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Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF P.N.G. - GANI.

PATROL REPORT OF: MOREHEAD WESTERN ACC. No: 496.

Volume No: ~~12~~ 1966/67..... Number of Reports: 5.....

PERORT No:	FOLIO	OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL	AREA PATROLLED	MAPS, PTS	PERIOD OF PATROL	FI No
[1] 1 OF 1966/67.	1-22	J. AS. WELLS P.O	BENSBACH AND TRANS-FLY C/D		29.8.66 - 13.9.66	
[2] 3 OF 1966/67	1-11	P.A. GERARD P.O	PART TRANS FLY CENSUS DIVISION		18.11.66 - 7.12.66	
[3] 4 OF 1966/67	1-7	R.B. PHILLIPS P.O	TRANS FLY CENSUS DIVISION		29.6.66 - 7.7.66	
[4] 5 OF 1966/67	1-9	B.J. ARNOLD P.O	PART SARU CENSUS DIVISION		12.12.66 - 12.12.66	
[5] 6 OF 1966/67	1-9	B.J. ARNOLD	PART TRANS-FLY CENSUS DIVISION		10.1.67 - 27.1.67	
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287-67/68

PATROL REPORTS WESTERN DISTRICT 1966-67

MOREHEAD

<u>Patrol No.</u>	<u>Officer Conducting Patrol</u>	<u>Area Patrolled</u>
1-66-67	J. Daras-Wells	Bensbach and Trans-Fly CD
3-66-67	P.A. Gerard	Part Trans-Fly CD
4-66-67	R.B. Phillips	Trans Fly C.D.
5-66-67	B.J. Arnold	Part Saru C.D.
6-66-67	B.J. Arnold	Part Trans-Fly C.D.

BWA
COPY



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. 1 of 66/67

Patrol Conducted by J. Davas-Wells Patrol Officer

Area Patrolled Bensbach and Trans-Fly Census Divisions

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Mr. P. Gerard, P.O. (Partial)

Natives 1 member R.P.N.G.C. 1 Interpreter

Duration—From 29/8/1966 to 13/9/1966 and 19/11/66 to 29/11/66

Number of Days 22

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services June /1966

Medical / /1965

Map Reference Fourmil Bensbach Trans-Fly

Objects of Patrol Area study, pre Local Government Council Survey

Director of District Administration,
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. 3. 17
(2)

TERRITORY OF DISTANCE AND NEW GUINEA



Telegrams.....
Our Reference..... 67-4-1.
If calling ask for
Mr..... RAC:KIMCK.

Department of District Administration,
Western District,
DARU.
17th March, 1967.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
K O N E D O B U.

MOREHEAD PATROL REPORT - 1/66-67.

Please find herewith copy of the above report,
for your consideration.

Claim for camping allowance is attached for
action in seeing the cheque is posted to Mr. Daras-Wells
at his leave address: 13 Mugga Way, Red Hill, Canberra,
A.C.T.

The reason for late submission of this report
is probably the fact that during Mr. A.D.C. Wren's
absence from Morehead on special leave, Mr. Daras-Wells
was fully occupied with Sub-District matters.

Two copies of a map of the Bensbach and Trans-
Fly Divisions have been received here. This map is
apparently meant to cover the activities of Morehead
patrols Nos. 1 and 3/66-67. The map is a poor one, and
the use of pencil and coloured inks, in part, is
deprecated.

The general aim of the two patrols and also that
of Mr. Edgar's 2/66-67, was to collate information for a
complete area study of the Bensbach / Trans-Fly / Jaru
Census Divisions. The result is rather disjointed.

Mr. Daras-Wells has collected a large deal of
information, and has obviously shown energy and interest.
More attention to neatness and presentation would have,
however, made this report a more readable document.

F.A. Bensted
(F.A. Bensted)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,
MOREHEAD.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

70

Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference 67-2-1
If calling ask for
Nr.



Department of District Administration,
Sub-district Office,
MORRHAD. W.D.

11th March, 1967.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

Morehead Patrol Reports Nos 1 & 3 of 1966/67.

Patrol Reports Nos 1 & 3, by Messrs Patrol Officer Daras-Wells & Cadet Patrol Officer Gerard, respectively are submitted herewith in triplicate, please. Also submitted, duly certified by me, in triplicate, are contingencies in relation to camping allowance for Mr. Daras-Wells. Mr. Gerard does not appear to have made any claims against the Administration. Under separate cover is copy of a patrol map covering both the census divisions being reported upon.

Mr. Gerard's services were made use of to enable the area to be covered before the break in the weather when the dry weather road system went out of use. Any information gathered by him has been incorporated in Mr. Daras-Wells' report in so far as an area study is concerned. Mr. Gerard was moved on patrol immediately after his return from recreational leave. He did cover rather long distances in places where the Trans-Fly division road system is incomplete at the hottest time of the year and he did so with good grace. The impression I gained of this officer was that his standard of work was not nearly as bad as I had been led to believe it would be.

~~Patrol Jacket covers are not available at this office but the report by Mr. Daras-Wells has been submitted. Could jackets be completed at your office please before the report is forwarded.~~

As I have reported elsewhere it had been hoped, using Mr. Patrol Officer Edgar's Saru census division report (Morehead No. 2 of 66/67) to produce a combined area study with a view to recommending the installation of a Local Government Council to cover the three census divisions, Mensbach, Trans-Fly, & Saru in 1967. However the decision has been made to go ahead with a council covering the two Lake Murray census divisions and this decision I consider to be the correct one now that the OIC Lake Murray does not have the responsibility of supervising the Lake Murray Buyers Society, in detail, with the appointment of the former OIC as full time and paid secretary of that society.

In the near future I hope to be able to re-submit in an expanded form an area study using the information compiled in these reports and Mr. Edgar's report to justify the installation of a council in the divisions reported upon during the year 1968.

It will be noted in Mr. Gerard's report he suggests the incorporation of Upiara and two associated swamp villages in any proposed Morehead council. With this point of view I agree.

Another of course of action I would suggest, but this may not



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference... 67-2-1
If calling ask for
Mr.....



Department of District Administration,
Sub-district Office,
MOREHEAD, W.P.

11th March, 1967.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

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Another of course of action I would suggest, but this may not



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

19

- 2 -

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference.....

If calling ask for

Mr.....

practical, is that the corps of village constables not be abolished if and when a council is proclaimed at Lake or at Morehead. For years I cannot see the regular police force being able to establish a complete coverage of rural police stations. When the village constabulary can report breaches of the peace as now then the small regular police detachments at centres can take the matter up. The people of Upiara have walked 80 miles to Morehead to tell this fact to me. They have said the same thing to me when I have landed by Helicopter in their village, and they have said the same thing again when I have motored through the village adjoining theirs. The request is "Will you send us your police. There is no law any more now we have a council" We have abolished in most areas, ~~not substituted~~ the village constable and not substituted the central police force. We are I suppose back to the Anglo-Saxon "Hue and cry".

I envisage the, should a council be started, that it will include all three census divisions since they are all of small numbers. When the road programme is completed next dry season it will be possible to reach all villages in the three divisions except nine at the most by landrover and tractor.

Although economic and political development in this area is low at the moment, I think, that in view of its border position ~~should~~ a council should be started. Also the population has no direct link with the House of Assembly via council and local elected member.

(E.D. Wren)

Assistant District Commissioner.

Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

PATROL REPORT

District of Western

Report no Morehead 1966/67

Patrol conducted

J. Daras-Wells Patrol Officer

Area patrolled

Bensbach and Trans Fly census Divisions.

Patrol accompanied by Europeans Mr P Gerard P.O. (Partial)

Natives

1 member R.F.N.G.C. 1 interpreter.

Duration.

(Split times)

29/8/66 to 13/9/66 and

19/11/65 29/11/66

NO of Days actual 22

Did

Medical Assistant accompany

No.

Last patrol to area by D.D.A. 6/66

Medical 1/65

Map reference

Fourmil Bensbach Trans Fly

Objects of patrol

Area study pre Local Government Council

Survey.

PATROL REPORT NO 1 of 66/67-Bansbach/Trans Fly.

DIARY - Bansbach.

- 29/8/66 0800 Per landrover from Weam to Wando. Thence foot Bundaber 2hrs. 1300 Census at Bundaber. Talks re M.B.S and other matters. Inspection village and gardens. Courts. Night Bundaber.
- 30/8/66 0700 on foot to Bula. 6 hours. 1400 Census Bula. Inspection village and refugee village. Talks with Bula people. 1800 Permissive residency papers for refugees. Night Bula.
- 31/8/66 On foot Bula to Wando. 0700 - 1400. 1500 Census Wando Talks with people re various matters. Discussions with Northern Frozen Foods people. Night Wando.
- 1/9/66 0800 inspect village and dogs. Permissive residency papers for refugees. Court cases. 1400 to Kondober by land rover arriving 1430. Census Kondober Talks etc Inspection village. Night Kondober.
- 2/9/66 0300 per landrover from Kondober to Wemenevre. Census and inspection village Wemenevre. Talks with people 1300 return Kondober and thence Mengete per landrover. 1530 Census and talks Mengete. Inspection Mengete village, and new bridge. Night Mengete.
- 3/9/66 0800 From Mengete to Kandarisa per Landrover. Census and talks Kandarisa. Inspection village. Courts. 1400 return Weam. Night Weam.
- 4/9/66 Sunday observed Weam.
- 5/9/66 0800 Per land rover Weam to Wereave. Census and talks Wereave. Inspection village. return Weam 1230.
- 6/9/66 to 9/9/66 At Weam station. Census and talks Weam village on 9/8/66.
- 10/9/66 0800 To Indorodoro by landrover. Census and talks Courts. Inspection village. To Tokwa 1430. Census and talks Tokwa village. Inspection. 1800 to Morehead per landrover. Night Morehead.
- 11/9/66. Sunday observed Morehead.
- 12/9/66 Per landrover to Tokwa. Census and talks Tokwa. Inspection village and road construction. 1500 return Morehead. Night Morehead.
- 13/9/66 0730 Per landrover to Uparua. 1 hour. Census and talks Uparua. Courts. Inspection village. Inspection

pit saw site. 1230 To Rouku per landrover. Census and talks Rt Rouku. Inspection village and various complaints
1730 "return Morehead Night Morehead.

Trans-Flt - partial.

IXIX/
19/11/66

Per landrover Morehead to Kondober. 3 1/2 hours. Arrive 1130. 1300 Census and talks Kondober. MBS card given out. Inspection village and coconuts grove. 1600 talks with village officials, re various matters and one court. Night Kondober.

20/11/66
21/11/66

Sunday Observed Kondober. Night Kondober. 0800 Per L/rover to Buk. 1845. Census and talks with Buk people re various matters. Village inspection. Night Buk. Some courts.

22/11/66

0800 Per landrover from Buk to Dimisisi. 0915. 1000 Census and talks Dimisisi. 1400 Courts until 1730. 1930 Further talks with Village officials. Night Dimisisi.

23/11/66

0700 Landrover to Morehead to pick up some MBS cards etc. Inspection new road work and village. All work excellent in this village. 1100 Meeting with village people re cash crop plans etc, and MBS expansion. Night Dimisisi.

24/11/66

0800 Per landrover to Binadibun. 0900. Census and talks Binadibun. Various courts and MBS matters. Village and gardens inspected. 1400 Courts and complaints. Night Binadibun. Talks with v/officials

25/11/66

0800 To Gubam per landrover. 0830. Census and talks with Gubam people. Inspection village. MBS matters and some complaints. Census figures compiled. Night Gubam.

26/11/66

Per landrover Morehead. 0930

Extract.

17/11/66

0800 With Mr Gerrard to Deridari and Fongar for census and talks. Village inspections. return M/S

28/11/66

Per landrover to Arufi. Census and talks Arufi. Village inspection. Some complaints. Return Morehead 1630 per landrover.

Rest of Trans Fly completed by Mr Gerrard.

pit saw site. 1230 To Rouku per landrover. Census and talks Rū
Rouku. Inspection village and various complaints
1730 Return Morehead Night Morehead.

Trans-Fly - partial.

IXII/
19/11/66 Per landrover Morehead to Kondober. 3 1/2 hours. Arrive
1130. 1300 Census and talks Kondober. MBS card
given out. Inspection village and coconuts grove.
1800 talks with village officials, re various
matters and one court. Night Kondober.

20/11/66 Sunday Observed Kondober. Night Kondober.
21/11/66 0800 Per L/rover to Buk. 1845. Census and talks wa
with Buk people re various matters. Village inspec
tion. Night Buk. Some courts.

22/11/66 0800 Per landrover from Buk to Dimsisi. 0915.
1000 Census and talks Dimsisi. 1400 Courts until
1730. 1830 Further talks with Village officials.
Night Dimsisi.

23/11/66 0700 Landrover to Morehead to pick up some MBS cad
cards etc. Inspection new road work and village. All work
excellent in this village. 1100 Meeting with
village people re cash crop plans etc, and MBS
expansion. Night Dimsisi.

24/11/66 0800 Per landrover to Binadibun. 0900. Census and
talks Binadibun. Various courts and MBS matters.
Village and gardens inspected. 1400 Courts and
complaints. Night Binadibun. Talks with v/official

25/11/66 0800 To Gubam per landrover. 0830. Census and talks
with Gubam people. Inspection village. MBS matters
and some complaints. Census figures compiled.
Night Gubam.

26/11/66 Per landrover Morehead. 0930

Extract.

17/11/66 0800 With Mr Gerrard to Darderi and Songariki for
census and talks. Village inspections. Return M/a

28/11/66 Per landrover to Arufi. Census and talks Arufi
Village inspection. Some complaints. Return Morehead
1630 per landrover.

Rest of Trans Fly completed by Mr Gerrard.

Patrol Report no 1 of 66/67 Bensbach/Morahed.

INTRODUCTION.

The Trans Fly and Bensbach census divisions occupy the lower South West portions of the Western District. The two divisions are being reported on concurrently because

1. They both individually have small populations
2. Most of the facts and figures concerning them are related to each other or the same.

a) The land mass included in these two areas is that approximately between 142deg 40' longitude and 9deg 30' latitude, the coast of Papua and the border with W. Irian. The whole area is flat and low lying, usually less than 30' above sea level with 40 to 50' ridges commencing on the eastern side as the area approaches the Bituri river and the Boundary with the Oriomo/Bituri Council area. The area is covered with interlacing water systems and swamps, which are mostly seasonal. In the wet season, the water table rises several feet and a large portion of the whole area is between one and six feet under water.

The climate is a typical wet and dry season climate as found in Northern Australia with an overall rainfall of between 60 to 75 inches annually. The wet season average is between 55 to 60 inches but is rather irregular. The wet season covers the period between December and May, the North West trade wind season. Temperatures range from the high seventies to the high eighties most of the year, occasionally ranging into the nineties.

The vegetation is predominantly savannah scrub and grassland. Ti tree and Eucalyptus are the predominant trees with various kinds of grass - Kunai, pangaroo etc as ground vegetation. Heavy timber is found in scattered patches in the occasional pieces of higher or less swampy ground and on the high patches of the river banks. Towards the coast at the bottom of the Bensbach is found extensive mangrove swamps and flat grass plains which become inundated in the wet. This is also found in the lower portions of the Wassi and Kai - a Kussa rivers.

b) Access to the area is gained from District Headquarters Paru in two ways. Either by river up the Lorehead or the Wassi Kussa or by air to either Morahed or Weam airstrips. In some

parts of the year, small boats can gain access up the Bensbach river to either Wando or Weam. This is not done often as most boat captains are very reluctant to risk chance the sand banks at the mouth of the Bensbach river or the rock bar up past Wando. The Wassi Kussa method involves one hours drive by land rover to Arufi and is only practicable in the ~~wet~~^{dry} season.

The journey from Daru to Morehead is 3 days by boat.

From Daru to Arufi is two days and from Daru to Wando is four days.

Morehead is 110 by air from Daru and has a Category A class strip capable of taking D.C. 3s. It is approximately one and a half flying hours from Fort Moresby by Stol Air Piper Artec. The strip is normally open in all weather.

Weam airstrip is category D at the moment. It is hoped to extend it to category C in the 1967 dry season. However, it is subject to heavy rain making the strip soft and is sometimes closed in the wet season.

There are no wharves on the coast so unloading points and unloading up the rivers is usually done direct from the bank.

k. Morehead station is approximately in the centre of population while Weam - a border station is on the outskirts. A dry weather road links Morehead and Weam and it is a two hour journey by land rover. It is approximately 3 1/2 miles or 15 minutes by air.

c. The Morehead people have been under Administration control since early in the century. They were then patrolled by a Resident magistrate from Daru station.

In the late 1920's a police post was put at Tonda village. In 1952 a patrol post was established at Rouku. Due to staff situation, this was not manned all the time, but when not manned the area was patrolled from Daru.

In 1960 Rouku was moved to Morehead's present situation and in 1962/3 Weam was established.

The earliest entries to be found in village books of patrols is 1928, but the local people say they were patrolled spasmodically before this. The Administration has complete influence and control over the whole area.

The people are all pro Administration. The people are still backward and unsophisticated. Very few of them go to other districts or towns for work, although a large number apply for work at Morehead from time to time. It was found before the war and for a time after that the local inhabitants could not thrive away from their home area and the area was closed to recruiting. This is probably why they have very little knowledge of the outside world even in Papua.

There have been no major cargo cults in the area. A small cult was attempted at Babuji, but the ringleader had very few followers and everyone else laughed at them. The aim was to build an airstrip for the arrival of the "cargo" but only a few trees were ever cut down.

R

(B) Population Distribution and trends.

Copy of the latest Village Population Registers are attached.

All village in the area are linked by walking tracks as per map. All villages except the following are linked by dry season wheech drive vehicular roads.

- Tais (To be linked in '67)
- Iauga (Only reached by canoe)
- Sibidiri (To be linked '67)
- Diniri (" ")
- Babuji (" ")
- Jarai (" ")

Map is attached showing distances.

c. There is virtually nil outward flow of labour and absenteeism.

C. Social Groupings.

Virtually every village is a distinct social group in this area and regard themselves as different. There are some groups of three or four who have a common language and regard themselves as one and also have common land holdings.

According to "Mapung of the Trans Fly" by P. . . 1

Williams M.A. B. Sc. there are three distinct social groups with different behaviour patterns. They are:

1. The Keraki (Kerkeri) comprising the Benslach actually on the Bensbach river or close to it.
2. Samarjii the near Morehead Bensbachs and Morehead villages going to about Dimisisi village eastwards.
3. The Gambadi those further eastwards.

However, nowadays (this book was written in 1936) the people regard themselves as either Bensbachs or Trans Flys or Moreheads which roughly corresponds to Williams's lines but was introduced due to Administrative partitioning for patrol etc purposes.

b) The operational social unit in the area is the lineage. The subsistence gardens are made conjointly and shared by all the members of one direct lineage and some times of a clan in each village. Similarly, houses are built with the co-operation of other members of the lineage.

c) The languages in the area are numerous. Each village has its own particular dialect and in some cases a different language altogether. In general the languages follow the pattern of Bensbach-Morehead-Trans Fly, each of which areas has a completely different language with various dialectic differences within the social group.

d) There is very little cohesion between social groups due to a) the great distances between them.

and

b) little contact between them or necessity for contact

Due to the plentiful game and land in the area, each group is virtually self sufficient, and only on Administration projects such as road building are co-operative ventures needed. There is no enmity between the groups however, and all regard themselves as Moreheads. The Morehead Buyers Society is doing a great deal to foster this feeling of unity.

e) There are few dealings with social groups outside the area, except by adjacent villages. On the Bensbach border

some of the villages on the West Irian side own land and land rights on the Papuan side and vice versa. Also some of the directly adjacent border villages are related to villages on this side. For instance Wexave and Sotar (in West Irian) were originally the one village and the group regards themselves as one even though they are on different sides. There seems to be no rivalry or enmity fostered by the fact that the people now have different nationalities.

D). LEADERSHIP.

In the Bensbach/Trans Fly there is no real traditional leadership pattern. Each clan has as its leader the eldest member, and he apportions the land and states when and where gardens will be made etc. In the old days he would also lead in the fighting between villages inasmuch as he would commit the act which started the fight off.

This leadership is largely formalized and also hereditary, but practically speaking has no real substance. In fact each family unit is largely independent and the head of the family makes the decisions which are followed as long as they coincide with the wishes of the other members

Due to the scattered nature of the population distribution and the lack of cohesion between individual social units, no leadership pattern will be able to emerge unless it is under an institutionalized form such as a Local Government Council. The younger men, those few who have slight education are more interested in continuing with their schooling than returning to the village. Those ones in the village seem to fall back into the traditional village pattern, of each man being his own leader.

E). LAND TENURE AND USE.

a) The traditional system of land tenure and inheritance is patrilineal and based on the clan. Women do not hold land but have usufructory rights on their husband's, brother's or father's land. A man inherits his land from his father or uncle, and when he dies passes it on to his son.

The clan leader has overall say over all the land in the clan. He and the clan members as a group own all the land, but each individual male within the clan has exclusive rights to a separate piece of land for gardening purposes. All clan land is group owned for hunting purposes.

There is very little bickering about land in this area as each clan and individual has far more land than is needed for their subsistence purposes.

b) No individuals hold land on Lease from the Administration

c) There is no cash cropping in the area, apart from a very minor quantity of copra made by the coastal villages of Mari., Bula and Jarai which is sold to passing vessels or canoed into Daru.

The rights to hunt particular pieces of river or

swamps are held by clan groups. There seems to be a large amount of interusage of other groups' land however. The villages with no swamps or river within their land boundaries either go up and use some of the Suki census Division swamps or hunt in another Bensbach or Trans Fly groups' swamp.

In the Trans Fly most crocodile hunts are communal efforts, with most of the men the the clan participating. The man who kills the crocodile(usually the shotgun owner) usually recieves the money and shares it out with the other people who helped him.

In the Bensbach, on the villages close to the river the hunting is done individually, probably because there are plenty of crocodiles in the river. Most Bensbach villages have some rights to hunt on some section of the River. Toward themouth is virtually waste and vacant land and , although there are a lot of crocodiles, very few people seem to hunt there.

F. LITERACY

There are two schools in the area- The Morehead primary T school and the Weam primary T school.

In 1966 there was a mission (L.M.S. Ekalesia) school at Iokwa village but this has been closed up as there is no mission teacher stationed there to run it at the moment. In previous years there was an L.M.S. school at Wando, but this also closed for the same reasons. These schools both went to standard two and taught English.

Figures of attendance for the Administration schools are as follows(1966 figures)

Weam P.T.S.

Standard	No Boys	No Girls	Total
Prep	18	16	34
1	21	29	50
2	3	11	14
	42	56	98

Attendances were slightly irregular and varied through the year.

Morehead P.T.S.

Standard	No Boys	No Girls	Total
Prep			
1	7	8	15
2	20	27	47
3	7	13	20
4	21	8	29
5	23	12	35
	5	5	10
	83	73	156

Standard 6 is being started in 1967.

b) The number of semi literate adults in the area is

approximately 50. These are only semi literate in the Mota language and the vernacular. There is one adult who is literate in English, and he is employed at Weam as the captain of the launch there. The break up is as follows.

- Bensbach 23 (From Wando mission school)
- Morehead area 14 (From ex Rouku and lokwa mission schs)
- Trans Fly 13 (From Utiara mission school in the Oriomo Bituri Council area)

These totals are not including people who are at school at present whose age qualifies them as adults.

d) Students away from the area receiving higher education are as follows.

Name	Village	Standard or year at school	Where.
Anau Weni	Rouku	Med. Assist. Training (After form 4)	Madang
Koni Kumbuinu	Wando	Form 2 High School	Daru
Tombai Iasa	Eundaber	Form 1 " "	Daru
Iasika Kurbi	Jarai	Form 1 " "	"
Gaindi Waiwai	Wevenevre	Form 2 " "	"

e) Few people in the area show interest in ~~xxx~~ newspapers except for smoking. There are five owners of private radios in the area and also, D.I.E.S. has 14 radio receivers on issue to villages in the area - mainly the Bensbach border villages.

It is hoped that more people will buy a new cheap radio now being stocked by the Buyer's Society, and in fact quite a few people have enquired re purchase of radios.

G). STANDARD OF LIVING.

a). The standard of living is quite high for the relative backwardness of the area. Housing is still in the traditional pattern of bush timber and bark. The houses are usually quite large. They are constructed with bark for the walls and roof, with occasional use of split bamboo or sago. Some villages have houses constructed of cello, but this is unusual. The floors are of black palm or split bamboo.

European artifacts are not used extensively. Every village has a few families who use exclusively European artifacts - saucepans, plated mugs etc, but this is not universal, and there are still a number of families who do their cooking in the traditional style of baking with hot rocks. Bush knives and axes are very common and the traditional ~~xxx~~ alternatives are never seen or used.

All the men wear European clothing - either shorts

and shirts or rami. Most of the women wear dresses, but discard them for the traditional grass skirt when they are working in the gardens.

Every village has a system of small houses, which they use. These are pit latrines, as the running water is scarce and not to be polluted.

The water supply in many cases is very poor. In the dry season it is usually very little more than stagnant swamp water. The trans Fly in particular has very poor water supplies for villages as most creeks dry up in the dry.

b) The diet is very good compared to most other places in the territory. Game - wallaby, deer, cassowary and bird life is plentiful and their diet has an ample quantity of protein. The main staple in the area is yam, of which some 12-14 different types are grown. In addition there are some sweet potato and taro grown. Sago is not plentiful, but occasionally parties go to the swamps to make sago in the lean season. Some green leaves from trees and bananas complete the traditional diet.

Introduced foods are :- pineapple, mango, pawpaw, and watermelon. These are all very popular but do not form part of the staple diet. They are eaten as supplementaries. Very little tinned food is purchased as there is little necessity for it. When it is purchased, it is done so as a chance and not as a habit.

The yams are kept in yam houses and are used through the year as they do not rot. Towards the end of the wet, when the supplies of food from the last harvest are running short, the people rely more on hunting and fishing for their food. The harvest is at the end of the wet season, and this is a time of plenty. Fish are plentiful in the rivers and the river people also eat prawns, and crabs and eels.

The deer are very plentiful and were introduced to the territory across the West Irian border many years ago by the Dutch. They now form a staple part of the people's diet although some of the older people will not eat them.

c) There are no community centres in the area or other such organizations.

H) MISSIONS.

There are two missions operative in the area:- The L.M.S. Ekalesia and the Unevangelized Field Mission. The L.M.S. has pastors posted at Wando, Jakwa (usually) and Morehead. The U.F.M. has pastors at Arufi and Dinisisi. The surrounding villages identify themselves with the mission in their village, However there seems to be no rivalry.

The villages without a mission close do not identify themselves with either mission

and very few people in them are baptised, or recognize Christianity.

b) The missions in the area provide only religious services. They have no schools at present or hospitals or aid posts.

The total number of employees by both missions is 3.

There are some people in the village who are given the rank of deacon. This is an unpaid job, however.

c) As in many other unsophisticated areas, the main attitude of the people towards the mission is fright. However, the majority of the population has not yet come under mission influence, apart from the occasional visit by native pastors. There is no antipathy in the area towards the missions. The most influential mission at the moment is the L.M.S., as they have more pastors in the area.

I) NON-INDIGENES.

a) There is only one group of non-indigenous private enterprise in the area. This is the company Northern Frozen Foods Pty Ltd. They are engaged in shooting and butchering deer for sale to overseas markets.

b) At the moment, they are employing 12 local people and some 8 non-local labour. However, if the business proves successful, they intend to employ upward of 40 labour in 1967, and will use only locals.

c) The deer are shot in the bush, butchered and frozen on the freezer on their boat the M.V. Lakatoi. They are then transhipped to Morehead by road and put in the freezer there. A D.C.S charter comes and takes the meat to Moresby when loading warrants it:- about once a week.

In 1967, they intend to purchase a large freezer boat to ship all the meat to Moresby. They also intend, if possible to purchase various produce from the locals for sale in Moresby. At the moment, the project is still largely experimental, although it has been capitalized heavily. It is hoped (see section (M)) that this might open a path for indigenous economic endeavour in the future.

J) COMMUNICATIONS.

Appended is a map showing all main and feeder roads in the sub-District. There are no roads linking the sub-district to other sub-districts, but in the overall plan, it is intended to make a road from Morehead to the mainland opposite Daru through the Oriono Bituri Council area. In 1967 a road will

be completed linking Morehead station with the Saru census division, the only one at present not so serviced.

Main roads and distances are as follows:-

- 1) Morehead - Weam 42 miles
- 2) Morehead - Kinkin 77 miles
- 3) Morehead - Mari 44 miles
- 4) Morehead - Goe (Part of the intended Saru road to Gigwa) 47 miles
- 5) Weam - Bula 56 miles.

All the above roads are open to 4 wheel drive vehicles throughout the dry and for about 5 months of the dry are open to any vehicles.

The only portions of the sub-district which will eventually be without road access are:-

1. Jauga on the Mai Kussa river.
2. The swamp villages in the Saru census division which are not included in this area study.

b) Sea. Anchorages are not plentiful along the coast. The only safe anchorage is at Boigu island which is in Queensland waters. The mouth of the Morehead also provides an anchorage. Along the rest of the coast there are too many sandbanks and no shelter from prevailing winds.

There are no wharves in the area. A jetty is used for unloading vessels at Morehead and a broken down one at Arufi. At Wando and Weam boats are onloaded onto the bank.

c) AIR.

There are two airstrips in the area.

- 1) Morehead category "A" weekly service from Daru
- 2) Weam Category "D" fortnightly service ex Morehead from Daru

The U.F.M. mission constructed a private mission strip at Arufi and are constructing one at Terbi (in the Saru census division)

K) There are two people with trained technical skills in the area. Mokal Koko from Rouku is a Seaman Gr 2 with the Department of Trade and Industry at Weam. One is a carpenter with P.W.D. at daru. There are about 30 people who have completed a Community technical school course at Malimo and Morehead in the area, but they are trained only for village improvements in housing and furnishing etc.

One boy started in 1967 to do a Medical Assistant's training at Madang. He is from Rouku.

L) There is virtually no political development in the area. The people were involved in the 1964 House of Assembly elections, but have had no further political education since.

There are two councils adjoining the area. They are the Oriomo Pituri and the Kiwai councils. However the Morehead people seldom travel outside their area and have had little dealing with them. What they know is unfavourable, as the villages they do come in contact with are on the outskirts of both council areas.

The people's attitude towards the Administration is good. They are co-operative and eager to develop their area and help themselves. They have, however no actual idea of the functions and machinations of government outside their own area. Although many villages have radios, they usually listen to only musical programmes and local news and not educational programmes.

The interpreter at Morehead D. Duddum has been to Daru for a conference re Radio Daru programming, but no other people have been observers or members of political type conferences.

M) THE ECONOMY OF THE AREA.

There is a total amount of about 90 acres of planted coconut trees bearing in the area. These are not used as a cash crop at present as a) the land inland is unsuitable for growing good nuts.

b) the people use the trees for making an alcoholic beverage Tuba which spoils the nuts.

A negligible amount of copra is sold to private traders in Daru or on boats by the coastal villagers.

CROCODILE SKINS.

The main economy of the area at present rests on crocodile skins. Although the distribution of crocodile infested swamps and rivers is uneven over the whole area, all villages and people have access to some areas where they can hunt crocodiles.

The skins are sold to the Morehead Buyer's Society, the area co-operative society. In 1966 the total amount of money spent by the society on purchase of skins was

Morehead	\$5200
Weam	\$2800

Thus a total of \$8,000 was received by the people for skins from the society. Some skins were also sold to private traders or in Daru by the people.

The Morehead Buyer's Society.

This society provides the economic aspirations of the people in the area. At the moment there are some 489 members with shares from the Morehead/Bensbach. This makes one member for every 6 per head of population. Nearly every family group in the area has representation in the M.B.S.

The Society operates on a thirty percent profit margin on goods in the store but a 100% margin on crocodile skins. The high margin on skins is only a temporary measure, as it is felt by the directors and the advisor of the society that it is better to let the whole population benefit by lower prices in the store, and to use the profit from skins for developmental purposes for the Society. At the moment the society, together with Lake Murray and Miunga societies is in the process of purchasing a vessel for carriage of cargo.

When the society eventually has sufficient financial backing, the prices paid for skins will be raised to a more equitable margin.

Per Capita Income.

As previously stated, crocodile skin money paid out in 1966 was \$8,000. Allowing another \$1,000 for sales to private individuals in Daru or on boats this makes \$9,000. The only other sources of income in the area are cash wages paid out at Morehead, Weam and by Northern Frozen Foods, R.D.A. and Public Works expenditure on cash wages and

and purchase of fresh food at Morehead and Weam for 1966 was a total of \$5,000. This added to Northern Frozen Food's payments to local labour totals 5600 dollars. This makes a total amount of money coming into the area in 1966 of \$14,600. The number of people in the area is 2540. The per capita income therefore for 1966 is \$5.84 dollars. This means about \$20.00 for each adult male in the area. This is spread fairly evenly, although the Bensbac. villages would have a higher and the outer Trans fly a considerably lower per capita income, than the mean.

POSSIBILITIES OF EXPANDING THE ECONOMY.

New Industries

At present Northern Frozen Foods Pty Ltd is experimenting with the shooting and slaughter of deer for overseas markets. This industry needs heavy capitalization in the initial stages and the company have spent close to \$100,000 in equipment and establishment. This of course would have been beyond indigenous reach, but later, if they prove successful a local industry on a minor scale could be started. The shooters were, in the last three months of 1966 exporting 6,000lbs of meat weekly, with seemingly little decrease to the deer population. If this proves, as in New Zealand, that it is virtually impossible to shoot out the deer, advantage could be taken of this and if possible a canning factory started, or the meat killed for Territory consumption.

The people could, once Northern Frozen Foods are established, receive a royalty per lb of meat exported.

In the New year (1967) the deer shooters are going to use purely local labour. They will start off with 12 or so and if the industry flourishes will be able to employ as many as 30 or 40.

Market gardening could be increased somewhat with produce to be sold at Morehead and Weam. This however would only affect some villages and. The M.B.S. is intending to sell fresh food in its stores at a minimal profit margin, buying it from the villages.

d) The possibility for new cash crops is virtually nil, due to the nature of the terrain and the topography generally

e). The people have proved in the past to be willing to put in efforts to improve themselves. They have been working well on establishing a road network and would probably show the same amount of energy in other projects. They have volunteered to work on making new roads gratis on many occasions.

c). Attitude toward ~~XXXXXX~~ Local Government.

The people in the area know little about Local Government. This they attitude towards it is largely based on hearsay from other areas and ignorance. When sounded out generally about the matter they seemed quite happy to start Local Government in the area, but were perturbed at the idea of having to pay tax.

The local people's attitude towards the Administration is such, that they will, if it is put to them be quite happy to have Local Government started in the area. They will, with sufficient Council propaganda, be able to understand the reason for the payment of Council tax, and be reconciled to this aspect. The concept of tax is not known here as they have not paid tax before.

CONCLUSION

A Local Government council could, with some initial difficulty be started in this area. It will only be a low grade and low income council, probably initially needing an Administration subsidy.

However, both from the political angle and local ^{and} ~~angle~~ a council would be of benefit in helping the people advance somewhat out of their rather unsophisticated state. Being on the border, this sub-district has a window on the world and as such it would be preferable to have it as politically developed and conscious as possible


(J. Baras-Wells)
Patrol Officer

12.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. MORHEAD 3 / 66-67

Patrol Conducted by P.A. Gerard Patrol Officer

Area Patroller Dart Trans. Fl. Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans None

Natives J.E.P.N.G.C. Interpreter

Duration—From 18 / 11 / 19 66 to 7 / 12 / 19 66

Number of Days 18

Did Medical Assistant Accompany No

Last Patrol by District Services 6 / 19 65

Medical 2 / 19 66

Map Reference See attached Patrol Map

Objects of Patrol Routine Administration, Census Revision, Council Propaganda

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. 3. 20

TERRITORY OF DISTRICTS AND NEW GUINEA



Telegrams
Our Reference 67-A-1.
If calling ask for
Mr. RAG:KIMcK.

Department of District Administration,
Western District,
DARU.

17th March, 1967.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

MOREHEAD PATROL REPORT - 3/66-67.

Please find herewith copy of the above report,
submitted by Mr. P.A. Gerard, Patrol Officer.

More prompt submission of this, and other reports
sent in recently, will be expected in future.

The report should be read in conjunction with
Morehead Patrol Reports 1 and 2/66-67, as these together
form the basis of an area study of the Bensbach, Trans-
Fly and Jaru Census Divisions, of the Morehead Sub-
District. As such they will provide a good background
for an assessment of Local Government potential.

This report, and the others, indicate that there
will be difficulty in operating a viable council in the
area. Communications, fragmentary groupings, low income,
lack of sophistication, lack of leadership and skills,
will be the major problems. However, because of the
international border being itself the Western boundary of
the area, it would seem necessary for the Administration
to press on with the introduction of Local Government.

The report is neatly presented, and, although
short, covers the subject adequately enough, considering
the information contained in the two reports above.

No claim for camping allowance has been
submitted.

F.A. Bensted
(F.A. Bensted) *MB.*
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,
MOREHEAD.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

10

Telegrams
Telephones
Our Reference.....67-2-1
If calling ask for
Mr.....



Department of District Administration,
Sub-district Office,
MORHEAD, H.B.

11th March, 1967.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

Morhead Patrol Reports Nos 1 & 3 of 1966/67.

Patrol Reports Nos 1 & 3, by Messrs Patrol Officer Daras-Wells & Cadet Patrol Officer Gerard, respectively are submitted herewith in triplicate, please. Also submitted, duly certified by me, in triplicate, are contingencies in relation to camping allowance for Mr. Daras-Wells. Mr. Gerard does not appear to have made any claims against the Administration. Under separate cover is copy of a patrol map covering both the census divisions being reported upon.

Mr. Gerard's services were made use of to enable the area to be covered before the break in the weather when the dry weather road system went out of use. Any information gathered by him has been incorporated in Mr. Daras-Wells' report in so far as an area study is concerned. Mr. Gerard was moved on patrol immediately after his return from recreational leave. He did cover rather long distances in places where the Trans-Fly division road system is incomplete at the hottest time of the year and he did so with good grace. The impression I gained of this officer was that his standard of work was not nearly as bad as I had been led to believe it would be.

~~Patrol Jacket covers are not available at this office but the report by Mr. Daras-Wells has been submitted. Could jackets be completed at your office please before the report is forwarded.~~

As I have reported elsewhere it had been hoped, using Mr. Patrol Officer Edgar's Saru census division report (Morhead No. 2 of 66/67) to produce a combined area study with a view to recommending the installation of a Local Government Council to cover the three census divisions, Bensbach, Trans-Fly, & Saru in 1967. However the decision has been made to go ahead with a council covering the two Lake Murray census divisions and this decision I consider to be the correct one now that the OIC Lake Murray does not have the responsibility of supervising the Lake Murray Buyers Society, in detail, with the appointment of the former OIC as full time and paid secretary of that society.

In the near future I hope to be able to re-submit in an expanded form an area study using the information compiled in these reports and Mr. Edgar's report to justify the installation of a council in the divisions reported upon during the year 1968.

It will be noted in Mr. Gerard's report he suggests the incorporation of Upiara and two associated swamp villages in any proposed Morhead council. With this point of view I agree.

Another of course of action I would suggest, but this may not



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

- 2 -

Telegrams

Telephone

Our Reference.....

If calling ask for

Mr.....

practical, is that the corps of village constables not be abolished if and when a council is proclaimed at Lake or at Morhead. For years I cannot see the regular police force being able to establish a complete coverage of rural police stations. When the village constabulary can report breaches of the peace as now then the small regular police detachments at centres can take the matter up. The people of upiara have walked 50 miles to Morhead to tell this fact to me. They have said the same thing to me when I have landed by Helicopter in their village, and they have said the same thing again when I have entered through the village adjoining theirs. The request is "Will you send us your police. There is no law any more now we have a council" We have abolished in most areas, ~~maintained~~ the village constables and not substituted the central police force. We are I suppose back to the Anglo-Saxon "Hue and cry".

I envisage tho, should a council be started, that it will include all three census divisions since they are all of small numbers. When the road programme is completed next dry season it will be possible to reach all villages in the three divisions except mine at the most by Landrover and tractor.

Although economic and political development in this area is low at the moment, I think, that in view of its border position a council should be started. Also the population has no direct link with the House of Assembly via council and local elected member.

(K. S. Eron)
Assistant District Commissioner.

PREAMBLE MOREHEAD PATROL No. 66/67

Patrol conducted by

P.A. Gerard Patrol Officer.

Area Patrolled

Part TRANS-FLY Census Division.

Personnel accompanying patrol

1 R.P.N.G.T., 1 Interpreter.

Duration of Patrol

18 /11/66 to 26/12/66
and
29/11/66 to 7/12/66

Number of Days

18

Last Patrols

D.D.A. June 1965

D.E.S.F. 7 1964

P.N.B. September 1963

Objects of Patrol

Boutina administration, Census revision,
Council Propaganda.

Map reference

Patrol Map attached.

INTRODUCTION

1. The trans-fly census division is generally low-lying and considerable areas are subject to inundation in the wet season. While there are areas of both grassland and rain forest, most of the country is lightly wooded, mainly with ti-trees. The area is drained by numerous creeks, but most of these are seasonal. The population is light, and game, mostly wallaby but with some deer, wild pig, and a few game birds, abundant.

2. The population is extremely diverse. There are three main unrelated dialect groups, and numerous sub-dialects, each the linguistic group having its own clan system, and considering itself a separate people. Their main source of income is from crocodile skins, and although some areas have copra potential there are difficulties, mainly re transport, before this can become an important source of income (see the body of the report). Generally the attitude to the administration is quite encouraging, especially compared with some other areas in this district. A council is projected, however the people are not over impressed by the neighbouring Oriomo-Dituri council, and feelings about councils are mixed; generally however, the people have a sort of vague idea that the council will be a good thing, even if they have very little idea how. (See body of report).

3. This patrol was to part of the division only, the balance of the villages being covered by Mr. Darran Wells. A large part of it was covered by foot, with occasional help from the Landrover and the use of a sailing canoe down the coast. When the current jeep track program is completed next dry it will be possible to patrol the entire division with little or no walking, at least in the dry season, but currently there are still some very long, hot, dry marches involved.

4. Apart from the above, this was a very pleasant patrol, in a backward but not discouraging area, and it also served as an excellent means for an officer new to this sub-district to get the "feel" of the place.

PATROL DIARY

Friday the 18th Nov.

Saturday 19th Nov.

Sunday 20th Nov.

Monday 21st Nov.

Tuesday 22nd Nov.

Wednesday 23rd Nov.

Thursday 24th Nov.

Friday 25th Nov.

Saturday 26th Nov.

Sunday 27th Nov.

Monday 28th Nov.

Tuesday 29th Nov.

Wednesday 30th Nov.

Thursday 1st Dec

Friday 2nd Dec.

1600 Arrived KINKIN per Landrover.

0800 Census and village inspection, discussions with villagers.

1400 Departed KINKIN for LIMOL.

1600 Arrived LIMOL.

Observed at I.D.M.L.

0800 Census and village inspection, other routine administration.

1350 Departed LIMOL for MELAM.

1445 Arrived MELAM. Census and village inspection, other routine administration.

0800 Departed MELAM for BUBUNI.

1230 Arrived BUBUNI. Census and village inspection, other routine admin.

0800 Departed BUBUNI for NIMIRI.

1245 Arrived NIMIRI. Census revision, village inspection, etc.

0800 Departed NIMIRI for SIBINIRI.

1220 Arrived SIBINIRI, census revision, village inspection etc.

1010 Departed SIBINIRI per sailing canoe for Morehead.

1200 Arrived old ZAHU canoe place, departed for ARUPI.

1930 Arrived AUPH.

1300 Proceeded by Landrover to Morehead

At Morehead.

At Morehead, for

0900 Departed/REBUNI on foot as road closed due to burned out bridge.

1130 Arrived REBUNI. Census revised, routine administration etc.

0800 Departed REBUNI for TONDA.

0930 Arrived TONDA. Revised census, routine administration.

1000 Departed TONDA for MARI per Landrover, as road is now open again. On arrival, Census and routine admin.

0800 Departed MARI for JARAI along beach.

1100 Arrived JARAI. Census and routine administration.

Patrol Diary (continued)

Page four. 5

Saturday 3rd Dec.

Sunday 4th Dec.

Monday 5th Dec.

Tuesday 6th Dec.

Wednesday 7th Dec.

0800 Returned to MARI along beach,
Landrover waiting at MARI to take
patrol to TALS.

1300 Departed for TALS per Landrover.
On arrival, census and routine admin.
Observed at TALS.

2300 Proceeded to YANBA per sailing
canoe.

1450 Arrived YANBA. Census and routine
administration.

0400 Departed YANBA for MARI.

1000 Arrived MARI.

1600 Landrover, which was to have
taken the patrol to MORNHEAD, not
forthcoming. As it was fairly obvious
the Rover was up's departed on foot for
a night march to MORNHEAD.

0900 Arrived MORNHEAD.

END OF DIARY

NATIVE AFFAIRS

Generally the reception of the patrol was quite friendly and co-operative, if rather lacking in enthusiasm. The attitude is noticeably worse in the more isolated villages, which feel a little neglected.

Housing.

Although there is plenty of Ti-tree in the area, which makes for solid ~~frames~~ and frames, the standard of housing is fair only, and structures lacking wall covering are common. Generally walls are covered with ti-tree bark, and often the roof is of the same material, though grass thatch is also common, and rather more water-proof. Sage material is rare, as sage is not common in the area. The MOWHELE tribes generally did not live in villages before contact, but in family groups at garden sites, and although they are now more settled they still spend comparatively little time in the village. In some dialects the word for "house" and "village" are the same, underlining this. This, of course, explains the housing standards, also it is noticed that the coastal folk, who spend more time in their villages, have a considerably higher standard.

Water supply.

In most villages this is very bad during the dry. Notable exceptions are TONDA, which is near the MOWHELE river, and SIBIRI, which has a beautifully clear and sweet water supply from a large, permanent creek. A dysentery epidemic at SIBIRI was probably partly caused by bad water.

Sanitation.

In most villages this is treated as a joke, and latrines are dug about ten feet deep and covered with elaborate structures to please the kisp. Instructions were given to dig proper latrines, and a few of the particularly unsewery ones were burned by their owners; however considering the long periods spent in the bush by one and all this is perhaps not such a really vital matter after all. In coastal villages the sea is used, and this seems the best idea, as the ground is too soft really for pit latrines on the coast.

Village surroundings.

All villages were clean and neat, at least for the patrol. The lack of pigs, and the presence of starved and scavenging hounds, keeps rubbish to a minimum.

Village officials.

These are of the usual standard in this district, i.e. in many cases quite well meaning, but seldom with very much idea of their job, or influence in the village. It can only be hoped that the council will bring out younger, more vigorous men, and the true village leaders, who at

present tend to steer clear of official positions.

Political and Social Observations.

The Trans-Fly people are in a similar position to many people in economically backward areas, who are starting to wake up to the big wide world outside their own little circle; that is, there is inevitably a certain amount of frustration, if not resentment, at their own backwardness. While the only recent attempt at a cargo-cult seems to have finished out very quickly, (Some of the folk at BUBUNI started to cut down trees for an air-strip which was going to be visited by cargo bearing planes, but did not get very far and were more or less laughed down by unconvinced compatriots), this sense of frustration is not helped by the proximity of the Torres Strait Islands, where things seem to them to be much better.

There is a great deal of fragmentation among the Trans-Fly people, as stated in the introduction, but relations between the various groups seem quite happy. No inter-tribal animosity was noticed.

The outstanding social problem is that of sister exchange. This custom is now breaking down to a very great extent, and many men, mainly those who stand to gain an attractive bride who happens to be his sister's husband's sister, are resisting the change. It was made quite clear that the administration could not penalise anyone for breaking a village "law" of this nature, but that marriages against the will of either or both of the parties concerned were frowned on. It was agreed that the latter were against local custom anyway. Men tend to marry rather later than women. All the groups have exogamous clan systems that restrict considerably the number of eligible girls a man may marry. There were a few cases where I was asked to grant a divorce. It was carefully explained that administration officers could not make or break village, or other, marriages, and the reasons for this were pointed out.

In each village a talk was given on local government councils, and the people were asked what they thought of the idea of a council at MOUNHEAD. Once a few initial misunderstandings had been dispelled the general consensus seemed to be in favour of the idea, although the apparent ineffectiveness of the ORICHE:JIYURI council obviously did not impress those folk who had observed it at all. A more full pre-council survey will be found in Mr. Darras-Wells' report.

Economic Potential.

This would seem at present to be comparatively limited. There is some copra potential in the coastal villages, but the shallowness of the sea off the coast makes it most unlikely that a workboat could be safely brought in, except perhaps to YANI, and even that would be ticklish. There is a market for fresh food at MOUNHEAD, with the school, and a fairly large staff, all on cash wages, if the locals like to take advantage of this and if a little assistance in the way of transport could be arranged. The present income is mainly from crocodile skins. This paragraph has been kept short and general, as Mr. Darras-Wells will be dealing fully with this topic

in his area study report.

Health

The diet of these people is varied and quite good, so that there is little of the listlessness that comes with malnutrition, and health is generally excellent. There has been a dysentery epidemic which resulted in several deaths at GIBBONI, but this would appear to be an isolated incident. There are dispensaries at NANI, and at UPLARI, just outside the census division, and a hospital at MUPHEAD.

Roads and Bridges

The terrain about MUPHEAD, being flat and lightly wooded, is ideally suited to dry-weather jeep tracks. A number of these are completed (see patrol map), and it is hoped to extend the system to include most of the villages in the division next dry. Most roads in the area are now under this heading, although some are still only walking tracks, mostly good ones as apart from a little grass cutting little track maintenance is needed in this type of country. Bridges have been made over many creeks, some with administration assistance. All roads in this division, however, are liable to inundation in the wet, and any roads made can only be dry-weather affairs.

Relocation

UPLARI and MUPHEAD wish to re-join the MUPHEAD area, and this would seem reasonable as they will be very close to the station by Landrover when all the proposed jeep tracks are in. However it was pointed out that the transfer would best be made at the time of the inauguration of the MUPHEAD council.

A nearly full bandolier of S.I.S. ammunition was handed over to the patrol by the village constable of TALI. Presumably it was lost by a P.I.S. patrol in the area. This will be returned to the P.I.S.

Census

This was well attended. As all the census figures are being put together in Mr. Barros Wolla's report, for convenience, no further remarks on trends will be included here.

END OF REPORT

in his area study report.

Health.

The diet of these people is varied and quite good, so that there is little of the listlessness that comes with malnutrition, and health is generally excellent. There has been a dysentery epidemic which resulted in several deaths at MIRINDI, but this would appear to be an isolated incident. There are midposts at MAPI, and at UPIARA, just outside the census division, and a hospital at MURURAD.

Roads and Bridges.

The terrain about MURURAD, being flat and lightly wooded, is ideally suited to dry-weather jeep tracks. A number of these are completed, (see patrol map), and it is hoped to extend the system to include most of the villages in the division next dry. Most roads in the area now come under this heading although some are still only walking tracks, nearly good ones as apart from a little grass cutting little track maintenance is needed in this type of country. Bridges have been made over many creeks, some with administration assistance. All roads in this division, however, are liable to inundation in the wet, and any roads made can only be dry-season affairs.

Relocations.

UPIARA and MURURAD wish to re-join the MURURAD area, and this would seem reasonable as they will be very close to the station by roadwork when all the proposed jeep tracks are in. However it was pointed out that the transfer would best be made at the time of the inauguration of the MURURAD council.

A nearly full bandolier of S.I.S. ammunition was handed over to the patrol by the village constable of FALS. Presumably it was lost by a F.I.S. patrol in the area. This will be returned to the F.I.S.

Games.

This was well attended. As all the census figures are being put together in Mr. Darvas Vais' report, for convenience, no further remarks on trends will be included here.

END OF MESSAGE

8

DDA



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. No. 4 of 1966-67.

Patrol Conducted by RICHARD BERNARD PHILLIPS, PATROL OFFICER.

Area Patrolled TRANS FLY CENSUS DIVISION

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans NIL

Natives 2 POLICE, 2 SCHOOL TEACHERS, 1 INTERPRETER,
1 HEALTH EDUCATOR.

Duration—From 29/6/1966 to 7/7/1966.

Number of Days NINE

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? NO

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services JUL/AUG/1965.

Medical NOVEMBER/1965.

Map Reference FOURMIL, BOIGU, SC 54-7, EDITION 2-AAS, SERIES T 504, 1966.

Objects of Patrol TERRITORY CENSUS.

Director of District Administration,
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. 3. 21 (7)

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA



Telegrams.....
Our Reference 67-4-1.
If calling ask for
M. RAO:KIMCK.

Department of District Administration,
Western District,
DARU.

20th March, 1967.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

MOREHEAD PATROL REPORT 4/56-67.

Please find herewith copy of the above report.

Because of the delay in submission, there is now little value in the report as such, or any comments written now.

For your consideration, please.

F.A. Bensted
(F.A. Bensted)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,
MOREHEAD.

6

FOREHEAD PATROL REPORT NO. 1 OF 1966-67

AREA PATROLLED	TRANS FLY CENSUS DIVISION.
CONDUCTED BY	RICHARD BERNARD PHILLIPS PATROL OFFICER.
ACCOMPANIED BY	CONST. 9324 MEREMERE CONST. 10348 SOUPA STANLEY ABIA (SCHOOL TEACHER) PENNINGTON TAMAI (SCHOOL TEACHER) JUBI BAGIE (HEALTH EDUCATOR) DERIVE DUMDUM (PATROL INTERPRETER)
DURATION	26-6-66 to 7-7-66 NINE DAYS
OBJECT OF PATROL	TERRITORY CENSUS.
MAP REFERENCE	FOURMIL, BOIGU, SC 54-7, EDITION 2-AAS, SERIES T 504. 1966.

5

PATROL DIARY

Wednesday, 29th June, 1966.

Departed Morehead 1000 by tractor and trailer for Mibini, arriving 1045. Started Census Enumeration 1115 and completed 1530. Work of Census Interviewers checked and found correct. Compilation book entered up. The Assistant District Commissioner at Morehead and Census Sub-Enumerator Mr. E.D. Wren visited Mibini in the evening to discuss census matters. Interviewers checked and Compilation book entered up. Slept Mibini.

Thursday, 30th June, 1966.

Departed Mibini 0900 by tractor and trailer for Tonda, arriving 1015. Started Census Enumeration 1045 and completed 1330. Work of Interviewers checked and Compilation book entered up. Radio conversation with Morehead 1600 through A510 Wireless Station. Slept Tonda.

Friday, 1st July, 1966.

Departed Tonda 0845 by tractor and trailer for Jarai. Tractor bogged and had to return to Morehead 1100. Walked to Jarai arriving 1615. Started Census Enumeration 1630 and completed 1845. Radio Conversation with Morehead 1620. Work of Interviewers checked and Compilation book entered up. Slept Jarai.

Saturday, 2nd July, 1966.

Departed Jarai 1000 for Mari arriving 1230. Walked along the beach. This village was not included in the Territory Census. Inspected site for proposed airstrip at Mari, and construction of new school buildings. Radio conversation 1600. Slept Mari.

Sunday, 3rd July, 1966.

Departed Mari 1000 for Tais, after Church Service. Arrived Tais 1515. Radio conversation 1600. Slept Tais.

Monday, 4th July, 1966.

Started Census Enumeration of Tais 1000 and completed 1130. Work of Interviewers checked and Compilation book entered up. Radio conversations with Morehead 0930 and 1600. Slept Tais.

Tuesday, 5th July, 1966.

Departed Tais for Moibut Crossing 0415, arriving 0520. Departed Moibut Crossing in three sailing canoes 0600 for Iauga. Very slow trip against howling south east winds and tide. Arrived Iauga 0015 on the 6th July. Slept Iauga.

Wednesday, 6th July, 1966.

Started Census Enumeration of Iauga 1030 and completed 1145. Work of Interviewers checked and Compilation Book entered up. Departed Iauga 1315 by three sailing canoes for Jaru, sailing up the Mai Kussa River. Called in at Sebadiri village for fifteen minutes. Arrived Jaru 2330. Slept by River bank at Jaru.

Thursday, 7th July, 1966.

Radio conversation with Morehead 0800. Departed Jaru 0830 for Arufi arriving 1330. Departed Arufi 1500 by tractor and trailer and Land Rover arriving 1545.

END OF PATROL

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

MOREHEAD PATROL REPORT NO. 1 OF 1966-67

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this patrol was Census Enumeration of five villages in the Trans Fly Census Division for the Territory Census. The villages included in the census were Mibini, Tonda, Jarai, Tais and Iauga. Two indigenous school teachers Mr. Stanley Awagasi Abia and Mr. Pennington Tanai accompanied the patrol as Census interviewers.

The Trans Fly Census Division lies to the east of the Morehead Sub-District Office. It covers an area of 2,600 square miles and has a population of about 1600. The villages are small and far apart.

Territory Census

A training school was conducted at Morehead for both interviewers and collectors between the 20th June, 1966 and the 25th June, 1966. The school was run by Mr. E.D. Wren Assistant District Commissioner at Morehead and Census Sub-Enumerator. During the week Mr. I.A. Douglas visited the training school. He is the Census Enumerator for the Western District. On the 25th June, 1966, a practice period of Enumeration was conducted at Garaita village, close to Morehead.

In the field Census Enumeration ran smoothly and no difficulties were experienced. The Patrol was in constant contact by radio with the Sub-District Office at Morehead.

The total number of people to be censused was only 221 which was six short of the anticipated population. This must surely be one of the smallest workloads in the Territory.

Both the Census Interviewers performed their duties satisfactorily. They were efficient in their enumeration work, and it has been recommended that they receive full payment for their census duties.

A period of debriefing was held at Morehead on the completion of the patrol.

MAPS

The map reference for the patrol was the Army Fournal of Boigu, SC 54-7, Edition 2-AAS, Series T 504. 1966. However, there are a few points which need to be corrected on this map. The position of Iauga village shown as XQ2687 should be at position XQ3291.

At position XR1319 the place is marked as Jarai (deserted). It should be described as Jaru or Old Arufi. The present position of Jarai is at WQ6282. There is also a track which is not marked on the map between Tonda and Jarai.

R.B. Phillips
(R.B. Phillips)
PATROL OFFICER

H.Q.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. 5 of 66/67

Patrol Conducted by B.A.J. Arnold, C.P.O. (Accompanying Mr. P. Gerard, P.O.)

Area Patrolled Part Saru Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans P.A. Gerard, P.O.

Natives Const. Agorunta, R.P.N.G.C., Benny, Interpreter.

Duration—From 12/12/1966 to 19/12/1966

Number of Days 8

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services Sept /1966

Medical /19.....

Map Reference

Objects of Patrol To conduct Land Investigation and Survey at the junction of the Fly river and Burei creek.

Director of District Administration,
PORT MORESBY.

Forwarded, please.

/ / 19

.....
District Commissioner

Amount Paid for War Damage Compensation \$.....

Amount Paid from D.N.E. Trust Fund \$.....

Amount paid from F.E.D.P. Trust Fund

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

Ref: 67-3-18

Dept. of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, PAPUA.

1/6/1967.

District Commissioner,

DNAW

PATROL NO. (Morehead) 5 of 1966-67

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of:-

* Memorandum of Patrol No.

* Patrol Report No. 5/66-67

covering patrol by.... *Mr. B. J. Arnold*.....

J. K. McCarthy
(J.K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR
R.

* Delete as necessary.

67. 3. 18⑧

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA
DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION



Our Reference: 67-4-1.
If calling ask for
Mr. RAC:KIMCK.

Department of District Administration,
Western District,
DARU.

17th March, 1967.

Director,
Department of District Administration,
KONEDOBU.

MOREHEAD PATROL REPORT - 5/66-67.

interesting

Please find herewith a brief report submitted
by Mr. C.P.O. Arnold, covering a short trip in the
Jara Census Division to do a hard investigation.

The report calls for no further comment.

F.A. Bensted
(F.A. Bensted)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,
MOREHEAD.

175



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

7

Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference.....67-2-1
If calling ask for
Mr.....

Department of District Administration,
Morehead.

13th March, 1967.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

Morehead Patrol Reports No.s 5 & 6 of 1966/67.

Please find enclosed two copies of the above patrol reports -
No. 5 conducted by Mr. P. Gerard, Patrol Officer and reported upon by
Mr. Arnold, and No. 6 conducted by Mr. Cadet Patrol Officer Arnold.
Also enclosed are copies of claims for camping allowance by Mr. Arnold
and duly certified by me. Once again Mr. Gerard appears to make an claim
on the administration.

Both reports are brief being submitted to record field days
and comments are for the benefit sub-district officers who may work in the
areas in the future.

Duration of Patrol - 12/12/66 to 13/12/66 - 2 days

For: Patrol Accompanying patrol


(A. Frou)

Assistant District Commissioner.

Sub-District Office,
MOREHEAD.

12th March, 1967.

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
MOREHEAD.

MOREHEAD PATROL REPORT No. 5 66/67 -

B.J. ARNOLD C.F.O.

Officer conducting patrol - B.J. Arnold, C.P.O.
(accompanying Mr. P.A. Gerard P.O.)

Area Patrolled - LOWER SARU Census division (part)

Objects of patrol - To conduct a land investigation
and survey of a block of land
which Mr. G. Craig of Daru has
applied to lease.

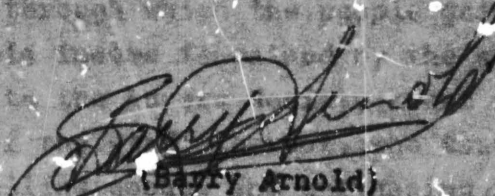
Duration of Patrol - 12/12/66 to 19/12/66 - 8 days.

Personnel accompanying patrol -

Europeans - Mr. P. Gerard P.O.

Natives - Const. Agorunta R.P.N.G.C.

Inter. Benny



(Barry Arnold)
Cadet Patrol Officer.

The villages in the area are very poor, due to the poor quality of the staple food, with the fact that coconut trees have been cut down, they are old. As a result, the fruits from immature coconuts are being eaten with the village people. When the patrol was conducted, the people were all out in the way and some had been cutting coconuts. While the area is being investigated, the people are being advised to plant coconuts, and to plant other crops on their lands.

The patrol achieved its purpose, as can be seen by the Gerard report, to which the village is referred.

INTRODUCTION.

This Patrol was led by Mr P. Gerard, for the purposes of a land investigation and survey. The site of the aforementioned investigation and survey, being land held by the people of INAPOROK village, at the junction of the Fly river, and Burei Creek. Mr. G. Craig, of Daru has applied for a business lease of about four acres on this site, for the purpose of opening a Trade Store on the site.

This report will consist solely of an expanded diary, as Mr. Gerard has already done a Land Investigation report, which covers the objects of the patrol admirably.

The country through which this patrol traveled, was typical of the Morehead Sub-District, in that it was relatively open plain, which is inundated in the wet season, with patches of rain forest on those patches which are not so inundated. There is also an area of undulating ridge type country, close to the Fly River, which has large areas of swamp in the valleys between ridges.

The people have a good rapport with the administration, owing to the close contact, brought about by the frequent use of the excellent dry season roads by the Administration Officers, and representatives of the Morehead Buyers Society, through which the people gain their only cash income. This income is gained by the selling of Crocodile skins to the Buyers Society store at Morehead, or to a member of the staff thereof, who travels through the villages, selling goods, and purchasing skins.

The villages in the region, are moved frequently, owing to the poor quality of the arable land, and the fact that coconut trees do not bear good fruit once they get old. As a result, the route from Inaprok to the Fly river, is dotted with old village sites. At the time of year when the Patrol was conducted, the people were almost all out in the various bush hamlets on hunting expeditions, as while the area is no good for agriculture, game in the shape of Wallabies, Deer, Pigs, Ducks, Geese, and Crocodiles abounds.

The patrol achieved its purpose, as can be seen by Mr. Gerards report, to which the reader is referred.

4

DAIRY

- Dec. 12th 0800 Departed Morehead accompanying Mr. P. Gerard, by Landrover to SERKI, arriving 1100.
- 1330 Spent afternoon preparing the gear and arranging carriers for the mornings march.
- Dec. 12th 0800 Departed SERKI for INAPOROK, by foot for 30 minutes, thence by canoe for 20 minutes, and then by foot again for two hours, arriving at the canoe place on the edge of a large open lagoon, thence by canoe for one hour, and by foot for 20 minutes.
- 1210 Arrived INAPOROK to find that the populace were out hunting. Sent word out to them to return to the village forthwith.
- 2100 By this time the people required for the land investigation had arrived, and were informed by Mr. Gerard of the purpose of our visit.
- Dec. 14th 0800 Called meeting of the people of the village, and Mr. Gerard commenced the investigation to ascertain the owners of the land, instructing me in the various stages as he progressed.
- 1200 By this time the owners of the land had been determined and questioned as to their willingness to sell, and discussion took place as to the best way to go on the morrow, after being informed that the road was out, we decided to go by canoe to the site, following Burei Creek all the way. As the people stated that the journey would take some 8 or 9 hours, we elected to travel the next morning.
- 1330 Spent the afternoon in preparation.
- Dec. 15th 0800 Departed INAPOROK for BUREI JUNCTION by canoe, following a tortuous route, which followed the creek not at all. This perhaps should have indicated to us what lay ahead, but no we plunged on where angels fear to tread.

- 1200 Arrived at a little hamlet, at which we found a number of people, who were out on a hunting expedition, and stopped for a coconut or two, which, by this time we felt a sore need for. We were again misinformed that the destination was quite close.
- 1300 Set out again, entering BUREI CREEK at last, and finding an 18 inch tidal difference, Ah! thought we, at last the journey's end.
- 1700 Entered a section of the creek, which was blocked by a log jam, evidently deposited by the incoming tidal bore, for, by this time there was a 6 foot Tidal drop.
- 1830 Cleared the jam, only to travel another mile to another, to cross this one, it was necessary to sink the canoe and push it under.
- 2000 Entered the clear section of the Creek, to find the tide beginning to turn, and that the paddlers were worried that the bore would come and overturn the canoe, depositing us in the drink.
- 2030 We were met by a dinghy and outboard owned by MR. Craig, which conveyed us along the last few miles of the Creek.
- 2100 Finally arrived after 13 hours on the water. Mr. Craig had his boat, the "Janis B" anchored at the junction, and had a hot meal prepared for us. after discussion, finally got to bed at 2300, in a hut on the bank.
- Dec. 16th 0800 Began the survey, accompanied by Mr. Craig, who pointed out the area of ground he wished to lease.
- 1200 The survey finished, we had lunch aboard the "Janis B" and decided to risk the road, rather than face that canoe trip again.

- Dec. 16th 1300 Set out in a torrential downpour for INAPOROK, through rain forest, which soon gave way to open swamp, and then to a series of ridges About 50 to 100 feet high, with areas of swamp in the gullies. The last of these ridges and one of the highest gave a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside, including the Hamlet at which we stopped for lunch the previous day. We duly arrived at this hamlet, about 2 hours after leaving the junction. The road, I might add, was perfect.
- 1530 Departed from the Hamlet, after partaking of refreshment, and commenced a rather arduous walk through swamp country.
1630. left the swamp behind, and had an easy walk in front of us, through open rain forest.
- 1800 Arrived ^{INAPOROK} SERKI, and bedded down for the night.
- Dec. 17th 0800 Departed INAPOROK for SERKI, travelling as we did on the outward journey, and taking an almost identical length of time over the trip. ~~TIME~~
- 1220 Arrived SERKI, to find that the Landrover, which was supposed to meet the Patrol, was not there, so we prepared to wait.
- Dec. 18th Sunday at SERKI, Observed.
- Dec. 19th 1300 Still no Landrover, so it was decided, that if no Landrover eventuated by 1600, we would set out on a night march to the Station.
- 1600 Still no Landrover.
- 1630 Departed SERKI for MOREHEAD, per foot,
- 1800 Met Landrover, on its way to pick us up, loaded ourselves and gear thereinto, and relaxed.
- 1930 Arrived at the Morehead Station.

END OF PATROL.

H.Q.



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT

District of WESTERN Report No. 6 of 66/67

Patrol Conducted by B.J. Arnold, G.P.O.

Area Patrolled Part Trans-Fly Census Division

Patrol Accompanied by Europeans Nil

Natives Warden P. Walang, Inter. D. Dumdum, Domestic, Ten prisoners.

Duration—From 10./1./1967 to 27./1./1967

Number of Days 18

Did Medical Assistant Accompany? No

Last Patrol to Area by—District Services Nov./1966

Medical /19

Map Reference

Objects of Patrol Road and Bridge reconstruction

Director of District Administration, 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

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

Ref: 67-3-19

Dept. of District Administration,
KONEDOBU, PAPUA.

1/6/1967.

District Commissioner,

Daru

PATROL NO. (handwritten) 62/1966/67

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of:-

- * Memorandum of Patrol No.
- * Patrol Report No. 6-66/67

covering patrol by... *Mr. B. J. Arnold*

J. K. McCarthy
(J. K. McCarthy)
DIRECTOR.
J.

* Delete as necessary.

pu

67. 3. 19^⑧



TERRITORY OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND NEW GUINEA



Telegrams.....
Our Reference.....
If calling on for.....
Mr.....

67-4-1.
RAC:KIMAK.

Department of District Administration,
Western District,
DARU.

17th March, 1967.

The Director,
Department of District Administration,
K O N E D O B U.

MOREHEAD PATROL - 6/66-07.

Please find herewith a short report submitted
by Mr. G. Arnold, C.P.O., on road work done in the
Morehead Sub-district during January this year.

My comments are :-

- (1) The report is neat.
- (2) A map should have been included.

For your consideration, please.

F.A. Bensted
(F.A. Bensted)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

c.c. Assistant District Commissioner,
MOREHEAD.

Handwritten scribble



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

7

Telegrams
Telephone
Our Reference.....67-2-1
If calling ask for
Mr.....

Department of District Administration,
Morehead.

13th March, 1967.

The District Commissioner,
Western District,
DARU.

Morehead Patrol Reports No.s 5 & 6 of 1966/67.

Please find enclosed two copies of the above patrol reports -
No. 5 conducted by Mr. P. Gerard, Patrol Officer and reported upon by
Mr. Arnold; and No. 6 conducted by Mr. Cadet Patrol Officer Arnold.
Also enclosed are copies of claims for camping allowance by Mr. Arnold
and duly certified by me. Once again Mr. Gerard appears to make on claim
on the administration.

Both reports are brief being submitted to record field days
and comments are for the benefit sub-district officers who may work in the
areas in the future.

(E. Wren)

Assistant District Commissioner.

Sub-District Office,
MOREHEAD.
12th March, 1968.

The Assistant District Commissioner,
Sub-District Office,
MOREHEAD.

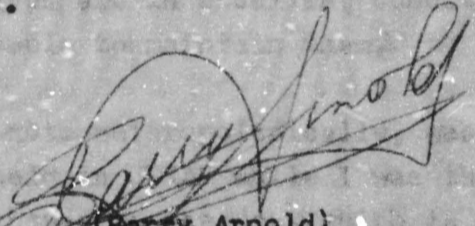
MOREHEAD PATROL REPORT No. 66/67 -
B.J. ARNOLD, C.P.O.

Officer conducting patrol - B.J. Arnold, C.P.O.
Area patrolled - Gubam - Derideri road, Trans-Fly Census
Division.

Objects of patrol - To repair and rebuild sections of the
Gubam - Derideri road, and replace
old bridges.

Duration of patrol - 10/1/67 to 27/1/67 - 18 days.

Personnel accompanying patrol -
Warder P. Walang
Inter. D. Dumdum
Ten prison labourers.
Domestic.


(Barry Arnold)
Cadet Patrol Officer.

INTRODUCTION

This patrol was mounted solely for the purpose of repairing and rebuilding portions of the road from DERIDERI village to GUBAM village. The whole of the work was done in the stretch extending out from GUBAM towards DERIDERI for about one mile, where two bridges were re-built, and a section of the road straightened and levelled.

Due to the limited aspects of the patrol, this report will consist solely of a diary, and remarks on the road system and bridge building methods used.

At this time of year, there are very few people in the area, as they are all out hunting, as owing to the onset of the wet season, the gardens are worthless for food. There is a bountiful supply of game in the region, mainly Wallabies and pigs, but with some deer, and wildfowl on the rivers and swamps.

Owing to the lack of people in the villages, a caliboose line and warder were taken to act as both carriers and labour. All necessary tools and equipment were taken from Morehead, along with camping gear and rations for the prisoners.

The villages themselves are in excellent condition, considering the lack of people to maintain them.

One thing worthy of note anthropologically, was the Yam festival which was held in GUBAM while I was there. The people build a long house in the dry, which is filled with Yams during the harvesting season, i.e. the end of the dry. Once all yams are gathered, people from the close villages come in for the opening of this Yam house. At this time, Men, Women and children are employed, cooking and scraping the yams, and come nightfall, a feast is held. It is worth noting, that, even with this feast in progress, and with the people from two other villages present, there were only about fifty adults in GUBAM. The following morning, the visitors returned to their villages, each bearing a load of the plentiful yams. The men stayed for a day or two, then seeing that we were not needing them, left for the hunting grounds.

PATROLL DAIRY.

4

- Jan. 10th 0800 Departed MOREHEAD per Tractor and Trailer, bound for DERIDERI, and if possible, GUBAM. The road all along is showing signs of deterioration due to the heavy falls of rain early in the wet season.
- 1130 Arrived DERIDERI, and loaded the caliboose, who had been sent on earlier, with all the gear.
- 1145 Set out for GUBAM per tractor and trailer, to see how far we could get.
- 1200 Trailer bogged up to the axles in the mud. All unloaded, pushed the Tractor out, and sent it on its way back to MOREHEAD.
- 1220 Patrol set out for GUBAM, walking for 9/10 of the way through water varying in depth between ankle and knee deep.
- 1350 Arrived GUBAM, and set up the camp.
- 1500 Walked out to the site of the closest bridge with the Warder, and found the timbers in this bridge and in another about 100 yards away to be rotten, and badly in need of replacement.
- 1600 Returned to village, set up the A510 portable transceiver, and established a radio link with MOREHEAD.
- Jan. 11th 0800 Began ripping up the old bridges and digging for the foundations of the new one.
- 1300 Set the prisoners to work cutting selected trees for the foundations of the new bridge.
- 1400 Radioed MOREHEAD for mail to be sent out as the mail plane had landed at MOREHEAD not long after we left on the Tuesday.
- Jan. 12th to Jan. 26th, work went on in this vein for this whole time, two new bridges being constructed, and a section of road straightened, the only exceptions being the two Saturday afternoons, and the two Sundays.
- Jan. 27th 0800 Set out to walk into MOREHEAD, or at least to PONGARKI, where I had arranged over the radio that the Landrover would meet us.
- 1600 Arrived PONGARKI, Landrover arrived at 1600, thence back to the station.
- 1800 Arrived MOREHEAD station.

E n d

Methods employed in the construction of bridges.

Both bridges constructed by this patrol were built from selected hardwoods or Ti-tree, so as to resist rot as much as possible.

By using large diameter logs wherever possible, it was hoped that these bridges would last for quite some time, and carry any heavy loads likely to be put on them in the near future.

The basis for their construction was to dig a foundation well into the bank, and lay large logs crosswise, i.e. parallel to the stream, which were then notched to take the main bridge girders, which were logs of some three feet in diameter. These were placed so that there were two central logs, one under each of the wheel tracks of any vehicle going over the bridge, and one along each side to allow for any vehicle running off the central tracks.

For decking, logs of about four to six inches were used, closely packed so as to give a solid rattle free decking. To these were nailed flat boards hewn from logs about six to eight inches in diameter, this resulted in two wheel tracks about eighteen inches across and raised two inches above the general level of the decking. This serves both to give any occupants of the vehicle using the bridge, and also to distribute the load over a greater area of the bridge structure.

These bridges, I feel, should give several years service before needing replacement, and are infinitely better than the ones they replace, which were built I learn, by unsupervised village labour.

Any comments you could make to the writer on construction of bridges would be appreciated, as while I feel that these two should do the job which they are intended to do, they are by no means perfect.

Comments on Road System.

It is my opinion, from a wet season inspection of the DERIDERI to GUBAM section of the road, that this could be made into an all weather road, but with great difficulty. To achieve this, it would be necessary, to employ the Tractor and Blade, along with a considerable number of labourers, to make a raised corduroy road for almost the full length of the road.

The road from PONGARKI to DERIDERI, is an all weather road, but for one section, where there is a large Creek, over which there is a raised bridge, the bridge does not flood, but the approaches are another consideration. When I passed through on the way out, the road was passable to DERIDERI, but on returning, only to GUBAM, this change was caused by a sudden rise in this large creek, flooding the approaches on both sides of the creek to a depth of up to six feet. If the approaches could be raised to the level of the bridge for a distance of about 100 yards on either side, but particularly on the MOREHEAD side, then the road would be open to ARUFE in all weathers.

As to the road beyond GUBAM, i.e. from GUBAM to DIMISISI, it is hard to say, but judging on a dry season inspection, and the remarks of the villagers, it is in a similar position to the DERIDERI - GUBAM road, for sure it is cut by a fast flowing creek, just outside GUBAM, which is about three feet over the bridge, and about thirty yards across.

I feel that once the full length of the proposed MOREHEAD - SIBIDIRI road is completed, every effort should be made to make this section of the road into an all weather one, this would greatly benefit both the People and the Administration officers in the area, by providing an all year round contact rather than a six month one.