

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: EAST SEPIK
STATION: MAY RIVER
VOLUME No: 4

ACCESSION No: 496.

1968 - 1969

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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EAST SEPIK DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1968-1969

MAY RIVER & PAGWI

<u>Report no.</u>	<u>Officer conducting patrol</u>	<u>Area patrolled</u>
<u>MAY RIVER</u>		
1-68-69	M.E. Tomlinson	Non council part Upper May, part central May C.D.
2-68-69	M.E. Tomlinson	Mianmin
3-68-69	M.E. Tomlinson	Inagri area
4-68-69	M.E. Tomlinson	Upper May C.D.
5-68-69	M.E. Tomlinson	Sepik May C.D.
6-68-69	D.H. Pennefather	Central May C.D.
<u>PAGWI</u>		
1-68-69	B.A. Besasparis	Gau council, consisting of Chambri Lakes Main river, Burui, Kunai & Sepik plains

H.Q.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

Report Number.....MAY RIVER NO. 1 of 1968-69.....

Subdistrict.....AMIMBARI.....

District.....EAST SEPIK.....

Type of Patrol.....SPECIAL.....

Patrol Conducted by.....M.E. Tomlinson, A.D.O.....

Area Patrolled } NON-JUDICIAL
 (Council and/or } PART UPPER MAY, PART CENTRAL MAY
 Census Division/s.) } CENSUS DIVISIONS

Personnel Accompanying Patrol

5 R.P.M.G.S. }
 2 O/B Motor Drivers }

Duration of Patrol—from 25./8./68 To 27./8./68

No. of Days.....TWO.....

Last D.D.A. Patrol to Area :.....1968.....

Date..... Duration.....

Objects of Patrol (Briefly)..... Investigate Reports Unrest WANIM area
 Collect Supreme Court Witnesses

Total Population of Area Patrolled.....

Director of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

Forwarded, please.

23/9/19 68

E.L. Hicks
District Commissioner

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Ref: 67-3-3

Department of District
Administration,

KONEDOBU. Papua.

2nd October, 19 68

The District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
WENAK

PATROL NO. MAY RIVER 1 of 1968/69

Your reference 67-1-13 dated 23rd September, 1968

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of

* Special/Annual/Census - Area Study/Situation Report by
M.E. TOMLINSON A.D.O. PART UPPER AND
CENTRAL MAY to
Census Divisions.

cc. Mr M.E. Tomlinson, A.D.O.
May River Patrol Post,
EAST SEPIK DISTRICT.

(W.E. DIBSON)
(T.W. ELLIS)
Director

* Delete as necessary.

67-1-13



District Office,
NEWAK,
East Sepik District

23rd September, 1968

Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
AMBUNTI.

PATROL REPORT NO. 1 OF 1968-69

Receipt is acknowledged of the above report submitted by
Mr. M.E. Tomlinson, Assistant District Officer.

It is suggested that some effort be made to bring the
WANIAM and AMU groups together with a view to holding a "peace
feast" for the purpose of abolishing their traditional enmity.

More frequent visits to May River Patrol Post by village
officials is to be encouraged for the purpose of explaining the
aims of the Administration - law and order, etc.

The sending of an individual Policeman to gather
witnesses in such areas is to cease, such instances could
easily provoke a nasty situation.

E. G. Hicks
E.G. HICKS
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

c.c. Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, PAPUA

For your information and records, please.

E. G. Hicks
E.G. HICKS
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

67-1-13

AMBUNTI,
East Sepik District.

16th September, 1968.

District Commissioner,
District Office,
W E W A Y

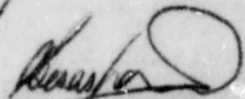
MAY RIVER PATROL REPORT NO. 1-1968/69

Attached are three copies of the above conducted by Mr. Tomlinson together with claim for camping out allowance.

Mr. Tomlinson is now in residence at May River and will be able to quickly take action should further incidents of this nature take place.

Due to the short duration of the patrol, no information of the situation was obtained other than that appearing in the report. I have no comments to add.

For your information and attention please/



(B.A. Besasparis)
Assistant District Commissioner

MAY RIVER PATROL NO.1 of 1968-69

PATROL DIARY

Sunday, 25th August

0700-0800 Preparations to proceed to WANIAM
 0800-0930 Proceeded with two power canoes and 5 R.P.&N.G.C. to WANIAM. Collected village officials etc.
 1015-1330 By canoe to AMU.
 1400-1600 Set up camp.
 1630 Contacted Ambunti by radio
 1630-1730 Discussions with AMU and WANIAM people regarding allegations made by WANIAMs.

Slept under canvas AMU

Monday, 26th August

0730-1030 Returned to WANIAM by canoe. Due to drop in stream level overnight logs across it required cutting.
 1100 One canoe sent back to May River, whilst other proceeded up May River to BURUMAI arriving 1400.
 1430 Canoe departed to AIMI to collect court witnesses. Returned 1715.

Slept Rest House BURUMAI

Tuesday, 27th August

0730-0945 Travelled back to May River Station.

END OF DIARY

(2)

MAY RIVER PATROL NO.1 of 1968-69

SPECIAL PATROL PART CENTRAL MAY AND UPPER MAY CENSUS DIVISIONS

1. Whilst on a recent visit to May River, Village officials from WANIAM reported to me making certain allegations against the people of AMU on the Ariap Creek. They claimed that some two weeks earlier an important man from both YEI and AMU had died and that AMU's had sent word to WANIAM saying that they considered that the WANIAM people had killed these men by sorcery. The WANIAMs claimed that AMU had sent word for WANIAM people to stay clear of the AMU area or they would be liable to be killed. It was claimed that some two days previously on 20th August, a man from WANIAM had been in his canoe on the Ariap Creek when he had been invited to come ashore by two AMU men. Fearing treachery he had fled. The following morning he and a relative had returned to the spot and discovered tracks of a number of men who had been in the bush at the edge of the creek. The WANIAM man immediately assumed that the AMU men had been trying to ambush him. Consequently the WANIAMs were afraid to venture individually to their scattered gardens.

2. In the light of recent events in the May River area it was decided that the allegations should be investigated as soon as possible. Ambunti was contacted in order to obtain Police reinforcements and supplies and on arrival of these the patrol proceeded to AMU via WANIAM on 26th August.

3. The male population of AMU, about eight men, and a number of WANIAM people were interviewed. As a result of investigations it was found that the WANIAM allegations were basically unfounded. It was true that a man from AMU had died, and this was born out by a fresh skull in the house at AMU and a new burial structure outside the house. The AMU people were upset at his death but appeared genuinely surprised at the WANIAM allegations that they had threatened that group. A meeting had occurred between an AMU man and some WANIAMs but as a result of being unable to speak each others language misunderstandings had occurred. A third person from another group had acted as an interpreter on this occasion and had misinterpreted what had been said, thus giving rise to WANIAM fears.

4. Both groups are traditional enemies. There appears to be a small amount of ill-feeling between the two groups concerning a long standing dispute over people from each group crossing their tribal boundary and trespassing in each others sago areas. The people of both groups were warned that the contention that the Administration had left the May River area was false, and that any attempts to settle old feuds by violence would be strongly dealt with. It is to be noted that recently the WANJUM people were responsible in making other false allegations, which resulted in a patrol making an abortive visit to their area.

5. After returning from WANJUM the patrol proceeded to BURUMAI to collect witnesses required for the Supreme Court at Ambunti. Previously Constable GIGIO of May River had gone to collect these witnesses from BURUMAI and AIMI. He successfully collected the BURUMAI witnesses but the AIMI witnesses, namely in the person of a woman refused to accompany him saying she would only come if the patrol officer came to collect her. The Policeman remonstrated with her until it was dark and then fearing to force the issue as the AIMI men present were armed, the Constable returned to May River.

6. The patrol obtained these witnesses without difficulty. The AIMI people were informed that when a Supreme Court Justice required their presence in Court they were obliged to appear regardless of their personal feelings, and failure to do so could result in their being prosecuted for contempt of court. They were also informed that in such a matter they were required to accompany a policeman.

M. B. Tomlinson

M. B. Tomlinson
Assistant District Officer

H.Q.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

Report Number..... MAX RIVER NO. 2 of 1968-69

Subdistrict..... ALIENANT

District..... EAST SEPTIC

Type of Patrol..... SPECIAL

Patrol Conducted by..... M. E. ROBINSON, ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER

Area Patrolled
(Council and/or
Census Division/s.) } MIARIE

Personnel Accompanying Patrol
..... A. B. P. M. G. O. O.
..... 1 O/B MOTOR DRIVER

Duration of Patrol—from 7./10./68..... To 11./10./68

No. of Days..... FIVE

Last D.D.A. Patrol to Area :..... MAX RIVER NO. 5 of 1967-68

Date..... APRIL, 1968..... Duration..... H. of ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Objects of Patrol (Briefly)..... TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED KILLING AND
..... REPORTED UNREST MIARIE AREA

Total Population of Area Patrolled..... 91

Director of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

Forwarded, please.

181 2419 64

E. G. Hupp
District Commissioner.

⑥
67-8-26

67-8-26

March 10th, 1969.

The District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
WEWAK.

PATROL NO. MAYRIVER 2/68-69

Your reference 67-1-13 of 19th February, 1969.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Special Report by MR. M.E. TOMLINSON, Assistant District Officer to Part Upper May Census Division.

Your comments adequately deal with the report.

c.c. Mr. M.E. Tomlinson,
Assistant District Officer,
Patrol Post,
MAYRIVER,
East Sepik District.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Director

Please note that political education must be a continuing process in all situations.

(T.W. ELLIS)
Director, District Administration

67-8-26
(5)

Reference: 67-1-13



District Office,
WEWAK,
East Sepik District.
19th February, 1969.

Assistant District Commissioner,
AMBUNTI.

MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 2 OF 1968/69

The original and one copy only was received at this District Headquarters which have now been forwarded to the Director; please forward a third copy for this office as is normal procedure.

Your covering memorandum 67-1-13/37-1-7 of the 3rd instant; refers to memoranda 37-1-7 attached, only one duplicate copy was attached, this has, been forwarded to the Director; please forward two copies to this office.

It is noted that neither the original or duplicate are signed by Mr. Tomlinson.

Surely these three factors should not have occurred, let alone the mis-spelling of Mr. Tomlinson's name.

Please instruct Mr. Tomlinson to sign all correspondence and reports personally.

It is requested that the person who signed under your name on your covering memorandum be instructed in correct mailing procedures, for patrol reports, e.g. number of copies, whether signed, correct spelling etc.

For your action, please.

E. G. Hicks
(E.G. HICKS).
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

10/3

→ c.c. The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, PAPUA.

For your information please.

E. G. Hicks
(E.G. HICKS).
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

67-1-13/37-1-7

AMBUNTI.
East Sepik District.
3rd February 1969.

4

The District Commissioner.
East Sepik District.
WISWAK.

MAY RIVER PATROL No.2 of 1968 - '69

Attached please find a report on the above patrol submitted by Mr. M. Thomlinson, O.I.C. May River.

Mr. Thomlinson had intended including the days recorded in this patrol report, with a report he was to submit on a routine patrol to the UPPER MAY Census Division on which he is now engaged, but in the interest of having days logged in patrol reports as quickly as possible I have had time to submit this report.

As an interim report I consider his memo 37-1-7, copies of which are attached to each copy of the report, to be adequate. As a result of this memo the man WAKINSEP has been arrested by a Telefunken patrol and is in remand at Ambunti awaiting Mr. Thomlinson's completed investigation report in the MIANMIN area.

Mr. Thomlinson was prevented from following up immediately on this matter because of his patrol to the Leonard-Schultz and April River areas during October and November.

The arrival of Mr. Thomlinson's patrol was timely and prevented a nasty situation from developing further.

For your information, please.

J.C. Corrigan
J.C. Corrigan.
Assistant District Commissioner.

3

MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 2 of 1960-61

SPECIAL PATROL MIAMIN AREA

PATROL DIARY

Monday, 7th October

0745 Contacted Ambunti by radio.
0745-0930 Preparations for short quick patrol to Miamin area to settle any impending unrest.
0940-1730 By double power canoe with 4 R.P.M.C.O. to first Miamin halet TULAUWI.
Interviewed man TOFUP re allegations against him.

Slept TULAUWI

Tuesday, 8th October

0800-1030 Travelled upstream to USAGE rest house. Much dragging of canoe over shallows and rapids.
Considerable time spent awaiting for people to arrive from gardens. Commenced preliminary investigations into alleged killing. Man sent to Sind Lalual and return him to the area.

Slept USAGE Rest House at WATADUNG

Wednesday, 9th October

Drizzling rain for good part of the day.
Continued investigation, witnesses interviewed and statements taken.
Matter causing nasty mounting of patrol settled satisfactorily - 2 men convicted in local Court under Reg. 65 N.A.R.
Assembled people told to bring any disputes or grievances to the Administration where they could be settled by the Courts instead of resorting to killing and fighting to settle such disputes. General discussions with people.

Slept WATADUNG

Thursday, 10th October

1200 Messenger returned without Lalual who refused to come. Obvious he will have to be apprehended and this patrol had not the equipment or time for a chase, as arrangements have been made and dates set for commencement of patrol to the April River area in conjunction with Carpentaria Explorations. On completion of Ambunti Patrol will return to complete investigation. Local Court convened and one further man convicted under Reg. 65 N.A.R.
1315-1615 Travelled downstream by canoe to BURUMAI.

Slept Rest House BURUMAI

Friday, 11th October

0800-1030 Travelled to May River in heavy rain.
Patrol stood down.

END OF DIARY

(COPY)

374-7

Patrol Post,
MAY RIVER,
East Sepik District

10th October, 1969.

Assistant District Commissioner,
AMBUU.

UNREST MIAMBIN AREA

As the result of reports of impending trouble in the Miambin area following the recent homicide there, a short patrol was mounted to this area to investigate these reports. By the time the patrol arrived in the area, the situation had settled down.

2. As the result of investigations the following appears to have taken place. While a man WAKINSEP was absent working as a plantation labourer his wife TOROBO gave birth to a child. Lulual YESSIN of USAGE alleged that a man TOFUP was the father of this child, but he denied it. When WAKINSEP arrived home he demanded that TOFUP's wife WAKSEP should have sexual intercourse with him as compensation for TOFUP's alleged adultery. This demand was supported by the Lulual who is a relative of WAKINSEP's. The woman was unwilling to accede to these demands. TOFUP was away at work and some of his relatives ordered WAKSEP to go with WAKINSEP so that WAKINSEP would not become more upset. As a result of this WAKSEP went with WAKINSEP for three days before he released her. Some days later, about 13th September, WAKINSEP is alleged to have killed his wife and the small child. He then warned all people in the area against reporting the killing and then fled to the Telefomin area. Later when TOFUP returned home, his wife told him what had happened and becoming angry picked up his axe and bows and arrows threatening to fight his relations who were responsible for sending his wife to WAKINSEP. He was stopped by a number of men who convinced him that they would get the "Kia" to come and settle the matter without fighting. He finally agreed to do this provided that it was settled quickly.

3. Three men were convicted in the Local Court under Regulation 85 N.S.P.S. The people were informed of the laws etc. relating to adultery and inducing people to have sexual intercourse without their consent and that these matters could be settled without fighting and killing. The people appeared to be satisfied with this.

4. Investigations were also begun in regard to the alleged killing of WAKINSEP's wife. Statements were taken from witnesses, alleging that WAKINSEP had admitted to killing his wife and warned the people against reporting the killing. There to have been no witnesses. Lulual YESSIN is most likely to have some information concerning the killing, but he and three other men who lived in the vicinity, fled with WAKINSEP fearing they may have been involved. Some two weeks before, the mutilated body of an unidentified Miambin woman was taken from the May River near IUMHAI and at that time statements were taken. There was nobody available to identify the body and at that stage it was decomposed enough to be almost beyond recognition. It has been alleged that the small child of TOROBO has been killed but to date there has been no evidence of this.

(1)

5. WAKINSAP is believed to be at TEMSAPIN in the Telefomin Sub-District, being some five days walk away from where the USAGE people are at present living. It is suggested that the Assistant District Commissioner, Telefomin, be asked to assist in approaching him.

6. The Luluai is believed to be at a place about 1 - 2 days walk from USAGE and refused to come in and see the patrol. As I was due to be at Ambunti to start a patrol there, the patrol had no time to chase him up. It is proposed to conclude this investigation on completion of the Ambunti Patrol, when a census patrol is due in the Upper May Census Division, and when more time can be devoted to following up reluctant witnesses etc.

7. For your information please.

Signed

H. E. Tomlinson
Officer in Charge



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

Report Number.....MAY RIVER NO. 3 OF 1968-69.....

Subdistrict.....ALIMUTI.....

District.....EAST SUPRU.....

Type of Patrol.....SPECIAL.....

Patrol Conducted by.....M. F. ROBINSON, ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.....

Area Patrolled } INAGRI AREA

(Council and/or

Census Division/s.) } CENTRAL MAY CENSUS DIVISION

Personnel Accompanying Patrol } 2 R.P.M.S. }
.....
.....
.....

Duration of Patrol—from 20 / 1 / 69 To 22 / 1 / 69

No. of Days.....THREE.....

Last D.D.A. Patrol to Area :.....FEBRUARY, 1968, H. of ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.....

Date.....FEBRUARY, 1968.....Duration.....

Objects of Patrol (Briefly).....POLICE INVESTIGATION.....
.....
.....

Total Population of Area Patrolled.....55.....

Director of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

Forwarded, please.

/ /19

B. Keen

W District Commissioner.

J.

When re-ordering quote Ref. No. 568

SPEEDIMEMO

YELLOW COPY — ORIGINATORS FOLLOW UP COPY
WHITE & PINK COPIES TO RECIPIENT

To DISADM KONE at KONE DOBU
Subject Patrol Reports Date 1.5.69

Attached please find
Patrol Reports as follows.

MAY RIVER 3 - 1968/69 - 67.8.42.

" " 4 - 1968/69 - 67.8.39

AMBUNTI 5 - 1968/69 - 67.8.40

These reports were not posted
with their covering memoranda
due to error

PLEASE REPLY TO → Signed

BK Leman
D/C

REPLY HERE →

Date

Signed

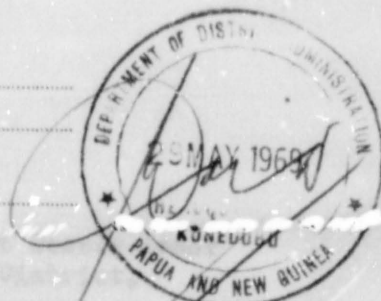
REMOVE PART TWO
SEND PARTS ONE AND THREE WITH CARBON INTACT
PART ONE WILL BE RETURNED



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-8-42

Telephone
Telegrams
Our Reference
If calling ask for
Mr.



Reference: 67-1-13

Department of District Administration,
District Office,
WEWAK,
East Sepik District.

22nd May, 1969.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, PAPUA.

A

MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 3 OF 1968/69

Your 67-8-42 dated 15th May, 1969, refers.

I regret that a copy of the Assistant District Commissioner's,
Ambunti, memorandum was not forwarded to you with the Patrol Report.

This is now attached for your information.

BK Leen

(B. K. LEEN)
A/DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

13/

67-1-13

⑥

AMBUNTI,
East Sepik District.
12th April, 1969.

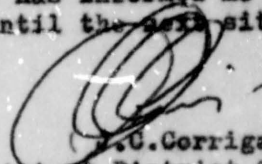
The District Commissioner
East Sepik District,
WEWAK

REPORT OF MAY RIVER PATROL NO 3 OF 1968/69

Attached please find 3 copies of the above report.

The patrol was uneventful and succeeded in its objective. A man Araguinga of SAMO has been committed for trial before the Supreme Court on a charge of manslaughter and is in custody AMBUNTI. All witnesses in the case are also waiting AMBUNTI as it is considered they may abscond if allowed to return to the village. Unfortunately as the Supreme Court Circuit for Madang and Sepik is heavily overloaded with twenty five matters for attention, the Crown Prosecutor has informed me the matter will have to be held over until the next sittings.

For your information, please.


(J.C. Corrigan)
Assistant District Commissioner

c.c. OIC MAY RIVER.

13/5

67-8-42

67-1-13
Department of District Administration
District Office,
KOROR,
East Sepik District.

May 15th, 1969.

The District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
KOROR.

PATROL NO. MAY RIVER 3/68-69

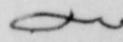
Your reference 67-1-13 of 22nd April, 1969.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Special Report
by Mr. M.E. TOMLINSON, Assistant District Officer to Part of
Central May Census Division.

Report indicates that object of patrol was successfully
carried out.

Copy of memorandum from the Assistant District Commis-
sioner, Ambunti was not received. Same is required, please.

c.c. Mr. M.E. Tomlinson,
Assistant District Officer,
May River Patrol Post,
East Sepik District.


(T.W. HALLIS)
Director

Please note that political education must be a continuing
process in all situations with the emphasis on the advantages of
national unity.

82
13/

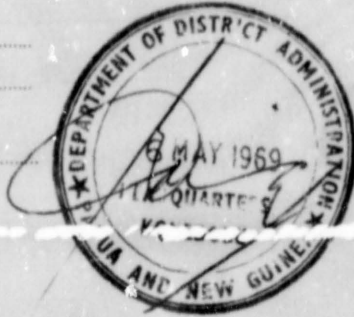
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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67.8.42. 3

Telephone
Telegrams
Our Reference
If calling ask for
Mr.



Ref: 67-1-13
Department of District Administration,
District Office,
WEWAK,
East Sepik District.
22nd April, 1969.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, Papua.

May River Patrol No.3 of 1968/69
Mr. A.D.O. TOMLINSON

Two copies of the above report are forwarded, together with copy of memorandum 67-1-13 dated 12th April, 1969 from Assistant District Commissioner, AMBUNTI.

2. The report is self explanatory and requires no other comment except that there will be delay in the hearing of the manslaughter charge ARAGUAINGA SUAINGA. I am therefore contacting the Assistant District Commissioner AMBUNTI to find out how many witnesses in the above case are being held at Ambunti and to ascertain if they could be released on recognizance as I do not feel that the native situation is improved by keeping people for months away from their villages.

B.K. Leen

(B. K. Leen)

A/District Commissioner.

5

c.c. The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
AMBUNTI.

c.c. The Assistant District Officer,
Patrol Post,
MAY RIVER.

02
132

67.8.42 (2)

MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 3 of 1966-69

SPECIAL PATROL INAGRI AREA



PATROL DIARY

Monday, 20th January

0740-0830 Departed with 2 R.P.M.G.C. from May River and travelled to IABREI by power canoe.
0830-0835 Transferred cargo etc. to small native canoes.
0855-1325 Paddled up NAMIAP Creek to SAMO stopping frequently to cut way through obstructing logs etc.
1330-1400 Walked uphill to SAMO hamlet. Suspect in INAGRI killing found in the vicinity.
Afternoon cargo carried up from creek and camp set up.
1530-1630 Interviewed suspect and took statement from him.

Slept under canvas SAMO

Tuesday, 21st January

0745-1015 Walked to INAGRI over swampy track, much of it being underwater following overnight rain.
1015-1345 At INAGRI carried out investigation into death of child. Interviewed witnesses and took statements. Was shown house where incident occurred and body of the dead child.
1345-1600 Returned to SAMO. Track in places waist deep under water as floodwaters had receded from higher ground to the lower reaches of the NAMIAP Creek.

Slept SAMO Camp

Wednesday, 22nd January

0720-0740 Walked down from SAMO to canoes on NAMIAP Creek. Loaded and launched canoes.
0755-1010 Paddled downstream to IABREI on the May River.
1010-1030 Paid off paddlers etc.
1030-1115 Travelled by power canoe to May River station. Patrol stood down and man later charged with manslaughter.

END OF DIARY

①

SPECIAL PATROL NO.3 of 1968-69

SPECIAL PATROL

1. This short patrol was mounted with the express purpose of conducting a police investigation following a report that a small child had been killed by an arrow at INAGRI in the Central May Census Division.
2. It appears that on about the 27th December, 1968, an INAGRI man in a fit of temper or chagrin fired an arrow into the air at a house some distance away and uphill from him. Unluckily for him the arrow went through a small hole between two slabs of bark in the wall of this house and entered the skull of a small child who was being nursed by his mother inside. A number of witnesses saw the arrow strike the child and can connect a particular man with the firing of the arrow. The accused man admits to firing the arrow but contends that the child died a considerable time after, from an illness not connected with the shooting of the arrow. However during the course of investigations the smoked body of the dead child was examined and was found to have holes in the skull consistent with those that would be made by an arrow of the type banded to the patrol if it passed right through the skull as contended. There are also a number of witnesses to testify to the fact that the child died only a few days after the incident occurred. Reasons for the initial firing of the arrow conflict and none of them have been substantiated.
3. An INAGRI man ARAGUAINGA SUAINGA has been charged with the unlawful killing of female child WANHA AGARINGA, and will be forwarded to Ashanti as soon as possible for Court proceedings.
4. The native situation following the incident appears to be satisfactory. The child's mother is actually somewhat upset and its father is absent working as a plantation labourer. However the community in general appears to be harbouring no thoughts of avenging the death and have stated that they are satisfied if the Administration handles the matter.
5. Interpretation difficulties will be somewhat amplified in any Court proceedings as the accused man is the only pigpi speaker in the INAGRI area. Men from along the May River can converse to some of the INAGRI people in a common trade dialect, but some of the witnesses do not understand this dialect and extra interpreters will be required.

M. E. Tomlinson

M. E. Tomlinson
Assistant District Officer



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

Report Number..... MAY RIVER NO.4 OF 1968-69

Subdistrict..... AMBUNTI

District..... EAST SEPIK

Type of Patrol..... ANNUAL CENSUS

Patrol Conducted by..... M.E.TOMLINSON, ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER

Area Patrolled..... UPPER MAY CENSUS DIVISION

(Council and/or

Census Division/s.)

Personnel Accompanying Patrol

4 R.P.&N.G.C.

1 HOSPITAL ORDERLY

1 O.B. MOTOR DRIVER

Duration of Patrol—from 3 / 2 / 69 To 12 / 2 / 69, 26/2/69 to 1/3/69

No. of Days..... FOURTEEN

Last D.D.A. Patrol Area :..... MAY RIVER NO.5 OF 1967-68

Date..... FEBRUARY, 1968 Duration..... H. of ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Objects of Patrol (Briefly)..... (1) CENSUS (2) COMPLETE MURDER INVESTIGATION

MIANMIN AREA (3) ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION

Total Population of Area Patrolled..... 811

Director of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

Forwarded, please.

/ /19

M. E. Tomlinson

J. W. ...

ms
26/0/69

B. K. ...

A/ District Commissioner.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67.8.39 (18)

Telephone

Our Reference.....
If calling ask for

Mr.....



Department of District Administration,
District Office,
WEWAK,
East Sepik District.

29th May, 1969.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBUBU, PAPUA.

(17) MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 4 1968/69 (16)

Your 67-8-39 dated 20th May, 1969, refers.

I regret the oversight in not forwarding a copy of the Assistant District Commissioner's memorandum 67-1-13 dated 14th April, 1969, and same is now attached.

I have taken this up with the District Office clerical staff and assure you that these omissions will be rectified immediately.

BK Leen
(B. K. LEEN)
A/DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

5

Handwritten notes:
at the
m
10/7

67-8-39

20th May, 1969.

District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
WEWAK.

PATROL NO. MAY RIVER 4/69.69.

Your reference 67-1-13 of 22nd April, 1969.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Annual Census Report by Mr. M.E. Tomlinson, Assistant District Officer, to UPPER MAY Census Division.

An informative report which indicates that Administration influence is increasing and steadily expanding, leading to more settled conditions in the area.

It is pleasing to note that the murder investigations were successfully concluded and that there does not appear to be any repercussions from these two incidents.

The possibilities of introducing large scale economic development seem to be slim. However, the purchase of COPAL gum should be instituted if it proves to be a feasible operation.

For the present I consider that no moves should be made to introduce a Council into the area until such time as a viable cash crop economy can be successfully implemented.

Copy of memorandum from the Assistant District Commissioner, Ambunti, was not received. Same is required, please.

ow

(T.W. ELLIS)
Director.

c.c.
Mr. M.E. Tomlinson,
Assistant District Officer,
Patrol Post,
MAY RIVER. East Sepik District.

Please note that political education must be a continuing process in all situations with the emphasis on the advantages of national unity.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67. 8. 39 (15)

Telephone
Telegrams
Our Reference
If calling ask for
Mr.



Ref: 67-1-13
Department of District Administration,
District Office,
WEWAK,
East Sepik District.
22nd April, 1969.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, Papua.

May River Report No.4 of 1968/69
Mr. M. E. Tomlinson, A.D.O.

Attached please :-

- (a) Original and one copy of report.
- (b) Copy of memorandum 67-1-13 dated 14th April, 1969 from Assistant District Commissioner, AMBUNTI.
- (c) Map of the area patrolled.

- 2. This is a most interesting report submitted by Mr. Tomlinson. I will contact D.A.S.F. Wewak, regarding purchase of COPAL gum from the May River area.
- 3. Sun prints of the map will be made from this office and returned to May River.
- 4. With regard to the establishment of a Local Government Council in the May River area I feel that the O.I.C. should forward to me an economical development programme for his area and I will consult with the District Rural Development Officer at Wewak and see if we can come up with some answers.

ms
15/5

BK Leen
(B. K. Leen)
A/District Commissioner.

c.c. The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
AMEUNTI.

The Assistant District Officer,
Patrol Post,
MAY RIVER.

37-1-1

AMBUNTI
East Sepik District.

14th April 1969.

District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,

REPORT OF MAY RIVER PATROL NO.4 OF 1968/69

Attached please find Area Survey, Situation Report and a single copy of a map. Could Headquarters arrange for sun-prints of the map please.

The report was routine and shows the situation has changed very little from Mr Maume's last patrol in 1968 except that the ITELINU people as a result of earlier patrols and return of repatriated labourers show a better attitude. A man from Miamin is at present in custody AMBUNTI on committal before the Supreme Court on a charge of wilful murder.


I am not entirely in agreement with Mr Tomlinson's remarks on Local Government and whilst the more outlying villages perhaps should be excluded, regular attendance on a bi-monthly basis at meetings of a council would do much to further understanding of the Administration aims even though the Council were to operate solely on Continuing Grants. It would also serve as a catalyst for whatever economic development is possible within the area as the voice of a Council seems to produce some action where other departmental efforts have failed. If May River is to be maintained as a permanent posting for a DDA field officer then I am in favour of establishment of a Council. A survey has already been completed and processed as far as Headquarters.

Economic development in the Upper May C/D will not increase until it has done so in the more advanced parts of the May River Area. If, and it is still a matter of great uncertainty, the people closer to the station in the other divisions engage in rice production (which seems the only possible prospect) then perhaps the Upper May people will follow their example.

Mr Tomlinson's remarks re SORIMIN are noted. Your 1-6-3 of 25th March may be relevant here re LOWELL THOMAS.

The patrol was efficiently conducted and has continued the administrative pattern set for the Division.

For your information, please.

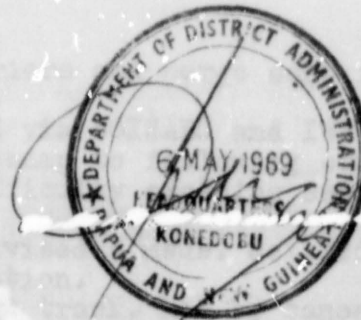

Assistant District Commissioner

67.8.39 (14)

MAY RIVER PATROL NO.4 OF 1968-69

UPPER MAY CENSUS DIVISION

ANNUAL CENSUS



PATROL DIARY

Monday, 3rd February

0800 Departed May River by power canoe (2 hulls) with 4 R.P.&N.G.C., 1 Hospital Orderly and cargo etc.
 1130 Arrived ARAI on the May River and there made arrangements for obtaining carriers from ARAI and BURUMAI.
 1200-1400 Entered the Left May (ARAI) River and travelled upstream until progress barred by large tree across the stream. Progress of double canoe made possible by high level of the river.
 1400-1545 Cutting through and finding way past obstacle.
 1545-1600 Travelled further upstream to camp site near NIMO known as TOGI some few minutes downstream from old WATABUNG camp at stream junction.
 1600-1715 Set up camp.

Slept Rest House TOGI

Tuesday, 4th February

Heavy rain overnight caused river to rise further and all walking tracks in the area inundated by floodwaters. As carriers had not arrived by 1000 decided to census AUGOT people who had moved from there previous hamlet inland to SARI on the banks of the Left May.
 1010-1045 By motor canoe passed WATABUNG camp (under water) up right hand branch to SARI. Progress impeded by logs across the stream.
 1100-1400 At SARI censused AUGOT people. Recorded 30 new names bringing total population to 57. Discussions and general talks with people.
 1400-1430 Proceeded back to camp.
 1500-1615 Did census statistics and other book work.

Slept under canvas TOGI

Wednesday, 5th February

0820-0920 By motor canoe up Left May past SARI as normal track to DIDIPAS under water. Due to height of the river was able to proceed further upstream than normal. Cargo and carriers put ashore and canoe returned for remainder of carriers.
 1000-1130 Walked to first DIDIPAS hamlet over wet swampy track and then up into hills. 1200-1230 crossed valley to YASU hamlet where the DIDIPAS people had gathered for census.
 1300-1600 Carried out census of DIDIPAS. Few women and children absent. General discussions with people. Encouraged to bring complaints, problems, ill people etc. to May River.
 1500 Remainder of carriers and cargo arrived and camp set up.
 1600-1630 Did census statistics.
 Heavy rain late afternoon and night.

Slept under canvas DIDIPAS

13

Thursday, 6th February

0830 Departed DIDIPAS - most of carriers and cargo sent direct to WATABUNG and thence to TOGI camp.
Self, 2 Police, 6 carriers to WASUAI via BOISARU and IWEWE hamlets. Track varied from mud and swamp to following courses of streams and then mountains. Some difficulty crossing swollen main stream. Arrived WASUAI 1230.
1330-1600 After wait for carriers revised census. Settled 2 minor disputes over sago rights by arbitration.
1600-1700 Walked to WATABUNG over wet track. Met by canoe and returned to camp at 1730.

Slept under canvas TOGI

Friday, 7th February

0830-0915 By outboard to SARI. Drop in river level made ~~trip~~ made progress slow in order to dodge logs appearing above surface.
1000-1130 Walked to NAUKWI-AMASU over short stretch of swamp and then steep climb to mountain top. Canoe returned for remaining carriers.
1200-1400 Revised census of NAUKWI-AMASU and had discussions with people. Remainder of cargo arrived during census and camp set up.
1430-1600 Did census statistics for NAUKWI-AMASU and WASUAI.

Slept under canvas NAUKWI-AMASU

Saturday, 8th February

0800-1300 Walked W.N.W. to Left May then followed this upstream in N.W. direction to ITELINU area.
1300-1400 At ITELINU met IMO, labourer and interpreter from May River and Luluai of AGRAME who had been sent ahead to warn people of the patrol's arrival. Good reception.
1400-1530 Camp set up in drizzling rain. Census put off till next day as all people had not arrived.

Slept under canvas ITELINU

Sunday, 9th February

0800-1100 Revised census of ITELINU. Discussions with people. Told representative group from AUGOT, DIDIPAS, NAUKWI-AMASU and ITELINU that enmity and distrust between the two language groups should now cease. All agreed.
1100-1600 Walked downstream along ~~May~~ Left May to SARI, where motor canoe was waiting.
1600-1630 Paid off local carriers.
1630-1730 By canoe back to camp.

Slept under canvas TOGI

Monday, 10th February

Waited for people of NIMO-ABOYEMO to assemble. Did ITELINU census statistics.
1015-1115 Revised census of NIMO-ABOYEMO and did statistics.
1130-1300 Downstream by outboard to ARAI on May River.
Set up camp and paid off carriers.

Slept Rest House ARAI

Tuesday, 11th February

0900-1100 Revised census at ARAI.
Discussions with people re economic enterprises and general topics. 1100-1200 Completed census statistics.
1215-1300 By motor canoe to BURUMAI
1400-1430 Revised census of small UNANI group and did statistics.
Afternoon work commenced on construction of new canoe for May River station. Drizzling rain throughout afternoon.

Slept Rest House BURUMAI

Wednesday, 12th February

0800-1000 Revised census of BURUMAI. Discussions with people.
1000-1100 Completed census statistics.
1100-1530 Supervised construction of canoe by ARAI and BURUMAI people. Canoe launched with remainder of work to be completed at May River.
1600-1845 By motor canoe back to May River in order to appear for Supreme Court at Ambunti.

Wednesday, 26th February

0700-0810 Preparations for departure from May River.
0810-1235 By motor canoe to BURUMAI accompanied by 3 R.P.&N.G.C. and 1 Hospital Orderly, 6 carriers.
At BURUMAI word sent for UNANI people to meet patrol at YUWAITIRI.
1245-1400 Proceeded upstream to site on the banks of the May River in vicinity of AIMI and YUWAITIRI. Picked up interpreter en route.
1400-1600 Set up camp and sent word for AIMI and YUWAITIRI to appear for census in the morning.

Slept under canvas ABENI

Thursday, 27th February

Waited until people of AIMI, YUWAITIRI and UNANI arrived.
1000-1130 Revised census of AIMI and YUWAITIRI.
Settled dispute by arbitration between UNANI and YUWAITIRI over custody of a child.
1145-1500 By outboard to TUMAUIWI at beginning of MIANMIN area. At TUMAUIWI learnt that most of MIANMIN (USAGE) people were at present living in garden sites near TUMAUIWI and not in their usual hamlets at the WATABUNG (junction of USAGE, May and Right May Rivers). Also learnt Luluai YESSIN wanted as witness in connection with killing in September had returned from Telefomin area.
1530 2 Police and others sent to apprehend YESSIN at the WATABUNG and returned with him at 1845.
1530-1630 Camp set up.

Slept Rest House TUMAUIWI

Friday, 28th February

0930-1130 Revised census of USAGE.
1130-1330 Discussions with people re law and order, political and economic development etc.
1400-1600 Completed all census statistics.

Slept Rest House TUMAUIWI

(11)

Saturday, 1st March

0830-1130 Heard 3 Local Court Cases - 2 convictions adultery
 1 conviction Reg. 85 N.A.R.S.
 Completed murder investigation following killing in
 September.. further discussions with people.
 1145-1715 By outboard to May River with brief stops at
 BURUMAI, ARAI, TABREM and AUMI to arrange for collection of
 court witnesses etc.
 1730 Patrol stood down.

END OF DIARY

10

MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 4 OF 1968-69

UPPER MAY CENSUS DIVISION

SITUATION REPORT

POLITICAL

1. The Upper May Census Division consists of the people of ARAI and BURUMAI on the May River (part of the UWAM group which was responsible for the Yellow River massacre and the setting up of the May River Post in 1956) contacted in the late 1950's, part of the MIANMIN group living along the May River near the Telefomin border and contacted in 1958 following the massacre of the small village of SUWAINA, and the small scattered bush groups living inland from the May and along the Left May River contacted between 1963 and 1966.
2. In spite of the political education campaign which proceeded the last House of Assembly Elections and the elections themselves, little is understood of the House of Assembly and its workings. People had no personal knowledge of candidates and in general appear to have had no idea of what they were ~~voting for~~ voting for. Mr. NAUWI SAUINAMBI the member for the Ambunti-Yangoru Electorate is at present visiting the May River area and hopes to visit these more remote places at a later date. It will require a considerable period of political education and a closer association of these people with tangible results achieved through the House of Assembly, before they come to a greater understanding of the House and its functions.
3. The people of the Left May River have no comprehension whatsoever of Local Government. Those from the MIANMIN, BURUMAI and ARAI, who have had men working away in coastal areas for some years have a superficial knowledge of Local Government. They are generally opposed to it on the grounds that it involves paying tax and that they could not afford to pay tax as they have no source of income. This of course is a perfectly valid argument for this area.
4. Local and internal politics have much more significance to these people than do the matters mentioned in the above paragraphs. The NIMO-ABOYEMO, AUGOT, WASUAI, DIDIPAS and NAUKWI-AMASU groups of the Left May have ceased to fight among themselves and carry out attacks on the May River people in recent years. They now no longer fear attacks from the warlike MIANMIN which have not occurred for about 10 years and general social intercourse is carried on between groups. People have been encouraged to use the walking track to May River when trouble etc. arises, as they now no longer need to travel through enemy territory, but to date little or no use has been made of this.
5. However a barrier still exists between the above groups of the Left May and the ITELINU group in the headwaters of the Left May. This group belongs to a different language to those others mentioned and has been avoided by them as the general belief is that any encroachment on ITELINU land would be met by armed retaliation. The ITELINU group avoided contact with the last patrol to the area in 1967, but friendly contact was established before the patrol left the area. Since that time a

number of young men from all the Left May villages have returned from plantations where they had made friends with some of the men from ITELINU. However the older people are still distrustful. Representatives of all the Left May groups accompanied the patrol to ITELINU and all were informed that enmity must cease. All present agreed and on the surface a friendly atmosphere prevailed. It is hoped that this attitude continues and that all remaining barriers will soon cease to exist.

ECONOMIC

6. Cash cropping is non-existent in the area patrolled. Sago is the staple diet of people living along the May and Left May Rivers, while the MIANMIN people who are mountain dwellers and grow extensive gardens, live on taro as the staple. Diets are supplemented by fish, wild pig, cassowary, possum, fruit, berries etc. and cultivated crops such as sugar, bananas etc.

7. During 1968 an Agricultural Officer visited ARAI and BURUMAI and found that at ARAI there was no suitable land for agricultural purposes, while at BURUMAI rice could possibly be grown. The people are keen generally, along the May River, to find ways of establishing a cash economy. However in relation to rice growing etc. technical knowledge is required in the planting and management of these crops and it is necessary that D.A.S.F. staff be used to train the people in these skills. The MIANMIN people were informed by this present patrol that D.A.S.F. was interested in purchasing copal gum from them as trees required for this gum are common in their area. It is hoped the people will avail themselves of this opportunity as they will be paid 5c per lb for this gum provided it is clean.

8. Economic development is restricted in this area due to the fact that much of the area is swamp and unsuitable for agriculture, while the more favoured mountainous areas are too far removed from markets and communication facilities are negligible. Any activities such as rice growing could only be minimal, giving only a small cash income to growers. Such products would have to be conveyed to May River by paddle canoe and then the 160 river miles to Ambunti by Administration transport, where it would be purchased by D.A.S.F. Another problem necessary to be overcome also is the natural propensity of most people in the area to become lethargic, when it is realised that such schemes require hard work.

9. At present the only cash brought into the Upper May area is that earned by labour working on plantations generally, only returning home after an absence of two years. An almost negligible amount has also been paid for crocodile skins. Although generally the area appears to be unsuitable for a cash economy, every effort should be made to establish what little economic enterprises that the area can support.

SOCIAL

Health

10. Many minor ailments were dealt with by the Hospital orderly accompanying the patrol. The majority of these consisted of scabies, which was widely spread, ulcers, malaria, cuts and scratches etc. No cases of a more serious nature were found which would require treatment at Ambunti or elsewhere. Generally people are pleased with medical treatment when patrols visit their area, but little or no effort is made to bring sick people the long distance to May River for medical treatment. During

8

November, 1968 an unknown illness swept the MIANMIN area causing a number of deaths on the Telefomin side of the border and also causing two deaths in the May River section of the MIANMIN.

Law and Order

11. During the past twelve months two killings occurred in the Upper May Census Division. A man from the small village of AIMI was convicted in the Supreme Court in 1968 for the wilful murder of a man in a family squabble. In the other incident a MIANMIN man returned home from working on a plantation, and finding that his wife had been unfaithful, is alleged to have killed her. The investigation commenced in October and dealt with by May River Patrol Report No.2 of 1968-69, was completed by this patrol, and the man has been committed for trial on a charge of wilful murder. The other incidents arising from this killing and dealt with by the abovementioned patrol report were also concluded satisfactorily.

12. While in the MIANMIN area, it was reported to the patrol that a rumour had gone round the area purporting that Local Government Councils had passed laws advocating free love and that men could have sexual relations with any woman they chose. This rumour was brought to the area by a ~~YAN~~ MIANMIN youth who claimed that he had heard the story from a P.I.R. Patrol which had passed through the May River area in November, 1967. As a result a woman admitted to her husband that she had committed adultery a number of times because she believed it was now the law, while he was absent at work. The irate husband brought the matter to the attention of the patrol. Court action was taken where necessary and people were advised not to believe the rumour. They were also advised of the laws pertaining to adultery, prostitution and any retaliation arising from these. The situation appears now to be satisfactory, though it is believed that the men are keeping their womenfolk pretty much under the thumb, and village elders are only allowing single men to go away to work.

13. The people of the Upper May Census Division have a healthy respect for the Administration and consider it basically a law enforcement agency, particularly in relation to serious crimes ~~xx~~ such as murder and inter tribal fighting. This is because in the past this has been the Administration's main function in this area. It is an opinion that offences of a lesser nature are never brought to the Administration's notice unless a patrol happens to be in the area at the time these incidents occur.

Other

14. There are no schools or missions operating in the Upper May area.

MISCELLANEOUS

15. While in the MIANMIN area the patrol was able to confirm the rumour that there is an uncontacted group known as SORIMIN on one of the tributaries of the Right May River. This group was previously an enemy of the MIANMIN but until recently they have had no contact with them since the ceasing of fighting in 1959, when most of the MIANMIN male population was arrested for their attack on SUWAINA. It is proposed to mount a patrol into this area when the round of May River Census patrols are completed, later in the year.

MAY RIVER PATROL NO.4 OF 1968-69

UPPER MAY CENSUS DIVISION

AREA STUDY

(A) INTRODUCTION

(a) The Upper May Census Division is bordered in the south by mountains rising to over 7,000 feet along the border with the Telefomin Administrative Area and in the west by mountains running along the border of the Green River Administrative Area. The May River rises in the mountains to the south, and after leaving the mountains flows northward through foothill country and then through a vast expanse of swamp to the Sepik River. The Left May and Right May Rivers flow from the mountains in the west into the May. The climate in the area is hot and humid with cooler night temperatures in the higher country. Rainfall is in the vicinity of 200 inches per annum. The predominant vegetation is swamp in the valleys of the May and Left May Rivers and their tributaries where they flow through foothill country, while the foothills and mountains are covered in dense forest.

(b) The census division can only be reached by water from the May River Patrol Post, generally by canoe. Navigability by motor canoes in the upper reaches of these rivers depends on river levels which are subject to sharp rises and falls, depending on rain, at all stages of the year. May River itself is situated 160 river miles from the sub-district headquarters at Ambunti and can be reached by Administration trawlers, except when the Sepik is too low during dry periods of the year. May River is now serviced by a float plane fortnightly, but this plane only carries a pay load of 500 lbs.

(c) ARAI and BURUMAI villages on the May River were contacted in the middle and late fifties when the station was set up at May River following the Yellow River Massacre in 1956. The MIANMIN group in the far south of the census division were contacted in 1958-59 when most of the male population were arrested and sentenced to gaol terms in Wewak for their part in an attack on the small inland May River village of SUWAINA, when the entire population with the exception of a few children were massacred. The small scattered bush communities along the Left May and inland from the May were contacted between 1963 and 1966 and have only had more regular patrols since 1965. Administration influence is fairly strong throughout the area, ~~though~~ ^{and} the Administration is considered to be mainly a law enforcement agency.

B) POPULATION-DISTRIBUTION AND TRENDS

(a) Latest village population register forms are attached. It is some 18 months since the last census was carried out in this area and due to the primitive nature of most people and their inability to give reliable information regarding child deaths over this period, no neo-natal mortality rate figures have been obtained.

(b) All the Left May villages are linked by tracks. These tracks generally follow the lower country which is either swamp or follows stream beds and become impassible when the rivers are swollen. An almost unused track links this area to May River station and they are also linked by bush tracks to the May River at ARAI and BURUMAI. The small settlements of AIMI, UNANI and YUWAITIRI are also linked to BURUMAI by tracks. The walking track from the MIANMIN area peters out some distance upstream from BURUMAI and the rest of the trip to May River has to be completed by the canoe. The MIANMINS, which are basically mountain people are now beginning to use canoes, which ~~have~~ they have obtained from the people further down the May. The ARAI and BURUMAI people rely almost solely on canoes for movement.

(c) At the time of the census 20% of adult males were absent, most of them working on coastal plantations. During the last month absentees have increased to about 30% as men from the area are now working with mineral prospecting companies operating in areas from the Frieda River to the August River in the May River, Telefomin and Green River Administrative areas. Over the past six months many of labourers have been repatriated to the Upper May area and absentee figures till then were probably much higher than those mentioned above.

(C) SOCIAL GROUPINGS

(a) There are at least twelve distinct component social groups in the Upper May Census Division and these correspond to the census units listed.

(b) The operational social unit is the extended family.

(c) There are four main language groups in the area. These consist of the MIANMIN, which extends into the Telefomin Sub-District; the UWAM, which extends along the lower reaches of the May River and along the Sepik of which ARAI and BURUMAI belong; the inland villages west of the May River and along the Left May, with a dialectic change between NAUKWI-AMASU and the rest of these groups; and the language ~~gr~~ used by the ITELINU group, which is related to the almost uncontacted groups along the Green River Border towards the ~~XXXX~~ Waniap May Census Division.

(d) Friendly relations now exist between most social groups, with the exception of ITELINU and the other groups of the Left May, see para.5 of the Situation Report. In the past ~~of~~ a number of alliances occurred and though warfare has ceased these still form the basis for the carrying out of other social obligations. The two sub-groups of the MIANMIN listed as USAGE (an abandoned hamlet name) allied with the Telefomin section of the MIANMIN to raid inland villages on both sides of the May River and on other groups well down in the Telefomin area. This group have always had a considerable reputation as fighting men. Most of the Left May groups and other inland groups such as AIMI, UNANI and YUWAITIRI combined at different times to fight the UWAM group along the May, and also the NAUKWI-AMASU and ITELINU people. ARAI and BURUMAI are an integral part of the UWAM group, but ~~were~~ ~~as~~ did not take part in the Yellow River Massacre which was carried out by only one section of the group.

(e) Relationships with groups outside the division are as described above in relation to the MIANMIN and UWAM groups. The NAUKWI-AMASU and ITELINU groups previously fought individually with groups of the Waniap May Census Division but now occasionally visit each other.

(5)

(B) LEADERSHIP

(a) Groups in the Upper May are generally small and fragmented and do not have overall leaders. Leadership appears to be confined to the elder men in each extended family and when decisions ~~made~~ concerning the group as a whole are required, these are usually made by a number of elders. Leadership of families is not inherited, but appears to be obtained through a person's force of personality. A man with a very forceful personality may hold influence over families in the group, other than his own.

(b) One man who has influence over his whole group is the elderly TETEMAP from the MIANMIN area. This man led the MIANMIN raid on the village of SUWAINA about 1959, when the small village was wiped out. Following this he spent 4 years in gaol in WEWAK. He later was sent back to WEWAK for medical treatment. Now he is a staunch Administration supporter but leaves the running of routine village affairs to the younger men. In matters of importance he is still the most influential voice in the area.

(c) In all the Upper May groups the older men generally are influential and are feared and respected by the others in the community. However most routine matters are left for the more active younger men to handle. This includes duties of village officials.

(E) LAND TENURE AND USE

(a) Land is owned communally by each group and members of the group have hunting, fishing and food gathering and all usufructary rights over that land. Cultivated gardens and individual cultivated plants belong to individuals and are passed from father to son. This also applies to land on which gardens are cultivated.

(b) There are no individuals who hold land on Lease from the Administration.

(c) There is no cash cropping in the area. Coconuts which are planted as a supplement to the diet and not as an economic crop are usually owned individually.

(F) LITERACY

(a) There are no schools of any type in the area surveyed.

(b) There are no literate adults.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) There are 2 children from USAGE attending a mission school in the Telefomin area, while 1 child from ARAI is attending the S.D.A. Primary School at Ambunti.

(e) A number of men at USAGE and NAUKWI-AMASU have purchased radio receivers before returning from the coast recently. However when the batteries become exhausted little or no effort is made to replace them due to lack of cash and the distance from the closest trade store at the May River Station.

(G) STANDARD OF LIVING

(a) Housing is all traditional and sanitation though

primitive is adequate for the types of communities involved. Articles of European clothing are worn in conjunction with traditional clothing, particularly among the men. Most UWAM men now wear European type clothing as the traditional custom was for men to go naked, while the traditional form of dress for the MIANMIN and people of the Left May is the penis gourd. Steel axes and bush knives are common, while some spades ~~knives~~ are used to supplement digging sticks for cultivation. Cooking utensils and sago making implements are generally traditional although in some instances European type utensils are used. European type goods increase somewhat each time labourers return home from plantations.

(b) Sago is the staple diet for people living along the May and Left May Rivers. It is supplemented by fish, meat of wild pigs, cassowaries etc., cultivated crops such as bananas, sugar cane and the like. The staple diet of the MIANMIN people, who are basically mountain people and plant large gardens is taro, with the other supplements mentioned above. Canned foods are rarely used at home.

(c) Not applicable.

(H) MISSIONS

There are no missions or mission influence in the area surveyed.

(I) NON-INDIGENES

Not applicable

(J) COMMUNICATIONS

There are no roads, shipping facilities or airstrips in the area surveyed. The terrain is unsuitable to road building and is not economically warranted except in the event of deposits of exploitable minerals being found. Surveys have been carried out in the past, endeavouring to find a suitable airstrip site within easy access to May River, without success. It is possible that such sites may exist on the Telefomin side of the District Border.

(K) TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL SKILL

HAUSA-SORINA ~~ixxtine~~ from ARAI is the only man of this category from the area surveyed. He has been trained as a Hospital Orderly and is in charge of the Aid Post at May River.

(L) THE STAGE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

There is little or no political development in this area. Attitudes to the Administration are favourable. Comprehension of the machinery of government is practically negligible. The MIANMIN, ARAI and BURUMAI areas have now experienced two House of Assembly Elections, while electoral patrols passed through the other areas during the 1968 elections. In spite of political education campaigns virtually nothing is understood about the House of Assembly and the reasons why the elections were held. This will continue to be the case unless people can be shown that the House of Assembly personally affects them. There is no Local Government Council in the area. The society is still generally fragmented. No people have been away from the area as observers to conferences or suchlike.

3

(M) THE ECONOMY OF THE AREA

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) Cash earnings by wage labour are all earned outside the area surveyed. Based on the figures of absent workers at the time of the recent census (i.e. 20% of adult males) the total earnings would be in the vicinity of \$2,500¹², but this is spent almost in its entirety, before workers return, with little cash actually finding its way into the home area.
- (f) Not applicable.
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h) There are 4 Savings Bank Accounts held in the area under survey with a total current balance of approximately \$7.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (j) From the foregoing it can be seen that the only form of income is that earned by absentee labourers. This would give an average income of a little over \$5 per head per year. However these figures are not realistic as cash earnings are generally only received by a small percentage of the population and these earnings are generally spent away from the area surveyed. For all intents and purposes the average man at home has little or mostly no cash.
- (k) There are no marketing facilities for the area, except those provided by traders at May River and along the Seik by traders buying crocodile skins. Very few crocodile skins come from the Upper May as they appear only in small numbers and have generally been only small skins, the people consider it not worthwhile taking them to May River. If any cash cropping enterprises were commenced produce would have to be purchased by the Administration and transported away from the area via Ambunti as transport costs would be prohibitive to growers.

(N) POSSIBILITIES OF EXPANDING THE ECONOMY

- (a) There is little arable land along the rivers, where swamp prevails. However there may be more arable land on the foothills and mountains. Soils here would be no doubt considerably leached out due to the high rainfall experienced in the area.
- (b) Market gardening could not be increased due to the lack of suitable markets in close proximity and the difficulties of transporting perishable commodities from inaccessible areas.
- (c) Wage earnings may increase somewhat as the two mineral companies now operating near the May River area are endeavouring to use local labour where possible.
- (d) There is the possibility of small quantities of rice being grown in the area surveyed as previously mentioned in the Situation Report. The MIANMIN people have also been informed that the Administration will purchase copal gum, used in the manufacture of varnishes etc., which is available in their area, if they will collect it. Almost all the Upper May Census Division lies within one of the leases being operated by the mineral

(2)

fields mentioned previously and if any minerals were found in payable quantities, the economic outlook for this area would be entirely altered.

(e) Due to the natures of most people in the area, with the possible exception of the MIANMINs, any enthusiasm shown towards the gaining of economic advancement is liable to ~~wane~~ ^{wane} when it is realised that hard work and change is involved.

(O) ATTITUDE TOWARDS LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Most people in the census division have no comprehension whatsoever of Local Government. People from ARAI, BURUMAI and MIANMIN, while working on coastal plantations have had some experience of councils, but only at a distance. These people's attitudes are not favourable towards Local Government, basically on the grounds that tax would have to be paid, and that as they had no source of income they would not be able to pay tax. A Local Government Survey of the whole May River Area, not just that at present under survey, carried out in 1967, estimated that the May River Council could expect an annual income of \$98. This together with any Administration grants would be of little benefit in supporting a council as most revenue would be eaten up by administrative expenses, with little or none being left for carrying out practical schemes which would be of benefit to the people.

It has been suggested that regular council meetings would help unite the fragmented May River groups and help to reduce suspicion and enmity between them. However such aims could be achieved at much less expense, by carrying out fairly regular courses at May River for village officials from time to time. Such courses could include instruction in the Laws of the Territory, aims and functions of the Administration, and political education in relation to the House of Assembly and Local Government. Funds would be required for transport and accommodation expenses. Thoughts of a Council should be shelved ~~until~~ for this area, until attitudes towards Local Government are more favourable, and when and if economic enterprise reaches a stage where it could help support such a council.

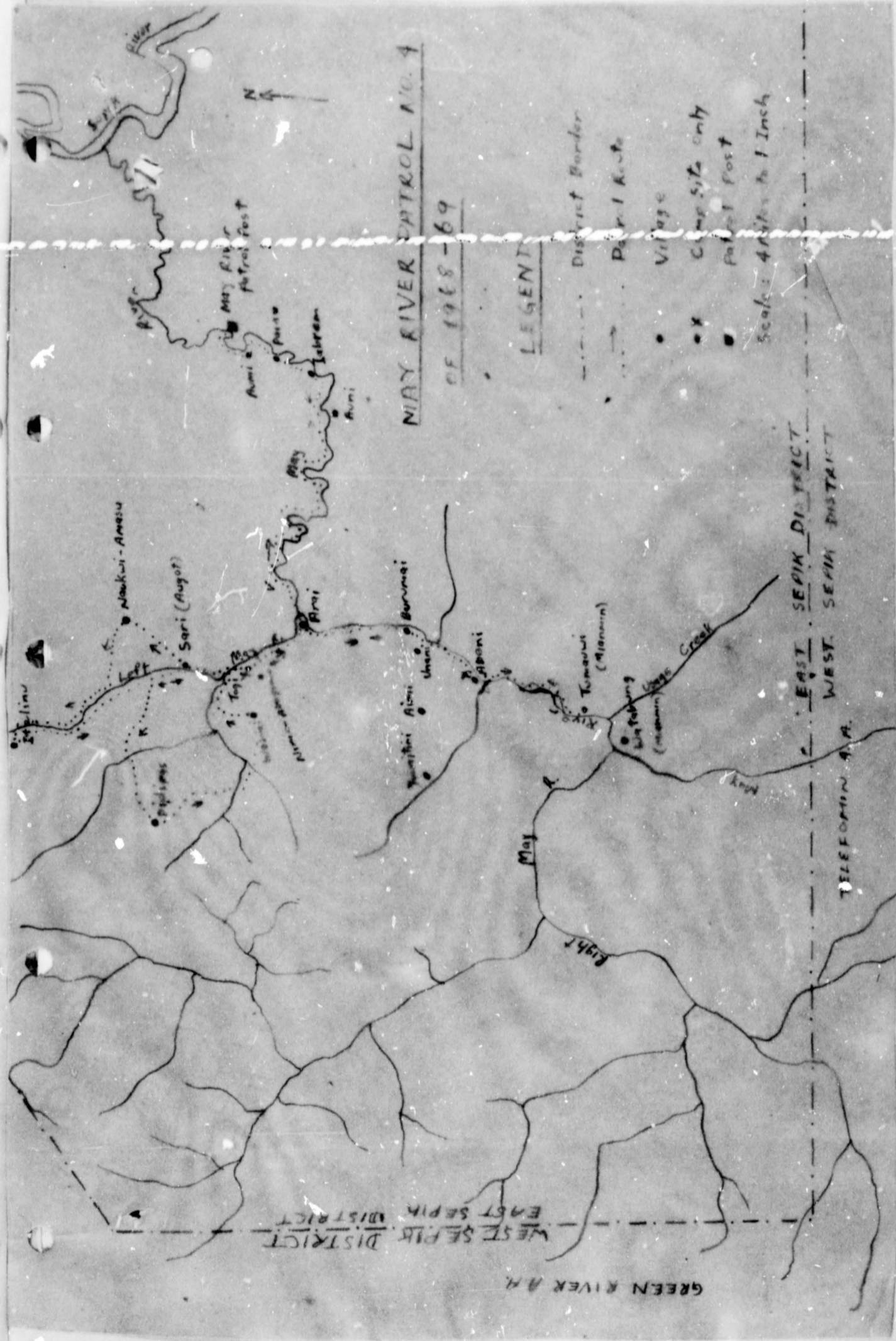
(P) ATTITUDES TOWARDS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

As has been mentioned elsewhere in this report the general attitude of people in the area surveyed is favourable towards the Administration. It is seen basically as a law enforcement body, as it is in this capacity the people have had most experience with it. To a lesser extent the people are aware of the Administration's functions in the health field and that it may be able to help them in the economic field. The general attitude appears to be that the Administration should provide services, without requiring any effort on the part of the local people.

(Q) ACCOMMODATION, SERVICES, FACILITIES

Not applicable.

M.E. Tomlinson
M.E. Tomlinson
Assistant District Officer



MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 4

OF 1968-69

LEGEND

- - - - District Border
- Patrol Route
- Village
- X Camp Site only
- Patrol Post

Scale: 4 inches to 1 inch

WEST SEPIK DISTRICT

EAST SEPIK DISTRICT

WEST SEPIK DISTRICT

TELEPHONE L.A.

GREEN RIVER A.A.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of EAST SEPIK (AMBUNTI) Report No. MAY RIVER NO. 5 OF 1968/69

Patrol Conducted by M.E. TOMLINSON, ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER

Area Patrolled SEPIK MAY CENSUS DIVISION

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....

Natives..... 2 R.P. & N.G. C.
1 HOSPITAL ORDERLY

Duration—From 14 / 4 / 1969 to 22 / 4 / 1969

Number of Days NINE

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services...../...../19..... February 1968 - H. Of
Assembly Elections

Medical/...../19.....

Map Reference.....

Objects of Patrol 1. CENSUS REVISION 2. INVESTIGATE SITUATION AT PANEWAI
3. ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION

TOTAL POPULATION OF AREA PATROLLED: 837

Director of District Administration,
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

Area files

ver 13	Females in Child Birth	In
F	M	

67-8-60

22nd August, 1969.

The District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
WENAK.

PATROL MAY RIVER NO. 5/1968-69.

Your reference is 67-1-13 of 4th August, 1969.

2. I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Annual Census and Area Study Report by Mr. M.E. Tomlinson, A.D.O., to Sepik May Census Division.
3. Your comments give a good coverage of this report.
4. There is little that can be done for this area until the economy can be stimulated in some way. I will await further advice from you regarding the open valleys at the head of the Frieda River, and their suitability for re-settlement.
5. The news regarding a school for May River is indeed pleasing.
6. Mr. Tomlinson's report is a sound effort. It provides a clear picture of the people and the area.

(T.W. ELIAS)

Secretary

Department of the Administrator.

cc:
Mr. M.E. Tomlinson,
Sub-District Office,
AMBUNTI. East Sepik District.

Please note that political education must be a continuing process in all situations with the emphasis on the advantages of national unity.

Popu

67.8.60.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telephone
Telegrams
Our Reference
If calling ask for
Mr.

Reference: 67-1-13

20

Department of District Administration,
District Office,
WEWAK,
East Sepik District.

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
1
AUG 1969

4th August, 1969.

The Secretary,
Department of the Administrator,
KONEDOBU, PAPIA.

PATROL NO. 5 OF 1968/69 - SEEKI MAY
CENSUS DIVISION - MR. M.E. TOMLINSON,
ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER.

Attached please find :-

- (a) Original and copy of report.
- (b) Copy of memorandum 67-5-13 from Mr. Tomlinson to the Assistant District Commissioner, Ambunti, dated 19th June, 1969.
- (c) Copy of memorandum 67-1-13 dated 9th July, 1969, from Assistant District Commissioner, Ambunti.
- (d) Map of the area patrolled.

2. I have the following comments to make with regard to this patrol report, (page and paragraph numbers are the same as those used in the report) :-

Economic (Page 3 - paras. 3-8)

The position with regard to economic development potential in this area is indeed depressing and there seems little can be done to relieve the position. However, I am intrigued by the statement at page 9 of the report, Section (J)(a), in which Mr. Tomlinson states that there are open valleys at the head of the Frieda River which would be suitable for resettlement. I will enquire further from the Assistant District Commissioner, Ambunti, on this matter as it may be possible to get deep draught vessels some distance up the river and, if that is the case, it may be possible to undertake a feasibility and justification survey in the area to ascertain if a road can be admitted as a Rural Development Project in 1970/71 or later.

Education and Missions (Page 5 - para. 15)

It is advised that at the District Education Committee Meeting held at Wewak on the 16th July, 1969, the establishment of an Administration school at Maprik was recommended to the Director of Education for 1970. The establishment priority is No. 3 out of a total of 10. The submission from May River was that the school and teacher's quarters would be constructed by the local people free of charge.

(19)

This is particularly pleasing as I feel it is very important that social services of this nature be extended to this area, not only for the benefit of local people, but also for station personnel, particularly children of R.P.N.G.C. members.

Population Distribution and Trends (Page 6 - para B (a))

The natural increase of 4.5% is pleasing and generally the health of the people is good. Reference should be made to Appendix "A" of this report for detailed information on census statistics.

Air (Page 10 - para (c)).

The construction of an airfield in the May River area would be a distinct advantage to the Company and the Administration and I will be interested to learn of progress being made in its construction. I am also interested in the statement that an airfield of Fokker aircraft length is being considered.

Possibilities of Expanding the Economy (Page 11 - Sec.11)

A programme for development projects, however small, will have to have the support of the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries and I will extract copies from this report and forward them to the District Rural Development Officer, Wewak, for his comments.

This report is interesting and Mr. Tomlinson has undoubtedly given a lot of thought to its submission.

BKleen

(B. K. LEEN) J
A/DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,
AMBUNTI.

Mr. M.E. Tomlinson,
Patrol Post,
MAY RIVER.

(17)

Sub-District Office,
AMBUNTI,
East Sepik District.

19th June, 1969.

67-3-13

Assistant District Commissioner,
AMBUNTI.

MAY RIVER PATROL REPORT NO.5 of 1968-69

Herewith please find FIVE copies of the above report and TWO copies of the accompanying map.

As there are no stocks of patrol report covers available this office a typed covering sheet has been included. Report covers are on order.

I apologise for the late submission of this report but was unable to complete it at the time of the patrol as immediately following the patrol I was required in Wewak.

For your information please.

M.E. Tomlinson

M.E. Tomlinson
Assistant District Officer

Popuat

16

67-1-13

AMBUNTI,
East Sepik District.

9th July, 1969

The District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
WEWAK

REPORT MAY RIVER PATROL NO.5 OF 1968/69

Attached please find the above report submitted by Mr Tomlinson. As mentioned by Mr Tomlinson completion of the report immediately after the patrol was delayed because of Mr Tomlinson's absence in WEWAK. I had written this memorandum on the 29th June but have only now the opportunity to type it. Delay in submission is regretted.

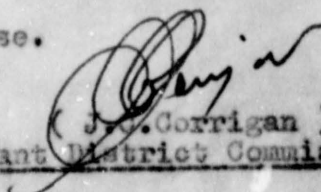
This is a good report and gives a clear picture of the area. Concrete proposals for the MAY RIVER area and other riverine areas of this sub-district from DASF are awaited with interest. It is suggested rice be promoted and trainees be taken from the area for training either AMBUNTI in rice planting technique and no coffee technique from river villages.

Mining activities by Carpentaria Exploration Ltd are being detailed in a further memorandum.

Education in the area will remain in the hands of the Missions who so far have not achieved any significant results. Because of low population density and inability to keep staff happy in such a remote area as May River it is doubtful whether there will be an Administration School in the area. An application was made to the Chairman of the District Education Committee for one and this was due to be discussed at the July meeting.

Two copies of the patrol map are attached and ten copies of same would be appreciated, please.

For your information, please.


(J. J. Corrigan)
Assistant District Commissioner

Populat

15

Report Number: MAY RIVER NO.5 of 1968-69

SUB-District: AMBONAI

District: EAST SEPIK

Council/Non Council Area: NON COUNCIL

Patrol Conducted by: M.E.TOMLINSON, A.D.O.

Area Patrolled: SEPIK MAY CENSUS DIVISION

Personnel Accompanying Patrol: 2 R.P.&N.G.C.
1 HOSPITAL ORDERLY

Duration of Patrol: 14.4.69 to 22.4.69

NINE DAYS

Date and Duration Last D.D.A. Patrol: FEBRUARY 1968
H.of ASEMBLY ELECTIONS

OBJECTS of Patrol: (1) CENSUS REVISION
(2) INVESTIGATE SITUATION AT PANEWAI
(3) ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION

Total Population of Area Patrolled: 837

Village Population Register enclosed.

Monday, 14th April

0800-1000 Downstream to IPMOMBI.
1000-1300 Supervised completion of construction of rest house.
1400-1745 Revised census at IPMOMBI. People examined by
Hospital Orderly. 1600-1700 Did census statistics.

Slept IPMOMBI Rest House

Tuesday, 15th April

0800-0900 Discussions with people re general matters. Settled
a minor dispute.
0915-0945 By road downstream to MOWI.
1050-1215 Census revised at MOWI and people examined by
Hospital Orderly. 1300-1430 General discussions with people.
1530-1730 Inspected village and trade store owned by IMAW.
1730-1800 Checked census statistics.

Slept MOWI Rest House

Wednesday, 16th April

0730-0930 By road downstream to IMAW.
Village visited. High level of the river and people
tried to get the boat of the Sepik for repair.
0945-1500 Revised census and people examined by hospital
orderly. Discussed minor complaints. Checked census
statistics with people.
1600-1730 Did census statistics.

Slept IMAW Rest House

Populat

MAY RIVER PATROL NO.5 of 1968-69

(14)

SEPIK MAY CENSUS DIVISION

PATROL DIARY

Monday, 14th April

0700-0900 Preparation for departure Sepik May Patrol.
 0900-1035 To IEMOMBUI at junction of May River and Sepik by double canoe, accompanied by 2 R.P.&N.G.C. and Hospital Orderly HAUSA. Unloaded drum of fuel.
 1050-1815 Travelled up Sepik in direction of PANEWAI, collecting a number PANEWAI people en route and thence to PANEWAI walking track on banks of the Sepik.
 Cargo unloaded and then walked 15 minutes inland to shore of lake arriving 1845.
 Waited in dark for canoes.
 1920-1945 By paddle canoe across lake to PANEWAI arriving in heavy rain.
 Set up camp and by 2030 all cargo had arrived.

Slept PANEWAI Rest House

Tuesday, 15th April

0830-1245 Carried out census at PANEWAI and all people examined by Hospital Orderly.
 Discussions with people as to whether area be administered from May River or Lumi - adamant in wish to remain in Ambunti Sub-District. Gained information for area study.
 1245-1400 Completed census statistics etc.
 1415-1515 Paddled back across lake and walked to Sepik bank.
 1515-1730 By power canoe downstream to native house on bank of the Sepik. 1730-1830 set up camp.

Slept native house

Wednesday, 16th April

0800-1000 Downstream to IEMOMBUI.
 1000-1330 Supervised completion of construction of rest house.
 1400-1545 Revised census at IEMOMBUI. People examined by Hospital Orderly. 1600-1700 Did census statistics.

Slept IEMOMBUI Rest House

Thursday, 17th April

0800-0915 Discussions with people re general matters. Settled 2 minor disputes.
 0915-0945 By outboard downstream to MOWI.
 1030-1330 Census revised at MOWI and people examined by Hospital Orderly. 1500-1630 General discussions with people.
 1630-1730 Inspected village and trade store owned by KWAKUM.
 1730-1800 Completed census statistics.

Slept MOWI Rest House

Friday, 18th April

0750-0910 By outboard downstream to INIOK.
 Village under water due high level of the river and people moved to the other bank of the Sepik for census.
 0945-1500 Revised census and people examined by hospital orderly. Listened to minor complaints and had general discussions with people.
 1630-1800 Did census statistics.

Slept INIOK Rest House

(13)

Saturday, 19th April

0730-1200 Upstream by outboard into the Frieda River and thence upstream to PAUPE.
Rest house and Police barracks in bad state of repair.
Afternoon spent repairing buildings. Carpentaria Explorations helicopter called in during the afternoon.

Slept PAUPE Rest House

20

Sunday, 20th April

At PAUPE observed. Rain during the day.
Evening had talks with village officials.

Slept PAUPE Rest House

21st

Monday, 21st April

0800-1000 Revised census and people examined by Hospital Orderly. General discussions with people.
1000-1200 Completed census statistics and book work.
1215 Departed heading downriver. 1450 entered the channel into Lake Warangai. Crossed lake to AUOM arriving 1550.
Rest house underwater. Camp set up in vacant native house.

Slept Native House AUOM

Tuesday, 22nd April

0745-0945 Revised census and people examined by Hospital Orderly. General discussions with people and minor complaints settled.
1000-1115 Travelled back across the lake into the Frieda and then downstream to the Sepik.
1115-1330 Travelled upstream to IEMOMBUI. There collected fuel and hospital patient.
1345-1600 Travelled up May River to May River Station.
1600-1700 Cargo unloaded and patrol stood down.

1

END OF DIARY

(12)

MAY RIVER PATROL NO.5 of 1968-69

ANNUAL CENSUS

SEPIK MAY CENSUS DIVISION

SITUATION REPORT

POLITICAL

1. There is no Local Government Council in the Sepik May Census Division. A council survey was done in the area in 1968 but any plans for the establishment of a council has been deferred. The general attitude of people towards local government in the area is on the whole unfavourable, but the reason given for this is that as they have little income they would be unable to pay council tax. Other opinions expressed were that if the Administration wished to start a council in the area the people would follow their wishes.

2. Though the people of the Sepik May Census Division are possibly more politically aware than any other people in the May River area, this awareness is very limited. Little is known of the workings of the House of Assembly in spite of two elections and the associated educational campaigns. During March the Local Member for the area Mr. Nauwi Sauinambi visited the villages of IEMOMBUI, MOWI and INIOK in this census division. These personal visits by members should be of benefit in bringing the conception of the House and its functions closer to home for the people. For the present however people seem to be more concerned over personal domestic and tribal problems than they are with such things as local government and the House of Assembly.

ECONOMIC

3. Economic development is practically non-existent in this area. The only form of cash income which comes into the area is either wages earned by labourers recruited to work on coastal plantations or a small amount earned from the sale of crocodile skins.

4. The majority of villages in this census division are situated on the banks of the Sepik and are subject to flooding for a good part of the year. There is little gardening land available and the people subsist mainly on sago and fish, supplemented by the small amount of taro etc. which can be grown.

5. It is believed that in the past attempts have been made to grow rice in some of these villages, between the periods of flooding, but these have been unsuccessful. Reasons given being that the rice heads failed to fill properly, due presumably to the poor nature of the soil, and the fact that birds ate much of the crop. As well as the environment appearing to be little suited to cash cropping, marketing facilities are also very limited. At present the only shipping that proceeds up the Sepik beyond Ambunti is Administration workboats etc. and a few traders house boats and canoes.

11

6. Most people are interested in finding other means of increasing their cash income, but because of the swampy nature of land owned by these groups there appears that little in this respect could be provided by agriculture. The people of INIOK and MOWI are the only people in the May River area who have servicable outboard motors and are probably the most affluent people in the whole May River area. The only trade stores in the area are situated at MOWI and IEMOMBUI. People claim that in the past considerable money was earned by selling crocodile skins. Now they claim that the traders pay lower prices in the upper reaches of the Sepik than they do lower down the river, and the people say they are not particularly interested in crocodiles now. The traders on their side, claim that the people in the May River area are lazy, unco-operative and not proficient in taking crocodiles, and that they spend much more money on skins in the Green River area where the people are more co-operative and where more crocodiles are available.

7. Sale of artefacts are perhaps a possible source of income in the area. Shields are about the only artefact that would be for sale, and if the Ambunti Council starts its proposed artifact venture a market would be provided for any of these articles manufactured, provided they were of a reasonable standard.

8. There are a number of men from INIOK at present working as labourers for Mt. Isa Mines Ltd. in their prospecting authority at the headwaters of the Frieda River. This type of labour is providing a source of income close to home, where ~~many~~ men can visit their families at regular intervals, and where wages appear to be better than those received by agreement workers on plantations.

SOCIAL

Health

9. During the course of the patrol all people were examined by the May River Hospital Orderly. Numerous minor complaints were treated such as cuts, scratches, ulcers, malaria etc. A few cases of yaws were also treated. Only one man was taken to May River for further treatment. Grille is rife in this area.

10. The only health facilities existing for most of the people in this area are provided by the aid post at May River. People from IEMOMBUI and MOWI make fairly regular visits to May River, while the INIOK people visit the TAURI aid post, which is in the Ambunti Administrative Area. This aid post is considerably closer to INIOK than is May River, and as the INIOK people are directly related to the TAURI people it is only natural that they visit this aid post. The people from PAUPE and PANEWAI are situated a long way from any health facilities.

Law and Order

11. Law and order is generally satisfactory in the census division and only minor matters were brought to the attention of the patrol.

10

12. During the past twelve months the MOWI people attempted to encroach on land and lagoons belonging to the IEMOMBUI (WANAMOI) people. These lagoons are rich in fish and crocodiles and it was a dispute over these waters which caused the massacre in 1956, when 29 Yellow River people were killed by the WANAMOI group. MOWI has no rights at all in this area and this was the second attempt by them in the past two years to begin moving into the area. Since being warned to keep out of the area, no further encroachments have been made.

13. The matter mentioned in May River Patrol Report No.3 of 1966-67, concerning the encroachment of INIOK men on PAUPE land now seems to be settled. However resentment still exists by the PAUPE's against the INIOK's. INIOK labourers are being used by Carpentaria Explorations (MT. Isa Mines) in preference to PAUPE's in their prospecting authority above PAUPE on the Frieda River. These labourers pass through PAUPE territory in order to reach their place of employment and PAUPE people claim that they may be trying to encroach on their land. The PAUPE's have been informed that the INIOK men are only working for the mining firm and that they have no land rights in the area and on cessation of employment they must return to their home area. Both PAUPE and INIOK men have been used by the mining firm, but the PAUPE men have been found unsuitable as labourers.

14. In March an investigation was carried out into allegations that PAUPE people had been pilfering goods belonging to Carpentaria Explorations. No definite evidence to support this was found in the investigation and no charges were laid. At the time of the present patrol no such further incidents were reported.

Education and Missions

15. There are no recognised schools or mission stations in the Sepik May Census Division. The C.M.M.L. Mission from Yellow River has just commenced a village Bible school at PANEWAI, where students are taught in the local vernacular. The A.O.G. Mission has had a Bible school operating at MOWI since 1961, sporadically. Here pupils have been taught in pidgin. 3 Pupils from this village have been educated by this mission at their primary schools at Hayfield and Yangoru. The Catholic Mission has had a catechist in the INIOK area conducting Bible classes and recently have taken a number of pupils from there for the school that is being established at OUM in the Ambunti Administrative Area.

16. In the areas abovementioned, the people generally support the missions. There are practically no real converts but a superficial interest in church services etc. is shown by many. The people are also keen to have any type of teaching they can get for their children, even if it is only of the Bible school variety with little practical application.

MISCELLANEOUS

17. One of the major aims of the patrol was to investigate the situation at PANEWAI, following a letter from the District Commissioner, West Sepik, supporting the view that the PANEWAI area should be administered by the Lumi Sub-District instead of from Ambunti and May River. This subject has been dealt with under separate memorandum 1-1-32 of 24th April, 1969, to the Assistant District Commissioner, Ambunti. It was recommended that the area continue to be administered by the East Sepik District, for the reasons stated.

(9)

AREA STUDY

SEPIK MAY CENSUS DIVISION

(A) INTRODUCTION

(a) Most of the Sepik May Census Division consists of flat swamp country which lies on each side of the Sepik River. Each side of the river also occur various lagoons and lakes, the largest being Lake Warangai at AUOM and Lake ~~PAN~~ Panewai. The only hill country in the area occurs where the mountains, which run along the western border of the May River Administrative Area, run into the Sepik at PANEWAI, and in the vicinity of PAUPE, where the foothills commence to rise and run into the high mountains to the south near the border with the Telefomin Sub-District. Rainfall is in the vicinity of 150 inches per annum, being considerably more in the headwaters of the Frieda River, and the climate is hot and humid. Swamp type vegetation is the predominant vegetation.

(b) The Sepik May Census Division is situated some 130 river miles up the Sepik from the Sub-District Headquarters at Ambunti. The area can be reached by Administration workboats and trawlers at most times of the year. The closest practical airstrip is also at Ambunti.

(c) Before the Second World War, the INIOK and PANEWAI people had been contacted by the Administration, but this was only superficial. However many from the area were taken out of the area as labour for coastal plantations. Administration interest in the area was increased in 1956 when the WANAMOI people from up the May River attacked and killed 29 of the TIPAS and PANEWAI people from the Yellow River area. With the establishment of the May River Patrol Post the villages along the Sepik and Lower May were brought under control by the end of the 1950's. PAUPE on the Frieda River was not contacted until 1962. Attitudes in all parts of the division are favourable to the Administration.

(B) POPULATION-DISTRIBUTION AND TRENDS

(a) The latest Village Population Register forms are attached. The last census for the area was ~~done~~ carried out in February, 1967. In the two year period since, the total population has risen by 56 due to births and migrations. The natural increase during that period was 4.5%.

(b) There are virtually no tracks in the area, ~~with~~ as all villages are connected by water. A track connects PANEWAI to the Waniap May Census Division. PAUPE is also connected to AUOM and villages on the Leonard Schultz River by rough bush tracks.

(c) At the time of the present census 84 men were absent from their villages. Of these 60 (37.5% of labour potential) are absent away from the district, while the others (15% of labour potential) are practically all working for Mt. Isa Mines Limited on their Prospecting Authority at the headwaters of the Frieda River.

(C) SOCIAL GROUPINGS

(a) There are six component social groups in the area, which correspond with the listed census units.

8

(b) The operational social unit is the extended family.

(c) There are three main languages in the area surveyed, these being the language spoken by the people of PANEWAI, ~~part~~ which is part of the AMENI language group of the Lumi Sub-District, the PAUPE language and the UWAM language. The UWAM language extends from RUPMAT on the May River down the May and takes in the villages along the Sepik downstream from the junction with the May. There is a slight dialectic change at ~~XXXXX~~ JNIOK which continues down the Sepik as far as YAUENIAN in the Ambunti Administrative Area.

(d) Relationships between the component social groups are generally amicable, with the exception of the underlying friction which still exists between INIOK and PAUPE as mentioned in para. 13 of Situation Report. Traditional alliances occur generally with groups outside the census division.

(e) Traditional alliances for fighting in the past and for the carrying out of normal social obligations exist with groups outside the area surveyed. Parts of the UWAM group in the Sepik May have various alliances with other members of the UWAM group in the Central May Census Division, as follows: AUOM with WANIAM, MOWI with IBU, IEMOMBUI with WANAMOI (of which it is an integral part) and PEKWE and other groups further up the May. PANEWAI has alliances with the TIPAS people of the Lumi Sub-District, while the INIOK people are directly related to the TAURI people in the Ambunti area. PAUPE has always had friendly relations with the small groups situated on the middle and upper reaches of the Leonard Schultz River and in the past have been enemies of all the Sepik and May River groups in their vicinity and the remote WABIAN and UNAMO groups to the south in the Telefomin Sub-District.

(D) LEADERSHIP

(a) There are no real leaders in this area. Leadership is generally confined to the heads of each extended family who only have influence over their own family group. These are generally the older men, past fight leaders etc. and any decisions made concerning groups as a whole are usually made by these family leaders as a group.

(b) Two younger men who could be considered as leaders in the economic field are NARI of IEMOMBUI and KWAKUM of MOWI. Both are men in their late thirties and have worked as agreement workers on coastal plantations. NARI was one of the ringleaders of the 1956 Yellow River Massacre and served a term of imprisonment for wilful murder in Wewak. He has made unsuccessful attempts at growing rice in the IEMOMBUI area and is now believed to be growing coffee in conjunction with people in the Lumi Sub-District. NARI is noted in his area for his pugnacious attitude towards outsiders, but otherwise has no real influence over his people. KWAKUM runs one of the only two native owned trade stores in the May River Area, but likewise has no real influence over his community. Both men would in general be pro Administration.

(c) The traditional pattern of leadership does not appear to be changing to any extent in favour of younger men. However it is felt that the traditional leaders influence is probably becoming weaker as the era of tribal fighting becomes more remote and with the gradual breaking down of tribal institutions.

(7)

(E) LAND TENURE AND USE

(a) Land is owned by the clan on a communal basis, but individual garden plots are owned by individuals. Land rights are inherited through the male line.

(b) Not applicable

(c) There is at present no cash cropping in the area.

(F) LITERACY

(a) There are no recognised schools in the area surveyed. The only types of schools are small Bible schools set up by various missions as listed in para.15 of Situation Report. These schools are only run sporadically and only teach in Pidgin or the vernacular.

(b) The only adults literate in Pidgin generally would be the mission evangelists and catechists who staff the above mentioned Bible schools. There is also one young man from MOWI, who was educated by the A.O.G. Mission to Standard 3 at Yangoru, and is now in the village and speaks quite good English.

(c) In addition to the man mentioned in the last para. there are two other students from MOWI who have been educated by the A.O.G. Mission to Standards 3 and 4 at their schools at Yangoru and Hayfield. One of these students is still attending school at Hayfield.

(d) The only other students absent are 2 from IEMOMPUI who attend the unrecognised S.D.A. School at PEKWE near May River Station (this school has English speaking teachers), and 5 from INIOK who are attending the newly established Catholic Mission School at Oum in the Ambunti Area. This school is not recognised, but is in the process of seeking recognition.

(e) There are at present 14 radio receivers in the census division, with at least one in each village, with the exception of AUOM. Radio Wewak broadcasts are listened to regularly.

(G) STANDARD OF LIVING

(a) European type clothing and ~~various~~ artefacts such as axes, knives, spades, cooking utensils are common in the area. Sanitation is not particularly good but this is generally beyond the control of the people due to the fact of regular flooding along the Sepik and lower portions of its tributaries. Although latrines etc. are constructed, with each flood many of these are destroyed, requiring new ones to be built.

(b) The staple diet for the area is sago and fish. This is supplemented by birds, wild pig, cassowary, possum etc., and such crops as taro, sugar cane, bananas, which are grown in small garden plots on the banks of the Sepik and tributaries. Little in the way of tinned foodstuffs is purchased.

(c) Not applicable.

(H) MISSIONS

(a) As mentioned previously in this report the only missions operating in the area are the C.M.M.L at PANEWAI, the A.O.G. at MOWI and IEMOMBUI and the Catholics at INIOK. There is no tension between these groups caused by the missions.

(b) There are no established mission stations in the area and the only services they provide are low standard village Bible schools and church services run by indigenous mission teachers. There ~~are~~ is one of these at PANEWAI, 2 at MOWI and one at INIOK. Previously there were also 2 A.O.G. teachers at AUOM, but they have departed and in general these teachers are continually coming and going from the areas in which they operate.

(c) Mission influence is only very minimal in the area, there probably being only about half a dozen baptised converts in the census division. Many others attend church services, but only show superficial interest. Attitudes towards the missions are favourable and generally consider that anything the missions do in the line of teaching their children, even if only in Bible schools is beneficial.

(I) NON-INDIGENES

(a) The only non-indigenous activity in the area is that carried out by Carpentaria Explorations, a subsidiary of Mt. Isa Mines. This company is operating in a Prospecting Authority which extends to the south of PAUPE. Although their main centre of operations is situated in the Telefomin Sub-District, their general access is up the Frieda River via PAUPE.

(b) The above company is employing as much labour as possible from the May River area. At the time of the census there were over 20 men from INIOK working here as well as a number of others from other divisions of the May River area. The number of labourers has probably increased recently as the company has just moved in a number of drilling teams and commenced drilling.

(c) A very small limited market for fresh foods and vegetables could be provided by the above company.

(d) Not applicable.

(J) COMMUNICATIONS

(a) ROADS

There are no roads in this area and the nature of the terrain makes the cost of constructing roads prohibitive when there is virtually no economic potential in the area. Terrain in the south at the headwaters of the Frieda River is mountainous and to the north of where the hills finish all the way to the Sepik is swamp type country. The only hope for roads in the area is if minerals were ever discovered in quantities warranting the construction of an expensive road system, linking the mountain areas to the Sepik River. If such roads were ever built it would open up the way for resettlement in some of the open valleys at the head of the Frieda River, which are now virtually uninhabited.

(5)

(b) SEA

The only ships which travel infrequently up the Sepik to this area are Administration workboats and trawlers.

(c) ^{AIR} There are no airstrips in the area surveyed but a small float plane visits May River station fortnightly and this can land on most places along the Sepik and May Rivers, and also perhaps parts of the Frieda if required. Carpentaria Explorations have indicated that they are interested in establishing an airstrip in the PAUPE area to serve their organisation. These requirements are initially for a light aircraft strip with capabilities of being extended to take Fokker Friendship aircraft if required.

(K) TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL SKILLS

The only person of this category is a man from MOWI who is working as a driver in the Rabaul area.

(L) THE STAGE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Comments made in para.2 of the Situation report are pertinent to this section. Attitudes to the Administration are generally favourable, though in some instances slight antagonism is shown against traders in the area, because prices of goods are high and the people claim they are not paid high enough prices for their crocodile skins. The community is still somewhat fragmented, though generally over all in the Sepik May Census Division, with the exception of PAUPE and INIOK as previously mentioned, relations between groups are at present satisfactory. No people from the area have attended any Local Government Conferences etc.

(M) THE ECONOMY OF THE AREA

(a) Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) At the time of the recent census there were 84 men absent at work. Some 20 odd of these are casual workers and are not necessarily continually employed. Total cash earnings for these labourers would be approximately \$4000 per year. Much of this is spent in coastal areas before men return home. Since Carpentaria Explorations have been working in the vicinity wage earnings have increased.

(f) Not applicable.

(g) There are two small trade stores in the area. These belong to NAMI of IEMOMBUI and KWAKUM of MOWI. Both sell mainly trade goods and clothing and are only small concerns. Crocodile skins are also sold by various people but the sales of these are reported to have fallen off due to reasons discussed in the Economic section of the Situation Report.

4

(h) There are about 17 Savings Bank Accounts in the census division. Total of current balances is \$226.

(i) This area has never been taxed.

(j) From the foregoing it is calculated that an average per capita income figure would be in the vicinity of \$5 per year. This figure is not evenly realistic. Most cash coming into the area comes from wage earnings and this varies considerably from time to time. These earnings are concentrated upon the villages living along the Sepik with the emphasis at the villages of INIOK and NOWI. Much of the labour earnings gained in coastal areas never reaches the home villages.

(k) Marketing facilities are non existant at present. Any produce becoming available for sale in the future would have to be carried to Ambunti via the Sepik and thence forwarded on from there. There is no regular shipping travelling up the Sepik beyond Ambunti. Any produce would have to be purchased by the Administration initially.

(N) POSSIBILITIES OF EXPANDING THE ECONOMY

(a) There is little land available for planting of permanent tree crops. The hilly country in the PAUPE area and at the back of PANEWAI may be suitable for planting coffee.

(b) As well as the poor environment of the area, lack of close markets is a deterrent to the increase of market gardening.

(c) Wage earnings will be increased in the area while mineral firms are operating near by. When their activities cease most wage earnings come from outside the area.

(d) Rice appears to be the only cash crop which has any potential in the area. The newly arrived Agricultural Officer, who is responsible for the Ambunti Sub-District hopes to visit the area in the near future, with a view to seeing if rice should be suitable for the area. If it appears at all favourable it is hoped that a few young men will be taken as farmer trainees from the area and instructed in the techniques of rice growing.

Fishing at present is an unlikely source of income. Fish in this area are mainly of the catfish variety, Talapea introduced to the lower Sepik have only come up river a little beyond Ambunti. Any markets established for smoked fish would be more adequately supplied from lower down the Sepik below Ambunti and in the Angoram area, as these places are much closer to any markets.

(e) Most people are generally keen to increase their cash earnings and are interested in finding new ways of doing so. However most people from this area, and the May River area in general are notorious for being unenthusiastic when hard work is involved.

(O) ATTITUDES TOWARDS LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This section has been dealt with in para. 1 of the Situation Report. Many people are non committal about councils and do not appear to favour their introduction because it would involve paying tax, which they claim they cannot afford. Other people expressed the wish to leave it to the Administration to decide whether a council should be introduced to the area or not. Little or nothing is understood of Local Government. This census division would ~~be~~ be the most suitable of any in the May River area, having considerably more income and somewhat more political awareness than the other areas.

3

(P) ATTITUDE TOWARDS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Attitudes towards the Central Government are favourable.

(Q) ACCOMMODATION, SERVICES, FACILITIES

Not applicable.

M.E. Tomlinson

M.E. Tomlinson
Assistant District Officer

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SECTION 1. TOTAL OF POPULATION (1957) ...
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MAY RIVER PATROL REPORT NO.5 of 1968-69
SEPIK MAY CENSUS DIVISION

(2)

APPENDIX A

CENSUS STATISTICS

<u>SECTION 1.</u>	TOTAL OF POPULATION LAST CENSUS(1967)	783
	<u>ADD</u> MIGRATIONS IN	41
	BIRTHS	57
	(TOTAL OF SECTION 1)	881
<u>SECTION 2.</u>	<u>SUBTRACT</u>	
	MIGRATIONS OUT	22
	DEATHS	22
	(TOTAL OF SECTION 2)	44
	CENSUS POPULATION 1969 (SUBTRACT SECTION 2 FROM 1)	<u>837</u>

Amount
Returned
to Store



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

Report Number..... 6 of 1968-1969
Subdistrict..... AMBUNTI
District..... EAST SEPIK
Type of Patrol..... Area Study and Situation Report
Patrol Conducted by..... D.H. Pennafather, Patrol Officer
Area Patrolled }
(Council and/or } Central May Census Division
Census Division/s.) } Non-Council Area
Personnel Accompanying Patrol
..... 3 Members R.P.N.G.C.
..... 1 Medical Orderly
Duration of Patrol—from 1 / 6 / 69 To 10 / 6 / 69
No. of Days..... Ten (10)
Last D.D.A. Patrol to Area :..... No. 4 of 1967-1968
Date..... January 1968 Duration..... Six (6) Days
Objects of Patrol (Briefly)..... Conduct Census
..... Collect information for area Study.
Total Population of Area Patrolled..... 992

Director of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

Forwarded, please.

/ /19

.....
District Commissioner.

*Area Study
filed.*

67-8-61

9th September, 1969.

The District Commissioner,
East Sepik District,
WENAK.

PATROL NO. MAY RIVER 6/8-69.

Your reference 67-1-13 of 12th August, 1969.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Annual
Census and Area Study/Situation Report by Mr. D.H. Pennefather,
Patrol Officer, to CENTRAL MAY Census Division.

Your comments provide a sound coverage of this
good report by Mr. Pennefather.

With regard to a Council for May River, a
priority list of 15 new Councils is now under consideration.
The proposed May River Council is on this list but it has
a relatively low priority. You will be advised further
after a detailed 1969/70 programme has been approved.

(T.W. ELLIS)

Secretary

Department of the Administrator.

Mr. D.H. Pennefather,
Patrol Officer,
Patrol Post,
MAY RIVER. East Sepik District.

Please note that political education must be a
continuing process in all situations with the emphasis on the
advantages of national unity.

~~PRIORITY~~
TERRITORIES
SANDHILLS

~~RTIC 8001~~

May River Council

A priority list of 15 new Councils is now under consideration by the Secretary. The prop. May River Council is on this list but has a relatively low priority. ~~It is not likely that it will be possible to establish the Council~~ will advise further after detailed 1969/70 programme has been approved.

EM
3/9/69

7/2/69



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67.8.61. (17)

Reference: 67-1-13

Telephone
Telegrams.....
Our Reference.....
If calling ask for
Mr.....

Department of District Administration,
District Office,
WEWAK
East Sepik District.



12th August, 1969.

The Director,
Department of the Administrator,
Division of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, PAPUA.

MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 6 OF 1968/69 -
CENTRAL MAY RIVER CENSUS DIVISION -
MR. D. H. PENNEFATHER, PATROL OFFICER

Attached please find :-

- (a) Original and copy of report.
- (b) Copy of memorandum 67-1-13 dated 9th July, 1969, from Assistant District Commissioner, Ambunti, and
- (c) Map of area patrolled.

2. I have the following comments to make on the report (page and paragraph numbers are the same as those used in the report) :-

3. Political (Page 4 paras. 3 and 4)

Whilst it must be depressing for the patrolling officer to have the feeling that his discussions with the people on political development as it relates to the Territory is not falling on keen ears he should continue the discussions with possibly more emphasis on Local Government Council structure initially. In this way House of Assembly procedures should later expand on this.

4. Possibility of Expanding the Economy (Page 10 para. 36)

An extract of this report dealing with the economy of the area will be forwarded to the District Rural Development Officer at Wewak for his comments. I will ask the Officer-in-Charge, May River, to supply more details on the area of land he considers suitable for development. Population density and trends, communications, amount of arable land available for development plus the willingness of the people to work are prerequisites to assess whether economic development in the area can be contemplated on a large scale.

5. Attitudes towards Local Government (Page 11 paras. 39-42)

A recommendation for the establishment of the May River Local Government Council was forwarded to you by memorandum dated the 18th April, 1968, and was deferred in your memorandum 40-2-0/42-125-1/42-126-1 of the 5th July, 1968.

6. As the Assistant District Commissioner, Ambunti, is of the opinion that Council should be proclaimed it would be appreciated if you would again consider whether this is a feasibility or not. I would prefer to wait until an agricultural survey of the area is completed to establish whether there is any possible economic development potential in the area or not but would not like this to stand in the way of the peoples' desire to have a Local Government Council established in their area.

7. The report is an improvement on previous one submitted by Mr. Pennefather but would still recommend the use of the Oxford Dictionary on occasions. For instance, "there" in section 9 (i) and (ii) should be "their".

8. The map is an excellent one and is a credit to Mr. Pennefather.

A good report.

S. G. Hicks
(E. G. HICKS)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

c.c. Officer-in-Charge,
MAY RIVER.
Assistant District Commissioner,
AMBUNTI.

15

Reference: 67-1-13

District Office,
WEWAK.
East Sepik District.

12th August, 1969.

The Director,
Department of the Administrator,
Division of District Administration,
KONEDOBUI, PAPUA.

MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 6 OF 1968/69 -
CENTRAL MAY RIVER CENSUS DIVISION -
MR. D. H. PENNEFATHER, PATROL OFFICER

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67-1-13

AMBUNTI,
East Sepik District.

9th July 1969.

REPORT OF PATROL CENTRAL MAY
CENSUS DIVISION MR. PENNEFATHER

Attached please find a Situation Report and Area Study submitted by Mr Pennefather on a recent patrol to the Central May Division.

POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE ECONOMY

Concerning the introduction of cash crops I don't think there is any need to worry too much about quality nor any competition with crops from AMBUNTI or WAWAK. If it is good enough it will be bought and competition doesn't enter into it. Presumably DASP would determine soil suitability before an abortive extension program could be undertaken.

Any produce from the area after being brought to May River station from villages above it or bought on the spot at points downstream on the May River and along the Sepik on the return to AMBUNTI, would have to be carried by Administration workboats. In the interests of fostering economic development in the area I feel the expense could be justified if it were looked on in the light of a government subsidy.

Agreed that any mining activities must have a progressive effect on the area. Road and water access would open areas for agricultural development. Company policy would use, probably for means of diplomacy much of the local work force and could foreseeably provide health and educational facilities, again for the same reason. However, at this stage I would not let a spirit of optimism place total reliance for development on mining activities and still advocate some activity on the part of DASP.

As in previous correspondence re Local Government At MAY RIVER I agree with Mr Pennefather's remarks.

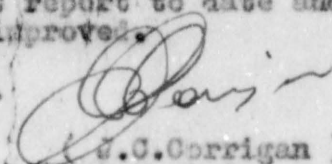
LABOUR RECRUITMENT

The OIC May River will be asked to keep in mind dangers of over-recruitment and if necessary a recommendation to close will be made.

GENERAL

This is Mr Pennefather's best report to date and it is noted his spelling has improved.

For your information, please.


J.C. Carrigan)
Assistant District Commissioner

MAY RIVER Patrol No. 6 of 1968-1969

Subdistrict: AMBUNTI

District: EAST SEPIK

Type of Patrol: Area Study and Situation Report

Patrol Conducted By: D.H.Pennefather, Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled: Central May Census Division
(Non Council Area)

Personnel Accompanying Patrol: 3 Members R.P.N.G.C.
1 Medical Orderly

Duration of Patrol: 1-6-69 to 10-6-69

No. of Days: Ten (10)

Last D.D.A. Patrol to Area: No.4 of 1967-1968.

Duration: Six (6) Days.

Objects of Patrol: Conduct Census
Collect Information for Area Study.

Total Population of Area Patrolled: 992.

MAY RIVER Patrol No.6 of 1968-1969.Patrol Diary.Sunday, June 1st.

Departed MAY RIVER at 1245 and proceeded by double canoe to IABREM arriving at 1410. Village inspected.

Sleep IABREM.

Monday, June 2nd.

Conduct census at IABREM of people from both IABREM and PAINU. Proceeded 35 minutes up river to AUNI where village was inspected and census conducted.

Sleep AUNI.

Tuesday, June 3rd.

Departed AUNI with 23 carriers and walked to SAMO arriving at 1430 (Departed at 0800). Unable to use canoes owing to the lack of water in creeks.

Sleep SAMO.

Wednesday, June 4th.

Census conducted at SAMO. 0900 depart and arrive at INAGRI at 1200. 1600 the INAGRI people censused.

Sleep INAGRI.

Thursday, June 5th.

Depart INAGRI at 0815 and arrive AMU at 1025. 1530 the AMU people censused.

Sleep AMU.

Friday, June 6th.

Departed AMU at 0755 and have 35 minute walk to the ARIAP creek. Depart ARIAP creek in 7 WANIUM canoes at 0915 and arrive at YEI at 1400.

Sleep YEI.

Saturday, June 7th.

Census conducted at YEI. 1100 depart YEI and arrive WANIUM at 1400. Carriers and WANIUM canoe men paid off.

Sleep WANIUM.

Sunday, June 8th.

Census conducted at WANIUM. 1045 depart WANIUM and proceed to IBU arriving at 1400.

Sleep IBU.

Monday, June 9th.

Census conducted at IPU. At 0930 Government canoe arrives from May River. 0945 depart IPU and arrive May River at 1400.

Sleep MAY RIVER.

Tuesday, June 10th.

Census conducted in the villages of WANAMOI, PEKWE, ABAGAISU and AUMI.

- Patrol Stood Down -

Sleep MAY RIVER.

MAY RIVER Patrol No.6 of 1968-1969.

CENTRAL MAY Census Division.

SITUATION REPORT

POLITICAL

1. The Central May census division is made up of two entirely different groups of people. The first group is that made up of the YEIBUNEI language group, which consists of the villages of WAMMOI, PEKWE, ABAGAISU, AUNI, PAINU, IABREM, AUNI, WANUM and IBU. I am informed that this same language is spoken as far East as YAENIAN on the Sepik River. The second group consists of those villages belonging to the INEISU language group, and consists of the villages of SAMO, INAGRI, AMU, and YEI.

2. The villages belonging to the YEIBUNEI language group have subject to continual European influence since the May River Patrol Post was established in 1956. The other villages belonging to the INEISU language group have had European influence only in the form of Government patrol's to the area as from about 1960.

3. The political awareness of the people belonging to the YEIBUNEI language group is probably the best in the May River area but even then it is not good. Various young men are aware of a thing called "House Assembly" at which a "Big Man" from Ambunti Mr. NAUI (M.H.A.) goes and talks about the price of Coffee and Rice. They have no comprehension as to the mechanics of Government and its finances. For this I don't think they can be blamed as:

- i) They have had no experience of limited Government activities, E.G. Local Government Councils.
- ii) They have little to no appreciation of the values and uses of money because most of them have not got any and those that have have never expended their financial activities beyond the buying of a tin of Fish and some cloths.

4. Political awareness among the people belonging to the INEISU language can be said to be 'non-existent'. They have exactly no money and beyond the House of Assembly elections have ~~not~~ not participated in political activities. They are much more concerned with and interested in their own local internal politics. From what I observed no matter how intensive a Political Education campaign is carried out in the area it will stand very little chance of success until such time as a Local Government Council is set up in the area, and so give the people some practical means of political education in which they can participate themselves.

5. There is a great shortage of able bodied young men in the area. Out of a population of 992 of whom 301 are Adult males, 120 young men are absent from the area being employed at Stations out of the District. The effects of this will become apparent later.

ECONOMIC

6. At present there is no Cash Cropping being carried out in the area patrolled. The staple diet of the area is Sago with the people situated on the rivers having their diet supplemented by fish.

7. There is to my knowledge no plan for D.A.S.F. extention work to be carried out in the area, and as ~~they~~ the greater part of the area is covered by extensive swamp lands there could well appear to be little justification for any such move. However my own views and suggestions on Agricultural extention will be included in the attached Area Study.

8. A limited income is still being made by village people from WANAMOI, PEKWE, and AUMI, through the sale of crocodile skins.

9. In the near future Mr. F.F. Greene a Geologist with 'International Nickel Southern Exploration Ltd,' will be proceeding into the Upper SANIAP creek region in the search for mineral deposits. Should Mr. Greenes activities prove successfull there is no telling what effect it could have on the economy of the area.

SOCIAL

10. The patrol was accompanied by a Hospital Orderly who treated numerous cases of Tropical Ulcers and a few cases of Yaws at SAMO village. It is recommended that all future patrolls to the area should be accompanied by a Medical Orderly as provides a much needed service and one which the people appreciate.

11. Previously at INAGRI village there had been trouble, when in December 1968 a ~~young~~ young child was shot and killed. An INAGRI man: ARAGUAINGA SVAINGA was latter charged with the unlawful killing. ARAGUAINGA is at present at May River having been released on Bail. However he has not been returnd to his village but instead has been employed on the Government Labour line. When I was at INAGRI I was informed that no repraisal action would be taken against ARAGUAINGA should he return to the village but for the sake of security I have decided against sending him home.

MAY RIVER Patrol No.6 of 1968-1969.

CENTRAL MAY CENSUS DIVISION.

AREA STUDY

(A) INTRODUCTION.

1. The Central May census division is made up of predominantly swamp lands being punctuated at odd intervals by small insignificant mountains.
2. The two main waterways in the area: the May River and the SANIAP creek provide access to the greater part of the region. Where it is not possible to reach a village by either of the waterways as in the case of INAGRI, AMU, and at times SAMO, it is necessary to proceed by foot through swamp-lands.
3. The people situated on the May River have had continual Administration contact since the May River Patrol Post was established in 1956. The other villages in the area have been under Administration influence since the late 1950's.

(B) POPULATION-DISTRIBUTION AND TRENDS

4. Please find attached a copy of the 'Village Population Register.'
5. There is a considerable amount of movement of population between the people belonging to the villages SAMO, INAGRI, AMU, and YEI. These people have changed their traditional social pattern very little, if any, since European contact was effected, and they still lead a somewhat nomadic existence and are only now beginning to settle themselves in permanent village ~~sites~~ sites.
6. As mentioned earlier there has been some very 'ruthless' recruiting carried out in this area which has resulted in the majority of the young male work force being absent from the area. This means that no matter what the Government intends in the area the question will always arise: 'Who is going to do it?' because at present the only people in the area are women, old men, and children.

The attached map should indicate clearly enough the waterways and walking tracks in the area.

(C) SOCIAL GROUPINGS

8. As described in the 'Situation Report' there are two main groups in the Central May region: those belonging to the YEIBUNEI language group and those belonging to INEISU language group. These two groups are traditional enemies and very little liaison is maintained between the two groups, this is not the result of enmity but is because there is no necessity for it.

9. There is a very great similarity between the people of the INEISU language group and those people living at the headwaters of the WOGAMUSH river.

- i) Their housing is similar.
- ii) Their way of life is the same: (a shifting Agriculture). Resulting I feel from a small number of people populating such a large area of land.
- iii) The area populated by the two groups is identical both in its Geography, and vegetation.

10. The large mountainous region to the South of the Central May census division is un-populated.

(D) LEADERSHIP

11. The whole of the May River area is a non council area and is still administered under the Luluai/TulTul system.

12. Those people holding the positions of either Luluai or TulTul in the villages were chosen as a result of their traditional influence over their people and I think it is safe to say that their influence over the people still remains and has to some extent been increased as the result of the Governments recognition of their influence.

13. The following is a list of the village officials in the Central May and their designations.

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>
IABREM	NONEI-NANAGWOM	TUL TUL
PAINU	KIMI-LEINO	TUL TUL
AUNI	NONAI-MOI	TUL TUL
AUMI	NALU-MUNO	TUL TUL
PEKWE	MEINU-KWAINIS	TUL TUL
WANAMOI	WAPNO-NAMNO	TUL TUL
IBU	NAUNI-WANI	TUL TUL
WANIAM	NAMSAT-BINEIN	LULUAI
	NANAI-NANMO	TUL TUL
YEI	SAURINIGA-AMOI	PROB/TUL TUL
SAMO	URAPIA-AMOSA	PROB/TUL TUL
INAGRI	MAPO-HAUOSA	PROB/TUL TUL
AMU	EBALINIGA-HOSA	PROB/TUL TUL

(E) LAND TENURE AND USE.

14. In each case the ownership of land is on a communal basis. In the large swamp areas the different villages have rights over various sago stands but none of these are owned individually. For the people on the rivers the same applies but they also have rights over various water ways.

15. No natives in the region hold land on lease from the administration.

16. To date no cash cropping has commenced in the area.

(F) LITERACY

17. The Seventh Day Adventist mission runs a small 'Pidgin English Speaking School' at PEKWE village. This school is very below standard and has a very unreliable attendance.

18. There are twelve students from the villages of PEKWE and ABAGAISU attending the S.D.A. school at NAGUM RIVER.

19. There are various radio receivers in the villages adjacent to the May River and Saniap Creek, but all of them are in a somewhat dubious state of repair.

20. The majority of the young men on the May River and Lower Saniap Creek regions can speak Pidgin English. The remainder continue to be illiterate in the lingua franca.

(G) STANDARD OF LIVING.

21. The people still continue to live in their traditional style dwellings, which appear to be quite adequate, and proved in most cases to be in reasonably good condition. European metal artefacts are seen and used everywhere even though stone adze's are still being used for the making of canoes. European cloths are also being used everywhere.

22. Sago is the staple diet of all the people throughout the area with European tin foods being only used by those people adjacent to May River Station with enough money to buy it.

23. There are no community centres operation in the area.

(H) MISSIONS

24. There are two missions that maintain an influence in the area: The Seventh Day Adventist Mission and the Assemblies of God mission. The S.D.A. mission maintain influence along the May River as far up stream as AUNI and at times possible further. On the Saniap Creek they maintain their influence as far up stream as WANUM village. The A.O.G. mission's activities are not as extensive as those of the S.D.A. mission and maintain a limited influence along the May River as far as AUNI village.

25. The people show a favourable attitude towards the missions.

(I) NON-INDIGENES.

26. There are no non-indigenes personnel in the area permanently. The Ambunti stationed "LAS KOMPANI" maintain a store on the May River Station.

(J) COMMUNICATIONS

27. There are no roads in the area, and there are no roads planned for the area.

28. The waterways can be used by craft up to the size of Double Canoes, and in the case of the MAY RIVER to the Ambunti Government Work Boat, up to and beyond the May River station depending on the height of the river.

29. There are no air strips in the area except a Helicopter pad at INAGRI village. The Cessna Float Plane operated by the MISSIONARY AVIATION FELLOWSHIP can land on most places along the May River, and does so regularly at May River station.

(K) TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL SKILLS.

30. There is no supply of men with clerical skills or technical skills in the area other than the Government motor driver: SUI, who is employed.

(L) THE STAGE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

31. The stage of political development in the area is very slight and in places non-existent. I covered this problem in the attached 'Situation Report' and will not cover the same ground again, but will put forward the following as reasons for this lack of Development:-

- i) The short period of contact with Administration.
- ii) Lack of communication with outside, and more progressive areas.
- iii) ~~Lack of young men receiving in no degree subjects~~ to politically educate.
- iv) Lack of consolidated mission activity.
- v) Lack of Societies or Co-operatives (There is nothing at present to justify any such institution)
- vi) And what I consider the most important, lack of any political institution, namely a Local Government Council.

32. From what I can see the political development of the area, despite all our efforts, will be to no avail until such as the majority of the six points are rectified.

(M) THE ECONOMY OF THE AREA.

33. As mentioned earlier there is no cash cropping carried out in the area.

34. The only income for any of the people of the area are for a few who manage to sell a few crocodile skins. A rough estimate, but still the best I could get, indicated that over the past twelve months the villages of WANAMOI, PEKWE, and AUMI have made an income of Seventy Dollars each through the sale of skins. This money is divided between about five men in each village.

35. There are no other economic activities being carried out in the area.

(N) POSSIBILITIES OF EXPANDING THE ECONOMY.

36. In the area adjacent to the May River station it appears that there is much land that would be suitable for the planting of coffee, but should this or any other crop be considered the points should be kept in mind.

- i) The quality would have to be such so as to be able to compete with other crops in the Maprik/Wewak area.
- ii) The quantity would have to be great enough to justify and cover the expense of the long cartage from May River to Bainyik.
- iii) After processing could it's prices compete with local Maprik/Wewak grown coffee.
- iv) Is there there the population W (Work force) available at May River for the planting and supervision of large scale cropping.

37. The people of the area have adequate amounts of food and it would not do the administration of the area any good if a crop was introduced half-heartedly or as a ~~gamble~~ ^{gamble}. It would be much better to maintain the status quo until such a crop can be introduced that we can be very confident of becoming an economical success.

38. The greatest hope for this area economically is for one of the Mineral Exploration ~~expedition~~ teams operating in the areato discover mineral in such quantities as to justify ~~the investment~~. ~~The~~ ~~area~~ ~~is~~ ~~still~~ ~~very~~ ~~much~~ ~~in~~ ~~its~~ ~~infancy~~ but should, I feel, be considered with a considerable degree of optimism, ~~as~~ it is the only way in which this area has any chance at all of proceeding ahead rapidly.

(0) ATTITUDE TOWARDS LOCAL GOVERNMENT.


39. Various people from villages adjacent to May River station suggested that they would like to see Local Government introduced into the area. There reasons for this were vague but they have heard of this system of local administration in other areas and would now like to become part of it them selves.

40. The more distant villages such as INAGRI etc., have no appreciation of Local Government at all.

41. I have suggested previously that the introduction of local Government would be beneficial to the area in the role of Political Development, and I would like to recomend that when possible such an institution be set up at May River. There are many things against it but approached with an air of optimism there is much that it could do for the area. There is a famous maxim 'Rome was not built in a day'. On the optomistic side the following points should be considered:

- i) Increased Political education and awareness.
- ii) A sence of unity into the area.
- iii) A comanding body for the economic development of the area.
- iv) A more effective administration of the area would be maintained.
- v) Could be easily supervised clerically by the Administrative adviser.

42. In September 1967 A.D.O. Mr. B.J.Maume conducted a preliminary survey with a view to the establishment of a Local Government Council in the May River area. I draw your attention to Mr. Maums report, as well as correspondence on the report by Ambunti A.D.C. Mr. J.C.Corrigan.


(D.H.Pennefather)
Patrol Officer

APPENDIX "A"

POPULATION.

SECTION 1.	TOTAL OF POPULATION LAST CENSUS (1967)	953
	<u>ADD</u> MIGRATIONS IN	34
	BIRTHS	85
	<u>TOTAL OF SECTION 1.</u>	<u>1072</u>
SECTION 2.	<u>SUBTRACT</u>	
	MIGRATIONS OUT	44
	DEATHS	36
	<u>TOTAL OF SECTION 2.</u>	<u>80</u>
	CENSUS POPULATION 1969 (2. FROM 1.)	992