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# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: S/HIGHLANDS

STATION: ERAVE

VOLUME No: 15

ACCESSION No: 496.

1970 - 1971

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORT OF: ERAVE - S/HIGHLANDS ACC. NO: 496  
 VOL. NO: 15 1970 - 1971 NUMBERS OF REPORTS 2

REPORT NO.	FOLIO	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL	AREA PATROLLED	MAPS/PHOTOS	PERIOD OF PATROL
1 of 1970/71	1 - 16	S. P. DEARSON	P.O. SAMBERIGI & FORE. TIMBERIGI C/D	MAP	22/2/71 - 9/3/71
2 of 1970/71	1 - 17	"	" KERABI CONSUL. DIVISION	MAP	21/4/71 - 6/5/71

HQ.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of Southern Highlands Report No. Frags No. 1/70-71

Patrol Conducted by S.R. Pearson, Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled Samberigi and Fore/Tsiaberigi Census Divisions and Part of Kerabi C/D

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil.

Natives 1 R.D.A. 1 Interpreter, 1 R.P.&N.G.C.

Duration—From 22./2./1971 to 9./3./1971

Number of Days 14 Days 10 Nights

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services Jan-May/1970

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

Map Reference Map Attached.

Objects of Patrol 1. Census Revision. 2. Political Education. 3. Roadwork Survey  
4. Familiarisation. 5. General Administration.

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 ....

.....

.....

.....



PJM:IT

67-15-70

KONEDORU.

16th August, 1971.

The District Commissioner,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

GRAVE PATROL NO. 1 OF 1970/71.

Your reference is 67-3-8 of 29th June, 1971.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of  
abovementioned Patrol Report by Mr. S.R. Pearson.

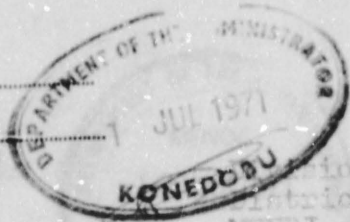
*T. W. Ellis*  
(T.W. ELLIS)  
Secretary.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-1570 (14)

Telegrams  
Telephone  
Our Reference  
if calling ask for  
Mr.



In Reply  
Please Quote  
No.

Department of the Administrator,  
Division of District Administration,  
District Office,

29th June, 1971

The District Commissioner,  
The Secretary,  
Department of the Administrator,  
KONEBOBU

REPORT: BRAVE PATROLLING, 1 of 1970/71

Please find enclosed two copies of the report on the above patrol submitted by Mr. S. Pearson, P.O.

Mr. Pearson has submitted a comprehensive report.

The figures for absentees in his census figures is quite alarming and must severely restrict development in the area.

Mr. Pearson has clearly elucidated all matters encountered on the patrol and no further comments are necessary.

A well conducted patrol and an informative report.

*D. J. Clancy*  
D. J. CLANCY  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

c.c. A.D.C. Fagua

c.c. C.I.C. Erve

c.c. Mr. S. Pearson





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-3-8 DDC. (148)

No. 71.

Department of the Administrator.

Sub-District Office,  
KAGUA.

Southern Highlands District,

3rd May, 1971.

Telegrams—

Telephone

Our Reference 67-4-1.

If calling ask for

Mr. ....



The District Commissioner,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

ERAVE PATROL REPORT - NO. 1 of 1970/71.

Attached please find three copies of a very comprehensive patrol report carried out by Mr. S.R. Pearson, P.O.I.C., Erave. It is very heartening to see that the emphasis of the patrol was on political education. It is obvious that a lot more work needs to be done in the political field if these people should reach a state whereby they can accept self-government. I am most concerned at the slow rate at which political education is progressing in the Kagua Sub-District. Numerous patrols have been mounted (in excess of 100 man days) with the express purpose of disseminating political education, however little impression seems to be made on the people. Political education is very obviously a slow process and demands a lot of perserverance and patience by field staff.

It is a pity that some of the villages of the Kerabi Census Division are not interested in joining the Erave Council. It is obvious that more patrolling will have to be done in the areas where the Council has not been accepted.

Again we are faced with the lack of trained agricultural staff to implement economic projects.

Road work would appear to be progressing satisfactorily. A road link with the Samberigi Census Division would be of tarrific economic importance.

I would appreciate your asking the Department of Health, Mendi, why there is no staff at the Kerabi Aid Post. It is most essential that this remote post be manned at all times.

In conclusion I wish to congratulate Mr. Pearson on a fine piece of routine patrolling. It is hoped that this

standard of reporting can be continued.

*Richard Blakeney Creagh*  
 .....  
 Richard Blakeney Creagh  
Assistant District Commissioner

The Assistant District Commissioner,  
 San Francisco Office,  
 S.F.O.

**REPLY TO MEMORANDUM**

Re: [Faint text]	[Faint text]
Originating Agency	[Faint text]
Date of Report	[Faint text]
Re: Report to [Faint text]	[Faint text]
Subject of the Report	[Faint text]
Re: [Faint text]	[Faint text]



Division of District  
Administration,  
Patrol Post,  
ERAVE,  
Southern Highlands District.

9th. April, 1971.

The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
KAGUA

ERAVE PATROL NO. 1/70-71

Patrol Conducted By: S.R.Pearson, Patrol Officer.

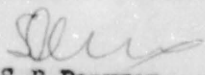
Accompanying Personnel: H.Fulube, Rural Development Assistant.  
Interpreter Iamu Parameli.  
Const. Mari, R.P.& N.G.C.

Duration of Patrol: 22/2/71 to 9/3/71  
Fourteen Patrol Days  
Ten nights camped out.

Last Patrol to Areas: Kerabi Census Division April-May 1970  
Fore/Tsimberigi and Semberigi C/Ds  
January-February, 1970.

Objects of the Patrol: 1.Revise the Census  
2.Carry out Political Education functions.  
3.Review the Roadwork Programme, Erave-  
Semberigi.  
4.Become familiar with the Area and it's  
people.  
5.General Administration.

Map References: Map Attached.

  
S.R.Pearson  
Patrol Officer

## INTRODUCTION

This patrol was the first excursion on foot to be made into this region, by the writer. It was thus possible to take a critical and objective look at the Census Divisions visited. Apart from the aspect of familiarisation the patrol was to continue the vital work of political education, revise the 1970 Census figures, study and attempt to rectify the communication problems within the areas and carry out general administrative work.

The Fore/Tsimberigi Census Division is that area in which Erave Station is to be found. Like the whole of the Erave Area the topography is rugged with dense forests. The Division has a comparatively small population. The Erave River forms a natural barrier to the north and separates Kari-Tibiru C/D from the remainder of the Administrative Area.

Kerabi Census Division is a vast area of rugged mountains containing the largest population of the four Census Divisions. It is also by far the most backward region, politically, socially and economically. Because of its size and the staff shortage at Erave, only half of the Division was patrolled on this occasion. A second patrol to be mounted late in April will complete area and also act as a follow up to the areas already visited.

Lastly the Samberigi C/D which spreads out from the slopes of Mount Murray. This is a wide, fertile valley having much vacant land which has developmental potential. The peoples of this region have had considerable contact with Europeans and tend to be more sophisticated than other areas in Erave Administrative Area.

## DIARY

Monday 22nd. February. Departed Erave on foot at 0930 hrs. Detailed inspection of Erave Tsimberigi Road carried out. Arrived Tsimberigi 1215hrs. Made camp then addressed the assembled villagers of Tsimberigi and Woru. Talks on Political Education, health, development etc. given. Census revised by 1700hrs. Three minor disputes heard. Evening worked on Census figures and held talks with village leader 2000 to 2130hrs.

Slept Tsimberigi.

Tuesday 23rd. February. Left Tsimberigi at 0800hrs. Arrived Kerabi 1055hrs. Commenced talks at 1200hrs. Census then revised. Completed about 1645. Three minor disputes heard. Evening held discussions with leaders of Kerabi and Kumbirepa until 2200 hrs.

Slept Kerabi.

Wednesday 24th. February. Inspected village housing then departed Kerabi at 0900hrs. Arrived Forerigi about 1115 hrs. Villagers of Forerigi and Barowoi assembled. Talks and Census to 1600 hrs. No disputes. Evening Census books and Discussions with leaders.

Slept Forerigi.



DIARY (Continued)

Thursday 25th. February. Walked to Tiri. About 1½ hours. Inspected Tagibu Village enroute. Arrived about 1030hrs. Break, then gave talks to people of Tiri and Tagibu. Census revised. Many disputes presented. Several heard remainder held over until Friday 26th. Departed Tiri 1550 hrs. Arrived Waraga about two hours later after stimulating walk. Made camp. Evening did some work on Census figures and held usual meeting with leaders of Waraga and Tono.

Slept Waraga

Friday 26th. February. 0745 hrs inspected Waraga Vilaage. Now only 14 houses (1959 count was 40 houses). Walked to Tono about fifteen minutes away. Inspected village then returned to give talks to villagers of Waraga and Tono. Census then revised. Two disputes heard, both on bride price. Departed 1445hrs. arriving Tiri about 1650 hrs. Made camp then heard remaining disputes. One arrest made for assault. Evening census bookwork followed by discussions with leaders of Tagibu and Tiri.

Slept Tiri.

Saturday 27th. February. Broke camp and departed Tiri by 0800hrs. Track to Kerabi improved since 24th. February. Arrived Kerabi 1145hrs. Awaiting arrival of carriers recruited new line for carry to Marorogo. Moved off again about 1400hrs. Arrived Marorogo in heavy rain at 1630 hrs. Shocking track through the forests, little used. Evening worked on figures then held a discussion for about one hour with leaders of Menagirigi, Waro and Marorogo.

Slept Marorogo.

Sunday 28th February. Inspected village housing and held informal talks whilst awaiting arrival of villagers. Commenced general adresses at 1030 hrs. Census then revised for Marorogo, Menagirigi and Waro. Completed 1430hrs. Break then three minor disputes heard (pigs and wives). Departed 1545. Road to Ianguri quite good. Arrived 1645. Made camp. Worked on census statistics.

Slept Ianguri.

Monday 29th. February. 0800-0900 hrs. inspected housing and chilly gardenns. Discussions with leaders and Councillors of Ianguri, Mogulegi and Sogere to 0945hrs. General talks and Census followed to 1400 hrs with short break for lunch. Departed for Sau at 1420 hrs. Rain. Arrived 1650 hrs. Made camp. Evening discussions with Councillors and leaders of Honiboru, Bisbara, Sau and Opambu. Particular good discussion.

Slept Sau.

DIARY (Continued)

Tuesday 2nd. March. Informal talks whilst awaiting assembly of villagers. Commenced general address 1000hrs. Completed talks and Census of Sau, Bisbara, Pobuworok, Ogamobu and Honiboru by 1530 hrs. Break then heard four disputes. Walked to Paware...inspected housing enroute. Arrived after one hour at about 1700 hrs. Evening spent on bookwork.

Slept Paware

Wednesday 3rd. March. 0745-0945 Talks with Councillors and leaders. Also heard a dispute over land and walked on the land concerned. Census and talks then given until 1345 hrs. Paware, Masiki, and Girawe assembled. Finalised business then walked to Saumili. Arrived 1550hrs. after walk of about 1 1/2 hours. Continued to village whilst awaiting cargo..made inspection. Made camp, worked on books until 1730hrs. Evening held discussions with leaders of Saumili and Pogiabo.

Slept Saumili.

Thursday 4th. March. 0800 hrs. Heard one minor dispute. Commenced talks and Census about 0930 hrs. Completed by 1315 hrs. Second dispute then heard (bride price). Self departed Saumili 1400hrs. leaving remainder of patrol to follow next day. Arrived Erave about 1745hrs.

Slept Erave

Friday 5th. March. 0730..1030 hrs. Attended to pressing matters at the Office. Administration and Council pays. Remainder of day spent on patrol bookwork. Patrol carriers arrived 1500hrs.

Slept Erave.

Monday 8th. March Assembled villagers of Koiari and Kopere at Council Chambers Gave full talks followed by Census revision. Further discussions with village leaders. Completed 1470hrs. Worked on Census statistics for remainder of afternoon.

Slept Erave.

Tuesday 9th. March. 0745-0930 hrs. Inspected road work of Koiari and Kopere. 1015-1310 hrs. gave talks and revised Census of Iamorubi. Heard one minor dispute. Remainder of afternoon paperwork

Patrol Stood Down

SITUATION REPORT

POLITICAL SITUATION

Although political awareness is increasing continually, in particular during the last year or so, the level of political enlightenment amongst the people visited is not great. There is some comprehension of the basic matters such as the House of Assembly, Self-Government and the Local Government Council. However, it would be misleading the reader to imply that this understanding is anything other than superficial. Much time was spent on the subject of Political Education, this being a matter of such vital importance to all peoples.

The most advanced people politically are to be found in the Samberigi Census Division. This area has received better educational



POLITICAL SITUATION (Continued)

opportunities, particularly in the earlier years, and has consequently been able to place quite a number of it's sons in the Public Service, Police and Private Enterprise. Many young men from this, and other Census Divisions, go to the coast or Highland Centres to seek work, but it could not be said that this practice has greatly assisted the political development of the area, particularly as many do not return. Those workers who do return can tell something of other parts and thus assist to some degree to bring in the concept of a Nation.

It was disappointing to find that there are very few radios within the areas patrolled. All villages have some pidgin speakers and in many cases Councillors can understand that language. The radio must surely be, or at least potentially be, one of the greatest <sup>aids</sup> to bringing the political situation to the villages. This would appear to be one area where the Council may be able to assist the people, by providing radios to responsible leaders.

Political Education

Political Education talks were divided into two categories:

1. Mass meetings at which the major political topics were explained.
2. Small "get togethers" held in the Rest House during the evenings. These were for village leaders and more progressive people and were held on a very informal basis the people themselves often directing the course of discussion. It was often possible to go much deeper into certain topics than would otherwise have been possible.

Political Education talks were given were in main based on the Political Education Handbook issued under file 26-5-3, from the District Commissioner, Mendi. It was naturally necessary to vary the talks slightly according to the level of understanding to be found in different villages. The nine major topics were: National Unity, Majority Rule, Electoral Processes Local Government, Taxation (National and Local Government), House of Assembly, Members of the House of Assembly, Public Service, Courts and Law, Political Parties and Independence. In addition some explanations and discussions on specific subjects were made during the evening meeting. Such meetings often the economic situation of the country and associated topics.

At any mass meeting involving all age groups and sexes it is obvious that talks must be directed at the average or slightly below average level of understanding. The problem appears to be that the bulk of the populace can not concentrate on abstract talk for any great length of time. It is this factor that dictates the length of any talk, which is regrettable. Acting as a Political Educator I find that the complete lack of any properly produced visual aids is most unfortunate. It is possible to use simple aids such as tokens but it would appear that if good aids were available, these aids being simple pictures on cards or preferably motion or still pictures, then it would be possible to continue Political Education sessions for a greater length of time and more importantly a far greater level of understanding would ensue.

Local Government

In addition to routine talks on the work of the Erave Local Government

Local Government (continued)

special attention was given to the non-Council area, Kerabi Census Division. Previous patrols had sounded out the feelings of the people in regard to their possibly joining the Erave Local Government Council. From information received before the commencement of this patrol, indications were that most people were now against joining. This situation probably arose following the increase in the tax rate for 1970/71. For this reason considerable trouble was taken to explain how tax rates were arrived at. It was pointed out that areas of low economic development did not necessarily have to pay the same rate as areas where there was considerable economic development. The issue was put to vote after lengthy discussion on both sides. The results were:

- Kerabi.....In favour of joining.
- Kumirepa.....In favour
- Forerigi.....In favour
- Barowoi.....In favour
- Tiri.....Not in favour (about 60%)
- Tagibu.....Not in favour

The necessary steps will now be taken to include those villages wishing to join, in new Wards to be proposed.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Erave Area is fortunate in that the climate and soil fertility lends it'self to economic development. At present the level of such development is not high, however, an increase in the amount of money being paid out for cash crops has been noted during recent months. Crops involved are:

Chillies The introduction of birdseye chillies as a cash crop has been, and is becoming even more so, of significant financial benefit to the people. All villages in the Samberigi and Fore/Tsimberigi Census Divisions have chillies gardens which are generally being increased in number. Lack, or rather shortage of, D.A.S.F. staff does not permit for an accurate estimate of the acreage of chilly plantings. Currently chilly is being purchased at a price of 16 cents per pound and an average of 1250lbs. is received weekly, this amounting to two hundred dollars per week.

Kerabi Census Division does not share in this economic development. There are a few trial plantings in the Kerabi area but they are insignificant. The peoples of this area need every assistance that can be given. Because of the distance from the Station to this Division and further, due to staff shortages, this area has always been last to receive attention.

At present it is necessary for chillies to be carried up to six hours to reach the buying station. It will be seen that a road link will greatly assist growers of this crop and assist in reducing the amount of wastage caused by chillies being soaked when carried in wet weather. Bixa grows well but is not such an attractive crop to the local people. Only about 10-12lbs are bought each month at a current price of 18 cents per pound.

Coffee Apart from the expatriate plantations at Erave, there are several small holdings in the Samberigi Valley, mainly at Paware and Sau. Most of this crop finds an outlet through the A.P.C.Mission at Samberigi.



Economic Situation (Continued)

Cattle Largely due to the fact that there is no road link into the area cattle projects are insignificant. At present there are three beasts owned by three Public Servants, one owned by a Council employee, one by a Councillor at Samberigi. The remaining animals (approximately ten) are owned by the A.P.C. Mission at Erave and Samberigi.

Other crops There are several trial plantings of spices and other sub-tropical crops but none of these are yet in economic production.

Summary

1. Climatically the area permits the growth of a wide range of crops. In addition the soil appears to be generally fertile.
2. There are large tracts of unused, unpopulated land suitable for large scale development.
3. Economic development has been introduced with consequent direct benefit to the area, however, this development is not great when the potential of the area is considered.
4. There is not sufficient activity on the part of D.A.S.F. due to staff shortages, in particular it is noted that a Rural Development Officer has not yet been posted to Erave.
5. Lack of road communications is a further brake to more rapid expansion of agricultural activities.

Roads and Bridges

This Patrol made a detailed investigation into the problems of facilitating greater ease of access into the Samberigi Census Division and part of Kerabi C/D. Work has been in progress for several years on the construction of a road link from Erave to the fertile Samberigi Valley. An aerial flight over the eastern side of Fore/Tsimberigi C/D and Samberigi C/D will show several miles of bench cut road, however, these are often isolated and unconnected, having stretch of forest between them. From Erave Station there is a bench cut road to within three quarters of a mile of Tsimberigi Rest House. The situation is less attractive on the ground. For ease of reference the Erave-Samberigi Road (A Rural Development Project) can be divided thus:

Section 1. Erave Station to Tsimberigi.

A distance, as the "crow flies", of about seven miles. The country is densely forested and undulating. There is no population between Kotari and Tsimberigi and both these villages are small. This section has been cleared and roughly bench cut almost to Tsimberigi, however, it is not trafficable by car beyond two miles from the Station. A well insured motorcyclist could use most of the road on a very dry day but such a journey would be dangerous. Unfortunately the early road workers have strayed away from the pegged mark in many places and there are numerous small hills of about 45°. Considerable deterioration has also taken place due to the difficulty of maintenance. At present the road makes for an excellent walking track.

Section 2. Tsimberigi to Iaruri (Besaburu)

About five miles in length. There is no link between Tsimberigi and

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Roads and Bridges (continued)

Menagirigi. A route has been surveyed as it is necessary to cross a small mountain range. Previously the local people had worked on a totally useless track of their own liking, but they are now eagerly working on the surveyed route.

From Menagirigi there is a quite reasonable road almost all the way to Besaburu Rest House. A few small bridges and some minor work is all that is required for this to be trafficable, that is once outside access is available.

Section 3. Ianguri (Besaburu) to Paware.

About six miles in length. Road has been constructed for a distance of about half a mile past Ianguri. This is followed by two to three miles of forest. The road then starts again and continues, with minor breaks, past Paware almost to the Sisika River. No major work will be required on this section, the work required being mainly grading, drainage works, small bridges and a little re-routing.

Deterioration has occurred on some of these constructed stretches and pig damage is in evidence, however, as these areas are populated maintenance will not be a problem.

Works Programme and Summary

In order to expedite the opening of this urgently needed road a concerted effort has been called for involving all villages visited. The biggest effort will be made on the Erave to Tsimberigi section. This is now being upgraded and re-routed on the bad sections. Starting from Koiari it is intended that progressive penetration along the road will be possible thus enabling the maximum supervision from the <sup>limited</sup> ~~scarce~~ D.D.A. staff available (one officer). Working time to other areas will also be progressively shortened. As this section is unpopulated the labour resources of the Kerabi Census Division will be called upon. It is foreseeable that once the road is opened to Woru, the Kerabi people could continue an access road to Kerabi Village. The people are very keen for this to be done and the route looks feasible on first examination.

Work is as below:

Section 1. A recruited line of 50 labourers from Samberigi and Fore/Tsimberigi C/Ds.

Kerabi C/D on a monthly roster: Kerabi and Kumbirepa followed by Tiri, Tagibu, Forerigi and Barowoi followed by Waraga, Tono and Siregi. Other areas of Kerabi C/D will be recruited during the next patrol.

Section 2. Commencing at Woru: Menagirigi, Marorogo, Waro, Ianguri, Sogere and Mogulegi.

Section 3. Commencing at Sau: Sau, Bisbara, Ogomobu, Paware, Hoinboru Masiki and Hanaharia.

Other Roads

The only other route within the areas patrolled is part of the Erave to Kagua Road. The Villagers of Iamorubi and Kopere are upgrading the first two miles from Erave Station but new construction has been halted pending the results of a survey currently being conducted. The object of this survey is locate a suitable bridge site, over the Erave River, and to survey a road route.



SOCIAL SITUATION

3

HEALTH

It is by no means a new observation that the whole of the Erave Area is rife with malaria and T.B. The complications from long standing endemic malaria cannot be ignored and are a significant factor when considered against the socio-economic pattern of the area. Treatment for persons suffering from attacks of malaria can be given but the day to day lethargy remains. Enlarged spleens and acute anaemia often lead to hospitalisation and some times, to death. It is noted that a considerable proportion of the labour force employed on and near Erave Station, reports for out-patient treatment on a daily basis.

Despite the foregoing attendance to village talks and Census revision was very good. Skin sores and eye disease were noted but most persons suffering from these afflictions were receiving medical attention.

Aid Posts and Hospitals

1. The Administration has the following centres within the area patrolled:-

- a. Erave Station. A hospital staffed by a Medical Assistant. Some T.B. patients are treated.
- b. Kerabi. Aid-Post. Unstaffed for the past three months.
- c. Marorogo. Staffed by an A.P.O. Serves the villages of Tsimberigi, Wero, Woru, Menagirigi, Besaburu. The building is at present of native materials but will be replaced by a permanent materials building to be erected this year by the Erave L.G.C.

2. The Capuchin Mission provides medical facilities from its base at Koicri, about 1½ miles from Erave Station. Staff consists of an Australian Nursing Sister.

3. The Asia Pacific Christian Mission. There are two mission stations, one on the edge of Erave Station, the other is near Sau in the Samberigi C/D. Facilities are: Erave....Hospital. Two overseas Nursing Sisters. Specialising in infant welfare and maternity. Samberigi....One overseas nursing Sister. General health work.

In addition some very basic medicine is given by pastors at Ianguri (Besaburu), Kerabi, Woru, Tiri, Saumili and Kopere.

It is regrettable to see that Kerabi Aid Post is lying idle and efforts will be made to see that it is re-staffed as soon as possible. The people of Kerabi and Kumbirepa recently made a collection of \$150 for the construction of a permanent materials aid-post. (These villages are not within the Council area.) The present bush material building is quite adequate, however, the collection demonstrates a pleasing community spirit. The villagers have now decided to wait until they join the Erave Local Government Council before proceeding with their plan.

HEALTH (Continued)

Summary The peoples of Erave have more than their fair share of sickness, however, in most of the areas visited medical facilities were quite good. Infant mortality was generally low, the exception being in the Kerabi, Census Division. Looking back on old patrol reports it is noted that this Division has often been neglected and this has been reflected in the past Census Statistics which show a very low natural increase. The remainder of the Kerabi C/D will be patrolled in April and at this time a comprehensive report on the medical situation of the area can be made. Kumbirepa, Forerigi, Barowoi, Tagibu and Waraga all recorded more deaths than births which tends to lend emphasis to the comments made earlier on the Kerabi Aid-Post.

SOCIAL SITUATION IN GENERAL

No new comer to this area can fail to be concerned over the large number of men, between the ages of 16 years and 45 years, who have departed their villages, often for all time. The percentage absent is disturbingly high, in some cases exceeding 50%. A quick glance at the Village Population Register should quickly paint the picture. An extract from Samberigi Census Division shows:

	Sogore	Absent	Outside the District	
				50%
Mogulegi	"	"	"	49.5%
Besaburu	"	"	"	40%
Sau	"	"	"	53%
Ogumobu	"	"	"	62%
Bishara	"	"	"	51%

This does not include persons absent within the District and persons recorded as being below 16 years of age.

The reader is reminded that Samberigi C/D is one of the more attractive areas within the Administrative Area of Erave....there is ample fertile land available, good climate and cash cropping is within the range of all. The main effects from this population loss appear to be:

1. Lack of available manpower to develop the area.
2. Loss of tax income to the Local Government Council.
3. Domestic problems caused by a large number of women without men. In some cases the women are unmarried but more often married but without a resident husband. It is not unusual to hear a dispute where a wife has been purchased for an absent worker but may never see her "husband".

No immediate remedy is suggested.....perhaps greater development will attract young men to remain within their village. It is a problem belonging to a Nation in the making.

CONCLUSION

From this Patrol the writer gained a greater insight into the problems of the people and the Area, further political and general education was given, the Census was revised, roadwork programmes were revitalised and much useful contact with the people was made.

An interesting patrol.

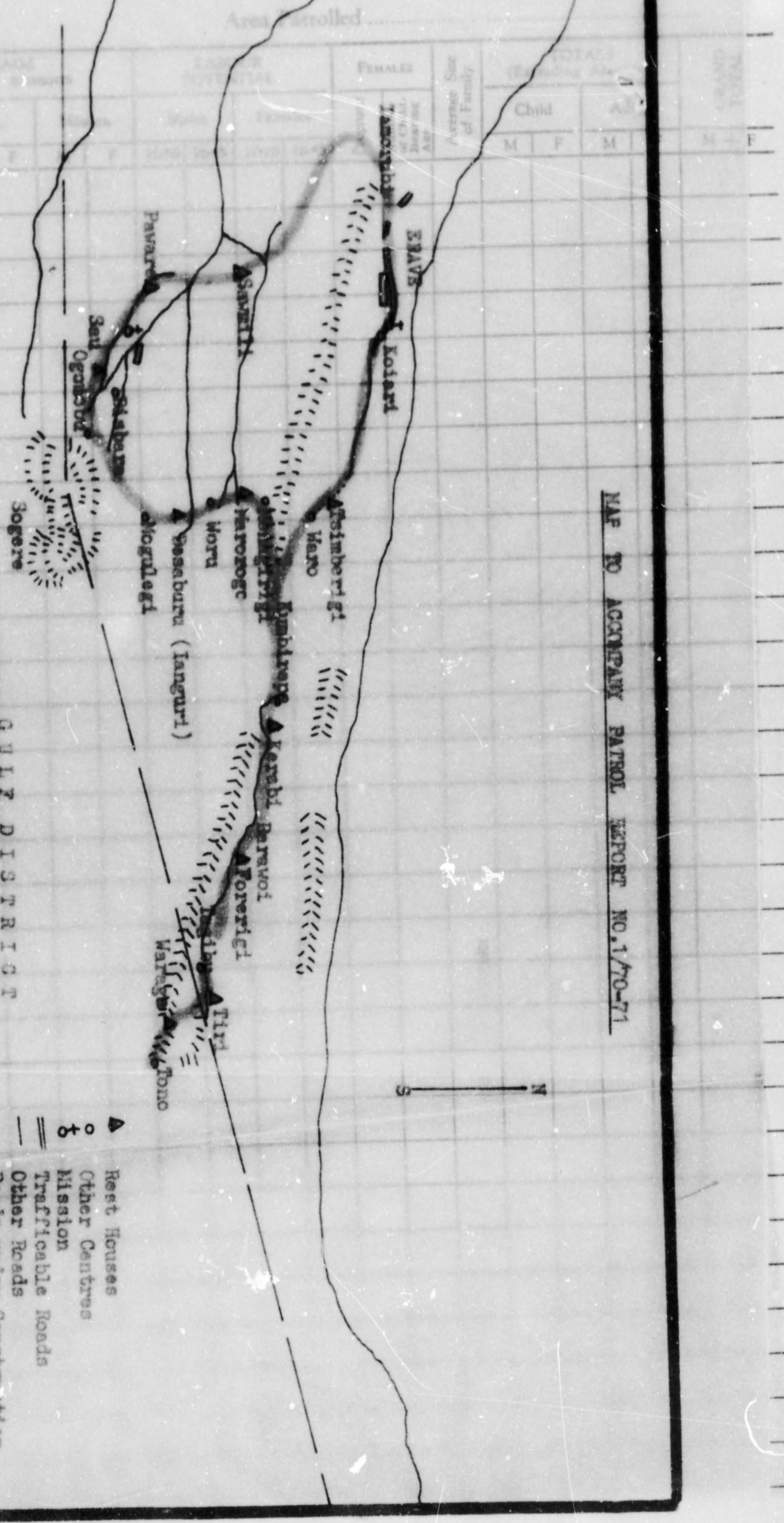
S.R. Pearson Patrol Officer



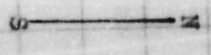
S.R. Pearson  
March, 1971  
P.O.

Scale: Approx. One Inch to Four Miles

MAP TO ACCOMPANY PATROL REPORT NO. 1/70-71



GULF DISTRICT





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of.....SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS..... Report No.....BRAVE NO. 2/70-71.....

Patrol Conducted by.....S. R. PEARSON PATROL OFFICER.....

Area Patrolled.....KERABI CENSUS DIVISION.....

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....NIL.....

Natives 2 P.H.D., 1 Interpreter, 4 R.P.M.G.C.

Duration—From...21/...4.../1971...to...6.../...5.../1971....

Number of Days...16 DAYS.....(15 NIGHTS CAMPED OUT)...

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....A.P.O. AND T.R. ORDERLY.....

Last Patrol to Area by—<sup>D.D.A.</sup>~~District Services~~.....6.../...5.../1971....

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

Map Reference.....MAP ATTACHED.....

Objects of Patrol.....SEE REPORT.....

Director of District Administration,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

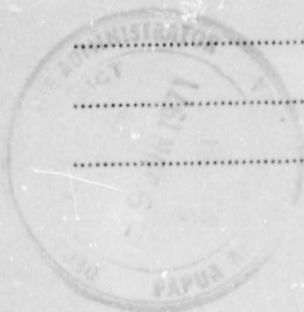
/ / 19

.....  
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 .... ..





GC:IT

P.O. Box 2396,  
KONEDOBU.

67-15-80

6th December, 1971.

The District Commissioner,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

PATROL NO. 2 OF 1970/71.

Your reference is 67-3-8 of 26th July, 1971.

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Annual  
Census, Area Study and Situation Report by Mr. S.R.  
Pearson of Kerabi Census Division.

*T. W. Ellis*  
(T.W. ELLIS)

Secretary.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

67-15-80 (S)



Telegrams  
Telephone  
Our Reference 67-3-8  
If calling ask for  
Mr.

In Reply  
Please Quote

No.

Department of the Administrator,  
District Office, Mendi, S.H.D.

26th July, 1971.

The Secretary,  
Dept. of the Administrator,  
Div. of District Administration,  
KONEDOBUBU

Report: Erave Patrol No. 2 of  
1970/1971

Please find two copies of the report on the above patrol submitted  
by Mr. S.R. Pearson, Patrol Officer.

Mr. Pearson's report covers adequately matters encountered on the  
patrol and the comments of the Assistant District Commissioner, Kagua are quite  
comprehensive.

It is to be hoped that the supply of medicines to the area as offered  
by Mr. P. Calvert comes to fruition.

A well-documented report on a satisfactory patrol.

*D.J. Clancy*

D.J. CLANCY  
District Commissioner

c.c. A.D.C., Kagua  
O.I.C., Erave  
Mr. S. Pearson,  
Erave.

3

that they are keen to join the Erave Council. Our aim of  
having all the peoples of the Southern Highlands under local



67-5-1.

152.

Sub-District Office,  
KAGUA.  
Southern Highlands  
District,  
12th July, 1971.

District Commissioner,  
Southern Highlands District,  
MENDI.

ERAVE PATROL REPORT NO. 2 of 1970/71.

Attached please find three copies of the above report submitted by Mr. S. R. Pearson, Patrol Officer-in-Charge, Erave.

I have the following comments:

HEALTH: The offer of Mr. Peter Calvert to supply drugs for an aid post at the remote village of Suani is very heartening.

GENSUS REVISION.

It seems a pity that these people actually decreased in numbers during 1970/71. It is obvious that better medical services are needed, even though the cost be prohibitive.

I agree with Mr. Pearson that a new village should be included in the village directory next year if the position of the people of BIAGI remains static.

LAW AND ORDER.

I feel that this area should be visited six monthly if we are going to "keep an eye" on the people and gain their confidence. I feel sure that "dastardly deeds" are being committed in this area and in the Upper Pipike C.D., and are not being reported at Erave. These people must surely have had more important complaints than those brought to the patrol's attention!

POLITICAL SITUATION

Once again we have a patrol disseminating political propoganda even if it was only of a very basic nature. These people have a long way to come before they have any semblance of self-government, nationhood, etc.

We must not let the people of Sopesa "down" now that they are keen to join the Erave Council. Our aim of having all the peoples of the Southern Highlands under local

government must not slacken when it comes to the people of this area.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

I, for one, would like to know just how the vanilla is growing. Is it healthy and is it anywhere near flowering? I consider that the Department of Agriculture should be approached and asked to supply some vegetable seeds for this area so that the people can improve their standard of living and cut down on the prevalent skin diseases of the area which may or may not be caused by the lack of a balanced diet.

ROADS AND COMMUNICATION

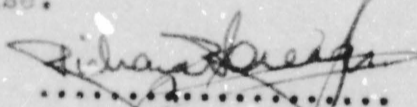
The road into Kerabi seems a worthwhile project, however I feel that it will be a long time before a school could be established in the area. Roads naturally enough bring economic development and I would prefer to see a start made on this road as soon as practicable. Applications for Rural Development Funds should be made to assist the people in the building of the road in 1972/73.

AIR STRIPS

I cannot but agree with Mr. Pearson re the airstrip and need thereof. The ACOM "persuaded" the people of the Batri area (Kari-Tiburu C. D.) to start work on an airstrip sometime ago. This strip has not reached fruition and never will because of the major earthworks involved. It would be a pity to see the people of the Kerabi area start work on a project which has very little chance of success. I personally am not in favour of an airstrip.

Once again Mr. Pearson has submitted a valuable report which is concise and well prepared.

For your information, please.

  
.....  
Richard Blakeney Creagh  
Assistant District Commissioner





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

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

In Reply  
Please Quote  
No.

Department of the Administrator,  
Division of District  
Administration,  
Patrol Post,  
ERAVE,  
Southern Highlands District.  
2nd. June, 1971.

The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub-District Office,  
KAGUA

ERAVE PATROL NO. 2/70-71

Patrol Conducted By;	S.R.Pearson, Patrol Officer.
Accompanying Personnel;	Z.Aines, T.B. Orderly N.Andia, A.P.O. Const. 1/C Digin R.F.&M.G.C. Const. 1/C Kelaga " " Const. 1/C Gori " " Const. Wakon " "
Duration of Patrol;	21/4/71 to 6/5/71 Sixteen Patrol Days. Fifteen Nights Camped Out.
Last Patrol to Area;	2/4/70 to 6/5/70 (Whole G/D) 22/3/71 to 9/2/71 (Part of G/D)
Objects of Patrol;	1. Revise the Census Register. 2. Carry out Political Education. 3. General Administration. 4. Familiarise with the Area and it's people. 5. Health Extension. 6. Vaccination campaign - B.C.G.
Map Reference;	Map Attached.

*S.R.Pearson*  
S.R.Pearson  
Officer-in-Charge

ul  
MOR  
F

INTRODUCTION

The Kerabi Census Division is an extremely rugged mountain region of area in excess of one thousand square miles. It includes several villages which are technically within the Gulf District. Settlements are generally found to be sited on hill tops with the exception of the river villages of Watori, Kele and Suani. The approximate population density is 2-2.5 persons per square mile.

A glance at the attached map will show that the Census Division is bordered on the north by the Pangia Administrative Area, extending to the Chimbu on the north-east. To the east and south the boundary is the Upper Pipike C/D of Baimuru Patrol Post, Gulf District. To the west lie the Samberigi and Fore/Tsimberigi C/Ds of Erave Patrol Post.

In general the mountain ranges run east-west and the only rivers of significance are the Erave River and the Iaro River. To a lesser degree the Irou River could also be mentioned. The Erave River is navigable by canoe from Wopasali to a point one and a half hour's canoeing below Suani.

The emphasis of this patrol was on Political Education: other facets were Census Revision, health extension, including B.C.G. vaccination campaign, and general Administrative duties.

The villages of Kerabi, Forerigi, Tiri and Waraga, were patrolled by Erave Patrol No. 2/70-71 during February-March of this year.

DIARY

Wednesday 21st. April. Departed Erave on foot at 1330 hrs. Arrived Tsimberigi at 1605 hrs. Inspected roadwork enroute and discussed work to be done with two road supervisors who accompanied the patrol to Tsimberigi. Made camp, held short discussions with Cr. Ieri and Cr. Weneli.

Slept Tsimberigi.

Thursday 22nd. April. Carriers arrived by 0800 hrs. Departed 0815 hrs. Slow walking due to damaged knee caused by falling through the floor of Tsimberigi R.H. last night. 1115 hrs. arrived at Kerabi. Changed carriers and continued at 1300 hrs. in heavy rain. Track poor due to rain and pig damage. Arrived Tiri at 1705 hrs. Made camp. Heard two minor disputes and paid Village Constable of Kerabi.

Slept Tiri.

Friday 23rd. April. Departed 0810 after paying V.Cs. of Tiri, Tono and Waraga. Arrived vicinity of airstrip site at about 1300 hrs. Inspected site and noted that apart from extensive earthworks that would be required, the site is also probably too short. Proceeded to Wopasali arriving at the river crossing at 1610 hrs. Ferried gear and carriers over river and made camp. Evening discussions with V.Cs. of Wopasali and Keba and others.

Slept Wopasali.

Saturday 24th. April. 0715. Paid carriers off and had them ferried across the river. Made ready for canoe journey to Suani. Canoes doubled. Departed 0915 hrs. Inspected Kele village enroute. "Buzzed" by MAF float plane below Kele. Arrived Suani 13.45 hrs. Made camp and awaited remainder of patrol. Float plane landed at approx. 2.30. Had discussions with Peter Culvert of United Church Hospital Kaupuna and pilot Max Myers. Health situation of River region discussed. Aircraft



DIARY (Continued)

departed 1515 hrs. Inspected Suani village whilst awaiting arrival of villagers. Quite in order. 1660 hrs. heard one dispute, revised Census and gave Political Education and general talks. Completed by 1800 hrs. 2000-2130 hrs. held discussions with village leaders and V.C. of Suani and Kele. Both V.Cs. paid.

Slept Suani.

Sunday 25th April. Departed Suani in five canoes, at 0800 hrs. Arrived Kele about 1430 hrs. Noted proposed new village site for the Suani group...about 2 hrs. 40 mins. upstream from Suani. Made camp at Kele. Revised Census and gave full talks...small group. One dispute heard. Evening attended to census statistics.

Slept Kele.

Monday 26th April. Anzac P.H. Departed Kele at 0745 hrs. arriving at Wopasali 1015 hrs. after a hard paddle/punt upstream. 1100-1300 hrs. gave full talks and revised Census of Wopasali and Watori. 1330 hrs. departed for Keba leaving two police at Wopasali. Track in shocking condition - arrived 1145 hrs. Turibadi and Keba people assembled. Gave talks and revised census. Several minor disputes heard. Evening held discussions with V.Cs. and headmen.

Slept Keba.

Tuesday 27th April. Inspected Keba village. Reasonably tidy. Walked back to Wopasali arriving at about 11.30 hrs. Afternoon heard three disputes and held several discussions with villagers V.Cs of Keba, Turibadi and Wopasali. Evening - some paperwork.

Slept Wopasali.

Wednesday 28th April. Ready to move by 0645 hrs. Carriers late arriving. Ferrying of gear and carriers completed by 0845 hrs. Short of eight carriers - left two police with some patrol equipment and departed. Arrived Pupitau 1415 hrs. Carriers arrived 1615 hrs. Informal talks with V.Cs. of Boro and Pupitau whilst waiting for remainder of patrol. Evening held meeting with village headmen of Pupitau and Boro. V.Cs. both paid.

Slept Pupitau.

Thursday 29th April. Revised census of Pupitau and gave talks to 1130 hrs. Departed 1200 hrs. Inspected village - all in order. Arrived Boro 1400 hrs. Inspected Boro village - successful efforts had been made to correct previous shortcomings, although these (mainly drainage) had been done only a few days prior to arrival of patrol. Track from Pupitau quite reasonable. Not that much can be done to near vertical limestone cliffs. Made camp - mingled with villagers. 1530-1730 censused and gave talks. No disputes presented. Negotiated purchase of cassowary for Erave L.G.C.

Slept Boro.

Friday 30th April. Departed Boro 0745 hrs. arriving Sirigi 1240 hrs. Village deserted except for two people. Patrol equipment arrived one hour later. Made a leisurely inspection of the village. One "haus man" very close to falling down - only six out of thirty occupants left. V.C. of Negebare (Gulf) visited to report. Said that his group would like to census at Sirigi. Worked at Census Statistics.

Slept at Sirigi.

DIARY (Continued)

Saturday 1st May. Today censused the village of Sirigi and gave usual talks. Sirigi includes the people of Biegi to the west. Appointed a new V.C., Awle. Remainder of day informal discussions with villagers and commenced draft of patrol report. Unable to visit Hurupio (Gulf) as intended due to steadily worsening knee condition.  
Slept Sirigi.

Sunday 2nd May. Left Sirigi 0815. Arrived Biegi 1000hrs. Most of the walk is in the Sirigi Creek. Rested and inspected. This group should be registered separately from Sirigi. Continued to Mosa Camp (no population) arriving about 1330 hrs. Made camp. Remainder of afternoon worked on patrol report and census figures.  
Slept Mosa Camp.

Monday 3rd May. Departed 0830. Track leads into Irou River and follows the bed for about two hours. Many Sago camps in evidence. Arrived Sopesse 1300 hrs. and carriers 1400 hrs. Heard one dispute (husband/wife). Carriers paid off. Afternoon walked around village and mingled with villagers. Village untidy and tracks very bad indeed.  
Slept Sopesse.

Tuesday 4th May. Morning negotiated purchase of second cassowary for the Council - gave talks to Sopesse villagers followed by census revision. Long talk given on the role of the Erave L.G.C. Completed by 1330 hrs. Lunch then worked on report and census figures to 1630. Met with villagers again regarding their desire to join the L.G.C. Evening discussions with V.C. and headman. V.C. paid.  
Slept Sopesse.

Wednesday 5th May. Departed 0800. Track very poor indeed. Arrived Ianguri at 1455 hrs. Inspected Mogulegi village (close to Ianguri) - very dirty - councillor advised. Carriers arrived 1630. Made camp and paid off carriers. Evening - bookwork.

Thursday 6th May. Heard two minor disputes. Carriers late arriving. Departed by 0845 hrs. At Tsimberigi by 1100 hrs. Arrived Station 1500 hrs. - Carriers 1700 hrs. Carriers paid off. Patrol stood down.

SOCIAL SITUATION

EDUCATION

The Kerabi people of the C/D have little or no opportunity for educational advancement. Of the area patrolled on this occasion there were eight students from the total number of 417 children of school age. In the whole C/D of 677 children there are only 42 students. Future prospects are not good due to the inaccessibility of the region. If a road is constructed to Kerabi the establishment of a school should become a matter of pressing urgency.

Some Pidgin-English is spoken and in the Southern Section Police Motu is encountered. Generally there are 2-3 persons in each village who have some understanding of one or other of these languages.



EDUCATION (Continued)

A brief summary would be that education, in its broad sense, plays little or no part in the lives of these people.

HEALTH

Reference to past patrol reports indicates that the health situation in this Census Division has never been good. Infant mortality has been and is still high and the natural increase/decrease for the entire C/D since 1966 is as follows:-

1965	-	1.47
1966	-	.32 <u>Decrease</u>
1967	-	No figures available
1968	-	2.60
1969	-	1.35
1970	-	.78
1971	-	.15 <u>Decrease</u>

General health tends to be poor and skin diseases, scabies, sores and ulcers are very common.

Medical Assistance

With such a scattered population it is difficult to give easy access to medical facilities for all the population. Briefly the area can be divided into two as regards accessibility.

- (a) Reasonably accessible: Kerabi, Kumbirepa, Tiri, Forerigi, Barowoi (Waraga, Tono).
- (b) Inaccessible areas: Wopasali, Kele, Suani, Pupitau, Boro, Sirigi, Sopese.

(Refer to carrying times Appendix I for more detail.)

There are two Aid-Posts in the area:-

1. At Kerabi - unstaffed since January - to be re-staffed immediately on completion of current Triple Antigen Patrol due to conclude this month.
2. At Wopasali. This latter post was established in 1970 and there is a marked improvement in the general health of the area in the year 1970/71. It is therefore surprising to learn that the local populace has recently been refusing to support the Post by not carrying medical supplies from Erave. A request was apparently made to the APO that the Post be closed.

This patrol made a point of educating the peoples of Wopasali, Keba and Turibadi on the necessity of keeping the Post open - it is hoped that no further trouble of this kind will be experienced.

Pupitau The A.P.C.M. Pastor gives out medication of a very basic nature.

Whilst at Suani I held discussions regarding the medical situation of the area with Mr Peter Calvert of the United Hospital Kaupuna, Gulf District. This Mission looks after the medical needs of a wide area and extends to Lake Tebera, about 5 mins flying from Suani. Mr Calvert mentioned the possibility of flying medical supplies to Suani. He will check the matter at his base and possibly write to the D.M.O. Mendi if this is possible.

HEALTH (Continued)

The Patrol was accompanied by an A.P.O. who gave medical treatment after census gatherings and as required. Most common problem was ulcers and general sores.

B.C.G. Vaccination

A TB orderly from TB Control, Goroka, accompanied the patrol and B.C.G. vaccinations were given to all persons attending the census.

CENSUS REVISION

General

Attendance was generally very good there being very few persons absent even due to illness. The worst village for absenteeism was Sirigi with 11 absent out of a total population of 197.

There were a total of 44 migrations in to 27 out, most movements being caused by marriage or the death of a husband causing migrations back to the wife's group.

The most striking point, on reviewing these figures, is the natural decrease that has shown up. This year .27 per 100 decrease for the area patrolled and a total for the whole of the Kerabi C/D for 1970/71 of .15 per 100. This appears to be the worst demographical situation since 1966 when a decrease of .32 per 100 was recorded.

Sirigi - Biagi

The Biagi (Mosa) people were living at Sirigi when the initial census was compiled in 1966; however, they have moved away from Sirigi and have established a village about 2 hours walking to the west (towards Sopes). It would seem to be reasonable that the next census revision should remove this group from the Sirigi Register and that an additional village be included in the village directory - BIAGI. The people appear to have a separate identity and have not always lived with the Sirigi people. An additional V.C. will also be required.

Law and Order

But a few years ago (1966) there was still inter-tribal fighting in parts of this area, however, since then much consolidation of Admin influence has taken place and for the main part all appear to live in peace. Because of it's isolation and remoteness it is difficult to know exactly what is going on and it is possible that the occasional misdemeanour goes undetected - for instance it is assumed that cannibalism has been wiped out but one cannot be emphatically sure of this.

The situation in the northern part of the Upper Pipike C/D is not so good and several reported murders (1970/71) took place in the area within a days walk of Sirigi - N.B. The villages of Pupitau, Boro, Sirigi, Biagi and Sopes used to be part of the Upper Pipike.



SOCIAL SITUATION (Continued)

Disputes brought before the patrol were of a minor nature being mainly husband and wife, sago and pig damage disputes.

POLITICAL SITUATION

Most of the area patrolled by this patrol has been regularly visited by Administration officers for only five-six years. The level of development is very low indeed - in all respects. This is particularly the case under the heading Political Development. Following Administration policy patrols have made every effort in recent years to give the people the benefit of Political Education, however, many villages have only recently mastered the basics of village hygiene and the principles of law and order.

Political Education

Of necessity talks on this subject had to be very fundamental in nature. Particular emphasis was placed on the subject of National Unity and the instilling of the concept of a country of Papua and New Guinea. Other major points stressed were representation to the House of Assembly by an elected member and the basic work of the House. Self-Government and the implication of this were also carefully explained. It would have been futile to have tried to explain the more complex matters relating to Political Education and as the amount of time that the attention of the people can be held is limited, this valuable time was spent on the basic framework. Levels of understanding appeared to vary as is naturally the case with a mixed group. Some references to next years Elections for the House of Assembly were also included.

Where possible evening discussions were again held with village leaders - these small informal discussions appear to be of particular value.

Summary

Every attempt is being made to educate the villagers in the most vital subject of Political Education. The speed that this task can be carried out relates to the ability of the people to assimilate the information and instruction given and the availability of field staff to carry out the function.

Local Government Council

See also Erave Patrol No. 1/70-71 Political Situation, sub heading "Local Government".

The only group, within the area patrolled likely to join the Erave L.G.C. is that of Sopesse some 13 hours walk from the Station. This brings to four the number of new wards required. The others will be for Kerabi, Kumbirepa and Harowoi/Forerigi.

Since 1969 Sopesse has expressed keenness to join the Erave L.G.C., however, it became apparent on this patrol, that an increase in taxation rate during 1970/71 had undermined the confidence of the people and concern over the prospect of being over taxed was evident. A lengthy discourse of the role of Local Government and the method of setting a tax rate were given. At the close of the day the majority were again keen to join and were eagerly discussing their preferences for candidates.

### POLITICAL SITUATION (Continued)

The necessary steps will now be taken to have the Council's Constitution changed to include the five new wards that will be required.

### ECONOMIC SITUATION

The economic situation bears much similarity to the Education Situation in that there has been and currently is no activity in this direction. A few very small plots of birdseye chillies, mainly in Kerabi, constitute the only attempts at economic development. Trial plantings of vanilla seedlings were made in 1970, however, it will be sometime before any results from these trials will be known.

The main problem in any attempt to economically develop this area lies in its extreme inaccessibility and low density population. It is possible that plantings of chillies could be further extended, however such crops would have to be carried up to five days to the buying point and it is questionable whether sufficient enthusiasm could be generated amongst the populace - furthermore possible damage to chillies due to exposure to inclement weather in transit could be a problem. There is also the question as to what extent the chilli industry should be expanded. Production from other census divisions has increased rapidly during the past six months severely taxing aircraft backloading capacity. (There is no road link out of Erave at present and all cash crops have to be flown out).

### Labour Reservoir

At present the Kerabi Census Division has not been bled of its manpower to the extent of other Census Divisions with the Erave area. Approximately 17% of the 16-45 yr. age group are at present away from their villages and out of the Southern Highlands.

The idea of going to other areas to work appears to be spreading and this patrol met with many requests for assistance to join the H.L.S., mainly from the Wopasali - Keba area. The villages to the South have easy access to Kikori and it is in this region that the greatest percentage of men have left.

Such current and future Labour loss is unfortunate as Erave as a whole is short of manpower, many of the Station and plantation workers having to be attracted from Kagua. The social problems from such a drift cannot be ignored and are referred to under the heading 'Social Situation'.

### Roads and Communication

There are no roads in the Kerabi C/D. As mentioned in Patrol Report Erave 1/70-71, early consideration to the building of an access road from Woru to Kerabi is advisable. Such a project could be undertaken by all the available manpower from the C/D after the completion of the Erave-Woru road (part of Erave - Samberigi). Benefits from such a road would be:

1. Greater ease of access to the Kerabi valley - Kerabi is 6 hours walk from Erave.
2. Qualify Kerabi for the establishment of a school.
3. More possibility of economic development in the Kerabi - Forerigi - Tiri area (ease of access, purchase of produce etc.)



ECONOMIC SITUATION (Continued)

Most of the villages in the Kerabi C/D are providing labour to assist in the completion of the Erave - Tsimberigi Road, a Rural Development Project. This work should be complete by about August 1971.

Communication in the C/D can be made by foot only with the exception of the 30 miles of navigable river which connects Wopasali - Watori, Kele and Suani, total population 283.

Airstrips (Mission)

There has been an intense amount of pressure from the villagers of Waraga, Tono, Pupitan and Boro (Tiri and Wopasali to a lesser degree) for the construction of an airstrip in their area. Originally the idea appears to have come from the A.P.C.M., Samberigi who have pastors at all these villages except Wopasali. A possible site was located and Erave Patrol Report No. 13/69-70 examined the site without much enthusiasm. It was also inspected by Mr D. Mosely of A.P.C.M. Samberigi and recently by Mr I. Collingwood, A.P.C.M. Erave. I have myself been approached several times by villagers, from the above villages, both while on patrol and at the Station. Mr Collingwood also requested that I inspect the site which was done during the course of this patrol.

It says much for the ruggedness of this area of country that this is the only site that can be found after long searching. The site would call for very considerable earthworks, however, it appears to be unsuitable, apart from the earthworks, due to its short length.

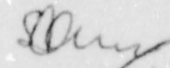
I am particularly concerned with the attitude of mind of the villagers over the benefits to be obtained from an airstrip - their almost religious fervour to build the airstrip despite the fact that they have been told and appear to realise that the site is useless and could never be used cannot be considered as anything other than unhealthy. This patrol went to considerable pains to again explain that an airstrip could bring only very limited benefits to the area, mainly in the servicing of the bush churches by A.P.C.M. Although they do not openly admit the fact I have the feeling that they are convinced that a mission 'strip is "the key to the door" of material gain. It has been suggested to the people that they should better use their energy searching for a better site. The matter will be fully discussed with the A.P.C.M.

It is understood that the Wesleyan Mission are also desirous of finding a site in the Wopasali area

CONCLUSION

The Kerabi C/D is seen to be a remote area which requires considerable attention and assistance in all fields, including health and education.

This patrol achieved its stated objectives, further Political Education having been achieved, together with Census Revision, Health Extension and a general good contact was made with the local people.



S.R. PEARSON  
Patrol Officer

3

APPENDIX I

<u>Carrying Times</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Erave - Tsimberigi	2½
Tsimberigi - Tiri	7
Tiri - Wopasali	8
Wopasali - Keba	2½
Keba - Wopasali	2½
Wopasali - Suani (Canoe)	5
Suani - Kele ( " )	7
Kele - Wopasali ( " )	2½
Wopasali - Pupitau	6
Pupitau - Boro	2
Boro - Sirigi	4
Sirigi - Sopes	8
Sopes - Ianguri	8½
Ianguri - Station	5½
Total carrying time	58½
canoe time	14½
TOTAL	<u>73</u> hours

APPENDIX II

Village Constables

There are 17 village constables within the Kerabi Census Division. A new V.C. was appointed for Sirigi, one Awle. Excluding Sirigi all other village constables were paid their retainers.



2

APPENDIX III

Conduct of Personnel Accompanying Patrol

Patrol Interpreter Manu Agaru

Although young and lacking experience, he acquitted himself well.

R.P. & N.G.C.

Const 1/C Digin of Mendi Detachment

Pleasant but not particularly effective. May be rather too old for such rugged patrolling

Const 1/C Kelaga of Erave Detachment

Average performance.

Const 1/C Gori

Quiet, tends to lack initiative.

Const Wakon of Mendi Detachment

Very young and inexperienced. Of little use to the patrol but he should have gained some experience of bush patrolling.

P.H.D.

T.B. Orderly of T.B. Control Goroka

Performed his duties conscientiously.

A.P.O. James

Worked well.

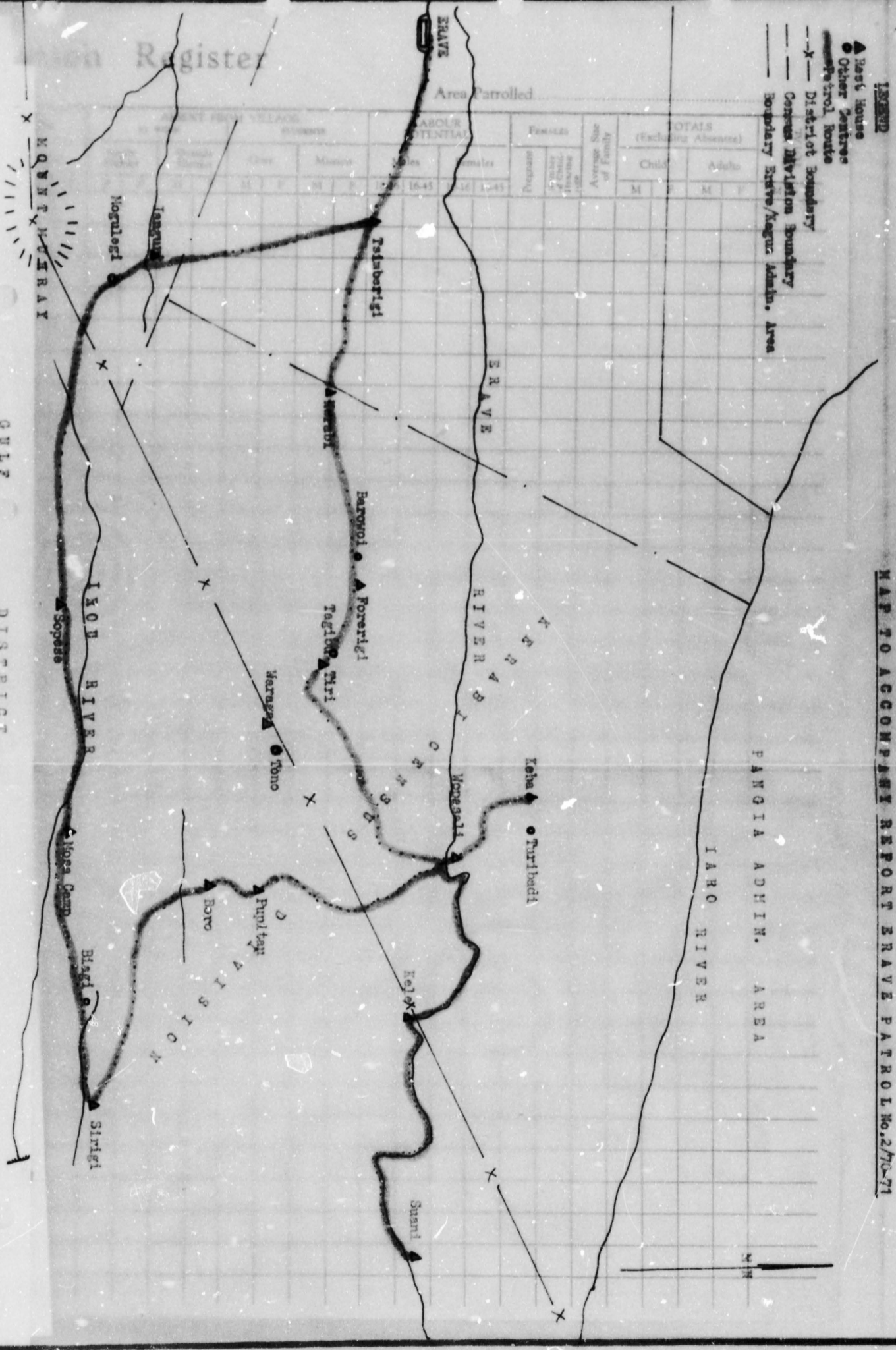
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MAP TO ACCOMPANY REPORT ERAVE PATROL No. 270-71

- ▲ Post House
- Other Centers
- Patrol Route
- X- District Boundary
- Center Division Boundary
- Boundary Erave/Kagur Admin. Area

TOTALS (Excluding Absentees)	
Child	Adult
M	F

LABOUR POTENTIAL	
Male	Female
M	F
1645	116
1445	



Register

SCALE One Inch to Four Miles (Approximate)

GULF DISTRICT