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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: CENTRAL

STATION: PORT MORESBY, 1958 -
1959

Original documents bound with reports
for: Sogeri, volume 2

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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PATROL REPORTS CENTRAL DISTRICT 1958/59

PORT MORESBY

SOGERI

<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled.</u>
P.M. 1-58/59	W.A. McGrath	Vanape
" 2-58/59	K.E. Connolly	East Coast
Sog. 1-58/59	J.A. Gauci	Vanapa River Census Division
" 2-58/59 (Memo only)	R.N. Claridge	Sogeri Valley

MEMORANDUM OF PATROL

P.M. No. 1 - 58/59
Patrol No. **H.Q. No. 2-58/59** Subdistrict **Port Moresby** District **Central**
Officer Conducting Patrol **W.A. McGrath Patrol Officer**
accompanied by B.C. Byrnes Cadet Patrol Officer - Part only
Census Division Patrolled **VANAPA**
Objects of Patrol **Land Tenure Investigation,**
Investigate land available for purchase.

Date Patrol Commenced **14/4/1959 - 5/5/1959 -** Date Completed **18/4/59 stage 1 10/6/59 stage 2**
Duration—days.....

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE ARISING FROM PATROL

Land for Settlement - Central District **H.Q. file 35 - 11 - 1**
Copies of correspondence and maps to A.D.O. Port Moresby and D.O. Central District.

C. 2317
.....
W.A. McGrath. *Patrolling Officer's Signature.*

I certify that all necessary local administrative action has been or is being taken on matters arising out of this patrol and that the correspondence above indicated by a "tick" has been forwarded to the Headquarters, Department of Native Affairs, Port Moresby.

.....
District Officer.

Native Lands Section,
Headquarters,
Dept. of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

1st May 1959.

The Director,
Dept. of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

INTERIM REPORT - TRANS VANAPA LAND INVESTIGATION.

Reference Lands Dept. memorandum L.F. 126/26 - (3220) of the 9th April 1959 attached to D.N.A./H.Q. file 35-6-1 (folio 184) and your verbal instructions of Friday 10th April 1959.

2. I have to advise that I proceeded to the Vanapa River area accompanied by C.P.O. B. Byrnes (attached to the Sub District Office, Port Moresby) on Tuesday 14th April 1959 for a five day reconnaissance. A diary showing my activities and movements is attached as appendix 1.

3. On my return to Port Moresby, a composite map of the Trans-Vanapa area was compiled from all available information obtainable. It is drawn to a scale of 40 chains to 1 inch. Sunprints have been made and a copy is attached to this report. Copies have also been made available to the District Office.

Amendments will be made to map following the completion of the main investigation.

4. It was rather fortunate, in some ways, that the Vanapa and Brown Rivers were in full flood during my visit as the low lying and flooded areas could easily be delineated for future reference. It was noted that many areas of D.A. 601 adjoining the Brown - Vanapa road were covered with large sheets of water and/or fast flowing streams which, surprisingly, quickly dried up or flowed away after a few days of fine weather. In view of this flooding, I will confine the main investigation to the higher ground east and north east of the Brown - Vanapa road - outside D.A. 601 ofcourse - and in particular to the huge area of forest north east of the survey line of the proposed Vanapa - Veimaui motor road.

5. The Doura people seem to be in a state of transition; a segment of the Varu Clan - viz. the extended family of Gorogo-Jack (son of Jack Tunner or Jack Solimon a timber cutter who married a Doura woman and settled in Douramuko Village) has hived off from the main concentration of the Varu Clan at Douramuko forming a new hamlet some three miles upstream along the Vanapa River at a place called Kanobaba'a. This hamlet is just east of D.A. 2014 but on the left bank of the Vanapa River. It appears it may be 100 yards or so north of the presumed boundary of D.A.601.

6. The Doura group is acknowledged to have rights over huge areas of river flats between the Brown River to the south and the Veimaui River to the north. The territory of the Doura people borders that of the Manumanu people (Motu) in the swamps on the north eastern side of Galley Reach. On the southern, south eastern and eastern sides, Doura's neighbours are the Mountain Koiari (Waragadi and Vabari), Kotoi and Sugu groups respectively. The latter two groups seem to be allied to the Mountain Koiari and occupy the Mount Victoria and mid-mountain Vanapa areas, a days walk south of the last Fuyuge villages controlled from Waitape. However the Sugu and Kotoi languages (dialects?) can only be understood by their neighbouring Koiari's. The Guni (or Gunipa or Kuni) are Doura's north eastern neighbours, whilst continuous areas of

P. 12/6.

*Discussed with Mr. de Groot
This is an interim report only.*

Crown land adjoin Doura's western and north western boundaries.(see attached map).

Each of those neighbouring groups recognizes certain marks (natural features) which identify the boundaries of the respective domains. It was not always so. Legends are to a very large degree concerned with battles and consequent migrations, and it seems clear that a village or clan traditionally held as much land as it could enforce rights over. There is reason to think that the Doura's presence in this area made them a continual prey to Koiari, Sugu, Kuni, Kabadi and Motu raiding parties. It seems the Doura were never numerous (the total population today is around 200 odd - a figure which has remained more or less static for decades. Doura legends tell us of former village sites on D.A.601 (declared Crown Land in 1899 following a 'Waste and Vacant Declaration) and elsewhere; viz.:-

- (a) at Ponepone on the right bank of the Brown (Nauro) River some 2 miles downstream from the present Koiari village of Motumotu.
- (b) at Oruapara, a grass plain near the Vekabu Creek approximately midway between the Brown and Vanapa Rivers.
- (c) at Hanuaobana near the junction of the Vanapa and Fuina (or Huina or Hanuaobana) Rivers (see attached map).
- (d) at Auaba, west of D.A.2014 and east of Douramuko.
- (e) at Irua between Vasigabela and Douramuko.

However, the advent of British rule - from the time of Sir William MacGregor - served to confirm occupancy. Their legends of early settlement give permanent validity to the boundaries recognised between the various groups concerned at that time.

7. Doura land inheritance is bilateral and the descendants of the original appropriator of the land have the right to use the land. The senior male paternal descendant is regarded as the head, and may apportion sections of the land to those descendants who may wish to use the land.

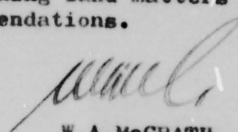
The senior male descendant, with the concurrence of the other paternal male descendants, may give a portion of the land away to a female descendant on her marriage and such land shall be deemed to be the property of that female and her descendants; if such female dies without issue then that land reverts to the original holders.

The children of a female who marries outside the tribe or into a distant clan may lose their rights in the land if they lose contact with their mother's family.

Continued use of any particular section of the land establishes ownership of that particular piece of land and any descendant who does not use the land may lose his or her rights.

8. I agree with your views that a thorough investigation of land tenure, ownership and land holdings of the Doura people is essential prior to any recommendations being submitted for the alienation of 10,000 acres of land suggested. Much land in this area has been alienated in the past, with and without the knowledge of these people. The main difficulty seems to lie in the indecision surrounding the boundaries, the ownership and the future of D.A.601.

9. I intend to make a thorough perusal of District Office, Sub-District and Lands Commission files concerning land matters and land disputes in this area prior to submitting my recommendations.


W.A. McGRATH.
Patrol Officer.

Native Lands Section,
Headquarters,
Dept. of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

30th April 1959.

The Director,
Dept. of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

Diary of Trans-Vanapa Land Investigation
H.Q. No. 2 of 1958/59

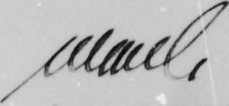
Tuesday 14th April 1959. Departed Port Moresby per utility at 9.00 am. As the Brown-Vanapa road was impassable owing to severe flooding, the utility was returned to Port Moresby after the party reached the Vekabu bridge. Camp was made between the Vekabu Creek and the Vanapa River. Stores were relayed to this point.

Wednesday 15th April 1959. Personnel and stores were ferried across a deep swamp that had risen many feet over the main Brown-Vanapa road formation. Arrived at the Vanapa River at 12 noon. Proceeded downstream to Douramuko Village by canoes supplied by the Kanobaba'a villagers. Discussions with villagers of Douramuko, Vasigabila and Kanobaba'a. Camped overnight in tents at Douramuko Village (rest house untenable).

Thursday 16th April 1959. Discussions with villagers re land tenure. Details of land ownership collated between Douramuko Village downstream along the Vanapa River to Vasigabila Village. Returned to Douramuko via overland foot track. Discussions with the villagers in the evening. Camped overnight at Douramuko Village.

Friday 17th April 1959. By canoe to Kanobaba'a Hamlet (3 hours upstream from Douramuko). Details of land ownership collated. Discussions with Gorego-Jack - headman of Kanobaba'a Hamlet and Varu Clan - and other natives. Visited Mr. P. Gallagher lessee of D.A. 2014. Returned to Douramuko Village at 5 pm. Discussions with the villagers in the evening. Camped there overnight.

Saturday 18th April 1959. Ascertaining ownership of land on the left (or southern) bank of the Vanapa River adjoining D.A. 601. Departed for the Brown River at 10am arriving there at 1.45pm. Landrover waiting at the Brown River Forest's Dept. camp. Proceeded to Port Moresby arriving there at 3.30pm.


(J.A. McGRATH)
Patrol Officer,



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

20/1/59 ✓



DEM/MR

In Reply
Please Quote

No. P/1861

District Office,
Port Moresby,
8th June, 1959.

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
KONEDOBU.

PATROL DIARY - C.P.O. BYRNES

The attached diary relates to C.P.O. Byrnes's activities
in conjunction with P.O. McGrath on the VANAPA River.

Mr. Byrnes ended up in hospital with infected scrub typhus
bites. He has now resumed duty with the Assistant District Officer,
PORT MORESBY.

C. 2011.

(D. R. MARSH)
DISTRICT OFFICER

PATROL DIARY
LAND INVESTIGATION - VANAPA RIVER AREA

8th. June 1959

Tuesday 14th. April. 1959 Departed Port Moresby 11.30 a.m. by motor vehicle for Vanapa River. Arrived at stream 4 miles past Brown River at 3.30 p.m. As roadway from there on was flooded, the vehicle was sent back and we camped overnight.

Wednesday 15th. Broke camp at 7.30 a.m. and walked through to Vanapa River; road flooded much of the way. Went by canoe down to Douramuka village, arriving about 2.30 p.m. Resthouse was dilapidated so we camped on the edge of the village.

Thursday 16th. P.O. Mr. McGrath conducted enquiries re land ownership, and I assisted wherever possible. Went by canoe down to Vazogobila village at 2.00 p.m. to inspect same, returned cross-country on foot to Douramuka.

Friday 17th. Went upstream to Kanobaba'a village to continue enquiries. Returned to Camp at Douramuka late in the day.

Saturday 18th. Broke camp at 7.30 a.m. and set off on foot for Brown River. (12 miles). Arrived 11.30 a.m. approx. and continued to Port Moresby by motor vehicle.

Tuesday 5th. May. 1959 Departed Moresby 10.00 a.m. for Vanapa River. Road was now dry and the vehicle made the trip right to the river. Unloaded the gear and then walked down to Douramuka to fetch gear left there on 18.4.'59. Returned to a point about half a mile above roadway and camped near where a Forests Officer, Mr. McDonald, was already camped.

Wednesday 6th. Spent the day making a semi-permanent camp on the bank overlooking the river. Mr. McGrath arrived about 4.00 p.m. from Moresby.

Thursday 7th. Walked up to Kanobaba'a to continue investigations and returned to Camp about 3.00 p.m. Mr. Claridge ADO Sogeru, arrived early in the afternoon and camped nearby.

Friday 8th. Mr. Claridge left early, going up along the river. We went by canoe to Douramuka taking with us an old man from Kanobaba'a who seems to know a lot about ownership in the area. Returned to camp on foot late in the afternoon.

Saturday 9th. Walked upstream to Fodu, a little above Kanobaba'a, where a couple of Kuni people are starting a garden. Returned to camp before midday, and thence to Moresby by Motor vehicle.

Monday 11th. Returned to Vanapa Camp early with Mr. McDonald, Forests Officer, and spent the day reorganizing the camp.

Tuesday 12th. Walked down to Douramuka to talk to a group of Chimbu deserters from Kanosia, and brought them back to Camp. Mr. McGrath arrived in the afternoon.

Wednesday 13th. Set the Chimbos off to Moresby (on foot) with their complaints. Continued talks with Kanobaba'a people. Mr. McGrath departed for a walk upstream, leaving me to look after the camp as he was camping out that night.

Thursday 14th. Walked down to Douramuka to inspect new canoe built for Administration paid Ferryman. Returned to camp about 1.00 p.m. Mr. McGrath returned from up the river late in the afternoon.

Friday 12th. Went for a walk with Mr. McDonald across to Veiya River and back, roughly through the middle of the area under investigation. Had to cut tracks much of the way, very few native tracks. Returned to camp and thence by vehicle to Moresby late afternoon.

Monday 18th. Departed Moresby 9.00 a.m. and arrived at camp on Vanapa at 11.30 a.m. Packed necessary gear and departed with Mr. McDonald to walk around the boundaries of the purchase area. Went on foot to Douramuka thence to Vasogobila and on to Rabisi village on the Veiya river. Camped at Rabisi.

Tuesday 19th. Left Rabisi at 8.00 a.m., crossed Veiya river and walked cross-country to Akuku village on the Veimaui river. Crossed the Veimaui and walked through to the O'Mara river, a further four miles upstream. Went on up the O'Mara about two miles and made a camp about 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 20th. Broke camp at 7.30 a.m. and set off upstream. At midday left the river and set off cross country for the Veimaui river. Failed to locate it and finally made a dry camp at 5.30 p.m.

Thursday 21st. Set off at 7.30 a.m. and came up on the river about midday. Walked upstream until 2.00 p.m. then camped by the river.

Friday 22nd. Departed 8.00 a.m. for another arm of the Veimaui river, reached it and made camp about 3.30 p.m.

Saturday 23rd. Departed camp 8.00 a.m. for Veiya river then walked upstream. Camped at 2.00 p.m. Have not seen any signs of native habitation or even tracks since leaving Akuku village on Tuesday 19th. The country is very hilly with many steep ridges.

Sunday 24th. Broke camp at 7.30 a.m. and set off for Vanapa river. Arrived at camp on the Vanapa at 3.00 p.m.

Monday 25th. Mr. McDonald departed upstream early a.m. leaving me to keep an eye on the camp.

Tuesday 26th. Returned to Moresby late afternoon with Mr. McDonald.

Barrie C. Byrnes. CPO.

58

KEC:JC

30-1/270

13th April, 1959.

The District Officer,
PORT MORESBY.

PATROL NO.2 - 1958/1959

My memorandum of Patrol and Diary is submitted herewith. Population registers are also attached. The Patrol was of a routine nature.

The delay in the submission of this Report is regretted.



(K.E. Connolly)
A/Assistant District Officer.

(56)

DIARY:

Monday 16th February, 1959: Departed PORT MORESBY per "EROS" 10.30 a.m. Arrived GAILE 1300 hrs.
Commenced tax census. Departed GAILE 1800 hrs. for BARAKAU anchorage arriving 1900 hrs. and anchored for night.

Discussion with BARAKAU officials.

Tuesday 17th February, 1959: Departed BARAKUA anchorage 0600 hrs. Arrived GAILE 0700 hrs.

Completed census and had discussions with village officials. No complaints or disputes. Inspected Administration school. Native material but very good. Village clean and housing in good repair. Inspected Co-operative store. Stocks low. Health generally good.

Departed GAILE 1500 hrs and arrived BARAKAU anchorage 1600 hrs.

Arrangements made for tax census.

Wednesday 18th February 1959: At BARAKAU.

Completed tax census. Discussions with village officials. No complaints or disputes. People report gardens adequate. Inspected Administration school. A new school built of native material. Teacher and pupils very keen. Inspected Co-operative Store. Very poor stocks, due to loss of £200 due to illegal trading but no action possible. Health generally good. One patient taken to hospital. Remained at BARAKAU anchorage and held discussions with village officials. Word sent to TUPESELEIA re census.

Thursday 19th February, 1959: Departed BARAKAU 0600 hours. Arrived TUPESELEIA 0700 hours.

Commenced tax census. Returned to BARAKAU anchorage 1800 hrs.

Friday 20th February, 1959: Departed BARAKAU anchorage 0600 hrs. for TUPESELEIA arriving 0700 hrs.

Completed tax census. Discussions with village officials. No complaints or disputes. Villagers report gardens adequate. Inspected Co-operative Store. Good stocks. Inspected Administration school. Very good. Request by people for another school as many school age children are now not attending due to overcrowding. This is a fact.

Departed TUPESELEIA 1200 hrs. for PORT MORESBY arriving 1400 hrs.

End of Patrol.

by a tick has been forwarded to the Headquarters, Department of Native Affairs.
D. W. Jackson
District Officer.

VILLAGE POPULATION REGISTER

YEAR.....1958/59.....

Govt. Print.—513/16.57.—10,000.

VILLAGE	DATE OF CENSUS	BIRTHS		DEATHS												MIGRATIONS				ABSENT FROM VILLAGE				LABOUR POTENTIAL				FEMALES	Average Size of Family	TOTALS (excluding absentee)				GRAND TOTAL	
				0-1 Mth.		0-1 Year		1-4		5-8		9-13		Over 13		Females in Child Birth	IN		OUT		At Work		STUDENTS		MALES		FEMALES			Child	Adults				
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M		F				
		0-16		16-45		10-16		16-45		Percentage of Child-bearing	M		F		M		F		M		F		M		F		M		F		M	F			
GALLE	16-2-59	21	19	1	2	2	1	1	1				4	5					33	20	22	5	7	3	73	176	59	41	6	2	163	421	916	109	261
ARAKAU	19-2-59	11	6		1							3	2	1		2	18	4	41	14	25	11	29	84	31	86	5	151	5.3	86	57	64	62	412	
PESELEIA	19-2-59	28	27	3		1	8	3				4	3		1	5	82	3	29	67	24	73	39	97	243	98	21	5	4.1	250	244	78	203	1098	
		60	52	3	1	3	3	8	4	1		11	10	1	1	7	133	3	53	130	43	105	53	199	403	188	43	12	212	4.1	194	194	251	526	2285



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

30/1/59
7

In Reply
Please Quote

No. SOG. PR. NO. 1-58-59/749



District Office,
PORT MORESBY.

2nd January, 1959.

DMR/MR

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

63 31/1/59

SOGERI PATROL REPORT NO. 1/58-59

Reference your NA 34-12-1(C) of 4/7/57 re proposed native reserves on BROWN and VANAPA RIVERS.

The investigation of DA601, an area 510 square miles, as per your paragraph 3(a) has to date been carried out by Mr. G. Insley and Mr. J. Gauci. There still remains a section north of the GOLDIE RIVER to be investigated and this is currently being done by Mr. R. Claridge. Copies of the surveys carried out to date are enclosed. However, the discussion will be help up until Mr. Claridge completes his section. ✓

? Considerable work has also been done on the lands of the PORT MORESBY urban villages as per your paragraph 3(b). This aspect of the work takes the form of a coloured map which is rather startling when one notes the amount of alienated land to Crown land.

We have been unable to tackle the DOURA lands - your paragraph 3(c) - to date, although it is known that they have no claim in DA601 and that their tribal lands north of the VANAPA are extensive.

Matters relating to taxation census and medical have been dealt with locally.

We do not contemplate any attempt at economic activity in the MT. VICTORIA region until the VANAPA RIVER is bridged. Once this is done, feeder roads will surely go up the VANAPA RIVER and will automatically open up the area for there is good land available for settlement. This route from DOURA up the VANAPA to IRITIMUN and thence URUN and WAITAPE will probably end up as the main motor route to the GOILALA.

The coloured map I referred to will be brought in personally at the same time Mr. Claridge submits his report as the whole matter will need considerable discussion.

(D. R. MARSH)
ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER

ATT