

National Archives & Public Records Services
of Papua New Guinea

PATROL REPORTS

District : Western
Station : Balimo
Volume : 1
ISBN NO : 9980-910-79 -8
Accession NO : 496
Period : 1955-1956

Filmed by/for the National Archives of Papua New Guinea
Port Moresby 1995

Sole Custodian: National Archives of Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

Digitized version made available by



Copyright: Government of Papua New Guinea. This digital version made under a license granted by the National Archives and Public Records Services of Papua New Guinea.

Use: This digital copy of the work is intended to support research, teaching, and private study.

Constraints: This work is protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) and the laws of Papua New Guinea. Use of this work beyond that allowed by "fair use" requires written permission of the National Archives of Papua New Guinea. Responsibility for obtaining permissions and any use and distribution of this work rests exclusively with the user and not the UC San Diego Library.

Note on digitized version: A microfiche copy of these reports is held at the University of California, San Diego (Mandeville Special Collections Library, MSS 0215). The digitized version presented here reflects the quality and contents of the microfiche. Problems which have been identified include misfiled reports, out-of-order pages, illegible text; these problems have been rectified whenever possible. The original reports are in the National Archives of Papua New Guinea (Accession no. 496).

PATROL REPORT

WESTERN DISTRICT : BALING

1 of 55/56

R.Aiste P.O.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. BAIMO 1 8 1955

Patrol Conducted by RICHARD ASBETT KIRCH GIEKER

Area Patrolled BAHU DELTA CENSUS STREAM

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

Natives 7

Duration--From 21/10/1955 to 21/11/1955

Number of Days 32

Dist Medical Assistant Accompanying Nil

Last Patrol to Area by District Services 4/1954

Medical 8/1955

Map Reference

Objects of Patrol CENSUS AND ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT SERVICES
AND NATIVE AFFAIRS
PORT MORGESBY

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 £

Village Population

Year 1955-56

VILLAGE	DATE OF CENSUS	Births		DEATHS											
				0-1 Month		0-1 Year		1-4		5-8		9-12		Over 12	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
ANILAPAI	4.11.55	1	2			1								1	1
BANAI	1.11.55	4						1						2	
BANAI	2.10.11.55	4	1					1						1	3
BANAI	5.11.55	9	1			1		1						1	2
BANAI	7.11.55	1						1						1	1
BANAI	12.11.55	8	5											3	2
BANAI	2.11.55	5	4					1	1					1	1
BANAI	16.11.55	1		1						1	1			5	3
BANAI	1.11.55	3	6			1	2							2	
BANAI	8.11.55	3	3			1	1	2						1	1
BANAI	7.11.55	1												2	
BANAI	15.11.55	1				1	1							2	1
BANAI	16.11.55	1	3			1	1							1	1
BANAI	2.11.55	3	4											3	3
BANAI	10.11.55	11	10			3	3							7	5
BANAI	9.11.55	1	2			1								1	1
BANAI	5.11.55	6	2			1	1			1				1	1
BANAI	3.11.55	5	1							1				1	2
BANAI	11.11.55	4												3	
BANAI	11.11.56	2	1					1	1						
		80	52			1	7	7	10	7				3	22

Population Register

Area Parcelled BAMUNDENIA CENSUS DIV

FACTORY		ASSENT OR VILLAGE						LARGE PORTNIAL				REMARKS	TOTALS (Excluding Absence)					GRAND TOTAL	
BY WORK		Outside District		DOW		Mission		Male	Female			Persons	Males	Females	Civil		Able		
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	10-20	20-40	40-60	60-80				M	F	M		F
								7	12	3	14	-	15	22	17	10	3	11	61
								1	11	11	39	1	12	18	29	16	7	11	122
								11	43	10	41	2	38	20	42	40	10	14	182
								13	47	6	43	-	49	27	38	32	11	15	282
								6	38	4	19	2	21	16	11	13	8	22	122
								11	35	5	29	5	48	22	44	31	12	16	182
								17	52	11	24	2	72	18	23	18	15	22	222
								8	21	5	18	2	19	17	13	10	10	10	122
								11	24	10	33	1	26	19	28	22	11	14	172
								5	26	9	26	2	26	18	19	23	16	22	162
								3	14	2	18	1	18	14	12	8	5	8	122
								9	40	13	43	5	47	16	27	32	12	15	222
								11	23	10	34	2	21	20	17	14	10	12	172
								2	54	7	11	1	25	18	23	15	10	12	172
								10	35	10	49	4	38	19	35	36	15	20	282
								12	43	11	44	5	44	21	37	32	11	14	272
								3	23	4	28	1	19	19	18	14	9	12	172
								4	30	3	29	1	30	13	25	17	11	15	202
								8	30	6	38	1	38	17	30	22	24	49	242
								6	26	5	22	1	41	12	20	17	12	15	222
113 18 209 H								3	1	168	666	159	157	30	677	500	460	429	2702





Coast
SOUTH

103



W.A. 10-4-4

9th January, 1977.

The District Officer,
Central District,
Madras.

RAJAPET, DISTRICT NO. 1, MADRAS.

The delay in acknowledging this report is
regretted.

It is apparent to us after several reports that
the area and its vicinity needs special treatment. A special
provision for funds for the establishment of a post in the area.

pek
(A. S. Roberts),
RAJAPET.

(711)

25 711

20/1/42

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



In Reply
Please Quote
No. 30-5-2/42

District Commissioner's Office,
D.M.U.,
6th January, 1942.

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PORT MORESBY.

SUBJECT: KAVIRA DISTRICT - RAILWAY No. 1 of 1935/36.

Going forward herewith the a/mentioned Report.

The District has submitted an excellent report of a well equipped patrol. It should be noted that the area visited is that bordered by the Pacific coast and the "Hills". This patrol however was being guided by a patrol from four months previous & now under. This has been done in order

INDIAN RESERVE P. SOCIAL.

The existing state of affairs as recorded is to be maintained. To keep a District Officer's office available for the sub-district in order to carry a survey of possible resources. Inactive local employment which also the flow of migrant labour.

RECRUITING.

To date no representations re copper production in this area, have been made to the H.M. Here again perhaps the activities of a District Officer would prove of value.

INDIAN RESERVE.

This is sub-district is being regarded for the opening of a Medical Assistant and the construction of a hospital. Could the Department of Public Health be approached please in this matter. Also all H.M. in sub-district.

NATIVE LABOUR STATISTICS.

Obviously this area should be closed to recruiting.

[Signature]
District Commissioner,
Kavira District.

P/A
[Handwritten initials]

30-5-1/24.

District Commissioner's Office,
D.H.H., W.B.

6th January, 1955.

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Director,
Department of Native Affairs,
PO BOX 1000.

SUMMARY: PATROL SERVICE - MALDEN No. 1 of 1954/55.

Going forward herewith the aforesaid Report.

Mr. Abbott has submitted an excellent report of a well conducted patrol. It should be noted that the first vessel in line was the "Lalla" which carried the "Lalla". This vessel however was here only as at 10.15 for four weeks awaiting a new master. This was just over 10.15.

NATIVE LABOUR IN MALDEN.

The existing state of affairs as reported in the aforesaid Report is being a Group. Officers would be made available for the sub-district in order to make a survey of possible returns. Labourers local requirements might stem the flow of migrant labour.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

To date no representations re compensation in this area, have been made to the E.G. Here again perhaps the activities of a Co-op. Union would prove the value.

GENERAL & REMARKS.

This sub-district is being overrun for the purpose of a Medical Assistant and the construction of a hospital. Health Department of Public Health is approached please re this matter. After all MALDEN is a Sub-district.

NATIVE LABOUR STATISTICS.

Obviously this area should be closed to recruiting.

(Signature)
(A.D. Officer)
District Commissioner,
Malden District.

TERRITORY OF P. PUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT NO. BMO 1 OF 1955-56

BALING SUB-DISTRICT, WESTERN DISTRICT.

OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL Richard Abbott, patrol officer.

AREA PATROLLED. Bamu peita census division.

OBJECTS OF PATROL. (1) census.
(2) routine administration.

DURATION. 21/10/55 to 21/11/55.

NUMBER OF DAYS. 32.

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING. Europeans. Nil.
natives. const. DOTAU
" KANWIKARI
" EBCHO
" ONKAN
" MANKA.
interpreter. GONZA/IKK.

MAP REFERENCE. Australasian petroleum coys 4
miles to 1 inch series,
" BAWU PROVINCE"

LAST PATROL TO AREA. native Affairs. April/May 1954
medical. August 1955.

DIARY.

- 21-10-55. departed palimo at 1.45 p.m. on board S.V. URANGAH which had arrived from paru the previous day with supplies. Arrived KEBANI on Kani river 7.30 p.m. Native personnel slept ashore and self remained on board.
- 22-10-55. departed KEBANI 4.45 a.m. proceeded down Kani river into Kani. Arrived A.P.C. seismic 2 party, GROWL at 1.30 p.m. M.F.A.C. Jefferies, a District Commissioner, Western District arrived by catalina flying boat at 2.30 p.m.
- 23-10-55. conducting police investigation into the death of A.P.C. Seix employee, ARUNGI / APUNGER.
- 24-10-55. assisting District Commissioner with coronial inquiring.
- 25-10-55. coroners court.
- 26-10-55. coroners court.
- 27-10-55. coroners court hearing concluded afternoon.
- 28-10-55. M. Jefferies returned to paru. patrol remained at seismic 1 pending advice of the lodgement of bail on behalf of European committed for trial by coroner. Four village constables from Sibiri census division reported to the patrol. they were paid yearly wages and advised that this patrol would not be visiting their area. paid court for native matters, one native convicted for being in possession of intoxicating liquor.
- 29-10-55. advised by radio that bull had been lodged. departed seismic 1 per company workboat TARA which was proceeding upstream on company business. patrol disembarked at SOGURI village. met Mr. W. Hanna, a crocodile shooter who was camped in village rest house. He departed downstream soon after patrol arrived. slept SOGURI.
- 30-10-55. departed SOGURI at 8 a.m. after waiting for the bore to pass. (bore height approximately 3 ft). part of patrol equipment left at SOGURI in care of two police. patrol travelling in two single outrigger canoes covered 15 mile journey to HANI RIVER MISSION station in three hours. remained at mission station.
- 31/10/55. During morning visited mission school. afternoon visited IGWA village and heard two courts for native matters. on returning to the mission station advised that the District Commissioner paru required a radio conversation on the following day.
- 1/11/55. returned to IGWA village on hearing that natives from the upper WAWOI river area had arrived there. The village constable of TILOMI had been brought along by V.C. WAIRE, of MARGRO who still continues his active assistance in contacting these people. The TILOMI had not been contacted since disappearing from the WAWOI area in early 1954. the village

DIARY.

Constable reported that the village was now situated on the upper reaches of the WAKOI and that three groups of uncontacted KAMURA people were also in the same area. He presented me with an arrow from the KAMURA people and stated it was a gesture of friendship on their part and that they wished the government to visit them.

returned to the mission at noon for radio schedule with para. departed from mission at 2.30 pm. by canoe, with following tide and arrived SOGERI at 6.30 pm.

2/11/55. Heavy rain during morning. conducted census with a certain amount of distraction caused by helicopters ferrying dynamite from a clearing about three hundred yards from the village. Moved on to MIRUA, an half mile downstream. conducted census and returned to SOGERI.

3/11/55. departed SOGERI 6.30 am. and with following tide arrived WAKAU 8.45 am. This village in filthy condition on my arrival - knee high grass and rubbish and mud. Got the whole population to cutting grass and clearing the village area under police supervision. conducted census and one P.M. during afternoon. Slept night WAKAU.

4/11/55. departed WAKAU 6.45 am, arrived UTADAE on the opposite bank of river, 7.15 am. This is a small village with one, only male capable of doing village work. Of the other four men present one was a cripple, one was blind, one was the village constable - aged at least sixty and the other was just old. conducted the census and about all the patrol could do was to sympathise with the village constable who has been one of the Administrations staunchest friends amongst a very indifferent people. departed ANIADAI 11.30 am, arrived BAITO noon. conducted census and remained overnight at BAITO.

5/11/55. departed BAITO 6.45 am, arrived UPATI 7 am. conducted census - labour position here is almost as bad as at ANIADAI. Intended crossing to TOROBINA on opposite bank but a sharp south east blow has made the river too choppy for small canoes so the patrol sneaks down the left bank to BUNIKI, arriving at 12.30 pm. Much improved village judging by previous reports. held census and remained night.

6/11/55. Sunday, remained at BUNIKI. spent afternoon paddling up BUNIKI creek. The creek entrance is good safe anchorage for small ships.

7/11/55. Settled a number of disputes at BUNIKI (where possible that is - most disputes so far have generally involved absentee labourers.) departed BUNIKI 9 am. Arrived STABARA 9.50. village constable had died two months previously. census and moved to STABARA about 15 minutes journey downstream. census STABARA and moved to PIRUPIRU NO 1 about an half mile further on.

8/11/55. census FIRUPIRU 1, by canoe to FIRUPIRU 2, about an
half mile along the river. census FIRUPIRU 2 and returned
to FIRUPIRU 1. Heard C.N.M. one native convicted of stealing.

9/11/55. departed FIRUPIRU 1 7 am. arrived TOROBINA 9 am.
conducted census and settled numerous disputes. inspected
Basa River Mission village school. remained TOROBINA.

10/11/55. departed TOROBINA 7:30 am. arrived BINA No 2 10:30 am.
conducted census. Remained BINA No 2.

11/11/55. departed BINA 2 7:30 am. arrived BINA 1 9 am.
census. Afternoon walked along black sand beach to WARIO -
ten minutes walk - census WARIO and returned to BINA 1. The
sand even though black is a pleasure after the mud and filth
of the other villages. standard of housing in these two
villages a big improvement on other villages. Most of the
houses newly completed or under construction, here for the first
time are villages with more than fifty percent of the fit males
at home.

12/11/55. departed BINA 1 7 am. arrived MAIPANI 8 am. A large
attractive village. census conducted in between rain squalls.
rain continued during afternoon. Slept MAIPANI.

13/11/55. Sunday remained MAIPANI. rain continued. police
shot large pig in bush.

14/11/55. departed MAIPANI 8 am. in light drizzle. self
two police and patrol equipment by canoes on a creek which
crosses island. remainder of personnel walked around the beach.
the rain increased and patrol arrived TIREKE at 11 am. after
everybody and the gear had been thoroughly soaked in the
heaviest downpour I have ever had the misfortune to be
caught in. TIREKE (population 301) is largest village in the area.
The village has been completely rebuilt in the last two years
on a new site after the sea had encroached and was carrying
away the old one.
conducted census in the afternoon and remained overnight.

15/11/55. departed TIREKE 9 am. Const OMAKAN remained behind
to arrest a number of young men who had disappeared after
being assigned as canoe crew by the village constable.
proceeded through TIREKE PASSAGE with a following tide,
arrived SISIAME No 1 at 1 pm. census in afternoon and remained
overnight at SISIAME 1.

16/11/55. departed SISIAME 1 at 7 am. arrived SISIAME 2 9:30.
census. Constable NARUKA returned to patrol after checking
all villages for children ordered to mission hospital.
departed SISIAME 2 11:30 arrived OROPAI noon. census.
departed OROPAI 4 pm. arrived SISIAME 1 4:30. Slept SISIAME 1.

17/11/55. At SISIAME 1. Constable OMAKAN arrived with
absconders. held O.M. seven natives convicted. advised by
party leader that a company vessel would be travelling to the
junction of the ARANTA and BASA rivers the following day.

18/11/55. departed SISIAME 1 on board MV KIBULI at 9 am.
arrived Aranta mouth at noon. had lunch and disembarked.
patrol then proceeded upstream on the Aranta, against the tide

and arrived KUMPA at 8am. after again being thoroughly
sprayed in the bow regular afternoon downpour. slept KUMPA.

19/11/55. departed KUMPA 6.15 am. against the current
arrived GARD and rested paddlers at 11.30. departed GARD at
noon, arrived MATWASI 4.30 pm. paddling against a 2 - 3 knot
current all day. slept MATWASI.

20/11/55. departed MATWASI 6 am. arrived KARA 6 pm.
visited a group of 15 people from the lower area who
built a small village about an hour's journey from KARA.
made a head count of 45 people, men, women and children. They
have been given sugo stamper by the KARA people. returned
KARA 7 am.

21/11/55. departed KARA 6 am. arrived MATWASI 11.30 am.

INTRODUCTION.

Eighteen months had elapsed between this patrol and the previous one. The reason for the long interval being that patrolling in the sub-district has been put back while the transfer from Gila to Gila was effected.

Part from the journey from Gila into the area and two short lifts by Australasian patrol company reveals the patrol travelled by native canoes. Small single outrigger canoes were used in preference to the double outrigger NIWA type canoe used by previous patrols in this area. This was possible during this season (the relative calm between south east and north west). Much speedier travelling between villages was possible as it was not necessary to rely on wind alone for propulsion. The patrol was delayed once only by inclement weather which would have meant taking risks in the small canoes. However it would be well to remember that small canoes are not practicable during the south east season.

The patrol spent seven days at A.P.C. camp SAKAM I, near GORAI village on HAPPAI Island, assisting the coroner from Gila with a coronial inquiry.

The seismic party is carrying out field work in the area between the G.M., BAHU and lower KALU Rivers. The possibility of local natives straying into areas where dynamite blasting is taking place was discussed with the party leader and he informed us that all possible preventive measures were being taken. This matter was also brought to the notice of village natives who by now are quite familiar with the effects of dynamite and most of them give the survey lines a wide berth.

The patrol also made a special visit to the main river mission, which is situated outside the boundaries of this census division, to settle minor matters in native affairs which the missionaries had raised.

THE AREA PATROLLED.

It would be a miracle to find any land in the whole of the Gila delta area which is above the level of flood tides. Indeed most villages are flooded by the big tides. Drainage of villages is an almost insurmountable problem. The digging of drains seems to add to rather than subtract from the muddy conditions and most drains I saw were merely a trough for the collection of filth and the breeding of myriads of flies.

All villages are situated on the river banks or on islands in the estuary. At low tide to get to a village it is necessary to wade through up to 100 yards of soft silt and at high tide with a little stretch of the imagination it would be possible to step from the canoe into the houses.

The river banks are crowded with silt and mangrove - the silt being much more plentiful. Where banks have been cleared to site a village the continual wash of the tide, especially in the regions subject to bores, rapidly destroys the exposed bank. Villages are forced to retreat in the face of this erosion. Many houses were seen which will be undermined in a matter of months.

villages where possible are situated near small creeks which furnish the water supply although this may be obtained from far up these creeks to avoid the unsavory effect of the tide. But the humans are not usually perturbed by the areas of hygiene and good drinking water is not considered a necessity.

The para gaba is subject to fierce tidal bores which commence in the vicinity of WAKAU village. The BILLA river is not affected. (See map). Tidal bores reaching a height of about four feet and a speed of about 10 miles per hour. They have been reported up to a height of nine feet.

The environment of many swamps and filth is the most depressing I have ever encountered and manifests itself in the lethargy and apathy of the people.

NATIVE AFFAIRS:

A. THE PROPER. The term para applies generally to all natives of the para delta genus division but there are three or four differentiated groups. The para proper, now confined to the eastern bank of the river and closely associated with the people of the para river; the SISTANG group consisting of all villages on the island, KAKUA and KAKUA islands; and the people of WAIPIANI and WAIPIANI villages who are affiliated with the para people and originate from WAIPIANI island off the mouth of the para river. The SISTANG and WAIPIANI languages are identical but a dialect of para mixed with para is spoken at WAIPIANI and WAIPIANI. The SISTANG and WAIPIANI consider themselves a little better than the remainder and are possibly a little overbearing towards them. Their villages and habits reflect a much higher standard of living, both are big villages and are less hampered by over-crowding. They are certainly the most sophisticated people in the police sub-district especially WAIPIANI which features a number of worldly-wise gentlemen of the younger generation leading for disappointments. Fortunately there are elders in this village with feet firmly planted on the ground who exercise a restraining influence. The WAIPIANI people are polite and a pleasure to work with in comparison to the other villages.

The men of the whole division have one thing in common and that is the unfettered, irresponsible desire to get away from the village regardless of the impact on village life of their mass exodus.

B. SOCIAL. The disintegration of the small family unit is the most pressing social problem facing these people. In a community where the major proportion of husbands and fathers are absent from their family group for the most part of their active years any social organization that existed previously tends to be disregarded in favour of a haphazard adaptation to circumstances where it is not possible for any rigid social pattern to be maintained.

It is the method of adaption to this loose organization which is causing complications and endangering the very existence of the para as a social entity. It is easy for an officer visiting this area to lay all the blame for the

whole shocking state of affairs on the one obvious cause - migrant labour - which is definitely accentuating the deterioration but which could itself be a result of a far deeper cause.

A native labour contract provides the young man an easy and apparently quite legal method of avoiding all obligations to the village community. However it is the obvious desire to avoid these obligations which is the real problem, not the fact that it can be done. But for the problem to be attacked it is necessary to get the men back to the villages and to have some legal means of keeping them there.

The most evident result of the high labour figures is the lowering of moral standards. This shows itself in a revolt of the women against the obligations once forced on them by marriage. Left unattended in the village the women have shown their ability to be independent of any one man by a series of adultery relationships with other men which always result in material gain. For the women concerned in the form of money or trade goods. When returning from work find a surplus of women eager to enter into an agreement by which they get most of the money or goods which he has returned with. As other men return the women switch their affections, the casts off goes off to work again, and so a vicious circle of immorality is set up for which the blame cannot be reasonably placed on anybody or for which there appears to be no practicable solution.

The Bamu marriage custom is the sister exchange system. The effect of the above sport or this system is not hard to imagine. When a man returns from work and finds his wife gambolling gaily with another he either asserts his right to the re-adjustment of the sister exchange by which he was originally married, which then involves the real lives of as much as four families; or, looks around for the wife of some other absent male. When he occasionally happens some man decides to call a halt, for instance when a man returns from work and decides he is too old to go back again, he will claim his wife in an attempt to return to the dignities of marriage. This either starts a fight or a court case. One such case entailed four married couples, was started by a man returning to the village for the first time in five years.

A system has now developed within the sister exchange system whereby a cash indemnity is paid by each party to the exchange. This has lessened the number of child marriages for it is not now a necessity for the exchange to be made simultaneously especially when one of the parties is a small child. The girl living with the parents of her future husband is an old custom of these people and does not necessarily mean that the child was subjected to sexual relations before reaching puberty but this has always been suspected and the temptation at least was always present.

The psychological effect of all this on the children must have a substantial influence on their later lives. The children now grow up with only looking forward to the time when they can go away to work rather than to the time when they can take part in the organisation of village life. The effect on the young girls of the blatant carryings on of their mothers is not hard to imagine.

far outside this moral turpitude stand the missions honestly but with little real success attempting to influence for good the social stigma. The Bama River mission advocating to the young women, marriage for love only, and the Seventh Day Adventists concentrating on indoctrinating the children, and themselves creating another problem because of differences in doctrine and the inability of one to accept the other.

COCONUTS. The Bama belts produce nothing of economical value, and a continuation of the present 'couldn't care less' attitude will ensure no improvement. Even so there appears to be no economic potential in the area. The possibility that that old stand by - copra production - would be encouraged and developed is very problematical as the few coconuts seen at each village were very poor.

M-IRANI, TIRERI and the BIMA villages have small areas of useful coconuts but make no effort to produce any copra. The BIMA people who have the largest stand realise the possibilities of capitalising on them but have no intention of doing the necessary work. They informed me that they had approached an itinerant European trader, crocodile shooter, from Bama and that some form of an agreement had been reached whereby the European collected the nuts and the owners some indeterminate sum in return. I was informed that one of the owners and the European had gone to papa to make the arrangements ostensibly in the presence of the district commissioner. This will be checked and I will insist that any arrangement whatsoever be made under the provisions of the regulations with natives grainase.

I impressed on these people the advantages of making the copra themselves and selling the finished product to the trader. I also told them that assistance would be given where ever possible with transport for produce to papa, on administration vessels. This is possible with the station at Bama as the route passes by their village.

This at best could only be a small enterprise and with little hope for expansion and could not hope to satisfy the need for money which has developed in the area. The only other alternative for fulfilling this need is wage labour. While there is no means of satisfying this demand in the village there will always be the problem of high labour statistics.

There is little possibility that private European enterprise will enter this area, apart from the rather fabulous possibility of an oil strike. The result of oil search activities to the present, as far as the natives are concerned, has been to give them an entirely false conception of the material wealth of the ordinary European and a distortionate view of the fact that Europeans work for a living.

Crocodile shooting has possibilities but most natives believe that this is an occupation for people equipped with boats and high powered rifles - and rightly so too.

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND NATIVE FOOD SUPPLIES.

There would appear to be no agricultural potential of any description. Coconuts the basis of most coastal agricultural development in the territory do not do well in this area.

Native agriculture consists of harvesting the wild sago palm, which although plentiful is scattered over wide areas with the result that villages are shifted at irregular intervals so as to be near the food supply.

These people are dwelling on the very margins of existence. The only change from the eternal sago diet is the addition of a few bananas, which are not plentiful, and a very occasional root vegetable. The main meat item is crab which is trapped in a rather clumsy ~~XXXXXXXX~~ palm leaf basket. Domestic pigs are kept and usually killed for a feast when labourers return home from work. A most unwise habit as they are least in need of the protein. There are plenty of wild pigs and cassowary in the bush but nobody to hunt them.

Poultry are not plentiful, the most notable feature being the amazing preponderance of roosters. The number and type of dogs is just what could be expected.

MEDICAL AND HYGIENE.

A medical patrol was carried out two months prior to this patrol by the medical officer from GARDU. However patrols medical or otherwise can do little to improve the standard of health of these people whose greatest bar to good health is lack of proper nourishment. The general appearance of the people is poor. The women and children, especially in villages along the coast bank are a very weedy, bony lot. Men returning from work show the benefits of a well balanced diet.

A total of 54 children with neglected sores were sent to the Benu River Mission Hospital. There were also a number of cases of yaws and eye diseases. None of these would have been brought voluntarily for treatment until such time (as the standard of the B.M.H. says) the smell was too much for the others to live with. It is pitiable to see small children with open sores covered by swarms of pestering flies. From the advanced nature of some of the sores it is obvious that they were not seen by the medical patrol. I gather that most of the sick were hid in the bush at this time. This is to avoid being taken to hospital at GARDU.

The patrol was not accompanied by a native medical orderly and there is no Administration Aid post in the area.

The Benu River Mission does the major proportion of medical work in the area. Concentrating on post natal care of infant children. The success of this work is hampered by the general indifference of the people and as there is no compulsion to attend when the missionary visits the village many people are not seen. A notable exception is MALPANI village which is very pro mission, where there have been no infant deaths recorded since September 1953 and where there is a high birth rate.

The Seventh day mission has a native medical officer working in the north park wiy area who makes visits to some guma villages. Treatments are infrequent and the results are not very impressive and the people use this as an excuse for not attending the R.H.M. hospital.

Natives of the post bank of the guma requested that a native medical officer be stationed in their midst. They say that the R.H.M. is too far away for them to attend (and this is true up to a point). They were informed that should an aid post be established in the area it would involve a considerable amount of work which they themselves would have to do. They were told that the request would be passed on to R.H.M. but no promises were made.

The guma are by no means an hygienically minded people. I doubt if the latrines provided at their villages are ever used. Their houses are shared most inefficiently with pigs and dogs. It is impossible to adequately drain these villages which are flooded by dikes. The debris and mud are prolific breeding grounds for flies. Children playing lightheartedly in pig wallows was a common sight.

EDUCATION. There are no government schools in the census division.

The guma giver mission has village schools at MURU, TOROBIMA, MAIPANI and TIRRETI all under the control of native teachers including the teacher. Mrs. J. Standon conducts a school at IOWA, the mission headquarters. She is assisted by one male and two female teachers. The biggest handicap facing educators in the park is the lack of interest shown by parents and in some cases opposition.

The school at the mission station has 27 boy and 24 girl pupils. Mrs. Standon has hopes that her two best pupils, a boy and a girl, will gain admittance to a teachers training course at Popondetta in 1956. Some opposition has developed in the village to allowing the girl to go and I did my best to impress the parents with the advantages which would be gained, not only by the girl, but the people as a whole and also made it clear that I would be annoyed if the opportunity was missed because of foolish opposition on their part.

I attended the school and listened to individual reading in English by all pupils of standards III and IV and was favourably impressed. Even though this school is small its importance should not be overlooked because it is the only European taught school available to these people.

The native teacher at TOROBIMA impressed me with the obvious control he has over his 55 pupils of whom 50 attend regularly. He is teaching reading and writing of English as well as the vernacular. It is noticeable that while the children are young he has the co-operation of their parents. The school at MAIPANI is run on similar lines. At TIRRETI where there is also an S.D.M. school the S.D.M. appears to be losing ground. The R.H.M. school here is run by a female teacher.

Little information of the S.D.M. activities in the field of education was gained as at the time of the patrol all teachers were at a gathering at GUMU village. When I arrived at TIRRETI I found they had all departed for their various villages the

the previous day. I presume this to be a coincidence.
There are KAREMA native teachers at BUKIKI, KIRUPURU, BERAI,
SISA M. TIRREK and SISIAHE I. The roll books for TIRREK and
SISIAHE were inspected and showed a rather heavy rate of absenteeism.

MISSIONS. The B.M.V. RIVER MISSION and the SEVENTH DAY
ADVENTIST MISSION are the only two missions operating in the guma
area. The B.M.V. has been operating since pre-war days and the
S.D.A. have arrived in the last two years.

The friction between the two missions which
arose after the arrival of the S.D.A. (see patrol report 6 of
1963/64, J.M. ROBINSON (A.D.D.) appears to have settled to a state
of cold war but definitely not peace. No complaints were
raised by either party against the other the patrol was careful
not to give rise to contentious matters. It was careful to point
out that children sent from predominantly S.D.A. villages to the
B.M.V. hospital were not being sent to the mission as such but
to receive medical attention only.

The original confusion could be put down to
the gullibility of the guma people. They were stampeded by fear,
more than anything else, of the startling revelations of the S.D.A.
faith which were distorted deliberately by the S.D.A. native
teachers themselves to exploit this fear and ignorance in order to
get a foothold for the mission. Now that the mission is
established the hellfire preaching has been toned down and the
B.M.V.s have broken down and digested what has been said and shown
little fundamental response. The obvious inability of the S.D.A.
teachers to literalise the punishments they promised will
probably be their undoing with the guma.

My impression of the B.M.V. is that the
mission is concentrating more on education and medical work rather
than religious propagation. The teaching of christianity by
deeds rather than words - christian example rather than exhortation.
Nevertheless there are certain articles of native custom which
the mission has strongly disapproved against, notably the sister
bride exchange system, child marriages and polygamy.

The S.D.A. mission has no European missionary
in the area. Their activities are controlled by a native pastor
stationed at ORONO in the para sub-district. It is too soon to
assess the long term effect of their entry into the area as their
activities so far has been mainly centred on the children.

The results of mission rivalry and the tensions
which could develop in their efforts to outdo one another will
require watching in the future.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Nil.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS. The village constables of MAIPANI and
TIRREK stand out from a mediocre lot. IRABURI of TIRROBIRA has
held the position for 31 years and deserves some recognition for
his services. He is an old man now and will soon have to be replaced.
The office is not a popular one as it means the holder is unable to
leave the village to seek employment.

There are village councillors in each village with no understanding of their position despite coaching and frequent explanations.

Isolation and infrequent patrolling tends to lessen the authority of the officials. Even with the station now at Kikori the round trip from the nearest psam village takes a minimum of one week by canoe. Hence minor offences are never reported and this in turn leads to bigger breaches which are conveniently forgotten when a patrol arrives.

3.1.1961 The population of the 20 villages was increased by 10 since the last patrol eighteen months ago. The total is now 2,718.

Despite the continued absence of most of the men the birth rate is comparatively high which suggests that if investigated there would be a staggering percentage of illegitimate total births recorded were 23%. There were 32 deaths of children under 15 years and 80 deaths in the over 15 age group. Crocodiles still play a part in the census, being responsible for a further four deaths in the last 18 months.

The population over the past five years has remained reasonably constant with no significant trend either way.

There were no absences amongst those available to attend the census. A rather surprising change in habit for the psam. An anticipatory warning sent out a fortnight before the patrol had the desired effect.

PSAM LABOUR STATISTICS. (see appendix A)

The percentage of fit males absent from villages is 60.3. Of a potential labour force of 666 in the 15-45 age group there are 411 at work away from the village. These figures are a serious reflection on the administration. As there is no hard and fast legislation to enable field officers to control recruiting to a reasonable limit, the level of recruiting is left to the scruples of the recruiter and most of the men who have been in this area appear to be interested only in the largest number of recruits possible. The main excuse being "well I don't get them the next chap will."

No labour from the psam is attested at this station. All agreements are signed at either KIKORI or DARU. The majority at KIKORI which is the most conveniently placed station for recruiters bringing recruits out of the psam. Hence it is impossible for an officer stationed here to control the flow of labour from the area. However an effort is being made with the co-operation of the district office Kikori. A copy of the labour statistics have been forwarded to that office with a request to limit recruiting in villages most heavily affected.

The main reason for the high figures is the complete lack of incentive for the men to remain in the villages. As explained in para. Economics there is no alternative means of satisfying the growing demand for money and foreign goods. And further natives who have lived and worked in an area where there is solid ground to walk on have no desire to return and stay in their own inhospitable environment. This is a vicious circle as nothing can be done to improve village conditions while the majority of the men are away.

the social evils discussed in para. SOCIAL are now a matter of urgent consideration, adultery, prostitution, illegitimate births and the break down of marriages.

Perhaps the thing most to be feared is the deterioration of the diet of children when so many of the men are absent. The amount of meat eaten by those people now must have dropped to an all time low. There are plenty of wild pig to be had with this in mind I have recommended special game permits for all suitable village officials.

The following distinctions can be drawn:

- (I) ANYADAI, MUKKI, DARAVE, MIRUA, PIRUPIRI 1 & 2, SIRARA, SOMPKI, UPAKI, WAKAD, BAKIO.

The overall percentage of absentees from this group is 61.

Highest BAKIO 103.8. Lowest MIRUA 68.8.

- (II) TOMOBINA, SISILAE 1 & 2, BINA 1 & 2, CROPAL.

total this group 65%.

- (III) MAIPANI, TIRIRE and WARIO. All these three villages are in good condition and statistics are much lower.

One fact not brought out by figures is the short time which elapses between the time a labourer is repatriated and when he reengages. As soon as it has been reported that labourers have been repatriated so also comes a report that another recruiter is working the area.

Closure to recruiting is not going to solve the problem of the gamu pelta - the biggest problem is the lack of essential and the attitude of the people themselves - but the only way of preventing the worsening of the position is to get the men back in the villages.

A submission under circular instruction 154 is being prepared.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SECTION

11.

HOUSING.

TIRIRE, MAIPANI, WARIO. The housing in these three villages is excellent. The recently rebuilt TIRIRE village is a credit to the people and the village constable who works hard against plenty of passive resistance. Each household contains an extended family unit consisting of married brothers and their families, single brothers and sisters and the parents. The household may consist of two completely individual houses joined by a large verandah, which allows for a certain amount of privacy.

WARIO has also been rebuilt. Houses are a variation on the gamu "long house" but of a much higher standard.

The lack of suitable building materials is the main excuse offered for the frightful condition of the housing in the other villages. This is partly true as material has to be carried for long distances but the other three villages overcome the difficulty.

Most villages use the long house type of dwelling with at least two in each village. Now some of these buildings remain standing would be the best protected. The posts vary from great tree trunks to staves which would be more suitable for kindling. New houses are not built until the old one collapses. When a patrol is in a few posts are put here and there and the village officials blandly state they are starting to rebuild. There seemed no point in demanding new and better houses when there is nobody to build them.

BEST HOUSES.

Far from satisfactory. It was necessary to throw a tent fly over some of them to keep the weather out. They are all built up the barest minimum in size.

R. Alsbett

(R. Alsbett)

PATROL OFFICER.

APPENDIX A.

NATIVE LABOUR STATISTICS.

<u>VILLAGE.</u>	<u>LABOUR POTENTIAL</u>	<u>NO ABSENT</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE ABSENT.</u>
ANIADAI	18	11	91.6
BINA NO 1	41	24	58.5
BINA NO 2	43	27	62.7
BUMIKI	47	37	78.7
GRAVE	38	28	84.8
MAIPANI	35	13	28.6
MIRUA	45	31	68.8
OROPAI	21	18	85.7
PIRUPIRU NO 1	24	23	95.8
PIRUPIRU NO 2	26	18	69.2
SEBARA	14	12	85.7
SICIAMO No 1	40	22	55.0
SICIAMO NO 2	28	17	73.9
SOGWAI	24	17	70.8
TIRERE	76	41	53.9
TOROBINA	45	31	72.0
UPATI	23	18	78.2
WAKAU	30	19	63.3
WAKO	30	7	23.3
WATO	28	27	105.8 *
	<hr/> 666	<hr/> 441	<hr/> 66.2

NO employed inside district 143

NO employed outside district. 298

Note: Of the number employed inside the district a comparative few only are within reach of their village.

* According to the village register two natives under sixteen years of age are employed under agreement from this village.

PATROL REPORT BMO 1 of 1955/56.

BANG DELTA STATION DIVISION.

APPENDIX C.

ALLEGED LAND.

NIL.