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# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: WEST SEPIK

STATION: GREEN RIVER

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PERIOD: 1966 - 1967

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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GREEN RIVER

WEST SEDIK

PATROL REPORT

1966 - 67

Report No. 1 of 1966-1967.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of WEST SEPIK Report No. 1.66/62 GREEN RIVER

Patrol Conducted by A. PLUMMER

Area Patrolled GREEN RIVER LOCAL CENSUS DIVISION

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans NIL

Natives 4 P. MEKEN T.P.O. 2 RPN60

Duration—From 6 3 /1967 to 16 3 /1967  
1 INTERPRETER

Number of Days 10 DAYS: 4 DAYS CAMPING:

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services ...../...../1964

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

Map Reference GREEN RIVER LOCAL CENSUS DIVISION

Objects of Patrol CENSUS RIVER, ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES  
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

2/5/1967

W. K. Lawry

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 .... £.....

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

DIARY

MONDAY 6/3/67:

After quick inspection of...

67.16 111



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



Telegrams...  
Our Reference: 67-1-9  
If calling ask for  
Mr. ....

Department of District Administration,  
District Office,  
VANIMO,  
West Sepik District.  
3rd May, 1967.

The Director,  
Department of District Administration,  
KOHEDOBU

PATROL REPORT GREEN RIVER No.1/66-67

The attached report is for your information please.

The patrol to the Green River Local Census Division was led by Mr. A. Plummer and accompanied by Mr. P. Mekea T.P.O. The report which was written by Mr. Mekea is interesting in that it shows an enquiring mature mind.

The remarks under the sections "Agriculture" and "Commerce and Industry" are pertinent. Distance from coastal ports and poor soil make the people's chances slender for any economic development. The long term answer will be in voluntary migration; probably to the near coastal region near the Pual River Valley if the owners of the land agree.

At present their only asset is their labour and even though the figures quoted appear high there is no cause to worry - these fluctuate from time to time. However, we will control recruiting.

*D.S. Clancy*  
D. S. Clancy  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

C.C. A.D.C.,  
AMARAH  
C.I.C.,  
GREEN RIVER

67. 16 - 114



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

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*D. G. Clancy*  
D. G. Clancy  
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

c.c. A.D.C.,  
AMANAB  
O.I.C.,  
GREEN RIVER

77098\*  
77098/16/67

DIARY

MONDAY 6/3/67:

After quick preparation the patrol left for IBURU at 8:00 hours. After walking through few mud patches the patrol arrived IBURU at 12:00 hours. Walking time recorded as 2 1/2 hours. Taked with councillor slept there over night. Census was revised at 16:00 hours and returned to rest house at 18:00 hours.

TUESDAY 7/3/67:

Departed IBURU for Miniaburu at 08:30 hours. Miniaburu is only 45 ~~minutes~~ minutes walking ~~time~~ time. Census was revised followed by village inspection. Recommendations were given about building new house for the old women and two new latrines with the lid over the top over the pit. Councillor was told this will be checked during the next patrol. Returned to Iburu at 12:00 hrs.

Wednesday 8/3/67:

At 08:00 hours we inspect the village ~~at~~ at Iburu and proceeded to the station at 08:30 hours. The patrol arrived at the station at 12:50 hours.

Thursday 9/3/67:

Departed for Usari at 08:10 hours. After walking through swamp patches and slippery logs laid parallel the patrol arrived at Usari at 11:00 hours. Census was revised at Usari and the village was inspected. The village was ~~not~~ found to be in satisfactory condition. Departed Usari for the Patrol Post at 13:00 hours and arrived at the station at ~~at~~ 15:30 hours.

Friday 10/3/67:

Left station for Samanai at 08:30 hours and arrived at Samanai at 10:30 hours. Census was compiled followed by village inspection. The village was found to be clean and tidy. Road from the station to Samanai was much better compared to other apart from the road joining station and Dieru. Departed Samanai for station at 12:00 hours and at the ~~the~~ station at 14:00 hours.

Saturday 11/3/67:

Departed station for Aberu at 08:00 hours. Aberu is 20 minutes walk from the station. Census was compiled followed by village inspection. Just like any other village in census area Aberu ~~village~~ village was found to be clean and tidy. After inspection the patrol left for the station at 10:00 hours. The time arrival was 10:20 hours.

Monday 13/3/67:

Departed station on motor cycle for ~~the~~ Dieru at 09:10 hours and ~~the~~ arrived there at 10:00 hours. Police and carriers arrived there ~~at~~ 45 minutes later. Cesus was revised in the afternoon at 16:00 hours. Slept Dieru over ~~the~~ night.

14/3/67:

15/3/67:

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INTRODUCTION:

The area covered by the patrol is the GREEN RIVER CENSUS DIVISION which is the part of the GREEN RIVER LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL. It comprised the villages of A ARU; IBURU; ~~MINIABURU~~; SAMANAI; OGRU; SUGUMORU; DIERU; SIMIA and USARI. The area patrolled lies in the part of the great Northern Depression and is drained by the three main rivers of GREEN; FIRINGI (Dico) and HAUSA, with quite a number of large streames & what looked like streames but actually swamps feeding into ther. Canoes were only used few times during the crossing of rivers.

RECEPTION:

The reception of patrol in all the village visited was a healthy one. The village were notified before the actual arrival of ~~the~~ the patrolling party, so there was always preparation made to make the patrol an efficient one. Firewood and water and sometimes, fresh food was prepared ~~before~~ before the patrol arrived.

In all the village visited by the patrol the standard of housing judging by the general standard of the people, is extremely ~~poor~~ please. Hygiene and sanitation is also very good. Some places like Iburu, Miniaburu, Dieru, Ogru and Samanai have good water supply from the rivers ~~that flows~~ that flows just close by the villages. Others also have good streames which provide adaaquate supply of water that the people need.

NATIVE AFFAIRS:

The whole area covered by the patrol is classified as under the Administration control. An indication of the degree of influence of Administration is shown by the number of complaint been brought to the station by the councillors, who had succeeded the old Tultuls and Lulusais, for adjudication. By no means all the number of offence been brought to the attention of the Prol Officer ~~are~~ are minor although most of them are, however some serious cases have been reported. This great ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> been brought, by replacement of ~~the~~ Tultuls ~~and~~ and Lulusais by the Local Government Councillors, who seemed to be making great effort to improved their people, than former ones.

AGRICULTURE:

The area, especial ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> the plains are often swamps. Sago palm trees have <sup>been</sup> planted in the area of swamp near the villages and often grows well. These sago palms provide main diet of the people. There is a large number of these trees which guaranteed no shortage of food for the people. As substitute for a meal of sack sack ~~the~~ around Dieru and Ogru have large gardens in which they plant bananas, sugar cane, sweet potatoes and jams. The surplus of this crops is carried to the market in Green River twice a week.

There is a lot of game in the area and a fair supply of meat and fish is eaten. This includes, wild pigs, wild-fowls, wallabys, cassowary, possums and bandicoots.

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AGRICULTURE Cont'd

There are few scattered coconut trees growing idly around village which <sup>are used</sup> as substitute for other food.

COMMERCE and INDUSTRY:

Commerce and industry are little known in the area patrolled. The only way of earning money for the people is by recruiting them as labourers mostly to plantation in the islands.

Most of the absentees encountered during the census were labourers of whom quite a large number of them are working in plantation in NEW BRITAIN, NEW IRELAND, and BOUGAINVILLE. Others are children who are attending either mission or Government school in Green River.

The people from the area patrolled have very limited chance of starting any <sup>kind of</sup> industry. Looking at it from the angle of starting an industry base on agriculture, the soil lacks fertility. Although coconut is growing well in some places it cannot be done on large scale bases because of the limited acreage of ~~fruit~~ fertile land suitable for planting coconut trees. Looking ~~it from~~ from view of starting a trade store is again out <sup>reach</sup> because here we have to consider air freight and distance they have to carry from Green River.

Although it was mentioned once by the councillor from Dieru that people from Dieru do hunt crocodiles for sale of skine, which is very rare to be mentioned, there are no other ways of earning money for this people except by being recruited as labourers outside the district.

The people are willing to <sup>work</sup> but there is not much work to be done by ~~them~~ such a large number of people. Their eagerness to work is shown by the great stream of native who have been coming to the station asking for <sup>jobs</sup> jobs, but their requests ~~has~~ has been rejected.

CENSUS:

The last census of the area patrolled was in 1963. Due to fact that the old Tax Census sheets were lost new lot has been made. How ever there has been ~~normal~~ normal increase in population of 43. There is no over recruiting of labourers from any one village apart Miniaburu.

The census statistic shows ~~an~~ increase and decrease as follows:

<u>Villages:</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Last Total</u>	<u>Present Total</u>
ABARU	11	-	101	112
DIERU	18	-	140	158
IBURU	19	-	181	200
MINIABURU	-	3	147	144
OGRU	7	-	150	158
SAMANAI	-	3	166	163
SIMIA	6	-	39	45
SUGHIMORU	-	3	47	44
USARI	-	3	61	58

This rise ~~and~~ and fall of population trend is due to the migration of the people from one village to another during inter marrying.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

CENSUS Cont'd:

As it was stated previously there is no over recruiting of labourers from any one village apart from Miniaburu which has 22 people with in the age of 16 to 22. 45. The figer 22 is excluding females. Following statistical figers show the <sup>of</sup> labourers from the various villages visited by the patrol.

Villages	People from the age of 16 to 45		Number recruited In District:			
	M	F	M	F	M	F
ABARU	19	24	4	1	3	- 1/16
DIERU	26	36	2	-	7	- 9/35
IBURU	24	34	6	1	10	- 11/40
MINIABURU	22	34	-	-	11	- 11/32
OGRU	34	35	-	-	8	- 5/42
SAMANAI	47	32	2	-	6	- 8/49
SIMIA	11	9	-	-	2	- 2/13
SUGUMORU	12	13	-	-	2	- 2/14
USARI	10	11	-	-	3	- 5/13

EDUCATION:

The educational facilities available in the area is supplied by the Christian Missions OF Many Lands and Government school at Green River station.

Both the Mission and Government ~~xxxxi~~ school teaches up to Standard One, beyond the children either send to Vanimo or Agugumat in case of Mission School. The Mission ~~is~~ taught by the European Missionery female teacher, with the help of few mission ~~xxxxx~~ native teachers.

Following census figers show the number of children attending either Mission or Government schools

VILLAGE:	MISSION SCHOOL:	GOVERNMENTSCHOOL:
ABARU	5	1
DIERU	14	14
IBURU	-	11
MINIABURU	-	-
OGRU	3	7
SAMANAI	1	-
SIMIA	1	1
SUGUMORU	4	1
USARI	6	2
	33	36

CARRIERS:

Obtaining carriers is no problem in the area patrolled. People always volunteer freely when ever the carriers are required during the patrol. They were mostly employed two or three days at most and were at the set rate of 10c an hour. Their willingness showed that they are prepared to save every, they possibilly can.

VILLAGE and HOUSING :

In practically all the villages visited the standard of housing was very good. At the time the patrol was done the village were exceptionally clean and tidy. ~~Inquiries~~ Inquiries were made in Samanai if the village had been cleaned up just because the patrol was coming. They replied that the villages were always like that. Most of the houses were newly built and there were constructions coming up to replace the old ones that were still standing up.

There was no insufficiency of latrine in the area patrolled, except Miniaburu. They were to ~~build~~ build two for men and two for women. There's no doubt that councillors are doing ~~very~~ their work well. All rest houses and police barrack are well maintained. There ~~is~~ is no rest house in Usari, Samanai, and Abaru, because they are just a short distant walk from the station.

HEALTH:

The health of the people in general is very good. The patrol did ~~not~~ ~~come across~~ any particular diseases that the people from. There were only three cases of elephantiasis in Iburu. One of them is child whose head had swollen into twice the size of any normal child. Apart from these cases all the people seemed to be healthy. Dieru, Miniaburu ~~and~~ and Iburu ~~have~~ have big rivers into which they take plugh now and then. Usari, Samanai, Ogru and Sugomoru also have streames which supply adequate water for washing and drinking.

ROADS and BRIDGES:

There is one vehicular road in the area which runs from for a distant of five miles from the station through Dieru to Firingi (Dio) River. The is of vihilal standard but has yet been used by Administration and Mission motor cycles and sometimes in the ~~pass~~ passed by Administration tractor, as this are the only means of motor transport in the area.

Fair tracks connected the station to the villages of Usari Samanai, Abaru, Iburu and Miniaburu. The road from Dieru to Ogru was in bad condition when the patrol was done. Because the patrol was conducted during rainy season the road was covered with water and patrolling party had to wade through waste deep of water and ~~logs~~ along slippery logs which were at that time floating around. Bridge in most streames was nothing more than a tree being felled across the streames. Quite a large distant of this road is over grown with grass.

The MISSION:

The only in the area censused is the Christian Missions ~~is~~ ~~of~~ ~~Many~~ ~~Lands~~, with their permanent establishment. The degree of influence of the mission is clearly shown by the number of children going to mission school. The attitude of the people is a healthy one, and willing to help the mission in need like ~~logs~~ felling logs for their small sawmill. Small Chaple also noticed in most of the village, which showed that christianity is gradually taking its root in them.

Peter Meka  
7/10

REPORT ON POLICE ACCOMPANYING PATROL:

6051 Cont. SIRIKA:

Conduct good. Bearing good.  
Very good, reliable and experience  
patrolman.

10039 Cont Urawin.

Cont good. Bearing good. An experienced  
policeman who carries out his duties in a  
quiet an efficient manner.  
His sometimes used as interpreter during the patrol.

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Conduct . Bearing 800

6951 Cont. SIRIKA:

REPORT ON POLICE ACCOMPANYING PATROL:



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REPORT ON POLICE ACCOMPANYING PATROL:

6951 Cont. SIRIKA:

Conduct . Bearing goo

**Correction**



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REPORT ON POLICE ACCOMPANYING PATROL:

6051 Cont. SIRIKA:

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Very good, reliable and experience  
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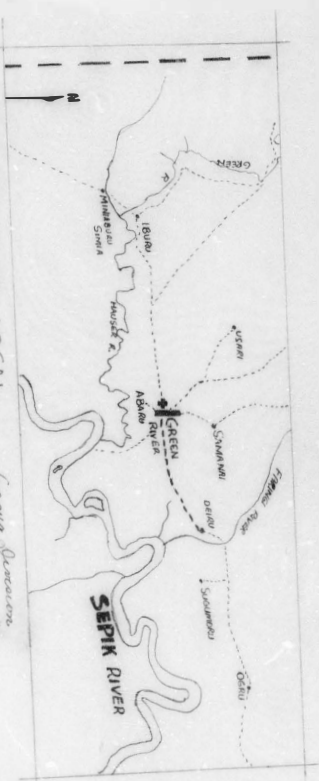
10039 Cont Urewin.

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quiet an efficient manner.  
His sometimes used as interpreter during the ~~patrol~~  
patrol.

XX

**Correction**

GREEN RIVER LOCAL



SCALE

10

1 inch = 4 miles

*COCOS ISLANDS*  
*INTERNATIONAL BORDER*  
*NEAVERS TRACK*

SEPIK RIVER