karuka. Rice and meat issued to carriers. Rain in the afternoon.

Saturday 3rd. September Left Sobokol at 0700. Crossed the Wage river then climbed through

bush for two and a half hours. Tilled ground crossed then Wage again crossed. Rough bridge made in $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour. Native bridge having been destroyed as fighting had been going on in the area beyond. Some small leeches encountered before coming to Karikari at the edge of the Yumbis area at 1500. Food brought in.

Sunday 4th September At Karikari investigating causes for fighting and looking for those

involved. Enough food brought in.

Monday 5th September. Left Karikari at 0730. Crossed a kunai plain, then swamp for a short

time-falling through once- arriving at Taros at 0900. Houses already prepared for police and carriers. People assembled and lectured on recent fighting. An old woman mistakenly takes me for a long lost son. Enough food brought in. A fine day.

Tuesday 6th September. At Taros. Police sent to find some natives involved in fighting

at Karikari. Succeeded in finding two. Enough food brought in.

Wednesday 7th September Left Taros at 0715. Through forest for an hour and a half.

Crossed a small valley and arrives at Mandegeri at 0930. Police report that natives from Paianka an area visited on the previous patrol had not returned to their homes. A similar state of affairs found to exist here. Those not involved brought in a small quantity of food. Word that a man responsible for a killing in the recent fighting is hiding nearby. Found and arrested.

Thursday 8th September Left Mandegeri at 0710. Through forest for an hour, reaching

gardens at 0830. Camped at Kundarep where houses for police and carriers already made. Enough food brought in. Very heavy rain at 1900.

Friday 9th. September. Left at 0710. Through forest for two hours. In a westerly direction

across a kunai plain then over a very bad track until gardens reached. Arrived Ienke'Ienke Base-Camp at 1130. Policeman on duty states men responsible for recent fighting in this area are at present deep in the bush eating Karuka. Decided to wait until a later date to try and capture them. Enough food bought. Gardens heavily frost-bitten here.

Saturday 10th September. Left Ienke'Ienke at 0715.

West and North-West for a mile through kunai. Entered forest and an hour and a half later emerged in some gardens. Into the bush again over a very bad track and descended to the Kera River. Crossed by a native suspension bridge and a

Diary Continued.

Saturday 10th. September 1955-- short steep climb to a hill-top where camp was made. Although noon sun brilliant air here found to be cold. Arrived at site at 1145. Potatoes in quantity purchased. Fine day/.

Sunday 11th. September. Left Muran at 0705. North-East for four hours through forest. Arrived on hill-top overlooking the Lagaip Valley and Muriraga Base-camp at 1100. Down to Muriraga arriving at 1200. Resting for the remainder of the day. People notified of talks set down for the morrow.

Monday 12th. September. Talked to assembled people from Muriraga and environs. Natives asked to help on the road at Ienke'Ienke. From volunteers four gangs were chosen. Each gang to stay one week on the road. The luluai was taken from office and a new one appointed temporarily.

Tuesday 13th. September. Left Muriraga at 0705. 45 minutes walk to the Lagaip River which is spanned here by an unstable suspension bridge. A half hour to Wapet Ceremonial Ground. . Camped and talked to the assembled people. Asked to go to Muriraga two days a week to help with camp work. Food bought. A fine day.

Wednesday 14th September. Left Wapet for Ipages at 0700. Arrived at camping site at 0830. An easy walk up a hill and across a small valley. Talked to assembled people who were asked to go to Muriraga two days a week to help with camp work. A very hot morning. A beautiful day. Food in plenty bought.

Thursday 15th. September. Left Ipages for Sirunki at 0650. In a South then East direction arriving Sirunki Base-Camp at 1110. Easy walking. A beautiful day, a trifle warm. Inspected camp and called at mission station. Food bought.

Friday 16th. September. Left Sirunki at 0710. Followed the main Laiagam-Wabag road arriving at Laiagam Patrol Post at 0950. A fine morning with a cold wind from the South-East.

Native Situation. It cannot be said that fighting is a dying art with the peoples in this district. It is still a common occurrence and is liable to break out at any time. The principle causes for fighting being- Land Disputes: Women: Dis-satisfaction at payment of pigs for 'Square-Back' of deceased clansmen and disputes over the ownership of Pandanus Trees growing in the wild bush.

At Yumunagaa a fight three months ago resulted in the death of one person. The cause of this fight was a woman. As this area is outside the influence of Laiagam Patrol Post and is very seldom visited no action was taken to apprehend the culprits. To my knowledge, no word of this fight had been reported at Laiagam.

Arriving at Karikari a month old fight was investigated. The facts are as follows:- Two men at the instigation of Kandiela went to the house - of a man

Native Situation Cont.

WAGANDA of Laribandi and stole two pigs which were tied close to the house. GIPA and Kainagali and the thieves are called then took the pigs to a house about a quarter of a mile away. When Waganda returned, he followed the tracks and demanded that his pigs be returned. He was told by the culprits that they did not consider IOGE a deceased relation had been sufficiently 'square-back' by Waganda's clan and any suggestion of returning the animals could not be entertained. Waganda told them that on three former occasions he had given pigs for the death of clansmen and was prepared to give them the smaller of the pigs this time. He wanted, however, his big sow returned. Again a negative reply whereupon three men living with Waganda MAMAKE, KARI and MINAPE went to GIPA and KAINAGALI and tried to gain the pig by force. A superior force awaited them as the Karikari men were not alone. A general call to arms was then issued and on two days fighting took place. The first days fighting resulted in one man POTARE of LARIBANDI being slightly wounded. The second day's fighting resulted in PIAGORE ANGU of KARIKARI being shot dead by WOKAPE of LARIBANDI, ~~WIM~~ of KARIKARI being seriously wounded by ULU of LARIBANDI and TOKO of KARIKARI being slightly wounded by an unknown person. Adding insult to injury WAGANDA was very slightly cut by an arrow. His large sow was found to have been killed and eaten.

That is the position at present. Nine natives out of a n unknown number were arrested. The rest running away and evading arrest on this occarion. OKAPE was arrested.

The natives in the Yumbis areas previously visited in August show no signs that fighting shall be renewed. This place was very quiet on this occasion. The headmen here say they intend going to work on the road at Ienke'Ienke. A most encouraging statement if based on honest intentions.

Fighting in the Kera river area was reported previous to the patrol's departure. The natives involved are still deep in the bush eating Karuka and no attempt was made to apprehend them.

Muriraga was found to be quiet, rumours of unrest being unfound on this occasion. It was found that the Iulual was not doing his work, the headmen followed his example and except for a very few natives, everyone else followed the headmen's example. The

Native Situation Cont.

policeman stationed there found the people most unco-operative and decided with the help of his interpreter that the natives were conspiring against him. There is some intrigue and deception going on in this district, but nothing could be found at this time indicating an active antipathy against the administration. It was suggested to the assembled people that they should help on the Ienke'Ienke road, and people from the North side of the Legaip river should come into the station at Muriraga and help there. I have been informed that four gangs of men were chosen from volunteers, to work on the road and that the first gang has already begun. A new man Wampi was selected to act as Luluai. The approval of this appointment and approval for the termination of Yaka is sought in separate correspondence. It cannot be effect/ said that these measures will have a permanently good/on these people. Time alone will erase and eradicate for ever the resistance to government and all it entails. A monthly visit to this area would be advisable; this along with an inspection of the work being carried out on the road plus some words of encouragement would, in my opinion, have as a result, a noticeable improvement in the native situation here.

Fighting reported at Tibinin and commented upon in Patrol Report 3 of 1954-55, could not be investigated on this patrol. It is regretted that a quick patrol in response to the headman's request for assistance could not be made. At Muriraga I was informed that 'Square-back' ceremonies were being conducted: no information re casualties was to hand.

In the Wage valley the people were found to have gone into the forest to eat Karuka. Reports of fighting recently completed could not be substantiated and as the food situation was poor the patrol could not prolong its visit in the area. Some natives from this area have since visited Laigam and Wabag stations for the first time.

This patrol a quick follow-up to that made in August has had in my estimation a sobering effect on the population. All natives responsible for killings and woundings were captured and in future quarrels natives will be very wary of following the leader as was not the case in recent brawls. Fights shall arise, if the number involved is

Native Situation Cont.

kept to a minimum an important stage in the development of these peoples will have been reached. The clan system being what it is in this district, in conjunction with an unimpaired instinct to fight, may prevent this from happening for some time to come.

Agriculture

The mound system is in use throughout the area. These mounds vary in size in each district. At Tetate at the beginning of the Kundip region the mounds were about 6ft.x 2ft. Gardens are dug at the edge of the swamp and deep ditches surround every place. Bushes, impenetrable in spots also enclose every plot. The average size of gardens here is about 50 yards square. Gardens were seen encroaching upon the hill-sides also. These vary in size. At Yumunagam the mounds were smaller about 5ft in diameter and 2 ft in depth. A patchwork of gardens bushes and trees gave the countryside here an almost English appearance. At Yumbis and Muran mounds of small dimensions were predominant. Whereas at Muriraga and Sirunki mounds 8ft.x 3 and 4 ft were seen.

Soil appears to be good in places, a deep black at Sobokel appearing to my layman's^{eyes} to be the best. Clay and sand type soils seen. Very little gravel and shale type soils were seen.

A European influence was observed in most places. English potatoes were always brought in. Some of these were of good size, a change from the small seeds which are eaten at Laiagam. Perhaps a new type seed introduced in this respect would improve the size of the vegetable. Peas - a little-, cabbages - a few-, sweet-corn-three-- a lot of sugar-cane and sweet-potatoes complete the picture. Large sweet-potatoes were brought in at Muriraga, Ipages and Sirunki. In the Kundip, Yumbis and Ienke'Ienke areas the small quantity purchased were of small and stunted growth.

Carriers. 50 carriers were obtained from local clans and put up a good performance. Trade goods in the form of knives and mirrors were paid them for their services.

Native Officials.

Luluai Kosiri accompanied the patrol and did valuable work. Yaka Luluai at Muriraga was removed from office and Wampi provisionally appointed in his stead. Yaka was found to be useless in every respect, the headmen and people under him reflecting this in their attitude to the policeman stationed at Muriraga. All headmen with two exceptions were removed from office. An experiment the value of which has still to be proved. Indications are that it is working well. Headmen in other areas are beginning to help with the task of capturing wanted men. One headman was shot, not seriously, whilst bringing to Laiagam two men wanted for shooting at the end of July. A difficulty arises here. Should headmen be encouraged to do this type of work and risk injury thereby, or should it be left entirely to policemen and luluais. If left to policemen and I might add Patrol Officers little success would be met with. If headmen are used the success percentage is appreciably higher. A moot point.

Missions. None in areas visited except of course in and around Laiagam and Sirunki.

Airfields. - No suitable sites seen on this patrol.

Rest-Houses. At Ienke Ienke, Muriraga and Sirunki. The latter is in an atrocious condition and was not used. The luluai was requested to build a new house. At Muriraga the roof leaks. In other places tents were used.

Roads and Terrain: - Mountains soaringly, rivers rushingly and muddily, forests despairingly and drippingly, plains flatly and swampily.

Tracks slippery and disappearing, tree-trunks smoothly and wet, tree-roots treacherously, kunai cuttingly, swamp suckingly.

The following brief description of each days track may be of some help to future officers.

Laiagam-Muene. A good track S.E. for 3 miles, up and over forest for 4 hours. Native localities and good track Muene. Distance walked 10 miles. Time taken 6½ hours.

Muene -

Roads and Terrain Cont.

Muene-Tetate. West then South over a kunai swamp arriving Bip Ceremonial ground after $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles walk. South-East into the forest for 12 hours. Travelled through kunai and gardens for 2 hours.

Distance walked 11 miles. Time taken $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Tetate-Biak. S.S.W. through swamp to garden areas.

Distance walked 3 miles. Time taken 2 hours.

Biak-Yumunagam. West for four miles through forest. Entered valley and crossed in a N.W. direction. Over into another small valley and Yumunagam below.

Distance walked 8 miles. Time taken 4 hours.

Yumunagam-Marabim. S.W. for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles then W. over one big hill and a large kunai plateau. Passed ABAPU at 0945. Entered forest at 1000 and descended slowly to Wage valley.

Distance walked 9 miles. Time taken $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Marabim-Sobokol: W. then N.W. across the Wage valley climbing all the time. Into forest for 2 hours descending into a small garden circular in shape: surrounded by large hills.

Distance walked 8 miles. Time taken $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Sobokol-Karikari. N. for $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile across the Wage by suspension bridge. Up a steep forest-clad hill. $\frac{1}{2}$ hours later descended to a large garden area. Crossed this and Wage again bridged. Delay of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour as bridge made. N. then N.E. through bush and Kunai.

Distance walked 10 miles. Time taken 7 hours.

Karikari-Taros. Across swamp and gardens in a N.E. direction. Crossed a small Wage and more swamp until gardens reached.

Distance walked $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Time taken $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Taros-Mandegeri. Forest for 2 hours. Cross a small valley, into forest and in a E.N.E. direction.

Distance walked 5 miles. Time taken $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Mandegeri-Kundarep. W.N.W. for an hour. Through kunai and gardens.

Distance walked $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Time taken $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Kundarep-Ienke'Ienke: Through bush in a N. direction for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours until kunai plateau reached thence W.N.W. into a stretch of forest possessing a very bad track. Across and down to the police-post over an improving track.

Distance walked 9 miles. Time taken $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Ienke'Ienke-Muran. W.N.W. over good track through kunai. Into forest track bad and came to large garden area. Crossed over into forest again and track obviously dis-used. Up and down until Kera river reached. Crossed by suspension bridge and climbed steeply to top of grass and Pandanus hill where camp made.

Distance walked 6 miles. Time taken 4 hours.

Muran-Muriraga. Over a bad track N. then N.E. through forest the whole time. Emerged 4 hours later on top of the Lagaip Valley. An hour through kunai and gardens until Muriraga Police-Post reached.

Distance walked 8 miles. Time taken 5 hours.

Roads and Terrain Cont.

Muriraga - Wapet Left in a N.N.E. direction and crossed the Lagair River by suspension bridge. Up hill for a short distance to a large garden area.

Distance walked 3 miles. Time taken $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Wapet - Ipages. In a N.N.E. then an E.N.E. direction. Through small bush tracts and across a small valley. A good track all the way.

Distance walked $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Time taken $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Ipages - Sirunki. S.E. then E. through bush and garden until large road reached. Very little work required to make this road suitable for motor traffic. Followed to Sirunki.

Distance walked 11 miles. Time taken $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Sirunki - Labram. Followed Wabag-Laiagam main road.

Distance walked 11 miles. Time taken $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours

All distances are approximate, times are to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.

Anthropology.

At Pumerak there is a waterfall which is very close to ABAPU a large stone which is where long ago a 'Sing-sing' was held by the animal life of the district. The dancing and singing went on all day and at last a halt was called for resting. Two dogs and a rat went for a drink. The rat went first and drinking: died. The first dog sniffing as it went came onto the rat. The scents appealed and shouted for, the dog coming behind hurried to the spot. The aroma proved much too hard to resist and they ate the rat. They returned to the fun at Abapu and gathering the other dogs together proposed that they eat all the other animals. The dogs then held a 'Sing-sing' for themselves excluding all the other kinds of animals. Towards dusk the dogs intimated to the other animals that they were now to be eaten. The others said, "Try it and see what happens. Birds can fly, cassowaries can run fast and small beasts can hide in the ground, and our numbers are greater than yours." The dogs thereupon seized as many of the animals as possible. A number escaped including two birds with long tails. (SIKAU). Worried that the dogs might seize their tails one of the Sikau placed a red berry in his anus and hid his tail behind a stick in the ground. The fight came upon this strange sight. Two Sikau escaping from the

Anthropology Cont.

They immediately saw what possibilities this had and as animals will, acted with the great speed cut off their own tails. The other removed the red berry from his anus and ran away laughing at the stupidity of the two mutilated birds. The two shouted after the joker "We'll see who shall laugh last. Man will never be able to catch us as we shall have to live in the ground. You having a long tail living in trees will be an easy mark and shall soon be caught".

The above small story was told with reluctance by an old man at Yumunagam. The stone and the place where the dancing and singing went on are about 8 miles from Yumunagam at the far edge of a large kunai plateau. Here a small stream disappears into the ground. Some arrows were seen sticking from a small hole and hand-prints from two women who witnessed the main events related were seen near the top of the stone.

The following short tale was heard at Tetate. 'A long time ago the sun did not come up in the morning. Everyone shut their doors and stayed inside. For three days they remained inside, but on the fourth day a man heard a bird singing "The sun is rising it is light now" They found that their gardens were covered with 'cloud' which they removed and began making new gardens.'

Cloud is the closest in pidgeon-English that could be obtained to what this substance might have been. Mist, snow, volcanic dust etc come readily to mind. This story is common to the Laiagam area and might have as its origin some natural disturbance.

The native dress is the same as elsewhere in this district and needs no further comment. It is interesting to note the European influence on the native dress. Belts hang loosely from the waist. Pieces of calico join with the many layers of bilum, tins are used for arm bangles where plaited bamboo or creeper once was worn. These tins usually occupy a position just above the elbow. Plastic whistles, rings and beads, dangle from necks, wrists and waists. Coloured paper is seized upon and attached to the hair. Blobs of cotton wool dangle from the sharp-pointed wooden nails placed in the hair. Colour is what the aesthetic mind of these people is crying out for.

Anthropology Cont.

At Sobokol two old women were wearing grass skirts which were able to cover completely the lower part of their bodies. The skirts were made of rough grass and in comparison with the svelte coastal product a poor product. The design, however, was more or less the same. Over into the Yumbis area, (Karikari and Taros) the Wabag style skirt is used.

At Sobokol a small house on four stilts about five feet high had been built to receive the body of a drowned pig. If unable to eat the bloated body the people bury the corpse in this manner. The house was in the style of one used to bury a man of Tari connections which I noticed recently in a trip to the Forgera area.

Appendix 'A' Report On R.P.&.N.G.C.

Appendix 'B' Health.



.....
W.M.J. Hunter, P.O.
Laiagam Patrol Post.

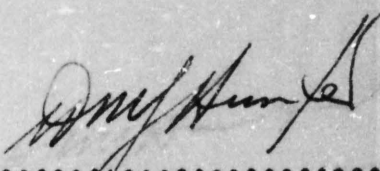
Appendix 'A'

Patrol Report No. 2 Laiagam 1955-1956.

Report On Members of The R.P.&N.G.C. Accompanying the Patrol.

No. 3380 L/Cpl. Naeopa.	A good policeman and impressed with his work.
No. 6844 Const. Samuel	Did good work. Reliable.
No. 8260 Const Tangu.	Did good work. Cheerful.
No. 8280 Const Topiso.	Did good work. Very quiet.
No. 8277 Const. Tijojo.	Did good work. Cheerful.
No. 7648 Const Torp.	Did good work. Alert.
No. 8266. Const Kidnou.	Did work. Needed prodding, accompanied patrol for 14 days.
No. 9167 Const. Samu.	Did work well. Cheerful. Accompanied patrol for 7 days.

The above remarks have been recorded in the members' Record of Service.


.....
W.M.J. Hunter, R.P.&N.G.C.
Laiagam Patrol Post.

Appendix 'B'

Patrol Report No.2 Laiagam 1955-1956

Report On Health in the Kundip, Yumbis, Wage and Muriraga Areas.

A few boils and cuts were the only apparent sicknesses seen. Coughs heard indicated that a survey for tuberculosis and similar type diseases would not be amiss. No epidemics were heard of, and as the writer is not qualified to discuss this subject nothing further will be said.

Aid-posts at Muriraga and Sirunki are patronised, no complaints re treatment received at these posts were heard.

It is not known if a medical patrol to this area has yet taken place.

[Handwritten Signature]
A. D.

.....



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of.....WESTERN HIGHLANDS..... Report No. LAI.3 of 1955-56.....

Patrol Conducted by.....K. Graham, Patrol Officer.....

Area Patrolled.....Porgera valley, portions of IBIGALS/MUSIRAGA and SIWUKI areas.....

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....Nil.....

Natives.....six native Constables
one native interpreter.

Duration—From.....23/.....1/1956.....to.....6...../.....2.....1956.....

Number of Days.....15.....

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....No.....

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services.....15/.....6...../1955.....

Medical Not known/19.....

Map Reference.....

- 1 1. To investigate reports of fighting in the Porgera area.
2. To organise, where possible, groups of native volunteer labour for work on the construction of the Laiagam airstrip and the Porgera road.
3. General Administration.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

12/3/1956

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 £.....

.....
.....
.....

pub

Birth In

XXX NA. 30-17-12

18th May, 1956

The District Commissioner,
Noumt Hagen.

PATROL REPORT. LAZ. 3- 1955/1956.

Receipt of the above Report is acknowledged.

My comments on Base Camps manned by Native Const-
abulary are that trials in the past were tried and
found wanting.. Married Police could not keep out
of bothe-, and out of local politics.

They have been officially disapproved and I would
need greater evidence than is shown, to vary that
decision, even in specified areas.

A.A. Roberts
(A.A. Roberts)
Director.

P/A
19/5

MICH

In

F

File WA.30-17-12

16th April, 1956.

The Director.

The question of police posts has again been raised by the A.D.O., Wabag, and supported by the District Commissioner, Mt. Hagen. Recognising the disadvantages of such posts, these officers recommend their use at least temporarily, in the Porgera area, under Laiagam P.F. control.

2. We certainly have not got the staff to do all we want to do, and the posting of police to the Porgera may get over this difficulty insofar as Hagen is concerned. Conditions as to their use may minimise, if not preclude, some of the disadvantages associated with such posts.

3. Patrol Report Laiagam No.3 refers.

1. These proposals arise from:
(F. P. Kaad)
1. shortage of Patrol Staff
2. Insufficient Patrol work by officers available
3. Lack of appreciation of their true worth.

2. Police manning of Base Camps was tried and found wanting in the past. Even married Police could not keep out of bother, and out of local politics.

3. They have been officially disapproved in the past and I would need greater evidence than is shown, to vary that decision, even for specified areas.

15/3

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

30/17/12 ✓

RIS:EH

File No. 30/1 - 1071



District Office,
MOUNT HAGEN.
Western Highlands.

15th March, 1956.

Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

PATROL REPORT-LAIAGAM No.3 of 1955/56

Mr. K. Graham, Patrol Officer, - Forgera, Muriraga -
Ibigais and Sirunki
areas.

Attached please find the above report, together with
a claim for camping allowance submitted by Mr. Graham and covering
comments submitted by the Assistant District Officer, Wabag.

DIARY:

Clearly outlines the movements of the patrol.

NATIVE SITUATION:

Forgera Area:

Mr. Graham's disappointment can be understood but
the extension of influence in such areas can be very gradual and
involve much exasperation on the part of the Officer entrusted with
the task. The answer lies in adequate Field Staff and constant
patrolling. Mr. Graham's exposition of the causes of the present
unrest will be of assistance to future patrols.

Perhaps the answer to these peoples contempt for prison
lies in making a term in prison a less attractive experience.

Muriraga: - Ibigais Area:

/result/

Here is the opposite side of the picture - the sudden
and unexpected/ of Administration influence which is so gratifying
to the Officer who has toiled, apparently in vain.

ROADS & BRIDGES:

Funds for the Laiagam - Maramuni road have been
included in the estimates submitted recently. Although this report
and attached map, do not directly indicate the fact, the proposed
Laiagam-Muriraga road would follow the general course of the
Lagamp River and would pass through well populated country. It is
intended to have all proposed road routes selected by the end of this
financial year so that construction can start as soon as next year's
funds become available.

H. GUNAM, Patrol Officer,
Lalagun Patrol Post, Wang Sub-District,
T.N.D.

1956
Feb

12 To carrying out Allowance.
Vide Report LAL No. 3 1955-56
Duration 27.1.56-4.2.56 - 14 days

21

- (a) carried
- (b) carried
- (c) carried
- (d) carried

14/-

15

I certify that the officer has actually camped out and that no provision exists within reasonable limits of travel & messing and/or that reasonable accommodation provided by the Administration was not available.

[Handwritten Signature]

.....

[Handwritten Signature]

15/56

AGRICULTURE and LIVESTOCK:

Plans for the extension of the potato crop into the high areas affected by frost have been discussed between A.D.O. Wabag and myself. If potato culture can be extended it could ~~be~~ alleviate these periodical near-famines. Improvement in the planting routine, of the District generally, has also been discussed with the District Agriculture Officer and a proposal submitted to the Superintendent of Stores and your Office.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS:

I agree that the premature appointment of such officials can do considerable damage and that concentration should be, in the first instance, on ascertaining who are the influential leaders, if any, amongst such independent types of people.

FORESTRY:

Funds have been requested for a renewed drive for re-afforestation in the District generally but this project can only go hand in hand with the extension of influence and control.

MISSIONS:

I support Mr. Graham's remarks and consider Mission entry into this area should not be permitted until Administration influence is well-established.

CENSUS:

Initial census should only be conducted in areas ready for it but, once this stage is reached, the earlier the census is taken the better.

MAP:

It would be appreciated if four prints of the well prepared map accompanying the report could be supplied, please.


COVERING COMMENTS - A.D.O. WABAG.

Your views on Mr. Robb's proposal that base camps manned by Native Constabulary be established would be appreciated. I am well aware of the dangers attached to this practice but with well selected police and adequate supervision these camps can be much good. It is safe to say that much of the early development of the Highlands, and other areas, resulted from this system and I agree that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

A request for the allocation of extra police for the District generally has already been lodged.

GENERAL:

Had Mr. Graham been able to remain longer in the Pongera area he would probably have achieved more visible results but, despite his disappointment, he has carried out a useful patrol the results of which will doubtless be felt by future patrols.


(R. I. SKINNER)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

File: 30 / 2 - 267.

Sub-District Office,
Western Highlands District,
W A B A G .

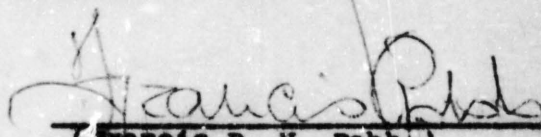
6th. March, 1956.

Memorandum to -

The District Commissioner,
Western Highlands District,
MOUNT HAGEN.

Subject: LAIAGAM PATROL N° 3 - 1955/56. PORGERA & MURIRAGA AREAS

1. Herewith enclosed please find copies of the above-mentioned Patrol Report, together with the relevant Sketch Maps.
2. Recent patrols to the Porgera area have taken place in June and July of 1955 and, with the present patrol, means that the main weight of the Laiagam patrolling has been given to this area. The writer agrees, with Mr. Graham, that such patrols have exerted little real influence, and that such closer contact will require to be maintained, preferably by the stationing at Laiagam of a second Officer, with the construction and intermittent occupancy of, a Patrol post in the Porgera. If the services of such an officer cannot be made available, then the next alternative would be to station two police constables in the area. It is appreciated that such a means of penetration is not favoured by head-quarters, however the fact remains that the disadvantages are far out-weighted by the disadvantages, and that the presence of police in the area would do much to break these people of their present quarrelsome habits. Whilst there would be a certain risk in such a step, it is considered that such would not be an undue one. The setting up of police posts, in this and other of the Laiagam areas, is the subject of a separate memo.
3. Whilst it is not desired that Administration effort be over-extended, and so become ineffective, it is considered that the Porgera area should not remain lawless; the below reasons being advanced in support of such a desire:-
 - a.) Minor European mining operations are, as yet, being carried on in the Porgera, with the consequent need to protect life and property.
 - b.) The Porgera lies athwart a native road to Tari, which road bears considerable traffic (native.)
 - c.) The area is adjacent to the Lagaip areas immediately below Laiagam and to the Marimuni and, having regard to the extensive intercourse between these areas, the lawlessness of the Porgera peoples cannot but have an adverse effect upon those who, themselves, are only just beginning to lose their own bad habits.
4. This patrol, as has past patrols, highlights the need for additional native police in the Sub-District. Laiagam, with a present strength of 16 police, could well do with an additional 9 constables.


(Francis P. V. Robb)
Assistant District Officer.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Laiagam Patrol Post
Wabaga Sub-District,
WESTERN HIGHLANDS DISTRICT

PATROL REPORT - LAI No. of 1955/56

REPORT OF A PATROL TO: The Porgera Area, portion of the Muriraga-Ibigais area and Sirunki area.

OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL: K. Graham, Patrol Officer.

OBJECT OF PATROL.

1. To investigate reports of fighting in the Porgera area.
2. To organise groups of native volunteer labour for the construction of the Porgera Road and the Laiagam Airstrip.
3. General Administration.

DURATION OF PATROL: 23/1/56 to 6/2/56 - 15 days.

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING:

3380	Cpl.	NABOPA
6844	Const.	SUMARA-KARI
7685	Const.	TONGE
8161	Const.	IPA
8260	Const.	TANGU
	Const.	KORIPEMA

Interpreter: PANDAN

INTRODUCTION

Although the Porgera area is largely outside the immediate sphere of activities of the Laiagam area, the recent fighting there showed a tendency to involve groups near Laiagam who are firmly under Government control, and the patrol was undertaken to prevent any such disruption.

As the highest rainfall months in this vicinity are January and February and there is a general food shortage throughout the whole area, the patrol could not be conducted as leisurely as would have been wished.

Advantage was taken on the return trip to organise volunteer labour groups for forthcoming work on the Laiagam airstrip and the construction of a road between Laiagam and the Porgera area.

DIARY

- Monday. 23rd January. Departed Laiagam Patrol Post 0815. Arrived IENKIENK rest house 1345 over wet track. Talks in afternoon and evening with local headmen. Potatoes brought.
- Tuesday. 24th January. Departed IENKIENK 0700 through kunai and rain forest to DORE 0545. Made camp, no natives or food, issued personnel meat and rice.
- Wednesday. 25th January. Departed DORE 0900, arrived and made camp PAIRAM 1640. Natives of place had left for food areas. Rice issued etc. Rain and showers all afternoon.
- Thursday. 26th January. At PAIRAM. Remained here to give carriers a much needed spell and medical attention. Headman and native's of PAIRAM appeared, bringing ample food for carriers. Rice issued other personnel. People co-operative and ascertained their views of recent fighting, etc. Rain all afternoon and night.
- Friday. 27th January. Departed PAIRAM 0820, departure delayed by rain, arrived MUNGAREP rest house 0945. Reports received that all KEWAI line had
 (a) Gone to the Paiela area on the approach of the patrol.
 (b) All had gone into hiding in the bush.
 Sent talk to all KEWAI to appear at their TUMBILAN ceremonial ground tomorrow. Some of this group brought a little food, but disappeared immediately they had been paid for it. A little food, insufficient for carriers bought. Meat and rice issued.
- Saturday 28th January. Departed MUNGAREP 0730, made camp TUMBILAN ceremonial ground 0930. Most people of this group and of PANDAN group discovered to be in hiding. No KEWAI people present. Three of the principle trouble makers came to camp and gave themselves up. A little food brought by other groups of the Porgera Valley. Heavy rain most of afternoon and throughout night.
- Sunday 29th January. Again word sent out to all KEWAI lines to appear - no response. Headman of Mungarep did not appear when required, four police to Mungarep to detain him. Three of four natives threatening to attack police apprehended. Talks etc., with other Porgera lines who came to the camp bringing food.

Monday 30th January.

At TUMBILAN. Surrounding bush combed, five natives of PANDAN group who had participated in fighting apprehended. Rain from 1100. Again a little food brought to eke out rice etc.

Tuesday 31st January.

Departed TUMBILAN 0640, arrived TIBININ 1130. Rest house inadequate, pitched camp. Heavy rain in afternoon, extremely little food brought. Talks with local people about previous fighting etc.

Wednesday 1st February.

Departed TIBININ 0610, arrived TUMANDAN 1340. Pitched camp, rain all afternoon. All inhabitants had shifted away to new food areas, no food brought.

Thursday 2nd February.

Departed TUMANDAN 0720, arrived KONAMAN 0950. Reports of intergroup friction investigated. Headmen all appeared, and groups of volunteer labour organised for airstrip and road works. Porgera prisoners sent on to Laiagam with some carriers, the latter to bring back further meat and rice. Little food available here.

Friday 3rd February.

Departed KONAMAN 0820, arrived ~~HEHE~~ MURIRAGA rest house 0920. Most of the people had departed down the Lagaip Valley where the Pandanus palms were bearing. Most of the headmen appeared, and further work groups organised. Food supplies arrived from Laiagam.

Saturday 4th February.

Departed Muriraga 0710, arrived IBIGALS 0950. Good rest house and quarters recently constructed. Talks with local headmen. Rain most of pm. A few minor disputes settled.

Sunday 5th February.

Departed IBIGALS 0710, arrived MURAPIN 1015 and made camp. No work in morning owing to presence of Lutheran service (native) in vicinity. Headmen assembled in afternoon and further work groups formed.

Monday 6th February.

Departed MURAPIN 0710, arrived LAIAGAM station 1030.

End of Diary.

NATIVE SITUATION.

Porgera Area.

The situation is most discouraging. Although a post was manned in the valley itself for some 12 months a few years ago, there is little to show for it at the present.

Patrols to the area have had little effect on the people, and inter-group fighting is a semi-permanent feature of the area. The last patrol here (vide P/R 3 of 54/55) had no sooner proceeded out of the valley when fighting was resumed. Fortunately this particular fight "died" without further fatalities.

Previous patrols have endeavored to apprehend the main culprits only, but as this has had no effect an attempt to apprehend all fight participants was made this time. The result was ludicrous. Eight only of the participants were arrested, the rest of the people were either hiding in the bush, or had migrated temporarily to the Paiela area, about two days west of the Porgera.

As is usual in this area, the recent fighting has ~~its~~ its roots in the distant past. Between 10 and twenty years ago, the PAILIAM groups and the YUNKWA (PUMAIN) group fought over some pig stealing. A man of another group ~~XXXX~~ ANGA joined with the PUMAIN's and was killed in a fight by the PAILIAM groups. PUMAIN subsequently offered to "buy" this man to the extent of 20 pigs. The ANGA's demanded more, but the PUMAIN's declared that as they hadn't killed the man themselves, the pay was ample. The ANGA's and the YUNKWA group of the PUMAIN's then fought.

During this fight a man from the KEWAI area allied himself with the ANGA's and was killed in battle.

About three months ago the PUMAIN's were preparing for the final payment of pigs for this KEWAI man they had killed some years before. They had the pigs collected together and were awaiting the KEWAI groups to come and accept them. However, the brother of the deceased man came to the PUMAIN's alone and requested payment personally, saying that he was considered a frubbish man' and he was certain he would not receive any payment for his brother's death if the rest of his group had anything to do with it. The PUMAIN's gave him a quantity of girrigirri and gold lip shell. Upon hearing of this transaction, the KEWAI groups of PANDAN and TUMBILAN were exceedingly irate and a party of six men (BOPI, MOPI, TIBIDIBI, PELOA, KIENTA and YENDAPA) raided a PUMAIN house and killed one PEKE of PUMAIN. MOBI and BOPI have been apprehended, the latter stating that YENDAPA was the actual killer.

Subsequently quite a large fight broke out in which AMBIPA of the PUMAIN group was killed. The person who actually killed him is apparently unknown to both sides.

It is suggested that the next patrol to this area should be made as soon as the food position has eased. Should this patrol have been assured of sufficient food, the PAIELA area would have been visited with the intention of apprehending more of the fighting group and more time would have been spent in the area generally. It is considered that on the next visit to the area all efforts should be made to apprehend the men of PANDAN and TUMBILAN groups of the KEWAI. These groups were mainly responsible for the fighting, although all the KEWAI groups were involved. To ensure ample supplies, MUNGAREP should be stocked and used as a base camp.

During enquiries into the fighting, it became apparent that the headman of MUNGAREP was involved to some degree. The patrol had left his place the previous day, and talk was sent back the short distance for him to appear. On his non-appearance, four police were despatched to locate him and escort him to the camp. Four natives of the MUNGAREP group blocked the walking tracks and sang out for their groups to 'come and fight the Government'. Although rarely anything ~~is~~ comes of such actions, it has previously led to incidents which could have taken an unpleasant turn, and three of the four natives were immediately apprehended.

The MUNGAREP headman had allied himself to some degree with the KEWAI's, but he contracted fever just prior before the patrol departed from the area and he was not brought to Laiagam.

During all this recent fighting, the PUMAIN group did not at any time attempt to retaliate, but retired from their land to a safer distance. Should this patrol not have arrived when it did however, it is almost certain that a further attack would have been made on them by the KEWAI groups. There was already an influx of people from the PAIELA area with this intention.

The prevention and suppression of fighting in the Porgera area is important, in that it safeguards people firmly under Administration influence, and people like the PUMAIN's who have no wish for further fighting, from being molested by the fighting groups of the more remote areas. It will be difficult without a patrol post in the immediate vicinity to adequately supervise these people's activities owing to the migratory habits of the population and their association with the PAIELA area, where fighting is reported to be almost continuous.

Their general contempt of Government influence generally is shown by their attitude to courts. The standing joke in this area is to advise an aggrieved party to "go and make a court". Their attitude to prison is much the same, and is illustrated by the alacrity the chief troublemakers present themselves to be taken into custody.

The results of this patrol, as far as the Porgera area is concerned, were most disappointing, except that its timely appearance prevented, or at least has postponed, further fighting between these groups. The fact that all participants are now known to be wanted and not merely the chief troublemakers may perhaps do something to lessen the fighting incidence, but it will take much more than this to quieten the area.

Muriraga/Ibigais area.

It was a pleasant surprise after seeing the Porgera area to note the great improvement in this area, even in the last few months. These people have always been troublesome and very reluctant to give up their old way of life. Their attitude at the moment is most encouraging. At IBIG AIS especially the change has been rapid. Previously this area chided other groups for co-operating with the Government and many local difficulties have been traced to this locality. Consequently it has received constant supervision and instruction by patrols and by day visits during this past 12 months. The people now may almost be termed enthusiastic. An excellent resthouse and police quarters have been constructed. The people are even showing willingness to participate with other groups in work programmes, previously sadly lacking.

It is considered that almost constant attention must be given the above area if progress is to be continued to the extent that ~~it~~ it falls into line with other areas in close proximity to the Laiagam Patrol Post.

Murapin (Sirunki Area)

This hamlet was visited because of reports of lack of co-operation by the luluai YAGOP (provisionally appointed) of the Sirunki area. These people are connected strongly with both SIRUNKI and IBIGAIS and misunderstandings have been common between the respective luluais.

After a certain amount of discussion, the people decided that their association with the Sirunki natives were stronger, and have accepted that luluai. Because of this dual relationship the people do not appear to be as united as other groups, and are a little more backward as a result.

ROADS & BRIDGES.

Owing to the extremely heavy rain, all the tracks, never good at the best of times, were deplorable.

After seeing all the routes to the Porgera from Laiagam it would appear that the most practical for a light traffic road is via Muriraga. Although the country is far less mountainous along the IENKIENK route, it is a longer distance, with no population for a great deal of the way. To construct a road it would be necessary to prepare road camps with great gardens for the workers, apart from overcoming their dislike of being so far away from their own ground. Through Muriraga however, the distance is relatively short, and there is ample population in close proximity. It is hoped that when work on the construction of the Laiagam airstrip has been completed, all available labour can be directed on the construction of this road. Work could be commenced simultaneously at Muriraga, Laiagam, Tibinin and perhaps at the Porgera itself. About two miles of road only have been completed near Laiagam, but with all labour concentrating on this road, it is estimated that it should not take more than twelve months to complete, if no further food shortages intervene.

Another road which could be of great assistance in opening up the area to the north is from Sirunki to Ibigais which can be extended into the Maramuni area. A road of sorts has already been constructed from Sirunki to I near Ibigais, and it should not take much work to make this into a light traffic road for this distance. From Ibigais, the Maramuni is only two days or so, and this route would appear to be the shortest and most practical. Again, labour will not be available until work on the Laiagam airstrip is completed.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK.

~~visited xxxxxxxx general food shortage throughout the area~~

There is a general food shortage throughout the area visited. Although a shortage is common at least once a year owing to the lack of planned planting, the frosts experienced here some few months ago aggravated the position considerably. If these people had not taken to planting a quantity of English potatoes there would be a severe famine. Even so, the food scarcity has caused the migration of at least 50% of the population to the IVI, WABAG and MARAMUNI areas in search of food. The gardens planted at present will not be ready for harvesting for at least 2-3 months.

held crops are common?

No request for food was made by the patrol, but the quantity that was brought in consisted mainly of potatoes in some small areas. In many places, the scarcity is exaggerated - the "hungry" usually refers only to the lack of sweet potato.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

The patrol was not accompanied by a Medical Orderly, but a reasonably stocked First Aid kit was carried.

The usual number of children suffering from pneumonia were encountered, and six of these were given penicillin injections.

On the whole the people appear in good health, even with their restricted diet at the moment.

REST HOUSES.

Rest houses are now present at IENKIENK, MUNGAREP, TIBININ, MURIRAGA and IBIGAIS. Apart from the old buildings at MUNGAREP and TIBININ, the buildings are a credit to the police constables who supervised their construction.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

The provisionally appointed officials in the IBIGAIS and MURIRAGA ~~XXXX~~ and the SIRUNKI areas are reasonably satisfactory considering the relatively short period they have been in office. Being such independant people, any luluai has a difficult task and it has been found that it is necessary to explain and substantiate the luluai's duties and position to the people constantly.

*Adons agree
a short time
to have
specimens
taken
about 1.*

An endeavour was made at the Porgera to select suitable headmen for the eventual appointing of luluais. However, owing to the lack of any supervision which would not be able to be given them for some time, it would be foolish to expect any improvement in the people's behaviour by arbitrarily appointing officials. As would apply also in the WAGE and KANDIP areas, provisionally appointing officials without constant supervision in the initial stages would merely bring about crimes and outrages in the name of the Government which would cause many administrative problems at a later date.

FORESTRY.

As usual, talks were given on re-afforestation. Although the Porgera people showed no interest whatsoever, the peoples nearer Laiagam and Sirunki who are beginning to appreciate their shortage of timber agreed 'something ought to be done about it'. However, it would be optimistic to expect the natives to carry out this work without guidance and a start has been made at Laiagam to stock the station land with as many trees as possible, to serve as an example and also to eventually supply young trees to any person who wants them.

CARRIERS.

Because of the nature of the patrol and of the uncertainty of obtaining carriers along the route owing to population shifts to food-bearing areas, all carriers obtained at Laiagam were retained for the whole trip.

After the first two days they carried well, and walking times were considerably reduced.

MISSIONS.

There are no Missions west of Laiagam, and even in the nearby MURIRAGA/IBIGALS area it is considered that the people must be more settled before Missions could safely and conveniently enter into this restricted area. *Has a separation been made by any mission to enter the area*

AIRFIELDS.

As no new ground was broken during the patrol, remarks regarding airstrip sites are those contained in previous reports, namely, no possible potential site.

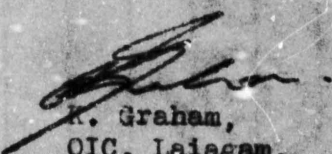
CENSUS.

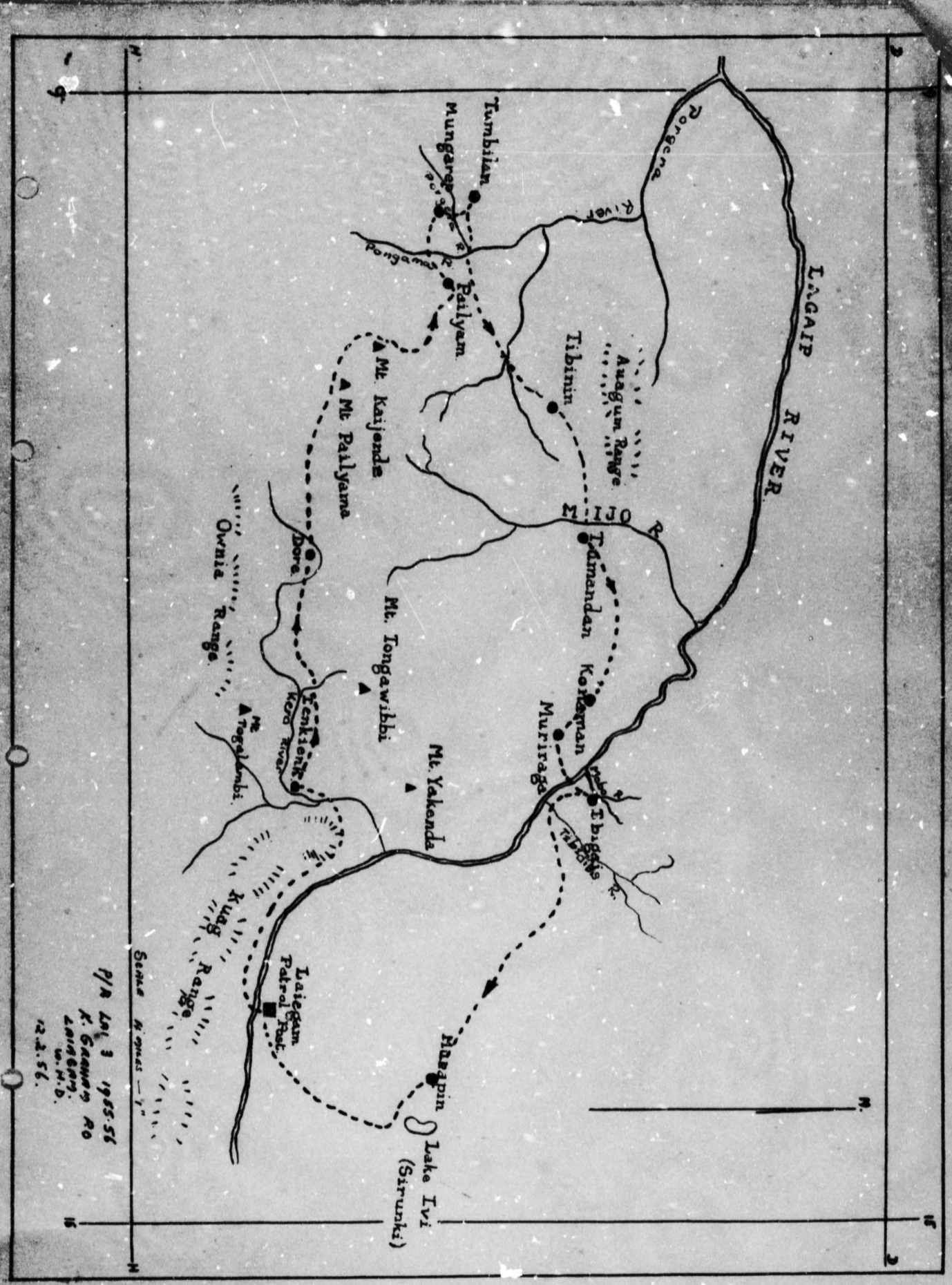
Of the groups visited, only MURAPIN has been censused. However it is considered that the Laiagam area itself is now at the stage where an initial census appears feasible, and this should be completed before the end of this year. The area to be censused will include the IBIGALS and MURIRAGA area, ~~YENKA~~ IENKIENK as well as other places east and south of the Government station.

It is considered that a satisfactory initial census of the Porgera area at present would be impossible, and that good results could only be obtained when these people are a little more settled. *Why?*

[Signature]
K. Graham
Patrol Officer.

- 3380 Cpl. NAEOPA. As usual, worked very conscientiously and conducted himself and Constables very well. His patrol experience and his knowledge of the local language are invaluable.
- 6844 Const. SUMARA-KARI. A quiet man with ability - a good worker.
- 7685 Const. TONGE This man is not his best on patrol, he works much better and more conscientiously when not under direct supervision. Reliable.
8161. Const. IPA Worked well. An individualist but accepts orders without question.
- 8260 Const. TAMGU. Perhaps not intelligent, but a good solid reliable constable. Always works well, and conducts himself perfectly.
- Const. KOBIPEMA. A policeman posted Laiagam for this patrol only. His work and conduct satisfactory, but has little ability, or experience, to handle primitive people.


R. Graham,
OIC. Laiagam.



P/R 101 3 1955-56
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 12.2.56.

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