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# **PATROL REPORTS**

DISTRICT: EAST SEPIK

STATION: AMBUNTI

VOLUME No: 12

ACCESSION No: 496.

1964 - 1965

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# Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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67 - 8 - 92

PATROL REPORT No. 5 - 1964/65

By

A. C. Plummer

MAY RIVER

SEPIK DISTRICT

67 - 8 - 92



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

# PATROL REPORT

District of SEPIK Report No. MAY RIVER No 5 of 1964/65

Patrol Conducted by A.C. PLUMMER Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled May River Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

Natives 3 members R.P. & N.G.C. 1 A.P.O.

Duration—From 26/5/1965 to 7/6/1965

Number of Days 8 days

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services 6/3/1964

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

Map Reference May River and Ambunti, Army series, 4 miles = 1 inch

Objects of Patrol Census revision and routine administration

Director of Native Affairs,  
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ / 19

.....  
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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11

67-8-92

2nd August, 1965.

District Commissioner,  
Sepik District,  
V.V.V.A.K.

WAX RIVER PATROL REPORT NO. 5/64-65:

Receipt is acknowledged with thanks of Mr. Plummer's patrol report covered by your memo 67-2-2/1994 of 16th July, 1965.

2. The comments of Mr. Ryan and yourself are noted.
3. Although the report is brief it still covers all the essential points. I do agree with Mr. Ryan that Mr. Plummer should discontinue using the Pidgin English term "Birua" (which means "enemy") for the Owinga, Waiaba and Awai people.
4. A good report.

(T.G. Aitchison)  
A/DIRECTOR.

ppula

MIGRAT



67. 8. 92 (10)

67-2-2/1994

Department of District Administration,  
Sepik District,  
WEWAK.

16th July, 1965

The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Subdistrict Office,  
AMBUNTI.

MAY RIVER PATROL NO. 5 of 1964/65

The receipt of the above numbered report of  
a patrol conducted by Mr. A. C. Plummer, Patrol Officer,  
in the May River Census Division, is acknowledged with  
thanks.

Mr. Plummer has presented a good report and  
your comments give adequate coverage to the report and  
I concur with your remarks.

(J. E. WAKEFORD)  
a/DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

→ c.c. The Director, Department of District Administration, Konedobu

opula

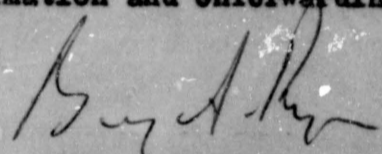
MIGRA

(9)

2.

The Patrol though brief indicates and improving situation in local attitudes. The report, also brief, covers all the essential points.

For your information and enforwarding action, please.



Barry A. Ryan.  
Assistant District Commissioner.



pula

MIGRAT

67-1-4

Sub-District Office,  
Ambunti,  
Sepik District.

7th July, 1965.

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

May River Patrol Report No.5 1964/65.

Please find enclosed the above Patrol Report by Mr. Plummer Patrol Officer, O.I.C. May River. I have received no Camping Out Allowance claims for Patrol nor for Mr. Plummer's Patrol No. 6. Mr. Plummer will submit these on the completion of his present Patrol.

Native Affairs.

It is good to see that these people will bring their disputes to the Administration. On the other hand if disputes can be completely settled without Court action the people should be encouraged to do so unless definite compounding of the law is involved. An effort should be made to point out the essential nature of both civil or private disputes and crimes of a public nature.

I am not happy that the OWINGA, WAIABU and AWAI people should be continued to be known as 'the HIRUA'. This is merely a piggin term with unfortunate associations. I have asked Mr. Plummer to discontinue the term as, apart from the associations with the word, it leads us to group people who are in fact not closely related, (PR No. 31965/65 Page 3 refers) and perhaps thus tends us to lose some appreciation of these peoples' attitudes.

Census Statistics.

The proportion of absent workers is high and I agree that further recruitment is to be avoided. I am reluctant however to make any move to formally restrict recruitment at this stage. It is a pity that Mr. Plummer does not give some idea as to the expected return dates of the 185 absent men. Records held here seem to indicate that a batch of some fifty five men are due back in September this year. The people in this area have few local opportunities and I feel that we can tolerate a higher absentee figure than normal, even though the high rate is no doubt reflected in the poor village conditions.

The migrations probably reflect a settling down of former intervillage bad relations.

Economic Potential.

Timber could also be sent from the May River area for milling down stream. Wewak Timbers Ltd. will buy good quality timber at Ambunti and the rafting down of such should present little difficulty. I agree that coconuts should be regarded as a diet supplement only. Perhaps rice, also for local consumption, could be tried. I can see no real future for the economic production of coffee in this area.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea

7

67-1-1

Patrol Post,  
Ambunti Sub District,  
MAY RIVER.

22nd June, 1965.

The Assistant District Commissioner,  
Sub District Office,  
AMBUNTI.

MAY RIVER PATROL No. 5 of 1964/65

Please find enclosed the original and two copies of  
a Patrol Report covering the May River Patrol No. 5 of 1964/65.

AREA PATROLLED	May River Census Division.
DATES OF PATROL	26/5/65 to 7/6/65.
No. OF DAYS ON PATROL	8 days.
OFFICER CONDUCTING	A.C. Plummer, Patrol Officer.
PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING	3 members of the R.P. & N.G.C. 1 A.P.O. 1 Interpreter.
MAP REFERENCE	May River Army Series. 4 miles : 1 inch. Map attached.
OBJECTS OF PATROL	Census revision Routine administration

(A.C. Plummer)  
Officer in Charge

(6)

Appendix 'A'

R.P. & N.G.C. members of the Patrol

No 3121 Const 1/C Pangora - Does not have good command but is willing. His conduct is good.

No 7883 Const Eimbor - A very reliable constable whose conduct is good but whose dress is often sloopy.

No 9102 Const Forbaiuk - An extremely able policeman who is recommended for promotion.

A.C. Plummer  
Patrol Officer

officials are recommended to be of separate correspondence. The other is old and sick.

Education

No educational facilities are supplied by the Government. In two villages plans were made for schools to be put in these villages. It is felt that it is the time for the introduction of a school at the Patrol Post, to serve the children of the station personnel as well as the natives.

Economic Potential

Timber - A large tract of about 2500 acres has been set aside for the Patrol Post.

Timber - An abundance of cane is grown which are stored on the right bank and may provide a small income to the natives.

Crocodile skins - Regular sales are made by traders purchasing skins. It would appear that like the rest of the South river areas this will provide the most income.

Coconuts - It is intended to have coconuts sent to the natives in the near future. One transport station exists it would appear that coconuts will provide only an addition to the list of products.

Coffee - Has been tried by two men previously school leaving. As yet attempts have failed. It is intended that the Agriculture Officer at Sabundi will pay a visit to advise on this.

Conclusions

(1) Relations with the G.P.M. appear to be good.

(2) Some figures are needed to show the progress of the work in the various areas.

(3) A follow up report is needed within the next few months to check instructions showing the people that they must treat these instructions lightly.

Villages

Villages were found, with a couple of notable exceptions, to be in a state of disrepair and poor condition. Those exceptions were Arai and Abagaisu which are influenced by the S.D.A. representatives stationed there. The large percentage of males absent at work is felt to contribute. Appropriate instructions were issued without being too hard taking into account the loss of labour.

Village Officials

On the whole these were found to be co-operative. Two officials are recommended to be replaced and they are the subject of separate correspondence. One has moved to another village and the other is old and sick.

Health

An Aid Post Orderly was taken with the patrol, but it was found that his services were only required for minor sores. Health appeared good and it is noticed that any cases of sickness are usually brought to the Patrol Post. This ~~helped~~ is helped by the fact that the Orderly is a local.

Education

<sup>The</sup> No educational facilities are supplied by the Administration. In two villages pleas were made for schools to be put in their villages. It is felt that now is the time for the introduction of a school at the Patrol Post, to serve the children of the station personnel as well as the Iwam.

Economic Potential

Fresh Foods- A limited market of about £200 per annum sold to the Patrol Post.

Timber- An abundance of canoe timbers which are scarce on the Sepik River and may provide a small income to the area.

Crocodile skins- Regular calls are now made by traders purchasing skins. It would appear that like the rest of the Sepik River areas this will provide the most income.

Coconuts- It is intended to have coconuts sent to the area in the near future. Due transportation costs it would appear that coconuts will provide only an addition to the diet of the people.

Coffee- Has been tried by two men previously schooled at Bairyik. So far attempts have failed. It is intended that the Agriculture Officer at Ambunti will pay a visit to advise on this.

Conclusion

- (1) Relations with the "Birua" appear to be good.
- (2) Census figures show that further recruitment is to be avoided at this stage.
- (3) A follow up patrol is needed within the next few months to check instructions showing the people that they cannot treat these instructions lightly.

### Introduction

The patrol was purely of a routine nature concerned mainly with revision of the census figures and establishing the percentage of the male labour force absent at work on plantations. Village inspections were carried out at all villages.

### Native Affairs

At several of the villages, disputes were brought forward for settlement. These were all minor and were settled without recourse to court action.

At Buremai one man and his wife had run away into the bush on hearing of the arrival of the patrol. It seems that this man had recently struck his wife about the head with a stick ~~recently~~ and was afraid of prosecution. It is intended to apprehend him at a later date.

Relationships with the "Birua" settlements nearby to all Iwam villages appear to be good with much inter contact. There is certainly none of the reluctance to encourage contact which was evident at the time of Mr. McIntyre's Patrol No. 4 of 1962/63. On the contrary there were offers of assistance for a forthcoming patrol into the "Birua" area.

It was noticed that many disputes which had been ~~x~~ settled at village level, although only of a minor nature, were brought to the notice of the patrol for official condon~~ation~~ation. This is a good sign, indicating an acceptance of the Administration and it's role in village affairs.

### Census Statistics

Total population is 1578. This represents an increase of only 3 on the 1963 figures. Actually the birth to death ratio shows an increase of 39. The discrepancy is accounted for by the discovery of several duplications and also the migration back to "Birua" settlements ~~of~~ by some of those who had previously migrated in from these settlements.

185 men ( 42% of the potential male labour force) were found to be absent at work. This represents a sharp increase over the 19% shown in Mr. Cochranes figures in 1963 although roughly the same as Mr. McIntyre's figures earlier in the same year. It is intended to keep a close watch on this situation to ensure that the position improves as village hygiene suffers. Also, even though relations between tribal groups appears to be good we do not want a repeat performance of the massacres which are a part of the history of this area.

### Trade and Commerce.

Traders are regular visitors to the area and it is estimated that the Iwam have an income of approximately £400 a month from the sale of crocodile skins. By far the biggest income earners are the people of Inlok and Wanamoi who have outboard motors to assist them. The people of Mowi also have an outboard motor. Inlok has three motors and has an income bearing a direct ratio to this.

MAY RIVER PATROL REPORT No. 5 of 1964/65

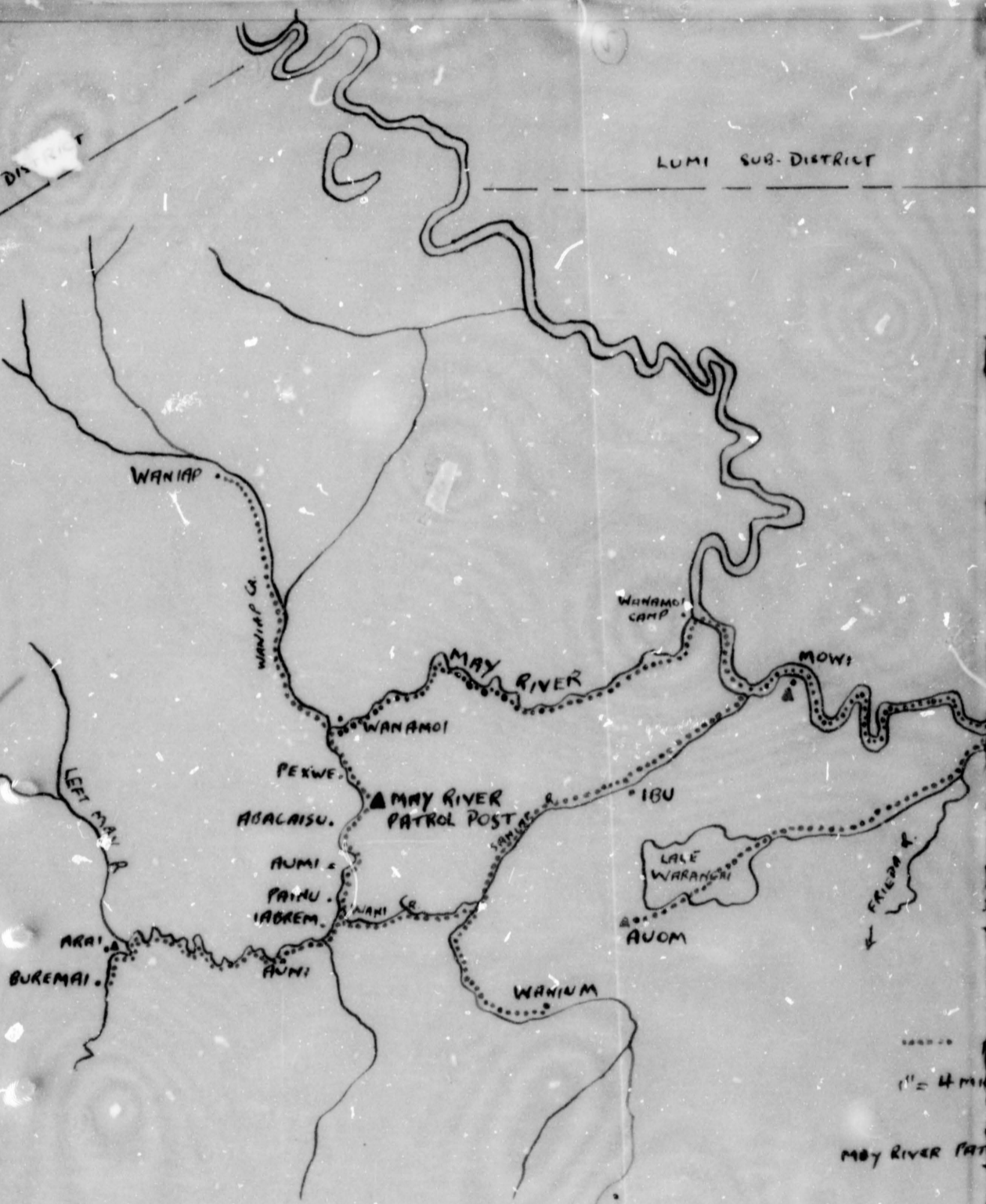
PATROL DIARY.

- Wednesday, 26/5/65 - Departed 0800 hrs by canoe with Archimedes outboard motor. Arrived ARAI 1110 hrs. Unloaded gear and departed 1120 hrs and arrived BUREMAI 1210 hrs. Census revised. Village inspected. Departed 1600 hrs and arrived ARAI 1630 hrs. Slept night.
- Thursday, 27/5/65 - Census revised for ARAI. Inspected village and issued instructions. Departed 1030 hrs. At AUNI 1145 hrs. Census revised. Inspection Dept. 1310 hrs arriving IABREM 1330 hrs. Census - Inspection. Orders given. Left at 1445 hrs. Arrived AUMI 1520 hrs. Census - Inspection. Dept. 1640 hrs arriving back at Patrol Post at 1655 hrs.
- Friday, 28/5/65 - Dept. 0800 hrs arriving PAINU 0835 hrs. Census - Inspection. Dept. 0915 hrs. Arrived ABAGAISU 0940 hrs. Census etc. Dept. 1050 hrs arriving PEKWE 1055 hrs. Census etc. Dept. 1150 hrs. Arrived WANAMOI 1220 hrs. Census - Inspection. Dept. 1430 hrs. Arrived Patrol Post 1450 hrs.
- Monday, 31/5/65 - Departed 0730 hrs arriving L. IOK 1730 hrs after a few hours holdup due motor trouble. Slept night.
- Tuesday, 1/6/65 - Census revised, village inspected and instructions given. Dept. 1215 hrs and arrived AUOM 1530 hrs. Slept night.
- Wednesday, 2/6/65 - Census revised, village inspected, ~~etc~~ Dept. 1050 hrs - MOWI 1200 hrs. Census revised - inspection. Slept.
- Thursday, 3/6/65 - Dept 0700hrs arriving IBU 1100hrs. Census - inspection. Dept. 1230hrs arriving WANIAM 1430 hrs. Census - inspection. Dept. 1600hrs arriving Patrol Post 1750 hrs.
- ~~Friday,~~ ~~4/6/65~~  
Monday, 7/6/65 - Dept. 0730hrs arriving WANAP 1040 hrs. Census revised, village inspected. Dept. 1315 hrs arriving Patrol Post 1500 hrs.

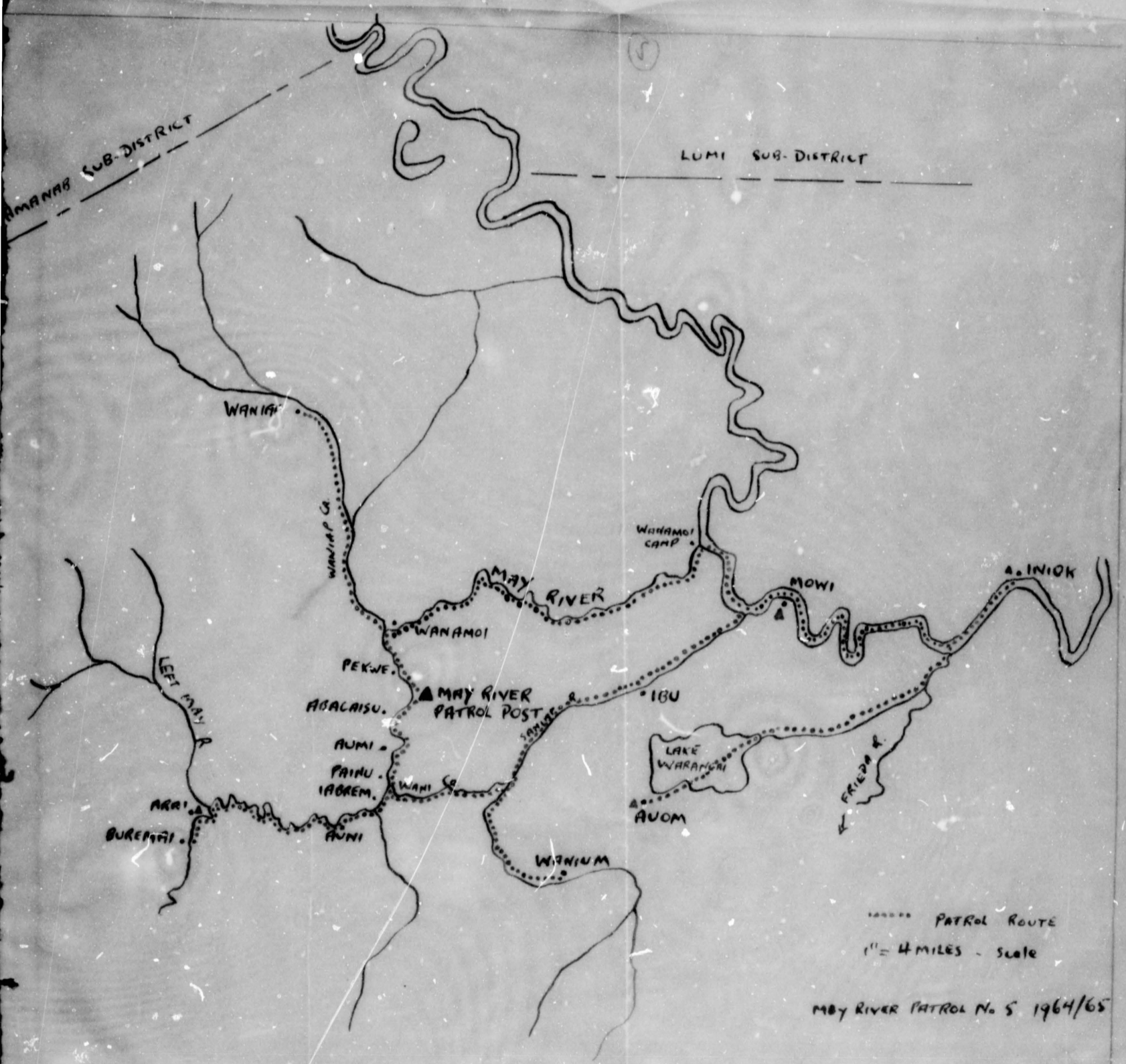
END OF DIARY

AMANAB SUB-DISTRICT

LUMI SUB-DISTRICT



1" = 4 miles  
MAY RIVER PAT



..... PATROL ROUTE  
 1" = 4 MILES - scale

MAY RIVER PATROL No 5 1964/65

A.C. PLUMMER, P.O.