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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: GULF

STATION: KIKORI, 1953 - 1956

Original documents bound with reports
for: Kerema, volume 32.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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GULF DISTRICT PATROL REPORTS

1953/54, 1954/55 and 1955/56

KEREMA & KIKORI

<u>Report No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area patrolled</u>
<u>KIKORI</u>		
1 - 55/56 (Special)	J.B.Short	Upper Tauri and Kapau Rivers, Kukipi Administrative Area
<u>KEREMA</u>		
6 - 55/56	K.L.Fitzgerald	Moripi Census Division
1A - 54/55	G.G.Hardy	Kerema Bay Census Division
2 - 54/55	F.N.Harris	Engge Creek Area, North of the Lohiki River
3 - 54/55	A.K.Jackson	Engge Creek Area, North of teh Lohiki River
4 - 54/55	D.F.Permezal	Kaipu Census Division
1 - 53/54	E.Flower	Ihu Patrol Post and villages to Arehava
2 - 53/54	G.R.Keenan	Kairu and Lorabada Villages
3 - 53/54	B.Bowman	Ihu to Arehava and Ihu to Kerema
5 - 53/54	B.E.Bowman	Kerema Bay and Opau Villages
6 - 53/54	G.R.Keenan	Swanson and Ivori River Areas
7 - 53/54	B.E.Bowman	East Coast, Tauri and Kapuri Rivers
9 - 53/54	M.J.Denehy	Tauri River to its junction with the Opio River



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of Gulf, Kerema Sub-District Report No. Kikori Special No. 1-55/56.

Patrol Conducted by Mr. J. B. Short, Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled Upper Tauri and Kapau Rivers, Kukipi Administrative Area.
P. S. Gall, Patrol Officer

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans members New Guinea Resources Prospecting
1 N.M.A. Company.

Natives 10 members R.P.&N.G.C.
52 carriers - composite group Kainantus
and Goilalas

Duration—From 12/7/1955 to 5/10/1955.

Number of Days 86 days

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? N.M.A.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services Pre-war (?)

Medical None

Map Reference Army Strat. Series, 4 miles to 1 inch, Yule and Wau Sheets

Objects of Patrol (1) Escort to New Guinea Resources Prospecting Co. survey group to Upper Tauri and Kapau Rivers, (2) Administrative penetration of this area.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

16/1/1957.

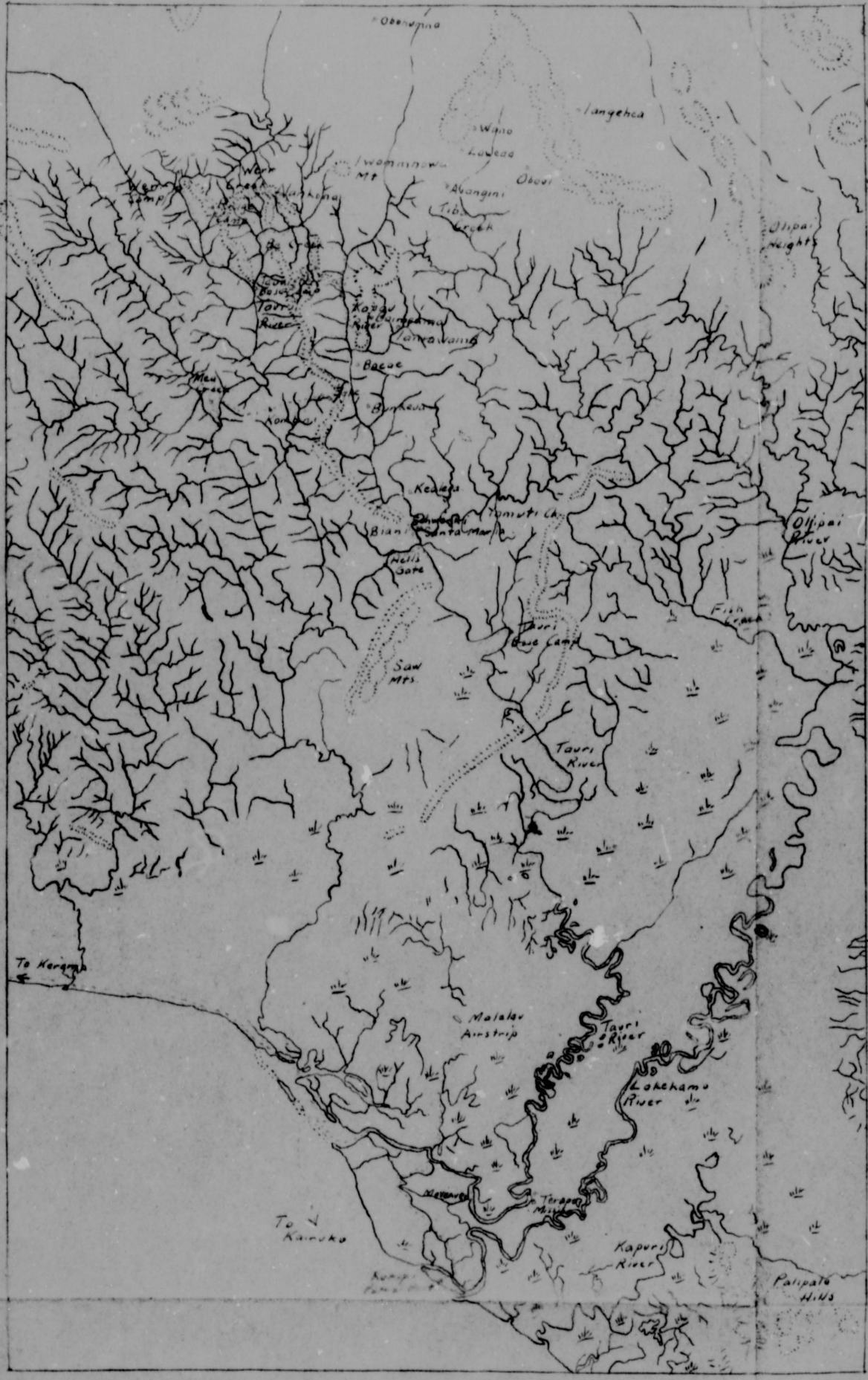
[Handwritten Signature]
District Commissioner

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

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

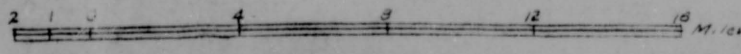
Amount Paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund ... £.....

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Papua-TCNG
Boundary
(Approx)

MAP TO ACCOMPANY KIKORI
(SPECIAL) REPORT NO 1-1955/56
UPPER TAURI & KAPAU RIVERS



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

Patrol Report No. Kik. 2 (Special) -55/56 of
July-October, 1955.

Conducted by;

J. B. Short, Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled;

Upper Tauri and Kapau Rivers, Kukipi Administrative area.

Objects of Patrol;

- (1) Escort to New Guinea Resources Prospecting Company survey group to the Upper Tauri and Kapau Rivers.
- (2) Administrative penetration of this area.

Duration of Patrol;

From 12/7/55 to 5/10/56. 86 days.

Last Patrol to the Area;

Native Affairs - Pre-war (?)
Medical - None

Map Reference;

Army Strat. Series, 4 miles to 1 inch, Yule and Wau Sheets.

Personnel Accompanying;

European; - P. S. Gall, Patrol Officer.

Members of New Guinea Resources Prospecting Company.

Native; - 10 members R.P.&.N.G.C.

1 Medical Assistant

52 Carriers - composite group
Kaimantus and Geilalas.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

Patrol Report No. Kik. 2 (Special) -55/56 of
July-October, 1955.

DIARY.

10-7-55.

Left Port Moresby at 8.00a.m. on M.V. "Kano", accompanied by 10 police with stores for 11 weeks for Kairuku to join members of New Guinea Resources Prospecting Company survey party. Arrived Kairuku at 3.30p.m.. Stayed with A.D.O. Mr. W. Tomasetti.

11-7-55.

Remained at Kairuku, loading boat and making final preparations for trip to Tauri River Base Camp of N.G.R.P.Co..

12-7-55.

7.00a.m. party consisting of Messrs R. Hayward, J. Puckey, A.A. Sutton, B. Humphries, 10 police, 1 N.M.A., and 52 labourers sailed from Kairuku on M.V. "Kano" for Moviave village. Crossed Kukipi bar, a difficult one, and entered the Tauri River at 2.30p.m.. Arrived Moviave village on the Tauri at 3.30. Police and labourers camped in village.

13-7-55.

7.15a.m. departed Moviave on the M.V. "Kano" for Terapo Catholic Mission station, arriving 8.00a.m. "Kano" unloaded, the gear, equipment, supplies, etc, being transferred to double canoes belonging to the company. The party joined by another company member, Mr. J. Laver, at Terapo. Left Terapo at 10.15a.m. on the double canoes driven by out-boards. Canoes were initially kept in pairs, lashed together and driven by 2 out-boards. As the number of river obstacles increased, the double canoes proceeded individually. It was hoped to reach a group of garden houses (kombati called Apuapu by late afternoon but as the river was low travel was retarded by numerous snags, and at 4.30p.m. camp was established at a smaller kombati, 3 hrs down-river from Apuapu.

14-7-55.

7.20a.m. left the kombati in 4 groups - 3 single "double canoes" and 1 double "double canoe", each double canoe unit carrying an approximate 1½-2 tons in cargo and personnel. At 1.20p.m. the double "double canoe" with Messrs Puckey, Sutton and Gall aboard had trouble with the out-board, the swift current turned the canoe sideways against a snag, splitting one of the canoe hulls and swamping the unit. Much cargo was washed off, but all except a few small items were saved. Amongst the items retrieved from the bottom were 2 rifles, a camera and bunch of keys. Portion of the police rations were damaged particularly rice and wheatmeal. The broken canoe was abandoned and the group proceeded on. At 3.30p.m. another canoe got out of control in rapids. The canoe was being pulled and poled through a shallow part, but the bow of the canoe was allowed to get too far out into the swift current where the canoe boys lost control. The engine was started but the heavily laden canoe was quickly swamped by the rough water. The canoe remained upright but washed down the rapid. Little cargo was lost but more rations damaged by water. It was then decided to leave all but essential cargo and some of the labourers at a nearby kombati, continue on to the base camp and collect the other cargo next day. Darkness fell and rain started to fall before camp was reached. After several drags over shallows the first canoe reached camp at 7.30p.m., the last canoe coming in 65 minutes later. At camp met the other members of the party, Messrs R. Schweers and F. O'Brien.

15-7-55.

At base camp drying out gear. Canoe left for down-river to pick up cargo and labourers. When canoe returned from first trip afternoon spent drying out and re-packing rations. Half rice wet

but can be dried out and will be utilised early for whole party to avoid loss by deterioration. Decided at this stage to pool all rations, estimate all requirements together with company, drawing from company stocks. Company personnel spent day sorting out gear and rations. Several Egke people arrived early in the morning with the news that they had been chased out of their village a few weeks earlier by the Nankona people. No-one was injured. The Nankona later ran away. The Egke people also advised that Nankona was a large village with lined houses unlike their own group of hamlets. Police given drill at base camp which is a flat, clear knoll about 40 feet above the river. Guards posted to accustom police to routine expected later. Canoe returned from second trip down river at 3.30p.m.

16-7-55.

Sorted out and re-packed rations brought up on second trip. Rice was all dried out in the sun but some wheatmeal had to be dumped. Company personnel continued sorting, packing and weighing stores and equipment for helicopter drop. This is a most involved and intricate process. About 10 tons of gear had to be individually sorted, checked, packed and weighed, then marked for each dump and stacked in order of priority. Helicopter sites were required each horizontal mile distance along the route as emergency landing sites. Messrs Sutton and Humphries left camp at 8.00a.m. for Hell's Gate where they carried out gauging operations on the Tauri River.

17-7-55.

Started preparing personal gear for departure from camp on Tuesday. Company personnel continued packing for helicopter lift. Messrs Sutton and Humphries returned from Hell's Gate at 3.30p.m.

18-7-55.

At base camp. Final preparation of gear.

19-7-55.

9.15a.m. canoe left for Yamuti Junction camp with gear and F. O'Brien accompanied by R. Hayward. Mr. Hayward returned at 12.10p.m. and P.O.'s Short and Gall left at 12.30 for Yamuti. Arrived 2.10p.m. at bank of Tauri - 15 minutes walk to camp site opposite Yamuti and Kapau junction. Camp established - then to mission villages for inspection. Three villages - two of them on right bank of Yamuti (known locally as Butei) at its junction with Kapau left bank. One is the Catholic village of Santa Maria and the other, right in the junction, is the L.M.S. village of Schwenki. Opposite, on the right bank of the Kapau, is the L.M.S. village of Biani. The reason for the two L.M.S. villages is that they each contain Kukukuku people from different villages who are living on their own land. They will not combine as they say they would fight. However the Catholics assert that the village of Schwenki is on the land bought for the Catholic Mission by P.O. Connolly. The Tauri here is known as the Gotai. The people who live in Santa Maria have come down from a village called Wigini which lies to the N.E. of the junction. So also do the people from Schwenki and they are living on their own land. The people of Biani came from Iemu, one day away to the north. Wigini may not exist now, as all may have moved down. The Catholic village wishes to make one Nita a village constable. He cannot speak Motu but has lived 6 years at Moviave and speaks Toaripi. This appears to be a mission expedient and would be useless unless he spent some time at the Kukipi government station and learnt Motu and police duties.

20-7-55.

Remained at Yamuti Junction camp awaiting Messrs Hayward, Laver and Humphries. Helicopter due to arrive at base camp to-day. Saw several more Kukukukus from the mission villages and purchased a small quantity of sweet potato and banana. During afternoon helicopter passed overhead on initial survey of landing sites. Messrs Hayward, Laver and Humphries arrived per canoe from base with more labourers. Prepared for move next day.

21-7-55.

6.50a.m. departed for Egke village with full line of carriers total, 52 Kainantus and Gailalas. Carrier line strung out somewhat, showing no concern over attitude of locals whilst some were difficult to keep up in line. Walked all day last group reaching Egke at 5.15p.m. A hard day's carrying, particularly for first day. Several young boys from mission village accompanied us and also a few older men. Two of the mission teachers declared their intention of coming to Egke and started off in the morning. However there was no sign of them at midday and they never reached the village. None of them have ever been there.- the Apostles were made of sterner stuff! Several Egke people greeted the patrol in the particular hamlet where the camp site was established, including one Ndua who appears to be the leader. They appeared completely friendly and showed neither fear nor antagonism.

22-7-55.

8.20a.m. departed Egke for Be Junction. Shortly after start Mr. Hayward left main party with 4 police and 4 labourers to visit one of lateral helicopter sites, of which there is one every mile to Be Creek and Kapau power site. Main party continued along ridge. Mr Hayward rejoined main party at top of first mountain, about 2,100 ft., into a saddle and up again to 2,800 ft followed by steep descent into Be Creek camp site. Arrived camp at 3.30p.m.. The patrol was accompanied by approximately 40 Egkes who also camped in the restricted space at the Creek junction. They showed great curiosity about everything, but no attempts at stealing. Very difficult to keep them away from camp construction activity. Total strength in the camp area now is 6 Europeans, 11 police, 1 Medical Orderly, 4 cooks, 25 Kainantus and 27 Gailalas, plus about 40 Kukukukus - all in the space of about 1 acre.

23-7-55.

Setting up forward base camp. Light rain in morning, first time for some days. River Tauri is very low at the moment and can be waded waist high at one point just above the Be Junction. Most of the Egke people left this morning to return to the village stating their intention to return the next day with food. Helicopter arriving at 35 minute intervals with supplies from Tauri base camp. On second morning trip Mr. P. Cunliffe, one of N.G.R.P. Co. London directors came in, followed later by Messrs A. Sutton and J.V. Puckey. Cargo also coming in. Late afternoon several Kukukukus appeared on opposite bank of Tauri. Finally 16 appeared. Shy at first, they came down and talked with Egke people across the river. Later we crossed in dinghy and gave them some trade. They came from village of Wambiu on right bank of Tauri and have been contacted by a previous patrol. Two of them had been to Kerema.

24-7-55.

Mr. Cunliffe left on helicopter's first trip out of Be camp at about 7.00a.m.. Others all remained in camp. Preparations made for the trip to Nankona. The Wambiu people crossed over the river and entered the camp. Friendly people, language slightly different and appearance not as fierce as the Egke.

25-7-55.

8.15a.m. Messrs Short, Gall, Hayward, Puckey, 29 carriers, 2 cooks and 10 police left Be Creek camp for Nankona area. Also accompanied by about 10 Kukukukus from Egke and Yamuti Junction. Shortly after leaving the camp ~~was barred by~~ the track was barred by cut bushes, branches and saplings. This occurred numerous times all the way up the ridge. At the crest of the ridge voices were heard, and proceeding quietly we frightened 6 Nankonas in a bamboo clump, who promptly crashed ~~off~~ down off the ridge in great haste. Our calls to them through an interpreter were unanswered. Waited for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour and then proceeded on along the main ridge, dropping off down a spur to the right towards Nankona as seen earlier from the helicopter by Mr. Hayward onto a saddle

joining the lower of the 2 Nankona peaks. Found a well used track and followed it down. Made camp at 2.30p.m. at the lowest point of the saddle. No contact made with Nankonas, although they were heard calling one another. Policeman, Sagari, cut himself above knee rather badly with tomahawk. Full guard established, including European members of party, but no sign of anyone.

26-7-55.

Three natives appeared out of the mist at 7.30a.m. calling out as they came down the slope towards the camp. They did not carry bows. Spoke to them and gave presents. They said they were from Nankona and that they would go away and return with food. P.O. Gall departed camp at 8.30a.m. with Const. Sagari, 4 police and 6 carriers for Be Creek. Shortly after the departure a larger group of Nankonas arrived at the saddle camp. They appeared frightened and anxious to please. More Nankonas arrived in groups and spotted the Egkes who had accompanied the patrol. If looks could kill, the Egkes died a fiery, violent death! The situation was uncomfortable for a while, so when the group went away to get food, the Egke people were despatched back to Be. Other Nankonas brought bananas, sweet potatoes and sugar cane which was traded, mainly for beads, which proved a very popular item of trade. The main diet appears to be banana, sweet potato and sugar cane. Quite a number of the people appeared during the day. P.O. Gall and party reached Be Creek at 11.15a.m., followed shortly after by the Egkes despatched from the saddle camp. Const. Sagari flown out by helicopter to Terapo Mission for medical aid. Party departed Be camp at 1.00p.m. for return trip to saddle camp, arriving at 4.15p.m.. The group was followed by a party of Nankonas proceeding below the main ridge, possibly unaware of the patrol's presence above on main track. Guards posted. Altitude of saddle camp 1980 feet.

27-7-55.

Some Nankonas arrived to act as guides. Still no bows and arrows. The impression gained is that they consider the patrol with some apprehension and signs of mis-giving, not knowing what they might expect. When questioned about the closing of the track their explanation was that somebody else was responsible. Also said that the people from the other side of Werr Creek were responsible for the incident that occurred there. Climber hill above the saddle and across another saddle onto Nankona Hill. Numerous gardens. Met more people and were shown a camp site in quite a good position near the village. Most of the village is down in the valley on the Werr side of the hill whilst others are situated on top of the hill. Camp at an altitude of 2,700 ft. Talked to the people assembled at the camp about the patrol's visit, administration, law and order. Then gave a demonstration of fire-power, firstly rapid fire through a tree stump from a .303 rifle, followed by pistol shots through several thicknesses of bark into which our hosts had, on request, shot some arrows. During this demonstration one man fainted. After this all the men rushed to the tree stump and started touching it and cutting pieces of wood from where the bullets had penetrated. They said they would tie these pieces to their arrows. Secondly, a demonstration was given of felling a tree with gelignite. After the explosion, which impressed everyone, 5 fainting, all rushed to the stump, held it, stood on it and rubbed their hands on it, cutting shreds and pieces off it, and wrapped the pieces up in leaves for putting on their arrows. Every precaution was taken during the demonstrations. They were very eager to trade for steel and were keenly interested to view our stocks thereof. We asked for a pig in payment for an axe, but it would appear that pigs are a very scarce commodity in the area. They do not know how to use trade tobacco, but have a pipe of their own in which they smoke some aromatic leaf. The pipe is a section of bamboo about 2" in diameter, which is cut off square at one end and obliquely on the other end. A wad of leaf is lit and placed in the oblique end and the smoke imbibed from the other end. They take a few short draws and blow them back through the pipe and then take one deep breath and inhale a fantastic quantity of smoke down into their lungs. One particularly

objectionable character who wished to demonstrate his prowess took such an enormous breath of smoke that he nearly passed out, and was speechless for some minutes, tears running from his eyes. At dusk they all left us. We had heard a rumour that they intended attacking the party during the night as they considered themselves robbed in the trading. However, the fire-power demonstration deterred them. Trading with this group was conducted on equivalent values as with other groups. A cold, misty, watchful night. A magnificent ~~view~~ panoramic view of the wide Werr valley stretching north to the highlands is obtained from the camp site.

28-7-55.

Broke camp at 8.30a.m. Saw some further Nankonas who had not appeared previously, but who were recognised as being involved in the Werr Creek incident. Waited for the clouds to clear in order to climb to the top of the hill at Nankona and make observations but no sign of it clearing. Then one of the men ~~Frank~~ who had accompanied us from base camp and who belonged to a neighbouring tribe friendly to the Nankonas rushed into the middle of the patrol which was grouped round the stores. He started gesticulating and behaved as though in a trance. He said that we must leave immediately as we were going to be attacked along the track. When asked who was going to attack he finally said "spirits". However this alarmed the carriers and to some extent the police. Also most of the Nankonas disappeared very quickly. The situation was rather uncomfortable, so the patrol remained stationary. Eventually several Nankonas returned to within a reasonable distance, and one old man who was possibly their leader was asked what he knew about it. His reply was that if anyone attacked, it would not be the Nankonas. The patrol's departure from the camp site was effected at 9.45a.m., although the last few to leave were herded out but not followed. Several Nankonas were observed, stationed behind trees watching our departure. Returned to the Be Creek camp via a ridge which runs down from Nankona to the creek about 1½ miles above the camp. The last group reached camp at 4.35p.m. Travel down the creek was difficult and for most of the way meant clambering over large boulders.

29-7-55.

At camp. Messrs Sutton, Humphries, Laver and O'Brien engaged in river gauging and surveying. About 30 natives from Wambiu visited the camp, also a few from Egke. Then about 5.00p.m. a group of Nankonas came into the camp bringing 2 young boys whom they wanted taken out to civilisation. They were advised that we would consider their suggestion later when we were going out. Last day of helicopter lift. Messrs Hayward, Puckey and Sutton visited the Kapau power station site in it. It then proceeded to Malalau and then returned for the last time with mail and Mr. R. Schweers from the base camp.

30-7-55.

In camp. Hayward and Gall with 5 police to top of mountain across the Tauri from camp, to cut a trig station. Altitude was 1980 ft. Site cleared and trig station erected. Werr Creek site visible. Numerous houses, cleared cultivations, and hamlets were noticed on the slopes of the parallel mountain to the west across the wide valley. Returned to camp about 4.30p.m. The Nankonas returned to their village but the Egke people remained during the morning, and were most intrigued by the battery charger. They held their hands over the machine, pulling and cracking their fingers and wanted to touch the motor. One man brought a boy up to the motor and vigorously cracked his fingers for him over it. It would seem they imagine they gain strength in their hands from the motor. They have also done this with a shotgun. Other members of the party surveying and river gauging.

31-7-55.

Spent the day in Be camp. Made preparations for move up to the ridge between the Be and Werr Creeks to-morrow.

1-8-55.

P.O.'s Short and Gall left Be camp at 9.15a.m. accompanied by 9 police and a number of carriers for the top of the ridge between Be and Werr Creeks. Arrived at 12.15 and made camp. Carriers returned to Be Creek for the night. N.G.R.P. Co personnel engaged in survey work at Be Creek dam site. Altitude of ridge camp about 2,600 ft.

2-8-55.

Day in ridge camp. Carriers arrived from Be Creek at 11.25a.m. with a load of stores. Visited by a few people from Nankona. Carriers clearing the camp site and returned to Be camp.

3-8-55.

At ridge camp all day. Carriers came in again with another load and again returned to Be for the night. Visited by another group from Nankona, including their leader, Titamnga, to whom a knife was given as a present. Also one young man came in from a village called Weuga which, he says, is across the Tauri from here. They are friendly with the Nankona. He was presented with a small knife and some beads to take back to his village. He said that he had never seen a european before nor had any ever been to his village. Name of the peak on which Nankona is situated is Amingeng. The one near it is Miminge. Waiiau is a high peak beyond the Kapau to the east, which appears to be over 4,000 ft.

4-8-55.

Remained at ridge camp. Visited by several Nankonas and also several men from Weuga. They show no surprise whatever at seeing Europeans although they admit that they have never seen them before. They have heard of them through trade with the Moviave. At 12.30p.m. the complete party from Be Creek arrived in camp with all carriers. Now 9 Europeans in camp. A large amount of equipment has been left in the camp site at Be Creek, it being quite impossible to move all the equipment everywhere. More Kukukukus came into camp including several women with small children. They brought sweet potato, sugar cane and bananas to sell, but they at no time bring large quantities of food and expect a knife or axe for a small handfull of food. They are hard bargainers! Beads they value greatly as they do all steel articles; tobacco they like but do not value as a trade item. Evening highlighted by a "fire-works" display, 2 marine rockets being set off; despite a rather thick mist they provided quite an illuminating display.

5-8-55.

8.30a.m. Messrs Short, Hayward and Schweers left camp accompanied by 6 police and a number of carriers to find a suitable route to Werr Creek junction. Followed a native track for some distance, then left the ridge and moved down to the river. The track down had to be cut all the way and some difficulty incurred in locating the right spur to descend. Difficult going but finally arrived out in the junction. Dumped some stores in a fly and returned up a spur cutting a track for future use. Left Werr Creek at 12.30p.m. and arrived back in camp at 3.00p.m. Other group spent day at camp selecting and cutting a trig site. Several people from Nankona and also Weuga (including women) came to trade.

6-8-55.

9.00a.m. Messrs Short, Sutton, Hayward, Schweers, Puckey, Humphries and O'Brien left ridge camp for Werr Creek, accompanied by 7 police and some carriers, arriving 10.25a.m.. Camp established on right bank of Werr at junction with Tauri. Carriers returned to Ridge escorted by 2 police. Gall, Laver and 5 police spent night at

Ridge Camp. Clearing site for trig station. Visited by several Nankonas. Werr party visited by some people from Weuga.

7-8-55.

Survey commenced at Werr Creek. Sutton and Humphries completed gauging of Tauri and Werr. A number of people from Weuga, which is only a short distance from the camp and not across the Tauri came into the camp to trade. At no time has a whole bunch of bananas been seen, it is usually single bananas scattered among a few sweet potatoes in a small string bag. Beads are most popular, but, of course, they would prefer steel. This group has no pigs at all. Laver and remainder of labour departed ridge camp at 12.30p.m. for Werr Creek. A party of 15 armed Kukukukus visited the ridge camp during the afternoon. P.O. Gall and 5 police spent night at ridge camp.

8-8-55.

Werr survey continued. Short accompanied O'Brien and Laver to ridge behind camp to erect a trig station. Party returned to camp at noon. Sutton and Humphries left camp accompanied by 4 police and a number of carriers for Ridge Camp arriving at 10.30a.m. Two police and some labour returned to Werr from Ridge in afternoon. About 20 men and boys and 2 women from Weuga visited Werr camp with food for sale. They appeared very friendly and said they had been annoyed with the Nankona for shooting at the party earlier. They claim there will be no fighting while the patrol is in the area but that as soon as we depart fighting will re-commence.

11.40a.m. Gall, Sutton and Humphries departed Ridge for Be, arriving 2.10p.m.. Everything intact and whilst nothing appeared to be missing, it would seem that some Kukukukus had entered and searched the camp.

9-8-55.

Werr survey continues. Company personnel on plane table survey of junction environs, Puckey on geological reconnaissance, Laver and O'Brien running traverse from trig station to camp area at junction. About 10 people from Weuga came into camp, some new faces among them, including 2 women. Gall, Humphries and Sutton proceeded from Be camp up steep spur, along mountain ridge, down to Egke gardens and over a low hill to hamlet at helicopter platform No.8. A slow tedious journey taking 9 hours. Supplies left at camp intact. Arrival coincided with heavy, sharp downpour. Ndua, head man, reports a slashed tent covering the supplies stored at Kapau base; inference being that stores possibly ransacked by local Kukukukus.

10-8-55.

Company personnel continuing Werr survey. Some 23 people from Weuga, including about 14 women and children, came into camp bringing the largest amount of food seen so far. 7.40a.m. Messrs Sutton and Humphries accompanied by a party of Kainantus departed Egke for Yamuti en route Tauri base, Terapo to Kairuku. P.O. Gall, escort police and carriers returned to Be Creek, arriving 1.00p.m. Attended Tauri gauge readings.

11-8-55.

A road cutting party proceeded to cut a track down the Tauri from Werr to Be camp, returning to Werr at 4.35p.m. Survey continues. P.O. Gall departed Be camp at 8.20a.m. and proceeded per ridge track to Werr camp, arriving at 12.30p.m. Afternoon Gall accompanied Puckey on geological reconnaissance up Tauri and Werr.

12-8-55.

Werr survey continues, now nearing completion. Remained at camp. Number of people from Weuga came into camp, bringing a large amount of food to sell.

13-8-55.

Remained in camp. Survey completed during the day. Visited by about 50 Kukukukus from 3 groups: some from Weuga, a large number from a group called Ingobia which is up on the head-waters of the Iaba Creek, and 3 from Teduta, a short way in from the right bank of the Tauri. All had had no previous contact with Europeans but had beads traded from the coast (Moviave and/or Kerema).

14-8-55.

Sunday - observed. Visited by about 25 Kukukukus from Weuga who traded vegetables. These were followed later by about 41 from Nankona who said they were paying a friendly visit. They bought no food to trade. Then they went, or said they were going, to Weuga to sleep. Several Weuga women and children came down by themselves and joined up with the Nankona at the camp. They returned first to their village. A demonstration of fire-power was given the Weuga people, - this being the first occasion when there were not working parties all up and down the river. Showed penetrating power by firing through a tree stump, and range by firing at a rock and into the river some distance away. One man fainted. The Weuga requested "permission" - and invited our assistance - to return and fight their neighbours, peace, apparently having reigned too long in the area. They displayed a slight trace of disappointment at the lack of an enthusiastic response to their suggestion. A talk was given on the aims of administration, law and order.

15-8-55.

At 8.25a.m. left Werr Creek camp for Be Creek. It was possible to move camp in a single lift. Walked along the Tauri down the left bank on the track previously cut. This way would be impossible during the wet season. At present the river is particularly low, the flow being about 750 cusecs above Be Creek. Werr Creek had 130 cusecs when gauged, Be Creek has about 5 cusecs. A large portion of the way is over stones - a difficult route for carriers. Arrived in Be camp at about 3.35p.m. No damage had been done to stores and gear left in camp but again, on closer examination, it was found that everything had been turned over and looked through. Followed down to Be by 7 Kukukukus from Weuga who bought sweet potato to sell.

16-8-55.

Remained at camp. Survey of area for dam site was continued from where left off before going to Werr Creek. Late afternoon rains continued on into the night, the heaviest fall to date during patrol.

17-8-55.

Remained in camp. Ndua from Egke arrived in camp in the afternoon with the news that the stores dumped on helicopter platform 11 site had been broken into and stolen by nearby natives. He believed that no damage had been done to stores at the power site on the Kapau River. One of the natives with him confirmed this and guaranteed to look after the stores on the promise of a knife as subsequent payment. The Tauri rose 1'7" during the day, the peak reached about 12.30p.m.

18-8-55.

Remained in camp. Survey continues close to camp - within sight. River rose still higher above yesterday's peak. More Nankonas in during the day.

19-8-55.

/Puckey Short accompanied/on geological reconnaissance up mountain on right bank of Tauri at Be junction. Also on study of rocks along left bank of Tauri. Conversation with District Officer, Port Moresby, on radio at 11.40a.m. Still no contact with Kairuku, both it and Yule Island station are apparently off the air. River rose still higher

than yesterday. Now reached 4'11" on gauge board from 1'1", in 3 days. Peak reached at noon, then started to fall slowly.

20-8-55.

Survey continued, river bed levels taken, plane tabling. River fallen somewhat to-day. 8.15a.m. Messrs Gall and Puckey left camp on a geological reconnaissance of Be Creek. 1.05p.m. camp established at junction of Poi-o and Be. Visited by 12 Nankonas.

21-8-55.

Rest day in Be camp. Preparations made for move out by Messrs Short, Laver and Schweers to-morrow to cut 2 trig stations, T4 and T5 on ridge between Tauri and Kapau. Tauri fell still further but still discoloured. 8.00a.m. Gall and Puckey proceeded up Be, branching up Mumuoinka Creek to its source at 1,000 ft at the junction of 2 spurs just below Nankona. Extremely large boulders encountered in this area. Returned to camp at 12.45p.m. meeting 24 Nankonas. 1.30p.m. proceeded up Poi-o, encountered further large boulders, to its source in a small patch of sago swamp in which was found a primitive sago making device. Returned to camp, where caught swimming in a pool (Be) by 12 Nankonas, some of whom promptly dived in and managed to keep themselves afloat. They were introduced to a cake of soap, the use of which interested them immensely.

22-8-55.

8.45a.m. Messrs Short, Laver and Schweers left Be Creek camp with 4 police and a number of carriers to set up a camp site on the main ridge between Tauri and Kapau in order to establish 2 trig stations. Climbed ridge on the main track to Egke as far as top of the ridge, then branching north down the ridge. Camp established in the saddle near the end of the ridge. On way down the ridge a large ~~stone~~ outcrop of rock about 20 ft high was observed on the top of the ridge. In 1 face of the rock a hole had been made and a small trestle built with a platform at the bottom lip of the hole. Half in the hole and half on the platform were placed the bones of a grown man (or woman) and draped about the trestle and platform were about 12 arrows all broken in several places. No Kukukukus were seen. Altitude 1,900 ft.

Messrs Puckey and Gall broke camp at 7.55a.m. proceeding down Be Creek to base camp. Creek at very low level and some exceedingly large boulders negotiated. Arrived camp at 11.15a.m.

23-8-55.

Field party: two groups went out simultaneously to cut trig stations, one back up the ridge and one on up a low peak to the north. Both within a mile of each other, each party returning to camp by 5.00p.m. At Be base camp, company personnel continued Tauri junction survey. Several Kukukukus came to the camp on trading visits. Late afternoon 3 Weuga children reached the camp and reported the murder of the father of one of them. They explained that natives from Iaba at the head-water of a creek by that name, had come down and murdered him in his garden while his wife stood by telling them not to do it. They fired one arrow through his side and then held him down and fired another through his neck. They then fired 4 arrows through the wife's arms and legs and ran off. The son, who was hiding, pulled the arrows out of his mother, who apparently survived, and then with the other two boys hurried down to report the matter, placing faith in Const. Kegera, the interpreter from Kerema, to go back and settle the matter. Unfortunately, at this stage, the patrol, Europeans and Police, was split in 2 groups, Kegera being with the absent base line survey party. The information was interpreted by one of the young mission boys from Yamuti who had accompanied the patrol.

24-8-55.

8.00a.m. field party left camp with all carriers to find a suitable road for the move from Be Creek to the Kapau power site. A track was cut along the east side of the ridge until a native pad was located. This was followed and led straight to the helicopter platform No11. The food dump which had been placed under an erected

fly had been ransacked. Everything had been moved and looked over. Rice bags had been left but 2 cases of meat had been opened and the contents removed in their entirety. Also all tobacco, matches, paper, soap, sugar and salt taken. A biscuit tin was opened and left and all European food cases opened and looked over. Returned to the camp by the top of the main ridge, thus connecting up the road from Be. One Kukukuku came into the camp from a nearby hamlet - near platform 11. At Be camp Tauri survey continues. During the morning 10 natives from Wakiaua, a group close to Weuga, passed through the camp on their way home from Moviave on a trading expedition. On hearing the news of the murder, the group showed anger and excitement, split their arrows in two and quickly disappeared, running up the steep spur to the main ridge in the direction of their village.

25-8-55.

8.15a.m. Messrs Short, Laver and Schweers left camp to return to Be camp. Returned via the top of the ridge, altitude 2,700 ft, reaching camp at 10.50a.m. Survey continuing round Be camp.

26-8-55.

Laver and Gall to trig sit T6 just above camp for angle readings. Hayward and Puckey on short geological survey down the Tauri towards the dam site. Schweers and O'Brien on plane tabling, just behind the camp. Ndua came into the camp during the day with a letter written by Const. Sagari from Terapo Mission, on the 2nd August. It had been brought up by a native missionary. Ndua returned to Egke that evening.

27-8-55.

Be survey continues. Laver and Gall departed camp at 9.00a.m. for trig station T8 which is situated on the ridge halfway to Werr Creek, arrived 11.15a.m. Observations taken but very hazy. Evening spent at the ridge camp.

28-8-55.

7.30a.m. departure from ridge camp reaching Be at 8.55a.m. Contact made with Kikori on normal Sunday District schedule. This routine was carried out, insofar as circumstances would allow, each Sunday during the course of the patrol. In this manner, the District Commissioner was kept fully informed of the patrol's movement and progress. Preparations were made for the move over the main ridge to platform 11 for the transfer of patrol operations to work on the base line ridge (survey) between the main ridge and the Kapau river and for the commencement of survey of the Kapau river power station site.

29-8-55.

8.15a.m. Messrs Short, Hayward, Puckey, Schweers left Be camp with 6 police and 30 carriers for platform 11. Arrived 12.30p.m. and set up camp in saddle beyond platform. Whilst establishing camp, some Kukukukus came in and were questioned about the loss of food from the platform. They said that they were not responsible but that the Egke people had come and stolen the food. The Gailalas carriers would not believe them as they lived so close to the platform and became angry. It was necessary to warn the Gailalas to quieten down. When some carriers (Gailalas) went back to the platform to carry the stores down to the camp one of the Kukukukus drew his bow and was restrained by Const. Pote. It would appear that the Gailalas antagonised the Kukukukus. 2.00p.m. P.O. Short and 4 police escorted the Gailalas back through the hamlet to the spur on the main ridge. The carriers then returned on their own to Be Creek. Survey at Be in its final stages being completed by Messrs Laver and O'Brien.

30-8-55.

7.45a.m. Messrs Short and Puckey with 2 police for Kapau power site helicopter platform. Hayward and Schweers with 2 police went along ridge to decide on base line points. 9.30 first group reached platform and found that food store had been picked over and

some of the meat stolen. Also some tobacco, all the matches and paper. Also 2 bags of rice appear to be missing and all European food gone through and looked at. Packed food onto platform and returned to camp at 11.00a.m. Several Kukukukus in the camp and shortly after Ndua and other Egke natives came into camp. Gollala carriers came in with another load from Be. Natives from local hamlet and also from Egke questioned about the thefts and Ndua agreed that some men from Egke were responsible. Apparently it had been the same ones who had been to Be Creek. They had taken the food, etc., from platform 11, and then when it was finished had gone down to the power site platform and repeated the process. He said that those responsible belonged to a hamlet of Egke called Nambiakwi. Yule Island was heard calling the Purari River survey group but could not be contacted from here. Field work at Tauri-Be continues. A group of Nankonas came in requesting pay (in axes) for the 2 children who, the Nankonas say, will accompany us out to the coast. Messrs Gall and O'Brien to lowest Tauri gauge marker for readings.

31-8-55.

Messrs Hayward and Schweers along ridge to work on base line. Radio contact made with Yule Island at 7.30a.m. but unable to contact them again at 12.30 or 4.00p.m. Another load of cargo taken from Be to platform 11 camp. At Be, trips to river gauges for readings. Tauri-Be field survey completed to-day.

1-9-55.

Messrs Hayward and Schweers continued to work on the base line from 11 camp. Geologist Puckey on a reconnaissance down a creek to the west of the base line ridge, following this creek to its junction with the Be, a distance of about 2 miles. Practically the whole of this distance is quite flat, with a fall of not more than 100 ft. At a number of places along the creek large trees had fallen across the creek from bank to bank. At one end of every one of these logs the Kukukukus had built traps for game about the size of a bandicoot. These traps consisted of a race between stakes above which is suspended a heavy log, held up by a system of levers and cords and set off by a trip stick. Any alternative route by-passing the trap is cut off by brush fences. Also at all sections of the creek where flow was restricted and dispersed by large gravel and stone beds, trenches had been made to make a single fast-flowing stream. Again no radio contact but Yule Island could be heard loud and clear. Carreira took another load of cargo from Be. Tauri River up slightly. Gauging done. Evening showed signs of inclement weather. Preparations for to-morrow's ~~departures~~ transfer by Be Creek party and remaining cargo, stores, equipment, etc., to platform 11 camp.

2-9-55.

3.45a.m. departure from Be Creek camp by Messrs Laver, O'Brien and Gall, accompanied by 5 police, carriers and remainder of the cargo, reaching Platform 11 camp at noon. Clear radio contact with Yule Island, conversation made with A.D.C. Tomasetti. 2.15p.m. departure by Messrs Hayward, Laver O'Brien and Gall to the Kapau River power site. Camp established.

3-9-55.

Consolidating Kapau camp. Camp activities watched by an interested group of Kukukukus from the top of the steep slope on the opposite bank of the Kapau Gorge. No contact made. Mr Puckey to Kapau camp whilst Mr Hayward returned to Platform 11 (base line) camp. Heavy consistent rain throughout the night.

4-9-55.

Gall to base line camp for 10.00a.m. radio schedule with Kikori, returning to Kapau p.m.. Several Egke people to base line camp during day. Further evening rain.

5-9-55.

Survey work continues at both base line camp and Kapau power site area.

6-9-55.

Survey work continues. Some Egke and Butei Kukukukus visited base line camp, those from Butei carrying a letter from the mission teacher at Yamuti Junction advising the arrival of canoes from Moviave. Eight Kukukukus appeared on the Kapau River bank opposite the power site camp. Contact was prevented by the Kapau River, swollen by heavy consistent evening rains. They apparently come from an Upper Kapau hamlet supposedly under mission influence.

7-9-55.

Geological reconnaissance from Kapau by Mr Puckey accompanied by P.O. Gall, proceeding up ridge directly behind camp, veering south and return to camp up the ~~left~~ bank of Kapau. Further heavy evening rains.

8-9-55.

Survey on base line and at Kapau power site continues simultaneously. Const. Kegera to Kapau camp in an endeavour to contact Kukukukus previously seen on left bank of Kapau. However they made no re-appearance today. Kapau now running extremely high and strongly. The regular, heavy evening down-pours now experienced would indicate that the dry season for this area has now ended.

9-9-55.

Work on the base line now completed except for computations. Radio contact made with Yule Island and N.G.R.P.Co Purari River party. Reconnaissance conducted upstream from Kapau camp.

10-9-55.

Kapau survey continues. Readings taken, proceeded up Neuga Creek, to confluence with a small tributary, thence via a small waterfall north to Hedi Creek and site of proposed surge shaft. Torrential late afternoon rain, Kapau running at an approximated 5,000 cusecs and thundering down the gorge, ~~near~~ the camp.

11-9-55.

Observed. Messrs Hayward and Schweers reached Kapau River camp at 2.30p.m. from base line camp.

12-9-55.

Messrs Hayward and Puckey departed Kapau camp and passed through base line camp at 10.00a.m. en route for Egke, Yamuti Junction, Terapo and Kairuku. A police escort was provided to Yamuti Junction. Four carriers and police escort commenced outward shuttle of stores to Egke. On return to camp they were accompanied by 2 Moviave mission teachers (L.M.S.) from Butei village, this being their first visit to the area. They advise that the Egke and Nankona people intend meeting together at an Egke hamlet near the base line camp and make peace. This, they claim, is the result of the patrol. One of the teachers has spent the last 8 months among uncontacted Kukukukus, has had a mixed reception and spent some sleepless nights. He reports a considerable population in the area where he operated which is 3 days walk from Butei east of the Kapau. He has also heard of a purported large population up the Werr Creek. Returning carriers and escort from Egke report that some of the stores left at Egke in the care of Ndua have been stolen. No confirmation of this from Mr. Hayward. Messrs Laver and Gall proceeded from Kapau camp northwards, crossed river and climbed a nearby hill, altitude 1,000 ft, to erect a trig station and take readings. Further Kukukuku game traps noticed. Visited at trig site by 11 Kukukukus who apparently come from hamlets Baimeama and Ianiawama situated south and south-east respectively from the trig station. Evening rains heaviest experienced this patrol.

13-9-55.

Further cargo out to Egke from base line camp. The Moviave mission teachers and several Egke people came into the camp during the afternoon. The Nankona people had not appeared. A large number of Egke people observed in this particular area during the day. Several east Kapau Kukukukus visited Kapau camp during the afternoon.

14-9-55.

Radio contact with Yule Island from base line camp. Mission teachers came through camp on way to meeting with Nankona. Numerous Egke people again in camp; all seem very friendly. Further outward movement of cargo to Egke per Gollala carriers. Final survey readings taken from Kapau site and surge shaft trig station. Kapau camp abandoned and movement of all cargo, personnel and carriers to base line camp on ridge.

15-9-55.

Survey work continued by members of N.G.R.P. Co party at surge shaft location. Observation made of Kukukuku hamlets and isolated dwellings situated on mountain slopes east of Kapau. No apparent cohesive unity between the scattered dwellings, nor any concentration of population. Observations made with binoculars from the top of a limestone ridge (altitude 2,000 ft) situated west of the surge shaft on the western bank of the Kapau. Meeting took place between the Egke and Nankona peoples. They met on Be Creek, the boundary between their lands, and exchanged gifts. The meeting celebrates the alleged finish of inter-tribal fighting.

16-9-55.

To-day sees the completion of the Tauri River survey with the exception of some angles to be taken from several trig stations. The remainder of the time will be utilised in the withdrawal of all equipment from the area. The murder of an Egke native was reported. Apparently the native absconded with a village girl whose father took umbrage and murdered the defaulter. Following instructions given for the patrol, no action was taken on this or other instances where murder or assault against individuals were reported. The only remedial action taken in such matters was in discussion with the various groups contacted, where every endeavour was taken to dissuade the people from their customary violent methods of settling their disputes.

17-9-55.

Rest day at base line camp.

18-9-55.

Carriers took another load to Egke. Following radio schedule with District Commissioner, Kikori, Messrs Laver and Gall departed for trig stations T4 and T5. Camp established on the ridge saddle joining the 2 trig stations.

19-9-55.

Two more loads of cargo carried to Egke. Total cargo to be shifted amounts to about 90 boy-loads. Visit by T4-T5 party (Laver and Gall) to Be Creek camp for further trig calculations and angle turning, and return to T4-T5 camp.

20-9-55.

Base line camp abandoned, party proceeding to Egke, reached at 12.30p.m. and camp established. Final survey work completed at T4-T5, party departing at 12.50p.m. for Egke, arriving there at 4.00p.m.. Whole party together again. An Egke villager accused the Gollala carriers of

stealing arrows from his house. The Gollalas denied the charge, which, for a while, was not acceptable to the Kukukukus. However the matter was finally resolved, amicably, when the injured party was given a tomahawk as compensation for the lost arrows.

21-9-55.

Carriers off to establish a camp halfway between Egke and the Butei Junction, accompanied by a police escort which will remain at the camp. Messrs Laver and Gall departed at 9.30a.m. for the Mea Creek. Followed a steep ridge below Egke camp down to the Tauri River which was reached at 12.15p.m.. The Tauri was crossed in 2 hours by means of a primitive raft arrangement which was pulled across the river by hand using a strong bush rope stretched across the river for the purpose. In one mishap when the rope severed, 2 Gollala carriers were assisted across the river. Before the whole party was across, 2 west Mea Kukukukus were sighted, and who approached the group without any signs of fear. Contact was made and it would appear that they belong to a group known as the Kombiena. They were at first dubious about allowing our Egke guide to accompany the party. Proceeding north up a gentle slope the track turned sharply west and down steeply along a saddle which ended in a climb upwards of approximately 900 ft levelling off on a ridge track. Along this track 2 more Kombienas were met who called across the adjacent valley to other members of the group out hunting or gardening. The call was taken up at several points along the valley and opposite slopes. A camp site was selected and established at 5.00p.m. within sight of the Kombiena village. The villagers came in with vast quantities of food for sale, including pumpkins. It would appear that 2 of their number had visited Kerema station. Several laplaps were observed and the group was most friendly. After the last of the traders had returned to their houses the camp settled down until 8.15p.m. when another group of 23 Kombienas entered the camp en route for the village, apparently from a hunting expedition. One Kukukuku, on sighting the tilley lamp hanging in the tent, held his dog upside down and forced its nose onto the hot lamp head which must have been extremely painful for the victim. It would appear that the method in this madness was to increase the dog's hunting powers. Long into the night an incessant chatter could be heard from the village undoubtedly discussing the patrol.

22-9-55.

Further loads of patrol equipment carried to half-way camp, from Egke. Numerous Egke people visited the camp, also several Nankona came in without fear of the Egke and vice versa. The 2 groups appear to be on good terms: the reconciliation may or may not be permanent. Mea party broke camp at 7.15a.m., passing through gardens to the group of 12 houses which form Kombiena. The dwellings are temporary affairs ~~giving~~ indicating a garden settlement only. It is the first large cluster of dwellings on a village pattern seen by the patrol. The patrol continued on over several ridges and spurs, cutting down approximately 700 ft to the Tauri River, much wider here than at the Be-Tauri junction. Continued along the right Tauri bank accompanied by several Kombiena guides and some women carrying enormous loads of food on their backs, and babies resting on top of the food loads covered with bark cloaks as protection from the sun. Camp established at the Tauri-Mea junction, the Mea being almost as broad as the Tauri. Mea Creek gauging commenced.

23-9-55.

Messrs Schweers and Short from Egke to half-way camp with a load of cargo. Carriers returned to Egke. Further gauging by Mea party. Visited by several Kombienas.

24-9-55.

Remainder of cargo taken from Egke to half-way camp. Mr. O'Brien and police also to half-way camp. Mea group broke camp at 6.45a.m. proceeding via Kombiena to Tauri River crossing. Crossed by 12.45p.m. and continued on to Egke arriving at 3.15p.m. Intended spending evening there, but a message left by Mr. O'Brien indicated that

Patrol Officer Short was ill, so the Mea party continued on from Egke to the half-way camp, arriving at 5.35p.m.. Decided that Mr. Short should be taken out to-morrow to Terapo Mission via Tauri base camp.

25-9-55.

Messrs Short, Schweers and Gall departed half-way camp at 8.00a.m. for base camp. Reached Yamuti junction at 1.30p.m., Tauri-Kapau junction at 2.15p.m. Progress was slow and careful due to the need for Mr. Short to be carried. Proceeded by canoe to base camp which was reached at 5.00p.m. Mr. Short's condition was not improved by the wearying trip. Radio communication at this stage was not possible as the spare set of batteries left at the base camp had been taken out with most of the other equipment at base by the previous party out. Rather than make a 3 day round trip to the base line camp to retrieve batteries used during the patrol and dumped there, it was decided that Mr. Short should proceed to Terapo Mission Station one day's journey by out-board canoe down-river.

26-9-55.

Messrs Short and Schweers accompanied by 1 police boy and 3 carriers departed base camp at 7.15a.m. by out-board powered double canoe for Terapo Mission. P.O. Gall remained at base camp.

27-9-55.

Messrs Short and Schweers at Terapo Mission, remainder of party at half-way camp. Further withdrawal of patrol equipment, etc..

28-9-55.

Cargo withdrawn from half-way camp to base camp via Yamuti junction.

29-9-55.

Last of personnel, police, carriers and cargo to Tauri base camp. Out-board powered double canoe had returned from Terapo and the native mechanic in charge of the patrol out-boards advised that Mr. Short had had a comfortable trip and that on the Tuesday morning (27th) he had shown slight improvement.

30-9-55.

P.O. Gall accompanied by 2 police and 8 Gailalas with all surplus patrol and helicopter fuel departed base camp at 6.20a.m. with 2 out-board powered double canoes. Numerous Moviave gardens had been cleared along the banks of the Tauri since the patrol went up-river 3 months previously, when the only gardens sighted were in the lower reaches of the river. After an uneventful journey Terapo was reached at 4.30p.m.. Mr. Short's condition had deteriorated noticeably since the 26th when he left the base camp. Mr Short had received medical care from the nursing Sister at the Mission. It would appear that on the Wednesday evening, after signs of improvement during the previous 2 days, he had suffered a relapse and contacted fever. Mr. Schweers had endeavoured to make radio contact with Port Moresby during the morning from Miravase, but on arrival there found that the station radio was not functioning. P.O. Gall departed Terapo at 8.50p.m. by canoe for Hamuhamu village on the coast, at the mouth of the Tauri. Commenced walking at 11.30p.m.

1-10-55.

Continued along beach and over Cupola Hill reaching Kerema station at 11.50a.m. At 2.30a.m. surprised a large gambling school on the beach. Not expecting interruption at that hour, it was possible for the writer to reach the group before the alarm was given. However, with only 1 policeman and no time to waste, no action was taken against the defaulters. Finally at 1.30p.m. contact was made with air radio, Port Moresby, who subsequently arranged contact with Mr. Fleay, District Officer, Port Moresby. Arrangements were made for Mr Short to be flown

out by anson aircraft from Malalau airstrip, the next day. As it was impossible for this information to reach Terapo by runner, before the anson's arrival at Malalau early Sunday morning, the information was broadcast after the 9PA news at 7.00p.m. Saturday evening. This had been arranged with Fr. Blanc at Terapo before the writer's departure for Kerema.

2-10-55.

Patrol Officer Short evacuated from Malalau airstrip by anson aircraft for Port Moresby.

3-10-55.

P.O. Gall returned to Terapo from Kerema.

4-10-55.

Messrs O'Brien and Laver, police, carriers and all patrol equipment reached Terapo from Tauri base camp. The K-boat, M.V. "Kano" reached Terapo from Port Moresby. Patrol embarked and the M.V. "Kano" made a late departure for Yule Island.

5-10-55.

Patrol reached Kairuku.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

Patrol Report No. Mik. 1 (Special) -55/56 of
July-October, 1955.

Introduction.

The primary purpose for this patrol was to provide an escort to the New Guinea Resources Prospecting Company survey of the Upper Tauri and Kapau Rivers. The actual survey was divided into 4 sections; (1) survey of the Tauri-Be junction, (2) survey of the Tauri-Werr junction, (3) survey of the Kapau Gorge section (power house site) and (4) the base line survey on which the whole area survey was triangulated. To accomplish this task 2 main field camps were established at the Tauri-Be junction and the Kapau Gorge. From these the various field and geological reconnaissance groups went out. Base camp was established on the Tauri River some distance below the Tauri-Kapau junction. A secondary camp was established at Egke village. Several food dumps were established in the area to facilitate the movement of the field survey parties. Due to the restricted number of police (restricted only insofar as their other patrol commitments were concerned) and to the possible belligerence of the local inhabitants these dumps were left unguarded. It was gratifying that the Egke people proved most co-operative in caring for the supplies left in the hamlet at various stages during the course of the patrol.

The Tauri project was the last of 3 riverine surveys conducted by the New Guinea Resources Prospecting Company in the Papuan Gulf area west of Port Moresby, the other 2 being on the Angabunga and Vanapa Rivers. The aim was to establish on one of these rivers an hydro-electric scheme to provide the initial power required for the aluminium refining works to be located in the Hall Sound area opposite Yule Island. Subsequently, when in full production, power would be drawn from an hydro-electric scheme harnessing the Purari River. Transmission lines and a road were envisaged connecting the Purari River to the Hall Sound refining works, an ambitious project to cost an estimated £150 million.

Native Situation.

Native administration on this patrol, although not relegated to secondary importance, was superseded by the primary purpose of escorting the survey group. Movement of the Native Affairs section of the patrol was conditioned by the requirements of the survey party, but nevertheless every endeavour was made to introduce administration influence with each contact made with the local population. It would appear that approximately 10 patrols to the Tauri River area were made pre-war, but in discussion with groups contacted by this patrol it was found that only a few individuals had had previous contact with Europeans on trips to Kerema. The patrol was exceedingly well received by all but one group, that being the Nankona with whom on several occasions relations were strained. It is suggested that the next patrol to this area treat the Nankona with caution, especially, as in all probability, the patrol will be less strong numerically than this one.

The population of the Upper Tauri and Kapau Rivers is sparse and scattered, the average hamlet consisting of 3 or 4 dwellings situated in gardens on the mountain slopes. Every endeavour was made to ascertain the population pattern during discussion with those Kukukukus contacted. Much contradictory information was received but an assessment of information given and patrol observations would indicate that the main pockets of population are located on the eastern side of the Kapau River (north of the area visited) and north of the Werr Creek-Tauri junction. The visit to the Mea Creek was brief and provided no opportunity to ascertain the location of groups other than the Kombiana which was visited by the patrol. It is estimated that a possible 500 to 700 people inhabit the Upper Tauri and Kapau areas in which the patrol operated.

From information offered by other groups it would appear that the Nankona have the most dubious reputation in the area. They occupy an invulnerable position atop Nankona mountain from where they make occasional raids, terrorising the adjacent population. Murders often result from these raids and ambushes, which, it must be noted, are not all devised by the Nankona. Numerous ambush barricades were sited along the bush paths, a short distance from the track. They are well camouflaged and constructed with twigs and bushes, behind which the attacker awaits his unfortunate and unsuspecting victim. Several of these ambushes and attacks were reported to the patrol but no direct action was taken against the defaulters. However all groups contacted were dissuaded from such action and advised concerning the basic principles of government law and order.

The possibility of establishing a patrol post in the area was considered by the patrol. It is felt that this would be a difficult task due to the nature of the terrain and would be impractical because of the small, scattered population which would be controlled from such a station. No sites were found which would accommodate an airstrip of even the smallest dimensions. The Tauri base camp was excellently sited on a small knoll overlooking the Tauri. Although a pleasant spot it was restricted in area. It is south of the population belt, but is only 2 days up-stream journey from the coast in an out-board powered double canoe. It is suggested that an Officer stationed here for 2 or 3 months of the year could adequately encompass by patrol the Upper Tauri and Kapau River areas north to the New Guinea border. A similar scheme could be similarly effected on the Upper Lakekamu at Bulldog. With temporary posts at Tauri and Bulldog utilised for 4 months of the year, the Kukukuku population inhabiting the intervening country north to the New Guinea border could be adequately administered. The population in the Fish Creek, Kapau-Tauri area would be sufficient to warrant such patrolling. Perhaps an initial patrol through the area could assess the possibilities or otherwise of such a scheme.

Village Officials.

There are no officials in the area patrolled. Subsequent upon the completion of the patrol requests have been made for the appointment of an official in the Yamuti-Tauri junction villages, the request originating from this group. Such an appointment would materially assist in the consolidation of administration influence in the area.

Agriculture.

The staple foods of the area appear to be the sweet potato and bananas. Sugar cane is also abundant in the area. The soil is poor and infertile, whilst the larger portion of the region is mountainous limestone country. From the point of view of economic development the area has little potential. Apart from the lack of fertility in the soil, the terrain is such as to provide a tremendous obstacle insofar as accessibility and communications are concerned. The middle and upper reaches of the Tauri below the base camp, the Kumove Basin, has economic potential in its timber stands. This is already under consideration with the proposed sawmilling project.

Health.

The patrol was accompanied by an experienced native medical orderly, Aiki of Miravase, Kerema Sub-District, who was loaned from the Native Hospital, Ela Beach. Aiki proved of immeasurable value to the patrol and carried out his duties in a most capable manner. Yaws and tropical ulcers were rife throughout the area, numerous severe cases being seen. Many of these were found at the Tauri-Yamuti villages where mission native teachers operate. In such cases where constant daily treatment was given with consequent noticeable improvement, the Kukukukus were visibly impressed. Medical treatment although considered with some reserve

initially was eagerly sought once the benefits derived therefrom became known. The establishment of an administration aid post at Yamuti Junction would be advantageous in consolidating administration influence. Such an establishment would be well patronised and would provide an invaluable link in contacting and locating outlying groups by future patrols.

Trade.

The amount of trading in food carried out during the patrol indicated adequate or even abundant supplies of food in the area. The main currency was trade beads which were most popular. Mirrors, matches and razor blades were also very acceptable. The Kukukukus were 'steel hungry' and displayed extreme curiosity in their endeavours to ascertain the quantity of steel goods held by the patrol. Inveterate thieves as they are, several axes on allocation to the labourers were stolen. Face paint proved a disappointing trade item in this area.

Patrol Equipment.

Japara silk tents proved an invaluable item. A tent and tent fly of this material make less than one carrier load compared with the canvas tent, which alone proved a full carrier load. Further, with the patrol split into several groups, the tent and fly, used individually meant extra sleeping space.

Rice bags; The New Guinea Resources Prospecting Company utilised special rice bags. Suitably sized to hold 40 lbs of rice (1 carrier load) the bags lined with a tarred paper were considerably strengthened apart from the added characteristic of being water-proof to a considerable degree. They would be a decided asset for future extended administration patrols to such areas.

One man patrol boxes were not an advantage on this patrol. Apart from the carriage of trade goods, it was found that the 2 man box carried a better load. It is rather inconvenient for movement over rough country, but carried by pole proved less injurious to the carrier's shoulder than the one man box.

Police.

The patrol was accompanied by 10 members of the R.P.&N.G.C. who did a sterling job. Under the capable leadership of Corporal Jiki (No. 1061) they performed the multifarious duties allocated in a competent and creditable manner with enthusiasm and without complaint. Cpl Jiki was ably supported by the untiring efforts of L/Cpl Karo (No. 1790). At all times the detachment was a credit to the force and an excellent example to the Kukukukus and to the undisciplined labour force with the Company. Constable Kegera, of Kukukuku origin was invaluable as an interpreter - perhaps the most invaluable asset of the patrol. His capabilities as a policeman are doubtful, although he is a trier. He was very popular with the indigenous population.

Conclusion.

The patrol in its purpose was most successful but was marred by the tragic climax with the death of Patrol Officer Short. Mr. Short's leadership of the patrol was most creditable and showed tact and sound judgement. In the patrol's early stages he obtained the full confidence of the police and carrier force. His judgement, assistance and co-operation with the N.G.R.P. Co. personnel and leader earned their respect and ~~admiration~~ appreciation. His diplomacy maintained a firm friendly liason with the survey party which lasted throughout the patrol. His courage and determination to consummate his patrol duties resulted in his desire not to withdraw from his ~~patrol~~ responsibilities before the completion of the patrol. It was a pleasure to work with him. His untimely death deprives the administration of one of its most promising Officers.

(P. S. Gall)
Patrol Officer.