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# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: EAST SEPIK

STATION: SEPIK

VOLUME No: 1

ACCESSION No: 496.

1934 - 1935

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORT OF: SEAK EAST SEAK  
ACCESSION NO. 496  
VOL, NO. 1 : 1934/35 NUMBER OF REPORTS: 2

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C O P Y

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.

Sub-District Office,  
Amtunti,  
SEPIK DISTRICT.

9th. March, 1933.

Memorandum for :-

The Acting District Officer,  
SEPIK DISTRICT.

Subject :- ANTHROPOLOGICAL NOTES - INITIATION CEREMONY.

Reference :- Patrol Report A.7/1932-33.

Some little time ago, a number of the Elders of Angriman village Middle Sepik invited me to an initiation ceremony, which they said would be taking place shortly after I came out of the Kabrimen area. As it is a very great compliment, also an undoubted sign of good faith to be invited to this affair, their most important function, I decided to attend.

Accompanied by Mr. Walsh, Medical Assistant, I arrived at Angriman on Saturday 25th. February 1933 and the natives told me that the dance would commence that evening. At about 5 p.m. the Luluai with a number of the elders of the village came along to the rest house and asked me to accompany them, as they were going to begin the dance. We went along, escorted by these old men, and came to the club house, "house tamboran", which was surrounded by a high fence made of coconut fronds. Passing this, we were led to the other side to a small platform which had been built specially for us to sit on. Here we were instructed to remain and await events.

Shortly after our arrival, the music began inside the fence. No musicians could be seen, but one could tell by the sounds what instruments were being played. The following were noted : Large wooden drum, "garamut", small hand drum, "kundu", flutes, "long bamboos blown as a flute, and 2 (male and female) water drums, "water kundus". These latter are larger than the hand drums, being about 3 to 4 feet in length, and of a similar workmanship, but without the skin on top. They are each held by a man who is standing by a pool of water which is fenced, and so hidden from all eyes. The instruments are played by the men banging the mouth smartly on the surface water in such a manner that the note of the male and female drums are heard alternately, making a sound which resembles closely the bark or cry of a crocodile, making a constant "whoo, whoo, whoo whoo."

Then the door in the fence which had been shaped to resemble the jaws of a crocodile, slowly opened with an up and down movement which was produced by men hidden inside, pulling ropes attached to the top of the door. Through this came the dancers in files of two, eight men with hand drums in the lead, then two men carrying a carved stick which they beat with a smaller stick, making a kind of gong. Then more men with hand drums etc. and so on till the end of the line, which numbered from 80 to 100 men.

When all were outside, they were joined by the women, and the door slowly closed. The men were painted in various colours from head to foot, all wearing beautiful head dresses made from the feathers of various birds- not the least being the bird of paradise, white heron, (osprey), and the goura pigeon. The women were covered with shells and various kinds of native currency "Tambu". Then commenced a slow march forward dance from one end of the village to the other.

This would continue for about 20 minutes, then the women would fall out one by one, and the men would march towards the door in the fence, which would slowly open, remaining so until the whole line of men had been absorbed, and then would slowly close. The dance was very impressive, and must have been particularly so to the intended victims of the ceremony, who were watching, but were not of course allowed to go beyond the fence.

We remained for some considerable time, then after warning them to call us when it was time for the initiation to take place, we went to bed. At 4.50 a.m. on the following morning, we were awakened by the Luluai, and we returned to the dance ground. All the people were still dancing, doing the same slow step which we had watched the previous night. They had been doing this without cessation during the whole night, and most of them were looking very very weary.

At about 5.20 a.m. we were taken inside the fence and put into a safe position, and told that the real part was about to begin.

(a) Watching through the fence, we saw the parents and relations leading by the hand their charges, who were to be initiated. Four of these were young "monkeys" from about ten to eleven years of age, whilst the other was a man of about 22 years of age who had been away to work before he had been through the ceremony. Then we noticed that all the men inside the fence had armed themselves with light sticks, shortly the door opened and all the relatives with their charges rushed inside and were immediately siezed upon, and soundly thrashed in the struggle for about 20 minutes, after which everyone quietened down and rested, all being in very good humour, with no signs of enmity shown on either side.

Then the real preparation for the marking of the skin of the initiates began. 5 small canoes were brought inside, turned up side down and placed at intervals of about 6 yards apart. Along the side of these a wooden basin of water was placed in which was a green snail shell "terribum", being an advance payment by the father or guardian of the initiate to the man who was to do the marking.

Then the initiates were brought along, and each placed on a canoe on his back, and the marking began. The marking was done in some cases with safety razor blades, and in others with sharpened slivers of bamboo. First, three circles were made around the nipple of each breast. When this was finished, the upper arms were done, then the back of the body was marked from the shoulder down to the back of the knee, the cuts being each  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch long, and just slitting the skin.

The marking was a painful process, as in every case the initiate cried incessantly, some initiates struggling so violently that the operators tied them to the canoe. Throughout the ceremony, I noticed that the operators were as gentle as possible. Sometimes they slapped their victims smartly with the hand and told them to stay quiet, but all the time they were doing their work as quickly and as quietly as possible.

The process of marking occupied from two to three hours, and at the end of the ceremony, both operator and initiates were covered with the blood from the incisions. The victim was now allowed to rest for a few moments, and then his relatives took him down to the river and washed him, all but himself singing joyfully throughout. He was then brought back inside the club house "house tamtoran"

(Sgd.) E.D. ROBINSON.  
Assistant District Officer.

Territory of New Guinea.

District Office,  
SEPIK DISTRICT.

1st. July, 1931.

To

The Government Secretary,  
RABAU.

Subject :- ANNUAL REPORT OF SEPIK DISTRICT 1930-31.

A. General Remarks on Various Points of the District.

1. GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES.

The Sepik District takes in the whole of the Southern Sepik Valley, the northern portion being bounded by the foothills of the Bewari Torricelli, and Prince Alexander mountains. Thus it appears that the whole of the Sepik River with all its southern tributaries, and the swampy country on the northern side, comes under the control of this District. The total area of the District 22,700 square miles.

Regarding the area as a whole, one may safely say that a large portion of the District consists of alluvial ground, and being of recent origin, it is naturally still in the swampy stage. This prevails right back to the Central Ranges, and in all parts except where odd hills stand out like islands in the sea.

Two distinct seasons are experienced, the wet and the dry. As a general rule, the wet season is from November to May, coinciding with the North West season on the coast, and the dry season from June to November, coinciding with the South East Trades. As a rule during the wet season, the river is in flood. The height of the flood varies with each season, so that no definite rule of the height can be laid down. Even in the dry season during the months of August and September, occasional high floods have been experienced, which have been disastrous to the native gardens.

2. ETHNOLOGICAL POINTS.

The outstanding feature in the customs of the Sepik District in the past was head hunting. The practise was to kill the victim and to take the head, which was dried, the skull then being placed in the House Tambora as a trophy of war. The practise of head hunting was the essential part in their religion of Spirit and Ancestor worship.

2.

The two main methods of marriage are either by exchange of sisters or by purchase of women, the exchange method being frequent on the lower river, and the purchase method on the middle river. The purchase price is anything from £10 to £20 worth of shell money.

3.

### NATIVE INDUSTRIES.

#### a. Agriculture.

The main agricultural industries of the Sepik River are sago and tobacco growing, yams, taro, sugar, bananas, and various other native foods are grown, but only in minor quantities. On account of the annual floods, natives have to plant their coconuts on specially built up mounds, therefore they only plant enough for their own consumption. There are no coconut plantations, with the exception of the villages in the coastal region of the Sepik Delta, which are very few.

#### b. Food Supply.

The nature of the soil is so varied in the different areas, that all food will not grow in all villages. This is equalised by barter and exchange. Sago is exchanged for fish and tobacco, and to a minor extent, with native money which consists of small shells and shell rings. This system of barter is done by the women of the various villages. These meet at given times and at places agreed upon by all.

#### c. Hunting.

All hunting for game is done by the man. For this, they use the Womera spear in certain areas, and the bow and arrow in others. The game consists of pigs, wallaby, cassowary, crocodile, birds, and small animals. Fishing is done by the women, who use nets, wicker basket traps, and the line and hook.

#### d. Means of Transport.

Practically all transport is done by canoe. This is a dugout of various sizes, and is pulled by the men standing up and using long paddles. The women have smaller dugouts, in which they sit down and paddle with smaller paddles.

#### e. Housing.

In most parts of the District, the natives have large communal houses in which as a rule two or more families live together. One of the main reasons for this is the shortage of building timber, which to a large extent consists of drift wood collected from the main river. Each village has one or more large club house. These are known as house Tamborans. They are splendidly built houses, and are often from 100 to 300 feet long, 40 to 60 feet high, and 30 to 40 feet wide.

These house tamborans are only used by the initiated males, and all tribal disputes and other important matters are settled here.

#### f. Arts and Crafts.

The majority of the natives are past masters in the art of wood carving. Many fine carvings are to be seen on the bows of the canoes, and the posts and ridge poles of the houses. These carvings for the most part represent the heads of crocodiles, pigs, human figures and various mythical markings. Large signal drums, (garamuts), small hand drums (kundus), horns, spears, canoes and paddles, and various kinds of idols are all carved out of wood.

Before the advent of steel, all the carving was done with stone, shell, and bone tools. Now, in the majority of cases, steel has taken their place. In other areas, paintings take the place of carvings. These are done on the lower part of a sago leaf, which when dried has a very good surface, and makes quite an ideal canvas. The rafters and posts of the houses are painted with various designs. The paints are obtained from the clays in the ground, and are in various colours. The pictures are of human figures, birds, animals, and various mythical figures.

A special feature of art is the feather mosaic work. This is only seen in a limited area, and is particularly cleverly done. A plank of any size is obtained, and bound around with thin vines. The feathers are then woven into the vines in various designs.

Musical instruments consist mainly of garamuts, kundus, horns, various sized bamboo flutes, and bullroarers. Dances are held to the tunes of these instruments, the participants usually wearing masks representing crocodiles, fish, pigs, birds, and human features. These are made of wicker work, and decorated with feathers and shell ornaments. Cooking utensils of clay are made in various parts of the District by certain tribes who barter them for sleeping baskets, food and tobacco.

Large sleeping baskets are made by certain tribes who barter them for other goods. These baskets are occupied at night, often by a whole family. These are the only protection the native has against the myriads of mosquitoes prevailing throughout the whole District.

B. DISTRICT AFFAIRS.1. Staff.

During the year, the following changes of Staff have been recorded :

Mr. A.H. Ross, Patrol Officer proceeded on furlough.

Mr. I.D. Lyon, Cadet, left to take up duties in Rabaul.

Mr. G.M. Keogh arrived from Rabaul and took up duties as Patrol Officer at Ambunti.

The staff as at 30th. June, 1931 is as follows :

Ambunti District Headquarters.

E.D. Robinson, Assistant District Officer.

G.M. Keogh, Patrol Officer.

R.J. Beckett, Storeman Gaoler.

J.H. McGuigan, Medical Assistant.

Marienberg Police Post.

J.K. McCarthy, Patrol Officer.

NATIVE ADMINISTRATION.

The Sepik District is divided into two main sub-divisions- Ambunti and Marienberg. The District Office is at Ambunti, which is situated 230 miles from the Sepik Mouth. It is from here that the Middle and Upper reaches of the District are administered. The Ambunti sub-divisions are as follows :-

1. The Middle Sepik River from Tambanam to Malu village.
2. The Upper Sepik River from Malu village to the Territorial boundary.
3. The Karawari and Korosomeri Rivers.
4. The Northern and Southern Hinterland of the Sepik River.

The only Police Post maintained in the District is situated at Marienberg. This is 40 miles from the mouth of the Sepik. The under mentioned native areas are controlled from this Post :

1. The Lower Sepik River from Kopa to Kanduanum village.
2. The Keram River and hinterland areas.
3. The Yuat River and hinterland.
4. The beach area and hinterland.

The approximate areas of the two main sub-divisions are Ambunti 10,000 square miles, Marienberg 12,700 square miles. (22,700 square miles for the whole District)

The area as administered by the District is as follows :

Area under complete Government control	2532 sq. miles.
Area under Government influence	264 sq. miles.
Area under partial Government influence	1110 sq. miles
Area penetrated by patrols	708 sq. miles
Area unexplored	18,086 " "

a. Census.

Census for the period 1930-1935 has been completed for the District. The pro forma of the collection as issued by Central Administration has been followed and census books will be forwarded to Rabaul at an early date.

The census for 1930-31 shows a notable increase over the figures recorded for the year 1928-29, which are the only figures available. The total for the Sepik as then recorded was 17,771. Details of the total recorded for 1930-31 showing an 80% increase on the statistics for 1928-29 are shown as under.

Sub-Division	Population.				Persons.
	Children M.	F.	Adults M	F	
Ambunti	3132	2792	4423	4208	14,555
Marienberg	3097	2584	4712	4159	14,562.
Totals	6229	5376	9135	8377	29,117.

Patrolling activities are responsible for the large increase over previous figures. Every effort has been made to effect a complete census for the areas under control, but it is expected that with the consolidation of new areas in the future, these figures will be greatly added to.

b. Head Tax.

Details of Head Tax collected during the period under review are as follows :

Sub-Division	Amount collected	Increase over 1929-30.
Ambunti	£ 645. 10. 0	£ 37. 0. 0
Marienberg	532. 10. 0	57. 10. 0
Totals	£ 1178. 0. 0	£ 94. 10. 0

The revenue of the natives is mainly derived from the sale of sago and tobacco. The principal buyers are the Co. stations at Ambunti and Marienberg, the Catholic Mission Marienberg, and odd people on the river. The following table showing the incidence of taxation compared with the approximate revenue of the native is worthy of note.

Buyer	Amount	Tax paid.
Ambunti	£ 160. 9. 2	£ 645. 10. 0
Marienberg	92. 1. 0	532. 10. 0
Catholic Mission	400. 0. 0	
Totals	£ 652. 10. 0	£ 1178. 0. 0

It can be thus seen that the greater part of taxation is contributed from an outside source such as returned labourers, recruits' hand money etc. It is my opinion that the Head Tax should be derived from the direct results of the village industries, and that wages etc. should not be considered as a possible source of revenue.

It is to this end that the natives are encouraged to plant and work their produce, and it is hoped that eventually this will result in the Head Tax being paid by monies derived from the result of home industries only. Thus the increased wants of the natives could be satisfied by his own personal industry.

#### 6. Patrols.

It has been mentioned previously that the work of patrols during the year has resulted in a great increase in the recorded population. As well as this, all villages have been benefited by being visited regularly, and the natives appreciate the visits. As a result of constant patrols, a great improvement in roads, barads, and the general appearance of the villages is apparent.

A total of 16 patrols were recorded during the year. Of these, 12 were from the Ambunti end, and four from Marienberg Police Post. The details of each patrol are as under :

#### Ambunti.

1. To Waskuk area for the purpose of investigating the deaths of Police Constables Belova and Luwitis. These were killed in 1929 by the natives of this area. The patrol was considered successful in as much as the confidence of the natives was gained, and a foundation was laid for future consolidation of the area.

7.

2. Collecting Head Tax and general Administration work in all villages on the main river from Bruguwi Upper River to the Lower River, thence to all villages in the Beach area, the Keram River, and the Yuat River.

71 villages were visited on this patrol.

3. Compiling new census for 1930-31 in all villages on the main river from Tambanum to Bruguwi village. In addition to census work, general patrol duties were carried out. 22 villages were visited.
4. To Karawari and Korosomeri Rivers, southern tributaries of the Sepik for the purpose of compiling new census for 1930-31, paying deceased estates, and visiting four villages which had not previously been visited. Friendly relations were established with the natives of the four villages, and the foundation for future consolidation was laid.
5. To Korosomeri and Wina Rivers and overland to Malu village on the main river. The main object of this patrol was to investigate the reported raiding of the Garamambu people by the inland natives and to endeavour to hold an inquest on a Kamchua native, who was killed by a Government Patrol in April 1930.

Although contact with the Kamchuas people was not effected, and no inquest was held, friendly relations with neighboring villages were made. The area was explored, and an estimate of the number of natives was formed. This estimate proved to be much lower than that formed by previous patrols. Tribal fighting between these people has now ceased.

6. To Chambri village and thence by main river to Ambunti. A new census was compiled of the several villages in this area, and general patrol duties were carried out.
7. To Chambri villages, thence to Marienberg. From Marienberg to Moim by the kunai plains, a route not previously visited. Collected Head Tax at Chambri villages. One new village was found in the kunai plains. The natives were friendly. Some valuable data was collected with the view towards the possibility of future road making.
8. To the Wewak area for the collection of census of 1930-31. The success of the patrol was evident by the confidence shown by the natives who were lined without any difficulty. The troubles of the past seem to be forgotten, and with future patrols, these natives should come under complete control very easily.

9. To upper reaches of the Sepik River for purposes of exploration, collection of data for general Administration work, to pay three deceased estates. The patrol reached a point above the Haus River, then returned, visiting villages on the Haus, Mai, and Yellow Rivers.

All these villages were visited for the first time by any Official of the Administration, and friendly relations were established with the natives.

10. To Wewak area for purposes of consolidation. The two villages Urambanj and Tanganjambi were visited for the first time. Friendly relations were established with the natives, and a first census was taken.
11. To Charim area in the northern hinterland for the purpose of investigating a reported murder. The patrol was successful, in that the rumour was proved to be unfounded. Further confidence of these natives was gained.
12. To the inland country of Tambunum and Tumbungu, the Kabriman area, and the villages inland of Chambri. To compile a new census for 1930-35, and general patrol duties. A new census was compiled, several deceased estates were paid, and other general patrol duties were carried out.

#### Marienberg.

1. To the western hinterland of the Yuat River, thence to the villages on the Yuat and lower Sepik Rivers. The first named area was visited for the first time by an Official of the Administration. Friendly relations were established with the natives, and a first census was written. In all 12 new villages were visited.
2. To the Beach and Pora-Pora areas. The object of this patrol was consolidation and general work. Information was gained of several new villages situated in the Pora-Pora area.
3. To all villages situated on the Lower Sepik, Keram and Yuat Rivers and the hinterland thereto. The patrol was conducted for the purpose of compiling census for general Administration work. The area situated in the western hinterland of the Yuat River was visited for the second time by a Government Patrol, and as a result, the villages can now be claimed to be under Government influence. 80 villages visited on this patrol.
4. To Beach, Marienberg, and Pora-Pora areas for the purpose of completing the census for 1930-35. 26 villages were visited.

d. New Areas.

A feature of the District has been the hitherto unpenetrated country that has been visited. In the majority of cases, these areas have all been consolidated by following patrols, and the villages brought under Government influence. Under is a brief summary of the work in these areas.

Ambunti.

Waskuk. As a result of the killing of two Native Constables in 1929, this area consisting of the villages Waskuk, Bangus, Urambanj, and Tanganjambei, was upset. As a result of the murders, the villagers were abandoned, and the natives lived in the bush for 18 months. Today they are all back in their villages. This area was visited by patrols early in the year, and friendly relations were established with the natives. Good work done by further patrols speedily brought these people to a degree of control. They are now lined without any difficulty, and are frequent visitors to Ambunti.

Kamchua. Villages in this area were visited for the first time by patrol during the year. Friendly relations were established with the natives of some of the villages, but a hostile reception was met with in one village. The area was again visited by a patrol, which proceeded from the Korosomeri River overland to Malu on the Sepik River. Four new villages were visited on this patrol and amicable relations were made with the people.

KABRIMAN. The larger villages of Kabriman cannot be classed as new as they were visited in 1926, but since then they had not been visited until this year. The patrol succeeded in reaching Kabriman, and recording a first census. A following patrol again reached this area, and was successful in reaching several hitherto unpenetrated areas and villages. This area is now under partial Government influence.

Haus, Yellow, and Mai Rivers.

Owing to their distance from Ambunti, it is not possible to pay these people frequent visits. A patrol visited all new villages and were accorded a friendly reception by all the natives.

Marienberg.

Pora-Pora. The Pora-Pora, situated to the south of Marienberg Police Post was visited for the first time during the year. 7 villages were then visited and all the natives proved to be very friendly and first census was taken. It is hoped that the Government

influence will quickly spread in this area, as several of the natives have already been into Marienberg Police Post.

#### Northern Hinterland.

This sparsely populated area was visited for the first time. One small new village was found, and some valuable data was obtained with regard to the future possibility of a trans-district road.

#### Roads.

The normal method of progress in the District is either by pinnace or by canoe. Considering the area of the Sepik District, the mileage of bridle tracks is surprisingly small. There are no roads suitable for vehicular traffic. The following is a table showing the mileage of the various bridle tracks :

<u>Sub-Division</u>		<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
<u>Ambunti</u>			
<u>From</u>	<u>To.</u>		
Tumbungu	Kwoiut	15	No payment is made for the upkeep of bridle tracks as these mostly are used only by natives.
Korogo	Chauash	20	
Tumbungu	Simbian	9	
Werriman area		18	
Total		62	

#### Marienberg.

Marienberg	Kaup	35
Marienberg	Masan	10
Anang	Keram River	12
Kanduanum	West Hinter.	20
Simbiri	Yamen	7
Munyaten	Buten	7
		91

Total mileage 1930-31	150
" " 1928-29	61
Increase	89

#### f. Village Officials.

The number of Luluais, Tul-Tuls and Medical Tul-Tuls holding office as at 30th. June 1931 are as follows :-

<u>Ambunti</u>	<u>Paramount Luluai</u>	<u>Luluais</u>	<u>Tul-Tuls</u>	<u>M.T.T.</u>
	Nil	85	71	Nil
Marienberg:	1	94	79	62
Totals :	1	179	150	62

The number of Medical Tul-Tuls for the Ambunti area is not at present available. This will be forwarded at an early date. The discrepancy existing between the number of Luluais and Tul-tuls is the result of the Luluais being appointed to new villages where no suitable man is available for the position of Tul-tul.

#### General Health of the Natives.

The health of the native community has been generally good. No undue sickness has been reported during the year, and treatment has been effected to many natives during the patrols. I am of the opinion that owing to the large population at present under control, the appointment of another Medical Assistant to the District would be of great help.

#### Recruiting, etc.

Several Europeans have been engaged in recruiting throughout the District during the year. No complaints of their activities have been received. The upper reaches of the Keram and Yuat Rivers have been constantly prospected for gold. Up to date, the search has been in vain.

#### Deserters.

Notices of desertion have been frequently received from employers of Native Labour. In many cases, the native upon completion of a contract has re-engaged for a further term of indenture, and has been returned to his village for three months leave. Upon the expiration of his leave, the native is in many cases, quite unable to return to his employer, owing to lack of transport. In such cases, the native cannot be considered a deserter, as the employer has made no provision for the native to be returned.

#### Mission Statistics.

The Catholic Mission is the only Religious Body engaged in the District. The Details are as follows :

<u>Europeans</u>		<u>Fathers</u>	<u>Brothers</u>
Marienberg		1	1
Murik		1	Nil
		<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Natives</u>	<u>Teachers</u>	<u>Students for Teachers</u>	<u>Scholars</u>
59	15	16	28

(Sgd) E.D. ROBINSON.  
Assistant District Officer

C O P Y.

Territory of New Guinea.

Sub-District Office,  
Wewak.  
SEPIK DISTRICT.

Memorandum for :-

2nd. August, 1934.

District Officer,  
SEPIK DISTRICT.

Special Patrol Report No. S.D. 1/1934-35.

Area Patrolled :- Overland from Aitape through Wapi area to head waters of Yellow River, and down Yellow River to Sepik River. Thence per M.L. "OSPREY" down Sepik River to TUMBUNGU. Thence overland from TUMBUNGU to Wewak.

Objects of Patrol :- To inspect reported gold find on WINI Creek. To explore WINI Creek to the south with the object of proving it to be the head waters of either the Yellow or the ~~Sam~~ <sup>SAND</sup> River.

Personnel :- E.D. Robinson, Assistant District Officer.  
Mr. R. Gallet of Gallet Exploration Company of New Guinea.  
2 N.C.O.'s and 7 Native Constables,  
1 Medical Orderly and 34 carriers.

Names of Native Constabulary :- Corporal Wankra, Lance Corporal Pasangon, Constables Atino, Narakaia, Muriki, Kisi, Sengi, Yuska, Natarai. Also Medical Orderly Bure.

Duration of Patrol :- 7th. July to 31st. July 1934.

Results :- See under separate report on reported Gold find. Proved WINI Creek to be the head waters of the Yellow River. Made friendly contact with many natives hitherto unvisited by the 'white man'.

Diary :-  
7th. July. Patrol left Aitape by road and made camp in the afternoon at BINAUTI. Distance 10 miles approx.

8th. July. Left early, lunched at NINGIA. Went on and made camp at WALWALI. 16 miles approx.

9th. July. Left in light rain, arrived KOINIRI and made camp. 6 miles approx.

- 10th. July. Left early on a fairly mountainous road arriving at NANTIBI 11 a.m. in very heavy rain. Lunched and left, crossed river with heavy flood running and proceeded up mountain to KUGURU. Made camp 4.5 miles. Distance 11 miles approximately.
- 11th. July. Left and arrived MAIWEUTOA and lunched, then on to KARATEM, and on to PAI, where camp was made. PAI is on top of the dividing range, and from here both the Aitape and Sepik shed may be seen. 10 miles approx.
- 12th. July. Walked about 5 miles along the WINI Creek and arrived at Mr. Gough's camp. Worked ground in readiness to put in a box. Made camp. 3 miles approx.
- 13th. July. Mr. Gough's boys were working on the box all day. Box taken out at 4 p.m. See separate report.
- 14th. July. Left early and followed WINI Creek down for about 16 miles to Mr. Gallet's camp (base), and camped. This camp is on the right bank just below the village of KAKOI, and opposite village TIMENI. 16 miles approx.
- 15th. July. Left early following the creek and made camp early in the afternoon on the left bank. River shows more mudstone and the country looks slightly lower. 10 miles approx.
- 16th. July. Left 7.15 a.m. following creek. 8 a.m. large tributary coming in on right bank. Made camp on left bank late in afternoon, no natives seen all day. Numbers of crocodiles on banks and in water. 12 miles approx.
- 17th. July. Left early after heavy rain all night. River very high so had to take to the bank cutting a track through lightly timbered country. 10.10 a.m. heard talking and rounded a bend in time to see a woman and child running away. We called out and a man came from a small house on the left bank. He was timid but quite friendly. I called a number of names of villages which I knew at the mouth of the Yellow River. He replied by pointing downstream, which was very encouraging to us, although we could not yet say with certainty if we were on the Yellow or the Sand River. After giving the old men some small presents, we left, and about half an hour afterwards, seven men called to us. These were men of TETUMBRUM and TAIN, two villages inland off the bank of the creek, and below KAKOI and TIMENI. They remained with us until we made camp on right bank late in the afternoon.

They then left, telling us by signs that they would return in the morning with natives of NELON which they said was inland and down stream. 18 miles approx.

18th. July.

Left early and passed one large on the left bank, and just below, 25 natives of KELNOM accompanied by 7 of the TALU people (who were with us yesterday) awaited us. We traded matches, rings, and razor blades for foodstuff. All the natives were quite friendly but very timid. We then proceeded with all these people, some guiding and some following us. At 11.15 we sat down to lunch, and the carriers and the police cooked rice, some of which they gave to the visiting natives, who did not care for it.

Later, as we proceeded, the natives pointed out the road to their village KELNOM, which was on the left bank. At 1 p.m. they left us telling us that they were afraid to go further down as the village of MAUREL was there on the left bank, and they had been shot up by Malays some years ago. Amongst these KELNOM men was one who could speak Malay quite well. Corporal WANKRA also speaks Malay, and through that, we got some very useful information. He told us that we were definitely on the Yellow River, and pointed out the direction the Sand River was running.

Also, he told us that about five months ago two Malays and a party of natives were in the vicinity shooting birds of paradise, and he was with them for two days, and left them before they got to MAUREL village, as he was afraid of the MAUREL people. At 3.30 p.m. we crossed the river breast high and made camp on the left bank. 8 miles approx.

19th. July.

Left early morning and crossed over to the right bank, then spent some hours cutting through dense pit-pit. Saw a large village on the left bank and some distance inland. Judged this to be MAUREL. Made camp on right bank. 8 miles approx.

20th. July.

Left 6.a.m. 10.10 came to large house with fish baskets, spears, bows and arrows inside a large garden. A fire was still burning, but no other sign of natives. A short distance away was a large kunai plain. From here we could see KOJABU mountain on the Sepik River and situated at the mouth of the Yellow River. This greatly heartened the police and carriers who were doubtful as to our success in finding the Sepik River. When I explained to them that in 1932 I had made my camp at the foot of this mountain when awaiting the arrival of Mr. Oakley and Mr. Eve on their overland patrol from Aitape they were delighted. Went on and made camp on right bank in afternoon. 9 miles approx.

21st. July.

Left early and cut a track through light bush until 11 a.m. when we heard bush being cut on the opposite side of the river. After cutting a track through dense pit-pit to get to the actual bank of the river, we saw some large houses on the opposite bank which was fairly high, and a very large number of men and women who had already heard us and were standing on this bank. We called to them and after very little hesitation, two of the men came down into the water and swam across to us. I noted that they were exceptionally powerful swimmers.

When they landed, they were of course a little bit timid, but after making signs of friendship to them, they overcame their timidity and called to others who also came across. They explained that the village was EIDERWOK and also that it extended for miles. As we left, four men of EIDERWOK accompanied us as self-appointed guides until 4 p.m. when we made camp on the right bank. 16 miles approx.

22nd. July.

Natives of EIDERWOK arrived at daylight and showed by signs that they wished to accompany us. We then left the actual bank of the river but kept it in sight all the time, crossed three very large plains of swamp grass or buck oats. From here we could see the KOJABU mountain on the Sepik River quite plainly. 10 a.m. came to a large circle of 6 large houses. These also belong to the EIDERWOK people, of whom there were about 50 men and women who were all quite friendly. We lunched here.

Leaving at 12 midday, we passed WEI-ARI village on our left, and then PABEI village on a small hill on our right. These villages were both on the right bank of the Yellow River and I had met many of the natives some years ago when I went up to MIRIJAMI on a patrol from AMBUNTI. Going due south, we arrived at MIRAJAMI at 4 p.m. Here, many of the natives remembered me from before and were very excited, patting me on the back saying 'Kiap, Kiap'. They then told us by signs that the Sepik Kiap was down below.

We crossed the Yellow River in their flimsy canoes, which they still make with stone axes, and made camp on the left bank opposite the village. 20 miles approx.

23rd. July.

Left 6.50 a.m. proceeding along the left bank of the Yellow River, arrived at the foot of the KOJABU mountain after crossing the Sepik in MIRIJAMI canoes, at 1230 p.m. and made camp. Here the natives told us by signs that the Sepik Kiap had gone up the Sepik River and would be back in four days.

- 24th. July. Inspected all the police equipment and rifles, brought three canoes from the MIRIJAMI natives, and made a raft, as the party would be too large for the "OSPREY". Went to the top of the KOJABU mountain, 1000 feet. From here, one gets a remarkably good view of the Sepik Valley, and on a clear day one may see the foothills of the Aitape Range. This is the mountain where I made the fires to guide the patrol of Mr. Oakley and Mr. Eve in 1932.
- Mr. Keogh returned from upstream on the m.v. "OSPREY" at 3.30 p.m. and we proceeded downstream at 7.35 p.m. by bright moonlight and kept running all night.
- 25th. July. Steamed all day and arrived at Ambunti at 9 p.m.
- 26th. July. Left Ambunti 2.30 p.m. arrived JAPANDEI at dusk and made camp.
- 27th. July. Left early, steamed all day and arrived TUMBUNGU at dusk. Made camp. The "OSPREY" went direct downstream.
- 28th. July. Left per canoes up the TUMBUNGU creek for about two miles, and then walked through a long grass plain to SHUEMBO on to CHIMBIAN, and arrived at WORLIGUM about 2 p.m. after walking through the same kind of country all the time. Here we made camp.
- 29th. July. Left 6-25, walked through grass plains all day and arrived at WAMBA late and made camp.
- 30th. July. Left 5.30 a.m. and arrived YAMUNGA 2 p.m. BELIWANA 3.45 and PASSAN 4.30 where camp was made. The grass plains lasted all the way until JARARAKWA and then changed to bush.
- 31st. July. Left early after heavy rain which made the going very bad. Arrived at the Government Station at 3.30 p.m.
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6.

GENERAL REMARKS : A. YELLOW RIVER. PREVIOUSLY  
UNEXPLORED AREA.

The route taken by the patrol after leaving the site of Mr. Gallet's dredging claims passes through territory previously unvisited. Dr. Behrmann, shortly before the war years travelled up the Sand River plotting its course, but he did not penetrate up the Yellow, and the line shown on his surveys as being the presumptive direction and source of the Yellow is now shown to be incorrect.

Whereas he allows the Yellow to rise between TOMBOROM and SEINUM, this patrol definitely proves that its real source is the WINI which rises further to the north, and that its whole downward course is further to the east than was previously believed.

The patrol travelled in the bed of the river practically all the way. The average depth would be from three to six feet, and the average width between twenty and thirty yards. As one gets downstream the country becomes much flatter and the banks of the river are lined with dense wild sugar cane. (pit-pit) The country is only very lightly timbered and is very damp.

The river cannot be considered navigable in any part, the snags and shallows making it impossible for water transport. There are no canoes on the river above the village of MIHIYAMI which is approximately 10 miles from the mouth.

NATIVES - VILLAGES.

All the natives on our way down were particularly friendly. There was no suggestion of trouble during the whole patrol. When one first came into contact with them, they were naturally timid, but in every case, their curiosity overcame their timidity.

All the villages, until one arrives about 30 miles from the mouth are built a mile or so inland from the banks. The houses, large and bow shaped are built off the ground on piles from 6 to 8 feet high. Usually a circle of about 10 of these with a large space in the centre is built. All clearing is done with stone axes.

WEAPONS.

All male natives carry bows and a number of arrows, and usually a bone of the cassowary shaped into a dagger is worn in an armlet on the upper arm.

No spears or shields were noted.

CLOTHING.

The men wear a gourd of various shapes and sizes on the penis. This is tied round the waist with a string. The women wear either a small grass skirt or remain naked.

Both sexes wear strings of seeds resembling beads. These are coloured either red, black, or white, and are worn round the neck or in a tight band around the forehead. Strings of small bones of animals or birds are also worn around the waist. Now and again, one sees the plumes of a bird of paradise or goura pigeon worn in the hair.

HEALTH.

These people are of medium build and are light skinned. They seem to be a particularly healthy crowd. Very few cases of ulcer or framboesia were noted. *Tinea imbricata* is prevalent.

AGRICULTURE.

The main diet of these people is sago. Small gardens are made in which are planted sugar cane of fair quality, taro, yam, sweet potato, bananas and paw-paws. Very few coconuts were seen and all were small and of poor quality. Fish are caught in woven baskets which are put in the small streams early in the morning and collected at dusk.

TRANSPORT.

These people have no means of transport except walking. When they wish to cross the river they swim. Some quite good swimmers were seen. The MIRIAM people use small flimsy canoes, but these are only used when they wish to cross the river or go downstream.

GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE.

These people could be very quickly brought under control. They are prepared to be friendly, quick to pick up signs, and seem eager to help. In every case where we met natives, I would call out names of villages which I knew on the Lower Yellow from my previous visits. Also I would call out the name of an influential man of MIRIAM "IBIO" as we got down. These would be picked up and they would repeat and point downstream.

This helped us quite a lot, as it was a definite sign that we were on either the Sand or the Yellow River. It was not until the day before we arrived at MIRYAMI village that we were certain that we were on the Yellow River or the Sand River. The natives would call out the name of a village which I knew to be on the Yellow River, and would point downstream, but as the two rivers run parallel it was hard to be certain.

On our arrival at MIRYAMI I was given quite an enthusiastic welcome, as many of the natives remembered me from my last visit in 1932.

#### B. SEPIK RIVER.

The patrol arrived on the Sepik River on the 23rd. July and made camp at the foot of the KOJABU mountain in the same place as I made it in 1932. On the morning of the 24th. July, I went up the mountain (1000 ft.). From the summit of this one gets a splendid view of the country over which we had been. On a clear day the foothills of the Aitape Range can be plainly seen. Also looking down the main Sepik one gets a clear view of the WOGAMUS mountains which are approximately 60 miles above Ambunti. The M.L. "OSPREY" arrived in the afternoon and we proceeded downstream, calling at Ambunti, Japandei, and leaving the vessel at Tumbungu. It was low water on the river, and the mosquitoes were not so prevalent as they usually are.

#### C. TUMBUNGU TO WEWAK.

The walk overland from Tumbungu to Wewak was made in three and a half days. The whole area of country is one vast grass plain. The grass is a kind of swamp grass or buck oats and should be splendid for feeding cattle. The villages are mostly poor and more or less neglected. Houses are built on the ground and are of very poor type.

The natives are of medium build and appear to be healthy, although cases of ulcers and framboesia were noted in numbers.

This route would make a splendid road for quick communication with the Sepik River. A runner could easily make Tumbungu in two and a half days, and from Tumbungu to Ambunti can be made by canoe in about twelve hours; or Tumbungu to Angoram in about eight hours. Horses can be used as far as CHUEMBO and then with a little bridging, as far as Tumbungu.

(Sgd.)... E.D. ROBINSON.  
Asst. District Officer.

C O P Y

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.

Sub-District Office,  
Aitape,  
~~SEPIK DISTRICT~~

August 12th. 1934.

Memorandum for :-

The Secretary for Lands & Mines,  
RABAU.

Subject :- 1. REPORTED GOLD FIND WINI CREEK - C. COUGH.  
2. DREDGING CLAIMS PEGGED BY - E. GALLETT.  
Reference :- Patrol Report No. S.D. 1/1934-35.

On the 7th. July, 1934 I proceeded to Wini Creek to test and inspect a gold find reported by Mr. C. Gough of Aitape. The Wini Creek rises approximately 50 miles from Aitape in a South Westerly direction and is made in 5 easy stages by road from Aitape, allowing one to arrive at Gough's camp some distance down the creek early on the 6th. day.

At daylight on the 13th. day of July, a box was put in and worked throughout the day. Bottom was not found until 3.30 p.m. in the afternoon. At 4.45 the box was taken out and cleaned. This yielded about one pennyweight of good looking coarse gold. This has been forwarded by the District Officer to the Warden at Wan. I considered that this was not a payable proposition, and the area was not declared a Gold Field. Mr. Gough decided to carry on with his prospecting activities in other parts of the creek.

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2. Dredging Claims Pegged by Mr. Gallett.

Some distance down the creek, Mr. Gallett has pegged ten dredging claims. These were also inspected, and to the best of my ability, were also tested. As far as I can judge, these are NOT an alluvial proposition. There are no very large boulders in the creek. In fact there is nothing that could not be moved with a minimum of trouble.

Throughout the ten claims, there are large areas of good looking wash. Gallett estimates this will go about 2/- per yard. This is merely his own rough estimate.

2 a. Transport.

With the idea of the possibility of water transport from the Sepik River in my mind, I decided to follow the Wini downstream. After following the Wini down for 11 days, I arrived at the Sepik River. Transport from the Sepik River is entirely out of the question, as on account of this, canoes are unknown above the village of Miriyami which is approximately 10 miles from the mouth.

In no place would I consider the Yellow to be a navigable river. Air transport could be used from the North where several good sites for aerodromes are to be found. Mr. Gallett assures me that near Kakoi there is a large grass plain which would make quite a good landing ground with a little preparation. I have not yet seen this myself.

2b. Natives - Foodstuffs Etc.

The natives in the vicinity are a very friendly crowd. This is also so all the way down the river to the Sepik. Labour should be easy to obtain from a short distance up the creek. As one goes further down the creek, the numbers of natives and villages decrease.

Foodstuffs such as yams, sago, native cabbage, bananas, paw paws, can be purchased in large quantities for trade, such as salt, beads, razor blades, small knives etc.

Mr. Gallett applied for the ten dredging claims on the 10th. August 1934, when Certificates of Application were granted.

(Sgd.) E.D. ROBINSON.  
Assistant Warden.

C O P Y

Territory of New Guinea.

Sub-District Office,  
Rabunli,  
SEPIK DISTRICT.

Memorandum for :

9th. March, 1933.

The Acting District Officer,  
SEPIK DISTRICT.

Subject : Report of Investigation re  
Tribal Fighting at Kuvanmas.

Reference : Patrol Report A.7/1932-33.

As a result of a report that natives of Kupagalion had raided the village of Kuvanmas, I visited this area during Patrol No. 7/1932-33.

Obtaining carriers from the main river, I proceeded to Kuvanmas, arriving on the 19th. February 1933. It was my original intention to hold a Coroner's Inquest on the body of a woman who was killed during this raid, but although the natives gave me all information and helped in every way possible during the enquiry, they were very much averse to my taking out the body. As these natives are only under partial Government influence, I refrained from exhuming the body, and proceeded to Kupagalion on 20th. February.

The village of Kupagalion is situated on the top of a mountain about 800 feet high. We arrived at the foot of the mountain at 1.15 p.m. We were first seen by two women who at once raised the alarm. Immediately a large body of men came running down the mountain towards us, heavily armed with spears, bows, and arrows, and carrying shields. They halted at a distance of about 60 yards from us and several spears were thrown, which landed in the middle of my party, but did not hit anybody. Through my interpreter, I told them that we had not come to fight, and then continued to advance. A native who proved to be the leader and slightly in advance of the others, quickly threw three spears one after the other, all of which would have wounded Constable Wari had he not quickly dodged aside.

I told the police to refrain from firing and fired a shot from my revolver over his head, which had no deterrent effect. He was now about 20 yards from Constable Wari and myself, and as he was fitting an arrow to his bow, with the other natives close behind him, I instructed the police to fire one round at him. As a result of the volley, the man fell to the ground. On seeing this, the other natives immediately retreated. Just at this time a woman with two young children came upon the party from behind. I told the interpreter to tell the natives that we were on a friendly mission, and sent the woman and children to join them.

They had only retreated a short distance up the mountain, and it was obvious that this action on our part surprised them. We then called for water for the wounded man, who was hit in the upper right arm and right thigh, breaking the femur. This brought a quick response. The natives brought a long bamboo of water and put it in the middle of the road. We got this, but it was too late for the man, as he died very shortly after.

After a long parley between the interpreter and the natives, we at last succeeded in establishing friendly relations. We then explained that we had only fired in self defence, and with their permission, we gave a demonstration of the power of the rifle upon one of their shields. Camp was made at this spot, and during the remainder of the day, over twenty men and youths visited us, bringing coconuts, betel nut, etc. for which we paid in small trade.

The following day, we visited the village, and whilst we were examining the club house (House Tamboran) the men asked us to come outside as they wished to present us to their women folk. Between twenty and thirty women of all ages were standing there all very friendly and not the least bit afraid. I then took the opportunity of explaining to the natives that there must be no more fighting, otherwise the Administration would take very severe action.

They assured me that now they understood there would be no repetition, and through the interpreter, sent a peace message to Kuvenmas, accompanied by suitable presents for the Luluai. We then left the village with a general feeling of good will and returned to where the "Osprey" was tied up, a distance of between 2 to 3 hours walk. On our arrival, we were much surprised to find that about 30 unarmed men and some women had followed us down. To these, we gave numerous trade goods which were much appreciated by them.

I am quite satisfied with the result of this expedition, as what might have turned into a very serious situation was averted with the loss of only one life, and friendly relations appear to have been established between Kuvenmas and Kupagalion.

Under separate memorandum I am forwarding a recommendation for the appointment of a Luluai at Kupagalion.

(Sgd.) E.D. ROBINSON.  
Asst. District Officer.