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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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ORIGINAL



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of..... **WESTERN** Report No. **Weam No.2 of 1967/68**

Patrol Conducted by..... **R.E.Randolph, Patrol Officer**

Area Patrolled..... **Bensbach Census Division.**

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

Natives..... **One Interpreter, one Policeman.**

Duration—From..... **17/12/1968** to..... **8/3/1968**

Number of Days..... **21**

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

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services..... **Oct/1968**

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

Map Reference..... **Border Survey Special.**

Objects of Patrol..... **To conduct 1968 House of Assembly Elections.**

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

4 / 4 / 1968.

J. Bensted
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

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

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Ref: 67-3-12

Dept. of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, Papua.

April 30th, 19 68.

District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

PATROL NO. ~~WESTAN 2-67/68~~

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of Memorandum
* of Patrol/Patrol Report covering patrol by B.E. BÄNDOLEH...P.O.
to BENSACH Census Divisions.

T.W. Ellis
(T.W. ELLIS)
Director

* Delete as necessary.

67.3.12.
8



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telephone

Telegrams

Our Reference 67-8-1

If calling ask for

Mr. RAC. bd



Department of District Administration,

Western District,
DARU.

5th April, 1968

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

WEAM PATROL 2/67-68

Please find herewith a short report of the above patrol, which was conducted by Mr. R. E. RANDOLPH, Patrol Officer, who is Officer-In-Charge, WEAM Patrol Post.

2. The report is basically a diary with a few comments on electoral matters. This is all that I required.

F. A. Bensted
(F.A. BENSTED) *MB.*
District Commissioner.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telephone

Telegrams

Our Reference

If calling ask for

Mr.

67-1-2

Department of District Administration,

Morehead

26th March, 1968.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

WEAM Patrol Report No. 2 of 1967/68.

Two copies of the above forwarded please. I understand that claim for camping allowance are submitted under separate cover.

Re the report's Appendix (A)... Const I/c AGORANTA. This man man is fit to be a sergeant third class. Interpreter N. Sapirai is of course only a patrol interpreter. As such he gives his moneys worth. He was engaged to translate from low malay to motuan and vice versa. With encouragement he can overcome the habit mentioned by Mr. Randolph. He is very loyal to the Administration.

The patrol was purely an election patrol and calls for no comment from me except to agree that one of the essential uses of the M.V. Aidia is in the wet season to be used carrying government officials on the Bensbach & Morehead River systems during the wet season. In this way most of the census's divisions can be visited without too much floundering through mud and water and forced marches.

(A.D. Wren)

Assistant District Commissioner.

cc OIC WEAM Patrol Post





TERRITORY OF PAPIA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference 67-4-1
If calling ask for
Mr.

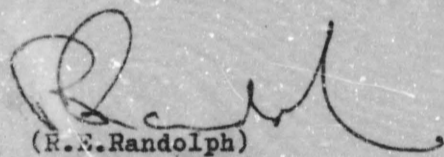
Dept. of District Administration,
Weam Patrol Post,
Via Daru, W.D.,
PAPUA

15th March 1968.

District Commissioner,
DARU Is.

Patrol Report:- WEAM No.2 of 1967/68

District:- Western
Conducted By:- R.E.Randolph. Patrol Officer.
Area Patrolled:- Bensbach River Census Division.
Persons Accompanying:- Const 4/c Agorants.
Nema Sapirai. Interpreter (Patrol).
Duration:- 17th February 1968 to 8th March
1968.....21 (twentyone) days.
Previous Patrols:- General Routine and Census:- Oct 67.
Map References:- Special Border Survey.
Object:- To conduct the 1968 House of
assembly Elections.


(R.E.Randolph)
Patrol Officer

-----(((((.))))-----

Introduction;-

The Weam patrol No.2 for 1967/68 had but one object, and that was to conduct the Elections for the 1968 House of Assembly.

The people of the area voted in both the 'South Fly Open Electorate' and the 'Gulf and Western Regional Electorate' Respose from rne populace was quite good for both sections.

The patrol program suggested by District Headquarters was altered slightly due to exceedingly wet wheather. It was found that all villages were relatively close to a waterway, so all long travel was done by the Aidia and the villages were visited from their closest river neighbour.

The patrol was also one day longer than at first calculated. The people of Iokwa did mot turn up at the Suki Mobile Polling Place so they were visited by My team, The Bensbach Mobile team.

-----(((((.))))-----

Diary:-Saturday 17th February 1968

Conducted election of Weam Village and on Weam Station.

Sunday 18th February 1968

Observed.

Monday 19th February 1968

To Wereseve per M.V. Aidia, Conducted Elections.

Tuesday 20th February 1968

Elections at Mengete.

Wednesday 21st February 1968

Conducted elections for Indoropro

Thursday 22nd February 1968

Elections for Kandarisa.

Friday 23rd February 1968

0600hrs Depart Weam per M.V. Aidia.

1300hrs Arrive at Wando Village.

Saturday 24th February 1968

Conducted election of Wando.

Sunday 25th February 1968

Observed.

Monday 26th February 1968

Conducted election for Krombo village.

Tuesday 27th February 1968

Conducted election for Bandaber village.

Wednesday 28th February 1968

0900hrs Left Wando Village.

1200hrs Camped for 1 hour to eat.

1600hrs Made camp on Bansbach River.

Diary (Cont.):-

Thursday 29th February 1968

0900hrs Left river camp.

1200hrs Camped for lunch on Bansbach.

1700hrs Arrived at Mouth of Bansbach. No place for a camp, turned back upstream for 1 hour to old campsite.

Friday 1st March 1968

0700hrs Left Bansbach camp, arrived at mouth .

0900hrs Waited for tide then left Mouth.

1200hrs Ran Aground at point, tide flooding, off in 5 minutes.

1400hrs Went ashore at Kwinji (old Bula) inspected refugee village.

1500hrs Arrived at Bula Village.

Saturday 2nd March 1968

Conducted elections at Bula Village.

Sunday 3rd March 1968

Observed.

Monday 4th March 1968

0900hrs Departed Bula, up the Morehead.

1800hrs Made camp on river bank.

Tuesday 5th March 1968

0600hrs Left bush camp.

0900hrs Arrived at Iokwa Village, conducted elections.

Wednesday 6th March 1968

Conducted elections at Tokwa Village.

Thursday 7th March 1968

Conducted elections at Wemenevre Village.

Friday 8th March 1968

1000hrs Departed Iokwa per M.V.Aidia.

1230hrs Arrived Morehead Station.

Saturday 9th March 1968.

Flew to Weam Station, Patrol Stood Down.

Native Affairs and General:-

During the dry season (July to January) it is almost possible to visit every Bensbach village on one day, in the wet as it was for this patrol, it is a different story! The fact that the small 'Kopsen Lauich' the M.V. Aidia was stationed at Weam saved an enormous amount of time and trouble. Every Bensbach village is within about two hours walk of some navigable waterway, this simplified the Election patrol by being able to capitalise on this and do the longer stretches by boat. A short walk then saw us at the respective villages.

The Bensbach area has little to recommend it during the wet season, the country, especially around Wando Village, is very pretty, with open plains of bright green grass, however it is not so pretty when one has to traverse the quagmire. During the wetter months the incidence of game drops off as they migrate inland, but there is still an amazing amount to be seen. The deer, magani, pig and bird life on the Bensbach, below Wando, has to be seen to be believed.

I have been through the country a number of times before, and Mr P.O. Johnson did the annual census revision only a couple of months ago. As this patrol was solely concerned with the conducting of the House of Assembly Elections, I will not go into long dissertations on economics and agriculture.

The election was well received by most of the inhabitants in the area. About an 80% vote was recorded. Nearly all of the people were certain of who they wished as 'number One' but very few had any idea of 'second' or 'third'. A few very emphatically stated that they didn't want a second or third choice. All the station people voted bar one or two, they mostly voted for their own areas, but the more literate ones cast their franchise towards the South Fly (an alien Area to them) The only direct refusal to vote was one village person, who after having stated his choice in the Open, wiped the Regional paper off the table with a mutter of disgust!

A number of times the Mamus's had to be removed by the patrol personnel for telling their villagers who to vote for. A couple became nasty when they realised that their wives could choose their own, instead of having to vote as the Mamus said. Most of the village votes and ballot papers were filled out by myself as the majority of the people are illiterate, I think the younger voters who filled in their own papers would have mostly voted informally due to their insistence that 'they knew'.

-----(((((.))))-----

Conclusion:-

All in all the patrol was a successful one, the object was achieved, I think the Bensbach peoples choices have been accurately recorded.

-----(((((.))))-----


(R.E. Randolph)
PATROL OFFICER

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6.

Appendix (A):=

Conduct of members on patrol:-

R.P.N.G.C.

Agoranta Const 1/c

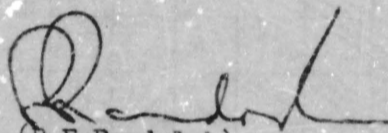
Old and trustworhty, one of the best.

District Administration:-

Nema Sapirai INTERpreter.

Not too bad. One failing....If told anything in Motuan, he repeats it to his PeopleIN MOTUAN. And vice-versa.

-----(((((.))))-----



(R.E.Randolph)
Patrol Officer