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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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GREEN RIVER No. 2 of 53/54

By: A.T.Cottle P.O.

To: Southern Border and Central
Wombasi Group

15th Jan, 1954.

The District Commissioner,
Semi District,
SEMAK

Patrol Report. GREEN RIVER No. 2/53-54.

The Report submitted by Mr. Patrol Officer A.T. Cottle regarding his Patrol of the southern border mountains and Central Wombasi areas from the Green River Patrol Post, is acknowledged, with thanks.

Mr. Cottle has compiled an interesting and well constructed Report, although it did not contain a sketch map depicting the area visited and the route taken. It is realised however, that the Report was apparently written at this isolated Post and possibly proper materials were not available there.

The work carried out on this Patrol should help towards consolidating Administration influence already achieved over these primitive people, especially as he adopted the correct procedure of giving plenty of time and attention to each group of people visited.

It is to be hoped that the staff position will become sufficiently sound to enable this Post to be once again manned, and thus ensure that progress already made among the nearby people by officers who have been stationed there, will not only be retained but considerably extended.

A.A. Roberts
A.A. Roberts,
Director, SEMAK.



29th October, 1953.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

30/11/226

GW/NH

PR. 2/53-54



District Headquarters,
Sepik District,
NEWAK.

5th January, 1954.

The Director,
Department of District Services
& Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

PATROL REPORT - GREEN RIVER NO. 2/53-54

The above report is forwarded in triplicate,
please.

Mr. Cottle is to be commended for a well
conducted patrol and a good report. His patience
in waiting for people to congregate in their
villages is laudable and will undoubtedly be
well rewarded in time. Other officers could
adopt his patient style to advantage.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A.T. Timperley".

(A.T. TIMPERLEY)
District Commissioner

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT.

GREEN RIVER PATROL NO. 2 OF 1953/54.

Area Patrolled.

Southern Border Mountains and
Central Wombasi Group.

Duration.

20th July to 30th July, 1953;
2nd August to 17th August, 1953;
7th September to 18th September, 1953;
..... 32 days.

Personnel.

A.T. Cottle, Patrol Officer.

No. 3790 Const. EMGEN.

3913 " GUAI

6477 " MOTI

6928 " MUGALING.

Interpreter WANAPO
" AMBIARA

25 Carriers.

Purposes of Patrol.

- (1) Census revision.
- (2) Routine administration.

Appendices.

- A. Agricultural Report.
- B. Medical Report.
- C. Report on Police.
- D. Map.



.....
A.T. Cottle, Patrol Officer.

Green River Patrol Post,
Sarik District.

29th October, 1953.

DIARY.

Monday, 20th July. Departed from the station at 0730 hours with carriers recruited from IABARU village on the Sepik. Arrived at FUMFEVENU, a hamlet of AUIA, at 1330 hours. There are only two houses in this hamlet. On our arrival there was nobody present but late in the afternoon a native woman came in with some food. Camp was made here.

Tuesday, 21st July. At FUMFEVENU. Work was commenced on the erection of a rest house. During the day some natives arrived with food which was bought with salt. The Lulua! MURAGABINO arrived during the afternoon.

Wednesday, 22nd July. At FUMFEVENU. More food was brought in during the day. Lulua! KASUE of IURI arrived during the afternoon.

Thursday, 23rd July. At FUMFEVENU. Today saw the completion of the rest house. As most of the people of AUIA were now present, the census figures for this village were revised.

Friday, 24th July. Departed from FUMFEVENU at 0650 hours. The patrol climbed to the summit of Mt. IURI (3000 feet) and then dropped down the other side to UDURUNUMBU arriving there at 1130 hours. A break of one hour for a meal was taken and we then continued by traversing the sources of numerous small watercourses to a ridge low down in the centre of the valley where camp was made at 1500 hours amongst a stand of coconuts. Several natives came in with food which was bought.

Saturday, 25th July. At IURI. A large number number of natives came into the camp with food. The erection of the framework of a rest house was commenced.

Sunday, 26th July. At IURI. The census figures were revised during the afternoon. At 2215 hours an eclipse of the moon was observed. The carriers and other natives were too frightened to sleep.

Monday, 27th July. Departed Iuri at 0715 hours. We retraced our steps as far as UDURUNUMBU then followed a ridge leading in an easterly direction. After walking for 8 hours we came to the end of the ridge and dropped down to the SAMANAI creek, arriving at SAMANAI at 1800 hours. Camp was made in a patch of kunai.

Tuesday, 28th July. At SAMANAI. Commenced the erection of a rest house and waited for the SAMANAI people to appear. No natives came.

Wednesday, 29th July. At SAMANAI. Sent two police to try and find the SAMANAI people. Completed the rest house. The police returned after having no success.

Thursday, 30th July. Departed from SAMANAI at 1000 hours and arrived at the station at 1200 hours.

Monday, 3rd August. Revised the census figures for ABAARU and WOSARI villages which are opposite the station.

Tuesday, 4th August. Departed from the station at 0800 hours and arrived at DIERU village at 0930. Revised the census figures for DIERU and made camp in the village.

Wednesday, 5th August. Departed from DIERU at 0800 hours

arriving at the FARINGI (Bio) River at 0815 hours. Canoes were made available and we then proceeded down the river to its confluence with the Sepik River, from whence we proceeded up the Sepik to MAKUASI where we landed at 1315 hours. Camp was made on the top of a ridge overlooking the Sepik River at 1345 hours. A pig was readily produced as well as several bundles of sago. These were bought with knives and an axe while some fresh fish was bought with beads.

Thursday, 6th August. At MAKUASI. The census figures for this village were revised. The Luluai of MAHANE and some of his villagers brought some food in during the afternoon which was bought. A talk was given to the assembled villagers regarding hygiene and the Luluai of MAKUASI was advised to build his village in a central position.

Friday, 7th August. At MAKUASI. During the day inspected the houses built along the SAMATE Creek. More food was forthcoming during the afternoon including coconuts, bananas, sugar, 'tuip', sago and fresh and smoked fish.

Saturday, 8th August. Departed from MAKUASI at 0815 hours and proceeded up the Sepik River. At 1115 hours we landed to inspect a hamlet of BUNA village and found the body of a deceased male child in the house. It had been dead for little more than 48 hours and was in an advanced state of putrefaction. Its burial was ordered and supervised by two police. At 1215 hours we continued upriver, arriving at TABARU rest house at 1500 hours.

Sunday, 9th August. At IABARU. Observed. At 1000 hours proceeded downstream to a hamlet of IABARU where another body of a male child was discovered. Its burial was ordered and supervised. Two pigs were brought in during the afternoon as well as some sago. These were bought.

Monday, 10th August. At IABARU. The census figures for this village were revised but there were a large number of absentees.

Tuesday, 11th August. At IABARU. Proceeded up the ILILI (Green) River to inspect the IABARU hamlets and found many sick people. All were told to proceed to the Aid Post at the Government station for attention. Discovered one youth dying from gangrene caused by a neglected ulcer. Unfortunately nothing could be done to help him as to move him would only have accelerated his death so left him to die in peace.

Wednesday, 12th August. Departed IABARU at 0900 hours and proceeded downstream to the IDAM Creek. We then paddled up the IDAM Creek to PIAPSUE, arriving at 1615 hours. On the way up we met about a dozen canoes from the IDAM people carrying pigs and sago to the station for sale. They turned back with us to PIAPSUE. Canoe navigation of the IDAM Cr., the only method, is very difficult. Camp was made at PIAPSUE.

Thursday, 13th August. Departed from KIA'SUPE at 0900 hours and proceeded along a well defined bus' track. Some of the local natives followed on by canoe. We arrived at KIA'SUPE at 1230 hours. Those natives who were in canoes did not arrive until some three hours later. Camped at KIA'SUPE. The pigs that were being taken to the station were bought as well as some of the sago. One large house containing several families was the only building in this halet.

Friday, 14th August. At KIA'SUPE. The census figures for the IDAMERU villages were revised. A very poor roll up.

Saturday, 15th August. At KIA'SUPE. At 1900 hours proceeded to SARIOGUM, another halet, where several families who had not appeared for the census. Their names were recorded and we returned to KIA'SUPE.

Sunday, 16th August. At KIA'SUPE. Observed.

Monday, 17th August. Departed from KIA'SUPE at 0700 hours and proceeded down the IDAM Creek, arriving at the Sepik River at 1215 hours. A meal break was taken on a sandy spit on the north bank. We then continued down the Sepik to the mouth of the FARINGI River where the cargo was landed and the journey continued by road. The station was reached at 1900 hours.

Monday, 7th September. Departed from the station at 0700 hours and walked west along the kunal for three hours. We then left the kunal and dropped down through heavy timber to the ILLI (Green) River. Following the river downstream, we arrived at IBURU at 1200 hours. A pig was readily produced as well as a few hands of bananas. Camp was made here.

Tuesday, 8th September. At IBURU. The census figures for this village were revised. There was a good attendance and very few absentees. Twenty-five natives were given injections of N.A.S. serum for yaws.

Wednesday, 9th September. Departed from IBURU at 0800 hours and crossed the ILLI River about a quarter of a mile downstream. We then proceeded in a SSW direction to the KWASI (Hauser) River and arrived at MINIABARU at 0930 hours. Camp was made here and plenty of sago, taro and 'tulip' and a pig were produced and bought.

Thursday, 10th September. at MINIABARU. The census figures for this village were revised and there was a good attendance. Only 10 absentees.

Friday, 11th September. At MINIABARU. Heavy rain fell during the night and both the ILLI and KWASI Rivers came down in flood. Decided to wait until the ILLI subsided.

Saturday, 12th September. Departed from MINIABARU at 0700 hours in a heavy drizzle and arrived at the ILLI River at 0740 hours. The ILLI was still in flood but it was crossed safely and we then continued on our way, arriving at the station at 1300 hours.

1. INTRODUCTION. The primary purpose of this patrol was to bring more efficient control to those villages that existed within reasonable distance of the station. Census revision was carried out as a normal part of the patrol and provided the means whereby contact could be made with the people. As nothing could be gained by rushing, the patrol proceeded rather leisurely and two to four days were spent in each village.

The first break in the patrol was to allow the then Officer-in-Charge, Mr. G.L. Szarka, F.D., to proceed on patrol to KWOMTARI. The second break was unfortunate in that I fell ill and had to proceed to Wewak for treatment.

2. GEOGRAPHY. The first portion of the patrol led into steep mountain ridges which were dominated by Mt. IURI at 3000 feet. Starting from the station, the road followed the kunai for a short distance and then descended to the DIGRUS Creek; the DIGRUS was followed to its source and then the road ascended on to a mountain ridge. The road then led to the foot of Mt. IURI and climbed to the summit. From the top it dropped down to the watershed of the FARINGI River. Rather than go completely down to the bottom, the road skirted round the edge of the valley and then led off on another and much longer mountain ridge which divided the SAMANAI Creek from the DIGRUS and ends in a kunai patch. After leaving the kunai the road crosses a swampy forest as well as the SAMANAI and DIGRUS Creeks and many other smaller streams to return to the station. Rain falls every night in the FARINGI River water led and must average in the region of 200-250 inches per annum. The ridges are limestone outcrops and are very sharp and deeply cut. Mt. IURI is steep and is capped by moss forest above 2500 feet.

For the second part, the road follows a heavily timbered continuation of the ridge on which the station stands. On reaching the FARINGI River, canoes are employed and the road follows the rivers. The surrounding country is flat, lightly timbered and intersected by vast sago swamps. During the wet season it is inundated and movement is difficult. There are several outcroppings of rock along the course of the Sepik River rising to heights of approximately 500 feet. But these are isolated and appear to be impervious to the erosion of waters. During the flood periods of the Sepik the waters swirl round the base of these hills and cause whirlpools which are sufficient to engulf a large canoe.

The last part of the patrol followed the kunai to the west. Here the ground drops sharply into a morass which even during the dry season is difficult to cross. This swamp drops away into the ILILI and KWASI Rivers which, as usual, are bordered by sago swamps.

3. NATIVE AFFAIRS AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL. Two types of people were met with on this patrol. The first were the mountain people, strong and sturdily built. They extend from SAMANAI, AUIA and IURI back into the mountains to JENJARABU, a place which has not been contacted by patrols but has been visited by several police. In fact, some of the natives from this village have been into the station. Reports indicate that

JINGARAHU has a reasonably large population and it appears that this is the last village on the Australian side of the border. Interpreter WANAFU tells me that URUKAL, the next village, is on the Dutch side.

For clothing, some of the men wear the gourd over the penis whilst the women wear a knee-length grass skirt. Mutilation of the ears and nose is common to both men and women and provide the receptacles for ornaments such as bamboo in the ears and septum of the nose and flying-fox bones in the upper part of the nose. Both sexes also wear belts made of the bones of the flying-fox, beads and small pieces of wood. The only handicrafts evident is, for the women, the making of string bags for carrying food and, for the men, the fashioning of bows and arrows.

Dancing is not very elaborate and consists of moving round in a circle and stamping the feet in rhythm. Another form is to make a long line and move about the ground in a serpentine fashion. Music is supplied by the 'kundus' and a conical shaped trumpet made of wood. The 'kundus' are few and are handed down from father to son.

Wives are obtained by the exchange of sisters or if a man has no sister, he buys his wife with giri-giri, tanbu, bows and arrows and dog's teeth.

The natives in this area are realising the strength of the Government and are, in some cases, bringing their troubles to the station. One native came in with the information that five of the men of his village had killed his mother. They had shot at least six arrows into her and he tendered as evidence the heads of six arrows which he had extracted from his mother's body. An effort was made to apprehend these men but it resulted in failure as the accused had disappeared into the bush with the realisation that the law would soon be on their trail. This matter is now being held in abeyance until the natives in question have settled down quietly in their place. Some of the old men have gained confidence in the Government as is evidenced in the attitude of one aged native called URUBERUF. His son had gone to work for the Government and when the patrol arrived at IURI he greeted it enthusiastically. During the night after the census some of the natives had remained in the camp as they had a considerable distance to go home. Among them was this old man. About 2100 hours URUBERUF called out to the interpreter WANAFU and informed him that one native was seen, fully armed, moving in a suspicious manner at the rear of the camp. A woman had seen him during the afternoon and told one of the men who did not tell URUBERUF until that night. As soon as the old man had heard this, he informed the police of the matter and said it would not be good if the culprit (he did not know who it was) stole anything from the camp. He also said that he knew about the murder and that it might be one of those men up to no good. This then is an encouraging sign because if the old men are allies of the Government the young people will be soon taught to be the same.

The Spik people are not so well developed but are more wiry. Their diet of sago and fish may have something to do with this. Clothing is similar to that of the mountains and adornments are relatively the same.

The women make string carrying bags and nets for catching fish in small streams. These nets are made to go on a circular frame of cane which is the mouth and have a length of up to three feet being generally conical in shape.

The string for making these objects is obtained from the fibres of certain barks which are cultivated.

Steel implements have completely taken the place of stone and now there are relatively few stone implements to be found. Hooks are prized and fish are caught feirly often in the Sepik. For catching fish in the small streams, they first of all build a light retaining wall of sticks and then on the upstream side hit the water with a poisonous vine which is cultivated in most villages. The action of the poison turns the water a milky colour and kills the small fish that are in that area. This vine is also a sure method of suicide (or murder) when eaten.

Dancing is simple and there are very few occasions on which they dance. Music is supplied by the 'kundu' and bamboo pipes. When a native is seriously ill they dance round him and the patient then proceeds to recover. This cure works many times but in the case of a large ulcer there is an addition to the ceremony which was only discovered after much endeavour. During the dance the patient is blindfolded and a mixture of pig's blood, red juice from the seeds of a certain tree and chalky ground is poured over the sore and is supposed to have curative effects. The ingredients of this mixture vary from place to place.

Sister exchange is the manner of obtaining wives and if one has no sister a wife is bought with a string of dog's teeth and bow and arrows. It is a polygamous society, a man with two wives being common while Lulual WOGIN of DIERU has six. His father is said to have had eight wives.

Before the arrival of the Government at Green River, the natives of DIERU were in the same position here as Ghengis Khan's army was in Asia long ago. They killed about fifty per cent of the natives in the villages of ABARU, HONA, MAKUACI, IEURU and BOSARI. Now there is no fighting and the villages are showing a gradual increase in members.

4. VILLAGES. There are only three of the villages that were censused which have grouped together in one place. They are ABARU and WOSARI (both together opposite the station) and DIERU. These places are close to the station and much work has gone into their lay-out and cleanliness. ABARU-WOSARI village is built in two lines both facing the station. The houses are strongly built and are raised off the ground about four feet. DIERU is built along the edge of a ridge but this village has always been in the one place mainly for protection against their enemies, and so there are many old houses among the new ones being built. These old houses are not strong and to look at them, one would think the first strong breeze would blow them down.

The remainder of the villages consist of a number of hamlets scattered about the bush. These hamlets may be made up of one, two or three houses depending on the number of relatives living together. All luluais have been advised to build their villages in one place and these places have been marked.

5. VILLAGE OFFICIALS. There are luluais in all the villages but they are only temporarily appointed. They are all rather weak and have no power over their villagers although they were all big men in their places previously. Some aid is being given by natives who have been working in Wewak in assisting the luluais of their places. The patrol on the Sepik was accompanied by the luluais of ABARU, MAKUASI and MAHANE villages and I think that they gained some knowledge from this trip.

The institution of village councils in the villages of ABARU-WOSARI and DIERU may lead to greater progress within the area. They have not had the many years of rule under luluais and tultuls that other areas have had and it would not be such a serious break to the people. If the interest of the people could be obtained, I seriously think that the experiment would be a success.

Appended hereunder is a list of the luluais.

<u>Name of Village.</u>	<u>Name of Luluai.</u>
AUIA	MURAGABINO
IURI	KASUE
SAMANAI	PCAN
ABARU	TPAFA
WOSARI	MISI
DIERU	WCCIN
MAKUASI	SINAUTE
MAHANE (not censused)	SINIGO
EUNA (not censused)	AHAIAN
IABARU	KONIDO
IDALERU	KIKIPE
IBURU	KANABIC
MINIABARU	NECIA

6. ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS. There are good roads connecting the station with the villages of AUIA, SAMANAI, DIERU, IBURU and MINIABARU. There is a road leading through the swamps to IABARU but this is only passable in the dry season. Even then it is difficult for patrols.

The roads AUIA-IURI and IURI-SAMANAI ARE OVERGROWN and orders have been given for them to be cut. The greatest inconvenience is the number of leeches on these roads. The carriers get little respite from them and they are continually stopping to pull them off their legs.

The rivers were navigated during low water and created no difficulties.

APPENDIX A.

GREEN RIVER PATROL REPORT No. 2 OF 1953/54.

SOUTHERN BORDER MOUNTAINS AND CENTRAL WOMBASI GROUP.
JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER, 1953.

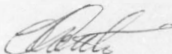
AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

The mountain people have fairly large gardens with a variety of crops, mainly, bananas, taro, sugar, tapioc, small yams and sweet potatoes. The AMIA people have some sago but it is some distance away from their places. The IURI people are scattered over several square miles and they live where they build their gardens. All their plots are on the sides of steep ridges. Their system is to start at the bottom of the ridge and cut sufficient ground for their garden. When this has become obsolete, they start again above the old garden and fell another tract of timber, allowing the fallen trees to gather at the lower portion of their garden. This barricade of timber tends to stop the erosion of the soil from their new garden. Evidence of this activity is to be seen in the secondary growth on the ridge sides.

Due to the proximity of ABANU village to the station the people have cleared and planted gardens under supervision. Previously they had only small and scattered areas under cultivation that were insufficient to maintain a proper living standard. This was as a result of their having to build two new villages within three years. Now with the area they have planted they should have enough food. Seeds sent from the Department of Agriculture are also given to them to plant and so far good crops of beans and cabbage have been harvested.

The men work at felling the heavy timber while the women come behind cutting off the branches and placing the light timber in heaps to dry. When it is dry it is burnt but the heavy logs remain and the crops are planted between them.

Along the Sepik River, large stands of sago are to be found. This forms their staple diet and is supplemented by a few bananas. As their ground is flooded six months of the year, there is little time in which to grow such crops as sugar, taro or yams.



(A. T. Cottle)
Patrol Officer.

APPENDIX B.

GREEN RIVER PATROL REPORT No. 2 OF 1953/54.

SOUTHERN BORDER MOUNTAINS AND CENTRAL WOLBASI GROUP.
JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1953.

MEDICAL REPORT.

In the mountains, the natives sighted were remarkably healthy and there were few instances of sores. Most likely they had left their sick people behind so no idea could be gained as regards the number of sick that there were. Their skins are clean in contrast to the river people where some sixty per cent suffer tinea umbricata.

ABARU-WOSARI and DIERU villages are clear of Tropical Ulcers and Yaws because they all come to the Aid Post at the station for treatment. Twenty-three patients were sent from IABARU to the Aid Post. Of these, six had yaws, fifteen had tropical ulcers and one had elephantiasis. One youth was sighted, dying from gangrene caused by an ulcer but as it would only have hastened his death to move him, he was left alone. One of the natives from IABARU who was thought to have a tropical ulcer later turned out to be a case of Hansen's disease. Two women with venereal disease were discovered, one in IABARU and one in DIERU village. All the serious cases have been sent to Wewak Native Hospital whilst the case of leprosy was sent direct to the leprosarium at Tumi.



(A.T. Cottle)
Patrol Officer.

APPENDIX C.

GREEN RIVER PATROL REPORT No. 2 OF 1953/54.

SOUTHERN BORDER MOUNTAINS AND CENTRAL WOMBASI GROUP.
JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1953.

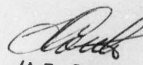
REPORT ON POLICE PERSONNEL.

No. 3790, Const. SWAMY. An excellent policeman who
would make a good N.C.O. inclined to be hasty at times.

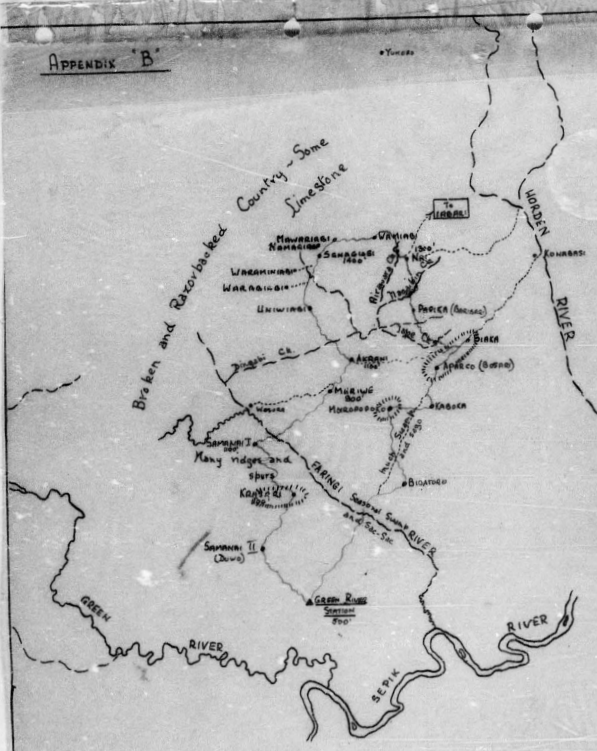
No. 3913, Const. GUAL. Steady and reliable. Calm even
in the most exacting circumstances.

No. 6477, Const. MOTI. Shows plenty of initiative and
is never stumped for a way out of a situation. Also
steady and reliable.

No. 6938, Const. MUGALONG. Has plenty of initiative. Is
well known to and popular with the natives. Can speak the
"ABARU" language reasonably well.


(A.T. Cottle)
Patrol Officer.

APPENDIX B



GREEN RIVER
 Patrol No 4 of 51/52
 Sepik District
 SCALE: 4 miles to 1 inch
 Patrol Route
 Height approximate and
 subject to barometrical
 conditions
 C. P/O
 9th December 1951

GREEN RIVER No. 3 of 53/54

By: G.L.Szarka

To: KWONTARI area



BS30-11227

14th Jan, 1954.

The District Commissioner,
Sepik District,
NEW GUINEA.

Patrol Report - Green River No. 3/53-54.

This Report prepared from the completed Patrol diary and notes of the late Mr. G.L. Sparks, which were found subsequent to his Patrol of the KWOMERAK area from the Green River Patrol Post, is acknowledged.

I have no doubt you have retained a copy of the diary and descriptive sections, which contain much useful information, for the benefit of the officers who man this Post in the future.

A.A. Roberts
(A.A. Roberts),
Director, D.D.S.A.

(Handwritten initials)

36/11/227

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINLA

GW/NH

PR. 3/53-54



District Headquarters,
Sepik District,
WEWAK.

4th January, 1954.

The Director,
Department of District Services
& Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

PATROL REPORT - GREEN RIVER 3/1953-54

The above report is forwarded in triplicate please.

I do not think this report is complete. It was found in a state of preparation in the office at Telefomin after Mr. Szarka's death and, apart from his diary which had been already typed, the rest has been typed from patrol notes located early in December.

It is possible that some of the information, especially that in the diary, will be of use to future patrols from Green River to the area.

(A.T. TIMPERLEY)
District Commissioner

DIARY.

1953.

JUNE.

23rd.

The patrol departed Green River Patrol Post at 0600hrs. and arrived DIO (MARINI) River at 0910 hrs. Being the first day the patrol moved in easy stages and arrived at ANINI village at 1540 hrs. Few people in the village and no rest house constructed. The headman from BLAKE village visited the patrol bearing a small quantity of fruit. Stayed overnight at ANINI village.

24th.

At 0730 hrs. left ANINI village and arrived at BLAKE at 0800 hrs. A few old men sighted but otherwise the place deserted. The patrol moved on at 0845 hrs. and arrived at "SALU" Creek at 1155 hrs, where a camp was made.

25th.

After leaving the camp at 0700 hrs. and passing through flat timbered country arrived at the KAPI (MORDESI) river at 1115 hrs. where a few houses of the KUMIASI people are situated. After crossing the river camp was established and the patrol waited until evening to make contact with the KUMIASI people. Unfortunately none came in sight.

26th.

Broke camp at 0700 hrs. and followed the SUKARA river to MOGEMAI village arriving there at 1035 hrs. About twenty people in the village including the headman and the patrol was received favourably. After a short pause the patrol walked for an hour and arrived at KUMTANI village at 1155 hrs. Here the patrol was welcomed by repatriated labourers from MARIBERG. Whilst there was no village book the village had a luluai appointed from KUMI, who proved very co-operative. Heavy rain in the afternoon prevented moving about.

27th.

KUMTANI village. The villagers assisted by the carriers constructed a rest house during the day. At 0745 with two constables, two villagers and two carriers left the village to inspect the airstrip SW of the village. Arrived at the airstrip at 0945 hrs. The strip is a kumud grass clearing approximately 1250 yards long and 150-200 yards wide. It has a reasonable solid surface and a clearing was made at the western end and timber was laid in the form of a triangle indicating "Probably safe to land" at 1130 commenced to return to village and at 1200 hrs. the writer's knee, on which he fell earlier in the morning, became swollen and he was unable to proceed further on foot. Arrangements were made to return to the village which was reached at 1745 hrs.

28th.

The officer's knee considerable swollen. Rested and applied hot compresses. Construction of the rest house continued during the day and natives from nearby villages visited KUMTANI.

29th.

In view of the nature of the injury and the proposed route of the patrol, the writer decided to return to the Patrol Post and if necessary get medical attention. Left KUMTANI at 0800 hrs and arrived KUMIASI at 1630 hrs.

30th.

Leaving KUMIASI at 0745 hrs. moved on to BLAKE village and arrived at 1645 hrs. knee still rather painful.

JULY.

1st.

After leaving BLAKE at 0715 hrs. arrived at the Patrol Post at 1630 hrs.

After a visit to Wozak For Medical attention the patrol was resumed on the 1st. of August.

DIARY (continued)

1953.
AUGUST.
1st.

- Resuming the patrol interrupted by injury the patrol left the Patrol Post, GREEN RIVER, at 0740 and covering the same route as before arrived at AMINI village at 1515 hrs. The frame work and roof of the rest house was completed. The people of the small hamlet were exhorted to complete the house by the time of the return visit. Many of the people are still in the bush, and it was decided to spend more time here on the return journey.
- 2nd. On leaving AMINI village at 0645 hrs. the patrol climbed to BIANE village and on to "SALALANA" Creek, 1045hrs, and hence to BAPI (HORBENI) River at 1430 hrs. A few natives from KUMERAI village arrived including two repatriated labourers. The main body of the village were still reluctant to approach the patrol.
- 3rd. After breaking camp at 0630 hrs. the patrol followed the bank of the SUKARA River and arrived at WOKELAI village at 0950 hrs. and hence on to KWONTANI at 1100 hrs. The Luluai and one other incapacitated aged native, were the only people in the village. The rest house remained incomplete. In the afternoon the villagers returned and some men from WOKELAI arrived and they were all set to work to complete the rest house and the police rest house. After issuing rations to the carriers the village was inspected. In the evening a short talk was given to the people stressing the benevolent intention of the patrol and future patrols.
- 4th. The village lined for a census at 0620 hrs, after which there was organized work of completing the rest house and cleaning the debris accumulated about the houses. Whilst this work was being carried out, a few people were persuaded to have their sores dressed. A few men volunteered to accompany the patrol to the next village.
- 5th. Heavy rain from 0600 hrs. At 0830 hrs the weather broke and at 0930 hrs the patrol moved off to BARPA village. Following a northerly route reached the PIMBU Creek at 1035 hrs. After following the creek up we crossed it at 1105 hrs. At 1345 hrs the WAKORBI Creek was crossed and the SUKARA River was reached at 1515 hrs. The creeks and river were in flood and the tracks throughout the day's march were covered in 18 inches of water. About a 15 knot current was flowing in the SUKARA River and a camp was established on the eastern bank. The Luluai and an other native broke the river further up stream and went to advise the people to prepare food for the patrol.
- 6th. The river had fallen during the night and was passable. The crossing was completed at 0730 hrs. and the patrol followed the SUKARA river up after crossing it thirteen times and arrived at BARBER village at 0630 hrs., which is situated on the bank of the SUKARA. At first no one was sighted then at 0930 hrs. the Luluai from KWONTANI appeared to report that the people were returning from a sing-sing at KUMARA village and would be in in the evening. Later some women and two old men arrived to confirm the report. In the meantime the environs of the village was inspected and carriers organised to clear part of the road to the next village PIMI. At 1445 hrs. the main body of the village arrived, four repatriated labourers from New Britain and Madang Districts gave a warm welcome to the patrol. Food was purchased and a talk on the purpose of the patrol was given to the people. With the aid of the carriers a framework of a rest house was constructed and the people advised to complete it.

DIARY. (continued)

1953.
AUGUST.
7th.

On leaving BANGOR village at 0730 hrs. the patrol walked along the western bank of the SUKMA river for four hours and arrived at PIMI village at 1130 hrs. Once again repatriated labourers assisted the patrol in purchasing food and constructing a rest house. Four new houses were in the course of construction which were bigger and better than the old ones, indicating the influence of the "new learning" imported by the returned labourers. In the afternoon some natives from UTAI visited the patrol and were anxious for the patrol to visit them. In the evening, a talk was given to the people explaining the purpose of the patrol.

8th. PIMI village. Whilst the villagers gathered food and cleaned up the village, the officer with three constables and two natives from PIMI visited UTAI village, one hour's walk from PIMI. Most of the people were there and a census was taken and a short address delivered. After a two hours stay the writer returned to PIMI.

9th. SUNDAY. Observed. In late afternoon moved to UTAI.

10th. The people in the three last villages were adamant in their statement that there were no further villages on the river. The previous day sago for three days was purchased and carriers engaged. There being no tracks either side of the river it was necessary to follow up the river mid-stream, which had only about a foot to 18 inches of water. On leaving UTAI at 0715 hrs. the patrol marched until 1330 hrs. when foot prints were observed at the mouth of a road, which was believed to have been made by the VANIMO patrol. We moved along this road which followed the river and made camp at 1415 hrs. Whilst the camp was being constructed the writer with three police constables moved up the river noticing fresh foot prints but no natives were observed. Returned to the camp at 1715 hrs.

11th. With three carriers and one constable down with fever, the carrier line rested and the officer with two constables walked up stream and at 0950 contacted an old man and a boy at an old village site. They escorted us to their village, FUBUMUI, where we met the Mhuai, TulTul and Medical Tul Tul, who had been appointed by the Vanimo patrol in 1951. After a short stay we returned to the camp at 1510 hrs.

12th. The patrol arrived at FUBUMUI village at 1120 hrs. After lunch accompanied by two police I visited KILIPAS (No.1) which is an hours walk from FUBUMUI. After ascertaining that the head of the river was four hours walk from KILIPAS and that there were no further villages up stream, returned to FUBUMUI and advised the people at a census would be taken the next day.

13th. A census taken at FUBUMUI after which the men assisted by the carriers cleared a road from the village to the overnight camp. It was learned that there were two villages in a southerly direction, which had been patrolled from VANIMO.

DIARY. (continued)

1953
AUGUST.

- 14th. Accompanied by two constables and four local natives left PUMBUU at 0740 hrs. to investigate the headwaters of the SUKARA River. After leaving KILIPAS at 0840 hrs. followed the winding river up until 1410 hrs. no villages seen and found the head of the river between a narrow gorge of ironstone forming perpendicular walls of about three hundred feet. Turned back at 1450 hrs and made camp by the river at 1600 hrs.
- 15th. The party arrived at KILIPAS at 1030 hrs. Whilst conducting a census the carriers and police from PUMBUU were advised to move up to KILIPAS. Food purchased in the evening and a talk on law and order and hygiene was given to the assembled villagers.
- 16th. SUNDAY. Observed.
- 17th. It was decided to move to WATAPE village reported south of the SUKARA River and if possible to move NW from there. At seven o'clock the patrol left KILIPAS moving NW over a small mountain and came to the RUGO River. After following down the river for an hour, turned due west across another mountain and arrived at the YEB River, which turned out to be the BAPI River, after walking down this river for seven or eight miles camp was made at 1445 hrs.
- 18th. On leaving the camp at 0700 hrs. WATAPE village was reached at 0800 hrs. Here again village officials had been appointed and about ten villagers had been recruited previously and had returned and who greatly helped to simplify the work of the patrol. It is a large village for these parts and a census was taken and the usual talk on a few points of administration was given.
- 19th. The men were organized to clear a road from the village to the border of KILIPAS. Whilst this was being carried on, with two police, and local natives the writer moved off at 0635 hrs to visit SIMOG village reported to be eight hour walking distance away. The party arrived at 0830 hrs. The village is due West of WATAPE and the route is mainly through sacc swamp. Fortunately most of the people were in the village and whilst the village had not been previously visited before by a patrol a Iuluai with hat had been appointed. In the afternoon a census was taken and the people addressed. Remained overnight in the village.
- 20th. Returned to WATAPE at 0630 hrs. Heavy rain during the day and the river rising. Inspected the road to KILIPAS which was very satisfactory. From the nature of the villages and the lack of weapons, it appears that these people are an isolated group and there are no villages West or North-west of their situation. Thereupon it was decided to return to KILIPAS, which was reached at 1700 hrs.
- 21st. Favoured with a fine day and a clear sky climbed several points of the western range. Heavy rain throughout afternoon. Food was purchased.
- 22nd. Following a course due West from KILIPAS which we left at 0700 hrs. a party consisting of three police and eight carriers crossed over the lowest point of the western range and at 1100 hrs was forced to change course to NW for three and a half hours then came upon a tributary of the SUKARA River. With no tracks it was necessary to cut the bush and little progress

DIARY. (continued)

was achieved for the day's work. It became apparent that the best way to approach the North-west corner would be through the VANIMO area by going over the BEMANI Range. It was decided to abandon the present approach.

AUGUST.

- 22nd. Returned to KILIPAS at 0945 hrs. SUNDAY. Observed.
- 23rd. The patrol moved down to WATAPE and arrived at 1300 hrs. The men went out hunting pig and the women were on strike, refusing to work the sago until the men returned with meat, which they brought in in the evening.
- 23rd. WATAPE village. Whilst the women went to the bush for sago the men cleared a road along the bank of the Ies River. In the afternoon the four and a half miles of road was inspected.
- 24th. Once again the men from WATAPE and SIBOO extended the road to where the BUBO and YES rivers meet. The patrol moved down this point.
- 25th. Leaving the Yes (or BAPI) River moved due East across low lying country, which is lightly timbered and subject to flooding, to PIEMI village arriving there at 1415 hrs. The men were away from the village clearing a road to BANGER.
- 26th. Leaving PIEMI village at 0700 hrs arrived at BANGER village 1030 hrs. Organised the BANGER people to clear a road following the BUKAMA river. Stayed over-night at BANGER.
- 27th. On leaving BANGER village at 0700 hrs, the patrol arrived at KWOTANI at 1130 hrs. The KWOTANI people had cleared their section of the road in the hope of being paid for the work. At 1230 hrs, a runner from the Patrol Post arrived with mail. The officer was advised from the District Office to report at the earliest possible date for transfer to TELEPOIN. On such information it was necessary to move directly back to the station. Leaving KWOTANI at 1430 hrs, the party arrived at KWIIBASI at 1830 hrs.
- 28th. accompanied by one constable and two carriers the writer left KWIIBASI at 0615 hrs and arrived at the station at 1615 hrs. The remainder of the patrol were to proceed to the station under the orders of the senior constable. The patrol was thereby terminated.

INTRODUCTION : This patrol moved from KWONTARI to the head of the SUKARA River, contacting villages in the immediate vicinity of the river. The limit of the patrol was to be the Dutch Border but a Vanimo Patrol in 1951 had extended Government influence west and north west of KILIKAS, the most northerly point that this patrol reached. The object of the patrol was to extend and consolidate Government influence and administration and make a census of all villages visited.

AGRICULTURE, STOCK & FISHERIES : The staple diet of the people throughout this area is sago, which is supplemented with sugar and bananas. Very little taro, kau kau or tapiok is grown and there are no gardens to speak of except at KWONTARI where there is a community garden of mixed vegetables of three acres. Tulip, kaviak and abika are grown more or less wild.

At KILIFAS a new variety of tapiok was found by the police. It seems that it has been introduced from Dutch New Guinea. The police speak highly of it and cuttings were purchased and have been forwarded to the Department of Agriculture, Sepik District, for classification.

There is an abundance of wild pigs, cassowaries, guria and hornbills. There are few domesticated pigs, apparently it is easier to hunt them. The general physique of the people certainly indicates that there is no lack of proteins.

Fish is caught in the SUKARA river by poisoning or by hooks. Towards the head of the river the fish are only up to about six inches long, but at KWONTARI and KWINBAGI two to three pound fish are caught. At KWONTARI the writer saw the saw and part of the body of a sword fish, which he estimated to have been four to six pounds in weight.

While there is an abundance of wild pigs it will be impossible for these people to make gardens therefore, they were encouraged to plant more coconuts, pawpaw, pumpkin, cucumber and kaviak. Coconuts are used as thirst quenchers and little effort has been made to plant new trees.

Fowls have been introduced by returned labourers but they are mainly roosters.

TOPOGRAPHY : Green River to AMUI. Due to dry season the road was quite reasonable. There is need for more work on the road as soon as this village can be fully censused.

The DIOR at this time has about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet of water, 22 yards wide flowing at about 4 knots. The width from bank to bank is about 50 yards. Before and after BIAKE the route follows along a ridge about 440 feet above the surrounding country. The early hours with the low clouds and fog made the taking of bearings impossible except for one section of about an hour's distance. Ample timber and sago available. Ground quite adequate and suitable for native gardens, guria, cassowary,

parrots, pigeons and birds of paradise abound. Road from Salamaua River to Bopi River flat and cleared, fairly easy going. There should be no difficulty in making a fairly straight road between AMIUI and KOWAEASI. The Bapi River flows with a foot of mud above solid gravel.

At this point the BAPI and SUKARA Rivers meet and this forms the HORDERN. The track follows the river to WOGRAI. From here the track goes due north to KWOTARI, through swamp. It is quite possible to have a vehicular road following the Hordern River thence across to the DIO to the station. Once the bush is cleared and stone and gravel set on the road, a reasonable, good, surface could be made. I refer to the road from BAINYIK to TUMAU (Hayfield) in the Mavrik Sub-District where a road follows the river and an almost all weather road has been built. There is an alternative route from BOSARI to KWOTARI which will be investigated on the return journey. The ground is part of the river flats with no high points for checking maps.

After leaving KWOTARI, a track had to be cut through to BARGER. The ground was covered in a foot of water throughout, the river creeks being in flood. Later on the return journey a road will be made along the western bank. The SOMERA River was in flood and a camp was made on the Eastern bank. The route to BARGER was entirely on the river bed. From BARGER to PIEMI (4 hours) the route was for two hours along the river bank and the other two hours along the river bed. The stones on the river become larger and more numerous. The river zigzagged through a southern course. PIEMI to UTAI (1 hour 20 minutes) was along the river bed. From UTAI to No. 1 camp (6 hours) was a difficult route along the river bed, the stones playing havoc with the carriers' feet. At three quarters of an hour south of the camp a road made by the Vanimo Patrol in 1951, was seen. A half hour from UTAI the river appears to change its course, the eastern bank has been cut away by the heavy force of water from the westerly direction. From No. 1 camp to FUGUMUI (4 hours) is again for 2 hours on the river road and then through the road made by the Vanimo Party. From UTAI the river bed is strewn with small boulders and covered with gravel. The timber becomes thicker and the banks of the river steeper. Wild pigs, cassowaries, guria, hornbills and black and white ducks are plentiful. Cat fish and sword fish are available.

From FUGUMUI the patrol moved up the river towards its source which was reached after five hours walking along the zigzag course of the river bed. The head of the river was reached, at least as far as it was possible to go between the two high formations from which the river emerges.

The force of the torrents have carved into the sides of the mountains and undermined the higher ground which gives a clear picture of the crosssection of the four stratas, the first being the red clay top soil 6' - 8' then either diagonally or horizontally is the grey clay which merges with a gradual formation which appears to be a mixture of some red and grey clay. Beneath this

is the stone peppered into the clay. The normal water road which is eventually carried down with the tide. The stratas below the top soil are about 8' - 10' deep. Large boulders of specimen number 3 are to be seen at the extremity of the river where the sides conve. There is also evident iron stone formation rising straight up from the river bed.

The route to WATAPE follows a south west course first over a mountain of 300' and down to the LuGo River. After following down this small river for an hour the course changed to due west for about an hour until the YES (BAPI) River is reached. Following this river down for 4 hours WATAPE village is reached. From WATAPE due west is the village of SIMOG, the route is off the YES River and through swamp.

AGRICULTURE, STOCK & FISHERIES : KWOMTARI : A garden of taro, sugar, tapioca, kau kau abika of three acres. The timber is cut but the bush is not burnt off. The method is the same as practised in Manus. The soil is good and the variety of food much better than about Green River. On the return journey some of these varieties will be taken for transplanting at Green River.

BARGER, RI-EMI, UTAI : Live mainly on sago, which is cooked with hot water giving a jelly like appearance. The water is boiled in bamboo. Pigs are plentiful and fish obtained in the SOKGERA River. Bananas, a few pawpaws and a few coconuts supplement the diet.

FUGUMUI : The diet is sago and taro, kau kau pumpkins (introduced from Vanimo). Pigs, fowls, and wild life as well as fish are plentiful.

KILIFAS : As Fugumui

WATAPE : Sago, taro, pumpkin (from KILIFAS) pawpaw, kaviak. No fish.

HOUSES : The types of houses seen are four. (1) at KWOMTARI it is a long low house with limbo floors two feet from the ground accommodating two or three families. It has a low morita roof with an entrance either end. Beside each sleeping place is an earth fire place. At BARGER, PIEMI, UTAI the houses are more primitive consisting of a moritar roof, open sides and make-shift beds raised a foot off the ground. These people have just commenced to emerge from the bush and form a village proper. The third type at FUGUMUI and KILIFAS is the more conventional type of native house as seen on the coast, this form has been introduced by repatriated labourers but they lack the skill to make a strong house, formerly they made their houses as at UTAI and PIEMI. At the large village, WATAPE and SIMOG a distinctive type was seen. The apex of the moritar roof was 18 feet from the ground and the roof extended beyond fifteen feet width of the house to form a large eave two feet from the ground. There was one entrance into a large dark room 20' x 15', lined on either side with five planes equidistantly placed. These people, as their houses indicate, are sufficiently isolated to form a village proper.

ROADS : From Green River Patrol Post to the edge of the swamp by the DIO River the road has just recently been cleared, the swamp is laid with sago. From the DIO River to BIAKE village the route is quite reasonable considering that the three villages on this section have not been brought fully under control. From BIAKE to KONIBASI only part of the road is cleared, that is the section below KONIBASI on the ridge on which BIAKE is situated. From KONIBASI to KWONTARI the route follows the river to WOGRAI then north west to KWONTARI only a small section of this road has been cleared.

There is no other road then until UFUGMUI where the Vanimo patrol had a road constructed. At WATAPE a road was cleared along the YES River by this patrol, for about six miles. With the large distance (and time) between villages roads are a prima exigency.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS : The luluai of KWONTARI had been appointed several years ago from LUMI. He has proved a knowledgeable and tactful man in contacting other villages.

Probationary appointments were made at BARGER, PIEMI and UTAL which will be recommended, or otherwise, on the next visit. FUGUMUI has a luluai, tultul and medicinal tultul. At KILIFAS, a luluai tultuls, have been appointed by the Vanimo Patrol Post and one luluai at SIMOG.

HYGIENE, HEALTH, SANITATION : In appendix A is shown the list of villages, the number and kind of sores and sicknesses observed. It is not intended to be completed. It does show I think that the incident of sores and diseases is not above average for an isolated people. Many people (particularly those with sores) are hiding in the bush. There has not been sufficient contact (the first a patrol two years ago) to press curative medicine upon them. The people are very dirty, particularly the babies. The idea of working is unknown to them. Gradually however, as men return from plantation labour they will bring hygiene habits back. The repatriated labourers show a definite improvement in this regard. Latrines are absent in all villages visited except those for the patrol officer and the police. The bush and river are used instead. The use of the river as a latrine has been forbidden since during the dry season. The water flows slowly and this practice will cause contamination. Latrines were constructed in all villages visited though it is not expected that they will be used.

One Medical tultul has been appointed at KILIFAS by the Patrol Post at Vanimo. Until such time as the boundary between Green River and Vanimo has been confirmed and the natives notified, no further recommendations for Medical tultuls are made.

EUROPEAN CONTACT : Recruiters and R.N.A. have visited these villages before. In 1951 a patrol from Vanimo moved through here for the first time on an adminis-

trative patrol, visiting FUGUMUI, KILIFAS, WATAPE and SI OG. BARGER, PIEMI and UTAI had not been visited administratively. Rest houses were built and are in good order in the former places. The returned labourers from PITU Plantation (Talasea) and Dyllip (Madang) and BUKA helped considerably in drawing the other people towards the patrol and generally assisting the patrol.

ARTS & CRAFTS : Specimens of the arts and crafts of this area have been forwarded to the District Commissioner. There is no pottery, no carvings, no implements except the bow and arrow and the stone axe. The woven bags (bilum) are made from the bark of a tree and dyes from reeds and leaves are used to work a uniform pattern of red and blue lines running across the bag.

Woven grass bands are worn on the upper arm and below the knee by the men of all ages. There was no reason given for this fashion and I could not see any particular significance except decoration. These will gradually give way to the brighter decoration of coloured beads which had by far the greatest attraction of the goods carried. Strings of white dry seeds are worn by both men and women.

The women wear grass skirts and the men wear gourds. Samples of the latter have been forwarded to the District Commissioner. The returned labourers still retain the gourd as well as wearing the loin cloth. By the clean linen of the loin cloths seen it would seem that they are used only on European Visitations.

At KWONTARI and BARGER a large pointed headdress about 10 feet high, almost diamond shape is used by the men for a special singsing and kept in the house Tambaran. The people were very secretive about the nature of their singsing in which only the men take part. Only a few hand drums were seen in each village. There is little design on them and no handles; they are carried on the shoulder. Several conc shaped hollowed pieces of timber were noticed which are used as a megaphone. Each place has brought back from the coast the idea of the large drum (garamut) which they are still working on.

APPENDIX "A"

Village	Tropical Ulcers	Yaws	Pregnant	Elephantiasis	Cripples
BOSARI					
BIAKE					
AMINI					
KWONTARI					
BARGER					
PIEMI					
UTAI	2		2		
FUGUMUI	1				
KILIFAS			2	1	2M
WATAPE		6	4	4	
SIMOG	3	6	1	1	1

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GREEN RIVER NO. 1 of 54/55

By: A.M.Geyle P.O.

To: VANIMO To GREEN RIVER

30-11-250

8th November, 1954

The District Commissioner,
Sopik District,
NEPAK.

GREEN RIVER Patrol Report No. I of 1954/55

Acknowledgement is hereby made of the above-mentioned Report submitted by Mr. A. M. Coyle, Patrol Officer in Charge, Green River Patrol Post, of his Patrol across country from Vantao to the Green River Post.

Mr. Coyle, despite difficulties associated with food and carriers over part of the journey and the unpleasant attentions of bush-dwites, fulfilled the purposes for which the Patrol was organised and has supplied useful information for the records of this and your Headquarters.

I will send a copy of the Report to the Commanding Officer, Pacific Islands Regiment, and will also have the sketch map printed. If the printings are successful, I will forward them to you for appropriate distribution.

The real reason for the distinct lack of co-operation by the people south of FUGERAI is not clear and until this has been established, Mr. Coyle should when he next visits this area move carefully and in sufficient strength as a party to meet any eventuality.

RRR
(A. A. Robertson)
Director.

Copy sent
C.O. P.I.P.//

6/11/54

(Signature)
11/11



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

30/11/55



In Reply
Please Quote

No. P/R 1-54/55
Green River/484

District Headquarters,
Sepik District,
WENAY.

21st October, 1954.

The Director,
Department of District Services &
Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

P/R NO. 1 of 54/55 - GREEN RIVER - A.M. GEYLE P.O.

For your information please.

This is Mr. Geyle's first patrol from Green River and very well presented indeed.

The two main objects of the patrol was to get a first hand and complete description under one cover of the route from Vanimo to Green River. Mr. Geyle has done this admirably.

A further patrol South of the Fugumui will be made as soon as Mr. Geyle is finished with the Oil Prospecting people now operating in the Permit area south of Green River. He is due to relieve Mr. Brightwell there in about two weeks time.

Mr. Geyle did not spend as much time on the patrol as I would have liked, but he did achieve the main object. No doubt, on his next patrol, with the knowledge now gained, he should be able to make better provision.

His experiences south of Fugumui do not make good reading. There must be some reason for the people's reticence and unfriendliness, but that will be part of Mr. Geyle's task to find out later.

Generally he has done a fine job and the information supplied will I'm sure be of excellent value. No doubt you will make a copy available to P.I.R. In the meantime, I have seen Mr. Geyle at Green River where I spent several days after his return and have discussed all aspects and future movements with him.

(S. Elliott-Smith)
District Commissioner.

Copy to:

Officer in Charge,
GREEN RIVER PATROL POST.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea

PATROL REPORT NO. 1 of 54/55

PATROL REPORT BY : A. M. GEYLE, Patrol Officer.

TO : GREEN RIVER P.P. from VANIMO.

OBJECTS OF PATROL :

1. Establish a connecting road between GREEN RIVER and VANIMO;
2. Study local conditions with regard to a) availability of food; b) availability of labour; and c) attitude of native population towards Government.
3. Inspect area of kunai grass plain near KWOMTARI to ascertain its suitability as an airstrip.

DURATION OF PATROL : 16 Days.

Left VANIMO : 30/8/54
Arrived GREEN RIVER : 14/9/54

PERSONNEL :

Corp. MABUNDAMERI, No.4215
Const. KANEIN, No.7946
L/Cpl. SIMUN, No.2198 of VANIMO
Const. UFER, No.6672 of "
Const. AIPOK, No.8122 of "
Const. TUARI, No.7624 of "
Const. KALGARU, No.8262 of "
Const. WAI'I, No.6971 of "
Average of 35 Carriers
N.M.O. SAU of VANIMO Sub-district.
One Personal Servant.

MAP : Tracing, 4 miles to 1 inch, attached.

PREVIOUS PATROL :

To KWOMTARI from VANIMO, by P/O Mr. A. C. Jeffries in Janurry, 1951.
To KWOMTARI from GREEN RIVER, by the late Mr. G.L. Szarka, P/O, in June 1953.

.....

Territory of Papua and New Guinea

INTRODUCTION :

The main objects of the patrol were dual-fold : 1) to establish a connecting road between the Patrol Posts of VANIMO and GREEN RIVER, and
2) to inspect an area of kunai grass west of KWOMTARI Village and report on its potential suitability as an airstrip. Both aims were carried out.

In his verbal instructions the District Commissioner instructed that the patrol should be of a leisurely pace to exert maximum beneficial effect on the people of the backward areas traversed. In this aspect the patrol was a failure. The reports tell of the difficulty in acquiring native food and carriers in the KWOMTARI and BIAKA areas (indeed along the whole route between the Vanimo Sub-district border and GREEN RIVER Station) and the patrol lasted a week less than had been intended.

Myself and two policemen flew to VANIMO on Wednesday 25th August, 1954 where one Lance Corporal and five Constables were made available, and rations and patrol equipment were issued from the Sub-district store.

I am very thankful for the field maps and information readily proffered by the Army there. Their maps and reports of the area contained much information which proved very helpful during the patrol.

DIARY :

Monday 30th August:

0940 hours - Departed from VANIMO in light raft and walked east along coastal jeep track.
1040 hours - Forded Waterstone Creek, waist deep.
1300 hours - Arrived NINGERA Village.
VANIMO carriers paid off.

Tuesday 31st August:

0800 hours - Departed NINGERA and followed sandy bench track.
0820 hours - Arrived at PUAL RIVER estuary. Patrol ferried across stream by four government canoes.
0850 hours - Headed inland through medium forest along east bank of PUAL RIVER. Road cleared and easy walking.
1340 hours - Arrived at BIRIA CR. and followed gravel bed until the main stream was forded at 1350 hours.
1400 hours - Followed well cleared track over undulating country.
1425 hours - Arrived IMBIO No. 1 Village.

Wednesday 1st September:

Raining steadily.
0835 hours - Self and three constables left for IMBIO No.3 Village up the BIRIA CR. Balance of patrol remained at IMBIO No.1.
0940 hours - Arrived at IMBIO No.3 (SAURA) and inspected village. Addressed all present.
1050 hours - Left IMBIO No.3 accompanied by carriers and Village Officials.
1140 hours - Arrived back at IMBIO No.1.

Wednesday 1st September, cont'd:

- 1315 hours - Left IMBIO No.1, followed cleared track through mountains.
1415 hours - Arrived IMBIO No.2. Deserted Village. Inspected village plateau which could possibly accommodate small aircraft if cleared.
1445 hours - Departed IMBIO No.2, climbed more mountain ridges and arrived at IMBINIS Village at 1615 hours. IMBIO carriers paid off.

Thursday 2nd September:

- 0915 hours - Left for SUMUMINI Village. Crossed BOAP RIVER three times within first half hour, then followed road through dense forest.
0955 hours - Arrived at FOMDI CK.
1415 hours - Arrived at SUMUMINI Village. Carriers paid off.

Friday 3rd September:

Remained at SUMUMINI to rest police and especially Cpl MABUNDAMGRI's foot, which was swollen and painful from a spike. Self feeling ill after being bitten by insects in bush. Bites on legs swollen and itchy.
In afternoon walked over an area of level ground which could possibly be developed into an airstrip.
SEE SUMMARY.

Saturday 4th September:

- 0700 hours - Departed from SUMUMINI.
0730 hours - Joined BOAP RIVER and followed it upstream. Hard going over rocks, sand and gravel. Near headwaters going was steep and difficult, over big boulders and through narrow passes.
1055 hours - Left stream and climbed very steep and rugged divide to arrive at summit at 1120 hours. Rested. Track up from stream not cleared. Descended twenty minutes to FAAK RIVER headwaters and lunched. Followed FAAK and YENABU RIVERS, alternatively along river beds and cleared tracks through bush.
1505 hours - Arrived at KILIFAS (FAS No.1) heavy rain.

Sunday 5th September:

- Addressed people. Paid off SUMUMINI carriers.
1245 hours - Left for FUGUMUI Village downstream.
1345 hours - Arrived at FUGUMUI Village after walking along creek bed and cleared tracks alternatively.

Monday 6th September:

- Constables MANEIN and WAI'I sent to FAS No.2 to get carriers.. Arrived back at 1000 hours with 8 men found on way.
1340 hours - Patrol departed. Heavy rain.
1340 hours - Arrived at deserted site of OLD FUGUMUI Village.
1540 hours - Arrived at garden place and camped. Track today followed river bed entirely. Creek close to camp known as VETIVU CK.

Tuesday 7th September:

- 0800 hours - Departed for ITOMUI Village. Eight carriers from KWAITAPE arrived to assist patrol.
1100 hours - Lunched at mouth of FIFIGI CK. Track today sometimes left the stream and followed track cut by Mr. Szarka last year which is mainly overgrown with vines now.
1500 hours - Arrived at ITOMUI Village. A cold reception, with people remaining in houses. Carriers paid off, scared to go further from their villagees.
Erected camp in village. A little food offered for sale. Dance that night in connection with house tambaran.

Wednesday 8th September:

- Addressed people, whilst police scouted about neighbouring garden houses for carriers.
1345 hours - Set out for PIEMI with carriers overloaded & progress slow.
1445 hours - Arrived at PIEMI Village. A filthy place. Camped in rest-house and barracks built by Mr. G. Szarka. Addressed people. Very miserable quantities of food for sale. Flies a menace.

Thursday 9th September:

- 0630 hours - Under way with 28 carriers. Followed river mainly and occasionally track cut by Szarka.
0940 hours - Arrived at BARIGE, a disgustingly filthy place unfit for human habitation. Long grass and flies everywhere.
While I was talking with the people several carriers and BARIGE villagers ran away into the bush, leaving us more short-handed. KWAITAPE carriers(8) were out of their territory, remained with patrol.
1135 hours - Left BARIGE and followed track cut by Mr. Szarka.
1225 hours - Crossed YEMABU RIVER.
1636 hours - Arrived at KWOMTARI after following track along flat country through medium to heavy bush. Small quantities of sago offered for sale.

Friday 10th September:

- Self, three policemen and three villagers walked west to inspect kunai area used once as an emergency landing place.
0845 hours - Left KWOMTARI.
0855 hours - Arrived at BIBIRA CK.
0910 hours - Arrived at SUKARA RIVER (YEMABU). Quite narrow here but strong current. Forded in ten minutes.
1030 hours - Arrived at kunai plain. Inspected entire area and environs. SEE SUMMARY.
1440 hours - Started back for KWOMTARI and arrived there at 1620 hours.
People addressed and approximately forty men present were informed patrol would be moving on next day and would need carriers.
Two policeman and eight station labourers arrived with rice and meat from GREENI RIVER according to arrangements made before patrol left VANIMU.

Saturday 11th September:

- Some Village Officials had accompanied patrol to this point intending to visit GREEN RIVER. To relieve food position sent them ahead with two GREEN RIVER police and kept eight carriers who arrived yesterday. At 0900 hours when patrol was about to depart the village was found empty of every male native capable of carrying a bucket of water. Three women, the eight carriers from GREEN RIVER and all the police cheerfully accepted gross overloads and we made a start.
- 0930 hours - Left KWOTARI and followed native pad.
1100 hours - Arrived at SUKARA RIVER. Police sent to MANGO hamlet to find labour, returned with a few old women.
1455 hours - Arrived at HORDEN RIVER (PIR) and crossed stream. Camped near KONABASI hamlets. A few people seen upstream were hailed but they wouldn't approach the patrol.

Sunday 12th September:

- Shortage of food necessitated us moving on.
- 0650 hours - Struck camp.
1200 hours - Arrived at SALAMAU CK. and camped. Police and carriers too tired to carry further. Self and three police and four carriers continued on then to M. BIAKA and AMINI Villages to line up carriers but people refused to assist and Constable MUGALIONG was sent on to GREEN RIVER to send out more government labourers and rations.
1330 hours - Self and police left for BIAKA. Going hard over steep mountain range.
1500 hours - Arrived at BIAKA stop an extremely steep point. Five men here refused to carry, saying they were afraid of the KONABASIS.
1525 hours - Left BIAKA and followed a cleared track over undulating ground. Crossed several small creeks and arrived at AMINI Village at 1830 hours. One policeman continued on to Station. Slept in excellent rest-house built by GREEN RIVER Police Detachment.
People asked to sell us food. Reply "No got".

Monday 13th September:

- 0845 hours - Constables WARUK and TARAKUM and 12 labourers arrived with rice and were despatched immediately to assist stranded cargo and police.

Tuesday 14th September:

- 0945 hours - Police and cargo arrived earlier than expected. They had lugged equipment to BIAKA yesterday.
1145 hours - Left AMINI.
1220 hours - Arrived at DIO RIVER (PANGI) and walked along east bank 10 minutes.
1240 hours - Crossed stream and followed well-cleared track to arrive at GREEN RIVER STATION at 1430 hours.

NATIVE AFFAIRS :

The Vanimo Sub-district is a great contrast to the Green River area. All villages visited there were neat and clean, most have burial grounds bordered with crotons and shrubs, and roads connecting them were properly cleaned of grass and debris. Vanimo influence extends right down to FUGURUI, south of the Bewani Ranges.

The Village Officials are aware of their duties, and they and their people offered nothing but co-operation and friendliness. The patrol was made welcome with gifts of food well cooked and presented, and any offer of payment was an insult to them.

From FUGURUI south the patrol was shunned, literally. Carriers were hard to get and once under way to the next village the risk was they would run away. At KONABASI hamlets people were seen fishing along the river. We hailed them calmly and casually. They didn't run, but quietly disappeared into the bush. At KWOTARI village the patrol slept two nights. The young men there numbered forty odd (some from other villages) and they agreed unanimously to carry the patrol to the next village. Time came for departure on the morning of Saturday 11th September and the village was entirely deserted of men capable of carrying. At BIARA and AMINI the people refused to assist with the stranded cargo, and when asked to sell us food they replied they hadn't any.

AMINI village, only three hours walk from GREEN RIVER STATION, was expected to co-operate in view of its proximity and greater knowledge of the aims of the government, but here food and assistance were flatly refused. The men stated they were afraid of the KONABASIS, which may be true, but when a few carriers were sought to assist the patrol back to the station they quickly dispersed.

The people have seen enough Government patrols through and near their area to dispel any simple fear they might have, yet only an estimated 30 to 40 percent of the population of the villages visited was seen. Their villages were disgracefully neglected and dirty and maybe they feared facing the government about them. I can offer no other explanation for the regrettable attitude of the people.

The carriers employed were paid well at the rate of two shillings a day or its equivalent in trade goods, and at no time were they ill-treated in any way. On three days they were over-loaded out of necessity, when it was their own lack of co-operation which caused the dilemma. My police, native medical orderly and cook-boy carried loads just as heavy theirs on those days.

The late Mr. G. Szarka did not write the report of his patrol into the area in July, 1953 (G.R. No. 3-53/54). It was compiled from his notes found at TELEPOIN. Certain irregularities and omissions in the diary occur, understandably, with reference to building of rest-houses, roads etc., and there is no mention in the summary notes of difficulty with the people. Constable HANEIN who patrolled with him on that occasion says they weren't dependent on the local natives for carrying cargo since they used carriers from GREEN RIVER, but they got little assistance in cutting tracks from place to place, and building rest houses. These rest houses are mostly shambles now, and the tracks are overgrown with vines.

Many of the young men have returned from work outside. Their influence should be favourable, but no advantageous effects were noted. They shirk all work connected with the government, and seemed to resent the government's patrolling their area.

I addressed the people seen very forcefully regarding the aims of the government and explained in a simple way their obligations to assist the government in its striving to improve their living conditions. They were reminded of the free medicine available to them all, to illustrate

our good intentions.

As a starter the headman of each village has been given one axe, one tomahawk, one machete and four sariffs for use in the construction of rest houses and roads. These tools are to remain in the villages while the people maintain such roads and rest houses; they are to return to the station if the people ~~do not~~ continue to neglect their duties in this regard.

Headmen from a few villages preceded the patrol home on the promise they would receive these tools. I hope they benefitted from their visit to the station. Some had not been to ~~WIKEN~~ RIVER before.

ROADS AND BRIDGES :

Below is a description of the tracks followed, village to village, and the type of country traversed. Vehicular roads are non-existent, except for a jeep track running round the coast for two miles from VANIMO.

A vehicular road connecting the two out-stations would be, in view of terrific construction and maintenance costs, quite unthinkable. The native population is not sufficient to provide enough labour. The rivers, though not large, are extremely sensitive to rainfalls and rise alarmingly fast. Bridges would therefore be ~~impracticable~~, impracticable.

The Bewani Mountains are quite a formidable barrier. Both north and south side are steep and sudden. The probable height reached by the patrol in crossing to KILIPAS (FAS No.1) would be near 3000'. Higher peaks were seen to the east.

VANIMO to NINGERA. Jeep track follows coast for approximately two miles through heavy forest. Thenafter the track mostly goes through forest, occasionally follows open beach. Track is within 20 yards of coastline all the way. Two creeks are easily forded at low tide, waist deep. Track reasonably firm sand through bush, hard going along beach.

Walking time : 3 hours 10 minutes.

NINGERA to IMBIO No.1. Track continues along beach to mouth of PUAL RIVER. River mouth 100 yards wide, unfordable - canoes necessary. Track then turns south and proceeds inland through low flat country covered with heavy timber. Only a few rises are met, ground liable to flooding in wetter seasons. BIRIA CK. is forded about 30 minutes from IMBIO No.1 village. Stream bed about 100 yards wide, stream proper 20 yards, 3 feet deep, flowing 5 knots. In wet season river would often be impassable. Track from river to IMBIO over flat country. Entire track cleared to width of 8 feet, easy walking.

Walking time : 5 hours 10 minutes.

IMBIO No.1 to IMBIO No.2. Road proceeds 15 minutes over flat muddy ground through dense forest, then rises sharply over steep hill, then follows ridges through very wet and heavy forest. Track well cleared but slippery. Heavy going.

Walking time : 1 hour.

IMBIO No.2 to IMBIHS. Track climbs steep mountain for 30 minutes then descends to LEWIS CK. Track well cleared, but going heavy over slippery inclines and through seepages. Occasionally sago stands passed. From LEWIS CK. track ascends another steep mountain then descends to flat sago swamp. Fifteen minutes through swamp over logs to arrive IMBIHS situated on small plateau surrounded by sago swamp. Probable height of mountains crossed 800'.

Walking time : 1 hour 30 minutes.

IMINIS to SUMUMINI. Track joins BOAF RIVER near village and follows river bed for half a mile. River bed 50 yards wide, stream 15 yards, flowing strongly. Track leaves stream and traverses low flat country through very dense forest along west bank of FOMDI CK, tributary of BOAF RIVER. Track follows small creek bed 30 minutes from SUMUMINI. Last 20 minutes over firm undulating country.
Walking time : 4 hours 20 minutes.

SUMUMINI to KILLIAS (FAS No. 1). Tracks goes through village gardens over flat ground for half an hour then joins BUCOF RIVER. River bed gravelly and 150 yards wide in places. Main stream shallow. Hills each side increasing in height as track follows easy ascent of river bed. Going harder three hours from SUMUMINI where river narrows down to 10 yards width between steep mountains both sides. Boulders increasingly big and last half hour of ascent track leaves stream and ascends almost direct to summit of main divide of Bewani Ranges. Track between stream and summit not cleared. Forest less dense nearing summit, probably due to lightning felling trees. Secondary growth heavy. Wet and slippery underfoot. From summit track descends 30 minutes down steep ridges to FAKK CK., a tributary of the YEMAEU (SUKARA) RIVER. For 1 1/2 hours track follows creek bed and occasionally cuts through bush across bends. Last 40 minutes to KILLIAS track is through medium forest along northern bank of YEMAEU RIVER. Country undulating with a few small steep points to cross.
Walking time : 6 hours 50 minutes.

KILLIAS (FAS No. 1) to FUGUMUI. Track alternates between river bed and southern bank. Ground undulating, walking easy. Track cleared well to width of 10 feet.
Walking time : 1 hour.

FUGUMUI to ITOMUI. Cleared track through bush along east bank of YEMAEU RIVER for ten minutes, cutting off big bend of river. Down to river again which is followed to within 30 minutes of ITOMUI. Over undulating country with light timber along native pad for 30 minutes, cutting off another sweeping bend in river. River narrows at this point and is deeper and harder to cross.
Walking time : 4 hours 50 minutes.

ITOMUI to PLEMI. One hour's walking down YEMAEU RIVER bed which widens out again to 70 to 100 yards, and water is easily forded.
Walking time : 1 hour 10 minutes.

PLEMI to BARICE. Track follows native pad for 5 minutes down western bank of YEMAEU, then follows river bed again. Country low, with few hills now and no mountains. Timber lighter than in the mountains.
Walking time : 3 hours 10 minutes.

BARICE to KWONTARI. Native pad is followed 40 minutes down west bank then stream is crossed to track cut by Mr. Szarka down east bank. Track neglected, proceeds SSE over level country and walking is easy through medium to light forest. Track leaves YEMAEU RIVER bank and turns east 50 minutes before arriving at KWONTARI. YEMAEU RIVER rather narrow and is water from bank to bank. Track from river to village is entirely along felled tree trunks, and progress is slow.
Walking time : 4 hours.

KWOTIARI to KONABASI Hamlets. Track was once cut by police on Mr. Szarka's patrol, is now overgrown. Native had followed through flat country. SUMARA (YENABU) RIVER met again after one hour's walking and track follows down east bank. Walking hard over tree roots. Forest light. KONABASI Hamlets on banks of HORDEN (PIR) RIVER. HORDEN about 50 yards wide at this point, bed of gravel and mud, with narrow swift-running stream. Walking time : Approx. 4 hours.

KONABASI Hamlets to BIAKA. Track traverses flat country. Not cleared and progress slow. Forest light. Several small creeks crossed and after approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours walking track ascends up easy hill through thick secondary growth. Climb steepens up mountain ridge and after twenty minutes hard climbing track skirts round eastern face. Ridges followed for last $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before village which is reached after a particularly steep climb of 100 yards. Walking time : Approx. 4 hours 30 minutes.

BIAKA to AMINI. Track descends steeply for 20 minutes then crosses undulating terrain with medium to heavy forest for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours. AMINI reached after easy 40 minute ascent from SAFI CREEK, a small stream 10 yards wide and 1 foot deep. Entire route well cleared, though quite a few large tree trunks obstruct the way. Walking time : 3 hours.

AMINI to GREEN RIVER PATROL POST. Ten minute descent down to center of small sago swamp which is spanned with fallen logs. Track comes out into medium forest and traverses flat to undulating country for 25 minutes. DIO (PARINGI) RIVER is crossed after eastern bank is followed 20 minutes. River is 15 yards wide and shallow, with gravel bed. For $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours then the country covered is undulating with a few short steep rises. ARAU KUNA plain is reached 15 minutes before arriving at GREEN RIVER STATION. Walking time : 2 hours 45 minutes.

SUMMARY OF ROUTE DESCRIBED. From VANIMO through NINGERA to SUMUMINI at the foothills of the BEMANIS the road is cleared, well cleared, to a width of eight to ten feet. The walking surface is even except in difficult places such as over the mountains between IMEIO No.1 and IMEIO No.2. Small creeks are bridged effectively and the larger streams, which are subject to constant flooding, are forded.

From SUMUMINI over the mountains to as far south as BARIGE much use is made of the river beds. The country is rough, but quite reasonably the people could be expected to clear tracks through the bush along the banks. Mr. Szarka cut miles of tracks both side of the YENABU but the natives have neglected them. Probably they find the rivers more pleasurable for walking than the bush, and use the tracks only when the rivers are in flood.

As previously mentioned, knives, axes and sariffs have been given to each village along the route and improvements are expected.

VILLAGES :

The Vanimo Sub-district villages were, without exception, clean and pleasant. The art of building is not a long suit with any of the people visited and the houses individually were not impressive; but they are constructed to plans, following suggestions no doubt by Vanimo patrol officers. Shrubs and trees are liberally planted in most villages and are a pleasant feature after a day in the bush. AMINI and BIAKA in the Green River area are reasonably tidy, but BARIGE, REEH and ITOMI are found incredibly neglected, and one wonders how people could live there.

Grass grew up around the houses, houses half built at BARIGE were already falling down, and flies thrived on the filth. The populations are small in these three villages and maybe they spend much of their time in garden shacks while they work sago and hunt in the bush.

KWOMTARI was a disappointment. My police told me before arriving there that the village Luluai was a 'strong man' and kept his village clean and tidy. Unfortunately he died five months ago and the place has slipped back to its old state. The houses there were the poorest constructions seen during the patrol.

BURIAL GROUNDS :

Proper burial of the dead in established cemeteries is the fashion north of the BEWANIS.

At KWOMTARI the remains of the late Luluai were wrapped in bark and erected on a platform on the kunai thirty yards from the House Klap. Proper burial was ordered. The idea is not new to them. The Tultul admitted that the late Luluai used to see to it that other bodies were buried in the ground.

REST HOUSES AND POLICE BARRACKS :

Rest houses and police barracks exist at the following villages :- NINGERA, IMBIO No.1, IMBIO No.2, IMBIO No.3, IMBINIS, SURUMINI, KILIPAS (FAS No.1), FUGUMI, PIEMI, BARIGE, KWOMTARI and AMINI. Those at PIEMI, BARIGE and KWOMTARI, all built by Mr. Szarka, are delapidated now and will be useless to the next patrol. At AMINI the rest house was built recently by Green River police. It is an excellent one. All villages have promised to build rest houses and maintain them in the future.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK :

The staple diet along the whole route is sago, and it is plentiful. The people of NINGERA had a large variety of vegetables to offer : taro, sweet potato, yams, pineapples, bananas and pawpaws. The sandy soil near the coast seems to suit tuber crops.

Bananas are a big item in the diet of the natives inland. Koukou and taro were less evident as the coast was left further behind us.

Mr. Jeffries in his patrol to KWOMTARI from VANIMO early 1951 distributed a variety of European vegetable seeds in some villages and instructed the people how to plant them. IMBIO No.1 Village still grows tomatoes and onions from seeds regenerated from those he left.

Gardening methods throughout are not unusual. Trees are cut down and burned when dry and taro and banana shoots are planted between the remaining logs.

Figs are noticeably absent in most villages. The bush abounds with wildlife and they find it easier to hunt these than raise domestic ones. Fowls, to the contrary, are common, especially in the Vanimo area.

MAGISTERIAL :

No complaints were brought to the patrol.

In the Vanimo sub-district this could mean observance of the law to a certain extent. From FUGUMI down I'm more inclined to think the people have not yet realized

that the government is ever ready to adjudicate their disputes and punish wrong-doers.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE :

Only two extreme cases were seen - advanced tropical ulcers - at BAKA.

Villages north of the mountains all have Medical Tultuls who are evidently causing the people to visit VANIMO when they contract complaints. Surprisingly few people needing medical attention were seen in villages until the patrol approached GREEN RIVER. Tropical ulcers are a common complaint in this area.

Nothing conclusive can be drawn from the fact that few people in the Green River area covered need treatment, since only an estimated thirty percent of the people was seen.

Patrol Personnel. Health of the patrol police was excellent throughout. The Medical officer at VANIMO kindly permitted a native medical orderly to accompany the patrol and he treated minor cuts and abrasions as they occurred.

Mr. Jeffries in his report mentions that a government surveyor named EVE contracted Typhus on the kumai strip near KWOMTARI, to die later at WENAK after being flown out - prewar. Five weeks after visiting this area Mr. Jeffries also contracted Typhus and was flown out from SISSANO.

It would be interesting to know the route Mr. Eve followed to reach the kumai. I myself suffered intensely itchy insect bites all over the body when approaching SUMUMINI and felt rather ill for two days afterwards. The bites remained as large lumps which itched violently each night for a week.

I recommend future officers patrolling the route to wear long trousers with gaiters to keep insect bites to a minimum. The bush over the mountain impresses one as being unusually dirty and unpleasant. Despite its steepness the ground is wet and slushy and the undergrowth heavy.

MISSIONS :

The Redemptorist Catholic Mission is established at VANIMO. It has one school along the route taken by the patrol - at NINGERA. The people of SUMUMINI are anxious for the mission to start a school there, and it would thrive I'm sure. SUMUMINI is the central village of the BEMBI tribe which embraces IMBINIS, the IMBIO villages, YO, KILIPAS (FAS No.1), FAS No.2, FAS No.3, and the small villages at the headwaters of the SENU RIVER, near FAS No.3.

SUMUMINI has two pupils attending the missions school at MUMURU on the FIORE RIVER to the west. Ten children from IMBINIS attend the school at NINGERA, and four from IMBIO also.

AIRSTRIPS :

One of the objects of the patrol was to inspect a strip of kumai grass near KWOMTARI and report on its suitability as an airstrip.

The area is reached after 1 1/2 hours WSW generally from the village (bearing of strip from KWOMTARI village is 245°). The SUKARA RIVER has to be forded twenty minutes out, then the track goes through light-timbered country which is flat until the strip is neared, where it becomes

slightly undulating.

The kunal is approximately 1400 yards long, its axis running almost east west. Its narrowest section is near the middle where it is approximately 20 yards wide.

The diagram shows a swamp section at the east end adjoining a section which, the natives report, is liable to flooding. The highest point over all seems to be where the two houses are constructed near the center. All points eastward of the houses are lower than this spot, in direct proportion to their distances from the houses, since slope is an even one. From the houses westward the ground seems to fall very slightly, almost level. Over all the slope across the width is to the north. 340 yards from the west end there is a patch of bluey-black clay which extends almost to the center across the strip, which is 100 yards wide at this point. This swamp suggests a dip in the running surface between the houses and the west end. It was not apparent to the eye because of the grass waist-deep growing over it.

Approximately 30 yards into the bush from the edge of the kunal near this black clay section there is a 12' deep creek, with its headwaters close to the kunal at the eastern end. Its suddenness suggest quick drainage. The natives say the water drains off the kunal to this creek and escapes quickly. One drain cut the length of the kunal with off-drains towards this creek would, I consider, greatly hasten the water's riddance. The creek is deep and could cope with heavy downpours. The two swamp patches would be drained also, though they would probably remain sticky. They would not constitute a problem though in constructing a strip as the logical location of a strip does not include any part of either.

Soil. The surface soil is a brown sandy loam. This goes down to a depth of 9 inches, where the subsoil is a sandy clay. It should be quite absorbent. The natives state that water does not lay about in pools after a rain; any rain that does not drain off is quickly absorbed by the soil. The surface therefore should be suitable for all-weather landing.

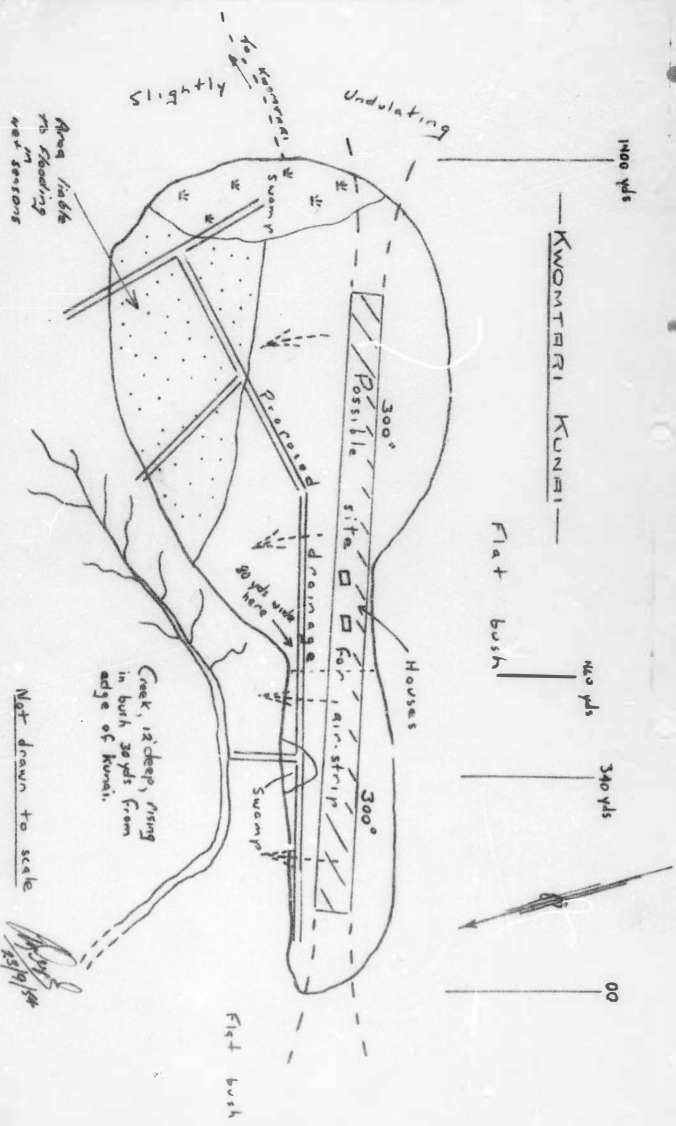
Grass. The grass in a few places is waist-deep. For the most part the ground is sparsely spread with shorter grass about a foot high. It must be mentioned that the inspection of the area was made during a dry period, with no heavy rain for months.

Mr. Szarka placed a triangle of logs at the west end to indicate "Probably Safe to Land", and it is there still. A few ant-hills not easily visible ~~at~~ even from the ground could upset a small plane and I would recommend for this reason that no landing (other than forced of course) be attempted without them first being broken down.

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SUMUMINI Village is built on one end of a long level stretch of ground once used as gardens. Secondary growth made it impossible to see any distance along it. I walked an estimated 600 yards along a compass bearing 240° from the rest house and the ground covered was flat and level. The surface soil was slushy, but this is only a shallow layer of rotten humus over a sub-soil of a blue quartz gravel.

There are mountains to the south, south-east and south-west which are quite steep (the BEMANIS) but the nearest one is not less than three miles away and would not be a danger to landing aircraft. Both ends of the level area run into flat bush, which is rather dense.



LABOUR POTENTIAL AND POPULATION :

The total population of the BEMBEs would be no more than 1400 people. Their villages start with IMBIO No.1 and extend to FUGUMUI over the ranges. Other BEMBE villages included in this estimate but not visited are - YO, ALAMINE, PAS No.3, SUMARARU and small hamlets situated about the headwaters of the SENU RIVER, near PAS No.3.

The figures given below are taken from the last census in 1951. Those marked with an "x" are my estimates.

	NINGERA	157
	IMBIO 1	112
	IMBIO 2	44
	IMBIO 3	66
	IMRINIS	142
	SURUMINI	116
	PAS No.1	148
x	FUGUMUI	70
x	ITOMUI	55
x	PIEMI	40
x	BARIGE	45
x	KWONTARI	105
x	BIAKA	73
x	AMINI	120

Between FUGUMUI and KWONTARI the "BAIRAI" people would total no more than 150. They are a tribe of nomads who roam the bush between the BAPI and SUKARA rivers.

KWONTARI is not a population center. The people are not friendly with any other villages visited, and seem to be on the fringe of a linguistic group center around the SENU RIVER to the north-east of KWONTARI. I would like to patrol the area thoroughly before giving an estimate of the population there. I think it would not be large. Mr. Jeffries found only one village patrolling from KWONTARI to PAS No.2.

AMINI and BIAKA are also on the outskirts of population centers. Eastward into the BORDER MOUNTAINS the numbers increase.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL :

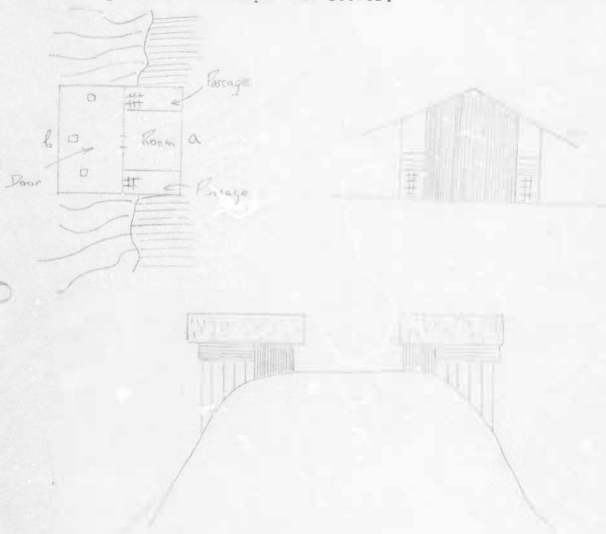
The houses at BIAKA village are worthy of note. Diagrams and notes appear on the next page. While not a mountain people their village is on a steep spur and they find mountain type houses better suited to their needs. (I have not seen a mountain village of the Border Mountains yet I feel sure the BIAKA houses are modelled after those built up there).

The BEMBEs favour small units large enough for one family only. They are built 5 or 6 feet above the ground, with one or two rooms and often a verandah. They are not strongly made.

The BAIRAI and KWONTARIs build long low houses (2'-3' off the ground) with the minimum effort and materials possible, it appears. They too are poorly made and untidy to look at.

Only one house Tambaran was seen - at ITOMUI. It was of simple construction, low-pitched roof and built on ground level. Several young men (one as old as 25 or 30) were inmates during the patrol's visit, and they dared not be seen talking to us in full view of the women of the village. One of the young men talked to me 5 minutes when said "I'd best go now or you will get a big illness from me".

BIAKA is built on a sharp knoll. Lack of flat ground is no deterrent however to the building of a village. In fact the houses are of a design that require sloping ground, the steeper the better.



There is one room to each house built facing inwards to the center of the knoll. It can be entered only by a short passage leading out on to a platform, a verandah you could call it, built out over the steep incline. The floor of this verandah is about 3 feet above the level of the room, which is the ground itself. The outer wall (called b in diagram) is usually open, with no more than a low fence or handrail, and gives an excellent view of the surrounding country.

The room is made of sago palm mid-ribs and has no windows. Small slots that would pass an arrow are cut at irregular intervals in that wall facing the other houses built similarly to form a circle.

Some fireplaces on the outer verandah section provide warmth at night. I believe only the women sleep, and cook, inside.

.....

MAPPING :

From FAS No. 1 down through FUGUMUI, ITOMUI, FLEMI and HARIGE the patrol followed a stream called the YEMAEU. This stream flows southerly one mile west of KWONTARI, where it is known as the SUKARA RIVER. The Aitape sheet of the Army Strat. Series (Scale 4 miles to 1 inch) shows the YEMAEU as flowing into the SENU RIVER. This is not so. FAS No. 2 village is situated on the PINE RIVER and I think it flows into the SENU. The YEMAEU definitely does not. Compass bearings of villages, on native sense of direction, were taken between FUGUMUI and KWONTARI (back- and forsaights) and since these villages are all on the banks of the YEMAEU its general course is known without doubt.

The SUKARA is shown on the Army Strat. map as rising near MT. MOKKOFIANG at Lat.3°10', Long.141°05'. I think this is the BAPI RIVER which joins the SUKARA at Lat.3°40', Long.141°22', to become the MORDEN RIVER. This concords with Mr. Szarka's diary on the day of August 17th, quote: "At seven o'clock the patrol left KILIFAS moving SW over a small mountain and came to the FUGO RIVER. After following down the river for an hour, turned due west over another mountain and arrived at the YES RIVER, which turned out to be the BAPI.", unquote.

The attached map is a tracing from the Army Strat. Series, in accordance with the above.



A.E. GEYLE, P/O.
OIC GREEN RIVER PATROL
POST

ROYAL PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEA CONSTABULARY

Corporal FARUWAMERI, No. 4215.

Lacks drive and initiative. Was more of a hindrance than a help by setting a poor example to the others. He was only interested in getting home quick.

Lance Corporal SHEN, No. 2196.

Worked hard throughout and firmly controlled the detachment. He patrolled to KWOTARI with Mr. Jeffries and was helpful with local information.

Constable MANEIN, No. 7946.

Highly intelligent. Ever ready to do an extra job, and could be trusted to do it well.

Constable WFER, No. 6672.

Casual type and a slow-thinker but worked hard.

Constable AIPOK, No. 8122.

Performed his duties well.

Constable TUARI, No. 7624.

A good policeman. Intelligent and a hard worker.

Constable WAI'I, No. 6971.

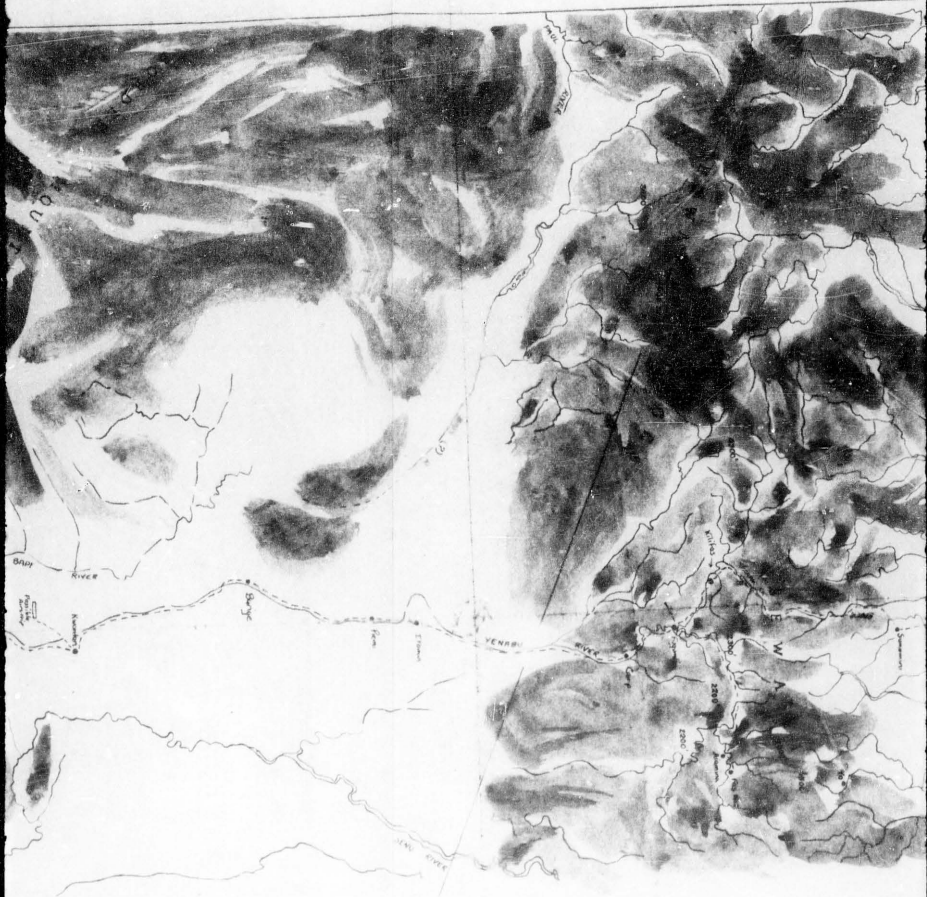
Cheeky and has to be handled strongly. Flash type.

Constable KANGARU, No. 8262.

Average intelligence, and quietly efficient.



A.B. GEYLE, P/O.
Officer of Police.





WINING - GREEN RIVER PATRICE

REVISOR NO 1 - 1954/1955 (G.A.)

Scale 4 miles 1 inch

Trail shown: - - - - ; Mountain:

1/18/55
1/19/55

Macross Copy

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of GREEN RIVER (SEMI) Report No. G.R. No 2-54/55

Patrol Conducted by D.M. GUYE, Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled IURI area, BORDER MOUNTAINS

Patrol Accompanied by - Europeans

Natives 16

Duration from 12/10/54 to 15/10/54

Number of Days FOUR

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by - District Services Aug/55

Medical 1

Map Reference Tracing, 4 miles to 1 inch, attached

Objects of Patrol (1) Arrest natives alleged to have attacked female native ANNAPONE (2) Investigate reports that GREEN RIVER Rice based native houses.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT KESSEY.

Forwarded, please.

/ /54

.....
District Commissioner.

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation

Amount Paid from D.N.S. Trust Fund

Amount Paid from P.N.B.F. Trust Fund

.....

.....

.....

30-II-252

29th November, 1954.

The District Commissioner,
Sepik District,
HEWAK.

Patrol Report No. 2 of 1954/55 - GREEN RIVER

The above-mentioned Report submitted by Mr. A.M. Coyle, Patrol Officer in charge Green River Patrol Post, following his Patrol to the IURI area, is acknowledged.

The unavoidable delay in the forwarding of this Report from Hewak resulted in a report on the incidents described in the introduction to this Report, reaching this Headquarters via Police channels first.

Mr. Coyle made a determined attempt to apprehend those men responsible for wounding the woman AMARIDAN, in difficult circumstances.

There is a lot of good sense and experience in what he suggests in his Report about not acting too precipitately, and causing considerable disturbance and uncertainty in this little patrolled area for a long time to come. It is to be hoped therefore that the men come forward of their own accord, so that the whole occurrence can be justly finalised. If this does not happen, it is a matter that will need careful consideration and handling.

(Handwritten initials)
A.A. Roberts
Director.

Personal file Kato 9/12



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

30/11/55



*In Reply
Please Quote*

No. NEW P/R No. 2/54-55
Green River/703

District Headquarters,
Geik District,
HEMAY.

20th November, 1954.

The Director,
Department of District Services
& Native Affairs,
POLT MORESBY.

P/R No. 2/1954-55 GREEN RIVER

Submitted for your information please. It is regretted that the report was not forwarded earlier, due to my absence in Moresby.

The substance of the object of the Patrol is self explanatory. Mr. Geyle did not succeed in successfully contacting the IURI people, but sufficient evidence is available to proceed against the Police for the offences revealed. The matter is now in the process of further investigation and will be pursued in the lower Court shortly.

In the meantime, I visited Green River on the 17th instant and Mr. Geyle is now at IURI where he will remain until contact is made and compensation paid to the IURI people for the damage inflicted by the police

There is no cause for concern.

S. Elliott-Smith

(S. Elliott-Smith)
District Commissioner.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea

PATROL REPORT NO. 2 of 54/55.

PATROL REPORT BY : A. W. GEYLE, Patrol Officer.

TO : IURI Village area, Border Mountains.

OBJECTS OF PATROL :

1. Apprehend six male natives, alleged to have attacked female adult native AMARIBAN of IURI village.
2. Investigate reports that police constables of the GREEN RIVER detachment had burned down native houses in the IURI area.

DURATION OF PATROL : 4 Days.

Left Station : 12/10/54
Returned to Station : 15/10/54

PERSONNEL :

- No. 2198 L/Cpl. SIMON.
- No. 6672 Const. UFER.
- No. 8122 Const. ALIBOK.
- No. 8262 Const. KAMAUJI.
- No. 7383 Const. FALYAN.
- No. 8132 Const. KORO.
- No. 6093 Const. MIYAE.

Interpreter WANIFO.
6 Carriers.
N.M.O. Trained UEC.
1 Personal Servant.

MAP : Tracing, 4 miles to 1 inch, attach.

FUTURE PATROL : No. 2 of 55/54, by P/O. Mr. A.T. Cottle, on 1) Census Revision; and
2) Routine Administration.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea

INTRODUCTION :

About six months ago while this station was without a European officer, two natives from the IURI area brought in to the station the information that at least five male natives from hamlets beyond IURI had attacked and wounded a female native named AMARIBAR from IURI village. Corporal MABUNDAMERI, the NCO in charge of the station at that time, sent out four constables, allegedly to arrest the attackers and bring in the injured woman. The police brought the woman back to the hospital here but failed to find the wanted men.

Four houses were burned by the petrol's company, which consisted of Constables WAREK, MUGALONG, GUAL and YUGO, and also five carriers from the station carrier line. This fact was casually mentioned to me by IURI natives only three weeks ago when I was making further inquiries into the shooting incident.

A state of hostility now exists between two groups of the one tribe which, before the shooting, were evidently friendly. The destruction of the houses by the police patrol has aggravated the strained relationships.

The District Commissioner was informed of the facts, and he instructed immediate investigation into the action taken by the police.

The patrol, reported now, departed with the hope of arresting the men who attacked the woman AMARIBAR, to enable all aggrieved and aggrieving parties receive their due rewards in conjunction and at once, effecting realisation among the backward people involved of the ways and well-meaning of the government.

DIARY :

Tuesday 12th October:

- 0909 hours - Left Station and walked west along the Kunal for half an hour then turned NW towards Mount IURI. Track followed was well-cleared and flat, with several small gravel-bedded streams.
- 1230 hours - Lunched beside MU Creek at the foot of Mount IURI, where the track is no longer cleared and the undergrowth is heavy.
- 1400 hours - On again for 15 minutes up the bed of the MU Creek, thence commenced climb on to and up along an easy-ascending ridge. At four o'clock climbing became difficult up sharp pinches near the summit, one place being so steep it was devoid of timber.
- 1700 hours - Reached summit. Descended then around the side of a spur heading north. Country very rough and track almost non-existent.
- 1750 hours - Camped near a very small creek. Carrying sites not easy to find here.

Wednesday 13th October:

- 0900 hours - Broke camp and headed generally NNW around mountain-side to arrive at large new garden on north face of spur we had followed.
- 1110 hours - Arrived at IURI NO. 1 village of two houses. Rested and lunched. People friendly and plenty of food offered for sale.

Wednesday 13th Continued:

- 1345 hours - Left IURI and descended exceptionally steep ridge to a small creek. Camped where we were well out of sight of the garden hamlets to the north.
Many people from IURI village followed patrol down with food we'd purchased. All were anxious to accompany patrol but were sent back with the exception of two men to be employed as guides. We learned then that one of the wanted men was seen near IURI only an hour before we arrived and that we had probably been seen by him.
- 2300 hours - Gelf, four carriers and six police departed in bright moonlight to surprise arrest the wanted men, who were thought to be at a hamlet about a mile away. Climbed and descended many steep, heavily-timbered ridges and spurs, following a track rather treacherous in places.

Thursday 14th October:

- 0230 hours - Arrived at the hamlet after 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours of hard going. Split into two even parties and closed the place. Almost deserted, no-one there.
En route to this house we had seen garden places on opposite mountain faces also visible from IURI. Though not far away by crow-flight it would take another day's walking to get there. ~~Our~~ Our guides believed that we had been seen and the people had fled further north.
- 0630 hours - Arrived back at base camp.
- 1330 hours - Returned through IURI Village to a high point on the track followed yesterday and camped. Approximately 70 people, men women and children, visited camp to sell food. Lulusi of IURI arrived from AUIA Village. Took statements of two men who witnessed the burning of the houses. One man unable to accompany patrol home because of an injured leg, so decided to send for both when required. SEE SUMMARY.

Friday 15th October:

- 0700 hours - Broke camp.
- 1100 hours - After gradual ascent arrived at Mount IURI summit.
- 1215 hours - Lunched at MU Creek after one hour's descent.
- 1345 hours - Got out SE over level country along excellent track for station.
- 1615 hours - Arrived at Station.

BND OF DIARY

MAGISTERIAL :

There were at least five witnesses to the burning of four of the houses, and seven witnesses to the burning of three. Statements of the two IURI natives have been recorded, and five compound carriers are readily available at a moment's notice.

The people who suffered were not contacted, having fled further north in fear of arrest for the attack on the woman, no doubt. An axe and a knife ~~was~~ left at the vacant house visited, and their IURI neighbours were asked to convey to them that the government was anxious to make further compensation for their loss, as well as punish those guilty of the attack on the woman, and restore peace and goodwill to their area. I asked them to remind the guilty ones of the penalty of the government and the discomfort they will experience if they flee the area every time there is a patrol there.

The woman AMARIEAE has the reputation of being a witch, and is believed to have caused the death of several young children as well as the death of a man at TOWA, who died during a visit of hers to that hamlet. She was attacked at TOWA in retaliation for his death. The IURIS were told to convey also to her attackers that sorcery was punishable by law, and that they had 'talk' too against this woman.

The IURIS seemed rather impressed by the straight talk, and the Lulua said quite emphatically that he believed the wanted men would present themselves to the government when they learned of their rights and the laws designed for their well-being. Having heard this from a native of the area (and a rather forceful one at that) I will not be greatly surprised if they do come in. I would like to give them the opportunity of doing so, because the area has rarely been patrolled and a patrol of purely a police nature into the district would cause fear and false impressions which would not be easily erased by future patrols no matter what their purpose. First impressions stick, as the saying goes.

The nature of the country is favourable to the hunted. A patrol of a large enough detachment of police to enable splitting into three or four parties could arrest men these men, but the patrol would be a long and arduous one. It would probably be led into previously uncontacted villages where it would cause nothing but terror to the people and detriment to the aims of the government.

NATIVE AFFAIRS :

There is a great contrast between the behaviour of the IURIS when they come down to the station and when they are met in their own area. They seem on edge here when they come down to sell food and are not at all conversant. It must be remembered that it was only a few years ago when they fought bitterly with these Benik folk on the flats. At home they were good to know. Very talkative, friendly, helpful and happy.

A few weeks ago I gave the Lulua two half axes to help in the clearing of the forest for this second garden. The people who have benefited to date made obvious their appreciation, and talked of the bigger and better gardens they are making which will produce 'kaiwai plenty'. I hope to be able to provide them with a variety of European seeds when they are received from the Department of Agriculture.

They seem to have a strict code of living which does not allow capricious behaviour. They take a very dim view of burning another man's house and slashing his garden down, no matter what his crime. "We only fight", they

said more than once. No complaints other than this shooting incident have been brought in for hearing since my term at GREEN RIVER began, which means that nothing of a more serious nature has occurred, anyway.

The people of IURI NO. 1 have now real fear of the people to their north, since the police visited the area. They now accuse their neighbours of spreading poison about their houses and hunting areas. We used as few of the IURIS as possible as guides (2) to disassociate our cause from the vendetta.

During the first day out from the station, as we climbed Mount IURI, we came to a stick across the track at chest height. To it was tied a green fern frond which pierced an orange berry of a tree. Our interpreter said it was probably a 'keep out' sign. I enquired about it at IURI and they said they knew nothing of it. That was the first indication that the people around TOMO knew we were on our way. They had plenty of time to escape into the hills beyond.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS :

Only the one village was visited, apart from that one found empty. The Lulual there is a intelligent and forceful character, but has little idea of his role as a government official. However, he intends to collect the surrounding hamlets into one village, the site of which he has marked already, and intends to build a rest house for the Kisp and the police.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL :

Dress : The men wear nothing. A few have laplaps now but they are worn only when a visiting patrol is about. The women wear string XXXX skirts at knee length. Some men wear halo type headgears made from cassowary plumes, but they are not common.

Houses : The houses at IURI are communal types built about six feet off the ground. Sago midrib walls extend down to the ground, so that the area under the house is itself a room. This room is used only when the house is being attacked. I would imagine people would be safer upstairs, where the distance between them and the attackers is greater. It is possibly used for other things, storing of wood for example.

Food : Food is plentiful even now, when the seasonal gardens are not yet bearing. Sago is scarce, and the staple seems to be banana. Taro is grown in plenty, and yams too. The gardens we saw are large and well cleared.

ROADS AND BRIDGES :

Beyond the turnoff to AUTIA at the foot of Mount IURI the tracks seen and followed are very poor indeed. Roots are a nuisance where it's flat, a Godsend where it's steep. Sometimes even our guides lost the way. Without them, when we walked at night especially, we would have gone astray often. IURI natives say they will cut a road through to link up with AUTIA's effort when they have built their new village and rest houses.


A. N. GELLE, P/O.

ROYAL PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEA CONSTABULARY

Lance Corporal SIMUN, No.4215.

A reliable NCO. Worked well.

Constable MUYAE, No.6093.

Steady type. Experienced and soberly influences the younger constables.

Constable KORO, No.8122.

Not easy to assess. Worked satisfactorily.

Constable AINEOK, No.8122.

Average in ability and performance.

Constable PALITAK, No.7383.

Efficient, and intelligent.

Constable KANGARU, No.8232.

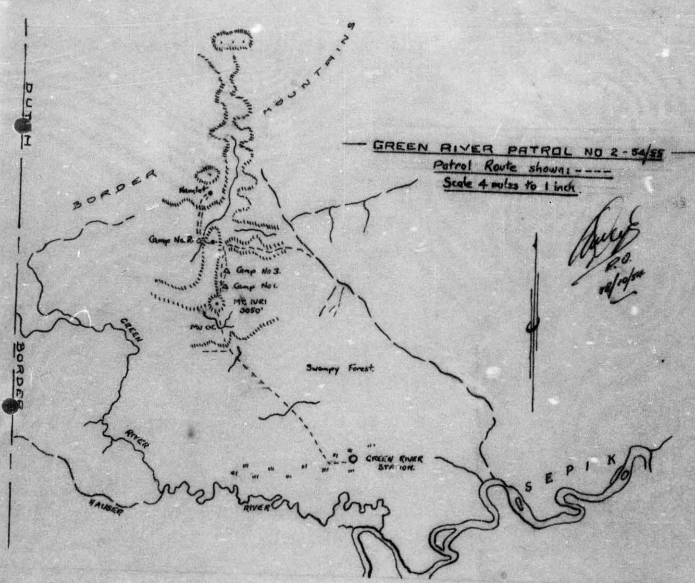
Cheerful type and energetic. Gets well: like most Chimbus.

Constable UFER, No.6672.

Performed his duties well. Not a quick thinker, but works hard and is popular with everyone.



A.M. GYLE, P/O.
Officer of R.P. & N.G.C.



GREEN RIVER PATROL NO 2-54/55

Patrol Route shown by ----

Scale 4 miles to 1 inch

Handwritten signature
R.O.
1/1/55

BORDER

BORDER

MOUNTAINS

BORDER

Camp No. 1

Camp No. 2

Camp No. 3

Camp No. 4

Mud's

3000'

Summy Forest

GREEN RIVER STA 101

SEPIK RIVER

YAMBER

SEPIK RIVER



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of GREEN RIVER, Sepik District Report No. 3 of 54/55

Patrol Conducted by A. M. GYLE, Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled TURI Area, BORDER MOUNTAINS

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans No.

Natives 29

Duration—From 21/11/1954 to 1/12/1954

Number of Days 12

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NMO Only

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 12/10/1954

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

Map Reference Sketch Map, 2 miles to the inch, attached

Objects of Patrol 1) Contact people living north of MIGILIMOK and
2) compensate them for houses and articles they lost when police
burned their houses earlier in the year.

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

Stead- Smith
District Commissioner

7/12/19

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

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

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

Personal File Noted 11/1/55, a.

pub

30-II-861

4th January, 1955

The District Commissioner,
Sodok District,
BENGAL.

Patrol Report, GREEN RIVER No. 2 of 1954/55

The Receipt is acknowledged of the above-mentioned Report submitted by Mr. A. H. Gayle, Patrol Officer in charge Green River Patrol Post, following his further Patrol to the Turid area.

Mr. Gayle has, on this at times arduous Patrol, successfully regained contact with this small population and made such compensation as was necessary. This action should ensure a good reception for the next Patrol to visit this area and others contiguous to it, provided care and commonsense is again used in its approach to these primitive and backward people.

A.A. Roberts
Director.

(PA) En 51/55

ul

30/11/261

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



In Reply
Please Quote
No.P.R. GREEN RIVER
No. 3/54-55/10's

District Headquarters,
Sepik District,
WEWAK, 29th December, 1954.

The Director,
Department of District Services
and Native Affairs,
PORT MORESEY

Patrol Report No. 3/54-55 Green River
Mr. A.M. Geyle, Patrol Officer

For information please.

This completes the IURI affair, of which
so much has been written.

I visited Green River subsequent to Mr.
Geyle's completion of this patrol and before
receipt of this Report and all is well.

Mr. Geyle shows sound judgment and common
sense in his remarks under native affairs. The
patrol achieved a very useful purpose and was
ably carried out.

(S. ELLIOTT-SMITH)
District Commissioner

Copy to O.I.C. GREEN RIVER.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea

PATROL REPORT NO. 3 of 54/55.

PATROL REPORT BY : A. M. GEYLE, Patrol Officer.

TO : IURI Area, Forder Mountains.

OBJECTS OF PATROL : 1. Contact the inhabitants of the hamlets immediately north of MIGILIMOK (IURI NO.1); and
2. Compensate them for losses they sustained when GREEN RIVER police burned their houses early in the year.

DURATION OF PATROL : 12 Days
Left Station : 21/11/54
Returned to Station : 1/12/54

PERSONNEL : L/Cpl. REWAI, No.2045
Const. KAMGARU, No.8262
Const. PALITAK, No.7383
Const. MODZIP, No.8477
Const. MONI, No.8428

N.M.O. SALATIN of PHD
Interpreter MANGO of AMARU
Average 20 Carriers
NAMEOIBO of TEGIRABU
One Personal Servant

MAP : Tracing, 4 miles to the inch, attached.

PREVIOUS PATROL : No.2 of 54/55, by myself, to investigate reports of police burning native houses.

.....

Territory of Papua and New Guinea

INTRODUCTION :

The purpose of this patrol was to contact the people directly to the north of MIGILIMOK (IURI NO.1) and compensate them 1) for four houses burned by a police patrol from GREEN RIVER earlier this year;

2) for articles destroyed in the fires and a semi-decomposed body; and

3) for damage done to gardens and for items pilfered from the houses.

The people were neither seen nor contacted on the last patrol and so a man named NAMBOIBO of TEGIRAEU was recalled from a contract as labourer with the administration to assist the patrol to this end.

DIARY :

Saturday 20th November:

Three police and twelve carriers sent to base of MT. IURI three hours walk away with cargo. Constable KANGARU returned late afternoon with carriers whilst two police made camp near OO CREEK.

Sunday 21st November:

- 1110 hours - Self departed with 14 carriers, Constable KANGARU and two more police.
- 1140 hours - Left kunai and followed well-cleared and level track through medium forest.
- 1425 hours - Arrived at camp at OO CREEK. Signed on eight AUIA natives as carriers. Attempted to hear oil company radio schedule on personal set without success so prepared to return to station. (Patrol Officer Mr. M. BRIGHTWELL was long overdue rejoining oil party after visit to GREEN RIVER STATION and I wished to hear him safe before leaving station radio unmanned.)
- 1835 hours - Returned to station with Constable PALITAK and personal servant.
- 2135 hours - Arrived at station.

Monday 22nd November:

- 0900 hours - Left station after contacting oil company.
- 1150 hours - Arrived at camp at OO CREEK. Rest of patrol already moved on, having been instructed to make a camp beyond summit of MT. IURI.
- 1220 hours - Followed OO CREEK for ten minutes then commenced climb up mountain. Track uncleared from here on.
- 1615 hours - Arrived at summit of mountain.
- 1810 hours - After gradual descent round side of spur arrived at camp erected by police and carriers not long arrived there. Three native women with cargo for ~~sale~~ sale. Heavy rain during night.

Tuesday 23rd November:

- Raining until 9 a.m. Police and carriers spent day clearing bush to dry out blankets, clothes and cargo, and erecting better shelter. Very cold. Probable altitude 2,500 feet above sea level.
- 1830 hours - Constable UFER arrived at camp with mail and boots from station. People in during afternoon with bananas, tulip leaf and a little sago for sale.

Wednesday 24th November:

- 0900 hours - Broke camp.
- 0945 hours - Arrived at MIGILIMBOK (IURI NO.1). Talked with people and rested one hour.
- 1045 hours - Descended steep slope to river, then up and over a ridge and down to PANANDOMIK, arriving at 1250 hours. Previously a hamlet, now a garden only. Camped on a narrow strip of near-flat ground near creek below. Inspected charred remains of posts of two houses burned by police patrol. About twenty men and ten women in with food for sale during the afternoon. Noticeable absence of children. Camp life was of great interest to the local natives. Rain at night.

Thursday 25th November:

At PANANDOMIK. Constables UFER and MONI returned to station, the latter to return with ten new carriers from AMBUNTI, and more rice and meat. NAMBOIBO sent out to gather local natives and bring them in. He returned with twelve men and five women almost immediately. Paid MERRIRI for house he lost. Late afternoon forty natives from a place called WUVLUWU near the Dutch Border. Said to be two day's travel West, but not in Dutch Territory. Relatives of man whose body was incinerated in fire (NABUNG) paid compensation before about 70 natives.

Friday 26th November:

- 0815 hours - Self, two constables and Interpreter MANGO set out to visit sites, other two burned houses. Followed down KASIMBURU CK. ten minutes then turned North and climbed steeply up narrow gorge to arrive at WARUMEK at 0845 hours. Inspected stumps of destroyed house and surrounding garden. Took bearings of surrounding points and places.
- 0855 hours - Left WARUMEK and climbed over steep mountain and descended into deep valley.
- 0935 hours - Arrived at TOMOMWIK, scene of fourth burning. Inspected remains.
- 0945 hours - Set out for base camp, along a steep but easier track. Growth here prolific.
- 1025 hours - Passed BOGARAMI hamlet, where two women and three children shrieked into the bush at the sight of us.
- 1100 hours - Arrived at base camp. More people visited camp during afternoon with bananas, tulip leaf and sugarcane for sale.

Saturday 27th November:

- 0810 hours - Broke camp. Climbed over mountain ridge, then descended to junction of two creeks. Up another ridge to arrive at PUTU (old IURI NO.1) at 1055 hours. Camped. House Kiap and House Police here built by government still standing but not safe. Erected tent.
- 1330 hours - Constable MONI with AMMUNTI carriers and more supplies arrived from GREEN RIVER. Forty natives in with food to sell. Wet night.

Sunday 28th November:

Resting. All people with claims for compensation not yet contacted. More and more visitors each day, with food to sell.

Monday 29th November:

Waited a long time today before any natives at all came in. Then at 3 p.m., in stages like actors following their cues, group after group came into the clearing until there were about 100 natives, where, only five minutes before, there were none. Men and women only though I noticed - no children. Among them were thirty natives from TEGIRABU whom NAMEOLEO led in. TEGIRABU is near Dutch Border.

Paid compensation for articles stolen and burned by police patrol in front of all visitors then addressed them. Large quantities of food purchased. Asked the headmen if they felt like performing a dance and eating our purchases with us to culminate all, and they promised to do so tomorrow morning when they had dressed up.

Tuesday 30th November:

Headmen and a few natives came in and said inclement weather (it was raining) prevented a dance today. They would perform one at the station they said.

- 1035 hours - Broke camp and climbed easy ascent until 1135 hours on West side of Mt. IURI summit, then descended and skirted round the side of a long spur, crossing dozens of small creeks. One large creek very beautiful with tier upon tier of cascading water, cool and clear.
- 1415 hours - Arrived at AUYA hamlet. Station visible from here. Camped in hamlet garden. Level ground hard to find. Another wet night, and cold.

Wednesday 1st December:

- 0705 hours - Set out over numerous small spurs along poor track.
- 0805 hours - Passed through deserted village of four houses, with a rest house for officer and police.
- 0845 hours - Crossed OO CK. Track cleared now.
- 0945 hours - Crossed headwaters of DIGRUS RIVER.
- 1000 hours - Came to a small kunai patch and a deserted village of nine houses.

Wednesday 1st December cont'd;

- 1015 hours - Arrived at OO CK. again near IURI track junction. Lunched.
1140 hours - On again over flat country and along good track. Crossed DIGRUS RIVER at 1300 hours.
1350 hours - Arrived back at GREEN RIVER PATROL POST after half an hour's walk along kunai.

END OF DIARY

NATIVE AFFAIRS :

The nature of the patrol was conducive to good contact. Those men who lost houses after shooting the woman AMARINAE were very chary even when compensation had been paid; but eventually, after many days of our presence, they seemed to credit that the purpose of our patrol was not ulterior and took us on our word. Whether these men are impressed or not, we made an excellent contact with many people who had for miles, from TEGIRABU and KUVLUWU, many of whom had not been to the station at GREEN RIVER.

The strained relationships between the IURI No.1 people and those of IURI No.2 are considerably eased now. At a gathering towards the end of the patrol there were quite a few scenes of mutual joy when friends and relations of the two factions met again after the long feud. The men who attacked AMARINAE said they would make retribution to her for the misdeed and let bygones be bygones. AMARINAE followed the patrol into the area of her own accord and mixed freely with the people we met. She lives at AUYA now.

The population in the southern Border Mountains is, I think, small. The number of people seen by this patrol was not large, and it included natives from as far away as TEGIRABU on the Dutch border line. I suspect that the centre of population of this tribe (which we call the IURIS) is nearer the headwaters of GREEN RIVER, near the border. To the direct north there are no people they told me, and to the north-east there is another tribe entirely, more numerous than the IURIS. They would be the BARIARIS, west and south-west of KWONTARI, visited by P/O Mr. B.A. McCabe in 1952 (P/R No.2 of 32/53) and by P/O Mr. W.W. Crellin in 1951 (P/R No.1 of 51/52) and by CPO Mr. C.E. Terrell (P/R No.4 of 51/52). I hope to cover this area next year.

The IURIS, not being numerous, seem to live peacefully. The advent of the government has given them: 1) excuse to lay down their weapons, and 2) relief, judging by the happy smiles on their faces when they talk about the situation, from constant guard against attack by enemies internal and external to the tribe. In the whole of our wanderings in the area we saw no man armed with bows and arrows.

They remain extremely independent. Constant patrolling will win them over eventually I'm sure, but as yet we are not trusted. We are being pondered, and found unfathomable. I can see the great value of the missions when dealing with people contacted. The degree of the IURIS. In my mind mission teaching and influence now will give balance to their lop-sided idea of our purpose, and then, when that balance is struck, an ounce more of positive administration will see a sudden tip our way. What a great force the two can be, the administration and the missions, when pulling together amidst people like these here at GREEN RIVER. What a needlessly steep pull it is when the two work independently of each other.

The IURIS, unaffected yet by mission presence, will one day see that the laws of the government are Christian laws, that better houses and health and hygiene urged by the government are intricate elements of the Christian way of life propagated by the missions.

The purpose of the patrol was to contact the people who lost houses and articles in them when the police patrol visited their area earlier this year. I am sure that almost all who should be compensated were compensated. However there will probably be more claims, both genuine and spurious, and so the compensation paid is given

here in this report in full, so that future officers will have a compact coverage of what was paid out, and to whom it was paid. SEE APPENDIX 'A'.

ANTHROPOLOGY :

General. Some photographs not yet printed will be appended to the report, with notes on each.

The houses seen were very small and roughly built. They choose to move about from site to site, working gardens and living on them until they are almost eaten out. Then they move on to a new site worked whilst they lived off the previous one, and so on. Land is plentiful with the sparse population, and the mountain slopes seem barely effected by the rotation.

We saw some trees which had been felled with stone axes. They are quickly going out of use now, with the acquisition of steel ones.

Food. Bananas and sugarcane are very plentiful, even now, which the natives say is a lean period between crops. Every day we had ample lots of bananas, sugar cane and tulip leaf brought in. Yams and taro are out of season at the moment, but should be abundant when matured. Sage is scarce there in the mountains where swamps are few, and little was offered for sale.

Trade. "Girigiri plenty" - two words they all know which are repeated so often and so loudly that it could wear one down. When asked what they would like for their food my police and carriers alike would quieten down and await the inevitable reply : "Girigiri - girigiri plenty". The persistency brought roars of laughter without fail, until the IURIS themselves thought it was funny. This shell from the ocean is greatly treasured by these mountain people, and it alone is used to buy brides. A patrol into the mountains without girigiri would not fare as well for food, because tobacco, razor-blades and even small knives have not much appeal at all. I added half a dozen sticks of tobacco to many compensation payments to try and cultivate a liking for it, so that a patrol without girigiri will find some barter at least if ever the shell is unavailable. Razor blades mean little to them. All the men grow beards. Youth fifteen and sixteen sport whiskers no matter how meagre the growth.

Specimens. Nil.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE :

Amazingly good. One boy was treated for yaws and a woman was treated for a sore caused by a cut. Other cases number no more than five:- malaria, minor cuts etcetera. Mosquitoes are almost non-existent in the mountains even down at low altitudes.

A woman from near PJTU was brought in by her husband who thought her misfortune funny. Her arms were covered with great ulcers, inches in diameter, so that she could barely use them. She had been hidden from previous patrols for years. The poor woman followed the patrol home after receiving treatment at our camp. Since she came without the slightest coercion no precautions were taken to see she didn't run away. After a few days treatment at the station aid post she did just that, and is now at home as unhealthy as ever. It was the so-called 'Luluai' of AUYA who accompanied her away from the station I believe.

A child, ill with yaws covering its whole

body, was brought in to camp from AUYA on the last day of the patrol. She was the daughter of the same 'Luluai'. He escorted her home also, before her treatment was half complete.

But the people are, overall, healthy. Their diet is sound, and their physiques show it.

MAGESTERIAL :

Only one complaint was brought to me. NAMBOIBO, who was brought back from work outside to accompany the patrol, complained that a man at his home area had taken his wife during his absence. His village is an uncontacted one as yet and little can be done at present. NAMBOIBO has benefitted from his work with the administration in that he brought the complaint to the patrol. It is hoped that the few IURIS who have gone out to work both before and after this patrol will return with similar advanced ideas for radiation to their brothers.

ROADS AND BRIDGES :

A cleared track runs to the foot of MT. IURI from the station, then veers west for a short distance towards AUYA. In all it would be about seven miles long. In the mountains native pads only are found. The country is extremely rugged and steep north of MT. IURI and these tracks follow the shortest routes between hamlets. Mountain sides depressingly steep are no hindrance to the locals whatsoever, but to a European and his load-carriers they are nightmares. The altitude being low makes climbing doubly hard, and one's lungs seem to burn with the air he inhales.

The people have promised to clear a road from MIGLIMBOK to link up with the AUYA road. Our return through AUYA seemed an easier route by far, and was very little longer if any. MT. IURI summit is skirted to the west and the descent from the mountain ranges down to AUYA is easy and pleasant, with many clear-water streams to break the monotony of the bush. To IURI through AUYA one would miss the hectic climb up the southern face and the poor track through the dense and rugged country between the summit and IURI NO.1.



A. M. GEYLE, P/C.

COMPENSATION PAYMENTS PAID TO NATIVES

To MERIT, m.a. of PANANDOMIK

For (i) One house about 12' x 16';
(ii) One dog;
(iii) Garden damage.

Payment (i) 1 Tomhawk
1 Machete
(ii) 1 12" Knife
1 8" Knife
(iii) 1 Mirror 4" x 6"
1 lb. girigiri shell
1 lb. t mbou shell
1 floral laplap.

To WARAPIN, m.a. of PANANDOMIK

For (i) One house about 10' x 12'
(ii) Garden damage.

Payment (i) 1 Tomhawk
1 Machete
(ii) 1 lb. girigiri shell
1 lb. tambou

To ANGEF-KWISA and YAEUN-KWISA, m.a.s of TOMOMWIK

For One house about 10' x 12'

Payments 2 Tomhawks (One each)
1 lb. girigiri shell ($\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each)

To KIR'PAE, m.a. of WARUMEK

For (i) One house about 20' x 18'
(ii) Garden damage.

Payment (i) 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ Axe
1 Machete
(ii) 1 lb. girigiri shell
1 lb. tambou shell
1 8" knife

To WABAENO and YANGARA, m.a.'s of WARUMEK

For Incineration of body of their brother NABUNG

Payment 2 Tomhawks (One each)
2 12" Knives (One each)
1 lb. girigiri shell ($\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each)

To SINGHUNGWINO, m.c. son of NABUNG

For Incineration of father's body.

Payment 1 Machete

To (i) WOVI'OVAE, f.a. of WARUMEK

(ii) 2nd child of NABUNG

For (i) Incineration of husband's body
(ii) Incineration of father's body

Payment (i) and (ii) combined, since child small:
1 Machete
1 8" Knife
1 Mirror 6" x 4"
1 Floral laplap
1 lb. girigiri shell
1 lb. tambou shell

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COMPENSATION PAYMENTS PAID TO NATIVES

To YAEUN m.a.

For One bundle arrows (4" diam. indicated), 2 Paradise plumes, 1 bow, 1 child's bow and arrows.

Payment 1 Tomhawk, 1 Mirror 4" x 6", 1 lb. girigiri, 1 lb. of tambou, 6 sticks of tobacco, 2 boxes of matches, and 4 razor blades.

To WOVONOWAI, f.a. and wife of YAEUN above.

For 3 new grass skirts and two large and new string bags.

Payment 1 Mirror 6 x 4, 1 lb. girigiri, 1 lb. tambou, 1 machete, 1 12" Knife, 6 sticks of tobacco.

To YANEP, m.a.

For One Paradise plume.

Payment One machete.

To WARAPIN, m.a.

For Two string bags, new and small; one laplap of feathers used for decoration during dancing.

Payment One 8" Knife, 1 Mirror 4 x 6, 3 matches, 6 tobacco.

To WAMAVAE, f.a. wife of WARAPIN above.

For Two small stone adzes, and bark preparations for making grass skirt.

Payment One Tomhawk, 1 lb. girigiri, 6 sticks tobacco.

To YUEUNU, m.a.

For Five string begs (small: 2 large and 2 small), 1 Paradise plume

Payment 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Axe, 1 lb. girigiri, 1 lb. tambou, 1 12" Knife, and 6 sticks tobacco.

To GWOVAE, f.a. wife of YUEUNU above.

For Four string skirts, new ones.

Payment 1 Machete, 1 8" Knife, 1 Mirror 4 x 6, 6 tobacco, 1 lb. girigiri and 1 lb. of tambou.

To TOKOVIA, m.a.

For Two Paradise plumes, 2 bundles of arrows (diam. 4" indic.)

Payment One $\frac{1}{2}$ Axe, 1 lb. girigiri, 1 lb. tambou, 6 tobacco.

To WAREVI, f.a. and wife of TOKOVIA above.

For Two new grass skirts.

Payment One floral laplap, 1 12" Knife, 6 sticks tobacco.

To MIRENDIVA, f.a. wife of MERIT

For Two new grass skirts, 2 medium sized stone adzes.

Payment 1 Tomhawk, 1 mirror 4 x 6, 1 Machete, 1 lb. girigiri, and 6 sticks of tobacco.

To SOAM, m.a.

For Some banana plants lost when KIRIFAE'S garden damaged.

Payment One Tomhawk, 1 Machete, 1 lb. girigiri, 6 tobacco.

N.B. YANEP's wife was present when payment was made and she said she lost nothing. Male adult MERIT who was also present said she lost nothing. He was paid for a house.

AMG.

ROYAL PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEA CONSTABULARY

Lance Corporal BEWAI, No.2045.

A Papuan. Not a strong personality and finds it hard to control his commands, which worries him. Needs plenty of backing. Has weak legs and is therefore not an NCO for patrol work. Tries hard.

Constable PALITAK, No.7383.

An intelligent constable, and reliable.

Constable MONI, No.8428.

Not experienced. May improve. Average intelligence.

Constable MODZIB, No.8477.

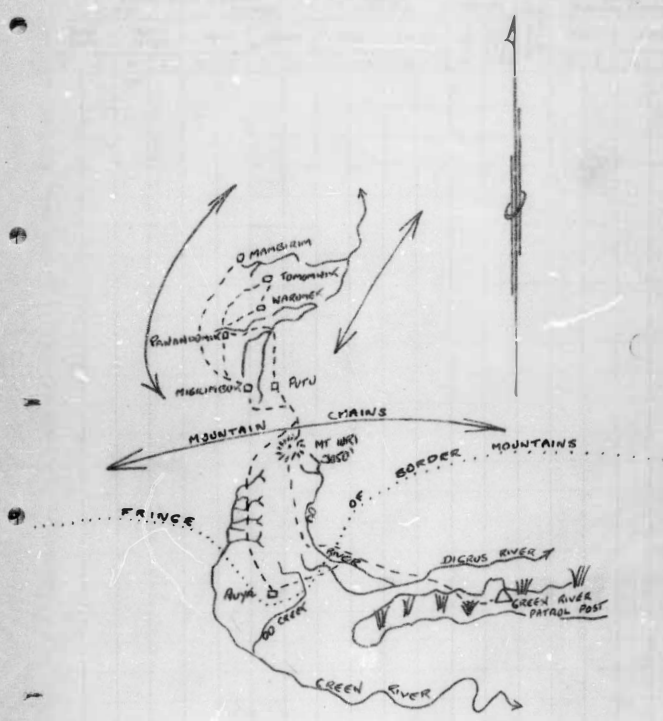
Not experienced. Lazy.

Constable KANGARU, No.8262.

A good policeman, shines on patrol. Works hard. He's a CHIMBU.



A.M. GEYLE, P/O.
Officer of R.P. & N.G.C.



- GREEN RIVER PATROL REPORT NO. 3 - 54/55 -

SKETCH MAP ONLY

Scale : 2 miles to in.

Drawn from personal observations only. Some bearings taken but no traverses made.

Ray G. Gyle

ACT. GYLE, P/O
SIC GREEN RIVER PATROL
 1955

10/12/55.

GREEN RIVER No. of 55/56

By: R.A.Calcutt

To: Green River Headwaters

8

NA- 30-11-19.

MINUTE TO :

His Honour the Acting Administrator,
FOET MORESEBY.

My file NA.30-11-19 together with copy of memorandum dated 28th May, 1956, to the District Officer, Wamak, Sepik District, is forwarded for your Honour's information.

A.A. Roberts

(A.A. Roberts)
Director

28th. May, 1956.

*Noted
RWD
30/5*

*BIF 31/5/56 ✓
18/5/56 ✓
BIF 21/5/56 ✓
21/5/56 ✓
21/5/56 ✓*

CONFIDENTIAL

7
XXXX WA.30-11-19.

28th May, 1956.

The District Officer,
WENAK, SEPIK DISTRICT.

Receipt is acknowledged of your confidential memorandum dated 15th May, 1956, forwarding a special confidential report submitted by the Officer-in-Charge, Green River, and dated 5th May, 1956, (reference GRS.11-5/95).

It is apparent Mr. R.A. Calcutt has made a genuine effort to clear up the alleged murder, and could not have proceeded further under the circumstances. In fact, this is about as much as can be expected of a young officer working under the conditions prevailing at Green River.

I view with some concern your instruction given to Mr. Calcutt to proceed on a lengthy solo patrol with a view to settling the people, and to apprehend those concerned in the alleged murder.

I have noted that Mr. Calcutt was accompanied by one H.C.O. and five constables on the present trip. The nature of the country and the people is difficult, particularly if, as he says, the people are nomadic and scattered in small groups.

It may be necessary to tackle this problem more leisurely by a series of short patrols ensuring that no hostile elements are used as carriers when entering previously unvisited areas.

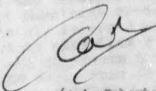
The requisite number of police should be available, and I consider that at least eight constables in addition to one H.C.O. are necessary. Whether a permanent line of carriers would be necessary is a matter for local determination.

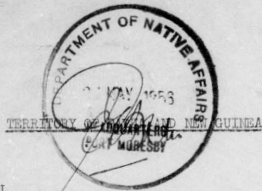
I further noted that a scouting party was used and that the patrol, although limited in number, split up when apprehending some people. Whilst such measures may be necessary on occasion, the isolated situation at Green River does not permit any risk to be taken, and Mr. Calcutt should be given precise instructions in this regard.

These matters are raised on the basis that Green River by virtue of its isolation justifies special care to ensure that a patrol, or series of patrols as envisaged, are successful from the outset.

Please convey to Mr. Calcutt my knowledge of the difficult work to be undertaken, and an interest in its progress.

I would like a sketch map to be furnished indicating what is known and what is not known of the area, and incorporating any information concerning population density and trends.


(A.A. Roberts)
Director



36/119

(6)

CONFIDENTIAL

District Headquarters,
Sepik District,
MEPAK

15th May, 1956.

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY

Attached is a copy of a Memorandum, together with statements of an incident in the Green River area.

I have personally visited Green River and discussed thoroughly with the Officer concerned the circumstances of the incident. He has been instructed to proceed on a lengthy, slow patrol through the area with a view to settling the people and to apprehend those concerned in the alleged murder.

J. E. Atchison

(T. G. ATCHISON)
DISTRICT OFFICER

Att/

(5)

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Ref: GKE 11-5/96.

Green River Patrol Post,
SEPIK District.

5th. May, 1956.

The District Officer,
Sepik District,
W E W A K.

Report of Visit to Green River Headwaters in
Attempt to Apprehend Three Alleged Murderers.

On Thursday, 19th. April, 1956, the male native Koviana, Umemo of Terauwi village in the Western Iuri area reported to me that about ten days ago his female cousin P~~ang-gai~~/Iabuwar of Terauwi, a lass of about twelve years of age, had been murdered by three natives, Aliyarap and Dag-gvaviau of Nonobarap and Umemo of Tabanofrimai. He reported that after an argument in one of the Terauwi hamlets, the girl was shot by three arrows and died some hours later.

Accordingly on Wednesday, 25th. April, 1956, I left Green River station with L/Corporal Siamn and five Constables, and interpreter and an NMO, carriers and the native Koviana as guide. We walked West from the station to the end of the kunal and then through the bush to the Green River. We followed this river for some time and then out through the bush to ~~SAIT~~ hamlet where we set up camp. We left there the next morning and proceeded to the Green River, which was crossed and then through the bush to TAMINI hamlet, where camp was made. These camps had been made in hamlets of Terauwi village and we were now fairly close to the hamlet where our guide told us that the three suspects were living. A scouting party of two Constables, the interpreter and the Iuri guide was sent to this hamlet and reported back in about two hours time that the hamlet was occupied.

Self, L/Cpl. Siamn and four Constables, four Vanimo carriers, the interpreter and guide left camp at first light the next morning and made for this hamlet, near which the party split into two groups so as to come upon it from two directions. However a woman saw some of the party and gave the alarm, and one male adult, one youth and one girl eluded us. Three men, three women, a youth and a number of children were held after a short struggle, and told the object of our visit. The man who had escaped now retrieved his bow and arrows from another house and circled the party covered by the bush yelling abuse and defiance. Through the interpreter he was urged to come in and join the rest but he would not do so. Eventually from about 100 yards away, he shot one arrow at the party which narrowly missed Constable Palitak and the interpreter. It would have hit one or other of them had they not dodged aside. Palitak and I then fired one shot each from our rifles above the trees on the ridge top half up which he was standing and this sufficiently disconcerted the savage to prevent him firing any more arrows. Our guide who had been hiding in the bush now rejoined the party and seemed most surprised when he saw whom we had arrested. Apparently one of the women was his sister and none of the three alleged murderers was present. Questioning revealed that they had left the immediate area about a week previously and had gone to the Iuri Mountains area, some distance to the North. The natives were immediately released and good relations were soon established. In an effort to normalize relations, I asked them if they had any food to sell and the women quickly collected four large baskets of taro, yams and sago. They then accompanied us back to the camp where the food was purchased. Our arrow shooting friend followed the party at a distance but despite requests would not join it because he apparently regretted his impetuosity in firing on us.

Camp was broken and we returned to the Green River, which was crossed and then through the bush to KARAM hamlet, where the body of our guide's relative was suspended on a platform between two tree stumps, and was wrapped in leaves, which were unwrapped showing the body to have completely decomposed, leaving only the skeleton. This did not correspond with our guide's story that the girl had been killed ten days before he reported to me and on further questioning he admitted that he had been too frightened to report earlier ~~LEAVING~~ lest he incur the murderers' wrath, and it transpired that the girl had really been dead for at least two months.

We then returned to the Green River and camped on its banks, where the next day affirmed statements were taken from three witnesses of the murder. Other witnesses could not be located at that stage but copies of the three statements are appended for your information. The next day camp was broken and the party returned to the station after seven hours' walking.


In its object to arrest the three murderers the patrol was a complete failure - it is doubtful if we were ever within fifteen miles of them, but in view of other considerations, the visit had some successful features. One was that the area visited had never been patrolled before and insight was gained into the semi-nomadic life of these natives. They apparently live in communities of about twenty persons and move around between three or four garden/hamlets as one garden follows another into bearing. Very few have even the remotest idea of pidgin and there are very few steel implements.

At ~~our~~ our last camp on the Green River, I spoke at length to about sixty natives on the aims and objects of the Government in the area. When I mentioned that I intended to make a patrol of the complete Juri/Auia/Borier Mountains area, they were quite pleased and said they would bring plenty of food to my camps, but they were most disconcerted when I mentioned that I hoped to visit every hamlet where people were living. Apparently they like to keep their movements as secret as possible, and are suspicious in this regard even towards the Government.

Some very bad cases of yaws were seen but despite all my entreaties they refused to come to the native hospital for treatment. Their distrust of the Aid Post facilities will be a hard nut to crack. Apart from the cases of yaws seen, the general health appeared quite good.

As only sufficient food had been brought for a short patrol, no further attempt to arrest the three alleged murderers was made, but it was made clear to the natives that the Government would no longer tolerate murder and tribal fighting and every effort would be made to catch the culprits.

For your information, and consideration, please.


.....
(R.A. Calcutt)
B.I.C., GREEN RIVER.

Territory of New Guinea.

(3)

pauwiri (M.N.) of Terauwi, Grew. River, Sepik, on affirmation, states:-

My name is pauwiri. I am a male native of Terauwi village. About two months ago at ~~TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA~~ at Tawini hamlet of Terauwi village, I was staying with some other Terauwi natives. One night when we were all in the house, there was an argument between the father of the girl, Putang-gai, and three other men over another woman who had died, because they alleged Putang-gai had worked sorcery against her. Two of them were Aliyarap and Umeno. The third was either Kwominarabal of Terauwi or Ung-gawie of Monobalap. I saw Aliyarap shoot the deceased from the verandah of the house and Umeno shot her from the ground. There was a third arrow which hit Putang-gai but I did not see who fired it. Putang-gai fell to the floor of the house and died in a few hours. Tsugambiru pulled the arrows from her body. One hit her near the breastbone, one near the navel, and one behind and just above the right hip. Putang-gai died just before dawn. That is all I have to say.

Pauwiri: His Mark.

Taken and affirmed before me at Terauwi in the said Territory this twenty eighth day of April, 1956.

M.C.N.A..

Territory of New Guinea.

(2)

Yebamia (m.n.) of Terauwi village, Green River, Sepik, on affirmation, states:-

My name is yebamia. I am a native of Terauwi village. Some time ago, I can't place how many months, at Tamini hamlet of Terauwi village, I was staying with some other men and women. A young girl said to Iabusar, the father of Pitang-gai, that the latter had used sorcery against another young girl. An argument then ensued between the men, ~~and~~ Aliyarap got his bow and arrows and went up onto the verandah of the house. Putang-gai was standing near the door of the house and Aliyarap shot her there. She was also shot by two other arrows, but I did not see who fired them. Putang-gai died some time later. That's all I have to say.

Yebamia: His Mark.

Taken and affirmed before me at Terauwi in the said Territory twenty eighth day of April, 1956.

M.C.N.A..

①

Territory of New Guinea.

Nung-gunei (f.n.) of Terauwi village, Green River, Sepik. ~~IX~~ on affirmation, states:-

My name is Nung-gunei. I am a female native of Terauwi village. About two months ago. I was staying with some other natives at Tamini hamlet. One night there was an argument over whether a girl called Putang-gai had used sorcery against another young girl. I saw Aliyarap shoot Putang-gai and another man below shot her too. There was a third arrow fired, but I did not see who fired the last two. Putang-gai died some time later ~~after~~. This is all I have to say

Nung-gunei: Hw Mark.

Taken and affirmed before me at Terauwi in the said Territory this twenty eighth day of April, 1956.

M.C.N.A..