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PATROL REPORTS

DISTRICT: WESTERN HIGHLANDS

STATION: KOMPIAM, 1954 - 1955

Original documents bound with reports
for: Kompiam, volume 10.

Papua New Guinea Patrol Reports

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KOMPIRM 1 OF 54/55



TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

In 30/4/1955

Western Highlands District,
District Office,
MOUNT HAGEN.

7th April, 1955.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Director,
Dept. of District Services and Native Affairs,
PORT Moresby.

Subject: KOMPAM Patrol Report No. 1/2-55.

Forwarded herewith is report submitted by Mr. G.W. Whiteoak, Patrol Officer, of his initial census patrol of the Upper Sau Valley and exploratory patrol of part of the Lower Sau. This is the first patrol during the current year in the Kompam area, as the Post was not named during the absence of Mr. Whiteoak on leave.

2. The patrol was well conducted and the census figures recorded agree with estimates previously made, although there will no doubt be subsequent increases as it cannot be expected that a completely accurate census will be compiled in a new area on the first occasion. The fact that a number of natives were absent at Moga ceremonies supports this.
3. In common with the rest of the Mabag Sub-district, the Administration sponsored work on roads and airstrips and the consequent gathering together of traditionally hostile groups has had a remarkable stabilising effect and has done much to hasten the process of bringing the people under good control.
4. The establishment of contact with the groups to the north of the Sau will be a slow process, as the staff position does not permit any extension of our sphere of influence at the moment.
5. A recent inspection of the Kompam Post revealed the excellent work which had been done in airstrip and road construction.

W.R. Dishon
(W.R. Dishon)
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT - KOMPIAN TO - 1 of 24/73

REPORT OF A PATROL TO : SAN VALLEY.

OFFICER CONDUCTING PATROL :

G. W. WHITEOAK, PATROL OFFICER.

OBJECTS OF PATROL :

(a) Initial census of Upper San
Census Sub-Division.

(b) Exploration of lower San area.

Reported SAHARA 2117 hrs for KIRIAPARA.

PERSONNEL ACCOMPANYING :

Reg. No. 3306 1/Cpl. WAI

" " 7459 Const. HANU

" " 7776 " HANU

Interpreter KUKI.

INTRODUCTION :

This patrol conducted the initial census of the Upper San Census Sub-Division. 2100 names were recorded, which compares to previous estimates of the Upper San area's population. The lower San area, towards the junction of the LAI and SAN Rivers, was also explored on this patrol - no census being taken in this area. A European Medical Assistant from WIRIA also accompanied the patrol. Made camp and purchased food. Departed KIRIAPARA 1350 hrs for

Tuesday 1st February :

Departed KOMPIAN Patrol Post 0845 hrs for GIUNUKI Police Base Camp at head of SAN Valley. Arrived 1400 hrs. Made camp and purchased food. Talks with local natives.

Wednesday 2nd February :

At GIUNUKI. Censused TSAN and TIAGAI groups. Joined by E.M.A. Mr. T. GUNNERS from WABASA at 1230 hrs. Talks with local natives.

Thursday 3rd February :

Departed GIUNUKI 0830 hrs for SAHARA Medical Aid Post, arriving 0930 hrs. Made camp and purchased food. Censused TIAGAI and LIBIHU groups.

UNITED STATES ARMY

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

PATROL REPORT - KOMPIAN NO. 1 of 54/55

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Monday 4th February

Monday 4th February

Departed LAHANDA 0730 hrs for LINDIAN follow road
made camp and purchased food. Talks with
local natives. Departed SAHANDA 0815 hrs for KEDAGANDA,
arriving 0945 hrs. Made camp and purchased food. Consumed
KIMBUN and VIKAGIN groups.

Tuesday 5th February

Departed KEDAGANDA 0815 hrs for KOMAKANDA,
arriving 1045 hrs. Made camp and purchased food. Consumed
TAKAP group.

Wednesday 6th February

Departed KOMAKANDA 0800 hrs for KIASAP, arriving
1045 hrs. Made camp and purchased food. Consumed
FINAI group.

Thursday 7th February

Departed KIASAP 0800 hrs for KIBAN, arriving
1045 hrs. Made camp and purchased food. Consumed
YAKUN and
WIKIN groups.

Friday 8th February

Departed KIBAN 0810 hrs for LINDIAN Medical Aid
Post on left bank of KIBAN River, arriving 1045 hrs. Census not
attempted, owing to approx. 80% absenteeism due to MOGA ceremonies.
Made camp and purchased food. Departed LINDIAN 1350 hrs for
LINDIAN Patrol Post on advice of A.D.O. Mr. Souness remained
at LINDIAN. Arrived KOMPIAN 1900 hrs. Consumed
KIBAN River, and climbed to KIBAN, arriving 1900 hrs.

Saturday 9th February & Sunday 10th February

At KOMPIAN - inspection of station by District
Commissioner Mr. V. Richin.

Monday 11th February

Departed KOMPIAN 0745 hrs for IAMANDA, arriving
1045 hrs. Rejoined Mr. Souness. Talks with local natives.

Tuesday 12th February

At IAMANDA. Consumed YALINGIN and MINAHIN groups.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

PATROL REPORT - KOMPIAN NO. I of 54/55.

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DIARY (contd.)

Sunday 13th February :

Departed LAMANDA 0755 for LINGINAS Police Base Camp, arriving 1015 hrs. Camped and purchased food. Talks with local natives.

Monday 14th February :

At LINGINAS. Consumed TRAU and KIRANAN groups. Talks with local natives.

Tuesday 15th February :

Departure from LINGINAS delayed until 0850 hrs by heavy rain. Arrived at TAGEMANDA 1330 hrs, overlooking junction of LAI and SAU Rivers. Made camp and purchased food. Talks with local natives.

Wednesday 16th February :

Departed TAGEMANDA 0750 hrs. Descended to and crossed SAU River and climbed to HURISAU, arriving 1430 hrs. Camped and purchased food. Talks with local natives.

Thursday 17th February :

Departed HURISAU 0755 hrs, following SAU River upstream, and made camp at TABAKENOS, arriving 1110 hrs.

Friday 18th February :

Departed TABAKENOS 0755 hrs. Descended to and crossed SAU River, and climbed to PORALIMANDA, arriving 1300 hrs. Made camp and purchased food.

Saturday 19th February :

At PORALIMANDA. Commenced census of MAHAGAGEN group - interrupted by heavy rain in afternoon.

Sunday 20th February :

At PORALIMANDA. Completed census of group. Heavy rain again in afternoon.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

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MIAMI (contd.)

Monday 13th February :

Departed LAMANDA 0755 for LINGKAS Police Base Camp, arriving 2015 hrs. Camped and purchased food. Talks with local natives.

Tuesday 14th February :

At LINGINAC. Commenced TSAUL and KIRABAN groups. Talks with local natives.

Wednesday 15th February :

Departure from LINGINAC delayed until 0850 hrs by heavy rain. Arrived at TAGEMANDA 1330 hrs, overlooking junction of LAI and SAU Rivers. Made camp and purchased food. Talks with local natives.

Thursday 16th February :

Departed TAGEMANDA 0750 hrs. Descended to and crossed SAU River and climbed to HURISAU, arriving 1430 hrs. Camped and purchased food. Talks with local natives.

Friday 17th February :

Departed HURISAU 0755 hrs, following SAU River upstream, and made camp at TABAKENOS, arriving 1110 hrs.

Saturday 18th February :

Departed TABAKENOS 0755 hrs. Descended to and crossed SAU River, and climbed to POMALIMANDA, arriving 1300 hrs. Made camp and purchased food.

Sunday 19th February :

At POMALIMANDA. Commenced census of MAMAGAGEN group - interrupted by heavy rain in afternoon.

Monday 20th February :

At POMALIMANDA. Completed census of MAMAGAGEN group. Heavy rain again in afternoon.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

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IZANI (contd.)

Monday 21st February :

Departed POMALIMANDA 0800 for IMELIK, arriving
1115 hrs. Made camp and purchased food. Consumed WAKHIN group.

Tuesday 22nd February :

at IMELIK. Consumed FORIALIN and KUMARIN groups.

Wednesday 23rd February :

Departed IMELIK 0800 hrs for DEMERAIN, arriving
1015 hrs. Camped and purchased food. Consumed FIMALAN group.

Thursday 24th February :

Departed FIMALAN 0750 hrs for WAIPAGAN, arriving
1045 hrs. Made camp and purchased food. Consumed TANGAIP and
WAKHIN groups.

Friday 25th February :

Departed WAIPAGAN 0800 hrs for POMALIM, arriving
1045 hrs. Made camp and purchased food. Consumed IOWAN group.

Saturday 26th February :

Departed POMALIM 0750 hrs. Crossed RAB River
and climbed to IAHARIMANDA, arriving 1100 hrs. Made camp and
purchased food. Consumed FORIALIN group.

Sunday 27th February :

Departed IAHARIMANDA 0700 hrs for KUYOGAN on
TINEH River, arriving 1000 hrs. Camped and purchased food.
Consumed KALYENI group.

Monday 28th February :

Departed KUYOGAN 0745 hrs for NEPO, arriving
1030 hrs. Camped and purchased food. Consumed AIHE and
TUGARIN groups.

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PATROL REPORT - KOMPAN NO. 1 OF 24/52

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PLAN (contd)

Monday 1st March :

Reported HNO 0750 hrs for SILEM, arriving 1030 hrs. Made camp and purchased food. Checked HNO guns. Successful rain in afternoon.

Tuesday 2nd March :

Reported SILEM 0750 hrs for WABAL, arriving 1430 hrs. Reported to A.S.O.

END OF REPORT

GENERAL STATE :

The native situation in the SAN Valley is quite good. Since the establishment of the KOMPAN Patrol Post in October 1951, the natives of the Upper SAN area have been in continuous contact with the Administration, and as a result, they are living peacefully. All groups in this area volunteered to work on the KOMPAN airstrip, and the motor road from KOMPAN to MINGA.

A total of ⁵⁶¹⁷ 5617 names were recorded in the Upper SAN Census Sub-Division, but there was a large percentage of absenteeism due to the HNO gift exchange ceremonies, and it is possible that the actual total would be nearer six thousand.

All the groups concerned are living peacefully, and are co-operating with the Administration - the heaviest concentration of population being around the Government station at KOMPAN. Tribal fighting has become a thing of the past, and all disputes are readily brought to KOMPAN.

There are no Government-appointed Village Officials in the SAN Valley - each group has its own headman, who in actual fact is very little more than a figure-head, as there are very few

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE ARMY

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REPORT STATUS (contd)

Leaders do have any real authority within their own group. It is expected that some provisional appointments of leaders will be made when the Karpis aircraft and the motor road have been completed.

The work on the aircraft and road have also had a stabilising influence on the population - groups that were previously antagonistic towards each other are now working together towards a common goal.

Several new groups in the lower San area were contacted for the first time - they were all friendly towards the Administration, and had heard of the Government station at KAMPALA. However, although this area is not restricted, it is my opinion that it is not yet safe for Him ion or other Non-Government personnel to move about in this area.

Information was gathered concerning other uncontacted groups - native reports indicate a large population north of the SAN - TIBU River junction, whilst other groups were reported in the area north-east from LINDAK. The D.S.A. - D.S.S aerial survey of 1953 also reported heavy population in this area north of the SAN - TIBU junction. Future patrols will endeavour to contact these groups.

A Police Base Camp is maintained at LINDAK, and several useful contacts with Little-Jawan groups have been made through this establishment.

There are only scattered groups in the area of the LAI - SAN junction, but heavier concentrations of population are found in the area around the SAN - TIBU junction. It is estimated that the total population of the entire SAN Valley would be in the vicinity of 10,000 natives.

ROADS & BRIDGES :

Apart from the motor road which is being built from KADAGA to KAMPALA, there are no other roads worthy of the name in the whole valley. The native foot tracks at best are hard walking, and at this time of the year, continuous heavy rain turned the tracks into quagmires.

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

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ROADS & HIGHWAYS (contd)

The WAKARA - KOMPON motor road is progressively well. It is now possible to drive 13 miles from WAKARA - to WAKURIN at the head of the SAS VALLEY. Construction has also been commenced from KOMPON - at present, about a mile of road has been completed, and the bridge across the ANJIAN River south of KOMPON is under construction. It is anticipated that another 13 miles of road remains to be built, and the road should be completed this year.

AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK :

As usual in this sub-district, most plants in the staple diet, supplemented by sugar cane, bananas, taro, etc. are not cultivated.

European-introduced vegetables that are being well include tomatoes, potatoes, beans, peas, pumpkins, pineapples and papaya.

The home mound method of planting sweet potato is carried out in some parts of the valley, but it is not universal, and this method is the only type of fertilization practiced by the natives.

The agricultural methods in use by the natives naturally leave much to be desired. The principles of soil erosion and contour planting have been explained to the people, but in most cases they are content to follow the old methods.

MEDICAL & HEALTH :

European Medical Assistant Mr. F. COMANS from WAKARA accompanied the patrol and carried out inspections of the Aid Posts in the area, besides carrying out a medical check-up on the people concerned.

The health of the people visited appears to be remarkably good. Very few tropical ulcers, yaws etc. were seen - even in the lower SAS area where these infections could be expected.

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GENERAL & HEALTH (contd)

because of the low altitudes. There is malaria in the area, but the natives appear to have built up resistance to the disease, and suffer only mild attacks.

Medical Aid Posts are maintained at SAHARA, KOMPIAN, LINGIN and LINGINAS, and it is expected that another Aid Post will be opened in the area of the SAU - TIDUN Rivers junction, and these posts will adequately serve the SAU Valley.

AIRPORT & AIRFIELD :

The airstrip at KOMPIAN was completed on 15th April 1954, and is now in the final stages of completion. When completed, the dimensions of the airstrip will be 2100 ft. by 200 ft., which should allow operations by Cessna, Mustang, Dragon and other light aircraft.

An additional 1500 ft. can be added to the present length, but this would entail a tremendous amount of work as there are four large gullies to be filled, and at the present rate of hand labour, this task would take another 4 - 5 years. It is hoped that mechanical assistance will be available to construct this extra length, which would probably allow D.C.3 operations at KOMPIAN.

The KOMPIAN airstrip will be a great boon to both the Baptist M.C. side and the miners on the TIDUN River. At present, the Mission carry their supplies overland from BAITER RIVER, whilst the miners' supplies are carried in from WARASA.

REST HOUSES :

Rest Houses are situated at SIRUNKI and LINGINAS, and both are in good condition. At both these places, ample accommodation is available for police and carriers. It is intended to establish Rest Houses both in the Lower SAU area, and also the area of the SAU - TIDUN Rivers junction.

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FORESTRY :

The entire SAU Valley is very narrow - the valley walls are very steep, and are fringed by razor-back ridges.

The upper part of the SAU Valley consists mainly of sharp lungi ridges, with isolated patches of timber on the lower slopes, with the crests of the ranges heavily timbered. Further downstream, the terrain changes to heavily forested slopes, with only isolated patches of open land.

The only reasonably large flat piece of land in the whole valley is the KOMPAN plateau, and this is very lightly timbered.

The lower SAU area is almost entirely covered with heavy rain forest and secondary growth, with only isolated patches of open land.

MISSION :

The only Mission body in the area is the Baptist Mission at LIABUS, some 20 minutes walk from KOMPAN. At present, the Mission staff consists of Mr. and Mrs. C. Craig, and Sister H. Shan.

The natives in the immediate vicinity of the Mission station are quite co-operative towards the Mission, and quite a few youngsters attend the Mission school. The Mission's medical work is also progressing satisfactorily.

MINING :

There are three European mining camps in the SAU Valley, and all are situated on the TEMUN River. At present, Mr. H. L. Wilson is on leave, and Messrs. L. M. Wilson and E. Howlands are in the area.

REPORT OF JURY ON THE CASE

REPORT NO. - NUMBER NO. 1 OF 1970

Report on the part of the Jury and the other members of the

Case No. 1304 1/2/70 WAD In excellent technical and engineering
As used in the project.

Case No. 7437 Case No. 7438 } Being carried out in accordance with
Case No. 7436 " " } Reporting rapidly with accuracy.

Signature
C. A. WILSON
1970

RECORDS OF THE AIR FORCE

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MAP REFERENCES :

The following are all map references for place names mentioned in this report :

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MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE GUARD

INTERNAL SECURITY - DOMESTIC NO. 1 of 54/55

SECRET

INTERNAL SECURITY

Since this report was written, information has been received that plans were made by natives in the [REDACTED] area to attack the patrol.

The plan was apparently a very detailed one - natives were ordered to hold the [REDACTED] and police, while others were detailed to do the actual attack with tomahawks. When staff and time are available, a strong patrol will again investigate this area.

Although the attack did not materialize, this further substantiates the point made previously that the lower [REDACTED] area (although not restricted) is not yet safe for [REDACTED] or other non-government personnel to move about in.

[Signature]

