

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & PUBLIC RECORDS SERVICES
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: WEST SEPIK

STATION: GREEN RIVER

VOLUME No: 8

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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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GREEN RIVER

WEST SEPIK

PATROL REPORT

1965/66

Report No: 2 & 3 of 1965-1966

Checked
Nov 10/66



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of... North SEPTEK Report No. 2/65-66
Patrol Conducted by... M. J. LOWE, Cadet Patrol Officer.
Area Patrolled... Green River Local & Iuri C.D. & Part Nagu C.D.
Patrol Accompanied by Europeans... NO
Natives... 6
Duration—From... 2/3/1966 to 15/3/1966
Number of Days... 12
Did Medical Assistant Accompany? ... NO
Last Patrol to Area by—District Services... 3/1965
Medical ... / / 19
Map Reference... Aitape Formil
Objects of Patrol... Local Government Council Elections

Director of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

15/11/1966

E. C. Allen
District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation £.....
Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund £.....
Amount paid from P.E.D.P. Trust Fund

DR

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67-8-54

3rd June, 1966.

District Commissioner,
Sepik District,
BELAK.

GREEN RIVER PATROL REPORT NO.2/1965-66.

Thank you for your memorandum 67-3-14 of 15th April, 1966, together with Mr. Lowe's brief patrol report.

2. Mr. Lowe has apparently accomplished the task set him and submitted a brief report on how the Greer River Local Government Council elections proceeded.

(J.K. McCarthy)
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TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



MIGRA
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Telegrams.....
Our Reference... 67-3-14
If calling ask for
Mr.....

Department of District Administration,
Sepik District,
WENAK.

15th April, 1966.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

GREEN RIVER PATROL REPORTS
NOS. 7 AND 8

Attached please find copies of reports on the Green River Local Government Elections.

All the relevant particulars have been forwarded to the Commissioner for Local Government.

E. G. Hicks
E. G. HICKS
District Commissioner.

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C O P Y

MICRO	
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Sub-District Office,
AMANAB,
Sepik District.

42-2-12

22nd February, 1966.

Mr. Michael Lowe,
Cadet Patrol Officer,
YANIMO.

Dear Mr. Lowe,

GREEN RIVER PATROL NUMBER 2-1965/66
INLAND COUNCIL AREA.

As arranged with the Deputy District Commissioner and your Assistant District Commissioner, please prepare to move to Green River on 26th February in order to depart on the above specified patrol on the 28th February.

The sole object of this patrol is for you to conduct the second council elections of the inland sector of the Green River Local Government council area. You will be accompanied by Mr. Benson Gegeyo, Local Govt. Assistant, the Council's messenger, and four members of the R.P. & N.G.C. The patrol should be of approximately twenty-five days duration but polling must be concluded within twenty-one days excluding Sundays. You will visit 20 villages and conduct elections for 12 wards.

Please read carefully the last Green River election and patrol reports particularly Amanab Patrol No. 7-64/65, copy of which is at Green River. As far as possible your patrol route should follow that previously taken.

This is your first solo patrol and one to an area new to you. As it is concerned with local government elections I do not wish you to engage in other administrative activity, e.g. settlement of disputes, at this stage. Should any matters other than those directly concerned with the elections arise you should refer the participants to either Amanab or Green River.

Please take with you Vol 1 of the Departmental Standing Instructions and the Electoral Directions and refer to them frequently. The Officer-in-Charge at Green River will give you adequate verbal instructions prior to your departure.

I wish you a successful patrol,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) D.B. MOORHOUSE.
Assistant District Commissioner.

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PREAMBLE

STATION: GREEN RIVER
SUB-DISTRICT: AMANAB
DISTRICT: NORTH SEPIK

PATROL CONDUCTED BY: M.J. LOWE, Cadet Patrol Officer.

AREA PATROLLED: GREEN RIVER LOCAL and IURI CENSUS DIVISIONS and PART OF THE NAGU CENSUS DIVISION.

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING THE PATROL: Mr. G. GEGEYO, Local Government Assistant,
 5 members R.P. & N.G.E.

DURATION OF PATROL: 2nd March 1966 to 15th March 1966 (inc).

OBJECT OF THE PATROL: LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

MAP REFERENCE: AITAPE FORMIL.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

DAIRY

JOINT ELECTION PATROL NO. - 65/66

GREEN RIVER

- 2/3/66 WEDNESDAY. Departed GREEN RIVER Patrol Post 0935 Hrs. For AUIA .Arrived AUIA 1145 Hrs. Conducted elections For AUIA and USART.Slept AUIA.
- 3/3/66 THURSDAY Departed AUIA 0815 for UIRI1.Arrived UIRI + 1245.Conducted elections at UIRI 1. Slept UIRI 1.
- 4/3/66 FRIDAY. Departed UIRI 1 for FONGWINAM arrived at FONGWINAM 1110. Conducted election. Slept FONGWINAM.
- 5/3/66 SATURDAY. Conducted elections for MOWGO and TENGIRABU at FONGWINAM . Slept FONGWINAM.
- 6/3/66 SUNDAY. Observed and slept FONGWINAM.
- 7/3/66 MONDAY. Departed FONGWINAM 0840, arrived PANANG-GAN 1040. Departed PANANG-GAN 1115, arrived KAMBRIAP 1340.Slept KAMBRIAP.
- 8/3/66 TUESDAY. Conducted elections for KAMBRIAP.Departed for TERAUMI 1315, arrived TERAUMI 1515. Time lost at flooded GREEN River. Slept TERAUMI.
- 9/3/66 WEDNESDAY. Departed TERAUME for IBURU 0825 arrived IBURU 1210. Conducted IBURU elections. Slept IBURU.
- 10/3/66 THURSDAY. Conducted elections for MINIANURI and SIMIA at IBURU. Departed IBURU 1120 arrived GREEN RIVER Patrol Post 1320. Slept GREEN River.
- 11/3/66 FRIDAY. Departed GREEN River 0900 by tractor for DIERU arrived 0940. Conducted elections. Slept DIERU.
- 12/3/66 SATURDAY. Departed DIERU 0820 Reached the FARINCI River 0335.Were ferried across in canoes.Arrived OGRU 1050 .Conducted elections for OGRU also RAMBI-BUSA-AUYA who were present. Slept OGRU

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

13/3/66 SUNDAY.

Observed day and slept OGRU.

14/3/66 MONDAY.

Departed OGRU 0825 reached PARINGI River
1040 were ferried across in canoes. Arrived
DIERU 1055 .Returned to GREEN River Patrol
Post by tractor which arrived at noon.
Slept at GREEN River.

15/3/66 TUESDAY.

Departed GREEN River 0825 arrived SAMANAI
1045. Conducted elections. Departed SAMANAI
1210 arrived GREEN River Patrol Post 1405.
Slept GREEN River.

END OF PATROL

INTRODUCTION.

Due to the size of the Green River Local Government Council area, it was found necessary to mount two patrols. To complete the elections in the set period, Amanab Patrol No. 2 covered the Council area inland from the Sepik (AUIA, USARI, IURI 1 & 2, TENCIRABU, MONGO, FONGWINAM, PANANG-GAN, KAMBRIAP, TERAUHI, IBURU, MINTABURU, SIMIA, DIBRU, SUGAMURU, OGRU, RAWGI, BUSA, AUYA, SAMANAI Wards).

TYPE AND DURATION PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

At a General Council Meeting on the 7th January, 1966, an announcement was made that a new election would be held in March of this year.

At a further meeting on 2nd February, 1966, those present were informed that the new elections would commence on the 1st of March 1966. Patrol was of 12 days duration.

Mr. James GEGEYO accompanied the writer's patrol as the second officer for the elections.

In each village prior to the elections a short talk was given, explaining that this was the second election for the Green River Council area, and that nominations were to be put forward for the election of Councillor for the coming term. It was explained that the Councillor could be nominated or that a new candidate could be nominated. If the Councillor was nominated, it was explained that he did not stay in the position from that time on. It was explained what was required of a Councillor.

Choice of nominations and votes was entirely individual. No evidence of pre-election campaigning by candidates was found.

MODE OF ELECTION.

After the pre-election talk was given the people were asked to nominate candidates. The candidates names were recorded on the ballot papers and the voting was commenced.

The method of voting was such that the eligible voters were grouped in front of the table. Their names were found on the Council Roll of Electors by Mr. GEGEYO. (Roll was compiled before each election). They were asked who their preference was, and I tabulated their vote on their initialled ballot paper, which they then placed in the available ballot box which had been exhibited as empty before the election. At the close of polling, the papers were counted. In most cases a distinct majority was obtained. In the first count, the preference system of counting was not necessary. This system allows for an almost secret ballot with a preferential system.

FEMALE INTEREST IN THE ELECTION.

All candidates nominated were male. However, the female interest was apparent both in their voting and their participation in the nomination of candidates.

ABSENTEEISM.

Some of the few forms of economic activity available is to work on coastal plantations or on Imonda, Amanab, Green River Patrol Posts. The higher percentage of absentees were at Amanab or Green River working as casual labourers. A great number of absentees were at the stations receiving medical treatment. (In most cases the whole family were absent). Due to substantial rain in the area, most rivers were in flood, causing most of the older people to be unable to reach the polling places.

This was evident where there was more than one village in a Ward. A small absenteeism was caused by people being in prison at Green River and Amanab. Absenteeism due to lack of interest and ignorance was probably nil, because of the fact that somebody was sent to all the villages to inform the villagers of the date of our arrival. Sickness and travelling conditions probably prevented some of the people from voting.

ANALYSIS OF STATISTICS.

The area covered by the patrol had a population of 2,361 of whom 1,394 (752 males and 642 females) have their names on the Council Tax Register, which was used at the time of the election. Of the 1,394 persons eligible to vote, 426 were absent at election time, leaving 968 eligible persons who voted. (487 males and 481 females).

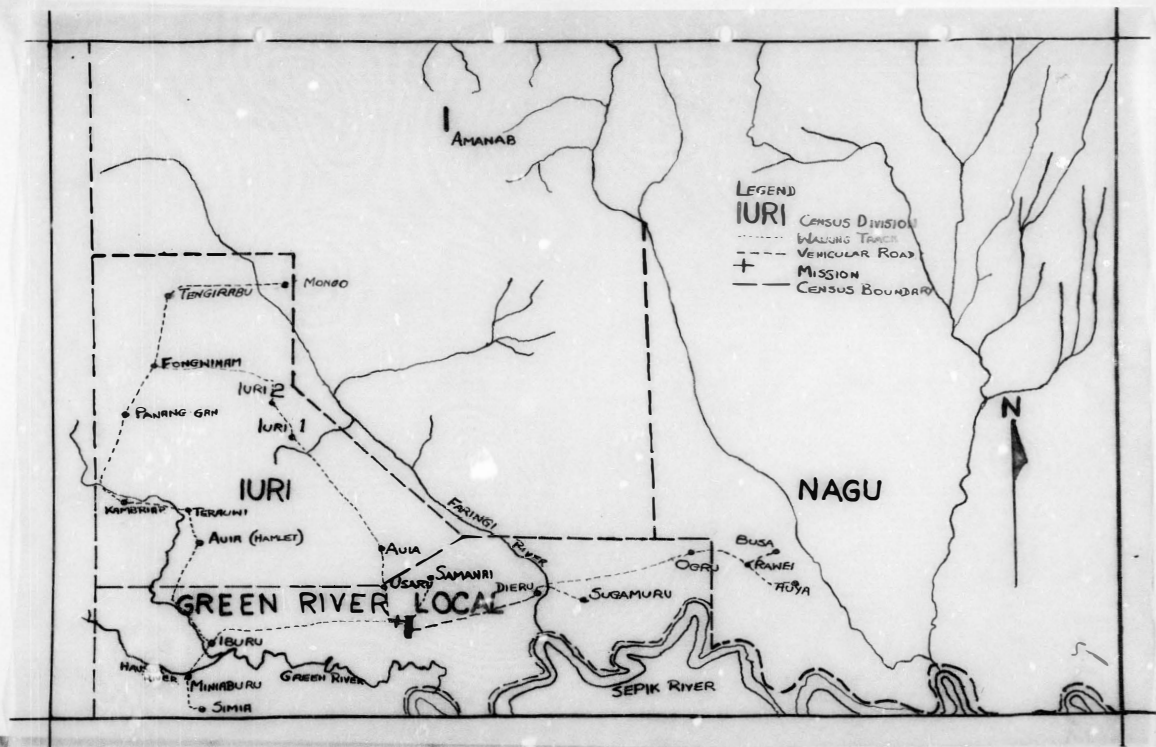
SUMMARY.

The patrol successfully accomplished its aims and found that the idea of the Local Government Council was well received in all villages.

It was noticed that all the successful candidates were quite young men, and that all the older men were content to let the younger men do all the work of the Council.

Of the candidates it was noticed that nearly all those successful had already served one term as Councillors. There were two candidates in every Ward, and the successful candidate in nearly all cases had a clear majority.

M. J. Lowe
M. J. LOWE.
C.P.O.



LEGEND

- IURI CENSUS DIVISION
- WALKING TRACK
- VEHICULAR ROAD
- + MISSION
- CENSUS BOUNDARY

AMANAB

NAGU

IURI

GREEN RIVER LOCAL

IURI 2

IURI 1

FRINGSI RIVER

SEPIK RIVER

GREEN RIVER

TENGIRABU

MONBO

FONGNIMAN

PWANG GAH

KAPIYOBU

TERUKUNI

AUA (HARLET)

AUA

USARI

SAMANRI

DIERU

SUGAMURU

OORJU

BUSA

K'RANET

HOYA

WIBURU

HAR

ER

MINHABURU

GREEN RIVER

SIMA

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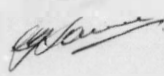
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The Commissioner of Police,
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Kandebu.

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Sub-District Office, Amanab

March 25th. 66

9146. Palika.

25/3/66 12 Days Green River 11ari
2GreenRiver 2Green River
3Naga 3Naga Good Org
Very Good Efficient aniser. M.J.LOWE.



The Commissioner of Police,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Kenedebu.

Sub-District Office, Amanab.

March 25th. 66

9432.

Wan-gui.

25/3/66 12 Days Green River
1 Duri
2 Green River
3 Baga. Good Helpful M.J. LONE.



The Commissioner of Police,
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXX
Kenedebu.

3
Sub-District Office, Amanab.
March 25th. 66

10039 Urawin.

25/3/66 12Days GreenRiver
1Iuri
2GreenRiver
3Nagu Good Co-operative
Efficient M.J.LOWE

M. J. Lowe

B
RAT

The Commissioner of Police,
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Ennedobu.

Sub-District Office, Ammanab.

March 25th. 66

8486

Bulagi.

25/3/66 12 Days Green River 11 mi Green River Good Lazy M.J. LOWE.
3Hagu

at

ORATIC

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Sub-District Office, Asanab,
March 25th 66

11200

Bonahuna

25/3/66 12Days Green River
1Green River
2Furi
3Aga

Good

Enger to
Help. M.J.LONE.

Classified
on 6/10/65



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of.....NORTH SIKPIK..... Report No. [?]35/66.....

Patrol Conducted by.....MR. A. K. TRY.....

Area Patrolled.....AUGUST RIVER CENSUS DISTRICT.....

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans.....R. H. CHISHOLM CPO.....

Natives.....3 MEMBERS RP&NGC.....

Duration—From.....2./3./19.66.....to.....15/3/1966.....

Number of Days.....14 DAYS.....(11 days spent out)

Did Medical Assistant Accompany?.....NO.....

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services.....11./10./19.65.....

Medical6./19.65.....

Map Reference.....May River Foral.....

Objects of Patrol.....ELECTION OF NEW COUNCILORS FOR THE GREEN.....
RIVER LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL.....

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

15/4/1966

E. G. Hicks

District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation £

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund £

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

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67-8-53

2nd June, 1966.

District Commissioner,
WFWAK,
Sepik District.

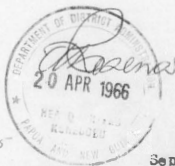
Green River Patrol Report No. 3/1965-66:

Thank you for your memorandum 67-3-14/3715 of 15th April, 1966 together with Mr. Chisholm's patrol report.

2. Mr. Chisholm has made a good first attempt at writing a report, but it has been marred badly by spelling errors.

3. No further comments are necessary.

(J. E. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR.



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67-3-14/87-5

Sepik District,
MORAK.

15th April, 1966.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KORORU.

GREEN RIVER PATROL REPORTS
NO. 3 AND 4

Attached please find copies of reports on the Green River Local Government Elections.

All the relevant particulars have been forwarded to the Commissioner for Local Government.

E. G. Hicks

E. G. HICKS
District Commissioner.

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67-1-10

Sub-District Office,
AMANAB,
Sepik District.

24th March 1966.

The District Commissioner,
Sepik District,
WEWAK.

GREEN RIVER PATROL NO. 3-1965/66
PART AUGUST RIVER CENSUS DIVISION.

Formal report of the above specified patrol submitted by Mr. R. Chisholm C.P.O. is attached hereto. This should be read in conjunction with Green River Memorandum of Patrol No. 3-5/66 submitted by Mr. Patrol Officer Try, and attached correspondence. Mr. Chisholm accompanied Mr. Try on this his first patrol and has prepared this report in the nature of an exercise in observation and description.

The following comments are offered :-

1. Political Situation: the upper Sepik River peoples movement to their sago stands within West Irian are periodic tribal movements that occur during floodings of the main Sepik. Please refer to Green River I/R 3/66.
2. Labour: the matter of over-recruitment has been dealt with and acted upon via your letter of 21st December 1965 to private recruiters in this district.
3. General:
 - the road referred to between IABARU and Green River is in fact a swampy ooduroy walking track.
 - there is one airstrip in the division at IDAM, south of the Sepik River. It is of Sesona standard and operated by the GPMU Mission.
 - the Aid Post at BIVRO (or MAHA) has never been staffed. This matter has previously been raised with the District Medical Officer who has advised that an A.P.O. will be posted there as soon as his staff position permits. At present he is 24 APO's short within this district.
 - the 'Council dinghy' referred to is the 14 ft aluminium hull belonging to the Administration.
4. Presentation. This was Mr. Chisholm's first attempt at writing an official report and he has done a reasonable job. I have discussed with him various spelling errors; sentence construction, over-use of the word 'native'; and the frequent and wrong usage of pidgin expressions. It is expected that his next report will be an improvement.

Forwarded for your action, please.

DB

D.B. Moorhouse
.....
D.B. MOORHOUSE
Assistant District Commissioner.

Encl.

12

Preamble .

	: GREEN RIVER
	: AMANAB
	: NORTH SAPIK
Patrol Number	:
Patrol Conducted By	: Mr. A.K. TRY.
	: D.I.C. GREEN RIVER
Area Patrolled	: AUGUST RIVER
	: CENSUS DISTRICT
Patrol Accompanied By	: S.H. CHISHOLM CPO.
	: 3 MEMBERS RANGEC.
Duration of Patrol	: 2/3/66 to 15/3/66
Number of days	: 14 DAYS.
Last patrol in Area	
D.D.A.	: 11/10/65.
F.H.D.	: June 1965
D.A.S.F.	: February 1 1965.
Objects of patrol	: ELECTION OF NEW COUN-
	: -CILORS FOR THE GREEN
	: RIVER LOCAL GOVERNMENT
	: COUNCIL.
Map Reference	: May River Forall.

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this patrol was the election of new councilors to the Green River Local Government Council. For details of these elections see the report compiled by Mr. A. Try, O.I.C. Green River Patrol Post.

The general topography of the area patrolled is basically Sepik River flood plains with no substantial ranges of hills. Owing to the fact that the river was still receding after extensive flooding the surrounding area was covered with a one to two foot layer of fine grained black silt. This was found to be very fertile. The predominant vegetation in this area is tropical rain forest, with some secondary growth where gardens have been overgrown.

The patrol followed the Sepik and October rivers and the villiages situated on the banks of the river. It was not found nessesary to visit villiages situated further inland as the villiagers in these places travelled down to the polling centres when notified of the elections. The patrol commenced at DEIRU but actual polling did not begin until the village of HUPI was reached. This was because of the need to notify the people of the separate wards of the actual day the poll would be held. The patrol then worked its way down the river holding elections in the following wards:-

- .1. HUPI.
- .2. KAGIRU.
- .3. BIAKE No. 1.- AISO.
- .4. BIAKE No. 2.- BIAKSI.
- .5. KOBARARU.
- .6. IABURU.
- .7. MUKUASI-KAHANI-BUNA.
- .8. BAIG.
- .9. BIPRO-BAIUWAI.

DIARY

- 28/2/66 Operated Radio and prepared for patrol. Departed Amanab for Green River arriving at 1430 hours. Slept Green River Patrol Post.
- 1 /3/66 Assisted in payment of native worders and typed contingencies. Checked patrol equipment. Slept Green River.
- 2 /3/66 Departed Green River Patrol Post at 0940 hours by tractor for DEIRU villiage arriving at 1100 hours. Departed DEIRU for IABURU arriving 1540 hours Discussions with councilor and arrangements for future movements made. Slept IABURU.
- 3 /3/66 Departed IABURU at 0830 hrs for BIAKE No. 1 arriving at 1600 hrs. Delayed by swift flowing river and engine trouble. Arrangements for future movements made and slept at BIAKE No.1.
- 4 /3/66 Departed BIAKE No.1 at 0830 hrs for HUFU arriving 1510 hrs. Delayed by engine trouble continuously. Discussions with the local councilor and people for impending elections. Slept HUFU.
- 5 /3/66 Held elections at HUFU. Departed HUFU at 1215 hrs for KASEIRU arriving 1315 hrs. Elections held and departed at 1430 hrs for BIAKE arriving at 1545 hrs Compiled voting statistics and slept BIAKE No.1.
- 6/ 3/66 To BIAKE No.2 and held elections for BIAKE No.2 and BIAKSI ward. Returned and slept BIAKE No.1.
- 7 /3/66 Elections BIAKE No1 and AISO Ward. Departed BIAKE No.1 at 1 200 hrs arriving AISO at 1300hrs. Investigations death of child LOWOKIR and slept AISO
- 8 /3/66 Further investigations of above. To IABURU village where cargo etc. placed in Rest House. Mr. Try witnesses and self together with suspect to Green River Patrol Post. Slept at Green River.
- 9 /3/66 Discussion with ADC Amanab re murder case. Assisted Mr. Try and carried out General office duties Slept Green River/.
- 10/3/66 Departed Green River P.P. for IABURU at 0830 hrs. arriving at 121 5 hrs. Discussion and arrangements made with the local councilors for future movements. Compiled patrol report and slept IABURU.
- 11 /3/66 Departed IABURU at 0820 hrs. for KOBARARU arriving at 1345 hrs. Election held and minor disputes arbitrated. Departed KOBARARU at 1230 hrs for IABURU arriving at 1 345 hrs. Elections held. Departed IABURU 1620 hrs for MUKUASI arriving at 1735 hours. Slept MUKUASI.
- 12/3/66 Elections at MUKUASI for MUKUASI-MAHANI=BUNA Ward Departed MUKUASI at 1345 hrs for BIFRO arriving at 1530 hrs. Extensive repairs to rest - house affected and slept BIFRO.
- 13/3/66 Sunday observed.

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DIARY cont.

14/3/66 Depa rted BIFRO at 0845 hrs for BAI0 arriving at 1015 hrs. Elections held, departed 1240 hrs for BIFRO. Arriving 1400 hrs at BIFRO. Election held for BIFRO-BAIUWAI-Ward. Slept at BIFRO.

15/3/66 Departed BIFRO at 0830 hrs for Green River Patrol Post. Arriving at 1 400 hrs, cargo at 1530 hrs.

End of patrol.

RECEPTION OF PATROL.

The patrol was received with an attitude of friendliness and co-operation in all the villages visited. This feeling was especially noticeable in the villages of BIAK NO 1. BIAK NO 2. and Hufi the three wards closest to the border. As the patrol moved down the river the attitude of the villagers tended towards a state of indifference however this was not carried to any marked degree.

POLITICAL SITUATION.

In the villages closer to the border especially HUFU, there was a distinct tendency for migrations by families of villagers over the border. However it is felt the reason for this is not because the people chose to move for political reasons, but rather because of the extensive flooding of the river and the fact that they own gardens on the other side of the border. That it was easier to reach these from villages or hamlets in Indonesia. In the villages closer to Green River Patrol Post the people had a wider basic awareness of the Administration and its activities.

Regarding the mission working in this area. Only one church was noticed by the patrol and this was at the village of IABURU, which is in close proximity to the Green River P.P. From the attitude of the people contacted the feeling towards the mission and its work seemed to be one of passive acceptance.

In some villages there seemed to be a tendency at to over-recruitment, particularly the villages of BUSA, MUKUASI and IABURU, which had 49%, 70% and 55% of their working aged males away. However Mr Try assured the author that recruitment will be more closely supervised in the future.

MISSIONS

The only mission represented in this area is the Cristian Mission Of Many Lands. However this mission primarily caters for the spiritual needs of the station personnel at Green River and nearby villages, the area patrolled only receives ministrations by the occasional patrol. The C.M.M.L. also supervise the running of a school at the Green River P.P. where they have a fully qualified European teacher.

LABOUR.

As yet the only form of regular income open to the people of this census district is obtained by working as wage-labour on plantations in other districts. The average number of fit adult males absent from the census division at work on plantations or in towns is approximately 30% which is about 135 men. However little of this money finds its way back to the villages.

There is also a limited source of money gained from working as casual at the Green River patrol post. But as yet the natives have little need for money and only seem to work for limited periods.

REST HOUSES

Generally the rest houses in the villages slept at, were in areasonable condition. The rest house at IABURU was in good condition, strongly constructed, spacious and well designed. However the house at BIFRO was in a state of dis-repair and extensive repairs had to be effected before it could be occupied.

CARRIERS AND CANOES.

Travelling on this patrol was wholly by government canoe and the council dinghy. Consequently few carriers were hired.

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COMMUNICATIONS

ROADS.

The patrol did not see any serviceable roads in the district and only one road near it. This is the tractor track ~~near~~ from Green River Patrol Post to DEIRU. Apart from canoe work the patrol did travel on the native road from IASURU to Green River, but owing to the recent flooding and heavy rains it was found to be in very poor condition.

SRA.

Not applicable.

AIR.

The only airstrip within reasonable travelling of the Census District is that at Green River P.P. This airstrip is open to category B (Bravo). There are none in the August River Census District and no ~~sites~~ ^{sites} were seen by the patrol that might be suitable for the establishment of one.

RIVER.

The Sepik River and its ^a tributaries offer a good form of transport or communications with Green River P.P. Although the Sepik was in flood at the time of the patrol owing to its size it is passable at all times during the Year.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The staple diet of the people in this area is the washed pulp of the Sago Palm. And because of the large areas of swamplands in this area and the ease of growing them these trees are most plentiful. The people also cultivate Yams, Taro, Bananas—both cooking and eating, a number of Pineapples and Paw-Paws and a quantity of Breadfruit. There are also plentiful supplies of Tulip. Nuts and other wild fruits are gathered from the bush.

Each village visited had a small number of pigs and fowls. But as can be expected these are used mostly for ceremonial and prestige purposes, and contribute little protein to the people's diet.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK CONT.

However wild pigs, birds such as pigeon and cocomo, and the trapping of fish snakes and lizards provide the bulk of the peoples protein.

Reference to the report by Mr F. Arndt, Agricultural Officer Amanab, who has just completed a patrol of the August River Census District, should be made regarding the economic potential of this area.

VILLAGES AND HOUSING.

In general the villages were laid out in groups of up to twenty houses and in most cases were laid out in rows along the river-banks. However in smaller villages and hamlets the houses tended to be less tidy in layout.

The standard of housing in the villages varied from average to poor. The houses were generally rectangular in plan approximately twenty feet by thirty feet, raised on pikes about six feet above the ground. They have a single gable roof constructed of the leaves of the Sago Frond, the pidgin name for this is "MORHTA". The walls being constructed of the stem of the palm frond, called "PUNOAL" in Pidgin. These stems are placed vertically and tied down. The floors are long pieces of flattened Black Palm, called "LIMBOM" in Pidgin.

The housing is in general of a semi-permanent nature, with a life of about two years. The villagers then would demolish the old house, being careful to salvage any good materials, and re-build the house in a new position using the old materials. Rather than carry out any but the most minor repairs on an existing house,

Owing mainly to the recent flooding of the Sepik River the villages were in a poor condition. With a layer of soft slushy layer of mud up to two feet thick covering all exposed ground. And in some cases especially the villages of BIPRO and BIAGE no attempt had been made to clear the area of a number of tree stumps and bushes that the floods had deposited as it receded. It was noticed that some village

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VILLAGES AND HOUSING cont.

latrines were being used but most were in varying states of disrepair. Possibly due to two factors, firstly, the recent floods which played havoc with buildings built on the ground and secondly because of the obvious lack of frequent use in most of the villages.

In many cases the villages were not consolidated groups as such, but tended to be a cluster of houses around the rest houses and smaller hamlets of one or two families scattered along the river banks and closer to the gardens.

The main advantages of the sites chosen for the majority of villages visited are fairly obvious. Almost all of the villages visited were situated on the inner curves of the river as it wound its way through the area. Thus the area occupied by the village is protected by its position from the erosion that can be caused by a fast flowing river. Also the river by depositing silt on the inner curve is continually enlarging the village area. However all but the villages of IABURU and HUPI the supply of fresh water was situated at some considerable distance from the village site. Thus the villagers rarely washed in anything but the Sepik River.

VILLAGERS OFFICIALS.

Because the purpose of the patrol was the election of councilors to the Green River Local Government Council village officials such as Tultuls and Lulus were non-existent. However it was noticed that the existing councilors were as a rule co-operative and helpful. This was especially marked in the villages of BIAKE and IABURU.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

The natives in this area have been encouraged to grow Rice as a cash crop and this plan has met with some limited success, however the main problem encountered is the high costs of shipping and processing.

At the moment the natives in the villages of

TRADE AND INDUSTRY. cont.

of MUKUASI, IABURU, KOBARARU, ISU, KASBITU, HUPI, BIAKS and BUNA are gaining a limited amount of money from the sale of Crocodile skins.

The crocodiles are caught by using a hook and line, attached to the canoe, placed on the end of a long stick. The hook is driven into the hard tough skin at the back of the animal's neck. The captured animal is then killed with either a gun or an axe. Once skinned the skin is scraped, salted, dried and rolled into a bundle and put aside.

At the moment the skins are marketed at the Green River Patrol Post through the Christian Mission of Many Lands. The price at the moment received by the natives is ~~at~~ two dollars per inch of belly width. Thus the average amount received by the natives is about sixteen to twenty dollars, but one large skin can bring as much as sixty dollars.

However the possibilities of making an industry for the natives out of Crocodile hunting seems to have only limited potential. The people in this area have only small requirements regarding money and consequently only hunt crocodiles when they feel the need of items that the station store can provide. Various offers regarding the purchase and marketing of skins by the Administration have been made to the people but has caused a delay of some months between the time of sale and receipt of the money the natives have not acted on them. They seem to prefer a quick sale even if it entails a considerable loss of money. There is therefore little future seen for this source of income other than a seasonal hobby for the natives until more positive interest can be generated in them.

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HEALTH

Generally the health of the villagers was in a satisfactory condition. A number of cases of Filariasis at varying stages of advancement were noted in some villages. There was also a number of advanced Tropical Ulcers noted in some villages. Most of the children seen by the patrol seemed to be suffering from suspected Malnutrition.

There are two Aid Posts in the area patrolled one at BLAKE and the other at BIFRO. Both of these were in good condition and seemed to be providing a good service to the villages concerned.

