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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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67-3-16

15th March, 1961.

District Commissioner,
Western District,
ZAMBIA.

FIELD PATROL REPORT

Receipt is acknowledged with thanks of a patrol report by Mr. Eshale referred by your memorandum 67-11-1 of 14th February, 1961.

- 1. The comments of yourself and Mr. Kelly have been noted.
- 2. Mr. Eshale has finished a good patrol and submitted a lengthy and informative report illustrating thereby his conscientiousness and interest in native affairs work in the field.
- 3. Mr. Kelly is right when he states that the Kam/Gama area should not be closed to recruiting.
- 4. A good report and Mr. Eshale is to be congratulated on this fine effort.

(J.K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR

67-3-16



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams DISADM
Telephone 67-11-1
Our References
Handling and for

Department of District Administration

Western District
DARU



14th February 1966

The Director,
Dept. District Administration
KONEBUNDU

Emeti Patrol No 2/65-66

I attach the above numbered report together with covering comments by the District Commissioner.

My comments passed on Emeti patrol No 1/65-66 can be applied now. Regular Patrols may stimulate some interest in the possibilities of economic development but this would involve resettlement up river. However from remarks recorded in the "General" section of the report, the people appear to be singularly disinterested in any form of change.

K. Kennedy
(I.A. Holmes)
for
Acting District Commissioner

JFKAAA

Department of District Administration,
Balimo, Western District.

Ensti P/R.2/65-6

8th December, 1965.



The District Commissioner,
Western District,
Daru.

Ensti (Ensti) Patrol Report No. 2 of 1965/66

Attached is the above patrol report submitted by
Patrol Officer Mr. Kekede for a recent patrol he conducted in the
Sana River Gannam Division.

This area is as depressed as the Lower Sana Gannam
Division and the associated problems are the same. These problems
were discussed in my covering memorandum to Ensti (Ensti) Patrol
Report No. 1 of 1965/66 and I will not further elaborate upon them.

I have previously expressed that view that I have no
wish to see the Sana Gannam area closed to recruiting, however, I
insist that recruits abide by the Employment Ordinances and advise
this office of their intention to recruit in this sub-district. We
can help alleviate many of the problems associated with the
recruiting of labour in this area if we are given prior notice of
recruiters' intentions to recruit. In my 62-1-1 of 7/11/65 I
requested that you ask the Secretary of Labour to instruct recruit-
ers to give this office notice of their intention, numbers and
location.

Mr. Kekede has done a good job patrolling and
reporting on this area.

J. Kelly
(J. Kelly)
s/Assistant District Commissioner.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

10
Eketi Base Camp,
Balime Sub-District,
Western District.

20th November, 1965.

District Commissioner,
District Office,
P.A.N.G.

PATROL REPORT EKETI No. 2 of 1965/66.

PREAMBLE: Submitted herewith is the above numbered report. The area patrolled was the JAMA Census Division of the Balime Sub-District.

OBJECTS OF PATROL:

- (i) Census Division.
- (ii) Routine Administration.
- (iii) Routine Administration.

OFFICER COMMANDING PATROL:

Mr. N. P. Kekedo, Patrol Officer.

PERIOD OF PATROL:

9/11/65 to 18/11/65.

ACCOMPANYING PERSONNEL:

1 member H.P.N.G.C., No. 7733 Const. KOWINEN/SLIBANE.
Interpreter BAPANU/NEDE.

LAST DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION PATROL:

January/February, 1965.

MAP REFERENCE:

See accompanying map of patrol.

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PATROL REPORT EMETI No. 2 of 1965/66

PATROL DIARY:

NOVEMBER, 1965.

Tuesday, 9th.

a.m. loaded workboat 'MAWA' and it left at 0900 hours for the GAMA Census Division. Self on general office procedures thence departed on 'TRADEWIND' at 1130 hours. Passed MAWA at MIRUMA and continued on to SOGERE, waited and then proceeded to BUNIGI arriving at 1530 hours. MAWA arrived at 1645 hours. Due to rough seas slept at BUNIGI.
Actual Travelling Time: 3 hours 30 mins.

Wednesday, 10th.

Departed BUNIGI at 0545 hours while seas calm around Bell Point. Entered mouth of GAMA River at about 0856 hours and continued on to junction of GAMA River and WAWI River, thence followed up the latter to the villages of AIRUA/BINORI, arriving at 1230 hours. All patrol personnell travelled on MAWA and 'TRADEWIND' was towed. MAWA left enroute Balimo via MALPANI at 1300 hours. Inspected village and then revised census. Many people away at headwaters of WAWI River said to be away for at least two months on crocodile hunting. Village clean and in good order. Those present didn't appear very impressive. Slept at AIRUA/BINORI.
Travelling Time: 5 hours 45 mins.

Thursday, 11th.

Left AIRUA/BINORI at 0810 hours for UKUSI/KOPIRAMI. Proceeded down WAWI River for fifteen minutes to GAMA River junction thence followed GAMA River upstream, arriving UKUSI/KOPIRAMI at 1053 hours. Village in most shocking state. People made last minute efforts to clean up village but were caught hed handed. Village Officials instructed and people assembled, all on cleaning up supervised by self. Village a much better sight at 1125 hours. Revised census and talked to people. Slept at UKUSI/KOPIRAMI.
Travelling Time: 2 hours 43 mins.

Friday, 12th.

Waited for high tide and departed at 1200 hours for NEMETI/GIMEREME arriving at 1503 hours. Village Officials and many men away at KIKORI on a trade mission - selling crocodile skins. They have actually left before people advised of patrol's intended visit. Three men only at the village with the women folk. Village a pleasing sight, clean and tidy. Certainly an improvement to the last one. Revised census. No complaints. While at GIWARETORE the NEMETI men returned from KIKORI and reported reason for their absence. Everyone was therefore seen from NEMETI/GIMEREME. Slept at NEMETI/GIMEREME. No complaints heard.
Travelling Time: 3 hours 3 mins.

Saturday, 13th.

Departed NEMETI/GIMEREME at 0830 hours for GIWARETORE, arriving at 0905 hours. Met Village Officials and inspected village. Village fair. Revised census and talked to people, no complaints. People from NEMETI/GIMEREME reported their absence at GIWARETORE. Slept at GIWARETORE.
Travelling Time: 35 mins.

PATROL DIARY CONT'D:

NOVEMBER, 1965.

Sunday, 14th.

Observed at GIWARETORE.

Monday, 15th.

Departed GIWARETORE at 0815 hours, after having a minor mechanical trouble on outboard motor. Only five minutes run from GIWARETORE. Arrived GAMARI/MAGIVE at 0820 hours. Met Village Officials and inspected village. All in good order and village clean and tidy. Talked to people, no complaints. Census revised and stayed overnight at GAMARI/MAGIVE. Travelling Time: 5 mins.

Tuesday, 16th.

Departed GAMARI/MAGIVE at 0830 hours for MAISAVE, arrived at 0814 hours. Met Village Officials and inspected village. Village fair and there is some effort being made to keep the area clean although during King tides the village is under water. In actual fact this goes to all villages in the area, however, the area was rather dry due to the very hot and dry conditions at the moment. Talked to people and revised census, no complaints heard. Slept at MAISAVE. Travelling Time: 10 mins.

Wednesday, 17th.

Departed MAISAVE at 0600 hours hoping to get around Bell Point during the early morning calm seas, however, this was no the case. Got up with heavy seas and finally arrived at IBUO at 0700 hours with all patrol equipment wet. Met Village Officials and inspected village. Village only fair. Talked to people and revised census. No complaints heard of serious nature, only one minor complaint settled with persons concerned. Slept at IBUO. Travelling Time: 1 hour.

Thursday, 18th.

Departed IBUO at 0715 hours for BAMU Base Camp. It was a different morning, seas calm, only swells at times. Proceeded direct to station arriving at 1455 hours. At BAMU Base Camp Travelling Time: 4 hours 45 mins.

-----END of DIARY-----

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INTRODUCTION: The area patrolled was the GAMA River Census Division and all the villages in the area were visited. Although many of the villages were in close proximity it was intended to spend one day and one night in each village, thus this was done.

The main objects of the patrol were:
(i) Revise Census.
(ii) Compile new Tax Census Sheets.
(iii) Routine Administration.

The workboat MAMA was used for the first two days and it returned from AIRUA/BINORI at commencement of patrol. During the rest of the patrol the 'TRADEWIND' dinghy and a 28 H.P. Johnson outboard motor was used. A few minor mechanical breakdowns occurred but these were all remedied and the patrol continued as planned.

The area covered is approximately due East from the station and the country is similar to that of the Bamu Delta, lying mud laden swamp country and most part overgrown with sago and nipa palms. Once again due to the prevailing dry period during the past few months the people were able to keep their villages clean and free from mud. It was brought to my notice however that during the wet season and King tides the villages are under water, inundated with mud, sandflies and mosquitoes. Flies seem to breed in their thousands all year round. It is an area where one cannot expect too much from the people as the people are very reluctant and have no interest in improving. A very depressing area and there is very little to recommend in the way of development. Further up the GAMA and WAMI Rivers there are primary growth but again the people show no interest of improvement.

Census generally was well attended by people in all villages except at AIRUA/BINORI where many were away for months on crocodile hunting. The patrol encountered no difficulties throughout its stay in the area and work was carried out as planned.

NATIVE AFFAIRS:

(a) Native Situation:

Prior to the patrols departure to the GAMA Census Division the people were given two weeks notice of the patrols intended visit and when to expect the patrol at each village, thus the people were prepared and all writing in their villages except for the village of AIRUA/BINORI. The villages throughout the area were found clean and kept tidy as best they could, however the only exception being UKUSI/KOPIRAMI where last minutes efforts were made but to no avail. At UKUSI/KOPIRAMI the people were instructed to clean up the village and by about 1500 hours the village was a much improved place to live in.

Census was generally well attended and it was a pleasing sight to see most of the people make the effort to be present. The only village where many were found absent was AIRUA/BINORI. At NEMETI/GIMEREM many of the menfolk were also away at KIKORI but during the course of the patrol they all reported on return and reasons for their absence. All were on a trade mission -- selling crocodile skins. These people were all seen at GIWABETORE. Many of the absentees were mainly men who were away at work on plantations outside their own home districts.

All the villages had rest houses and were all in fair condition. Wharves were also found to be built at each village and when asked the people would say "Mr. Tetley told us to build them and then he will send a boat with cargo for us". It is hard to say whether or not Mr. Tetley's promises still exist in the minds of the people.

Native Situation cont'd:

The people were advised to forget about such a load of cargo and to go on with their usual day to day work. It was explained that one cannot expect to get things for nothing and everyone has to work to get what he requires. If Mr. Tetley expects to stand again for the next elections, he'll have to have something better to say to the people.

There are of course far too many men away at work in this area and thus their exodus leaving a situation where numerous adultery cases occur. Although such complaints were brought to the patrols notice by officials many were reluctant to lay complaints and in many cases there was insufficient evidence for anything to be done.

The only way of stopping recruitment in the area could be by closing the area, however, it is evident that this will not prove satisfactory. It was only recently that a patrol was done to the Lower Bamu and on return it was brought to my notice that a ship went in to the area and recruited labour. The ship was the 'NEGANAM' and the number recruited is unknown. However, if this practice goes on without anyone knowing this area will certainly be over recruited and only women left in the villages.

This area should be visited about twice or as many times a year as possible and much more time spent with the people in improving villages and living conditions. Although this could be done but I doubt whether much would result as some this 'CARELESS' attitude also goes with the GAMA people. However, with much time spent in the area the people will feel that they are not neglected and that an interest is being taken in them.

(b) Economic Development:

As was said about the Lower Bamu in Patrol Report No. 1 this also applies to this area. This area has no great economic potential as there is very little fertile land available and the only crop which would have any chance of survival is coconuts. At present there is very little being done to increase production in the area. The people tend to make copra when they feel like doing it and this generally is not in large quantities and the quality very low. The coconuts palms seen were also very poor and the palms don't seem to bear as much nuts as those of other areas in the Territory, thus production is very low.

Due to the very dry break in the weather and the rivers and swamps being low many of the people have taken to crocodile hunting, however this industry is also declining and people have to travel for days and months upriver in search of the reptile, this is a result once again of continual shooting, by people as far away as Kivori and other crocodile shooters and it could be expected that if nothing is done to protect or limit the shooting the area will certainly be shot out.

The people generally have relatively very few wants and it appears extremely difficult to try to convince the people the necessity of mainly increasing their coconut stands. It would most certainly take some time and patience to carry out the task.

I feel however that these people be visited as

many times as possible during each year and advise given whenever necessary and the people left to progress as they wish rather than try to force something on them which in the long run will prove unsuccessful. The only solution could be resettlement of the people. A most sad and depressing situation.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK:

There is very little of anything in the area. The people live mainly on what nature has provided for them -- sago. Gardens could be planted further up river and bananas, taros and other vegetables could be cultivated in the scattered land however the people show no interest of doing so. It was said to them that gardens could be planted up river, all agreed but no one would make the effort. Cutting down a bit of bush seems too much of hard work for the people. What else can one do if such is the peoples attitude.

Very few pigs were sighted throughout the patrol and it could well be said that livestock in the area is nonexistent. The people again live on what Mother Nature has provided for them, in the way of meat. Crabs and fish from the river and pigs and cassava from the bush. If livestock was introduced this would certainly prove unsatisfactory due to the wet muddy country in most cases.

MISSIONS:

There are no missions in the GAMA area. The only mission in the area administered by Bamu is the Bamu River Mission but this mission has very little influence whatsoever. The little it has to do with the people is that the mission runs the only Aid Post during the past years and thus the people sometimes visit it only when they travel up to the Government station.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Travel is done mainly by canoe. Although it was said that a road exists from UKUSI/KOPIRAMI to the banks of the WAWI River upstream from AIRUA/BINORI, however, this track is not maintained and people travel throughout by canoe. During the wet the track is covered by water and it is swamp all the way. The patrol travelled the entire area in the 'TRADEWIND' dinghy as the villages could be easily reached without much difficulty.

EDUCATION:

There are no schools in the GAMA Census Division. An attempt was made to establish a school at RUNIGI in the Lower Bamu for the people in the whole Bamu area, however, due to lack of co-operation on the peoples part and no interest was shown thus this school was closed down. The GAMA itself has no schools. In order to establish one if the Administration ever decides it would be wise to make a complete investigation before such a task is carried out. I do not think it worth while considering it at the moment anyway.

VILLAGES AND HOUSING:

With the exception of UKUSI/KOPIRAMI, the other villages in the area were found in good order, clean and tidy. It was pleasing to see that the people have at least made an attempt to tidy up the surroundings. The villages which have since combined into one village are:

U. USI/KOPIRAMI
AIRUA/BINORI
NEMETI/GIMEREIMS
GAMARI/MAGIVE

Although these villages have combined they still stand as separate villages at time of census. Asked if they were intending to make each one complete village with one name. They would prefer to stay as they are and appear for census in their separate village groups. These people keep moving from time to time, so one never knows when the people will decide to move away again and start up their own village as was done previously.

Housing was generally fair throughout and nothing very astonishing was expected in the way of buildings. If only the people would have some sense of arranging their houses in some neat form it would be much better. The people were instructed to try to arrange their villages properly and this was demonstrated but one will just have wait and see the results in due course.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE:

The health standard was as good as can be expected and only one yaws case was sent to the Bamu River Mission Aid Post for treatment. It was to my surprise that not many were found with tropical ulcers, in fact not one was seen.

At the villages of AIRUA/BINORI and UKUSI/KOPIRAMI there was quite an exception in the average health pattern. In these villages it seemed the women and children were suffering from malnutrition and the people were generally covered with grilles, while the people down river were found in good health and in most cases look much more lively than the people up river. The people of UKUSI/KOPIRAMI could be put down as the most unhealthy group in the area with AIRUA/BINORI coming next.

The reason for such a difference could be put down as lack of protein in their day to day diet and this people up river lack the benefits of the sea as those villages near the mouth of the GAMA River, who have crabs and fish added to their daily diet. Besides the lack of such benefits one can say without doubt that the menfolk of the up river villages would make no effort in hunting down wild game to overcome such a problem.

It could be said however that health and hygiene is only fair in the area and one should not expect too much from such a poor area.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS:

Village Officials in most cases are very ineffective, except those at the villages of GAMARI/MAGIVE, NEMETI and GIWARETORE who had some influence on the people. It was noticed that since the people knew the patrol was arriving thus all decided to do some work. Village Constables were found very reluctant to complain in the presence of the people, with the exception of the constables from the villages listed above.

CENSUS:

It was to my amazement that census was well attended throughout and no defaulters resulted. Those absent at AIRUA/BINORI have been away for some time and one week's notice did not give those at the village sufficient time to go up river to advise the people. I intend visiting the GAMA villages again after the completion of the UPPER BAMU Census Division on a follow up trip and have instructed the officials at AIRUA/BINORI to have everyone present on my next visit.

GENERAL:

It was casually suggested to the people in the GAMA area whether or not they ever thought of resettling further up both the GAMA and WAWI Rivers on much better land. The replies received were:

- (a) Too far from the coast and we'll miss our -- CRASS.
- (b) We're worried about the Government -- too far to travel.
- (c) We're not bush people to live up there.

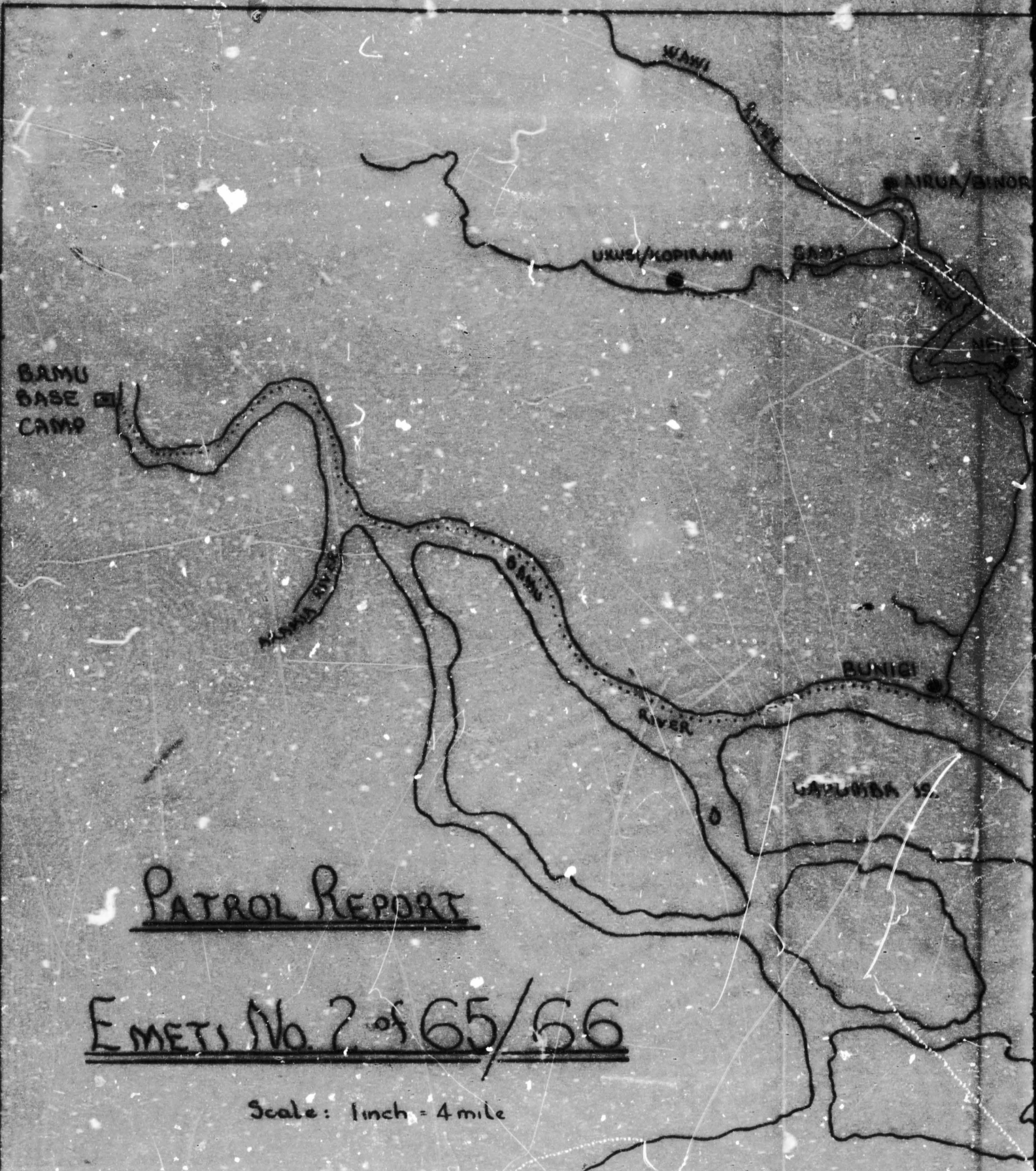
These were the types of answers I got. It was to my surprise to find that the people had such an attitude as in subsection (c). In reference to (b) it was explained to them that they shouldn't have such an idea about the Government and as long as they made up their minds and set up better villages up river on good land the Government will always visit them. However, at the moment it's only something in the wind and the people are not eager in making such a move and they have not given the idea serious thought. If this could be further looked into and how much land is available up river it would be in the interest of the people to make such a move.

This is an area where one cannot make big decisions and expect great results. Only thing that could be done is let the people progress as they wish with regular Administration visits and people given advice whenever necessary.

CONCLUSION: This area is once again one where very little could be recommended or done not because of the terrain but the attitude of the people and the lack of interest shown in any improvements.

I hope that the conduct of this patrol meets with your approval.

R. P. Kekedo
.....
(R. P. Kekedo)
Patrol Officer.

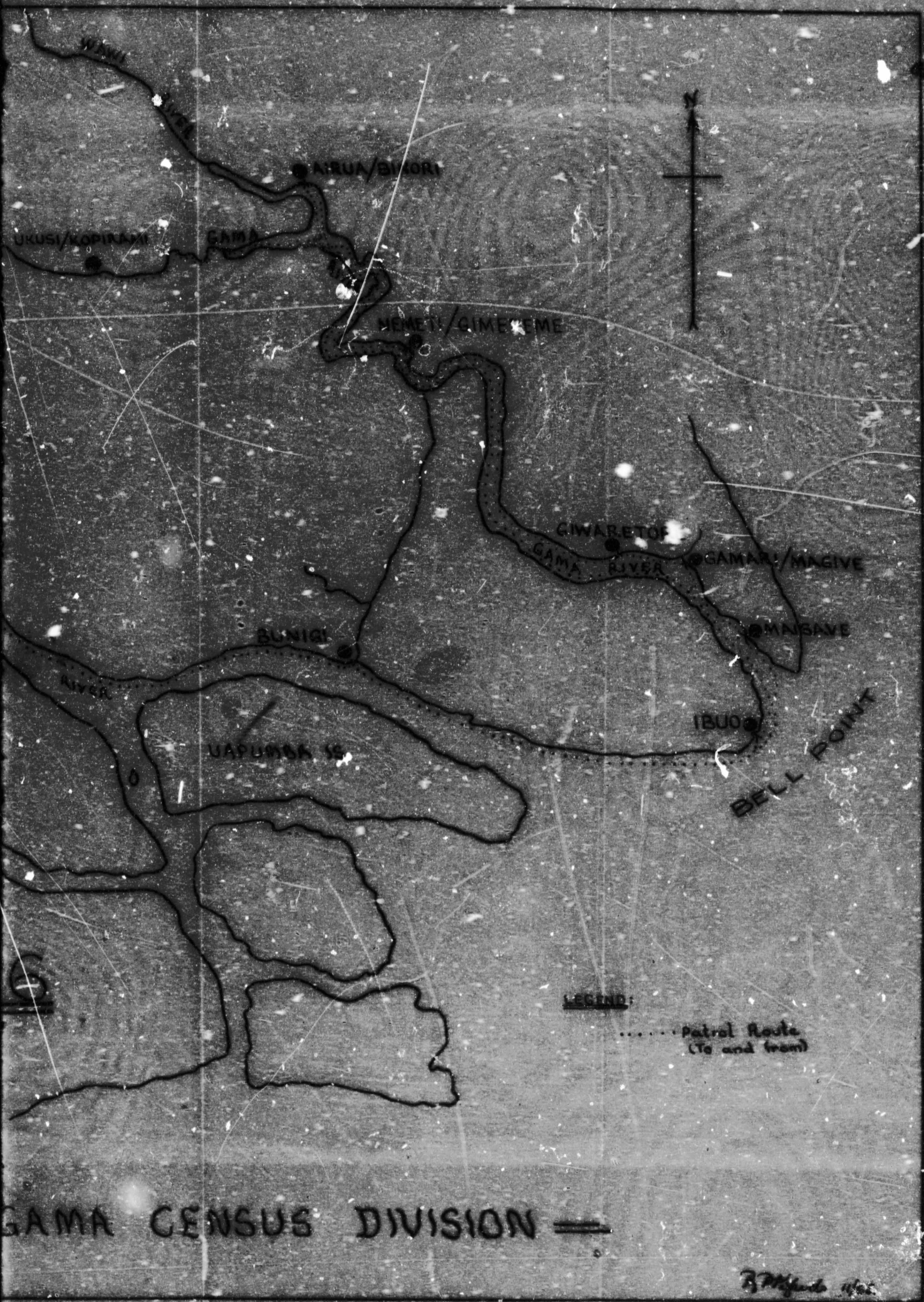


PATROL REPORT

EMETS No. 2 of 65/66

Scale: 1 inch = 4 mile

== GAMA CENSUS DIVISION





TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of... WESTERN... Report No. EMBPL No. 3 of 1965/66.

Patrol Conducted by... H. W. KEKEDO, Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled... UPPER HANU CENSUS DIVISION.

Accompanied by Europeans... NIL.

Natives... 1 member B.T.N.C.S.O. ; Interpreter.

Duration—From 7/12/1965 to 15/12/1965.

Number of Days... 9 days - 6 nights.

Did Medical Assistant Accompany... NO.

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services FEB/MAR/1965.

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

Map Reference... SEE ACCOMPANYING MAP OF PATROL.

Objects of Patrol... (1) CENSUS REVISION, (11) 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

67-2-17

21st March, 1956.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
R.M.B.

REPLY TO MR. JAMES H. HARRIS

Thank you for your memorandum 67-11-1 of 19th February, 1956 together with Mr. Harris's report.

I have noted your comments.

Mr. Harris has apparently finished a useful report and submitted a useful, lengthy and informative report. He has continued to business with enthusiasm despite the existing situation.

(J. E. HARRIS)
HARRIS

67-3-17



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams DEADM
Telephone
Our Reference 67-11-1
If calling ask for
Mr.



Department of District Administration,
Western District
DARU
11th February 1966

The Director,
Dept. District Administration
KONEDOKU

(Met) Patrol No. 3/65-66

I enclose the above numbered Patrol Report together with comments by the District Commissioner, BALIMO.

The general future of these people especially from the lower Bamu, is not bright. The area is depressing and is expressed in the general apathy of the People themselves. One cannot blame the young men for obtaining outside employment rather than stay at home where there is little or no hope of a monetary return. The U.P.M. Mission at Bamu are to be admired for their perseverance in the face of such odds.

Resettlement of the lower Bamu people would appear to be the only solution, but intensive propoganda (after a suitable area has been selected) would be necessary in order to stimulate interest.

The M.H.A. for the area has contributed nothing and on the surface, appears to have no interest in the people who elected him.

Despite the existing situation Mr. Kekedo has conducted his Patrol with enthusiasm and presented a well written report. Camping allowance claim has been approved.

K.E. Connolly
(K.E. CONNOLLY)

Deputy District Commissioner.
for D.C.

c.c.
A/ DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
BALIMO

c.c.
Mr. R.P. KEKEDO

NINGERUM

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Bamu Base Camp,
Balimo Sub-District,
Western District.

16th December, 1965.

District Commissioner,
District Office,
Western District,
D.A.R.U.

PATROL REPORT EMBEI No. 3 of 1965/66.

PREAMBLE: Submitted herewith is the above numbered report. The area patrolled was the Upper Bamu Census Division of the Balimo Sub-District.

OBJECTS OF PATROL:

- (i) Census Revision.
- (ii) Routine Administration.

OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL:

Mr. H. P. Kekede, Patrol Officer.

PERIOD OF PATROL:

7/12/65 to 15/13/65.

ACCOMPANYING PERSONNEL:

1 member H.P.N.G.C., No. 7736 Const. KOUNGEN/SITBANE.
Interpreter, BATANU/NEDE.

LAST DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION PATROL:

February/March, 1965.

MAP REFERENCE:

See accompanying map of patrol.

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PATROL DIARY:

DECEMBER, 1965.

Tuesday, 7th.

Departed Bamu Base Camp per workboat 'MAMA' for BIBISA at 0815 hours. A very slow trip up river due to strong current. Tradewind in tow for use up river if necessary. Arrived BIBISA at 1205 hours. Met Village Officials and inspected village. Village found clean and tidy. Revised census, no complaints. Slept at BIBISA.
Travelling Time: 3 hours 50 mins.

Wednesday, 8th.

Departed BIBISA at 0725 hours for WAREHO, arriving at 1215 hours. Met Village Officials and inspected village. Village only fair. Proceeded to KUBLAI by foot at 1320 hours. Only five minutes walk through small native pad. KUBLAI Village a very pleasing sight, clean and tidy, so far the best kept village. People very co-operative. Census revised, talked to people and returned to WAREHO at 1625. Revised census at WAREHO, no complaints. Slept at WAREHO.
Travelling Time: 4 hours 50 mins.

Thursday, 9th.

Left WAREHO by 'MAMA' at 0700 hours for Bamu Base Camp, arriving at 1650 hours. Travelling very slow due to strong up river current (bore). Sleeping gear off loaded and stayed the night on the station.
Travelling Time: 9 hours 50 mins.

Friday, 10th.

Departed Bamu Base Camp by 'MAMA' for DIWAME at 0805 hours. This time going up the Wahwoi River. Arrived DIWAME at 1545 hours, another very slow trip. Met Village Officials. Inspected village, all in good order. Revised census, no complaints. Slept at DIWAME.
Travelling Time: 7 hours 40 mins.

Saturday, 11th.

Due to shortage of fuel on 'MAMA', proceeded to SIPOI on Tradewind dinghy and 28hp Johnson. Departed SIPOI at 0720 hours, arriving SIPOI at 1003 hours. Met Village Officials and found people of PARIEME Village assembled at SIPOI. Left patrol equipment and continued up river to inspect village. PARIEME Village some four hours away. Left SIPOI at 1030 hours, in partly empty dinghy, arriving at 1400 hours. Village seems as though nobody has been living in it since last patrol. Returned to SIPOI at 1415 hours, arriving at 1745 hours. SIPOI people assembled and revised census, no complaints. Village fair. A most disheartening bunch of people. Slept at SIPOI.
Travelling Time: 2 hours 43 mins. DIWAME to SIPOI
3 hours 30 mins. SIPOI to PARIEME
(up river)
3 hours 15 mins. PARIEME to SIPOI
(actual travelling time - down river)

PATROL DIARY CONT'D:

DECEMBER, 1965.

Sunday, 12th.

PARIEME people assembled at SIPOI. Talked to people and asked if they intend going back to their village. All said they would return, however a close check has to be made to see if this is the case. Revised census. No complaints. Departed for DIWAME at 1130 hours, arriving at 1400 hours. Slept at DIWAME.
Travelling Time: 2 hours 30 mins.

Monday, 13th.

Patrol equipment loaded on 'MAWA' and departed at 0635 hours for Bamu Base Camp. Arrived station at 1330 hours. Unloaded 'MAWA'. At station on general duties.
Travelling Time: 6 hours 55 mins.

Tuesday, 14th.

Departed for GAGORO by Tradewind at 0845 hours, while 'MAWA' bound for Balimo. Arrived GAGORO in five minutes. People assembled. Village inspected. All in order. Talked to people and revised census, no complaints. Left at 1130 hours for IOWA arriving at 1145 hours. Inspected Village. Village only fair. Talked to assembled people. Revised census, no complaints. Returned to station at 1330 hours. On general office procedures and compiling of patrol report. Departed for GARU at 1545 hours, due to low tide hold up at Kuria. Passage for half an hour, finally arriving at 1730 hours. Met Village Officials. Slept at GARU.
Travelling Time: 1 hour 15 mins.

Wednesday, 15th.

Departed GARU at 0930 hours after census revision. Village in very poor condition. Proceeded to KURIA, arriving at 1035 hours. Met Village Officials and found village in good condition, clean and tidy. Talked to assembled people then revised census. No complaints. Departed KURIA for Bamu Base Camp at 1345 hours, arrived at 1400 hours. Patrol stood down.
Total Travelling Time: 1 hour 26 mins.

END of DIARY
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INTRODUCTION:

The area patrolled was the Upper Bamu Census Division which consists of villages on the upper Bamu and Wahwoi Rivers, the Aramia River and near the station. All villages in the Census Division were visited.

The main objects of the patrol were:

- (i) Revise Census.
- (ii) Routine Administration.

The workboat 'MAWA' from Balimo was used for the upper sections of the Bamu and Wahwoi Rivers and the 'TRADEWIND' was used when necessary. On completion of the upper part of both rivers the 'MAWA' returned to Balimo. The patrol was then completed on the 'TRADEWIND' dinghy with a 28hp Johnson. Although few mechanical faults occurred the patrol went on according to plans.

Throughout the area the patrol was well received. The people were advised on the patrol's pending visit thus the people were prepared and awaiting the patrol's arrival.

Census in general was well attended and no difficulties confronted the patrol.

NATIVE AFFAIRS:

(a) Native Situation:

Throughout the area patrolled the reception of the various villages visited was quite favourable. The patrol was well received and since the people were notified prior to the patrol's visit preparations were made before the patrol's arrival, with the exception of the villages of YARU on the Aramia River and PARIEME, a village on the upper reaches of the Wahwoi River.

Although it was pleasing to see that people have made the effort to tidy up their villages before the patrol's arrival, but it is quite evident that this was done since a patrol was due in the area. It was found that the people spend most of their time away at their bush dwellings thus nothing much is done in the villages until word is received of the patrol's visit.

It was noticed that many of the able bodied men have been away at work on plantations but being away has had very little effect on them and on return to their villages have stripped and returned to where they started. During the past few years it also appears that many of the people have been migrating from village to village. When asked why this was done no one seems to have a worthwhile reason. They move when they feel like it. This people appear to be a very slow moving, uninterested group of people with very few 'wants' thus are not interested in any developments.

Generally, the people have a fair idea of law and order but that's just about it. The Village Officials in turn have a very vague knowledge of what is expected of them and thus have very little influence on the people, but, the Government says clean the village so this is done.

On visiting PARIEME village it was discovered that most of the people were away in the bush and have been away since the last patrol. Half of the people assembled at SIPOI for census and when asked about the village, the main reason was that all were away on crocodile shooting. Language was a difficulty and to have a most positive interpretation one would have to spend some time with the people. Motu was used but very few or should I say no one

Native Situation cont'd:

understood or spoke motu fluently thus it would difficult to relate their ideas. All the villages had rest houses.

Complaints heard during the course of the patrol were all minor cases. These were settled immediately with the parties concerned in the presence of the Village Officials. All matters were settled without much difficulty.

As was said in previous reports about both the Gama and Lower Bamu Census Division it wouldn't be out of place to say that the Upper Bamu area is also a most depressing set up. This is mainly due to the uninterested attitude of the people. Rather than try to push them along I feel these people should be left to progress at their own pace but regular checks be made of their developments and the people put in their right tracks when necessary and also giving some advice. An area where one cannot expect miracles to happen overnight.

(a) Economic Development:

Under this sub heading very little could be said due to the fact that very little is being done. The main source of income is through the sale of labour and many of the men were away at work on plantations. The crocodile skin however is the main source of obtaining luxuries for the day to day villager or even in order to pay for a bride. However, crocodiles are rapidly becoming scarce as more shooters enter the area and as years go by it will become harder to find the reptile. Again as I see it the only crop which will survive is -- coconuts.

Wouldn't Throughout the area no large stands of coconut were sighted or at least ~~there's~~ none in the area. The handful of palms seen even wouldn't worth the effort if the people all put in to make copra.

As the lower part of the area, ^{was} left behind and the patrol went further up river it was noticed that the country started to undulate, and one would think the people would have used the available land for agricultural purposes but this was hardly the case. These people have the land available for more plantings but they show no interest in doing so, however with continual urging this could bring results but time and patience would also play its part.

To get anything new done in the way of development one has to be very careful in making any decisions because once this fails the people will be further discouraged and no headway achieved. A rather disheartening area.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK:

Subsistence agriculture in general is nonexistent and the people don't appear to be subsistence farmers, in actual fact the people live on what Mother Nature has provided for them -- sago being the staple food of the people. Few bunches of bananas were purchased on patrol and that was all.

Very few pigs were sighted and were of the local type. People again live on wild game which consist of cassowaries, and pigs mainly and these hunted for their meat supplies.

It is possible for the people to grow things like taro, sweet potatoes and yams but of course this attitude of not being interested makes one to forget about all improvements. If the people helped themselves it would be a different place altogether.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH:

Generally speaking the health of the people appeared to be fairly good, apart from the usual cases of 'grille' which is most prevalent. The only medical services in the area is given by the Banu River Mission. Although the people are told time and time again re the existence of an Aid Post, people very seldom make the effort to obtain treatment from it.

The attitude towards medical treatment is similar to that of the other Census Divisions in the Banu area in so far as all illness is caused by socery except for visible wounds such as cuts and bruises. In many cases however the people tend to be very reluctant in obtaining medical aid.

MISSIONS:

The Banu River Mission is the only mission in the area but it has very little influence on the people. The people visit the mission only when trading in crocodile skins and to purchase goods from the mission store. The villages nearby like IOWA, MATAKALA, KURIA and GAGORO attend Sunday services now and again but that's about all. Again the mission itself is doing all it could help the people but of course this attitude of not being interested just doesn't get much results.

EDUCATION:

There are of course no schools in the upper reaches of the Banu area. The only school being that run by the Banu River Mission and many of the children from GAGORO, IOWA, MATAKALA and KURIA attend the school, however, due to the fact that the school holidays were on all were present at their villages for census. This being the only source of education in the area.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Travel is done mainly by canoe. The only track used in the area was a five minute walk from WARMO to KUEIAL. This of course not being maintained. The patrol was therefore done on the workboat and the Tradewind dinghy.

VILLAGES AND HOUSING:

The standard of housing generally was satisfactory and conditions of the villages good, with the exception of the villages of GARU and PARIEME. It was pleasing to see that some effort has been made at least to tidy up the villages although that isn't much to show.

PARIEME village, although this place exists it seems that no one lives there until a patrol is due in the area. Crocodile shooting was the main reason for them being away. Those who assembled at SIPOI were asked about the matter and of course the answer was 'we were all out crocodile hunting and will return after we sell all our skins'. As for GARU no effort was made whatsoever to clean the village and instructions were given before the patrol's departure. The village to be inspected enroute to Balimo.

The villages of IOWA/MATAKALA have joined forces but appear for census in their own village groups. Generally all was found in good order.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS:

Village Officials as was seen in previous patrols this also applies to this area --- most ineffective except for the Village Officials of KURIA and KUBIAI who have some push in them. The people in most cases decided to work since they knew a Government patrol was due in the area thus all got down to cleaning up of villages. Village Constables in most cases appeared very reluctant to lay any complaints in the presence of the people and many have openly admitted they were afraid of the other men. People advised the role of a Village Constable but one cannot say what really goes on when the patrol departs.

CENSUS:

Census was well attended throughout except for the village of PARIEME where many were found absent on crocodile shooting. It would be advisable for the officer visiting the area next time make thorough investigation on the people's movement and what they intend doing as most seem to spend their time in the bush.

Changes in census figures is due to the fact that people keep moving from one village to another all the time and migrations occur mainly from one village to another.

CONCLUSION:

The Bamu area is one where very little could be done due to the fact that the people show no interest and would prefer living on what nature has made available for them rather make the effort themselves.

I hope the conduct of this patrol meets with your approval.

R. P. Kekedo
 (R. P. Kekedo)
 Patrol Officer

